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Participant Information Sheet

Machine Learning and Spaced Repetition Systems for Predicting Foreign Language Vocabulary Test Scores

Investigator: Jordan West, Undergraduate Engineering Honours Student, Centre for Educational Innovation in Technology

Supervisor: Dr. Mark Schulz, Associate Director, Centre for Educational Innovation in Technology

This study involves monitoring your use of learning software for memorising vocabulary for JAPN1023, from which we build a model of your vocabulary knowledge. By building such a model, we are expecting to predict with some accuracy your future score in a non-assessed vocabulary recognition quiz.

The learning software is web-based and can be accessed from any computer with a modern web browser and internet connection; including from the University library or from your home. You can use the software at your leisure; there are no minimum requirements to participate however the software will be more effective at helping you memorise vocabulary if used for at least a few minutes each day. The study will span the whole of Semester 2, 2012; however you are free to choose how often and for how long you use the software.

In order to gather data on your knowledge of words, a spaced repetition flashcard system is used. Spaced repetition is a method for memorising facts at increasing periods of time and aims to provide the most efficient method of memorisation. The software has been pre-loaded with vocabulary specifically for JAPN1023, however the potential risk of participating is that you might change your study habits to incorporate this software and miss other important content. It is recommended that you use this software as an additional tool to assist your study, and not as a replacement. Participation in this study is expected to help you memorize the vocabulary, however does not constitute a replacement for your normal class study.

Your email address will be collected when you register online, however this will only be used to allow you to login and to send a password reset email if you forget your password.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and will not affect your grade in JAPN1023. Participation is anonymous – you will be identified only by a unique code handed out randomly upon your consent. Data on how you use the software will be collected and stored confidentially and securely and in a form such that data cannot be linked with any individual. The teacher will have access to aggregate information on the class as a whole; however will not have access to information about individual students.

You may withdraw from the study at any time, either by logging in to the system using your code and password, or by contacting me on the details listed at the top of this page. Upon withdrawal, your account and all associated data will be deleted.

This study has been cleared by one of the human ethics committees of the University of Queensland in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines. You are of course, free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on 0438518251). If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 3365 3924.

If you have any difficulties, questions or concerns about the study, feel free to contact me.

If you would like to learn the outcome of the study in which you are participating, you can contact me at the email above or write your email on the consent form and I will send you an Abstract of the study and findings upon completion.