

**Consent Form**

**Study Title:** Constructing and Testing Hypotheses in Language Learning

**Principal Investigator:** Chigusa Kurumada, Ph.D.

**Co-Investigators:** Andres Buxo-Lugo

**Study Coordinator:** Chigusa Kurumada

**This consent form describes a research study, what you may expect if you decide to take part and important information to help you make your decision. Please read this form carefully.**

This form describes a research study that is being conducted by Principal Investigator Chigusa Kurumada from the University of Rochester's Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

- Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. You are free not to participate or to withdraw at any time, for whatever reason.
- If you choose not to take part, your ability to participate in future studies from this lab on Mechanical Turk will not be changed in any way.

**Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study is to investigate how language users from various age groups and social backgrounds learn, comprehend and produce language.

**Description of Study Procedures**

If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to complete at least 1 experiment using Prolific (<https://www.prolific.co/>). While you may do as many or few experiments as you choose, we may limit your participation in our experiments to a limited number of times (1-3 times) to avoid repeated testing in related trial conditions in our study. Depending on the experiment, your participation could last about 5 to 60

minutes to complete the tasks. Eligibility due to previous participation and expected duration per experiment will be indicated in the Prolific interface.

Each experiment will have audio, visual, or linguistic materials, and will ask questions about those materials. Typically we ask participants to listen to sound clips and/or read instructions and provide linguistic judgments. While most of the tasks constitute multiple-choice questions, participants may also be asked to provide a written paragraph to answer a question. Depending on a type of task, we may ask participants to be in a certain listening condition (e.g., quiet space) and/or to use equipment that aids effective listening of our audio stimuli (e.g., a headset).

### **Number of Subjects**

Approximately **440 subjects will take part in this study per year.**

### **Risks of Participation**

There are minimal risks involved in participation in this study. Occasionally, sitting still can make participants temporarily uncomfortable. We minimize discomfort due to boredom by making our studies engaging as possible. There is no risk of discomfort lasting after the study session.

This study will use Prolific's platform to collect your research data and, therefore, your user information may be used per Prolific's privacy policy.

### **Benefits of Participation**

You will not benefit from being in this research study.

### **Payments**

You will be paid \$0.08 to \$3.00 per HIT via the Prolific interface, with possible bonuses based on choices made during the HIT. No direct payments will be sent from the University of Rochester research team.

### **Confidentiality of Records**

The University of Rochester makes every effort to keep the information collected from you private. To protect the confidentiality of the data, responses will be transmitted in an encrypted format (readable only to the research team). Prolific participant IDs will only be collected for purposes of distributing payments and will not be included with your study responses or the study's data set.

**Contact Persons**

For more information concerning this research or if you feel that your participation has resulted in any emotional or physical discomfort please contact: Dr. Chigusa Kurumada at 585-275-0760 or email [ckuruma2@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:ckuruma2@ur.rochester.edu). Please provide the experiment ID given at the top of the experiment page (starting with ID-).

Please contact the University of Rochester Research Subjects Review Board at 265 Crittenden Blvd., CU 420315, Rochester, NY 14642, Telephone (585) 276-0005 or (877) 449-4441 for the following reasons:

- You wish to talk to someone other than the research staff about your rights as a research subject;
- To voice concerns about the research;
- In the event the study staff could not be reached.

**Voluntary Participation**

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You are free not to take part or to withdraw at any time, for whatever reason. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty or loss of benefit to which you are entitled. In the event that you do withdraw from this study, the information you have already provided will be kept in a confidential manner.