

Supplementary Materials s2: Development of the Autism & Bilingualism Census

The Autism & Bilingualism Census (ABC) was a new online survey designed by the authors. It consists of 4 sections: Section A, General demographic information; Section B, General life satisfaction and social life quality; Section C, Language history; Section D: Open-ended questions. Section B included 4 sub-sections: Social life quality, General life satisfaction, Current mood, and Personality. Only the subsection The SLQ score used as outcome variable in the study is derived from the Social life quality sub-section only. Content for section B Social life quality and section C were inspired by existing, open-access and free-to-use measures of relevant domains. Questions were created drawing on the wording of these measures but adapted to provide a consistent response-format across items, and to be more specifically relevant to the target population (i.e. autistic adults) and research question. For example, items designed to measure language use and exposure in our adult sample were partially inspired by the BiLEC, which was designed to capture these phenomena in children. The table below provides a detailed mapping of ABC survey items against the original measures that inspired the survey. The table covers all items contained within ABC survey sections that are analysed in the current report. We do not claim to replicate the reliability or validity of the original measures in our novel survey, but merely to illustrate how our survey design was grounded in the relevant literature.

1. Social life quality

As detailed above, the Social life quality sub-section of the ABC comprised 12 items within Section B of the survey (General life satisfaction and social life quality). Item scores from this section were used to build the Social Life Quality score used as outcome measure in the present study.

Supplementary Table 1 presents a direct comparison between the phrasing of the previously published questionnaires and the ABC Social life quality items. The questionnaires reviewed during design of this section were: the ESS = European Social Survey (ESS Round 8: European Social Survey Round 8 Data, 2016); the WHODAS 2.0 = World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (Üstün et al., 2010); and the WHOQOL = World Health Organization Quality of Life assessment

(The Whoqol Group, 1995).

2. Language history

The Language History section of the ABC comprised 13 questions characterising language history, encompassing acquisition, proficiency, exposure, use and anything else. Each of the respondent's languages (first to seventh language) were addressed in a separate page, that included all these items. Supplementary Table 1 presents the example question set for the 2nd language. As each ABC item was inspired by multiple questionnaires, this table does not present a direct comparison of the phrasings used. The questionnaires reviewed during design of this section were: the BEQ = Bilingualism and Emotions Questionnaire (Dewaele & Pavlenko, 2001); the BiLEC = Bilingual Language Experience Calculator (Unsworth, 2013); the LEAP-Q = Language Experience and Proficiency Questionnaire (Marian, Blumenfeld, & Kaushanskaya, 2007); the LHQ = Language History Questionnaire (Li et al., 2006)

Table s1. Construction of the Autism & Bilingualism Census – Social life quality scale and Language History

		A. Social life quality	
ABC section	ABC item wording	Source Questionnaire	Source Questionnaire item wording
Social life quality	I am satisfied with my personal relationships.	WHOQOL	How satisfied are you with your personal relationships?
	I find it easy to work with other people.	<i>n/a, new item</i>	
	I often meet socially with friends, family members or colleagues.	ESS	How often do you meet socially with friends, relatives and work colleagues?
	I have several friends and/or family members with whom I can discuss intimate and personal matters.	ESS	Do you have a friend or relative with whom you can discuss intimate and personal matters?
	I engage online in social activities and/or organisations related to my interests.	<i>n/a, new item</i>	
	I participate in person in group activities and/or organisations related to my interests.	ESS	Compared to other people your age, how often would you say you take part in social activities?
	I like to get involved in activities with people I know.	WHODAS 2.0	In the past 30 days, how much of a problem did you have in joining in community activities (for example festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can?
	I like to get involved in activities with people I don't know.		
	I can easily make new friends.	WHODAS 2.0	In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in making new friends?
	I can easily maintain a friendship.	WHODAS 2.0	In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in maintaining a friendship?
I get along with people who are close to me.	WHODAS 2.0	In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in dealing with people who are close to you?	
I can easily deal with people I do not know.	WHODAS 2.0	In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in dealing with people you do not know?	

B. Language history		
ABC section	ABC item	Questionnaires
2 nd Language	What is your second language (L2)?	
	How old were you when you first encountered L2?	BEQ, BiLEC, LHQ
	How did you first encounter L2?	BEQ, BiLEC, LHQ
Current proficiency	How well do you speak L2?	BEQ, BiLEC, LHQ, LEAP-Q
	How well do you understand spoken L2?	BEQ, BiLEC, LHQ, LEAP-Q
	How well do you write L2?	BEQ, LHQ, LEAP-Q
	How well do you understand written L2?	BEQ, LHQ
Past exposure	Past exposure: While learning L2, how much did you speak it with ...?	BiLEC, LHQ, LEAP-Q,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - your mother / or guardian 1 - your father /or guardian 2 - your brothers and sisters - other adults in the household - other members of your family - your friends - people at school / work - people in the community 	
Current use	Current use: With people, do you use L2 ...?	BEQ, BiLEC, LHQ, LEAP-Q
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with your mother / or guardian 1 - with your father /or guardian 2 - with your brothers and sisters - with your partner - other members of your family - your friends - at school / work - with your flatmates - people in the community 	
	Current use: In your mind, do you use L2 to ...?	BEQ, LHQ
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - express emotions - swear - remember some information - do maths - think 	
	Current use: Do you use L2 when ...?	LHQ, LEAP-Q
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading - watching TV / listening to the radio - using computers - tablets - doing other activities outside of home 	
Open-ended	Is there anything else you wish to tell us about your L2 past exposure / past or current use?	
Next language	Do you know any other languages?	