YOUNG-A SON, PhD

Language Assessment | Automated Scoring | Psychometrics | Assessment Quality

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Language assessment and analytics leader with 10+ years of experience in language testing, validation, automated scoring, and rating quality. Currently Data Analytics and Rating Operations Manager at Language Testing International, overseeing rating operations and supporting the evaluation and operational integration of machine-scored assessments. PhD in Applied Linguistics with expertise in ACTFL and CEFR proficiency frameworks, psychometrics, assessment development, and fairness across learner populations.

CORE EXPERTISE

Automated Scoring | Speaking Assessment | Assessment Design & Validation | ACTFL & CEFR | Differential Item Functioning | Rater-Mediated Assessment | Human-Machine Agreement | CTT / IRT / Rasch | R | SQL | Tableau | FACETS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LANGUAGE TESTING INTERNATIONAL (LTI)

Data Analytics and Rating Operations Manager | Mar 2026-Present
Data Analytics and Visualization Specialist |Feb 2023-Mar 2026
Assessment Research Analyst | Jul 2021-Feb 2023

- Lead analytics supporting LTI's machine-scoring research agenda, translating machine and human scoring evidence into recommendations for assessment, engineering, operational, client, and external stakeholders.
- Own the operational integration of machine scores into the human-rating workflow for a large-scale English-speaking assessment, including score-finalization rules, exception handling, arbitration processes, and ongoing quality monitoring.
- Evaluate machine-human agreement and arbitration patterns and partner with engineers to diagnose disagreement and reduce unnecessary additional ratings while maintaining scoring quality.
- Prepare technical analyses and reports for ACTFL and an external Expert Review Committee evaluating automated scoring for operational use.
- Evaluate automated scoring across English and Spanish speaking and writing assessments; build monitoring dashboards, identify systematic performance patterns, and surface potential scoring or assessment-design concerns for further investigation.
- Oversee rating-delivery analytics and process improvement, using rater-performance, test-volume, routing, and turnaround data to improve quality, efficiency, automation, and operating cost.
- Translate complex quantitative findings into clear recommendations for LTI senior leadership, ACTFL and their test developers, clients, engineers, and rating-operations teams.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS - CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Data Analytics and Assessment Specialist | Nov 2019-Jun 2021

- Analyzed institutional, program, and course-level data to evaluate educational effectiveness and communicated findings through reports, presentations, and data visualizations.

FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Evaluation Specialist, Language Testing Unit | Jan 2019-Sep 2019

- Managed quality-control processes for language test delivery and scoring and reviewed test-administration and scoring procedures.
- Analyzed testing and scoring evidence and developed evidence-based recommendations for testing-program improvement.

EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS)
Research & Development Intern - Speaking Assessment | Jun 2017-Jul 2017
- Designed a study of alternative approaches to scoring interactive English-speaking ability, examining the reliability and practicality of different scoring rubrics.
- Analyzed test-score, survey, and interview data to evaluate alternative scoring approaches from measurement and rater perspectives.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY / ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER
Research Fellow | Sep 2013-Jan 2018
- Designed, refined, piloted, and validated a brief language-proficiency measure for research use, including test and item development.
- Evaluated its use across foreign-language and heritage-language learner populations, including differential item functioning analyses and argument-based validation.

EDUCATION
- **Georgetown University**
  PhD, Applied Linguistics, 2018
  Emphasis: Language Testing, Assessment, and Program Evaluation
  MS, Applied Linguistics
- **Seoul National University**
  MA, English Linguistics, 2013
  BA, English Language and Literature, 2010

SELECTED RESEARCH & PRESENTATIONS
- Voss, E., Sallee, K., **Son, Y. A.**, Malone, M. E., Marshall, C., & Chomon-Zamora, C. (2026). An automated scoring system for the AAPPL Spanish presentational writing tasks. *Foreign Language Annals*, *59*(1), 63-81.
- Dobberfuhl, J. & **Son, Y-A.** (2026, June 2-6). Global Frameworks, Local Classrooms: Aligning the AAPPL with the CEFR Scale [Paper presentation]. LTRC2026. Montreal, Canada
- **Son, Y-A.**, Voss, E., Sallee, K., & Malone, M. (2026). *Adapting an Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) Model for Spanish Language Assessment.* American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Chicago, IL.
- **Son, Y-A.**, Voss, E., Sallee, K., & Malone, M. (2026). *Automated Topic Detection in Spoken Language Assessment: Comparing Human-Labeled Training and Prompt-Based Category Prediction*. Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC), Montreal, Canada.
- Sallee, K., Voss, E., **Son, Y-A.**, & Malone, M. (2025). *Affordances and Challenges of Developing an Automated Spoken Spanish Assessment.* American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Denver, CO.

Additional publications and presentations: www.youngason.com

LANGUAGES
Spanish - Native | English - Near-native | Korean - Near-native