A Step Towards E-assessment of the GEPT

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Abstract

This paper discusses the efforts to manage advances in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as they pertain to the administration and assessment of the General English Proficiency Test (GEPT) in Taiwan. The GEPT, a criterion-referenced test developed by the Language Training and Testing Center (LTTC), is divided into five levels. Each level includes listening, reading, writing and speaking components and is administered in two stages. This paper focuses on the technology development of the second stage: the speaking and writing tests. Firstly, it addresses a pilot study on the online marking of the GEPT writing test. The results of trials conducted in 2006 and 2007 are reported and particular attention is given to the design rationale of the study, raters' intra- and inter-reliability in contrast to that of traditional conference marking, raters’ feedback, and the performance of the online marking system. Then it discusses the speaking test, a semi-direct oral proficiency test administered in conventional audio-visual labs. Practical considerations are identified and the results of the trial runs are reported and discussed.