

Validating and extending the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: invitation to participate in a research project

Introduction

I am a part-time PhD student in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University. I am seeking to recruit a number of English Language teachers to help with my study. The teachers will be asked to do two things:

- To provide an assessment of the abilities of two or more of their students using an online survey which I will devise.
- To assess a number of samples of learners' (not their own students') writing, again by completing an online survey.

My study: aims

The aim of my intended PhD study is to replicate Brian North's (2000) research which led to the calibration of some of the descriptors ("Can do statements") that make up the Common European Framework (CEFR) scales (Council of Europe, 2001).

Method

I am looking for a number of teachers of English (General or ESP, adult or secondary) who have, between them, classes at all levels from beginners to university degree. It is *not* a requirement that any teacher should have any familiarity, whatsoever, with the CEFR.

Each teacher will be asked to:

1. complete a short online questionnaire giving me some basic demographic information about themselves
2. select **two** of their students from different classes, and for **each** of these students complete an online survey consisting of up to 40 "Can Do" statements (e.g. "Can write very short, basic descriptions of events, past activities and personal experiences" - tick YES or NO for this student)
3. complete a short online survey to assess each of **five** samples of learner production.

I estimate that this will amount to about one hours' work for each teacher.

Timeframe

I would like to make initial contact with teachers at any time from now, and to complete data collection by the end of 2019.

Benefits for the teachers

Teachers will receive an electronic gift voucher worth approximately GBP 15.00 as compensation for their time and expertise. This is conditional on completing the steps 1 to 3 specified under "Method" above. In addition, there is direct benefit in terms of professional development through experience in criterion related assessment.

Questions?

For further information please contact me (at the email address below), or my supervisor, Dr. Luke Harding (l.harding@lancaster.ac.uk).

References

Council of Europe. (2001). *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

North, B. J. (2000). *The development of a common framework scale of language proficiency*. Peter Lang, New York

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