# Bilingual Child Language Assessment in the Age of COVID-19

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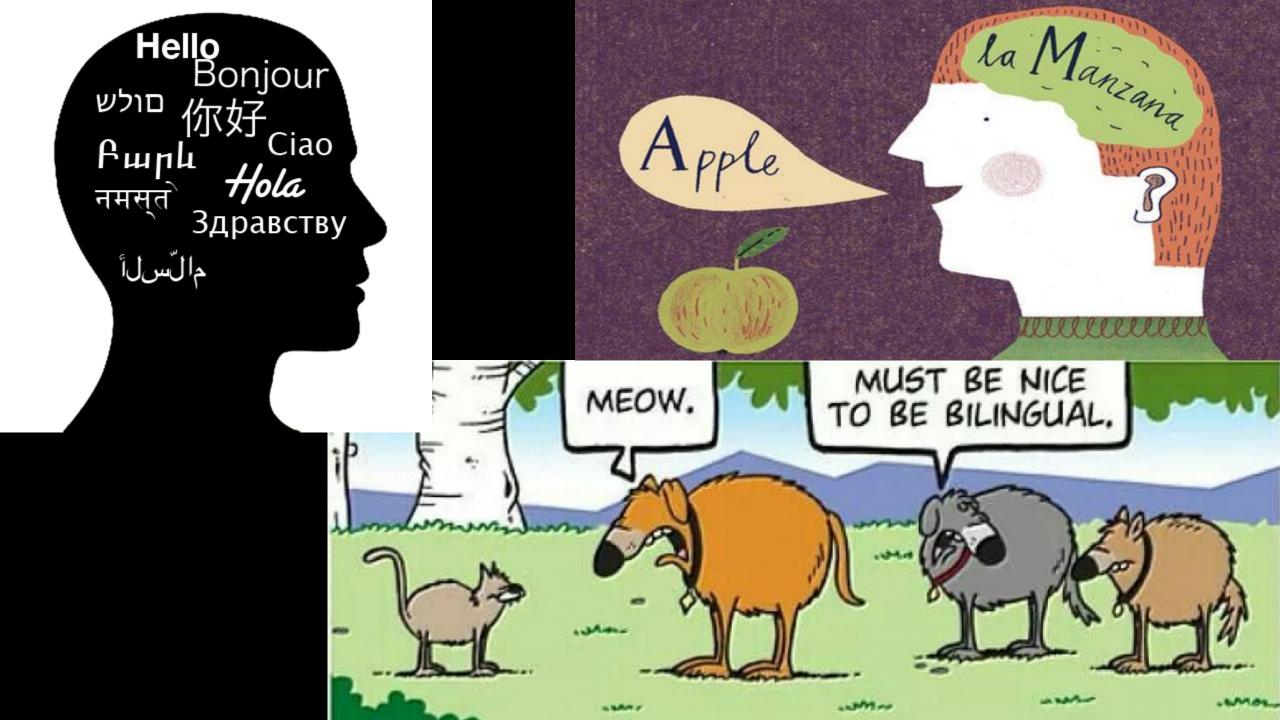












# Developmental Language Disorder

10%

Often invisible

phonology grammar vocabulary social skills

# Developmental Language Disorder

sound errors
omission –ed, -s, -ing
fewer words
perspective taking

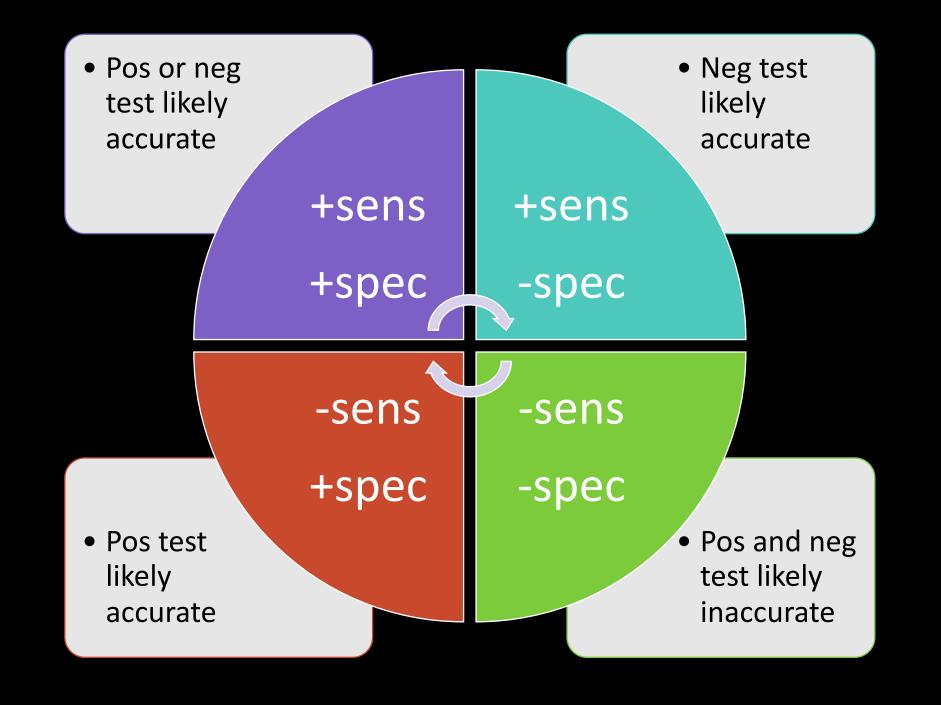
phonology grammar vocabulary social skills

#### DLD

• Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a language disorder that delays the mastery of language skills in children who have no hearing loss or other developmental delays

## Bilingual DLD

- Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a language disorder that delays the mastery of language skills in children who have no hearing loss or other developmental delays
- Not an effect of second language acquisition
- Affects BOTH languages



## Proposed Study

- Develop a measure we can use in English to identify DLD
  - Few bilingual SLPs (<6%)
  - 20-40% children are bilingual
    - Risk for misdiagnosis

## Proposed Study

- Index measure TELL
- Reference measure(s)
  - BESA
  - MAIN
  - DELV
  - Monomorphemic task

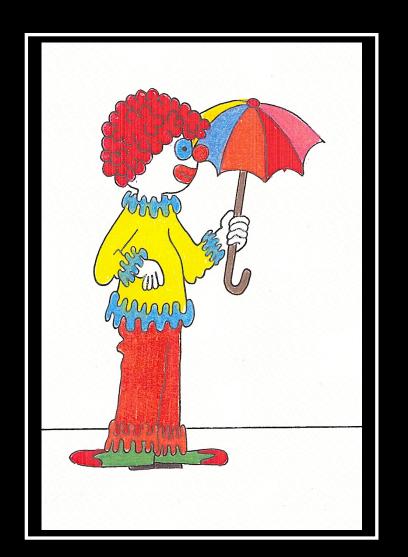
#### **Sensitivity Specificity**

Best language morphosyntax + Best language semantics+Best Phonology 90.5% 94.0%



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Bed - boil<u>ed</u> House - book<u>s</u>



#### Monomorphemic Task

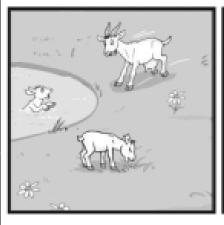


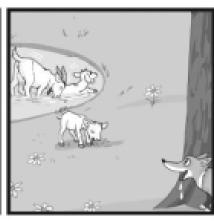
#### **Sensitivity Specificity**

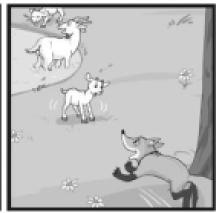
Story Comprehension + Story Generation >85%

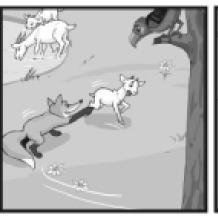
>85%

# Multilingual Assessment Instrument for Narratives





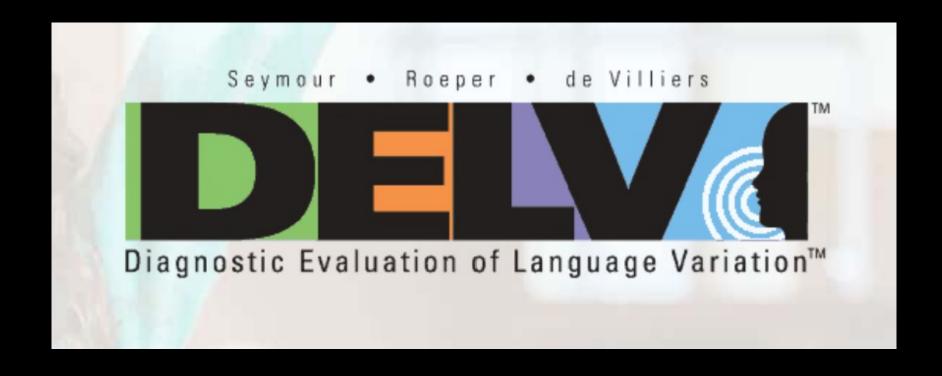








## Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation



## Current Challenges in Test Administration

- Schools suspending eligibility testing
  - Compliance
    - IDEA requires eligibility assessment completed within 60 days of referral

- Dual language learners
  - Already about a 1 year delay in identification
    - Don't make it worse!!

## Current Challenges in Test Administration

- Renoming?
  - Not feasible
    - expensive
    - Norming takes min of 6 months—typically multiyear process
- Equivalence study
  - Are on-line results similar to F2F?
    - Validity
    - Reliability

## Current Challenges in Test Administration

#### Validity

- Are we testing what we think we're testing?
  - Children may be unfamiliar with on-line format
  - Household members may interfere with responses

#### Reliability

- Are the test data accurate?
  - Sound quality
  - Scoring accuracy

#### Goals

- Compare on-line & F2F administration of:
  - BESA (Bilingual English Spanish Assessment)
  - DELV (Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation)
  - MAIN (multilingual assessment instrument for narratives)
  - Monomorphemic production (final sounds -s, -d, -ng)

## Expectations

- Previous studies show equivalence
  - Language sampling
  - CELF (Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals)
  - TILLS (Test of Integrated Language and Literacy Skills)

## Approach

• Prepared split half versions of each measure

	Version A		Version B	
	On line	F2F	On line	F2F
BESA (voiceover admin)	Split by type (plus 1/3 repeated)		Split by type (plus 1/3 repeated)	
MAIN (4 available stories)	1 story in V or S, 1 in E		1 story in V or S, 1 in E	
DELV (voiceover admin)	Evens		Odds	
Monomorphemic	All items		All items	

#### Considerations

- Participants
  - SLPs who are caregivers with kids in target age
  - Can children use mouse? Touchscreen?
- Equipment
  - 2 devices at home (what kind?)
  - Headset
  - Tech check
- Reliability
  - SLP + researcher scoring

## So far...

- 2 cases
  - Timing (1 ½ hours total)
  - Instructions to caregiver
  - Break up phone interview & zoom sessions

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2languages2worlds.wordpress.com hablalab.wordpress.com