

# acknowledgements

**The studies reported here was supported in part by:**

- **JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) / Title: Autonomous mutual learning process by Japanese EFL learners through interaction / PI: Yasunari Harada Number : 15H03226**
- **JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) / Title: An investigation of the automatization process in second language processing with respect to noticing, attention and interactive alignment / PI: Hirokazu Yokokawa / Number : 26244031**
- **Waseda University Grant for Special Research Projects (Basic Research) / Title: Automatization and Proficiency Improvement among Japanese EFL learners of English through enhancement of language processing short-term memory / PI: Yasunari Harada / Number: 2015K-025**
- **Waseda University Grant for Special Research Projects (Basic Research) / Title: Psycholinguistic study on listening comprehension and automatization of syntactic processing by Japanese EFL learners / PI: Yasunari Harada / Number: 2014K-6018**
- **JSPS (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science) Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Exploratory Research / Title: Psycholinguistic study on listening comprehension and automatization of syntactic processing by Japanese EFL learners / PI: Yasunari Harada / Number: 24652133**

# 多様な英語能力の測定

--- Versant English Test, Versant Writing Test,  
Oxford Quick Placement Test などからの知見 ---

鈴木正紀 (Pearson)  
原田 康也 (早稲田大学)

Copyright 2016 by authors. All rights reserved.

# 多様な英語力

- **大学入学者の英語力は多様である。**
  - 初級から上級までが(同一クラス)に混在。
  - 知識と運用に乖離: A1-A2 vs B1-B2
  - 技能により習熟度が異なる
- **中級の学習者は多様である。**
  - 初級の学習者は比較的均一に初級的である。
  - 上級の言語使用者は比較的均一に上級である。
  - 中級の特徴は知識・技能・運用が均一でないことである。
- **大学の英語授業カリキュラム・クラス編成**
  - 「レベル分け」にどこまで意味があるのか？
  - 「スキル別」のクラス編成が適切であるのか？
- **4技能試験: CEFR or 高大接続**
  - 合計点・平均点では意味がない、かも。

# reality check: our methodology

- **Three tests, with Tera bytes of language data:**
  1. **Versant English Test (spoken English)**
  2. **Versant Writing Test (written English)**
  3. **Oxford Quick Placement Test**
- **Freshman students at Waseda University**
- **Administered Versant four times and OQPT three times in academic year 2015-2016**
  - **April, July, October\*, December**

# Versant English Test

- **Spoken English Test , 17 minutes**
- **Automated scoring with ASR**
- **Optimized for English learner speech patterns including Japanese learners of English**
- **Overall + four subscores**
  - **Sentence Mastery**
  - **Vocabulary**
  - **Fluency**
  - **Pronunciation**

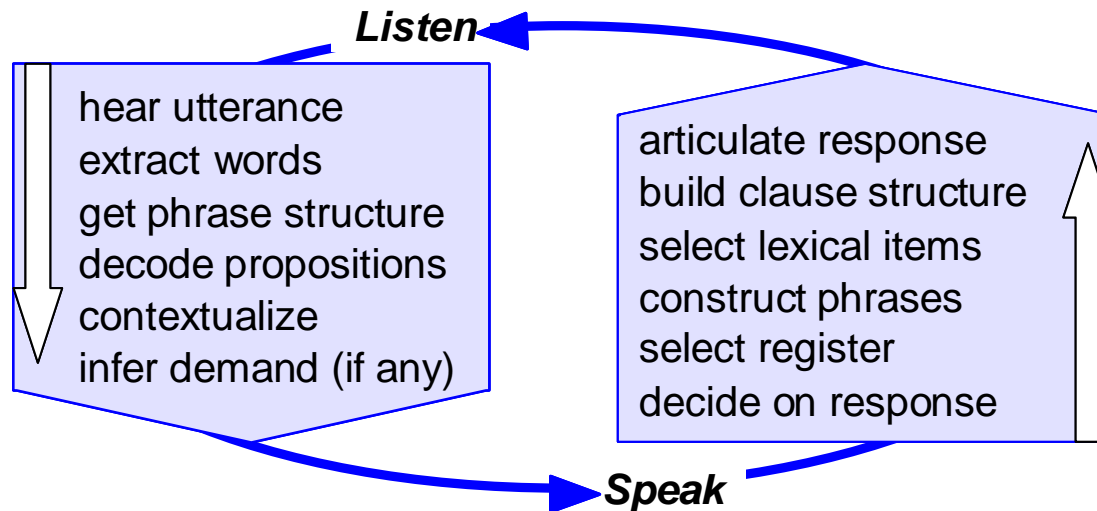
## **Versant English Test**

- **High frequency vocabulary in conversation (Most frequent 8,000 words in Switchboard Corpus)**
- **Relatively simple structures and expressions**
- **Items recorded at natural conversation pace by amateur native English speakers**
- **Focus on the ability to “listen, then speak” in real-time (=facility in spoken English)**
- **Psycholinguistic approach**

# Test Construct

## ***Facility*** in spoken English

**The ability to understand spoken English on everyday topics and to respond appropriately and intelligibly in English at a native-like conversational pace.**




*Adapted from Levelt, 1989*

# Versant English Test

Part	Task
Part A	Reading (音読)
Part B	Sentence Repeat (復唱)
Part C	Short Answer Questions (質問)
Part D	Sentence Builds (文の構築)
Part E	Story Retelling (話の要約)
Part F	Open Questions (自由回答質問)*

\*Open Questions are not automatically scored



## VERSANT ENGLISH TEST

**REMINDER:** The test begins when you say your name. If you hang up before you complete the test, the test cannot be graded. You cannot reuse the Test Identification Number.

**Call: 1-800-335-6393 or +1.650.470.3700**

Thank you for calling the Versant testing system.  
Please enter your Test Identification Number on the telephone keypad.  
Now, please say your name.  
Now, please say the city and country you are calling from.  
Now, please follow the instructions for Parts A through F.


Test Identification Number (TIM)

5589 8183

Expires: July 25, 2009

PART	TASK	TEST DETAILS
A	Reading	<p>Please read the sentences as you are instructed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Our leading competitor announced some unexpected news this week.</li> <li>2. It seems they're going to be bought out by a British company.</li> <li>3. If that happens, it could affect our plans for growth in Europe.</li> <li>4. Perhaps we should turn our attention toward South America or Asia.</li> <li>5. For more than twenty-five years, Anna has been vegetarian.</li> <li>6. Her reasons for giving up meat date back to when it was a trend.</li> <li>7. She admits that it hasn't been easy, especially when eating in restaurants.</li> <li>8. When she asks for a vegetarian dish, waiters still ask if she eats fish.</li> <li>9. James was having a difficult time concentrating.</li> <li>10. He realized he had been staring at the same newspaper article for an hour.</li> <li>11. He decided that he'd be better off going for a walk.</li> <li>12. As soon as he was out in the fresh air, he felt better.</li> </ol>
B	Repeat	<p>Please repeat each sentence that you hear.</p> <p>Example: a voice says, "Leave town on the next train." and you say, "Leave town on the next train."</p>
C	Questions	<p>Now, please just give a simple answer to the questions.</p> <p>Example: a voice says, "Would you get water from a bottle or a newspaper?" and you say, "a bottle" or "from a bottle."</p>
D	Sentence Builds	<p>Now, please rearrange the word groups into a sentence.</p> <p>Example: a voice says, "was reading", "my mother", "her favorite magazine" and you say, "My mother was reading her favorite magazine."</p>
E	Story Retelling	<p>You will hear three brief stories. Each story will be spoken once, followed by a beep. When you hear the beep, you will have 30 seconds to retell the story in English. Try to retell as much of the story as you can, including the situation, characters, actions, and ending. You will hear another beep at the end of the 30 seconds.</p>
F	Open Questions	<p>You will hear two questions about family life or personal choices. Each question will be spoken twice, followed by a beep. When you hear the beep, you will have 40 seconds to answer the question. You will hear another beep at the end of the 40 seconds.</p>

Thank you for completing the test. PE-10020-1



© 2008 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved. Versant and Versant are trademarks in the U.S. and/or other countries of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).



# Versant English Test

- **Test Reliability = 0.97 (split-half, test-retest)**
- **Machine-Human correlation = 0.97**
- **Concurrent validity evidence**

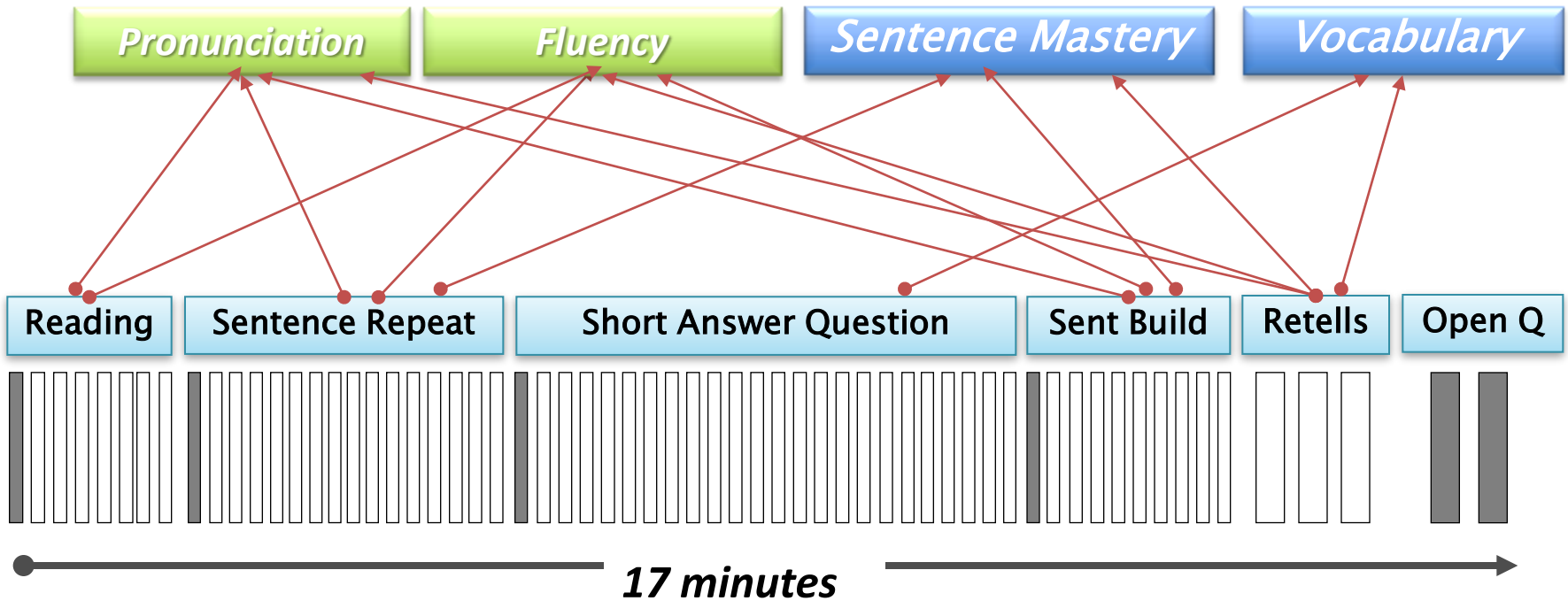
Test	N	Correlation
TOEFL iBT Speaking	130	0.75
IELTS Speaking	130	0.76
TOEIC Listening	171	0.71

# VET - CEFR 対応表

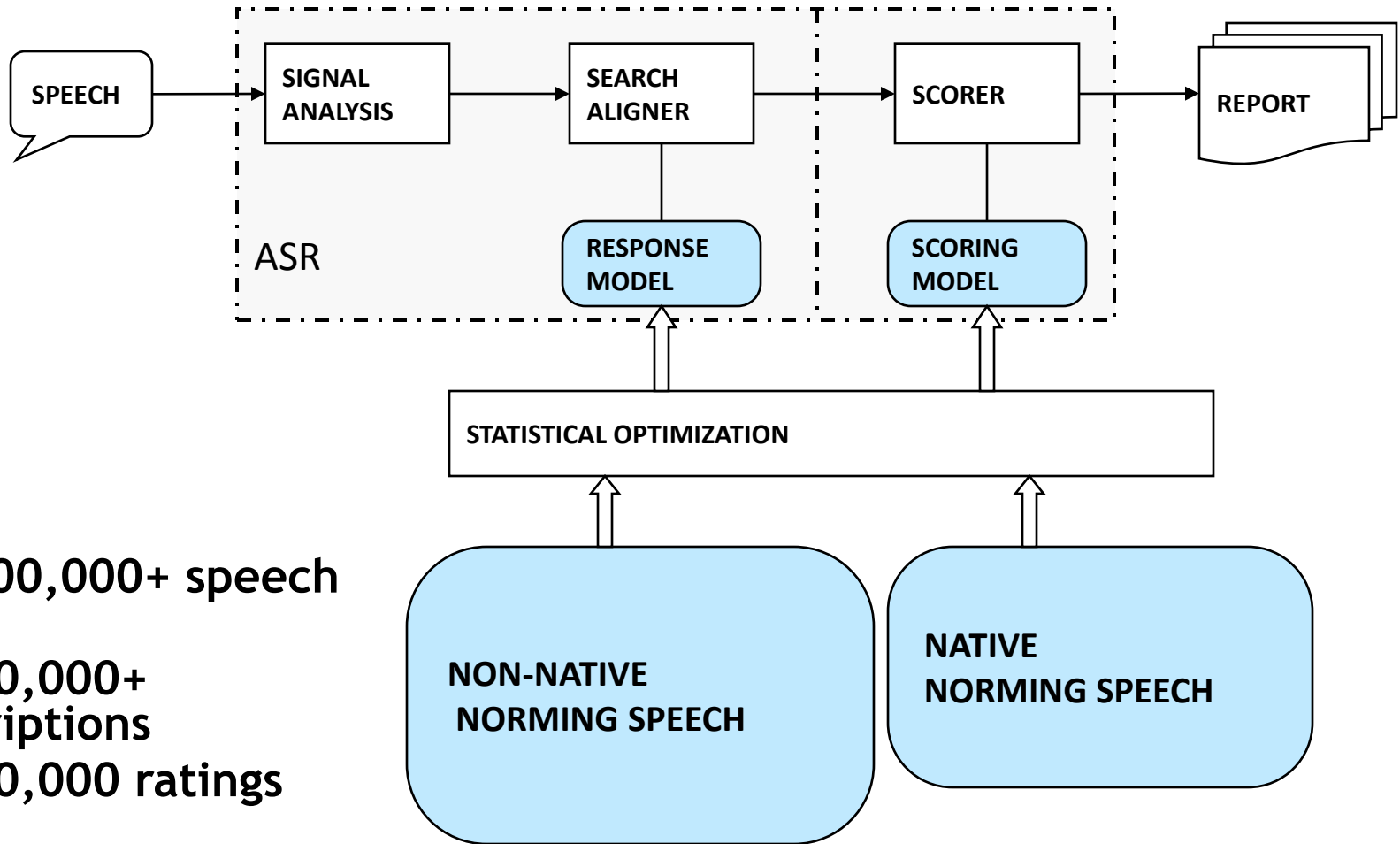
VET	CEFR
20-25	>A1
26-35	A1
36-46	A2
47-57	B1
58-68	B2
69-78	C1
79-80	C2

From *Pearson (2003). Versant English Test Can-Do Guide.*

# Relationship between Item Type and Score



# Automated Scoring System



- 50,000,000+ speech files
- 2,750,000+ transcriptions
- 1,600,000 ratings

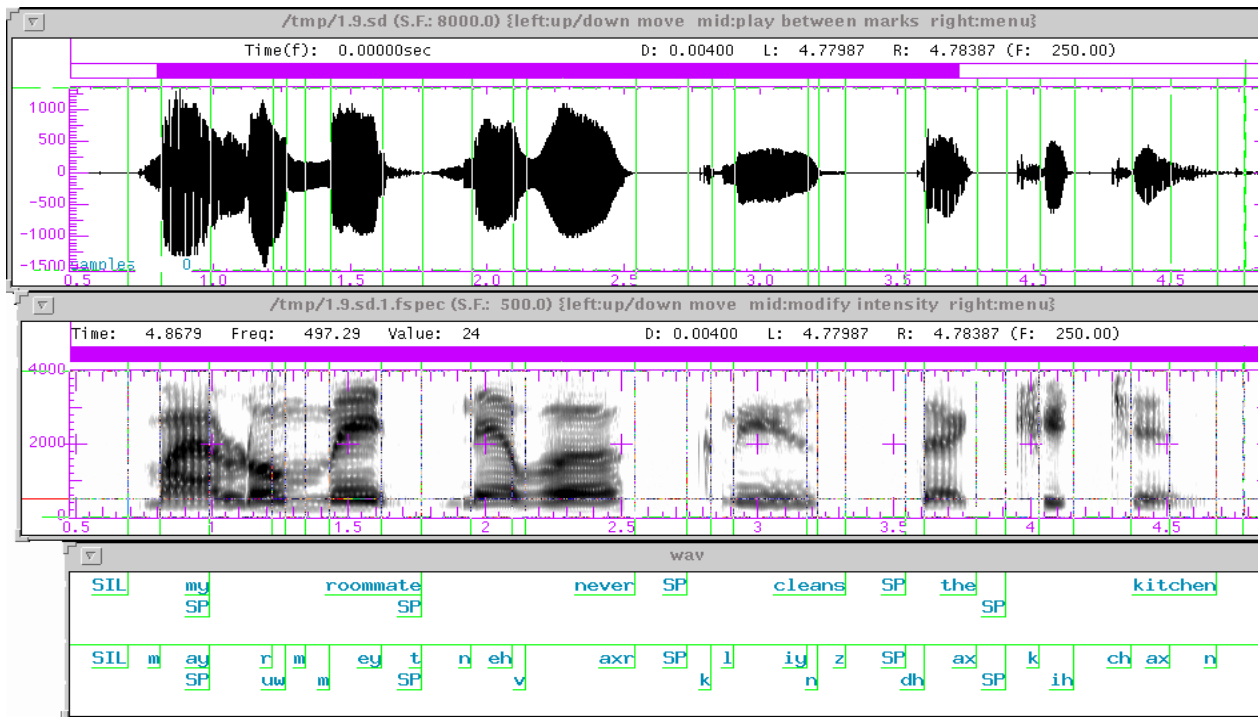
# Phone & Word Alignment

w1 w2 w3 w4 w5 w6

75-90 Words/Min

p p pppp p p p p pp ppp pp p p p p p

5.8 Phones/Sec



waveform

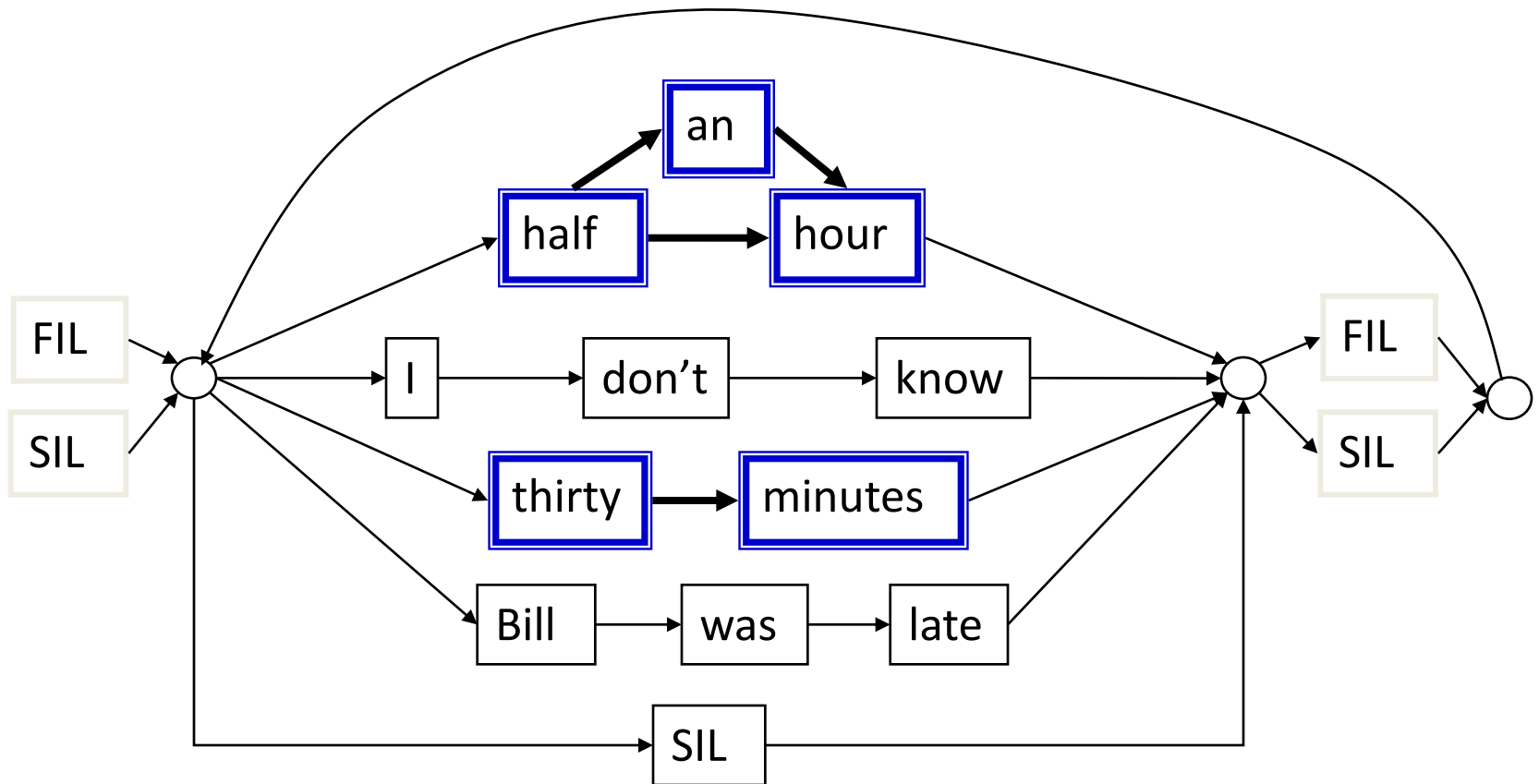
spectrum

words

segmentation

# Simplified Response Network

*Bill arrived at noon for his 11:30 appointment. How late was he?*



# Versant Writing Test

- **Written English Test , ~40 minutes**
- **Automated scoring with Latent Semantic Analysis**
- **Overall + four subscores**
  - **Grammar**
  - **Vocabulary**
  - **Organization**
  - **Voice & Tone**
  - **Reading Comprehension**

# Versant Writing Test

Part	Task
Part A	Typing
Part B	Sentence Completion
Part C	Dictation
Part D	Passage Reconstruction
Part E	E-Mail Writing



## VERSANT WRITING TEST

The Versant Writing Test has 5 parts and can be taken on a computer in approximately 35 minutes. To start the test, enter your Test Identification Number in the box on your computer screen. Then, complete the audio volume check and microphone check. When the test starts, respond to the test questions.

Go to [www.versanttest.com/technology/platforms/cdt](http://www.versanttest.com/technology/platforms/cdt) to download the Computer Delivered Testing software.

Test Identification Number (TIN)

**1234 5678**

Expires: January 1, 2012

PART	TASK	TEST DETAILS
A	Typing	This section will measure your typing speed. You will have 60 seconds to type as much as you can. Type quickly and accurately. Keep typing until your time is up. Your work will be saved automatically.
B	Sentence Completion	Please type one word that best fits the meaning of the sentence. Type only one word. You will have 25 seconds for each sentence. Click "Next" when you are finished.
C	Dictation	Please type each sentence exactly as you hear it. You will have 25 seconds for each sentence. Pay attention to spelling and punctuation. Click "Next" when you are finished. After 25 seconds, your work will be saved automatically.
D	Passage Reconstruction	You will have 30 seconds to read a paragraph. After 30 seconds, the paragraph will disappear from the screen. Then, you will have 90 seconds to reconstruct the paragraph. Show that you understood the passage by rewriting it in your own words. Your answer will be scored for clear and accurate content, not word-for-word memorization. After 90 seconds, your work will be saved automatically.
E	E-Mail Writing	Read a description of a situation and write an email addressing the issues described in the situation. You will have 9 minutes. You must write at least 100 words. You will be able to see how much time is left and how many words you have written. Write in complete sentences. If you do not finish in 9 minutes, everything you have written will be saved automatically and the next item will begin.

Thank you for completing the test.



# Versant Writing Test

- **Test Reliability = 0.98 (split-half)**
- **Machine-Human correlation = 0.98**
- **Concurrent validity evidence**

Test	N	Correlation
TOEIC	55	0.72

# Oxford Quick Placement Test

- **Paper and pencil version (CD-ROM version includes listening)**
- **Focuses on Vocab, Grammar, Usage**
- **30 minutes, 60 multiple choice items (max 60 points)**
- **Recommended to be combined with speaking and writing test**
- **Concordance with CEFR levels**

# The relation of the VET, VWT, and OQPT to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

<b>VET</b>	<b>VWT</b>	<b>OQPT</b>	<b>CEFR level</b>	<b>CEFR level description</b>
79-80	77-80	55-60	C2	Mastery (Upper advanced)
69-78	67-76	48-54	C1	Effective proficiency (Lower advanced)
58-68	54-66	40-47	B2	Vantage (Upper intermediate)
47-57	44-53	30-39	B1	Threshold (Lower intermediate)
36-46	30-43	18-29	A2	Waystage (Elementary)
26-35	20-29	10-17	A1	Breakthrough
20-25		0-9	<A1	(Beginner)

# Versant Descriptive Statistics (Overall)

N = 53; Only freshman students who had both VET and VWT scores all four times

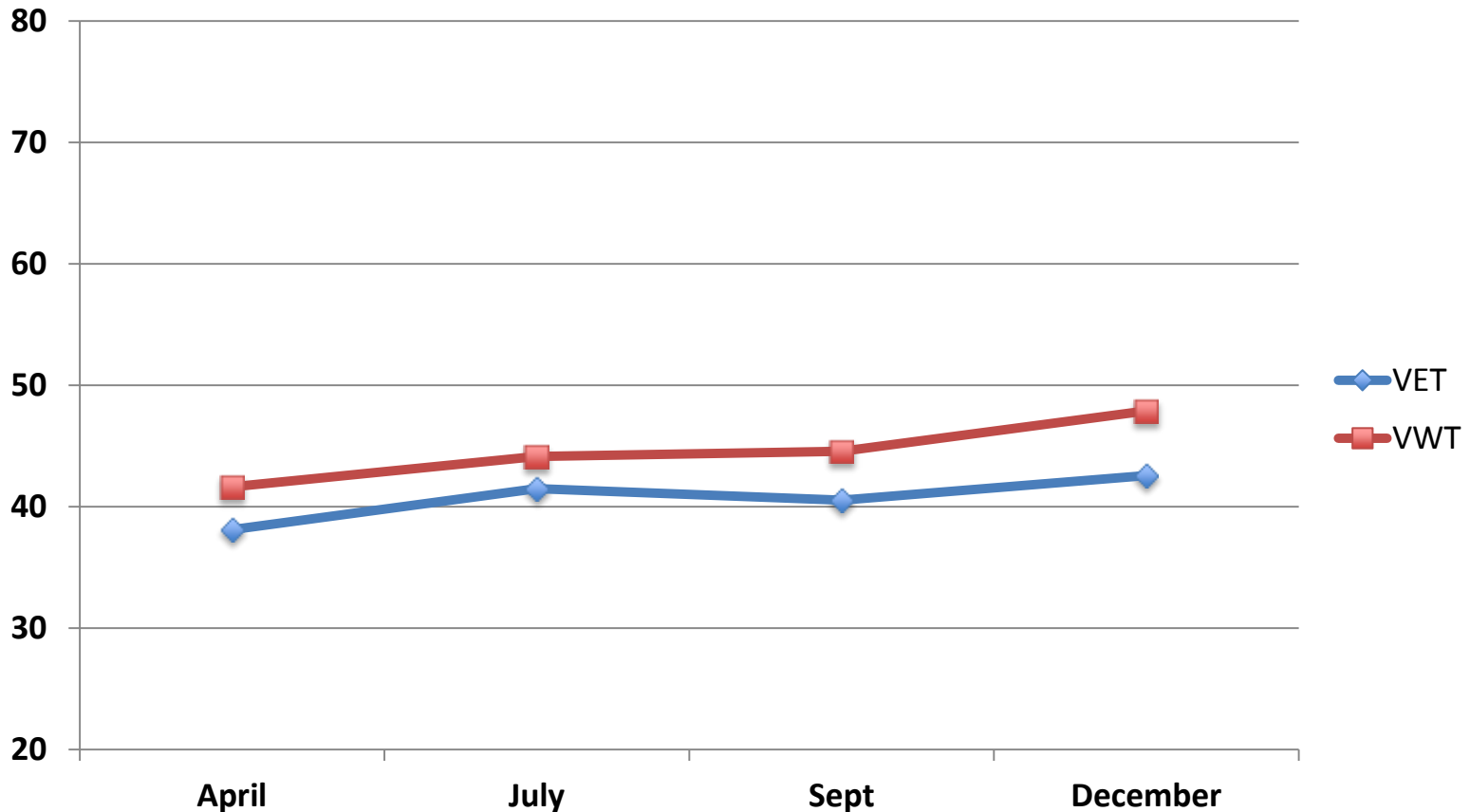
## Versant English Test (VET)

VET	April	July	Sept	December
Mean	38.89	41.47	40.57	42.42
SD	6.77	6.45	6.18	5.54
Min	27	29	25	31
Max	55	62	56	60

## Versant Writing Test (VWT)

VWT	April	July	Sept	December
Mean	41.45	44.08	44.51	47.75
SD	7.32	8.17	8.00	7.94
Min	20	20	22	22
Max	62	66	64	67

## Mean Scores of VET, VWT Overall Scores



For both VET and VWT, the differences in mean scores between April and December are statistically significant ( $p < 0.01$ )

# Versant Descriptive Statistics (Subscores)

N = 53

Only freshman students who had both VET and VWT scores all four times

VET Subscore	April	July	Sept	December
Sent. Mastery	39.26	44.17	42.02	44.57
Vocabulary	37.34	40.68	41.00	43.68
Fluency	38.96	40.42	39.91	41.36
Pronunciation	39.23	39.79	38.66	39.62

VWT Subscore	April	July	Sept	December
Grammar	42.91	44.85	45.17	47.06
Vocabulary	40.47	42.77	42.08	45.30
Organization	40.45	43.91	45.98	50.13
Voice & Tone	40.75	44.04	44.89	50.25
Reading Comp.	42.19	45.42	46.45	50.42

# Mapping VET scores to CEFR levels

N=53

CEFR	April	July	Sept	December
A1	19 (35.8%)	9 (17.0%)	10 (18.9%)	6 (11.3%)
A2	27 (50.9%)	36 (67.9%)	36 (67.9%)	35 (66.0%)
B1	7 (13.2%)	6 (11.3%)	7 (13.2%)	11 (20.8%)
B2	0	2 (3.8%)	0	1 (1.9%)
C1	0	0	0	0
C2	0	0	0	0

April-September: More than 80% is A1 and A2  
December: Changed to A2 and B1

# Mapping VWT scores to CEFR levels

N=53

CEFR	April	July	Sept	December
A1	3 (5.7%)	1 (1.9%)	2 (3.8%)	2 (3.8%)
A2	32 (60.4%)	22 (41.5%)	21 (39.6%)	10 (18.9%)
B1	16 (30.2%)	25 (47.2%)	23 (43.4%)	30 (56.6%)
B2	2 (3.8%)	5 (9.4%)	7 (13.2%)	10 (18.9%)
C1	0	0	0	1 (1.9%)
C2	0	0	0	0

April-Sept: More than 80% is A2 and B1

December: B1 is more than 55%; A1 and B1 are the same number



# Oxford Quick Placement Test

## Descriptive Statistics

The same 53 freshman students.

April: One student did not take OXPT

December: 3 students did not take OQPT

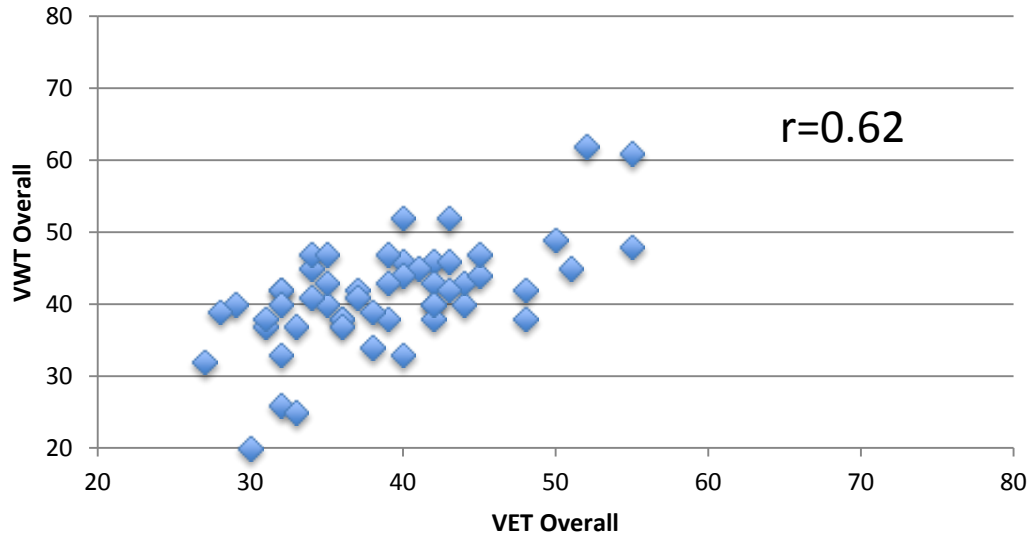
	April (N=52)	July (N=53)	December (N=50)
Mean	37.08	38.06	38.24
SD	6.57	5.98	6.44
Min	20	25	21
Max	50	48	50

# Mapping OQPT scores to CEFR levels

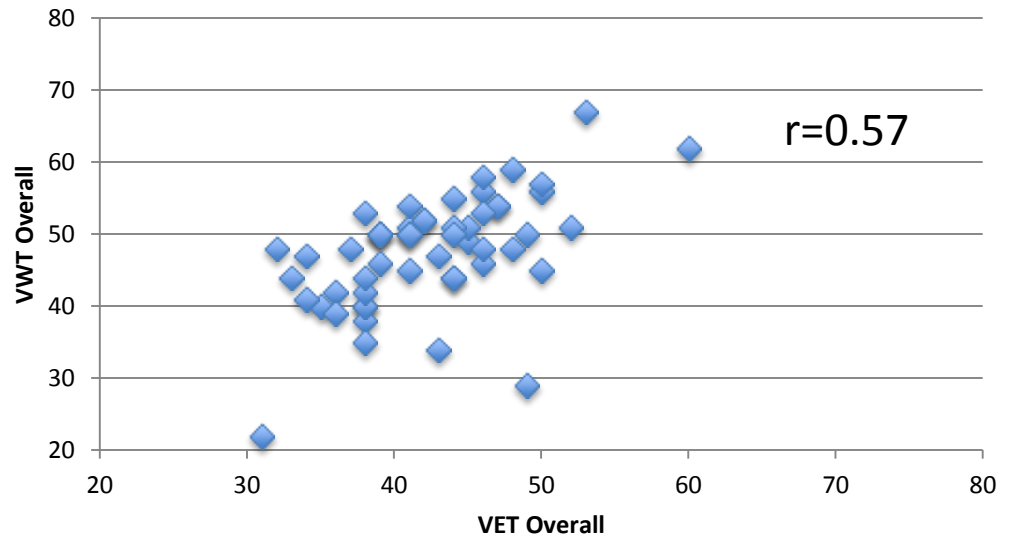
CEFR	April (N=52)	July (N=53)	December (N=50)
A1	0	0	0
A2	7 (13.5%)	4 (7.5%)	3 (6.0%)
B1	25 (48.1%)	25 (47.2%)	27 (54.0%)
B2	19 (36.5%)	21 (39.6%)	16 (32.0%)
C1	1 (1.9%)	3 (5.7%)	4 (8.0)
C2	0	0	0

April-December: B1 and B2 have more than 80% of the students

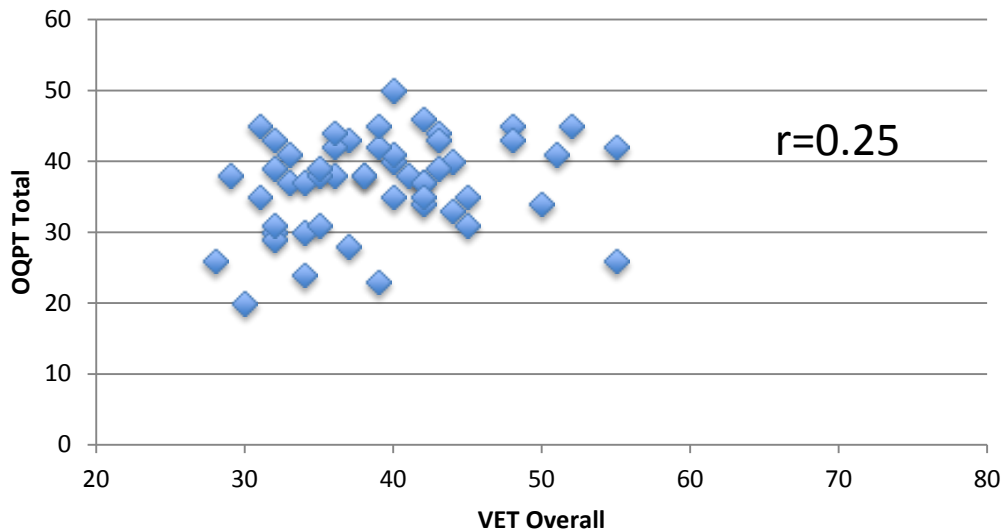
### VET-VWT (April)



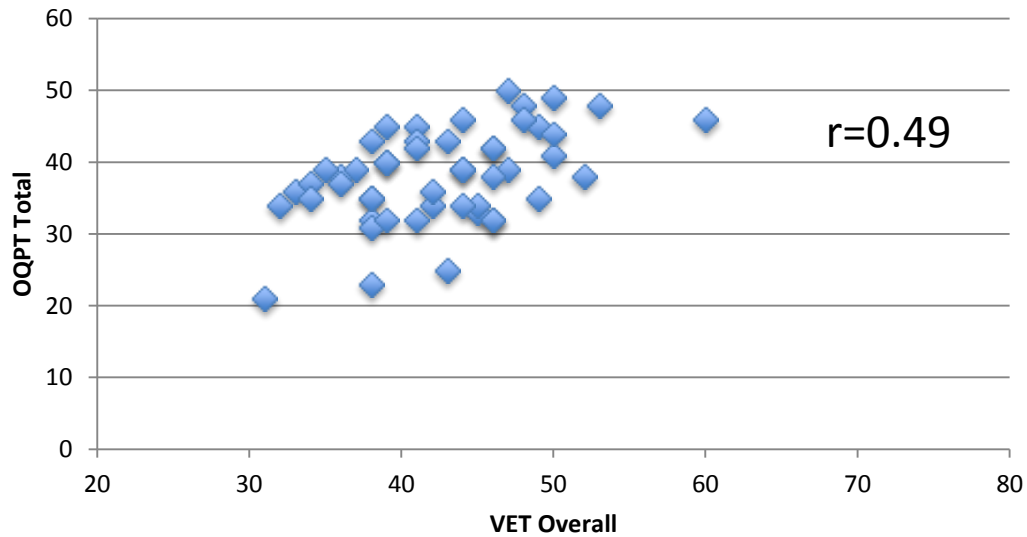
### VET-VWT (December)



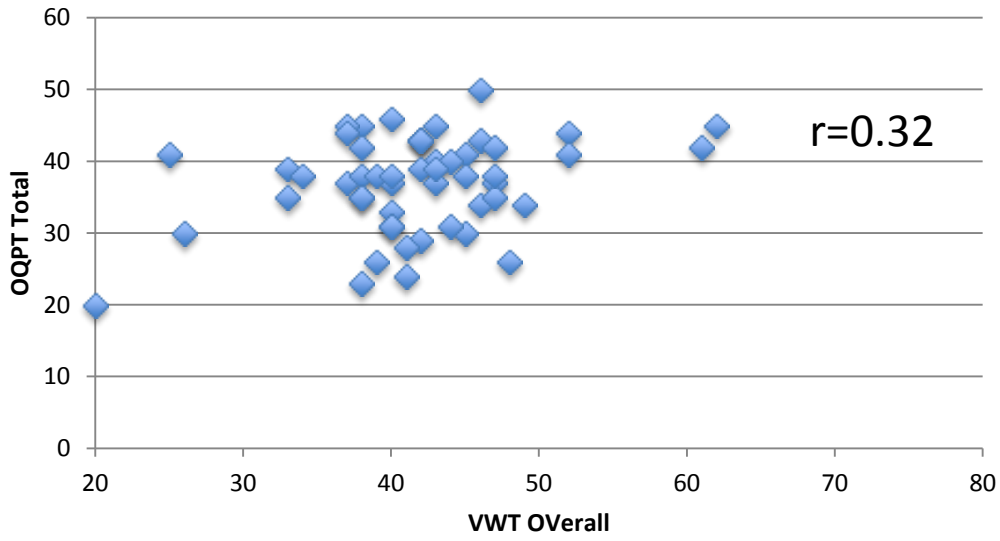
### VET-OQPT (April)



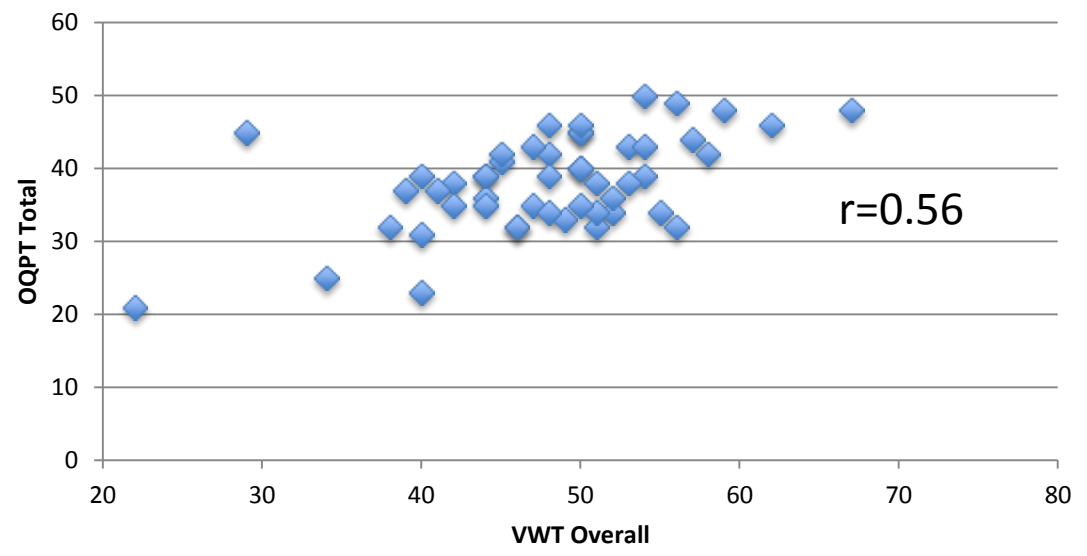
### VET-OQPT (December)



### VWT-OQPT (April)



### VWT-OQPT (December)



# Summary

- **VET**: scores improved between April and December. About 85% of the students were at A1 and A2 in April. In December, about 85% were at A2 and B1.
- **VWT**: scores improved between April and December. More than 80% of the students were at A2 and B1 in April. More students scored at B1 level in December.
- **OQPT**: scores did not change. 80% of the students were B1 and B2.

# Summary

- **Clear pattern exists for scores among the three tests: OQPT > VWT > VET**
- **Speaking is the weakest skill**
- **English classes focused on *using* English and its effect was more obvious in VET and VWT scores**
- **From knowledge to usage**