The International Survey of Reading Skills

Instrument Design

The five reading related skills were assessed using different tests:

Word recognition was assessed in English with Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE-A): Sight Word Efficiency Subtest (1999) and the Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE-B): Phonemic Decoding Efficiency Subtest (1999). The French was assessed with an adaptation of this test created for Statistics Canada by two reading experts.

Vocabulary was assessed, in English, with Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (1997), abridged by K. Yamamoto, and in French with Évaluation en Image Peabody (1993), abridged.

General processing skills were assessed both in English and French with the Rapid Automatized Naming (letters) (Wolf, 1997) and Scrambled Alphabet Naming (Strucker, Kirsch and Yamamoto, 2007) and Digit-Span Subtest from the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale III (1997).

Finally **Spelling** was assessed in English with a test constructed by Moats (1995), abridged by M.E. Curtis and J. Strucker with permission from the author. A French adaptation of this test was created for Statistics Canada by an expert on reading.

In order to maintain consistency across these tests a 2-PL IRT model, was used for the tests and each respondent on the final data has a score corresponding to the proportion correct, ranging from 0 to 1. All of these tests had been used in clinical setting and in research studies. However the French adaptations of these tests were tested in a feasibility study prior the ISRS.