

**Title:** Concurrent Validity of the OPI and National Language Service Corps' Self-Assessments in Russian

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Self-assessments were used as a cost-effective screening tool during the piloting of the National Language Service Corps (NLSC) program. The Self-assessments consist of two parts: the Cando statements and the Global assessments. A total of 88 Cando statements from Russian-speaking members of the NLSC describe target-language activities that candidates may be expected to perform. For the Global assessments, the candidates selected from among nine descriptions of target language ability, the one that best characterized their overall language proficiency.

The present study investigated the predictive validity of the two types of self-assessment instruments used in screening applicants at NLSC. 323 admitted candidates were formally tested in the target languages by the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Paired sample tests were conducted to compare the self-rating of sub-skill scores obtained by Cando statements and Global assessments. A correlational study between the self-assessment scores and OPI scores was carried out. The results showed that these correlation coefficients ranged from .41 to .54, all statistically significant, with the effect sizes from moderate to large. The results of two regression analyses showed that the Global assessments and the Cando statements have relatively good predictive power in terms of predicting OPI scores. These results broadly support our belief that the Cando statements and the Global self-assessments are valid instruments for the measurement of language skills and should remain as part of the NLSC screening process.

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