

ELICITED IMITATION TASKS AS A MEASURE OF L2 PROFICIENCY: A META-ANALYSIS



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KEY TERMS

Elicited imitation tasks (EITs)

A language proficiency assessment task type which uses audio or written prompts. It aims to provide a more naturalistic measure of language proficiency by engaging test-takers to active processes and producing language in real-time.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS SUMMARISED?

46 studies

HOW CAN I USE THE FINDINGS IN MY TEACHING?

- EITs can be a useful tool to assist you in assessing and developing your students' language proficiency, promoting students' self-reflection and active engagement.
- EITs can be used in the classroom to help improve listening and comprehension skills, whilst also providing you opportunity to give immediate feedback on accuracy and fluency.
- Creating real-life situations in the classroom can develop students' ability and confidence.
- Careful consideration is required when designing EITs to fully harness their positive attributes.

WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM THIS SECONDARY RESEARCH?

What is the reliability and validity of EITs compared to other testing measures of L2 proficiency?

WHAT DOES IT FIND?

- EITs can offers greater consistency and practicality in measuring L2 proficiency compared to some standardised testing types.
- For optimal results, EITs should be designed to include: 1) a pause after the stimuli is presented to test-takers; 2) sentences using a wide range of topics.
- Test results for EITs should ideally use either an interval scale or mixed scale to represent learner ability, rather than a binary scale or ordinal scale.
- EITs can be used in a variety of L2 contexts to measure a range of linguistic features, including grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and syntax.