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National Michigan Test Score Improvement Averages for the International Students of English at the School for International Training of Ten Programs from January 1974 through June 1976

Robert J. Thomas
School for International Training

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National Michigan Test Score Improvement Averages
for the International Students of English
at the School for International Training
of Ten Programs from January 1974 through June 1976

Robert J. Thomas

"Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Master of Arts in Teaching degree at the
School for International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont."

June, 1977

MAT VII

This project by Robert J. Thomas is accepted in its present form.

Date 15 August 77 Principal Advisor John Curdall

Project Advisor/Reader:

Abstract

This project contains student data, consisting of nationality, test scores, and age, from ten programs of International Students of English at the School for International Training. The data has been calculated to produce national test score averages which are helpful when comparing the various national and language group abilities of performance on the Michigan Test. In general this material supports the hypothesis that the closer a student's native language is to English linguistically the greater his score improvement will be on the Michigan Test.

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National Michigan Test Score Improvement Averages for the ISE of
Ten Programs from January, 1974 Through June, 1976

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Prof.</u>	<u>Aur.</u>
Brazil	138	11.74	15.65
Mexico	137	12.95	17.09
Venezuela	135	14.48	18.80
Japan	99	3.84	8.47
Switzerland	62	13.03	17.18
Algeria	32	15.59	19.18
Colombia	25	13.25	24.12
Iran	20	6.30	12.25
France	19	7.41	13.05
Italy	15	14.00	22.47
Panama	14	14.78	16.27
Peru	14	13.00	15.71
Libya	14	7.36	11.93
Honduras	11	7.54	17.54
Saudi Arabia	8	6.50	13.50
Mali	8	12.99	20.87
Guatemala	6	12.99	11.50
Costa Rica	6	10.83	13.99
Greece	5	9.80	18.40
Spain	4	21.75	23.50
Poland	4	14.50	23.50

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Prof.</u>	<u>Aur.</u>
Yemen	4	11.26	9.75
Ecuador	4	7.50	12.00
Kuwait	3	3.00	8.34
Nicaragua	3	10.67	11.67
Afghanistan	3	12.67	-1.00
El Salvador	2	6.50	16.50
Zaire	2	19.00	32.00
Turkey	2	4.50	23.00
China	2	1.50	6.50
Syria	2	8.00	7.00
Uruguay	2	10.50	20.00
Chile	2	26.50	22.00
Guadeloupe	2	7.00	16.50
Morocco	2	6.50	10.00
Oman	2	-2.00	1.00
Ghana	1	1.00	7.00
Cameroon	1	25.00	34.00
Israel	1	6.00	34.00
Bolivia	1	29.00	40.00
Belgium	1	-1.00	12.00
Canada	1	13.00	8.00
Martinique	1	22.00	23.00
Jordan	1	19.00	22.00
Norway	1	-1.00	10.00
Indonesia	1	8.00	9.00
West Germany	1	9.00	6.00

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Prof.</u>	<u>Aur.</u>
Thailand	1	1.00	0.00
Korea	1	-1.00	-3.00
Lebanon	1	7.00	3.00

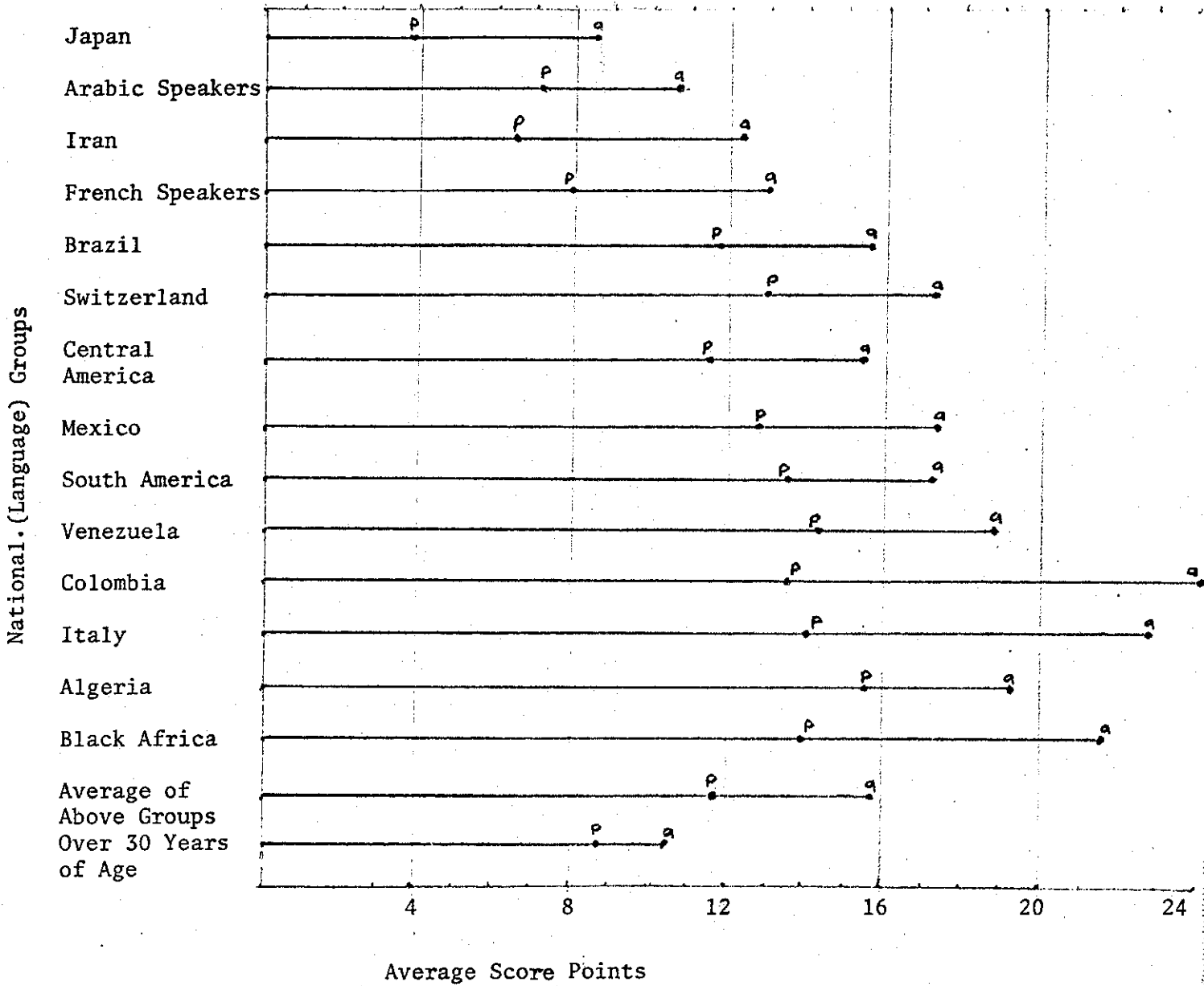
Comparative Michigan Test Score Improvement Averages

<u>National (Language) Group</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Prof.</u>	<u>Aur.</u>
Japan	99	3.84	8.47
Arabic Speakers (Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Lybia, Yemen, Kuwait)	37	7.03	10.81
Iran	20	6.30	12.25
French Speakers (France, Belgium, Martinique, Canada, Guadeloupe)	24	7.95	12.95
Brazil	138	11.74	15.65
Switzerland	62	13.03	17.18
Central America (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama)	42	11.38	15.38
Mexico	137	12.95	17.09
South America (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Chile)	23	13.69	17.04
Venezuela	135	14.48	18.80
Colombia	25	13.25	24.12
Italy	15	14.00	22.47
Algeria	32	15.59	19.18
Black Africa (Mali, Cameroon, Ghana, Zaire)	12	13.99	21.66
	Total	Overall average of the groups	
	801	11.66	15.87
Students over 30 Years of Age (all nationalities)	71	8.82	10.38

Comparative Michigan Test Score Improvement Averages Graph

Prof. p

Aur. a



The Uses and Limitations of National
Michigan Test Score Improvement Averages

The major use of this material is that of comparison of various national and/or language groups' performances on the Michigan Test. It is best not to consider this a comparison of learning abilities of English for there are many variables that are not taken into account by these figures.

The improvement average is not adjusted in relation to the student's initial proficiency. A student with a score of 20 is more likely to have a greater point improvement than a student with an initial score of 80. This factor along with the usual inadequacies of any such test lessen the validity of considering these figures as comparative learning abilities of English.

The student's own language background effects his national improvement average. Monolingual groups speaking languages totally unrelated to English such as the Japanese and most Arabic speakers have the lowest improvement averages. Monolingual students speaking languages closely related to English, those from the Romance and Germanic branches of the western half of the Indo-European language family, have substantially higher averages. Students speaking Iranian which is an eastern Indo-European language do better than those speaking totally unrelated languages but not as well as those speaking closely related languages. Mostly bilingual groups do better than their monolingual counterparts. For example, the Algerian students learned either Arabic or Berber as their first language and French shortly after. Their improvement average is higher than either the French or Arabic monolingual speakers. Students of multilingual backgrounds also do well, especially if one of their languages is related to English. Many Black African students

fall into this category.

The student's exposure to English before coming to S.I.T. is another factor effecting the test score averages. Exposure is very difficult to measure but it may be partly responsible for the variety of national averages of countries that share a common language such as Spanish.

These factors along with others particular to individual languages and countries greatly influence national improvement averages on the Michigan Test. With proper consideration given to variables and limitations these figures can be useful comparative aids.

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement	Averages
Morocco	1	P 11	11.00
		A 3	3.00
Martinique	1	P 22	22.00
		A 23	23.00
Syria	1	P 15	15.00
		A 5	5.00

September 1974

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement												Averages			
Mexico	20	P	21	-2	21	20	5	-7	-1	14	9	4	24	10	22		
		A	42	-22	28	23	33	20	10	23	26	3	28	19	28		
			P	45	18	-1	13	13	11	17							12.8
			A	12	23	24	31	16	-6	32							19.65
Venezuela	18	P	3	9	52	43	30	25	-17	18	47	29	28	21	16		
		A	27	2	48	44	39	29	-5	15	78	20	72	48	41		
			P	19	27	11	41	20							23.44		
			A	63	20	11	58	63							35.77		
Switzerland	10	P	22	-2	22	3	0	14	14	11	36	27				14.70	
		A	30	-8	67	8	0	18	15	13	43	40				22.60	
Brazil	10	P	15	27	6	-2	15	8	1	24	19	16				12.90	
		A	30	30	-5	22	18	12	7	17	25	15				17.10	
Japan	6	P	5	1	-16	1	1	6							-0.33		
		A	1	25	-2	-10	21	2							6.16		
Colombia	4	P	26	15	14	30							21.25				
		A	37	34	47	35							38.25				
Uruguay	2	P	19	2							10.50						
		A	30	10							20.00						
Honduras	2	P	23	7							15.00						
		A	25	13							19.00						
Poland	2	P	26	17							21.50						
		A	21	24							22.50						
Saudi Arabia	1	P	7							7.00							
		A	2							2.00							
Canada	1	P	13							13.00							
		A	8							8.00							
Guadeloupe	1	P	13							13.00							
		A	29							29.00							
Afghanistan	1	P	8							8.00							
		A	-2							-2.00							
Panama	1	P	13							13.00							
		A	10							10.00							
Chile	1	P	36							36.00							
		A	30							30.00							

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement	Averages
Guatemala	1	P 1 A -5	1.00 -5.00
Greece	1	P 12 A 15	12.00 15.00
Spain	1	P 43 A 35	43.00 35.00
Italy	1	P 0 A 12	00.00 12.00
Kuwait	1	P 6 A 12	6.00 12.00
Iran	1	P 8 A 22	8.00 22.00

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement	Averages
Venezuela	27	P 13 4 18 16 26 35 24 11 3 21 2 31 13	
		A 13 15 18 14 13 30 4 7 10 7 -2 40 25	
		P 16 26 27 19 0 27 8 27 20 26 34 14 31 24	18.89
		A 17 41 55 40 11 17 25 20 28 37 41 30 43 42	23.74
Brazil	24	P 22 9 8 7 8 1 -1 3 16 8 -9 4 7	
		A 18 7 -3 40 12 12 15 17 18 10 2 15 13	
		P 9 18 9 12 14 12 10 23 5 5 12	8.83
		A 23 25 10 16 15 7 18 12 10 3 0	12.38
Mexico	7	P 20 14 15 9 6 21 0	12.14
		A 5 30 12 7 8 12 32	15.14
Switzerland	7	P 30 1 -5 9 10 13 24	13.00
		A 13 12 2 7 0 6 19	8.43
Japan	7	P 8 0 18 4 -22 4 5	2.43
		A 10 -2 43 15 17 6 -4	12.14
Panama	6	P 7 18 22 30 8 7	15.33
		A 11 33 20 25 20 5	19.00
Colombia	4	P 14 30 18 11	18.25
		A 17 40 37 6	25.00
Libya	4	P 7 1 11 28	11.75
		A 16 3 19 33	17.75
Saudi Arabia	4	P 16 6 -5 5	5.50
		A 19 37 8 27	22.75
El Salvador	2	P 3 10	6.50
		A 15 18	16.50
Yemen	2	P 15 17	16.00
		A 25 12	18.50
Iran	2	P -1 12	5.50
		A 13 1	7.00
Jordan	1	P 19	19.00
		A 22	22.00
Afghanistan	1	P 8	8.00
		A -9	-9.00
Kuwait	1	P 10	10.00
		A 7	7.00

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement	Averages
Peru	1	P 21	21.00
		A 41	41.00
Ecuador	1	P 10	10.00
		A 7	7.00
Nicaragua	1	P 14	14.00
		A 8	8.00

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement	Averages
Syria	1	P 1 A 9	1.00 9.00
Saudi Arabia	1	P 5 A -3	5.00 -3.00
Ecuador	1	P 5 A 20	5.00 20.00
Spain	1	P 12 A -2	12.00 -2.00
Afghanistan	1	P 22 A 8	22.00 8.00
Nicaragua	1	P 8 A -5	8.00 -5.00
Colombia	1	P 20 A 18	20.00 18.00
France	1	P 12 A 2	12.00 2.00
Panama	1	P 14 A 10	14.00 10.00
Indonesia	1	P 8 A 9	8.00 9.00

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement		Averages
West Germany	1	P 9	A 6	9.00 6.00
Costa Rica	1	P 22	A 17	22.00 17.00
Ecuador	1	P 6	A 11	6.00 11.00
Poland	1	P 15	A 37	15.00 37.00
Guadeloupe	1	P 1	A 4	1.00 4.00
Lebanon	1	P 7	A 3	7.00 3.00

January 1976

Country	No. of Students	Score	Improvement	Averages
Algeria	15	P	22 17 21 27 24 2 23 30 26 29 8 30	
		A	20 15 18 27 20 48 42 33 30 42 17 35	
		P	18 -3 16	19.33
		A	33 17 35	28.80
Brazil	14	P	11 21 7 13 8 16 7 24 23 2 25 5	
		A	18 27 9 -8 6 9 3 27 23 5 0 15	
		P	16 24	14.43
		A	15 24	12.36
Mexico	13	P	20 17 2 13 12 15 13 29 14 10 12 12 19	13.77
		A	15 12 -1 12 15 31 0 18 27 17 16 18 25	15.77
Venezuela	8	P	-1 22 16 15 15 7 6 10	9.50
		A	7 11 16 3 5 18 15 3	9.75
Japan	8	P	9 6 6 9 -4 1 3 6	4.50
		A	6 17 5 15 4 -4 0 15	7.25
Switzerland	6	P	9 9 12 27 17 28	17.00
		A	4 5 7 14 25 32	14.50
Costa Rica	3	P	15 9 10	11.33
		A	19 27 12	19.33
Peru	3	P	17 15 25	19.00
		A	18 23 23	21.33
Iran	2	P	19 18	18.50
		A	4 18	11.00
Panama	2	P	14 12	13.00
		A	21 7	14.00
Colombia	1	P	10	10.00
		A	35	35.00
Zaire	1	P	19	19.00
		A	15	15.00
France	1	P	14	14.00
		A	24	24.00
Morocco	1	P	2	2.00
		A	17	17.00
Poland	1	P	0	0.00
		A	12	12.00
Spain	1	P	5	5.00
		A	28	28.00

Country	No. of Students	Score Improvement	Averages
Chile	1	P 17 A 14	17.00 14.00
Iran	1	P -6 A 19	-6.00 19.00