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ABSTRACT

This bibliography is an addendum to a 1987 update of an earlier bibliography on proficiency-related issues in language teaching and testing. The bibliography includes publications that appeared in 1987 and 1988, and a few that appeared in 1986. The 84 citations include basic bibliographic information, and are organized in the following categories: (1) oral proficiency testing (history and background); (2) proficiency in the other modalities (listening, reading, writing, and culture); and (3) implications and applications of the proficiency concept for all modalities (subcategorized under curriculum, classroom instruction and testing, accuracy, focus on the learner, teacher education and certification, less commonly taught languages, technology, and business); and (4) the debate over the proficiency approach. (MSL)

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Topical Bibliography of Proficiency-Related Publications: 1987-88

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Introduction

In 1984, Vicki Galloway of ACTFL developed A Selected Topical Bibliography of Proficiency-Related Issues, which was published in mimeographed form by ACTFL and distributed at ACTFL proficiency testing workshops. Early in 1987, we updated this bibliography to include publications on the subject appearing through 1986. The updated bibliography appeared in a collection of articles on proficiency testing (See Stansfield, Charles W. and Harman, Chip, eds. ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines for the Less Commonly Taught Languages. Washington, DC: Center for Applied Linguistics and American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages, 1987. [ED 289 345]). This bibliography is an addendum to the 1987 update. It includes publications that appeared in 1987 and 1988, as well as a few 1986 publications that did not appear in the earlier update due to a delay in the appearance of a 1986 number of a journal containing a relevant article.

This bibliography was produced in the following manner. A computer search was run of the ERIC database using "language testing" and "language proficiency" as descriptors and ACTFL as an identifier. This produced titles for 134 documents appearing between 1986 and 1988. These titles were then compared with the earlier updated bibliography and any documents appearing on both lists were deleted. Abstracts for the remaining documents were read and documents that appeared to be irrelevant were deleted. The full form of the remaining documents was then consulted in order to verify its appropriateness and to classify the document into one of ten topical categories.

This bibliography contains four new topical categories that did not appear in the earlier update. These are "less commonly taught languages," "technology," "business," and "debate." The new categories reflect the growing number of documents that have appeared on these topics and the proliferation of proficiency-related literature in general.

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