**CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN**

**NON-BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**

Experimentally Investigating the Predictions of Linguistic Theory

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted under Professor Athulya Aravind, Ph.D., from the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) You were selected as a possible participant in this study because a Native speaker of a certain language and over 18 years of age. You will be participating in one of the experiments listed below. A research assistant will tell you which one. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

** PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to choose whether to be in it or not. If you choose to be in this study, you may then withdraw from it at any time without penalty or consequences of any kind. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

** PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

This study investigates how people use and learn language.

** PROCEDURES**

If you volunteer to participate in this study, we may ask you to provide demographic information on an anonymous form. This demographic information may include your age, gender, sexual orientation and/or native language. You are free to skip any or all of these questions. Next we will ask you to do one or more of the following things:

*1. Forced Choice Task*

You will be seated in front of a computer screen with or without headphones. You will be hearing sentences or words of your Native, a foreign or an artificial language and/or seeing pictures or movies of animals, plants, shapes, people, buildings or all of the above. You will then be asked to choose from a certain number of responses via a keyboard or button box to questions about the sentences or words you heard. The complete experiment will take anywhere between 30-60 minutes. Your responses and reaction times will be recorded and analyzed.

*2. Speech Production*

You will be seated in front of a computer screen in the sound attenuated booth with or without headphones. You will be exposed to sentences and/or words of your Native, a foreign or an Artificial language via prompt on the computer screen, via a list of words or sentences on a piece of paper or via headphones. You will then be asked to either i) read sentences and/or words of your Native, a foreign or an artificial language or ii) complete sentences of your Native, a foreign or an artificial language according to explicit instructions about the words you should use or according to your own judgment. The complete experiment will take anywhere from 30-60 minutes. Your productions will be recorded and analyzed. Your production session may be video-recorded if necessary for analysis.

*3. Questionnaires*

You will be seated asked to read sentences or texts in your Native language from a questionnaire and rate these sentences or texts for acceptability on a 7 point scale. You may also be asked to answer content questions about the sentences you have read. The complete experiment will take anywhere between 10 and 30 minutes. Questionnaires will be collected and analyzed.

*4. Self-paced listening and reading*

You will be seated in front of a computer screen with or without headphones. You will be asked to read or listen to sentences or texts word-by-word or section-by-section; you will be instructed to press the space bar of the computer's keyboard to see or hear each subsequent word or section. After reading the sentence/text, you will see one or more questions about the content of what they have read or heard. Usually, you will receive feedback as to whether you answered correctly. The complete experiment takes anywhere between 30 and 60 minutes. Responses and reaction times will be recorded and analyzed.

*5. General Elicitation*

You will be asked to provide a multitude of information about your Native language. This may among other things include translations of English sentences, acceptability judgments for words and sentences and intuitions about the your language. The complete experiment may take up to 3 hours. The experimenter's notes will be analyzed. Your elicitation session may be video recorded if necessary for analysis.

*6. Eye-tracking*

You will be asked to perform one of the tasks described in 1, 2, and 4. While you are performing these tasks your eye-movements will be recorded using a desktop mounted eye-tracker. The eye-tracker records your eye-movements and can be used in one of two ways: 1. You will be asked to rest your head on a chin-rest positioned in front of a computer screen in order to minimize your head-movements during recording. This setting will be mainly used for reading tasks. 2. You will be seated in from of a computer screen without any assistance to minimize their head movements ("head free") and asked to perform one of the tasks described in paragraphs 1, 2, and 4.

** POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS**

There are no potential risks or discomforts associated with participating in this study.

** POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

You will not directly benefit from your participation in the research. However, the results of the research may help researchers understand how people learn and use language. There is no payment for participation in this study.

** CONFIDENTIALITY**

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

Confidentiality will be maintained by identifying your data, including audio/video recordings, only by a code that is linked to information about your age, sex, sexual orientation, and native language (if you decide to supply that information), but not your name or other identifying information.

Data you supply will be coded numerically. The data you supply may be referenced and used in scientific conference presentation and scientific journal articles as well as informal presentations in an academic setting. Anonymized data may be shared with collaborating universities.

** IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATORS**

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact

**Athulya Aravind**

*Principal Investigator*

Contact: aravind@mit.edu, 617-253-3221

Assistant Professor

Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, MIT

** EMERGENCY CARE AND COMPENSATION FOR INJURY**

If you feel you have suffered an injury, which may include emotional trauma, as a result of participating in this study, please contact the person in charge of the study as soon as possible.

In the event you suffer such an injury, M.I.T. may provide itself, or arrange for the provision of, emergency transport or medical treatment, including emergency treatment and follow-up care, as needed, or reimbursement for such medical services. M.I.T. does not provide any other form of compensation for injury. In any case, neither the offer to provide medical assistance, nor the actual provision of medical services shall be considered an admission of fault or acceptance of liability. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to MIT’s Insurance Office, (617) 253-2823. Your insurance carrier may be billed for the cost of emergency transport or medical treatment, if such services are determined not to be directly related to your participation in this study.

** RIGHTS OF RESEARCH SUBJECTS**

You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, or you have questions regarding your rights as a research subject, you may contact the Chairman of the Committee on the Use of Humans as Experimental Subjects, M.I.T., Room E25-143B, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139, phone 1-617-253 6787.

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| **SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH SUBJECT OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE** |

I understand the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

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Name of Subject

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Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)

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Signature of Subject or Legal Representative Date

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| **SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR** |

In my judgment the subject is voluntarily and knowingly giving informed consent and possesses the legal capacity to give informed consent to participate in this research study.

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Signature of Investigator Date