

## **AMAZON MECHANICAL TURK INFORMATION SHEET**

### **The MegaAttitude Project: Investigating selection at the scale of the lexicon**

**Principal Investigator: Aaron Steven White**

This form describes a research study that is being conducted by Aaron Steven White from the University of Rochester's Department of Linguistics.

The purpose of this study is to better understand how humans understand language.

#### **If you decide to take part in this study:**

- You will be asked to silently read sentences or phrases or to listen to sentences or phrases over headphones.
- The tasks will ask you to evaluate and answer questions about the sentences or phrases by pushing response buttons on a computer – for example, “Is this a natural sentence of English?” – or by typing in a response or to recall a sentence you have read by retyping that sentence or a paraphrase of it.
- Your participation in this study will last for 2-20 minutes, depending on the particular task.

About 24,000 subjects will take part in this study over a six year period.

The risks of participation are minimal. Some of the questions may make you feel uncomfortable. You can skip any of the questions you do not want to answer by returning the HIT. As with any MTurk HITs, your “Worker” rating will be affected if the HITs are not completed appropriately for this platform. In addition, the researchers will review survey information for appropriate responses and decide whether to approve or reject the submission. If your survey is rejected, your “Worker” rating will be affected and your information will not be used for this study.

This study will use Amazon's MTurk platform to collect your research data and, therefore, your user information may be used per Amazon's privacy policy.

There are no expected benefits.

The University of Rochester is receiving payment from the National Science Foundation for conducting this research study.

Payment will be approximately \$8.0 per hour. For instance, if pilot data indicates that a HITs in a batch take 15 minutes on average, you would be paid \$2 per HIT. No direct payments will be sent from the University of Rochester research team.

The University of Rochester makes every effort to keep the information collected from you private. To protect the confidentiality of the data, responses will be transmitted in an encrypted format (readable only to the research team). MTurk worker IDs will only be collected for purposes of distributing payments and will not be included with your study responses or the study's data set. The study's data set will be distributed for use by researchers other than those on the research team.

Transmitting your information by e-mail has a number of risks that you should consider. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) E-mail can be circulated, forwarded, stored electronically and on paper, and broadcast to unintended recipients.
- b) E-mail senders can easily misaddress an e-mail.
- c) Backup copies of e-mail may exist even after the sender or the recipient has deleted his or her copy.
- d) Employers and on-line services have a right to inspect e-mail transmitted through their systems.
- e) E-mail can be intercepted, altered, forwarded, or used without authorization or detection.

E-mail can be used to introduce viruses into computer systems.

### **Conditions for the Use of E-mail**

The researcher cannot guarantee but will use reasonable means to maintain security and confidentiality of e-mail information sent and received. You and researcher must consent to the following conditions:

- a) E-mail is not appropriate for urgent or emergency situations. The researcher cannot guarantee that any particular e-mail will be read and responded to.
- b) E-mail must be concise. You should schedule an appointment if the issue is too complex or sensitive to discuss via e-mail.
- c) E-mail communications between you and the researcher will be filed in your research record.
- d) Your messages may also be delegated to any member of the study team for response.
- e) The researcher will not forward subject-identifiable e-mails outside of URMC and Affiliates without your prior written consent, except as authorized or required by law.
- f) You should not use e-mail for communication regarding sensitive medical information.
- g) It is your responsibility to follow up and/or schedule an appointment if warranted.

### **E-Mail Instructions**

- a) Avoid use of your employer's computer.
- b) Put your name in the body of the e-mail.
- c) Put the topic (e.g., study question) in the subject line.
- d) Inform the researcher of changes in your e-mail address.
- e) Take precautions to preserve the confidentiality of e-mail.

Contact the researcher's office via conventional communication methods (phone, fax, etc.) if you do not receive a reply within a reasonable period of time.

**Your participation in this study is completely voluntary.** You are free not to participate or to withdraw at any time, for whatever reason.

For more information or questions about this research you may contact the Aaron Steven White at (585) 275-8053 and [aaron.white@rochester.edu](mailto:aaron.white@rochester.edu) Please contact the University of Rochester Research Subjects Review Board at 265 Crittenden Blvd., CU 420628, Rochester, NY 14642, Telephone (585) 276-0005 or (877) 449-4441 for the following reasons:

- You wish to talk to someone other than the research staff about your rights as a research subject;
- To voice concerns about the research.