

Versant™ Spanish Test

Validation Summary

A common question about any test is “how do we know this is a good, accurate, fair test?” To answer that question, one needs to look at the two factors that are critical to high quality tests:

1. **Validity:** Does the test really measure what it is supposed to measure? Is it a valid assessment of the construct it claims to test?
2. **Reliability:** Can you expect consistent (and therefore fair) results from the test? Would a person score the same if they took the test over and over again?

For a test to be high quality, it must be valid, accurate, and reliable, as demonstrated by empirical validation investigations. A series of studies have been conducted on the Versant Spanish Test as part of ongoing research, and the data shows that the Versant Spanish Test has strong validity and high reliability.

Concurrent Validity

A series of validation studies have been conducted on the Versant Spanish Test in conjunction with other well-known assessments of spoken Spanish. The tables below present correlations of Versant Spanish Test scores with other language assessments. The data reveal that the Versant Spanish Test is a very good predictor of ratings on other instruments designed to assess spoken Spanish skills, and therefore that the various tests measure the same underlying ability.

Table 1 presents data from two studies where test takers were administered the Versant Spanish Test and another official Spanish language exam within one day of one another. The tests were:

ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview: In this study, university students took an official American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) interview and the Versant test.

Spoken Proficiency Test (ILR): In this study, students took an official Spoken Proficiency Test and the Versant test. Scores were reported on the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) descriptors.

Table 1. Correlation coefficients for the Versant test and official Spanish interview exams

	Correlation (<i>r</i>)	Num of test-takers
ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview	.86	52
Spoken Proficiency Test (ILR)	.92	37

Table 2 presents data from two studies in which test takers were administered the Versant Spanish Test and were also evaluated by qualified examiners (i.e., government-trained interviewers or certified translator/interpreters), who listened to their responses. These examiners

provided their best estimate of the test taker's spoken Spanish ability using either the Common European Framework (CEF) descriptors or the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) descriptors.

Table 2. Correlation coefficients for the Versant test and estimates of spoken Spanish ability

	Correlation (<i>r</i>)	Num of test-takers
CEF Estimate	.90	572
ILR Estimate	.88	166

Reliability

The most common estimate of a test's reliability is the split-half method. The split-half reliability of the Overall score of the Versant Spanish Test is 0.96 (on a scale from 0 to 1). The high reliability score is a good indication that the computerized assessment will be consistent for the same test taker whenever they take the test. Reliabilities for the subscores are similarly high: 0.95 for Pronunciation, 0.94 for Fluency, 0.90 for Vocabulary, and 0.96 for Sentence Mastery.