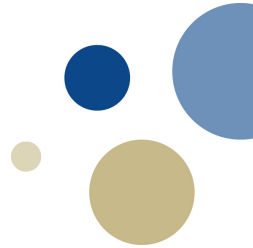




NTNU – Trondheim
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CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE (CLI) IN MIRRORED PROPERTIES

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1.3.23

Mini seminar- UiO

What is the study about?

This study investigates the potential effect of crosslinguistic influence (CLI) in mirrored properties of the two languages of bilingual children.



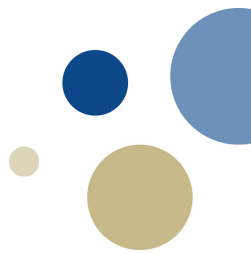
Possessive structure:
prenominal and
postnominal possessives



Norwegian and Italian

Heritage language: Italian

Crosslinguistic influence- factors



Language external

- Proficiency of the speaker in each language
- Dominance (Döpke 1998, Yip & Matthews 2000)

Language internal

- Hulk & Müller (2001) state that CLI occurs (i) at an interface level between two modules of grammar, and (ii) if the two languages overlap at the surface level

But also within syntactic structures / structural overlap is predicative of CLI but CLI is not limited to it

Status of the HL

- HL is more vulnerable than the majority language.
- Potential simplification of the system (Montrul 2010, Polinsky & Scontras 2020)
- **External linguistic factors** such as HL language exposure, the size of the HL community, and current exposure to HL instruction positively correlated with not developing a reduced system (Rodina 2020- specifically for gender)

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%)
Bilingual acquisition	preferred		preferred	

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Is there structural overlap?

Yes, both languages have two structures

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

Syntax-Pragmatics interface

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

Possible outcomes

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 (Montrul, 2010; Polinsky & Scontras, 2020)

Participants

- 24 Italian-Norwegian bilingual children (4;1-10;0, F=10)
- 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)

Why no monolingual controls?

- Goal: investigate how does CLI manifest in a mirror-image property. Not comparing the bilinguals to a golden standard
- Is it fair to compare HS to monolinguals with the same yard stick?
- An increasing number of studies is finding how within-group comparisons of the bilinguals/HSs can reveal more about the factors guiding their development (Bayram 2019, van Osch 2019, Meir 2018)
- We know from other studies how monolingual children acquire these variants

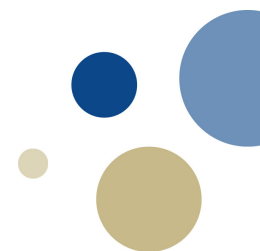
Methodology

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

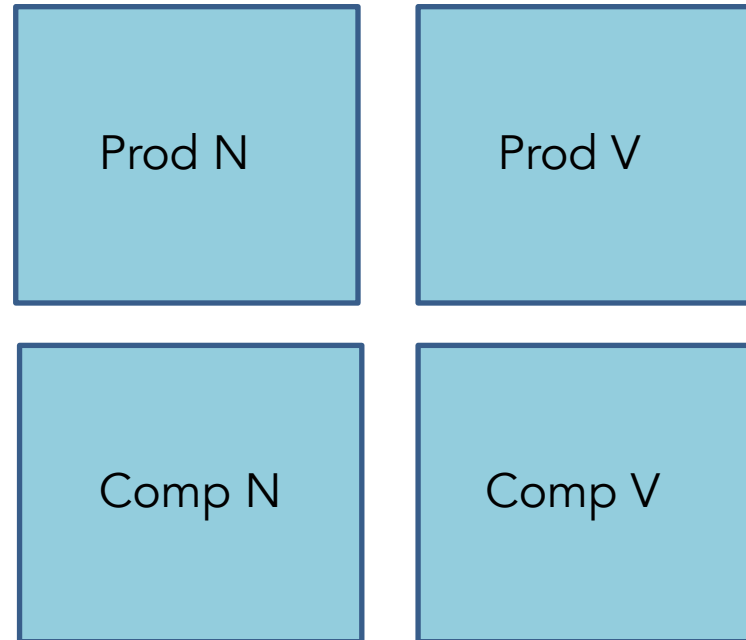
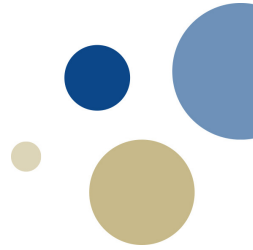
- Pre-test
- Helped put the child in an Italian/Norwegian setting
- Used for calculating dominance
- Complementary halves in each language

Elicitation task

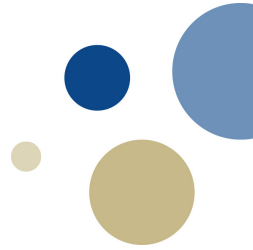
- Main task
- Animations designed in ppt
- Neutral and contrast condition



CLT



CLT



Norwegian

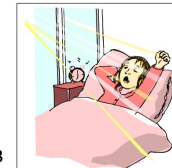
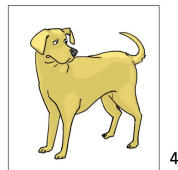
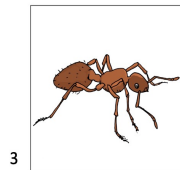
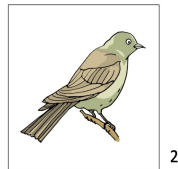
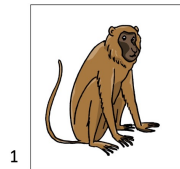
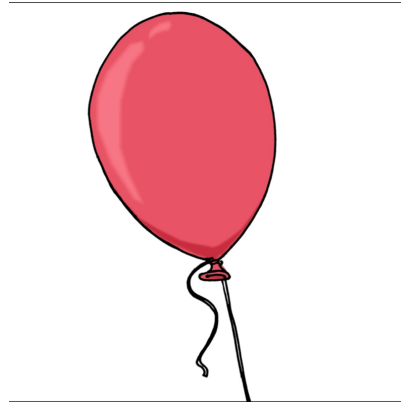
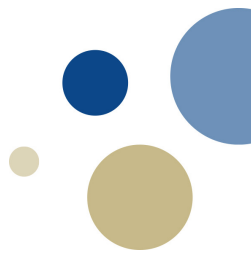
Italian



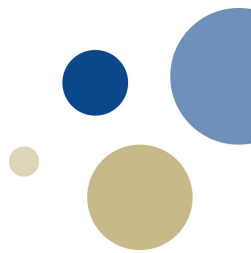
Norwegian

Italian

CLT

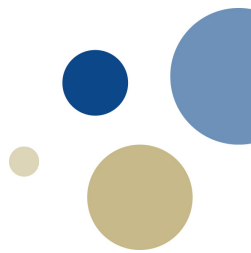


CLT



		Complexity	
		Simple	Complex
A o A	Early	1	3
	Late	2	4

CLT



		Complexity	
		Simple	Complex
A o A	Early	1	2
	Late	3	4

Elicitation task

- 2 ppt presentations → Norwegian and Italian
- Animations depicting characters interacting with objects
- Zoom- Screen sharing
- Italian: 9 target scenes (3 for each character)
- Norwegian: 12 target scenes (3rd person possessive is gendered)
- Neutral condition: character interacting with own object
- Contrast condition: character interacting with else's object

Elicitation task

Intro



Neutral



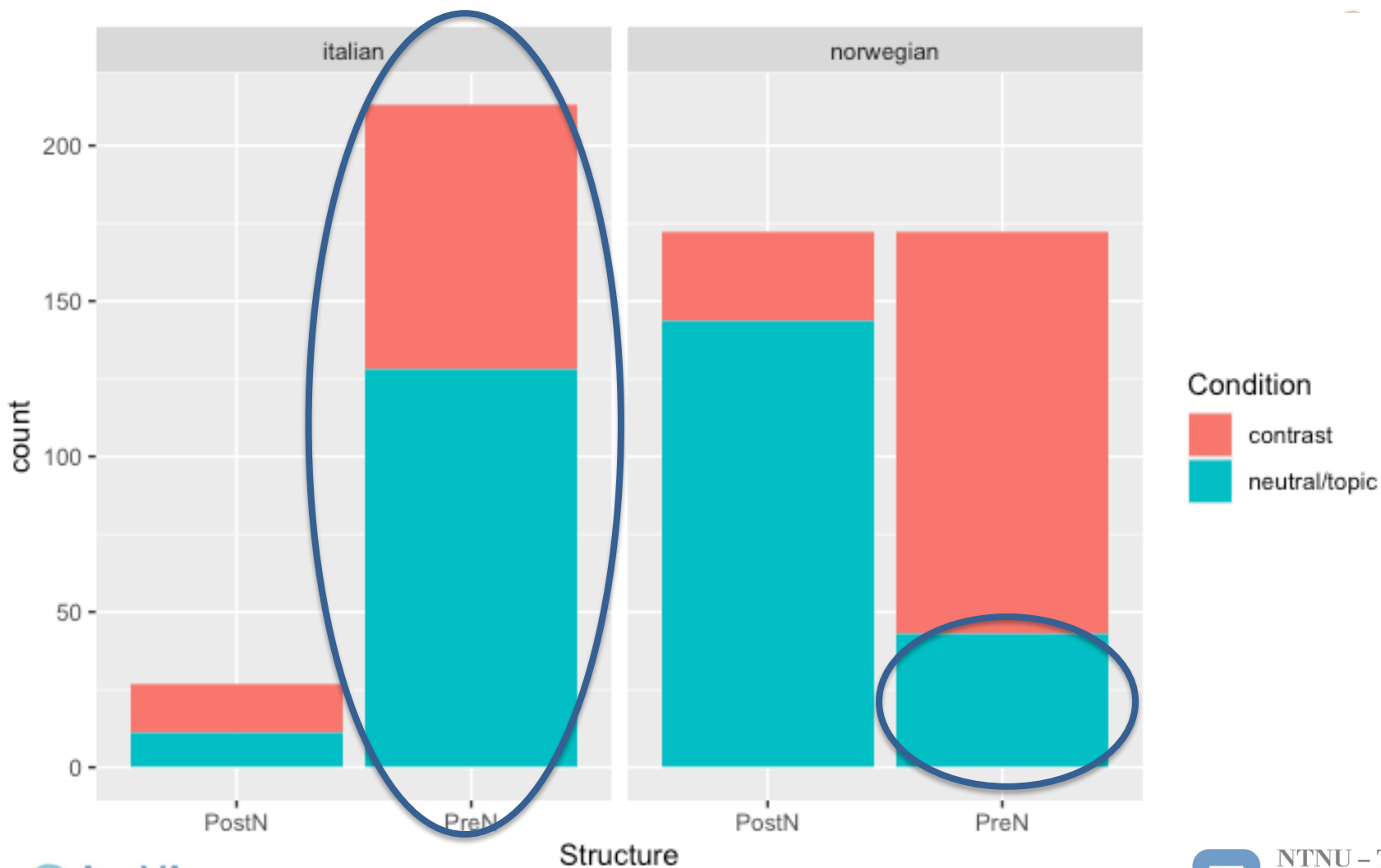
Twist



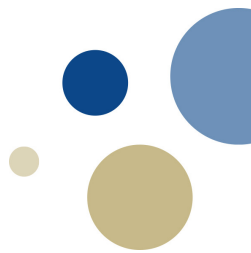
Contrast



Results



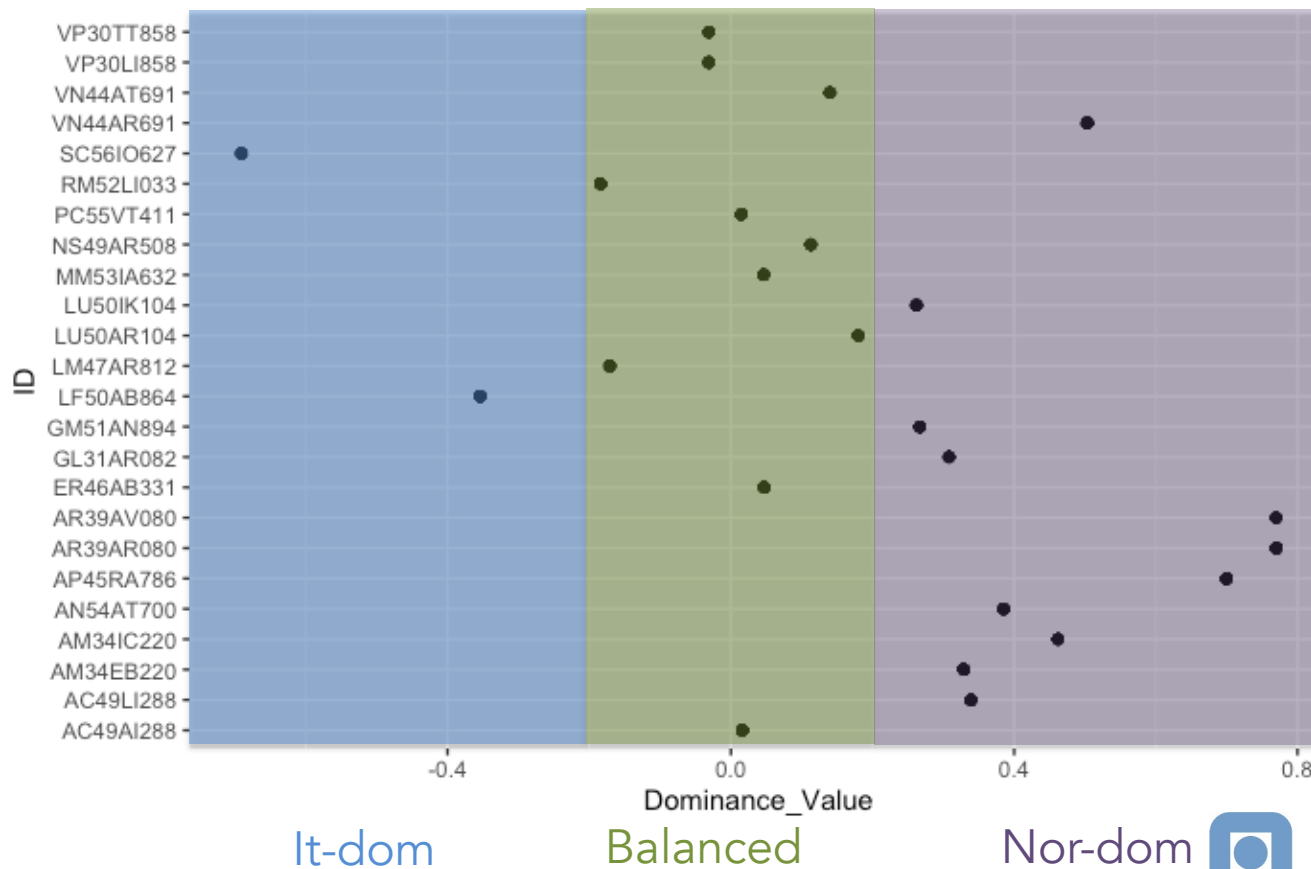
Statistical results



	Estimate	Std.err	df	t-value	p-value
Intercept	0.09123	0.04047	54.03464	2.254	0.02828
Contrast	0.07822	0.04661	559.65311	1.678	0.09388
Norwegian	0.14644	0.04450	49.21606	3.291	0.00185
Interaction	0.50253	0.06045	558.40997	8.313	7.14e ⁻¹⁶

Dominance

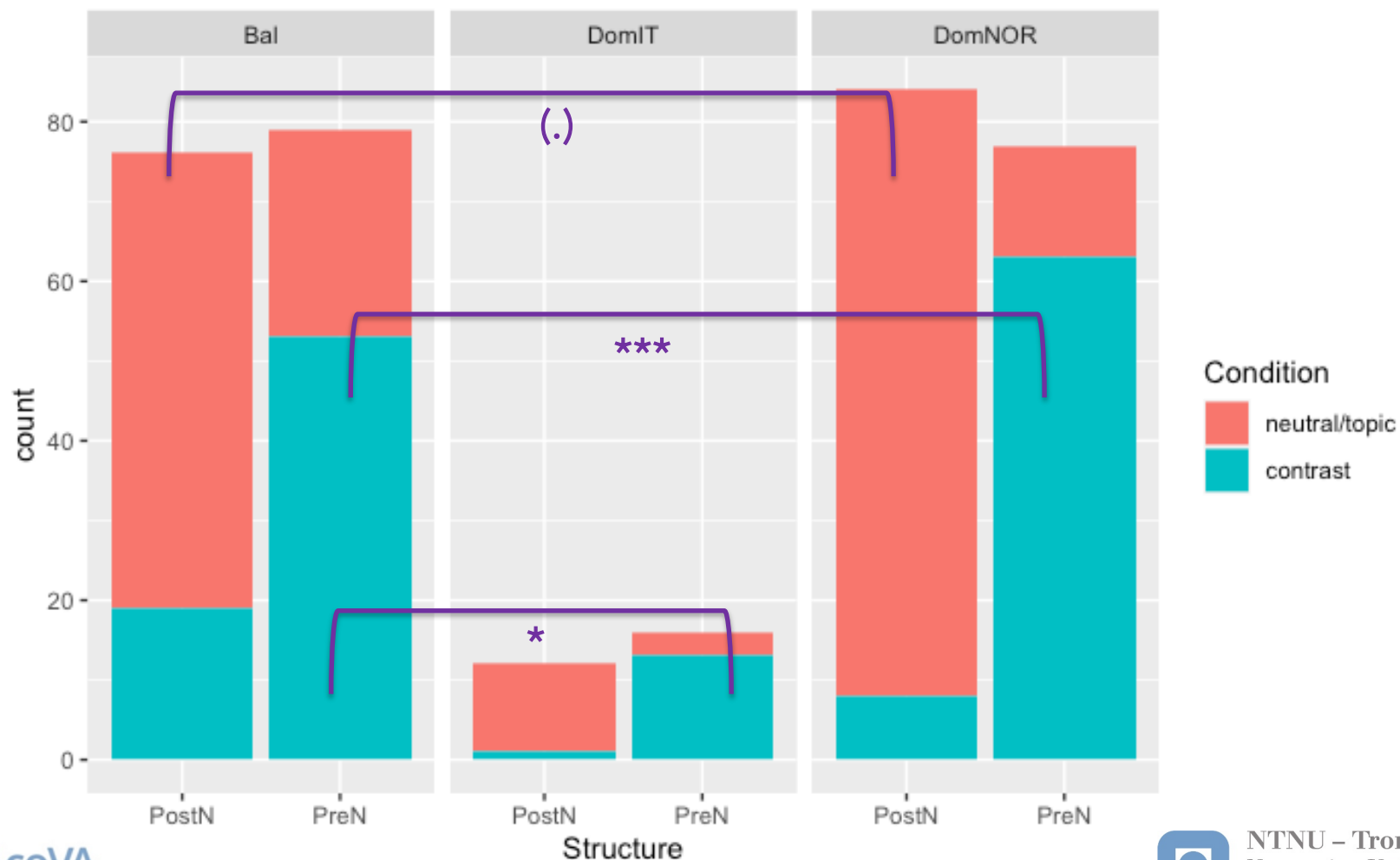
- Calculated based on the CLT pre-test
- Subtracted the Italian CLT score from the Norwegian score for each child
- Set 0,2 as a cut-off point



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

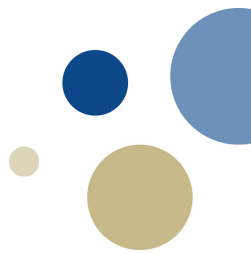
Dominance: Norwegian task



Controls

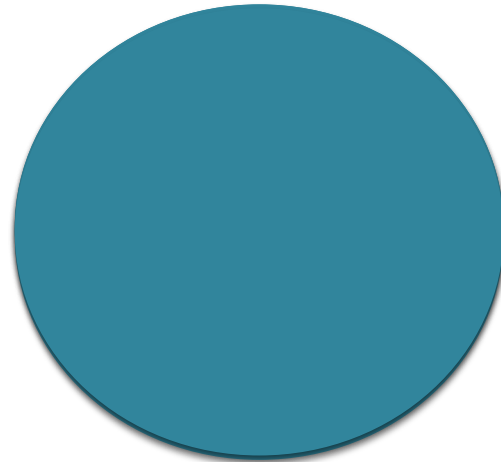
- Italian task compared to Italian-English controls
- Norwegian task compared to Norwegian-English controls
- No significance difference for the Italian- but the controls used more prenominals overall (effect from English)
- For Norwegian: the controls use significantly more prenominal in the neutral condition ($p < 0.01$)

Norwegian controls: a closer look



- *Imer* with residency as an independent variable
- The significant difference between targets and controls is lost (although the controls still use more prenominals)
- Significant effect of residency: participants residing in the UK have a much higher use of prenominal in the neutral condition ($p < 0.05$)

Discussion



Discussion



Dominance

Overcorrection

Simplification

Discussion



Dominance

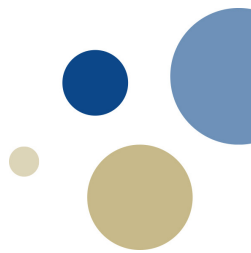


Overcorrection



Simplification

Discussion

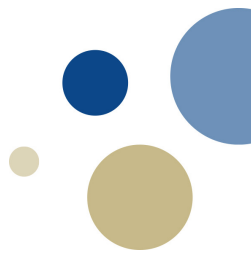


Dominance

Overcorrection

Simplification

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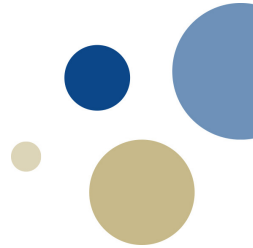


Dominance

Overcorrection

Simplification

Discussion



CLI?



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 majority 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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