

Linguistic/cultural adaptations of the Global TALEs protocol.

Careful linguistic and cultural adaptation is essential to ensure that the protocol measures the same constructs across languages while remaining natural and appropriate for speakers of each language. Following the steps below will help maximise cross-language comparability while preserving the validity of the elicitation procedures.

Should you wish to translate/adapt the protocol and elicitation procedures to your language, please ensure the following steps are taken:

1. Contact Marleen Westerveld (m.westerveld@griffith.edu.au) to inform us of your intention to translate and adapt the protocol. This helps ensure that only one version is developed for each language and avoids duplication of effort or questions regarding authorship.
2. Before translating and adapting the protocol and elicitation procedures to your language, please read the Global TALEs administration guide and familiarise yourself with the protocol.
3. In addition, we suggest familiarising yourself with the initial feasibility paper outlining the development and piloting of the protocol (Westerveld et al., 2022):
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0273114>
4. Use the current English version 2 of the protocol as the base for all language adaptations.
5. Do not change the order of the prompts or any other part of the elicitation procedure. This is important for comparability (across countries / languages).
6. Translate the entire protocol, including instructions and prompts. If absolutely necessary, AI-assisted translation may be used as an initial step, but it should not replace expert review.
7. Ask two native-speakers who are linguists or speech-language pathologists to carefully check the translation of the entire text and adjust it where necessary. Your translation should closely correspond in meaning to the English version, but be worded in a way that is natural and authentic in your language.
8. Translate your language version back into English and closely compare your back translation with the original English version. Note differences, if any, adapt if needed, and repeat the back-translation process.
9. For some population groups, e.g., younger children or neuro-divergent populations, a scripted follow-up prompt may be needed: Consider whether the examples given in the English version are culturally appropriate and typical in your target cultural group. If so, translation of the text will suffice. If not, create culturally appropriate and typical alternatives.
10. Pilot your linguistic adaptation with two to five target language speakers. Note any grammatical, lexical, or conceptual difficulties and ambiguities that occurred during the adaptation, as well as any changes that were made because of language-specific requirements concerning the structure and/or lexical inventory.

For example, in German, the translation of *excited* (*aufgeregt*) can carry either a negative or positive connotation; therefore, a positively connotated modifier was added to the prompt in the German adaptation to ensure the intended meaning was preserved. Similarly, in some languages, a direct translation of *proud* may carry different social or emotional meanings, and wording may need to be adjusted to maintain the intended interpretation. The Cantonese and Mandarin adaptations provide an example of this issue. In Chinese, *proud* can be translated as 驕傲 (traditional Chinese) / 骄傲 (simplified Chinese), which may carry a negative or boastful connotation, or as 自豪 (used in both traditional and simplified Chinese), which conveys a more positive sense of pride. The authors of the Chinese adaptations therefore selected the term with the positive connotation to best reflect the intended meaning of the original prompt.

Please ensure that this information regarding language- and culture-specific adjustments is preserved and documented. Such information may be valuable for researchers undertaking future adaptations or for reporting adaptation procedures in future publications.

11. Describe the adaptation/translation/piloting process you used by completing this form.
<https://forms.gle/spN9SMq2SBtK3ikaA>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.