

Stream 1 – Narratives

Language use in Swedish and English



Information for participants

We would like to ask you if you are willing to participate in a research project. This document provides you with information about the project and what participation involves.

What is the study about and why do you want me to participate?

You are invited to participate in a project investigating the language use of students who are on the autism spectrum as well as students who are not, and with Swedish as their native language. By participating in the project, you will contribute to a better understanding of how language is used in different situations both by people on the spectrum and those who are not. The project aims to contribute with knowledge about how to take other people's language use into account in social interaction, making social encounters easier to navigate for all involved.

We invite students with Swedish as their native language who are currently attending upper secondary school in Sweden and have successfully completed English 5/English Level 1. We invite both students who are on the autism spectrum and those who are not. To participate in this study, you must be at least 15 years of age. You must also consent to participate and sign the consent form that is distributed along with this information sheet.

The research organisation responsible for the project is Karlstad University. The application has been approved by the Swedish Ethical Review Authority, with the registration number 2025-01011-01.

What does participation in the project involve?

Participation in this part of the project ('Stream 1') involves you meeting once with one of the researchers (in person at a private location), and them showing you drawings that you will be asked to arrange in a way that they represent a story. When you have done so, you will tell the story shown in the drawings. There are two sets of drawings. You will narrate one of the stories in Swedish and one in English. Your storytelling will be recorded on video and audio and then transcribed, meaning written down in text form. In addition, you will be asked to complete a short survey where you provide information such as who you are, what languages you speak, how you learned these languages and how you feel about them, and your current studies in school. Your participation is expected to take approximately one hour, including the survey.

Possible consequences and risks of participating in the project

The risks involved in participating in the project are deemed to be very low. If there is a question in the survey that you feel uncomfortable answering, you may choose not to answer it and still remain in the project. You can also choose to withdraw your participation at any time without giving a reason.

What happens to my data?

The project will collect and register information about you, your narratives, and your survey responses. Your answers and results will be handled in such a way that no unauthorized person can access them, and will only be processed in IT systems and services with verified adequate security. The data will be retained for at least 10 years after the research project has been completed.

To manage the project properly, we will also save your name and contact details (email or phone number). These will be stored separately from your responses.

The legal basis for processing your personal data is the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (research). If you choose to withdraw from the study, no further personal data will be collected about you. However, as a general rule, personal data already collected may still be used in the research.

Karlstad University is the research organisation responsible for the processing of your personal data. The personal data will also be processed by data processors, such as cloud service providers.

According to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you have the right to access, free of charge, the data about you that is processed in the project and, if necessary, have any errors corrected. You may also request that your data be deleted or that the processing of your personal data be restricted. If you wish to access your data, you should contact the person responsible for the project (see below). If you are dissatisfied with how your personal data is being processed, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection (Integritetsskyddsmyndigheten), <https://www.imy.se>, which is the supervisory authority. Contact details for the Data Protection Officer at Karlstad University are as follows: email: dpo@kau.se, phone (switchboard): +46 (0)54 700 1000. For more information about how Karlstad University processes personal data, see <https://www.kau.se/gdpr>.

How can I access the results of the project?

The results of the project will be published continuously in both Swedish and international scientific articles and conference proceedings. You can access the results by contacting the project leader (see below). Your name or any other information that could directly identify you will not appear in the published results.

General information about the research project and the types of data that have been collected and analysed will also be made available in an open research data catalogue.

Insurance and compensation

For your participation in the project, you are covered by insurance with Kammarkollegiet, specifically the Personal Injury Protection (SPS), which covers accidents occurring during participation in

research projects for which Karlstad University is the responsible research organisation. The insurance applies to persons who are permanently residing in Sweden and have a Swedish personal identity number. The insurance never applies in the insured person's home. The full insurance terms can be found at Kammarkollegiet. You will not receive any financial compensation for your participation.

Voluntary participation

Your participation in the study is voluntary, and you may choose to withdraw at any time. If you choose not to participate, or if you wish to end your participation, you do not need to give a reason. If you wish to withdraw, please contact the project leader (see below).

Project leader

The main responsible researcher for the project is Andrea Schalley, Professor of English at Karlstad University.

Contact information

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