SUMMARY OF FINDINGS YIELDED WITH THE EIT SPANISH INSTRUMENT

Results reported in Ortega (2000): The reliability of the L2 Spanish EI task with 16 fifth-semester college learners of L2 Spanish (administered in the beginning and again in the end of a 15-week semester) was Cronbach’s alpha .95 (beginning) and .96 (end). The correlation with SOPI ratings at the end of the semester administration (with 15 learners, after one participant was withdrawn because of incomplete data) was Pearson r=0.87. [Note: The ACTFL ratings initially assigned by the two raters were converted into interval scale values using the scale equivalent devised by Henning (1992) and later the two raters’ values were averaged, then the resulting data correlated with the EI scores.]

Table 8.2. Results of elicited imitation task and grammaticality judgment task (partial Table from Ortega, 2000)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Elicited Imitation Task | |
| Descriptive statistics | Semester beginning | Semester  End |
| N | 16 | 16 |
| k | 30 | 30 |
| Total possible score | 120 | 120 |
| mean | 45.38 | 60.25 |
| mode | 58 | 44 |
| median | 36 | 52.50 |
| midpoint | 54 | 67.50 |
| min.-max. | 18-90 | 34-101 |
| range | 73 | 68 |
| SD | 21.95 | 22.28 |
| skew | 0.90 | 0.75 |

*Note*. k = number of test items.

Results reported in Ortega et al. (in preparation): The reliability of the EI task with 28 4th- and 6th-semester college learners of L2 Spanish was Cronbach’s alpha .97. A comparison of the 4th-semester learners (“low proficiency”) and the 6th-semester (“high proficiency”) is presented in Table 4. The correlation with SOPI ratings (28 subjects) was Pearson r=0.88. [Note: The ACTFL ratings initially assigned by the two raters were converted into interval scale values using the scale equivalent devised by Henning (1992) and later the two raters’ values were averaged, then the resulting data correlated with the EI scores.]

**Table 4. Descriptive statistics of EI scores (**Partial Table from Ortega et al., in preparation)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Group | N | Mean | SD | Max. | Min. |
| Spanish | High | 17 | 86.76 | 21.86 | 115 | 45 |
|  | Low | 11 | 49.64 | 17.90 | 81 | 30 |

*Note*: Maximum score for the EI task is 120.

**References cited:**

Ortega, L. (2000). *Understanding syntactic complexity: The measurement of change in the syntax of instructed L2 Spanish learners.* Unpublished Doctoral dissertation, University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

Ortega, L., Iwashita, N., Rabie, S., & Norris, J. M. (in preparation). *A multilanguage comparison of measures of syntactic complexity*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i, National Foreign Language Resource Center.