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Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI): What translation has taught us about culture and development.

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- Introduction:

The Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI) has been translated into multiple languages including Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, Spanish (USA), Portuguese (Brazil), Slovene, Turkish, Icelandic, French (Canada), Hebrew, and Chinese. International users have published research on challenges applying the PEDI to their own culture.

- Objectives:

To summarize what has been learned from translation and cross-cultural studies on the PEDI.

- Description/report:

We reviewed published PEDI translation studies from Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Slovenia, Turkey, and U.S.A (Puerto Rico).

- Results/Discussion:

Three major themes were identified: (1) language issues in translation, (2) cultural differences, and (3) different development paths and parenting experiences. One of the major issues in translating the PEDI is finding comparable words in their other languages. For example, the Norwegian team reported difficulty finding comparable Norwegian words for “prompting”, “fasteners”, and “item.” Cultural differences required adapting the PEDI, for example the Dutch team added “bicycling” to their mobility scale. The Norwegian team reported that their children do not brush their teeth independently until age 10, following dentist advice. Different development paths were suggested by different item hierarchies. Some research teams reported that differences between the American and their own normative data may be due to different parenting experiences. For example, “being independent” is not considered important in very young children in some cultures. Therefore, parents do not ask their children to do household chores and self-care tasks as often as U.S. parents. The PEDI is currently undergoing revision. As the PEDI team revises items feedback from translators is being considered.

- Conclusion

Even with cultures that appear similar on the surface, we cannot assume an existing set of items are equally appropriate. Based on our experience with the translated PEDI, we encourage measurement developers to take a global perspective. Computerized adaptive testing may offer a flexible solution.

- Contribution to the practice & evidence base of occupational therapy

This poster provides information on similarities and differences across cultures in daily activities. It also alerts practitioners to be cautious using normative data from other countries to identify developmental delay or status.