Participant Information Sheet

UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number: LING-2014-05-01

## YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

**Title of Study:** Eye-Tracking Study on Reading Short Stories

**Department:** UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences

**Name and Contact Details of the Researchers:**

Prof. Robyn Carston ([robyn.carston@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:robyn.carston@ucl.ac.uk))

Chandler House, 2 Wakefield Street, London WC1N 1PF

Dr. Xinxin Yan ([xinxin.yan.15@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:xinxin.yan.15@ucl.ac.uk))

Chandler House, 2 Wakefield Street, London WC1N 1PF

**You are invited to take part in a research study at University College London (UCL). Before deciding whether to participate, please read this information carefully. If anything is unclear, or if you would like more details, feel free to ask. Your participation is entirely voluntary.**

## 1. What is the Purpose of the Study?

This study aims to investigate how people process written discourse in real time by tracking their eye movements during reading. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of how the brain comprehends language.

## 2. Why Have I Been Chosen?

You have been invited to participate because you meet the following criteria:

* You are a native speaker of British English, meaning you were born and/or raised in the UK with lifelong exposure to British English.
* You are between 18 and 45 years old.
* You have normal or corrected-to-normal vision (glasses or contact lenses are permitted).
* You have no history of neurological or reading disorders (e.g., dyslexia, ADHD).

## 3. Do I Have to Take Part?

## No, participation is completely voluntary. If you choose to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You may withdraw at any time without providing a reason. If you withdraw before completing the study, you may receive partial compensation based on the portion of the study completed.

## 4. What Will Happen During the Study?

During the study, you will be seated in front of a computer screen with your head positioned on a chin and forehead rest. This is a standard stabilization apparatus used in eye-tracking research to minimize head movement and ensure accurate tracking. You will read a series of short stories. After reading each story, you will answer a simple yes/no comprehension question using a keyboard. Throughout the session, an eye-tracker will record your eye movements to help us understand how people process written text.

The entire experiment will take approximately 45 minutes, with optional short breaks available to ensure your comfort. Upon completing the study, you will receive £7 or 0.75 course credit as compensation for your time and participation.

## 5. Are There Any Risks?

There are no known risks associated with this study. The eye-tracker is a non-invasive device that simply records where you look on the screen.

## 6. What Are the Potential Benefits?

While there are no immediate personal benefits, your participation will contribute to research on language processing and help improve our understanding of how people read and interpret text.

## 7. Will My Information Be Kept Confidential?

Yes, all collected data will be kept strictly confidential and used only for research purposes. No personally identifiable information will appear in any reports or publications. Confidentiality will be maintained within legal and ethical guidelines.

## 8. Data Protection Privacy Notice

The controller for this project is University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer oversees UCL’s use of personal data and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk). This local privacy notice outlines information specific to this study. Further details on how UCL processes participant information can be found in UCL’s general privacy notice:  
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-privacy-notice-participants-and-researchers-health-and-care-research-studies.

Your data will be processed in accordance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018. The legal basis for processing your personal data is the performance of a task in the public interest. Data will be stored securely for as long as required for the research project. Where possible, personal data will be anonymized or pseudonymized to protect your privacy. If you have concerns about how your data is being handled, or if you would like to exercise your rights under data protection laws, please contact UCL at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

## 9. What If I Have Concerns or Wish to Withdraw?

Should you wish to raise a complaint, you can contact the Principal Researcher (Dr Xinxin Yan). Should you feel that your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, you may also contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee ([ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk)).

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research study!