

**A18**

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**Quantitative and qualitative methodologies and the development of rating scales for speaking**

The CEFR advocates the use of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in the design of performance assessment scales. This paper will present the development of rating scales for Speaking and will argue for triangulation of analytic approaches. The presentation will illustrate this premise with the description of several studies which supported the development of the rating scales in question and utilised both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

The presentation will fall into three parts. First, an overview of the rating scales will be given and a case will be made for their validation prior to use in live conditions. Next, the presentation will focus on three general methodologies which supported the development of the scales: an intuitive, a qualitative and a quantitative phase. The intuitive phase, which consisted of the setting out of the design principles for the scales and was based on experts' reviews of current practice and their experience, will be overviewed. The qualitative and quantitative phases of the scales' construction will then be discussed, with a focus on (a) a scaling exercise, which involved a rank ordering of the scale descriptors through multifaceted Rasch analysis; (b) a verbal protocol trial, which focused on raters' perception of the descriptors while rating performances and (c) an extended trial which confirmed the soundness of the descriptors prior to their live roll-out. The presentation will end with a discussion of the value of gathering validation evidence from multiple methods and drawing on both qualitative and quantitative approaches to validation in language assessment.