



Test Design & Assessment

Lecture 1: Assessment Terminology

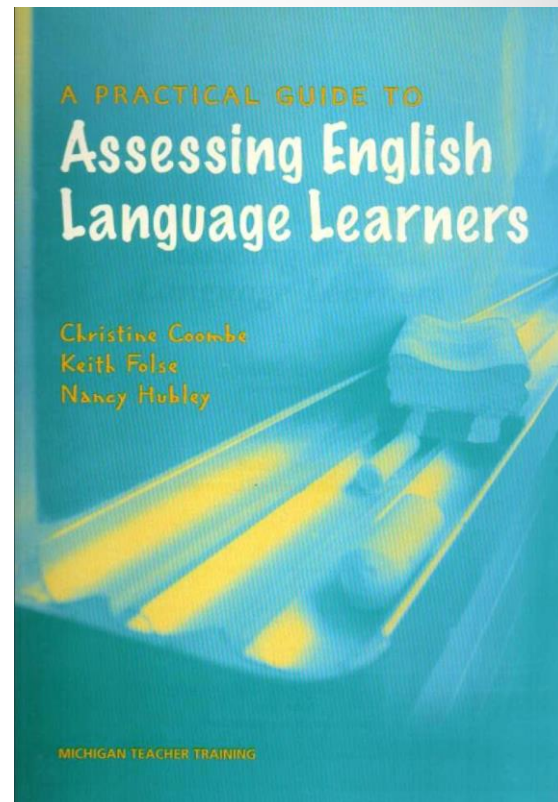
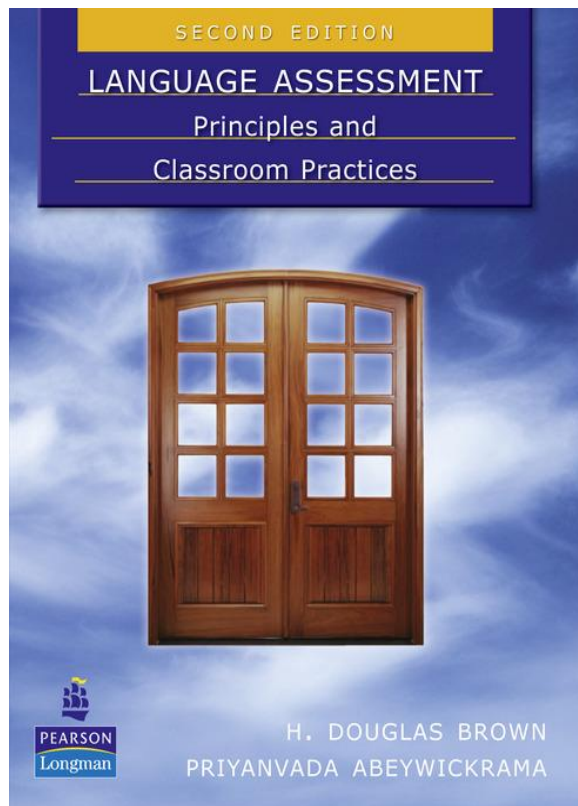
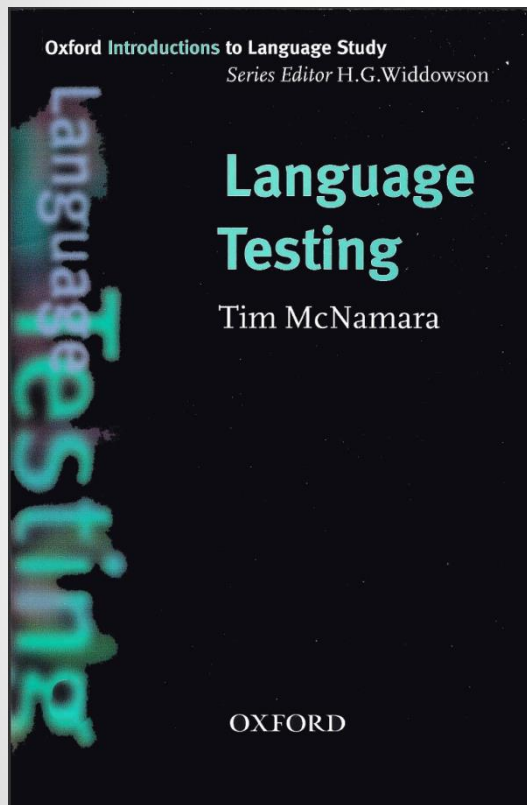
Ms. Zainab Jaafar

MA in Applied Linguistics

Course Syllabus

1. Evaluation
2. Assessment
3. Testing
4. Trends and approaches to language testing
5. Types of test
6. Characteristics of a good language test
7. Communicative test design
 - Test design
 - Test development
 - Test operation
 - Test monitoring
8. Techniques for communicative language testing
9. Testing reading
10. Testing listening
11. Testing speaking
12. Testing writing
13. Testing grammar
14. Testing vocabulary
15. Test-taking strategies

Books



Assessment Terminology

Assessment

Test

Measurement

Evaluation

Assessment

- **Appraisal of level**
- **Ongoing process**
- **Methodological techniques**
- **Subconscious assessment**
- **Continuous (incidental/ intended)**

Test

- **Subset of assessment/ Genre of assessment technique**
- **Prepared administered procedures that occur in identifiable time in the curriculum when learners mustered all faculties to offer peak performance knowing that their responses are measured and evaluated**

Test

- **A method for measuring the test-takers abilities, knowledge, or performance in a given domain.**

Tests

A method ...

- **Instrument, set of techniques**
- **Explicit & structured**

Tests

A method for **measuring** ...

- **Process of quantifying performance**
- **Explicit procedures/ rules**
- **Letter grading/ marginal comments**
- **Numerical scores/ Percentile rank**

Tests

A method for measuring the test-takers **abilities, knowledge, or performance** ...

- **Performance**: real use of language
- **Competence**: knowledge about language

Tests

A method for measuring the test-takers abilities, knowledge, or performance in **a given domain**

- **Domain:** content validity
(i.e. Does the test really examines the skill being tested?)

Content validity

Lesson content: S- V Agreement

Test: Fill in the blanks with the suitable verb:

- The author _____ the book 10 years ago.
(wrote, has written, have been writing)
- The author _____ the book 10 years ago.
(written, has written, have written)

Measurement & Evaluation

Measurement

- **Process of quantifying the learner's observed performance**

Qualitative Measurement

- **Written description**
- **Non-quantitative reports**

Quantitative Measurement

- **Scores**
- **Letter grades**

Advantages of Quantitative Measurement

- **Give exact description of a student's performance.**
- **Compare one student to another**
- **Spur/ motivate us to be more objective (explicit) in our specifications of students performance**

Disadvantages of Quantitative Measurement

- Masking nuances of performance when rubric is **vague**

Criterion	0	2	3
Pronunciation	The student usually makes pronunciation mistakes	The student always makes pronunciation mistakes	The student often makes pronunciation mistakes

Advantages of Qualitative Measurement

- **Offer the opportunity to individualize feedback**
(ex. Marginal comments/ oral feedback on pronunciation)

Evaluation

- Doesn't entail testing
- Used when a test's result is needed for decision making
- Interpretation of information
- Valuing the result with reference to consequences (good/bad)

Ex.

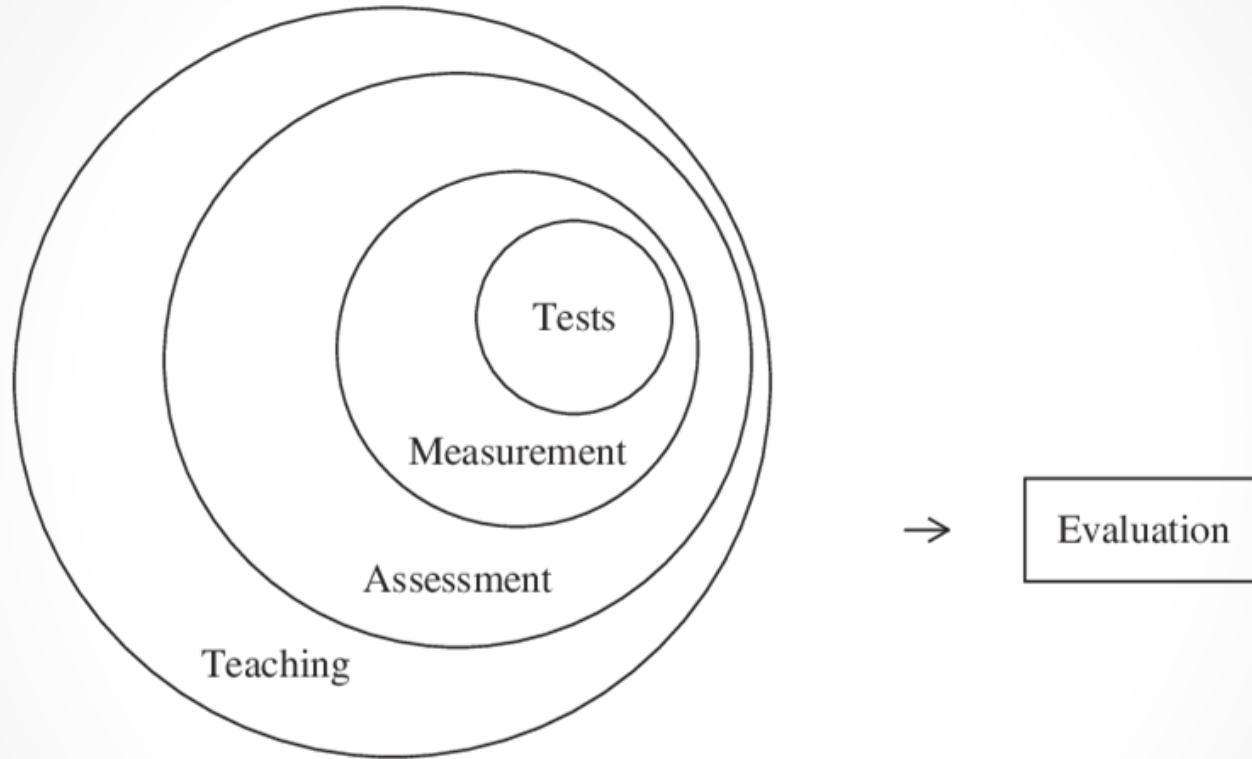
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Good Job!= positive feedback

Assessment & Learning

Questions that shape the teaching process

- **Does all teaching involve assessment?**
- **Are there no assessment-free interactions?**
- **How did the performance compare with previous performance?**
- **Which aspects of the performance were better than others?**
- **Is the learner performing up to an expected potential?**
- **What can the learner do to improve performance the next time?**
- **How does the performance compare with that of others in the same learning community?**



Reference

- **Brown, H. D. & Abeywickrama, P. (2012). Language Assessment: Principles & Classroom Practices. 2nd Ed. Pearson Education, USA.**