

## **Information Sheet for Recording for Voice Banking**

You are being invited to take part in a speech recording for the purposes of “voice banking.” Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the recording is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### **What is the purpose of the recording?**

We will record your speech at our recording studio. The recording will be saved on our computers and you will be able to obtain a copy of the recording if you wish. In case you have vocal problems in future, and the technology becomes widely available, you could use this recording as the basis of a personalised communication aid.

In return you are asked to grant all rights of your recording to the Edinburgh University, without limitation, copyright and performers’ property rights. This enables us to use the recording for our research and to improve speech generation devices for other people, particularly those with speaking disabilities and for improving our research on assistive speech technologies.

### **What are the conditions?**

You must be a native speaker of English.

You must be at least 16 years old.

You must not have any difficulties in reading and/or comprehending printed materials.

### **Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a speaker release form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without having to give a reason.

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

The recording will consist of one session, during which you will be asked to read out several hundred sentence articles displayed on a computer screen in our recording studio. We will also ask you to complete a short questionnaire to tell us about your age, occupation etc. The recording will take approximately one hour in total, with regular breaks.

During the recording we will record your voice in a digital format. Information (other than your speech) from which you could be identified will not be associated with the recording.

The recording will take place at the School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh, 10 Crichton Street, at a time we will agree with you.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We do not know of any health risks from taking part in this recording. Due to the length of the recording, you may feel tired. Our procedures are designed to minimise discomfort or fatigue. We will provide opportunities for frequent breaks and will provide water to drink. If you feel distressed at any time during the recording, it is important that you let us know straight away. If you feel distressed after the recording, please contact Dr Junichi Yamagishi (project leader): 0131 6513284.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your speech will be recorded at a very high quality using our professional microphones and will be stored securely on our computers. You will have the opportunity to keep a copy of your recording. If, at some point in the future you have a problem with your voice, and if technology becomes widely available, this recording could be used by you as the basis for a personalised communication aid. This is what we mean by “voice banking”.

### **What if something goes wrong?**

Whilst we do not anticipate any adverse effects from taking part in this recording, if you are harmed by taking part in this recording, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone’s negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action but you may have to pay for it.

### **Will my private information be recorded?**

Private and identifiable information will not be associated with the recordings. Only people from the research team will be able to access your private information such as your name and address. Your recording will be allocated an anonymous ID code which will be used in place of your name when processing the speech on our computers, distributing the recordings, or in publications.

### **What will happen to the results of the research study using the recordings?**

The results of the research will be published in appropriate peer-reviewed scientific journals for distribution to other healthcare professionals. Talks and presentations may be made at meetings and conferences. In all cases, your name and personal details will not be identified.

### **How will the recordings be used?**

The recording will be used not only for voice banking but also to help other people with speech disabilities and to help us with our research at the University of Edinburgh. Your recordings and/or works derived from your recordings may be used for improving assistive technologies for people with vocal problems. For instance, your recording may be used as the basis for a speech generation devices for someone who has speaking difficulties. Currently the range of voice characteristics of available devices are severely limited; your

recording may help us provide such people with a much wider range of choices. Your recording may also be used in connection with the other research or commercial activities of the University of Edinburgh. Improved speech generation devices may be licensed to the NHS or other third parties. Any income generated in this way may be used by the University of Edinburgh to further advance our research on assistive technologies and voice banking.

### **Who is organising the research?**

The research is being organised by Dr. Junichi Yamagishi (Principal Investigator), Prof. Simon King (co-Investigator) and Dr. Christophe Veaux, all from the University of Edinburgh.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been granted ethical approval by the University of Edinburgh Informatics Research Ethics Committee.

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you wish to ask anything further please contact:

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Thank you for reading this information sheet. This is your copy to keep.