Plain Language Statement

Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences

Project: ***Vocabulary centrality in the mental lexicon***

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

The purpose of this project is to investigate the representation of words in the mental lexicon, that is, the knowledge speakers have of the meanings of words in their language. We are interested in how people's knowledge of words and word meanings all links together, and whether some words are more important in this regard than others.

What will I be asked to do?

After answering some optional demographic questions, you will play a game-style task in which you will try to guess words that are missing from sentences. The answer may not always be obvious, but please just do your best and guess the closest word you can think of. Your guesses and the time taken to make them will comprise the data collected in this experiment. The expected time commitment for this task is 20 minutes.

What are the possible benefits?

The data will be used to inform our understanding of how language works in the human mind and the research will have the potential to improve existing educational resources for both learners and educators alike. You will be paid $3.33 for your contribution. If the expected time commitment varies from what is stated above, you will be paid proportionally at a rate of $10/hr.

What are the possible risks?

Risks are minimal. The task represents a time investment and there is a risk of boredom or fatigue, although the task is designed to be somewhat enjoyable and entertaining. If you think that you might be disturbed by any of the words used in the task, you may not want to participate. However, the words used are all very common English words and no taboo or offensive words have been included, so we expect distress to be unlikely.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. You are free to withdraw at any time without penalty. Those participants who do not complete the study will not be compensated. Your data will not be used in the full sample unless you complete the experiment.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

The results of this research may be published in conference presentations and/or research papers which will be made available through the personal webpages of some of the researchers listed at the top of this Plain Language Statement.

What will happen to information about me?

As an Amazon Worker, we do not have access to identifying personal details. You will be optionally asked to contribute some demographic details, but these are optional. Our sample size will be large, making it even more difficult to identify any one person. Data from this study will be stored under password protection and made available only to the researchers listed at the top of this Plain Language Statement. Later on, the data may also be made available online to other researchers, again in de-identified form.

Who is funding this project?

Funding is provided by ARC Discovery Project DP180103600.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the researchers; A/Prof Andrew Perfors (andrew.perfors@unimelb.edu.au), A/Prof Meredith McKague (mckaguem@unimelb.edu.au), Dr Simon De Deyne (simon.dedeyne@unimelb.edu.au), or Mr Andrew Wang (andreww3@student.unimelb.edu.au).

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne (ID 20935). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.