

# Debriefing statement

## Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences



### Project: Vocabulary centrality in the mental lexicon

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Thank you for participating! This research aims to investigate how people mentally represent the meanings of words and the relationships between them. In particular, we are interested in finding out what are the most important words in terms of how words are linked to each other. These so-called “core words” may be important in a number of different ways: for example, they may reflect the way in which knowledge of words in the mind is structured, or they may reflect the most basic words in the English language – the building blocks from which every other word can be constructed.

The experiment you participated in tested a number of possibilities for these core words generated using different methods – these made up the missing words from the sentences that you had to guess. The different sets of core words were pitted against each other to see which would be the most easily guessed. The results will inform our understanding of language representation in the mind. They may also have a very practical use as the identification of a set of core words is very helpful to both students, to help them learn language, and educators, to help them in designing educational resources.

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project that you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Manager, Human Research Ethics, Office for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010 (Tel: +61 3 8344 2073; Fax: +61 3 9347 6739; email: [HumanEthicsComplaints@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:HumanEthicsComplaints@unimelb.edu.au)).