

A Survey Exploring Current Practices In Language Assessment For Multilingual Individuals

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BACKGROUND

- Speech and language assessment in **multilingual individuals** poses unique challenges.
- These gaps raise the risk of **mischaracterizing language profiles** or misdiagnosing disorders.
- Existing evidence is **scarce**, addressing only isolated aspects such as general cognitive evaluation.
- We developed **TEST-ME** (Testing Experiences & Strategies for Multilingual Evaluation), an international survey documenting current assessment practices in language assessment across professions and world regions.

METHODS

- Built through a **systematic, multi-step process** grounded in real-world practice.
- A focus group of **10 clinicians and researchers from 16 countries**, spanning speech-language pathology, neuropsychology, linguistics, neurology, and cognitive neuroscience.
- Core topics identified through semi-structured discussions following a **four-step process** (below).
- Themes organized into **six domains**, refined for clarity, and translated into **eight languages**.



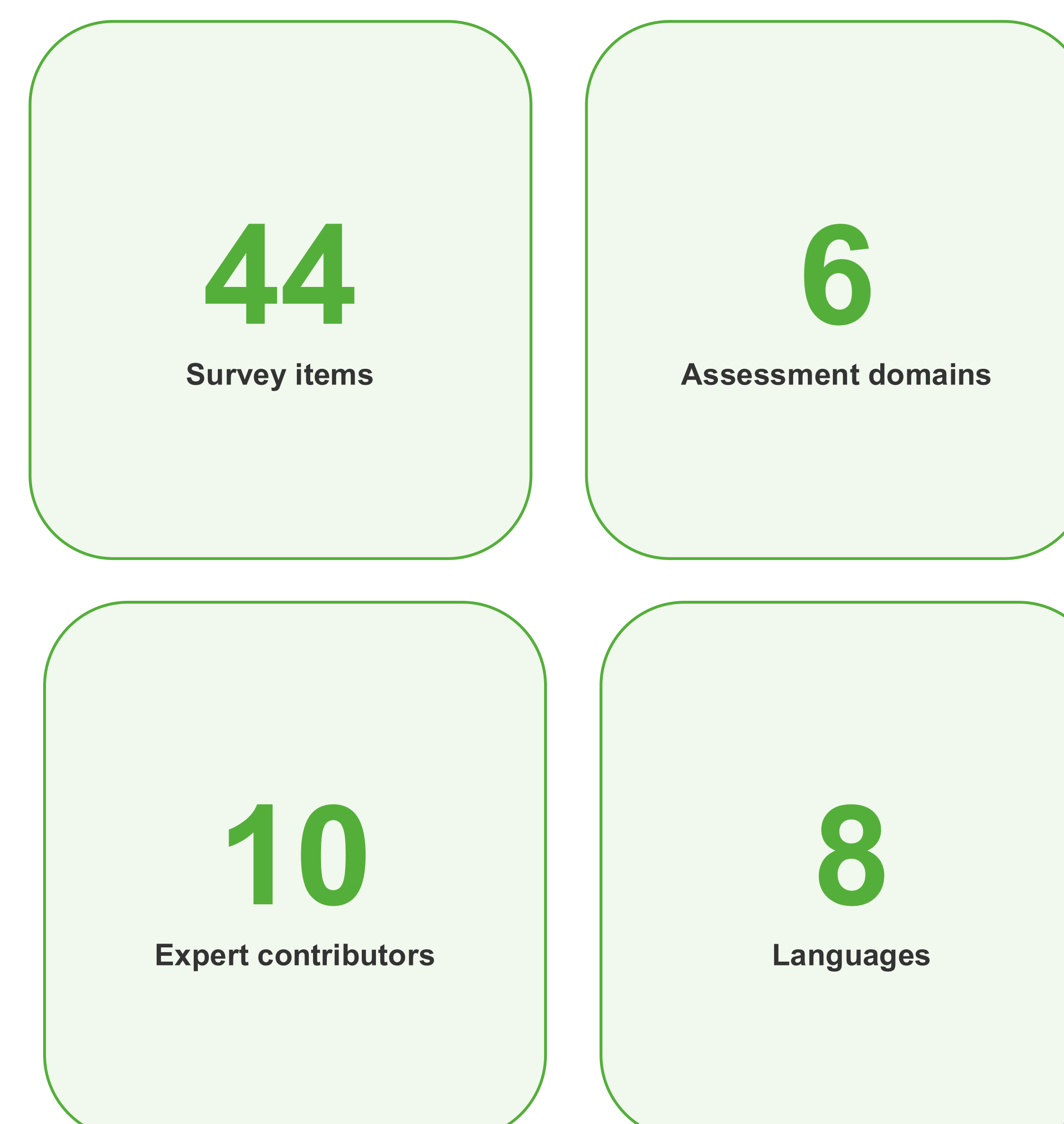
SURVEY STRUCTURE

- Final survey: **44 items across six domains** — demographics; training & experience; definitions & practices; clinical and research best practices; obstacles & opportunities; and feasibility.
- Delivered as an **anonymous online instrument** with multiple-choice, Likert-scale, and open-ended items.
- Recruitment via the **INCLUDE Network, ISTAART, CATs**, and national associations; a pilot is under evaluation.
- Planned **descriptive and inferential statistics** plus thematic analysis of qualitative responses.

CONCLUSIONS

- Findings will guide the **development, adaptation, administration, and scoring** of multilingual assessment tools.
- Supports both **basic and translational research** in multilingualism.
- Promotes practices that recognize multilingual individuals' **linguistic profiles** rather than monolingual norms.
- Advances more **inclusive and equitable** clinical and research settings.

TEST-ME AT A GLANCE



Take the survey!



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