

Informed Consent of Study Participation

You are invited to participate in the online study which investigates linguistic behavior in Blog Articles. The study is conducted by Noah Meissner, Samuel Bullard, Simon Manzenberger, and Camilla Dütsch and supervised by Dr. David Elweiler from the University of Regensburg. The study with estimated 32 participants will take place in the period from 2024-02-19 to 2024-03-01. Please note:

- ☐ Your participation is entirely voluntary and can be discontinued or withdrawn at any time
- ☐ For the evaluation, we collect some basic demographic personal information (e.g., age, gender, etc.)
- ☐ The study will last ca. 20 minutes
- ☐ You have no direct benefit from participating in the study (unless you receive 0.5 VP hours as a student of the University of Regensburg), but you support our work and help to advance research in this area.
- ☐ During the course of the session, all responses entered into the system will be meticulously documented, inclusive of timestamp data.
- ☐ Recordings and personal data are treated with confidentiality and will fully anonymized stored, evaluated, and potentially published so that no conclusions can be drawn about individual persons anymore

The option to decline participation is available. For any inquiries, concerns, or complaints regarding the informed consent process or your rights as a research subject, please contact Dr. David Elweiler. Please read the following information carefully and take the time you need.

1. Purpose and Goal of this Research

The aim of this research is to examine the impact of factors that influence credibility judgments and comprehension of educational blog posts. Your participation will assist us in achieving our research goal. The findings of this research may be presented at scientific or professional meetings or published in scientific proceedings and journals.

2. Study Participation

Your participation in this online study is entirely voluntary and can be discontinued or withdrawn at any time. You can refuse to answer any questions or continue with the study at any time if you feel uncomfortable in any way. You can discontinue or withdraw your participation at any time without giving a reason. However, we reserve the right to exclude you from the study (e.g., with invalid trials or if continuing the study could have a negative impact on your well-being or the equipment). Repeated participation in the study is not permitted.

3. Study Procedure

After confirming this informed consent the procedure is as follows:

1. Participants are initially provided with a brief introduction to the study. After this they will complete the informed consent process.
2. Participants are surveyed to evaluate their pre-existing knowledge and understanding of the study's subject matter open and closed questions. This step is crucial to ascertain their baseline familiarity with the topic.
3. Participants are assigned a blog post pertaining to the theme from step (2), presented in either German or English.
4. Following the reading of the blog post, participants undergo an evaluation to measure their level of understanding of the content. Additionally, the credibility to the information presented in the post is also assessed.
5. Steps 2 to 4 above are repeated four times for each participant, so that they are required to evaluate four different articles.

The confirmation of participation in this study can be obtained directly from the researchers.

4. Risks and Benefits

In the online study you will not be exposed to any immediate risk or danger. As with all computer systems on which data is processed, despite security measures, there is a small risk of data leakage and the loss of confidential or personal information. You have no direct benefit from participating in the study (unless you receive 0.5 VP hours as a student of the University of Regensburg), but your support our work and help to advance research in this area.

5. Data Protection and Confidentiality

In this study, personal and personally identifiable information is collected for our research. The use of personal or personally identifiable data is subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union (EU) and will be handled in accordance with the GDPR. This means that you can view, correct, restrict the processing of and have deleted the data collected in this study. Your entries will only be registered in the study with your consent. We plan to publish the results of this and other research studies in scientific articles or other media. Your data will be retained until the study is completed or you contact the researchers to have your data destroyed or deleted. Access to the raw data of the study will be encrypted, password protected during the analysis and only for the authors, colleagues and researchers collaborating on this research. As part of the research work, the data is anonymised using coded identification numbers, whereby no conclusions can be drawn about individual persons without the researchers' information. As no contact details (e.g. emails) are collected, the researchers cannot inform the participants about further details of the study or about a possible breach of confidential data.

6. Identification of Investigators

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact:

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