Speakaboo, COMBI and the Virtual Language App

Projects of the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning

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Mercator European Research Centre

- Information and Research Centre

- Fields of research:
  - Teaching in Diversity
  - Open Educational Resources (OER)
  - New technologies; E-learning & Social media
  - Migration and the position of Minorities
  - Language Learning
Mercator’s activities

- Research
- Publications & databases
- Network of Schools
- Newsletters
- Projects
- Conferences & seminars
- Advisory role
Speakaboo
Speakaboo

• Speakaboo: multilingual app, developed by Kentalis & ShoSho

• Used by speech and language therapists (SLTs) to assess multilingual children between 2;6-6 yrs old in their phonological development

• Multilingual children need to be assessed in ALL their languages (Genesee, Paradis & Crago, 2004)

• Assess home language even if SLT does not speak that language

• More information: http://www.speakaboo.io
Scoring

Nynke | Fries

01 - aap  ✓  02 - pop  ✓  03 - hok  ✓  04 - koe  ✓  05 - tas  ✓  06 - sok  ✓  07 - vlieg  ✓  08 - jas  ✓  09 - hond  ✓  10 - voet  ✓  11 - boom  ✓  12 - oog  ✓  13 - boek  ✓  14 - mes  ✓  15 - neus  ✓  16 - wip  ✓  17 - vaas  ✓  18 - rok  ✓  19 - geit  ✓  20 - laars  ✓  21 - ko:  

- kind ✓
- goed ✓
- tolk ✓  fout ×
Frisian language in the Netherlands

- Minority language spoken in province of Fryslân
- West-Germanic language

Fryslân
- 650,000 inhabitants
- 48% inhabitants between 18-49 yrs old speak Frisian to children (Provinsje Fryslân, 2015)
- All Frisians are bilingual (Dutch-Frisian)
- Dutch main language used in education
Frisian version

• Pilot:
  • 40 items
  • Consonants: initial, final
  • Consonant clusters
  • Some diphthongs
  • 2x 14 children

• Final version
  • 36 items
  • Large-scale study amongst 320 children in Fryslân
Current languages Speakaboo

- Arabic (Egyptian/Moroccan/Syrian)
- Armenian (Eastern/Western)
- Bosnian
- Dutch
- English (US)
- French
- German
- Hindi
- Italian
- Papiamento
- Polish
- Russian
- Tarifit-Berber
- Tigrinya
- Turkish
- Somali
- Swahili

New languages: Frisian, …?

Your (minority) language added to Speakaboo? Contact jdijkstra@fryske-akademy.nl

www.speakaboo.io