Dr. Nuria Sagarra

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Rutgers Institutional Review Board

Alexander Library, Suite 144-146

169 College Ave

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Members of the Rutgers Institutional Review Board,

My name is Dr. Nuria Sagarra, and I am writing to request an exemption from the requirement of ethics approval for the research study Pro2023001730 conducted in Spain. I was born and raised in Cataluña, a bilingual Catalan-Spanish region in Spain, and I am a Spanish linguistics professor as well as the Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Rutgers University. I hold a B.A. in Linguistics and an M.A in Second Language Acquisition from the University of Barcelona (Spain) and a Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (United States). Based on these qualifications, I believe it is within my scope to evaluate the methods proposed by this study and I am confident that the research procedures, consent procedures, and recruitment procedures followed by Mr. Alejandro Andreas Jaume Losa and Dr. Kendra Dickinson are in full compliance with Spain’s local laws.

This research project aims to investigate the linguistic attitudes of the population of Palma de Mallorca towards the two co-official languages of the Balearic Islands (Spain), Catalan and Spanish, and, to do so, participants will complete a questionnaire designed using Qualtrics on their own electronic devices and at their own pace. Since the study will be conducted exclusively within the jurisdiction of Spain, Mr. Alejandro Andreas Jaume Losa and Dr. Kendra Dickinson have taken great care to adhere to all applicable local laws, regulations, and ethical guidelines governing research involving human subjects. To ensure the ethical conduct of this research, the researchers have implemented the following procedures:

1. Informed Consent: informed consent will be obtained from all participants in accordance with Spanish legal requirements. Before beginning the online questionnaire, participants will read the consent materials and then be advised that if they consent to participate and wish to continue, that they click the “I agree” button. This procedure is in compliance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), which states that “Consent should be given by a clear affirmative act establishing a freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject’s agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her, such as by a written statement, including by electronic means, or an oral statement. This could include ticking a box when visiting an internet website, choosing technical settings for information society services or another statement or conduct which clearly indicates in this context the data subject’s acceptance of the proposed processing of his or her personal data.”

2. Recruitment Procedures: the recruitment procedures used by the researchers in this study follow the recruitment procedures of the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (CIS), the Spanish Public Research Institute. This organization collects survey data through telephone interviews, although it may occasionally conduct face-to-face interviews at the respondent’s home. However, because the researchers are conducting an online, Qualtrics based study to be administered in Spain, there will be no in-person or over-the-phone recruitment methods. Rather, the researchers will recruit using some of, but not limited to, the following virtual mediums: email, social networks, and group messaging.

3. Protection of Participants: the researchers in this study have implemented measures to protect the privacy and confidentiality of participants and to handle any personal data in strict accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). For instance, this regulation provides provision for the handling of “online identifiers provided by devices, applications, tools and protocols, such as internet protocol addresses, cookie identifiers or other identifiers such as radio frequency identification tags that natural persons may be associated with”. Accordingly, this regulation states that “natural persons should be made aware of risks, rules, safeguards and rights in relation to the processing of personal data and how to exercise their rights in relation to such processing”. The researchers in this study will be using Qualtrics for data collection and, therefore, it will be made clear to participants that IPs addresses are collected by Qualtrics, and that while they will not be using that information, there exists the possibility that this information can be used by someone who steals that information to identify them. It will also be made clear to participants that their email addresses will be collected in order to send them the payment for their collaboration.

I understand the importance of ethical considerations in research involving human subjects and am committed to upholding the highest ethical standards. I believe that the procedures outlined above, which are in line with Spain’s local laws, adequately protect the rights and well-being of the participants. We are open to providing any additional information or documentation as needed to support this request.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nuria Sagarra

Professor and Chair

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Rutgers University