# Do you know what Level 4 is?

## Assessing pilot/controller communication

*Gábor Sipos*
*Language teacher*
*Testing expert*
*Member of the ICAO LPRI Task Force*

*ICAO*
*Interregional English Language Proficiency Workshop*
*Kuwait, November 9th-11th 2015*

**HungaroControl**
Straight to the point

- Practical exercises in assessing language proficiency

- The importance of test reliability and rater reliability

- Inter-rater reliability and intra-rater reliability

- You will listen to a number of audio tracks from the ICAO RSSTA project

- Your task will be to assess the overall performance of the candidates

- We will use colour cards to indicate your assessment as level 5, level 4 or level 3

**HungaroControl**

Hungarian Air Navigation Services

| Level 5 | Level 4 | Level 3 |

**HungaroControl**
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

**Task description:**

Face-to-face discussion.
The interlocutor asks the candidate a series of work-related discussion questions.

Professional background: pilot

Straight to the point

**HungaroControl**
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

**Level 5:**

**Vocabulary** range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics. Paraphrases consistently and successfully. Vocabulary is sometimes idiomatic.

✓ **Level 4:**

**Vocabulary** range and accuracy are *usually* sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work related topics. Can *often* paraphrase successfully when lacking vocabulary in unusual or unexpected circumstances.

Straight to the point

HungaroControl
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

**Level 5:**

Able to speak at length with relative ease on familiar topics, but may not vary speech flow as a stylistic device. Can make use of appropriate discourse markers or connectors.

✓ **Level 4:**

Produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be *occasional loss of fluency* … but this does not prevent effective communication. Can make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting.

**Task description:**

The candidate describes a picture, and responds to discussion prompts presented by the interlocutor.

Professional background: pilot

**Level 4:**

**Pronunciation**, stress, rhythm, and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation but *only sometimes* interfere with ease of understanding.

✓ **Level 3:**

**Pronunciation**, stress, rhythm, and intonation are influenced by the first language or regional variation and *frequently* interfere with ease of understanding.

**Task description:**

Face-to-face discussion
The interlocutor asks the candidate a series of work-related discussion questions.

Professional background: pilot

**HungaroControl**
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

**Level 5:**

Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are *consistently* well controlled. Complex structures are attempted but with errors which sometimes interfere with meaning.

✓ **Level 4:**

Basic grammatical structures and sentence patterns are used creatively and are *usually* well controlled. Errors may occur, particularly in unusual or unexpected circumstances, but rarely interfere with meaning.

**HungaroControl**
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

**Level 5:**
Able to speak at length with relative ease on familiar topics, but may not vary speech flow as a stylistic device. Can make use of appropriate discourse markers or connectors.

✓ **Level 4:**
Produces stretches of language at an appropriate tempo. There may be occasional loss of fluency … but this does not prevent effective communication. Can make limited use of discourse markers or connectors. Fillers are not distracting.

**Task Description:**

Face-to-face discussion
The interlocutor asks the candidate a series of
work-related discussion questions.

Professional background: pilot

**HungaroControl**
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

✓ Pronunciation, stress, rhythm, and intonation, though influenced by the first language ..., rarely interfere with ease of understanding.

✓ Basic grammatical structures ... are consistently well controlled. Complex structures are attempted ...

✓ Vocabulary range and accuracy are sufficient to communicate effectively on common, concrete, and work-related topics ...

✓ Able to speak at length with relative ease on familiar topics...

Straight to the point

# What is reliability and why is it important?

Consistency is measured in terms of reliability
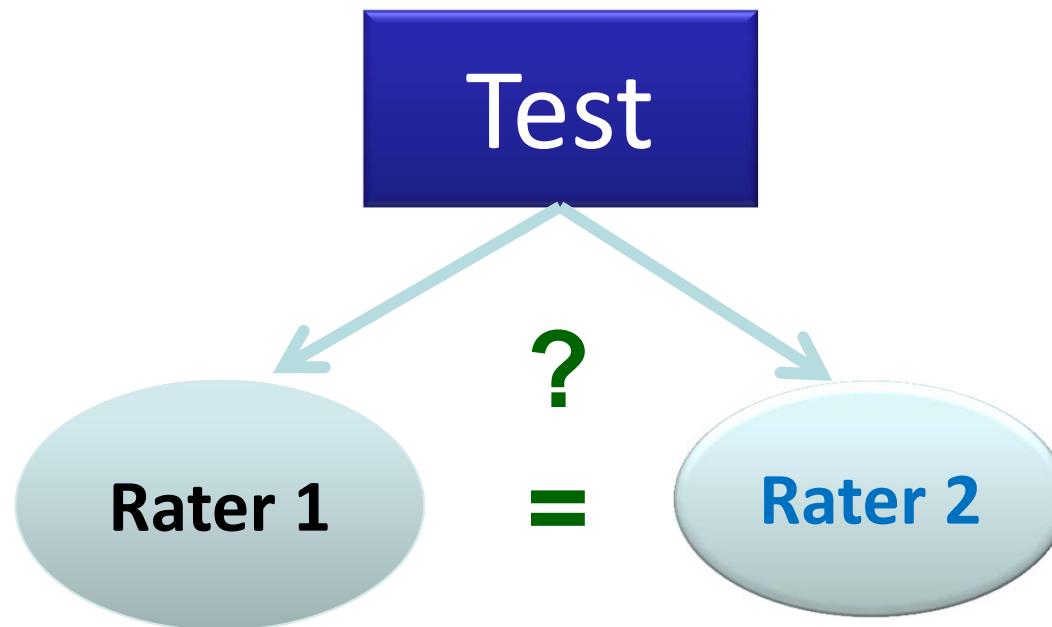
- Test reliability
- Rater reliability

**HungaroControl**
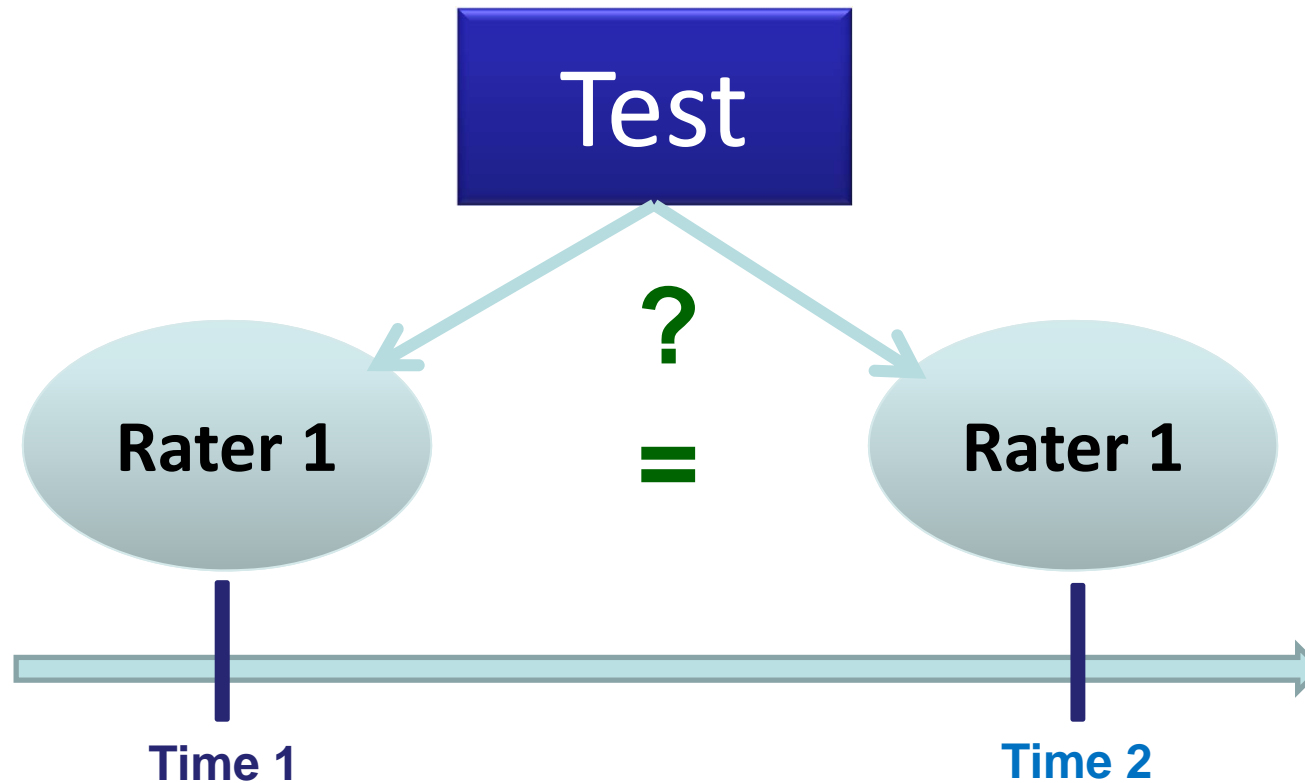Hungarian Air Navigation Services

# Rater reliability has two components

- ***Inter*-rater reliability**

- ***Intra*-rater reliability**

*ICAO Doc 9835 (6.3.4.3)*

**HungaroControl**
Hungarian Air Navigation Services

*The degree of consistency among raters*

Test

?

Rater 1 = Rater 2

*The degree of consistency of a rating performed by the same rater over a period of time*

**Fly safe –
demonstrate
language proficiency**

**Thank you for your attention**

**Straight to the point**