

Contents

Acknowledgments	vii
Series Editors' Preface	ix
Introduction	1
1 Uses of Language Assessment	5
Preview	5
Language Learners in Today's Classrooms	5
Multiple Roles Teachers Play in Language Assessment	7
Purposes of Language Assessment	11
Preparing the Way for Our Journey to Language Assessment	14
Using Assessment in Classrooms	16
Standards-Based Language Assessment	23
<i>NLLIA ESL Bandscales from Australia</i>	26
<i>Steps to English Proficiency in Canada</i>	27
<i>Council of Europe: CEFR</i>	30
<i>Language Testing in the Context of NCLB</i>	31
High-Stakes Testing in EFL Contexts	34
Summary	36
2 What Teachers Need to Know about Theories of Language Development	39
Preview	39
Language Proficiency Development	42
<i>Is Language Proficiency Unitary or Multi-componential?</i>	45
What is Academic Language Proficiency?	46
<i>Vocabulary Knowledge</i>	47
<i>Grammar Knowledge</i>	48
<i>Discourse Knowledge</i>	50
<i>Language Functions and Skills</i>	51
Assessing ALP in Classrooms	52
Key Features of ALP Development in Young and Adolescent Learners	58
How Long Does it Take to Acquire ALP?	61

Differentiating Language Development from Exceptionalities	67
Summary	71
3 Principles for Assessing Young Language Learners	73
Preview	73
Mapping out Assessments	74
Assessment Should be Cognitively Rich Enough to Elicit Knowledge and Skills	78
Assessment Tasks Should Measure Essential Core Skills	87
Assessment Should Promote Positive Learning and Assessment Experiences	91
Assessments Should Provide Consistent and Reliable Information on Proficiency	96
Assessment Should Promote Students' Ability to Self-Assess	103
Assessment Should Provide the Support Needed	107
Summary	111
4 Principles for Assessing Adolescent Language Learners	113
Preview	113
Portfolio Assessment Should Promote Learner Autonomy	116
Assessment of Oral Proficiency Should Consider Dynamic Peer Interactions	122
Assessment Should Consider the Influence of Parents' Beliefs about Assessment	127
Teachers' Assessment Competence is Key to High-Quality Assessment Practice	134
Assessment Should be Culturally Responsive and Fair	140
Assessment Should Take Advantage of the Benefits of Technology	146
Summary	150
5 Language Assessment: What We Know Now	153
Preview	153
Reflecting on Ideas about Assessment: Learning from Research	153
Conclusion	166
Suggestions for Further Reading	167
Appendix	170
Glossary	172
References	179
Index	196