Briefing Script - Language Acquisition EEG Telemetry

Researcher:

We are going to be looking at the way brains process different languages. The process will take about sixty minutes, and we’re going to go through a number of steps.

First, we will be fitting you with EEG sensors. This involves putting a cap on your head that has small sponges imbedded in it, and injecting a small amount of liquid in to the sponges so the sensors can pick up electrical signals. You may feel a little moisture on your scalp during the process.

Next, we have to make sure everything is set up correctly: a process called “Impedance Checking”, which will take just a few minutes to make sure all the signals are good, and the system is set up.

After that, we’ll have you do a number of things, including sitting quietly with your eyes open, then with your eyes closed, then reading a passage from a book, then listening to a short story. These will help determine baselines for us to compare foreign languages to in the brain.

After that, you’ll face the computer screen with the trackball in your lap, and work on a program that teaches a foreign language. For this study, we’re using either Japanese or a made-up language that is used in research. The interface is pretty straightforward, but I’ll be here to help you and answer any questions when you start. You aren’t getting graded on how well you do, so just relax and have fun with it.

During the entire process, try to sit still and keep your body relaxed and comfortable. If you are moving too much, or have too much muscle activity, I’ll let you know and we’ll take a minute for you to get comfortable.

Before we begin, you may want to use the restroom, because it will be difficult to take off the cap and re-set the system once we get started.

Do you have any questions?