**Georgetown University**

**Informed Consent**

**To participate in a research study**

**Study Title:** Cognitive Control during second language and trilingual syntactic ambiguity processing

**Principal Investigator: Timothy McCormick Telephone:** 570-351-2694

**Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Cristina Sanz**

**Introduction:**

You’re invited to consider participating in a research study. Please take as much time as you need to make your decision. Feel free to discuss your decision with whomever you want, but remember that ***the decision to participate, or not to participate, is yours***. If you decide that you want to participate, please sign and date where indicated at the end of this form.

If you have any questions, you should ask the researcher who explains this study to you.

**Background and Purpose**

In this study, we are investigating the role that cognitive control has during syntactic processing of the second and/or third languages. With this information, we’ll know more about the relationship between cognitive variables and the acquisition of languages as a child and as an adult. This study will serve as the basis of my doctoral dissertation.

**Study Plan**

You are being asked if you want to participate in this study because you are a native speaker of English who is learning Spanish as a second language and you are currently enrolled in SPAN-021, SPAN-101, SPAN-161 or SPAN-200. Your participation will last between 60 and 90 minutes, and when your data is collected will be according to your availability. The data that is collected during your participation will be used to better understand the relationship between cognition and linguistic processing. Other than your consent and a few autobiographical questions about your language experience, no identifying information will be collected.

At any point, you are free to leave the study. In such cases, we ask that you first talk with the investigator.

**Risks**

There are minimal risks associated with participation in this study, related to the unauthorized disclosure of information. Every effort will be made to avoid any such unauthorized disclosure.

**Benefits**

If you agree to participate in this study, you will not receive any direct benefit. However, the information gathered may help others in the future by improving our understanding of the role of cognition on language learning and processing.

**Confidentiality**

Your name and identifying information will not be used when the data collected during this study is published. Please bear in mind that although your name won’t be used in the publication, the investigator can connect the information gathered about you in this study. Every effort will be made to keep any information collected about you confidential. However, it is impossible to guarantee absolute confidentiality.

To keep your information confidential and protected from any unauthorized disclosure, the data in this study will be stored digitally on the private password-protected computer of the investigator. Only the investigator will have access to the data.

The research team, the Georgetown University Institutional Review Board (IRB), other authorized Georgetown University personnel may request to inspect and/or copy your study records for quality assurance, data analysis and other research related, operational or administrative purposes. That is, to make sure that the study is being carried out properly.

**Payment**

You will not receive any financial compensation for participation, but you will receive 2 points on a mid-semester exam (*prueba*) in exchange for your participation. If you decide to not participate but still wish to receive the 2-point compensation, you may contact the investigator and he will instruct you how you can receive these points by writing a reflection paper that will take roughly the same amount of time as participation in the study.

**Your Rights As A Research Participant**

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary at all times. You can choose not to volunteer your responses at all or to opt out of the study at any point. If you decide to opt out of the inclusion of your responses in the study, there will be no effect on your relationship with the researcher, your teacher or any other negative consequences. However, your continued completion of the task is part of your class participation.

**Questions or concerns?**

You may contact the PI, Timothy McCormick, at 570-351-2694. You may also contact the researcher’s dissertation advisor, Dr. Cristina Sanz at sanzc@georgetown.edu.

Please call the Georgetown University IRB Office at **202-687-1506 (**8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday) if you have any questions about your rights as a research participant.

**Statement of Person Obtaining Informed Consent**

I have fully explained this study to the participant. I have discussed the study’s purpose and procedures, the possible risks and benefits, and that participation is completely voluntary.

I have invited the participant to ask questions and I have given complete answers to all of the participant’s questions.

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Signature of Person Obtaining Informed Consent Date

**Consent of Participant**

I understand all of the information in this Informed Consent Form.

I have gotten complete answers for all of my questions.

I freely and voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

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Participant Signature Date

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Printed Name of Participant

*Once you sign this form, you will receive a copy of it to keep, and the researcher will keep another copy in your research record.*