

## **NON-NATIVE SPEAKER INTERVIEW SCALE FOR TA/TF CERTIFICATION**

**ALL DESCRIPTORS MUST APPLY IN ORDER FOR A CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE A PARTICULAR RATING.**

**5      Very Good**

Maintains effectively his or her part in a conversation. Initiates and elaborates where needed. Pronunciation always intelligible. Has few traces of a non-native accent and almost no grammar errors. Understands everything without difficulty.

**4      Good**

Converses clearly and logically and can respond to changes in tone or topic. Some hesitation and repetition but interacts effectively. Pronunciation always intelligible, though one is conscious of a definite non-native accent. Makes a few grammar errors, which do not obscure meaning, and appears to understand nearly everything without difficulty.

**3      Fair**

Is able to maintain theme of conversation and follow topic switches. Stumbles or hesitates at times. Pronunciation problems necessitate concentrated listening and at times lead to misunderstanding. Makes occasional grammar and word order errors which can obscure meaning. Understands nearly everything with repetitions necessary from time to time.

**2      Limited**

Lacks flexibility and initiative in conversation. Needs to ask for repetition and clarification and to be asked for them. Copes, but not well. Hard to understand because of pronunciation problems. Makes frequent grammar errors which obscure meaning. Understands most of what is said at a slower-than-normal pace.

**1      Poor**

Can maintain conversation in a passive manner, rarely taking initiative. In touch with the gist of the conversation. Pronunciation problems are very marked and often make speech unintelligible. Must restrict him/herself to basic grammar patterns and rephrase often. Has great difficulty understanding other than "social conversation" and requires frequent repetitions and very slow speech.

[Adapted from: Foreign Service Institute numerical rating scale and Testing Communicative Performance. B. J. Carroll (1980).]