

Plain Language Statement - Participant

School of Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Arts

Project: Learning to think and talk about events



Project Supervisor: Dr Rebecca Defina

Tel: +61 428 161 495 Email: rebecca.defina@unimelb.edu.au

Additional Researchers:

Dr Peter Hurst

Email: pthurst@unimelb.edu.au

Ruby Mineur

Email: r.mineur@unimelb.edu.au

Dr Viviana Sastre Gomez

Email: v.sastregomez@unimelb.edu.au

Umatji Tjitayi

Email: umatjitjitayi424@gmail.com

Introduction

Here is some information about the project so you can decide if you want to be in it or not. You can ask questions about anything if you don't understand or want to know more.

What is this research about?

The way people divide events up into pieces is very important for how they understand them, remember them, and plan for them. People who speak different languages structure their stories in different ways with different ways of dividing up events. This research is trying to better understand how kids learn to structure events and tell stories in English and Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara. Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara are Indigenous languages spoken in central Australia.

We will be asking adults and kids (3- to 11-years-old) whose main language is English or Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara to tell us their versions of the same set of stories. We will compare the different ways these stories are organised across ages and languages.

What will I be asked to do?

If you want to be in this project, you will be asked to look through some sets of pictures on a computer screen. Each set of pictures tells a story. After each set of pictures, you will be asked to tell the story of what happened. The stories will be recorded with a microphone and video camera.

People aged 5 years and over will also be asked to watch videos of these same stories and press a button to mark how you think the story should be broken up into pieces.

The videos are all from G rated kids' shows, for instance one video shows a cartoon mouse breaking open a large spiky nut and eating it. None of the videos contain words.

The work should take less than one hour. There are regular breaks and you can always take extra breaks if you want.

What are the possible benefits?

You will receive a thank you gift for your work helping with the research. You will be given \$50. Kids can also choose a small gift to take home.

If we understand more about the differences between Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and English stories and how kids learn to tell them, we can help more kids with their language learning. There are not nearly as many books and stories written in Pitjantjatjara or Yankunytjatjara as there are in English and most of the teaching at Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara schools is done in English or in English ways. We will work with Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara teachers to help other teachers learn more about the differences between Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara and English stories. We will also make more books with stories written in Pitjantjatjara or Yankunytjatjara and organised in Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara ways to help Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara kids to learn to read and write and tell good Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara stories.

This research will give us a better understanding of how people learn to organise events across different languages. Research on event structures is becoming more and more important for studies of perception, memory, eyewitness accounts, support for people living with dementia and many other areas. What we learn in this project will help researchers around the world to make event structure research more helpful for more different peoples.

What are the possible risks?

You might get tired during the experiment. We will take breaks, and you can take more breaks if you want. If you get too tired, you can stop.

The recording of your personal information might be seen by other people who are not part of the research team. We will do our best to make sure this doesn't happen. We will store your data safely with passwords so that only we can open it. We will also not use your name. We will give each person a number and keep a separate list showing those numbers and the person's name so we can find your data if we need to.

Do I have to take part?

No. You don't have to be in this project. And if you say you want to be in the project but then change your mind, that is ok. You can stop anytime you want.

If you have already started the experiment, you cannot come back later to do it again. You will still get your thank you gift, even if you don't finish. If we haven't already used your data, you can ask us to give the data back and not use it.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

The results of the project will be available on our website <https://rebeccadefina.com/learning-events/>. You can also subscribe through the website if you want to be told when we post new information.

We will come back to the APY to talk about what we learnt at community meetings.

What will happen to information about me?

All the information that you share with us, including the recordings, stay **your** data. We can give you a USB with a copy of the recordings for you to keep if you would like. You can contact us at any time and ask for these recordings. You can also tell us (or AIATSIS) later if you change your mind about who you want to be able to see the recordings. You are the boss of your information and of the recordings that you are in.

Any information about yourself that you give will be kept private in password protected folders. Your real name won't be used in notes or reports or presentations. We will ask about the languages you know and your age and gender and we will use this to give general information about the participants such as "We worked with 30 adults, 16 were women". We won't use any information that you don't want us to.

We will use what we learn about you for our jobs at the University of Melbourne. We will write about how English and Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara speakers learn to talk about and structure stories in books and articles, and we will talk to people about what we learn in workshops and conferences.

We will listen to the recordings and write the stories down to help us understand.

After this project we might use these recordings and stories for a different project, but only if you say that's ok. We would use the recordings for research on how kids learn to speak Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara and English and structure stories; nothing else.

The recordings and written stories will be kept safe and private at the University of Melbourne for 30 years. If you say it's ok, a copy will also be kept safe and private at the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Archive centre in Canberra. They are experts at keeping things safe and available to people who should be allowed to see them, and only to those people. Putting the stories in the archive will mean people are always able to hear how kids speak Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara and English in the future. But you can decide who is allowed to see/listen to your recordings. For instance, you can say only family can see the recordings, or only specific people that you name.

Who is funding this project?

The Australian Research Council is paying for this project ARC DE220100073 \$447,768.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, you can ask Rebecca Defina 0428 161 495 or Rebecca.Defina@unimelb.edu.au.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne 32113. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.