



**PAR**<sup>®</sup>

## Development and Rationale



PAI<sup>®</sup> Spanish:  
REVISED TRANSLATION

PAR Staff



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This translation revision was completed with the technical guidance of individuals chosen for their diverse perspectives and expertise in accordance with best practices in translation. We thank the following experts for their role in the translation revision:

Amor A. Correa, PhD  
Laura A. Cardona, PhD  
Mariela G. Shibley, PsyD  
Raquel C. Hoersting, PhD

## INTRODUCTION

Approximately 41 million individuals in the U.S. speak Spanish at home ([U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.](#)). The Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) Spanish: Revised Translation is a comprehensive tool that enables practitioners to assess Spanish-speaking adults for a wide range of clinical mental health issues. As a result, clinicians can help these individuals get the mental health support, monitoring, and treatment they need. Guidelines for administration, scoring, interpretation, and use of the PAI Spanish: Revised Translation are the same as those provided in the PAI Professional Manual, 2nd Edition (Morey, 2007).

## HISTORY OF THE SPANISH PAI

A Spanish-language item booklet and answer sheet for the PAI were made available in 1992, just one year after the original, English-language PAI was published. Carlos J. Cano, PhD, translated the PAI Reusable Item Booklet and Hand-Scorable Answer Sheet into Spanish—specifically, Spanish for the U.S.—with help from Pedro M. Ferreira, PhD. They carefully translated items and instructions while considering each scale's purpose and intent as described in the original PAI Professional Manual (Morey, 1991). This allowed the translators to ensure any subtle wording nuances were appropriately translated while retaining the psychological meaning of each item. However, feedback received from clinical providers using the original Spanish translation of the PAI now indicate a need for a revision of the translation.

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

The PAI Spanish: Revised Translation is intended for use by Spanish-speaking adults in the U.S. These individuals come from many countries and speak different dialects. Concerted effort was made to ensure generalizability among Spanish speakers of varied nationalities and backgrounds, and the present translation will be useful for most Spanish speakers, including those of Mexican, South American, Central American, Cuban, and Puerto Rican background. Professionals who believe modifications are needed for use in a special population are advised to contact the publisher.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVISED TRANSLATION

In 2021, PAR began a bilingual Spanish–English revision of the PAI. The main goal of the bilingual revision was to ensure the translated text correctly conveyed the meaning of the source text and did not contain any linguistic or formatting errors. The initial bilingual revision was performed by an organization specializing in translation of psychometric assessments and certified under International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard 17100:2015 (ISO, 2015). ISO certification defines the standards and qualifications for translation professionals and the specific translation steps that must be followed to achieve quality.

The ISO-certified organization employed native Spanish-speaking experts in psychological assessment to analyze each item in the source text and translated text. Recommended amendments to the item text were made, taking into account accuracy, fluency, grammar, linguistics, and specific instructions regarding item content and intended meaning.

The next step involved assembling an expert team of bilingual, doctoral-level psychologists specializing in psychological assessment and having expertise in the PAI to review the translation. The psychologists on the translation revision team were selected to represent diverse dialects, settings (e.g., forensic, private practice), and populations (e.g., severe mental illness, general adult psychopathology).

- Expert #1 is a bilingual, native Spanish speaker from South America. This reviewer has expertise in scale development and data analysis, as well as in the provision of psychological services and testing for monolingual Spanish speakers, BIPOC, and LGBTQ communities. They are also experienced in providing services for people from Central and South America in Spanish.
- Expert #2 is a bilingual, native Spanish speaker from Central America. This reviewer is a clinical forensic psychologist specializing in court-ordered criminal and civil mental health evaluations. They have evaluated Spanish-speaking clients from the U.S., Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe. They have also authored peer-reviewed academic journals and book chapters related to psychological assessment in both English and Spanish, served as a reviewer for academic journals in the U.S. and Europe, and participated in the creation and empirical validation of Spanish versions of various psychological tests.
- Expert #3 is a bilingual, native Spanish speaker from South America with close ancestral origins to Spain. This reviewer is a clinical and forensic psychologist, psychoanalyst, and adjunct faculty member specializing in issues related to acculturation, immigration, and trauma. Over the last 15 years, they have provided individual and couples therapy to both Spanish and Portuguese speakers. They have extensive experience conducting psychological evaluations for individuals involved in immigration proceedings, with a majority of these evaluations conducted in Spanish. They are also a leading expert in conducting psychological evaluations for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and immigration court and have published on these topics.
- Expert #4 is a bilingual, native Spanish speaker from South America. This reviewer is an assistant professor whose research is focused in clinical and intercultural psychology, specifically culturally congruent interventions with immigrants and refugees. They have consulted on translation projects for published psychological assessments and have been involved in translating, back-translating, reviewing translations, and collecting data.

Each expert psychologist completed an in-depth reading of the amended translation and compared it to the English source text and original translated text. In translating and adapting this test, PAR paid particular attention to issues of cultural and linguistic equivalence to the English version while aiming for acceptability for a diverse population of Spanish speakers in the U.S. Care was taken to ensure the translation of the words was accurate and did not change the construct. The bilingual psychologist experts reviewed each item while keeping the following goals in mind:

1. Use gender-neutral language.
2. Use neutral or universal words to safeguard semantic equivalence and minimize cross-cultural differences in the understanding of items.
3. Maintain the reading level to ensure broad understandability. Words, sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation were analyzed to ensure comprehension for participants who have a fourth-grade education level.

4. Maintain the intent of source text. Instructions were to ensure wording maintained similarity in meaning as well as wording subtleties and cultural relevance of the items.

A professionally qualified linguist at the ISO-certified organization specializing in psychology and psychometrics and a bilingual editor familiar with Spanish as spoken in the U.S. both reviewed the feedback from the bilingual psychologist experts on the revision team. Several iterations of amendments were made to the items based on this feedback. The final translation and back-translation were again reviewed and approved by the team of bilingual psychologists, the linguist, and the bilingual editor.

## FINALIZATION OF THE REVISED TRANSLATION

The instructions on the PAI Spanish: Revised Translation are relatively unchanged from the original translation. One minor change was made throughout the instructions to use “oraciones” instead of “declaraciones” for the word “statements.” However, the actual items on the PAI Spanish: Revised Translation illustrate a meaningful transformation. An overview of these changes is provided here, but in order to maintain the integrity and security of test materials, details regarding the actual items are not reported. Items with less than 50% of the words changed, with revisions primarily focused on clarification, fluency, or grammar,

were considered minor revisions. Many of these revisions were made to correct grammar (e.g., adding the acute accent) or to improve fluency or accuracy of the original item. Items with 50% or more of the words changed, with revisions primarily focused on accuracy and linguistics, were considered major revisions. Major revisions included substantive changes to the item text to reduce linguistic peculiarities and retain the psychological meaning of each item. Overall, the final revised translation of the 344 PAI items yielded 157 items unchanged, 119 items with minor revisions, and 68 items with major revisions.

## REFERENCES

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