Hebrew Adaptation of the MB‑CDI

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Adaptation of the MB‑CDI to Hebrew

The adaptation of the MB‑CDI questionnaire to Hebrew began in the late 1990's and included two stages. At the first stage, the MB-CDI WS toddler form was adapted to Hebrew (Maital et al., 2000). First, the word list was double translated (from English to Hebrew and back to English), a comparison of translations performed by independent translators, consultations with experts, and recommendations made by mothers and caregivers led to the final version of the lexical items in the Hebrew list. In the process of constructing the list, non-distinguishing words (such as 'mom' or 'dad') and words that are not part of the Israeli culture (such as 'snowman' and 'peanut butter') were removed from the list. Words that are a part of the Israeli culture (such as 'sandals' and 'pita') and words that describe common routines of Israeli children (such as 'go for a hike') were added to the list.

In addition to the word list, a section that evaluates grammatical development in Hebrew was constructed. Hebrew is a Semitic language with rich bound morphology. The grammatical section in Hebrew MB‑CDI WS consists of a set of questions referring to everyday experiences of young children. Each question is followed by a close set of four responses each representing a different level of grammatical proficiency. Parents mark which linguistic response mostly resemble that of their child in each situation. While developing the grammatical section, the researchers followed the guidelines of the original MB‑CDI questionnaire: evaluation of current behaviors, use of multiple-choice questions rather than open–ended questions, keeping a balance between creating enough values to ensure validity and creating a simple questionnaire that is not too long and enable parents' cooperation (Maital et al., 2000).

The infant version of the MB-CDI WG was adapted to Hebrew in 2005 by Gendler - Shalev and Dromi. First, the word lists of the infant (WG) and the toddler (WS) versions of the original MB-CDI in English were compared to the word list of the Hebrew MB-CDI WS. A list of words that appear in both the infant and toddler forms was created. In addition, some of the words that are unique to the Hebrew MB-CDI WS word list (i.e., culturally based words) were added to the list. The final word-list of the Hebrew MB-CDI WG was formulated after consultations with experts and recommendations of mothers and caregivers.

The adaptation of the Actions and Gestures part of the questionnaire to Hebrew included a translation with a few changes: some of the items were moved from one category to another; items that do not describe gestures were removed (for example, "puts on shoes/socks"); items that do not characterize Israeli culture were removed; other items that characterize Israeli culture were added (such as finger games and rhymes); items that describe games children play (such as "build a tower of blocks") were added; and items that describe symbolic play (such as "examine a dole or teddy bear with a toy medical kit") were added.

Web Hebrew MB-CDI

In 2016, The Hebrew MB-CDI and a background questionnaire were adapted into a web format. The computerization of the questionnaires was based on the Norwegian web MB-CDI (Kristoffersen et al., 2013). The web format of the questionnaire was built in HTML, PHP, and CSS programming languages using Zend software. The questionnaires were embedded in a website www.firstwords.co.il (in Hebrew). The website included general information about child language development and specific information about the importance of the research and its goals. The website and a public appeal to parents to complete the questionnaire set were distributed through social media, articles on popular websites, and radio and TV talk shows. Flyers were distributed at entertainment sites, and parents were directly approached at parenting centers. The research project was presented at conferences to recruit para-health and health professionals to take part in data collection efforts. The computerized web data were analyzed in the doctoral dissertation of Hila Gendler-Shalev (2019) at Tel Aviv University, under the supervision of Prof. Esther Dromi.

Cross‑sectional and Longitudinal Data

Cross-sectional and longitudinal data were collected via the web-based questionnaire. In the cross-sectional study, 1,555 parents of toddlers aged 12-24 months completed the Hebrew web MB-CDI WG questionnaire and 450 parents of toddlers aged 25-36 months completed the Hebrew web MB-CDI WS questionnaire. In the longitudinal study, 199 participants completed the full Hebrew web MB-CDI WG questionnaire every few months for a total of 495 measuring points. The cross-sectional and longitudinal data sets are analyzed, and results will be published soon in scientific journals.

References

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