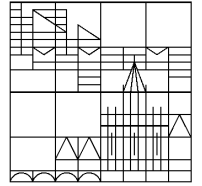




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# Sociolinguistic Typology Meets Historical Corpus Linguistics

Molly Rolf and Raquel Montero Estebaranz

3rd June 2024



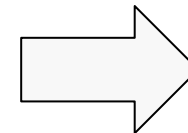
**STARFISH**

SOCIOLINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY  
AND RESPONSIVE FEATURES  
IN SYNTACTIC HISTORY

# A question

German and English are sisters; both are part of the Germanic language family, yet English has lost its gender and case systems whilst German has not. Why?

	gender and number					
	Masculine		Neuter		Feminine	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
<b>case</b>	<b>Strong Noun Declension</b>					
	engel 'angel'		scip 'ship'		sorg 'sorrow'	
<b>Nominative</b>	engel	englas	scip	scipu	sorg	sorga
<b>Accusative</b>	engel	englas	scip	scipu	sorge	sorga/sorge
<b>Genitive</b>	engles	engla	scipes	scipa	sorge	sorga
<b>Dative</b>	engle	englum	scipe	scipum	sorge	sorgum
<b>case</b>	<b>Weak Noun Declension</b>					
	nama 'name'		ēage 'eye'		tunge 'tongue'	
<b>Nominative</b>	nama	naman	ēage	ēagan	tunge	tungan
<b>Accusative</b>	naman	naman	ēage	ēagan	tungan	tungan
<b>Genitive</b>	naman	namena	ēagan	ēagena	tungan	tungena
<b>Dative</b>	naman	namum	ēagan	ēagum	tungan	tungum

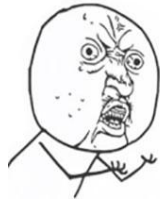


Singular	Plural
angel	angels

## German vs English



du	-	you
dich	-	you
dir	-	you
Sie	-	you
Ihnen	-	you
ihr	-	you
euch	-	you



Me during my french exam  
wondering what is the gender of a  
washing machine



# Why has English lost its gender and case systems whilst German has not?

# Project STARFISH

**S-** sociolinguistic

**T-** typology

**A-** and

**R-** responsive

**F-** features

**I-** in

**S-** syntactic

**H-** history



**STARFISH**

SOCIOLINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY  
AND RESPONSIVE FEATURES  
IN SYNTACTIC HISTORY

Investigating the role of so-called responsive, L2- difficult morphosyntactic features in language change.

# Trudgill's (2011) Sociolinguistic Typology

Different types of contact situation -> different types of change:

- Adult L2 language acquisition leads to **simplification**.
- Child bilingualism leads to **complexification**.

*Simplification* occurs when a society contains a high proportion of post-critical-period acquirers – “a result of the lousy language-learning abilities of the human adult”.

## Walkden & Breitbarth (2019): uninterpretable features

Following Trudgill, Walkden & Breitbarth (2019) equate complexity with L2 difficulty.

Interpretability Hypothesis (e.g. Tsimpli & Dimitrakopoulou 2007): uninterpretable features are not accessible to adult L2 learners as part of the initial state.

In Minimalist syntactic theory, **uninterpretable** features:

- are present only within the syntax
- have no interpretation at the interfaces (i.e. no semantic content)

**All else being equal, we predict that in sociohistorical situations in which adult L2 learners are dominant, uninterpretable features will typically be lost.**

# The WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHO and HOW?

The questions needing answers in our investigation into a case of language change:

**WHAT** the linguistic variants are

**WHO** is in contact, the people involved

**WHERE** the contact took place

**WHEN** the contact took place

**HOW** the contact took place- at the individual level and at the population level

# The historical corpus approach

We make use of the historical record to examine the nature of morphosyntactic simplification.

Advantages of this method:

- using diachronic corpora provides the WHERE and WHEN answers:

-we expect more simplification in areas with higher numbers of adult L2 speakers

-when the change takes place, and if the change is short-term or long-term

- ability to track the speed and behaviour of a morphosyntactic change quantitatively.



# Roadmap

## Part I: Testing Trudgill's Sociolinguistic Typology Using Corpora

- Case study: Null subjects in Latin American Spanish
- Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

Question period- about 10 mins

## Part II: Combining Methodologies

- Population dynamics: modelling language change and contact
- Case study: subjunctive morphology in Spanish

Question period- about 10 mins

# Part I.

## Testing Trudgill's Sociolinguistic Typology Using Corpora

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# Structure of Part I

## 1. Case study: Null subjects in Latin American Spanish

- Null subjects as an L2 difficult feature
- Contact and research question
- Corpus and results

## 2. Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

- Morphological case as an L2 difficult feature
- Contact in Balkan Slavic
- A nanosyntactic KP and case loss predictions
- Corpus and results

# 1. Case study: Null subjects in Latin American Spanish

# Case study: Null subjects in Latin American Spanish

## WHAT: Null subjects

### Spanish is a null subject language (NSL)

Spanish [consistent NSL]: (**Nosotros**) queremos ir a la playa

English [non-NSL (NNSL)]: \*(**We**) want to go to the beach

- **However, overt pronoun expression is higher in certain varieties of Latin American Spanish (LAS):**

*Ellos* me dijeron que *yo* tenía anemia . . . Si *ellos* me dicen que *yo* estoy en peligro cuando *ellos* me entren la aguja por el ombligo, *yo* me voy a ver en una situación de estrés.

‘They told me that I had anemia . . . If they tell me that I am in danger when they put the needle in my belly-button, I am going to find myself in a stressful situation.’ (Toribio, 2000:319, ex. 3e).

## Null subjects are L2 difficult

- Null subjects seem to be harder to acquire, particularly for L2 speakers (Bini 1993, Pérez-Leroux & Glass 1999, Margaza & Bel 2006, Sorace 2011, Tsimpli & Lavidas 2019).
- Increasing the use of overt pronouns seems to be an act of simplification then.

The uninterpretable features on null subjects lead to misanalysis & overcompensation with features that are interpretable: overt subjects.

# Contact



- The countries with grey have large Afro-Hispanic populations descended from the slaves taken to the Caribbean and coastal South America.
- Their languages reflect the same kind of change predicted- null subject loss.

## Contact and research question

- Specifically, during the colonial period enslaved Africans were brought over to Latin America.
- These adult learners of L2 Spanish might have struggled acquiring the L2-difficult null subject system, preferring overt pronouns.
- Their children would then have nativized this system.
  - This is exactly the scenario Sessarego (2013) proposes for Latin American Spanish where Afro-Hispanic Language of the Americans (AHLAs) are these nativized varieties, showing many non-standard features such as SV order.

### **Main research question:**

- **Does overttness increase diachronically?**



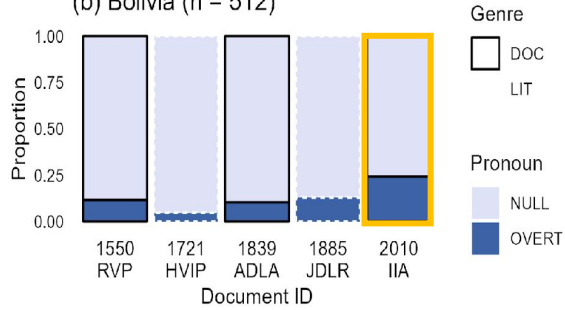
# Corpus: CORDELES

- **This is the main historical corpus**
  - 57 texts (~2-3k words each)
  - 8 countries (7 from the Caribbean and Central and South America, plus Spain as a control)
  - 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- **Each century + country combination ideally has 2 texts, one from each genre:**
  - Literature (e.g. novels, plays, poetry)
  - Documents (e.g. newspapers, legal documents, letters)
- **5 supplemental AHILA texts**

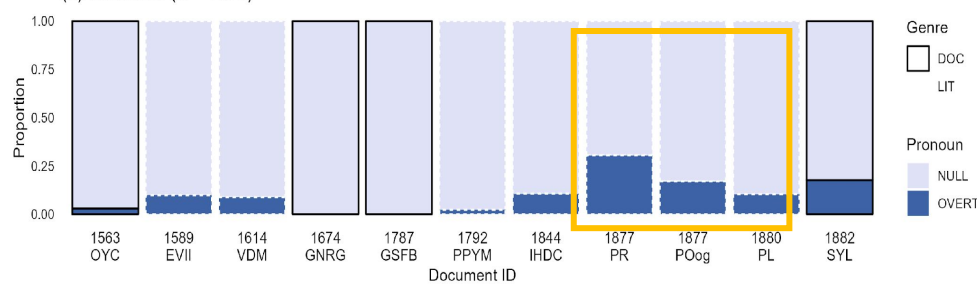
	CARIBBEAN/CENTRAL			SOUTH AMERICAN				SPAIN
	DR	PANAMÁ	CUBA	PERÚ	COLOMBIA	BOLIVIA	VENEZUELA	
16 <sup>TH</sup>								
LIT	ENT	HGNI	HDLI	HNMI	EVII*	--	GDUI	LAH
DOC	SDJ	CAR	DRF	NDP	OYC	RVP	PDAM	CAN
17 <sup>TH</sup>								
LIT	DPHJ	LLDP*	EDP*	CEVP*	VDM	--	NHLC	DQ
DOC	--	DLYD	LCDH	CPVV	GNRG	--	PR	ACRA
18 <sup>TH</sup>								
LIT	LIVIE	--	PJFC*	PAD	PPYM	HVIP	EOID	ARJD
DOC	ASD	--	SPPH	MC	GSFB	--	ALTU	EAU
19 <sup>TH</sup>								
LIT	GAL*	HS*	ADUE	MYT	IHDC	JDLR	VH	CPC
DOC	ALD	MPE	GDLH	CRP	SYL	ADLA	GDC	QDEV

# Results: Pronoun realisation

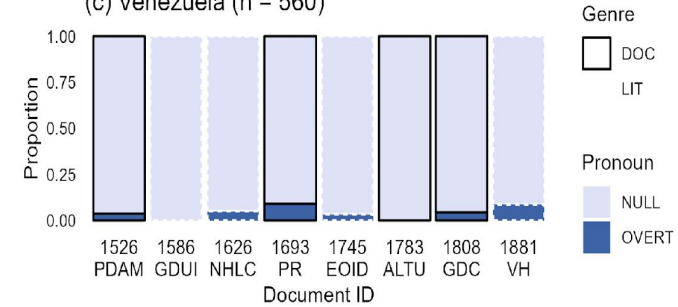
(b) Bolivia (n = 512)



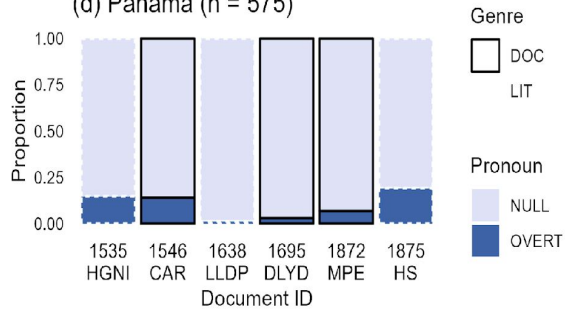
(a) Colombia (n = 1070)



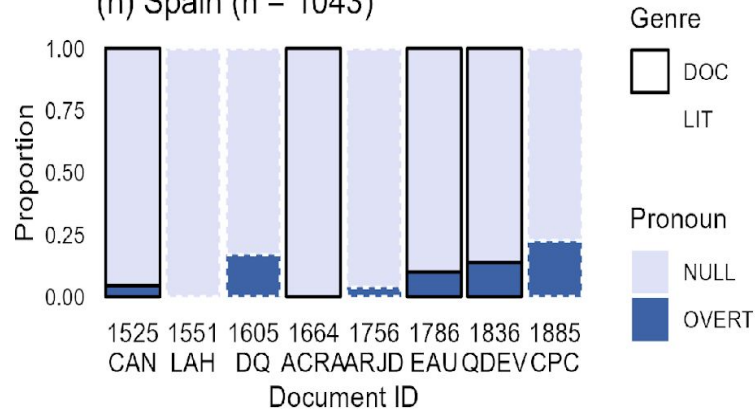
(c) Venezuela (n = 560)



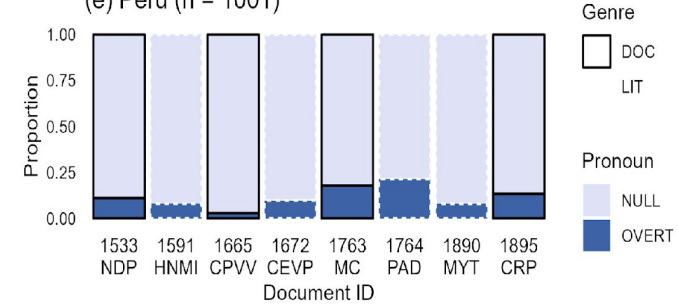
(d) Panamá (n = 575)



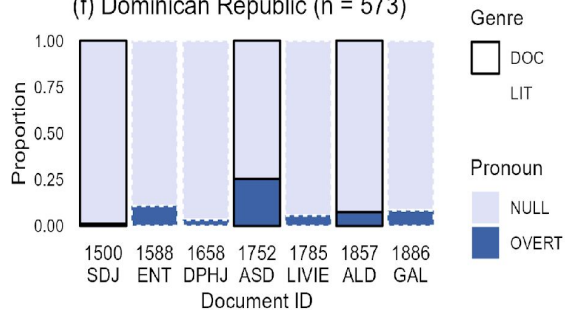
(h) Spain (n = 1043)



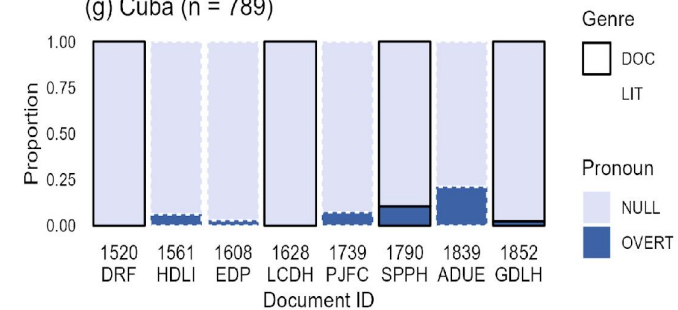
(e) Perú (n = 1001)



(f) Dominican Republic (n = 573)



(g) Cuba (n = 789)

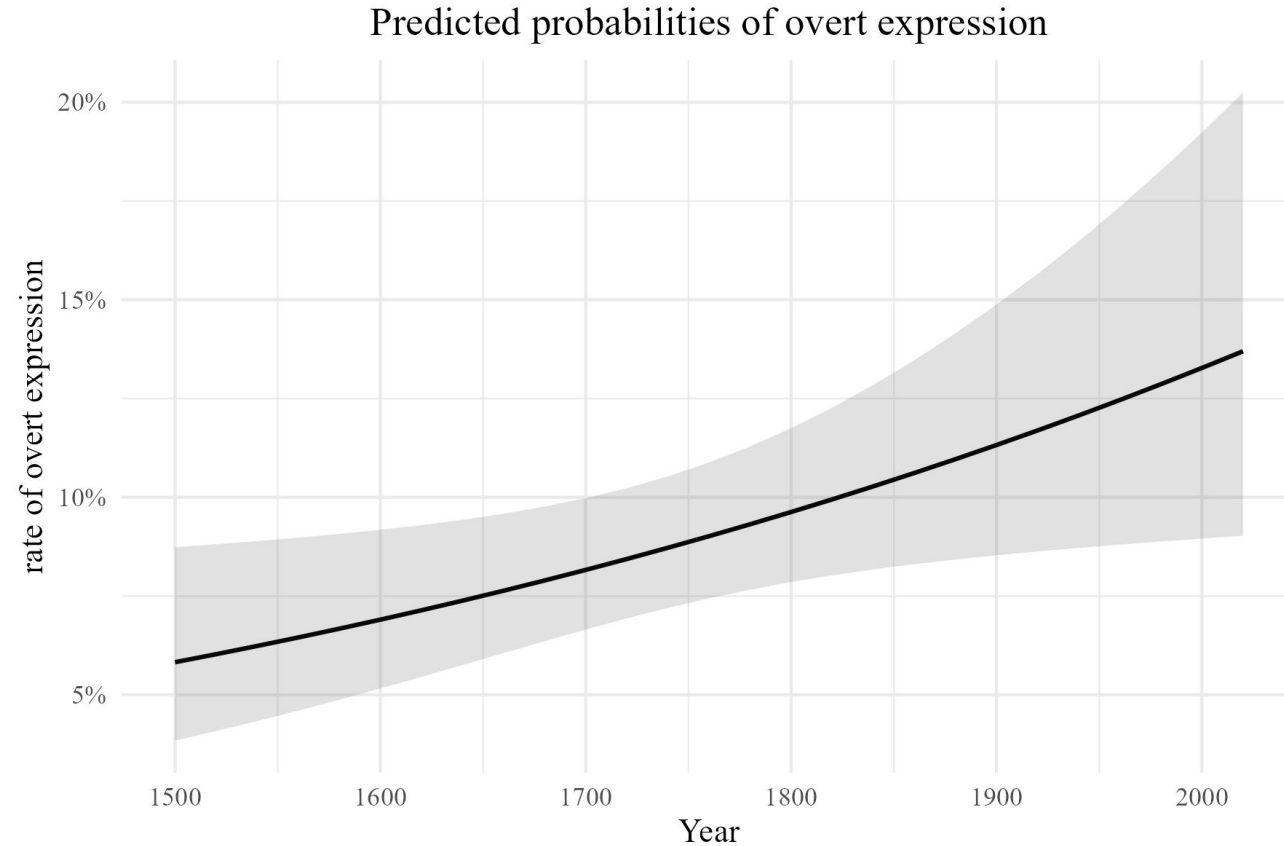


There also seems to be something else at play as the most overt texts are also very discourse heavy: orality

# Model results

<i>Dependent variable:</i>	
SPE	
Year	0.247 (0.108) p = 0.022*
ORSCORE	0.457 (0.138) p = 0.001***
Constant	-2.360 (0.107) p = 0.000***
Observations	5,707
Log Likelihood	-1,911.580
Akaike Inf. Crit.	3,831.160
Bayesian Inf. Crit.	3,857.758

*Note:* \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001



## 2. Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

# Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

## WHAT: Morphological case

- Syntactic/structural Case is associated with uninterpretability in Minimalism
- Semantic case (inherent/lexical) perhaps with interpretability
- The function of uninterpretable Case features e.g. NOM and ACC are to determine positioning and behaviour of the subject and object, whereas other morphological cases seem more determined by semantics.
- I focus on discussion of morphological case in this talk: if we apply uninterpretability we would predict that the nominative and accusative cases are the most L2 difficult, which does not intuitively seem to be true...

# Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

CASE	man, sg.	man, pl.
NOM	adam	adam-lar
ACC	adam-1	adam-lar-1
GEN	adam-1n	adam-lar-1n
DAT	adam-a	adam-lar-a
LOC	adam-da	adam-lar-da
ABL	adam-dan	adam-lar-dan
INS	adam-la	adam-lar-la

Case	Singular			Plural
	Feminine	Masculine	Neuter	All genders
Nominative	die	der	das	die
Accusative	die	den	das	die
Dative	der	dem	dem	den
Genitive	der	des	des	der

## Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

	CASE	man, sg.	man, pl.
man (subject)	NOM	adam	adam-lar
man (object)	ACC	adam-1	adam-lar-1
man's / <b>of</b> the man	GEN	adam-1n	adam-lar-1n
<b>to</b> the man	DAT	adam-a	adam-lar-a
<b>in</b> the man	LOC	adam-da	adam-lar-da
<b>from</b> the man	ABL	adam-dan	adam-lar-dan
<b>with</b> the man	INS	adam-la	adam-lar-la

- A shift in functional load from case morphology to adpositions.

# Case study: Morphological case loss in Balkan Slavic

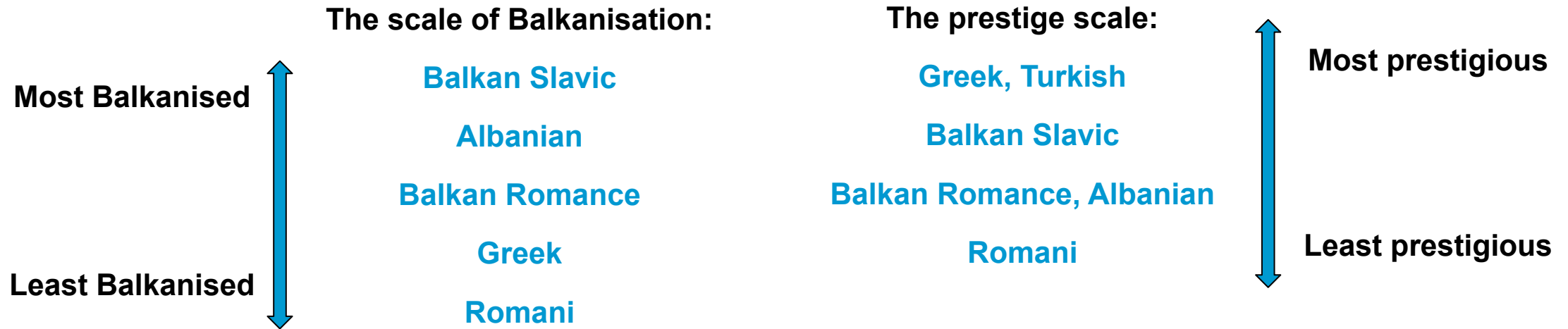
Case systems of the Balkan Sprachbund languages:

- Greek- has retained some case: nom, acc and gen (from a previous 5-way case system)
- Albanian- has retained a four-way case distinction (nom, acc, gen-dat and abl)
- Romanian- the only Romance language to have retained case
- Romani- is the least impoverished case-wise with nom, acc/oblique, voc, gen, dat, loc, abl and instr
- **Bulgarian and Macedonian- nearly completely lost**



# Contact in the Balkan Sprachbund

Lindstedt (2000, 2019) argues that an interplay of sociolinguistic factors in the Balkans could have led to the simplification of the case system in Balkan Slavic:

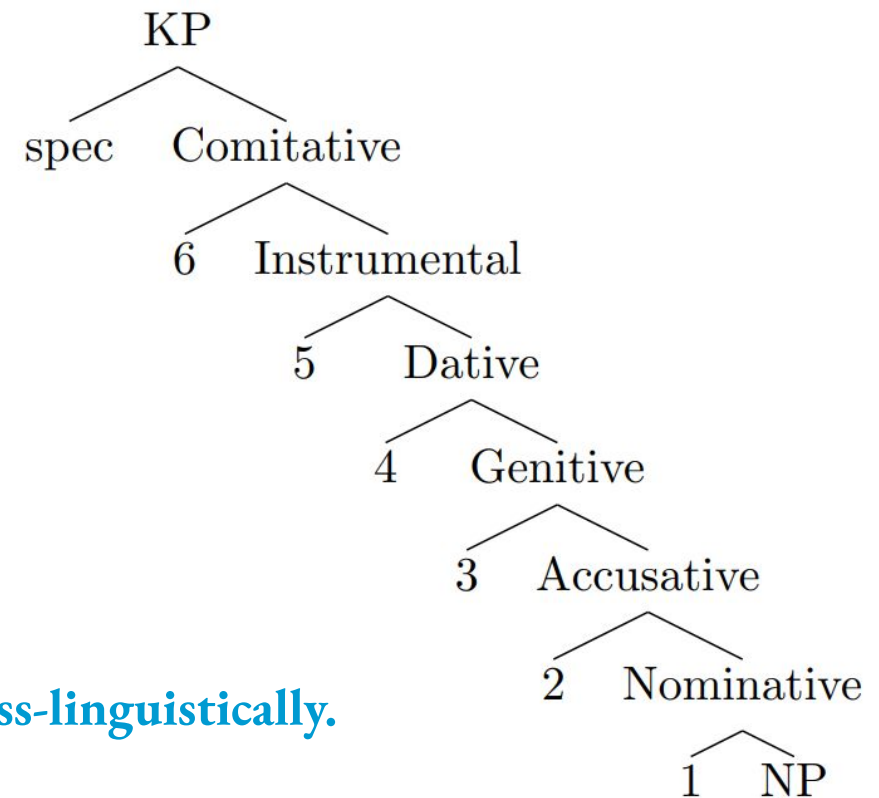


- Greek was at the top of the prestige scale and therefore had fewer multilingual L1 speakers but many L2 speakers.
- At the other end of the scale, Romani had the fewest L2 speakers but a very multilingual L1 population.
- Balkan Slavic fell somewhere in the middle of the prestige scale with many L2 speakers AND a high level of multilingualism.

# Blake's Hierarchy and the KP (case phrase)

Blake's Hierarchy: NOM > ACC/ERG > GEN > DAT > LOC > ABL/INS > other

- A nanosyntactic approach to case: the cases in the KP (Caha, 2009) are in containment relationships: e.g. the dative contains the genitive and all the cases lower than it.
- If a language has a given case, it must also have all the cases to the left of the given case in the case hierarchy/sequence. In terms of syncretism, two or more cases can only be syncretic if adjacent on the case sequence.



**The KP aims to capture case inventories and syncretisms cross-linguistically.**

# Case Phrase KP- adpositions too!

The same syntactic structure can be applied to adpositions.

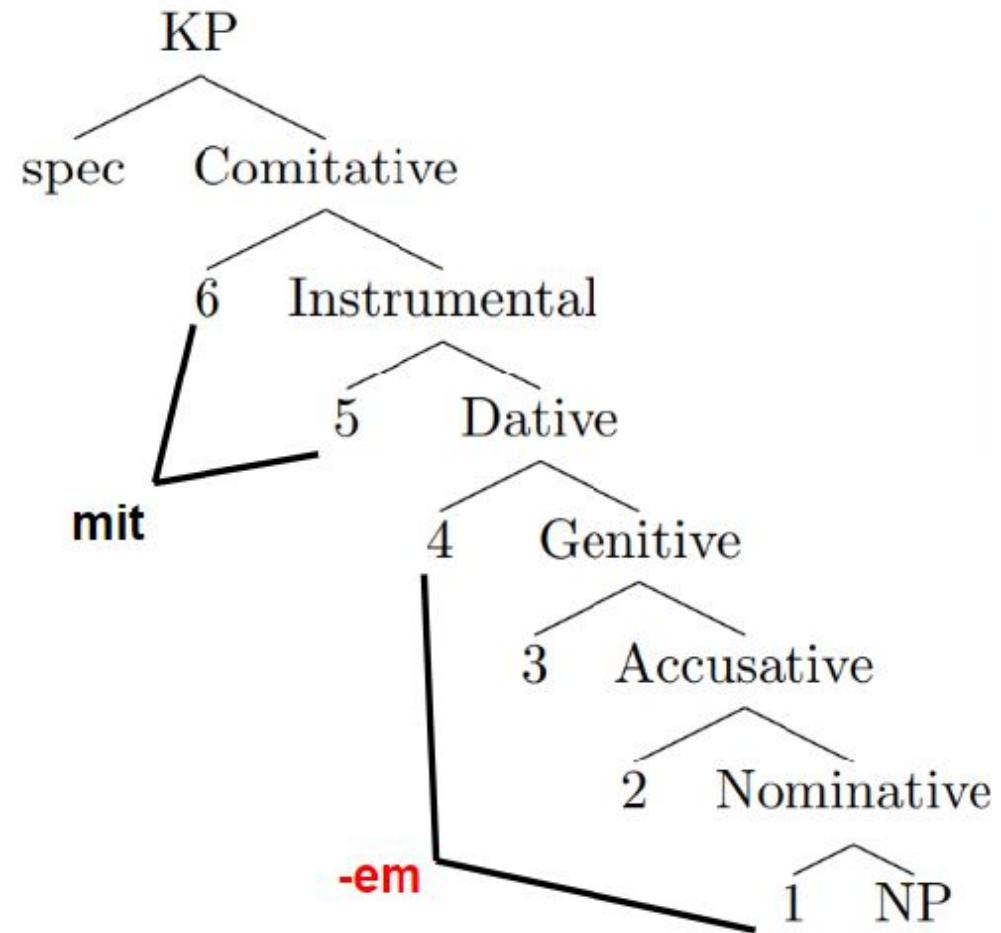
‘I am eating dinner with a friend.’ **Comitative**

Adpositions taking certain cases on their nominals are also accounted for.

‘Ich esse Abendessen mit einem Freund.’ **Comitative**

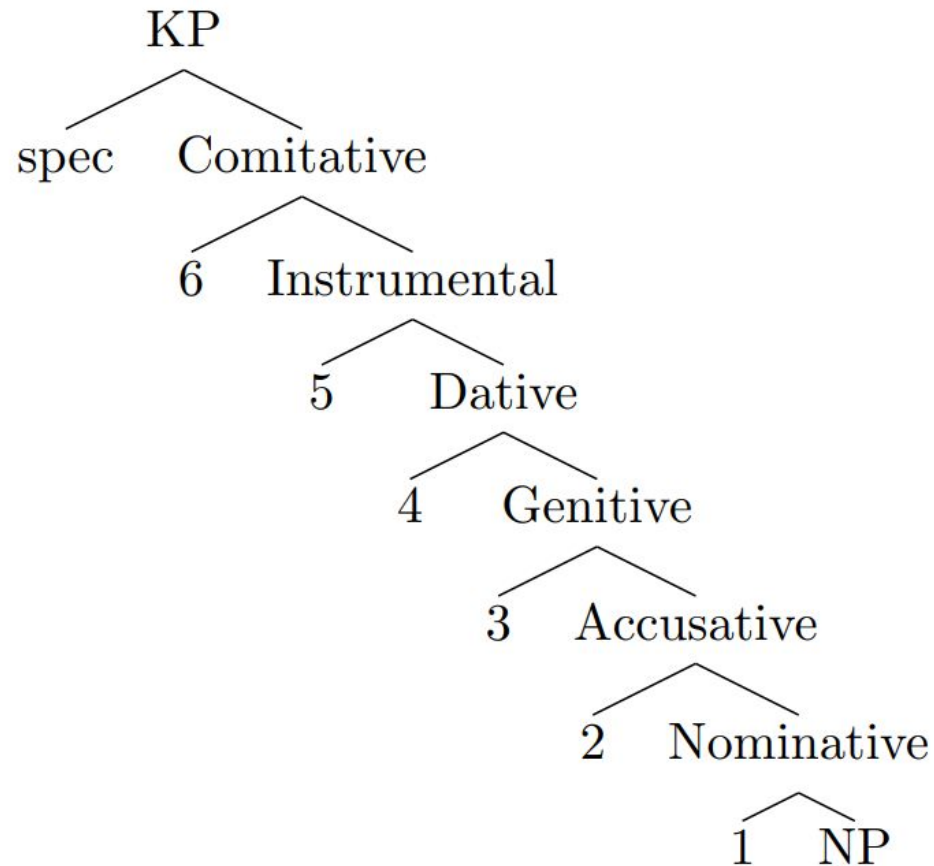
In this approach, the difference between adpositions and case markers is which morphological processes do or do not apply (in a DM kind of approach).

Adpositions and case markers have the same narrow syntactic representation.



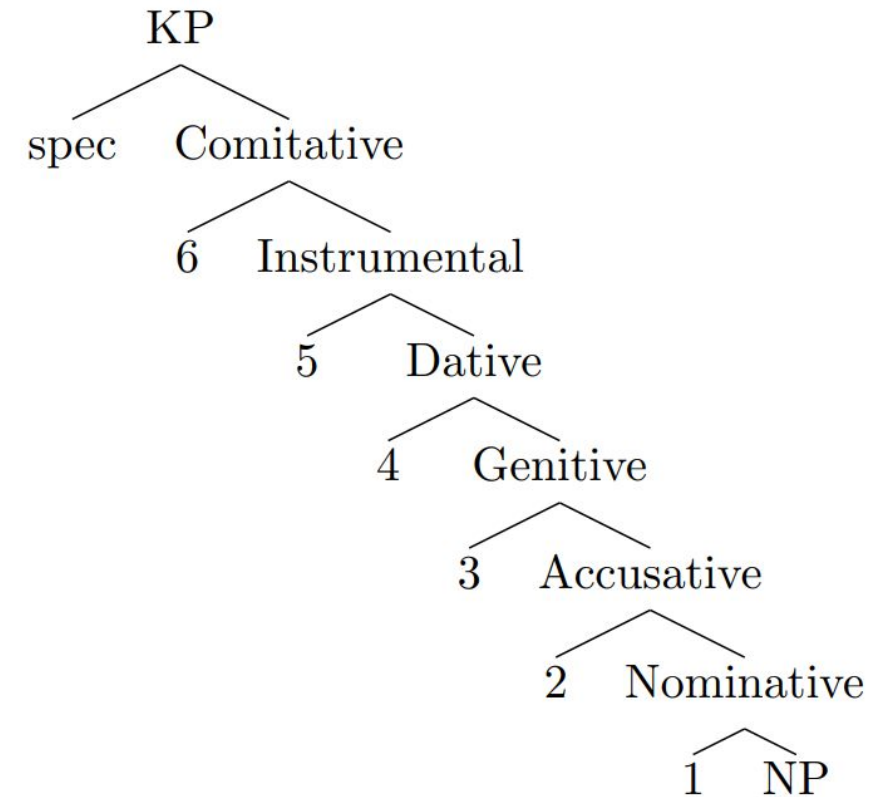
# Diachronic predictions of FOFC- a functional load shift

The Final-Over-Final Condition (FOFC) when applied to the KP makes clear diachronic predictions. In a shift from morphological case realisation to prepositional, the shift must occur top-down.



# Predictions

- The proportions of adpositional realisation should increase diachronically for each grammatical function, unless the proportion has already reached 100 percent, or in the instances of direct object and subject.
- The adpositional proportion of a given grammatical function should not overtake that of a higher function.

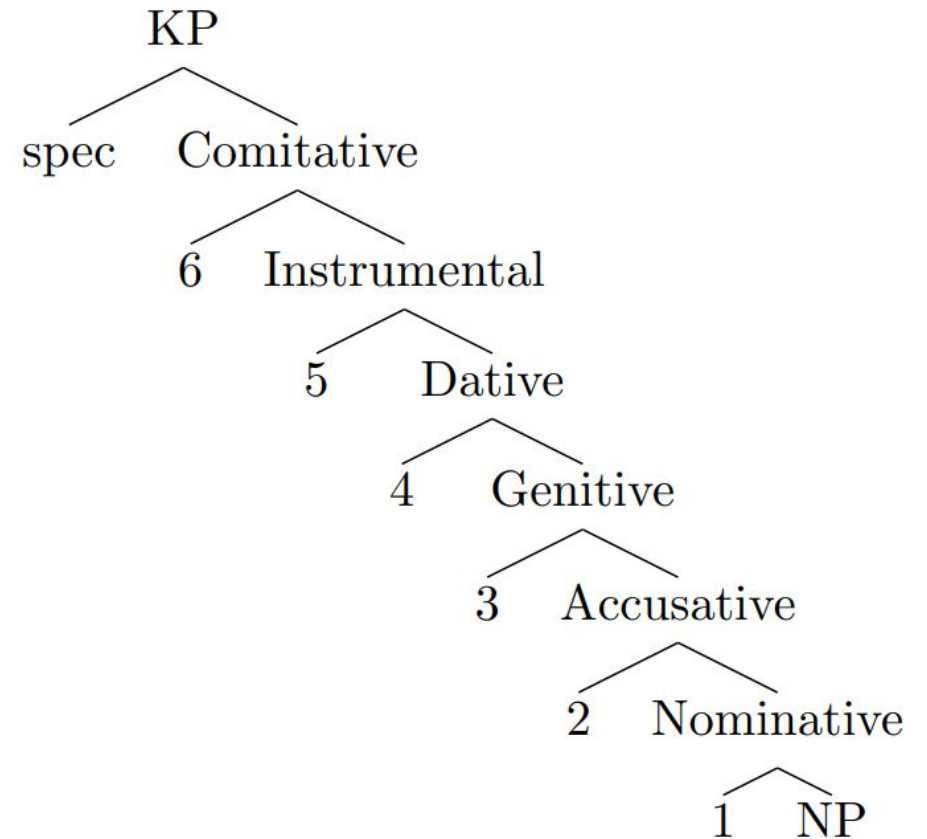


# Predictions

Highest proportion of  
prepositional realisation

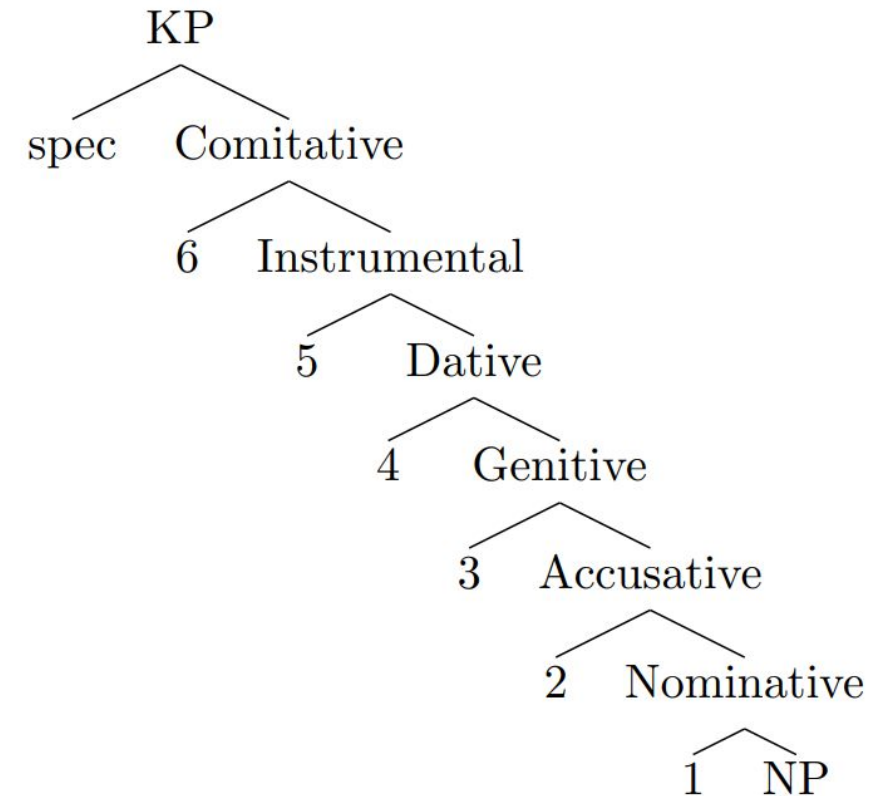
A change from m-case realisation to  
adpositional realisation, moving  
top-down in the KP.

Lowest proportion of  
prepositional realisation



# Corpus: Annotated corpus of Pre-standardised Balkan Slavic Literature

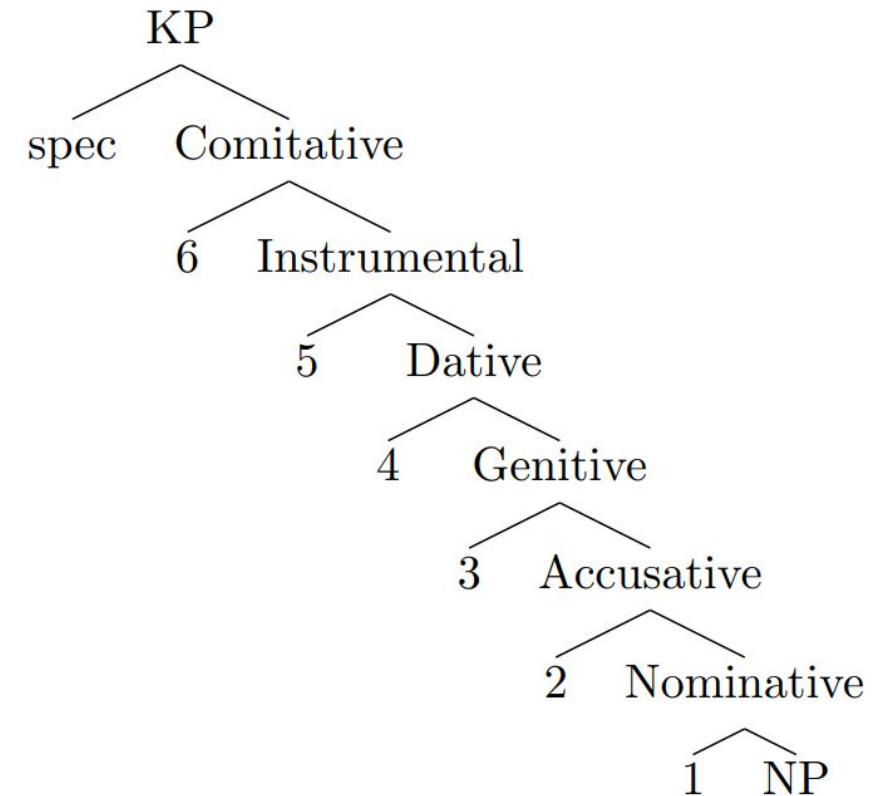
- The corpus texts I include are of various genres and are from the 1300s to 1860 from areas in which Balkan Slavic was spoken (mostly in the modern Bulgarian area).
- Wahlström (2015) dates the bulk of the change to be complete by the 16th century.
- For the later texts in the corpus therefore, the bulk of the change is predicted to have taken place.
- We can use corpus data to track if this is true i.e. how many of the grammatical functions have switched to prepositional realisation in the texts from the end of the 16th century?



# Methodology- examining function realisation

- It was necessary to implement the existing corpus annotation to be able to directly compare the grammatical function realisation of adposition phrases with case on nominal phrases. The proportion of adpositional realisation vs non-adpositional realisation (i.e. case-marking or bare) was calculated for each grammatical function in each text.
- The grammatical functions focussed on here are the following:

**Comitative**  
**Associative**  
**Instrumental**  
**Goal**  
**Recipient**  
**Possessive**  
**Direct object (theme  
direct object)**  
**Subject (agentive  
subject)**





# Methodology- examining function realisation

## Instrumental non-adpositional realisation:

*togda napisovaaše aležandrъ farižъ črveněm vinomъ na bělomъ oubrouse.*  
then wrote Alexander Paris red.LOC\* wine.INS on white.LOC/INS tablecloth.LOC  
'Alexander Paris was then writing **with the red wine** on a white napkin.'

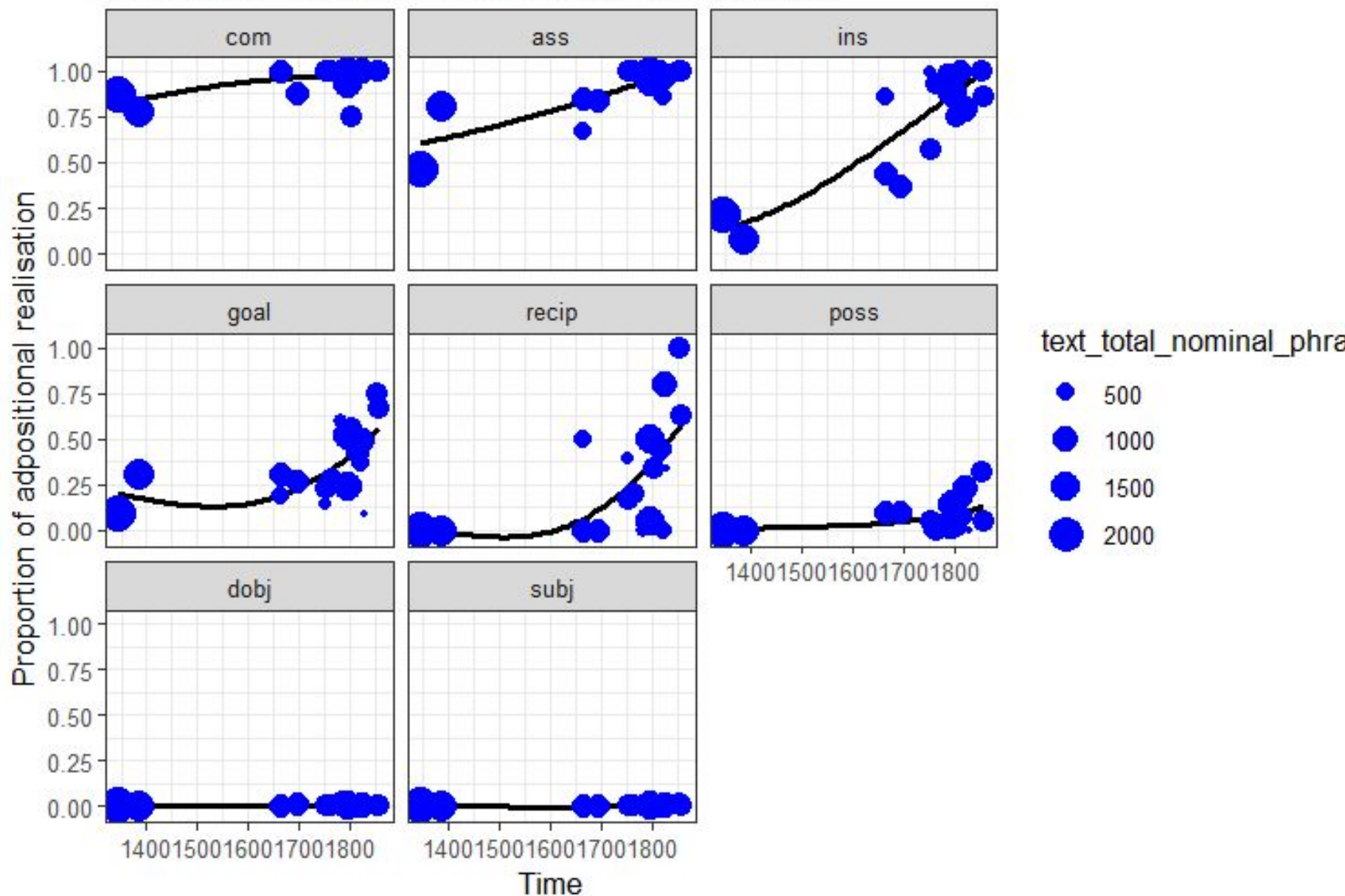
## Instrumental adpositional realisation:

... *do êdinъ grátъ štátъ da sá bię^tъ sá-sъ kalíčъ*  
until one city want to self beat with sword.NOM  
'... they will fight for every city **with swords.**'

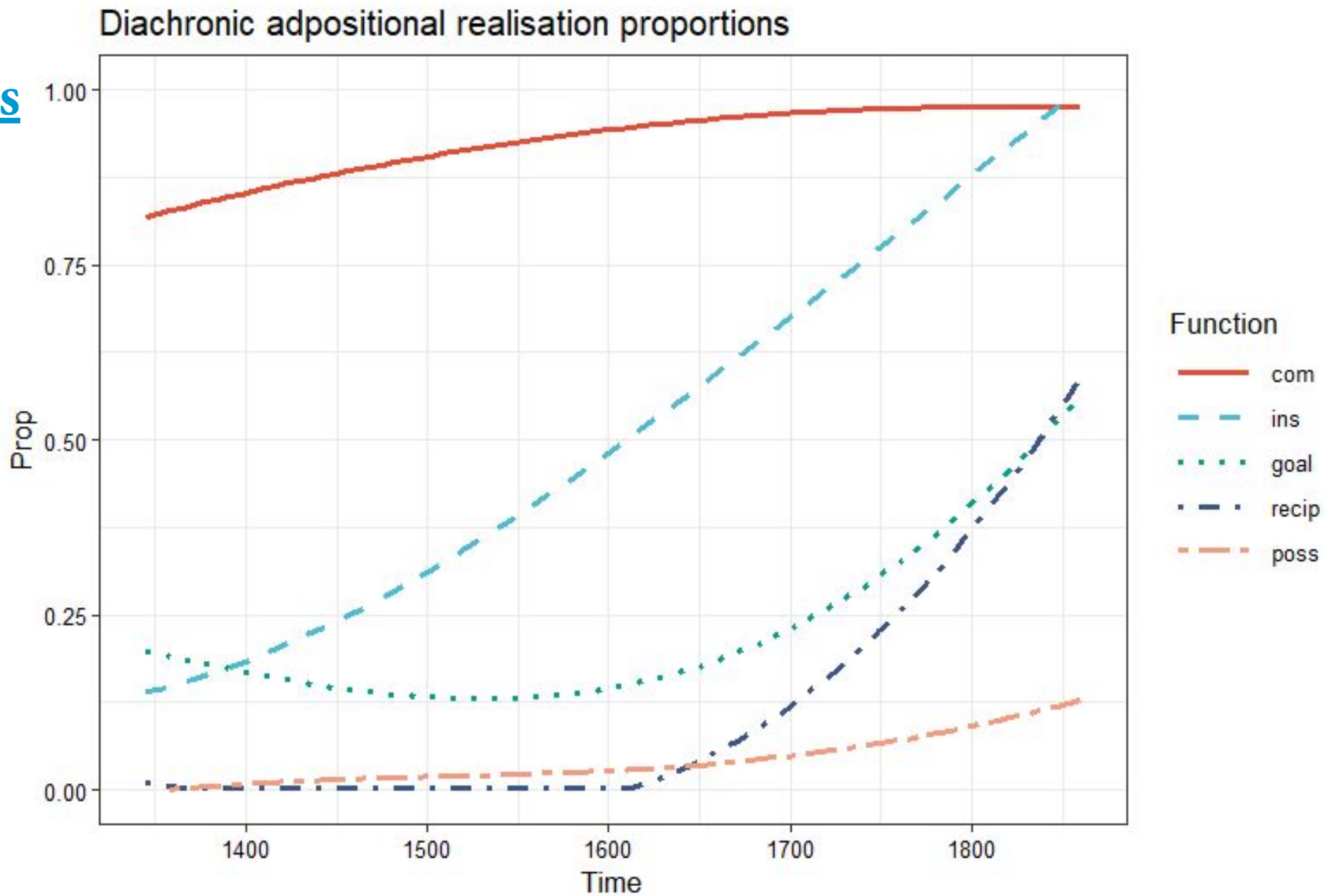
\*Annotator has noted that this suffix could alternatively be a 'generalised pronominal stem ending'.

# Results

## Diachronic adpositional realisation proportions

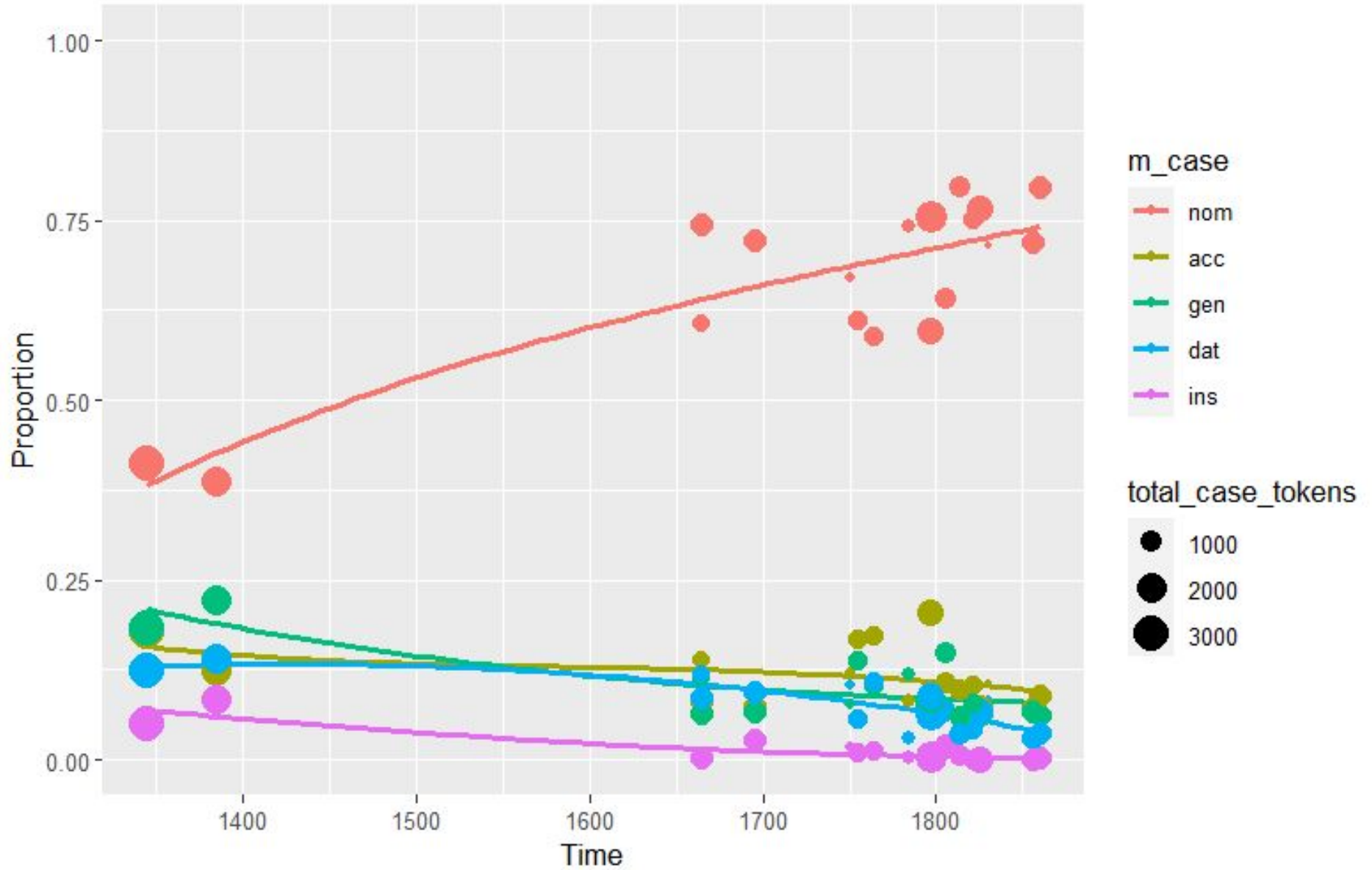


# Results



# Results

## Diachronic proportions of the m-cases



## Interim summary

- Investigating morphosyntactic simplification with corpora, based on Trudgill's sociolinguistic typology and the Interpretability Hypothesis.
- Two case studies of morphosyntactic simplification.
- Increase in the simplex overt subjects in Latin American Spanish.
- Order of loss of morphological cases follows predictions of Caha's KP and FOFC.

Any questions?

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## Measuring Orality

- Rosemeyer (2019) measured orality levels in a diachronic corpus of Brazilian Portuguese plays
- The plays followed a shift toward reflecting spoken speech over the centuries

### Rosemeyer (2019) variables:

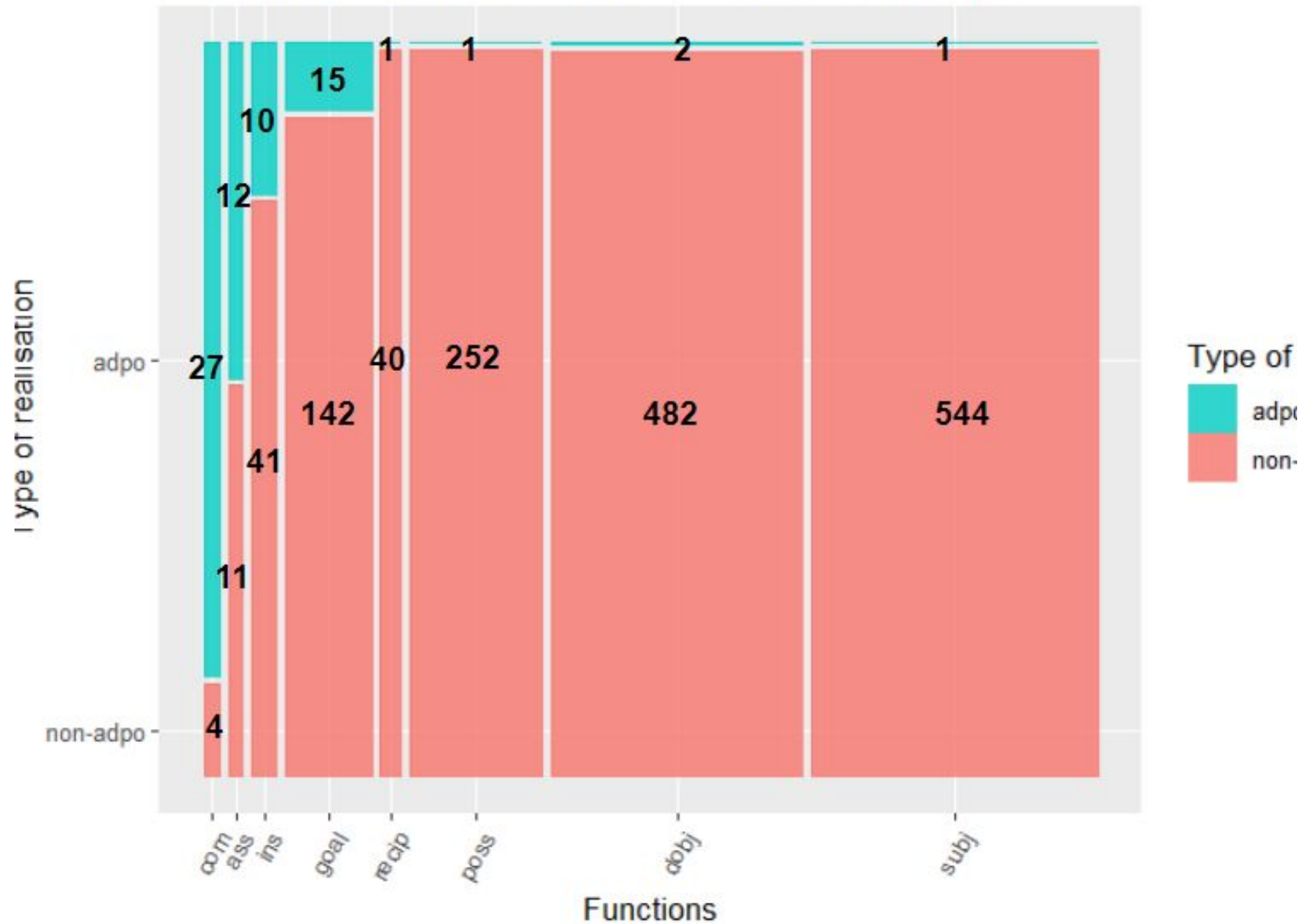
- Present progressive
- Demonstrative neuter pronouns
- Time and place adverbs
- Discourse markers
- Private verbs

### Our variables:

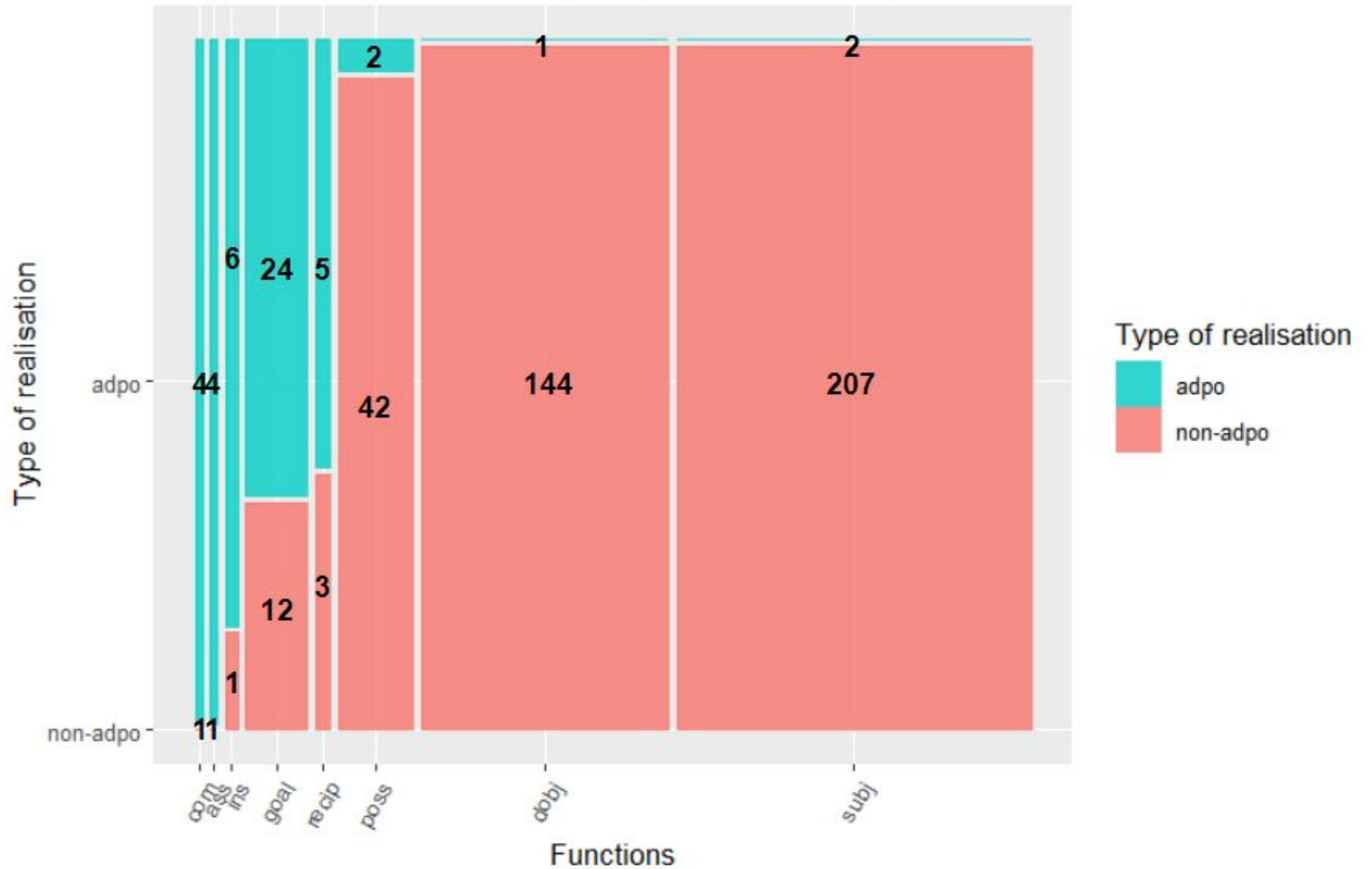
- Progressive
- Demonstrative neuter pronouns
  - *esto/eso/aquello*
- Time and place adverbs
  - *aquí/ahora*
- Private verbs
  - *pensar* 'to think' / *creer* 'to believe'



# Proportions of types of realisation in the 1340s text

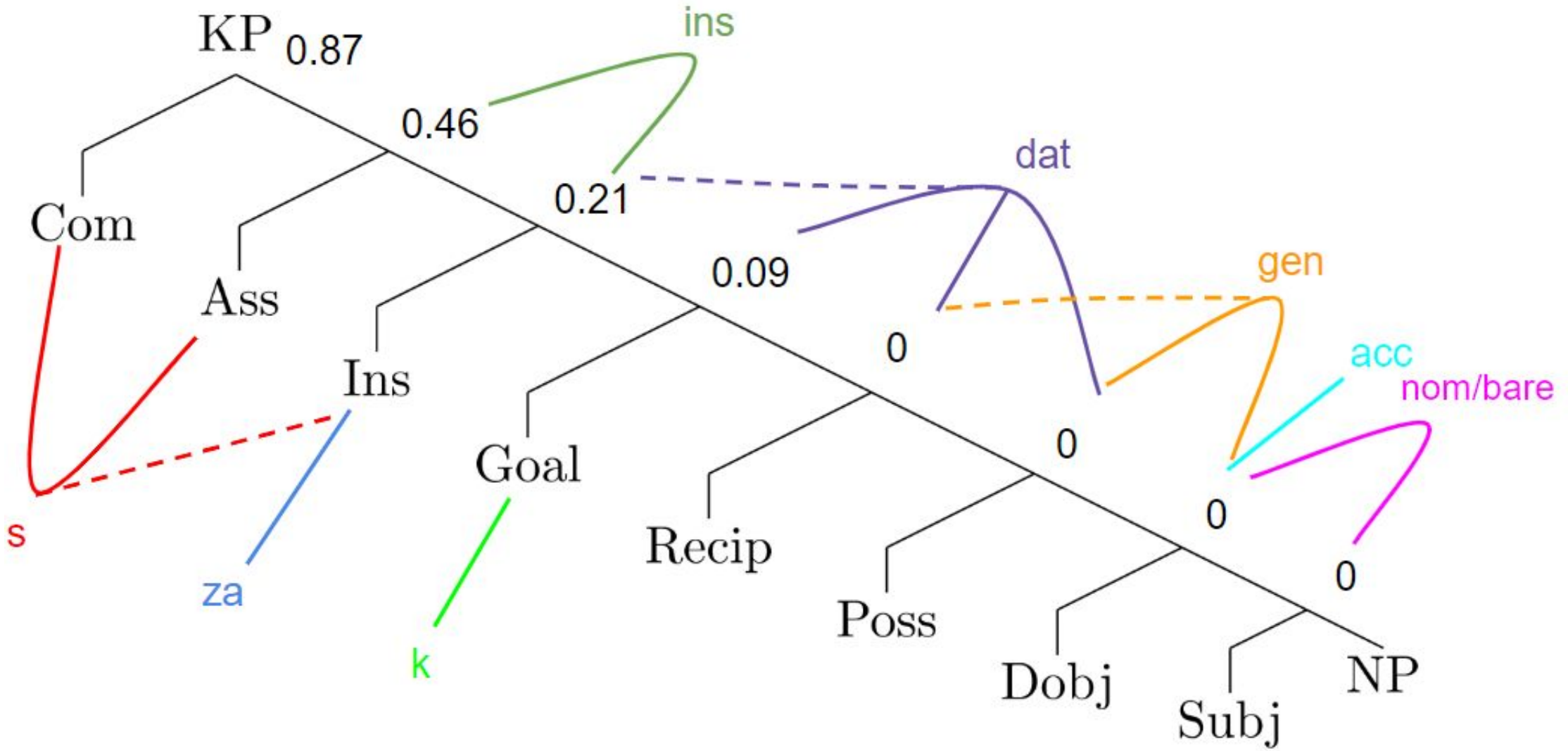


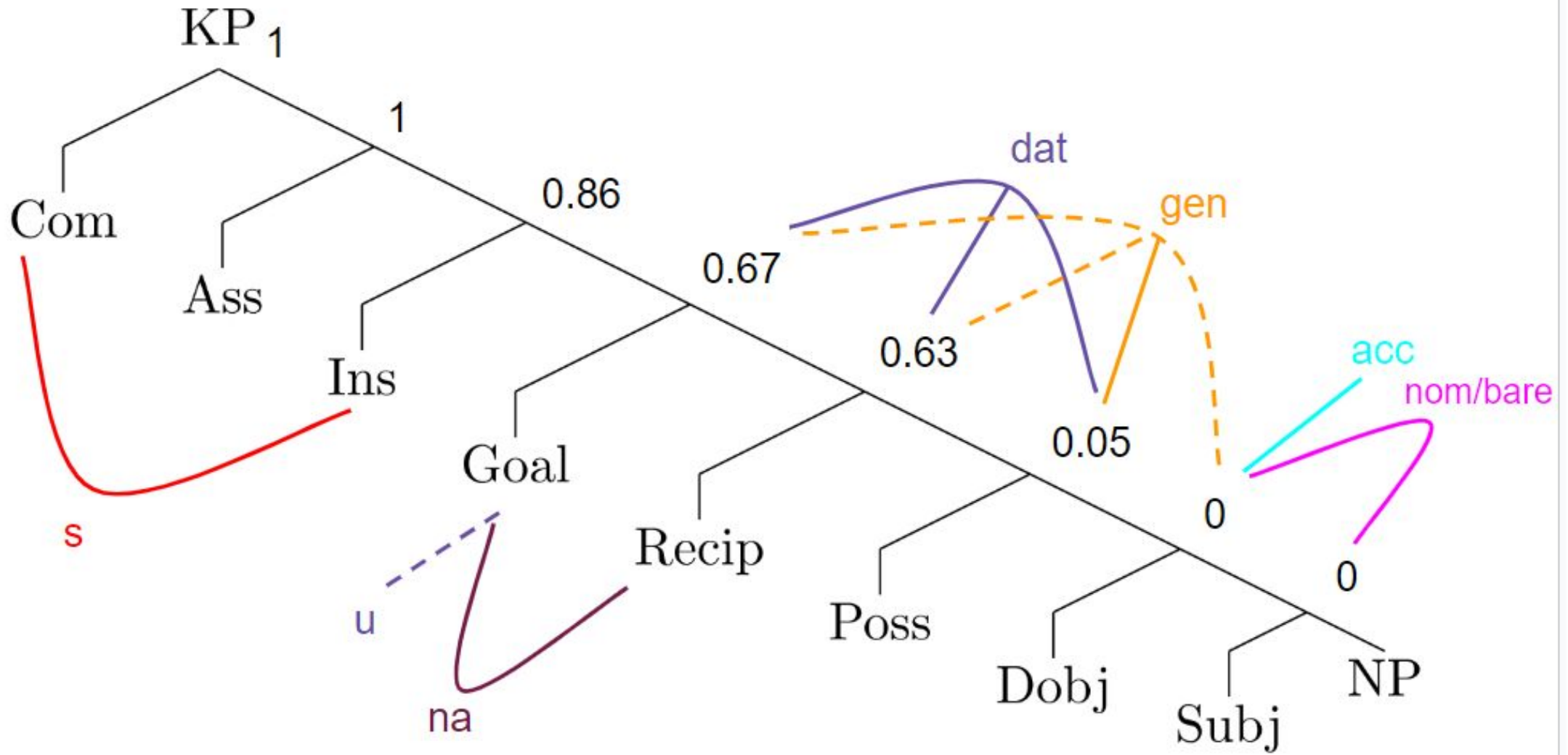
# Proportions of types of realisation in the 1860 text



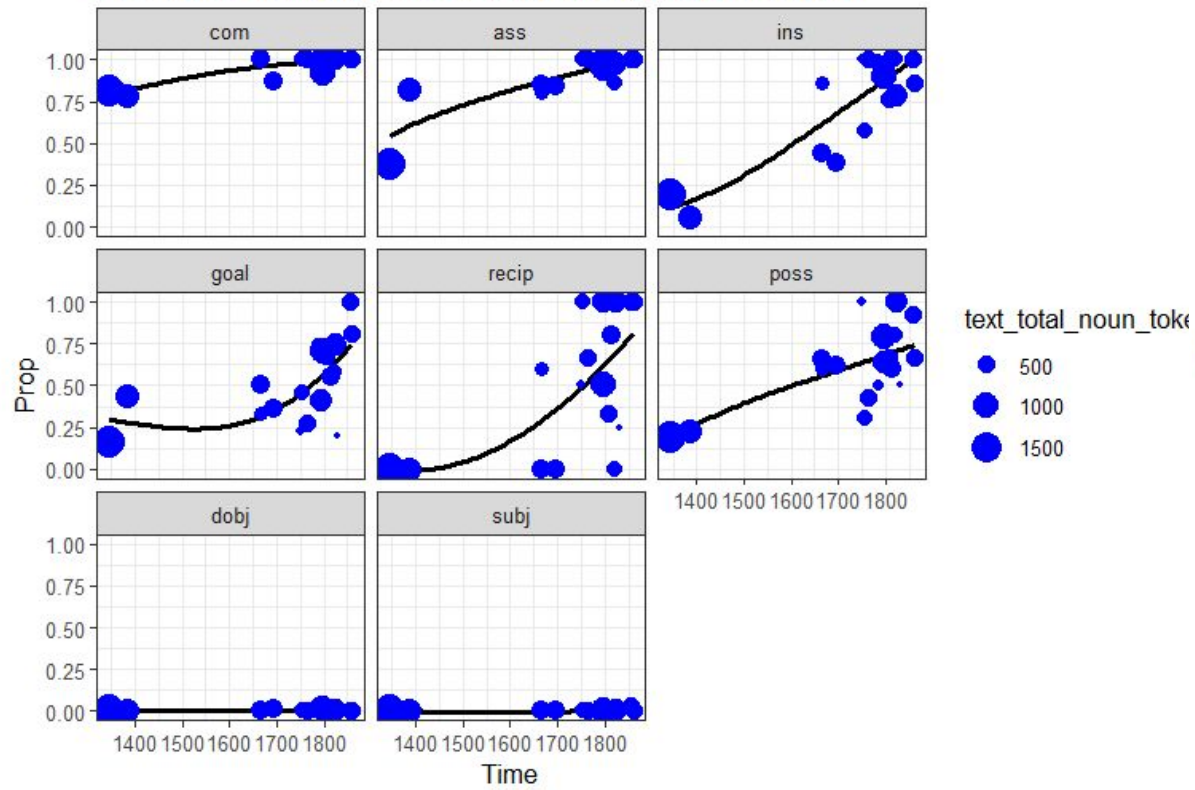
Oldest text- 1340s

Adpositional realisation proportions, adpo forms, m-cases and their syncretisms

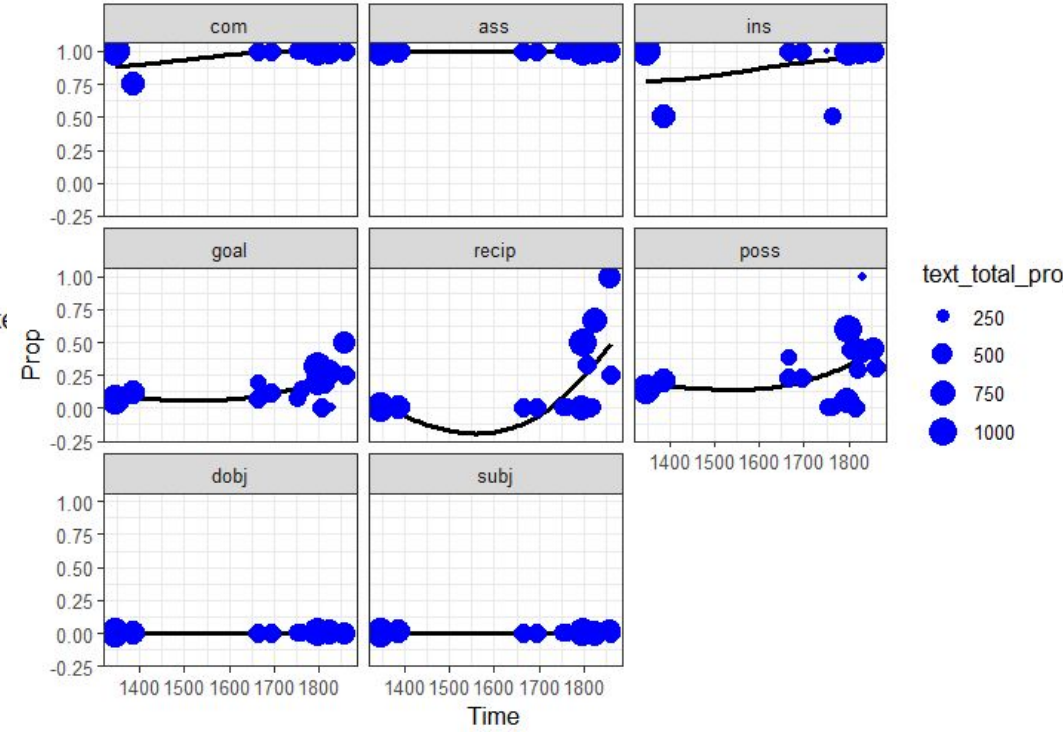




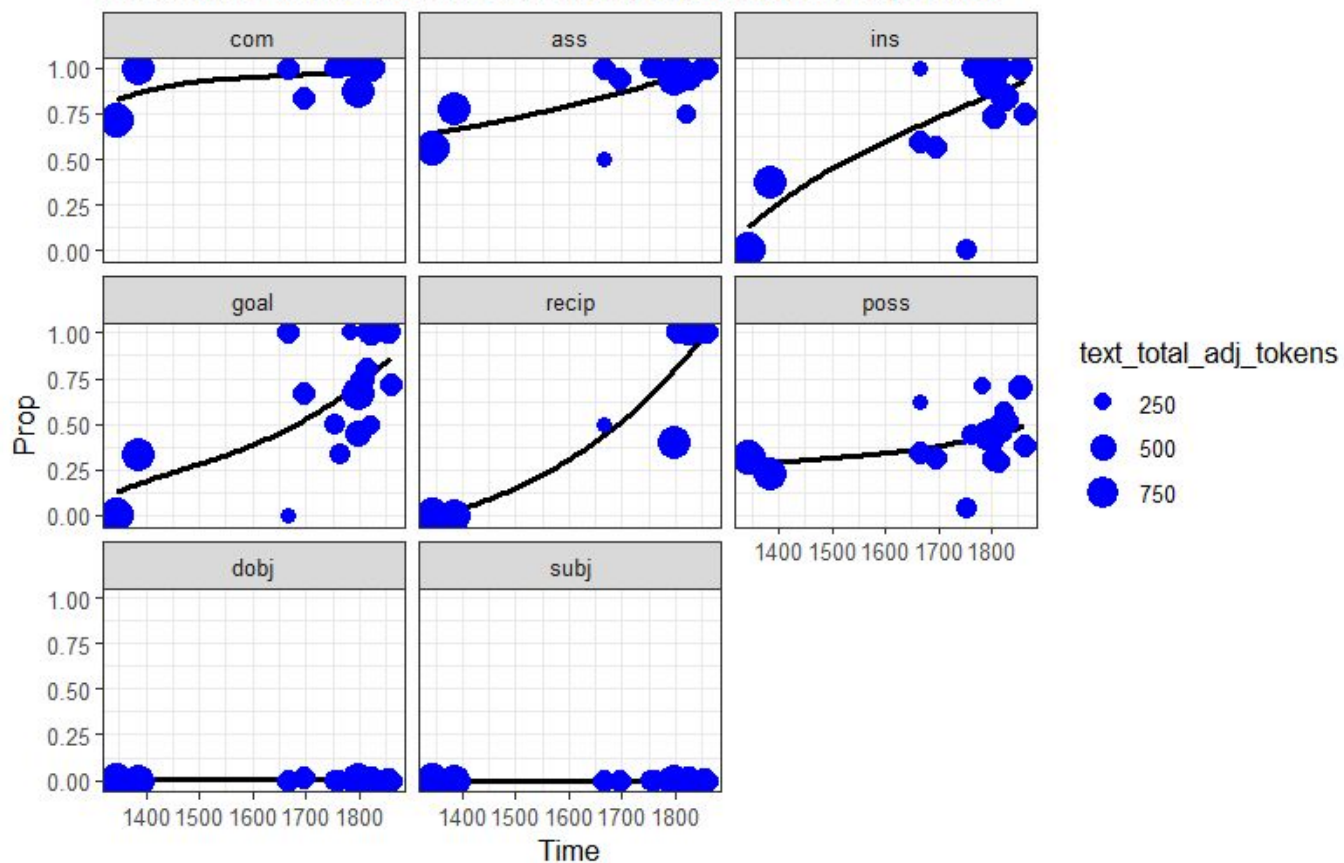
Diachronic adpositional realisation proportions of nouns



Diachronic adpositional realisation proportions of pronouns



### Diachronic adpositional realisation proportions of adjectives



# Part II. Combining methodologies

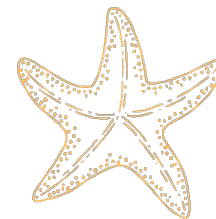
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## STARFISH PROJECT

*Presented by: Molly Rolf and Raquel Montero Estebaranz*

*Universität Konstanz*

*June 2024*



**STARFISH**

# Introduction

- So far we have seen the **benefits** of taking a **Corpus Linguistics approach** to explore contact induced language change.
- However, there are **other** equally interesting **approaches** that have been used:

## **Typology**

Lupyan and Dale (2010)

Bentz and Winter (2013)

Sinnemäki and Di Garbo (2018)

...

## **Experimental**

Berdicevskis and Semenuks (2022)

Atkinson, Smith, and Kirby (2018)

Raviv, Meyer, and Lev-Ari (2019)

...

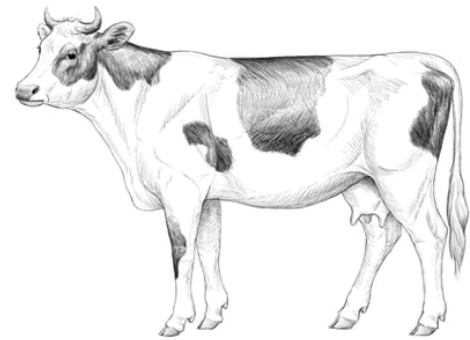
- Each of these approaches investigates the contact question from different levels of abstraction.



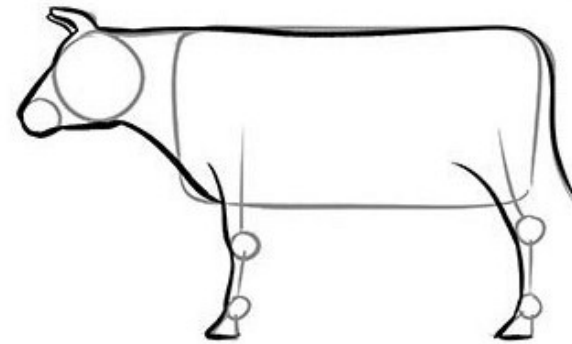
# Abstraction

- Abstraction helps in the study of a limited set of properties in isolation.

realistic cow



Simplified cow



Spherical cow



- But it can sometimes lead to what has been termed as “negligibility assumptions”: the approach might neglect a causally relevant factor (Frigg and Hartmann 2006).
- “An issue as nuanced as the Trudgill conjecture ought to benefit from as many different lines of attack as possible” (Walkden and Breitbarth 2019: 33)

# Finding the right balance of abstraction

**Research Question:** What are the possible outcomes of language contact?



## Corpus Linguistics

- Real Data
- Noisy



## Computational Modeling

- Predictions
- Idealized

STARFISH: Combining different methodologies

# Structure of Part II

## 1. Modeling Language Change and Contact

1.1 VL Model

1.2. Long-term contact

1.3. Short-term contact

1.4. Fine-tuning Trudgill's Sociolinguistic Typology

## 2. Case study: subjunctive morphology in Spanish

2.1. Polarity Subjunctive in Spanish

2.2. Contact in Medieval Spain

## 3. Conclusion

# L1 acquisition: Variational Learner (Yang 2000)

## Variational Learner



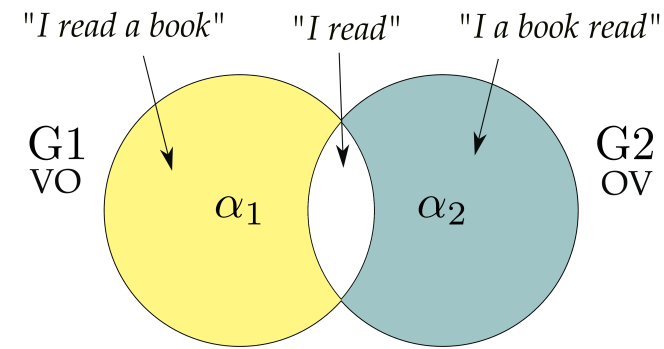
L1

## L1 learner

- $w_1$  = Probability G1
- $w_2$  = Probability G2
- $\gamma$  = Learning rate

(Yang, 2000)

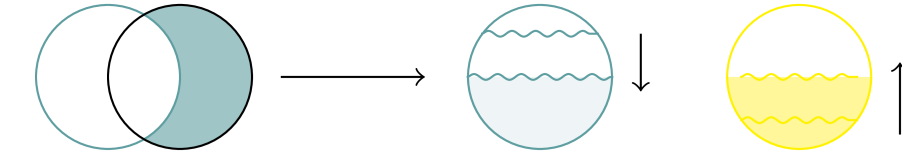
## Linguistic Input



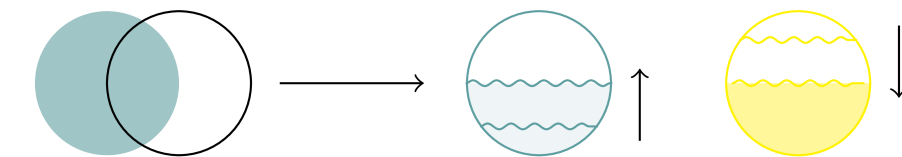
- $\alpha_1$  = Probability of a G1 speaker uttering a sentence G2 cannot parse.
- $\alpha_2$  = Probability of a G2 speaker uttering a sentence G1 cannot parse.
- If  $\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$ , G1 wins

## Learning Algorithm

a) Punishing G1:  $w'_1 = w_1 - \gamma \cdot w_1$

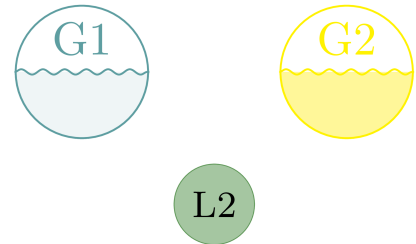


b) Rewarding G1:  $w'_1 = w_1 + \gamma(1 - w_1)$



# L2 acquisition: Variational Learning (Kauhanen 2022)

## Variational Learner

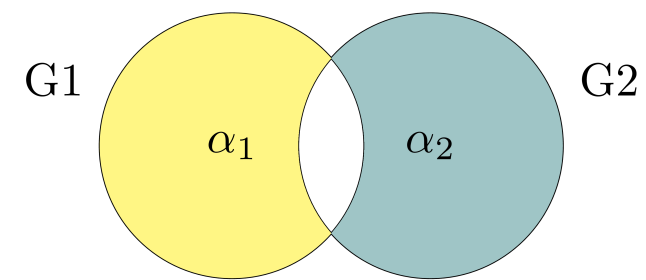


### L2 learner

- $w_1$  = Probability G1
- $w_2$  = Probability G2
- $\gamma$  = Learning rate
- $\delta$  = **L2 difficulty**

(Kauhanen, 2022)

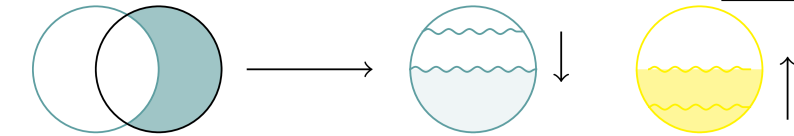
## Linguistic Input



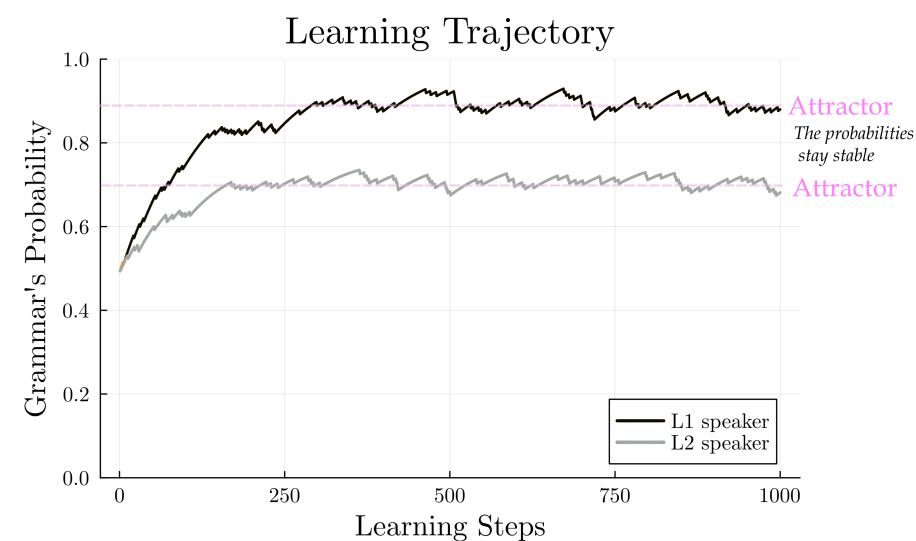
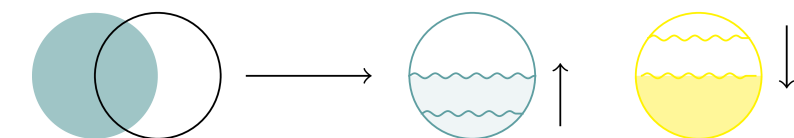
- $\alpha_1$  = Probability of a G1 speaker uttering a sentence G2 cannot parse.
- $\alpha_2$  = Probability of a G2 speaker uttering a sentence G1 cannot parse.

## Learning Algorithm

a) Punishing G1:  $w'_1 = w_1 - \gamma \cdot w_1$   $-\delta \cdot w_1$

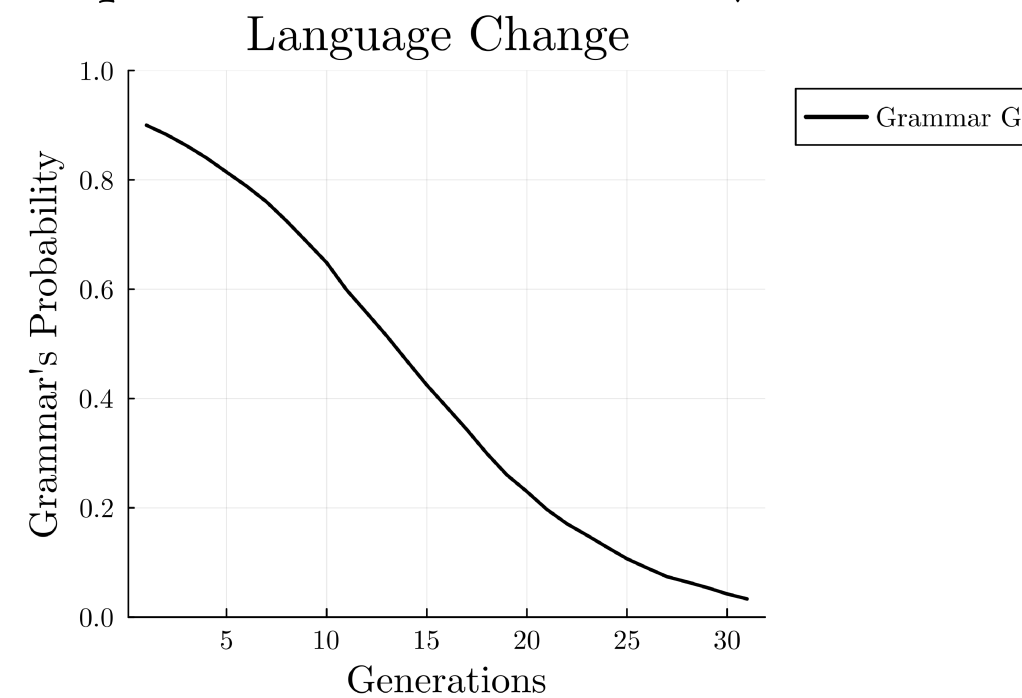
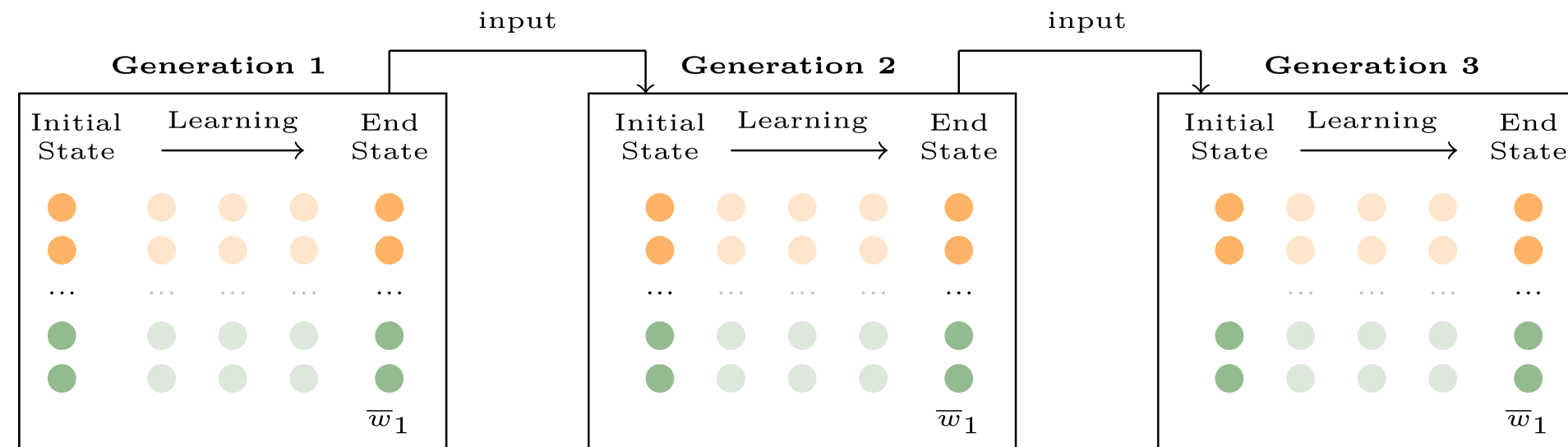


b) Rewarding G1:  $w'_1 = w_1 + \gamma(1 - w_1)$   $-\delta \cdot w_1$

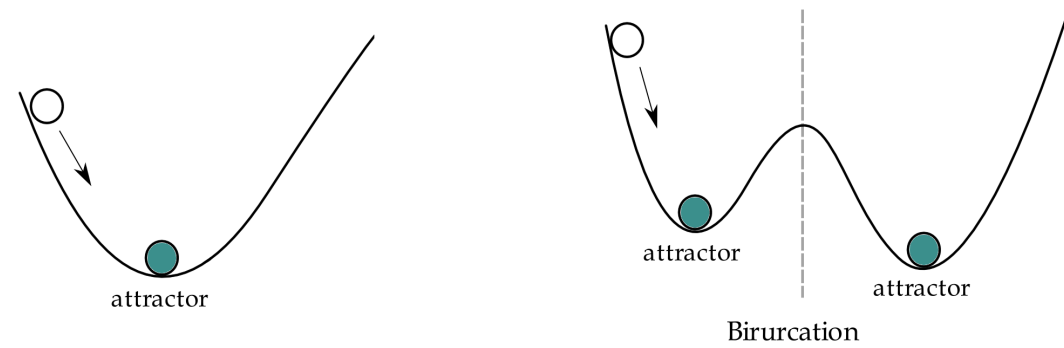


# Language change: generations of VL

## Modeling Language Change



# The Bifurcation Threshold (Kauhanen 2022)



- **Attractor:** a set of values towards which the system tends to over time.
- **Bifurcations:** the qualitative behavior of the system changes at certain values (one attractor changes to multiple ones).
- **Example from hydraulic jumps :** depending on the water flow the system stabilizes in a given behavior (Bush, Aristoff, and Hosoi 2006).
- **L2 Contact:**
  - a. If the number of speakers is above a certain threshold, the system will have one behavior.
  - b. If the number of speakers is below a certain threshold the system will have another behavior.

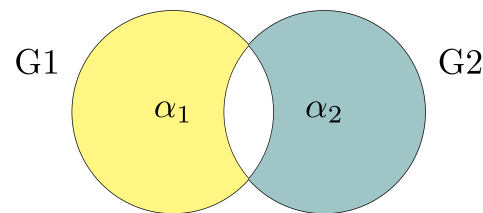
# Bifurcation Threshold (Kauhanen 2022)

If the number of L2 speakers is below a threshold ( $\sigma_{crit}$ ), the L2-difficult feature will be preserved, and if above that threshold the feature will be lost.

$$\sigma_{crit} = \frac{(\alpha - 1)(D + 1)}{\alpha D}$$

## The $\alpha$ parameter

$$\alpha = \frac{\alpha_1}{\alpha_2} = \frac{\text{G1 advantage}}{\text{G2 advantage}}$$



## The $D$ parameter

$$D = \frac{d}{\alpha_2} = \frac{\text{G1 L2-difficulty}}{\text{G2 advantage}}$$

## How the values affect $\sigma_{crit}$

$\alpha_1$ : 0.2

$\alpha_2$ : 0.1

$d$ : 0.3

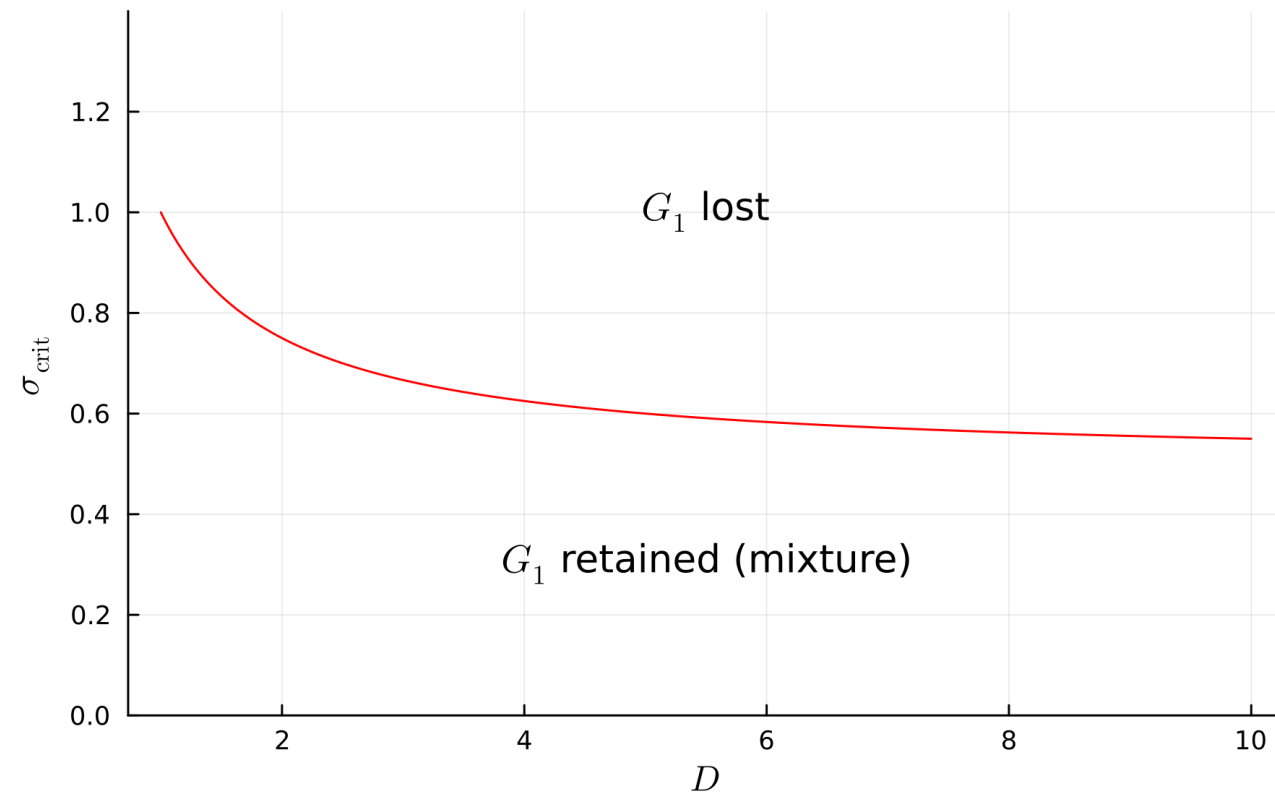
Threshold = 0.67



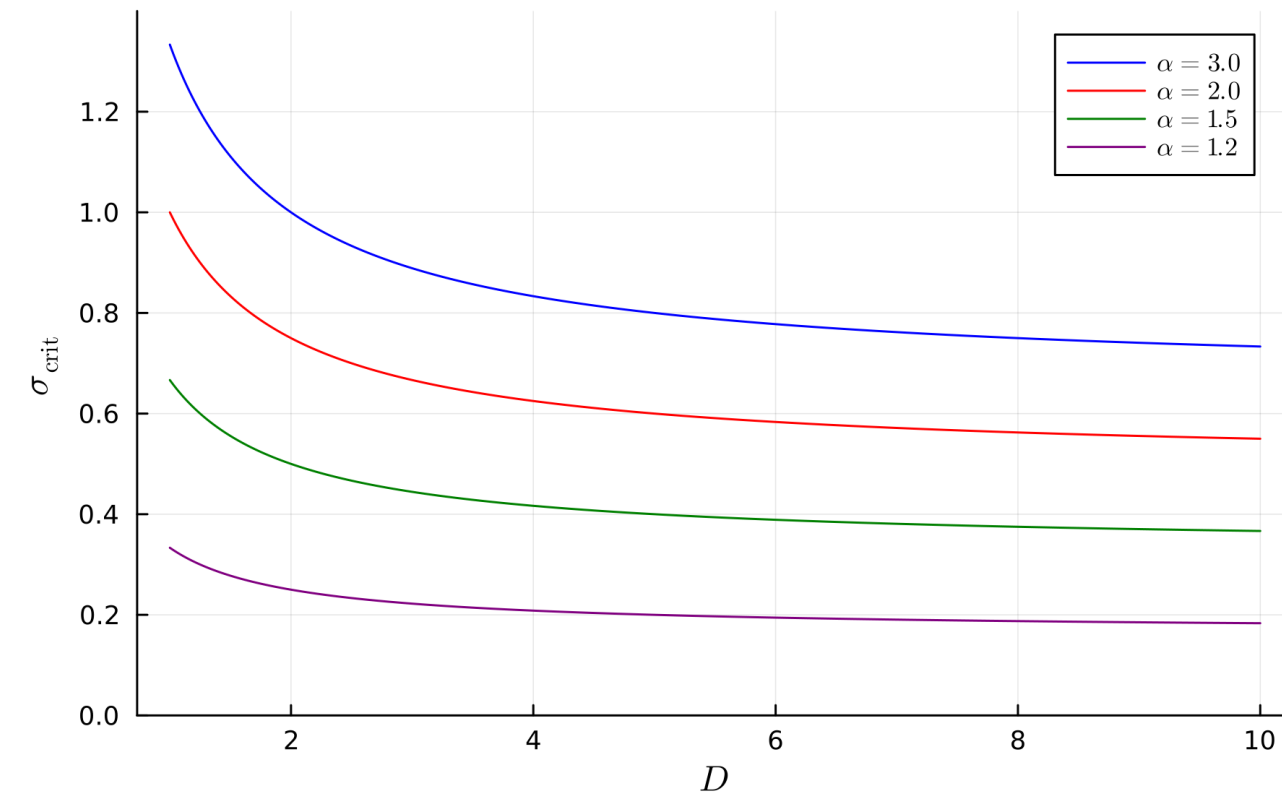
# Bifurcation Threshold (Kauhanen 2022)

$$\sigma_{crit} = \frac{(\alpha - 1)(D + 1)}{\alpha D}$$

Critical threshold vs. L2-difficulty



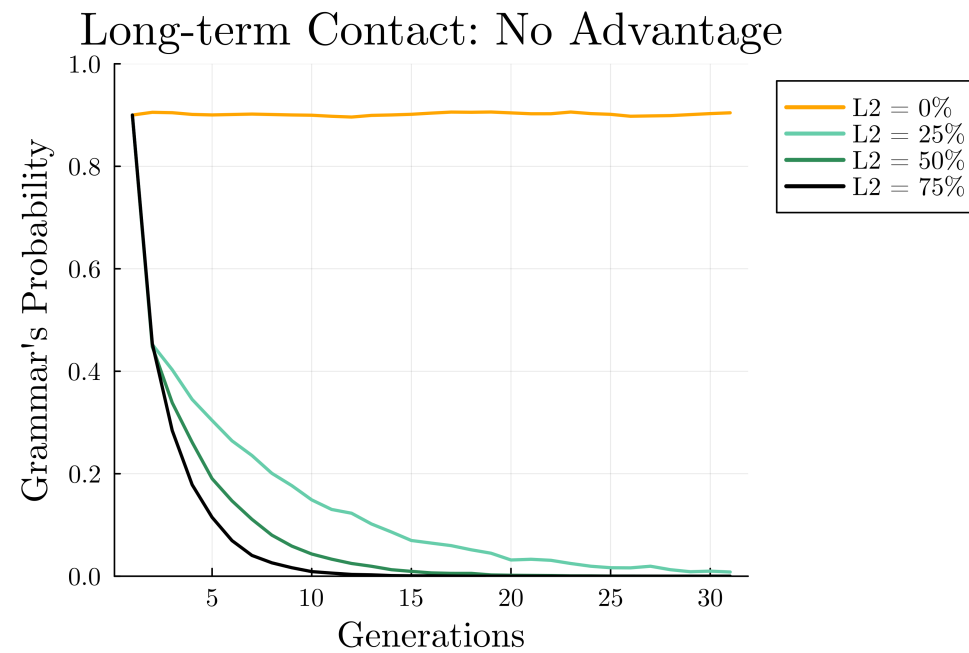
Critical threshold vs. L2-difficulty



# Long-term contact

Values

Simulation

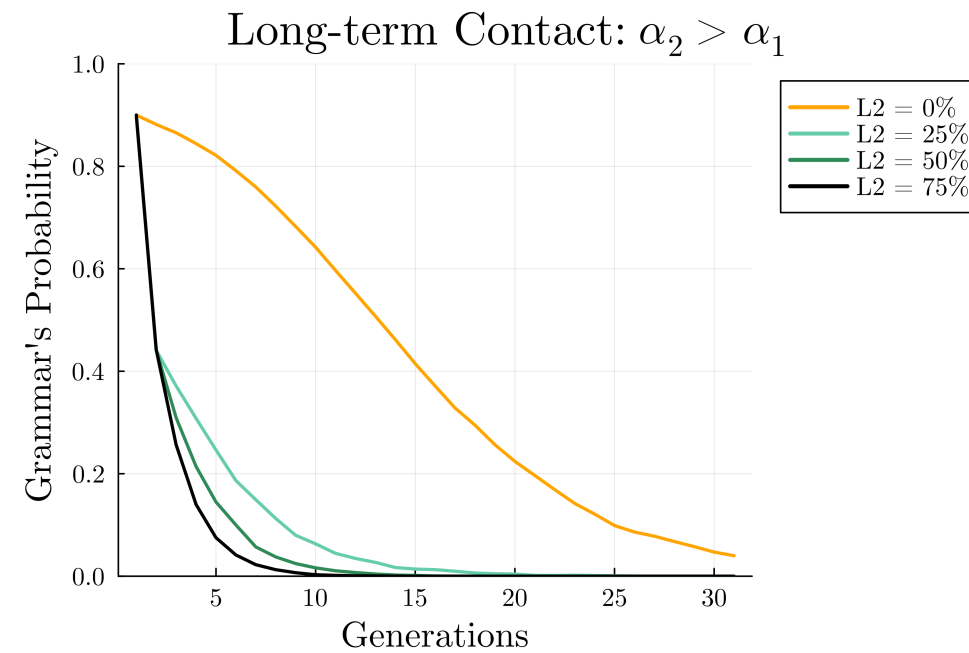


L2 difficult feature:

- **Lost** (speed depends on n° L2)

Values

Simulation



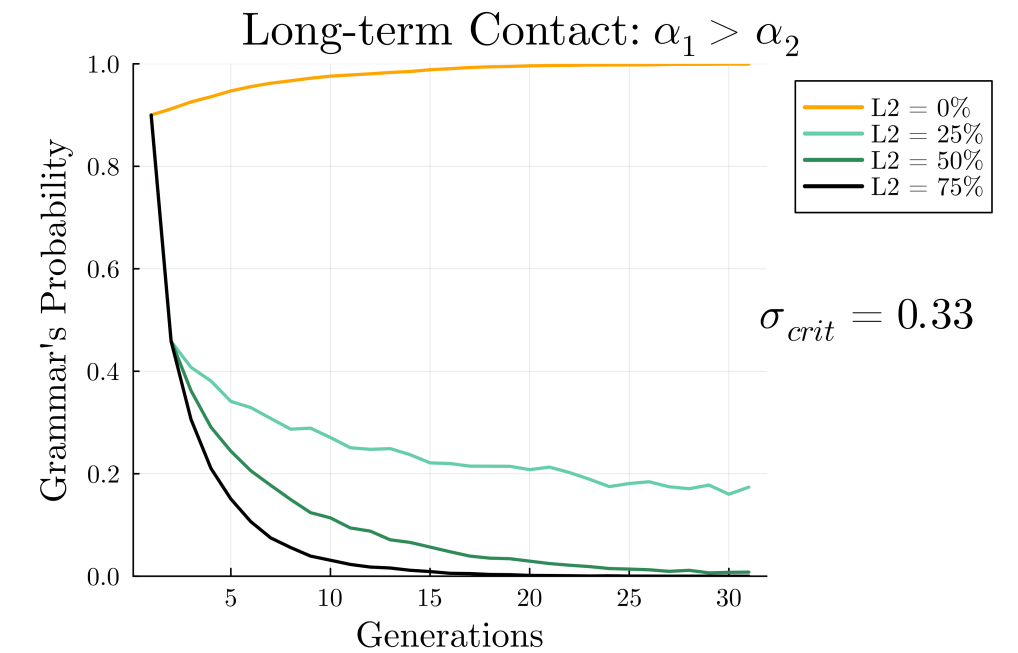
L2 difficult feature:

- **Lost** (speed depends on n° L2)

Values

Simulation

Bifurcation



L2 difficult feature:

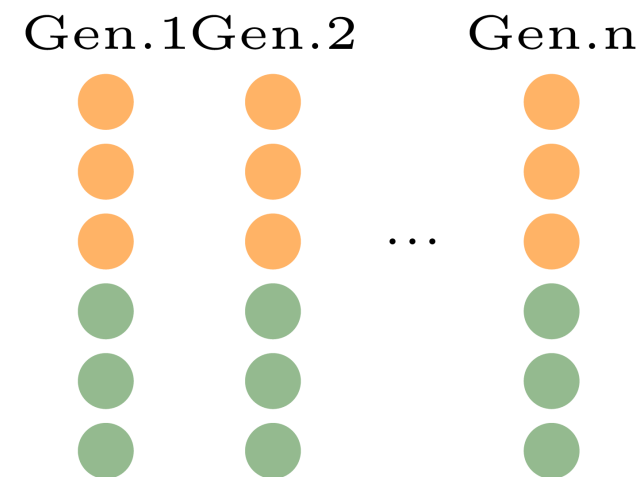
- **Lost** if n° L2 is above bifurcation threshold ( $\sigma_{crit}$ )
- **Retained** if n° L2 is below bifurcation threshold ( $\sigma_{crit}$ )

# Types of Language Contact

## Long-term contact

Prolonged influx of L2 speakers

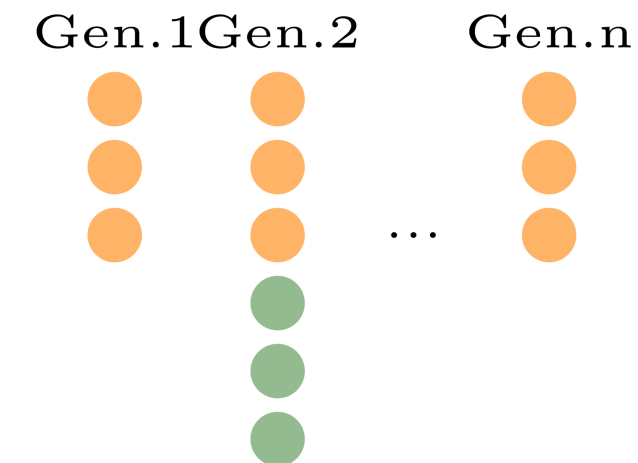
- Lingua Franca
- Trading areas (e.g., *Hanseatic League*)



## Short-term Contact

Short influx of L2 speakers

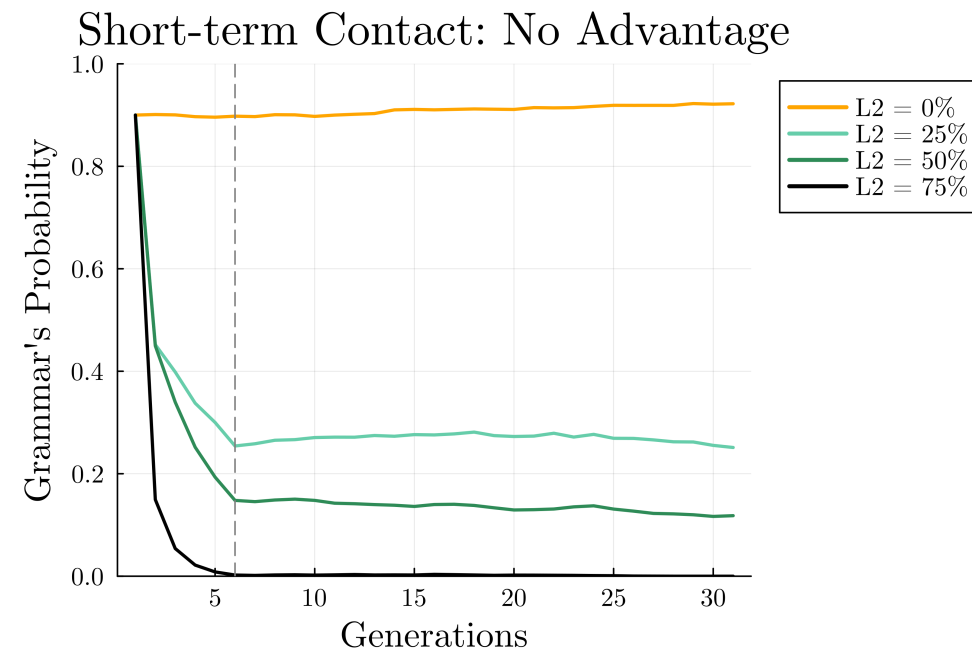
- Population movements (e.g., *Gastarbeiter*, *expulsions* etc. )



# Short-term contact

Values

Simulation

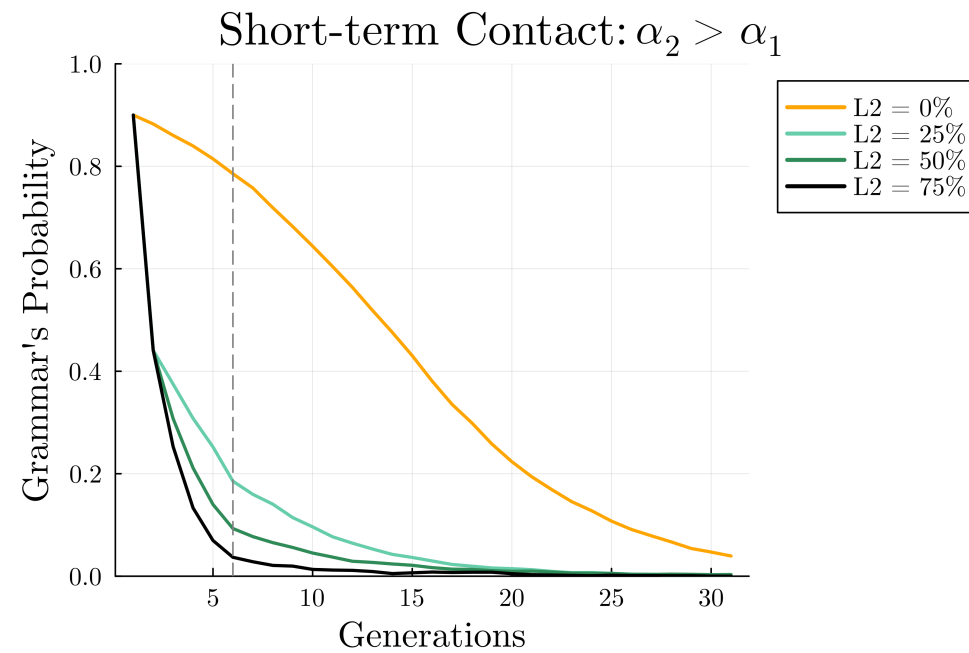


L2 difficult feature:

- **Lost** if G1's probability reaches 0 during contact
- **Retained**: if G1's probability doesn't reach 0 during contact

Values

Simulation

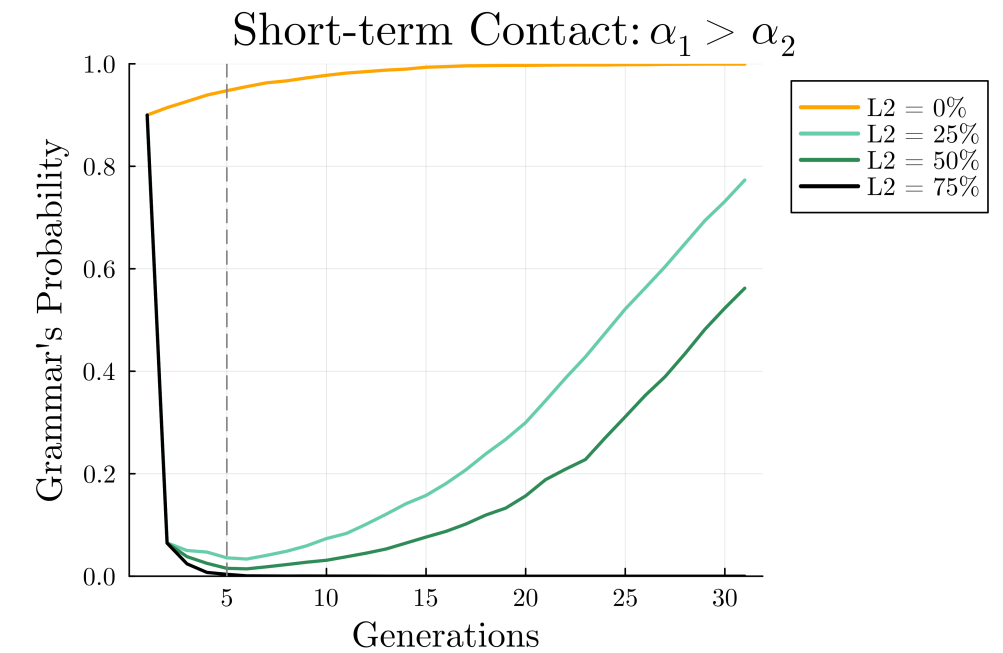


L2 difficult feature:

- **Lost** (speed depends on n° L2)

Values

Simulation



L2 difficult feature:

- **Lost** if G1's probability reaches 0 during contact.
- **Retained** if G1's probability doesn't reach 0 during contact.



# Fine-tuning Trudgill's typology

- Trudgill (2010) : adult L2 difficult features will be lost in cases of contact characterized by a high number of adult L2 speakers.
- Proposal: L2 difficult features may be lost or retained, the outcome is determined by several factors:

Type of Contact	Pred.	Advantages	Further Conditions
Long-term	Lost	$\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$	–
	Lost	$\alpha_2 > \alpha_1$	–
	Lost	$\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$	$\sigma > \sigma_{crit} \ \& \ 1 < \alpha < D+2$
	Retained	$\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$	$\sigma < \sigma_{crit} \ \& \ 1 < \alpha < D+2$
Short-term	Lost	$\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$	$w_1: 0$ during contact
	Retained	$\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$	$w_1: \text{not } 0$ during contact
	Lost	$\alpha_2 > \alpha_1$	–
	Lost	$\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$	$w_1: 0$ during contact
	Retained	$\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$	$w_1: \text{not } 0$ during contact

# Case Study: Polarity Subjunctive in Spanish

# The Phenomenon: Polarity Subjunctive (PS) in Spanish

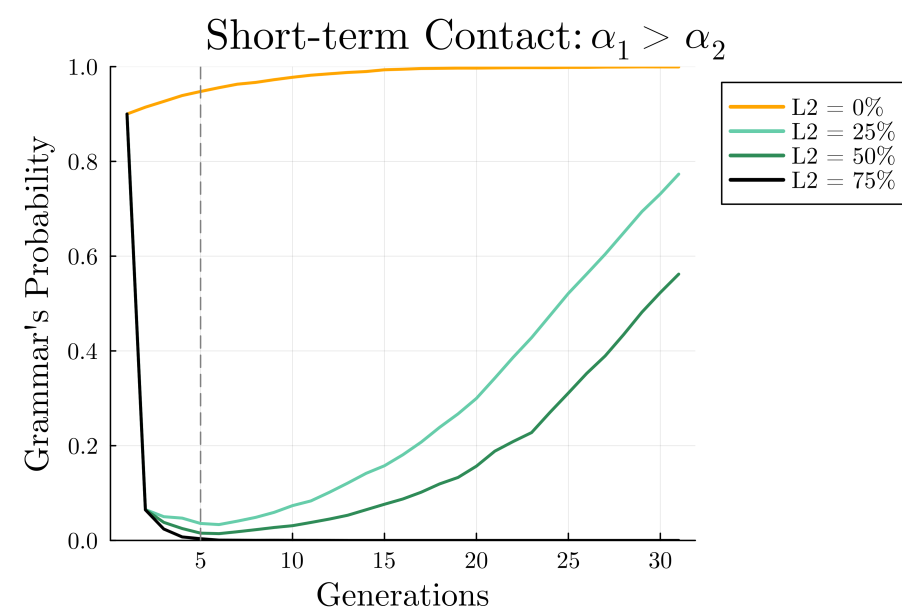
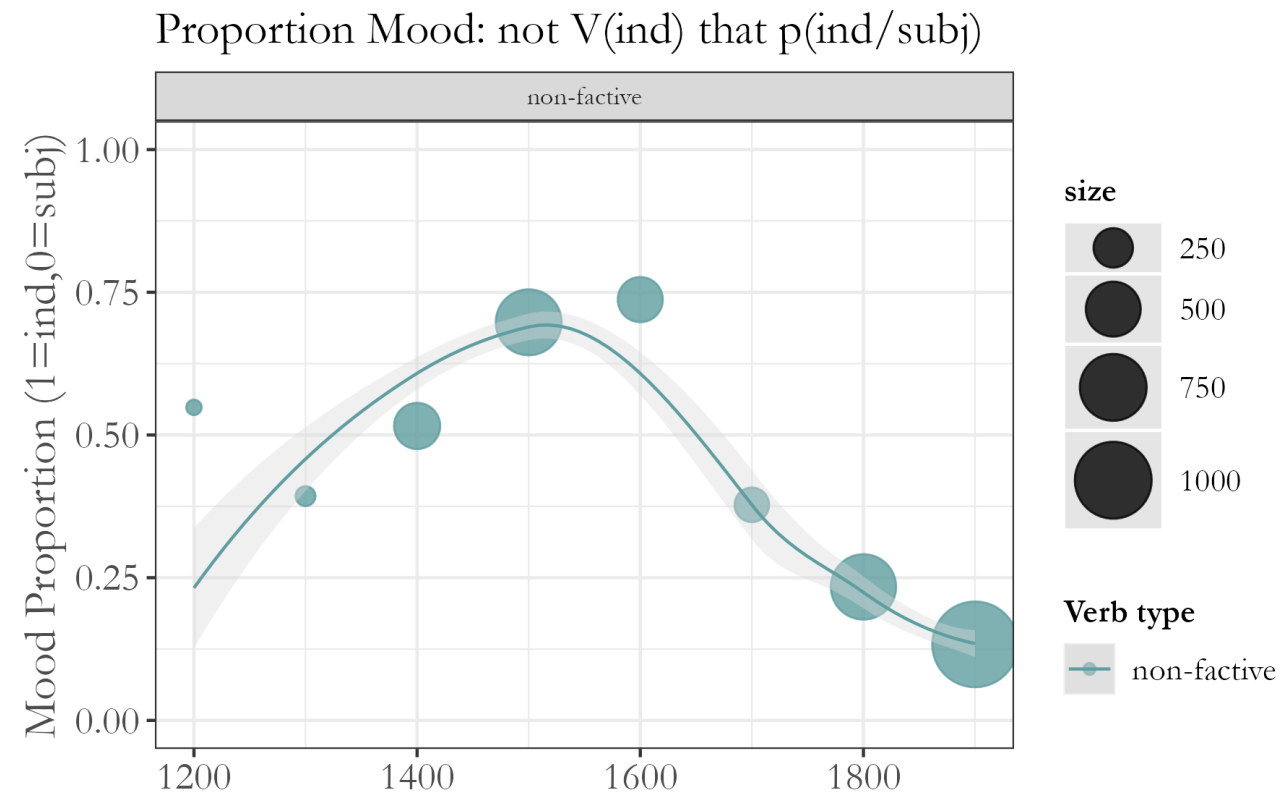
- **Polarity Subjunctive**: certain verbs, when negated, allow the embedded verb to be in indicative or subjunctive mood in Spanish (Quer 1998):
  - (1) Ariel sabía que **hacía** /\***hiciese** calor  
Ariel knew that was.IND was.SUBJ warm  
'Ariel knew it was warm.'
  - (2) Ariel **no** sabía que **hacía** /**hiciese** calor  
Ariel not knew that was.IND was.SUBJ warm  
'Ariel didn't know it was warm.'
- Polarity Subjunctive has been shown to be particularly hard to master for L2 speakers of different languages (Borgonovo and Prévost 2003; Iverson, Kempchinsky, and Rothman 2008)



# Corpus Study: mood in the history of Spanish

- **Corpus:** *Corpus del diccionario histórico de la lengua española* (CDHLE)
- **Data:** published in Spain; 12th-20th centuries
- **Searches:** neg + V(**non-factive**) + that ... Vind/subj<sup>1</sup>
- **Verbs:** believe and say (most frequent in the corpus)

# Corpus Study: results non-factive verbs



- Up-and-then-down behavior (non-monotonic)
- Could this be explained via language contact?
- There is one specific case from the models we saw before that resembles the change we see here.
- Was there any type of contact with L2 speakers between 1200-1600?

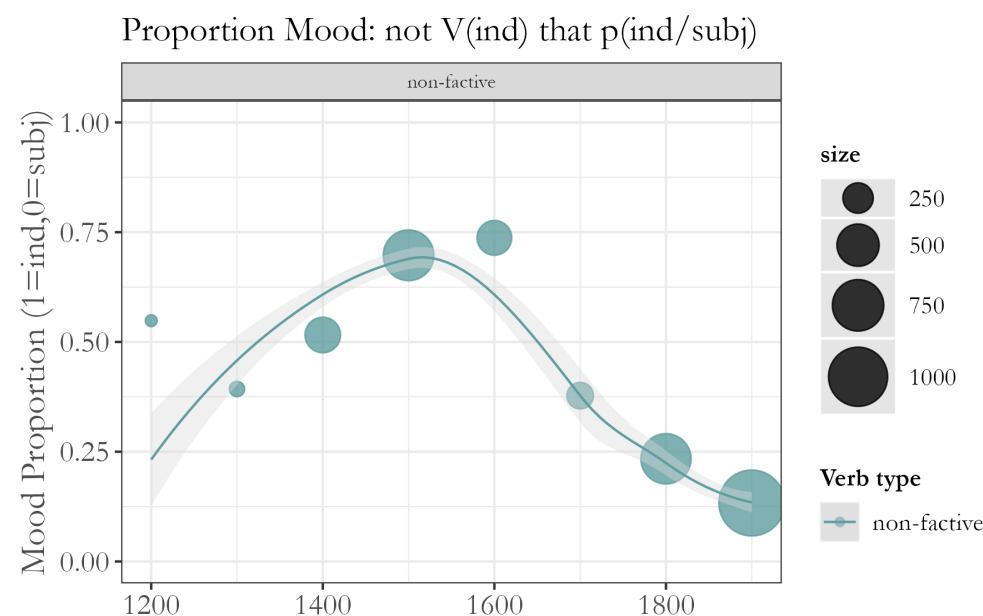
# Contact with (Andalusi) Arabic



Ruhstaller and Gordón Peral (2017), Vicente (2020)

- Contact: 711-1600
- “Andalusi Arabic continued to be spoken in the Iberian Peninsula after the end of al-Andalus as a Muslim–Arab state in 1492 CE, as some of the Arabic-speaking population remained in certain regions up until the 17th century”
- “In those areas which retained their Mudejar populations, contact between the two languages continued, and it was principally through these speech communities that Arabic terms were incorporated into Romance.”
- Effect of contact: mostly of lexical loanwords, but included some function words like the preposition *hasta*
- 1501: strict policy of intolerance & ban on the use of Arabic.

Video by Alexandre Vigo [Wikipedia](#)



# Contact with Portuguese

The Iberian Union: between 1580 and 1640. Dynastic Union of the Monarchy of Spain and the Kingdom of Portugal.

## Change in Portuguese: DOM

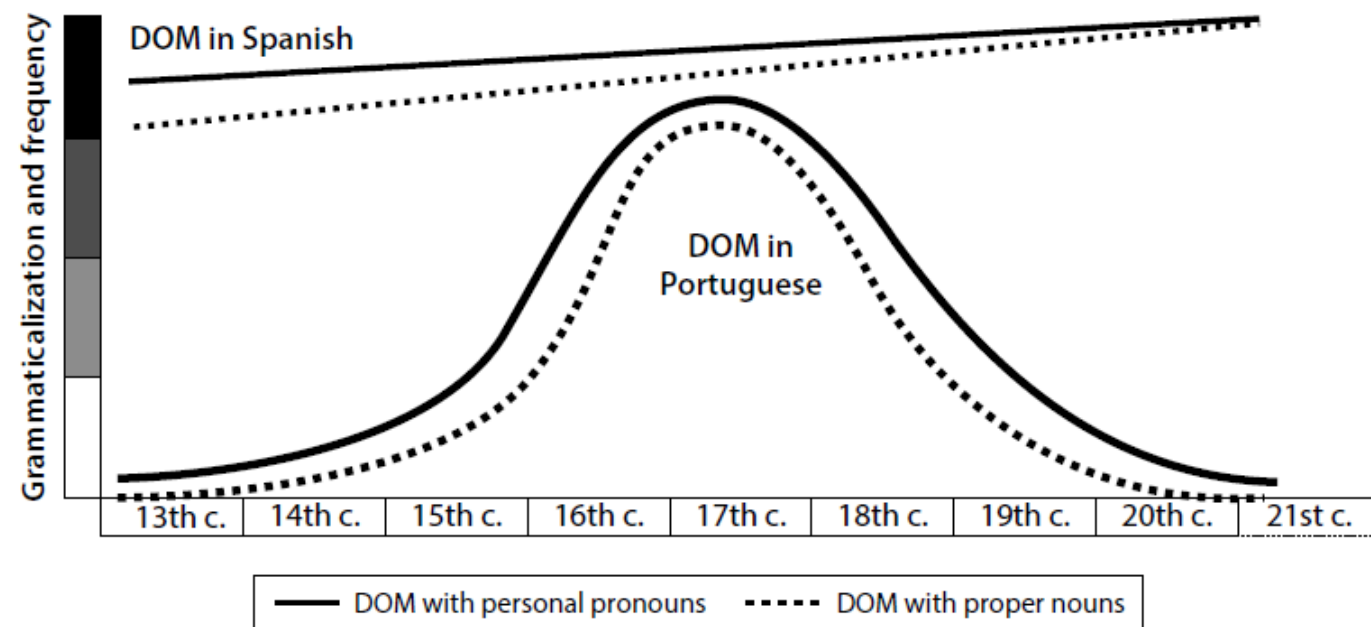
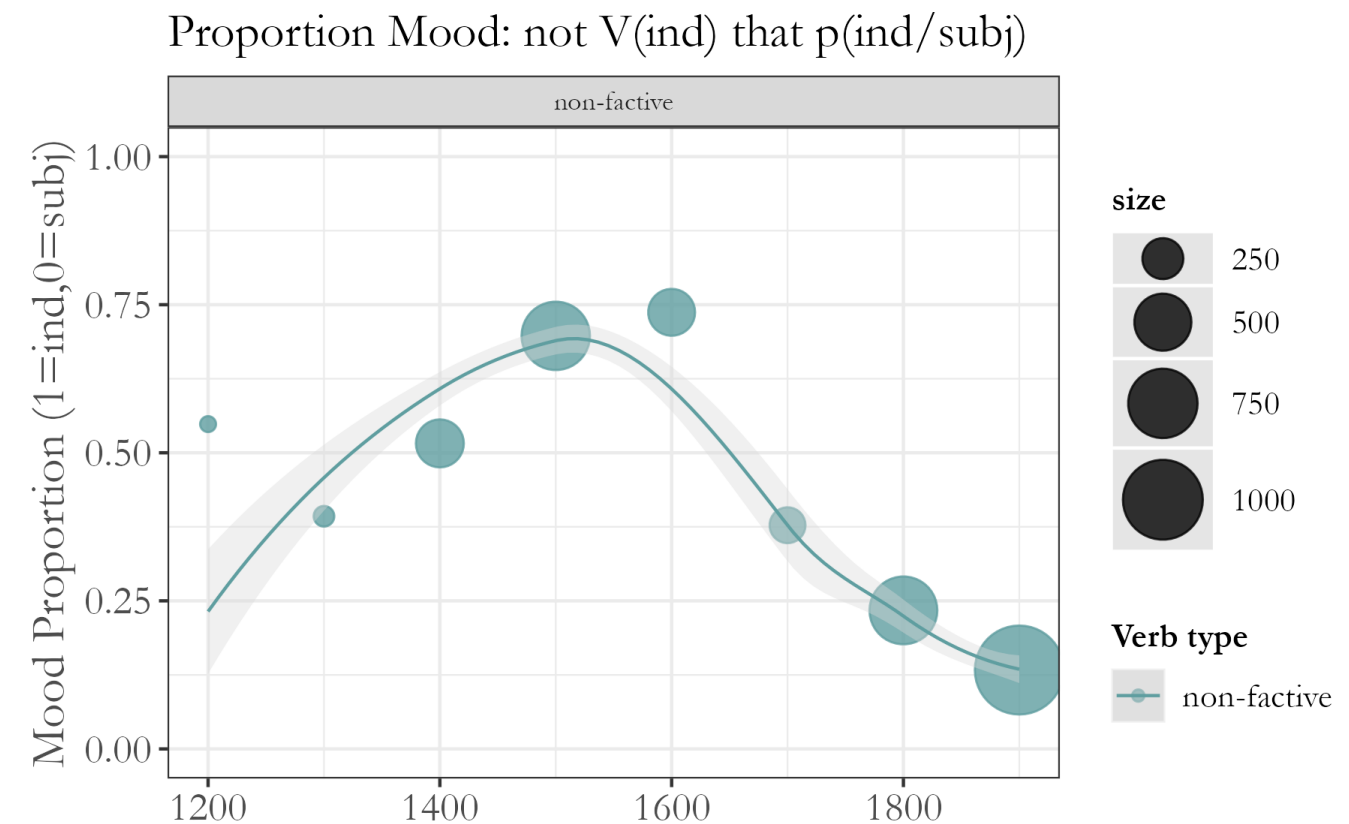


Figure 1. Grammaticalization and frequency of DOM in Spanish and Portuguese concerning personal pronouns and proper nouns.

## Change in Spanish: PS



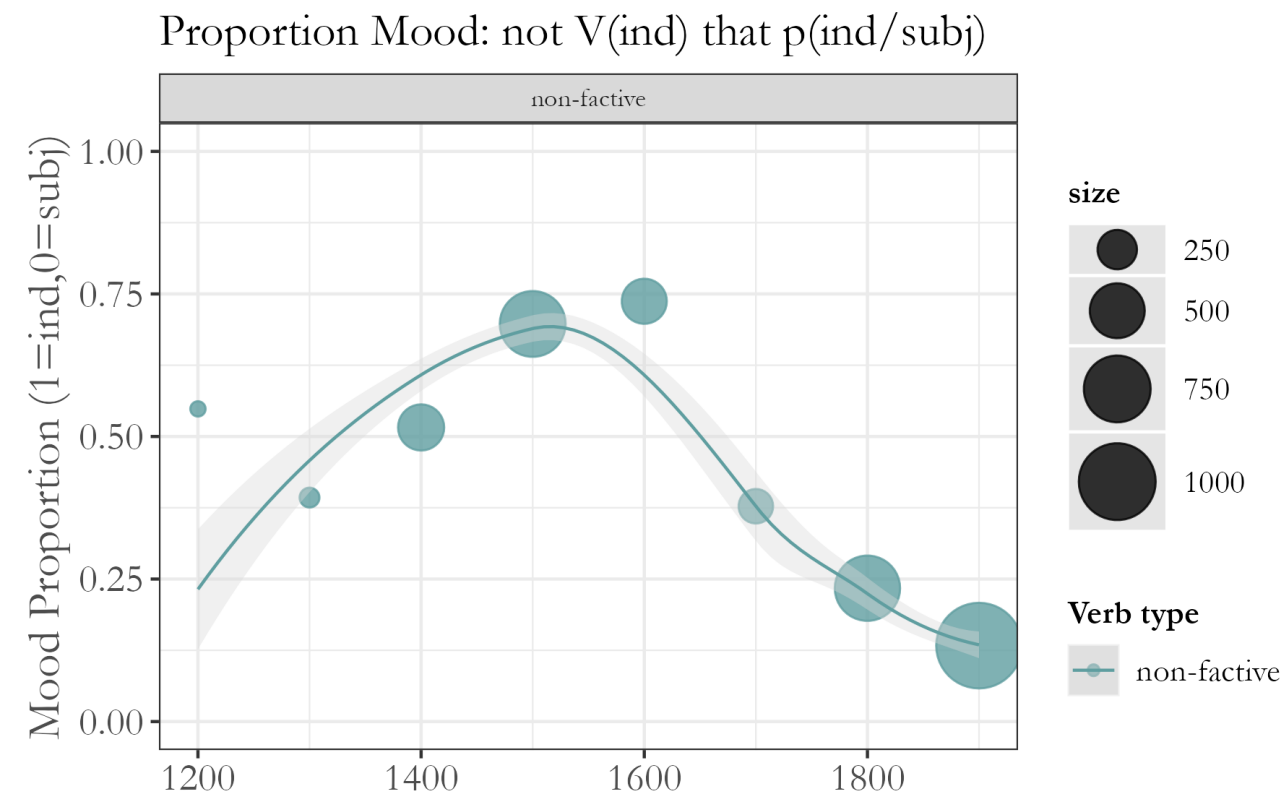
It has been argued that the Union affected DOM in Portuguese (Döhla 2014)

It may have had an impact on the Spanish language

# Contact Explanation

The increase in the use of indicative during the period before 1700 may have been due to the presence of L2 speakers: andalusi arabic, andalusi romance, portuguese, etc.

Then, the number of L2 speakers in the population decreased and as the system went back to its original state.



# Conclusion

- **Part I.** The advantages of using corpus data to test Trudgill's conjecture
  - a. **Advantage 1.** Better understand WHERE and WHEN language change occurs.
  - b. **Advantage 2.** Measure quantitatively how language change happens.
- **Part II.** The advantages of combining multiple approaches to tackle contact induced language change
  - a. **Advantage 1.** More fine grained picture of language contact outcomes.
  - b. **Advantage 2.** Explain cases in which despite contact the L2 difficult feature is preserved.

**Thank you for listening!**

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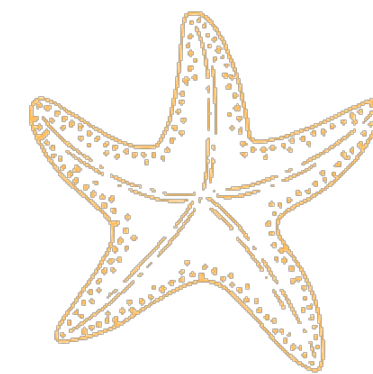
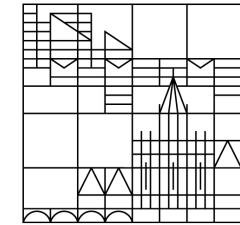
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george.walkden@uni-konstanz.de

<https://www.ling.uni-konstanz.de/en/walkden/starfish/>

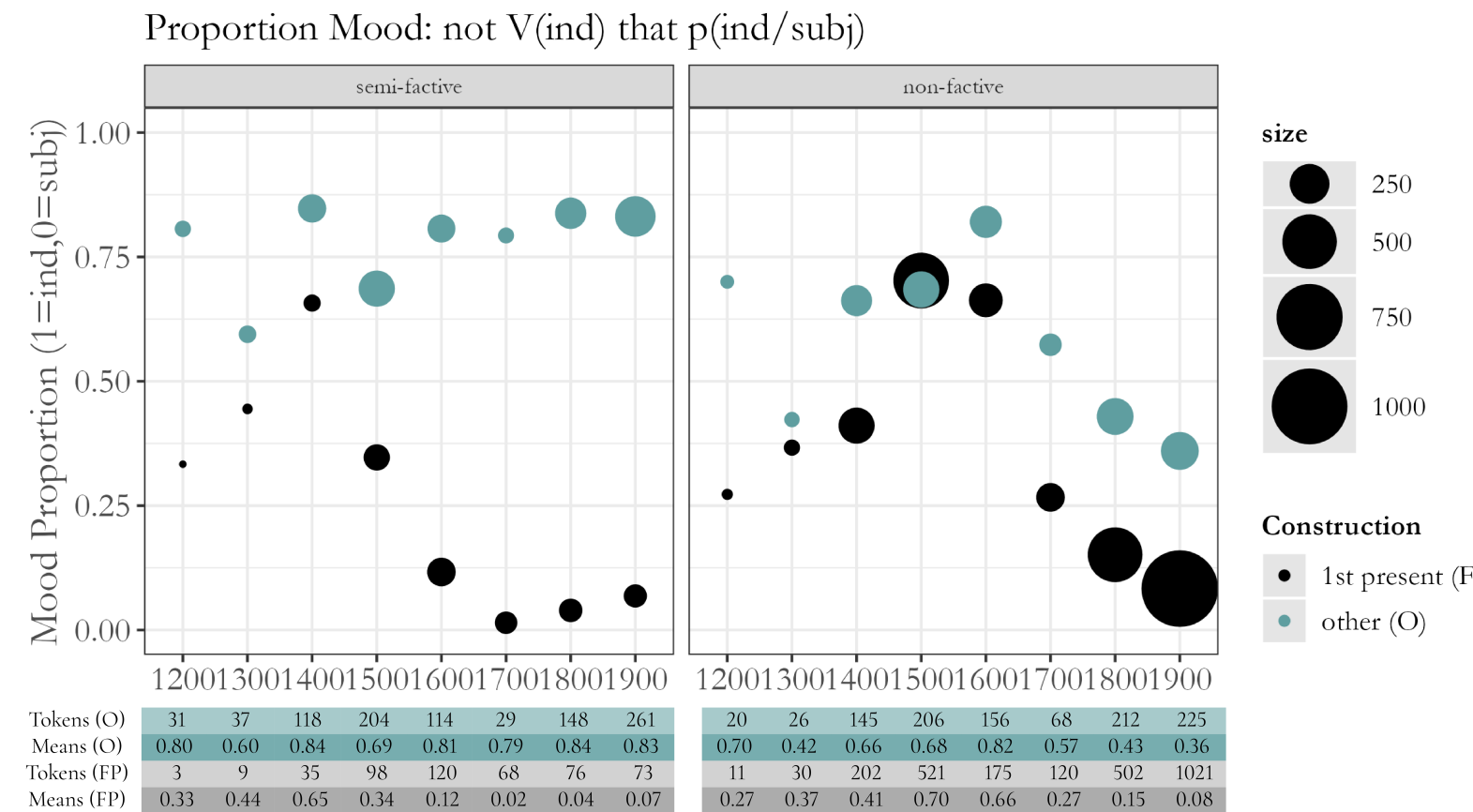
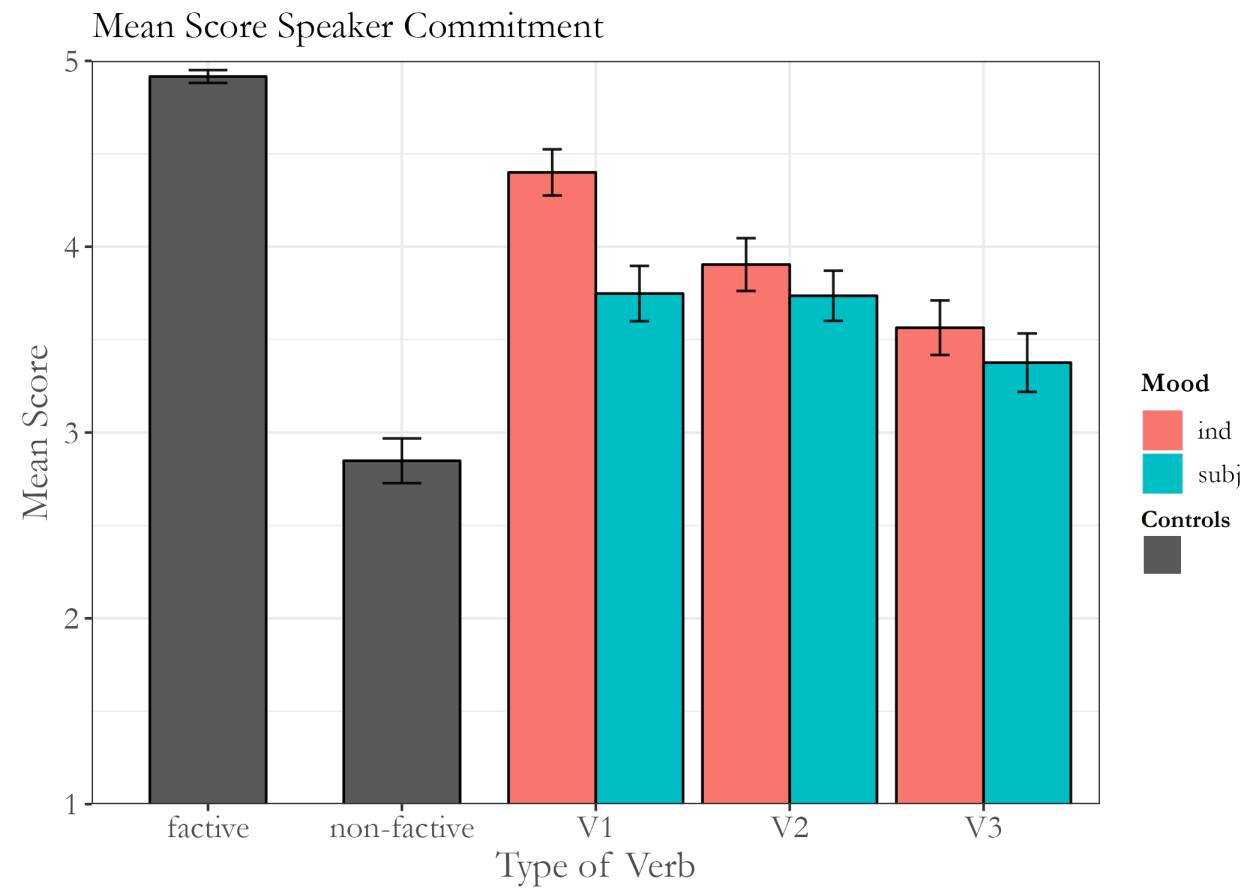
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 851423

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Konstanz



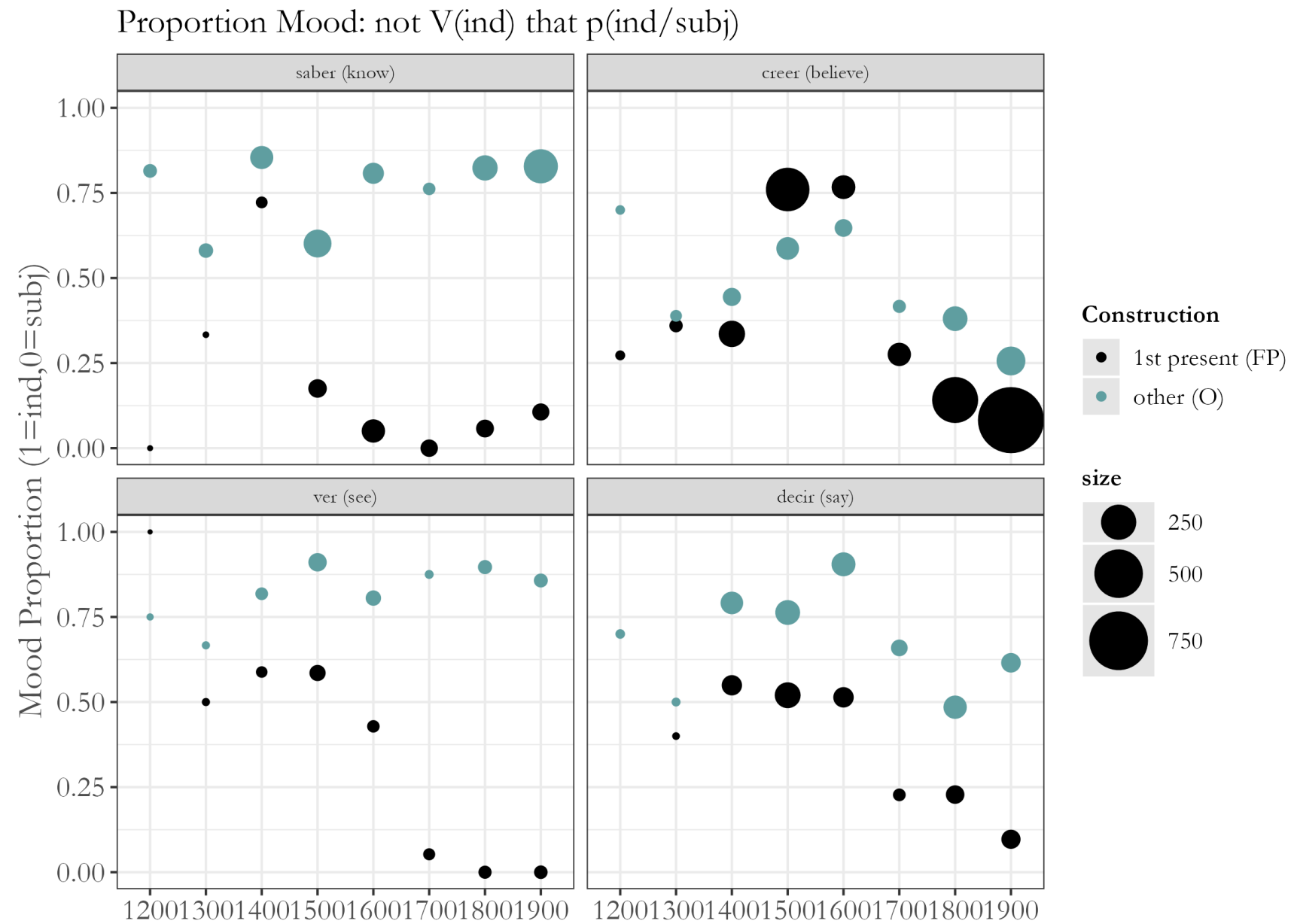
**STARFISH**

# Appendix: verb classes





# Appendix: individual predicates



# Appendix: PS in Portuguese

They don't believe that it is raining

- a. Eles não acreditam que está.IND a chover!
- b. Eles não acreditam que esteja.SUBJ a chover!

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