

Mobility and dialect identity as factors in language change:

Findings from a 35-year panel and trend study in Swabia

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Research Questions

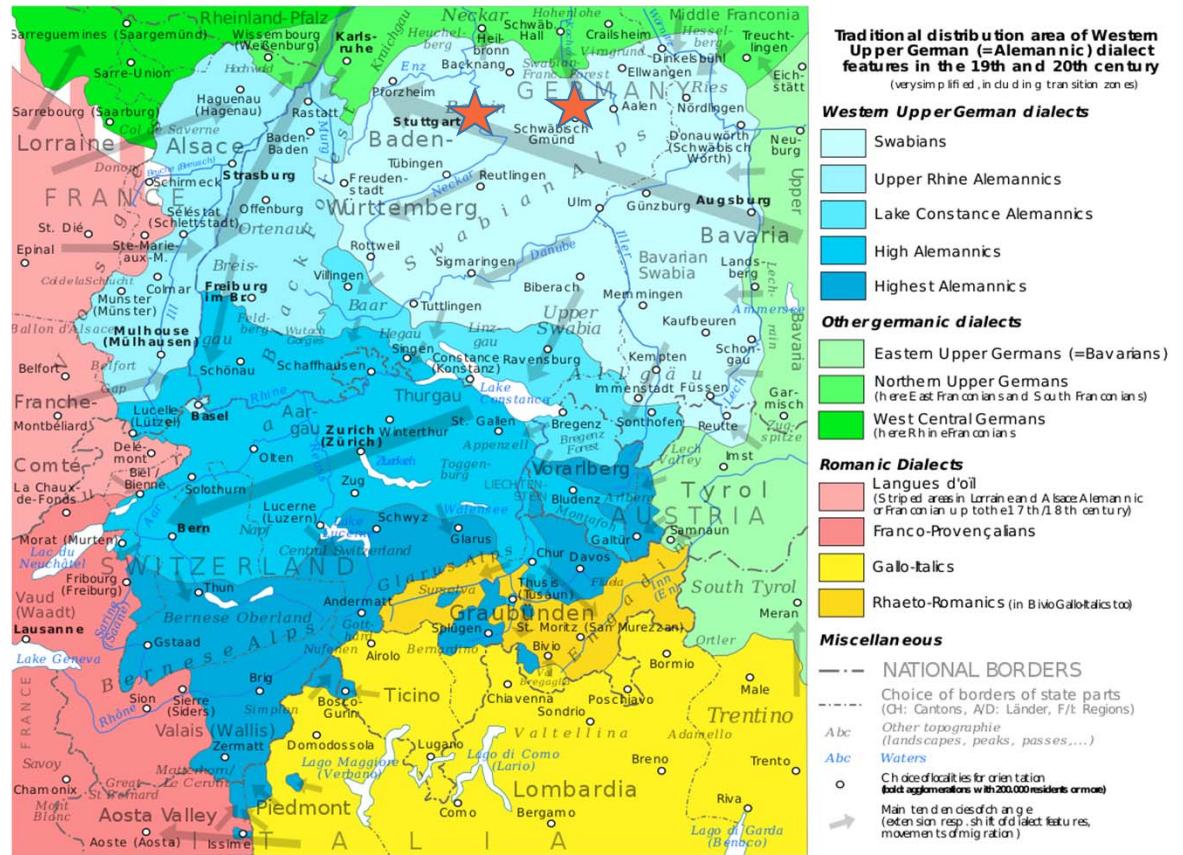
1. Is Swabian thriving or dying as a German dialect?
2. What dialect features are stable versus receding?
3. How do notions of identity and mobility impact dialect attrition or retention?

Swabian

Swabian or Schwäbisch
is a High German dialect,
belonging to the
Alemannic family,
spoken by just over
800,000 people.

Two communities:

- Stuttgart area
- Schwäbisch Gmünd



Two Speech Communities



Stuttgart



Schwäbisch Gmünd

Swabian Attitudes – Loved or Loathed

von dem her war i mal typisch, und zum Glück nimme so arg, ... wer schwäbisch versteht, mā legt sich hin ... brutal.

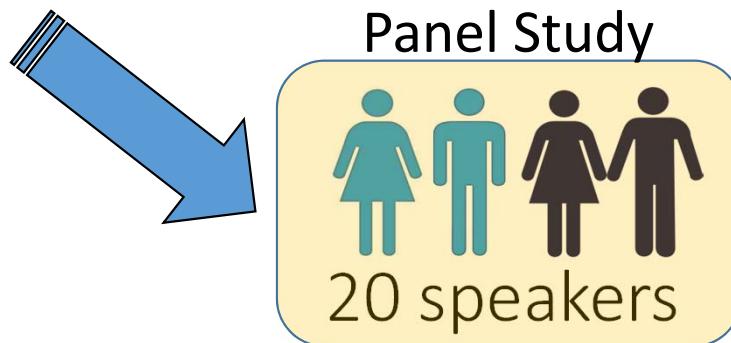
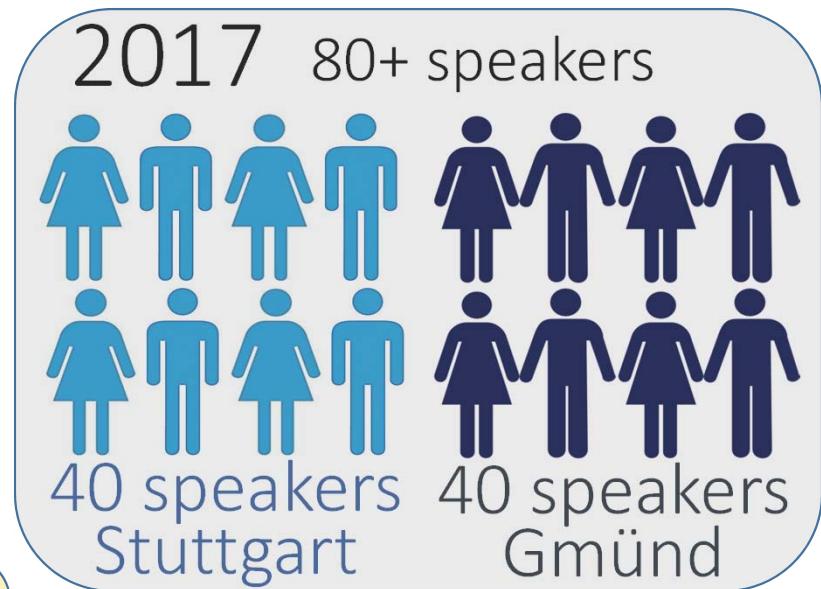
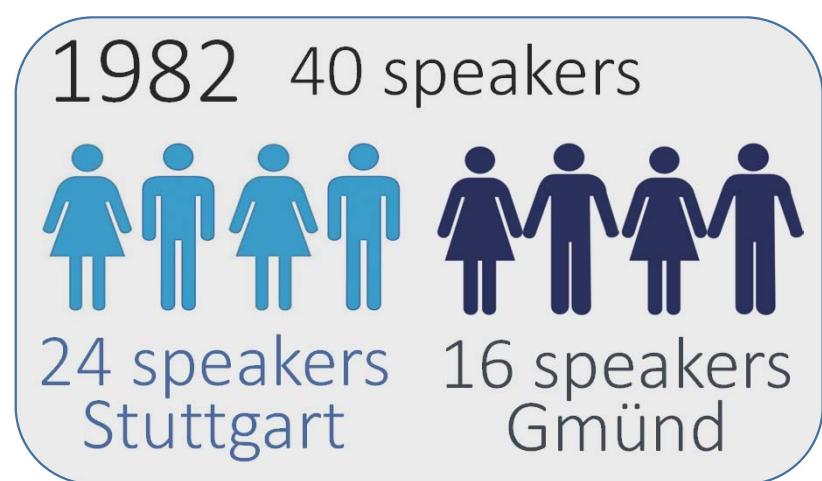
'at that time I was typical [Swabian], and luckily not so anymore ... those who understand Swabian, have to laugh ... brutal.' (Pepin-17)

wenn i Urschwâbe hör, also die mā gar ned versteht, des denkt mā immer, des isch e Fremdsprache ja, ... muss mā halt manchmal de Kopf schüttle, aber so find i des ... kôi schlimme Sprach ... i find e Dialekt isch nie schlecht

'if I hear old-Swabian, that you can't even understand, then you always think, that's a foreign language yeah, ... sometimes you just have to shake your head, but I don't think it's a bad language ... I think a dialect is never bad.'

(Bertha-82)

Corpus – Trend & Panel Study



Challenges with Panel and Trend Studies

Panel Studies

Comparability across time periods
Paucity of Data / Small n's
Heterogeneous samples
Too few data points
Long gaps in time-points
Individual style changes
Individual biological changes
Individual life event changes
Interviewer/Interviewee relationships
Changes from above/below
Age-grading

Trend Studies

Comparability across generations
Appropriately stratified sample
Heterogeneous speakers
Too many data points
Binned versus continuous variables
Individual styles
Generational biological differences
Individual life trajectories
Interviewer/Interviewee relationships
Changes from above/below
Age-grading

Methods

- **Sociolinguistic Interviews**

- Labovian-style, casual interview questions
- Same interview instrument used in 1982 and 2017

- **Transcription/Annotation**

- Native Swabian speakers
- Transcription Guidelines and Swabian Orthography
- Reviewed/Corrected by Principal Investigator

- **Quantitative Analyses**

- Frequency analyses
- Generalized Linear Mixed Models with Random Effects (GLMER)
- Principal Components Analysis (PCA)

- **Qualitative Assessment**

- Quasi-Ethnographic Investigations

17 Linguistic Variables under Investigation

ID	Name	SWG ~ STD	Examples (Swabian Orthography)
PHONOLOGICAL:			
STP	-st Palatalisation	[ʃt] ~ [st]	da <u>darfsch</u> ja bloß hundertdreißig fahre in Italien
AIS1	ai Diphthong Shift (mhd i)	[ɔɪ] ~ [aɪ] mhd /ei/	~ braucht da <u>kö</u> <u>machst</u> ~ <u>machs</u> 'do/make'
AIS2	ai Diphthong Shift (mhd ei)	[əɪ] ~ [aɪ] mhd /i/	da <u>kein</u> ~ <u>köi</u> 'none'
ANN	an Nasalisation	[ã] ~ [a]	<u>mä</u> <u>kä</u> es mit
FRV1	ö Front Rounded Vowel	[ɛ] ~ [ø]	so gut wie <u>meeg</u>
FRV2	eu Front Rounded Vowel	[aɪ] ~ [ɔɪ]	bin gern auf <u>Bair</u>
FRV3	ü Front Rounded Vowel	[i] ~ [y]	dann ist d <u>Kiche</u>
LEO	Long e Opening	läaben ~ leben	d nâ Kan
MORPHO-SYNTACTIC:			
EDP	Verbal Plural Inflection	[əd] ~ [ən]	die <u>findea</u>
IRV1	Irregular Verb: gehen	[gangə] ~ [ge:ən]	willsch du an Tei
IRV2	Irregular Verb: stehn	[ʃtandə] ~ [ʃte:ən]	lässt mä no e ha
IRV3	Irregular Verb: haben	[hən] ~ [ha:bən]	er <u>hen</u> e aldes H
SAF1	Swabian Affix: -le	-le ~ -chen/-lein	dass er <u>gäng</u> di
SAF2	Swabian Affix: ver-	ver- ~ er-/zer-	nâ <u>verzählet</u> s
SAF3	Swabian Affix: na-	nâ- ~ hin-	ich glaub net, da
SAF5	Swabian Affix: ge-	θ ~ ge-	un hen hier e Ha
PVB	Periphrastic Subjunctive	däd ~ würde	es <u>däd</u> beeinflusse

Social Factors

Fixed Effects:

1. Recording Year – 1982 and 2017
2. Community – Gmünd and Stuttgart
3. Speaker Sex – male and female
4. Swabian Orientation – continuous scale from 1 to 5
5. Speaker Mobility – continuous scale from 1 to 5

Random Effects:

Interviewer Name – five interviewers

Speaker ID – 20 speakers, 40 interviews

Swabian Orientation Index (SOI)

Swabian Allegiance:

- 1-1. Self-Declared Swabian: Are you a 'real' Swabian?
5=definitely, 4=maybe, 3=don't know, 2=not really, 1=no
- 1-2. Non-Swabian Friends: Do you have friends who are NOT Swabian?
5=no, 4=a few, 3=don't know, 2=many, 1=a lot
- 1-3. Swabian Ridicule: Do they laugh at how you speak?
5=always, 4=sometimes, 3=don't know, 2=not really, 1=not at all
- 1-4. Accommodation: Do you change how you speak?
5=not at all, 4=a little, 3=don't know, 2=a lot, 1=always

Swabian Cultural Competence:

- 3-1. Swabian Knowledge: Are there different Swabian dialects?
5=considerable, 4=some, 3=don't know, 2=not much, 1=none
- 3-2. Swabian Specialties: Do you know how to make Spätzle? Maultaschen?
5=of course, 4=somewhat, 3=don't know, 2=not well, 1=not at all
- 3-3. Swabian People & Jokes: Do you know [various well-known Swabians]?
5=of course, 4=somewhat, 3=don't know, 2=not well, 1=not at all
- 3-4. Swabian Activities: Do you participate in Hocketse & local activities?
5=always, 4=some, 3=don't know, 2=not much, 1=never

Swabian Language Attitudes:

- 2-1. Opinion of Swabian Language: What do you think of the Swabian language?
5=super, 4=good, 3=don't know, 2=not good, 1=awful
- 2-2. Job Prospects for Swabians: Is it difficult to find a job when you speak Swabian?
5=great, 4=good, 3=no impact/don't know, 2=maybe some, 1=very difficult
- 2-3. Swabians Speaking German: Is it odd when a Swabian speaks standard German?
5=very odd/awful, 4=funny, 3=don't know, 2=good, 1=great
- 2-4. Non-Swabians Speaking Swabian: Is it odd when a non-Swabian speaks Swabian?
5=very odd/awful, 4=funny, 3=don't know, 2=good, 1=great

Swabian Language Usage:

- 4-1. Parents Speak Swabian: Do your parent speak Swabian?
5=both, 3=one, 1=neither
- 4-2. Swabian with Friends & Family: Do you speak Swabian with ...?
5=considerable, 4=some, 3=don't know, 2=not much, 1=none
- 4-3. Swabian with Neighbors: Do you speak Swabian with ...?
5=considerable, 4=some, 3=don't know, 2=not much, 1=none
- 4-4. Swabian with Others: Do you speak Swabian with ...?
5=considerable, 4=some, 3=don't know, 2=not much, 1=none

Positive SOI Examples

Annelise-1982:

e echter Schwââb isch ôifach so ôiner, der sich als Schwââb fühlt.

'a real Schwab is simply someone who feels like a Schwab.'

Louise-2017:

i bin e Schwââb und bleib ôiner.

'I'm a Schwab and will stay one.'

Example of Changing SOI

Ricarda-1982:

die Annie zum Beispiel, derer gfällt s net, wenn i schwäbisch schwätz. es würd net zu mir passe. sie meint schweizerisch oder österreichisch würd besser zu mir passe. des würd sich so lätschig anhöre.

'Annie for example, doesn't like it when I speak Swabian. It wouldn't go with me. She thinks Swiss German or Austrian German would go better with me. [Swabian] would sound so slouchy.'

Swabian Mobility Index (SMI)

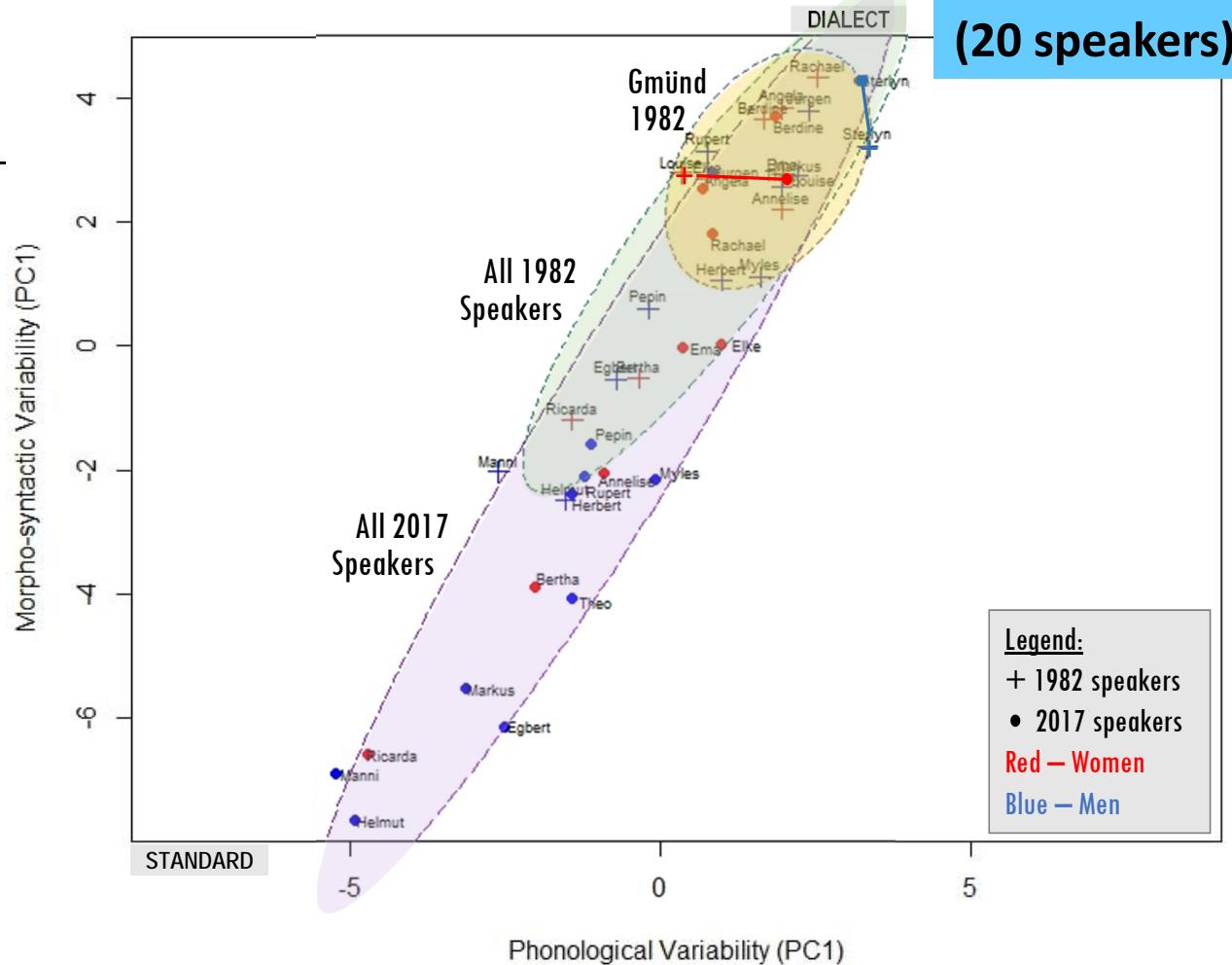


1. Residential Dispersion
2. Residential Distance
3. Workplace Dispersion
4. Workplace Distance

PANEL STUDY (20 speakers)

Dialect Density

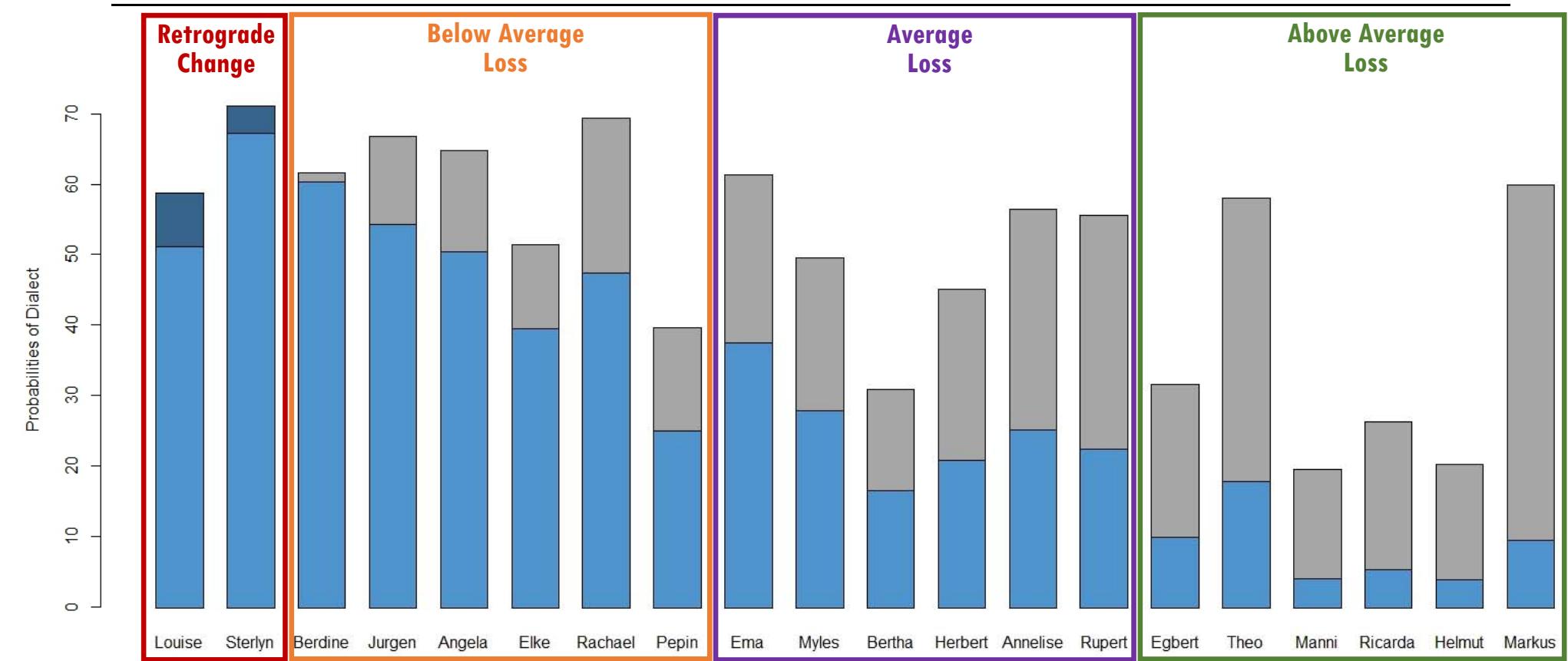
- Greater loss of morpho-syntactic variables than phonological ones
- Greater diversity in use of dialect variants in 2017
- Two speakers show retrograde movement



Dialect Change Over the Years

Dialect Use in 2017
Attrition since 1982

PANEL STUDY
(20 speakers)



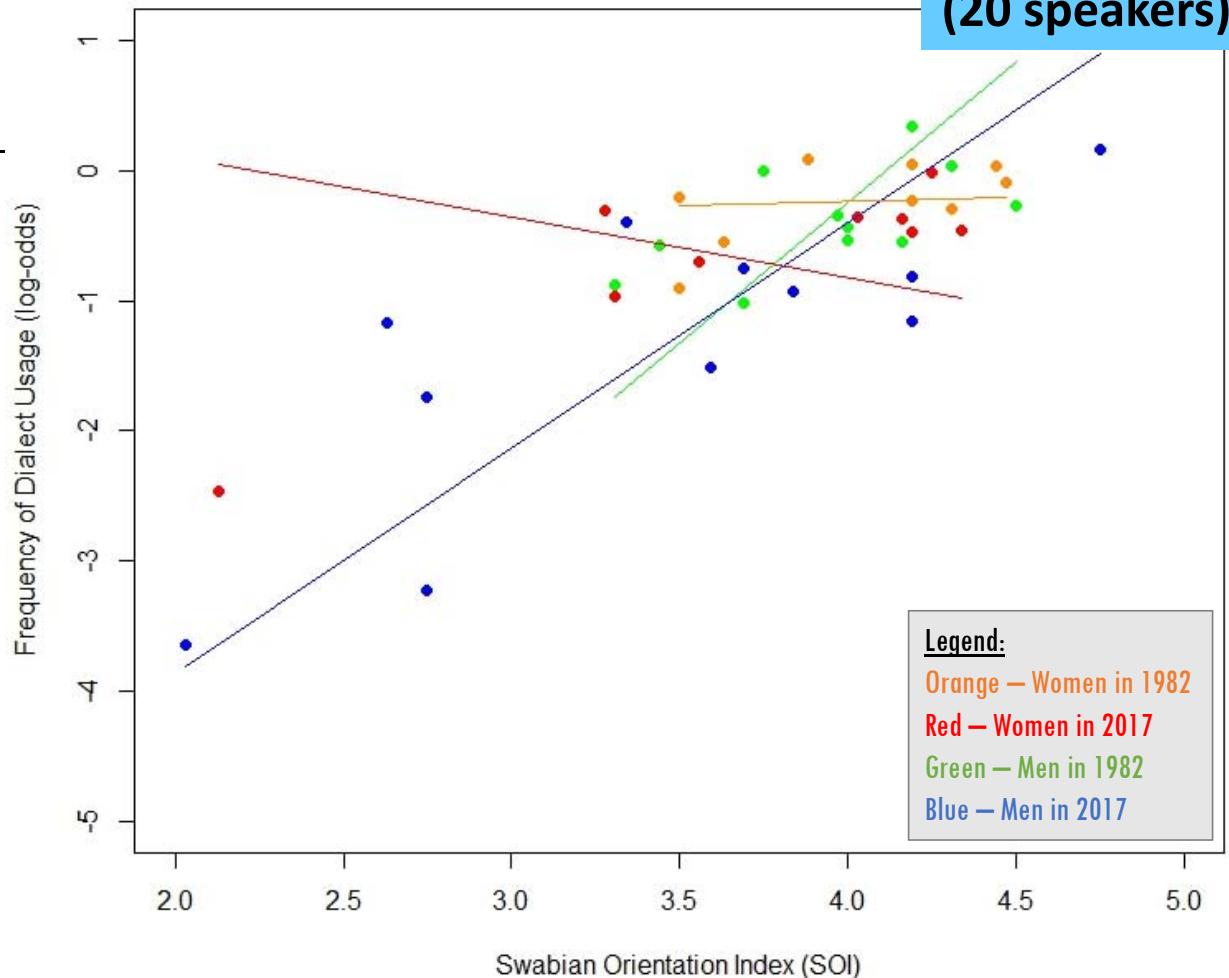
Dialect Change: Year + Sex + Orientation

Year	Sex	Orientation	spkrs	lodds	prob	diff	sig
1982	Men	Low (mean 3.5)	4	-0.6158	35.1%	10.2%	.
		High (mean 4.2)	7	-0.1917	45.2%		
	Women	Low (mean 3.5)	3	-0.2522	43.7%	4.8%	***
		High (mean 4.2)	6	-0.0590	48.5%		
2017	Men	Low (mean 3.0)	7	-1.7768	14.5%	19.9%	***
		High (mean 4.2)	4	-0.6450	34.4%		
	Women	Low (mean 3.1)	4	-1.3245	21.0%	12.7%	**
		High (mean 4.2)	5	-0.6757	33.7%		

Swabian Orientation

- For the men, there is strong positive correlation between Swabian Orientation and dialect usage
- For the women, Swabian Orientation is a less important factor in dialect usage

PANEL STUDY
(20 speakers)



Workplace Mobility

INTERACTION EFFECTS - Year + Sex + Mobility							
Year	Sex	Mobility	spkrs	lodds	prob	diff	sig
1982	Men		11	-0.3459	41.4%	-5.5%	
	Women		9	-0.1234	46.9%		
2017	Men	Low (mean 2.1)	5	-1.2907	21.6%	-2.2%	
		High (mean 3.5)	6	-1.4274	19.4%		
	Women	Low (mean 1.7)	5	-0.7078	33.0%	-11.3%	***
		High (mean 3.5)	4	-1.2844	21.7%		

Some Ethnographic Insights

- ***Opposing World Views***

- Rupert, Ph.D. sociologist, consultant and author, living in Tübingen – 17% DDM attrition
- Jurgen, school director and teacher, living in northern Germany – 10% DDM attrition

- ***Differing Identities***

- Ricarda, local kindergarten teacher, living in suburbs around Stuttgart – 23% DDM attrition
- Elke, local kindergarten teacher, living in small town near Gmünd – 3% DDM attrition

- ***Changing Mobilities***

- Markus, marketing manager for an IT company in Munich – 35% DDM attrition
- Annelise, medical doctor, now living and working in Zurich – 19% DDM attrition

DDM = *Dialect Density Measure*

Trend Study Participants

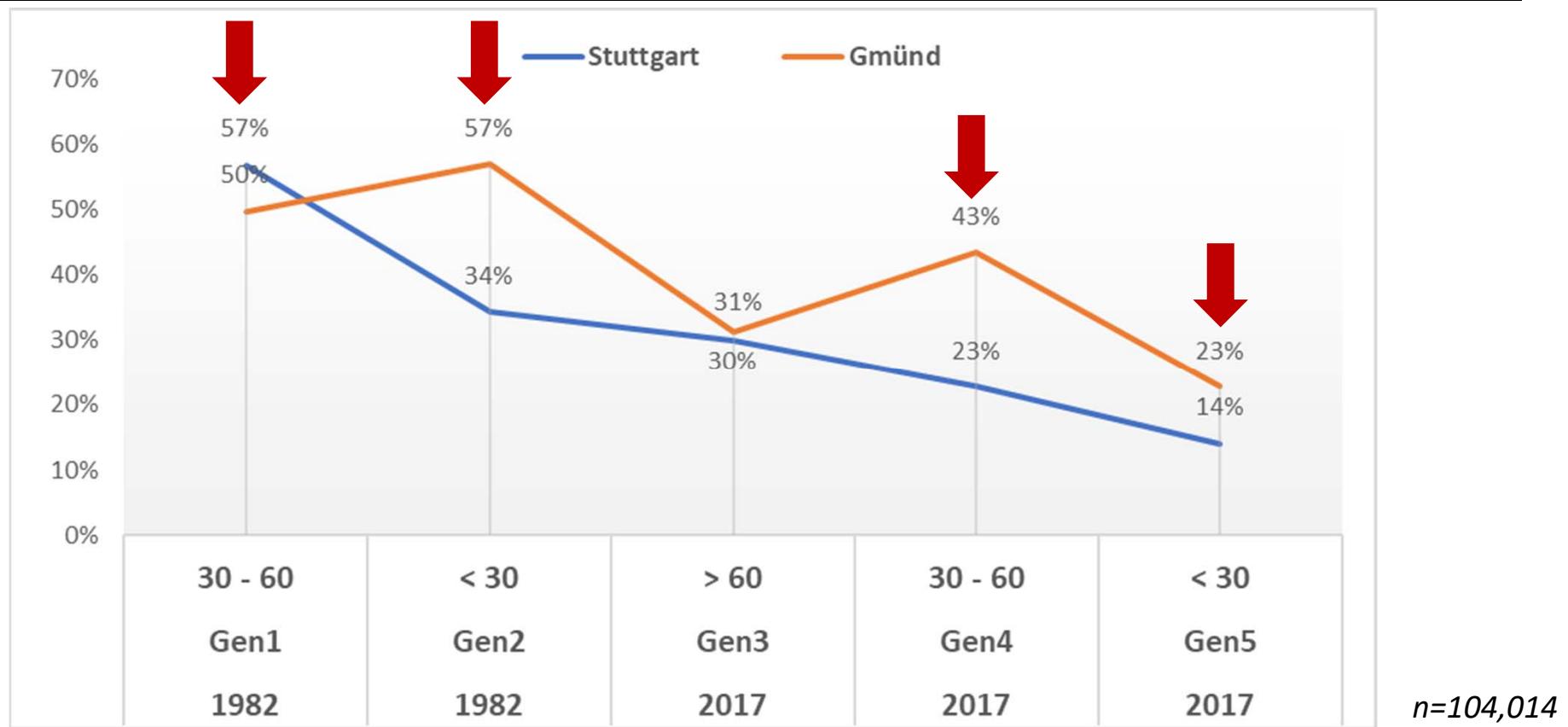
Stuttgart

Recording Year / Generation / Age			Men		Women		TOTAL
			- Abitur	+ Abitur	- Abitur	+ Abitur	
1982	Gen1	30 - 60	0	0	3	0	3
1982	Gen2	< 30	4	6	4	4	18
2017	Gen3	> 60	0	3	2	0	5
2017	Gen4	30 - 60	1	2	2	3	8
2017	Gen5	< 30	2	3	0	4	9
TOTAL			7	14	11	11	43
Men - Abitur			21		22		Women + Abitur
			18	43		25	
			42%			58%	

Schwäbisch Gmünd

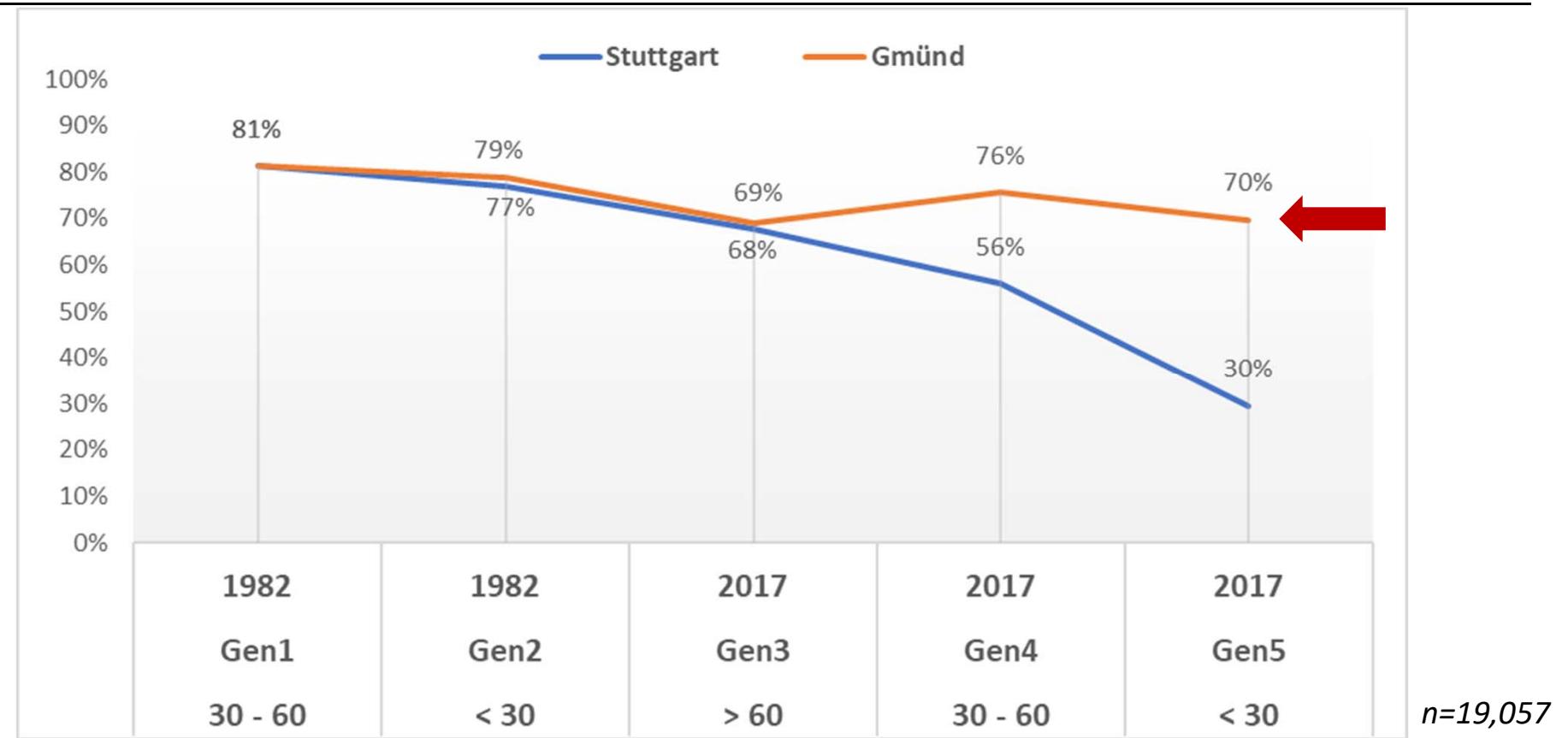
Recording Year / Generation / Age			Men		Women		TOTAL
			- Abitur	+ Abitur	- Abitur	+ Abitur	
1982	Gen1	30 - 60	4	0	4	0	8
1982	Gen2	< 30	0	7	1	3	11
2017	Gen3	> 60	5	3	4	2	14
2017	Gen4	30 - 60	3	7	3	5	18
2017	Gen5	< 30	1	3	2	0	6
TOTAL			13	20	14	10	57
Men - Abitur			33		24		Women + Abitur
			27	57		30	
			47%			53%	

Dialect Density Measure (DDM)

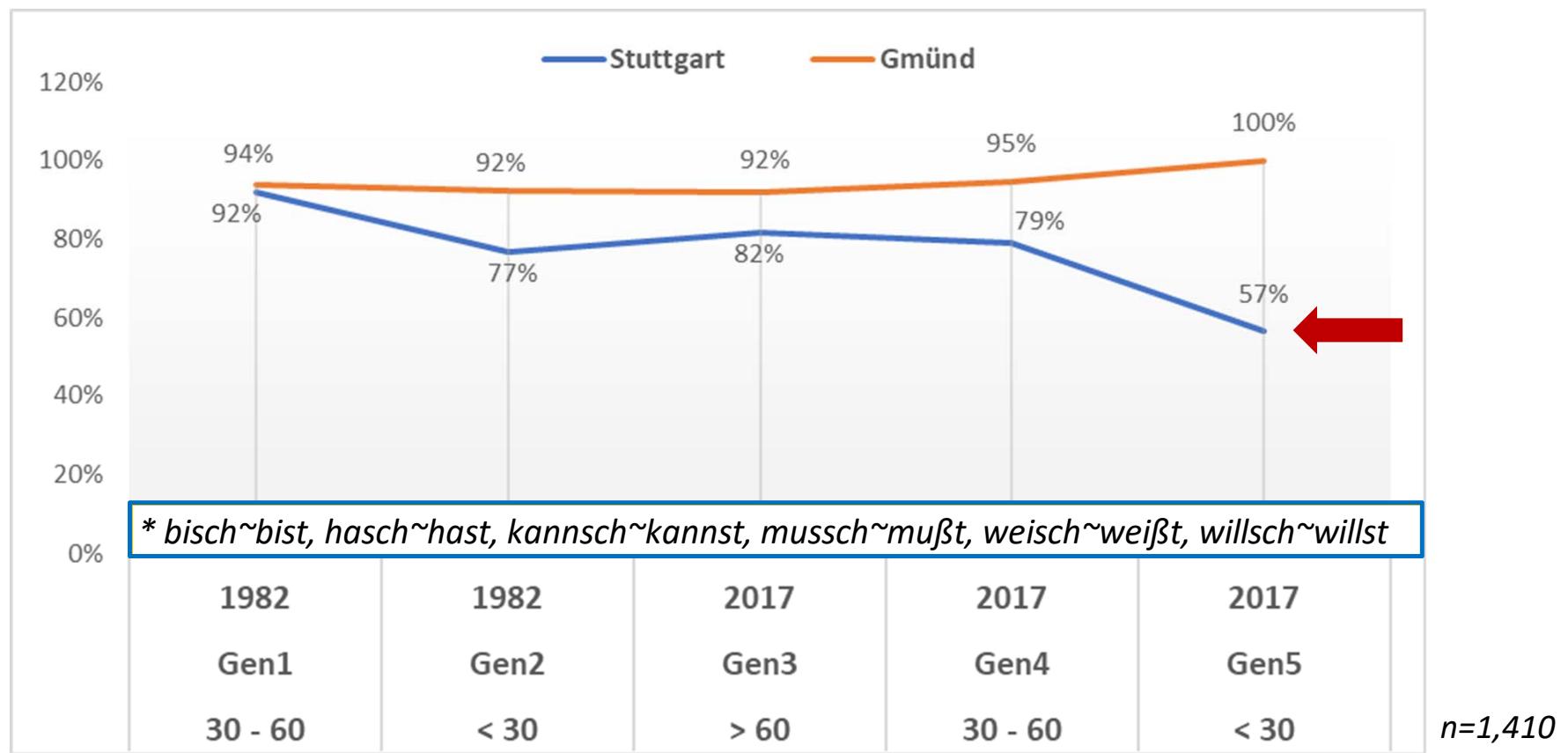


–st Palatalisation (syllable coda position)

TREND STUDY
(100 speakers)

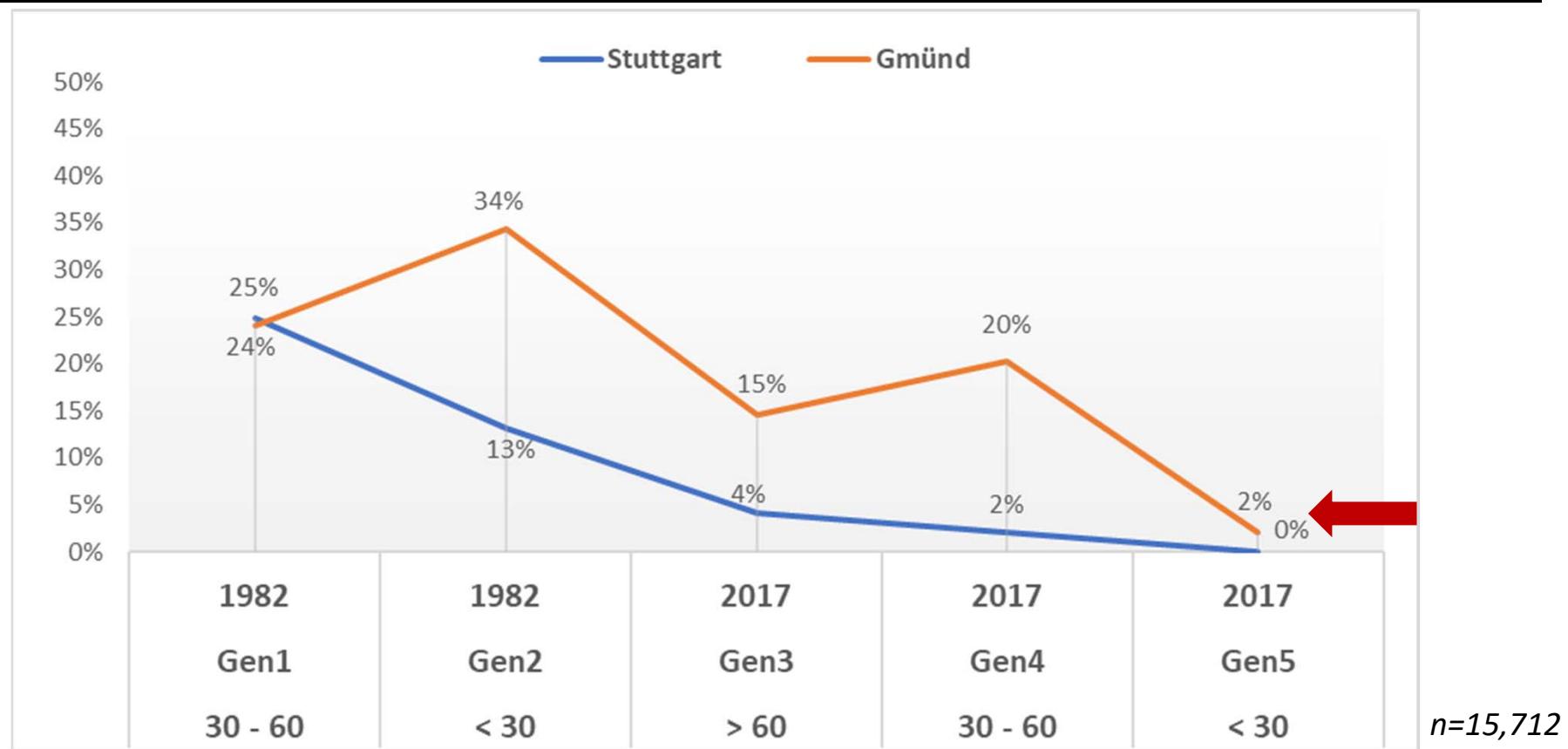


–st Palatalisation for Six Common Verbs



Shifting of ai Diphthong (AIS1)

TREND STUDY
(100 speakers)



In Summary

- **Dialect attrition** is occurring in Swabia but is driven or inhibited by factors such as orientation, mobility, education, prestige and stigma.
- **German urban/rural divide** is ever-present and becoming even more prominent.
- **Gender Effect** can be seen in how differently men and women respond to indices of orientation and mobility.
- **Panel and Trend Studies** provide differing and complementary insights into language change.

Thank you!

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