George Mason University

Human Subjects Review Board
Application for Human Subjects Research Review

For ORSP Use Only GMU
Protocol No. _____ Proposal No. _____
Classified: ☐ Exempt ☐ Non Exempt ☐ Expedited
Signature _____ Date_____

Federal Regulations and George Mason University policy require that all research involving humans as subjects be reviewed and approved by the University Human Subjects Review Board (HSRB). Any person, (GMU faculty member, staff member, student, or other person) wanting to engage in human subject research at or through George Mason University must receive written approval from the HSRB before conducting research. Approval of this project by the HSRB only signifies that the procedures adequately protect the rights and welfare of the subjects and should not be taken to indicate University approval to conduct the research.

Please complete this cover page AND provide the Protocol information requested on the back of this form. Forward this form and all supporting documents to the Office of Research Subject Protections, MS 4C6. If you have any questions please feel free to contact ORSP at 703-993-4121.

Project Title:
The Effect of Listening Strategies on the Listening Comprehension of Beginning University Language Learners

Required Data	Principal Investigator (Must be Faculty)	Co-Investigator/Student Researcher*
Name	Margo Mastropieri, PhD.	Melissa S. Ferro
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Status ☐ Faculty/Staff ☐ Doctoral Dissertation ☐ Masters Thesis
☒ Class Project(**Specify** Grad or Under Grad) ☐ Other

I certify that the information provided for this project is correct and that no other procedures will be used in this protocol. I agree to conduct this research as described in the attached supporting documents. I will request and receive approval from the HSRB for changes prior to implementing these changes. I will comply with the HSRB policy for the conduct of ethical research. I will be responsible for ensuring that the work of my co-investigator(s)/student researcher(s) complies with this protocol.

_____ _____
Principal Investigator Signature Date

ABSTRACT: **Refer to the Guidelines on Next Page**

The proposed research will involve the following **(check all that apply):**

VULNERABLE POPULATION:
- ☐ Fetuses/Abortuses/Embryos
- ☐ Pregnant women
- ☐ Prisoners
- ☐ Minors
- ☐ Mentally retarded/disabled
- ☐ Emotionally disabled
- ☐ Physically disabled
- ☐ Psychology undergrad pool
- ☐ Other:

PERSON IDENTIFIABLE DATA:
- ☐ Audio taping
- ☐ Video taping
- ☐ Data collected via email
- ☐ Data collected via internet
- ☐ Confidential electronic records
- ☒ Coded data linked to individuals
- ☐ Human biological materials

RESEARCH DESIGN:
- ☐ Questions on harm to self or others
- ☐ Questions on illegal behavior
- ☐ Deception
- ☐ Human/computer interaction
- ☐ Collection and/or analysis of secondary data

FUNDING: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Source

*Student researchers should provide a mailing address rather than campus address. Additional researchers should be listed on a separate page.

ABSTRACT

1. Describe the aims and specific purposes of the research project and the proposed involvement of human participants.

This project will be conducted primarily by Melissa S. Ferro under the supervision of Dr. Margo Mastropieri. When the word "I" is used, it will refer to Melissa S. Ferro.

The purpose of the proposed project is to replicate and extend previous studies that have examined the effectiveness of listening comprehension strategies with beginning level world language learners. Specifically, this project is for an intervention study to determine the effect of listening strategy instruction on the listening comprehension of beginning post-secondary Spanish language learners and to determine the effect of listening strategy instruction on the language learners' metacognive awareness for using said strategies. The project involves the random selection of instructor-participants who teach a beginning Spanish language course and student-participants who have registered for the course sections that have been randomly selected.

Four sections of a second-semester beginning level Spanish course (Spanish 102) will be randomly selected after student registration is completed. Two of the sections will serve as a control group and two sections will serve as an experimental group. The instructors and students in the control group will follow the department-made course syllabus, and will use the department-made chapter tests, and final exam. The instructors of the experimental groups will receive training for the implementation of listening strategy instruction. I will conduct all training sessions and the materials used will come from the same course textbook and ancillary materials used by the entire Beginning Spanish Program at GMU. The instructors of the experimental group will use the same course materials, department-made syllabus, chapter tests and final exam as the control group with the only intervention being the inclusion of specific listening strategy instruction.

2. Describe the characteristics of the intended sample (number of participants, age, sex, ethnic background, health status, etc).

The pool of potential instructor-participants will be those instructors who have been contracted to teach a second-semester beginning level Spanish course in the Fall of 2007. The instructor sample will be determined by their consent to participate in the study. The pool of potential student-participants will be those students who are at least 18 years of age and who have registered for a beginning level second-semester Spanish course. The student sample will be determined by their consent to participate in the project and their age (minimum age of 18).

There will be 4 instructor-participants and an estimated 80 to 100 student-participants. The student-participants will be over the age of 18 and will have independently registered for one of the randomly selected course sections. I will not disturb or manipulate the existing course registration process at GMU. Also the students who register for these courses will not have knowledge of this project prior to the first day of class. Therefore, the actual age, sex, ethnic background and health status of the student-participants will not be know until after course registration is completed. It is however, expected that the student-participants will be representative of the current general undergraduate population at GMU.

3. Identify the criteria for inclusion or exclusion. Explain the rationale for the involvement of special classes of participants (children, prisoners, pregnant women, or any other vulnerable population.

The criteria for inclusion or exclusion in the proposed study are the student-participants age and both the instructor and student participants' consent to participate in the study. Students under the age of 18 will not be included in the study because obtaining parental consent may not be feasible, especially with consideration to international students.

Instructors who specifically state a disinterest will not be included in the pool of potential instructor-participants. Students who do not want to participate in the study will not be included in the data collection or in the results of the proposed study. However, students who elect not to participate in the project may remain enrolled in the course and they will receive the same level of instruction as the rest of the students in that course section.

This project does not include the involvement of special classes of participants or other vulnerable populations.

4. Describe your relationship to the participants if any.

My relationship to the student-participants and to the instructor-participants will of the "researcher-participant" nature.

PROTOCOL – Involving Human Participation

1. If there are direct benefits to the participants, describe the direct benefits and also describe the general knowledge that the study is likely to yield. If there are no direct benefits to the participants, state that there are no direct benefits to the participants and describe the general knowledge that the study is likely to yield.

There are no benefits to either the student-participants or the instructor-participants. The main benefit of this project is to further the research in the field of world language instruction.

2. Describe how participants will be recruited. Note that all advertisements (including experimetrix postings) for participants must be submitted for review for both exempt and non-exempt projects.

I will recruit instructor-participants by giving a presentation of the research project. This presentation will take place on the Fairfax campus at the semi-annual Beginning Spanish Language Program Instructor Professional Development seminar that will be held on August 24, 2007.

I will recruit student-participants during a presentation that I will give on the first day the course meets.

3. Describe your procedures for obtaining informed consent. Who will obtain consent and how will it be obtained. Describe how the researchers will ensure that subjects receive a copy of the consent document.

The approved HSRB informed consent letter for instructors will be distributed at the Beginning Spanish Language Program Instructor Professional Development Seminar. Instructors who are interested in participating will be able to sign the consent form that day. Instructors who are not present at the seminar will be contacted by email. I will meet in person with any interested instructors that were not present at the seminar to obtain their signed consent letter. I will photocopy the signed consent letters and return a copy to the individual instructors by using the GMU inter-office mail system.

The approved HSRB informed consent letter for students will be distributed by me on the first day the course meets. Students who are not present on the first day of class will be contacted by their GMU email. I will meet in person with any interested students who were not present on the first day of class to obtain the signed consent letter. I will make copies of the consent letters, place the copies in sealed envelopes and return them to the students during a scheduled class meeting within two weeks of the start of the semester.

4. State whether subjects will be compensated for their participation, describe the form of compensation and the procedures for distribution, and explain why compensation is necessary. State whether the subjects will receive course credit for participating in the research. **If yes**, describe the nonresearch option for course credit for the students who decide not to participate in the research. The nonresearch option for course credit must not be more difficult than participation in the research. Information regarding compensation or course credit, should be outlined in the Participation section of the consent document.

The recipients will not receive any compensation.

5. If minors are involved, their active assent to the research activity is required as well as active consent from their parents/guardians. This includes minors from the Psychology Department Undergraduate Subject Pool. Your procedures should be appropriate to the age of the child and his/her level of maturity and judgment. Describe your procedures for obtaining active assent from minors and active consent from parents/guardians. Refer to the Guidelines for Informed Consent for additional requirements if minors from the Psychology Subject Pool are involved.

Minors will not be used in the proposed study.

6. Describe what participants will be asked to do. Include an estimate of the time required to complete the procedures.

Instructor-participants in the control group will conduct their courses as they have done in the past with no interventions. Student-participants will take the same tests and metacognitive surveys as those students in the experimental group.

Instructor-participants in the experimental group will meet with the researchers for special training during the first two weeks of the semester. There will be four 1-hour training sessions where the instructor-participants will be

asked to do teaching demonstrations using the course materials for listening strategy instruction. It is estimated that each instructor participant will use these instructional strategies with their students during (10) 20-minute instructional sessions that will take place during normal course instruction over the 14-week semester.

The student-participants in the experimental groups will take the same tests and metacognitive surveys as the control group. They will receive additional instruction on listening strategies during their normal classroom instruction time.

7. Describe how confidentiality will be maintained. If data will be collected electronically (e.g. by email or an internet web site), describe your procedures for limiting identifiers. Note that confidentiality may have to be limited if participants are asked questions on violence toward self or others or illegal behavior. Contact the Office of Research Subject Protections for assistance.

Instructor-participants will be assigned pseudonyms for any and all publications regarding this research study. Student names will not be used at any time in the reporting of data or results. Although I will have access to individual student test scores and metacognitive surveys, individual names will not be included in the recording, analyzing or in the reporting of data or results.

8. Describe in detail any potential physical, psychological, social, or legal risks to participants and why they are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits. Where appropriate, discuss provisions for ensuring medical or professional intervention in case participants experience adverse effects. Where appropriate, discuss provisions for monitoring data collection when participants' safety is at risk.

There are no potential physical, psychological, social or legal risks to the participants in this proposed study.

9. If participants will be audio-or video-taped, discuss provisions for the security and final disposition of the tapes. Refer to Guidelines for Informed Consent.

The participants will not be audio-or video-taped.

10. If participants will be misinformed and/or uninformed about the true nature of the project, provide justification. Note that projects involving deception must not exceed minimal risk, cannot violate the rights and welfare of participants, must require the deception to accomplish the aims of the project, and must include a full debriefing. Refer to Guidelines for Informed Consent.

The students will not be uniformed or misinformed about the true nature of this proposed study.

INFORMED CONSENT: Provide appropriate Proposed Informed Consent document(s).
See Guidelines for Informed Consent and the Template Informed Consent Document for additional information.

INSTRUMENTS: Submit a copy of each instrument/tool you will use and provide a brief description of its characteristics and development. Submit scripts if information and/or questions are conveyed verbally.

APPROVAL FROM COOPERATING INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION:
If a cooperating institution/organization provides access to its patients/students/clients/ employees/etc. for participant recruitment or provides access to their records, submit written evidence of the institution/organization human subjects approval of the project.

Note: If research involves use of existing records, please see guidelines on following page.

PROTOCOL – Involving Existing Records

(For the study of existing data sets, documents, pathological specimens, or diagnostic specimens.)
1. Describe your data set.

2. Provide written permission from the owner of the data giving you access for research purposes at George Mason University if the data set is not publicly available.

3. Describe how you will maintain confidentiality if the data set contains person identifiable data.

4. Describe what you are extracting from the data set.