

# A SCALE TO MEASURE THE INTERNET USAGE OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEARNERS FOR LEARNING TAMIL

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## Abstract

*This paper describes an attempt to construct a scale to measure the Internet Usage of Higher Secondary Learners for Learning Tamil. Likerts method (Four points) of scaling was adopted. The researcher constructs the statements; acceptance or rejection of each one would imply a different degree of favorable or unfavorable Internet Usage for Learning Tamil. The statements were then screened and edited in accordance with guidelines suggested by Likerts and others. 66 statements were retained under six dimensions such as Accessibility, Involvement/ Interest, Awareness/ Knowledge, Tamil Content, Teaching and Phobia all statements are positive. Eventually, pilot study was conducted on a 50 Higher Secondary Students in Chennai district. After a pilot study item analysis has been done in each items, 45 statements were retained for the Internet Usage scale based on Item Total correlation value and Discriminatory Index value. The statements finally covered under five dimensions (Accessibility, Interest, Awareness, Tamil content availability and Utilization of web sources for teaching tamil by teachers)(with 9,7,9,10,11 statements respectively). After being administered to 500 Higher Secondary Students (both Boys and Girls) of XI and XII standards studying in Government, Government Aided and Corporation schools from seven districts of Tamil Nadu such as Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Thanjavur. The scale was tested using split-half method and found to be a reliable tool for measuring the Internet Usage of Higher Secondary Learners for Learning Tamil. The scale was also tested for content validity, Face validity and item validity.*

**Key words:** Accessibility, Interest, Awareness, Utilization of web source, Learning Tamil.

## Introduction

Internet acts as bridge for connecting all the media together. In today's scenario, web blogs and social net working websites work as major sources of alternative mass media. Internet comprises innumerable features. It is the need of the hour to find out the means of using all those features for spreading the Tamil language. Teaching Tamil grammar and literature can be effectively done through audio visual media. Basics of Tamil grammar can be shared in the form of audio, video, comics, comic strips and Portable Document Format

(PDF) in the internet. Researchers have reiterated the audio visual learning has crafted admirable impact on the learners. The significant of the internet is that we can find audio, audio visual and text all under one umbrella. This multi-benefit internet has created a new dimension in the present world.

### Tool Construction

The researcher constructs the statements after referring some available materials of Internet usage for learning related journals, books and theses; acceptance or rejection of each one would imply a different degree of favorable or unfavorable Internet Usage for Learning Tamil. The statements were then screened and edited in accordance with guidelines suggested by Likerts and others. 66 statements were retained under six dimensions such as Accessibility, Involvement/ Interest, Awareness/ Knowledge, Tamil Content, Teaching and Phobia with 13, 10, 11, 10,11, 11 statements respectively, all statements are positive.

### Pilot Study

In order to validate and to find out the appropriateness of the tool constructed by the researcher pilot study was conducted on 50 Higher Secondary Students in Chennai district among them 25 were Boys and 25 were Girls students of standard XII.

### Item Analysis

Item analysis is a process which examines student's responses to individual test items (statements) in order to assess the quality of those items and of the test as a whole. Item total correlation and Discriminatory Index was calculated in this scale. The calculated Item total correlation values and Discriminatory Index values are given in the below table.

**Table - 1**

<b>INTERNET USAGE - LEARNING TAMIL</b>			
<b>ITEM ANALYSIS RESULT</b>			
<b>Q.NO</b>	<b>CORRELATION VALUE</b>	<b>DISCRIMINATORY VALUE</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
1	0.35	0	S
2	0.2	0	R
3	0.41	0.33	S
4	0.23	0.06	R
5	0.4	0.4	S
6	0.43	0.26	S
7	0.35	0	S
8	0.4	0.2	S

9	0.31	0.06	<b>R</b>
10	0.22	0.13	<b>R</b>
11	0.52	0.4	S
12	0.51	0.46	S
13	0.44	0.4	S
14	0.4	0.53	S
15	0.5	0.46	S
16	0.41	0.2	S
17	0.21	0.2	<b>R</b>
18	0.51	0.26	S
19	0.4	0.33	S
20	0.41	0.26	S
21	0.27	0.13	<b>R</b>
22	0.28	0.2	<b>R</b>
23	0.57	0.4	S
24	0.38	0.33	S
25	0.37	0.26	S
26	0.48	0.46	S
27	0.36	0.33	S
28	0.43	0.26	S
29	0.34	0.33	<b>R</b>
30	0.37	0.26	S
31	0.18	0	<b>R</b>
32	0.38	0.4	S
33	0.52	0.4	S
34	0.57	0.53	S
35	0.58	0.53	S
36	0.49	0.46	S
37	0.5	0.26	S
38	0.61	0.33	S
39	0.57	0.4	S
40	0.65	0.33	S
41	0.5	0.6	S
42	0.39	0.46	S
43	0.67	0.66	S
44	0.49	0.46	S
45	0.33	0.13	<b>R</b>
46	0.5	0.2	S
47	0.47	0.06	S
48	0.41	0.33	S
49	0.5	0.13	S
50	0.38	0.13	S
51	0.35	0.13	S

52	0.45	0.2	S
53	0.53	0.13	S
54	0.39	0.06	S
55	0.51	0.26	S
56	0.03	-0.06	R
57	0.05	0	R
58	0.16	-0.13	R
59	0.24	0.13	R
60	0.23	0.06	R
61	0.17	0.13	R
62	0.29	0.2	R
63	0.27	0.33	R
64	0.31	0.26	R
65	0.37	0.33	S
66	0.15	0.13	R

**Note:** 'S' indicates SELECTED, 'R' indicates REJECTED

### Final Tool

After a pilot study item analysis is done for each items, 45 statements were retained for the Internet Usage scale based on Item Total correlation value and Discriminatory Index value. The Internet Usage for Learning Tamil tool on a four point scale (Always, At-times, Rarely, Never) finally covered fewer than five dimensions such as given in the table.

**Table - 2**

S.NO	Dimensions	No. of Items
1	<i>Accessibility</i>	9
2	<i>Interest</i>	7
3	<i>Awareness</i>	9
4	<i>Tamil content availability</i>	10
5	<i>Utilization of web sources for teaching Tamil by teachers</i>	11

### Scoring procedure of the tool

The Internet usage for Learning Tamil tool scoring method given in the table

**Table – 3 Scoring Method (IULT)**

S.NO	Scale	Rating
1	Always	4
2	At-times	3
3	Rarely	2
4	Never	1

### Range of the Tool

The Internet usage for Learning Tamil tool range given in the table

**Table – 4 Range of the tool**

S.NO	Score	Level
1	45-88	Low
2	89-137	Moderate
3	138- 180	High

### Administration

The tool was administered to 500 Higher Secondary Students among them 276 were boys and 224 were girls of XI and XII standards studying in Government, Government Aided and Corporation schools from seven districts of Tamil Nadu such as Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Vellore, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Thanjavur. Stratified random sampling technique was used.

**Table – 5 Sample Distributions**

S.NO	Districts	N	Percentage
1	Chennai	68	14%
2	Thiruvallur	56	11%
3	Kancheepuram	75	15%
4	Vellore	96	19%
5	Krishnagiri	50	10%
6	Dharmapuri	67	13%
7	Thanjavur	88	18%

## Reliability and Validity of the Tool

Reliability is the extent to which an instrument produces the same results each time it is employed to measure a particular construct. The reliability of Internet Usage for Learning Tamil tool was worked out by using **split half method**. The reliability co-efficient is (.91) which is fairly high and indicates the tool is suitable.

The validity of the tool Internet Usage for Learning Tamil was found to be (.95) which indicates that it posses' high validity. The scale was also tested for content validity, Face validity.

## Conclusion

The tool is considered to be highly reliable and valid to conduct a research in Internet usage of higher secondary learners for learning Tamil. The inventory could be used for various streams of higher secondary students since, Tamil being a common paper for higher secondary student.

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