Objective

To develop a test battery that predicts which adults may successfully learn a foreign language to very advanced levels of proficiency.

Definitions

**Language aptitude** is a special, inherent talent that not all individuals possess. Language aptitude is not learned, although it may be trained, within limits.

**Constructs** are hypotheses or theoretical concepts. Constructs that may influence language aptitude include working memory and processing speed.

**Hi-LAB** is the abbreviation for *High-Level Language Aptitude Battery*. It is a composite test battery, developed by CASL researchers, that measures constructs to predict adults’ foreign language aptitude.

Expected Findings

CASL researchers expect to
- Gain an understanding of how the proposed Hi-LAB constructs are related, and
- Establish the reliability and predictive validity of the tests that are used to measure the constructs.

Relevance

**Hi-LAB identifies high-level language learners using innovative measures . . .**

Unlike currently used language aptitude tests, which predict success in the early stages of language learning, Hi-LAB uses innovative, computer-delivered cognitive behavioral tasks to predict success at very advanced levels.

. . . to assist with the selection and hiring of top analysts.

Identifying individuals with language aptitude helps focus language training and hiring resources on those who are most likely to succeed at language learning. Analysts with a known higher language aptitude can be selected to work with more difficult, critical languages, such as Chinese and Arabic.

Reports & Products

- *Assessment use argument* (March 2009)
- *Predicting near-native ability: The factor structure and reliability of Hi-LAB* (February 2009)
- Hi-LAB—Beta version (December 2006)

For More Information

For more information about this project or for a copy of the reports, contact us:

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