

Enhancing Learning, Teaching, and Assessment: The Interconnection of BESTEP Tests and EAP Courses in Taiwan

Jessica R. W. Wu, Anita C. W. Lin, & Joyce S. Chin

The BEST Test of English Proficiency (BESTEP) has been developed by the Language Training & Testing Center (L TTC) in support of Taiwan's Program on Bilingual Education for College Students (the BEST Program). Its goal is to bring about positive advancements in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) education at the tertiary level. This presentation centers on an ongoing validation study undertaken by L TTC in collaboration with two prominent universities in Taipei, involving a total of six classes and 200 students. Building upon our previous research, which primarily focused on creating performance descriptors that closely align with the requirements of university learning environments, the present study examines the relationship between BESTEP's speaking and writing tests and EAP courses. We conduct a comprehensive analysis that compares both the design of the courses and tests, while also tracking changes in students' speaking and writing abilities over two semesters.

This presentation is expected to shed light on the dynamic relationship between learning, teaching, and assessment in Taiwan's English language education. With a specific focus on the connection between BESTEP and EAP courses, this study validates the intended uses of BESTEP while emphasizing the importance of integrated approaches in EAP education. Findings from this study will significantly contribute to the conference theme of "Rethinking English Language Education at the Tertiary Level Under Taiwan's Bilingual Education policy," offering valuable insights and recommendations to educational stakeholders for a more effective approach.