

# On the impact of Anglo-American psychology on test construction in other languages: A case example from the German-speaking countries

With reference to the recent anglicization of psychology publications from the German-speaking countries (cp. Fig. 1) the impact of Anglo-American test developments on German psychological tests is analyzed. Research questions:

- 1) Whether the Anglo-American dominance in psychology research also led to an **increase in German-language adaptations of Anglo-American tests** and a decrease of original German test developments.
- 2) Whether the relative frequency of tests with German and Anglo-American origin differs depending on whether the **tests are published or not**.
- 3) Whether there are proportionally more or fewer German measures of Anglo-American origin in specific psychological **subject classifications**.

## Method

- **Bibliometric method:** Analysis of PSYNDEX Tests database, containing 6,359 records of psychological tests from the German-speaking countries (1,485 published tests).

- **Limiting criteria:** Tests released or published in German-speaking countries between 1951 and 2010, categorized as (a) **original German test developments**, if the country of origin was Austria, Germany or Switzerland, or as (b) **German adaptations of Anglo-American tests**, if the country of origin was Australia, Canada, England, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, North America, the United Kingdom, or the United States. → A total of 4,734 original German test developments (1,141 of them published) and 1,317 German adaptations of Anglo-American tests (258 of them published) were analyzed.

- **Counting** of the number of unpublished and published psychological tests of German vs. Anglo-American origin to generate **time series of data in decades**.

## Results

**Question 1)** Apart from the overall increase of psychological tests from German-speaking countries since the 1970s (cp. Fig. 2), there is a proportionally higher **increase of German adaptations of Anglo-American tests** than of German test developments during the last two decades (cp. Fig. 4 & 5 and Table 1).

Time period	(a) %	(b) %
1951-1960	24	22
1961-1970	18	11
1971-1980	15	13
1981-1990	17	18
1991-2000	25	24
2001-2010	27	20

Table 1: Percentages of (a) published and unpublished and (b) published German psychology tests of Anglo-American origin

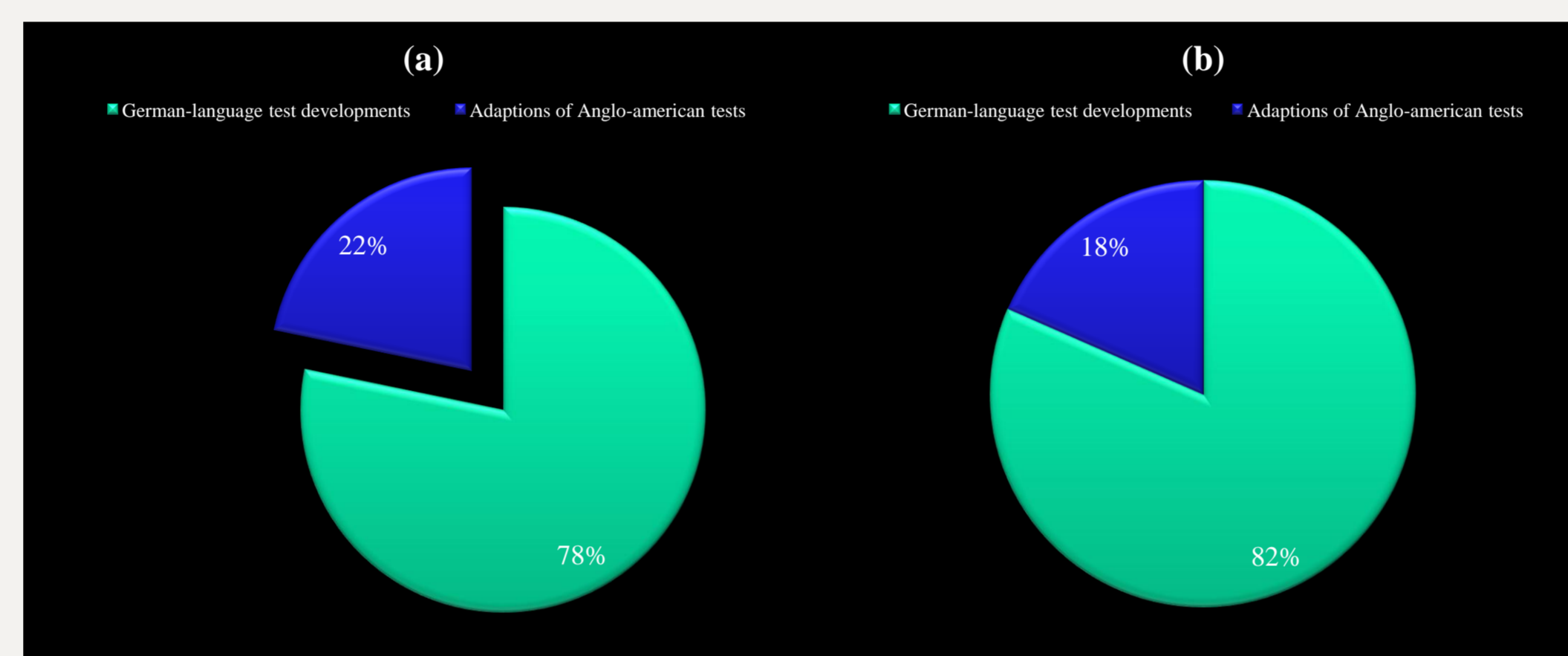


Fig. 3: Percentages of original German test developments and adaptations of Anglo-American tests in (a) published and unpublished German psychology tests and (b) published German psychology tests

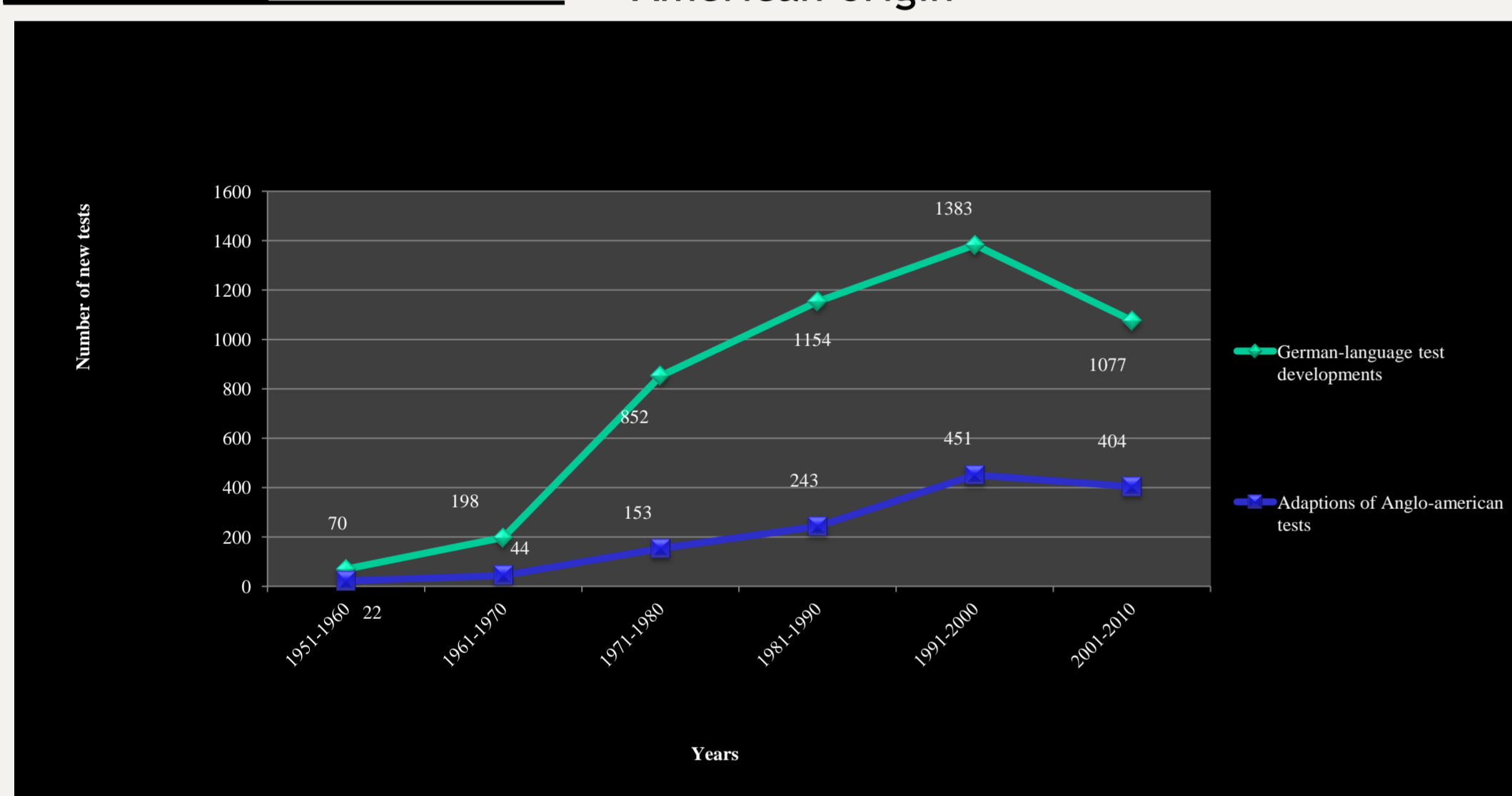


Fig. 4: Number of German test developments vs. German-language adaptations of Anglo-American tests in published and unpublished German psychology tests from 1951-2010 (PSYNDEX Tests)

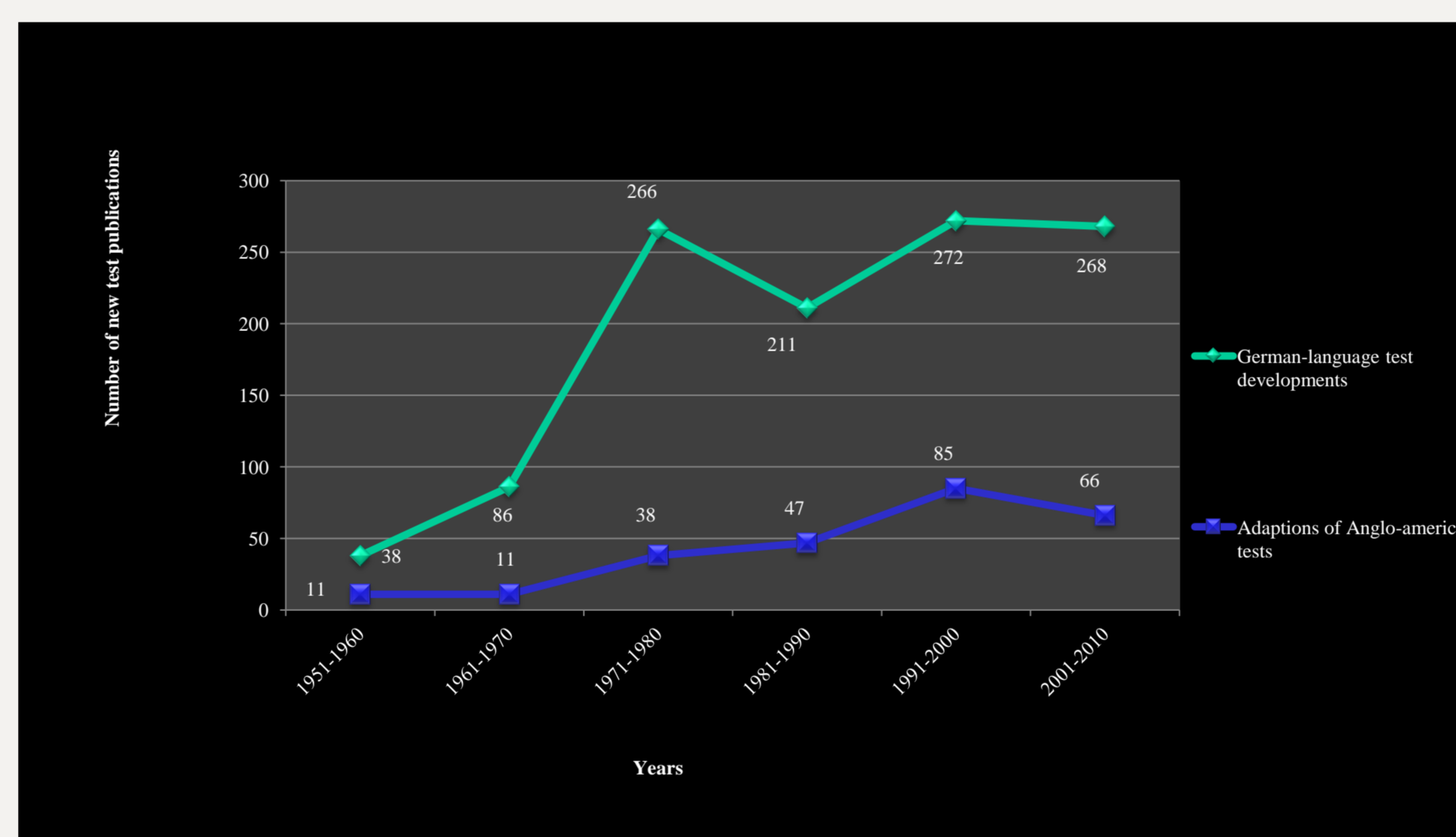


Fig. 5: Number of German test developments vs. German-language adaptations of Anglo-American tests in published German psychology tests from 1951-2010 (PSYNDEX Tests)

**Question 2)** The fraction of German adaptations of Anglo-American tests is slightly lower in published psychology tests than in unpublished tests (cp. Fig. 3). This effect is particularly noticeable during the 1960s and the last decade.

**Question 3)** The percentage of German adaptations of Anglo-American tests of all German measures is very low within the classification categories „Creativity Tests,“ „Interest Inventories,“ „Achievement & Aptitude & Ability Tests,“ and, with less than 5%, particularly low in „Scholastic Achievement Tests.“ In contrast, the percentage is very high in „Personality Tests“ (over 20%) and in „Clinical Tests“ (with more than 31%, cp. Fig. 6 & 7).

## Conclusion

- Although a slight trend toward German-language adaptations of Anglo-American tests was shown, the percentage of original German test developments is still very high - representing about 80% of all German psychological tests. Nevertheless, there is a high percentage of German adaptations of Anglo-American clinical tests and a common use of these adaptations by practitioners (Roth, Schmitt & Yorck Herzberg, 2010; Schorr, 1995).

→ There is a significant need to increase non-English test developments in the European countries as well as internationally visible publications on test construction, psychological diagnosis, and assessment from Europe. This is especially true for personality tests and clinical tests.

→ It is therefore important to translate more non-English European test developments into English. Currently only 10% of the original German psychology test developments have been translated into English (cp. Fig. 8).

## References

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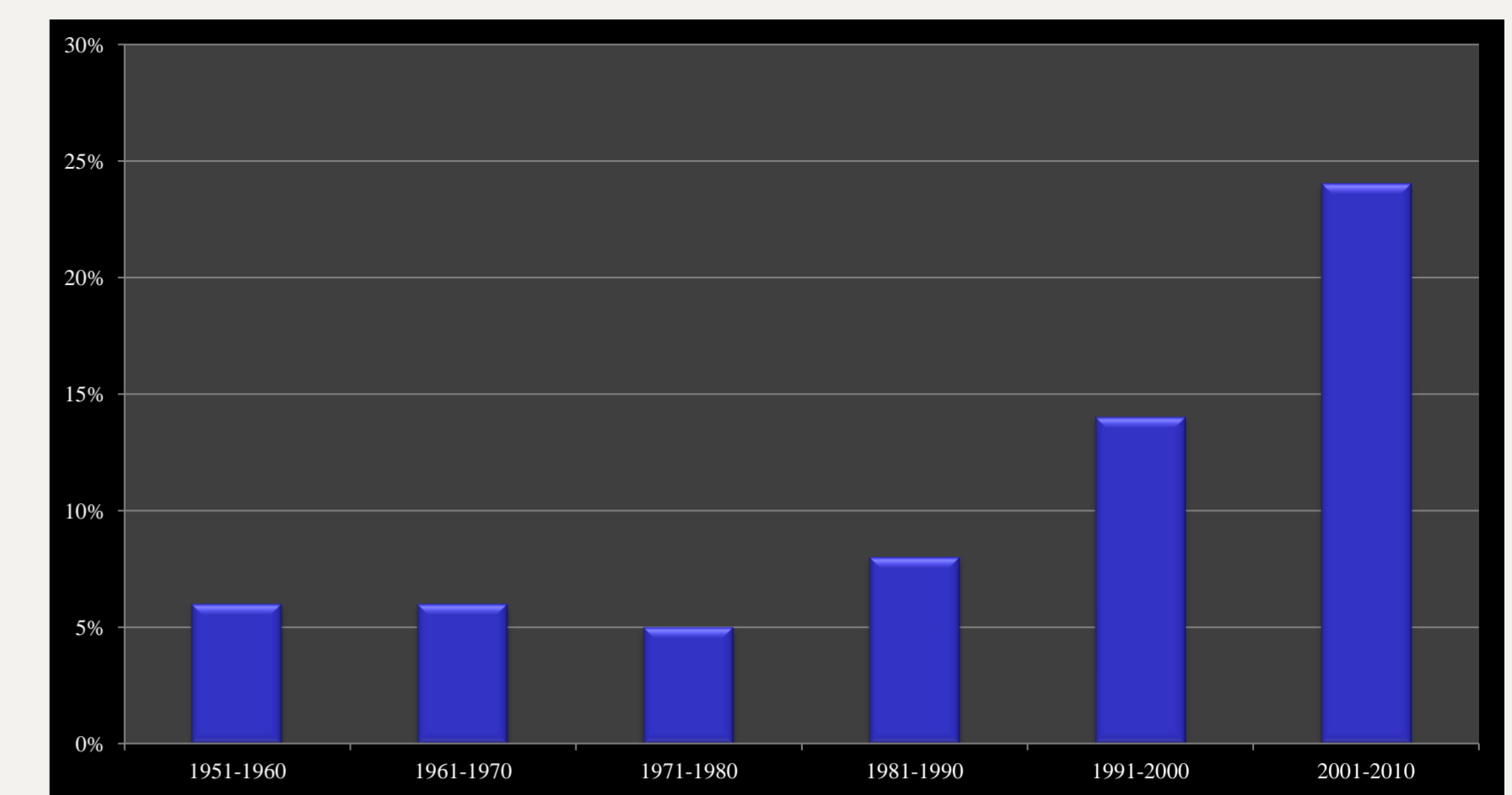


Fig. 1: Percentages of psychology literature publications in English language with German authorship from 1951-2010 (PSYNDEX Literature)

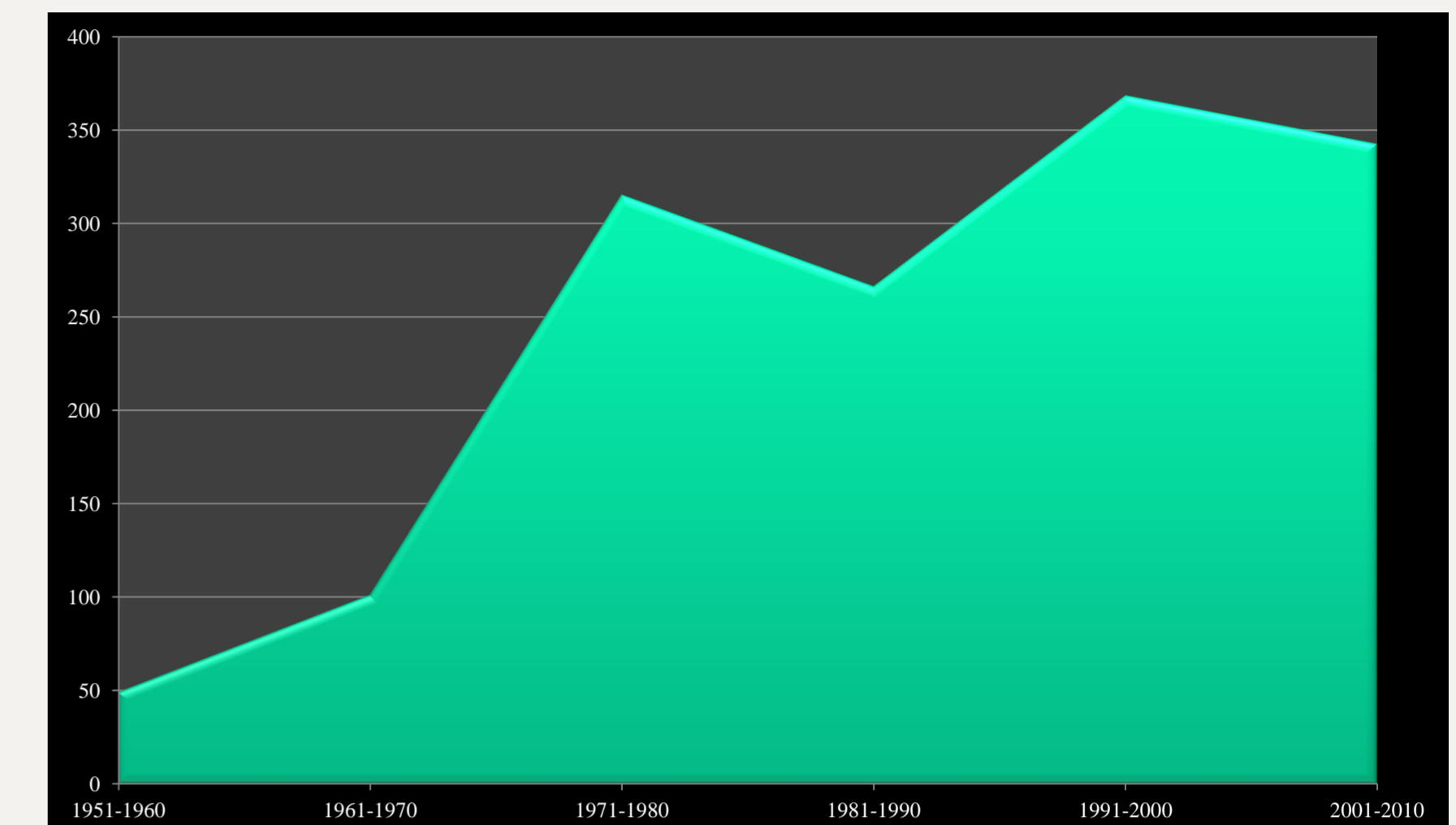


Fig. 2: Number of published psychology tests with German authorship from 1951-2010 (PSYNDEX Tests)

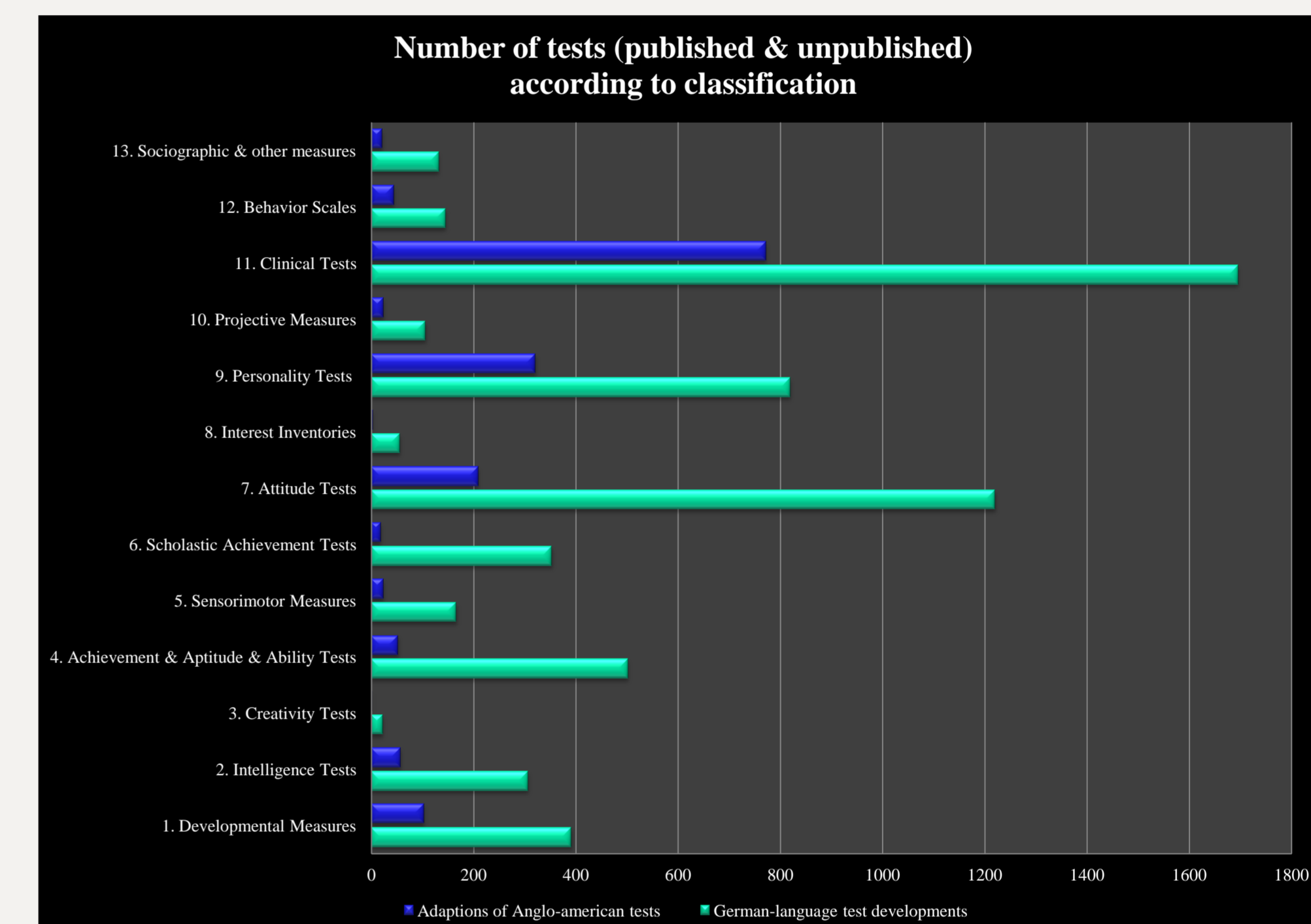


Fig. 6: Number of unpublished and published psychology tests of German vs. Anglo-American origin according to subject classification

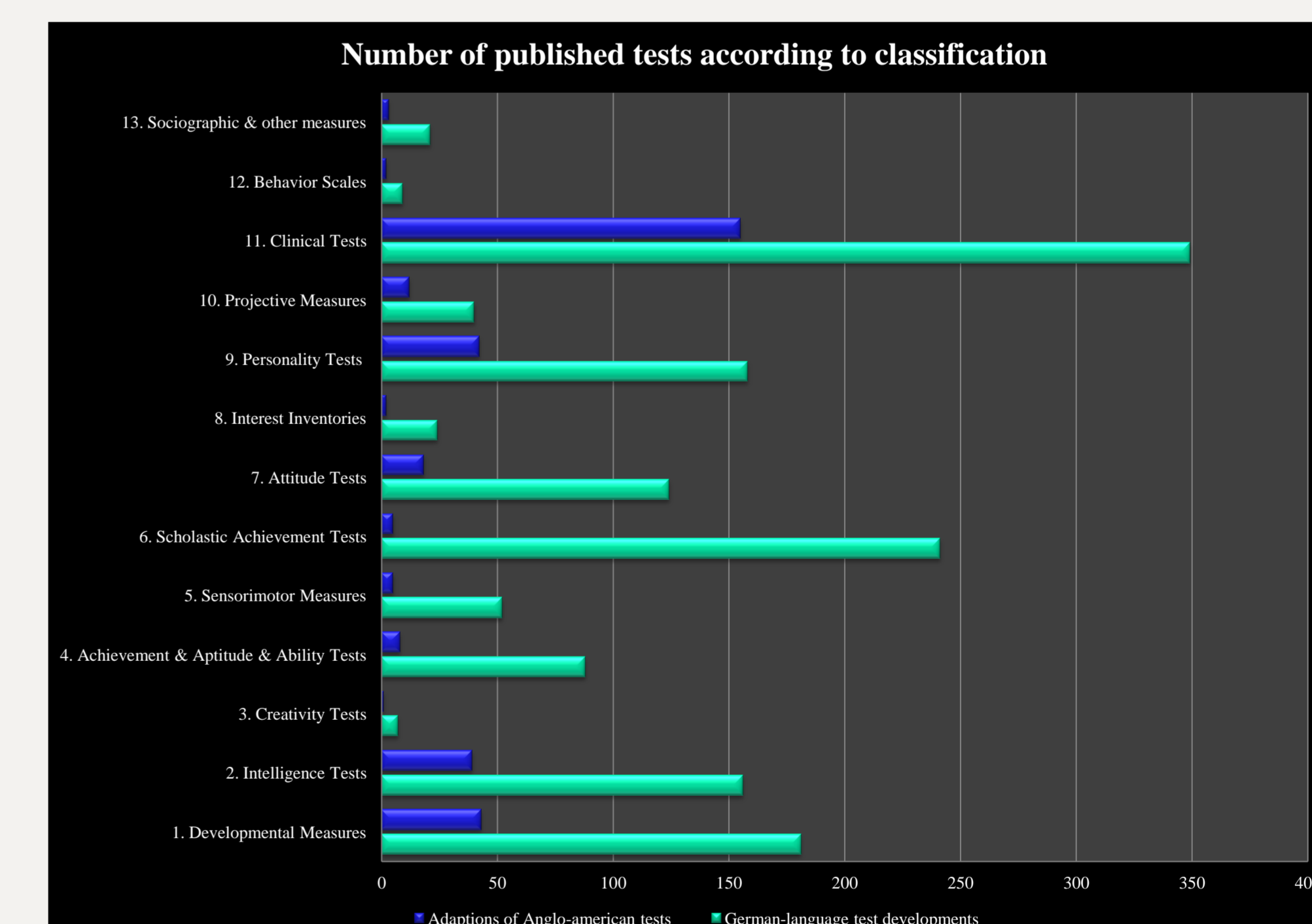


Fig. 7: Number of published psychology tests of German vs. Anglo-American origin according to subject classification

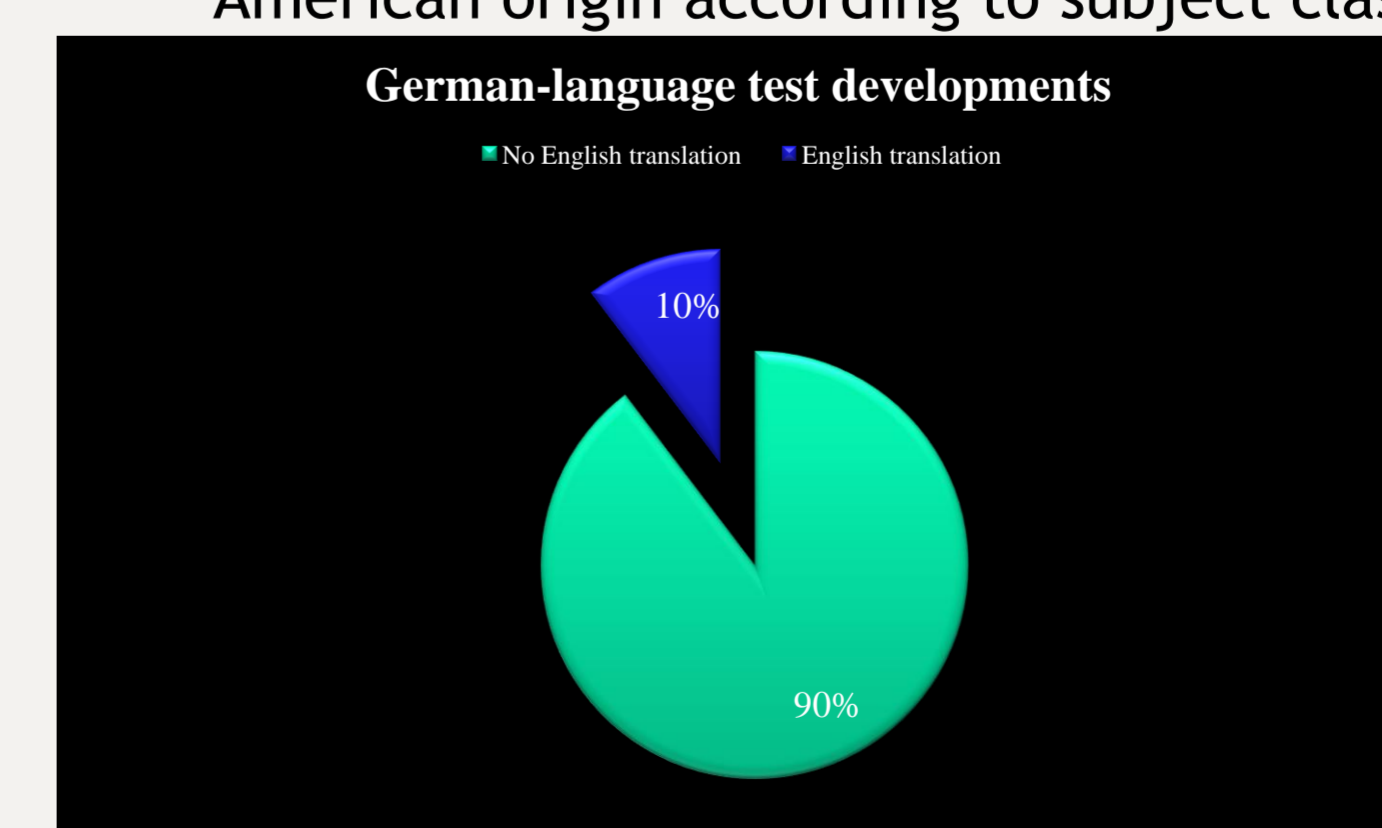


Fig. 8: Percentages of German psychology test developments with and without English translation (PSYNDEX Tests)