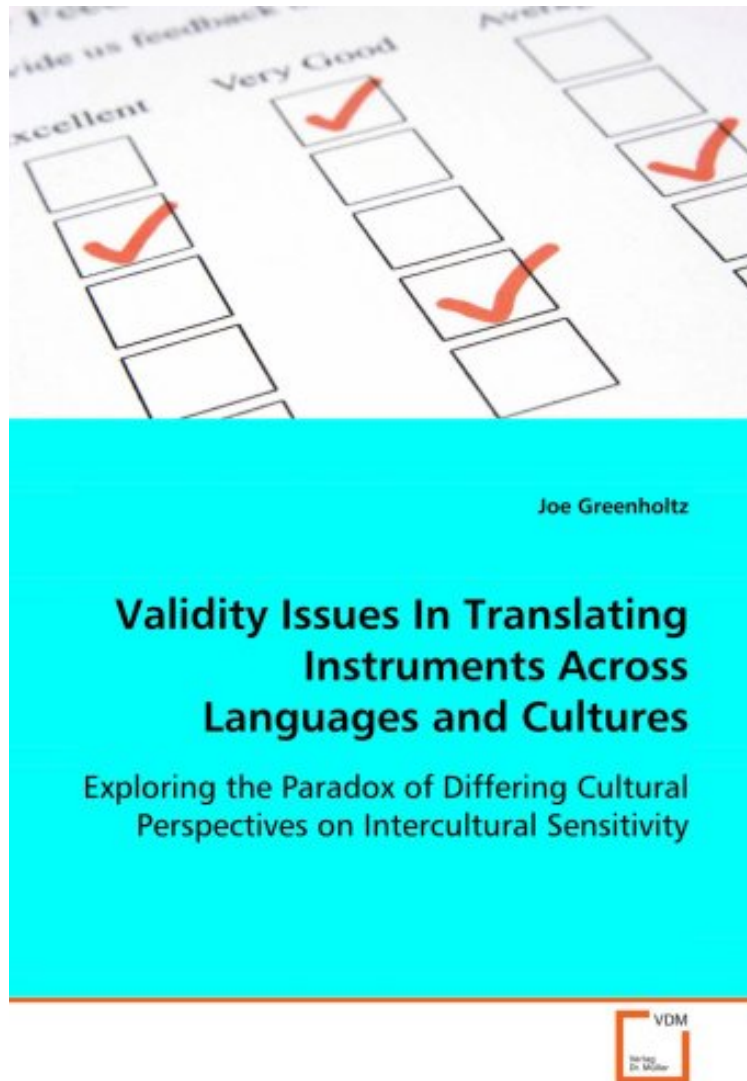


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# Validity Issues In Translating Instruments Across Languages and Cultures: Exploring the Paradox of Differing Cultural Perspectives on Intercultural Sensitivity

Joe Greenholtz

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## and Cultures: Exploring the Paradox of Differing Cultural Perspectives on Intercultural Sensitivity:

Many researchers wrongly assume that validity is the property of an instrument, and that once validity has been 'demonstrated' no further analysis is required when it is used in a different research context. This work challenges that idea and seeks to remind researchers that validity, the 'ne plus ultra' of any research, is a multi-layered process incorporating both statistical and judgmental evidence, that must be specifically accounted for in any empirical project. A Japanese translation of Bennett and Hammer's Intercultural Development Inventory (version 1) was tested for content, concurrent, and consequential validity following Messick's (1998) framework in which these aspects of validity are seen to contribute to an overarching judgment of construct validity. The validation analysis raised questions about whether results from a translated IDI, and by extension the stages of the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (DMIS) upon which it is based, are transferable across languages and cultures. This work serves as a reminder that validity is a critical element, and that it must be explicitly addressed, particularly in cross-cultural research.

**About the Author** Dr. Joe Greenholtz is adjunct professor of Education at UBC, where his research interests include mixed-mode measures of intercultural sensitivity, cultural identity, comparative cross-cultural education, and language proficiency. Joe is also Managing Partner of HJG Consulting a strategic cross-cultural management consultancy and translation agency