

Validating the Arabic Communicative Development Inventory for Assessing the Development of Language in Arabic-Speaking Children

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Abstract : Assessing children's language is fundamental for changing their developmental outcome as it gives a chance for a quick and early intervention with the suitable planning and monitoring program. The importance of language assessment lies in helping to find the right test fit for purpose, in addition to achievement and proficiency. This study examines the validity of a new Arabic assessment tool, the Arabic Communicative Development Inventory 'Arabic CDI'. It assesses the development of language in Arabic children in different Arabic countries, allowing to detect children with language delay. A concurrent validity is set to compare the Arabic CDI to the Arabic Language test. Twenty-three typically developing Egyptian healthy children and their mothers participated in this study. Their age is 24 months (+ or -) two weeks. The sample included 13 males and 10 females. Mothers completed the Arabic CDI either before or after the Arabic Language Test was conducted with the child. The score for comprehension in the Arabic CDI ($M = 52.7$, $SD = 9.7$) and words understood in the Arabic Language Test ($M = 59.6$, $SD = 12.5$) were strongly and positively correlated ($r = .62$, $p = .002$). At the same time, the scores for production in the Arabic CDI ($M = 38.4$, $SD = 14.8$) and words expressed in the Arabic Language Test ($M = 52.1$, $SD = 16.3$) were also strongly and positively correlated ($r = .82$, $p = .000$). The new Arabic CDI is an adequate tool for assessing the development of comprehension and production at Arabic children. In addition, it could be used for detecting children with language impairment. Standardization of the Arabic CDI across 18 different Arabic dialects in children aged 8 to 30 months is underway.

Keywords : Arabic CDI, assessing children, language development, language impairment

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