

Consent Form for Participation in a Research Study
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Researcher(s):

Shota Momma, PhD

Study Title:

Language production study: 2019-2020

1. WHAT IS THIS FORM?

This form is called a Consent Form. It will give you information about the study so you can make an informed decision about participation in this research. We encourage you to take some time to think this over and ask questions now and at any other time. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign this form and you will be given a copy for your records.

2. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THIS RESEARCH STUDY THAT I SHOULD BE AWARE OF?

- 1) Your participation to this study is completely voluntary.
- 2) The purpose of this study is to investigate the cognitive processes involved in producing English sentences. You will be asked to read or hear words phrases or sentences, and/or describe pictures of objects or events in English by typing. You may also be asked to answer some questions about the sentences or the pictures you saw using a keyboard. You may also be asked to solve simple arithmetic questions. This study should take no longer than 60 minutes.
- 3) Potential benefits: There is a minimal risk of discomfort from reading and/or typing complex sentences multiple times. There are only minimal risks to social and psychological wellbeing, as language and picture materials do not have inflammatory content. There is no risk to your economic wellbeing. Any identifying data will be kept in the laboratory in a locked room, and so there is minimal risk of a breach of confidentiality.
- 4) Potential risks: You may not directly benefit from this research; however, we hope that your participation in the study may help us better understand the processes involved in sentence production.

3. WHY ARE WE DOING THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

The purpose of this study is to investigate the cognitive processes involved in producing English sentences. We are interested in how speakers plan the structures of sentences as they speak sentences with varieties of structural configurations.

4. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

In order to be eligible to participate in this experiment, you must be a native speaker of English. You must have normal or corrected-to-normal vision, must not have a history of language or reading disorders, and must be at least 18 years old.

5. WHERE WILL THIS RESEARCH STUDY TAKE PLACE AND HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE?

The experiment will take place online. Approximately 1000 participants will participate in this study.

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6. WHAT WILL I BE ASKED TO DO AND HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE?

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to answer a brief questionnaire about your demographic and language background. Following the questionnaire, you will be asked to read (silently or aloud) or hear words phrases or sentences, and/or describe pictures of objects or events in English by typing words, phrases or sentences into text boxes. You may also be asked to answer some questions about the sentences or the pictures you saw using a keyboard. You may also be asked to solve simple arithmetic questions. This study should take no longer than 60 minutes. You will not be contracted in the future.

7. WILL BEING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY HELP ME IN ANY WAY?

You may not directly benefit from this research; however, we hope that your participation in the study may help us better understand the processes involved in sentence production.

8. WHAT ARE MY RISKS OF BEING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

There is a minimal risk of discomfort from reading and/or typing complex sentences multiple times. There are only minimal risks to social and psychological wellbeing, as language and picture materials do not have inflammatory content. There is no risk to your economic wellbeing. However, a risk of breach of confidentiality always exists and we have taken the steps to minimize this risk as outlined in section 9 below.

9. HOW WILL MY PERSONAL INFORMATION BE PROTECTED?

The following procedures will be used to protect the confidentiality of your study records. The researchers will keep all electronic files records (including any codes to your data) in (a) password protected lab computer and (b) private, password-protected repository in the Open Science Foundation. Your data will be given random identifiers, and the link between your information and participant identifier will not be recorded anywhere, destroying the link between your identity and your data. At the conclusion of this study, the researchers may publish their findings and their data, and de-identified data will be made public on the Open Science Framework. Information will be presented in summary format in publication, and any data shared on the Open Science Framework will be completely de-identified and could not be traced back to you. You will not be identified in any publications or presentations.

10. WILL MY INFORMATION (BIOSPECIMENS OR PRIVATE INFORMATION) BE USED FOR RESEARCH IN THE FUTURE?

The de-identified information may be used for future research without additional informed consent from you.

11. WILL I BE GIVEN ANY MONEY OR OTHER COMPENSATION FOR BEING IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY?

You will be compensated with \$10/hour USD. Your participation in the experiment is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time without penalty. You will still get compensation.

12. WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have further questions about this project or if you have a research-related problem, you may contact the principal investigator, Shota Momma, snegishi@umass.edu. If you would like to speak with someone not directly involved in the research study, you may contact the Chair of the Linguistics Department, Dr. Joe Pater, at pater@linguist.mass.edu, or by phone at (413) 577-1308, or the Human Research Protection Office at the University of Massachusetts via email at

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humansubjects@ora.umass.edu; telephone at (413) 545-3428; or mail at the Human Research Protection Office, Research Administration Building, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 70 Butterfield Terrace, Amherst, MA, 01003-9242.

13. WHAT HAPPENS IF I SAY YES, BUT I CHANGE MY MIND LATER?

You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you agree to be in the study, but later change your mind, you may drop out at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if you decide that you do not want to participate.

14. WHAT IF I AM INJURED?

The University of Massachusetts does not have a program for compensating subjects for injury or complications related to human subjects research, but the study personnel will assist you in getting treatment

15. SUBJECT STATEMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONSENT

When signing this form I am agreeing to voluntarily enter this study. I have had a chance to read this consent form, and it was explained to me in a language which I use. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have received satisfactory answers. I have been informed that I can withdraw at any time. A copy of this signed Informed Consent Form has been given to me.

I Agree

I Do Not
Agree

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