Measuring the lexical component of language faculty (creating and testing test batteries)

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The research is aimed at creating a tool for measuring the lexical component of the language faculty, which determines the ability of a person to operate with vocabulary units in speech production and perception. One of the most recognised tests revealing the level of lexical ability is Mill Hill Vocabulary Scale. One of the tasks of our research is to standardise MHVS for the Russian language. Tests can be standardised in different ways. The most popular methods are translation, partial replication and adaptation. Although MHVS was successfully translated into French (by J.J. Deltour) and Spanish (M. I. Panizo), for the Russian language, we went for replication of the original test due to discrepancies in semantic-functional features of the lexicon. Translation of the test may decrease the validity of the test.

The report describes partial replication and localisation (adaptation) of the test based on the original methodology. It reveals the principles of selecting words, options for deviating from the initial test, organisation of the test, and the results of the pretests.

Diagnosing abilities of the formed sets were tested in the preliminary tests conducted with pupils of the third, fifth, sixth and eighth grades located at different stages of the development of their language ability. The report presents the statistics obtained from during the testing.

Keywords: language faculty, vocabulary scales, Russian language.