

# After Acquisition: Variable Subject Pronoun Realization Heritage Language Variation and Change in Toronto

## Methods

### 6 languages

3 generations / language  
3 age groups / generation  
4 speakers / age group

### 240 speakers

Balanced for sex  
Varying in fluency, usage,  
and ethnic orientation

## HLVC Participant Criteria

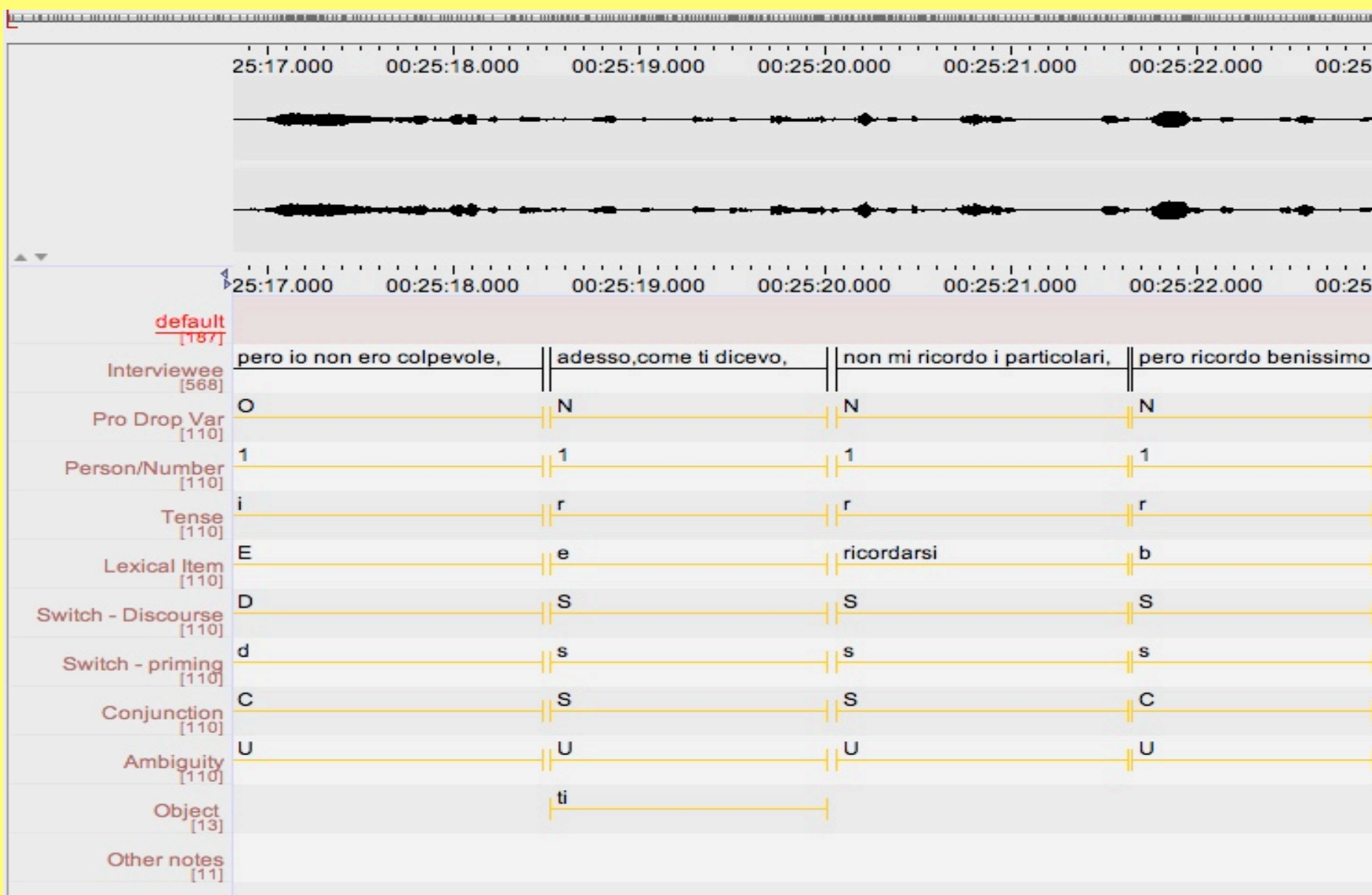
- 1st generation:** born in homeland and moved to GTA after age 18  
**2nd generation:** born in GTA (or came from homeland before age 6)  
and parents qualify as 1st generation  
**3rd generation:** born in GTA and parents qualify as 2nd generation

All participants are all fluent enough for a one-hour interview in the HL

## Data collection

- Sociolinguistic interviews from **Heritage Language Database** (HerLD) and **Toronto English Archive** (TEA)
- Interviews conducted and recorded by community members
- Transcription and coding in ELAN
- Frequency, Correlation, and Logistic Regression conducted in R

## Time-aligned transcription with ELAN



[www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/elan](http://www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/elan)

- ✓Initial transcription can be broad
- ✓Variables can be coded and checked in the transcription document
- ✓More context is available during analysis

## Sample Size

Generation	Russian		Cantonese		Italian		English	
	Speakers	Tokens	Speakers	Tokens	Speakers	Tokens	Speakers	Tokens
1 <sup>st</sup>	5	1743	7	700	2	211	N/A	N/A
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7	1690	8	802	6	547	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	12	3433	15	1502	8	758	6	215

## Next Comparisons

- To the homeland varieties
  - Faetar – we have the data
  - Russian National Corpus
  - Cantonese – May Chen's dissertation (in progress) data
  - Italian?
  - Ukrainian?
  - Korean?
- To the English spoken in these Cantonese and Italian communities

## The Variable

Variable subject pronoun (“pro-drop”)

I1M75A  
Ø Avevo 14 anni e mia moglie ce ne aveva 13.  
Ø (I) was 14 and my wife was only 13...

Io ho detto “Ok, ce la faccio, io.”  
I said, “OK, I’ll do it.”

R3F25A  
Я очень медленно читаю, ...  
I read very slowly,...

Ø Начала немножко такой research делать.  
Ø (I) gradually started to do some research on this.

C1F50A  
yan-1 wai-6 Ø mou-5 ga-1 yan-4 hai-5 dou-6  
Because Ø (I) do not have any relatives here.

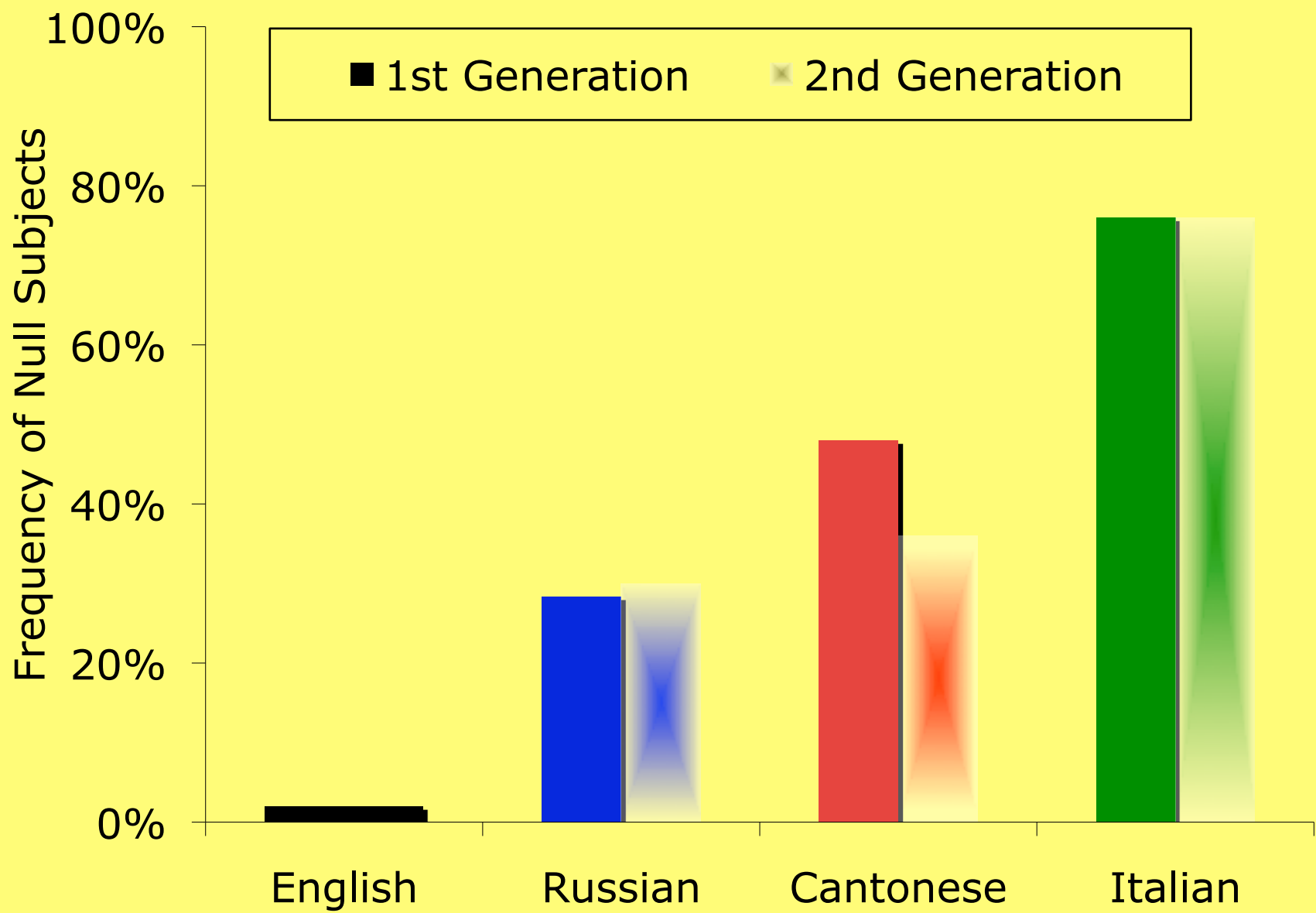
C2F21B  
ngo-5 mou-5 mat-1 yan-3 jeung-4  
I do not have any memories.

F1M76A  
Ø diževande “la kəʎi:ə” ma o’rə Ø sunde modernitsə  
Ø (They) said “the spoon” but now Ø (they) are modernized

is avandə pia də fandʒ  
They got muddy feet.

## Results - Linguistic

### Pro-drop Rate



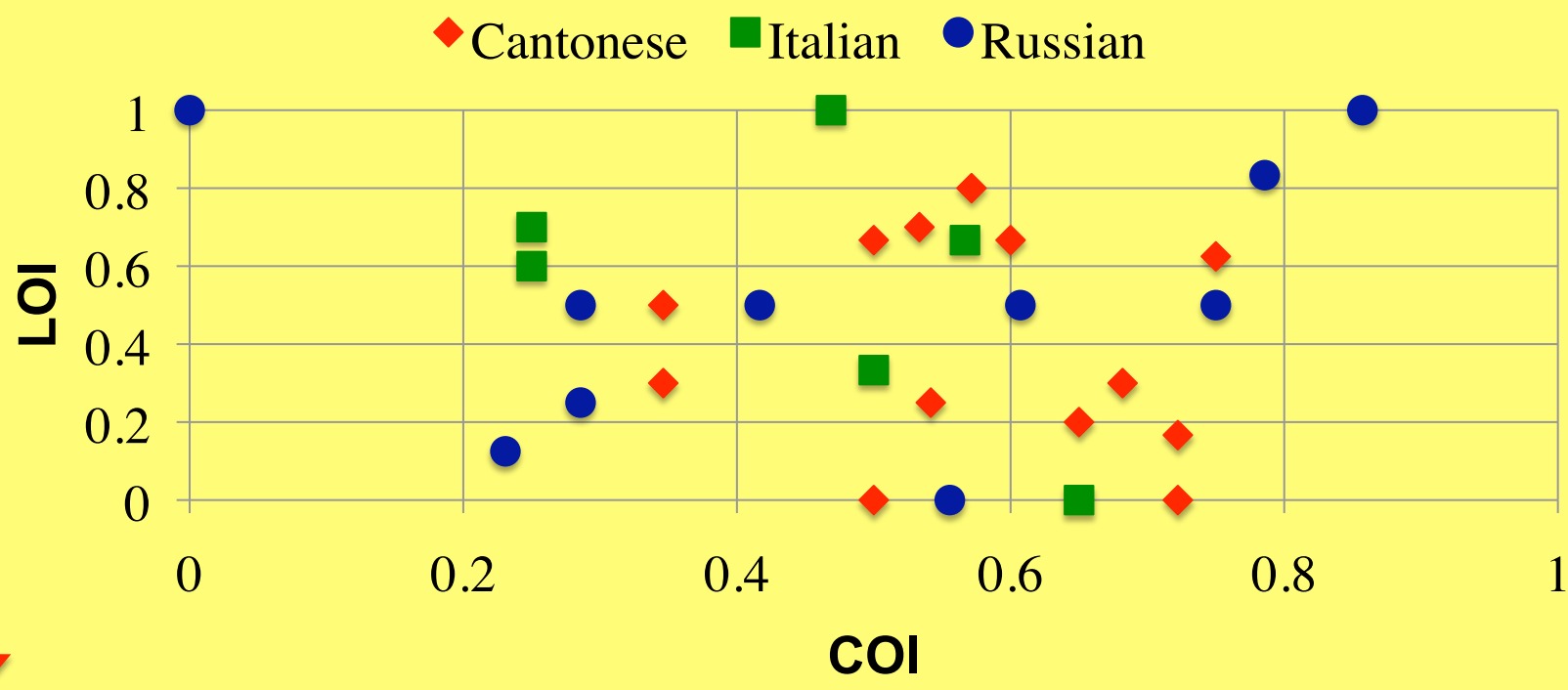
## Linguistic Factor Effects

	English	Russian	Cantonese	Italian
Generation	N/A	not sig.	not sig.	not sig.
Subject Continuity	↓	↓	Same +	Same +
Conjunction	↓	↓	Conjunction -	not sig.
Subj. Cont. * Conjunction	Conj. Same + Conj. Diff. -	Conj. Same + Main Diff. -	not sig.	not sig.
Tense	Past +	not sig.	not sig.	not sig.

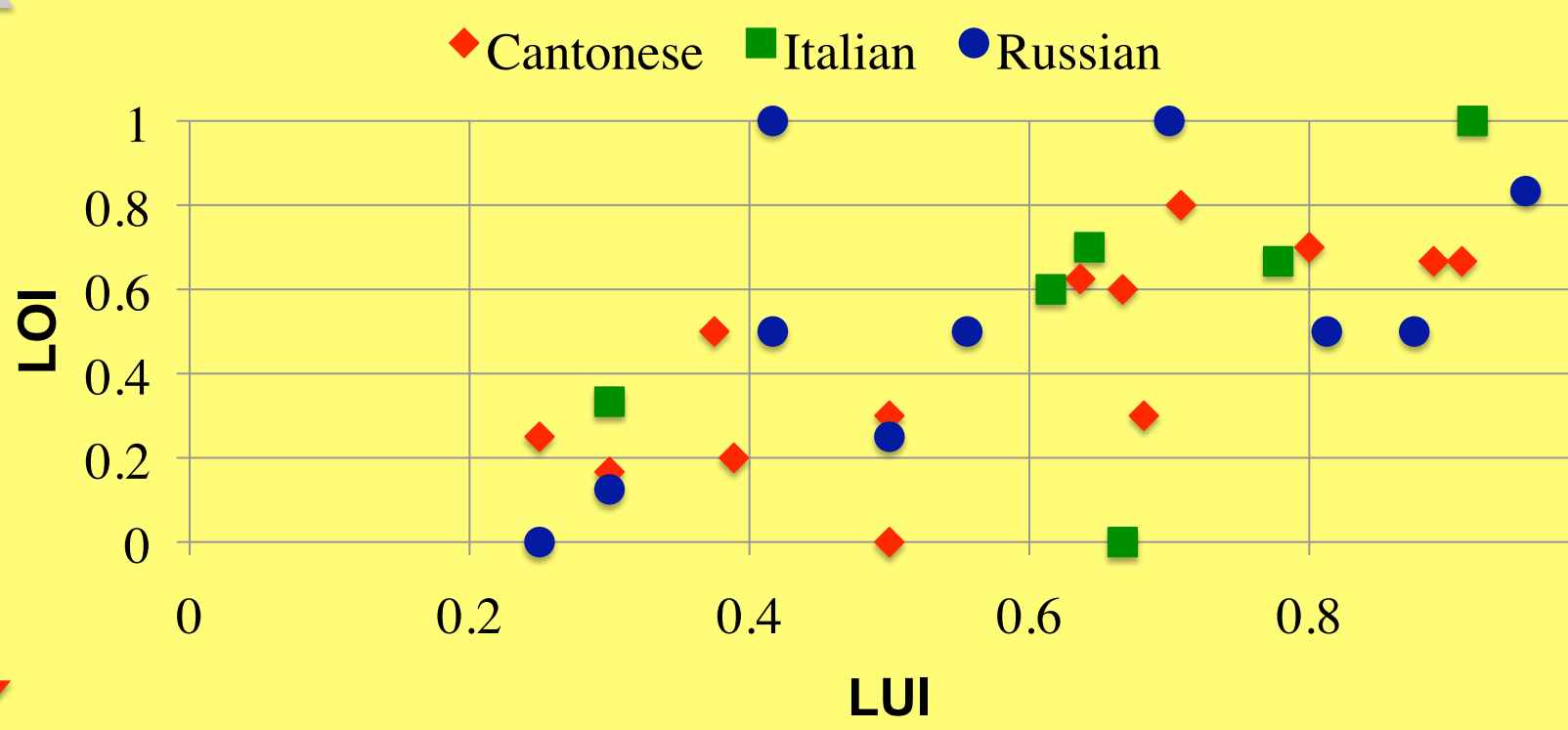
not sig. = Not Significant, N/A = Not Applicable

## Results - Social

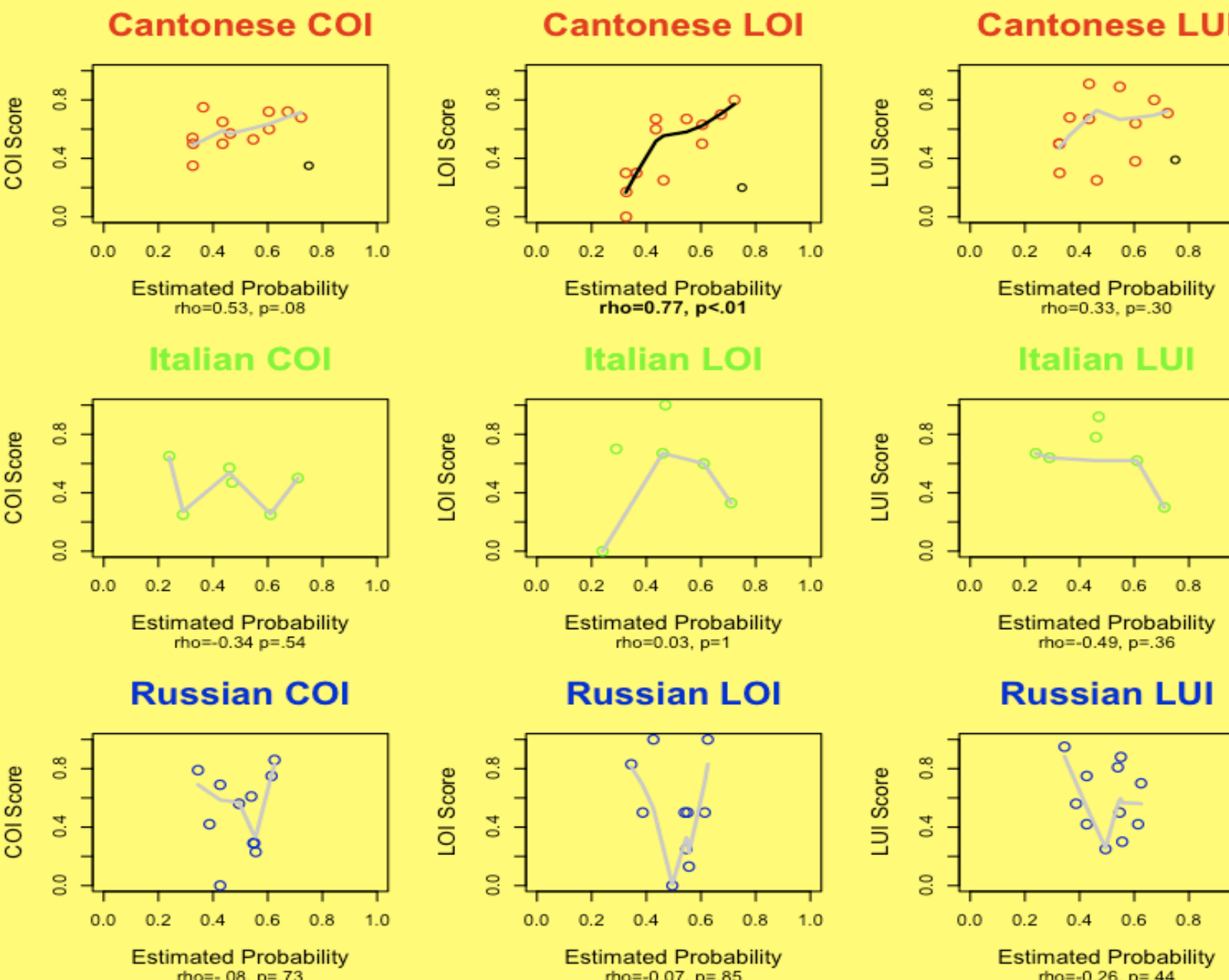
### Cultural Orientation interacts with Language Orientation



### Language Use interacts with Linguistic Orientation



## Ethnic Orientation and pro-drop



## Summary

There are no generational differences for frequency or linguistic conditioning of null subjects in any of the languages.

Second generation Heritage Language speakers have the same grammar as the first generation.

English has no effect on frequency or linguistic factor effects in the Heritage Languages.

Language Orientation in Cantonese significantly correlates with individuals’ probabilities of null subjects.

No other Ethnic Orientation correlations are significant.

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