**Participant Information Sheet**

**Study Title**: Investigating the roles of feature reassembly and linguistic input in later-stage second language acquisition: a case study from university learners of French

**Researcher**: Amy Wallington

**ERGO number:** 41244

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

I am a postgraduate student at the University of Southampton currently undertaking my PhD in Modern Languages, which consists of this research project. My PhD is funded by the South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership (SCDTP). I am interested in investigating the impact of different types of linguistic input (naturalistic vs. instructed) on the development of second-language French in advanced university-level learners. The aim of the research is to evaluate whether exposure to naturalistic input (which in this context is represented by the year abroad in France) has a beneficial effect, and whether this can provide us with more insight into some of the processes underlying second language development.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been invited to participate in this study as you are a second-year university student of French who will be taking part in a year abroad (in France or elsewhere) next year. Your data will be compared with that from final-year students who have participated in a year abroad in France. You have also been invited to participate as your first/native language is English, as I am interested in comparing differences between English as a first language and French as a second language specifically.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

Your participation in this study involves three main components:

1) Background information [approx. 20 minutes total]: You will complete a short proficiency test (a gap-filling exercise), and will also fill out a brief questionnaire about how often and in which contexts you used your languages during your year abroad.

2) Oral production tasks [approx. 20 minutes total]: These will be carried out in person with the researcher, and will be audio-recorded in order to allow me to transcribe and analyse the data. Once recorded, your data will be stored securely and will only be accessible to the researcher. The first task is a picture retell task: you will be given a few minutes to look through a series of pictures, and then will be required to tell the story of the pictures in French. The second task is an informal conversation covering topics such as your year abroad, your language learning, and a few other general topics.

3) Comprehension task [approx. 20 minutes]: This is an online task that you may carry out in your own time. You will be shown a series of English contexts, each followed by a French sentence, and for each sentence you will need to rate how acceptable you find it in context on a scale of 1-4.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

A possible benefit arising from your participation in this study is that you may gain an insight into how your French has developed over the course of your university career. If you would be interested in discussing your analysed data (which might point you towards particular areas of strength/weakness in your French that could be useful), or in reading any future publications arising from this study, the researcher would be happy to assist. Participation in a research study may also be a beneficial experience if you are considering continuing on to do further study (MA/PhD) in linguistics/modern languages.

You will additionally receive a small financial reimbursement (£10) as a thank you upon completion of all the tasks.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There are no foreseen risks related to your participation in this study – however if at any point you feel uncomfortable and that you do not wish to continue with a task, you have the right to stop at any time or to choose to omit a particular question.

**What data will be collected?**

Your name and email address will be collected and stored securely (in a private folder in a password-protected email account) for the duration of the study, in case it is necessary for the researcher to contact you.

The data you provide during the oral production task will be audio-recorded on a device to which only the researcher will have access. Once transcribed, you will be assigned a numerical code meaning that anyone reading the transcribed data will be unable to link it back to you. Any identifying names (e.g. of people, places, institutions) will be removed from transcribed conversation data.

Consent forms containing your name will be kept separately from non-identifiable data.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

All electronic data will be stored securely on a password-protected computer to which only the researcher has access. As mentioned, identifiable data (such as your name, email address, and course) will be kept separately from the production/comprehension data, so that it is not possible to identify you from your data.

The audio recordings from the oral tasks will be conserved for the duration of the study after being transcribed, in case it is necessary to refer back to them during data analysis. These recordings will be stored on a password-protected device accessible only to the researcher. Following the conclusion of the study, the recordings will be destroyed.

In addition to the researcher, the researcher’s supervisor (Dr Laura Domínguez) may also have access to the non-identifiable parts of the data (e.g. transcriptions) at intermittent points during the researcher’s PhD.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

You have already indicated your interest in this study to the researcher – however to confirm your consent to participate you will need to sign the consent form provided after you have read and understood the information provided here.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected.

If you would like to withdraw, please contact the researcher at [ajfw1g13@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ajfw1g13@soton.ac.uk). Your data collected up until this point may be destroyed if desired.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

The results of this research will form a central part of the researcher’s PhD thesis, meaning that the findings of this project will be written up and submitted for examination as part of the PhD. It is possible that some or all of this research will be utilised for future publications e.g. in academic journals. If desired, participants may receive a copy of their results and may discuss them with the researcher.

In the interests of contributing to the research field, the non-identifiable (anonymised) component of the data may be shared via an online repository such as ePrints (the University of Southampton’s institutional data repository). Any data held in the repository will not be able to be linked back to you – your name will be replaced by a numerical code and any identifying references (e.g. of names, places, institutions) will be removed from the transcriptions.

If at any point during or following the study you are unhappy with how your data and confidentiality are being handled, please don’t hesitate to contact the researcher (Amy Wallington, University of Southampton, Avenue Campus, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics) at [ajfw1g13@soton.ac.uk](mailto:ajfw1g13@soton.ac.uk).

If you have a complaint, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (see *‘What happens if there is a problem?’* section below for contact information).

**Where can I get more information?**

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the study at any point, please email the researcher, who will be happy to assist.

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

*Research team contact details:*

Researcher: Amy Wallington ([ajfw1g13@soton.ac.uk)](mailto:ajfw1g13@soton.ac.uk))

Supervisor (90%): Dr Laura Domínguez ([l.dominguez@soton.ac.uk)](mailto:l.dominguez@soton.ac.uk))

Supervisor (10%): Dr Sophie Holmes-Elliot ([s.e.m.holmes-elliott@soton.ac.uk)](mailto:s.e.m.holmes-elliott@soton.ac.uk))

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed. As the researcher’s PhD is funded by the ESRC (Economic and Social Science Research Council, now the SCDTP), the data arising from this project will additionally be stored in the UK Data Archive, where the ESRC UK Data Service are responsible for ensuring long-term access to the data.

As mentioned, the data stored in repositories and archives will be “key-coded” (you will be referred to by a numerical code) and all personal identifiers will be removed. This kind of data is called pseudonymised data, and can help reduce privacy risks by making it more difficult for individuals to be identified. Only the researcher will at any point have access to the codes that permit identification of individuals from their data.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk)](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and for considering participating in this study.