WISC-III CLINICAL USE AND INTERPRETATION

SCIENTIST-PRACTITIONER PERSPECTIVES

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ASSESSMENT OF MINORITY AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE CHILDREN

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INTRODUCTION

"Are the inferior races really inferior, or are they merely unfortunate in their lack of opportunity to learn? Only intelligence tests can answer these questions" (Terman, 1916, p. 20). By 1932, alternative suggestions for addressing the issue began to appear in the psychological literature. Sanchez (1932), often considered the founder of Chicano psychology, published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology* that mental testing biases existed against Mexican children. Well over half a century later these questions remain unanswered, but the debates continue in the public and professional sectors. The role of culture, ethnicity, and race are central and controversial issues in both the definition and measurement of intellectual functions. One need not look further than the recent publication of Herrnstein and Murray's (1994) *The Bell Curve* for illustrations of the importance and timeliness of this topic. The relevance of these variables in the unbiased assessment of intellectual and general cognitive abilities is critical (Betancourt & Lopez, 1993) and are highlighted in the most recent American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines on this topic. In 1993, APA published the "Guidelines for Providers of

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more around intervention rather than assessment practices. (APA, 1993). Interestingly, the focus of those guidelines appear to be centered Psychological Services to Ethnic, Linguistic, and Culturally Diverse Populations"

different countries such as United States and Russia) is introduced. ity, especially if no large-scale cultural variation (e.g., adding Whites from two racial group configurations are considered, is greater than between-race variabilgroups using race as a factor. Indeed, within-race variability, if different ethnicvariability. Hence, it is difficult to account for large-scale differences between and Kamin (1984) are correct, race accounts for approximately 6% of genetic special emphasis will be placed not on race but on ethnicity. If Lewontin, Rose, these complex variables on cognitive functions as measured by the Wechsler tests, on this issue is found. Furthermore, as a means to better understand the role of telligence, especially the earlier versions of this test where much of the research tween ethnicity and race and the three Wechsler scales for assessing children's in-Puente, in press, for a broader review), will be to examine the relationship betral issues of the role of ethnicity, race, and related variables on testing (see The purpose of this chapter, despite the importance of addressing more cen-

students upon whom most standardized intelligence tests were normed" (Tanner-Halverson, Burden, & Sabers, 1993, p. 125). differ considerably from those of the middle-class, monolingual, English-speaking cultural and linguistic experiences of most Native American children, however, tions for the types of sociocultural adaptations they manifest. Furthermore, "the "hunter-gathering," "pastoral," or "agrarian" backgrounds has critical implicaistics. Murdoch (1988) contends that whether Aboriginal children are from is most important in describing their intellectual, behavioral, and social charactergathering society. In contrast, the socioecological context of Aboriginal children where the belief may be held that there is, for example, only one type of hunting-United States. This issue has been raised in descriptions of Aboriginal children than Caucasians and Blacks both living in similar geographic regions of the from two quite different cultures (e.g., USA and Zaire) may be more dissimilar other words, even though data are sparse on this topic, we believe that Blacks variable is simply the culture associated with the race rather than race itself. In measured on standardized tests of cognitive abilities when race is an independent greater impact on cognitive functions than race. Further, it could be that what is cultural rather than biological variables. Thus we believe that culture may have a tions. What it does do is help to reconfigure reported racial differences based on negate or even presuppose the existence of racial differences in intellectual funcnition are more culturally than racially determined. This assumption does not Here it will be assumed that whatever differences exist in intelligence and cog-

ences. It is not only the family culture but the culture in which the child interacts the ethnicity of the family but also the ethnic milieu help explain IQ score differ-This view has been further elaborated by Moore (1987), who found not only that that culture may be more critical than race in determining differences on tests. The pioneering studies of Scarr (e.g., Scarr & Weinberg, 1976) also suggest

> role in the measurement of basic neuropsychological functions. (Ardila, Rosselli, & Puente, 1994) has also suggested that culture plays a critical impact of culture on basic cognitive functions (Ardila, 1995). The work of Ardila salient factor in intellectual functioning (Rowe, 1994) and the understating of the ture from conventional thinking is warranted based on the overstating of race as a daily that help to explain cognitive test differences. Further support for this depar-

cially as it pertains to the issue of how children from a nonmajority group (e.g., African Americans) fit into a majority group (e.g., White, Anglo-Saxon). section of the chapter outlines the definition of culture, race, and ethnicity, espeproach is to define the differences between race, ethnicity, and culture. The next ify some of the existing literature on this topic. However, an initial step in this ap-This readjustment from a racial to a cultural perspective may help further clar-

DEFINING RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CULTURE

Indian (with two subcomponents, Asian and American). istics. According to Brislin (1989), there are three races; Caucasian, Negroid, and However, other variables might include size and other related physical characterclude skin color, facial features, and hair type (Betancourt & Lopez, 1993). ment as to how to generally describe races. Obvious biological characteristics in-Jones (1991) has argued that race is difficult to operationalize, there is some agreein psychology, there is a general confusion about their differences. Although Besides the fact that these variables have traditionally not been well researched

that occurs, and secondary to the enjoyment of the activity in question. Thus, it is Equator may appear less intelligent than those with ancestry in northern climates. a conclusion regarding cognitive ability, people with ethnic origins close to the not surprising that when time, namely speed, plays an important role in arriving at courtesy. In contrast, ethnic groups closer to the Equator view time as something critical component in a variety of factors, ranging from intelligence to common groups in northern climates, especially with European ancestry, consider time a groups in the Western culture consider time to be of critical importance in everyday life. However, different ethnic groups view time in different ways. Ethnic in scope. For example, Western culture is very focused on time, and more ethnic are more ingrained, socially less questioned, and often considered to be universal generally more widely accepted across a number of ethnic groups. These patterns restrictions. In contrast, culture is a wider defined pattern of behavior, which is als, beliefs, customs, common ancestry, as well as family, social, and even marital Specifically, ethnicity refers to a set pattern of behaviors that might include ritu-Ethnicity is more diffuse and is behaviorally rather than biologically based

perimental methodology would allow to be easily detected. For example, there or independent. Indeed, the opposite may be more true than the principles of exare Blacks that have their ancestry in the warm climates just as there are several It is important to emphasize that these three variables are not necessarily unique

TABLE 11.1 Ethnicity and Race According to the 1990 U.S. Census Data: Origin, Total Numbers, and Subgroups

Spanish/Hispanic/Latin Background or Origin

Origin = Latin America or Spain; Total = 22,354,059

Mexican/Mexican-American/Chicano

Hispanic Latin American (e.g., Panamanian, Peruvian, Venezuelan, Ecuadorian, Guatemalan, etc.)

African American/Black/Negro

Origin = African or Caribbean; Total = 29,986,060

Asian or Pacific Islander

Origin = Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian Subcontinent, or Pacific Islands; Total = 7,273,662 Asian Indian

Chinese

Korean

Japanese

Vietnamese

Filipino

Hawaiian

Indian (American) or Alaska Native

Origin = North America; Total = 1,959,234

American Indian

Origin = Europe, North America, Middle East; Total = 199,686,070

been raised in chapter 1 of this book. explaining the effects of race, ethnicity, and culture. This important issue has also trolled for or measured, but when it is this variable has a critical impact in tus. Laosa (1984), among others, reported that economic status is often not con-New York, Chicago). Furthermore, there is the complication of socioeconomic stagenerations of Hispanics that have been raised strictly in northern climates (e.g.,

relatively small amount when compared with Hispanics. When considering the sus data. As this table indicates, blacks outnumber other groups but only by a cific breakdown according to the different ethnic groups as well as the 1990 Cen-Guatemalan), and Spaniard (originally from Spain). Table 11.1 provides a more spe-Hispanic Latin American (e.g., Panamanian, Peruvian, Venezuelan, Ecuadorean, types of Hispanics. Cuban, Mexican/Mexican-American/Chicano, Puerto Rican, geneity. Not all Whites have similar ethnic backgrounds. This is best illustrated could tend to obscure between-group differences. For example, when Hispanics different subgroups, the question arises as to whether within-group heterogeneity with Hispanics. According to the Census Bureau, there are at least five different Another issue raised above that is rarely addressed is that of subgroup hetero-

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most differences (Garcia & Marotta, 1977). that Cubans parallel the general majority culture, whereas Puerto Ricans show the are subdivided into smaller groups (e.g., Puerto Ricans, Cubans, etc.) it appears

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

tially affect cognitive functions and functioning. These variables have been the general, and the Wechsler tests in particular, are a host of variables that differenculturally loaded items but also in more neutral items. For example, differences and institutions. Their review of the literature suggests that Asians have higher test scores, are physically segregated through educational and vocational channels the rise of the "cognitive elite." This social class, highly predicted by intelligence identify ethnic group differences in intellectual performance. A major premise is provocative ideas and interpretations that warrant attention when attempting to troversial book, The Bell Curve, Herrnstein and Murray (1994) present some focus of two major if not controversial reports in recent years. In the highly contivation, knowledge of standard English, success and failure expectations on these are evident in both digit span forward and backward, and more so on the backriginal samples often show further that score differences exist not only in dard deviation below Whites. Intelligence test findings for North American Abo-IQs, whereas Hispanics score ½ to 1 standard deviation, and Blacks about 1 stantest scores appears to be inherited and, thus, intelligence may not be that malleable tests, and so forth. The authors argue that up to 60% of the variance in intelligence ward items. Such differences, according to Herrnstein and Murray, are due to mo-Galton during the 19th century and by Terman at the beginning of this century. has spurred active discussions on the historically controversial topics discussed by of the cognitive ability distribution. Without actually resolving matters, this book that individuals with social problems are heavily represented in the lower portion through environmental interventions. To complicate matters, the authors propose Underlying the potential differences in performance on intellectual tests, in

nic groups was to consider socioeconomic and related cultural factors. The authors were considered. One possible way to explain the apparent differences between ethreviewed, including the concept of intelligence, intelligence tests and their corre-Force appointed by the Board of Scientific Affairs of the American Psychological nity was the report "Intelligence: Knowns and Unknowns" published by a Task concluded, "Thus the issue ultimately comes down to a personal judgement," (p. 35) ferences. In a particularly important section of this paper, ethnic group differences lates, genetics and intelligence, environmental effects on intelligence, and group dif-Association (Neisser et al., 1995). In this report, a number of major topic areas were Probably the major and most official response from the psychological commu-

and they add that at present scientific answers for these differences are still elusive had critics and criticism. According to Lane (1994), the sources cited in The Bell However, the Neisser et al. report and the Herrnstein and Murray book have

Curve, appear to be "tainted," thus resulting in biased and incorrect conclusions. Lane stated that a large number of sources are from individuals associated with the periodical *The Mankind Quarterly* and the Pioneer Fund, both associated with "race betterment," presumably of the white race. A number of in-depth reviews of this book were published in the *School Psychology Review* (volume 24, number 1) in 1995. The Neisser et al. report has similarly been critiqued, though not as aggressively. For example, as part of series of commentaries in the *American Psychologist*, Rushton and Yee (1997) suggested that IQ differences need to be considered as a function of not just environmental but hereditary issues. Yee also (1997) described the suggested links between IQ and socioeconomic status and race.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

in Geisinger, 1992) particularly thorough assessment of test validity as applied to Hispanics is found and Unknowns" but which are often ignored in the applied world of assessment (a of intellectual tests for ethnic-minority children. This section attempts to address ferences described in The Bell Curve and the journal article, "Intelligence: Knowns some of the more salient methodological issues that could help account for the difpears a good one from which to begin the difficult task of examining the efficacy 1995). However, the usual criteria for evaluating the efficacy of instruments apso comprehensively discussed in the psychological literature (e.g., Reynolds, ever, no reference in the text nor in the citations is made to potential issues of bias ization procedures, norming procedures, test reliability, and test validity. Howinstruments in psychology. His approach included careful attention to standardstandardized in one country are then used in another country. Cicchetti (1994) provided an interesting perspective on how to evaluate normed and standardized have described the potential problems that might arise when tests developed and dren's performance on standardized cognitive tasks. Saklofske and Janzen (1990) (1983) reported that race of examiner appears to have an effect on Black chilables, such as test content or administration. For example, Terrell and Terrell genetically based determinants of cognitive capacity but because of external varisuch differences exist not because of internal variables that are neurologically and even largely attributable to methodological issues in research. It could be that The proposed differences between different ethnic groups may be partially or

Padilla (1988, 1995) Olmedo (1981), and Westmeyer (1987) are modern pioneers following in the footsteps of Garcia, who in the 1930s suggested that people from minority groups (e.g., linguistic, racial, etc.) have to be understood from a different vantage point. To do otherwise would confound "abnormality" (statistical or clinical) with culture-based behavior patterns or communication difficulties. According to Olmedo (1981), when linguistic minorities are tested several factors are often ignored: type of test used, socioeconomic class, degree of bilingualism, language-based factors, ability to communicate in the nonmajority language, ac-

culturation, and cultural equivalence. Pragmatic factors in these circumstances include language proficiency, language of test examiner, language used in the evaluation, translations, translators, etc. For example, Hanley and Barclay (1979) reported that race of the child and the tester interacted negatively on WISC and WISC-R scores. Cross-cultural researchers have sensitized psychologists to these observations. "Emic" and "etic" were coined by Pike (1966) to represent two viewpoints in the study of human behavior. The "etic" viewpoint seeks to discover universals in a system, but when universals are assumed, this is termed "imposed etic." It may be argued that "great risk attends the use of an imposed etic, since there would be no way of knowing whether it makes any sense to use it in any culture than that of its origin" (Berry, Poortinga, Segall, & Dasen, 1992, p. 54).

The "emic" viewpoint studies behavior from within the cultural system. Here it is recognized that understanding can only occur in reference to the context in which behavior takes place. Thus an intelligence test that is rooted in one culture but used as though it was valid for some other culture may result in very inaccurate and even tragic conclusions. Examples of potential item bias on the WISC-III for Native American children is described by Tanner-Halverson et al. (1993) and for Canadian Aboriginal Children by Greenough-Olson (1993). The assumption that mainstream culture, socialization, and language are the same for Native children as for the White children is an imposed etic. In fact, the research literature shows some quite consistent findings for the performance of Native children on the WISC-R and WISC-III, with the general trend being lower Verbal IQ (VIQ) than Performance IQ (PIQ) scores (e.g., McShane & Plas, 1984; Scaldwell, Frame, & Cookson, 1985; Wilgosh, Mulcahy, & Walters, 1986), as well as lower Full-Scale IQs (FSIQs) in relation to the standardization data (ie., $\bar{x} = 100$, SD = 15); (e.g., Tanner-Halverson et al., 1993).

From these complex set of variables, possibly a common factor could be extracted. Beyond the obvious problems of communication (especially when English is not the original language) is the underlying issue of cultural equivalence. Although much attention has been given to addressing the issue of test bias, whether due to socioeconomic status, language, or whatever, the question of intent still remains. Specifically, what is the goal or purpose of intelligence testing. Helms (1992) has argued that ethnic differences in cognitive ability are actually differences in culture, and no necessarily due to either biological or environmental determinants. In other words, if the goal is to measure the intellectual ability of the child, then testing a Spanish-speaking child in English, or an Aboriginal child from a remote northern settlement by a White examiner from the 'deep' south, may result in a less than contextually sensitive assessment. In contrast, the alternative might be to test a Spanish-speaking child's ability to understand the intellectual demands of the Anglo-Saxon culture. The second intention would not reflect a bias but rather a different and more difficult goal.

Defining the goal of assessment establishes a direction and a set of guidelines from which one can carry out the necessary testing. If the question is one of intellectual acculturation, then testing variations such as the use of English IQ tests

and accommodate critical 'data' from the majority culture? tion; what capabilities does the child have that will enable him or her to assimilate choice. However, underlying this criterion would be an important secondary questellectual spectrum as defined by the majority culture would be one obvious testing might be. In most cases, the location or position of the child within an inviewpoint on biculturalism and a perspective from which to address this problem. Thus an initial and critical issue is to determine what the goal of the intellectual Frambroise, Coleman, and Gerton (1993) provide support for a psychological concepts that are global rather than cultural would appear to make more sense. La sessment of intellectual ability, then matching the test to a larger set of intellectual for Spanish children might be appropriate. If the question relates more to an as-

include samples tested, language and communication, and acculturation. ables have received some attention in the literature. The variables addressed here child within a cognitive framework. Regardless of ethnic background, these vari-Several important technical variables may influence our description of the

SAMPLES

ment instrument" (p. 75). is the major reason researchers have little confidence in the WISC-R as an assessstate that "the high degree of variability of scores in Native American populations tremendous variability in intelligence test scores that has led Brandt (1984) to not a single study has demonstrated a universal Aboriginal cognition. It is this homogeneous group. However, they argue against this viewpoint by stating that approach is fraught with problems. Chrisjohn and Lanigan (1986) have com-Pan-Indianism refers to the treatment of members of different native nations as a mented on the frequent presence of "Pan-Indianism" in the research literature. guage, socioeconomic background, and even religion in some instances. Such an often associated with limited variation in a host of variables, including race, lanreference group), they belong to a homogeneous minority group. Homogeneity is It is often assumed that is a child does not belong to a majority group (i.e., the

to sort through these kinds of variables when considering the appropriateness of both the test and the test norms. limited resources and a different cultural history. Thus, it is extremely important person with an affluent background than a newly emigrated Haitian Black with eral generations in the United States would be more likely to perform like a White or the United States, for example, a number of problems are bound to arise. An normed on Hispanics, African Americans, or Aboriginal peoples in either Canada African American who lives in affluent America with an ancestry going back sevthese individuals may be monolingual, bilingual, or mixed. Thus, when a test is yellow, or some combination thereof (most often seen in the Caribbean). Finally, a variety of subgroups, including Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Central Americans, Cubans, and so on. Furthermore, these individuals may either be black or white, To further illustrate this point, Hispanics are a nonmajority group composed of

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(e.g., Yang, Su, Qhang, & Ta, 1995, see also chapter 1, by Prifitera et al., this volably apply to other ethnic minority groups as well. Further, studies are now available panic children, in part due to the large numbers they represent in the WISC-R and countries and even translated the WISC-R and WISC-III into other languages. ume) that have examined the Wechsler test performance of children in different States. However, it is important to note that these issues in intelligence testing prob-WISC-III standardization samples and in the general population of the United Many of the issues raised throughout this chapter mainly focus on black and His-

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

ship between the tester and the examinee when cultural and linguistic differences exist; social boundaries, use of slang, eye and physical contact, and the relationmeans of transmitting information. A host of other communication variables made that language differences exist (e.g., the English-speaking psychologist is thermore, when communication has not been established an assumption may be tion has been effectively established between the examiner and the test taker. Furare present. Thus, communication is obviously multifaceted, with far-reaching efnication of instructions and concepts (Malgady, Rogler, & Constantinio, 1987). testing a Spanish-speaking child), which may then hinder the meaningful commu-African-American settings (Williams, 1975). Cultural Homogeneity, which contained 100 vocabulary words used mainly in issue was the somewhat controversial publication of The Black Intelligence Test of fects on the measurement of intellectual functions. One such effort to address this This communication, which is most frequently verbally established, is not the sole The assumption is made in any testing situation that meaningful communica-

communication; English is the single most frequently used language, Spanish is nearly 300 Hispanic children and their families, he found the following patterns of this is an oversimplification of a more complicated situation. In interviewing often commonly assumed that if a child can speak enough English to take an IQ without mixing, and English and Spanish were equally used with mixing. the single most frequently used language, both English and Spanish were used test, then they should be proficient in that language. Laosa (1975) suggested that Bilingualism may also present a problem when assessing some children. It is

rooted both in sociocultural traditions and in neurological substrates. Such variguages could actually be wrong. Hickey (1972) tested two groups of 100 students, the structure of the languages in question all affect the 'imprinting' of language in ables as the method of language acquisition, age and sequence of acquisition, and Rosselli, and Puente (1992) have argued that bilingualism is a complex concept because of the differences between the two languages. Manuel-Dupont, Ardila, American children had difficulty associating English verbal nouns with pictures monolingual (Spanish and English) and bilingual. He reported that Mexicanthe brain and subsequent use (e.g., speaking, comprehension) Thus assumptions that are made about a child's proficiency in one or more lan-

Finally, it is important to appreciate that bilingualism is not restricted only to obvious differences in the language. In other words, subtle differences in verbal communication (e.g., standard and black English) are probably sufficient to result in some of the problems and issues outlined in this section. As early as the midpart of this century language differences between Welsh and English-speaking children in the United Kingdom had been reported (Jones, 1952). A recently published statement on conducting assessments of non-English individuals (de Jesus, Perrin, and Blackwood, 1996) provides an overview of general principles of communication with individuals of a nonmajority group culture.

ACCULTURATION

Perhaps the most salient factor that is related to all the previous variables discussed above is that of acculturation. Acculturation in this instance is not considered in the classical sense but instead is viewed in a broader context, as described by Laosa (1991). He identified the problem of construct validity in the testing of minority population as a critical ethical problem. Specifically, the assumption is made that the intellectual domains of the test in question reflect a cultural 'g' of ple, one of the WAIS-R Picture Completion items involves a map of the United States without the state of Florida. Even very impaired or culturally limited individuals living in Florida were able to obtain a correct response, whereas the same riginal children from remote settlements in northern Canada often give very different answers to test items, such as what they should do if they see a house on fire. Here there are no fire departments, police, or phones to call 911.

The question of what is intellectually salient may be more critical. This might include very basic questions involving some of the following variables: response to authority figure (tester), acknowledgment and manipulation of time as a critical element, expression of confidence as either an unwarranted coping mechanism or a lack of courtesy to others, and the understanding of complex cultural concepts. Also, the role of sociocultural variables needs to be considered. Barona, Santos de Barona, and Faykus (1993) reported that these variables accounted for a significant degree of the variance in Mexican-American students diagnosed with mental retardation.

Ellis (1990) examined cross-national comparisons of intelligence using translated versions of the Wilde Intelligence Test and the Career Ability Placement Survey. She concluded that cross-national comparisons of intelligence and abilities might result in incorrect conclusions when translation equivalence is not established. The question of what is important and relevant for one majority group versus another must also be considered together with the question of cultural equivalence. Understanding the basic concepts of the culture in question is essential to appreciating its similarities and differences with other cultures. For examinate of the culture is the concepts of the culture in question is essential to appreciating its similarities and differences with other cultures.

ple, Nobles (1995) has provided an interesting background of what is called "African philosophy." This philosophy provides a critical backdrop from which to understand culturally based intellectual concepts.

The concept of equivalence is not restricted just to the words of a language but to a host of other factors all contained under the general rubric of culture. Casagrande (1954; in Bontempo 1993) has identified four types of translations. These include pragmatic, aesthetic-poetic, ethnographic, and linguistic. It is assumed that when a test is "translated" by a test administrator for a child, what is typically occurring is pragmatic translation. The question involves something like, "We need to obtain a general idea of the intellectual abilities of this child... do what you can." This approach reduces translation fidelity (Bontempo, 1993) and increases measurement error. It is for all of these reasons and more that different cultural and language groups contend that the commonly employed tests and testicular examinees. For example, in Canada, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT, 1990) recognized this problem in their Aboriginal Literacy Action Plan as follows:

Most of the testing instruments are inappropriate. They are culturally irrelevant and geared toward white middle class society. Indian educators should be able to develop their own testing instruments using means and methods that will be relevant and familiar to Indian Students. The testing that our Indian students are presently being subjected to is another reason for their frustration and discouragement, because they do not do well on these tests. (p. 44).

ASSESSING CHILDREN'S INTELLIGENCE WITH THE WESCHLER SCALES

Before describing the findings from studies of the WISC performance of children from different groups, several relevant issues regarding such test findings will be raised here. First, the study of intelligence across cultural, ethnic groups may be viewed from within three broad paradigms described by Berry (1984). The general intelligence paradigm assumes that intelligence is a single construct that is common across all people so that comparing culturally different groups will indicate who has more or less of this general intelligence, if there are differences at all. The "specific abilities" paradigm reflects our emic perspective, in which the emphasis is on the culturally relative nature of cognition. Here there is no assumption relating to universal patterns of intelligence so that cross-cultural comparisons are not especially relevant or meaningful. The cognitive styles paradigm is also based on a position of cultural relativism but in addition searches for systematic connections among abilities. For example, More (1987) has outlined the cognitive style characteristics of Aboriginal children while also recognizing that there are many within-group differences. These differing paradigms remind us

that studies of the WISC across cultural, ethnic, and even racial groupings reflects but one perspective in the study of cognition and intelligence.

among the reasons for suspected bias and criticism of intelligence tests. cluded examiner and language bias and inappropriate standardization samples sures the same abilities across different groups. The items or test content have been suggested as a cause of that bias. Reynolds and Wilson (1983) has also in-A third criterion for evaluating test bias relates to whether the instrument mearelated to how good a predictor it is of some criteria across two or more groups. ferences in socioeconomic status. Another suggestion that a test may be biased is tween the test scores of a minority group and the majority group may reflect difcontends that such differences are not indicative of test bias since differences between two groups has been suggested as evidence of test bias. However, Sattler themes thought to underlie test bias. The finding of differences in mean scores be-Terman and Merril, 1937) provide an interesting insight into the difficulties surrounding this issue. More recently Sattler (1988) has summarized some of the key Reschely, 1978; Sandoval, 1979). The early writings of Terman (Terman, 1916; and assessment, much had been written before him (Kaufman & Doppelt, 1976; ing the charge" on the problem of bias and ethnic differences in intellectual tests the contentious problem of bias. While Jensen (1980) is often credited with "lead-Another major issue related to the cross-cultural study of intelligence is tied to

Two of these points will be briefly commented on to illustrate how they relate to the Wechsler Scales for assessing intelligence in children. Although the WISC-III (Wechsler, 1991) was published in 1991, most studies involving ethnic-minorities are based on data from the WISC and the WISC-R. Hence, the majority of discussions center around these studies, although chapter 1 of this book reexamines the WISC-III performance of Black and Hispanic children. It is important to note that despite the relatively minimal bias that had been reported for earlier versions of the WISC, the WISC-III used item-bias statistics to eliminate potenhension subtress.) and also obtained to information, Vocabulary, and Comprehension subtresses.

The sample obtained for the WISC-III reflects the 1988 United States Census survey. A particularly interesting approach to ethnic identification involved the use of the parents of Hispanic children to identify their children as Hispanic or otherwise. Furthermore, Hispanic ethnicity was not confounded with race. Blacks were sampled in exact proportion to their representation by age group, whereas Hispanics were very closely sampled relative to their representation in the different age groups. Also, similar representation was noted for ethnicity by geographical region, which is a particularly difficult task in a large sampling study of this type. Furthermore, during standardization, an extra 400 minority children were used. This effort did not go unnoticed by Kaufman (1993), who reported that of the seven major changes in the WISC-III, one involved the new (and presumably comprehensive) standardization with a better definition of

AFRICAN AMERICANS

a result of the test evaluation of two African-American girls in Chicago, the Chicago ased that their use was considered inappropriate (Koh, Abbatiello, & McLoughlin, telligence, including eight items from the WISC and WISC-R were so culturally bi-School Board and eventually Judge Grady ruled over a decade ago that tests of insearch supporting the construct validity of the WISC-R across race" (p. 230). could not be discriminated on the basis of ethnicity" (p. 93). Factor analysis of the Black children. The results indicated that "the children who constituted this sample in the Grady decision to 360 educable mentally handicapped (EMH) White and of the WISC had taken into account perceived racial differences (Weschler, 1974). dren, and according to the authors provide support for the "growing body of re-Reynolds, 1981). The results suggested similar factor structures for both sets of chil-WISC-R have also been conducted for white and black children (Gutkin & reached. For example, Koh et al. (1984) administered the eight alleged biased items in more refined studies with larger samples, alternative conclusions have been Meyerowitz, and Munford, 1980), the differences had actually increased. However, 1984). This was a particularly problematic issue in light of the fact that the revision Yet, according to several studies by Munford and colleagues (e.g., Munford, Based on allegations that inappropriate educational placements had occurred as

salient explanation for such discrepancies probably lies both in the questions suggested lower scores for the WISC-III when compared to the WISC-R. A cently reported on the validity of the WISC-III for African-American students unreported somewhat smaller differences (i.e., 9 points). Slate and Jones (1995) reasked and the methodologies used as well as the newer norms for the WISC-III. dergoing special education evaluation. In general, and as expected, the results tween Black and White children on the WISC-R. Others (Naglieri, 1986) have searchers. Kaufman and Kaufman (1983) reported up to 16-point differences besocioeconomic status, parental educational achievement, race matching between particularly important variables are not considered or even controlled for, such as variables are not controlled. Considering the earlier discussions in this chapter, items; one uses "normal" children, the other uses EMH. Furthermore, other salient priate at best. Indeed, in this instance one study uses the entire test, the other eight Kaufman and Kaufman (1983) with the Koh et al. (1984) results seems inappro-To compare studies of racial differences on the WISC by contrasting, say, the tester and test taker, and so forth. These studies could be considered in direct contrast to those of other re-

HISPANICS

According to Figeroa (1983), the argument that bias is not present in the WISC is due primarily to the adopted model and definition of bias and not the lack of bias itself. The assumption that underscores the item bias theory tested by Sandoval (1979) was that there is a specific and relatively inflexible learning curve of

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crepancy between Hispanics and Anglos was actually greater with the WISC-R. be less biased than the WISC according to Wechsler (1974), that indeed the dis-Hence, it is not surprising that despite the fact that the WISC-R was intended to presumably more important ways (e.g., knowledge of the culture in question). that even if the tests themselves were equivalent, they would not be in other and language different than the original language of the test. Thus, one could argue had already suggested that bias might occur when intelligence is measured in a interact with the majority culture on an active and ongoing level. Jensen (1980) shared when others, including those with different language backgrounds, do not language and cultural knowledge across a society. Further, that learning curve is

torical analysis of mental testing with one group of Hispanic (Mexican) children, the reader is referred to Padilla (1988). and Digit Backwards, as well as improvement on several specific items. For a hisother Hispanic subcultures because the items were reflective of only indigenous recently published and updated version of this test reflects many of these same 1994) provides updated norms, alternative and better instructions for Similarities Puerto Rican culture. However, the newer version of this test (Rodriguez et al., problems. Some of the questions did not appear to have wide generalizability to dren. Unfortunately, the sample was based only on Puerto Rican children. A more was intended to be a test which could be used across all Spanish-speaking childifficulties previously outlined. The Escala de Inteligencia de Wechsler para Ninos and River (1986) provides a glimpse into the problems in question and reflects the varying results. In reviewing the literature, the work of Prewitt-Diaz, Rodrigues, Spanish (Rodriguez, de Torres, Herrans, & Aponte, 1994). This was done with An alternative to this situation was to translate and standardize the WISC into

ABORIGINAL AND NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN

data for children of Native ancestry. are most relevant in the clinical interpretation and reporting of intelligence test differential test performance, test bias, and research methodology. Such findings of Aboriginal children is relatively small, it does serve to raise issues related to Although the research and clinical literature on the Wechsler test performance

guage spoken at home was significantly related to VIQ scores. Seyfort, Spreen, three different West Coast Canadian bands. Again average PIQs and lower VIQs and Lahmer (1980) administered the WISC-R to 177 Aboriginal children from discrepancy was found among the youngest children and decreased with age. Lan-99.8 at 9-10 years to 103.4 at 18-20 years. This large Verbal-Performance (V-P) ranged from 69.7 at 6-7 years to 91.1 at 18-20 years. In contrast PIQ ranged from and Ojibiway children and youth on the WISC and WAIS and found that VIQ text of other observations. St. John, Krichev, and Bauman (1976) tested 160 Cree Plas, 1984). However this general finding must be further viewed within the concontrast to more average PIQ scores on the Wechsler scales (e.g., McShane & A number of investigations have tended to report a pattern of lower VIQ in

> in the overall WISC-R difficulty compared to that shown by majority children" suggesting "that these figures for the Inuit sample represent a significant increase did not contribute to the total test score or score variance. Similarly Mueller, were reported but more important was the finding that a large number of test items jority of items unanswered or answered incorrectly. of the children. The Information and Vocabulary subtests accounted for the mato only 5.7% with PIQs less than 70. FSIQs of less than 70 were attained by 32% of 366 Inuit children and observed that 77% earned VIQs less than 70 in contrast (p. 35). Wilgosh, Mulcahy, and Walters (1986) also examined the WISC-R scores Mulcahy, Wilgosh, Watters, and Mancini (1986) reported other item difficulty data

school grades for only one of the four age groups in their study of Aboriginal chiland the Verbal Comprehension factor were the best predictors of achievement de-Anglo, Black, Chicano, and Native American Papagos children found that FSIQ dren. A study comparing the predictive validity of the WISC-R for samples of found that the WISC-R VIQ and PIQ was significantly correlated with year-end Reschley, 1979). However, the validity coefficients were lowest for the Native fined by teacher ratings and the Metropolitan Achievement Test (Reschly & research findings led McCullough, Walker, and Diessner (1985) to conclude that American children in comparison with the other three groups. These cumulative Turning to studies of the predictive validity of the WISC, St. John et al. (1976)

of the Wechsler tests for academic achievement may vary across the Native American Culcaution is advised in the use of the WISC-R and WAIS with Native Americans. Significant Verbal-Performance deviations have been found across the tribes. The predictive validity

studies of the WISC-R with Inuit children generally support the construct validity sler Scales for children. Mulcahy and Marfo (1987) suggested that factor analytic of the test for children aged 12 to 15 years but not for those 7 to 11 years of age. tend the following: the construct validity of the WISC-R when used with Aboriginal groups. They con-Chrisjohn and Lanigan (1986) argue that there is a lack of research substantiating Several published reports have focused on the construct validity of the Wech-

it in Indian groups. Or the Performance Subtests of the WISC-R may measure intellect well enough and the verbal subtests not. Or the WISC-R may work for "acculturated" Indians and not for less acculturated groups. Mean comparisons under the condition of not knowing The WISC-R may indeed measure intelligence in non-Indian populations, but fail to measure whether the test behaves equivalently in experimental groups are largely meaningless. (p. 7)

performance of Aboriginal children, as with other culturally different children. has been raised by various authors. Sattler (1988) states that Finally, the argument that factors outside of the test may impact on the WISC

whether the use of a particular test in a particular situation results in discrimination . . . will depend on such factors as the purpose to which the results are put, how the results are interpreted, and how the test is administered. (p. 568)

shown improvements over the WISC-R, but there is still the potential for other bias. Furthermore, they raise questions regarding the sampling strategies and test norms and contend that speaking, middle-class children. They contend that the WISC-III has certainly Native-American children are quite different from the experiences of English-Halverson et al. (1993) argue that the cultural and linguistic experiences of fect associated with the problem of alcoholism in some communities. Tannerof Native children and the problem of fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol efpopulations" (p. 37), which in turn can compromise efficient language learning (Friel-Patti, 1990). McShane also notes the higher incidence of vision problems cidence of otitis media as the "single leading identifiable disease among Indian as the uniqueness of cultural experiences, linguistic differences, health issues, and factors associated with the testing experience. McShane (1983) cites the high in-Black or Hispanic children may be raised in relation to Aboriginal children, such Many of the same factors that pertain to studies of the WISC performance of

the minority group. (p. 126) although this is the proper representation of these minority groups, the scores derived from the national standardization norm tables by no means assume that this will be unbiased for

norms be generated for the WISC-III and provide data for 110 randomly selected Tohono O'Odham Native American children. In order to address this issue, Tanner-Halverson et al. have suggested that local

test administration, scoring, and interpretation is "the order of the day." opment" (Chrisjohn & Lanigan, 1986), it is imperative that research examining the test performance of Aboriginal children continues and that culturally sensitive within Indian ranks, with Indian perspectives and concerns reflected in its develgued that a "theory of Indian intelligence must eventually be constructed from students, because of the kind of factors described above. Although it may be arnosis is an apparent danger when tests such as the WISC are used with Aboriginal iner-examinee to test anxiety. Common and Frost (1988) conclude that misdiagthat may impact on the test performance of children, ranging from race of exam-Saklofske and Schwean-Kowalchuk (1992) have discussed a number of factors test administration but also interpretation (Wilgosh, Mulcahy, & Walters, 1986). Insensitivity to cultural differences may not only impact on the integrity of

CROSS-GROUP COMPARISONS

and subtleties in cross-group comparisons. The WISC-R was administered to by Sandoval, Zimmerman, and Woo-Sam (1983) is reflective of the complexities be to compare how different ethnic groups compare to each other as well. A study ternative to simply examining how single ethnic groups compare to Anglos would ison hinges on the integrity and representativeness of the group in question, an al-Considering that everything in science is relative and the efficacy of a compar-

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other approach to addressing item bias was used by Sandoval and Whelan (1980), across different ethnic groups. For example, Reschly (1978), Reschly and Reschly dition, similar patterns were reported when the factor structures were compared The results indicated that item difficulty curves were "remarkably parallel." In addition similar natural 7½ and 10½ year old Anglos, African Americans, Chicanos, and Bermudians. who tested 100 college students from different ethnic backgrounds to assess the the correlation's between IQs and subtest scores were also generally similar. An-(1979), and Sandoval (1979) reported that the factors do not vary much and that groups were found, suggesting that item difficulty was generally equally rated by face validity and item difficulty of the WISC items. No differences in cross-ethnic

nic groups. Taylor and Richards (1991) controlled overall IQ and then examined eral IQ rather than ethnic group identity alone, and then to compare different eththe different groups of college students. children scoring higher than Hispanics on the verbal subtests, and Hispanics scorgeneral, White children had the highest subtest test scores with African-American the intellectual patterns of African-American, Hispanic, and White children. In differ considerably. Thus, one could conclude that different ethnic groups seem to portant issues. Children of different ethnic groups appear to have different general African-American group on Vocabulary. This study underscores some very imand Object Assembly, the White group on Information and Similarities, and the covaried, the Hispanic group was highest on Picture completion, Block Design, ing higher than African Americans on the performance subtests. When FSIQ was vary on both the overall IQ scores as well as in the score patterns (e.g., White chilintellectual patterns before and after FSIQ is controlled, and the subtest patterns dren attain higher FSIQ scores than African Americans and Hispanics, African gesting large within-group differences, which may often be masked by the tasks. However, when FSIQ is covaried, the patterns are much more subtle, sug-Americans are better at Verbal tasks, and Hispanics are better at Performance ever, for learning-disabled children, White children score higher on the verbal with mental retardation no significant differences were found across the major terns exist with special needs children? Barona (1989) reported that for children study compared ethnic groups composed of normal children. Will the same patpered by the overall intellectual status of the student. The Taylor and Richards perceived large between-group differences. These findings, however, may be temscale while African Americans score lower on the perceptual organization factor. WISC-R factors between African-American, Mexican, and White children. How-An alternative approach to cross-group comparison would be to control gen-Finally, it is worth noting that such differences appear to be stable over time. El-

say that either no differences exist between ethnic groups or that easy-totheir score patterns over a 3-year period. It would be easy yet erroneous to simply Mexican-American children did not have large "clinically significant" changes in understand differences are evident. The complex truth appears to lie somewhere in liott and Boeve (1987) reported that handicapped Anglo, African American, and

tional attainment of parents, acculturation level, and so forth). not frequently measured nor considered (i.e., socioeconomic status, the educaappear to be modulated by intellectual status, and most likely by other variables between. Furthermore, ethnic differences, though apparently reliable over time,

scales can serve as useful measures of childrens' intelligence. dren and the society we seek to understand and serve. In this context, the Wechsler ferences suggest. Even then, we must always appreciate the diversity of the chilmanifested when important variables are controlled, and finally, what do these difassess the intelligence of American children, ethnic differences are still observed. construct is intended. Even though the WISC-R and the WISC-III may be used to as well having a clear understanding of the purpose for which the test reflecting this The task will then be to determine exactly what those differences are, how are they (1995) discussed the importance of a cohesive hypothetical construct in assessment may not be universal but vary across as well as within groups. Foster and Cone ever, the content of intelligence tests and the normative data reflecting performance which many psychologists accept as a universal description of intelligence. Howcultural understanding of the issues in question. The WISC-III is a measure of 'g,' opinion, or emotionally based arguments but through more of an anthropological or Ethnic and race differences may best be explained not by speculation, popular

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