

Title of Study:

Talk2Me: Online study of language changes associated with dementia (18+, BOTH healthy adults and those diagnosed with dementia of any type)

Location: Canada-Wide

Study Description:

We are interested in investigating how features of language, such as pitch variation, prosody, syntactic complexity and word finding difficulty, change over time, in populations of adults who are (a) healthy, (b) asymptomatic but later develop dementia, and (c) diagnosed with dementia. We would like to determine whether automatic (machine learning) analysis of language measures is more effective at predicting pathology than standard tests of cognitive ability performed in a clinical setting.

What will happen during the study?

You will answer language tasks by completing one or more sessions through the website. Each session lasts approximately 15 minutes, and consists of language questions such as image naming, picture description and story retelling. You provide responses as: (i) speech provided through a microphone, (ii) text provided through a keyboard, or (iii) multiple-choice selection out of a list of available options. All collected data will be reported anonymously (i.e., username and email address will not be disclosed at any time, while linguistic and demographic data will be reported in aggregate), and remains fully confidential, unless you explicitly consent to sharing it publically with other researchers to facilitate future research work. We are interested in collecting longitudinal data – you can complete a session every month by setting up email reminders.

The study is conducted through the University of Toronto – Department of Computer Science. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you can contact the Office of Research Ethics (ethics.review@utoronto.ca or +1 416-946-3273).

To sign up, please visit the study website: <https://www.cs.toronto.edu/talk2me/>

Eligibility: Who Can Participate?

Anyone who is:

- an adult (over the age of 18)
- has a working keyboard, microphone and mouse, and is able to use them independently

Recruitment Start Date:

November 14, 2016

Recruitment End Date:

March 25, 2017

Contact Information

Maria Yancheva
Research assistant
University of Toronto
yancheva@cs.toronto.edu