

### **This volume**

collects 12 papers (plus detailed introduction by Jim Coleman) on questions of language learning, teaching and testing in Higher Education by well-known authors such as Alderson, Coleman, Grotjahn, Klein-Braley, Little, Raatz, Singleton, Skehan and others. Although based on a University Language Testing Conference held as long ago as 1995, the papers have lost nothing of their relevance. They aim to bring to a wider university audience consideration of language testing, which are to often restricted to specialist journals – there is some evidence right across Europe that those who actually administer language tests in universities may lack the training and knowledge to do so with maximum validity, reliability and practicality. They aim to make the C-test better known – recognition of its potential for large-scale proficiency testing does not seem to have filtered through to Higher Education in the same way as it apparently has to other fields. And they present interesting findings from the European Language Proficiency Survey, the largest survey ever of advanced language learners based on the participation of some twenty-five thousand students at European universities. The book is a „must“ for all seriously interested in optimising language learning, teaching and testing in Higher Education – learners, teachers, researchers, administrators, decision-makers...

### **Zu diesem Band**

Der Band enthält zwölf Beiträge (plus ausführlicher Einleitung von Jim Coleman) zu Fragen des Lernens, Lehrens und Testens von Fremdsprachen im Hochschulbereich von so bekannten Autoren wie Alderson, Coleman, Grotjahn, Klein-Braley, Little, Raatz, Singleton, Skehan und anderen. Drei Bereiche werden dabei besonders angesprochen. Zum einen werden Informationen und Hintergründe zum Sprachtesten geliefert, die allzu oft nur in Spezialzeitschriften greifbar sind. Zum anderen wird der C-Test mit seinem Potenzial insbesondere für die Leistungsmessung mit großen Teilnehmerzahlen diskutiert und dargestellt. Und schließlich werden interessante Ergebnisse aus dem European Language Proficiency Survey präsentiert, der umfangreichsten Studie von fortgeschrittenen Sprachlernern (über 25 000 Teilnehmer aus ganz Europa) im Hochschulbereich. Das Buch ist für alle nützlich, die an einer Verbesserung und größeren Professionalisierung des Fremdsprachenunterrichts im Hochschulbereich interessiert sind – Studierende, Lehrende, Forschende, aber auch Wissenschaftsverwalter, Entscheidungsträger...

### **Die Herausgeber:**

- Prof. Jim Coleman** ist Research Professor an der Open University (UK)  
**Prof. Rüdiger Grotjahn** ist apl. Professor an der Ruhr-Universität Bochum  
**Prof. Ulrich Raatz** ist Emeritus der Mercator-Universität Duisburg

ISBN 3-925453-37-7

FLF 31

University Language Testing and the C-Test

Coleman/Grotjahn/Raatz

AKS

## **Fremdsprachen in Lehre und Forschung**

31

Coleman, James A., Grotjahn, Rüdiger & Raatz, Ulrich (eds.)

### **University Language Testing and the C-Test**

AKS-Verlag Bochum

Reihe:  
FREMDSPRACHEN IN LEHRE UND FORSCHUNG (FLF)

Im Auftrag der Ständigen Kommission des Arbeitskreises der Sprachenzentren,  
Sprachlehrinstitute und Fremdspracheninstitute (AKS)

herausgegeben von  
Klaus Vogel und Bernd Voss

Band 31

**Coleman, James A., Grotjahn, Rüdiger & Ulrich Raatz (eds.)**

## **University Language Testing and the C-Test**

**AKS-Verlag, Bochum**

2002

Die Deutsche Bibliothek - CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

University language testing and the C-test / Coleman, James A....  
(eds.) Bochum: AKS-Verl., 2002  
(Reihe: Fremdsprachen in Lehre und Forschung (FLF) ; Bd. 31)  
ISBN 3-925453-37-7

© 2002  
AKS-Verlag Bochum  
Postfach 10 21 48  
44780 Bochum

Printed in Germany  
ISBN 3-925453-37-7

## Contents

Foreword	5
Acknowledgments	6

### Section 1: Introductory

1. Language learning and language testing at university level <i>James A. Coleman</i>	7-14
--	------

### Section 2: University teaching and testing

2. Testing proficiency and achievement: principles and practice <i>J. Charles Alderson</i>	15-30
3. An alternative approach to university language testing <i>David Little</i>	31-51
4. Factors influencing success in university language learning <i>Peter Skehan</i>	53-74

### Section 3: The C-Test

5. Introduction to language testing and to C-Tests <i>Ulrich Raatz and Christine Klein-Braley</i>	75-91
6. C-Tests: an overview <i>Rüdiger Grotjahn, Christine Klein-Braley, Ulrich Raatz</i>	93-114
7. C-Tests and language processing <i>Rüdiger Grotjahn and Brigitte Stemmer</i>	115-130
8. Psycho-linguistics of C-Test taking <i>Christine Klein-Braley</i>	131-142
9. The C-Test and L2 acquisition/processing research <i>David Singleton and Emer Singleton</i>	143-168
10. C-Tests and intelligence <i>Ulrich Raatz</i>	169-185
11. The development of a Turkish C-Test <i>Helmut Daller, Jeanine Treffers-Daller, Aylin Ünaldı-Ceylan, Cemal Yıldız</i>	187-199

### Section 4: The European Language Proficiency Survey

12. The European Proficiency Survey: an overview of findings <i>James A. Coleman</i>	201-206
13. The European Proficiency Survey in Portugal <i>Albertina Palma</i>	207-218

## Foreword

The present book represents the Proceedings of the conference on University Language Testing and the C-Test, which took place in Portsmouth in 1995. Publication of the papers has, very regrettably, been long delayed by a number of circumstances. In particular, at a key moment in the preparation of these Proceedings, previously allocated resources were withdrawn. The editors apologise most sincerely to the contributors for the delay.

The decision to publish the papers in their original form, despite the time which has elapsed, has been the editors': in our view, it would have been unfair and undesirable to occasion further postponement by inviting authors to rewrite their chapters, when the substance and lasting value of the chapters is, we trust, not significantly reduced by the delay in their publication. Readers are, however, invited to bear in mind that, with the sole exception of Chapter 12, authors have had no opportunity whatever to revise and update their text or bibliography since they were submitted in 1995 or 1996. Readers interested in more recent C-Test research are referred to <http://www.c-test.de>.