

## **ADAPTATION OF THE BOSTON NAMING TEST (BNT) FOR MALAYSIAN POPULATION**

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The purpose of this study is to introduce the second edition of the Malay version of the Boston Naming Test (BNT-M II). Initially, the BNT-M II contained 64 items and used the general administration method as the original Boston Naming Test (BNT). Only 29 items from the original BNT have been retained, of which 5 line-drawings of the items have been redrawn, and 35 new items have been reintroduced to make the test more linguistically and culturally suitable for Malaysian speakers. An initial study among linguists and speech language pathologists were carried out to determine suitability of all the items and stimulus cues. A pilot study of the BNT-M II was then administered to 43 normal subject (21 females, 22 males) with an age range of 20 to 59 years old and different education levels. A total of 58 items were found to be appropriate and thus retained. Items were reordered according to levels of difficulty and for some items allowances were made for specified alternative responses, given the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Malaysian population. Group means were finalized into four age groups (20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50-59 years) and four educational levels (<7, 7-9, 10-11 and >11 years). Among the sample tested, scores were found not to be significantly affected by age and gender ( $p < 0.05$ ). However, educational levels were found to significantly affect BNT-M II scores ( $p < 0.05$ ). There was no significant interaction effect between age, gender and educational levels ( $p > 0.05$ ).

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