

### **A Study on Intelligibility and Accent Discriminability**

Dear participant,

It can be difficult to tell what is being said in an unfamiliar accent or to tell the difference between accents, whether in a foreign language or in your native tongue. We are recruiting English as a Foreign Language (EFL) learners with Belgian Dutch as their first language, as well as native speakers of American and Irish English, to complete a series of tasks investigating these perceptual difficulties. To be eligible for participation, participants should not have any known hearing problems.

There are three parts: (i) a transcription task, where you will type what you hear and rate how difficult it was to understand the speaker; (ii) an auditory decision task, where you will determine whether two speakers have the same or different accents; and (iii) a questionnaire regarding your socio-demographic and linguistic background. For non-native participants, you will also complete a quick English proficiency test before beginning. In total, your participation should take  $\pm$  45 minutes.

Note that participation is completely voluntary, and your name will not be recorded or linked with your responses. You may withdraw from the study at any time prior to publication, without any adverse consequences, by contacting Chloe Ostiguy. Your anonymized data will be stored in an open-access repository for future research purposes. You will need headphones to listen to the audio. After your submission has been validated manually, you will be rewarded £8 for your participation.

If you have any further questions about your participation in this study or would like to remove your data from inclusion prior to publication, please contact Chloe Ostiguy ([chloe.ostiguy@ugent.be](mailto:chloe.ostiguy@ugent.be)).

Kind regards,

Chloe Ostiguy and Prof. Ellen Simon  
*Ghent University, Linguistics Department*

Dr. Bastien De Clercq  
*Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels Centre  
for Language Studies*

### **Informed Consent Form**

I hereby consent to participate in a research project from the Department of Linguistics (English Section) at Ghent University. I hereby confirm that I:

1. have read about and understand the nature of the research project (i.e., the purpose, the set of tasks, and how the tasks contribute to the overall purpose).
2. understand that my participation is entirely voluntary and that deciding not to participate, or ending my participation, will not have any adverse consequences.
3. may withdraw my consent at any time prior to publication, without having to give any reason, which means that my data will be removed from the data set, by contacting the primary researcher (Chloe Ostiguy, [chloe.ostiguy@ugent.be](mailto:chloe.ostiguy@ugent.be)).
4. give permission to the experimenter to use my data and to share it in an open-access repository.
5. understand that all data will be anonymized and that my name will not be recorded.
6. understand that Ghent University is responsible for the treatment of the personal data gathered in this study, and that the data protection officer (Hanne Elsen, [privacy@ugent.be](mailto:privacy@ugent.be)) can provide me with more information on the way in which my personal information is protected.
7. may receive a summary of the study results upon request, by contacting the primary researcher (Chloe Ostiguy, [chloe.ostiguy@ugent.be](mailto:chloe.ostiguy@ugent.be)).