***IRB SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSAL***

**Title of Study:**

The study of Yoruba language for forensic speaker identification purposes

Augustine Agwuele

1. Sources of Potential Subject: The study is focused on Yoruba speech sample. As such, participants will be native Yoruba speakers. They will be drawn from the Yoruba city of Ibadan-Nigeria. The study examines Yoruba speech along age and sex; 60 participants will be recruited. They will include equal number of males and females ranging from age 10 to 30.

The data consists of Yoruba words. Subjects will be required to read them into a computer.

2. I will personally recruit subjects in Ibadan. I will directly soliciting them via personal contacts that I have established with colleagues and friends at the University of Ibadan. Through this personal network, I hope to reach subjects on campus by making announcement in classrooms and social gatherings. I will explain the study and provide opportunity for the participants to ask questions. Thereafter, I will provide a copy of the consent form to each participant, explain it and give them time to read it.

3. I am interested in obtaining acoustic data. This will involve subjects coming to the phonetics laboratory or me going to meet them at their homes. They will sit in front of a desk with a microphone and a laptop and back up recording devices. They will be given a list of words and sentences boldly typed on 8.5 X 11 inches which they will read into the microphone at different speaking pace. The collected data will be saved to the laptop and back-up devices. The obtained data will then be analyzed at Texas State using sound analyses and statistics programs. The data consists of Yoruba words eg., ogun (twenty), ogun (inheritance), ogun (god of iron) ogun (medication) etc.

4: Potential Risks:

There are no known discomforts, risks, or inconveniences connected to this type of research. Of course there may be risks that are unknown at this time, but this is highly unlikely.

5: Describe the procedures for protecting against or minimizing any potential risks

There are no known discomforts, risks, or inconveniences connected to this type of research. However, to avoid fatigue or tiredness, subjects will only be recorded for 15 minutes at a time, followed by five minutes break.

6. Potential benefits:

There are no personal benefits to the participants beyond the satisfaction of contributing to a scholarly pursuit to uncover cues that listeners invoke to linguistically profile speakers. To the academic community, the study has the potential to yield great insight to linguistic profiling, to shed light on speech processes, specifically; the theoretical issue of coarticulation. It will also yield a database of acoustic properties of Yoruba speech that will be an invaluable resource to students and scholars of speech.

7. Compensation to the subjects: There is a token gift of $20 to each participant for their time. This is in observance of Yoruba custom of giving gift as a show of gratitude.

8. Giving of gift is part of the cultural practice of Yoruba society. Not to give gifts to people you are visiting, or who have helped or supported you is a violation of Yoruba social customs. The gift will not be announced when I solicit for subject. Although it is disclosed in the consent from, this token gift will only be offered after the recordings have been completed as a gesture of gratitude.

9. Through personal scholarly relationship with colleagues at the University of Ibadan; I have access to the phonetics lab where I can record subjects. For, this, I do not require any letter of invitation. I am also equipped to record people at their homes with the aid of mobile recording devices.

10. Not applicable.

11. Not applicable

12. Not applicable

13. Results of this study will be published in the Journal of Phonetics or Journal of the Acoustic Society of America. Results will also be presented in national and international conferences.

**Consent Form**

**Title of Research Study:**

* The study of Yoruba language for forensic speaker identification purposes

**Principal Investigator**

* Dr. Augustine Agwuele. Dept of Anthropology, Texas State University-San Marcos, TX. Phone: (512)245-4726
* Funded by Texas State University: REP 2009

You are being asked to participate in a research study on Yoruba language because Yoruba is your first language. This form provides you with information about the study. The Principal Investigator (the person in charge of this research) will also describe this study to you and answer all of your questions.

The Department of Anthropology and The Texas State University-San Marcos require that all subjects who participate in studies give their written consent to do so. A description of this study appears below.

Please read the information below and ask questions about anything you don't understand before deciding whether or not to take part. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you can refuse to participate without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled

**Study Description**

This is an acoustic study of Yoruba speech sounds. The aim is to collect and analyze linguistic data from Yoruba speakers in Ibadan in order to ascertain, and quantify the cues that are unique to the sounding of their language as conveyed by their voices, through which hearers are able to group them together as having Yoruba cultural roots.

* The Texas State University-San Marcos provides the fund for this study.

**What will be done if you take part in this research study?**

If you decide to participate, you will be invited into a lab at the Modern Languages dept, University of Ibadan. You will be given a list of words to read into a microphone. This will be recorded. You will also be asked to have a conversion with the PI in Yoruba; this will be recorded as well. Each recording session for each participant will take approximately 2 hours. It involves the use of microphones and portable voice recorder as well as computer.

**What are the possible discomforts and risks?**

There are no known discomforts, risks, or inconveniences connected to this type of research. Of course there may be risks that are unknown at this time, but this is highly unlikely.

**What are the possible benefits to you or to others?**

Your participation will provide us with human speech samples to analyze. Our measurements will allow us to better understand linguistic profiling as well as issues involved in the production and perception of speech.

**If you choose to take part in this study, will it cost you anything?**

Your participation in this study will not cost you anything except for your time.

**Will you receive compensation for your participation in this study?**

Participation is voluntary; however, in accordance with the custom of the land, you will receive $20 as token of appreciation for your participation.

**What if you are injured -because of the study?**

Not applicable.

**If you do not want to take part in this study, what other options are available to you?**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to refuse to be in the study or refuse to answer any questions. Your refusal will not influence current or future relationships with The Texas State University-San Marcos.

**How can I withdraw from this research study and who should I call if I have questions?**

If you wish to stop your participation in this research study for any reason, you should contact: Dr. Augustine Agwuele at (512) 245-4726. You are free to withdraw your consent and stop participation in this study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits for which you may be entitled. Throughout the study, we will notify you of new information that may become available and that might affect your decision to remain in the study.

In addition, if you have questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact

*Becky Northcut, CIP Compliance Specialist*Office of Sponsored Programs  
Texas State University-San Marcos  
sn10@txstate.edu  
(ph) 512/245-2102 / (fax) 512/245-3847 or 1822   
JCK 489 & 440 - 601 University Drive. San Marcos, TX 78666

**How will your privacy and the confidentiality of your research records be protected?**

Your participation in this experiment will be confidential. This means that any written, audio-taped, or digitized records will **not** contain any identifying information (e.g. name, initials, or address, etc.) with the exception of an assigned participant number or alphabets. As such, your identity cannot be determined by anyone who has access to the records of your responses with the exception of the Principal Investigator. Since the sessions will be audio taped the cassettes will be coded so that no personally identifying information is visible on them. They will be kept in a secure place (a locked file cabinet in the investigator's office). They will be heard only for research purposes by the investigator and his associates. In some instances when the audio data is used in conjunction with a graduate student's thesis, a CD will be generated that may contain digitized portions of the recorded voice. This will be retained for possible future analysis by any investigator who chooses to access this data file. Your identity will not be known and confidentiality will always be maintained.

Authorized persons from The Texas State University of Texas-San Marcos and the Institutional Review Board have the legal right to review your research records and will protect the confidentiality of those records to the extent permitted by law. Otherwise, your research records will not be released without your consent unless required by law or a court order.

If the results of this research are published or presented at scientific meetings, your identity will not be disclosed.

A summary of the findings will be provided to participants upon completion of the study, if requested. Contact: Dr. Augustine Agwuele at (512) 245-4726 or aa21@txstate.edu

Please feel free to ask the investigator any questions you may have before or after signing this consent form. The experimenter will give you a copy of this consent form.

You have been informed about this study's purposes; procedures, possible benefits and risks, and you have received a copy of this Form. You have been given the opportunity to ask questions before you sign, and you have been told that you can ask other questions at any time.

By providing your initials, you indicate that you fully understand this consent form and its content:

If after reading and understanding the above information and experiment description, you voluntarily agree to participate in this study, please sign below to indicate that you understand all of the above and that you give your consent to participate in this study as described.

**Your signature does not constitute a waiver of any of your legal rights.**

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**Name of Participant Signature and Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Investigator Date**

***For minors Parental consent is also required.***

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**Name of Minor Participant Minor’s Signature and Date**

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**Name of Parent Parents’ Signature and Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature of Investigator Date**