LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT LITERACY AND DIGITAL ASSESSMENT: REFORMING THE FRAMEWORK

T-15

Al-Akbari Sabah

University of Szeged, Doctoral School of Education

Keywords: assessment; assessment literacy; language assessment literacy; digital assessment; teacher training; teachers' professional development

The field of language assessment literacy has recently undergone extensive theoretical development, but the sudden shift to online learning during the pandemic has revealed the need to improve teachers' digital assessment skills and knowledge. Therefore, this article aims at updating the language assessment literacy (LAL) concept. In this paper, I focus on expanding the constructs of LAL, in particular Taylors' model of LAL, to include digital assessment literacy by adopting the European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators (DigCompEdu), and reconceptualizing the concept and framework of LAL. I used narrative review to explore and analyze up-to-date and relevant literature about LAL and digital assessment literacy. Then, I resynthesized the concept of LAL to develop a reformed LAL framework. Nineteen articles were reviewed thoroughly: twelve of them described major theories and empirical studies, seven of them dealt with digital assessment frameworks for teachers. The main result of this review is a new LAL framework which aims to promote both online and offline language assessment practices. The framework consists of nine components: 1) knowledge of theory; 2) technical skills; 3) principles and concepts; 4) language pedagogy; 5) sociocultural values; 6) local practices; 7) personal beliefs/attitudes; 8) scores and decision making; and 9) digital assessment literacy. Each component has progressing levels from A1 (newbie) to C1 (pioneer), imitating the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to make it user-friendly and practical for both self-assessment as well as for professional development programs. In conclusion, this descriptive review adds new theoretical insights, and proposes a LAL concept, which is missing from the existing literature by providing a comprehensive and practical framework for self-assessment and for teachers' professional development of language assessment literacy. This reformed framework will undoubtedly contribute to the steadily growing body of literature on LAL.