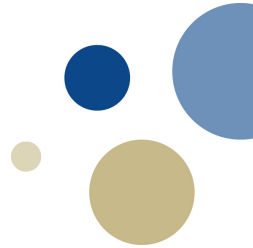




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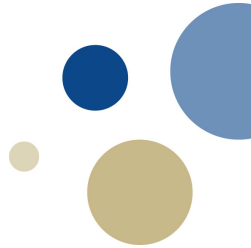
CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE (CLI) IN MIRRORED PROPERTIES

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26.3.2022

Bilingualism Matters-Voices in Harmony

What is the study about?



This study investigates the effect of crosslinguistic influence (CLI) in mirrored properties of the two languages, Italian and Norwegian, of bilingual children. The property under investigation is the possessive structure, more precisely the two alternates: the prenominal and postnominal possessive.

Crosslinguistic influence

- Hulk & Müller (2001) state that CLI can occur (i) at an interface level between two modules of grammar is involved, and (ii) if the two languages overlap at the surface level
- Language-internal reasons
- Not dominance
- Some studies find the role of dominance relevant (Döpke 1998, Bernardini 2003)

Examples of CLI in possessives

Italian-Swedish

- Italian: prenominal and postnominal possessives
- Swedish: prenominal possessives
- Effect of dominance- Italian-dominant child paired with the Italian monolinguals with a similar distribution of possessive structures, whereas the Swedish-dominant child did not produce postnominal possessives at all (Bernardini 2003)

Norwegian-English

- Norwegian: prenominal and postnominal possessives
- English: prenominal possessives
- Bilingual children have a stronger and longer preference for prenominal possessives when compared to monolinguals (Westergaard & Anderssen, 2015)

Possessives in Italian and Norwegian

	Italian		Norwegian	
	Pre-nominal	Post-nominal	Pre-nominal	Post-nominal
Example	La mia macchina The my car	La macchina mia The car my	Min bil My car	Bilen min Car-the my
Markedness (contextual)	Unmarked	Marked	Marked	Unmarked
Frequency	More (86%)	Less	Less	More (73%)

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Is this at the interface level of two modules of grammar?

Syntax-
Pragmatics
interface

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Is there structural overlap?
Yes, both languages have two structures

The current study

- The aim is to explore how languages influence each other when both have two surface structures, but with opposite pragmatic implications.
- CLI effects of structural overlap when both languages have two structures are currently theoretically unexplored

Predictions

1. CLI based on dominance

Since based on the linguistic properties CLI is possible both from Norwegian to Italian and vice versa, we could notice the effects of CLI from the dominant to the weaker language.

2. Cross-linguistic overcorrection

The children use the unmarked variant (prenominal in Italian, postnominal in Norwegian) for both types of contexts. This outcome would entail children pose a strong differentiation of the two languages. Cross-linguistic overcorrection was described for adult bilinguals (Kupisch, 2014)

3. Simplification of a system

Children will simplify the system of their heritage language. This process usually witnesses the loss of the marked form, which should result in the loss of the postnominal in Italian (since most children in our study are heritage speakers of Italian living in Norway) (Montrul, 2010; Polinsky & Scontras, 2020)

Participants

- 31 Italian-Norwegian bilingual children (4;1-10;0, F=15)
- Most lived in Norway (n=28)
- 12 Italian-English controls (4;0-7;5), all residing in the UK
- 15 Norwegian-English controls (4,4-9;8), residing in the UK (n=5) or in Norway (n=10)

Methodology

Cross-linguistic task (CLT) (Haman et al. 2015)

- Pre-test
- Helped put the child in an Italian/Norwegian setting
- Used for calculating dominance
- Complementary halves in each language

Elicitation task

- Main task
- Animations designed in ppt
- Neutral and contrast condition

Elicitation task

Intro



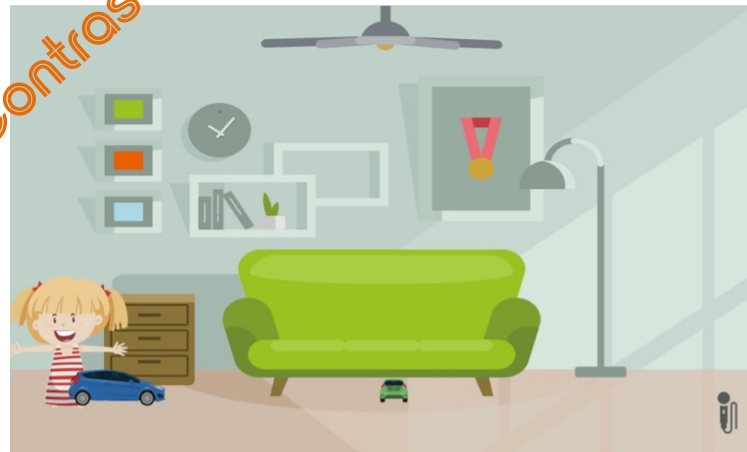
Neutral



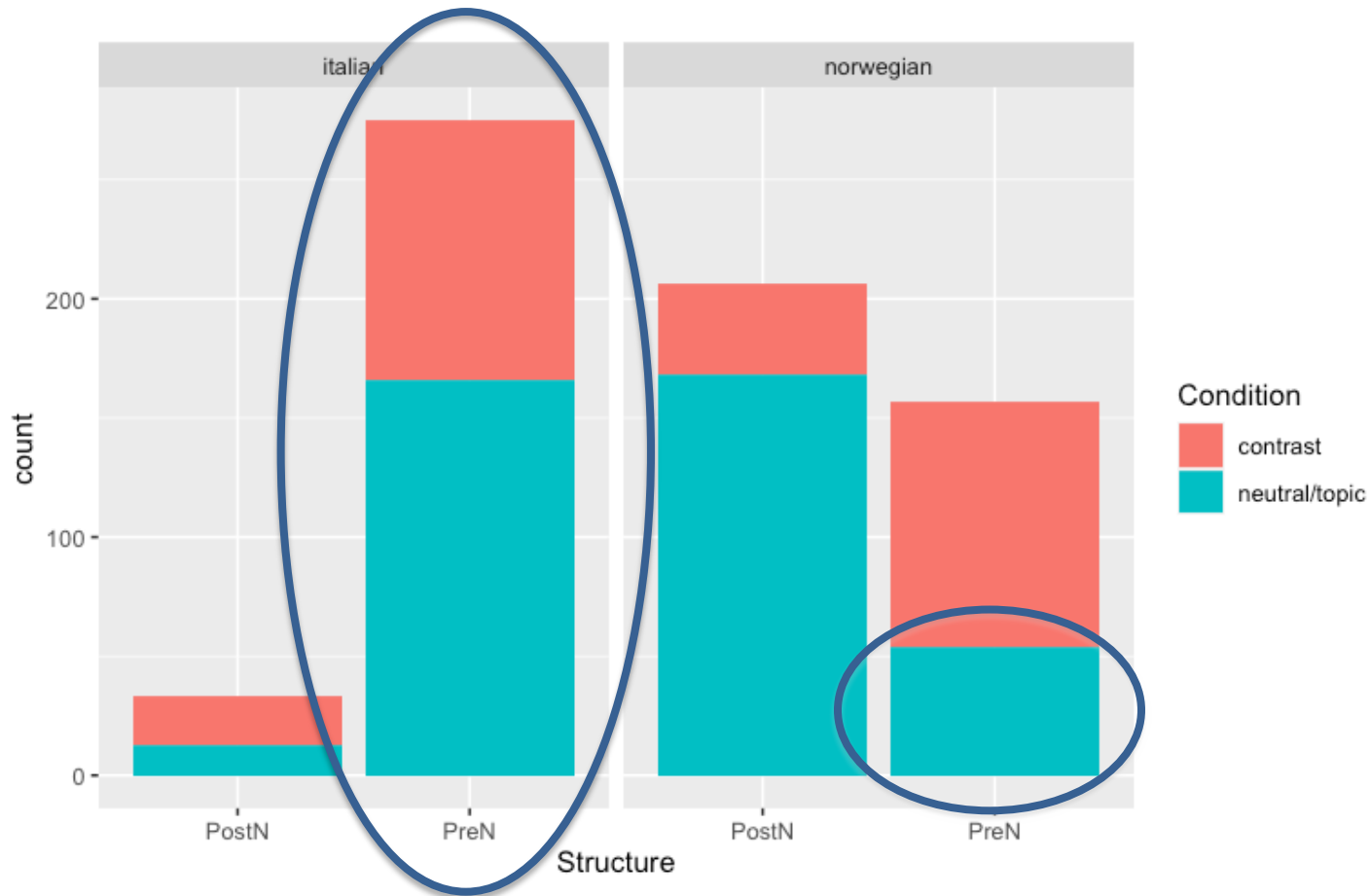
Twist



Contrast



Results



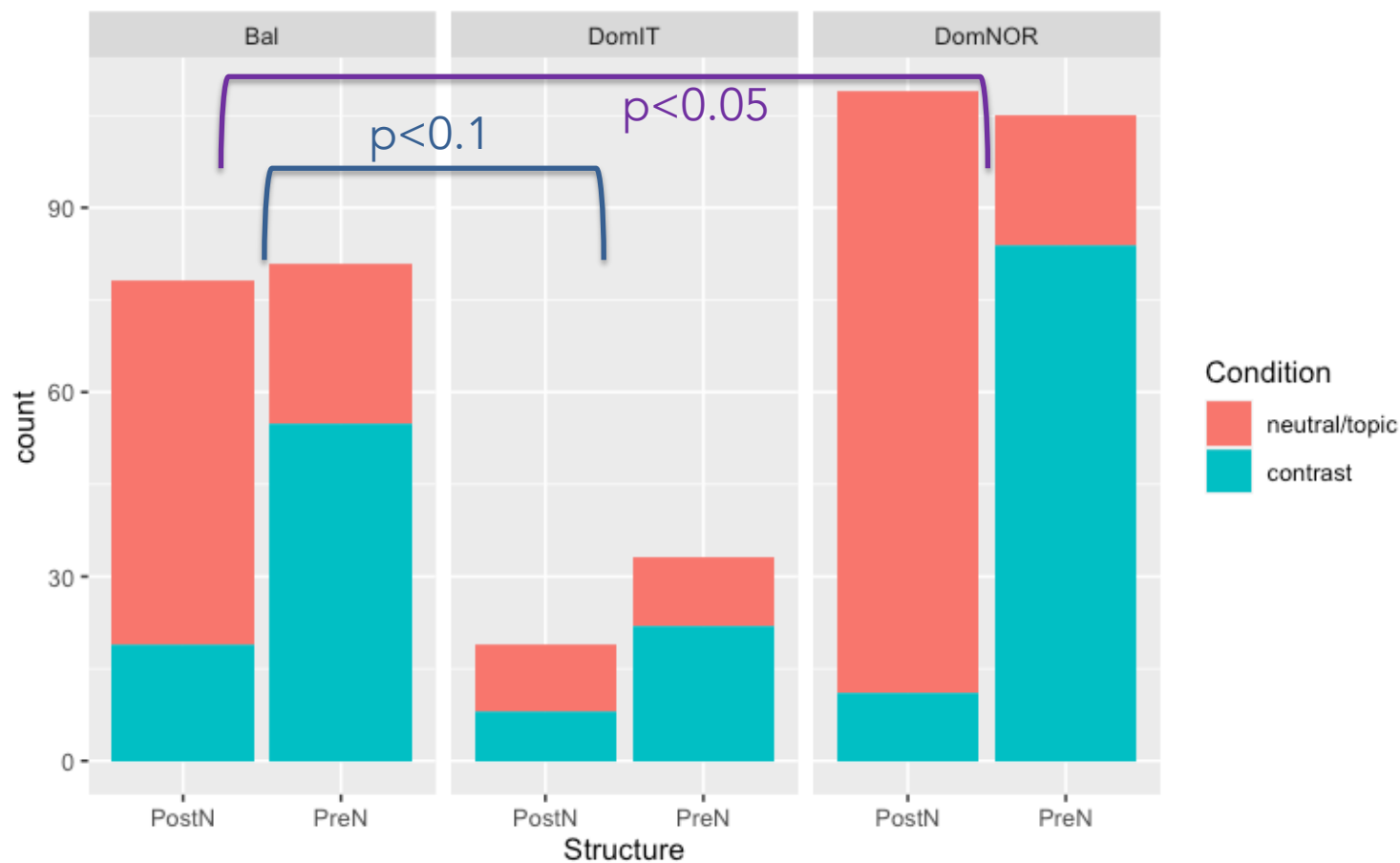
Statistical results

	Easitmate	Std.Err	Z-value	Pr(> z)	Significance level
Intercept	-2.5470	0.2880	-8.844	< 2e-16	***
Contrast	0.9467	0.3709	2.552	0.010697	*
Norwegian	1.4835	0.3258	4.554	5.27e-06	***
Interaction	1.5606	0.4397	3.550	0.000386	***

Dominance

- Obtained by comparing the CLT scores of each child
- Simplistic measure: indication of dominance
- Three categories: Italian-dominant, Balanced, Norwegian-dominant
- Statistical analyses run separately for the Italian and the Norwegian task
- No significance for the Italian task- due to the uniformity of the results

Dominance: Norwegian task



Controls

- Italian task compared to Italian-English controls
- Norwegian task compared to Norwegian-English controls
- No significance difference for the Italian- but the controls used more prenominals overall
- For Norwegian: the controls use significantly more prenominal in the neutral condition ($p < 0.01$)
- No interaction: indicating that the two groups use the two variants in roughly the same way

Norwegian controls: a closer look

- *glm* with residency as an independent variable
- The significant difference between targets and controls is lost (although the controls still use more pronominals)
- Significant effect of residency: participants residing in the UK have a much higher use of pronominal in the neutral condition ($p < 0.01$)

Discussion



Dominance

Overcorrection

Simplification

Discussion



Dominance

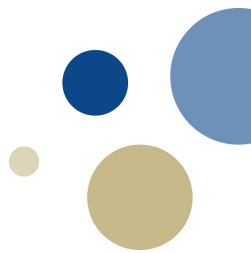


Overcorrection



Simplification

Discussion

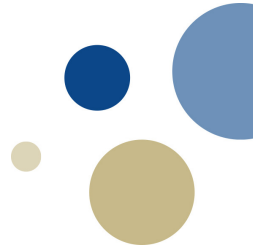


Dominance

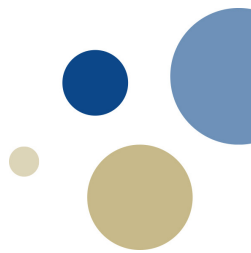
Overcorrection

Simplification

Discussion



Discussion



Dominance

CLI?

Overcorrection

Simplification

Conclusions

- Simplification of the Italian system (HL)
- The status of the language, along with the linguistic properties, plays a role in CLI
- The simplified system can still influence the ambient language
- CLI cannot be attested in an already simplified system
- Dominance may influence the accuracy of the non-simplified system

Questions?

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