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ABSTRACT

Designed to be used as a measure of English language readiness to assist the classroom teacher in grouping native Spanish-speaking pupils for English language instruction, the index may also be used to assess pupil achievement in learning English as a foreign language. Based on a contrastive analysis of English and Spanish grammar and phonology, the Linguistic Capacity Index consists of three 20-item sections on vocabulary recognition, contrastive phonology, and contrastive development. [This document is one of those reviewed in The Research Instruments Project (TRIP) monograph "Measures for Research and Evaluation in the English Language Arts" to be published by the Committee on Research of the National Council of Teachers of English in cooperation with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills. A TRIP review which precedes the document lists its category (English as a Second Language), title, authors, date, and age range (primary), and describes the instrument's purpose and physical characteristics.] (RB)

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The Research Instruments Project (TRIP)

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The attached document contains one of the measures reviewed in the TRIP committee monograph titled:

Measures for Research and Evaluation  
in the English Language Arts

TRIP is an acronym which signifies an effort to abstract and make readily available measures for research and evaluation in the English language arts. These measures relate to language development, listening, literature, reading, standard English as a second language or dialect, teacher competencies, or writing. In order to make these instruments more readily available, the ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills has supported the TRIP committee sponsored by the Committee on Research of the National Council of Teachers of English and has processed the material into the ERIC system. The ERIC Clearinghouse accession numbers that encompass most of these documents are CS 20/320-CS 20/375.

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CS 20/358

Category: Standard English as a Second Language or Dialect

Title: "Linguistic Capacity Index"

Authors: Frederick H. Brengelman and John C. Manning

Age Range: Primary

Description of Instrument:

Purpose - The test may be used as a measure of English language readiness to assist the classroom teacher in grouping native Spanish-speaking pupils for English language instruction. The Index also may be used to assess pupil achievement in learning English as a foreign language.

Date of Construction - 1964

Physical Description - Based on a contrastive analysis of English and Spanish grammar and phonology, the Linguistic Capacity Index consists of three 20-item sections on Vocabulary Recognition, Contrastive Phonology, and Contrastive Grammar. All sixty items measure vocabulary development. The Vocabulary Recognition section measures recognition of noun, verb, preposition, and adjective forms. The contrastive phonology section measures the pupils' ability to distinguish the following pairs of words which are contrasted in English but not in Spanish:

(bean - bin)	(bought - boat)	(ship - chip)
(mane - men)	(pull - pool)	(lather - ladder)
(cat - cot)	(bad - bed)	(cupboard - covered)
(cot - cut)	(Sue - zoo)	(think - sink)

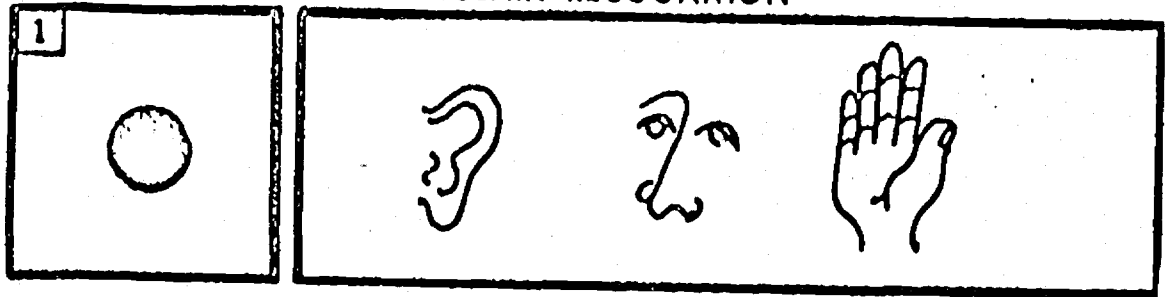
The contrastive grammar section measures the pupils' understanding of English function words, word order, and inflectional constructions which do not correspond to semantically similar constructions in Spanish.

- can plus a simple verb
- be plus ing as present tense
- has plus en as perfect tense
- noun as indirect object
- likes
- is cold vs. has a cold
- negative in verb - plus auxiliary constructions
- do -- auxiliary constructions
- er and est adjective comparison
- be going to as future
- noun as noun-modifier
- passive with be plus past participle

The authors recommend testing no more than ten pupils at a time. All items must be pronounced naturally by a native English-speaking examiner. Total test time is 35 minutes with breaks between

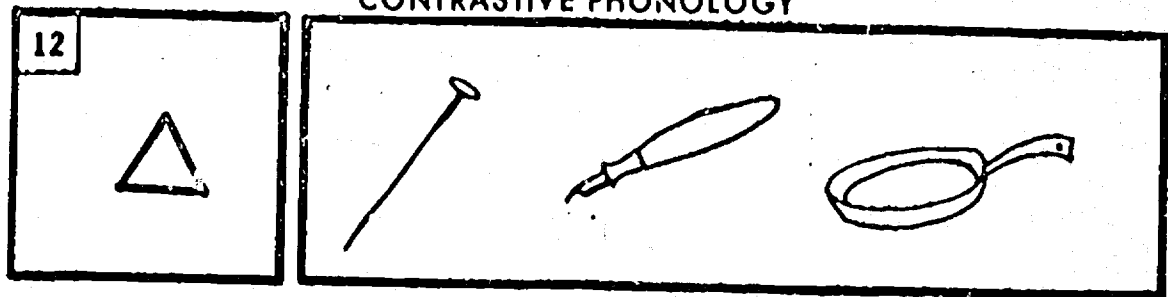
sections recommended. A pretest was designed to familiarize pupils with marking lines and circles, following symbol directions, and sequencing of test items. To assist pupils in the location of test items and to aid them in holding their place, each test item is preceded by a box containing one of five symbols. The examiner, using a set of symbol cards, states, "Put your finger on the picture that looks like this. In the big square (1) Mark the hand. Mark the hand."

### VOCABULARY RECOGNITION



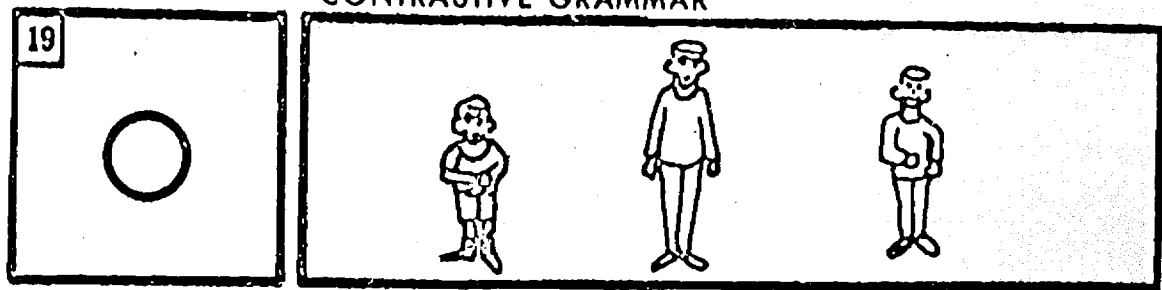
(12) "Mark the pan. Mark the pan."

### CONTRASTIVE PHONOLOGY



(19) "Mark the boy who is the tallest. Mark the boy who is the tallest."

### CONTRASTIVE GRAMMAR



The Linguistic Capacity Index yields a raw score and a percentile rank. Item analyses reveal specific weaknesses for language instruction.

**Validity, Reliability and Normative Data:**

A linguistic approach to the teaching of English as a foreign language to kindergarten pupils whose primary language is Spanish (Cleveland: Bell and Howell Co., Micro Photo Division, 1966) describes a reliability and validity study directed by the authors using 167 subjects. The test was also administered to 300 kindergarten children in USOE Project #2821 and to over 2,400 first graders in Cooperative Research Reading Projects #2648 and #2734.

**Ordering Information:**

EDRS

**Related Documents:**

Fowler, E. D. The Brengelman-Manning Linguistic Capacity Index as a predictor of reading achievement. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, The University of Texas at Austin, 1969.

Jameson, G. R. The development of a phonemic analysis for an oral English proficiency test for Spanish-speaking school beginners. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, The University of Texas at Austin, 1967.

Ott, E. H. A study of levels of fluency and proficiency in oral English of Spanish-speaking school beginners. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, The University of Texas at Austin, 1967.