

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET AND INFORMED CONSENT FORM

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Funder: Leverhulme Trust

Study ID: WP4-E3

What is this document?

This document explains what kind of study we are conducting, what your rights are, and how your data will be processed. You may keep this document for your records. Before deciding if you want to participate in this study, you should read this information carefully and ask the researcher any questions you might have using Prolific's messaging tool or by emailing jon.carr@rhul.ac.uk

What is the study about?

We are investigating how people learn words and how they use words in different situations. In order to do this, we will teach you an artificially constructed language (the "alien" language) which has particular properties that we are interested in.

What will I do?

There are two main parts to the experiment. In the first part, we will teach you the alien language. In the second part, you will be tested on the alien language or you will play a simple game with another Prolific user. The experiment should take around 13 minutes to complete.

How will I be compensated?

You will be rewarded with £2.00 for participating, plus additional bonuses based on performance. The total reward can be up to £3.08 in total. This is compliant with Prolific's guidelines.

Risks and benefits

Participating in the study is not expected to cause any detriment to your health and wellbeing beyond that experienced in daily life. The methods that we will use are safe and non-invasive. There are no benefits beyond the financial compensation for your time.

Voluntary participation and the right to withdraw

Your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. You may withdraw from the study without providing any explanation, but you must do so before completing the experiment. You can withdraw by simply closing the browser window; your data will be deleted shortly thereafter.

Confidentiality and the use of your data

During the experiment, we will record various pieces of information about your performance on the task, such as your typing, button clicks, and reaction times. We will analyse this data for the stated purposes of this study. We will *not* collect any personally identifying information about you, such as your name or contact details, but we will record your Prolific participant ID in order to pay you. Four weeks (28 days) after data collection, we will delete all record of your Prolific ID, so that the data can never be linked back to you.

The anonymous data we collect from you will initially be stored on a secure web server located in Frankfurt, Germany, and later it will be moved to secure servers maintained by Royal Holloway, University of London in the UK. All data transfers will be done over encrypted channels. Your fully anonymous data may eventually be made freely and publicly available in research archives or publications along with data from many other participants.

Ethical approval

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Royal Holloway Ethics Committee. If you have any complaints about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact ethics@rhul.ac.uk. Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

By accepting and participating in this study, you agree to the following statements:

1. I am at least 18 years old.
2. I have read and understood the above information about this study.
3. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and I have received satisfactory answers.
4. I understand that my participation in this study is voluntary, and that I am free to withdraw within 28 days without giving a reason and without penalty.
5. I understand that my data will be anonymised and stored permanently by the researchers.
6. I understand that my anonymised data will be archived in a publicly-accessible repository.
7. I understand that other people will have access to my anonymised data and may use it for other purposes.
8. I agree that my anonymised data can be used in publications and in dissemination activities associated with this and other projects.
9. I agree to participate in this study.