

**INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT**  
**UCU English Accents Study**

You are invited to participate in a research study in which you will be asked to provide recordings of your speech. These recordings will be used for linguistic research and technology development. The purpose of this project is to improve our understanding of human speech communication, and of the factors that play a role in spoken language communication in a multi-language environment.

**INFORMATION**

To help us in this task, we will ask you to participate in a recording session, and fill out a short questionnaire at the end of the recording session. During the recording session, you will read out aloud several sets of English sentences, as well as two longer English texts. In addition you are requested to talk spontaneously in English about an informal topic (favorite book, recent trip, etc.) and about a formal topic (school/course paper, political issue, etc.). You are free to choose these topics yourself. If your native language is not English, then we will also ask you to talk spontaneously about the same chosen topics in your own native language. Your speech will be picked up by an array of microphones, one of these being a close-talking microphone that you wear on your head. Your speech will be recorded digitally.

After the audio recordings, a short questionnaire may be presented, asking for your sex, date of birth, language background, English-language education, and musical background. In addition, the sensitivity of your hearing may be tested with a pure tone audiometer. The entire test session is expected to last approximately 45 minutes. In the future, we will invite you to participate in similar follow-up recording sessions. We plan to collect 5 of these recording sessions over the course of your study at UCU.

Up to approximately 300 subjects will be participating in this research. Information gathered from your session will be grouped with information gathered from other subjects, to provide observations regarding spoken language communication in a multi-language environment, and the characteristics of the speech produced under these circumstances.

**RISKS**

Your speech will be recorded during the session. You will read the sentences and texts to be spoken from print. No available scientific evidence suggests that there are any risks or discomfort that could result from these practices.

**BENEFITS**

Results of this study will contribute to our scientific understanding of human language communication in a multi-language environment, and of the key factors affecting such spoken language communication. You will gain first-hand experience as a participant in a study on human behaviour.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The data and recordings obtained in this study will be treated as confidential information and will be stored securely in a laboratory at University College Utrecht. Your name will not

be used in reports or publications. Audio recordings and questionnaire data will be kept secure for at least 5 years after completion. They will not be used for your academic assessment, grading, or evaluation.

Copies of the recordings may be distributed anonymously to individuals and organizations engaged in linguistic research, education, and technology development. This 'data-sharing' leads to more accurate scientific results and faster progress towards research goals. Individuals and organizations that receive session recordings or transcripts will first agree to use these resources only for linguistic education, research and technology development purposes. Personal identifying information will not be distributed to individuals or organizations receiving the data. Short fragments of recordings of your speech may be used anonymously for the purpose of exemplifying speech characteristics in a multi-language environment, in academic conferences and/or in electronic reports of this study.

### **COMPENSATION**

For participating in this research project, you will receive €10 per test session. If, for any reason, you feel that you are unable to continue with the experiment, you may withdraw at any time without penalty. If you withdraw within 30 minutes, you will receive €3; if you withdraw after 30 minutes you will receive €8. If you also complete all follow-up recording sessions, you will receive a bonus of €10 after the last recording session.

### **CONTACT**

If you have any questions at any time about the study or the procedures, you may contact the principal researcher, Rosemary Orr, at [r.orr@uu.nl](mailto:r.orr@uu.nl) (University College Utrecht, Voltaire Ff, PO Box 80145, 3508 TC Utrecht).

### **PARTICIPATION**

Your participation in this study is voluntary; you may decline to participate without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you decide to participate, you may discontinue participation at anytime without penalty, or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you withdraw from the research project before data collection is completed, your data will be used if they are complete enough to be of scientific value.

### **CONSENT**

I have read and understand the above information for the study on "UCU English Accents". I have received a copy of this form. I agree to participate in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator Signature