Copular Agreement Study
CONSENT FORM

In this project we are collecting examples of **copular sentences** from a wide range of languages in order to better understand how these sentences vary across languages. Copular sentences are sentences in which something other than a verb has the job of expressing what is happening to the subject, or what state the subject is in. For example, in *Carl is in the library*, a prepositional phrase 'in the library' expresses where the subject is, or in *Carl is a writer*, the noun phrase 'a writer' expresses what the subject is. The term copula refers to linking verbs like 'be'. We are particularly interested in copular sentences where the phrase introduced by the copula is a noun phrase, because these seem to have special properties, and they seem to vary across languages in ways that are not well understood. Take as an example the English sentence *This is me*, which a person might use to identify themselves in a picture. The copular verb here has the form 'is' (and not 'are' or 'am') because it **agrees** with the first noun 'this', which is 3rd person singular. However, in many other languages, the grammatical equivalent to this utterance would be *This am me*, where the copula verb agrees not with the first noun 'this, but with the second noun 'me', and so must be 1st person singular. On the surface this may seem like a trivial difference, but it may have far-reaching implications for linguists, because agreement patterns play an important role in contemporary grammatical theories, and current ideas about agreement are actually not able to easily explain these facts.

Your participation in this project will involve a one-on-one meeting with one of our researchers. The researcher will ask you to translate English sentences, word-for-word and figuratively, into your language. The researcher will also construct sentences in your language and ask you to evaluate whether these are possible utterances. The researcher will write down what you say, and in some cases may make an audio recording of your answers as well. In compensation for your participation with this project, you will be receive $___/hour, to be paid in cash at the end of this meeting.

Your written data will be stored in computer files. Audio files will be digitized and also archived on a computer. You may contact us at any time to request access to your data. The written data will be entered anonymously in a database, parts of which may eventually be made available online (with your consent). We will contact you with the url for the online database when it has gone live. If you would like to contribute your data to the online portion of our database, please indicate this in the appropriate space below:

I would like to contribute my data to the online portion of the project database: □ YES □ NO

All publications stemming from this research will also be made available online. Your name will never be associated with your data, however it is common practice to thank language consultants in the acknowledgements of publications. If you would like to be acknowledged, please indicate this in the appropriate space below.

I would like to be thanked in the acknowledgements of publications: □ YES □ NO

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The name of the researcher working with you today is _____

Please fill in the bottom of this form to indicate that you consent to participate in this research. You may withdraw your consent at any point during this meeting.

I consent to being a participant in the above-described research project.

Name (Printed):_____Date:_____

Signature:_____