

A micro-perspective on variation and universals

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Outline

Why microvariation?

Methodology

Micro versus macro

Exceptions and imperfect correlations

Why microvariation?

- ▶ it makes empirical sense: a treasure trove of new data

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 - ▶ limits on variation
- ▶ it makes theoretical sense: approaches an idealized experimental setting (cf. Kayne (1996))
- ▶ it works: robust patterns and systematic correlations

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that they_{CLITIC} they_{STRONG} laugh
'that they are laughing.'

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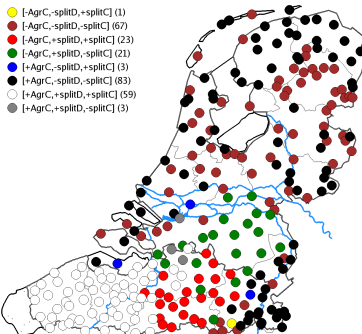
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that they_{STRONG} they_{CLITIC} laugh
INTENDED: 'that they are laughing.'
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| | | +AGRC | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--|----------|
| | | +SPLIT C | -SPLIT C |
| +split D | East & West Flanders (N=59) | Nieuwmoer, Sint Lenaarts, Moerdijk (N=3) | |
| -split D | Opglabbeek, Sliedrecht, Hoek (N=3) | Holland, Limburg, Friesland, Groningen (N=83) | |
| | | -AGRC | |
| | | +SPLIT C | -SPLIT C |
| +split D | Flemish Brabant & Antwerp (N=23) | North Brabant (N=21) | |
| -split D | Borgloon (N=1) | Drenthe, Utrecht (N=67) | |

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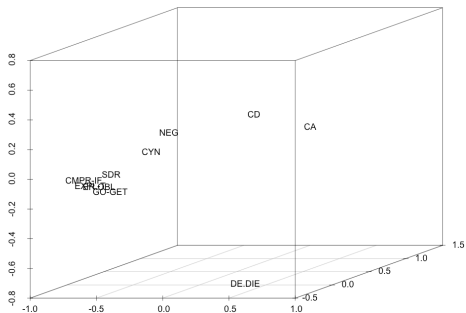
- ▶ traditional generative methodology ill-suited for large datasets with lots of variation
- ▶ our approach: a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis
 - ▶ quantitative: exploratory statistical methods to discern patterns in the data
 - ▶ qualitative: interpreting those patterns in terms of morphosyntactic parameters

Methodology

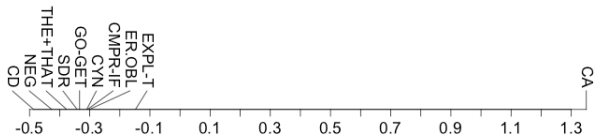
| | Brugge | Hulst | Dirksland | Ossendrecht | Diksmuide | ... |
|----------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----|
| CA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| CD | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| SDR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| NEG | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| CYN | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| EXPL-T | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| CMPR-IF | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| ER.OBL | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ... |
| THE+THAT | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| GO-GET | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | ... |

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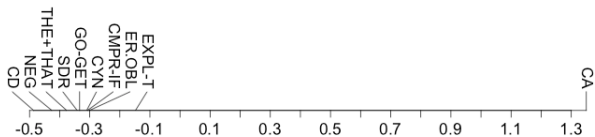
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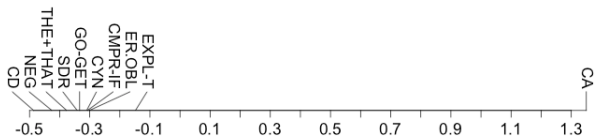


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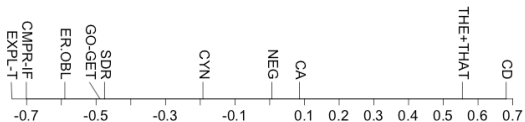


- (4) **the AgrC-parameter:**
C {does/does not} have unvalued ϕ -features.

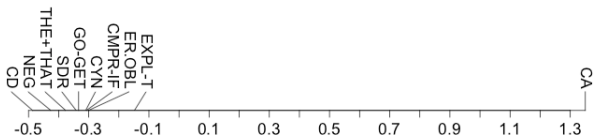
Methodology



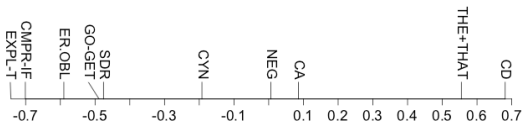
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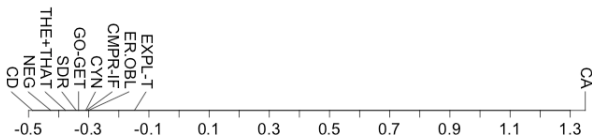


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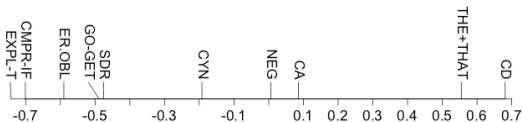


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DP {does/does not} have an extended left periphery.

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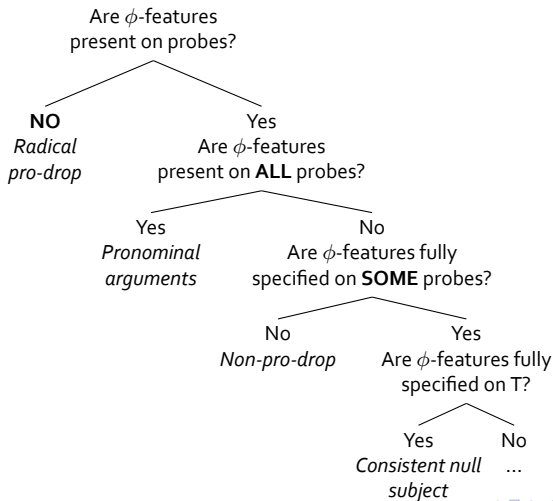
- ▶ hypothesis: there is no categorical difference between microvariation and macrovariation: the same principles apply but to different atoms
- ▶ two predictions:
 - ▶ macroparametric distinctions are reproduced at a smaller scale in microvariation
 - ▶ microvariational differences find their macro-counterpart at a typological level

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- (7) **the AgrC-parameter:**
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- (8) Biberauer et al. (2014), Biberauer and Roberts (2015):



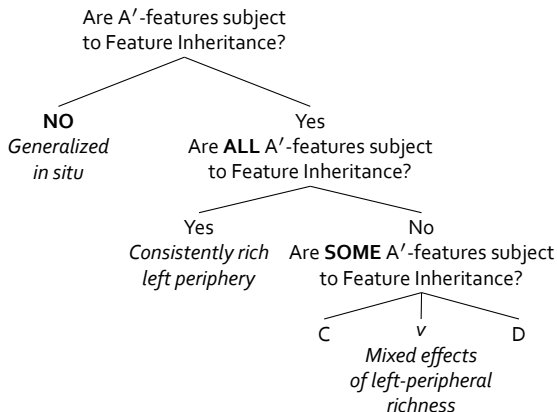
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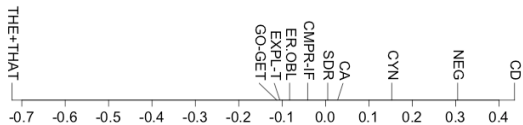
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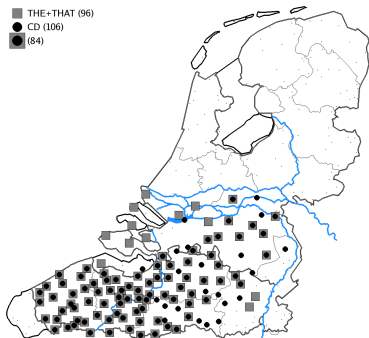
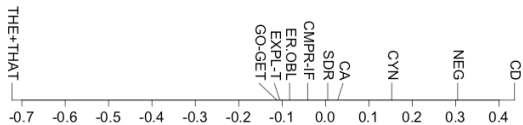
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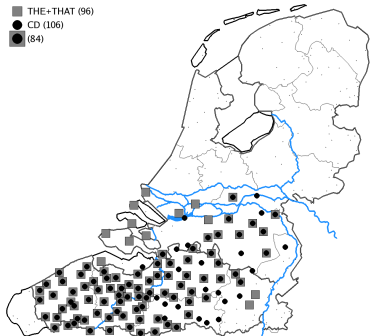
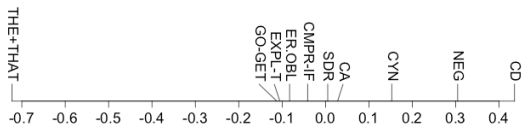
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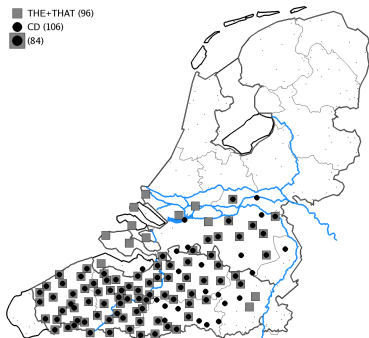
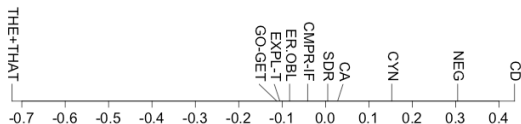


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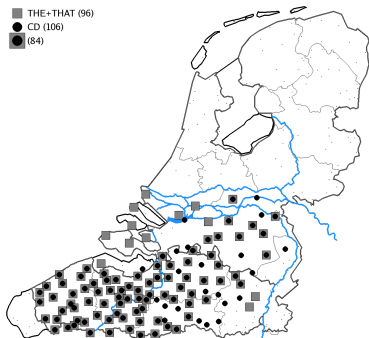
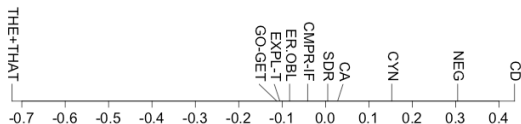
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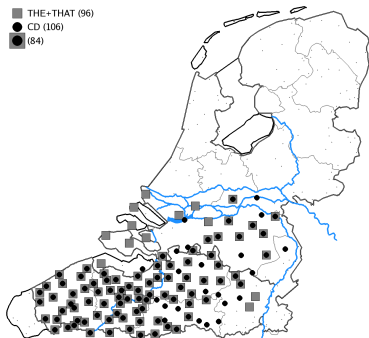
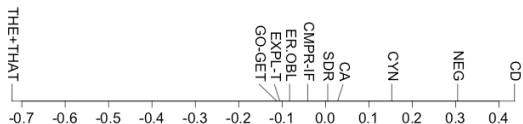
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 2. problems with data elicitation
 3. orthogonal grammatical factors

References

- Biberauer, Theresa, and Ian Roberts. 2015. Rethinking formal hierarchies: a proposed unification. *Cambridge Occasional Papers in Linguistics* 7:1–31.
- Biberauer, Theresa, Ian Roberts, Michelle Sheehan, and Anders Holmberg. 2014. Complexity in comparative syntax: The view from modern parametric theory. In *Measuring grammatical complexity*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kayne, Richard. 1996. Microparametric syntax: some introductory remarks. In *Microparametric syntax and dialect variation*, ed. J.R. Black and Virginia Motapanyane, ix–xviii. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.