

Plain Language Statement - Caregiver

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 your kid 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 your kid to be in this project, they 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, they 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 your kid can always take extra breaks if they want.

What are the possible benefits?

Your family will receive a thank you gift for your kid's work helping with the research. You, the caregiver, 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?

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

The recording of your kid's 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 kid's data safely with passwords so that only we can open it. We will also not use your or your kid's 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 kid's data if we need to.

Do I have to take part?

No. Your kid does not have to be in this project. And if you say you want them to be in the project but then you or they change your mind, that is ok. You can stop anytime you want.

If they have already started the experiment, they cannot come back later to do it again. You will still get your thank you gifts, even if they don't finish. If we haven't already used your kid's 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 and your kid 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 or your kid can contact us at any time and ask for these recordings. You or your kid can also tell us (or AIATSIS) later if you change your mind about who you want to be able to see the recordings. You and your kid are the boss of your information and recordings.

Any information about yourself or your kid that you give will be kept private in password protected folders. Your kid's real name won't be used in notes or reports or presentations. We will ask about the languages your kid knows, their age, and gender and we will use this to give general information about the participants such as "We worked with 30 5-7-year-olds (average age 6.2), 16 were women". We won't use any information that you don't want us to.

We will use what we learn about your kid 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.