

CONSENT FORM
Swearing and the construction of style
PI: Curt Anderson (curt.anderson@utoronto.ca)

About this research

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Scientists do research in order to answer questions and learn new things. This research might help us learn new things about the society we live in and the English language. More information about the study is in the form below, to help you decide whether or not you want to participate. Read this form and don't hesitate to email the principle investigator (PI) if you have any questions.

Eligibility

To participate in this study, you should be at least 18 years old and be or have been a resident of Canada and/or the United States.

Taking part in this study is voluntary

You may choose to end your participation in the study at any time by simply closing your browser window. Your data will then be discarded. There is no penalty for withdrawing.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this study is to learn about factors that influence how often someone uses swear words. Swear words that some people consider taboo or inappropriate, such as the *f*-word. We want to know whether people who are from or live in cities use swear words the same amount as people who are from or live in rural areas, and how strong people think certain swear words are when used.

This study is being conducted by Dr. Curt Anderson at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

What will happen during the study?

If you agree to be in the study, you will be asked a series of questions about the postal code or zip code where you currently live and have lived the longest, basic information about yourself (gender, age, income, exercise habits, education), and questions related to how frequently and where you use swear words, and how strong you perceive certain swear words to be when used. You will see swear words in writing as part of this study and will be asked questions about them. The study can be done by most people in fifteen minutes.

What are the risks of taking part in this study?

The risks from participating in this study are minimal, but you will be asked to answer questions about specific swear words, including your use of them. Some people might find this distressing. Any question you're not comfortable answering can be skipped, and you can completely withdraw your participation from the study at any time.

What are the potential benefits of taking part in the study?

You may gain greater insight into your own thoughts, feelings, and patterns of behavior. You will not be paid for your participation.

Efforts will be made to keep your personal information confidential, though complete confidentiality cannot be absolutely guaranteed. After participating in the study, no information about you other than the information you provide in your answers to the survey questions will be retained by the researchers. If you provide an email address to be notified of the results of this study, your email address will be stored separately from the answers you give.

Curt Anderson
Department of Language Studies
Social Sciences Building MW304
University of Toronto Scarborough

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