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Quality of Four-Tier Diagnostic Test on Wave and Vibration Materials: An Empirical Study Using Rasch Modeling

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Abstract

Not all teachers have the ability to develop diagnostic instruments for misconception. Meanwhile, there is an urgent need to diagnose student misconceptions. Therefore, this research aims to carry out the process of adapting misconception-diagnostic instruments to wave and vibration materials. This study used a cross-sectional quantitative survey method. The adaptation process was conducted with 306 state high school students taking wave and vibration classes. Respondents were selected using convenience sampling techniques. 4WADI (Four-tier Wave and vibration Diagnostic Instrument) was translated into Indonesian, consulted with language experts, and assessed by material and evaluation experts to produce an instrument appropriate to the Indonesian cultural context. Before the empirical test was carried out, I-4WADI (Indonesian et al. and vibration Diagnostic Instrument) was tested for readability on 35 students. As a result, the I-4WADI has excellent readability. The validation results of six experts were analyzed using the Aiken V technique. A total of 25 items were used for expert validation. Empirical validation data were analyzed using the Rasch model. Review empirical validation from the aspects of item fit and unidimensionality. The analysis results show that I-4WADI has good quality based on validity and reliability. The infit MnSq values ranged from 0.81 to 1.40, and the outfit MnSq values ranged from 0.71 to 1.36. The instrument reliability value is 0.98. So, I-4WADI can be applied to high school students in Indonesia. These findings have practical implications for teachers who wish to diagnose students' misconceptions about waves and vibration.

Keywords: Diagnostic tests, Instrument adaptation, Misconceptions, Rasch modeling, Wave and vibration

INTRODUCTION

Understanding concepts in various fields of science is an important foundation for developing human knowledge. However, throughout the history of education, the misconception is one of the classic problems that stand out (Lemmer, Kriek, & Erasmus, 2020; Çelikkanlı & Kızılıçık, 2022; Sukarelawan, Puspitasari, Sulisworo, Kuswanto, & Jumadi, 2022; Aykutlu, Ensari, & Bayrak, 2023; Brundage & Singh, 2023; Stefanou,

Stylos, Georgopoulos, & Kotsis, 2023; Zhao, Zhang, Cui, Hu, & Dai, 2023). Misconception refers to a wrong or erroneous understanding of certain concepts and is believed to be accurate. Misconceptions can hinder effective learning and be detrimental to a deep understanding of the lesson material (Luce & Callanan, 2020).

Misconceptions have become a serious concern in the world of education in the last four decades, especially in the context of learning physics (Bani-Salameh, 2017; Kaniawati et al.,

2019; Suhendi & Ardiansyah, 2021; Assimi, Janati Idrissi, Zerhane, & Boubih, 2022; Dwiastuti, Sukarelawan, & Sriyanto, 2022). When students develop a wrong understanding of key concepts in physics, this can interfere with their knowledge development, hinder their ability to solve problems, and even hinder their interest in studying physics.

One of the physics concepts that is important for students is the matter of wave and vibration (Somroob & Wattanakasiwich, 2017; Negoro & Karina, 2019). The concepts of wave and vibration have significantly impacted a basic understanding of the physical world and are relevant in many aspects of everyday life and other sciences. Understanding wave and vibration is the basis for understanding various other physics concepts, such as mechanics, acoustics, optics, and electromagnetism. Mobile phones, radios, computers, and medical devices such as medical imaging machines and sonar are technologies in everyday life based on the principle of wave and vibration. Understanding electromagnetic waves and vibrations helps students understand how radio, television, internet, and mobile phone signals work. Wave and vibration also have a strong connection to music and art. Understanding sound frequencies helps students understand the principles of music and acoustics. Electromagnetic waves and vibrations are also relevant to understanding the universe. For example, electromagnetic radiation from objects in space is how we study and understand galaxies, planets, and other astronomical objects. In the era of modern technology, understanding waves and vibrations is also relevant in developing technologies such as transmitting data via vibrations and electromagnetic waves (Wi-Fi, Bluetooth), facial recognition technology, and so on.

In addition to its negative impact on individual learning outcomes, misconceptions challenge teachers and educational curricula. Teachers often have to identify (Lim & Poo, 2021; Assimi, Janati, Zerhane, & Boubih, 2022; Soeharto & Csapó, 2022; Sukarelawan, Puspitasari, Sulisworo, 2022; Zhao, Zhang, Cui, Hu, & Dai 2023) and overcome misconceptions that students

may have (Haidar, Yuliati, & Handayanto, 2020), while the curriculum must be carefully designed to prevent or reduce misconceptions as much as possible (Maknun & Marwiah, 2022; Syahrial, Ilmah, Yahmin, Munzil, & Muntholib, 2023). The accuracy of curriculum design to reduce and overcome misconceptions depends on diagnostic instruments as a tool for identification. Although various diagnostic instruments have been developed for this purpose, many have significant limitations. Some of these instruments may not be accurate or sensitive enough to detect certain misconceptions.

Developing a misconception diagnostic instrument is a complex task and requires special attention because it involves an in-depth understanding of the misconceptions and the ability to design effective instruments. The physics misconception diagnostic instrument must be sophisticated, relevant, and efficient to provide comprehensive information on students' understanding of concepts (Sukarelawan, Sriyanto, Puspitasari, Sulisworo, & Hikmah, 2021). In reality, not all teachers can develop misconceptions about diagnostic instruments. At the same time, there is an urgent need to use instruments to diagnose students' misconceptions.

Although experts have yet to agree, the four-level multiple choice instrument is an effective and accurate diagnostic instrument to be applied to students in large classes. Such instruments should be able to identify misconceptions appropriately, provide useful feedback to teachers and students, and be adaptable to the needs of different curricula and teaching methods.

One practical and effective instant effort is to use instruments that previous researchers have developed. However, an adaptation process is needed in different language and cultural contexts. The development of a four-level diagnostic instrument for wave and vibration materials (4WADI) was previously carried out by Caleon and Subramaniam (2010). They have reported the quality of 12 items developed in a classical test theory (CTT) perspective. By using respondents as many as 598 Singapore high school students, the 4WADI instrument has shown its performance in

diagnosing student misconceptions. However, 4WADI cannot be applied in the cultural context of Indonesia because it requires an adaptation process. In addition, there is limited information that can be reported when using CTT (Sukarelawan, Jumadi, Kuswanto, Soeharto, & Hikmat, 2021; Guo, Lu, Johnson, & McCaffrey, 2022). The difficulty level of items in CTT depends on the sample or the respondent's ability (Caycho-Rodríguez et al., 2022). This results in a person's score being low if the question is difficult and high if the question is easy. Therefore, other approaches are needed, such as Rasch modeling based on modern test theory, which can be an alternative to CTT. Rasch modeling can be an integrated approach to provide more comprehensive information regarding the psychometric properties of 4WADI that have not yet been reported (Sukarelawan, Jumadi, Kuswanto, & Thohir, 2021). Through Rasch modeling, the psychometric properties of 4WADI in Indonesian culture can be evaluated at the individual item level. The use of Rasch modeling to evaluate the psychometric properties of 4WADI in various cultures has not been widely reported, including in Indonesia. Therefore, this research aims to develop a diagnostic instrument for misconceptions regarding waves and vibrations through an adaptation process in the Indonesian cultural context.

METHOD

This study used a cross-sectional quantitative survey method. The main sample used in this study was 306 public high school students selected using the convenience sampling technique. Respondents consisted of 67.6% (207 of 306 students) female and 32.4% (99 of 306 students) male. All respondents came from classes XI and XII from 3 public schools. The sample size used has considered the measurement accuracy to be 0.5 logit accuracy and a 99% confidence level (Chen et al., 2014; Lee, Chinna, & Sumintono, 2020).

The main instrument of this research is the four-tier wave and vibration diagnostic instrument

for misconception (4WADI), which consists of 12 items. As the name suggests, each question in the diagnostic test instrument has four levels of questions. The first level is conceptual questions. The second level is the respondent's level of confidence in answering the first level. The third level is a choice of explanation of the phenomenon at the first level. The fourth level is the level of confidence in the choices given at the third level. The cognitive level of the questions used is C2 (understanding) to C4 (analyzing). The supporting instruments used to support the adaptation process in the Indonesian cultural context include advice sheets from language experts, expert assessment sheets, and readability test sheets for students. The language expert's suggestion sheet contains a column of suggestions and improvements descriptively. The expert assessment sheet comprises 25 items spread across material, construction, and language/cultural aspects. The readability test sheet for students consists of 12 items spread over aspects of work instructions, content aspects, linguistic aspects, and graphical aspects.

The initial procedure was to adapt the instrument to the Indonesian cultural context. The researcher translated the language and then consulted with a linguist to ensure equality between the original and Indonesian versions (I-4WADI). After going through the adaptation process, I-4WADI was reassessed by six material and evaluation experts. After being declared suitable by experts, I-4WADI was tested for readability on 35 students who had taken the wave and vibration class. Readability tests were analyzed using scoring techniques. After passing the readability test, I-4WADI was tested empirically on students. Empirical tests are carried out online to facilitate the data administration process. Students complete the diagnostic process in between 30 to 40 minutes.

The data obtained in this study are in the form of suggestions and corrections from language experts in the form of qualitative data. Expert validation data were analyzed using the Aiken V technique. Data from the readability test results were analyzed using a scale conversion guideline

of 4. The psychometric properties of I-4WADI were empirically analyzed using Rasch modeling. The reported index is in the form of reliability in terms of separation and reliability aspects (Yuhanna, Muhdhar, Gofur, & Hassan, 2021). Then, use Logit Value of the Item (LVI) combined with the Wright map to evaluate the distribution of the difficulty levels of the questions (Sukarelawan et al., 2021; Sukarelawan et al., 2022). The fit analysis to the Rasch modeling was evaluated based on the infit and outfit MnSq (Matheny & Clanton, 2020). The acceptance limit for the model's fit is when the MnSq infit and outfit values are in the range of 0.5–1.5 (Sumintono & Widhiarso, 2014, 2015). Another index reported is

unidimensionality. I-4WADI is unidimensional if the score of raw variances explained by measure exceeds 30%, and the Unexplained variance in 1st contrast does not exceed 15%.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Content Validity

Before being validated by experts, a four-tier diagnostic instrument on wave and vibration material (4WADI) was adapted using the model proposed by Muñiz, Elosua, Padilla, and Hambleton (2016). A summary of content validity is shown in Figure 1.

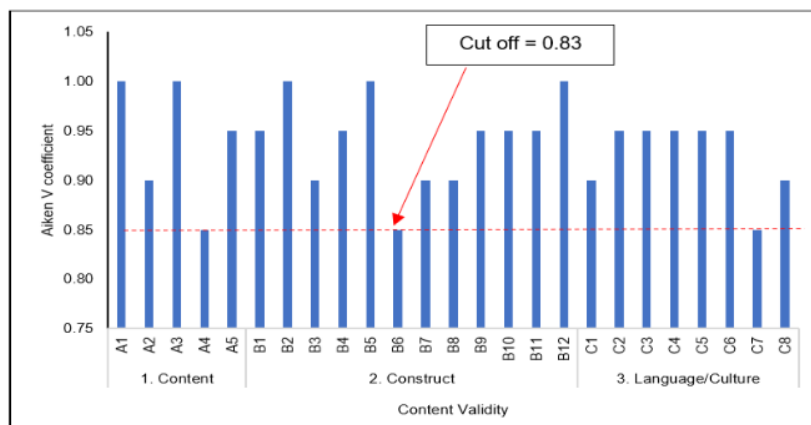


Figure 1. Aiken V validity coefficient

Content validity plays an important role in developing tests to achieve predictive validity. Validation results from a number of material experts and evaluation experts show that the Aiken V coefficient value is in a very satisfactory range, namely between 0.85 and 1.00. This indicates that the diagnostic instrument used in this research has a very high level of validity. In the context of the minimum limit value of the validity criteria used, all items in the misconception diagnostic instrument met the established standards of 0.83 (Larasati, Supahar, & Yunanta, 2020). Therefore, this instrument can be relied on to identify misconceptions in wave and vibration materials. These findings align with the results of

the content validity test carried out by (Caleon & Subramaniam, 2010).

2. Respondent readability test results

After being translated into I-4WADI and declared valid by experts, I-4WADI was tested for readability on 35 students. The readability test is an important process in I-4WADI adaptation. The readability test helps measure the extent to which students can read and understand the instrument easily. By identifying potential ambiguity, confusion, or difficult language, readability tests can help improve the accuracy of I-4WADI.

Readability evaluation refers to four important aspects: work instructions, content,

language, and graphics. The results of this assessment are very satisfying. First, in the aspect of work instructions, this diagnostic instrument obtained an average score of 3.37. This shows that the instructions given to students are very good and easy to understand. This assessment falls into the "Very Good" category, indicating that the instrument provides clear directions for students in carrying out their assignments.

Before entering the diagnostic section, the initial part of the I-4WADI consists of instructions for use and respondent demographics. The information contained in the I-4WADI consists of filling requirements and a brief explanation of the question model used in the instrument. The instructions section of the misconception diagnostic instrument is very important for potential respondents because it provides clear directions on how to answer the questions correctly. Good instructions can help potential respondents understand the purpose of the instrument and how they should interpret the questions and provide accurate responses. This can also help reduce misunderstandings or wrong interpretations that can interfere with the validity of measurement results.

Second, in terms of content, the average value reached 3.45. This shows that the material presented on the diagnostic instrument is very relevant and comprehensive. This assessment is also included in the "Very Good" category, which shows that the content of this instrument really supports students' understanding of waves and vibrations. This cannot be separated from the quality of 4WADI, as Caleon and Subramaniam (2010) reported. They have undergone a series of structured and systematic steps in producing 4WADI, starting from Content Validation and Piloting, Construction, Administration, and Validation.

This in the linguistic aspect, I-4WADI obtained an average score of 3.43, which is also included in the "Very Good" category. This shows that the language used is very precise and easy for students to understand. Linguists have guaranteed equivalence between the original language version of the instrument (4-WADI) and

the Indonesian version (I-4WADI) through a forward-backward translation procedure. They are responsible for ensuring that the translation reflects the original text's exact meaning and takes into account the cultural and linguistic context of the target language. Linguist experts provide recommendations and ensure the target Indonesian students understand the translated instruments well. More than that, linguists also recommend some relevant vocabulary, avoiding phrases or terms that are ambiguous or difficult for potential respondents to understand.

Finally, the graphic aspect, which is also important in diagnostic instruments, has an average value of 3.37. Like the three previous aspects, this graphic aspect is also included in the "Very Good" category. This shows that the appearance and arrangement of the instruments are very good and support students' experience in answering questions.

Thus, the readability results of the four-level diagnostic instrument on wave and vibration materials show that it is in the "Excellent" category in all evaluated aspects. This is a very positive indication that this instrument is effective in helping students understand the questions used in the diagnostic instrument. The readability test results of I-4WADI in the Indonesian cultural context are parallel to the readability test results carried out on the original version (Caleon & Subramaniam, 2010).

3. Empirical test results

a. Item reliability

The reliability analysis results of the instrument's items are displayed in a summary, as shown in Table 1. Item reliability is a measure that indicates the extent to which the items in the test are consistent in measuring individual abilities (Zmnako & Chalabi, 2019).

Table 1. Summary of I-4WADI statistics

Index of item	Score
Infit MnSq	1.01
Infit ZStd	-0.08
Outfit MnSq	0.99
Outfit ZStd	-0.26
Separation	6.46
Reliability	0.98

The item reliability value in Table 1 is 0.98, indicating that the items in the test have a very high level of reliability in measuring individual abilities (Monaco et al., 2022). This is a positive indicator that the items are reliable in measuring the desired misconceptions. This shows that the items in the test consistently measure the ability to understand individual concepts. The reliability at the item level complements the reliability of the original 4WADI, which has yet to be reported by Caleon and Subramaniam (2010).

Item separation is a measure that indicates the extent to which the items in a test can differentiate between individuals with different abilities (Cordier et al., 2018). The item separation value of 6.46 indicates that the items in the test have a very good ability to differentiate between individuals with different abilities (Adams, Tan, & Sumintono, 2021). The higher the value of the separation item, the better the items in the test are in discriminating between individuals with different abilities.

b. Item Difficulty Distribution (LVI and Wright map)

The distribution of items at each difficulty level is visualized in Figure 2. Figure 2, the Person-item map, shows the two items (Q9 and Q12) that were easiest for students. The adequacy of the number of items, the distribution hierarchy, and the existence of gaps in the item difficulty hierarchy are indicators that support the representativeness of the content (Ha, 2021). Figure 2 shows the sufficient number of items and their distribution in each difficulty hierarchy. However, there is a significant gap between items Q12 and Q9. From the person-item map in Figure 2, there is space for item improvement by adding items that are more difficult to answer to cover all person abilities.

c. Item fit

To obtain information on item suitability for the Rasch modeling, the infit and outfit MnSq values were determined. Table 2 details the infit

and outfit MnSq values of each item. The infit and outfit MnSq values provide information about the item's fit to the Rasch model. In this study, the infit MnSq values ranged from 0.81 to 1.40, and the outfit MnSq values ranged from 0.71 to 1.36. These values indicate that the items fit the Rasch model. Values in the range of 0.5 to 1.5 are generally considered acceptable (Li et al., 2023; Palacios-Espinosa et al., 2023; Sumintono, 2015).

The outfit Zstd value, which measures standard residuals, ranges from -3.03 to 3.65. These values indicate the extent to which the observed response deviates from the expected response based on the Rasch model. The range of values indicates that some items may not fit the model because values outside the range of -2 to 2 are usually considered problematic (Rusmansyah & Almubarak, 2020).

d. Unidimensionality

Table 2 shows the unidimensionality of the items used. Residual Principal Component Analysis has been used to determine the unidimensionality of instruments (Han, 2022; Liu & Boone, 2023). This unidimensionality indicates that the instrument measures one single dimension in the latent factors investigated in this study (Scoulas, Aksu Dunya, & De Groote, 2021; Simpelaere, Van Nuffelen, De Bodt, Vanderwegen, & Hansen, 2017). For the instrument developed to be valid in measuring latent factors or unidimensionality, it must meet the standard that the score of raw variances explained by measure exceeds 30% (Chou & Wang, 2010). However, the diagnostic instrument developed had a score of raw variances explained by the measure of 28.4%. Even though it is below the 30% limit, this figure shows that the unidimensionality of the instrument being developed remains relatively good.

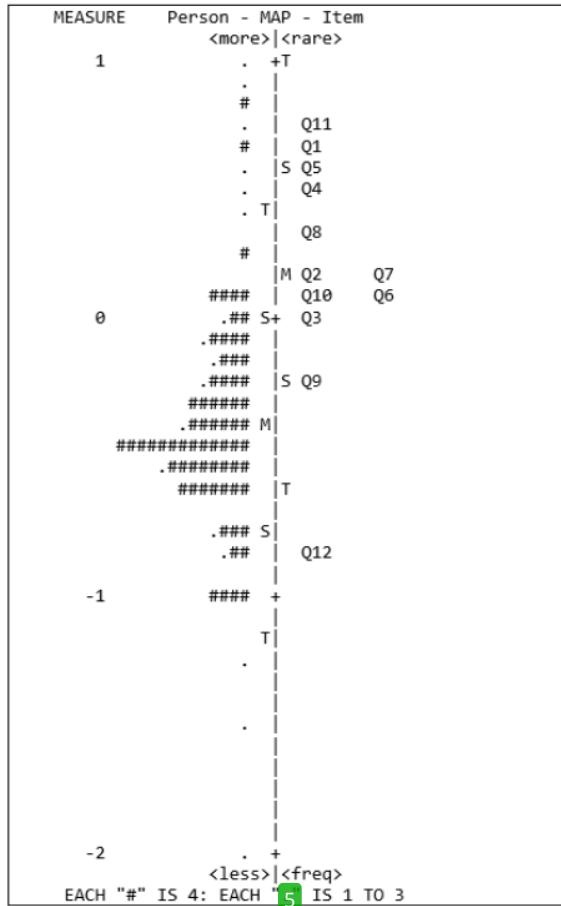


Figure 2. Distribution of items in the person-item map (Wright map)

Table 2. The fit of Items to Rasch Models

ENTRY NUMBER	TOTAL SCORE	TOTAL COUNT	MEASURE	MODEL S.E.	INFIT MNSQ	INFIT ZSTD	OUTFIT MNSQ	OUTFIT ZSTD	PTMEASUR-CORR.	AL-EXP.	EXACT OBS%	MATCH EXP%	Item
1	743	306	.49	.07	1.40	3.03	1.25	1.59	.13	.35	62.7	64.6	Q1
2	878	306	-.04	.06	1.07	.99	1.10	1.13	.46	.39	19.0	25.2	Q2
3	931	306	-.19	.05	.83	-3.02	.83	-2.36	.43	.40	26.5	22.9	Q3
4	787	306	.28	.06	1.12	1.21	1.16	1.29	.10	.37	52.3	53.4	Q4
5	771	306	.35	.07	.94	-.57	.87	-.96	.44	.36	53.6	54.4	Q5
6	885	306	-.06	.05	1.05	.80	1.03	.38	.45	.39	19.6	25.3	Q6
7	860	306	.02	.06	.76	-3.53	.74	-3.03	.54	.39	33.7	30.5	Q7
8	828	306	.12	.06	.81	-2.39	.71	-3.01	.58	.38	41.8	37.3	Q8
9	1020	306	-.42	.05	1.03	.52	.98	-.30	.43	.40	16.0	20.7	Q9
10	891	306	-.08	.05	.90	-1.52	.89	-1.30	.35	.39	21.6	25.3	Q10
11	730	306	.56	.08	.88	-.95	.96	-.21	.29	.34	65.4	68.5	Q11
12	1252	306	-1.03	.05	1.34	4.45	1.36	3.65	.23	.35	22.2	30.8	Q12
MEAN	881.3	306.0	.00	.06	1.01	-.1	.99	-.3			36.2	38.2	
P.SD	137.1	.0	.41	.01	.19	2.3	.19	1.9			17.4	16.5	

Table 3. Unidimensionality of items

	Eigenvalue	Eigenvalue units = Item information units	
		Observed	Expected
Total raw variance in observations =	16.7485	100.0%	100.0%
Raw variance explained by measures =	4.7485	28.4%	28.4%
Raw variance explained by persons =	.5610	3.3%	3.4%
Raw Variance explained by items =	4.1875	25.0%	25.1%
Raw unexplained variance (total) =	12.0000	71.6%	71.6%
Unexplned variance in 1st contrast =	2.0762	12.4%	17.3%
Unexplned variance in 2nd contrast =	1.3695	8.2%	11.4%
Unexplned variance in 3rd contrast =	1.2407	7.4%	10.3%
Unexplned variance in 4th contrast =	1.1866	7.1%	9.9%
Unexplned variance in 5th contrast =	1.1818	7.1%	9.8%

CONCLUSION

A four-level diagnostic instrument on wave and vibration materials has been developed through an adaptation process in the Indonesian cultural context. The results of adapting 4WADI to the Indonesian cultural context have been carried out into I-4WADI, and the results show that the four-level type diagnostic instrument on wave and vibration material is appropriate to the cultural context of high school students in Indonesia—the results of the expert assessment of content validity range from 0.85 to 1.00. The readability level is very good, with an average score of 3.37. Empirically, I-4WADI has fit MnSq values ranging from 0.81 to 1.40, and the outfit MnSq values ranged from 0.71 to 1.36. The instrument reliability value is 0.8. Therefore, I-4WADI meets the criteria for validity and reliability.

This research has the potential to make a significant contribution to curriculum development and improve the quality of education in Indonesia through the instrument adaptation process that has been carried out. However, these findings cannot be generalized to a wider context because the heterogeneity of respondents is limited to public high school students. In future research, the heterogeneity of respondents from private and vocational schools can be considered by future researchers so that it will provide a richer and more comprehensive view.

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