The recent anglicization of psychology (van Strien, 1997) led to an increase of psychology literature publications from German-speaking countries in English language (cp. Fig. 1). Apart from the overall increase of psychological test developments from German-speaking countries since the 1970s (Eberwein, Schui & Krampen, 2006) there is also a proportionally higher increase of German adaptions of Anglo-American tests than of German test developments during the last two decades (especially in the 1990s, cp. Fig. 2). And these adaptions are commonly used by practitioners (Roth, Schmitt & Yorck Herzberg, 2010). Therefore it can be said, that there is a noticeable Anglo-American influence on German psychology and psychological testing.

With reference to these developments the following research questions are analyzed:

1) Has the anglicization of psychology also led to an increase of the number of psychological tests developed in German-speaking countries and subsequently translated into English?

2) Does this tendency increase or decrease the international use of tests from German-speaking countries and hence the employment of these tests in research studies from German-English speaking countries?

Method

- Bibliometric method with data from two psychological databases:
  - Analysis of PSYNDEX Tests database, containing 6,500 records of psychological tests from the German-speaking countries. Limiting criteria: N = 1,152 tests developments from German-speaking countries (Austria, Germany or Switzerland) published between 1951 and 2010 in German language: \( N_\text{En} = 115 \) with (vs. \( N_\text{Ge} = 1,037 \) without) English translation.
  - Analysis of PsycINFO database, containing over 3 million records of psychological publications (international coverage with Anglo-American bias). Limiting criteria: N = 670 research studies from German—see above vs. N = 43 from English-speaking countries (Australia, Canada, England, Great Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, North America, United Kingdom, & United States) published between 1951 and 2010, employing one of the 115 specified tests from German-speaking countries with English translation (see above).

Results

- Research question (1):
  - 10% of the tests developed in German-speaking countries have English translations (cp. Fig. 4, \( N_\text{En} = 1,037; N_\text{Ge} = 115 \)).
  - Apart from the overall increase of test publications from German-speaking countries, there is a proportionally higher increase of German test developments with English translation than without special increase from \( N_\text{En} = 14 \) tests with English in the 1970s to \( N_\text{En} = 53 \) in the 1990s, slight decrease since year 2000, cp. Fig. 3).

- Research question (2):
  - A considerable increase from nearly zero can be shown in the number of research studies from English (N = 42) and from German-speaking countries (N = 571) employing test developments from German speaking countries during the last decade. This tendency starts for studies from German-speaking countries during the 1990s (N = 93).

Conclusion

- Although a trend toward more English translations of published tests from German-speaking countries during the last six decades was shown, overall only 10% of the tests were translated into English and there is even a slight decrease during the last years.
- The significant enhancement of the number of research studies from English-speaking countries from nearly zero to N = 42 studies in the first decade since the year 2000 raises hope for the future international acceptance of tests from German-speaking countries. But still, there is a significant need to enhance the international visibility of test developments and research studies from Germany (and other European countries). It is therefore important to translate more non-English European test developments into English.

References


