Test writing: creative thinking in action

Stefania Paola Pasqua, Helen Marie Spina, Ian Michael Robinson Università della Calabria

An important aspect of many language courses is the form of final evaluation that is set. This paper proposes to investigate the work done by the a specific Test development Team. This will involve analysing the thinking and working behind the final evaluations used in a series of courses organized jointly by the Region of Calabria and the Language Centre at UNICAL. These were aimed at learners of various backgrounds and of various levels. Each final assessment was designed to assign the appropriate CEFR level to the learners.

We intend to investigate the workings and creative processes in the Test Development Team working to provide final assessment tools for these courses. The paper will use data coming from questionnaires used to survey the working of this particular group in which there were questions concerning the thinking and reasoning behind the words on the test paper. This paper looks at the various problematics involved and the way in which this particular group has attempted to overcome them.

Another part of the work of the Test Development Team was to draft some preliminary guidelines for discussion with other partners concerning a possible future AICLU certification. We will briefly identify the main areas of concern in this task and attempt to give an insight to this work-in-progress.