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## Validating Computer-Based Language Tests: Computer Literacy and the Construct of a Computer-Based Language Test

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**Abstract:** With the increasingly extensive application of information technology, computer-mediated language communication has become a fact of life. Computer-assisted language teaching and testing have also entered a stage of fast development. In the field of testing, technology is not only employed for improving test efficiency, but more importantly, for enhancing test validity. This article addresses the validity issue of the relationship between computer literacy and the construct of a computer-based language test. Based on a review of Messick's (1989) unitary construct definition and Chalhoub-Deville's (2003) local context-bound view of language ability, the article argues that, when computer has become an important contextual facet in language communication, computer literacy should be considered as a contextual factor closely related to the construct being measured in a computer-based language test. In other words, individual language ability and the computer-mediated communicative context interact in ways that change them both.

**Key words:** Computer-Based Language Testing; Construct Validity; Computer Literacy

## 本刊稿约启事

本刊将于近期开设“应用语言学与外语教学研究”专栏,欢迎广大专家、学者及感兴趣的读者朋友积极投稿。主题可围绕“应用语言学”和“外语教学”的学科属性、学科内涵以及二者之间的逻辑关系来展开论述,希望紧密联系我国大学外语教学的发展实践和外语教学研究的学科建设来进行阐述。来稿请注明“学科建设约稿”。

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