



South Asia Language Resource Center
The University of Chicago

**IEPS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FORUM
FOSTERING CONNECTION, COLLABORATION,
AND CREATIVE IDEAS**

**Assessment of Foreign Language and
Area Studies Programs**

February 22, 2008

Language assessments - 1

South Asian languages (LCTLs)

ACTFL oral proficiency interview in Hindi (late 80s)
only common test in any skill in any South Asian language

Need to assess what an individual can do based on proficiency regardless of where, when, or how the language has been learned or acquired.

All 4 skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening)

Language assessments – 2

Helps in placement in joint language programs (overseas and domestic) and in returning students to appropriate level in home institution

Potentially useful for business and government

Provides guidelines/goals for inexperienced faculty

Method of assessment - 1

Use a single common national assessment STAMP (Standards-based Measure of Proficiency) based on accepted benchmarks consistent with the ACTFL Performance Guidelines.

Fosters a more consistent learning environment from one classroom to the next.

Developed at the University of Oregon.

Test student repeatedly throughout her career including while in American overseas language programs

Method of assessment – 2

STAMP is web-based and tests all four skills

Hindi reading assessment

Development started FA 05

Training for developers FA 05

Training for reviewers SP 06

Pilot SU 06

Full pilot AY 06-07

748 Individuals; 18 Institutions

[Huge percentage of all students/institutions]

Rewritten AY 07-08

Pilot resumes SU 08

Method of assessment – 2

Hindi listening assessment

Development started FA 06

Same developers as for reading test

Pilot SU 08

Full pilot AY 08-09

Urdu reading assessment

Development started FA 06

Training for developers FA 06

Training for reviewers WI 07

Pilot SU 08

Full pilot AY 08-09

Challenges and lessons - 1

Initial and on-going

Fonts

Limited cadre of developers and reviewers

Need to get NRCs involved

How to identify non-NRC institutions where the language is taught?

Challenges and lessons - 2

Future

Assessments for the other South Asian languages that are taught in the U.S.

Very small enrollments thus small cohort of test takers to validate test

Development cost per test taker

How to create a meaningful assessment for small cohorts of students and faculty—and how to pay for it?

END

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