

Aptitude for interpreting: Predicting competence in a reliable way

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Aptitude testing is a special type of assessment where performance is judged by a predictive, rather than a concurrent criterion. Aptitude tests are critical in admission procedures, where they help make decisions as to the candidate's ability to acquire a skill within a given timeframe.

In our paper, we want to report on our replication of a study by Gerver et al. (1989). This replication is part of a larger research project (2007-2010) at LUC (Lessius University College) aiming to investigate predictors of specific skilled linguistic behaviour, namely interpreting. With more tests and a larger amount of students tested in the follow-up of this project, we want to check if discrepant results from Gerver's remain the same, this is to say if we can increase ecological validity.

We discuss the implications of this particular study and the more general specificities of aptitude research, including validity, reliability, score range restrictions and generalisability across training programmes.