

Consent Form

Consent Form for Participation in Pilot Research for Research Methods Class

Study Title: The Effects of Bilingualism on Attentional Control

Principal Investigators:

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Purpose of this Study

The purpose of this research project is to study how bilingualism affects attentional control in syntactic processing. We want to investigate whether people who are bilingual have more efficient attentional control and cognitive task-switching capabilities. This is a pilot study that will help the Principal Investigators gain skills in conducting research and knowledge about research methods; therefore the data gathered will be analyzed but not published.

Procedures

You will perform a trail-making task by clicking the mouse to form sentences with the words displayed on the screen. Please make your responses as quickly and accurately as possible. You will then complete a post-test and fill out a language background questionnaire.

Duration and Location

This experiment takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. This research study will be performed in the Psychology Department computer laboratory on Carnegie Mellon University's main campus.

Participant Requirements

Participants in this study must have normal or corrected-to-normal vision.

Risks

The risks and discomfort associated with participation in this study are no greater than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests. During the experiment, you may feel tired of sitting or concentrating, in which case you may take self-paced breaks.

Benefits

There may be no personal benefit from your participation in the study but the knowledge received may be of educational value to the principal investigator with regard to methods of conducting psychological research.

Compensation & Costs

Participation in this study is completely voluntary.
There will be no cost to participate in this study.

Confidentiality

By participating in the study, you understand and agree that the experimenters may be required to disclose your consent form, data and other personally identifiable information as required by law, regulation, subpoena or court order. Otherwise, your confidentiality will be maintained in the following manner:

Your consent form will be stored in the principal investigators' files and will not be disclosed to anyone other than the experimenters. By participating, you understand and agree that the experimental data and information gathered during this study may be disclosed to others inside and outside of Carnegie Mellon for educational purposes. However, your name, address, contact information and other direct personal identifiers in your consent form will not be disclosed at any time.

The researchers will take the following steps to protect participants' identities during this study: (1) Each participant will be assigned an electronic code; (2) The researchers will record any data collected during the study by this code, not by name; (3) Original data files will only be stored on the experimenter's personal machine.

Rights

Your participation is voluntary. You are free to stop your participation at any point. Refusal to participate or withdrawal of your consent or discontinued participation in the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits or rights to which you might otherwise be entitled. The Principal Investigators may at his/her discretion remove you from the study for any of a number of reasons. In such an event, you will not suffer any penalty or loss of benefits or rights to which you might otherwise be entitled.

Right to Ask Questions & Contact Information

If you have any questions about this study, you should feel free to ask them now. If you have questions later, desire additional information, or wish to withdraw your participation please contact the one of the Principle Investigators by mail, phone or e-mail in accordance with the contact information listed on the first page of this consent. You may have a copy of this consent form for your own records.

Voluntary Consent

By signing below, you agree that the above information has been explained to you and all your current questions have been answered. You understand that you may ask questions about any aspect of this research study during the course of the study and in the future. By signing this form, you agree to participate in this research study.

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE

DATE

I certify that I have explained the nature and purpose of this research study to the above individual and I have discussed the potential benefits and possible risks of participation in the study. Any questions the individual has about this study have been answered and any future questions will be answered as they arise.

SIGNATURE OF PERSON OBTAINING CONSENT

DATE