

## Participant Information Sheet

### *The Role of Chronological, Biological and Social Age in Speech Production*

For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit our webpage:

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection)

I am a PhD student from Lancaster University Department of Linguistics: I would like to invite you to take part in a research study about how age effects speech production in adults.

Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not you wish to take part.

#### **What is the study about?**

The purpose of this study is to analyse the speech of adults and investigate the changes we may see in individuals of the same chronological age.

#### **Why have I been invited?**

We have approached you to take part in this study as we are collecting data from speakers aged 16-90 years and/or you have expressed interest at an earlier time.

#### **What will I be asked to do if I take part?**

If you decide you would like to take part, you will be asked to 1. answer a short questionnaire, 2. complete three short tasks testing cognitive control, motor control, and memory, 3. read out loud from a word list and reading passage whilst being recorded, create a story from a picture book, 4. complete a short recorded interview. The whole experiment should take around 45 minutes to an hour.

#### **What are the possible benefits from taking part?**

You will be contributing to the wider research aiming to understand human ageing in speech production and hopefully have fun doing it.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

No. It's completely up to you to decide whether or not you take part. Your participation is voluntary.

#### **What if I change my mind?**

If you change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time during your participation in this study. If you want to withdraw, please let me know, and I will extract the recordings you contributed to the study and delete them. However, it is difficult and often impossible to take out data from one specific participant when this has already been anonymised or

pooled together with other people's data. Therefore, you can only withdraw up to 6 weeks after taking part in the study. You are also able to remove yourself from some tasks whilst remaining in others if you wish, please specify this on the day or up to 6 weeks after participation.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There are no risks anticipated with participating in this study, though if you feel uncomfortable at any point you are welcome to have a break or to stop the study entirely.

### **Will my data be identifiable?**

After the recording session, only the research team conducting this study will have access to the data. We will keep all personal information about you (e.g. your name and other information about you that can identify you) confidential, that is we will not share it with others. All reasonable steps will be taken to protect the anonymity of the participants involved in this project.

### **How will we use the information you have shared with us and what will happen to the results of the research study?**

We will analyse the recordings to look at how age may effect speech production. The results will be summarised and reported in presentations or presented at academic conferences, and submitted for publication in an academic journal.

Individual words may be played out in presentations but all measures will be taken to ensure anonymity for participants of this study.

### **How my data will be stored**

Your data will be stored in encrypted files (that is no-one other than the research team will be able to access them) on password-protected computers, and on encrypted cloud storage. We will digitise your responses the questionnaire. In accordance with University guidelines, I will keep the data securely for a minimum of ten years. The recorded data will be kept indefinitely as we might use them in future research projects.

### **What if I have a question of concern?**

If you have any queries or if you are unhappy with anything that happens concerning your participation in the study, please contact myself, Seren Parkman:

Seren Parkman

[s.parkman@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.parkman@lancaster.ac.uk)

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If you have any other queries and concerns and would rather not talk to myself about the project you can also contact my supervisors:

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If you have any concerns or complaints that you wish to discuss with a person who is not directly involved in the research, you can also contact Jonathan Culpeper, our Head of Department:

Dr Jonathan Culpeper  
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If you have any further concerns regarding your health or the topics brought up from the experiment please contact:

NHS Age UK Line: 0800 678 1602

Age UK Silver Lime Helpline: 0800 470 80 90

Mind Info Line: 0300 123 3393

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Lancaster Management School's Research Ethics Committee.

**Thank you for considering your participation in this project.**