

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Project Title: Communicating with gesture

Principal Investigator: Dr. Marieke Schouwstra

Investigator contact details: Marieke.Schouwstra@ed.ac.uk

What is the purpose of the project?

We are investigating how people convey information about simple events to each other using gesture.

What will I have to do?

You will do the experiment with a partner, as a pair. You will be seated opposite each other, and will take turns to be the actor (gesturing for your partner) and as the interpreter (interpreting your partner's gestures).

For the trials in which you are the actor, you will see a picture of a simple event and you will try to describe that picture to your partner, using only gesture and no speech.

For the trials in which you are an interpreter, you will watch the actor gesturing, and select from a set of 8 pictures you think the actor was gesturing about.

The roles of actor and interpreter are alternated each trial. The experiment will last 5 rounds, and in each round you communicate with your partner about 32 pictures in total. Your goal is to communicate as fast as you can, but you will get penalty seconds for wrong answers. After each round, we will give you a short break, and tell you how quick you and your partner were. We will record both participants on video and use the video materials to analyse the results.

Can I do this experiment?

You are only eligible to participate in this experiment if you are **right-handed** and **don't know a sign language**. Please tell the experimenter now if you aren't eligible. Also, if you don't want to be video-recorded, please let us know now – you are completely free to withdraw at any time without prejudice.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please ask the experimenter now.

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Project Title: Communicating with gesture

Principal Investigator: Dr. Marieke Schouwstra

Participant Number: _____

*please tick
where applicable*

- I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet.

- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study, and if I asked any questions I have received satisfactory answers.

- I understand I am free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason for withdrawing, and without prejudice.

- I consent to video recording of my face and upper body during the experiment.

- I agree that these recordings may be kept permanently in the Linguistics & English Language archives, and that they may be used by the Principal Investigator and colleagues for research purposes, in research-related presentations and publications. My name will not be revealed under any circumstances.

- I agree that these recordings may be made publicly available (e.g. via the world-wide web), if required e.g. for publication of the research. My name will not be revealed under any circumstances.

- I would like to receive feedback on the overall results of the study at the email address given below. I understand that I will not receive individual feedback on my own performance.

Email address.....

Signature of participant..... Date.....

(NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS).....

Age (in years)

Sex (male/female)

PARTICIPANT DEBRIEF

Project Title: Communicating with gesture

Principal Investigator: Dr. Marieke Schouwstra

Email: Marieke.Schouwstra@ed.ac.uk

Participant Number: _____

What was the purpose of the project?

We are interested in how people communicate with gesture, but also how gestural communication systems change over time. The pictures that were used in this experiment represent two kinds of events: events that involve movement through space (such as 'carry' or 'throw'), and events that are more abstract ('think of' or 'search'). We know that the kind of event you communicate about (using gesture), influences the order in which you present the information: for instance, if you are gesturing about an event like "a cowboy carries a jug" you will gesture cowboy, then jug, then carry; if you are gesturing about a more abstract event like "a cowboy thinks of a jug" then people usually gesture cowboy, then think, then jug. This kind of word order variability is not common in existing spoken languages: most languages have a more or less fixed word order for both kinds of events. We are interested in whether communicating repeatedly about different kinds of events will make gestured communication more language like, and thus show less word order variability.

How will I find out about the results?

A summary of the results will be emailed to you within a few weeks of completion of the study, if you provided your email address.

What will happen to the information I have provided?

Your recording will be used in the ways specified in the consent form: in particular, we will analyse all video material to look at the order of the elements in each trial. We might also use your gestures as an example in academic talks or publications.

If I change my mind and wish to withdraw my recording, how do I do this?

You can either speak directly to the experimenter now, or contact Marieke Schouwstra at any point quoting your Participant Number or your full name:

Dr. Marieke Schouwstra (Marieke.Schouwstra@ed.ac.uk), School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Room 1.07, Dugald Stewart Building, 3 Charles Street, Edinburgh EH8 9AD