

Contents

Messick Lecture, 2010

Validating score interpretations and uses 3

Michael Kane

Responses to Kane

Validity argument for language assessment: The framework is simple... 19

Carol A. Chapelle

Grounding the argument-based framework for validating score interpretations and uses 29

John W. Oller, Jr.

Kane, validity and soundness 37

Alan Davies

Articles

Confidence scoring of speaking performance: How does fuzziness become exact? 43

Tan Jin, Barley Mak and Pei Zhou

Note-taking quality and performance on an L2 academic listening test 67

Min-Young Song

TOEFL iBT speaking test scores as indicators of oral communicative language proficiency 91

Brent Bridgeman, Donald Powers, Elizabeth Stone and Pamela Mollaun

Re-fitting for a different purpose: A case study of item writer practices in adapting source texts for a test of academic reading 109

Anthony Green and Roger Hawkey

Factor structure of the revised TOEIC® test : A multiple-sample analysis 131

Yo In'nami and Rie Koizumi

Book reviews

Cognitive Bases of Second Language Fluency 153

Norman Segalowitz, reviewed by Slobodanka Dimova

Linguistic Relativity in SLA: Thinking for Speaking 156

Z.H. Han and T. Cadierno (Eds), reviewed by Alan Davies

Validating scores for interpretation uses: Messick's Language Test Colloquium, April 2010

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Abstract

The argument-based approach to validation of test interpretations and uses of test scores emphasizes the plausibility of the proposed inferences to involve an extended network of evidence in their support. Simpler interpretations require less evidential support. The evaluation of the consequences of the decision to use test scores is a key component of the argument-based approach.

Keywords

validity, validation, argument-based approach

Our conceptions of validity have evolved and developed new interpretations. We revisit many fundamental questions about test scores. Following this tradition, we discuss claims based on assessment results.

To validate an interpretation of test scores, the proposed conclusion must be supported by scientific and social requirements.

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