

DELV Examiner's Manual

Harry N. Seymour

Thomas W. Roeper

Jill de Villiers

Contributions by Peter A. de Villiers

Copyright © 2003 by The Psychological Corporation, a Harcourt Assessment Company

Acknowledgements

Work on the *Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation—African American Norm Referenced Test* (forthcoming in 2005, tentative title), the *Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation—Screening Test* (DELV–Screening Test), and the *Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation—Criterion Referenced Test* (DELV–Criterion Referenced) was supported by **NIH Grant #R01 DC 02172-04 (1994–1998)** and **Contract N01-DC8-2104 (1998–2004)** to Harry Seymour, Principal Investigator.

The *Diagnostic Evaluation of Language Variation* (DELV) has been 30 years in the making and owes its being to the many impressive individuals involved in its development. We are grateful to the hundreds of children who participated in countless studies and to the clinicians who administered test drafts and provided invaluable feedback. We thank program coordinators **Tony Malavenda, Sheila Way, Lynn Bampton, Ellen Rhicard,** and **Luciano Valles** for facilitating access to schools in Hartford, CT, and Springfield, MA. We also thank the principals and the many classroom teachers in these school systems for their cooperation and helpfulness.

We are indebted to the numerous undergraduate and graduate students who worked so earnestly in our laboratories at the University of Massachusetts and Smith College. Over the years we have learned much from and been inspired by the following doctoral and post-doctoral students in both Communication Disorders and Linguistics: **Lamyia Abdulkarim, Kristen Asplin, Elena Benedicto, Linda Bland, Tim Bryant, Frances Burns, Tempii Champion, D'Jaris Coles, Mike Dickey, Ken Drozd, Christina Foreman, Debra Garrett, Lisa Green, Fred Hall, Bart Hollebrandse, Janice Jackson, Valerie Johnson, Caroline Jones, Minjoo Kim, Deanna Moore, Marcin Morzyki, Ana Perez Leroux, Bill Philip, Eliane Ramos, Robin Schafer, Petra Schulz, Uri Strauss, Mike Terry, Angeliek van Hout,** and **Toya Wyatt**. Several former students have written dissertations after working in our labs that have been foundational to our test, among these **Denise Finneran's** thesis written for her Master of Arts degree. We appreciate also the special contributions of **Paul Speckels**, who kept the computers running and the data manageable, and **Sandra Orszulak**, for keeping us financially solvent.

The National Institutes on Deafness and Communication Disorders (NIDCD) division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) provided the essential financial support for much of the research upon which the DELV is based. This support would not have been possible without the vision and courage of **Judith Cooper**, Chief of the Scientific Programs Branch at NIDCD. In conducting our research, we have been most fortunate to have exceptional collaborations with our colleagues **Brenda Allen, Angelika Kratzer, John Kingston, Joe Pater, Lisa Selkirk, Peggy Speas, Shelley Velleman,** and **Laura Wagner**. Each has made important contributions to the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of our test. We are also indebted to the first language acquisition

researchers and the community of theorists here and abroad who have been interested in and supportive of our work.

We are further grateful to the external consultants who visited us for direct consultation and made memorable presentations to our faculty and students. These include **Elena Benedicto, Tempii Champion, Lisa Green, Bill Labov, Janna Oetting, Kelli Wright-Harris, Noma LeMoine, Zvi Penner, Ida Stockman, Juergen Weissenborn,** and **Walt Wolfram**. Annual visits by **Toya Wyatt** kept us focused on our objective to create a linguistically and culturally fair test that is clinician friendly.

We are grateful to the **National Black Association for Speech-Language and Hearing** (NBASLH) for its assistance in securing examiners and for the many years it provided a scholarly rich and comforting platform for sharing our ideas. And we thank **Juanita Doty**, as an officer of NBASLH at the time, for being a “cheerleader” and introducing us to The Psychological Corporation. Indeed, we have been fortunate to work with a wonderful and capable group of professionals at the Psychological Corporation (TPC). We thank **Aurelio Prifitera**, president of TPC, for his continuous encouragement and support. We appreciate the efforts of **Carol Waryas**, vice president, on our behalf and for showing her confidence in us when “selling” the project to TPC. We also appreciate the efforts of Senior Research Director **Pat Zureich** during the early acquisition stages of the project. We also thank **Gay Lamey**, our TPC project manager, for her quiet and calm demeanor when negotiating sensitive issues; Senior Psychometrician **Charles “Chuck” Wilkins** for his statistical acumen and forbearance during somewhat contentious conference calls; **Robert Carlson**, research assistant, for his quiet efficiency; **Michelle Girard Rolfhus**, senior editor, for helping us to clarify our writing; Marketing Strategists **Carolyn Perkins** and **Virginia Bennert** for their keen marketing eye; and Research Director **Gail Nickel** for being an effective “pinch hitter.” We owe much to our project leader, Senior Research Director **Lois Ciolli**, for her competence, dedication, and endurance. She has been the linchpin between the two functionally different arenas of academia and business. She has managed this with great composure, dignity, and humor.

We are particularly indebted to **Peter deVilliers** for his “beyond the call of duty” contributions in providing very thoughtful and wise advice on countless issues, and for his attention to detail. Perhaps no single person has been more essential to the success of this endeavor than **Barbara Pearson**, project manager for the NIH research project. She has been the glue that held all the disparate parts and pieces together on a daily basis. We thank her for her dedication, imagination, and boundless energy.

Last but not least, we thank our spouses, **Charlena M. Seymour, Laura J. Holland,** and, again, **Peter de Villiers** for their comfort and support.