Orthographic Variation of LOL in Twitter Communities

Project State: Not Human Subjects Research

Project Basics

1. * Title of Study:
   Orthographic Variation of LOL in Twitter Communities
2. * Principal Investigator:
   Joshua Mcneill
3. * Does the Principal Investigator have a financial interest related to this research?
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**
4. The Principal Investigator will receive all communications related to this project. Select one or more persons to receive the same communications or to have read access to the project even if they are not study team members (e.g., a project coordinator.):
   Name Organization
   There are no items to display

5. * Are you requesting determination if your project meets the definition of human subjects research?
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

   * Are you requesting determination if your project meets the criteria for developmental review?
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

   * Will an external IRB act as the IRB of record for this study?
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

Project Funding

1. **Check all funding sources that apply to either this UGA IRB Submission *or* to the Project.**

   External Sponsor Funding
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

   Direct Support to Study Team Members
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

   None of the above
   ◉ **Yes** ○ No

2. **Describe the scope of the Human Subjects Activities included in the Project *as compared to* this IRB Submission.**

   They are the SAME:

   All Human Subjects Activities included in the Project are also included in this UGA IRB Submission
   ◉ **Yes** ○ No

They are DIFFERENT:

Human Subjects Activities included in the Project but **not** in this UGA IRB Submission have already been included in a **separate pending or approved UGA IRB Submission**

○ Yes ○ No

Human Subjects Activities included in the Project but **not** in this IRB Submission are intended to be included in a **future UGA IRB Submission**

○ Yes ○ No

Human Subjects Activities included in the Project but **not** in this IRB Submission have already been included in a **separate pending or approved IRB Submission to an external institution/entity**

○ Yes ○ No

Human Subjects Activities included in the Project but **not** in this IRB Submission are intended to be included in a **future IRB Submission to an external institution/entity**

○ Yes ○ No

3. External Sponsor Funding should be administered by the UGA Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA) office, and SPA records are stored in the UGA Grants Portal. Select the SPA record that corresponds to this IRB Submission:

FP ID#	PI Last Name	Sponsor Name	Sponsor Funding ID	Project Title	Project Status	Flow Through Sponsor
There are no items to display						

Study Team Members

1. Identify each UGA faculty, staff, or student who will be engaged in the conduct of human research. Do not select the PI again

Name	Roles	Financial Interest	Involved in Consent	E-mail	Phone	Is Student Project
There are no items to display						

2. Identify non-UGA collaborators* who will be engaged in the conduct of human research.

Name	Email	Organization	Documents
There are no items to display			

**Submit an Individual Investigator Agreement for all study personnel with an institution that does not have an assurance with the Office for Human Research Protections or OHRP (typically, local schools, private doctors, clinics).*

**For study personnel who are affiliated with an institution that has an assurance (has its own IRB), do not submit an Individual Investigator Agreement. Instead indicate that you have an External Site on the Study Scope page.*

Training Records

poRefStr

Study Scope

1. Will you recruit or conduct the study at a non-UGA agency/institution/facility (i.e., referred to as an External Site) where you do not normally have research privileges?:
   ◉ **Yes** ○ No
2. Check all that apply:
   Method/Procedure:
   Project is Exempt
   Internet Research
3. Does the study use any of the following test articles? Check all that apply.
   There are no items to display
4. ClinicalTrials.gov Registration and Results Submission. Check all the requirements that apply (see Help):
   There are no items to display
5. Will the project require use of the CTRU Unit?
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**
6. Will the project require use of the CTRU personnel?:
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

External Sites

1. Identify each external site where the investigator will conduct or oversee collaborative research or where the investigator will recruit subjects and conduct research activities.
   Site Name: Contact Name: Contact Phone: Contact E-mail Attachments
   Twitter

Exempt Categories

Q1 - If your study has federal funding, only the eight categories in Q1 may be used. For all other projects, review the first eight; If none apply, review the Q2-FLEX categories below. Please review the Policy and Procedure: Exempt Research for additional guidance. It is located in the Click IRB Library under SOPs.

Q1 - Choose any federally-defined category/ies that apply to your study. You may choose more than one. You must provide a response to all Yes/No questions..

* EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH: ○ Yes ◉ **No**

* SURVEYS, INTERVIEWS, OBSERVATION OF ADULTS: ◉ **Yes** ○ No

(DHHS - Exempt 2): Research that only includes interactions involving educational tests (cognitive, diagnostic, aptitude, achievement), survey procedures, interview procedures, or observation of public behavior (including visual or auditory recording) if at least one of the following criteria is met:

Check one of the following criteria i-iii:

* i. DATA ARE NOT IDENTIFIABLE: The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects cannot readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects (no a/v recording);
○ Yes ◉ **No**

* ii. IDENTIFIABLE BUT NO RISK: Any disclosure of the human subjects' responses outside the research would not reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, educational advancement, or reputation; or
◉ **Yes** ○ No

* iii. IDENTIFIABLE SENSITIVE DATA: The information obtained is recorded by the investigator in such a manner that the identity of the human subjects can readily be ascertained, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects, and an IRB conducts a limited IRB review.
○ Yes ◉ **No**

* BENIGN BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS WITH ADULTS: ○ Yes ◉ **No**

* SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS: ○ Yes ◉ **No**

* FEDERAL AGENCY RESEARCH: ○ Yes ◉ **No**

* FOOD TASTING: ○ Yes ◉ **No**

* Call UGA Human Subjects Office before choosing this category (DHHS – Exempt 7): Storage or maintenance for secondary research for which broad consent is required: Storage or maintenance of identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens for potential secondary research use if an IRB conducts a limited IRB review. ○ Yes ◉ **No**

* Call UGA Human Subjects Office before choosing this category (DHHS – Exempt 8): Secondary research for which broad consent is required: Research involving the use of identifiable private information or identifiable biospecimens for secondary research use, if the following criteria are met: ○ Yes ◉ **No**

Q2 - If the study is not federally funded and none of the above categories apply, choose from one of the following institutionally-defined categories. If neither of these apply, go back to revise your response on the Study Scope page.

* Flex - Exempt 3: Minimal risk research that is not federally funded involving benign behavioral interventions and/or gentle physical movement in conjunction with the collection of information from a subject through verbal or written responses (including data entry), audiovisual recording, or use of commercially available measurement technology or tools.
○ Yes ◉ **No**

* FLEX - Exempt 7: Non-federally funded, when the research activities do not conform to one of the eight DHHS exempt categories, and involves research of individual or group characteristics or behavior using established qualitative methods (e.g., ethnography, phenomenology.)
◉ **Yes** ○ No

Human Research Participants

1. Targeted Populations - Click "Add" to provide a general description of the targeted participants. See Help text on the right for definition of human subject.:

	Targeted Population	Targeted Gender	Age or Age Range	Total Number / Range
View	Twitter users whose tweets pass through servers in the Maritime Provinces of Canada			Thousands

2. Inclusion Criteria - if there are multiple targeted populations, identity the criteria for each:
   Those who sent directed tweets, meaning tweets meant to be read by a specific other Twitter user.
3. Exclusion Criteria - Inclusion Criteria - if there are multiple targeted populations, identity the criteria for each:
   Those who did not send any directed tweets.
4. Eligibility Criteria - Describe how potential participants will be initially identified and how eligibility will be determined:
   Data was collected through data mining of Twitter that targetted servers in the Maritime Provinces of Canada.
5. Exclusion Justification - If the research will exclude a particular gender or minority group, provide justification:
   It will not.
6. Incentive Description - Describe any incentive/compensation for participation:
   There is no incentive.

Vulnerable and Special Populations

1. Special Populations - check any that apply:
   Population:
   A specific group based on religion, race, ethnicity, immigration status, language, or sexual orientation
2. Provide justification for including the group(s) checked above in this particular study:
   The study is looking at how the speech of English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians varies, so I must necessarily target English- and French-speaking people. Language is specifically the subject of the research.
3. Describe the working relationship between any researchers and the participants, as applicable:
   None.
4. Describe the safeguards to protect the rights and welfare of these participants and to minimize any possible coercion or undue influence:
   Participants will be unaware that they are part of the study as data is collected effectively through observation of public discourse. Users often use pseudonyms to begin with on Twitter, but these will also be changed to random identifiers with the key for who is who stored in a password protected file.

Recruitment Methods and Materials

1. Will you recruit individuals to take part in the study?:
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**
2. Describe when, where, and how participants will be initially contacted:
3. Describe any follow-up recruitment (e.g. multiple attempts/contacts for the purpose of inviting someone to participate):

4.
Documents:

Document	Category	Date Modified	Content URL
There are no items to display			

Consent Process and Materials

1. Select the applicable option(s) below to describe the consent process/es for this study:

Option	Description:
Informed consent will not be obtained or some or all elements will be waived or altered	There will not be a consent process or the consent process will not include all elements of informed consent.

2. Describe how, where and when informed consent will be obtained from research participants:
Informed content will not be obtained as it is not feasible to obtain consent from thousands of anonymous users of a public discourse platform beforehand as the random sampling of the discourse itself is how data was collected.

3. **Consent Forms:**

Important Note: The IRB strongly recommends the use of consent templates that are available on the consent materials page to ensure that all the elements of informed consent are included (per 45 CFR 116). Add attachments below. If more than one consent document will be used, please name each accordingly.

Refer to the following:

Consent Templates	Consent Samples
Consent Form for Exempt Research – Signature Required	Sample Consent for Research Subject to GDPR
Minor Assent Script/Form	Sample Parental Permission for Exempt Research – Educational Study
Template: Consent Letter for Exempt Research - No Signature Required	Sample: Parental Permission and Consent Form for Social Behavioral Study - Signature Required
Template: Consent Additional or Optional Elements	Sample: Consent for Exempt Research - Medical Record Review with Survey
Template: Consent Form for Non-Exempt Research - Signature Required	Sample: Consent for Exempt Social Behavioral Research

4.
Documents:

Document	Category	Date Modified	Content URL
There are no items to display			

Research Design, Methods and Procedures

1. * Brief Description:
   The objective of this study is to determine if different online communities have different norms for spelling of LOL. Additionally, the study will look at how particular individuals differ when central to these communities or peripheral to these communities. The main research question is the following: Do central members of a community have more consistent spelling of LOL than peripheral members?
2. * Describe the overall research design and method(s) of data collection. Also, identify specific factors or variables and, if applicable, treatment and control conditions or groups.
   Data was collected from public tweets sent on Twitter in January and February of 2014. These tweets originated from Twitter servers located in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. Social network analysis will be used to group the Twitter users into communities. Their tweets will then be coded for variations in the spelling of the acronym LOL 'laugh out loud'. Statistical analyses will be done to examine variations in spelling between communities.
3. * Describe the time commitment per activity per individual subject and provide the estimated total duration of participation. If known, also describe the anticipated duration to enroll all study subjects and the estimated time until completion of primary analyses.
   There is no time commitment as the data obseverd and collected from individuals will be part of their normal activities.
4. * Describe in detail, and in sequence, all study procedures from the perspective of the participant. Begin with any procedure that involves interaction or collection of data to determine eligibility, if applicable. Separate any procedures that are part of regular practice from procedures that are specific to this research study. If procedures are long and complicated, use a table, flowchart or diagram to outline the study procedures.
   From the participants' point of views, there are no procedures. Participants who use Twitter will simply behave as they normally would, and public tweets will be collected afterward.
5. * Describe the data analysis plan, including any statistical procedures. For qualitative studies, specify the proposed analytic approaches.
   Chi-squared tests will be used to identify whether norms in spelling differ between communities. Correlation coefficients will be calculated for individuals to look for patterns between centrality and consistency in spelling.

Data Collection Materials

Data Collection Materials may include, but are not limited to: surveys, interview guides/questions, questionnaires, focus group guides/questions, observation guides, bio-metric measure recording sheets. Do not list equipment such as audio/video-recording devices, EKG, Ultrasound.

1.
   Documents:

Document	Category	Date Modified	Content URL
There are no items to display			

Risks and Benefits

1. If there is collection of information that could place a participant at risk of criminal or civil liability or damage a participant's financial standing, employability, or reputation, mark any box(es) that apply below. If information to be collected is not sensitive, do not mark any. The list below is not exhaustive but represents common elements or procedures in research where the primary risk is potential harm associated with breach of confidentiality:
   Collection
   There are no items to display
2. Describe in detail the nature and degree of risk associated with participation. Address any items marked above in detail. Include risks associated with physical procedures/interventions and procedures and interventions that may cause psychological harm:
   There are no direct risks to participants. Their normal behavior in public discourse will be analyzed, so they have no expectation of privacy. It is not uncommon for tweets to go "viral" and be read by millions of Twitter users and even non-Twitter users, which is common knowledge for those who use the platform.
3. Describe the measures that will be taken to minimize each of the potential risks/harms identified in questions 1 and 2:
   Despite the lack of risk, Twitter handles (often pseudonyms themselves) will be anonymized by changing them to random names.
4. Describe any anticipated direct benefits to participants. If there are none, please state so:
   There are no benefits for the participants.
5. Describe any anticipated benefits to others (e.g., societal) that may result from the research. Describe the generalizable or transferable knowledge that may result:
   Variation in orthographic norms on the internet has not been examined before. As such, this is exploratory research that may lead to more research being conducted in this area as questions arise about the nature of orthographic conventions and their relationship to social structure.

Confidentiality and Privacy

1. Will the researchers collect or record any direct identifiers with the data (e.g., names, addresses, telephone numbers)?:
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**
2. Will the researchers use a coding system and/or will the data be collected via the Internet?
   ◉ **Yes** ○ No

3. * Describe the coding system that will be used to link the code (pseudonym or study ID) to the participant (e.g., code key or master list). If data are collected via the Internet, describe what indirect identifiers may be collected (e.g., IP addresses).
   Twitter handles will be anonymized further. This will be beneficial for those who use their real names on the platform but will also be done even for those who use pseudonyms. The key for this anonymization will be stored in a password protected file. The password will complex and so will be stored on the PI's LastPass, a password management software system.

4. Will the link/indirect identifier be retained after data collection is complete?
   ◉ **Yes** ○ No

5. * Explain why is it necessary to retain the link/indirect identifier?
   It may be desirable to contact participants afterward for follow-up research depending on the sort of questions that come up in this exploratory study.

6. * Describe how long the direct/indirect identifiers or the link will be retained, where and how this

information will be stored, and what security provisions will be taken to protect the data. If information that associates a person with his/her data will be retained after data collection is complete, all potential uses of this information must be described here and in the consent documents.
All data from the study will be stored on both the PI's personal desktop computer and his personal OneDrive account. Names will be anonymized and the key will be kept in a password protected file in the same locations.

7. * Is it reasonable foreseeable that the study will collect or be privy to information that State or Federal law requires to be reported to other officials (e.g., child or elder abuse) or ethically might require action by the research (e.g., suicidal ideation, intent to hurt self or others)? If "Yes", this must be described in the the consent documents.
   ○ Yes ◉ **No**

Supporting Documents

Documents:

Document	Category	Date Modified	Content URL
There are no items to display			