

## **Validation of questionnaires, with emphasis on the SDQ**

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### **Introduction: What is validation?**

- (Last 2001): “The process of establishing that a method is sound.”
- Sound for what?
- Kane (2006) “Validation involves the evaluation of the proposed interpretations and uses of measurements...It is not the test that is validated and it is not the test scores that are validated...”

## Plan for the teaching

1. Overview of the validation process
2. Details about each step
3. Summarizing table
4. Validation of the original version of the SDQ
5. Validation of some translated versions of the SDQ: How has it been done?

## Overview of the validation process

### First stage: Election and translation/adaptation of the instrument

1. Evaluate the usefulness of the SDQ for our need
2. Consider the aim of the translation/adaptation process
3. The translation/adaptation process itself

### Second stage: Examining the validity of the instrument

1. Samples for validation
2. Different types of validity and reliability and how they are tested
 

a) Criterion validity	e) Reproducibility
b) Content validity	f) Responsiveness
c) Construct validity	g) Floor or ceiling effects
d) Internal consistency	h) Interpretability

### A table summarizing the validation process

**First stage. Election and translation/adaptation of the instrument**

1. Evaluate the usefulness of the SDQ for our need

- a) For what do we need the instrument?
- b) Is there any instrument already translated that can serve our purpose?
- c) If not, which are the “candidate instruments”?
- d) Which of these will be the most useful for our purpose?
- e) Has the original version of this instrument been well enough validated?

**First stage, cont.**

2. Consider the aim of the translation/adaptation process

1. Conceptual/functional equivalence
2. Equivalence in construct operationalization
3. Item equivalence
4. Scalar equivalence

### **First stage, cont.**

#### 3. The translation/adaptation process itself

1. Permission from the author
2. Forward translation
3. Synthesis of the translations
4. Back-translation
5. Expert committee
6. Test of the pre-final version
7. Submission of documentation to the developers or coordinating committee for appraisal of the adaptation process