Communicative Abilities and Experiences of Young Adults
with or without Language Impairment

Elin T. Thordardottir, Ph.D., Associate Professor
School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, McGill University

France Beauregard, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Faculté de l’Éducation, Université de Sherbrooke et chercheuse responsable au CRIR-IRD

Consent Form

Introduction

We are asking you to participate in a research project whose objectives are to examine of the communicative experiences of young adults with and without identified language and communicative impairments, specifically within contexts encountered in the shopping mall. Before agreeing to participate in this project, please take the time to read and carefully consider the following information.

This consent form explains the aim of this study, the procedures, advantages, risks and inconvenience as well as the person to contact, if necessary.

This consent form may contain words that you do not understand. We invite you to ask any question to the researchers and the other members of the staff assigned to the research project and ask them to explain any word or information which is not clear to you.

Description of the study and its purpose

A great deal of research has been undertaken to better understand the underlying causes of Language Impairment and on methods to accurately identify it. Most of this research has focused on young children in order to facilitate early identification and intervention. Relatively much less research has focused on the impact of language impairment in school-age and beyond. Language Impairment has important and persisting effects not only on academic performance, but on many other life situations, which we are only starting to understand. In spite of growing interest in this area, our knowledge of the nature of residual developmental language impairment in adolescence and young adulthood and how the specific language difficulties that remain may affect functioning in various aspects of life is limited. More research is needed not only on the impacts of language impairment on various facets of life, but also on the status of basic language and communications skills in young adults.

The proposed project is a preliminary investigation of the communicative experiences of young adults with or without identified language and communicative impairments, specifically within contexts encountered in the shopping mall.
Nature and duration of participation

Your participation in this project consists of a 2 hour meeting involving the following:

1) An individual interview consisting of general questions about your experiences in academic and social aspects as well as communicative situations within the mall settings.

2) Participation in direct testing of language and cognitive skills.

The interview may be conducted at your school, at McGill University, at Institut Raymond-Dewar or elsewhere, at a place of your convenience.

The interview and formal testing will be audio recorded for scoring purposes. The tapes will be used for research purposes only and will not be shown publicly.

Risks and benefits

You may not personally benefit from taking part in this study. However, you will be making a contribution to the advancement of science in the field of language impairment in adults.

Confidentiality

All personal information and opinions gathered during the study will be kept confidential. Only the members of the research team will have access to the data. These data will be kept under lock and key at the Institut Raymond-Dewar Rehabilitation Centre for a period of five years following the end of the study, after which they will be destroyed. In the event that the results of this study are presented or published, no information identifying the participants will be included.

Questions concerning the study

If you have any questions about the content of this research project, please feel free to contact the researchers. It will be their pleasure to answer to the best of their abilities.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal of the participation

Your participation in the research study described above is completely voluntary. It is understood that you can, at any time, put an end to your participation without any consequences for you. Please note that in case of withdrawal on your part, the audio and written documents concerning you will be destroyed, if that is your decision. The participants who request results of their language and cognitive tests and intervention outcomes will be provided a written report of those.

Responsibility clause

While agreeing to participate in this study, you do not give up any of your legal rights nor release the researchers or institutions involved of their legal and professional obligations.
Compensation

You will receive $30 (thirty) for your participation in this study.

Contact Information

For any questions which may arise at any time during the project regarding the scientific aspects of the study and scheduling, please contact the research assistant, Nicole Wild (514-398-6673, nicole.wild@mail.mcgill.ca) or the Principal Investigator, Dr. Elin Thordardottir (514-398-5356, elin.thordardottir@mcgill.ca).

If you have any questions about your rights and responsibilities, or your participation in this research study, you can contact M. Anik Nolet, Research Ethics Co-ordinator for the CRIR Institutions at (514) 527-4527 # 2649 or by email anolet.crir@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

This project was also approved by the Research Ethics Committee, Éducation et sciences sociales, Université de Sherbrooke. If you have any questions about your rights and responsibilities, or your participation in this research study, you can contact M. Eric Yergeau, chair of the Committee at (819) 821-8000 poste 62644, or by email ethique.ess@usherbrooke.ca.

Signature

I state that I have read this consent form. I understand this study, the nature and extent of my participation, as well as the benefits and risks/inconveniences to which I will be exposed as presented in this form. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions concerning any aspects of the study and have received answers to my satisfaction.

I, the undersigned, voluntary agree to take part in this study. I can withdraw from the study at any time without prejudice of any kind. I certify that I have had sufficient time to consider my decision to participate in this study.

A signed copy of this consent form will be given to me.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT
______________________________________
(print)

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT
______________________________________

Signed at __________________________, the _________________________, 20________.
Responsibility of the principal investigator

I, the undersigned, ____________________________, certify (print)

(a) having explained to the research participant the terms of this form
(b) having answered all the questions he/she has asked in this regard
(c) having clearly indicated that he/she remains free, at any time, to end his/her participation in the above described research study
(d) that I will give him/her a signed and dated copy of this form.

________________________________________
Signature of the Principal Investigator or representative

Signed at ___________________________, the _________________, 20_____.
