

CONSENT FORM FOR STUDENT-PARTICIPANTS

IRB APPROVED ON: 02/15/2010
IRB Protocol #2010-01-0028

EXPIRES ON: 02/14/2011

Title: Social Interaction and Positioning: On the Way to Becoming More Proficient ESL Learners

Conducted By: Hayriye Kayi, MA; Elaine Horwitz, PhD (Faculty Sponsor), the University of Texas at Austin, Curriculum and Instruction/ SZB 436F

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You are being asked to participate in a research study. This form provides you with information about the study. The person in charge of this research will also describe this study to you and answer all of your questions. Please read the information below and ask any questions you might have before deciding whether or not to take part. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You can refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You can stop your participation at any time and your refusal will not impact current or future relationships with UT Austin or Texas State University. To do so, simply tell the researcher you wish to stop participation. The researcher will provide you with a copy of this consent for your records.

The purpose of this study is to understand 1) how participation is structured in an ESL classroom, 2) the factors affecting participation and students' positions, and 3) the impact of those positions on English language learning. **Positions refer to roles that students take during interaction with others in class. For example, when a student gives an answer to a question, s/he may position herself/himself as a 'knowledgeable member' of the class. 'Knowledgeable member' would be his/her position.**

The expected number of participants in this study is 10-15 people.

If you agree to be in this study, we will ask you to do the following things:

- Observations:
 - When you ask a question, give an answer to a question asked by your teacher or class mates, make a comment or contribute to class discussion, or keep quiet, you will be observed to determine what factors have affected your participation or non-participation. The class will be observed **two times a week at 2.5 hours per observation.**
 - **A video camera and audio recorder will be used to collect data from all classroom events** and notes will be taken during the observations. You will be observed two times per week for about 15 weeks. **If you volunteer to participate in the observations, you are also expected to do the following (Please see the sections titled "questionnaire", "interviews", and "diaries").**
 - No data, **including questionnaire, interview, diary, and observation**, will be collected from you if you do not volunteer to be in the study during the observations. The investigator will restrict her notes to reference only those students who have agreed to be study participants.
- Questionnaire:
 - At the beginning of the semester, you will be given a questionnaire. The aim is to get further information about your language learning experiences, your language contacts, and your perception of the relationship between language and culture. **In particular, you will be asked for biographical information, migration history, and work history. The questionnaire asks for written responses and includes a final essay.**
- Interviews:

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- If you volunteer to participate, you will be asked questions to determine what factors have affected your participation in class and how your participation has affected your learning English. You will be interviewed **two times** during the semester. **Interviews will occur outside of classroom hours and will be 45 minutes each.**
- **Both interviews will be audio-recorded.**
- Diaries:
 - At least three times every month, I would like you to write about your language learning experiences. I particularly want you to write about when and under what conditions you use English, your interactions with your teachers in the Intensive English program, your classmates, and native speakers whom you interact with out of the classroom, and your desires and/or goals for the future.
 - At the end of every month, you will e-mail me your written notes or provide a hard copy for me.
 - If you prefer not to write, you can record your voice and send me an audio-file.

Total estimated time to participate in study is one semester. You will be observed **during classroom hours** for about 15 weeks. **Each interview will be no more than 45 minutes.** Time spent on diaries is up to you, but it is not expected to take more than 1 hour each week. Completing the questionnaire is expected to take 30-40 minutes. **You will have one week to complete the questionnaire.**

The **risk** associated with this study is no greater than everyday life. You will be provided confidentiality to the extent allowed by law. It may cause some discomfort or stress to be observed. However, the investigator will observe you quietly and avoid interacting with you, your classmates, and your teacher during the class. The use of pseudonyms will minimize the risk. Original data will only be analyzed by the researcher. You will have the right to choose not to participate if you feel uncomfortable. There are no negative consequences if you choose not to participate.

There are no **direct benefits** for participation in this study. **The decision to participate will not have any effect on your grades or the instruction you receive. You will not receive extra credit for participating in this study.** There will be no **cost** to you nor will you be **compensated** for participating in this research study.

Classroom conversations will be audio and video-taped and tapes will be coded so that no personally identifying information is visible on them. Tapes will be kept in a secure place (a locked file cabinet in the investigator's home) and will be heard or viewed only for research purposes by the investigator and her associates. Tapes will be kept in those cabinets for three years for research purposes and then erased. The notes taken during the observations together with student diaries and questionnaires will be kept securely in separate envelopes in locked cabinets at the investigator's home. **There will be a master key that contains participants' real name and pseudonym. This master key will be kept separate from all other data, including informed consent. Notes taken during the observations, student diaries, and questionnaires will be coded and pseudonyms will be assigned.**

Your identity will be protected to the extent allowed by law. You will not be personally identified in any reports or publications that may result from this study. **Your responses will not be known to your teacher or other classmates.**

The data resulting from your participation may be made available to other researchers in the future for research purposes not detailed within this consent form. In these cases, the data will contain no identifying information that could associate you with it, or with your participation in any study.

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The records of this study will be stored securely and kept confidential. Authorized persons from The University of Texas at Austin, members of the Institutional Review Board, and (study sponsors, if any) have the legal right to review your research records and will protect the confidentiality of those records to the extent permitted by law. All publications will exclude any information that will make it possible to identify you as a subject. Throughout the study, the researchers will notify you of new information that may become available and that might affect your decision to remain in the study.

If you have any questions about the study please ask now. If you have questions later, want additional information, or wish to withdraw your participation call the researchers conducting the study. Their names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are at the top of this page.

If you would like to obtain information about the research study, have questions, concerns, complaints or wish to discuss problems about a research study with someone unaffiliated with the study, please contact the IRB Office at (512) 471-8871 or Jody Jensen, Ph.D., Chair, The University of Texas at Austin Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects at (512) 232-2685. Anonymity, if desired, will be protected to the extent possible. As an alternative method of contact, an email may be sent to orsc@uts.cc.utexas.edu or a letter sent to IRB Administrator, P.O. Box 7426 , Mail Code A 3200, Austin , TX 78713 .

You will be given a copy of this information to keep for your records.

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Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information and have sufficient information to make a decision about participating in this study. I consent to participate in the study.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent Date: _____

Signature of Investigator: _____ Date: _____