Perspectives of Speech and Language Therapists and Students on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Practice and Academic Work

What is this study about?

This study aims to investigate the general knowledge, usage, perceptions, and training / support needs regarding the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in clinical practice and academic work by Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) and Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) students in Ireland, Finland, and Iceland. The findings will contribute to the provision of invaluable information for possible future development in relation to support or guidance in using AI tools in our discipline.

The project has been approved by the Social Research Ethics Committee, UCC.

Why am I being invited?

You are being invited to participate because you are a qualified SLTs currently working in Ireland in the profession (including educators), seeking employment (e.g., just graduated, planning to transition to a new SLT role), or on leave of <2 years (e.g., maternity leave, recently retired, career break).

What does participation involve?

Participation involves completing a **one-off online survey**, presented using Qualtrics. The survey includes multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions that ask for your opinions and experiences to date. The survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

Participation is entirely **voluntary**. We will ask for your explicit consent to participation on the start page of the survey. If you chose "I consent", it will go on to show you the survey questions.

You can choose not to take part or withdraw at any time before submitting the responses at the end of the survey. But, once submitted, the anonymous responses will be saved, and it will not be possible to identify individual participants to exclude the data from the study.

How to access the survey?

If you are happy to take part in the survey, please access the online survey using the anonymous link or QR code ➔

https://ucc.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1TGYGS5V7seGgtg

Are there any potential risks?

We do not anticipate any risk from participating in the survey. But if you have any concerns or wish to seek further clarification, please feel free to contact us.

In the unlikely event that you experience any distress while completing the survey, please stop taking the survey. You may want to let us know about the incident, or contact a third-party support service (e.g., SpunOut.ie – a free, 24/7 mental health support service – https://www.textaboutit.ie/, or text 'HELLO' to 50808).

How will we handle your survey responses?

No identifying information will be collected in the survey. Survey responses will be downloaded from Qualtrics and kept securely in UCC SharePoint sites managed by the Principal Investigator (PI) during the lifetime of the project and for 10 years upon completion of the project. Only the named research team members below will have access to the raw survey data and relevant data analysis files. After that, those files will be deleted from SharePoint by the PI.

How will the data be used?

The study is being carried out as a joint final year project of two Year 4 SLT students, Caoilinn Buckley and Caoimhe Cripps. Hence, the findings will be reported in their research dissertation and oral presentation, required in the BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy degree course. The research findings will also be disseminated in a research paper in a peer-reviewed academic journal and as presentation at professional conferences or meetings.

In the research output stated above, the findings will be presented in an aggregated form for numbers (e.g., number and percentage of participants who chose certain options) and, where applicable, excerpts of free text responses will be included. No identifying information about the participants will be included or linked to the quotes as such data will not be collected.

To adhere to open research and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) principles and allow **secondary analysis** (e.g., further study on perspective changes over time) by this team or other researchers, the anonymised survey responses (in Excel file) will be deposited in Zenodo (https://zenodo.org/) for **open access**. The file will include only the response to each survey question (displayed in the columns) for each participant (displayed in rows). A risk assessment will be carried out to ensure anonymity before depositing the data.

Can I ask questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the Student Investigators or Research Supervisors.

Research team members:

- Caoilinn Buckley, Year 4 SLT Student, UCC (123328616@umail.ucc.ie)
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- Dr. Alice Lee, Senior Lecturer, Research Supervisor, Principal Investigator, UCC (a.lee@ucc.ie)
- Dr. Emma Gleeson, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, UCC (e.gleeson@ucc.ie)
- Dr. Nicola Bessell, Lecturer, Research Team Member, UCC
- Dr. Satu Saalasti, Associate Professor, External Collaborator, University of Eastern Finland
- Dr. Iris Edda Nowenstein, Assistant Professor, External Collaborator, University of Iceland

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this information and for considering participating in this study. Your input will be greatly appreciated!