

Information Letter

Autistic Perspectives on terminology use within the autistic community

Chloe Bissett

MA Linguistics and Applied Linguistics student

Dear Potential Participant,

I am inviting you to partake in my study concerning autistic perspectives on terminology use within the autistic community.

What is this research about?

This research builds on previous works concerning autistic adults experiences in communication with non-autistic and neurotypical individuals. This research will focus in particular on the perspectives autistic people hold in relation to terms such as special interest, autistic burnout etc. being used in a widespread manner and by neurotypical individuals.

Why am I conducting this research?

The aim of this research is to investigate the perspectives held by autistic adults in relation to the use of terminology associated with their community. With the focus being placed on the autistic adult, this study aims to offer the clear language preferences of Irish autistic individuals that can be applied in broader contexts.

Who is invited to participate?

Any Autistic adult who has been residing in Ireland for longer than 3 years with a formal autism diagnosis from a medical professional is invited to participate in this study.

How will your data be used and privacy be protected?

Your data will be used for this research study. All of the data acquired for this study will be treated as confidential, and you will remain anonymous throughout the study. Any information that could potentially identify you will be adapted for anonymity. The data collected will be stored on an encrypted file and not shared with anyone outside of this study.

What are the benefits of participating in this research?

This study aims to analyse autistic language preferences and ideologies, which will hopefully lead to the enrichment of language used in the autism community and in broader contexts. With the autistic perspective being placed at the center, this research hopes to provide an insight into the Irish autism community and its language preferences.

What are the risks of participating in this research?

It is possible the researcher could be made privy to sensitive information about an individual. This information will not be used in the research. There may also be times during the research where you feel uncomfortable with questions being asked. If this is the case, please inform the researcher as you do not have to answer all of the questions that are asked. You may stop the survey at any time, and unless you click on the submit button, your response will not be recorded. Once the survey has been submitted, your response cannot be withdrawn from the study. The information provided in the survey will be anonymised. Should a participant feel uncomfortable at any stage, they should notify the researcher and they will be accommodated to.

What will be expected of survey responses?

The survey provided should take approximately 15 minutes to complete, but please take as much time as you require to complete it. You will initially be asked to confirm your consent and reading of this letter and the [consent form](#), followed by questions about your diagnosis status and internet usage. You will also be asked for your age and gender, categorised into grouping for your discussion. You will then be asked to tick boxes in relation to autistic terminology. This will be followed by questions about your usage and experience of these terms. You will be given the opportunity to elaborate on

your responses to these questions. Please feel free to do so as much as you can! Short answers are also acceptable. This will be the end of the survey stage.

What Happens Next?

Your survey responses will be analysed for the purpose of this study. Should you wish, you may also participate in the interview stage of this study. There will be an option for you to provide your contact details so you can progress to this stage. The interviews may take place online or in person, whichever is preferred by the participant. The interview should take no more than 40 minutes, to allow for any breaks required. Any accommodations required by the participants can be communicated to the researcher, and will be implemented accordingly. For example, if you wish to have a guardian or safe presence accompany you in the interview, this is welcomed. This stage is completely optional, and the use of your survey responses will not be affected by your participation in the interview stage. Any interview data will also be anonymised. More information will be provided should you wish to participate in this stage.

What will happen to my data?

The data collected from the survey and audio recordings during the interview stage will be transcribed and stored on an encrypted computer. It will not be shared with anyone outside of the research supervisors.

How will you learn the results of this research?

If you wish to discuss this research when it has been completed, feel free to contact the student conducting this research, or ask at the interview stage. I would be happy to discuss this research with you and answer any questions you may have.

Contact Details:

Researcher:

Chloe Bissett: chloe.bissett2@ucdconnect.ie

Research Supervisors:

Dr. Sandrine Peraldi

Phone: 01 716 8389

Email: sandrine.peraldi@ucd.ie

Dr. Stephen Lucek

Phone: 01 716 8109

Email: stephen.lucek@ucd.ie