# Pluricentric languages and exocentric norms

## Lexical convergence between Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch

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**KU LEUVEN**

# My co-authors

# Outline

Background: Dutch as a pluricentric language

Methodology

      Uniformity as a measure of lexical convergence

      Data

Results

Conclusion

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# "Double Dutch"

Two national varieties

# "Double Dutch"

Two national varieties

Netherlandic Dutch

# "Double Dutch"

Two national varieties

Belgian Dutch (Flanders)

# Standardisation history

Netherlandic Dutch

       Renaissance

       Statenvertaling

Belgian Dutch

       Delayed standardisation: French for public life

       1960s: catching up with the North

# Standardisation of Belgian Dutch

Two views

Integrationist view (convergence with Netherlandic Dutch)

Particularistic view (Standard Belgian Dutch)

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Consequences

Language policy planning: "Zeg niet … maar wel …"

Exonormativity: say it like the Dutch

Purism: French ruling

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    Integrationist view (convergence with Netherlandic Dutch)

    Particularistic view (Standard Belgian Dutch)

Consequences

    Language policy planning: "Zeg niet … maar wel …"

    Exonormativity: say it like the Dutch

    Purism: French ruling

! not as simple as it seems

# Effectiveness?

Previous research on:

- Syntactic differences (De Sutter *et al.* 2008, Levshina 2011)
- Intelligibility problems & attitudes (Impe 2010)
- Naming preferences (Geeraerts *et al.* 1999)

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RQ: Has the integrationist approach succeeded as concerns the lexicon?

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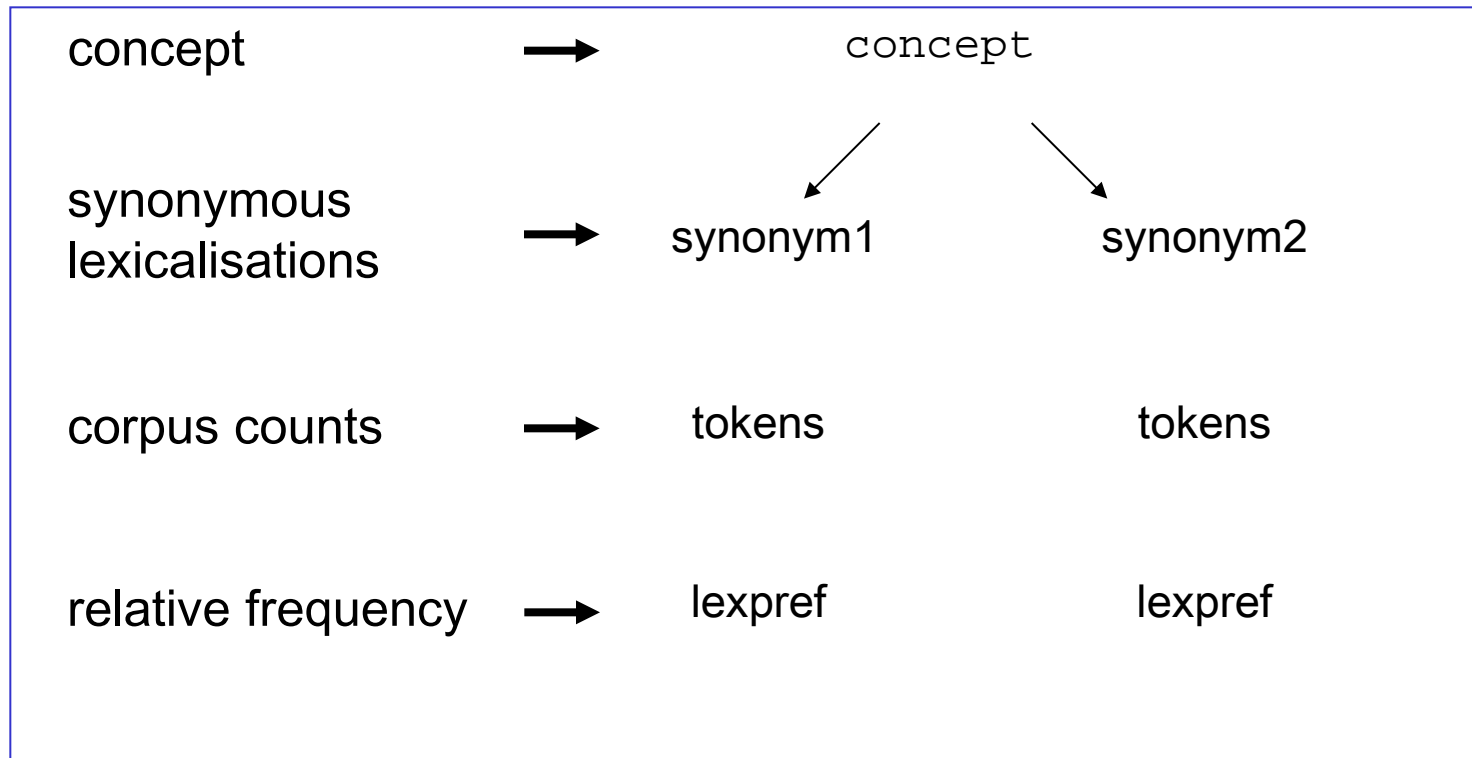    Data

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# Measuring lexical convergence: uniformity

Method:

    1. concept-based approach: onomasiological profiles

    2. build onomasiological profile for both regions

    3. measure uniformity

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# Onomasiological profile

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| concept | ➤ | `concept` | |
| synonymous lexicalisations | ➤ | synonym1 | synonym2 |
| corpus counts | ➤ | tokens | tokens |
| relative frequency | ➤ | lexpref | lexpref |

# Onomasiological profile

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| concept | ➤ | ROUNDABOUT |
| synonymous lexicalisations | ➤ | *rotonde*          *rondpunt* |
| corpus counts | ➤ | 120          80 |
| relative frequency | ➤ | 60%          40% |

# Onomasiological profile



| concept | → | ROUNDABOUT | |
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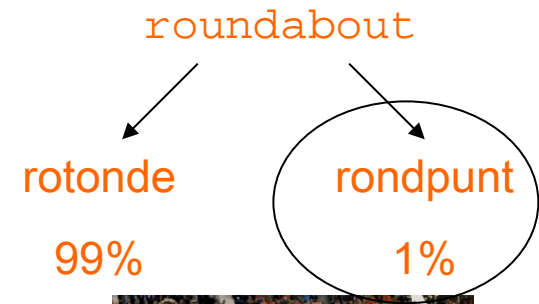| | | | |
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# Measuring lexical convergence: uniformity
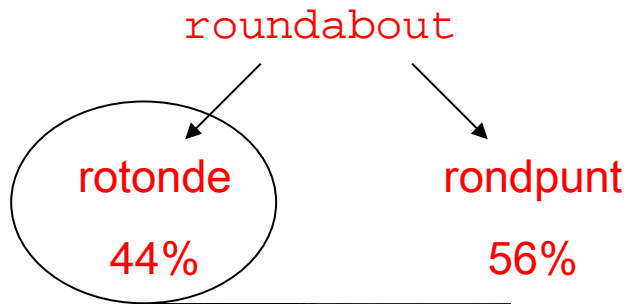
Method:

1. concept-based approach: onomasiological profiles
2. build onomasiological profile for both regions
3. measure uniformity

# Onomasiological profile

roundabout

rotonde       rondpunt

44%       56%



roundabout

rotonde       rondpunt

99%       1%

# Measuring lexical convergence: uniformity

Method:

     1. concept-based approach: onomasiological profiles

     2. build onomasiological profile for both regions
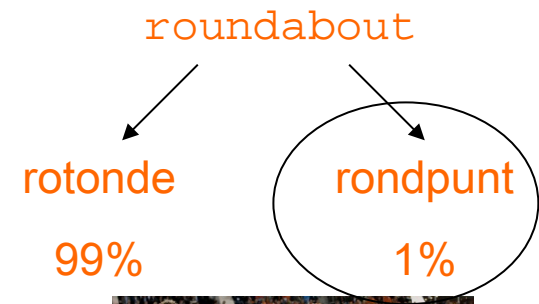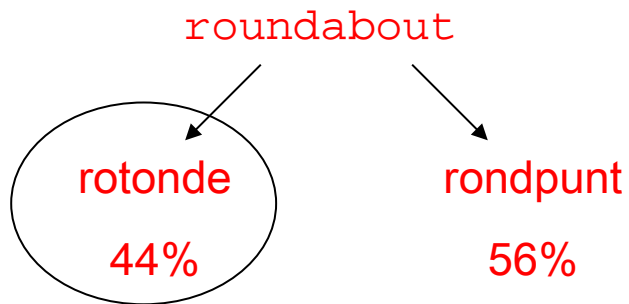
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# Measuring uniformity

Measured in terms of overlapping lexicalization preferences by summing the smallest relative value for each term

```
roundabout
```

rotonde      rondpunt

44%        56%

```
roundabout
```

rotonde      rondpunt

99%        1%

44 + 1 = 45%

# Measuring uniformity

Measured in terms of overlapping lexicalization preferences by summing the smallest relative value for each term



roundabout

rotonde
44%

rondpunt
56%

roundabout

rotonde
99%

rondpunt
1%

44 + 1 = 45% ← degree of uniformity

# Measuring uniformity

Measured in terms of overlapping lexicalisation preferences by summing the smallest relative value for each term

RQ: How high are the uniformity degrees for a number of concepts in Present-Day Standard Dutch and what normative impulses influence the degree of uniformity found?

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# Data

Concepts

      120 concepts with competing lexicalisations

      4 lexical fields (IT, emotions, traffic, social life)

Corpora

      Belgian Dutch: LeNC (+1B)

      Netherlandic Dutch: TwNC (600M)

Variables

      Converging and diverging factors

# Data

Concepts

      120 concepts with competing lexicalisations

      4 lexical fields (IT, emotions, traffic, social life)

Corpora

      Belgian Dutch: LeNC (+1B)

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      Converging and diverging factors

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

     Exocentricity

     Globalism

Diverging

     Expressivity

     Entrenchment

Converging/diverging

     Purism (cf. position of French in Belgium)

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

    Exocentricity → impact of inclusion in normative reference works?

    Globalism

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    Expressivity

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Converging/diverging

    Purism (cf. position of French in Belgium)

        → convergence due to purism: BD avoiding *camion*

        → divergence due to purism: BD avoiding *misère*

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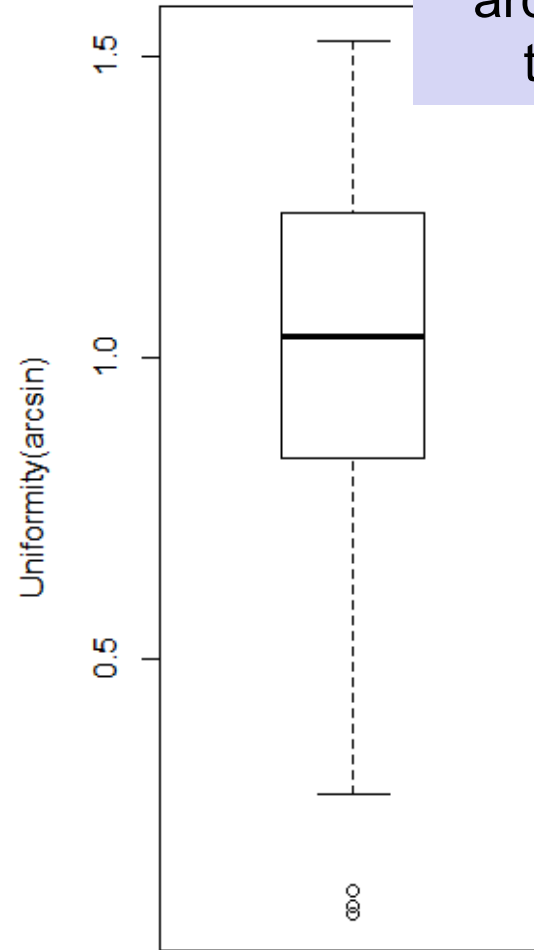
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# Uniformity
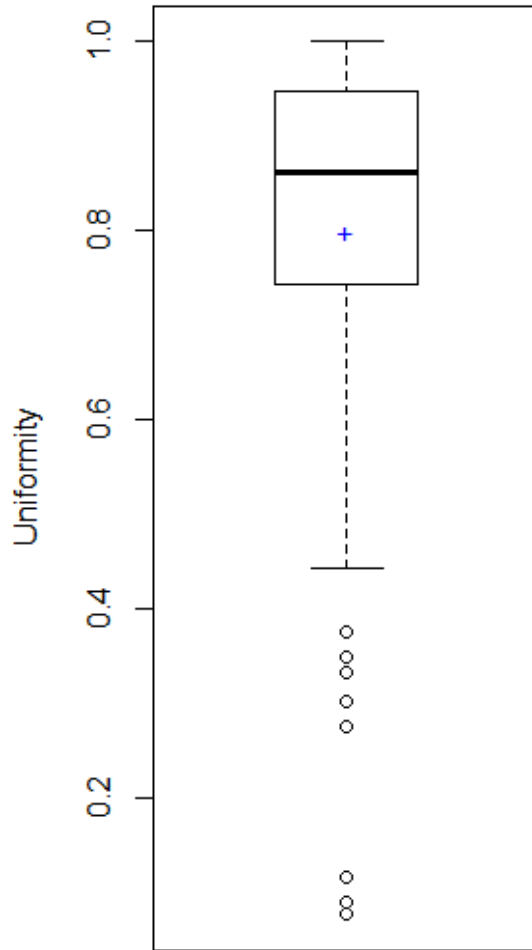


120 concepts

# Uniformity



arcsin to normalize the distribution

120 concepts

120 concepts

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

    Exocentricity → impact of inclusion in normative reference works?
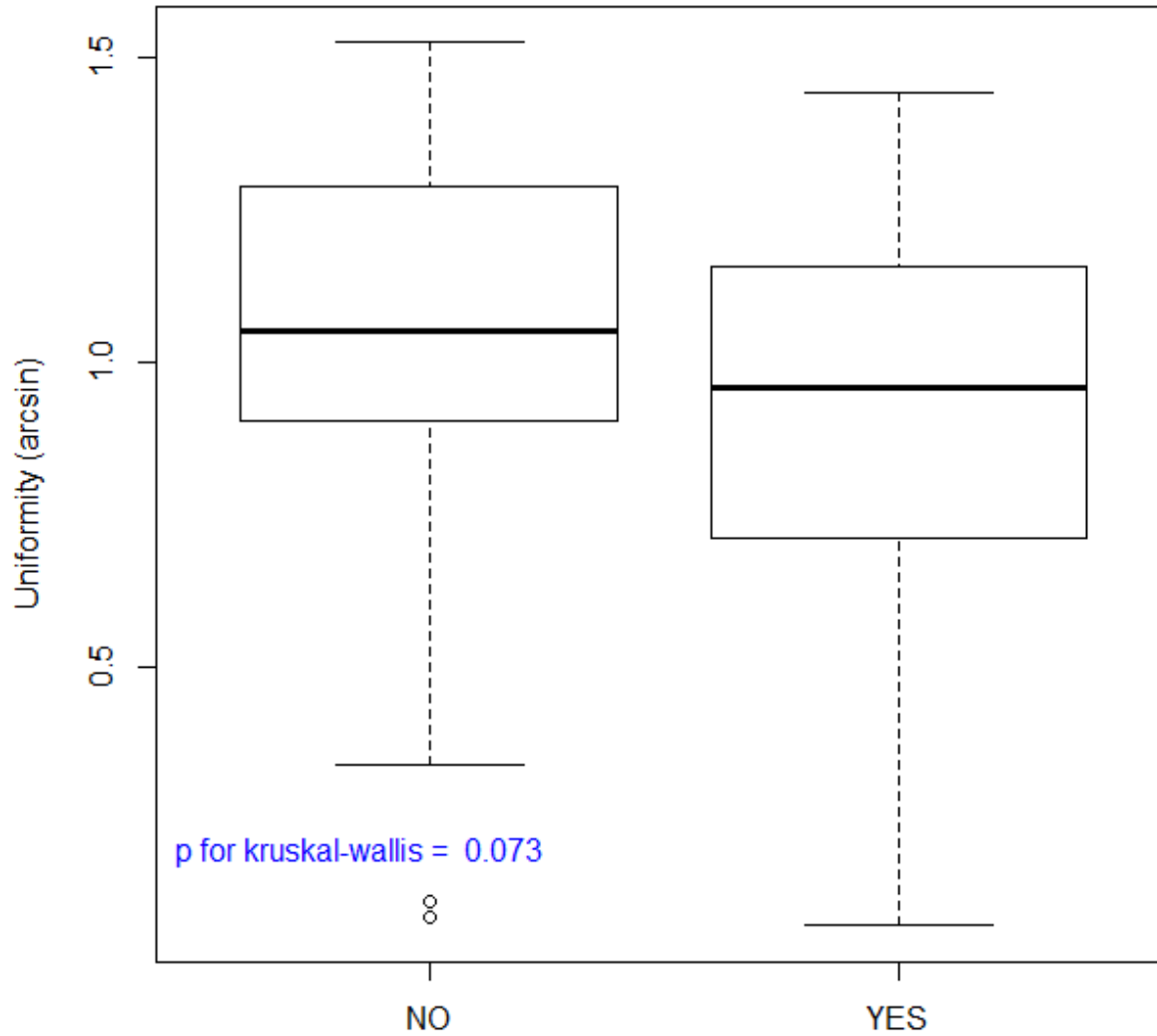
    Globalism


Diverging

    Expressivity

    Entrenchment


Converging/diverging

    Purism

# Exocentricity



Uniformity (arcsin)

p for kruskal-wallis = 0.073

NO                    YES

Concept contains lexicalisations advised against in normative literature

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

      Exocentricity

      Globalism → higher uniformity for concepts with English loans?
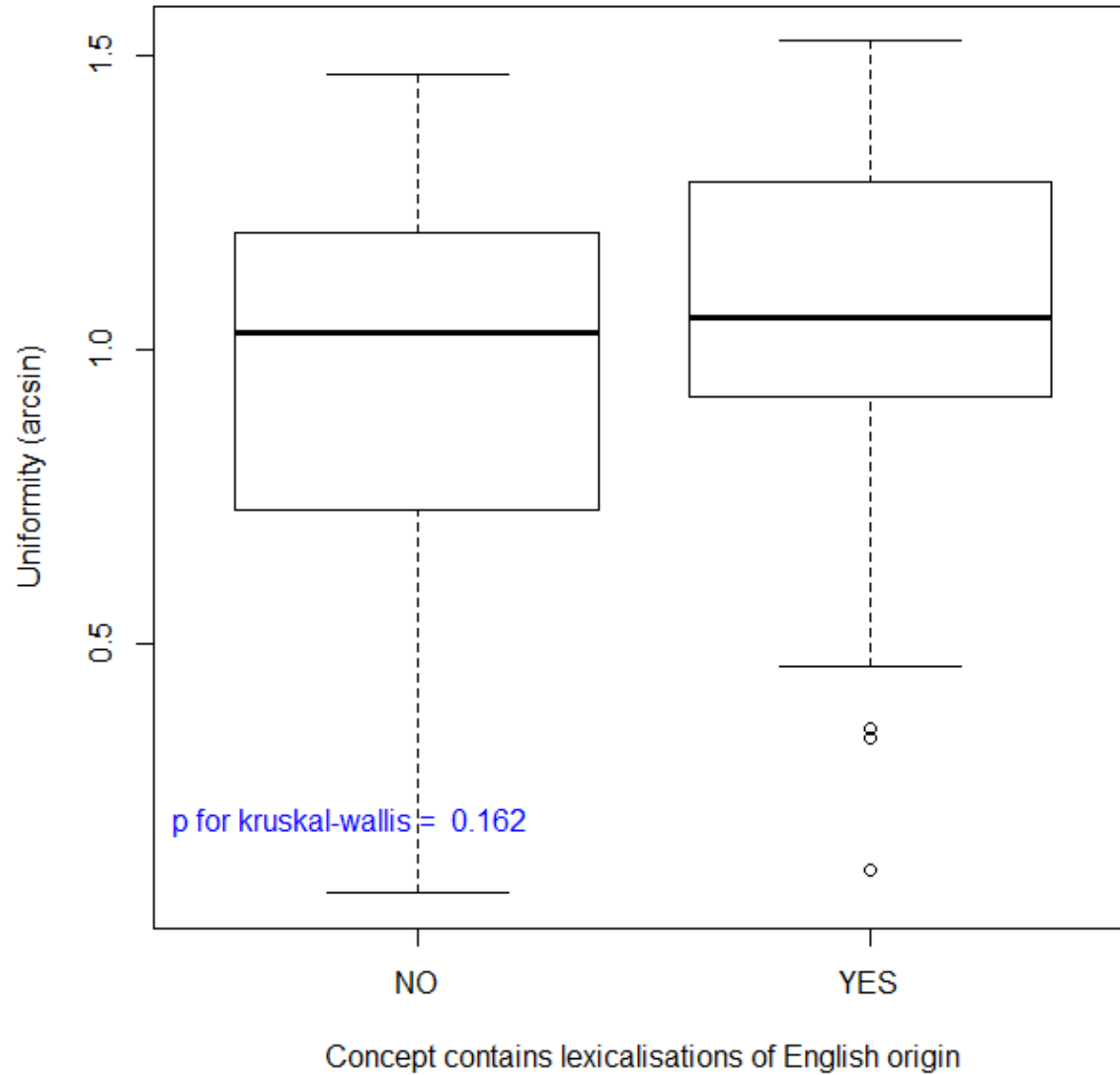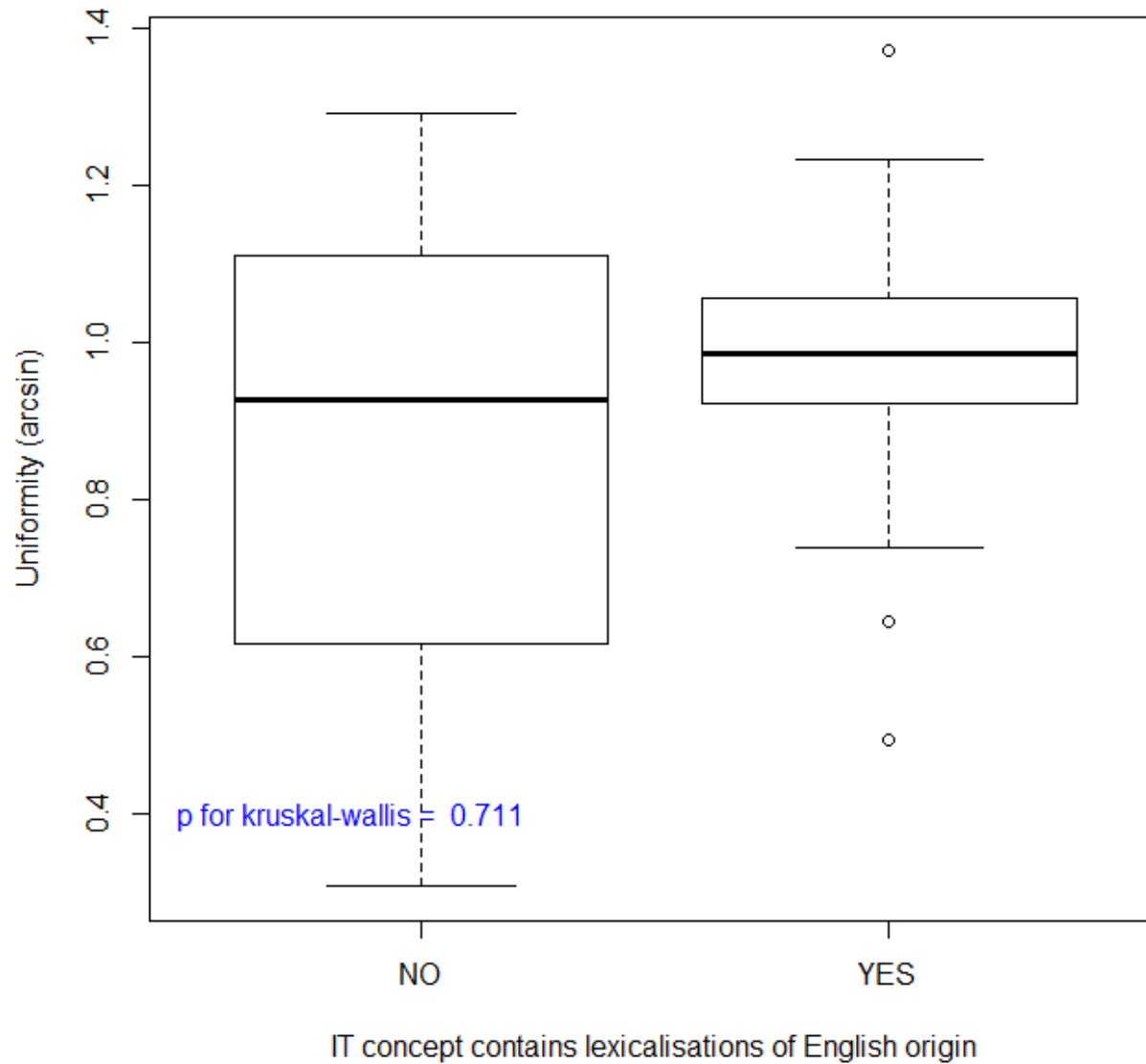

Diverging

      Expressivity

      Entrenchment


Converging/diverging

      Purism

# Globalism

# Globalism



IT concept contains lexicalisations of English origin

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

      Exocentricity

      Globalism

Diverging

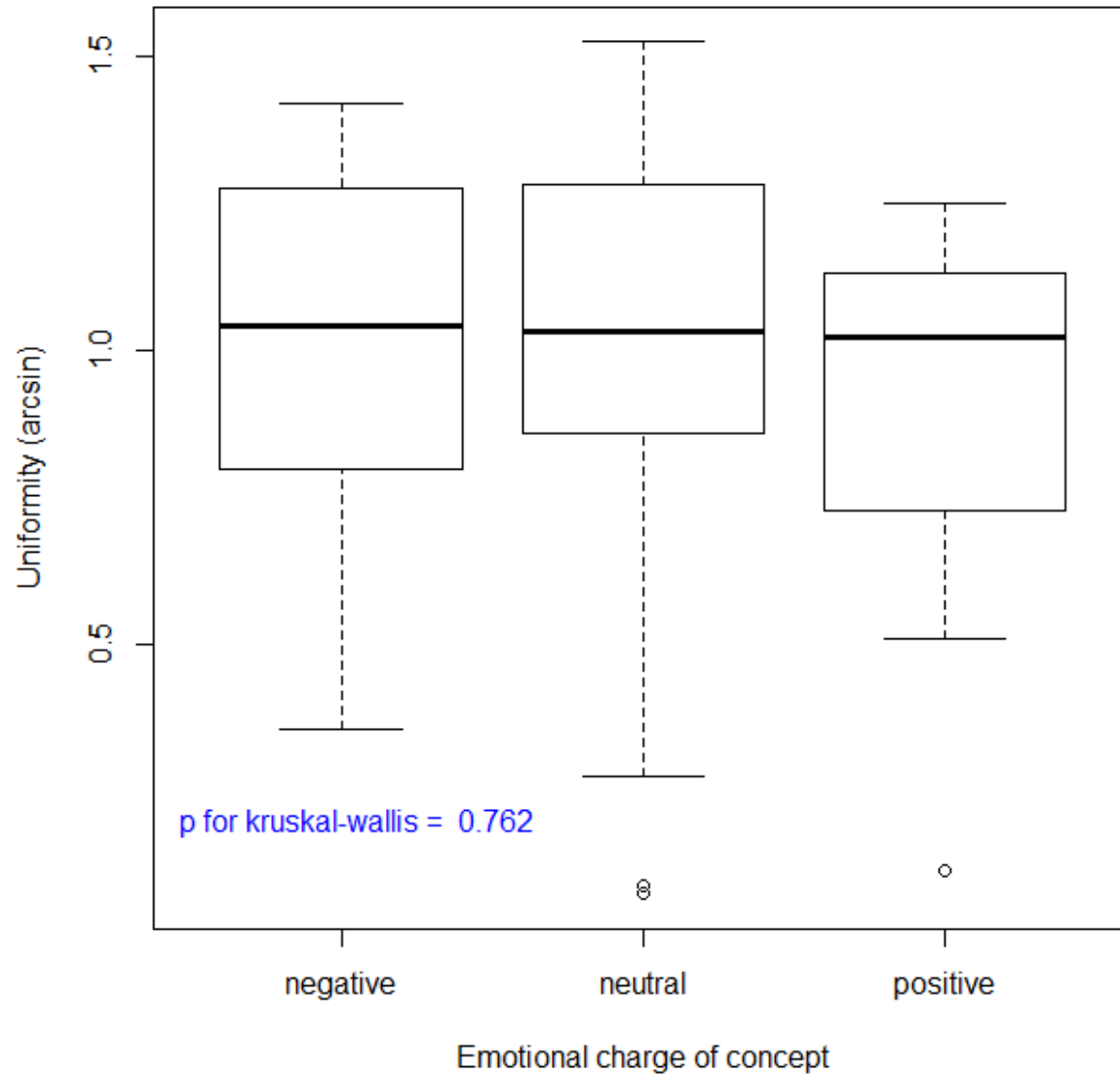      Expressivity → lower uniformity for emotion-charged concepts?

      Entrenchment

Converging/diverging

      Purism

# Expressivity

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

        Exocentricity
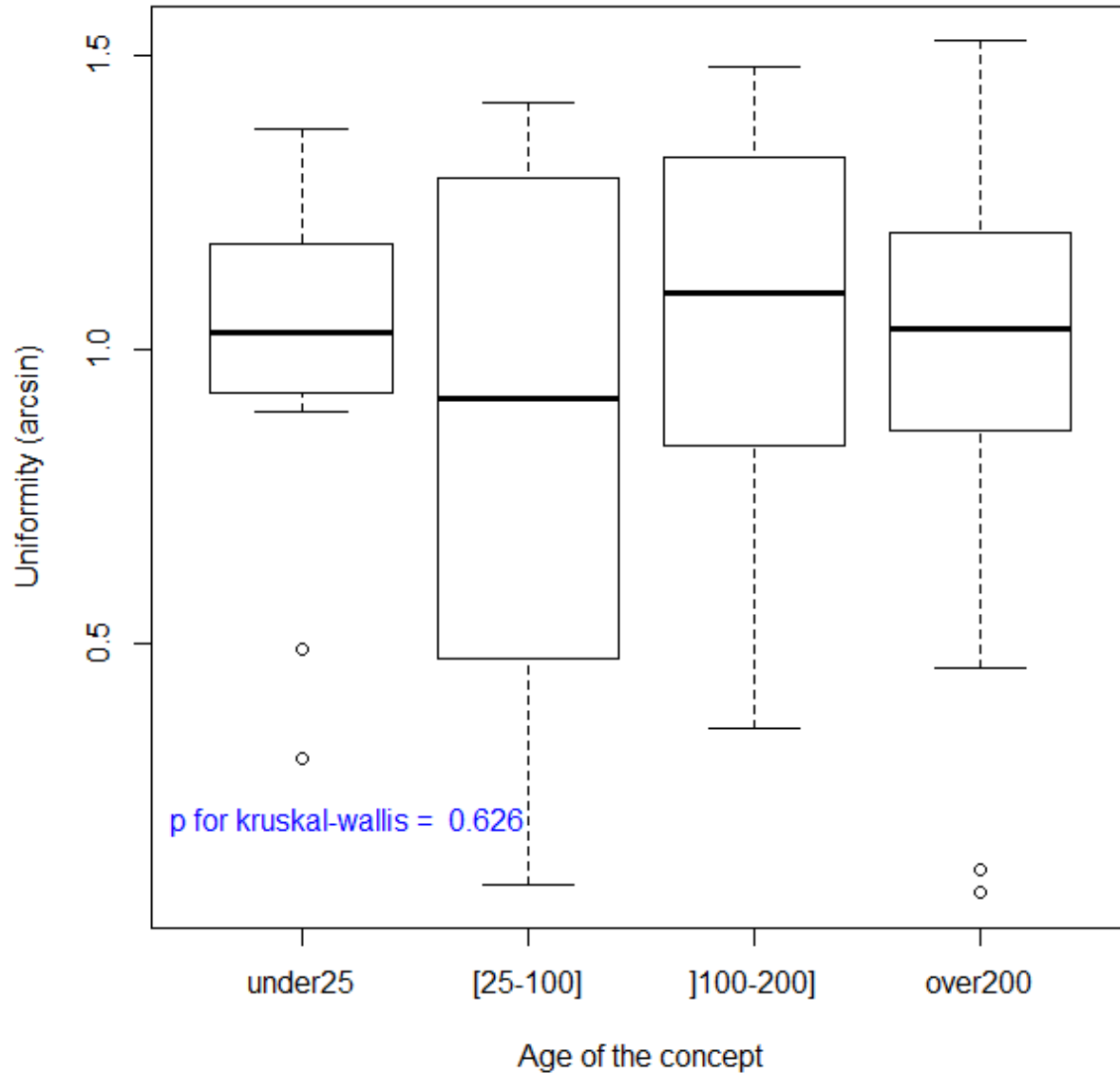
        Globalism

Diverging

        Expressivity

        Entrenchment → more resistance to converge for older concepts?

Converging/diverging

        Purism

# Entrenchment

# Converging and diverging factors

Converging

      Exocentricity

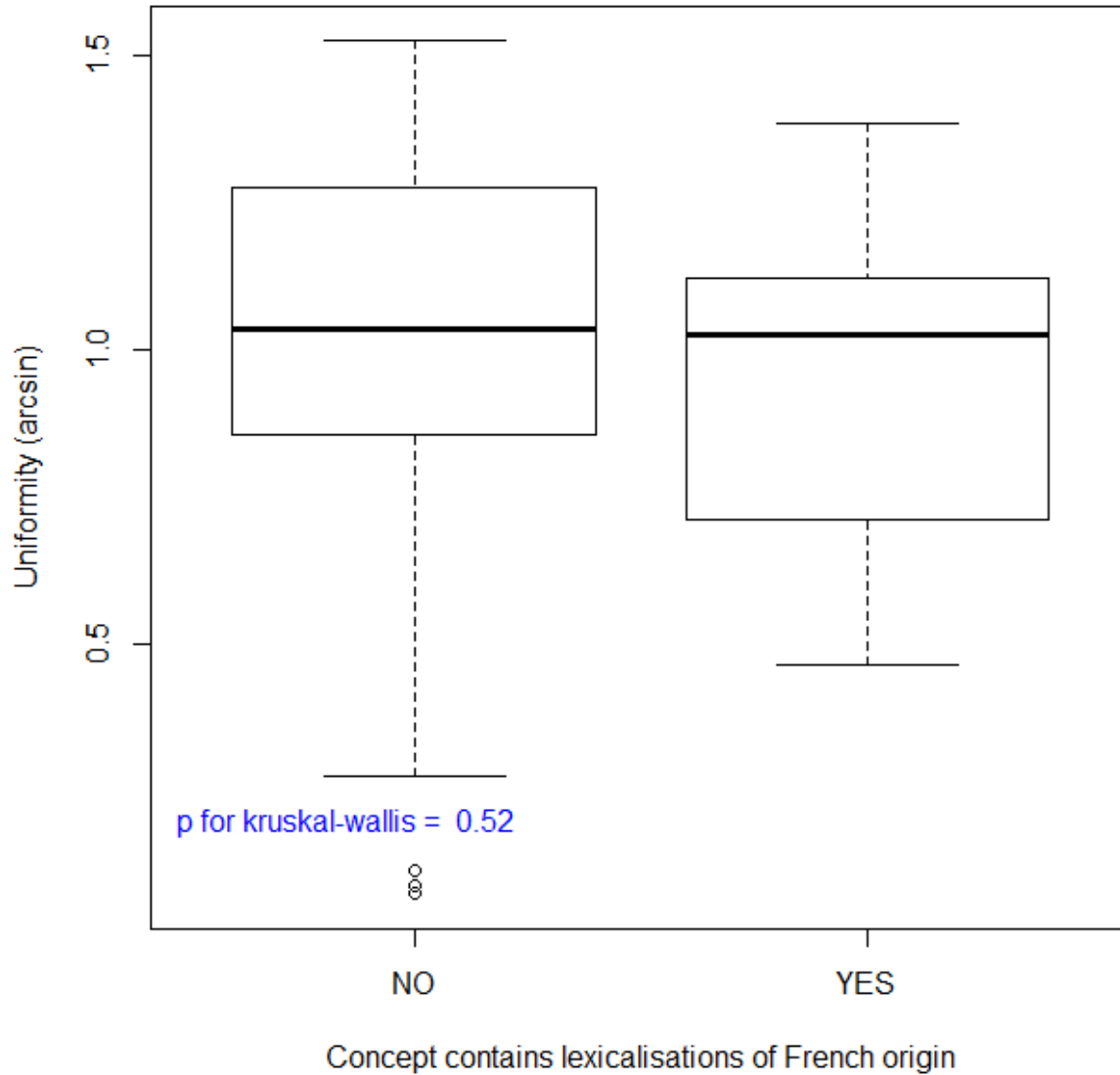      Globalism

Diverging

      Expressivity

      Entrenchment

Converging/diverging
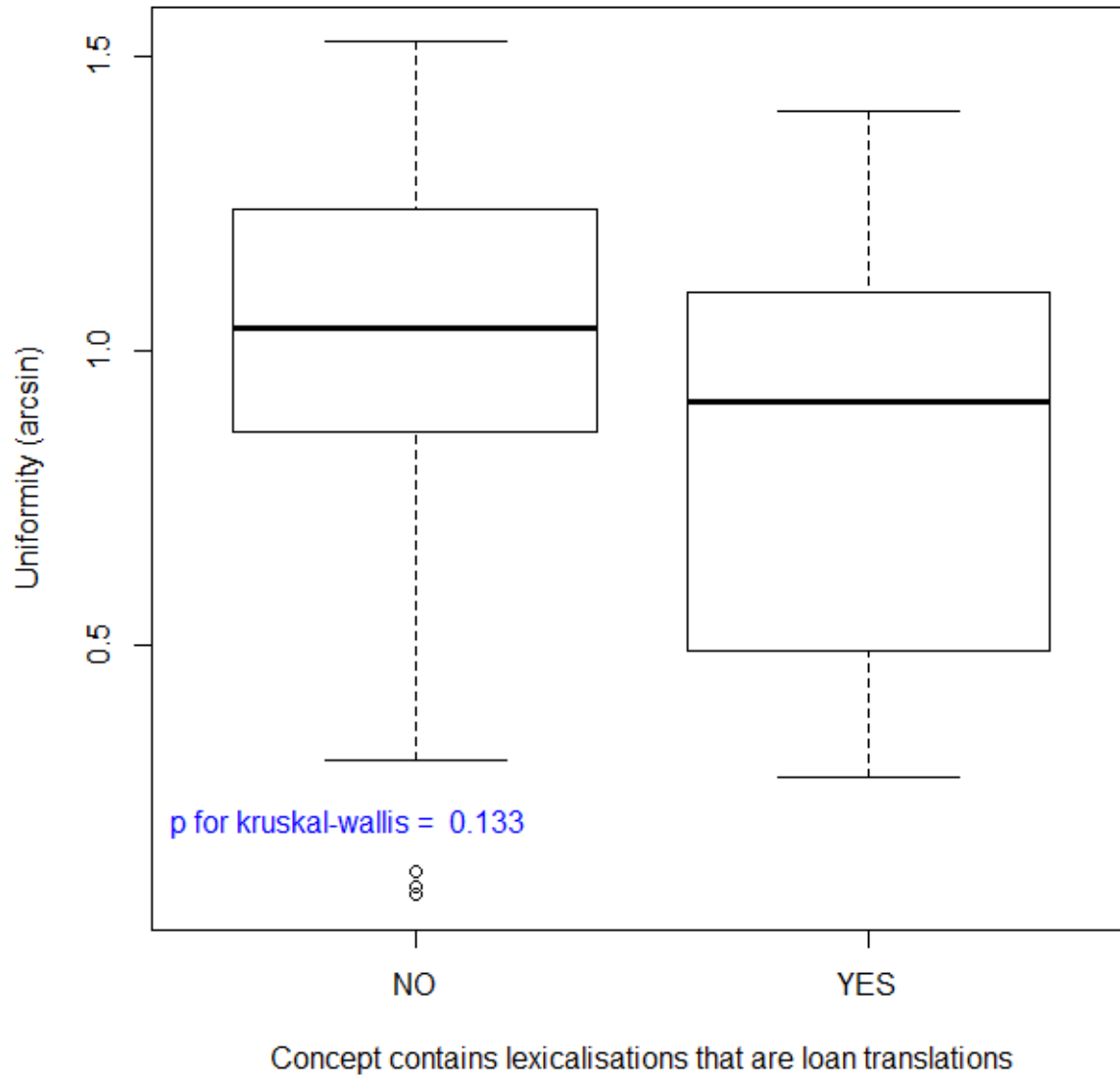
      Purism (cf. position of French in Belgium)

          &rarr; convergence due to purism: BD avoiding *camion*

          &rarr; divergence due to purism: BD avoiding *misère*

# Purism (1)



p for kruskal-wallis = 0.52

Uniformity (arcsin)

NO    YES

Concept contains lexicalisations of French origin

# Purism (2)



Concept contains lexicalisations that are loan translations

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No significant impact of the converging/diverging factors

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Attenuating the analysis

1. Statistical tendencies for exocentricity and purism

2. Lexical field traffic

3. Artifact of chosen data?
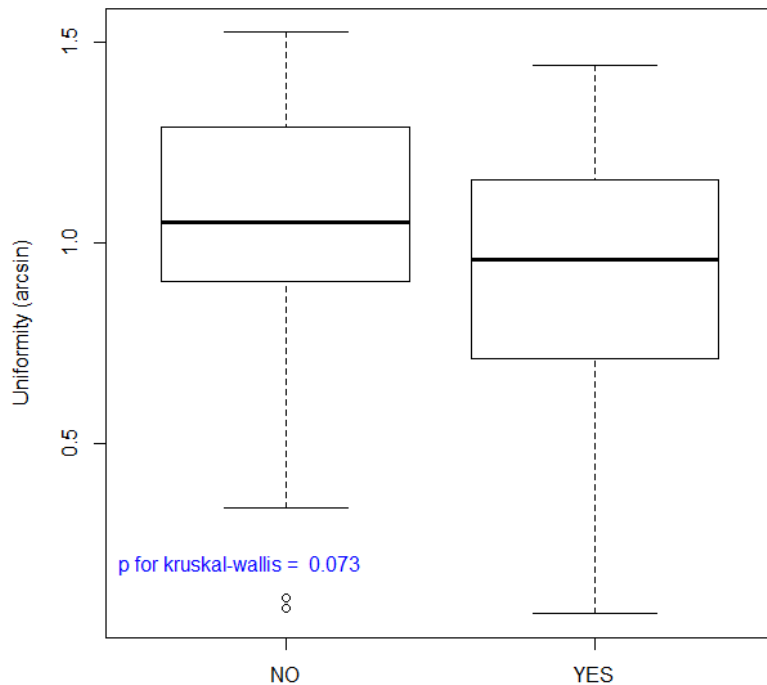
4. What now?

# Conclusion

No significant impact of the converging/diverging factors

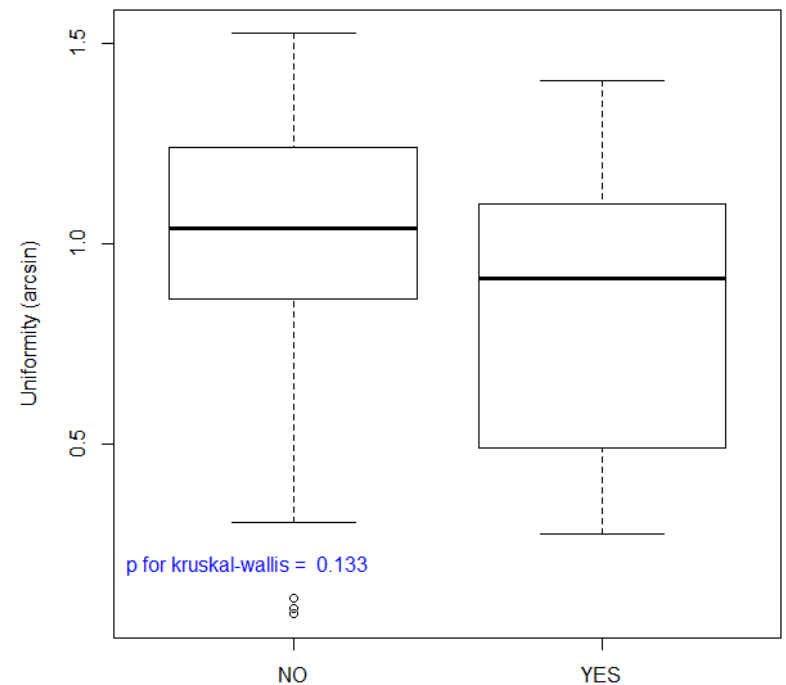Attenuating the analysis

       1. Statistical tendencies for exocentricity and purism

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       3. Artifact of chosen data?

       4. What now?

# Exocentricity & purism



Concept contains lexicalisations advised against in normative literature

Concept contains lexicalisations that are loan translations
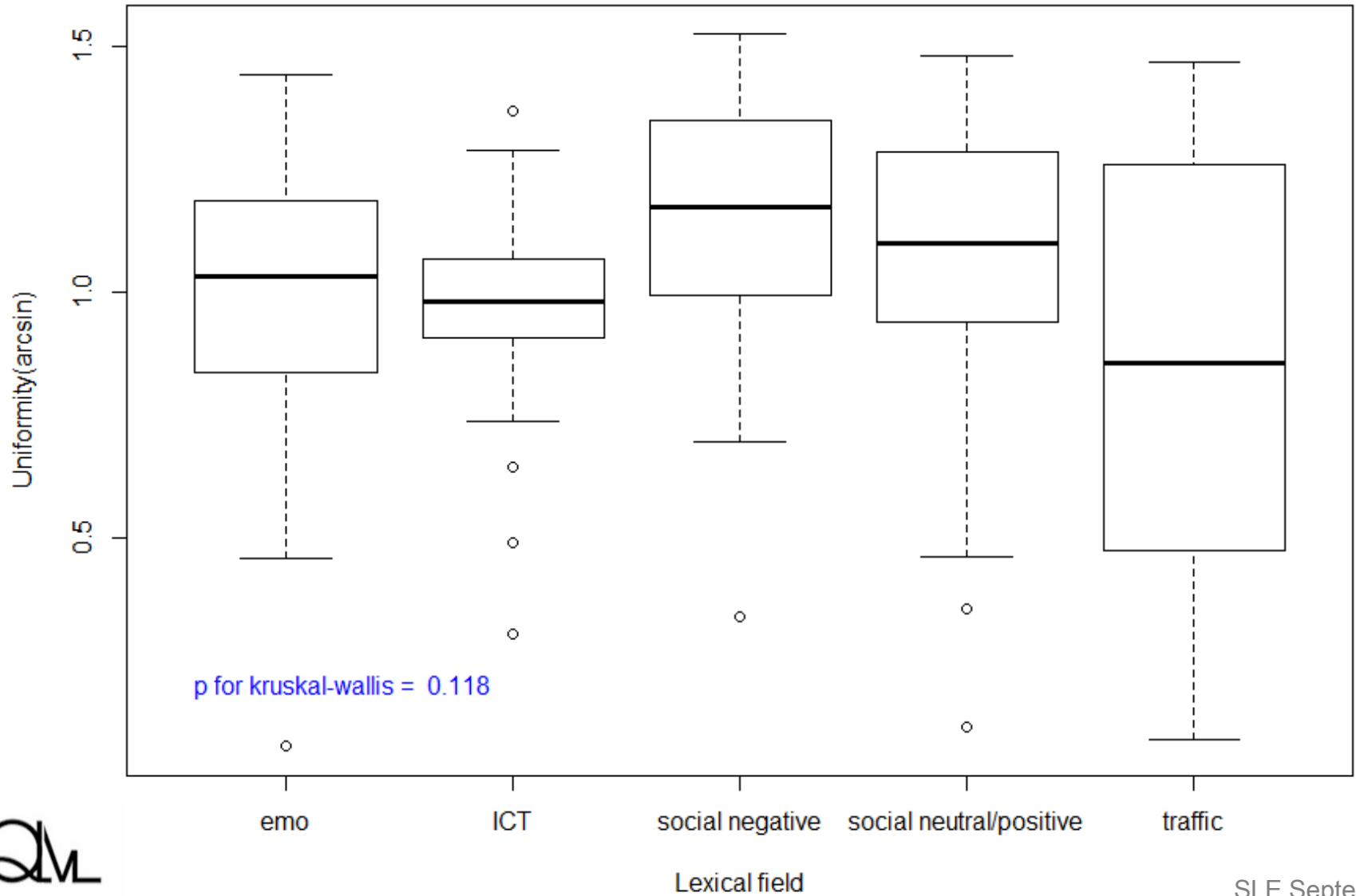
p= 0.073

p= 0.133

# Conclusion

No significant impact of the converging/diverging factors
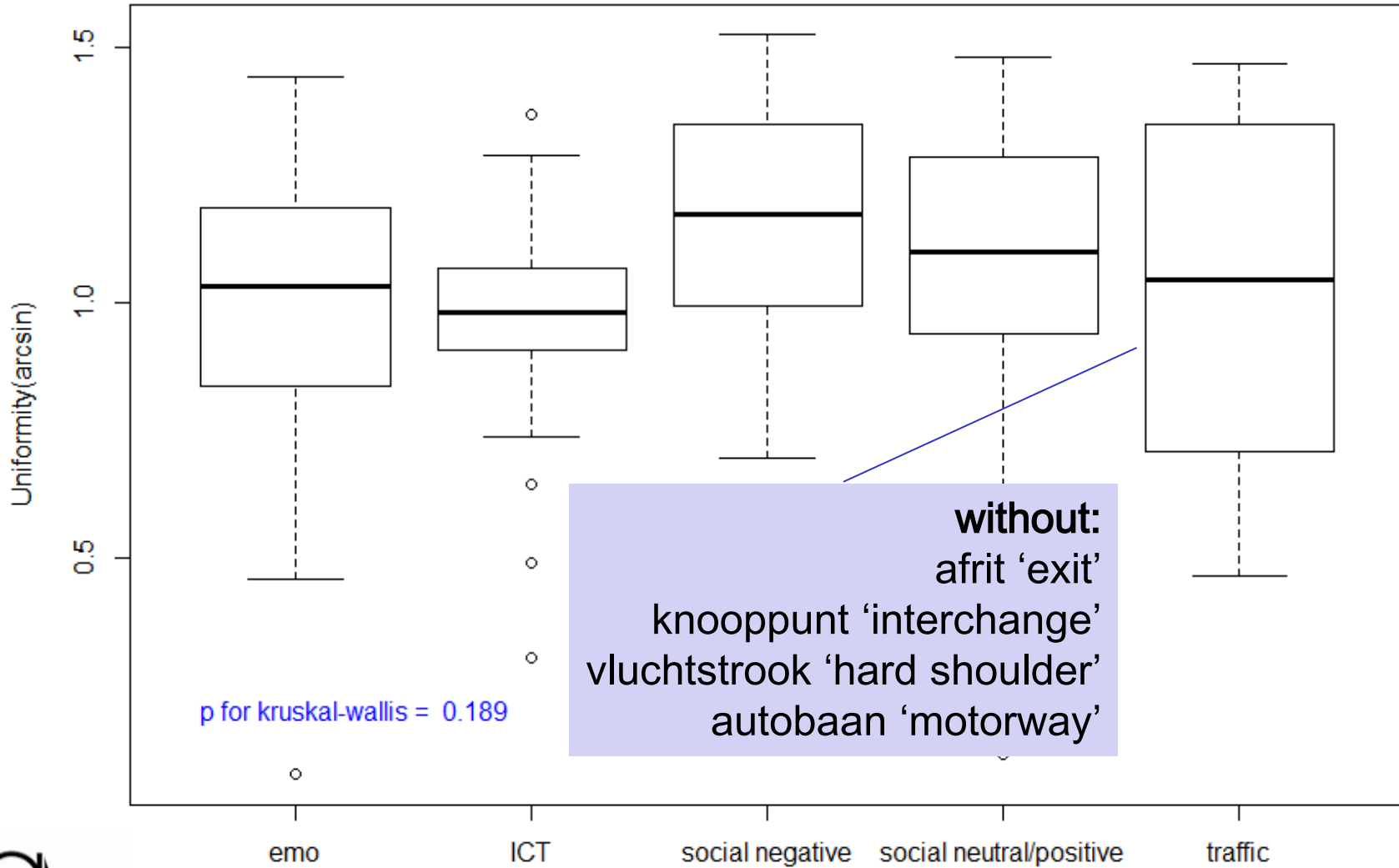
Attenuating the analysis

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      3. Artifact of chosen data?

      4. What now?

# Lexical field



p for kruskal-wallis = 0.118

Uniformity(arcsin)

emo    ICT    social negative    social neutral/positive    traffic

Lexical field

# Lexical field



without:
afrit 'exit'
knooppunt 'interchange'
vluchtstrook 'hard shoulder'
autobaan 'motorway'

p for kruskal-wallis = 0.189

Uniformity(arcsin)

emo    ICT    social negative    social neutral/positive    traffic
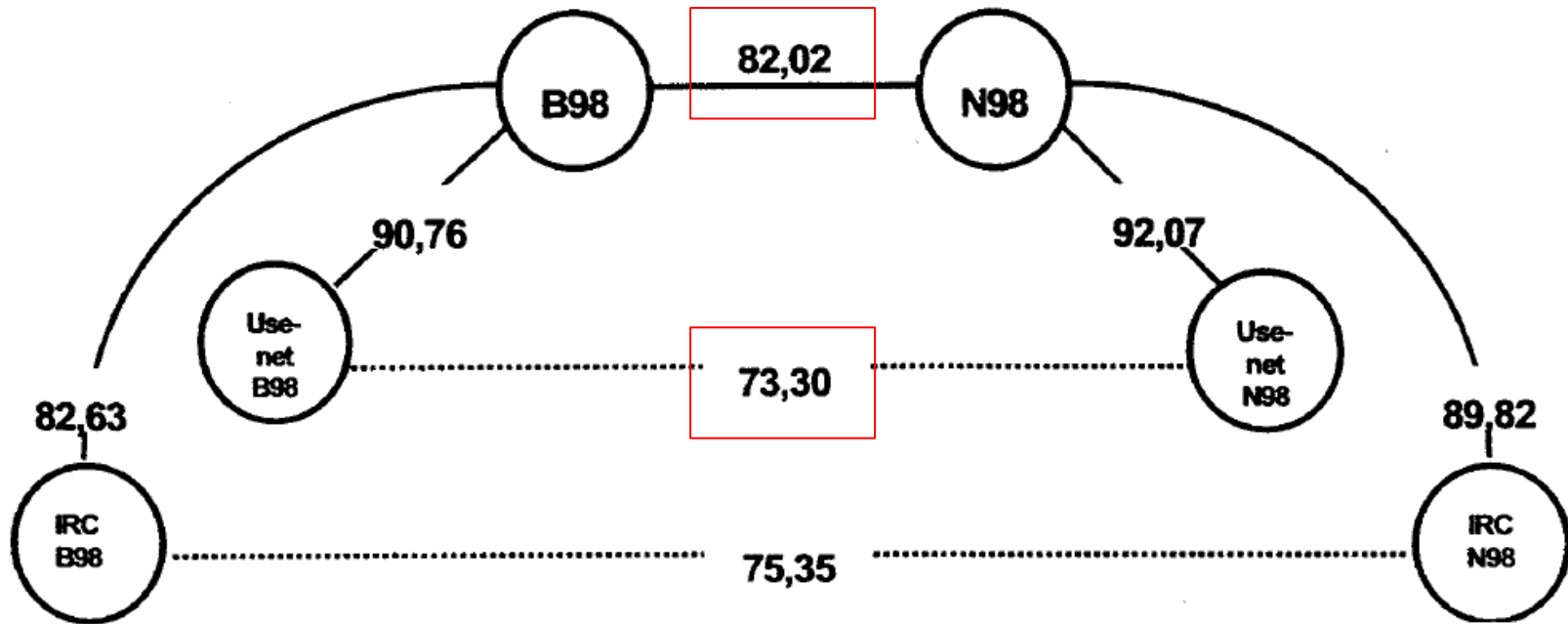
Lexical field (without 4 motorway concepts)

# Conclusion

No significant impact of the converging/diverging factors

Attenuating the analysis

      1. Statistical tendencies for exocentricity and purism

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      4. What now?

# Artifact?



Grondelaers et al 2001

# Artifact?

# Conclusion

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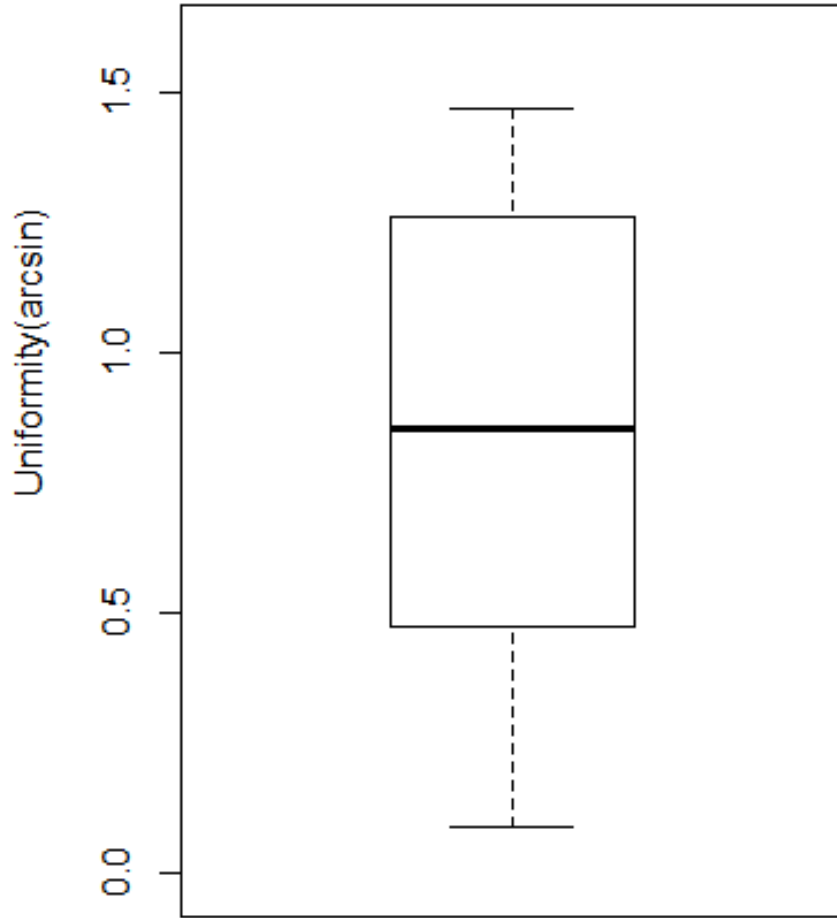      3. Artifact of chosen data?

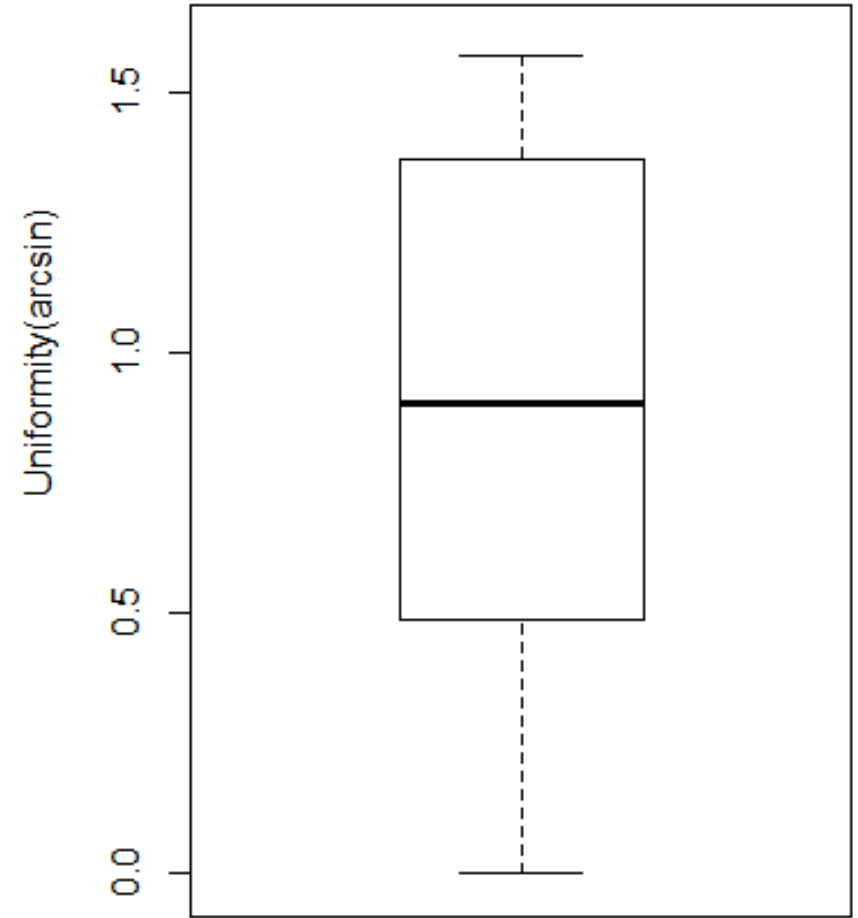      4. What now?

         More data

            Other lexical fields

            Other registers

# Conclusion

No significant impact of the converging/diverging factors

Attenuating the analysis

      1. Statistical tendencies for exocentricity and purism

      2. Lexical field traffic

      3. Artifact of chosen data?

      4. What now?

# Thank you! Questions?



For more information:

http://wwwling.arts.kuleuven.be/qlvl

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# References

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