

Swabian relatives: Variation in the use of the *wo*-relativiser

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Syntactic Change in Progress (SCiP)
Diachronic Generative Syntax 22 (DiGS)
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Research Questions

1. What are the internal and external factors influencing the use of *wo* as a relative marker in Swabian?
2. Is the use of *wo* as a relative marker in Swabian stable or changing?

Selected Research

English relatives:

- Romaine (1982)
- Ball (1984)
- Guy & Bayley (1995)
- Tagliamonte (2002)
- Tagliamonte, Smith, Lawrence (2005)
- D'Arcy & Tagliamonte (2010)
- Hinrichs, Szmercanyi & Bohmann (2015)

German relatives:

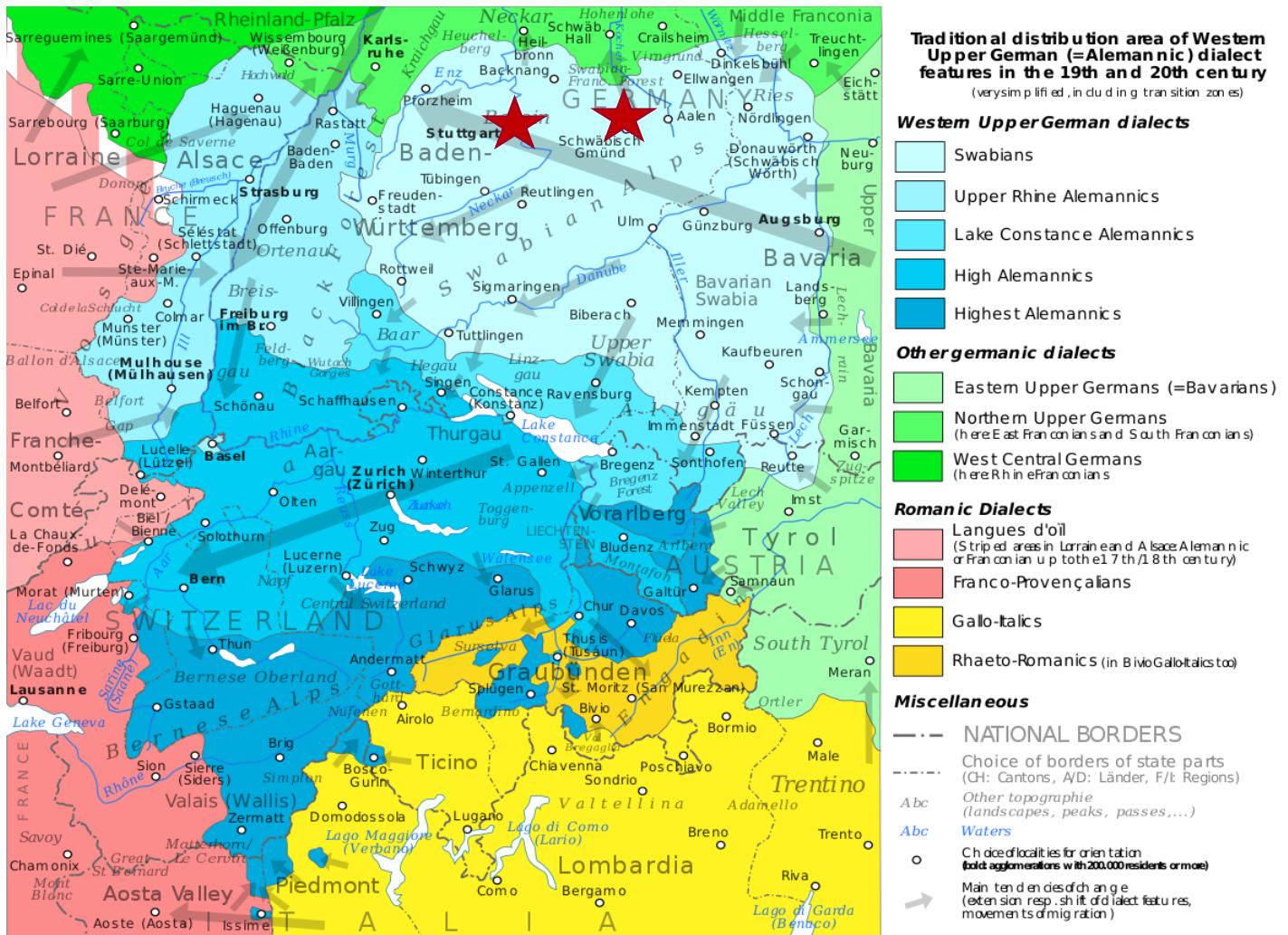
- Wiese (1917)
- Fleischer (1977 & 2004)
- Bayer (1984)
- Pittner (1995 & 2004)
- Günthner (2002)
- de Vries (2002)
- Brandner & Bräuning (2013)
- Poschmann & Wagner (2016)

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



Swabian: Loved or Loathed

also gewisse Weise isch mā da scho e bissle Stolz darauf ä ... desch aber eich zu neunundneunzig Komma fünf Prozent alles witzig und positiv [ge]meint, und niemand meint des in Konnotation wie Baure oder sowas, also des isch scho ganz cool und, von dem her i glaub die Schwabe sind au relativ gut angesehen in Deutschland und so, des isch ja e fleißiges Volk ja.

'in a way, one is a little proud about [Swabian]... it's 99,5% funny and positive, and no one makes a connection to farmers or whatever, it's pretty cool, and because of that, I think Schwabs are viewed relatively well in Germany, they're hard-working people.'

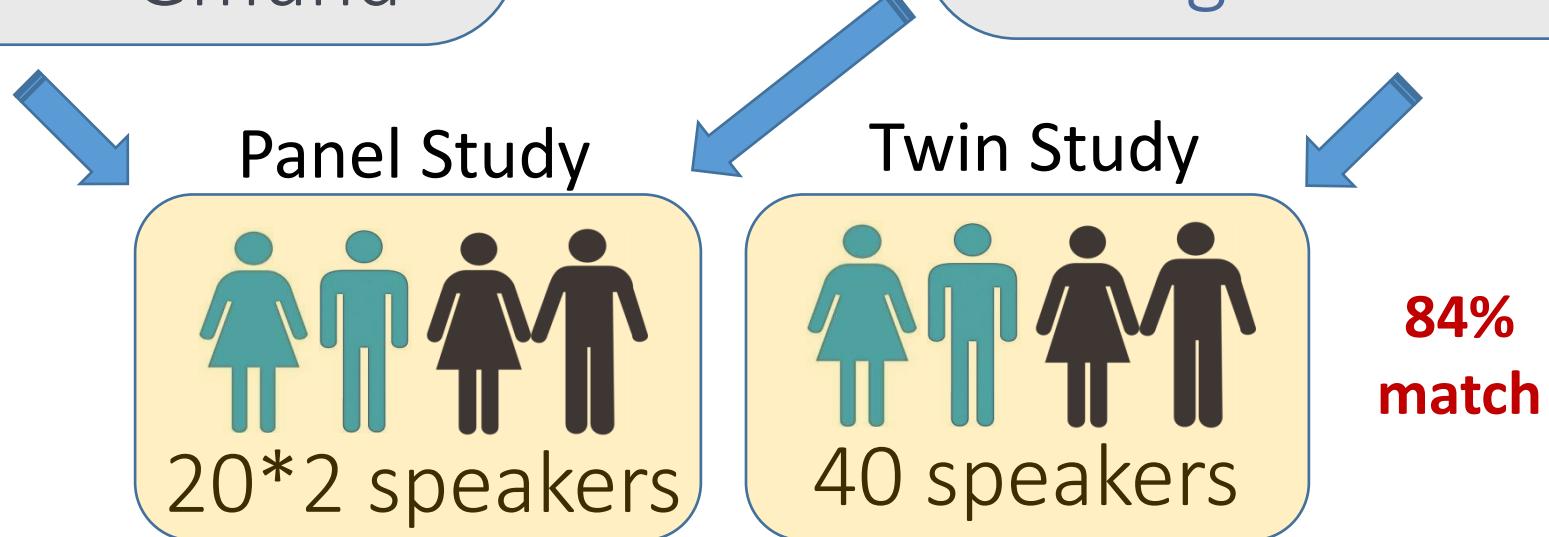
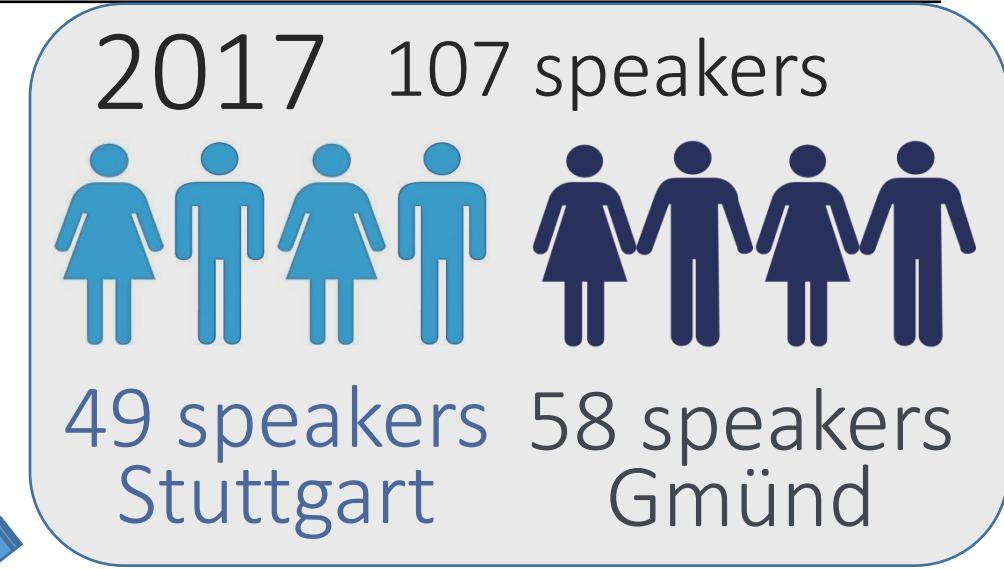
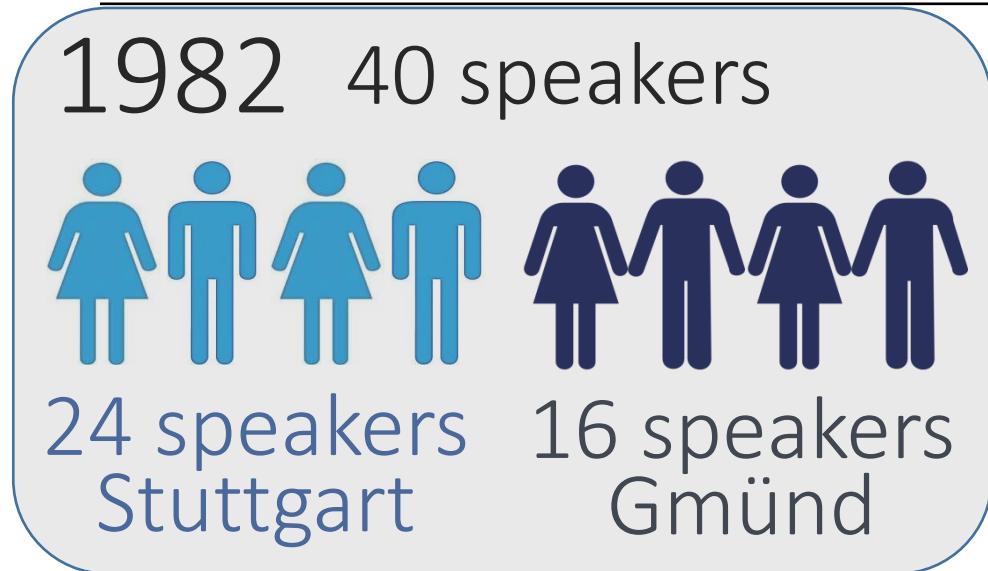
(Fabian 2017)

meine Kinder schämen sich sogar heutzutage Schwäbisch, also die verbinden Schwäbisch mit irgendwas, was sie nicht möchten.... dieser dörfliche Zusammenhalt stoßen die eher ab.

'nowadays my children are actually ashamed of Swabian, well they associate Swabian with something they don't like.... they are more likely to reject this village solidarity.'

(Helmut 2017)

Swabian Corpus



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*)

German System of Relativisation

Source: Duden (2016:1045-1055)

1. inflected *d*-pronouns: *der, die, das, den, dem, denen, deren, dessen*
2. inflected *w*-pronouns: *welcher, welche, welches, welchen, welchem*
3. non-inflected complementisers:
wo 'where'
als 'as', 'than', 'when', 'while'
wie 'how', 'as'
was 'what'
wer 'who'
4. Free or headless relatives, relative adverbs, correlative conjunctions, etc.

Typology for the Lexical Item wo

Interrogative adverb:

wo warn mr dabei?

‘**where** were we in the process?’

(Herbert-1982)

Locative adverb:

Schwââbe bleibet gern dâ wo se gebore sin

‘Schwabs like to stay there **where** they are born’

(Angela-2017)

Temporal adverb:

wo i noch jung war

‘**when** I was still young’

(Ema-1982)

Relative pronoun:

des beschde Daitsch wo s gib

‘the best German **that** there is’

(Angela-1982)

The linguistic variable

es gib erfolgreiche Mensche

'there are successful people

wo *Karriere gmacht hen*

who have made their careers

und jetzt en Haufe Geld verdienet

and now earn a ton of money

es gib au andere

there are also others

die *vielleicht gar net so viel Geld hen*

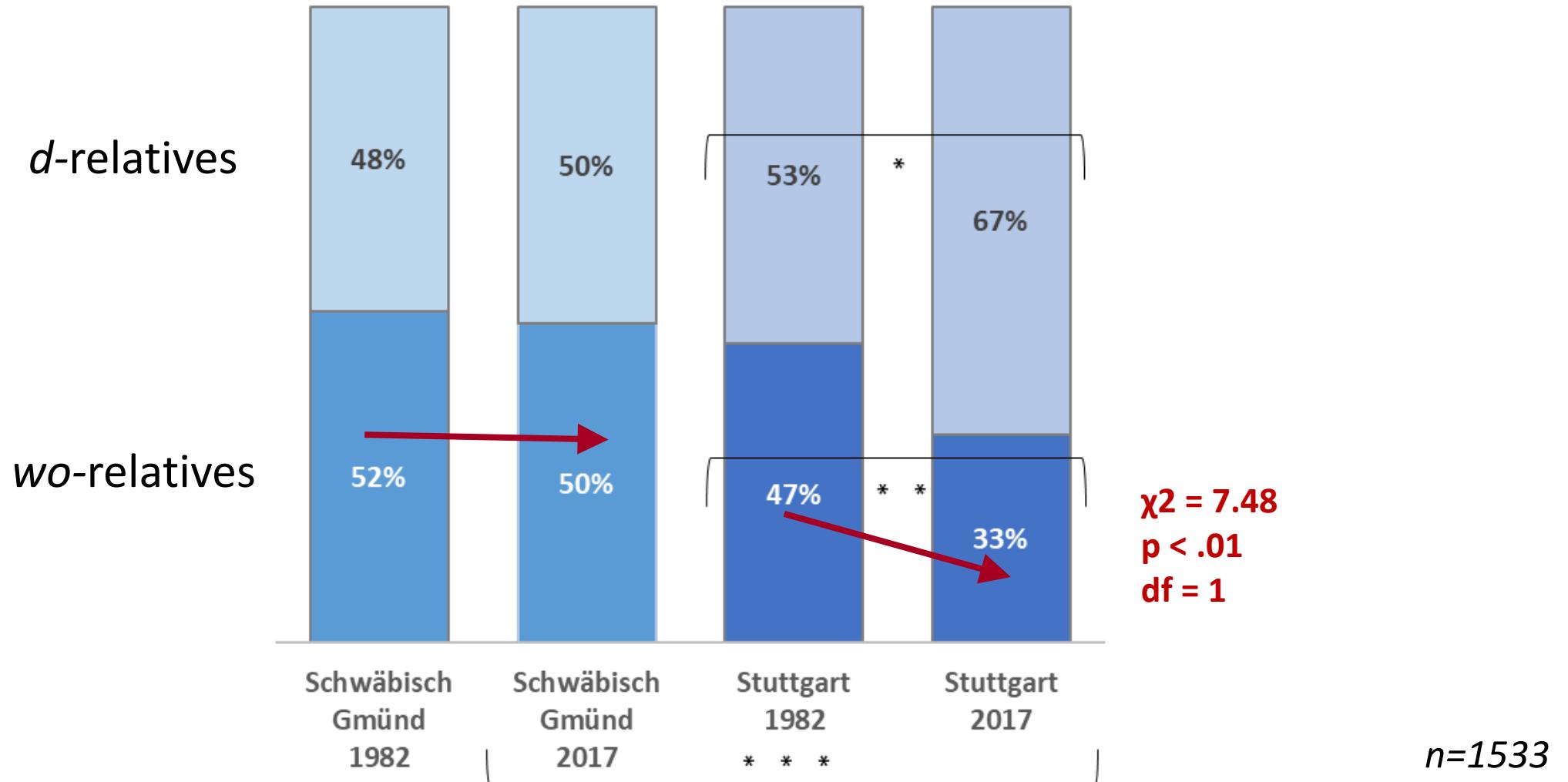
who perhaps don't have so much
money'

(Angela-1982)

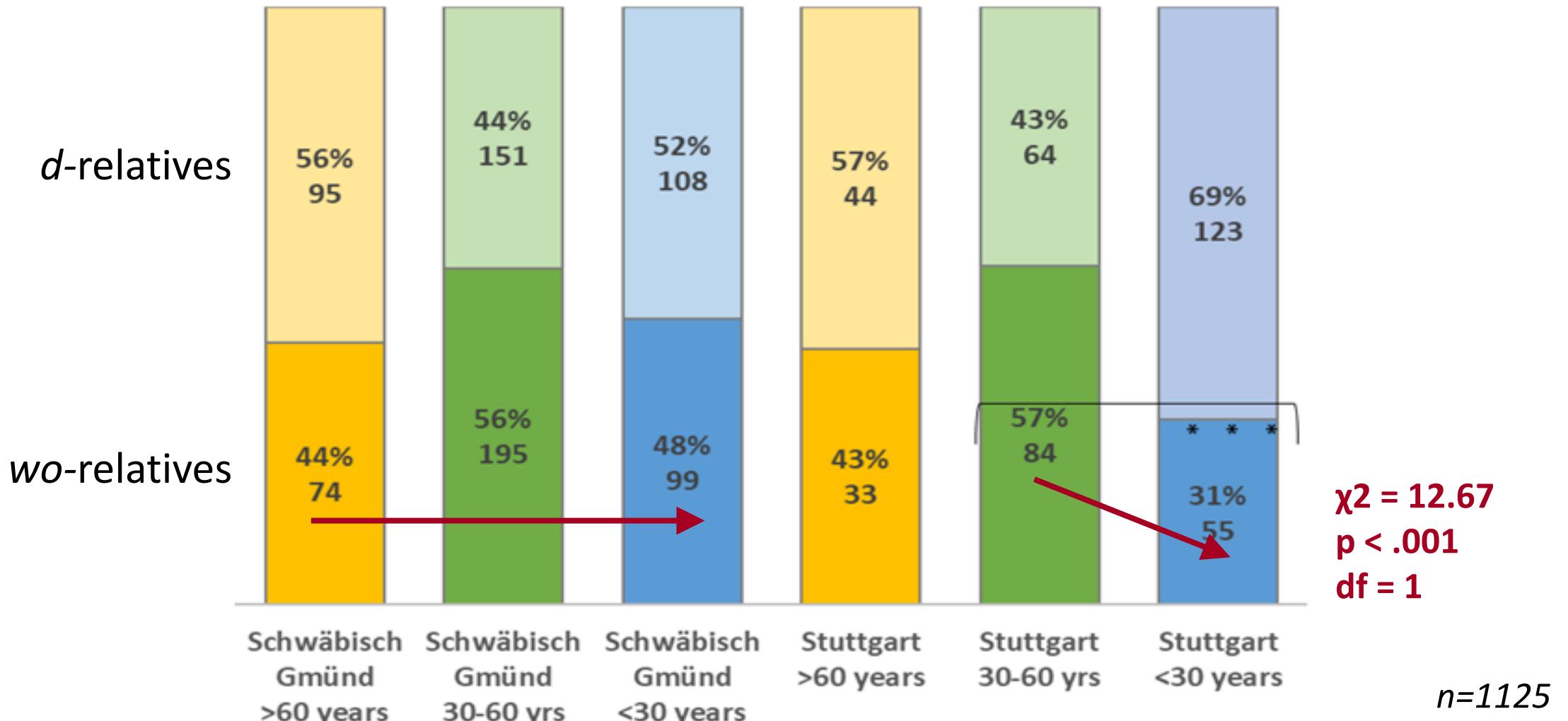
Relative Clauses Defined

- De Vries (2002:14-15) offers the following “defining” properties of relative clauses:
 - a **subordinated clause** disambiguated in German by verb-final syntactic structure
 - “connected to surrounding material by a **pivot constituent**, a constituent semantically shared by the matrix clause and the relative clause.”
- An additional “essential” property of relative constructions is:
 - “the semantic θ-role and the syntactic role that the pivot constituent plays in the relative clause, are in principle **independent** of its roles outside the relative.”

Relativiser Use – Real-Time (Panel Study)

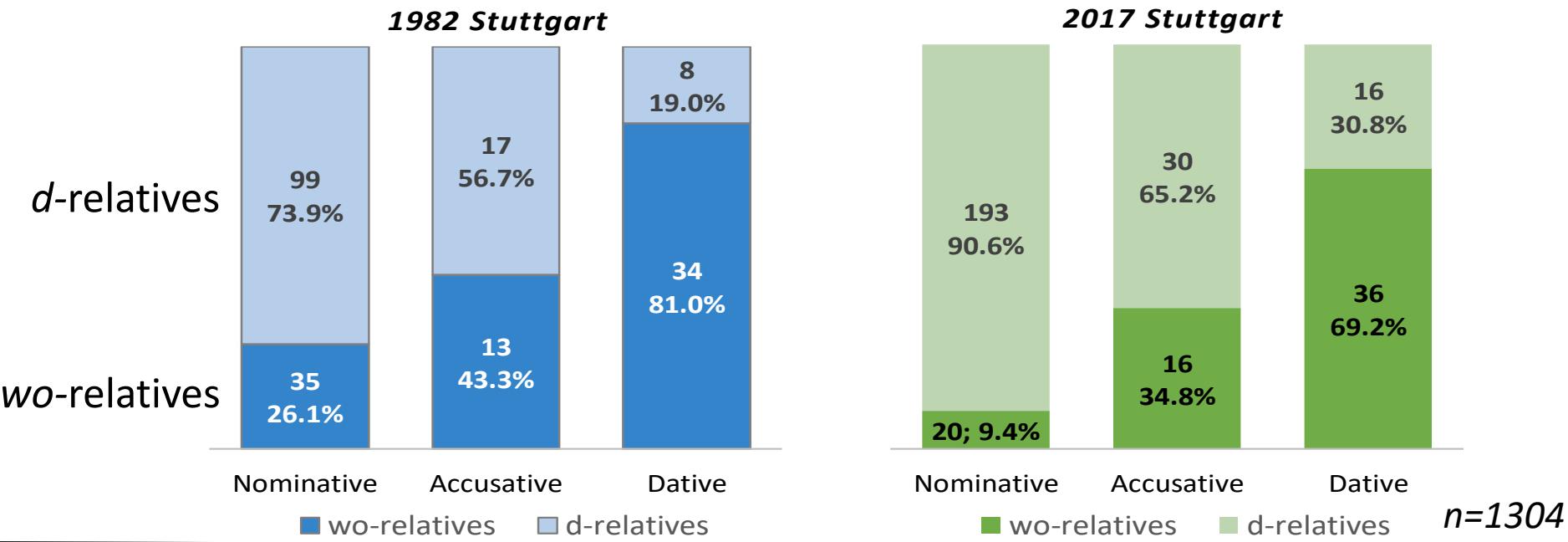
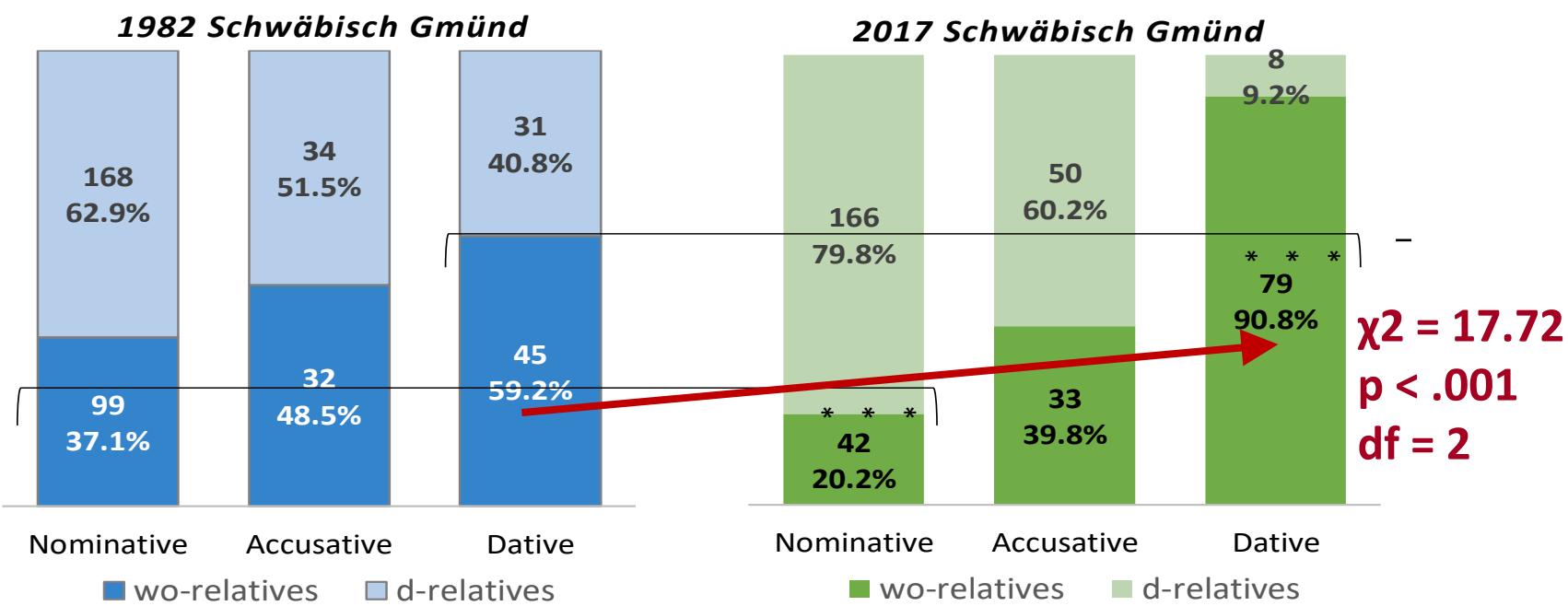


Relativiser Use – Apparent-Time (Twin Study)



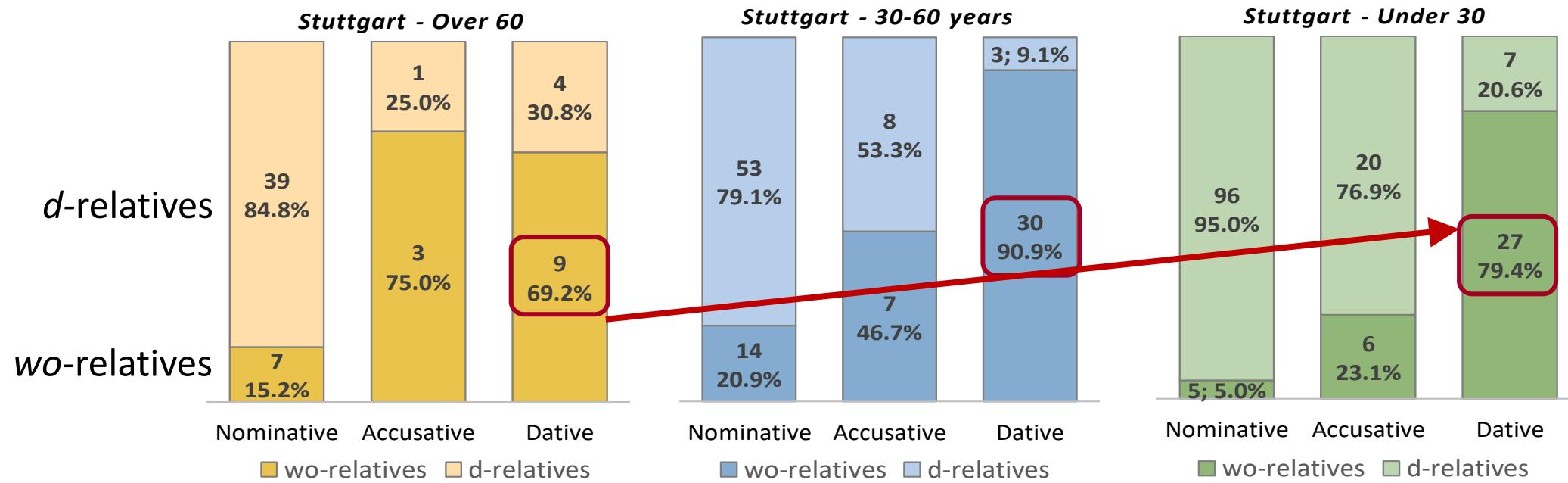
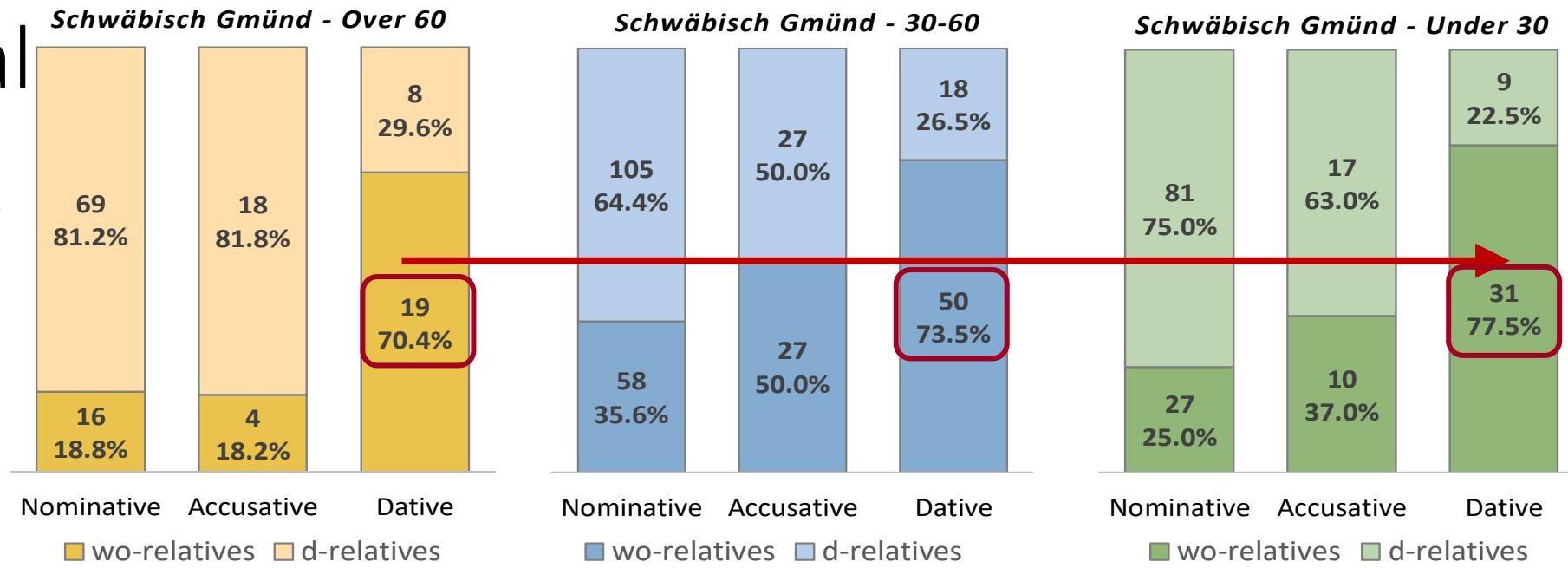
Grammatical Case

Real-Time



Grammatical Case

Apparent-Time



Resumptive wo-relative

des seid die Faule-Weiber-Spätzle, die wo durch Press dorchedricket

'they are the lazy-wife-spätzle, **those that** they push through the press' (Ema-82)

Panel Study	1982		2017	
	Gmünd	Stuttgart	Gmünd	Stuttgart
all relatives	489	234	450	360
resumptive wo	22	19	10	8
% of wo- relatives	4%	8%	2%	2%

Twin Study	> 60 years		30-60 years		> 30 years	
	Gmünd	Stuttgart	Gmünd	Stuttgart	Gmünd	Stuttgart
all relatives	169	77	346	148	207	178
resumptive wo	3	0	8	5	4	4
% of wo- relatives	2%	0%	2%	3%	2%	2%

Predictors Considered

<i>Linguistic Predictors</i>		<i>Social Predictors</i>
1. Restrictiveness	10. Relative Clause Length	1. Recording year
2. Resumptiveness	11. Antecedent Category	2. Speech community
3. Place	12. Antecedent Gender	3. Speaker age group
4. Time	13. Antecedent Number	4. Speaker birthyear
5. Relative Case	14. Antecedent Case	5. Speaker sex
6. Case Matching	15. Antecedent Animacy	6. Speaker education
7. Structural Persistence	16. Antecedent Definiteness	7. Swabian orientation
8. Structural Count	17. Antecedent Length	8. Interlocutor Choice
9. Topic Persistence	18. Antecedent Distance	9. Speaker mobility

Predictors Significant / Non-significant

<i>Linguistic Predictors</i>		<i>Social Predictors</i>
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Multivariate Analyses – Best-Fit Models

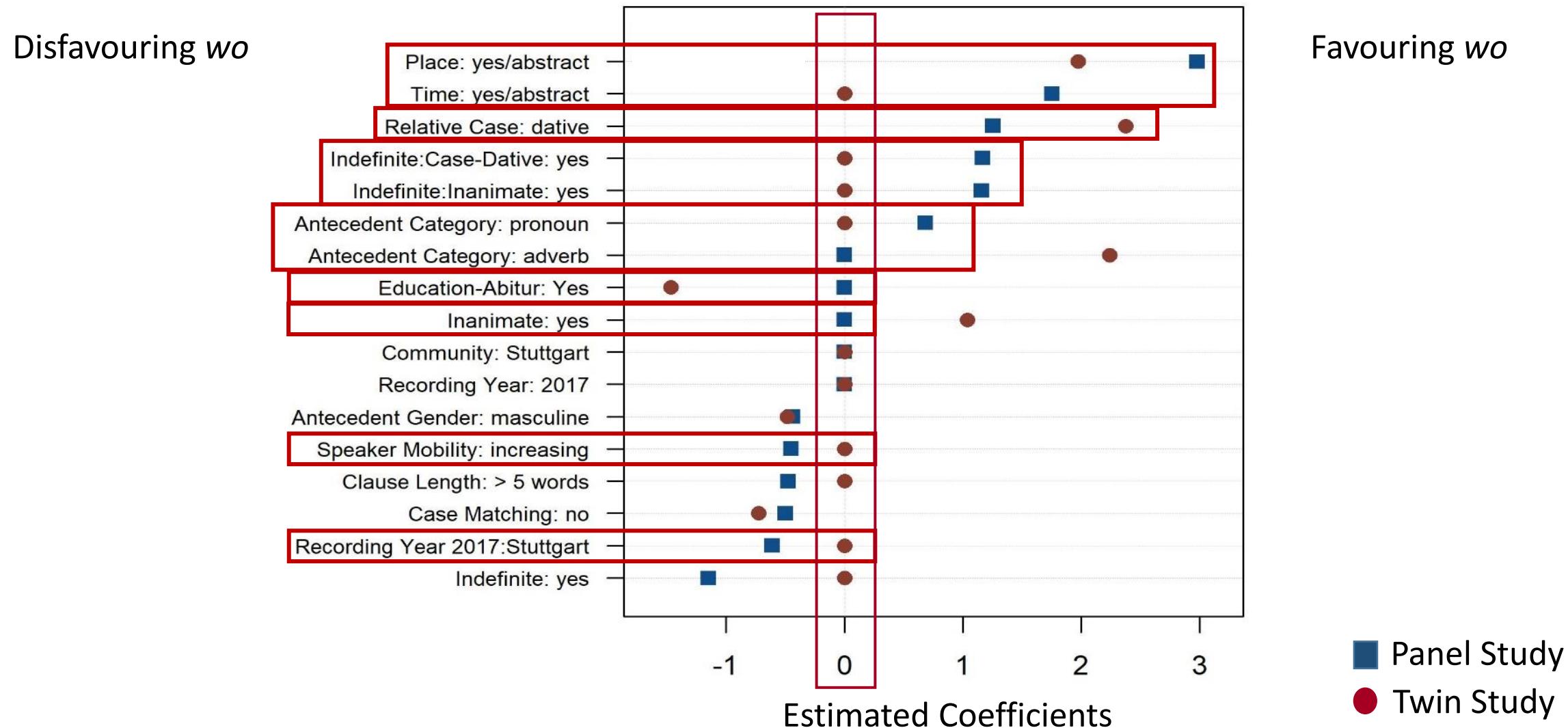
Panel Study

RANDOM EFFECTS:				Tokens = 1575							
Groups	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.	Speakers = 20							
Speaker	(Intercept)	1.486	1.219								
FIXED EFFECTS:											
(Intercept)		Estimate	Std.Error	z-value	Pr(> z)						
		-0.35698	0.41723	-0.856	0.392228						
MAIN EFFECTS:											
Recording Year: 2017		0.12193	0.23349	0.522	0.601543						
Community: Stuttgart		-0.09943	0.60631	-0.164	0.869737						
Speaker Mobility: increasing		-0.45071	0.12622	-3.571	0.000356 ***						
Place: yes and abstract		2.97750	0.26477	11.246	< 2e-16 ***						
Time: yes and abstract		1.75537	0.25320	6.933	4.13e-12 ***						
Clause Length: > 5 words		-0.47582	0.14365	-3.312	0.000925 ***						
Antecedent Gender: masculine		-0.43627	0.16201	-2.693	0.007084 **						
Case Matching: no		-0.49788	0.17170	-2.900	0.003736 **						
Relative Case: dative		1.25542	0.37072	3.386	0.000708 ***						
Definiteness: indefinite		-1.14817	0.21394	-5.367	8.02e-08 ***						
Animacy: inanimate		0.43294	0.23749	1.823	0.068308 .						
Antecedent Category: pronoun		0.68200	0.19659	3.469	0.000522 ***						
INTERACTION EFFECTS:											
Indefinite : Dative Case		1.16738	0.44258	2.638	0.008348 **						
Indefinite: Inanimate		1.15710	0.30609	3.780	0.000157 ***						
Recording Year 2017 : Stuttgart		-0.61340	0.31085	-1.973	0.048461 *						
MODEL STATISTICS:											
R2 Marginal		.4427	Concordance Index: .9078								
R2 Conditional		.6161	Correctly Predicted: 82.5%								
			Baseline Percent: 52.3%								

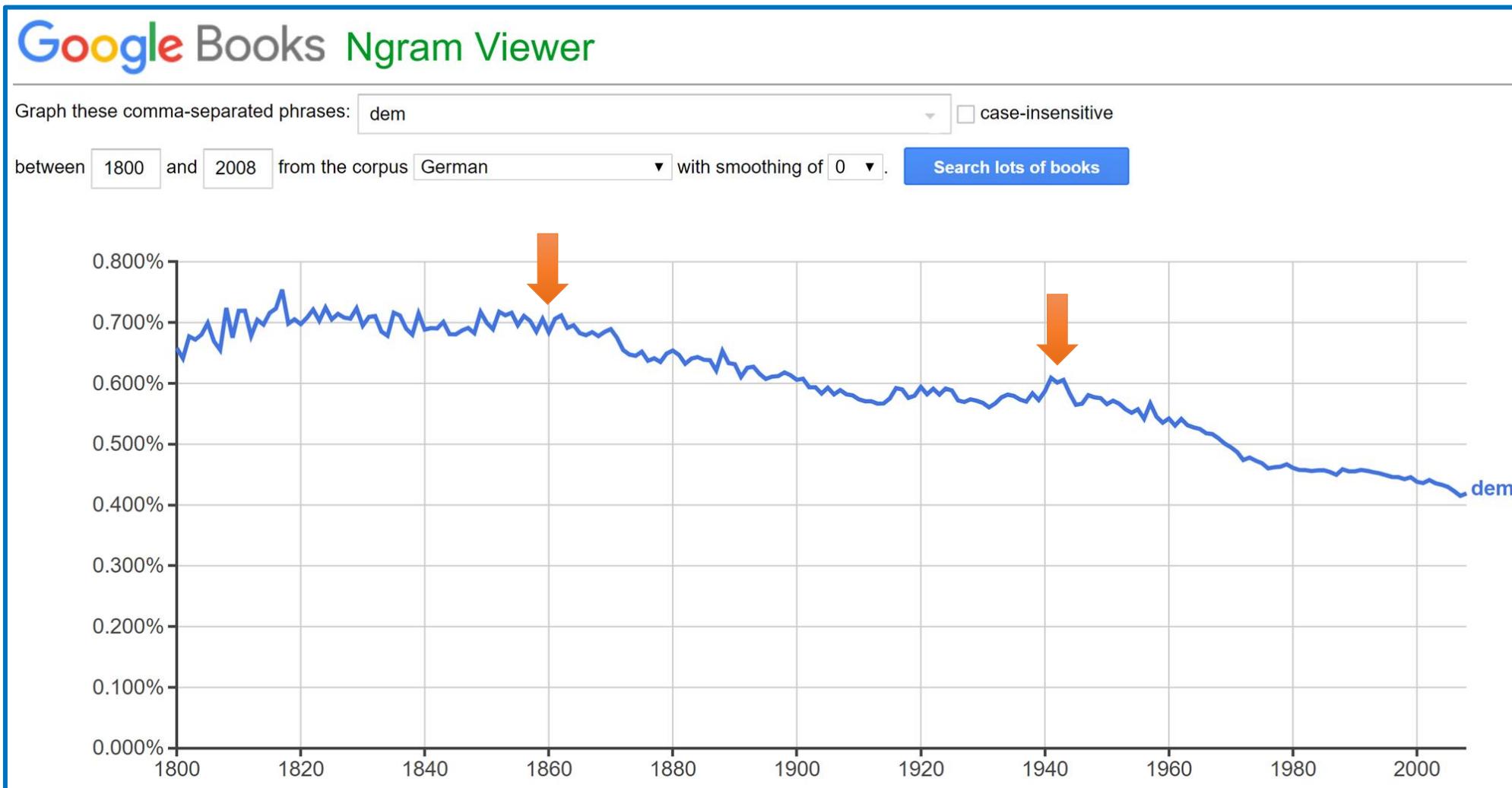
Twin Study

RANDOM EFFECTS:				Tokens = 1162							
Groups	Name	Variance	Std.Dev.	Speakers = 40							
Speaker	(Intercept)	1.54	1.241								
FIXED EFFECTS:											
(Intercept)		Estimate	Std.Error	z-value	Pr(> z)						
		-0.2794	0.3725	-0.750	0.453141						
MAIN EFFECTS:											
Speaker Education: Abitur		-1.4678	0.4408	-3.330	0.000868 ***						
Place: yes and abstract		1.9730	0.2781	7.094	1.30e-12 ***						
Relative Case: dative		2.3761	0.2617	9.079	< 2e-16 ***						
Animacy: inanimate		1.0366	0.2032	5.103	3.35e-07 ***						
Antecedent Case: adverb		2.2378	0.3313	6.754	1.44e-11 ***						
Case Matching: no		-0.7237	0.2009	-3.601	0.000316 ***						
Antecedent Gender: masculine		-0.4846	0.1960	-2.472	0.013441 *						
MODEL STATISTICS:											
R2 Marginal		.4428	Concordance Index: .9183								
R2 Conditional		.6205	Correctly Predicted: 80.9%								
			Baseline Percent: 50.3%								

Multivariate Analyses – Best-Fit Models ($p < .05$)



Discussion – Demise of the Dative?



Discussion – Sociohistorical Evolution

wo versus so/som

1. *so*-relatives were widespread in the same area as the *wo*-relatives, upper German dialect areas.
2. *wo*-relatives started appearing in the literature about the same time that *als* changed to *wie*.
3. *som*-relatives are found in other German and Scandinavian varieties.
4. *wo* as an equative particle provides an explanation for its use in both non-restrictive clauses and as a doubly filled complementizer.

Brandner & Bräuning (2013)

Discussion – Some Additional Thoughts

- ***German urban/rural divide***
 - The Stuttgart dialect has become more standardized (a developing Regiolect), while the Schwäbisch Gmünd dialect has retained more traditional features
- ***Emerging Stuttgart Ethnolect***
 - Exceptionally high use of *wo*-relatives among Stuttgarter immigrants to the exclusion of *d*-relatives
- ***Grammaticalisation / Semantic Bleaching***
 - The use of *wo* as a relativiser may be going through a process of semantic bleaching and decategorisation
- ***Education and prescriptivism***
 - Higher levels of education suppress speakers' usage of non-standard variants

Closing

des beschde Daitsch wo es gib
,the best German there is'

(Angela-1982)

Danke! Thank you!

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Swabian Corpus

Panel Study
(n=40 interviews)

Stuttgart

Age Group	No Abitur		Abitur		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Older	0	1	4	1	6
Younger	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	0	2	4	1	7

Twin Study
(n=40 interviews)

Stuttgart

Age Group	No Abitur		Abitur		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Older	0	1	0	0	1
Younger	3	3	5	2	13
TOTAL	3	4	5	2	14

Schwäbisch Gmünd

Age Group	No Abitur		Abitur		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Older	1	2	0	0	3
Younger	0	1	6	3	10
TOTAL	1	3	6	3	13

Schwäbisch Gmünd

Age Group	No Abitur		Abitur		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Older	1	2	1	1	5
Younger	5	4	7	5	21
TOTAL	6	6	8	6	26