Preliminary results on the test framework for an online sign language receptive skills test

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ALTE Conference Paris
April 10-11, 2014
Overview

• Background (British Sign Language (BSL) Receptive Skills Test)
• Demo of online receptive skills test (German Sign Language)
• Preliminary results from the revised BSL test
• Usability study with the online receptive skills test
• Potential for research and practice
BSL Receptive Skills Test

- BSL Receptive Skills Test (Herman et al., 1999)
  - Vocabulary check
  - Multiple-choice test
  - Morphology and syntax
  - Children 3-11 years old
  - Normed on 135 children
Example: BSL Receptive Skills Test

(Herman et al., 1999)
Adaptations of the BSL Receptive Skills Test
Example of adaptations: German Sign Language

DGS-Verständnistest

3. Teil - Aufgabe 1

(Haug, 2011)
Online version – Main features

- Different roles of user/user profiles
- Setting up a test (items, item categories)
- Adding schools and test participants
  - incl. online questionnaire
- Media management (e.g., images, videos)
- Flexible layout
- Score reporting and analysis
- Flexibility of online version
Example: Create a new item
Study 1: BSL Pilot test sample

- 7 children
- Age range from 3-11 years
- Age of starting to sign ranged from birth to 5
- Most use both BSL and English-influenced varieties of signing

Issues
- One recent immigrant with her Deaf family
- Uncertainty about age of exposure, age of beginning to sign, etc.
- Some improvements to participant data questions needed

ALTE conference, April 10-11, 2014
Haug, Herman & Woll
### Study 1: BSL user questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emoticon</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>😊</td>
<td>Did you like using the computer for the BSL test?</td>
<td>Yes I love!</td>
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<tr>
<td>😏</td>
<td>What was good about doing the test on a computer?</td>
<td>Good sign lady.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>😞</td>
<td>What was bad about doing the test on a computer?</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>😊</td>
<td>What can we change to make it better?</td>
<td>Don’t know</td>
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Study 2: Usability study

- Two stage usability study of online version (German Sign Language version)
- Stage 1: Usability study with experts from Human Computer Interaction (HCI), followed by implementation of results in online test
- Stage 2: Usability study with teachers (May/June 2014)

>> report on results of stage 1 >>
Methodology

• Sample: Human-Computer Interaction group at University of Zurich (N=6)
• Task to be completed as „user persona“ (day before)
• Focus group
Sample (N=6)

- Gender: 3 male/3 female
- Role/Position:
  - Master student: 1
  - Ph.D. students: 4
  - Professor: 1
Two „user personas“:

• Pretend to be a teacher…..
• Two teachers working in a school for the deaf, with different experiences/backgrounds, e.g.,
  • Background as teacher (degree, experience with Internet, social media, etc.)
  • Signed language skills
  • Professional experience
  • Age of children in own class
  • Assignment from school principal to use online version of the test (in addition to regular workload)
Focus group

- Completed task together (beamer) and providing feedback
- Audio-recording of focus group session
- Time: 70 minutes
Results

Comments/Feedback clustered around the following topics

• Online background questionnaires for teachers and children
• Design and navigation
• Introduction to test/system
Questionnaires

- Too many questions (30) which need to be answered before testing a child
  - Separate: test-relevant and research-relevant questions (split questionnaire in two parts)
- As many drop-down questions as possible (e.g., for dates)
- Wording of questions
- Profile of teachers (similar to social media)
### Design & navigation

#### Sign Language Receptive Skills Test

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<th>List Files</th>
<th>New File</th>
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Page 1 of 1, showing 20 records out of 20 total, starting on record 1, ending on 20

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Design & navigation

• Have navigation that indicates „progress“/steps (similar to completing the booking of a flight)
• Structure of navigation
• Revise different levels of navigation
• Order of navigation
Introduction to test/system

• Resource subite, including online tutorial
Priorities to be implemented

- Navigation
- Questionnaires
- Designs
Potential for research & practice

• Collecting data over a longer period of time (e.g., re-testing of same children)
• Development of „language profiles“
• Norming of tests
• Linking research to practice
• Cross-linguistic research

• >> applicable to other SL tests
Contact details & links

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www.signlanguagetest.com
www.signlang-assessment.info