

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



School of English
Literature,
Language and
Linguistics,
Percy Building,
Newcastle upon
Tyne,
NE1 7RU, UK

You have been invited to participate in a research project by a student enrolled on a degree programme in the School of English at Newcastle University. Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. If you do agree to participate, your participation will consist of reading aloud a word list and a passage from a work of fiction as well as a short informal interview conducted by the student. In the interview, you will be asked several questions about yourself, where you come from, how long you have been in the North East and so on. The interview will be recorded on an audiotape or CD recorder and we may ask you to wear a small clip-on microphone to improve the sound quality of the recording. The entire session should take between 60 and 90 minutes of your time.

The student interviewer will 'transcribe' (write down) what you say and the recording of your voice will be added to a large collection of similar materials archived using best practice for safe storage by Newcastle University.

These recordings could be used in the future for research that might examine, for example, the changing patterns of English accents and dialects across time and from one place to another. Recordings in this collection will always remain anonymous. Thus, in writing or talking about this study, your real name will never be used - we will always use whatever pseudonym you agree with the student interviewer.

Please Turn Over

Also, the names of people referred to during the interview will be changed in the written material and deleted in the recordings.

Short clippings of your interview might be used for teaching purposes, played in scientific meetings (such as conferences) or in public forums such as the media.

RISKS AND BENEFITS: This exercise does not involve any risks or discomfort for you other than being asked to talk with the interviewer/another informant and complete the tasks noted above. It might not be possible for you to foresee any

immediate benefit of your participation as you will not receive any payment. However, scientists have to rely on voluntary participation in order to understand human behaviour, such as language. Moreover, the student interviewer will learn important skills (like understanding the dynamics of communication) when completing this task that they can transfer either to further studies or to other walks of life.

SUBJECT'S RIGHTS: If you have read this form and have decided to participate in this project, please understand that the student interviewer is aware that your participation is entirely voluntary and that you have the right to withdraw your consent or discontinue participation at any time without penalty. If you do not give consent to all of the above points, please indicate which ones to the student interviewer. Also, if at any point during the interview you change your mind about participating altogether, please let the student interviewer know. You have the right to refuse to answer particular questions.

Thank you very much for your participation and for making this student project possible.

Should you require further details about any aspect of this interview or the resulting data, please don't hesitate to contact Prof. K.P. Corrigan at the above address.

Please now complete the 'Consent Form' that the student interviewer will give you and you can retain this 'Assignment Description' sheet for your own records.