



TITLE How Michiganders Talk in the Western and Eastern Lower Peninsula

RESEARCHERS

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You are being asked to participate in a research study. The box below highlights key information about this research for you to consider when making a decision whether or not to participate. Carefully consider this information and the more detailed information provided below the box. Please ask questions about any of the information you do not understand before you decide whether to participate.

Key Information for You to Consider

- **Voluntary Consent.** You are being asked to volunteer for a research study. It is up to you whether you choose to participate or not. There will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled if you choose not to participate or discontinue participation.
- **Purpose.** The purpose of this study is to understand how English is spoken in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. In this study we are particularly interested in your pronunciation of English and how it has been influenced by the speech of other Michiganders around you. If you choose to participate in the recorded interview, you will be asked 1) to answer basic demographic information, 2) read a reading passage and word lists, 3) listen to some speech and identify what you think you hear, and 4) indicate on a geographic map where you think people speak and then provide any attitudes or beliefs you have about those areas.
- **Duration.** It is expected that your participation will last approximately 90 to 120 minutes.
- **Procedures and Activities.** Your participation in this study will involve five steps and take approximately 90 to 120 minutes.
 1. In an audio-recorded interview, you will be asked questions related to your background and your place in the community.
 2. You will be asked to read a reading passage, a word list, and a series of paired rhyming/non-rhyming words.
 3. You will be asked to:
 - a) listen to a series of individual speech recordings, and for each one, you will be asked to indicate from a set of options what you think you heard; and
 - b) listen to a series of paired speech recordings, and for each one, you will be asked to indicate if you think they are the same or different.
 4. You be presented two different geographical maps, one of the United States and the other of Michigan, and then you will be asked to indicate where you think people speak differently from you.
 5. In an audio-recorded exit interview, you will be asked questions related to your attitude and opinions about language spoken in and outside your community.
- **Risks.** Audio recorded data will be collected and/or stored for this research. As with any use of electronic means to store data, there exists a minimal risk that it could be lost or stolen. However, no identifiable information will be collected or stored with the collected electronic data.
- **Benefits.** Your participation in this study will result in no known personal benefit.
- **Alternatives.** Participation is voluntary and the only alternative is to not participate.

1. **PURPOSE** The purpose of this study is to understand how English is spoken in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. In this study we are particularly interested in your pronunciation of English and how it has been influenced by the speech of other Michiganders around you. We are not at all interested in "right" and "wrong" pronunciations, and we would never refer to the results of this research that way. We are fascinated by the way language is used and in the potential the study of that use has for bettering our scientific understanding and our ability to advise people who must take language into consideration in education, the law, and other public domains. If you choose to participate in the recorded interview, you will be asked 1) to answer basic demographic information, 2) read a reading passage and word lists, 3) listen to some speech and identify what you think you hear, and 4) indicate on a geographic map where you think people speak and then provide any attitudes or beliefs you have about those areas.
2. **REASON FOR INVITATION** You are being asked to participate in this study because you are a long-standing resident of either Muskegon or St. Clair county; here, the term "long-standing" means you have spent 80% or more of your life within one of these two counties.
3. **HOW PARTICIPANTS WILL BE SELECTED**
In order to participate in this study, you must meet the following requirements:
 - I am a native speaker of American English.
 - I have lived 80% or more of your life in either Muskegon or St. Clair county in Michigan.
 - I have obtained minimally a high school diploma (or equivalent) and no more than a four-year degree.
 - I have no history of a speech, language, or hearing disorder.
4. **PROCEDURES**
Your participation in this study will involve five steps and take approximately 90 minutes.
 - a. In an audio-recorded interview, you will be asked questions related to your background and your place in the community.
 - b. You will be asked to read a reading passage, a word list, and a series of paired rhyming/non-rhyming words.
 - c. You will be asked to:
 - i. listen to a series of individual speech recordings, and for each one, you will be asked to indicate from a set of options what you think you heard; and
 - ii. listen to a series of paired speech recordings, and for each one, you will be asked to indicate if you think they are the same or different.
 - d. You be presented two different geographical maps, one of the United States and the other of Michigan, and then you will be asked to indicate where you think people speak differently from you.
 - e. In an audio-recorded exit interview, you will be asked questions related to your attitude and opinions about language spoken in and outside your community.
5. **RISKS** Audio recorded data will be collected and/or stored for this research. As with any use of electronic means to store data, there exists a minimal risk that it could be lost or stolen. However, no identifiable information will be collected or stored with the collected electronic data.
6. **POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO YOU** Your participation in this study will result in no known personal benefit.
7. **POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO SOCIETY** By participating in this study, your contribution will help to improve our scientific understanding of how English is spoken in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and improve our ability to advise people who must take language into consideration in education, the law, and other public domains in this community and others like it.
8. **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION** Your participation in this research study is completely voluntary. You do not have to participate. You may quit at any time without any penalty to you.

9. **PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY** Your name or any other identifiable information will not be asked in this study. All information collected from you or about you is for the sole purpose of this research study and will be kept confidential to the fullest extent allowed by law. In very rare circumstances specially authorized university or government officials may be given access to our research records for purposes of protecting your rights and welfare or to make sure the research was done properly.
10. **PAYMENT** You will receive a \$40 gift card at the conclusion of the study if all steps for the recorded interview and subsequent task in the study have been completed. If you choose to complete only a third or two-thirds of the interview and subsequent tasks, you will receive either a gift card as prorated for your time.
11. **PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT** By participating in this study, you agree to the following:
- The details of this research study have been explained to me, including what I am being asked to do and the anticipated risks and benefits;
 - I have had an opportunity to have my questions answered;
 - I am voluntarily agreeing to participate in research as described on this form;
 - I may ask more questions or quit participating at any time without penalty.
 - I give my consent to participate in this research project.
12. **CONTACT INFORMATION** If you have any questions about the study you may contact
NAME: Wil Rankinen, Ph.D. PHONE: (616) 331-5541
E-MAIL: wil.rankinen@gvsu.edu

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact the **Office of Research Compliance & Integrity** at Grand Valley State University, 1 Campus Drive, Allendale, MI. Phone: 616-331-3197. E-mail: rci@gvsu.edu.

This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at Grand Valley State University (Protocol #19-310-H).”