

**Title**

Speech assessment in the mother tongue of multilingual children suspected of having a speech sound disorder: an exploratory study.

**Authors (+affiliations)**

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**Background**

SLTs perform speech assessments in the mother tongue (L1) of young multilinguals with relatives as informal interpreters. No literature is found about this type of cooperation.

**Aim**

Description of the cooperation between SLTs and informal interpreters during the speech assessment in L1 of young multilinguals suspected of having a speech sound disorder (SSD), as well as the experiences of SLTs and informal interpreters with their cooperation during this assessment.

**Method**

A mixed method study was conducted of observations of speech assessments in L1 using Speakaboo and interviews with SLTs and interpreters. SLTs in private practices invited the interpreters. The instruction by the SLT, eliciting responses in L1 and the experiences of the participants were analysed.

**Results**

Cooperation was successful. Interpreters understood the instruction and successfully elicited responses in L1. SLTs facilitated this. Participants considered cooperation with relatives as informal interpreter possible with Speakaboo. It facilitated interaction about L1 and about the language situation of the family.

**Conclusions and implications**

Under certain conditions cooperating with relatives is possible to assess the speech of young children in L1. This contributes to better diagnoses. Instruments which enable speech assessments in L1, function as a bridge between the Dutch language culture and a bilingual culture. Research to determine whether cooperation during speech assessment in L1 changes interventions is needed.