THE AUTHOR RECOGNITION TEST AND VOCABULARY
KNOWLEDGE: A REPLICATION\textsuperscript{1}

SY-YING LEE
National Tsing Hua University

STEPHEN KRASHEN
University of Southern California

LUCY TSE
Loyola Marymount University

Summary.—Scores on the Author Recognition Test and self-report of number of
books read (free voluntary reading) made independent contributions to scores on a
passive vocabulary measure for 30 adult native-speakers of English.

Free voluntary reading appears to be a source of much literacy development (4). Stanovich and colleagues have introduced a simple test for measuring
the amount of reading people do. On the Author Recognition Test (9),
subjects are asked whether they recognize the names of authors on a list.
Scores correlate with those on measures of vocabulary (6, 8, 9), reading
comprehension (7), spelling (3), and writing (9). Scores also correlate with
observed reading (9) and with amount self-reported reading for leisure (1, 6,
7, 8).

In this replication, we asked 30 adults waiting in the Los Angeles Air-
port to take a locally constructed Author Recognition Test of 25 items and a
vocabulary recognition test of 19 items. Most people were willing to do
these tasks as completion of both took less than ten minutes.

On the vocabulary test, subjects indicated whether they knew the words
on the list but did not give their definitions (2). Both tests included foils, 13
nonwords on the vocabulary test and nine nonauthors on the Author Recog-
nition Test. On the vocabulary test, seven subjects checked one foil and one
subject checked two foils, while on the Author Recognition Test, four sub-
jects checked one foil each. Scores on both tests were corrected for guessing
by subtracting the proportion of foils from the proportion of real items
checked (real authors, real words) (8). Correlations between raw and adjust-
ed scores were very high (on Author Recognition, $r = .98$; on vocabulary, $r = .97$).
Adjusted scores were used in the analysis. Cronbach alpha for scores
on the Author Recognition Test was .80 and for those on the vocabulary test .84. Subjects were also asked to indicate how often they read for pleasure
(Table 1). One point was given if subjects said they read a book every three
months, two points for every two weeks to three months, and three points
for a book every two weeks or more frequently.

\textsuperscript{1}Address enquiries to S. Krashen, 23852 Pacific Coast Highway, No. 919, Malibu, CA 90265.
RESULTS

Scores on the Author Recognition Test correlated significantly and positively with scores of the vocabulary test (.53), replicating previous results. Reading frequency correlated positively with scores on both the vocabulary test (.59) and the Author Recognition Test (.50).

TABLE 1
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATIONS FOR PROPORTIONS ON THREE MEASURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>$M$</th>
<th>$SD$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author Vocabulary Test</td>
<td>.54</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>.61</td>
<td>.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Voluntary Reading</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multiple regression analysis indicated that the Author Recognition Test and free voluntary reading contributed independently to performance on the vocabulary test. The regression coefficient of .43 for free reading was significant ($t=2.57$, $p=.02$) and for the Author Recognition Test the coefficient fell short of the .05 level ($\beta=.31$, $t=1.86$, $p=.07$). Combined, the two measures of reading accounted for 38% of the variation in vocabulary scores ($F_{1,9}=9.8$, $p=.006$). These results are similar to those found in other studies (Table 2).

TABLE 2
PEARSON CORRELATIONS OF SCORES ON THE AUTHOR RECOGNITION TEST WITH SCORES ON FREE VOLUNTARY READING AND VOCABULARY FROM FIVE STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Free Voluntary Reading</th>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rodriguez, et al. (1996)</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West, et al. (1993)</td>
<td></td>
<td>.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen, et al. (1992)</td>
<td>.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanovich and West (1989)</td>
<td>.38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanovich, et al. (1993)*</td>
<td>.34</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanovich, et al. (1993)**</td>
<td>.46</td>
<td>.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Subjects’ mean age = 79.9 yr.  †Subjects’ mean age = 19.1 yr.

The results confirm that self-reported free reading and vocabulary scores are correlated and that the Author Recognition Test may be a useful tool. Although the correlation of scores on the Author Recognition Test and reported amount of free reading was modest, each made an independent contribution to vocabulary knowledge. These two measures might tap slightly different aspects of free reading.

REFERENCES

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Accepted November 4, 1997.