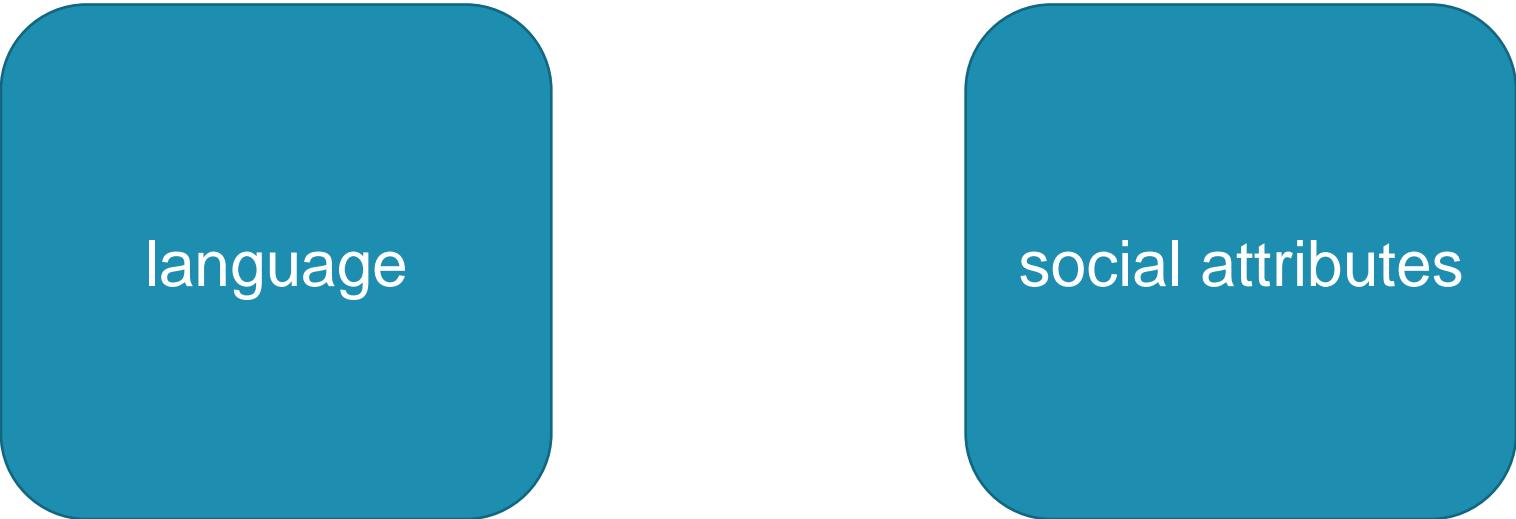


social roles and language variation in acquisition

Eline Zenner
@Meertens Institute
20 maart 2023



language

social attributes

associate

we learn to

language

with

social attributes

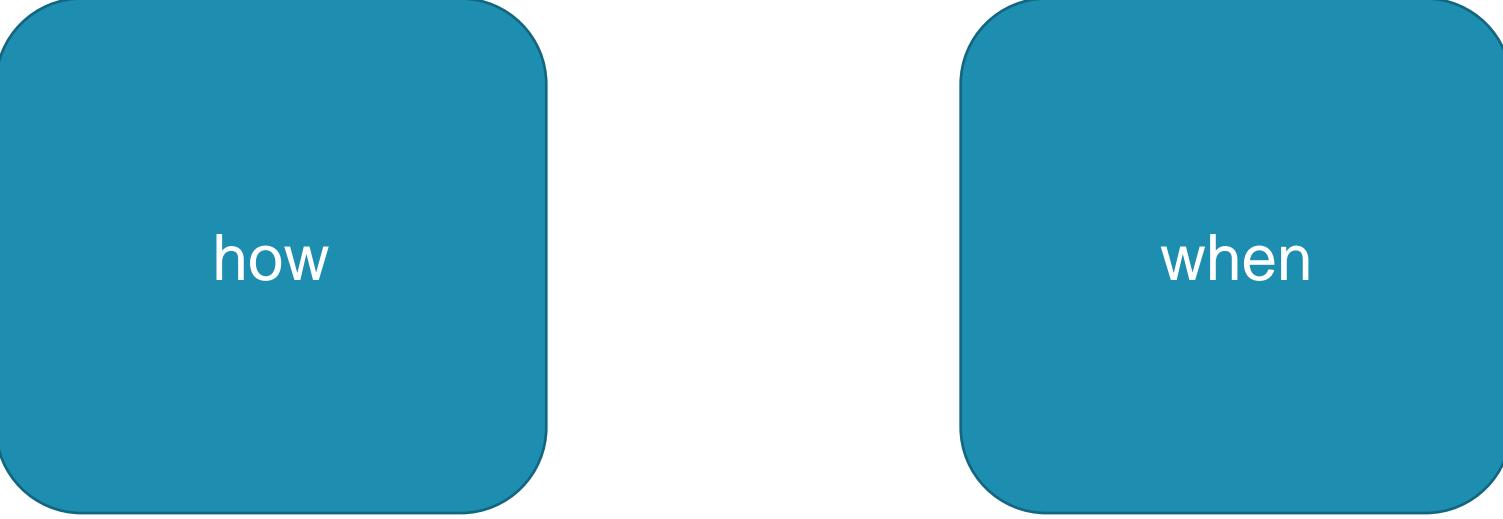
expect

language

we learn to

given

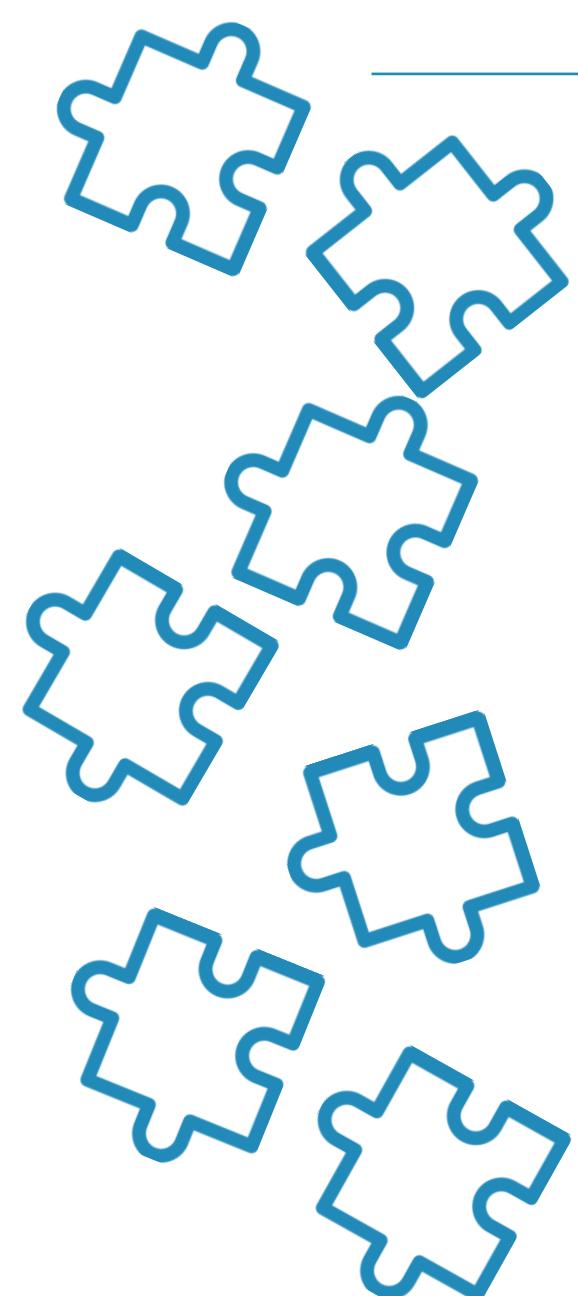
social attributes



how

when

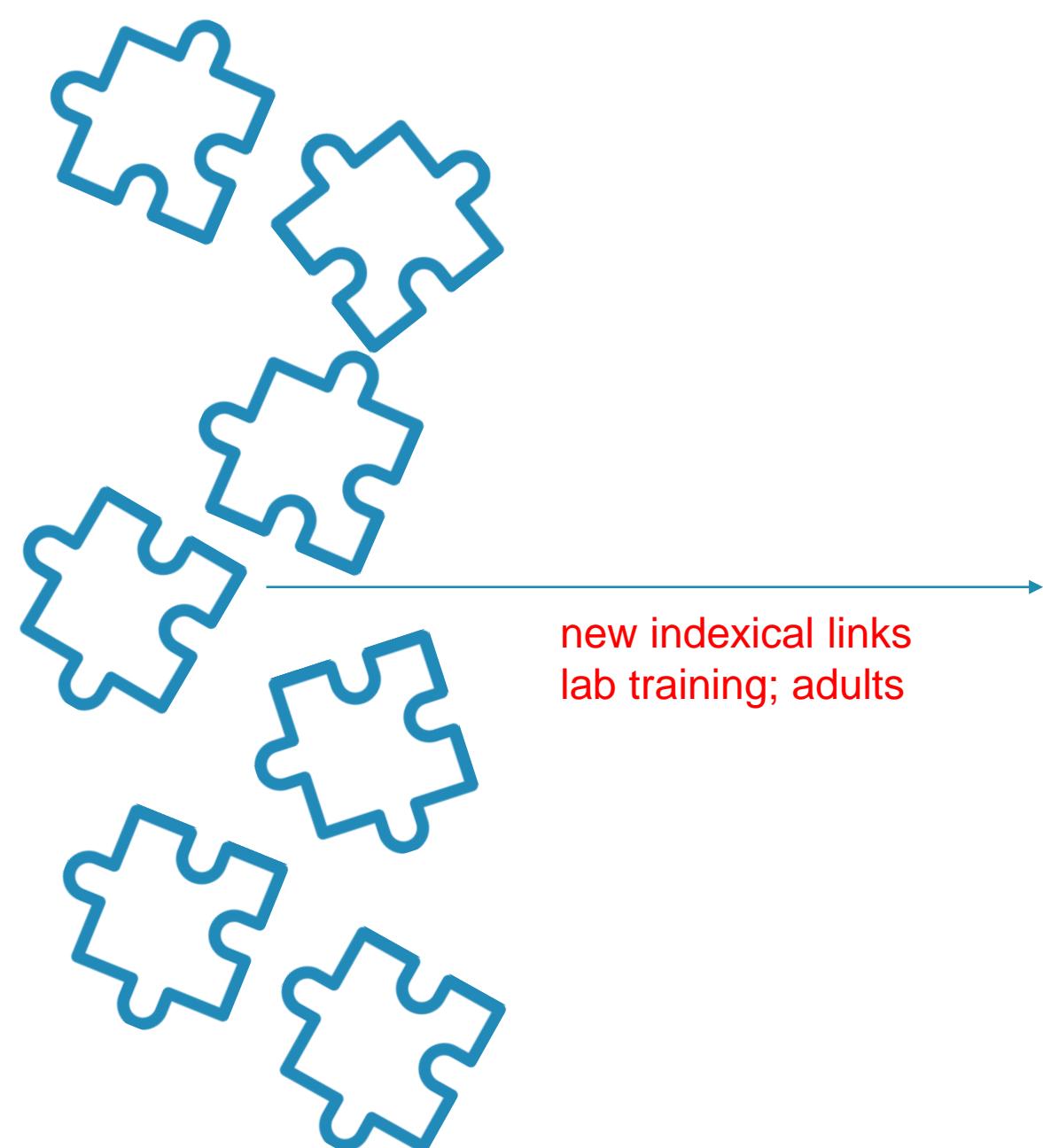
teamwork



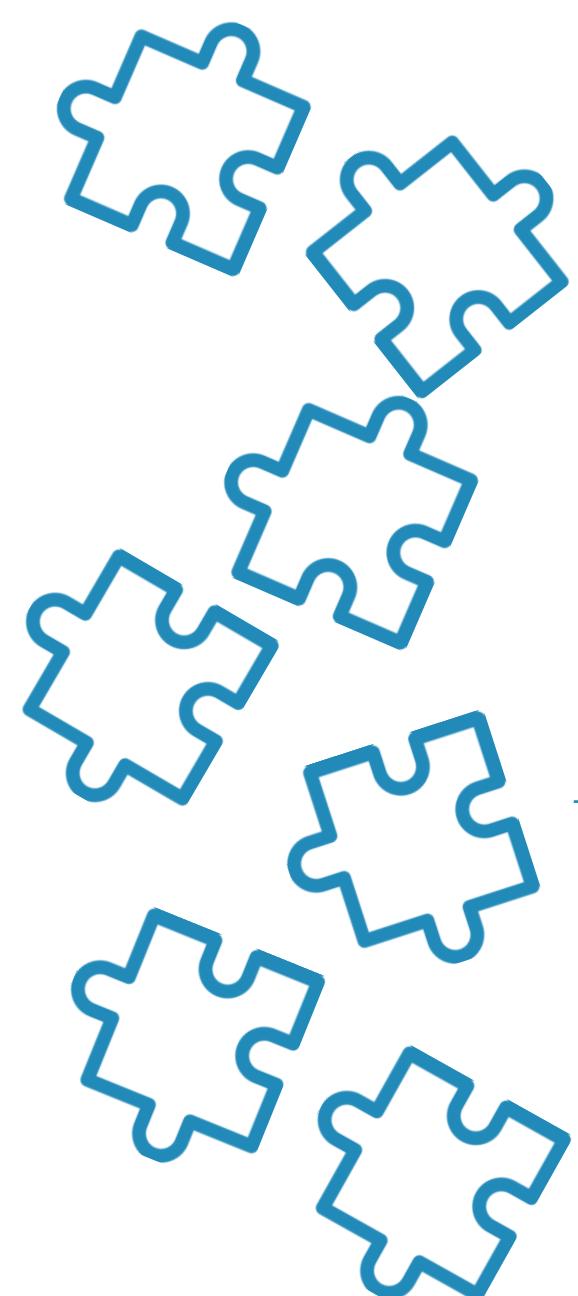
standard/non-standard
child-directed speech

Freja Verachtert & Dorien Van De Mieroop
Finish your plate and clean up your language! A mixed methods approach to Colloquial Belgian Dutch and Standard Dutch variation in child-directed speech at Flemish dinner table conversations



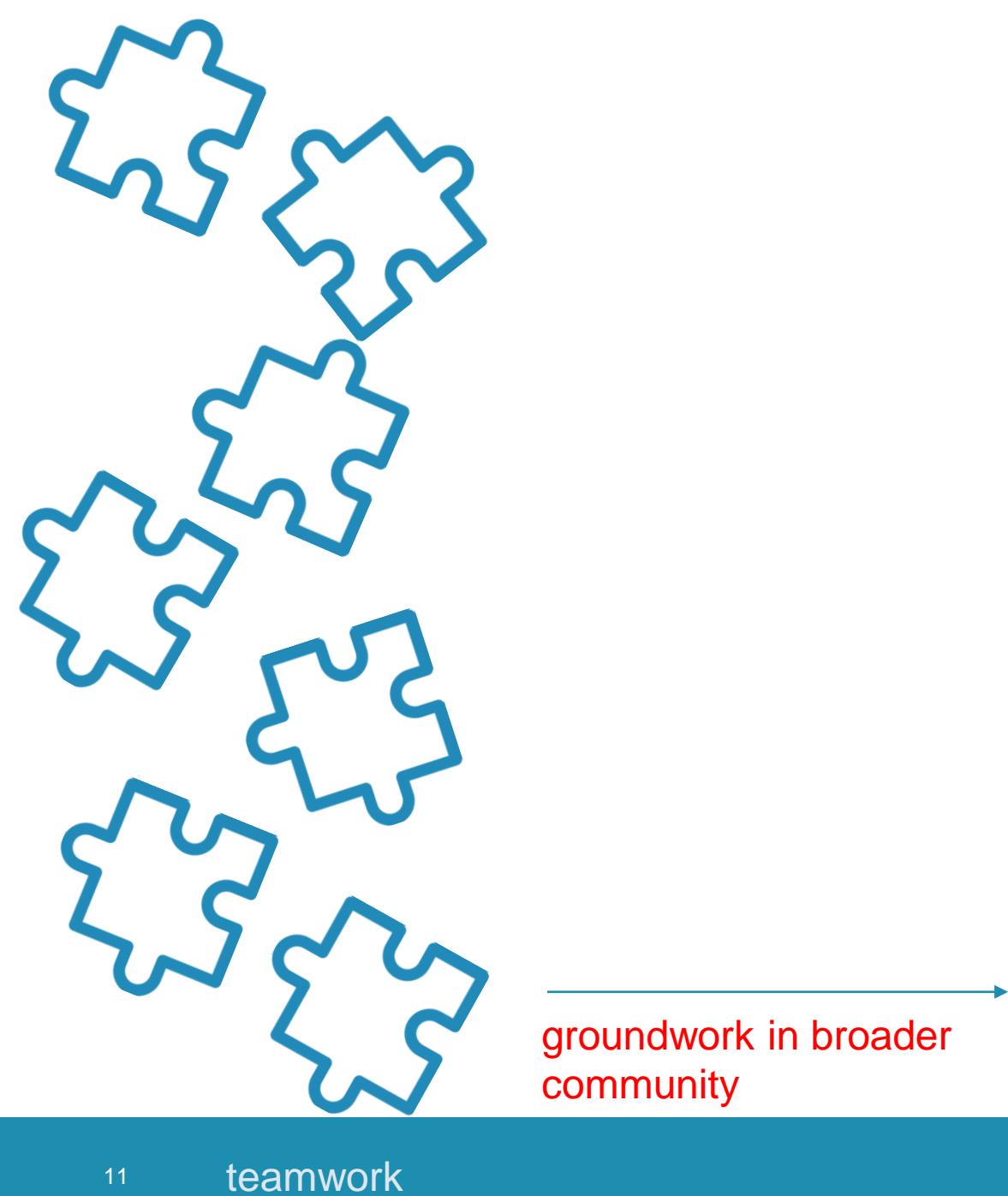


Moira Van Puyvelde, Laura Rosseel & Dirk Speelman
Acquiring the social meaning of language variation: An experimental exploration

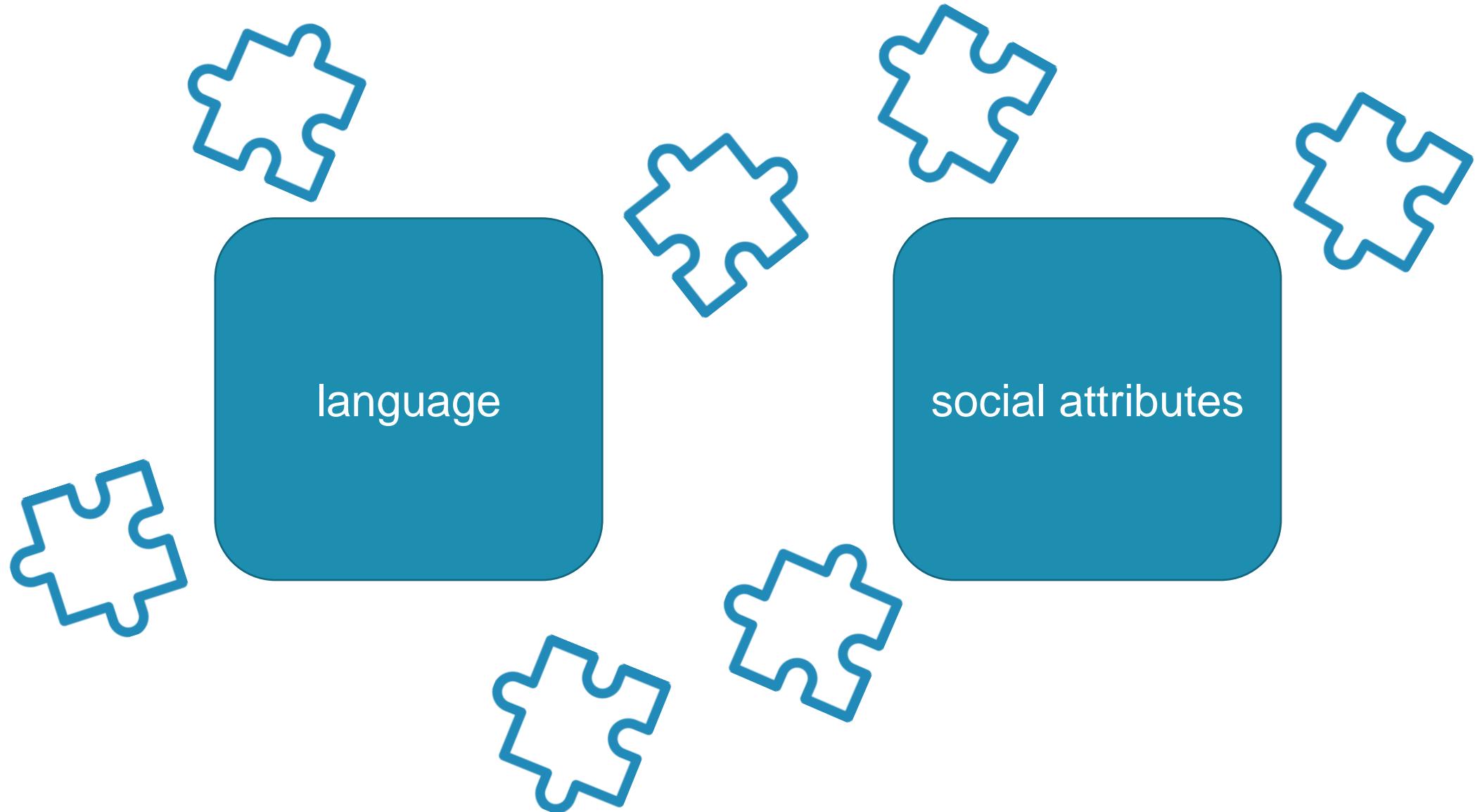


standard/non-standard
triangulation; atypical profiles

Nina Arisci, Laura Rosseel & Ellen Rombouts
The development of socially meaningful language variation in (pre)adolescents with Down Syndrome



Work on contact-induced lexical variation and constructional change, in collaboration with a.o. Ad Backus, Freek Van De Velde, Lisa Hilte, Reinhild Vandekeckhove, and on standard languages in Flanders, with a.o. Stef Grondelaers and Laura Rosseel



social roles

individual

norms

social role

society

expectations



language

expectations

social roles

study 1

with many thanks to Freja Verachtert and Dorien Van De Mieroop

language

expectations

the primary
caregiver

The diagram consists of three teal-colored rounded rectangles arranged horizontally. The first rectangle on the left contains the word 'language' in white. The second rectangle in the center contains the word 'expectations' in red, written in an italicized script font. The third rectangle on the right contains the phrase 'the primary caregiver' in white.

child-directed speech

analytic function

segment the speech stream

social function

keep the conversation going

learn the best language

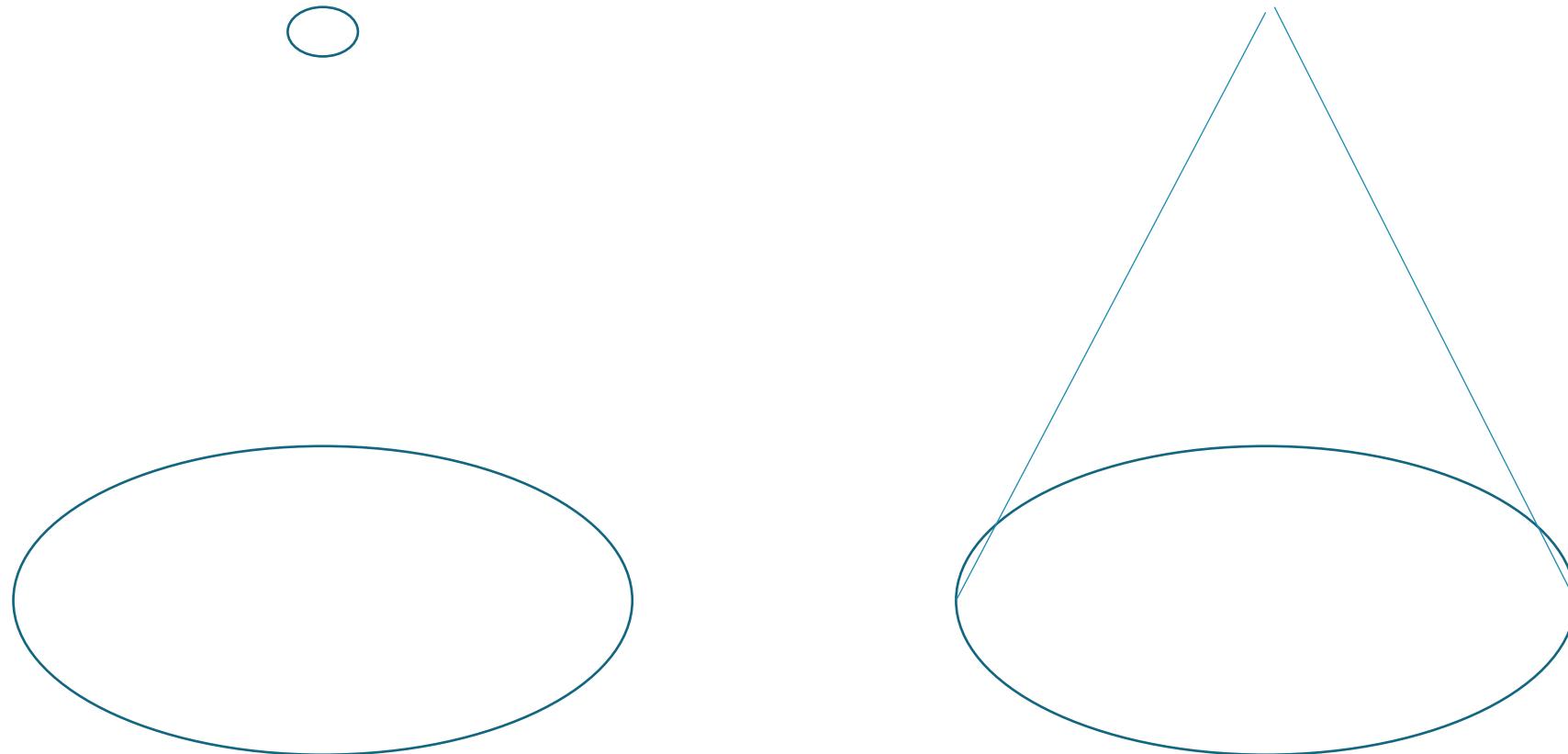


what the caregiver considers



relating to community norms

the Belgian Dutch case



a mixed-methods approach

RQ1.1

is the use of standard variants higher when adopting the caregiver role?

RQ1.2

can we relate the answers to RQ1.1 to caregivers' explicit role expectations?

data

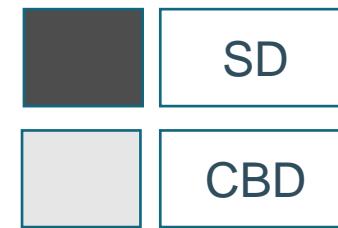


data



pronouns	jij komt 'you come'	gij komt 'you come'
adnominal flexion	een boom 'a tree'	nen boom 'a tree'
t-deletion	dat paard 'that horse'	da paard 'that horse'

data

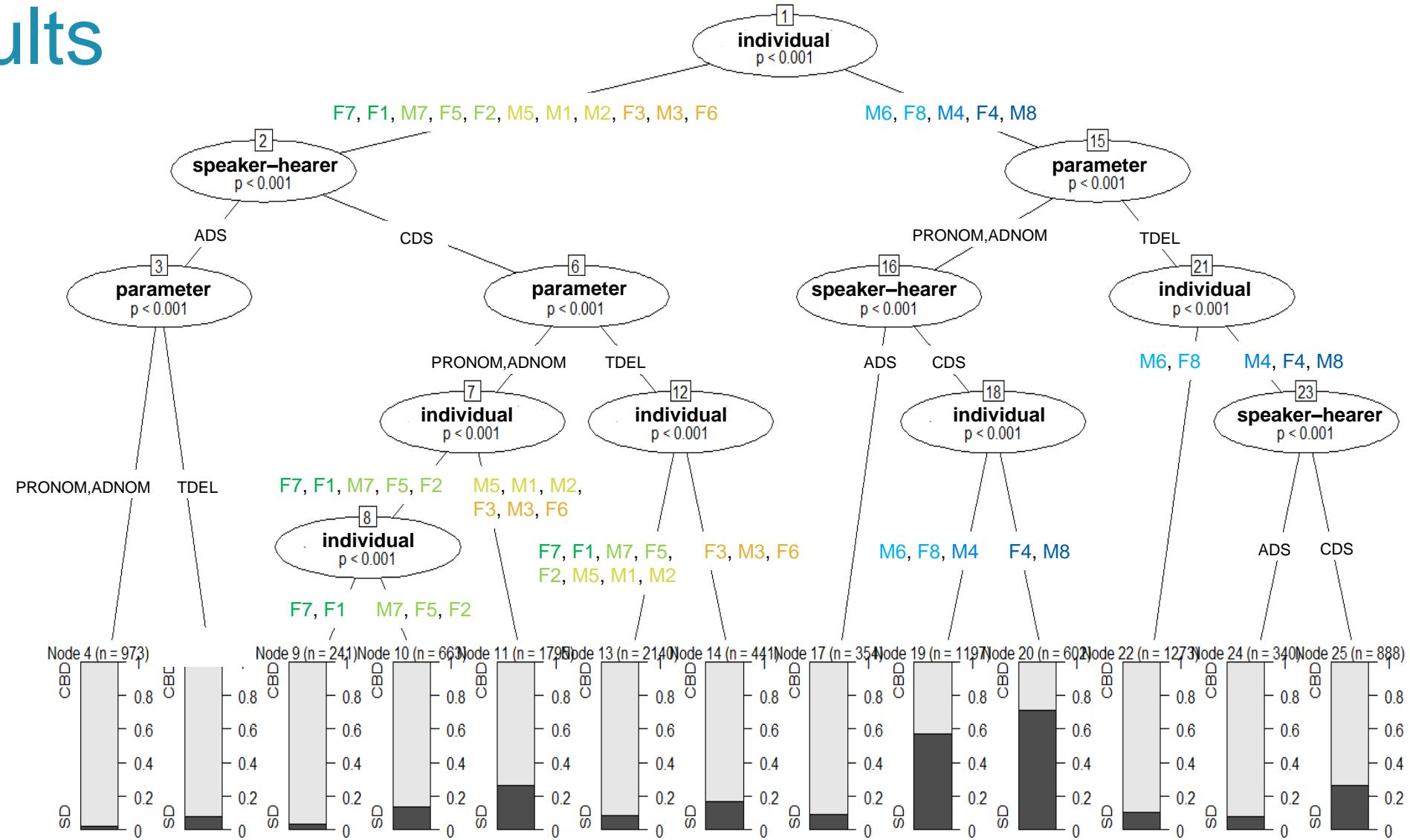


- > parameter
- > individual
- > role

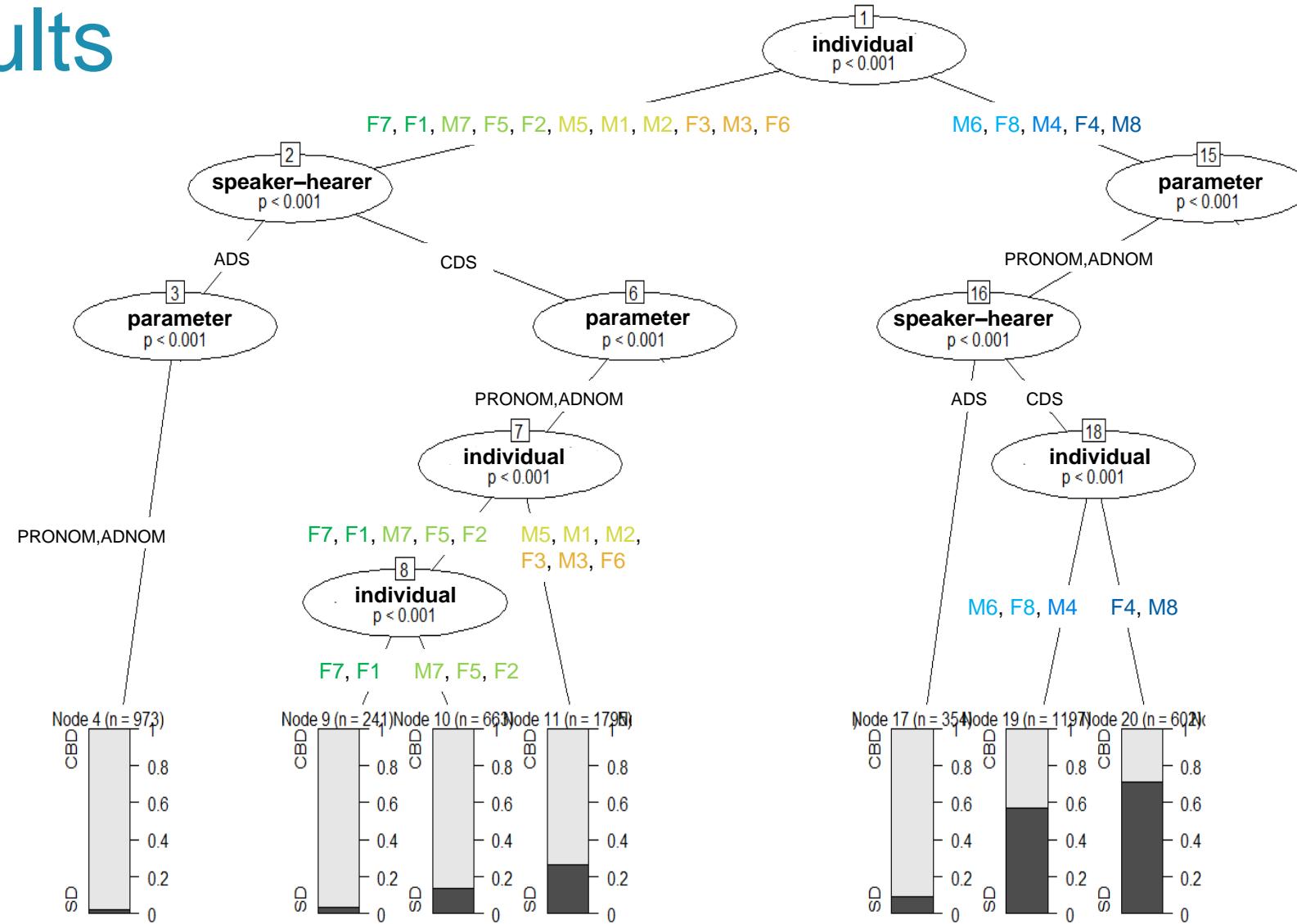
PRONOM vs. ADNOM
F1, M1, F2, ... M8
ADS vs. CDS



results



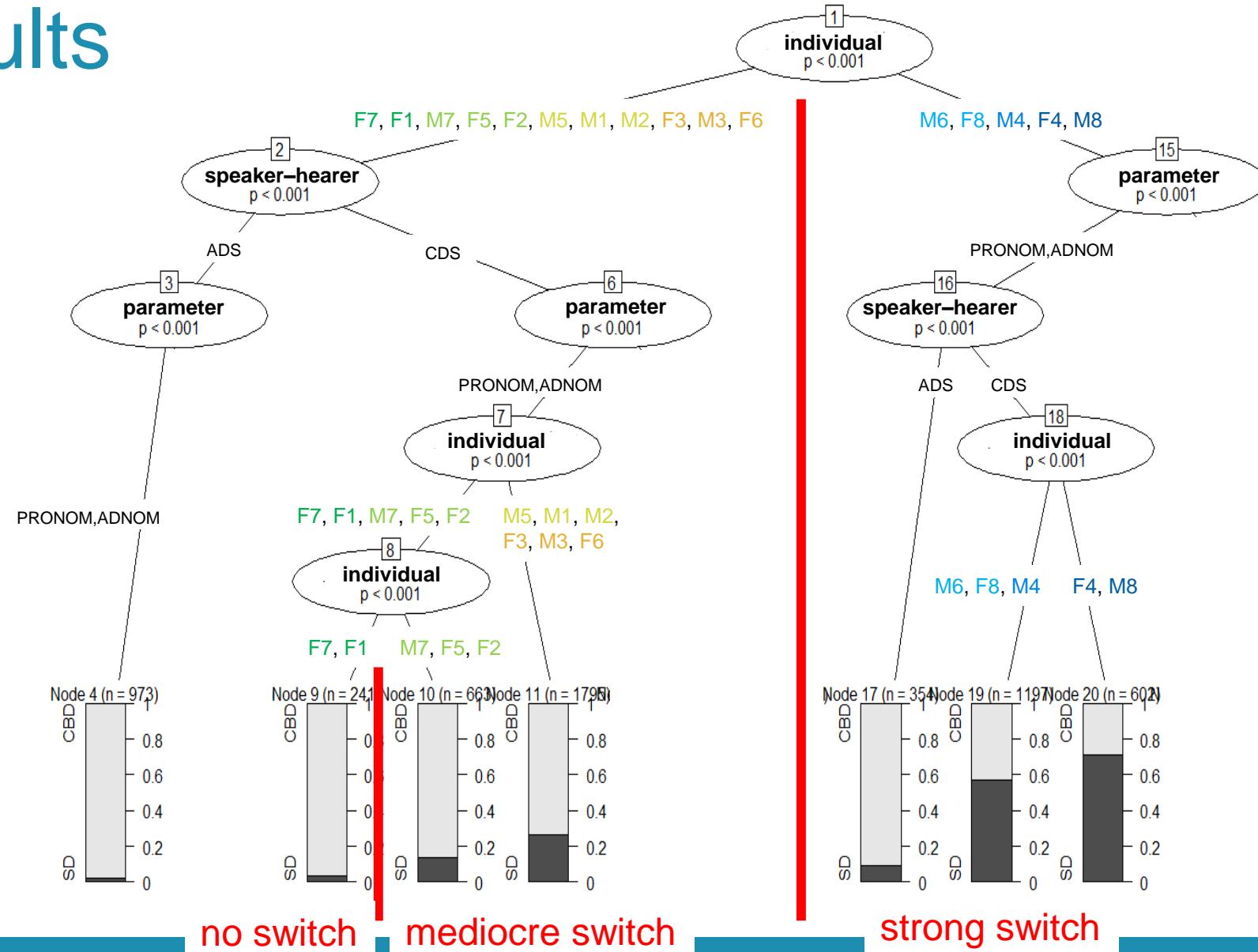
results



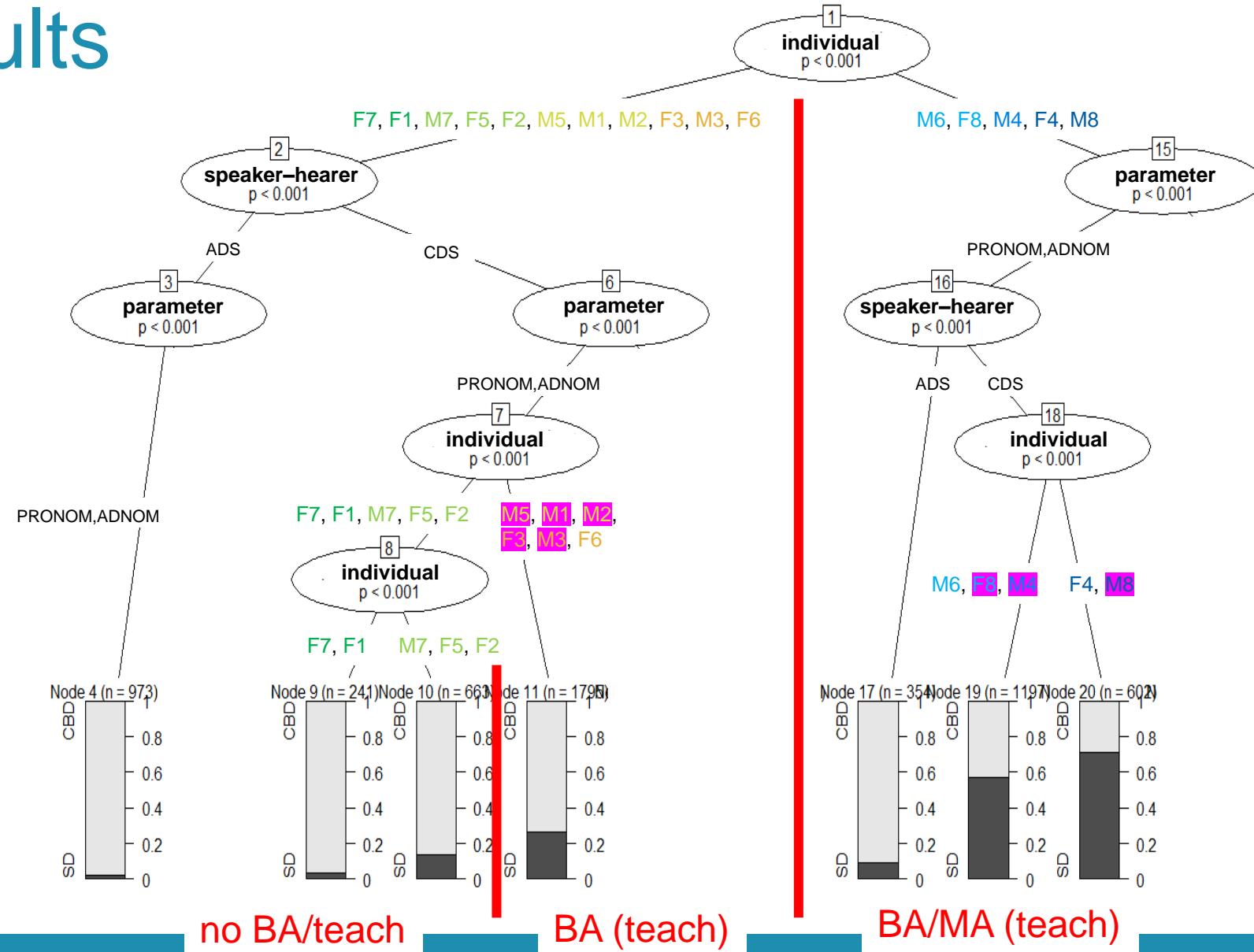
VARIETY

CBD
SD

results



results



a mixed-methods approach

RQ1.1

is the use of standard variants higher when adopting the caregiver role?

well, yes, but ...

RQ1.2

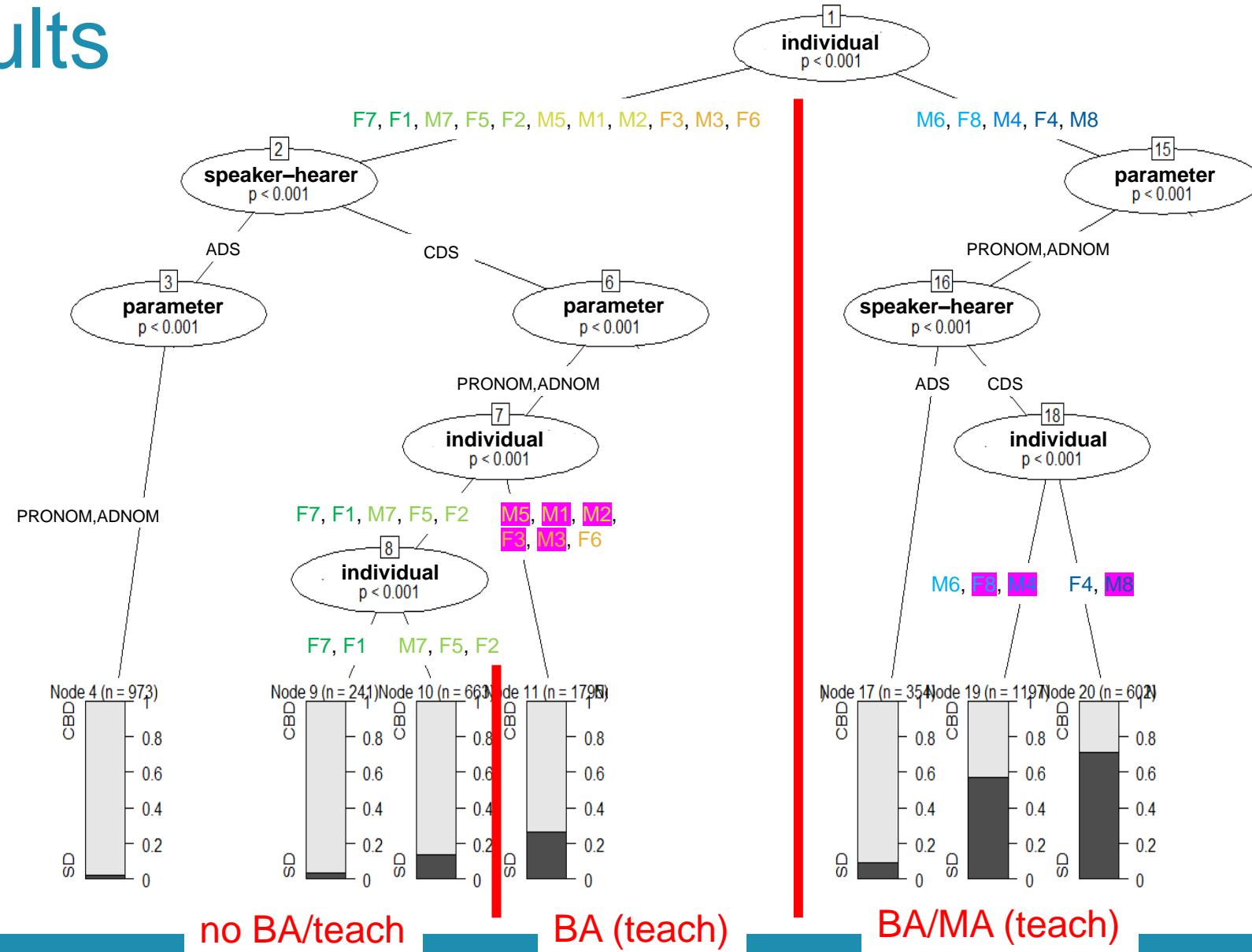
can we relate the answers to RQ1.1 to caregivers' explicit role expectations?

data

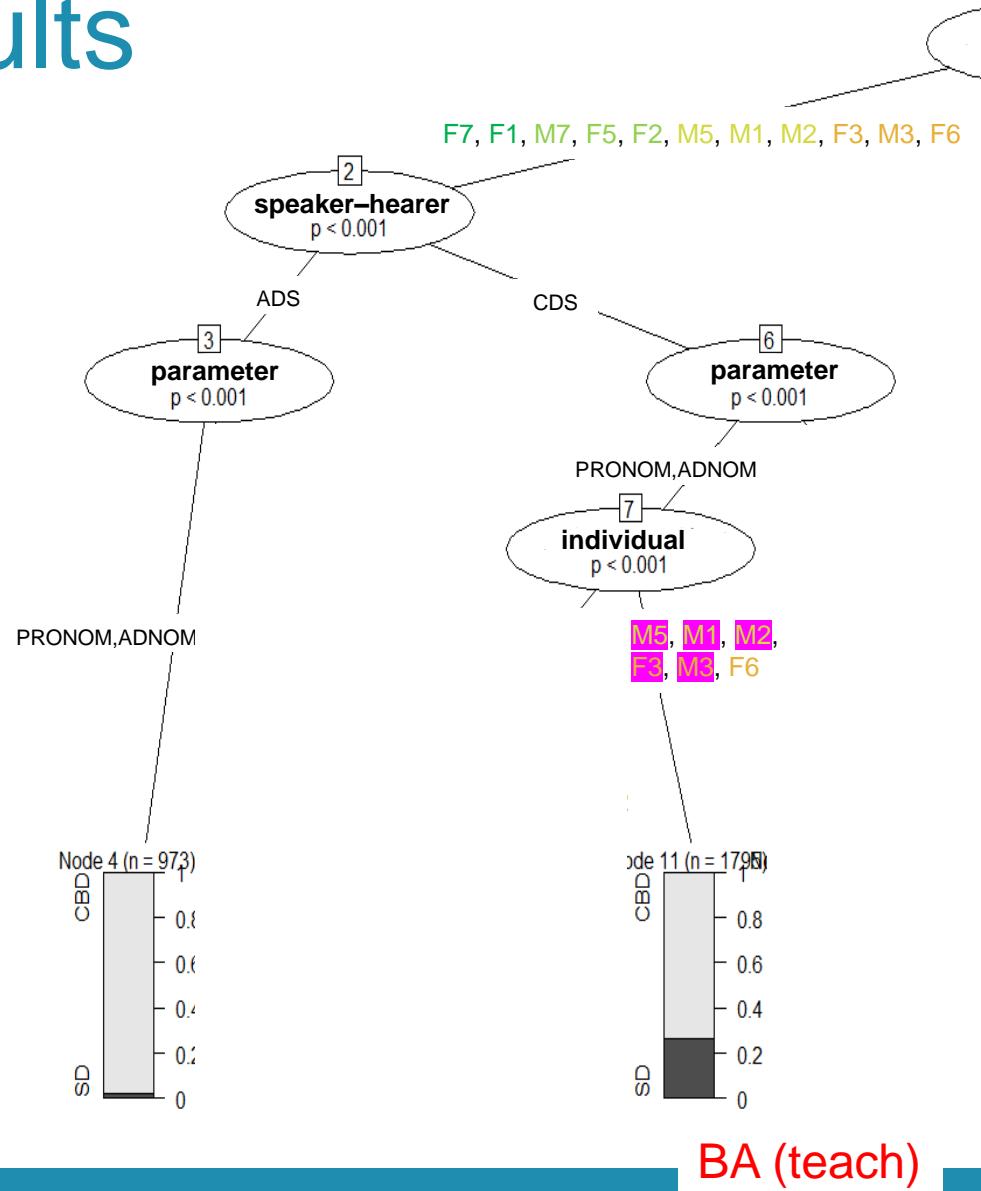


- what variety their child should learn
- their own use of varieties
- their general appraisal of varieties

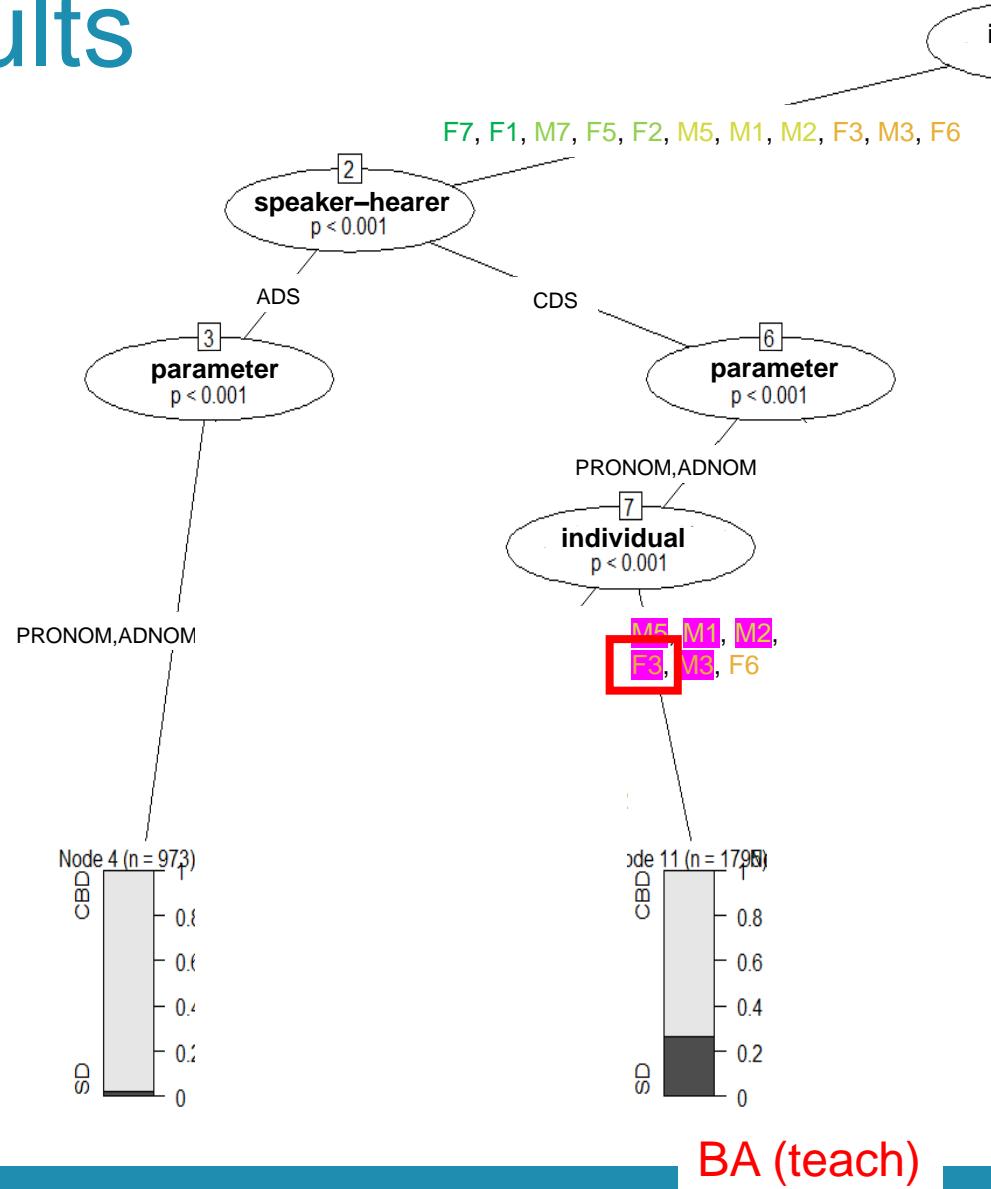
results



results



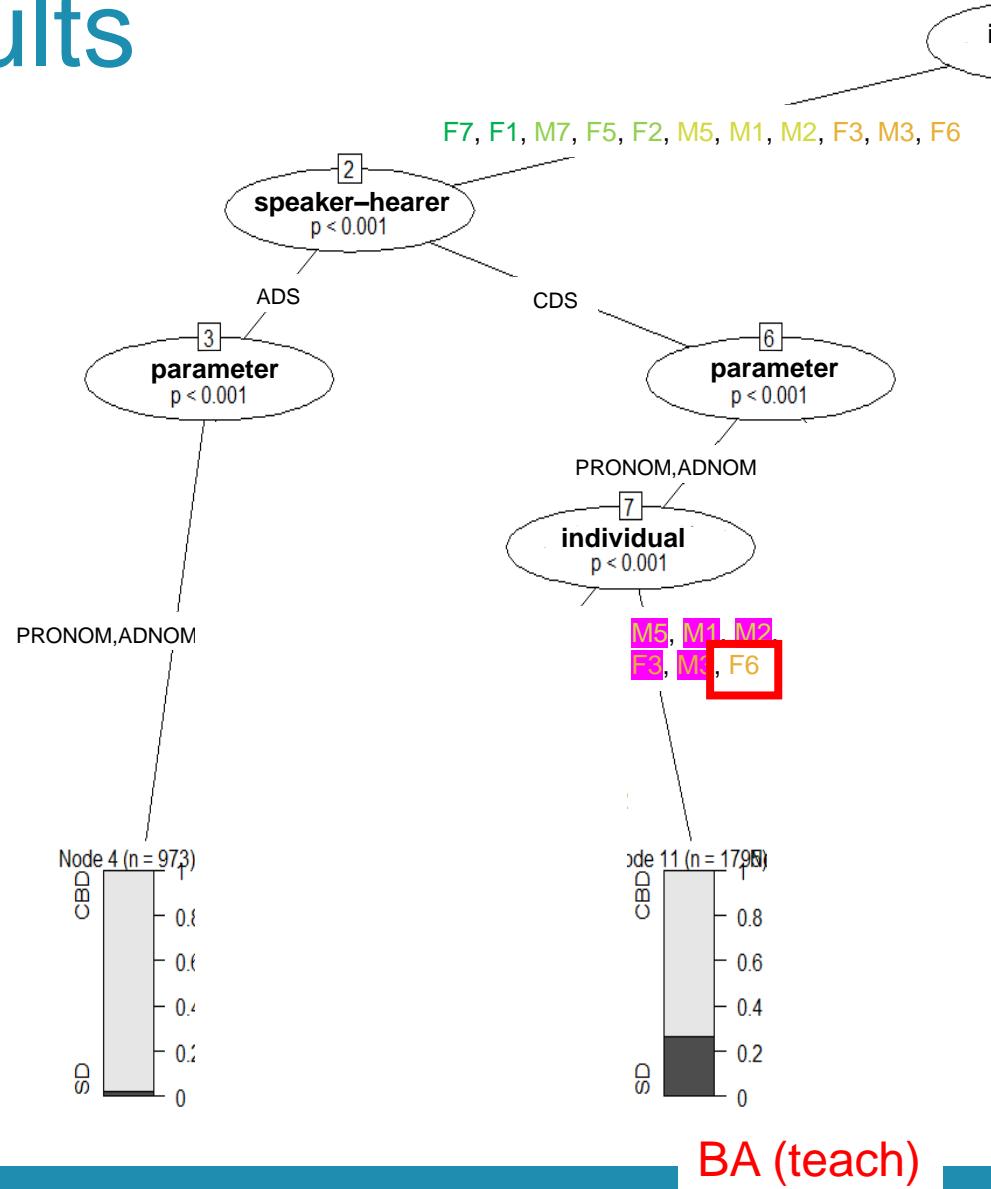
results



*INT: and which language variety uh
do you think you use **with the
children?**

*F3: ## again I think something in
between standard and dialect
language or maybe something yet a
little bit closer to Standard Dutch
because you want the children to
learn how to speak decently

results



*F6: no I think think that I I speak more or less consis +// I mean that I always use the same uh when when # also when going for drinks

*INT: yeah # so no different word for [child]

*F6: no no I don't think so

a mixed-methods approach

RQ1.1

is the use of standard variants higher when adopting the caregiver role?

well, yes, but ...

RQ1.2

can we relate the answers to RQ1.1 to caregivers' explicit role expectations?

*teachers & educators likely have
more explicit expectations*

language

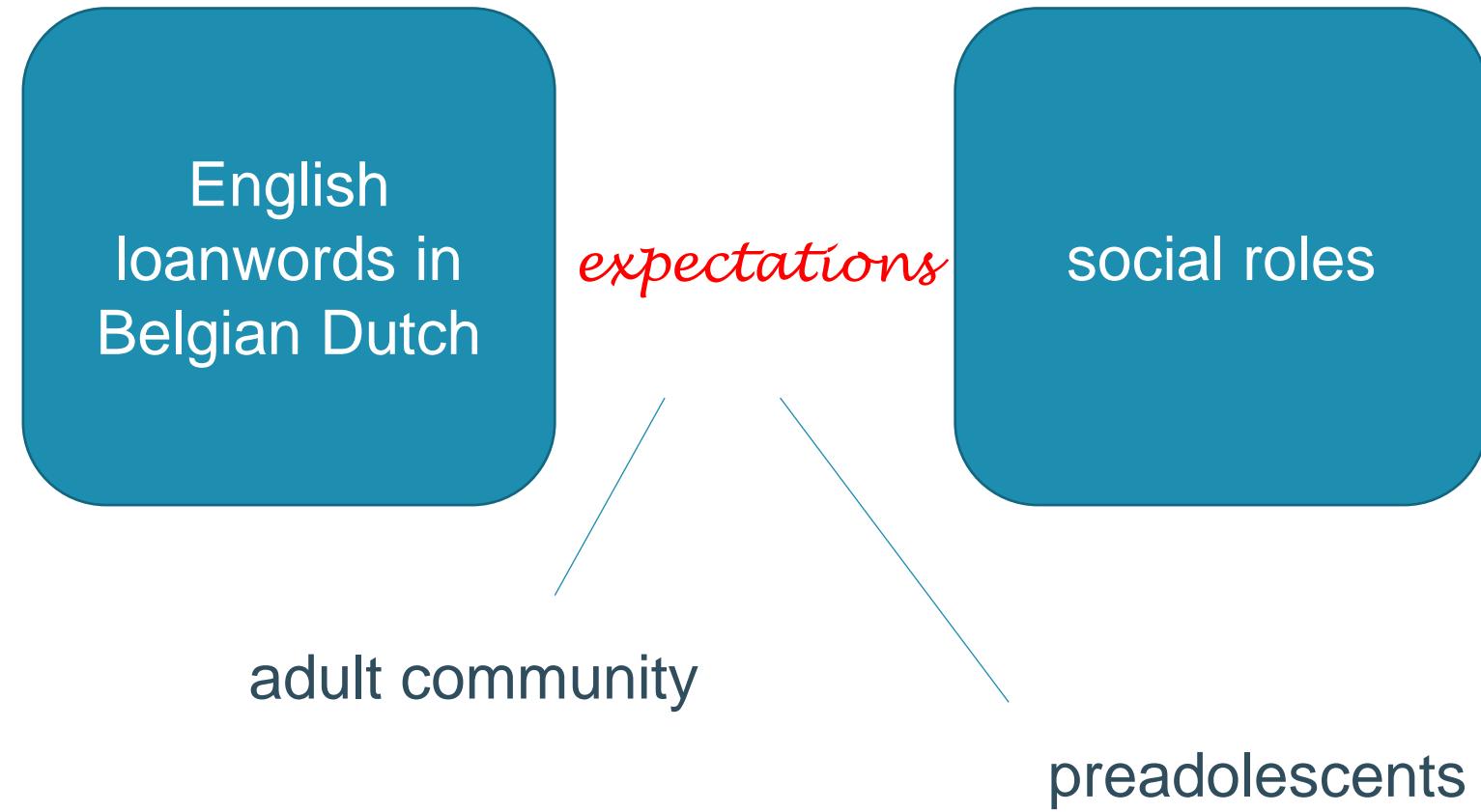
expectations

the primary
caregiver

The diagram consists of three teal-colored rounded rectangles arranged horizontally. The first rectangle on the left contains the word 'language' in white. The second rectangle in the center contains the word 'expectations' in red, written in an italicized script font. The third rectangle on the right contains the phrase 'the primary caregiver' in white.

study 2

with many thanks to Melissa Schuring and Laura Rosseel



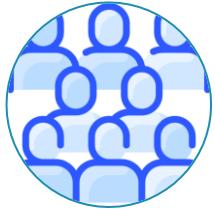
(learning to) share expectations

RQ2.1

to what extent do adult Belgian Dutch language users share expectations on the use of English loanwords by different social roles?

RQ2.2

to what extent do we see these patterns resonated in the linguistic expectations and role performance of Belgian Dutch preadolescents?



N=177

highly-educated women, age range 18-64



How often do these social roles use English words in Dutch when occupying their role, according to you? (7-point Likert)

gamer

rapper

newsreader

chef

vlogger

soccer player

Ketnet-wrapper

teacher

manager

top model

farmer

doctor

superhero

butcher

police agent

grandparents

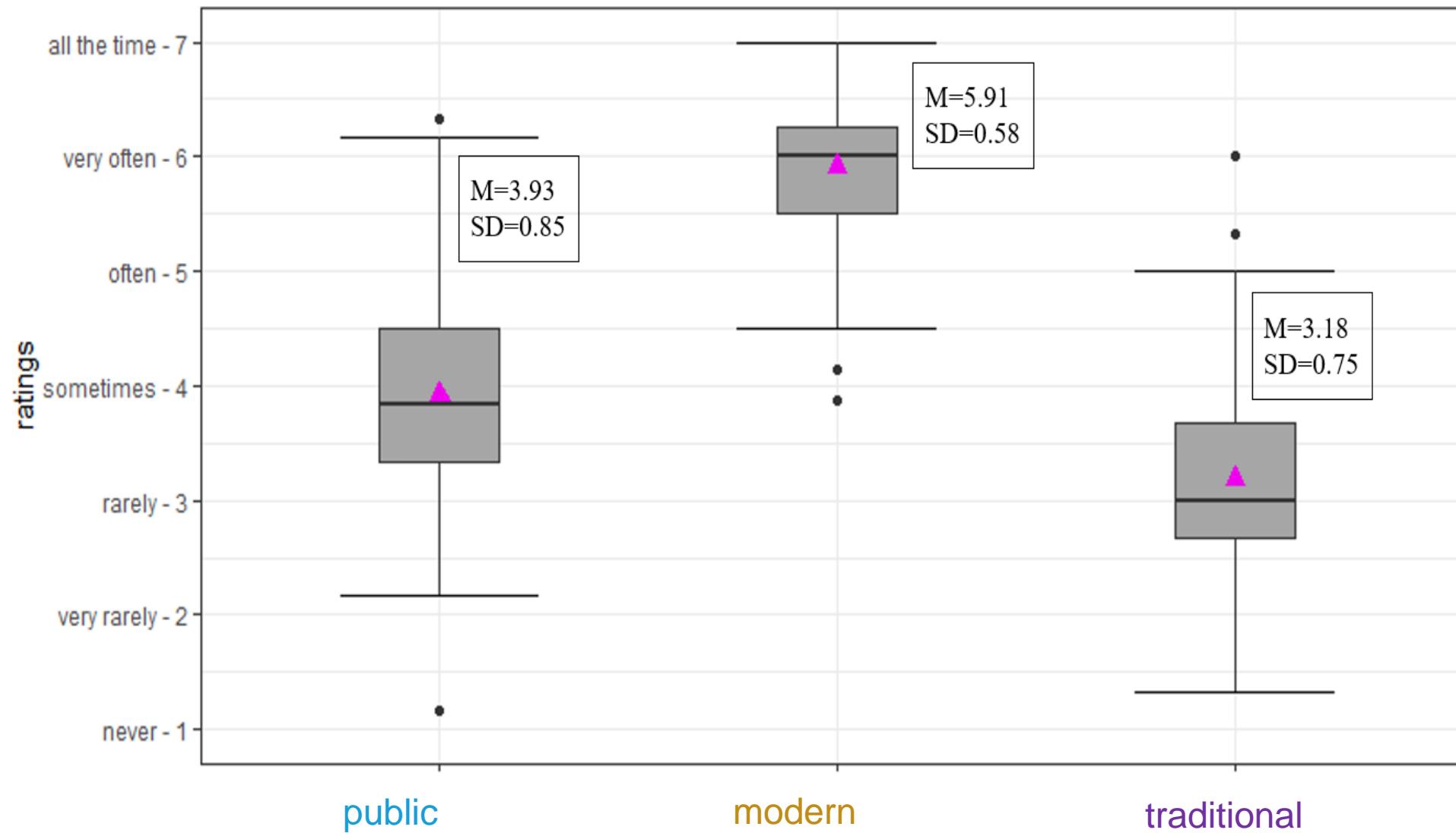
film star

prime minister

mayor

	public	modern	traditional
nieuwslezer 'news reader'	0.784	0.160	0.102
leerkracht lager onderwijs 'primary school teacher'	0.560		0.284
eerste minister 'prime minister'	0.787	0.235	
politieagent 'police officer'	0.613	0.143	0.327
dokter 'doctor'	0.551	0.139	0.354
burgemeester 'mayor'	0.671	0.272	0.312
gamer 'gamer'		0.814	
vlogger 'vlogger'		0.682	
voetbalspeler 'soccer player'	0.262	0.436	0.216
rapper 'rapper'		0.742	
bedrijfsleider 'business manager'	0.311	0.533	
superheld 'superhero'	0.187	0.419	
filmster 'film star'	0.212	0.491	-0.109
topmodel 'top model'	0.196	0.441	
kok 'chef'	0.297	0.224	0.401
slager 'butcher'	0.149		0.888
boer 'farmer'	0.314		0.673

How often do these roles use English words in Dutch?



(learning to) share expectations

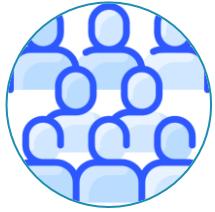
RQ2.1

to what extent do adult Belgian Dutch language users share expectations on the use of English loanwords by different social roles?

looks like they do!

RQ2.2

to what extent do we see these patterns resonated in the linguistic expectations and role performance of Belgian Dutch preadolescents?



N=21

Hockey players aged 8;0 to 13;8



1. *Elicitation* | Can you perform these roles for me?
2. *Interview* | Did you change something about your language?
3. *Rating* | How often do these social roles use English words in Dutch when performing their role, according to you?

gamer

rapper

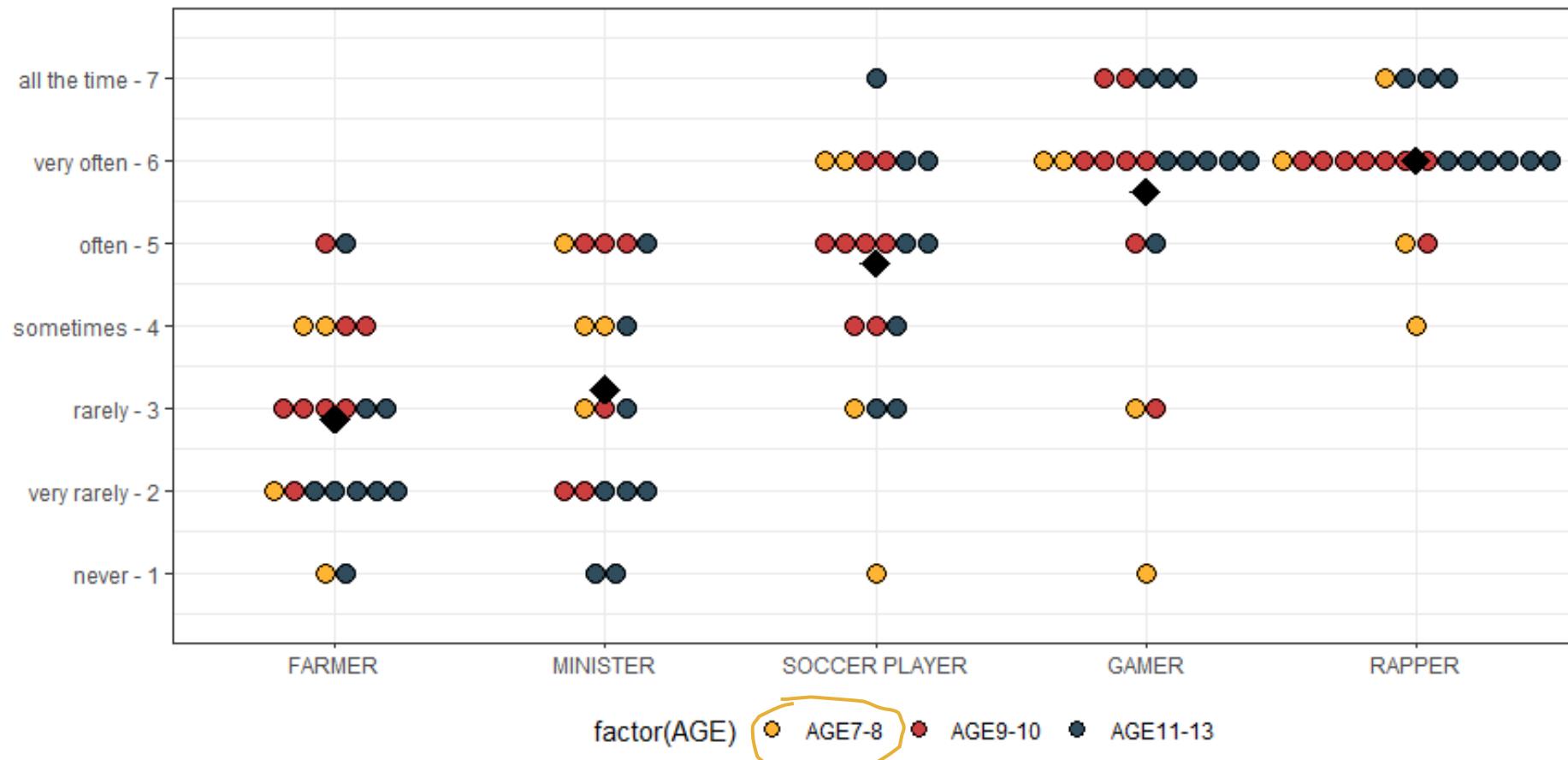
farmer

soccer player

prime minister

Rating |

How often do these roles use English words in Dutch?



Elicitation |

- *JUN: oh **love you allemaal.**
*JUN: **thanks for this &=laughs.**
*JUN: **jow jow bro.**
*STE: **jow jow bro.**
*STE: **bro bro bro.**
*STE: **jow bro.**
*STE: vandaag zijn we op deze **show.**
*STE: **show jow jow bro bro.**
*STE: ik ben toch zow goed he.
*JUN: **jow people all of it.**
*JUN: **we do things good &=laughs.**
*JUN: en we gaan deze **show** winnen.



Stella (9;11)
June (10;11)

Elicitation |

*SAR: (...) ge zijt wel een **own goal** aan het maken he.
[...]

*CAM: wie wie heeft er eigenlijk beslist da(t) zij **captain** mag zijn?

*SAR: zij zet mij de beste loper van de **club** in de verdediging.

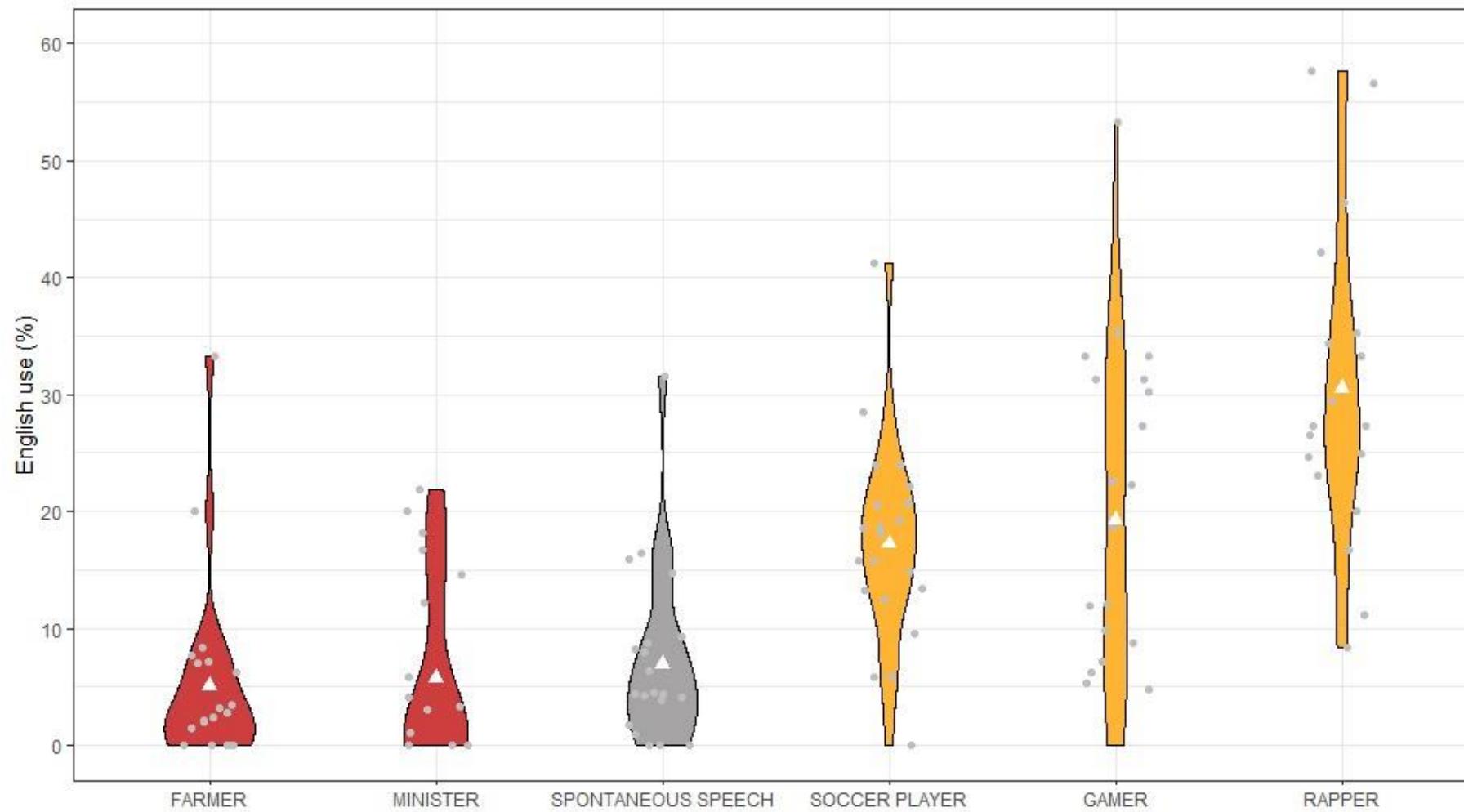


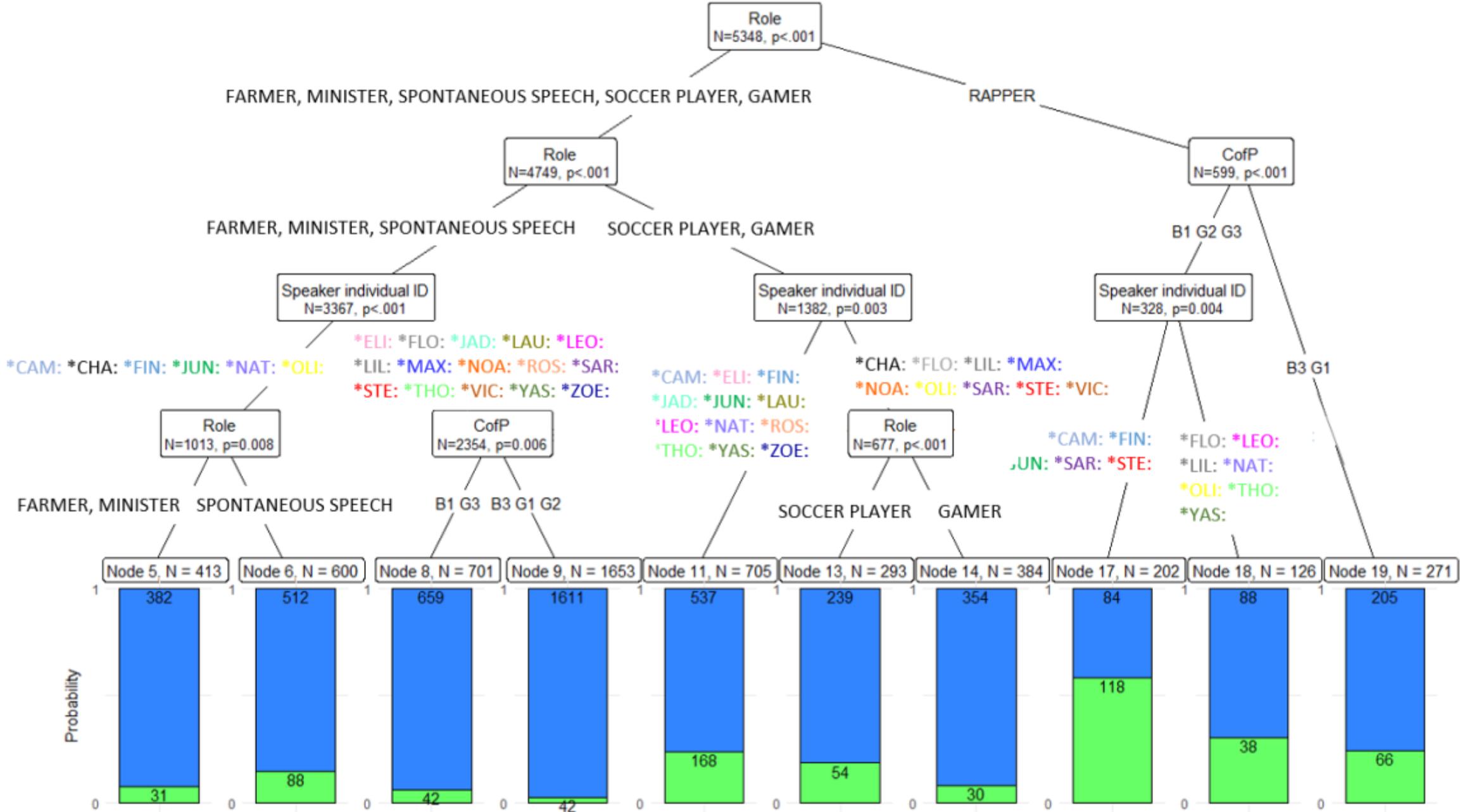
Sarah,
Camille
(11-13y/o)

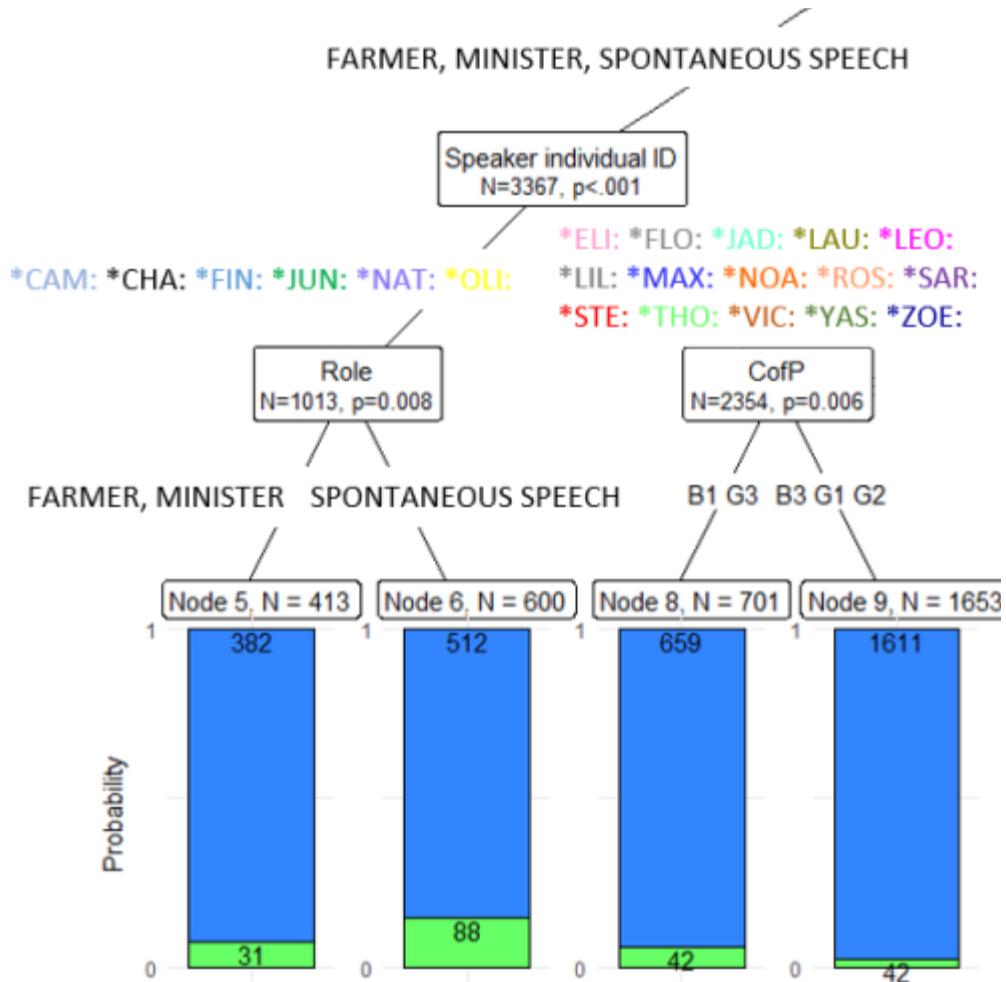
What % of utterances contains at least 1 English word?

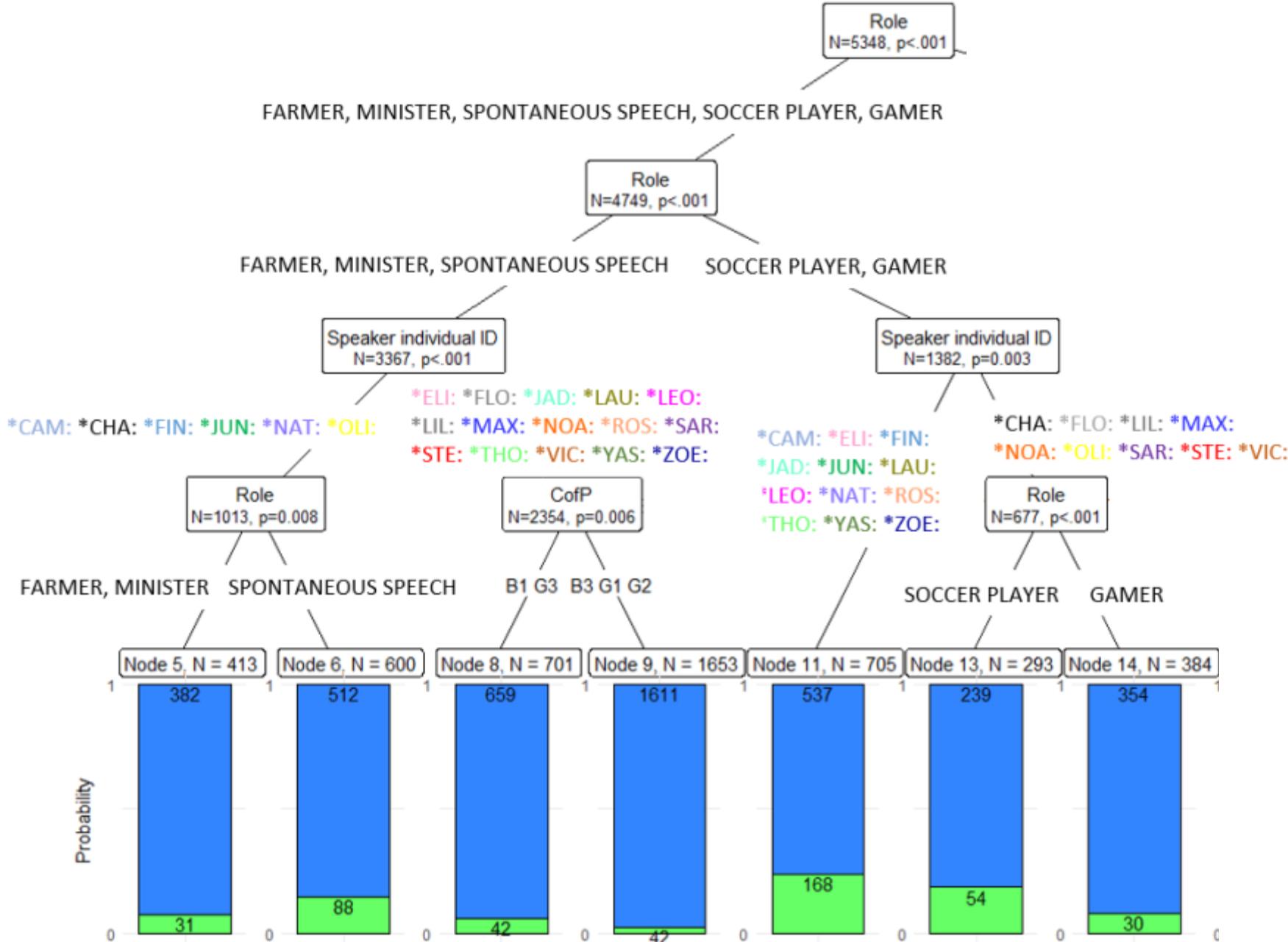


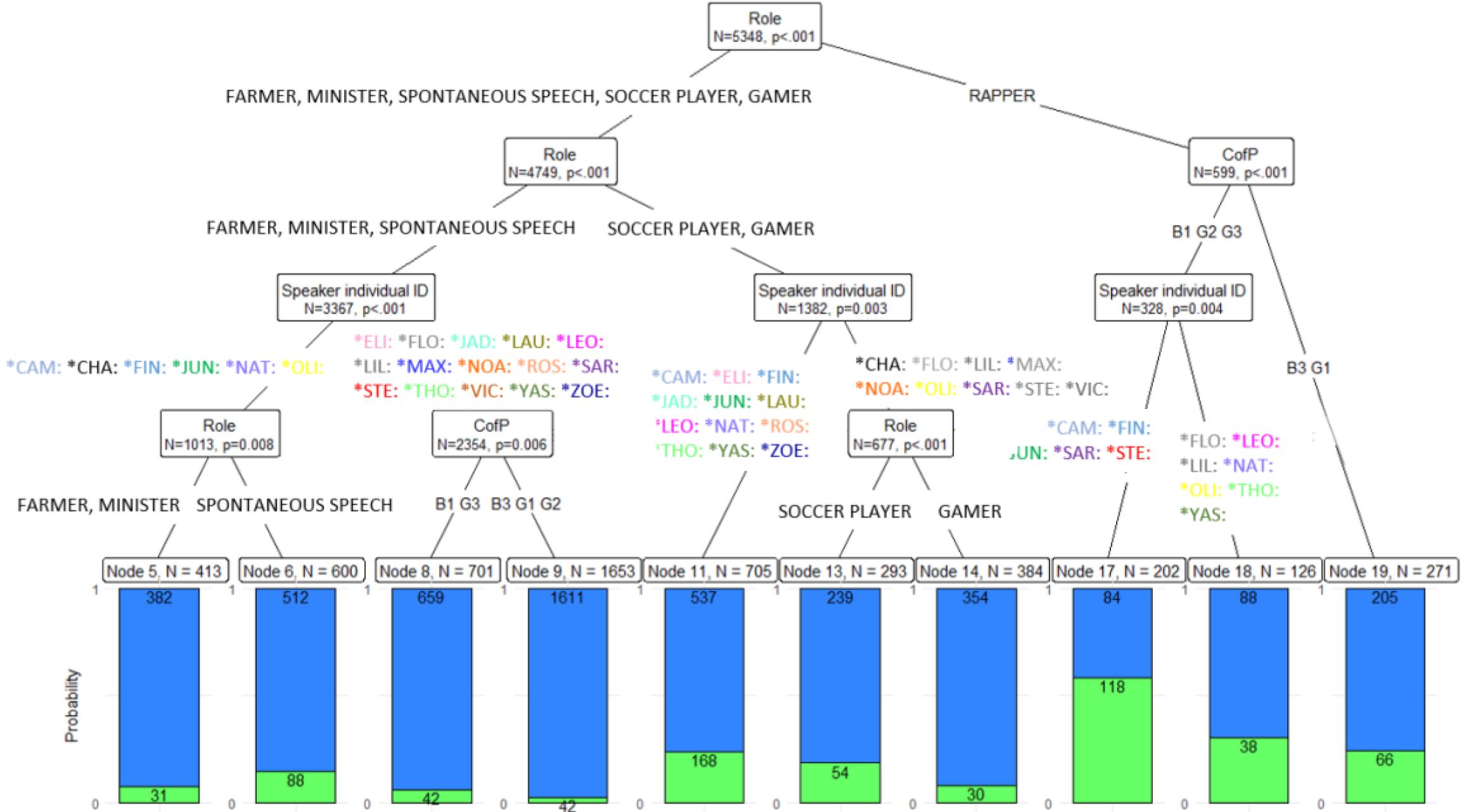
What % of utterances contains at least 1 English word?











Did you change something about your language?

no

idk

yes

- nothing specific
- voice
- speech acts
- social meanings
- language variation
- English loans

Interview |

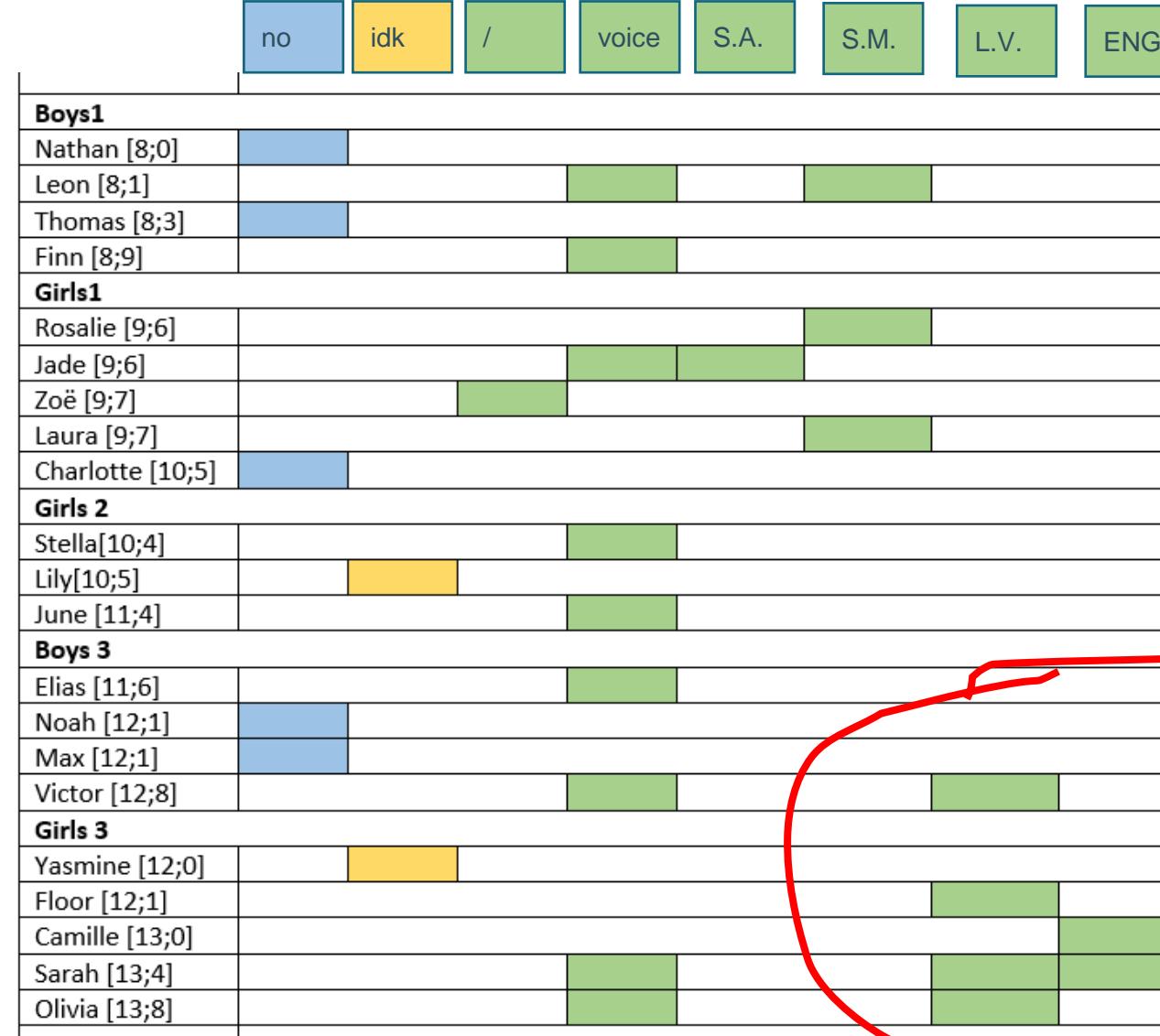
Did you change something about your language?

no

idk

yes

- nothing specific
- voice
- speech acts
- social meanings
- language variation
- English loans



Interview |

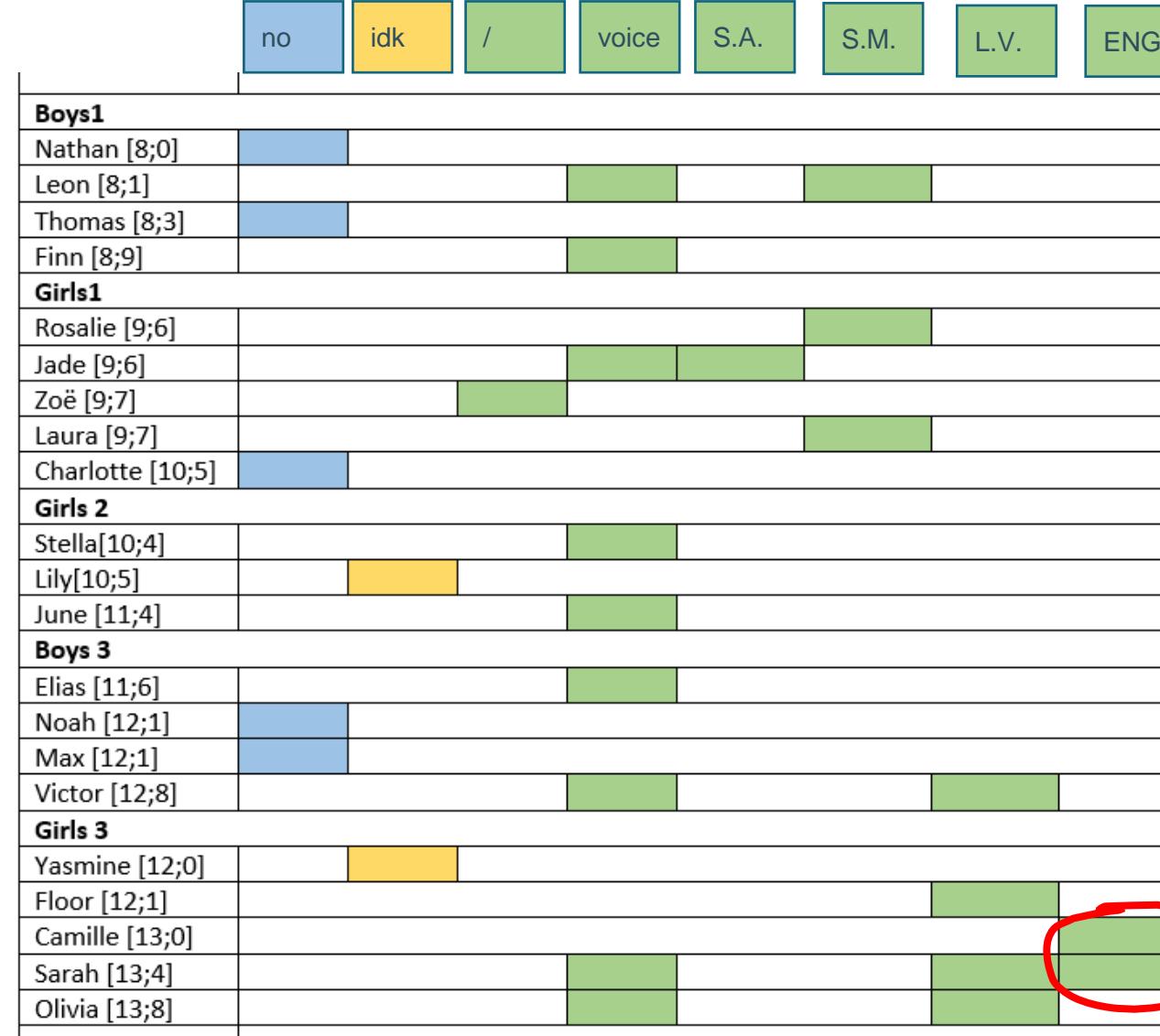
Did you change something about your language?

no

idk

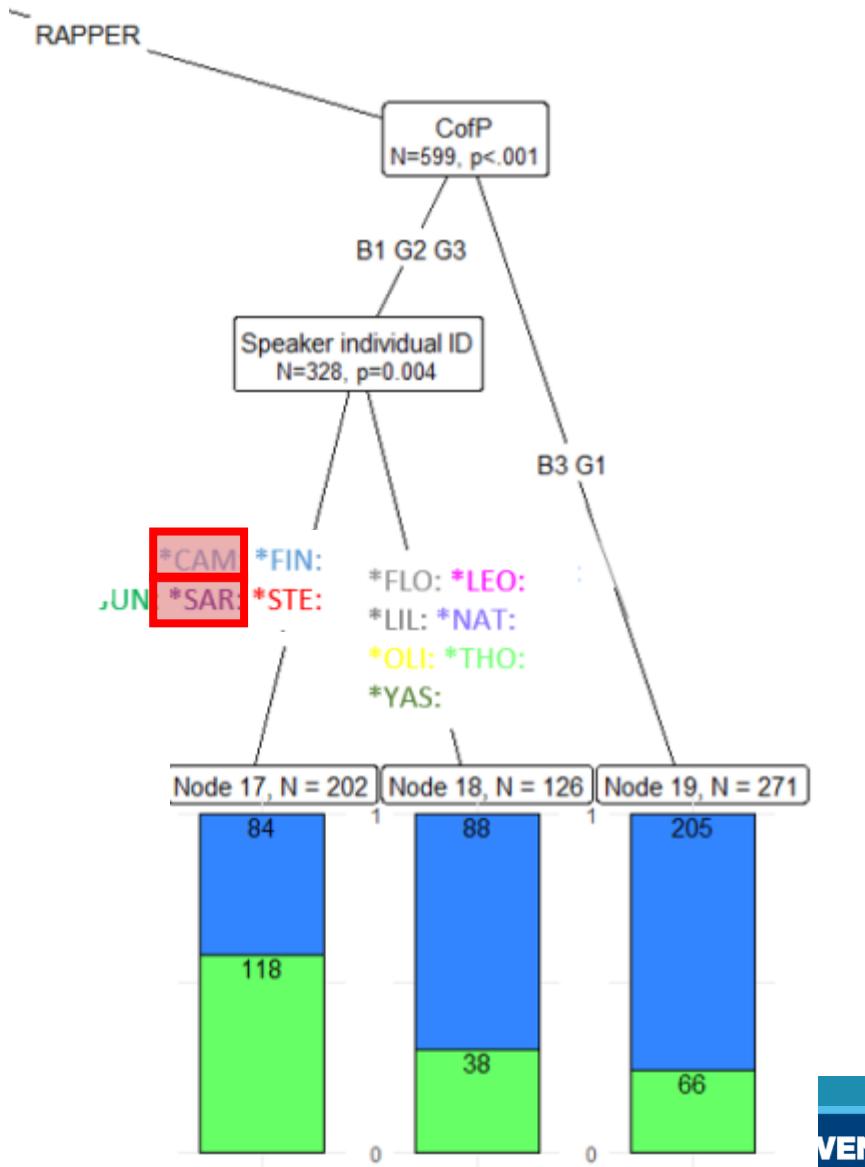
yes

- nothing specific
- voice
- speech acts
- social meanings
- language variation
- English loans



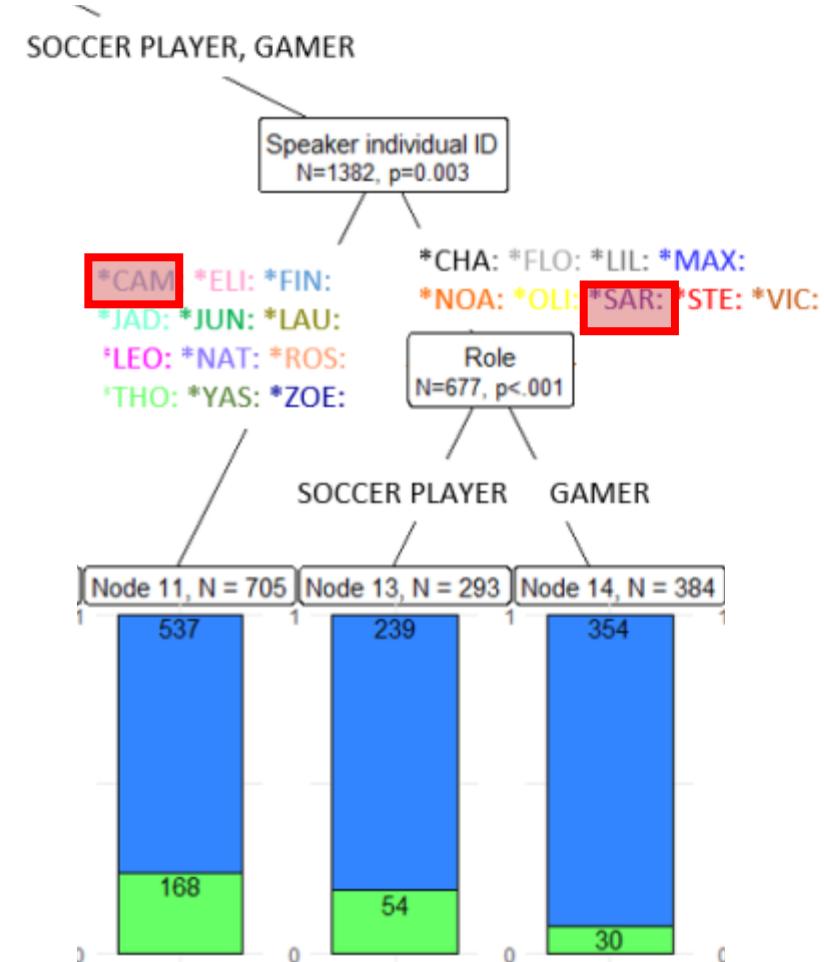
reference to
language variation

reference to
English

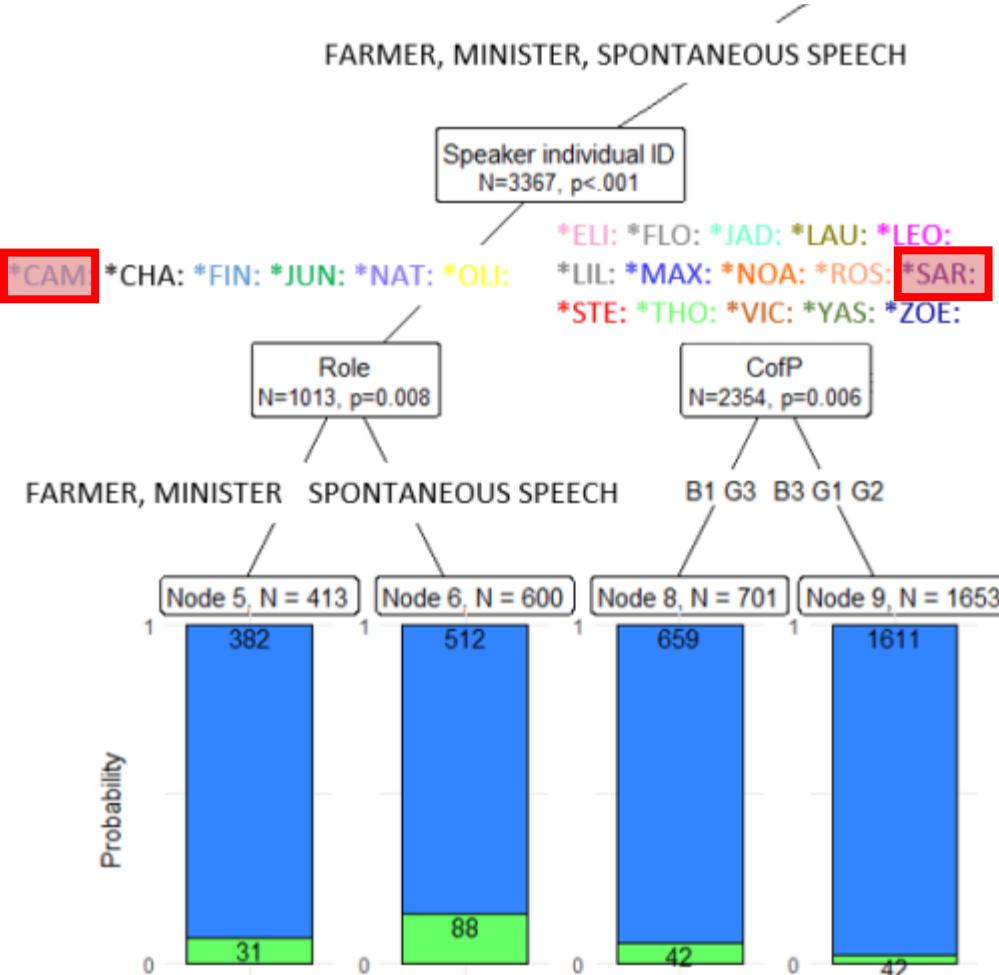


reference to
language variation

reference to
English



reference to
English





Excerpt (1)

- *INT: en waarom (.) waarom waren die [rollen] gemakkelijk?
%eng: *and why were these [roles] easy?*
- *FLO: om da(t) ja nieuwslezer en (.) &-eh een leerkracht die moeten
ja die zijn verplicht om mooi Nederlands te spreken.
%eng: *because yes newsreader and (.) &-uh a teacher they should
yes they are required to speak nice Dutch.*
- *FLO: terwijl da(t) vloggers rappers en &-eumh (...) gamers &-eh
vaak Engelse woorden gebruiken.
%eng: *while vloggers rappers and &-umh (...) gamers &-uh often use
English words.*

(learning to) share expectations

RQ2.1

to what extent do adult Belgian Dutch language users share expectations on the use of English loanwords by different social roles?

looks like they do!

RQ2.2

to what extent do we see these patterns resonated in the linguistic expectations and role performance of Belgian Dutch preadolescents?

well, yes, but ...



language

expectations

social roles

discussion

study 1

individual
society



study 2

society
individual



individual
society



violation

*stereotype
cycle*

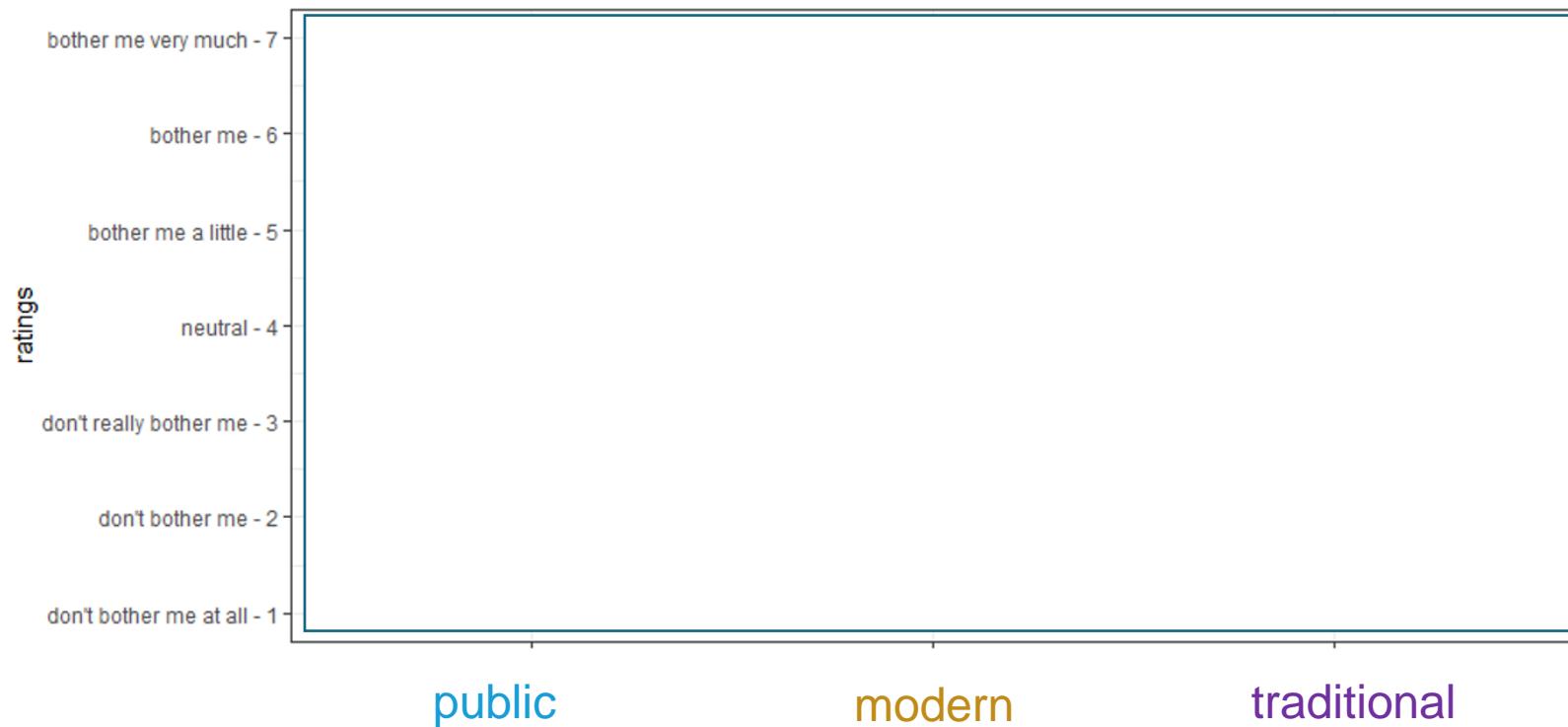
innovation



society
individual

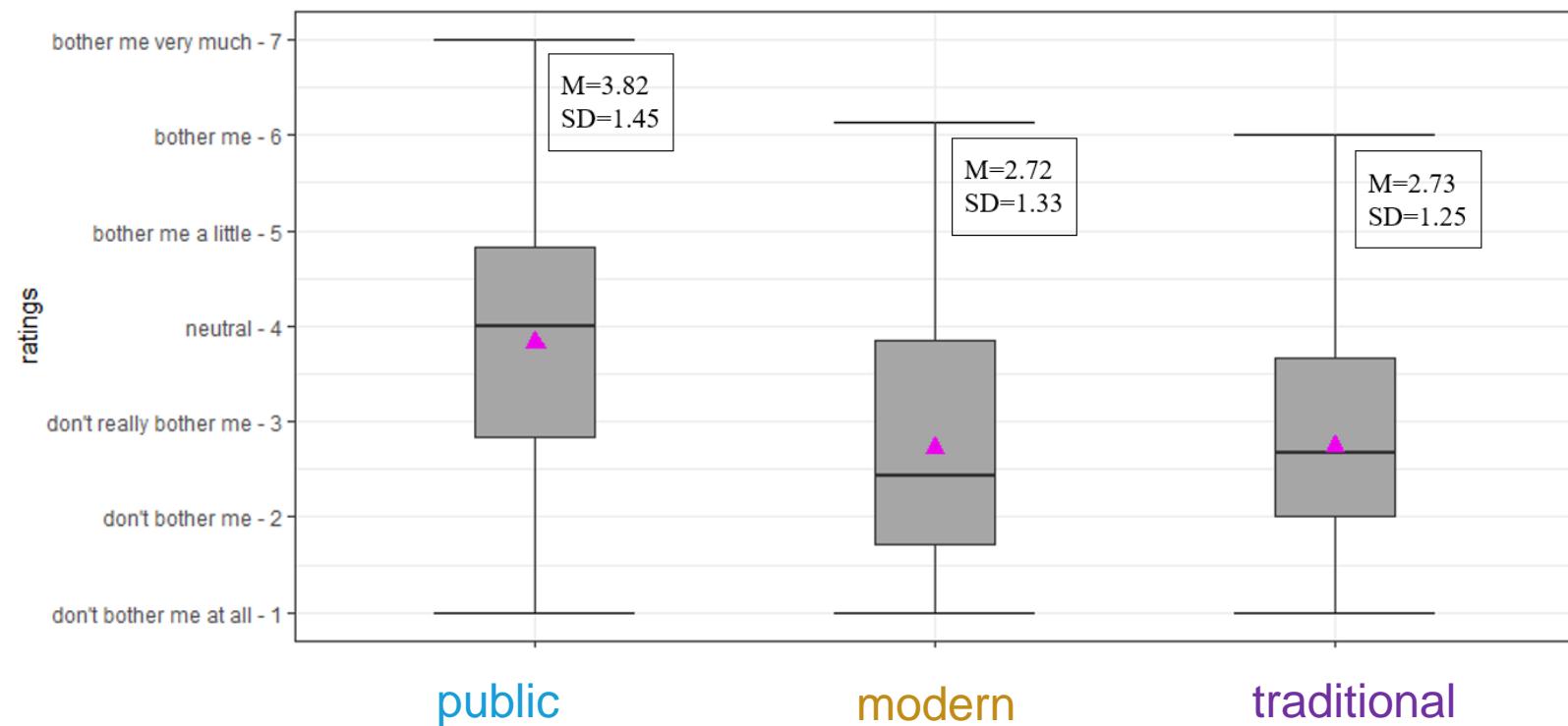
violation

**What do you think of English words in Dutch
when used by the following social roles when
performing their role?**



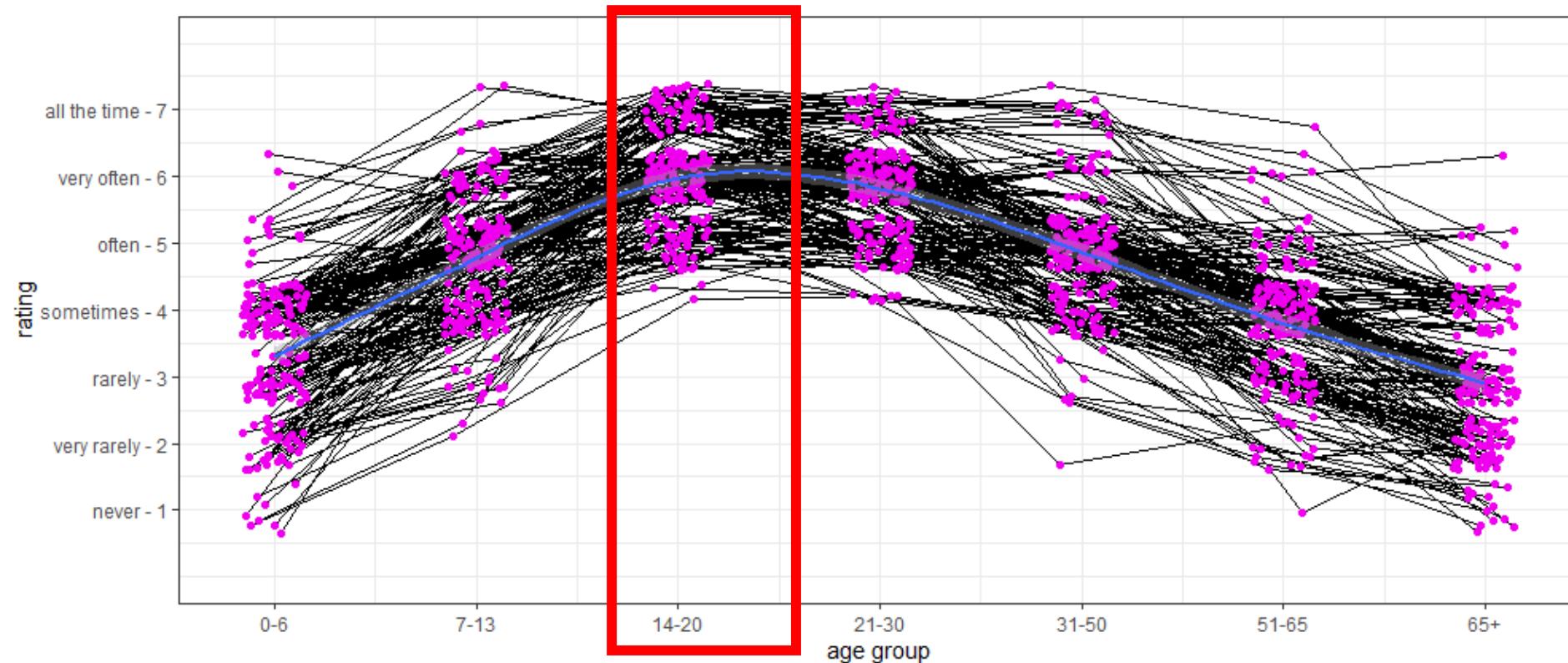
violation

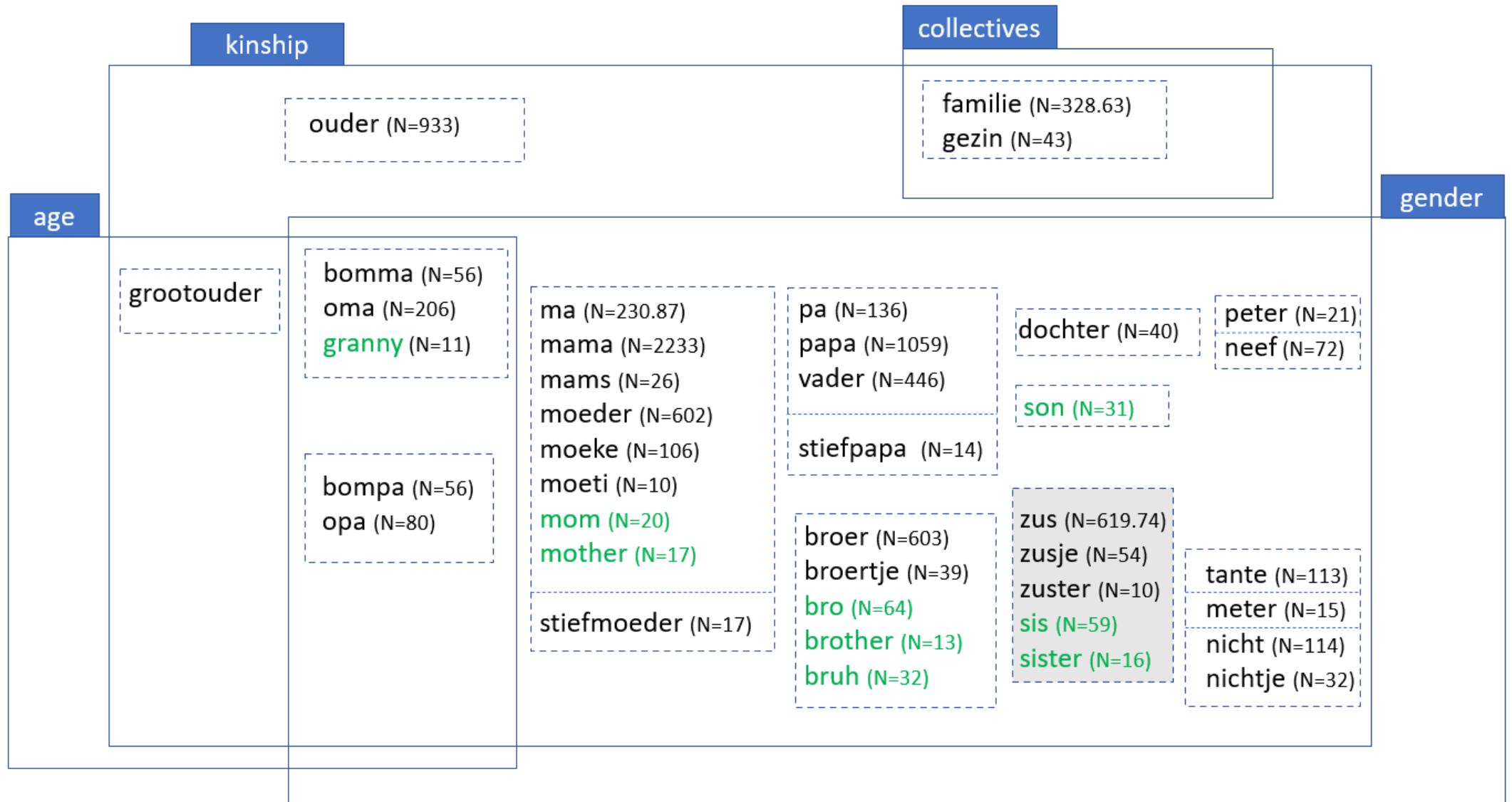
**What do you think of English words in Dutch
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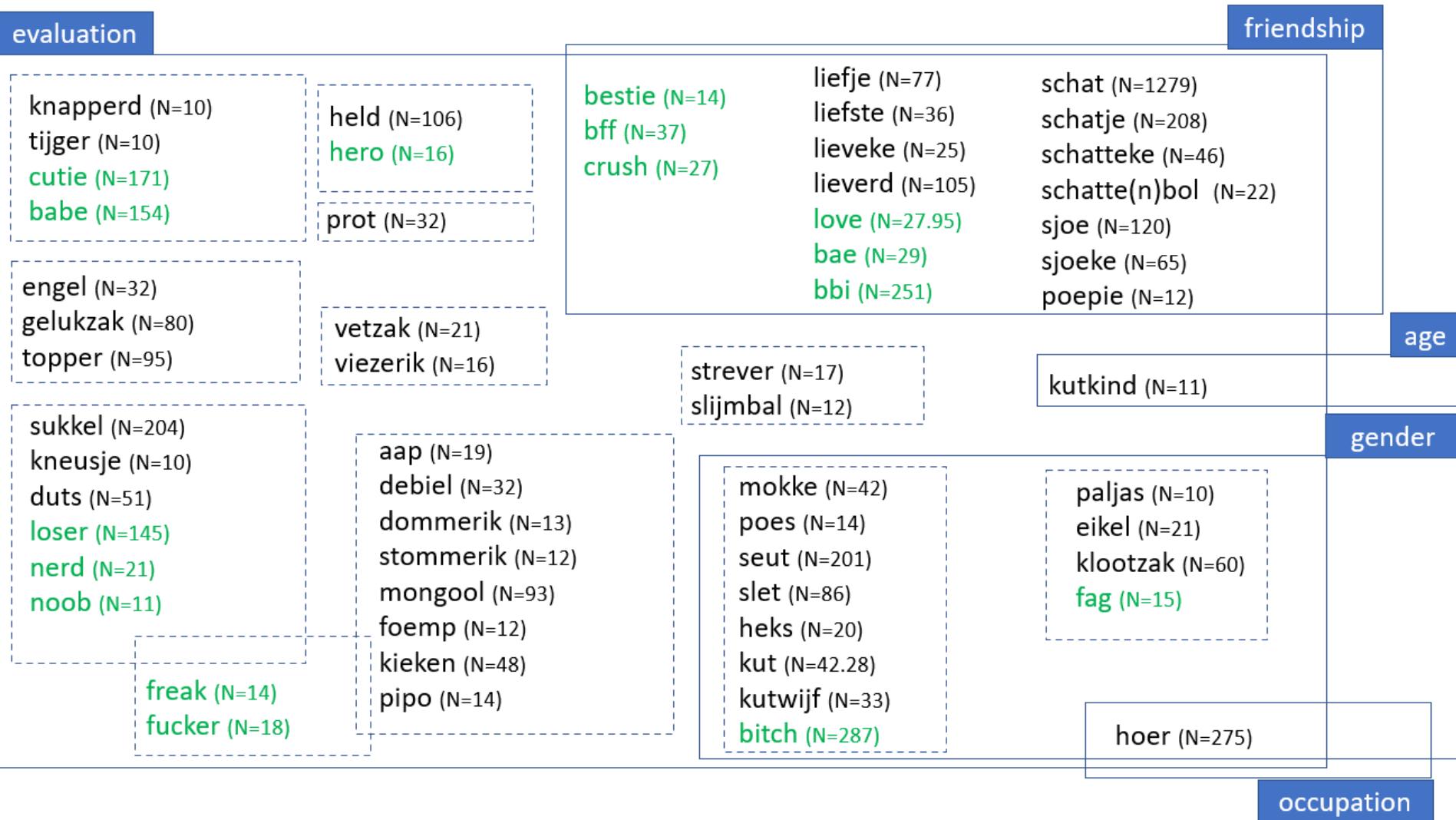


stereotype cycle

How often do these social roles use English words in Dutch when performing their role, according to you?







individual
society

language

*innovation
models
methods*

social roles

society
individual

thanks for listening

Some references

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