



UNIVERSITY
of York

DEPARTMENT OF
LANGUAGE AND
LINGUISTIC SCIENCE

Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK

Phone number: 01904 322657

Email: sam.hellmuth.ac.uk

INFORMATION SHEET

PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION SHEET AND A SIGNED COPY OF THE CONSENT FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. If there is anything you do not understand, or if you want more information, please ask the researcher.

The identification of British accents using prosodic features

Researchers: Dr Carmen Llamas and Dr Sam Hellmuth

What is the research about?

In this project we will be recording short conversations with people living in different areas of the UK. The aim of the research is to look at listeners' ability to identify British accents based on the 'tune' of the accent, i.e. features such as pitch, intonation and rhythm. To do this we will be recording samples of speech from speakers of different regional accents. These samples will then be used in a listening experiment to see if listeners can identify the accent.

Who is carrying out the research?

The research is being led by Dr Carmen Llamas and Dr Sam Hellmuth, who are based at the University of York.

Why have you been chosen to participate?

You have been asked to take part because you are native speaker of a particular British English accent, and have been brought up in and are a resident of that area.

What does the study involve?

Taking part in the study involves a conversation with another participant and one of the researchers. During the session we will ask you to read aloud a reading passage and some sentences, and we will ask you some general questions as part of an informal conversation. You will also be asked to look at a fictional map and ask/give directions to the other participant. The whole session will be recorded on a digital recorder and should last approximately 45-60 minutes.

Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part in the study. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign two copies of the consent form (one copy is for you to keep). If you decide to take part you will still be free to withdraw without giving a reason, even during the session itself. If you withdraw from the study, we will destroy your data and will not use it in any way.

What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?

We hope that you will find the whole experience of participating in the study interesting. The study only involves talking to another participant (who may be a friend) and a qualified professional researcher who, with your consent, will visit you in your home. Alternative arrangements can be made if you would prefer the session to take place elsewhere.

What will happen to the data I provide?

The data you provide will be used alongside the data of other participants to study regional accents and how easily they are identified by different listeners. Your data will be stored securely in the University of York, Department of Language and Linguistic Science.

What about confidentiality?

Your identity will be kept strictly confidential. No real names will be used in any presentations or publications.

*This study has been reviewed and approved by the Departmental Ethics Committee of the Department of Language and Linguistic Science at the University of York. If you have any questions regarding this, you can contact the chair of the L&LS Ethics Committee, Eytan Zweig (**email:** eytan.zweig@york.ac.uk; **Tel:** (01904) 322671).*

If you have further questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact:

Sam Hellmuth
Department of Language and Linguistic Science
University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD
tel: (01904) 322657
email: sam.hellmuth@york.ac.uk