Utrecht
University

Participant Information Sheet and Consent form

Survey on Epistemic Challenges of Native and Non-native English Speakers in Philosophy

For many people, doing philosophy in academia today involves using English to publish articles, give presentations, and pursue a career in the field. Academic English differs in style, complexity, and technicality from everyday English. Both native and non-native English speakers need to learn how to effectively use it. You are invited to an international survey that aims to compare the challenges faced by both native and non-native English speakers when using academic English in philosophy. We seek to understand whether native and non-native English speakers need to make similar efforts to read, write, speak about, or understand philosophical content in academic English.

Why participate?

By participating, you will help identify potential challenges faced by native or non-native English speakers in philosophy related to processing academic English. This can inform practices to support philosophers in overcoming these challenges. Upon request, we are also happy to email you a copy of the final study report. Just contact us at u.peters@uu.nl.

This survey can be completed online in about 15 minutes. To participate, you must have studied, be studying, or do research in philosophy. The study has been approved by the Utrecht University Ethics Committee. There are no foreseeable risks associated with study participation. Participation is voluntary. You can stop at any time without saying why.

We will not collect information that allows directly identifying you. Although we will not attempt to identify you indirectly through your responses, this may still be possible. Your answers might also reveal information about your racial or ethnic origin. Therefore, we ask for your consent before you begin the survey. After the study, only fully anonymized data will be publicly accessible on a secure YODA platform hosted by Utrecht University.

The research team

This study is conducted by Dr. Uwe Peters (Utrecht University, Netherlands), Dr. Charlotte Gauvry (University of Bonn, Germany), Dr. Masahura Mizomoto (Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), Dr. Nikolaj Nottelmann (University of Southern Denmark), Dr. Juan Samuel Santos Castro (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia), Dr. Sitian Liu (Sun Yat-sen University, China), Çağla Çimendereli (Syracuse, US), Dr. Anna Klieber (Cardiff, UK), and Dr. Veli Mitova (Johannesburg, South Africa). If you have any questions, please contact us at u.peters@uu.nl.

If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and agree to participate in the study, click on the "I consent" button to begin the survey. If not, please click on the "I do not consent" button.

○ I consent.   ○ I do not consent.

Block 1. Demographics

1.1 What is your gender?

[dropdown ⌄]

1.2 What is your age?

[dropdown ⌄]

**1.3 Please indicate your current country of residence:**

[⌄]

1.4 What is (are) your native language(s) (i.e., the language(s) you predominantly used as a child)? You may select more than one option.

- ☐ Amharic
- ☐ Arabic
- ☐ Bengali
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☐ English
- ☐ English (British)
- ☐ English (Irish)
- ☐ English (Scottish)
- ☐ English (North-American (US, Canadian))
- ☐ English (Australian)
- ☐ English (New Zealand)
- ☐ English (South African)
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hausa
- ☐ Hebrew
- ☐ Hindi
- ☐ Igbo
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Mandarin
- ☐ Oromo
- ☐ Persian (Farsi)
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Punjabi
- ☐ Russian
- ☐ Shona
- ☐ Somali
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swahili
- ☐ Tamil
- ☐ Thai
- ☐ Turkish
- ☐ Ukrainian
- ☐ Yoruba
- ☐ Zulu
- ☐ [_____] Other (please specify)

1.5 What is your current academic position?

[⌄]

1.6 Imagine the ladder below represents where people stand in your country of residence in terms of their income. At the top are the people with the highest monthly disposable income ('Best off'). At the bottom are the people with the

lowest monthly disposable income ('Worst off'). Where would you place yourself on this ladder?
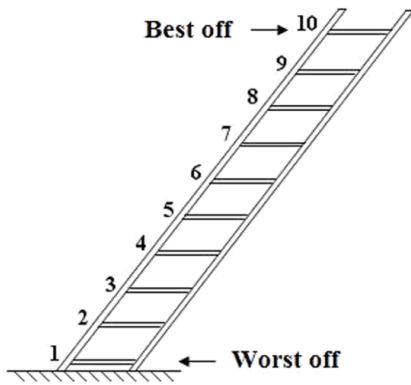
Block 2. Philosophical orientation

2.1 What is your main area of specialization or research focus? Please select your favorite if you have several main areas.

2.2 What is the philosophical tradition in which you mainly work?

Block 3. English proficiency and exposure

3.1 How often do you use English at university, work, home, or with friends?

3.2 How many years have you been using English frequently (e.g., daily or weekly) in education, work, or social settings?

3.3 Which of the following best describes your English proficiency? (For standardized test scores, please see the conversion table below.)

CEFR	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	TOEIC	CES	GSE
A1 Beginner	N/A	N/A	120–220	100–119	22–29
A2 Elementary	N/A	N/A	225–545	120–139	30–42
B1 Intermediate	4.0–5.0	42–71	550–780	140–159	43–58
B2 Upper Intermediate	5.5–6.5	72–94	785–940	160–179	59–75
C1 Advanced	7.0–8.0	95–120	945–990	180–199	76–84
C2 Proficient	8.5–9.0	N/A	N/A	200–230	85–90

3.4 If you are a non-native English speaker educated in an English-speaking country or you regularly use English, have you ever felt that your exposure to English reduced your ability to explain philosophical content in your native language (e.g., because you didn't learn, or forgot relevant terms in your native language)?

Block 4. Publication count

4.1 How many peer-reviewed philosophy articles have you published as the main author (i.e., the author who did most of the research and writing of the paper) in English?

[⌄]

4.2 How many peer-reviewed philosophy articles have you published as the main author in another language than English?

[⌄]

Block 5. Paper writing

5.1 How many months did it take you to complete the research and writing of the first draft of your most recent main-authored philosophy paper (6,000–9,000 words) in academic English? (Exclude vacation and teaching time.)

[⌄]

5.2 If you are a non-native English speaker, how many months would it take you to complete the research and writing of the same draft in your native language? (Exclude vacation and teaching time.)

[⌄]

5.3 Have you ever asked someone to improve the quality of your academic English writing? (You can select more than one option.)

☐ Yes, co-author(s), colleague(s), or friend(s)
☐ Yes, professional proof-reader or editing services
☐ Yes, ChatGPT, or other large language models
☐ Yes, Grammarly, or other AI assistants
☐ No

Block 6. Paper revision

6.1 How often have you been asked by journal editors or reviewers to improve your English writing in the revision of your main-authored manuscript(s)?

[⌄]

6.2 Have you ever had one of your manuscripts rejected from an English-language philosophy journal where one reason mentioned for the rejection was your academic English?

[⌄]

6.3 Have you yourself ever suggested rejecting a manuscript from an English-language philosophy journal where one reason you mentioned for the rejection was the author's poor academic English?

[⌄]

Block 7. Text understanding

7.1 How many hours did it take you to read and understand the last academic English-language article (10–15 pages) that you read in your area of philosophy?

[⌄]

7.2 If you are a non-native English speaker, how many hours would it take you to read and understand the same academic English-language philosophy article if you could read it in your native language?

[dropdown ⌄]

7.3 How often do you use ChatGPT or other AI tools to read, summarize, or understand philosophy articles (arguments, concepts, etc.) in academic English?

[dropdown ⌄]

Block 8. Speaking and teaching

8.1 How many hours did it take you to prepare and practice the last (30–45 mins) philosophy presentation in academic English?

[dropdown ⌄]

8.2 If you are a non-native English speaker, how many hours would it take you to prepare and practice the same philosophy presentation in your native language?

[dropdown ⌄]

8.3 How often have you decided not to ask a question during a philosophy workshop, conference, class, lecture, or Q&A because you lacked confidence in your academic English?

[dropdown ⌄]

8.4 How often have you decided not to attend a philosophy workshop, conference, or social networking event because you lacked confidence in your academic English?

[dropdown ⌄]

8.5 If you have taught philosophy courses in English, have you ever received negative feedback from students or colleagues on your teaching because of your English (e.g., your non-native, or UK, US, etc. accent)?

[dropdown ⌄]

8.6 Have people in your academic environment ever made jokes about your or another philosopher's English pronunciation or word choice?

[dropdown ⌄]

8.7 Have you ever felt ridiculed, criticized, or taken less seriously in philosophy (e.g., by colleagues, reviewers, supervisors, etc.) because of your English (e.g., your non-native, or UK, US, etc. accent, word choice, etc.)?

[dropdown ⌄]

Block 9. Free response

9. Are there any personal experiences of language barriers or linguistic injustice related to academic English in philosophy that you'd like to share?

[text box]

Do you have any feedback on this survey that may help us improve it?

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