

## **A Tentative Research Mode of Comparability Study in Language Testing and Its Application**

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**ABSTRACT** A tentative research mode, based on the framework of CLA and TMF proposed by Bachman, was designed to guide comparability study in language testing in the hope that the mode proves to be reliable in this field. To achieve this, the paper compared two listening comprehension sub-tests, TEM4 and TOEFL, as to whether they measure a similar English listening proficiency and as to which one requires a higher level of communicative language ability. Experiment, questionnaire survey and test content analysis were conducted to seek answers to the research questions. Results indicate a relatively high complexity of TOEFL listening sub-test, which requires a higher level of communicative language ability. However, TEM4 listening sub-test is more reliable than its counterparts. Therefore, the present comparability study demonstrates that the research mode proves its reliability and validity, which is conducive to furthering language testing studies.