

Title: A psychometric study of the Chinese version of the Assessment of Communication and Interaction Skills

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Major Finding: The Assessment of Communication and Interaction Skills—Chinese version (ACIS-C) was upheld as a valid and sensitive tool for use with Chinese clients; the concepts that the assessment focuses on are generalizable to an Eastern context.

Participants:

- 101 participants from 4 day-care wards in Taiwan
 - 56 males, 45 females; mean age: 38.6
 - All had scores >24 on the Mini Mental Status Exam
 - All with schizophrenia and/or affective disorder

Method: Participants were observed in the context of a group discussion and during a one-to-one interview and rated by the first author. Participants were rated using the ACIS-C, an assessment that was translated into Chinese from the original ACIS, back-translated into English, modified, and back-translated again.

Analysis: Rasch analysis using WINSTEPS software.

Findings:

- 19 of the 20 items on the ACIS-C met the criteria for fit
- The item that did not fit was “Articulates,” which the authors suggested may have been due to slurred speech resulting from medications for some participants, because the item had not been shown to misfit in other ACIS studies.
- The 4-point rating scale was found to work as intended.
- The ACIS-C was able to separate subjects into 6 significantly different levels of communication and interaction skills.

Conclusion: Despite the western origins of the ACIS and the strong influence of language and culture on communication and interaction, the ACIS-C was upheld as a psychometrically sound means of assessing communication and interaction skills in a Chinese population.

Implications for future research: Future research should investigate whether the item “Articulates” misfits in other Taiwanese populations, as well as interrater and intrarater reliability and the concurrent and predictive validity of the ACIS-C.

Evidence– based practice implications:

- **An understanding of communication and interaction skills as conceptualized by the model of human occupation is relevant to practitioners working with clients from Eastern cultures.**
- **The model of human occupation and the ACIS are valid tools for understanding occupational therapy clients in areas that are culturally different from the west.**

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