



# (Regional) variation in the use of English as an identity-marker in two varieties of Dutch

A quantitative analysis of the reality tv-show "Expeditie Robinson"

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# Overview

1. Theoretical Background
2. Corpus & Data
3. The social meaning of English: multifactorial design
4. Results:
  - global analyses: mixed effect regression modeling
  - zooming in: accommodation patterns
  - zooming in: type of English constructions



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## Two main traditions in sociolinguistics



Variational Soc

*structure*

correlating linguistic variation and  
macro-social categories

Interactional Soc

*use*

flexible identity, online creation of  
meaning

Variational Soc

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?

# Cognitive Sociolinguistics

## Variational Soc

### *structure*

correlating linguistic variation and  
macro-social categories

## Interactional Soc

### *use*

flexible identity, online creation of  
meaning

## Cognitive Soc

dialectic relation:

*structure emerges from use*  
*creative use based on structure*



# Cognitive Sociolinguistics

## Variational Soc

### *structure*

correlating linguistic variation and  
macro-social categories

## Interactional Soc

### *use*

flexible identity, online creation of  
meaning

## Cognitive Soc

1. define structure deriving from use
2. identify creative use of structure



# Cognitive Sociolinguistics

## Cognitive Soc

multifactorial: macro and contextual

CofP's & individual diff

quantitative: generalizing



# Cognitive Sociolinguistics

## Cognitive Soc

multifactorial: macro and contextual  
CofP's & individual diff  
quantitative: generalizing

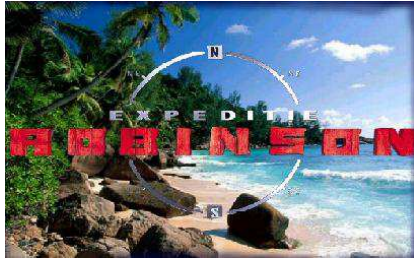
case-study on the interplay of situational context, social position and regional variation in explaining the use of English by Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch participants to the reality-tv show Expeditie Robinson



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# Expedition Robinson



## Game format:

- Participants as castaways on an island, in tribes
- Surviving in the wilderness
- Competing in challenges (reward, immunity, and special challenges)
- Progressive elimination: tribal council
- TV-show: life on the island, challenges, video diaries and tribal councils



# Expeditie Robinson

## Benefits:

- social identity is crucial: if you're not liked, you're going home
- clear CofP's, tribes
- wide variety of speakers from different backgrounds ( $\leftrightarrow$  Temptation)
- accessible material



# Expeditie Robinson

## Data:

- season 4, 5 and 6 (broadcast in 2003, 2004, 2005 respectively)
- 14 episodes per season, 50' per episode (35 hours)
- 10 000 utterances for 52 speakers

## Transcriptions:

- CHILDES
- manual morpho-phonological transcription
- unique code for each utterance: <Jxx.Axx.Fxxx.Uxx.Tx.SPC>

**Use of English:** XML-marking for all English items (except for *okay*, *sorry* and necessary items)



# Expeditie Robinson

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## Transcriptions:

- CHILDES
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- unique code for

Use of English: XML  
and necessary

@Situation: <J03.A11.F085.U02.T3.ROB>  
\*ROB: (i)k vind dat echt een (h)eel moeilijk onderwerp  
eh@fp want da(t) da(t) zijn da(t) zijn interpretaties van  
mensen die zien iets iets naar ne mond gaan en is da(t) dan  
ee(n) velleke van een schil of is dat echt ee(n) stuk banaan  
of is da(t).

*I find this a very difficult topic, because you're dealing with  
interpretations of people, who see something go into  
someone's mouth. Is it skin of a peal, is it really a piece of  
banana or...*



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# Expeditie Robinson

## Data:

- season 4, 5 & 6
- 14 episodes
- 10 000 utterances

## Transcriptions:

- CHILDES
- manual morphology
- unique codes

## Use of English:

and necessary

@Situation: <J04.A05.F122.U01.T3.MIC>  
\*MIC: nu (h)eef(t) ze gedaan <ENG>forever</ENG> zeeft [: ze heeft] bij mij gedaan # vanavond moet ekik weer ne pakje rijst zon beetje rijst ete(n) omda(t) madam nu <ENG>show</ENG> geve(n) # ik (h)eb recht op zon beetje rijst vanavond zon beetje nu ist [: is het] drie weke(n) ver nu moete [: moet ge] sterk worde(n) nu moete [: moet ge] ete(n) en moete [: moet ge] sterk worde(n) # <ENG>fuck the fuck the others</ENG> # nu moete [: moet ge] denken aan uzelf # klote kutwijf # twee mense(n) tegen één.

*Now I'm done with her, forever... Tonight, I'll have to eat a tiny bit of rice again because Misses here had to put up a show. I'm entitled to this tiny bit of rice tonight. We're three weeks in the game, now you have to get stronger, now you have to eat and get stronger... Fuck the others. Now you have to be self-centred, fucking bitch, two against one.*



# Case study



# Case study

The use of non-referential English in expressive language



# Case study

The use of non-referential English in expressive language

Data: 1190 exclamative utterances for 46 speakers

Binary response: does this exclamative utterance contain non-referential English?

## Example containing English

@ Situation: <J05.A11.F102.U01.T3.CAR>

\*CAR: geef is één één voorbeeld van wa(t) gij wel doe(t).

@ Situation: <J05.A11.F102.U02.T3.MER>

\*MER: <ENG>jesus</ENG> jonge(n) seg tis [: het is] daarom da(t) (i)k er nog in zit.

@ Situation: <J05.A11.F102.U03.T3.CAR>

\*CAR: ja geeft een voorbeeld eh@fp geeft een voorbeeld wa(t) ge wel doe(t) # ja dan weet (i)k (h)et ook ### ja ma(ar) geeft een voorbeeld dan.



# Case study

The use of non-referential English in expressive language

**Data:** 1190 exclamative utterances for 46 speakers

**Binary response:** does this exclamative utterance contain non-referential English?

**Distribution:** 198 with, 992 without

**Research question:**

the interplay of situational context, social position and regional variation in explaining the use of **non-referential English in exclamative utterances from** Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch participants in the reality-tv show Expeditie Robinson



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# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation (introducing social perspective)

- country
- province
- town

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature





# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

men (n = 23)  
women (n = 23)

- under 30 (n = 18)
- 30 to 40 (n = 14)
- over 40 (n = 14)

## Regional variation (introduced)

- country
- province
- town

based on CBS

- lower required level of education (n = 23)
- higher required level of education (n = 23)

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature



# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
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## Regional variation (introducing social perspective)

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### Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

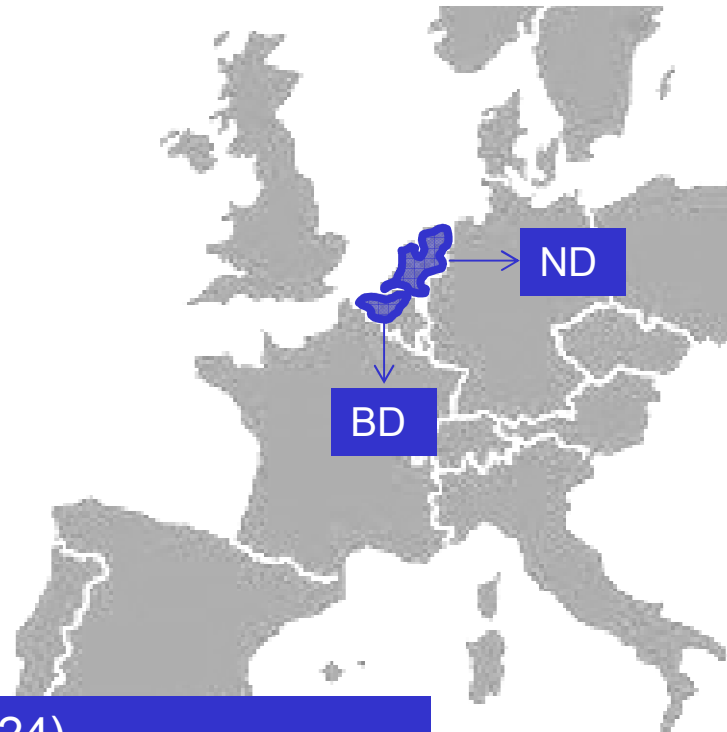
### Regional variation

- country
- province
- town

Belgian Dutch (n = 24)  
Netherlandic Dutch (n = 22)

### Situational social variables

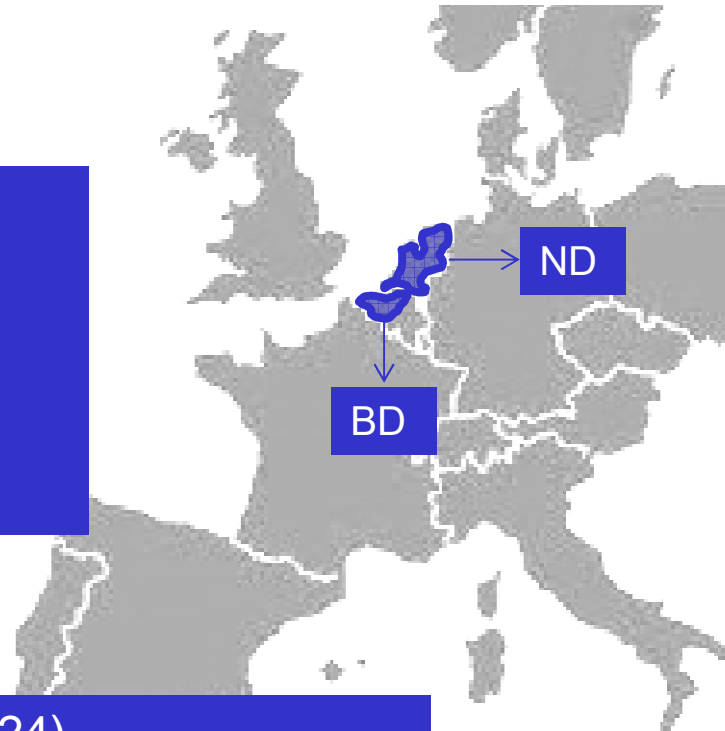
- exit type
- exclamative nature



Standardisation of BD slowed down  
because use of French in public life

Resulting purist tendencies

Expanded to English?



### Regional variation

- country
- province
- town

Belgian Dutch (n = 24)  
Netherlandic Dutch (n = 22)

### Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature



# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation

- country
  - province
  - town
- core provinces (n = 24)  
peripheral provinces (n = 22)

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature



# Speaker-relat



- country
- province
- town

core provinces (n = 24)  
peripheral provinces (n = 22)

→ hubs of linguistic innovation

Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature



# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation

- country
  - province
  - town
- province capitals and capitals (n = 31)  
smaller towns (n = 15)

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature



# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation

- country
  - province
  - town
- province capitals and capitals (n = 31)  
smaller towns (n = 15)
- urbanity

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature





# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation

- country
- province
- town

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature



# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation

- country
- province
- town

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature

- voted off
  - left home on own initiative
  - lost challenge
  - finalist
- } weak position (n = 29)
- } strong position (n = 17)



# Speaker-related features

## Traditional features

- gender
- age
- profession

## Regional variation

- country
- province
- town

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature

how expressive is this speaker?  
proportion of exclamative utterances

low users (n = 23)

high users (n = 23)



# Speaker-related features

## “Fixed” social variables

- gender
- age
- profession

## Situational social variables

- exit type
- exclamative nature

## Regional variation

- country
- province
- town



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# Context-related features

- topic of the conversation
- emotional polarity
- familiarity with the environment
- social change



# Context-related features

- topic of the conversation
- emotional polarity

Food

\*RYA: lekker jong(en) is dit

Logistics and life on the island

\*JUT: prachtig eh@fp (h)ier

\*JUD: unbelievable

Social life & voting

\*ROB: Jean Claude Van Damme stelt niks nie(t) meer voor # you're my new hero

Challenges

\*GIO: for honour and for Noord



# Context-related features

- topic of the conversation
- emotional polarity
- familiarity with the environment
- social

Positive

\*FAT: welcome home boys

Negative

\*PET: ma(ar) (i)k ga dan geen moeite meer doen  
ze jong(en) # sgoed [: is goed] # (i)k (h)oop da(t) ge  
rot in u(w) vel jongen.





# Context-related features

- topic of the conversation
- emotional polarity
- familiarity with the environment
- social change

as the program progresses, speakers feel more at home:  
→ less conscious of language use  
→ more exclamatives containing English?

Progress based on episodes:

1. A01 – A03 (start)
2. A04 – A06 (shuffle)
3. A06 – A12 (merge)
4. A12 – A14 (finals)



# Context-related features

- topic of the conversation
- emotional polarity
- familiarity with the environment
- **social change**

socially charged episodes  
vs.  
normal episodes

shuffle of the two initial tribes  
merge of the two tribes  
final challenge and tribal council



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# Hearer-related features

Is there a specific addressee?

NO \*KLA: wat een geheimzinnige sfeer

YES \*FLE: laat zien [: ze een] poepie ruike(n) die oudjes daar.



# Hearer-related features

Is there a specific addressee?

NO \*KLA: wat een geheimzinnige sfeer

YES \*FLE: laat zien [: ze een] poepie ruike(n) die oudjes daar.

if so:

specific features of the discourse partner addressed

→ accommodation patterns



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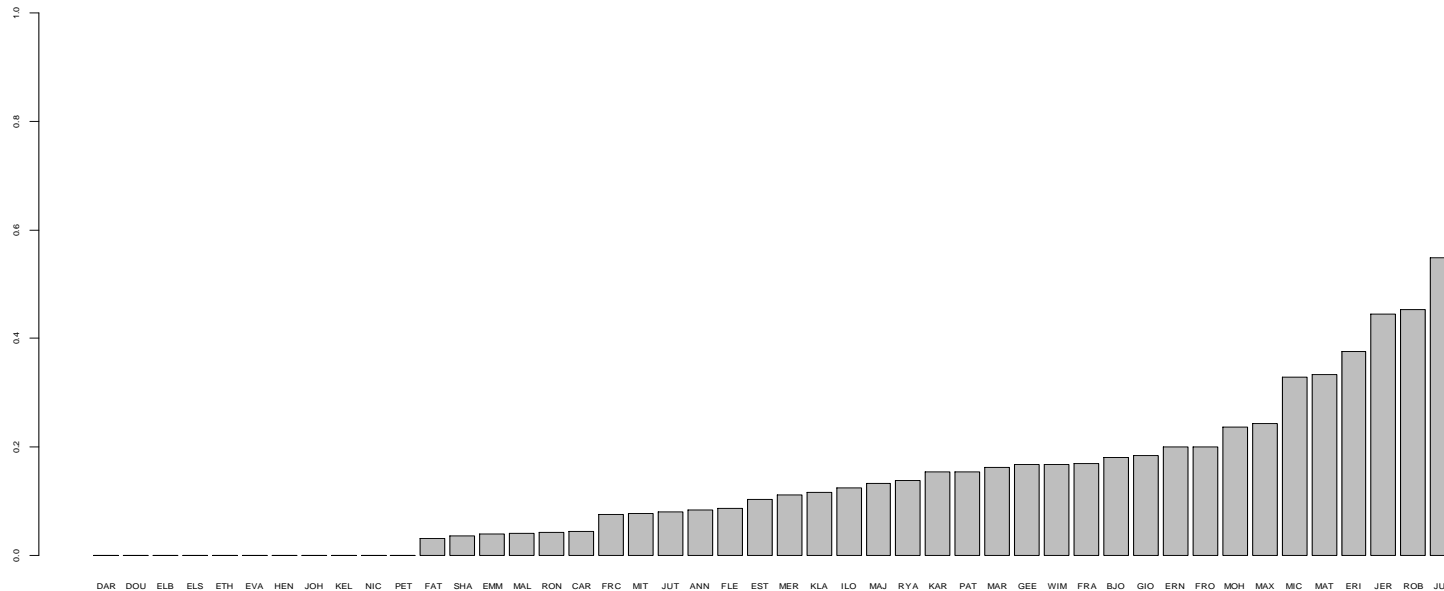


# Mixed effect regression analyses

**Response variable:** does the exclamative contain English? (binary)

**Fixed effects:** context-related, speaker-related, hearer-related predictors

**Random variable:** speaker



pseudo R<sup>2</sup> for fixed effects only      0.205  
 C for fixed effects only                    0.759  
 reduction Std.Dev blups                    0.736

Note: no significant interactions in the mixed model

	Estimate	Std.Error	z-value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	-2.610	0.271	-9.622	<2.00E-16	***
SP.gender female	-1.644	0.246	-6.691	0.000	***
SP.province core	0.839	0.210	3.995	0.000	***
F.topic logistics island	0.433	0.280	1.547	0.122	
F.topic social life	0.288	0.238	1.213	0.225	
F.topic challenges	1.264	0.266	4.757	0.000	***
SP.profclass higher	0.858	0.214	4.013	0.000	***
SP.agegroup.helm1	-0.070	0.110	-0.638	0.524	
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UT.specAddr specDP	-0.531	0.201	-2.641	0.008	**
UT.emotion negative	0.525	0.185	2.836	0.005	**



One reference value for each predictor, captured in intercept  
 Behavior of other levels is compared to this reference value

Negative estimate: lower chance of exclamatives containing English  
 Positive estimate: higher chance of exclamatives containing English

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English and the young (male) urban professional  
 Still mainly in hands of those leading linguistic change  
 (women? norm sensitivity?)

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UT.specAddr specDP	-0.531	0.201	-2.641	0.008	**
UT.emotion negative	0.525	0.185	2.836	0.005	**



	Estimate	Std.Error	z-value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	-2.610	0.271	-9.622	<2.00E-16	***
SP.gender female	-1.644	0.246	-6.691	0.000	***
SP.province core	0.839	0.210	3.995	0.000	***
F.topic logistics island	0.433	0.280	1.547	0.122	
F.topic social life	0.288	0.238	1.213	0.225	
F.topic challenges	1.264	0.266	4.757	0.000	***
SP.profclass higher	0.858	0.214	4.013	0.000	***
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1. Theoretical Background
2. Corpus & Data
3. The social meaning of English: multifactorial design
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  - hearer
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  - global analyses: mixed effect regression modeling
  - **zooming in: accommodation patterns**
  - zooming in: type of English constructions



# Individual accommodation

Is there a specific addressee?

NO \*KLA: wat een geheimzinnige sfeer

YES \*FLE: laat zien [: ze een] poepie ruike(n) die oudjes daar.

if so:

specific features of the discourse partner addressed

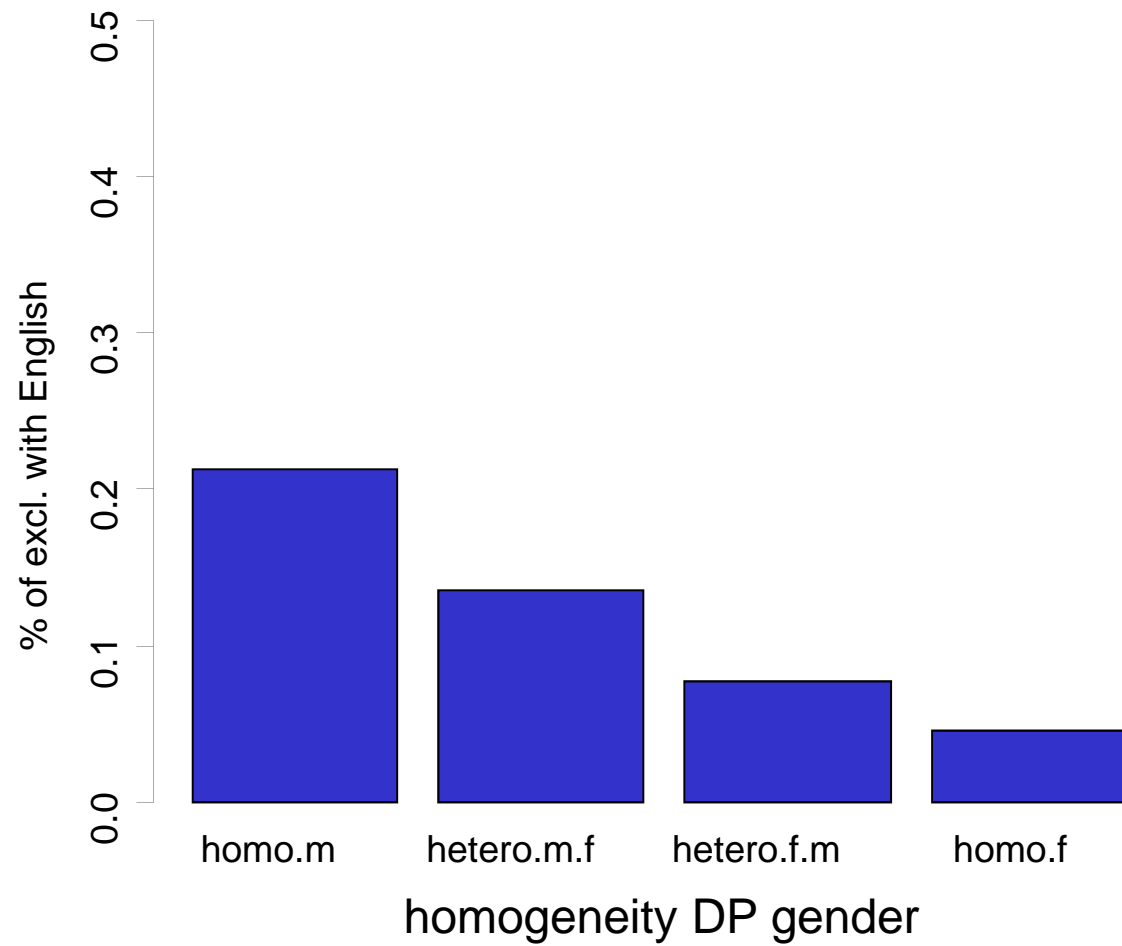
→ accommodation patterns

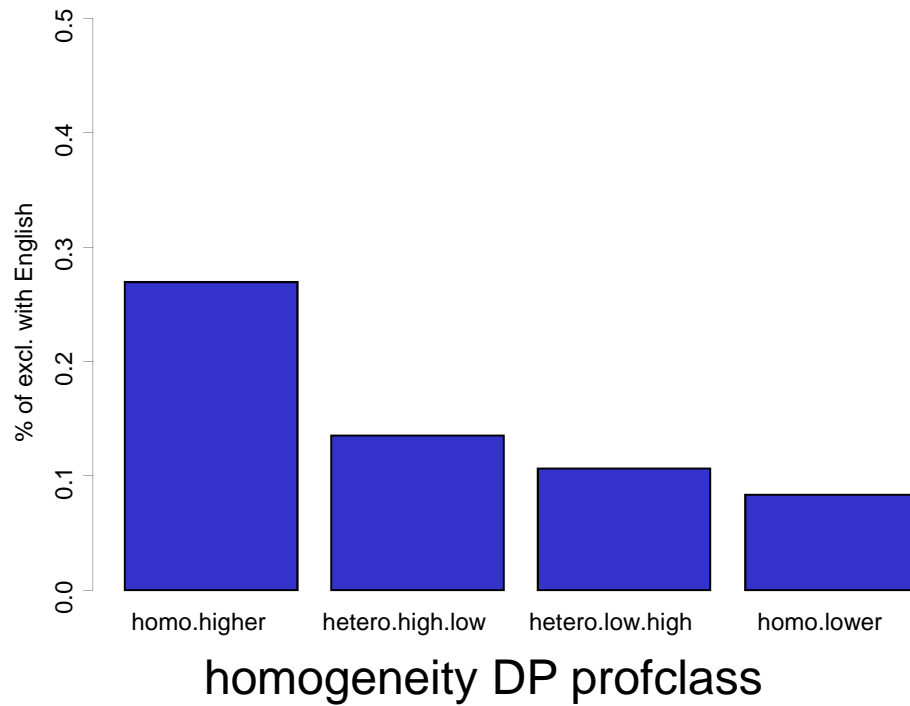
344 observations



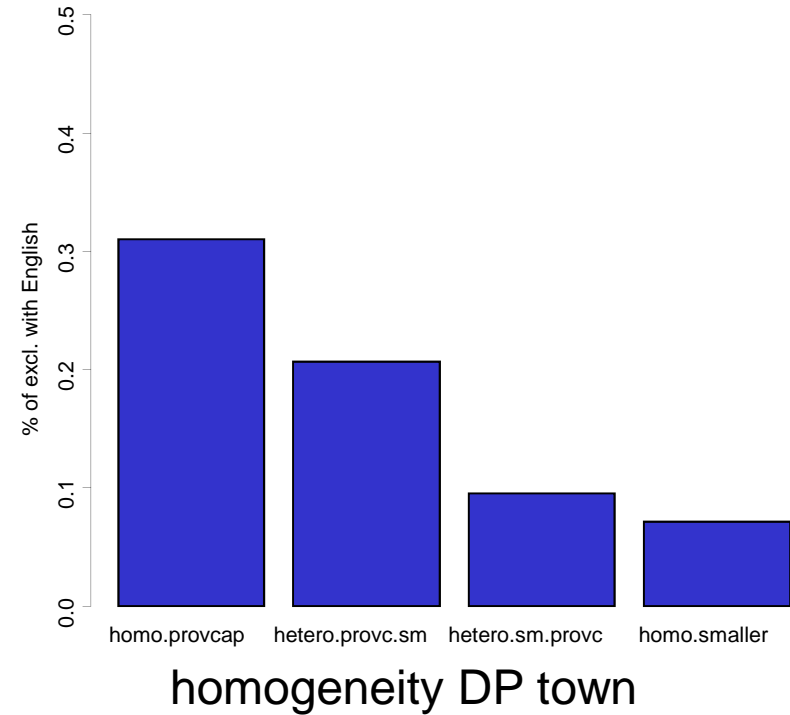
P for Chi-square: 0.009

Cramer's V: 0.183





P for Chi-square: 0.01  
Cramer's V: 0.178



P for Chi-square < 0.0001  
Cramer's V: 0.231





# Group accommodation

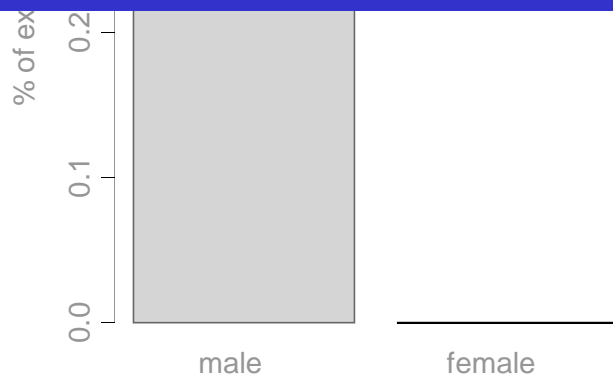
NOTE: tribe as CofP

2003 men vs. women

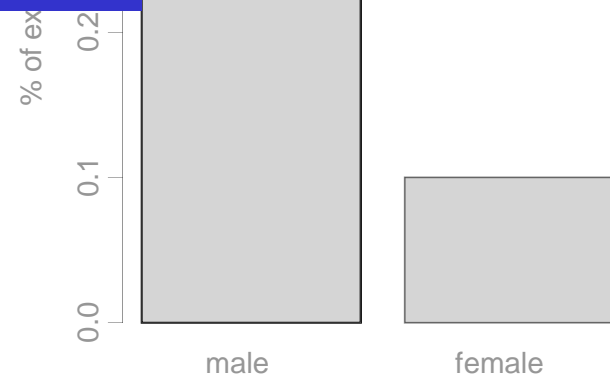
2004 BE vs. NL

2005 young vs. older

group accommodation?



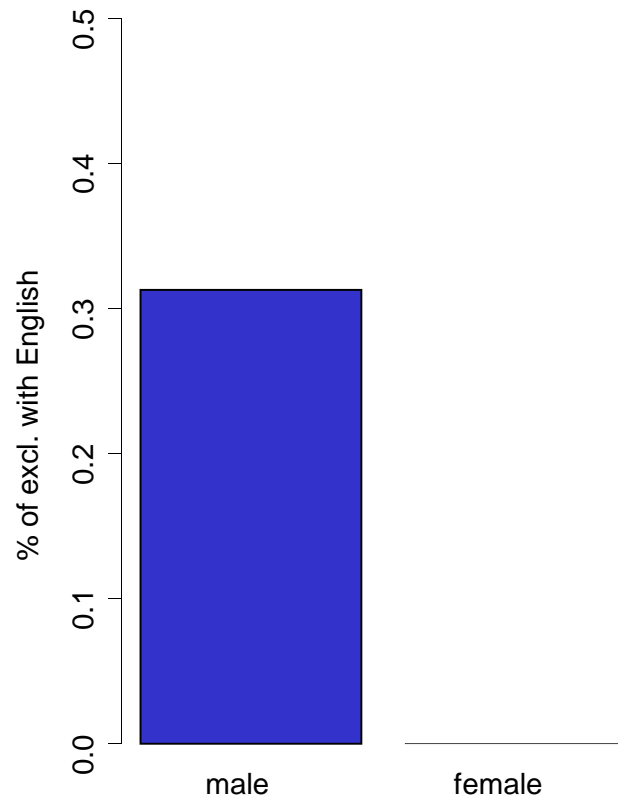
gender from start to shuffle 2003



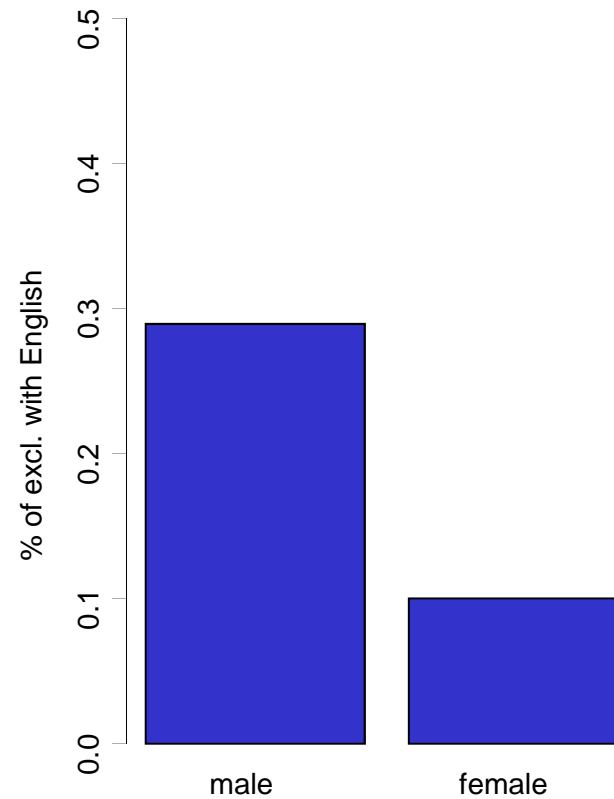
gender from shuffle to merge 2003



# Group accommodation



gender from start to shuffle 2003



gender from shuffle to merge 2003



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## Most frequently used English items

English item	frequency	cumulative	used by n speakers
shit/fuck/damn	51	0.225	n = 21
yes	20	0.308	n = 7
(let's) go	15	0.374	n = 9
welcome (to) (X)	7	0.405	n = 6
alright	6	0.432	n = 3
oh my god	5	0.454	n = 3
unbelievable	5	0.476	n = 2
come on	4	0.493	n = 4
I/we did it	4	0.511	n = 3
cheers	3	0.524	n = 3
holy X	3	0.537	n = 2
thanks/ thank you (for X)	3	0.551	n = 3
other	101	1	n = 25
total	227	1	n = 35



## Remaining 101 tokens

English item	frequency	examples
vandale.yes	17	party, power, kicken, heavy
vandale.no: single	16	baby, Jesus, please, chicken
vandale.no: MWU	69	



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## Degree of fixedness of longer phrases

phrase-type	freq	example	SP
fixed.OED	19	ready to rumble, take care, kick ass, home sweet home, next in line, this sucks, go for it	MIC (3), MAR (3), JUD (2), MAT (2) and 9 others
fixed.urbandict	13	my man, number one, no mercy, i'll be back, mister ken in the house	ROB (4), JUD (3), BJO (2), MIC (2), KAR, RYA
fixed.wiki	1	it ain't over till it's over	BJO
fixed.internet	9	what a day, free at last, bigger than life	ROB (3), JUD (2), MIC (2), JUT, FLE
fixed.lyrics	2	we will survive, every little thing he does is magic	ROB
fixed.variation	3	for honor and for noord, i'm king of the island, life is a beach	GIO, RYA, MAR





## Degree of fixedness of longer phrases

phrase-type	freq	example	SP
spontaneous	22	we have three hotdogs, one burger; I love food; the man with the black power	JUD (9), ROB (4), MAJ (3), BJO (2), ILO, MAR, MIC, RYA

Judge & Robin: best buddies

Judge: grew up in USA



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Judge & Robin: best buddies

Judge: grew up in USA

→ no worries, Dutch is not dying



# Concluding



## Quantifying the use of expressive English in exclamatives

- multifactorial model reveals that English can be associated with the young urban (male) professionals expressing emotional involvement
- focusing on creative use and identity-creation in discourse: clear accommodation strategies
- hardly any spontaneously coined longer stretches of English
- minor impact of situational variables

## Future research

need for combination of types of evidence:

psycholinguistic experiments to trigger covert attitudes





Thanks for listening!

For more information:

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