An Investigation of Discrete-Point Versus Integrative Tests as Measures of Language Proficiency

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ABSTRACT

An Investigation of Discrete-Point Versus Integrative Tests as Measures of Language Proficiency.

This study aimed at investigating the two types of testing procedures to find out the best subset or the best subtest which most effectively measures language proficiency.

The sample of this study consisted of 349 preparatory students of the academic year 1981-1982, selected from six schools (three for boys and three for girls) chosen randomly from all preparatory schools in Irbid district.

The correlations between each subtest and the criterion and also each subtest and the other were computed.
A multiple correlation technique was used to find the contribution of each subtest to the criterion. A multiple regression was used to find the effect of each integrative test on the total discrete score. The same thing was done to find the effect of each discrete-point test on the total integrative score.

The results of this study are as follows:

1. Discrete-point total score correlated with the grand total at .92, but the integrative total score correlated with the same criterion at .88.

2. Dictation, as an integrative test, correlated with the grand total at .74, with integrative total at .87 and with discrete total at .50.

3. Listening comprehension, as a discrete-point test, correlated with the grand total at .79, with discrete-point total at .69 and with integrative total at .74.

4. Among the subtests, the highest correlation .81 was between reading comprehension and vocabulary.

5. The lowest correlation .16 was between reading comprehension and dictation.
6. The highest contribution to the grand total was by listening comprehension then dictation and the cloze.

Attempt was made to find the effective and valid approach of testing and then the subtest that can be a good measure of language proficiency.

The conclusions of this study were:

1. LC and DIC are better measures of language proficiency if compared with other subtests.

2. The CL had the greatest contribution to DPT and the LC had the greatest contribution INT.

3. DIC had the greatest correlation with INT and LC had the greatest correlation with DPT.

4. VC and RC test similar things.

5. INT and DPT had a common variance of .36.