



Pictures used in speech pathology storytelling tasks

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Introduction

We are inviting you to take part in this research study because you had a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and speech treatment. In therapy, speech pathologists usually show pictures to help people talk. These might be drawings, cartoon strips, or short books like the Cinderella story. We want to learn what you think about these speech pathology storytelling tasks. We also want to find out whether stories are longer depending on picture type. This research will help us to create materials that people with TBI might prefer to use.

We are running the research at Hunter Brain Injury Service (HBIS), the University of Newcastle, and online via Zoom. The study is part of Jessica Tucker's Bachelor of Speech Pathology honours project. Jessica is studying at the University of Newcastle. Dr Joanne Steel and Dr Liz Spencer are supervising her project.

You can read this document and think about whether you would like to take part in the study. You can ask the researchers if you have any questions, you can ask other speech pathologists or family to help you think about it. You can take as much time as you like to decide whether you'd like to take part.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in this study is up to you. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you do take part, you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. You can ask us to remove your information from the study at any time before we analyse it. Whatever you decide, please know that it will not affect your treatment. It will also not affect your relationship with the staff who are caring for you.

We are looking for people aged 18 -75 with a TBI in the past year. We are inviting you because you had speech therapy after your injury. Your speech pathologist identified that



this study might be suitable for you. If you have severe language, hearing or vision complaints, then this study is not suitable for you. This will not be suitable for you if you have a severe psychiatric condition.

What is the purpose of this research?

In therapy, speech pathologists might ask people with TBI to tell a story using pictures. We use single pictures, short cartoons, story books or videos. We don't know if people with TBI find the pictures interesting to talk about. Our study aims to find out which pictures people with TBI prefer. We want to know if this makes a difference to how much people talk. This will help us make materials that are more interesting for people with TBI.

What would I need to do?

If you agree to take part in this study, we will ask you to sign the Participant Consent Form. Please email this to Dr Joanne Steel (Joanne.Steel@newcastle.edu.au). After this, the researchers will arrange a time for a zoom research session with you.

There are two activities in the session:

- We will collect a sample of your talking. We will ask you to tell a story looking at different picture types. These will be black & white pictures, short cartoons, a picture book, and a YouTube video. There will be eight story tasks in total. This will take about 15-30 minutes.
- After this, we will ask you what you thought about the different picture prompts. We will ask what you like and dislike about the pictures, which ones you prefer and why. We will also ask what other prompts you might find interesting when telling a story. This will take about 30 minutes.

We will video record the storytelling tasks and interview using Zoom. After the session, we will type the recording into a word document. If you would like, we can send you a written copy of your interview for you to check. If you want to change anything on this, you can let us know. The researchers can make sure it matches what you meant to say.



We would also like to collect information about your brain injury and communication history. This will be information relevant to this study. These details are your age, gender, and injury details. We want to know how many years you were at school, and whether you worked or not. We will also document what your main language is. If you had speech therapy before your injury, we'll make a note of that too.

What are the risks and gains of participating in this research?

We don't expect any major risks from the study. If you find the tasks too hard or tiring, then we will stop for breaks or end the session. If you decide you don't want to take part during the session, you can withdraw at any time. If you feel upset, we can refer you to psychological services. This will be at HBIS or the University of Newcastle.

There will be no clear gains for you from taking part. The study may help us improve therapy materials in the future.

If I take part, what happens to my information?

If you decide to take part, we will give your information a code to keep it private. The recording of your stories and interview will be destroyed once it is typed in Word.

We will store your code details and session information in separate documents. The documents have password protection. This means only the named research team have access to identifying material. We will keep the information at the University of Newcastle for at least five years, then we will destroy it.

We may present the results of the study at a conference or in a scientific publication. We will make sure you are not identifiable in any information that the public can access.

If you would like to see the results of the study, we can send you a summary. Please let us know on the consent form.

Who is running this research?

We are researchers from Hunter New England Health and the University of Newcastle. Ms



Laura Pavey is a speech pathologist and case manager at HBIS. Dr Joanne Steel and Dr Liz Spencer are both lecturers in speech pathology at the University of Newcastle. Ms Jessica Tucker is a final year speech pathology student at the University of Newcastle. She is doing the research as part of her Bachelor of Speech Pathology (Hons) degree.

What are the next steps?

When you have read this information, if you are interested you can email the researchers and someone from the research team will talk to you about it. We want to make sure you understand about the study. We can also answer any questions you may have. If you decide you would like to take part, you can sign the consent form and email to us. Then we will arrange a time for your session.

Where can I find out more?

Please feel free to call Dr Joanne Steel on 4055 33011 or email joanne.steel@newcastle.edu.au ..

Would you be interested in future speech pathology research? If you are, we can get in touch about future research opportunities on communication after TBI. Please contact Dr Joanne Steel or Dr Liz Spencer at the phone number above, or on the email addresses at the end of this document.

This information statement is for you to keep.

Thank you for considering this invitation.

Ms Laura Pavey,

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Ms Jessica Tucker

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HNE Ethics and Governance statements

Ethics:

This research has been **approved** by the Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Committee of Hunter New England Local Health District, [*Reference 2024/ETH00160*].

Governance:

The conduct of this research has been **authorised** by the Hunter New England Local Health District to be conducted at the Hunter Brain Injury Service site.

Complaints about this research:

Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, please contact the **HNE Research Office**, Hunter New England Local Health District, Level 3, POD, HMRI, Lot 1 Kookaburra Circuit, New Lambton Heights NSW 2305. Telephone: 02 4921 4140. Email: HNELHD-ResearchOffice@health.nsw.gov.au and quote the reference number 2024/ETH00160).