

Project Title : "The Design of a French Placement Test"

ABSTRACT

This project deals with the process of designing a French Placement Test. The FPT. has two parallel forms. It is required for 1) first year college students who want to enroll in French foundation courses to meet their foreign language requirement and 2) students who want to enter the French undergraduate program in the Faculty of Liberal Arts.

First, the project team decided to limit the scope and content of the FPT. The test would cover the curriculum materials for upper secondary and first-year college students. Then a test consisting of 500 questions was developed. The test has four parts which assess language competence in the following areas : grammar, vocabulary and idioms, speech acts, reading and writing.

At the pre-test stage, participants included upper secondary students in their final term and first-year college students from the central and provincial areas. There were 3 pre-tests. After the first pre-test, the project team made item analysis to assess the quality of the test according to its difficulty level, item discrimination and validity. Valid questions chosen from the first pre-test were used in the second pre-test. After the second pre-test, the project team repeated the item analysis and selection process. Then the final version of the FPT was produced in two parallel forms : Form A and Form B. At the third experimental stage, upper secondary students in their final term and first - year university students were given the test. these first-year students were a target group who had recently passed an entrance examination and wanted to enroll in French foundation courses. the norms of the FPT was based on normalized t.Score. Finally Form A and Form B of the FPT were processed to find the correlation.

The FPT has proved useful in helping to place students in their appropriate groups according to their abilities. In this way the FPT. will benefit both Thammasat University students in helping them to achieve their academic goals and the French Department in implementing its academic plans.