

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**TRANSLATION AND CONTENT VALIDATION OF THE BAHASA MELAYU
VERSION OF THE CHILD FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE
(CFIES)**

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ABSTRACT

Introduction/Background: Current food insecurity surveys may not accurately capture the experiences and challenges faced by children. The Child Food Insecurity Experience Scale (CFIES) is a cross-contextually validated and reliable tool for assessing children's own experiences with food insecurity. The lack of a validated Bahasa Melayu version of CFIES will limit the application for Malaysian children. The purpose of this study was to translate the CFIES into Bahasa Melayu and conduct validation tests for its content as a tool to assess children's experiences in Malaysia.

Methodology: A cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the reliability and validity of the Bahasa Melayu version of the CFIES. Forward and backward translation were performed, followed by content validation conducted by 8 experts who assessed the representativeness and clarity using a content validity index (CVI). Face validation for understandability and clarity, using the face validity index (FVI), was conducted with the participation of 10 children aged 9-12 years. 130 students between the ages of 9-12 years old, from three private primary schools in Puncak Alam, Selangor (n=130), participated in the reliability test.

Results: Content validation had strong validity with (S-CVI = 0.95) and acceptable in face validation (S-FVI clarity = 0.83, understandability = 0.79). Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the Malay version of CFIES shows acceptable reliability (0.787).

Conclusion: The Bahasa Melayu translation of CFIES is valid and reliable for evaluating food insecurity among children in Malaysia. It may provide a foundation for future studies on children's food insecurity in Malaysia.

Keyword: CFIES, Children, Food Insecurity, Bahasa Melayu, Translation, Validation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 BACKGROUND	1
1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVE	2
1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT	2
1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS	4
1.5 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS	5
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY	6
2.2 IMPACTS OF FOOD INSECURITY ON CHILDREN	7
2.3 FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE	8
2.3.1 CHILD FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE (CFIES)	8
2.3.2 DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS' EXPERIENCE ..	10
2.4 TRANSLATION AND VALIDATION	11
2.4.1 REVIEW METHODOLOGY	11
2.4.1 BIAS IN TRANSLATION	14
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY	15
3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN	15
3.2 SETTING	15
3.3 SAMPLING METHOD AND SAMPLE SIZE	15
3.4 INCLUSION AND EXCLUSIONS SAMPLE	16
3.5 INSTRUMENT	16
3.5.1 SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE	16
3.5.2 CHILD FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE SCALE (CFIES)	17
3.6 DATA COLLECTION	18
3.6.1 PHASE 1: TRANSLATION OF CFIES	18
3.6.2 PHASE II: VALIDATION OF CFIES	19
3.7 STATISTICAL TEST	21
3.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	22
3.9 GANTT CHART WITH MILESTONE	23

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Food is essential for humans, as it provides nutrients necessary for growth, development, bodily functions, and overall body support. Food insecurity, defined by the FAO, is “a situation when people lack access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life” (Ritchie, 2023). Food shortages and insufficient access to food may be caused by poverty, conflict, disability, discrimination, inadequate government policies for food security, sustainability issues with the food supply, economic problems, and environmental problems.

In 2019, 2.4 billion people lacked access to sufficient, safe, and healthy food (UN, 2023). The second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which aims to eradicate hunger and provide access to secure and nutritious food sources, addresses the serious problem of food insecurity (UN, 2023). Children are affected by food insecurity in terms of physical and mental health, social development, growth status, and dietary intake (Frongillo et al., 2024), making it an especially urgent concern for them.

Current food insecurity surveys, such as FIES, HFSSM, and HFIAS, can evaluate food insecurity in households that include children. Still, it may not accurately capture the experiences and challenges faced by children (Frongillo et al., 2022). Studies have shown that parents report differences with their children who experience food insecurity in their household (Frongillo et al., 2019; Jamaluddine et al., 2019).

The CFIES has become a crucial tool for evaluating children’s experiences with food insecurity (Frongillo et al., 2022). Additionally, it provides academics and policymakers with a framework for understanding the specifics of food insecurity as it affects children, who benefit greatly from this tool.