

Chen, Guangyan

Texas Christian University

A Model of Analytic Rating Scales to Assess College Students' L2 Chinese Oral Performance

This presentation reports my study about developing a model of analytic rating scales to assess L2 Chinese oral performance. The study uses Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) to identify a model and employs Confirmative Factor Analysis (CFA) in a separate dataset to test the degree of model fit.

I videotaped ten speeches and ACTFL professional raters assessed the oral performances in these samples. I then selected three samples (Samples 1, 2, and 3) to represent the proficiency levels of Novice High, Intermediate High, and Advanced Low. Then, I developed 20 rating items by interviewing ten experienced L2 Chinese teachers and running an EFA. The 20 items were descriptors that Chinese teachers used to assess oral performance in two studies: Study 1 and Study 2. To complete Study 1, I recruited 45 teachers to assess Sample 1 using the 20 items, 62 teachers rated Sample 2, and 49 teachers rated Sample 3. In Study 2, 104 teachers assessed all three samples.

The EFA indicated a four-factor model of analytic rating scales: “fluency,” “conceptual understanding,” “communication clarity,” and “communication appropriateness.” In this model, the correlations between these analytic rating scales were relatively high and teachers weighted “fluency” as most important. Together the four scales explained 65.5% of teachers’ holistic judgments of oral performance. The CFA did not show a strong model fit to the data, but the fit was acceptable.

This model advances our understanding of the relationship between analytic rating scales and holistic ratings in the context of L2 Chinese. These findings give Chinese teachers with which a reference to assess U.S. college students’ L2 Chinese oral performance.

This presentation demonstrates how I empirically develop and verify an analytic rating scale model for assessing L2 Chinese oral performance. It consists of the introduction stating the necessity of conducting this study, the literature review providing the background of L2 Chinese speaking research in foreign language settings, the methods of collecting and analyzing data, the results of the investigations, and the application and implications of this study.