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Assessing Readability of Spanish and English Caregiver Forms of Norm-Referenced Adaptive Behavior Rating Scales

Sarah Tremblay
University of Southern Maine

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Assessing Readability of Spanish and English Caregiver Forms of Norm-Referenced Adaptive Behavior Rating Scales

Sarah Tremblay & Garry Wickerd, PhD
School of Education and Human Development



Introduction

- Of foreign-born individuals in the US, most are from Mexico and most speak Spanish (Motel & Patten, 2014).
- In Mexico, 42% of 15 year-olds who took an international test of academic skills (PISA) scored below Level 2 on reading, the level deemed necessary to participate in modern society (OECD, 2015).
- When we are evaluating students for special education services, we often use rating scales to assess behavior. Handing a form to a parent does not ensure that they are able to read it, which is a particular concern for parents who are immigrants.
- The purpose of this study was to determine the readability of parent forms of adaptive behavior rating scales in Spanish and in English.

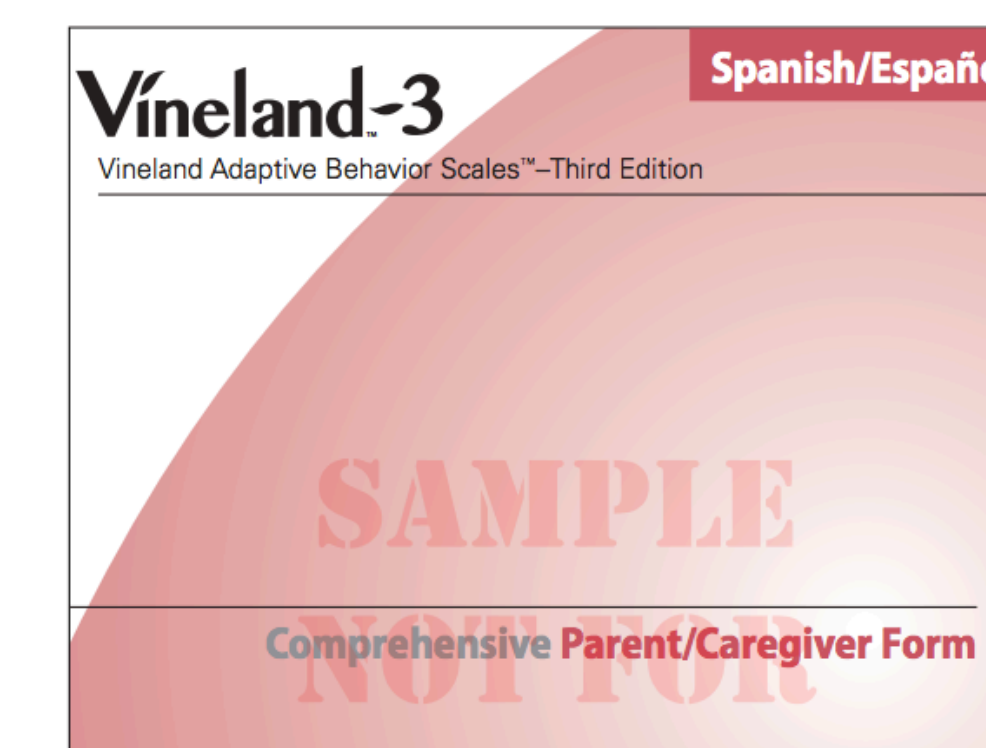
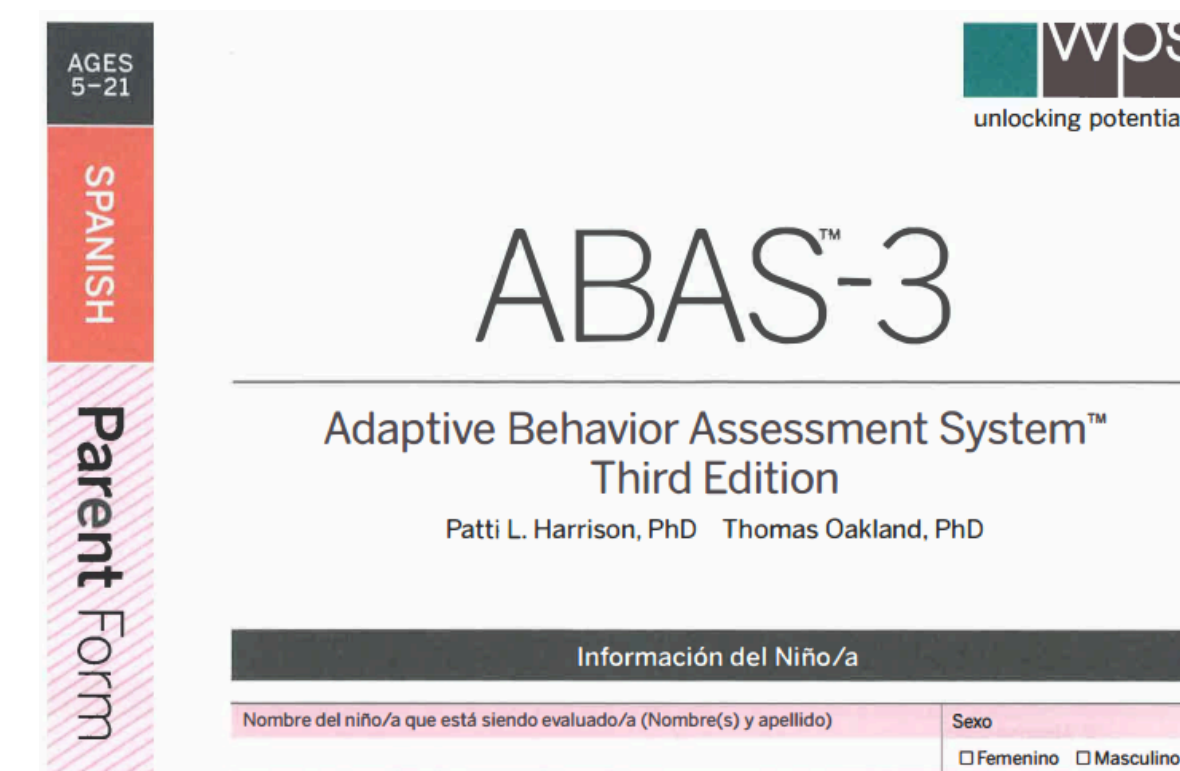
Methods

- Obtained parent forms of adaptive behavior rating scales from publishers (ABAS-3: Western Psychological Services; Vineland-3: Pearson)
- Calculated readability of each section of the rating scales twice
 - In the case of disagreement between two scores, the score was calculated a third time, and the score obtained twice was retained
- Each section of the rating scale was evaluated separately for readability

Materials

Adaptive Behavior Rating Scales:

- Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Third Edition (ABAS-3)
- Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, Third Edition (Vineland-3)

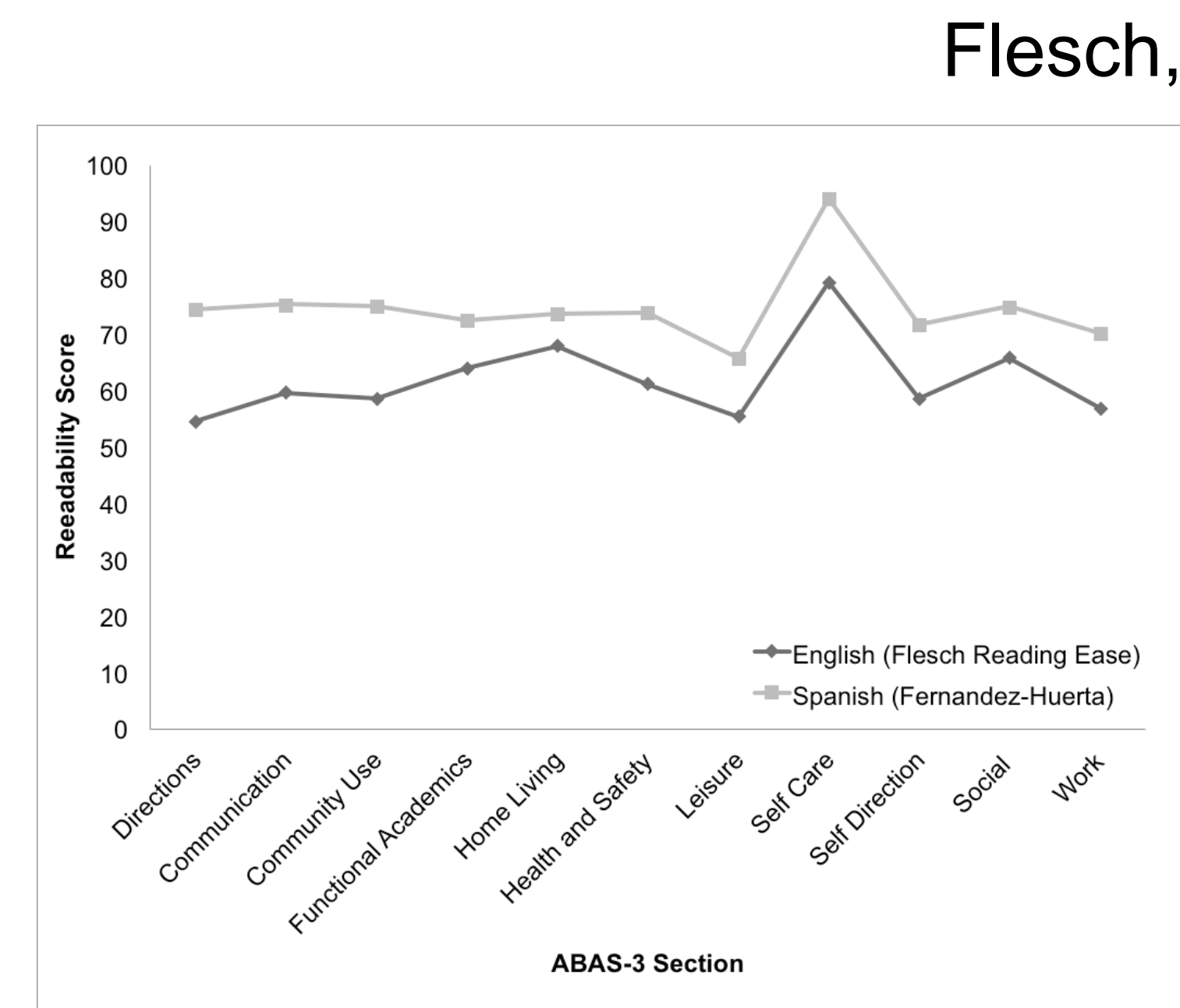


Readability Formulas:

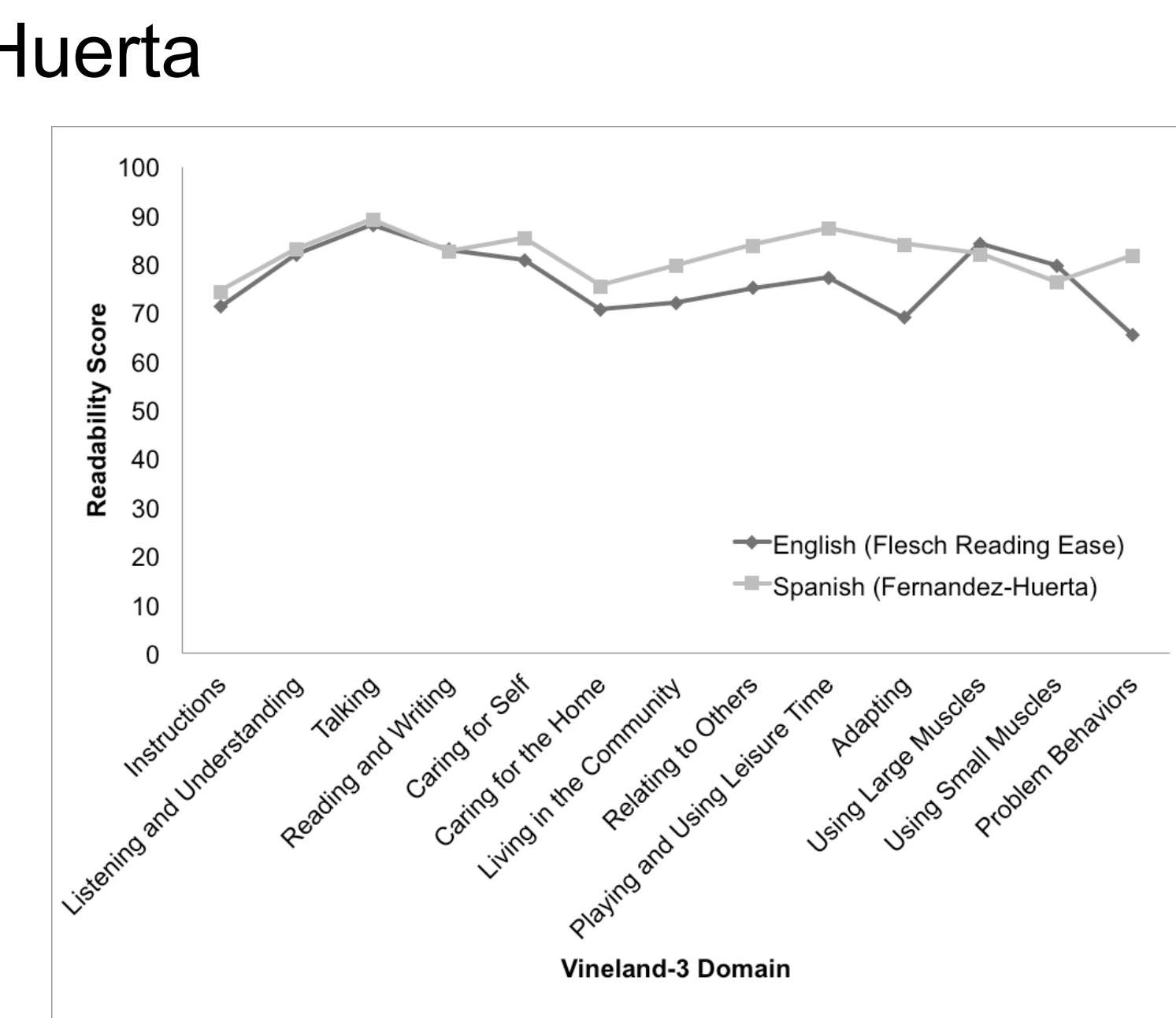
- Flesch Reading Ease (English)
- Fernandez-Huerta (Spanish)
- Automated Readability Index (ARI; English and Spanish)

Results

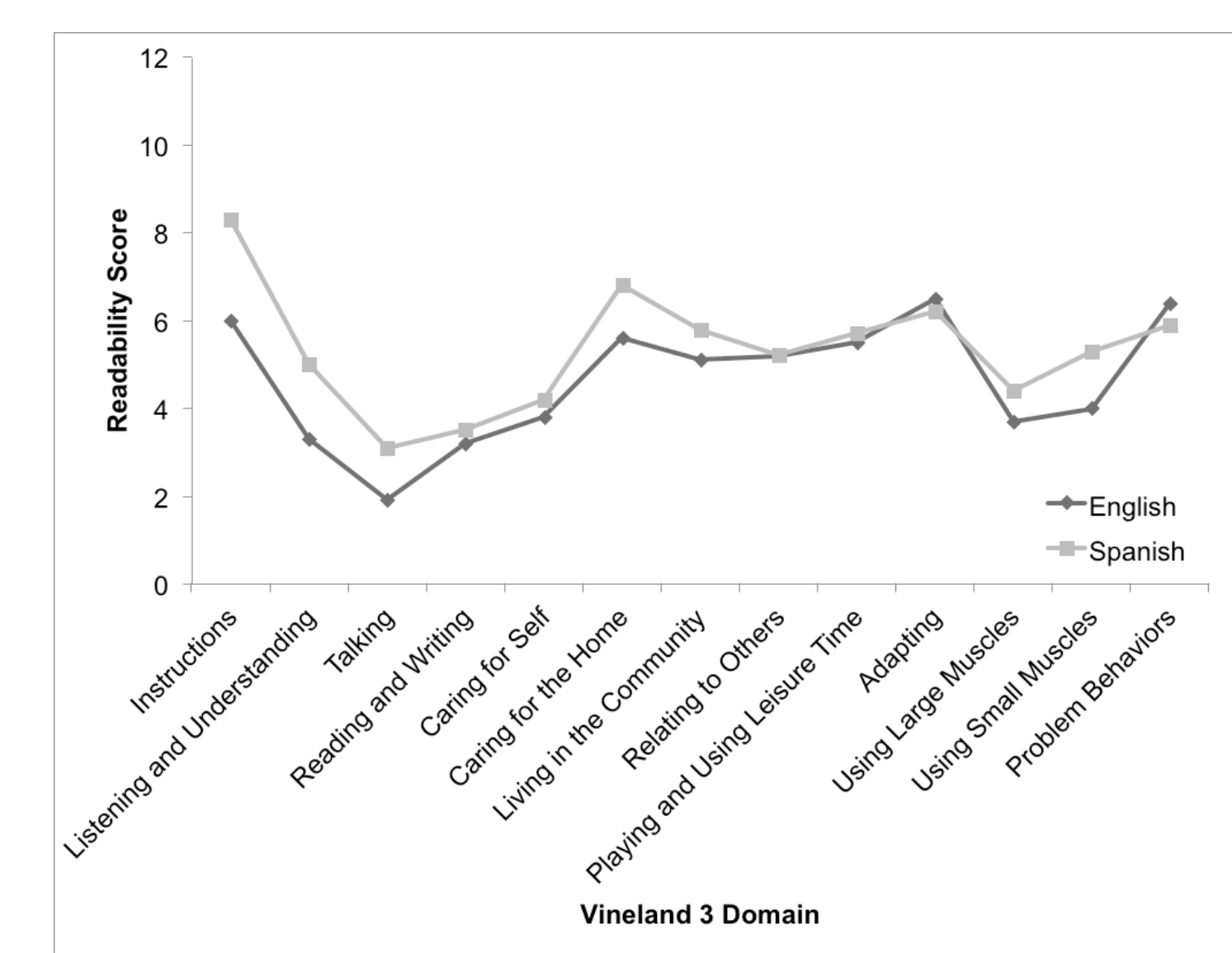
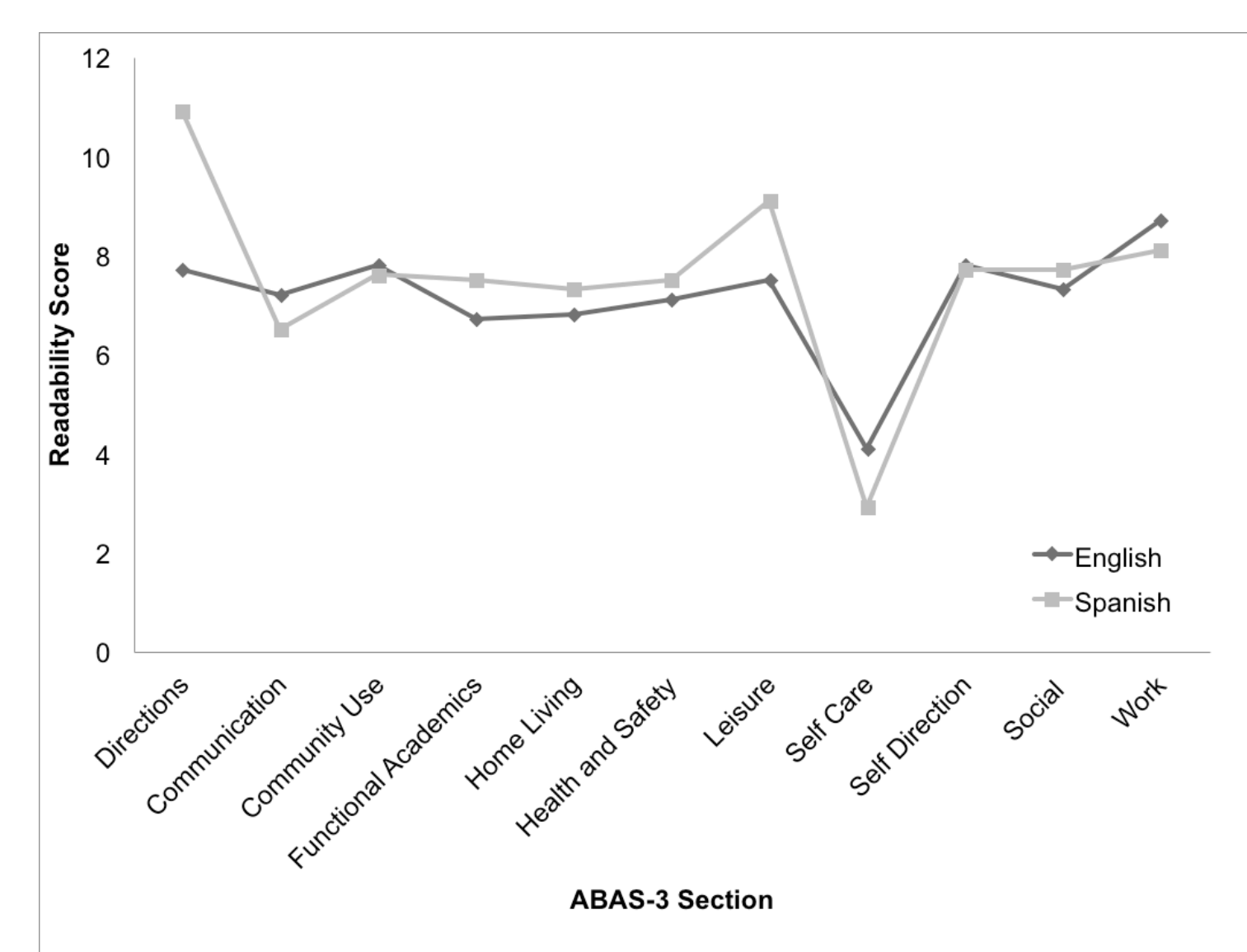
ABAS-3



Vineland-3



Automated Reading Index



Conclusions

ABAS-3

- Average English and Spanish readability around 7th grade level
- Spanish tends to be less difficult than English

Vineland-3

- Average English readability around 4th grade level
- Average Spanish readability around 5th grade level

Implications

- While readability scores between the 4th and 7th grade level appear to make the rating scales accessible to all, it is possible that this still exceeds an individual's reading ability.
- We need to tactfully determine parents' reading abilities rather than make an assumption.

Limitations

- Readability scores are approximations and limited in utility.

References

- Motel, S. & Patten, E. (2014). Statistical portrait of Hispanics in the United States, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2014/04/29/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-2012/>.
- OECD Programme for International Student Assessment. (2015). Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Results from 2015 PISA: Mexico. Retrieved from <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisa-2015-Mexico.pdf>