

CONSENT FORM

TITLE:

Collection and recording of American English spoken by its native speakers for CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) system development

INVESTIGATOR(S):

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SPONSOR:

All the payment shall be done by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

PURPOSE:

We are developing computer systems that help non-native speakers of English speak English better. To realize the system, a large amount of speech samples are required, half of which are spoken by learners (Japanese students) and the other half of which are spoken by native speakers of American English. You have been invited to participate in this research study as a model speaker of American English.

PROCEDURES:

The procedure includes two parts, and takes about two hours apart from waiting time and/or breaks between recording sessions. First, the subject is asked to read words in a given word set. After that, he/she is asked to read sentences in a given sentence set. All the words and sentences read by the subject are recorded. The amount of recording is approximately 500 words and 400 sentences. In the sheets of words and sentences, several instructions are given, which you should follow. You have to check the entire documents before the recording. For a part of the sentences, the subject is recommended to listen to one model (reference) speaker of American English before the recording, whose speech samples were recorded for educational use and prepared as examples for the subject.

SUBJECTS:

Adults whose native language is English and who speak General American, often called GA, will participate. The subjects will be trained in phonetics, linguistics, speech pathology, ESL (English as a second language), or related field. The total number of subjects is 40, 20 male subjects and 20 female subjects. The age range is 20 years or above. The conditions of subjects and the total number may be changed according to subject availability.

RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS:

This procedure is completely risk free. Some of the sentences and words are given with phonetic symbols and/or prosodic symbols which you have to follow while reading the sentences and words. The phonetic symbols are assigned mainly because some words are very rare and you may read the words without knowing how to pronounce them correctly. If you know well every word in the recording sheet, you can ignore the phonetic symbols. As for the prosodic symbols, it is easily assumed that most of the subjects have not had to do this kind of prosodically forced utterance. To facilitate the utterance, audio presentation of an example utterance is done for each sentence and the subject will mimic the model speaker.

BENEFITS:

You may or may not personally benefit from participating in this study. By serving as a subject, you may contribute new scientific findings that may benefit Japanese learners of American English in the near future.

ALTERNATIVES:

You may choose not to participate in this study. Participation is strictly voluntary. Participation in the study is not a prerequisite for any educational program, treatment, or anything else that you may or may not receive in Japan.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

No information concerning your identity such as name, social security number, etc. is to be transmitted outside the research project. What is transmitted outside is your speech and information on your gender and age. Your speech samples shall be used only for academic purposes not for commercial purposes. Neither your name nor your identity will be used for publication or publicity purposes.

COSTS:

There is no cost associated with this procedure for you. You will receive 5,000 yen as compensation for participating in this study.

PARTICIPATION:

Prof. Nobuaki MINEMATSU, (+81-3-5841-6662), has offered to answer any other questions you may have about this study. You may refuse to participate, or you may withdraw from this study at any time without affecting your relationship with any organizations in Japan.

You are entitled to leave the study before the session ends, but you will not get paid. You will be given a copy of your signed consent.

Your signature below indicates that you have read the foregoing and agree to participate in this study.

Participant name	Participant signature	Date
Witness name	Witness signature	Date
Investigator name	Investigator signature	Date