

EVALUATION OF NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEST IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

Various language proficiency tests are administered throughout the world for the selection of people for academic and professional purposes. In Turkey, Student Selection and Placement Centre (OSYM) coordinates all of the national tests. Foreign Language Test (YDS) is one of the national tests which measure the foreign language proficiency level of candidates. The test is conducted for state employees who want to be appointed to a post abroad permanently or who want to raise their pay status, for master degree and PhD candidates, would-be associate professors and general practitioners who want to be specialists. Having an adult target group of candidates and academic texts from various different fields are two significant characteristic features of YDS. This study aims to evaluate YDS in terms of a number of common characteristics of adult education and language for specific purposes. Analysis were conducted under the title of originality and authenticity of questions, candidates' information about the test and its process, fair distribution of questions between academic science fields. The findings of the study indicate that originality of questions and candidates' acknowledgement of test are bright sides of YDS whereas fair distribution of questions and inability of measuring four basic skills of a language are concluded as the adverse sides of the test.

Keywords: Foreign Languages Test (YDS), Adult Education, Language for Specific Purposes.