

HOW TO NOT TRAIL AWAY IN A STANDARDIZED WORLD

ATTITUDES TOWARDS ENDANGERED REGIONAL VARIETY
OF NON-WEIRD POPULATION



by Joanna Turek

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Language:
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Regional Varieties

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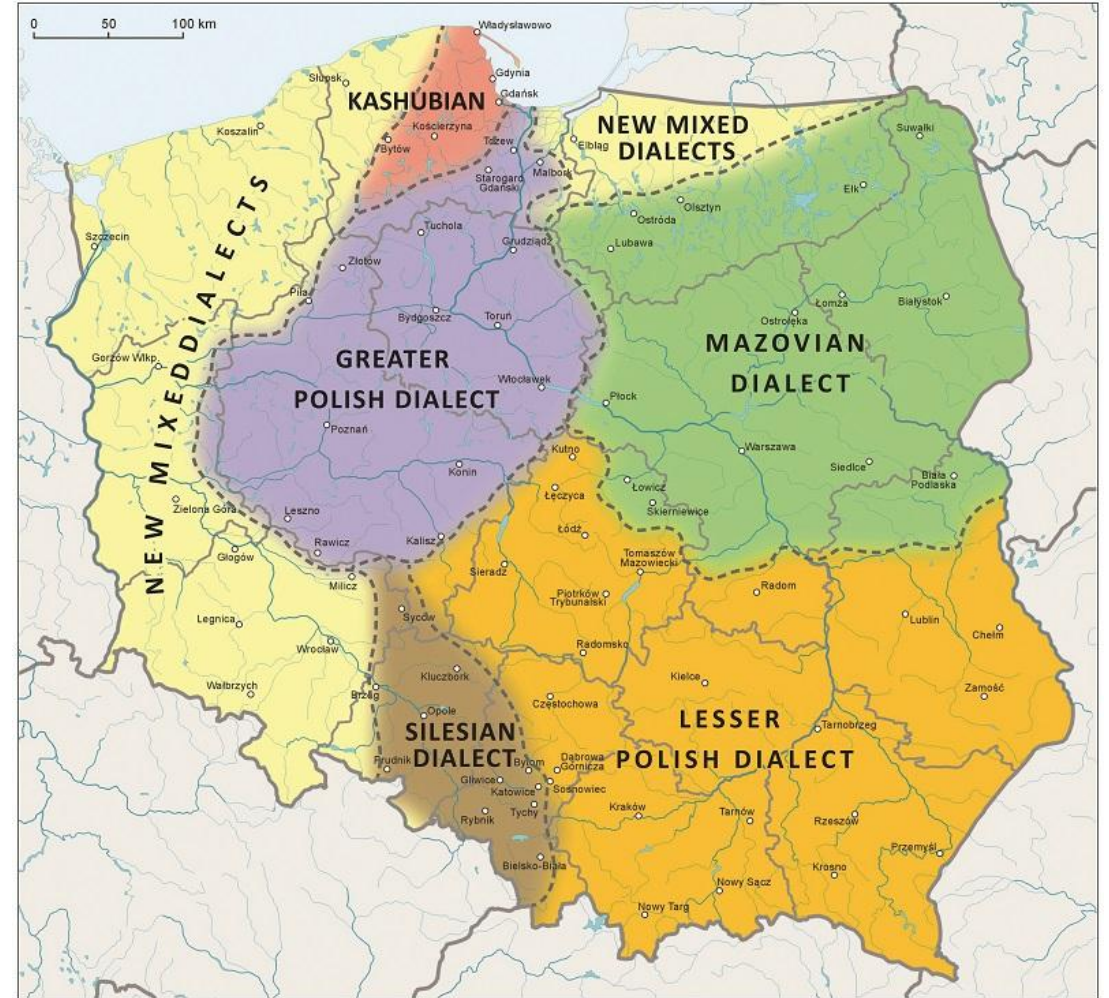
Introduction

- The process of the Polish language standardization in the 20th century by Obarska
- Partitions, WWI, WWII
- Enormous illiteracy level in Austrian and Russian partitions
- The murder of the intelligentsia in Katyń 1940
- Intensive efforts by the communist authorities
- Linguistic discrimination against citizens from rural areas

	STANDARD	DIALECT
Type of development	from the 16th c. - progressive	from the 16th c. – regressive
Degree of system unification	a unified grammatical, lexical and stylistic system	a very territorially diverse system
Codification	Codified; written, oral	common usage; oral
Type of communication	all kinds of situations	Unofficial (family, locals)
Social functions	1) unifying 2) separating 3) prestigious 4) normative	not towards the entire nation, but the local community

Standard versus Dialect differences in Poland by Karaś

Polish Dialect Map



Polish dialect map by Borowski (2020)

Polish Dialect Status

Kashubian > Silesian > Podhale Goral Speech > Podlachian > Other

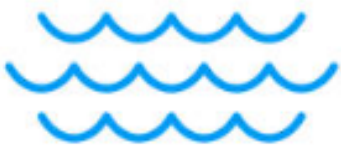
Regional
Language

Ethnolect

Part of the
Lesser Dialect

Part of the
Masovian
Dialect

...
**e.g. Lasovia
dialect**



Lasovia Dialect (in Poland)

- A subcategory of the **Lesser Poland** dialect
- Highly diverse in a small area
- Current speakers: mostly elders
- Endangerment level (EIGDS index): between **“shifting”** and **“moribund”**



Lasovia dialect by Pawłowski (1966)

Research Overview

Field Research: villages in the Lasovia Dialect area

Key concepts:

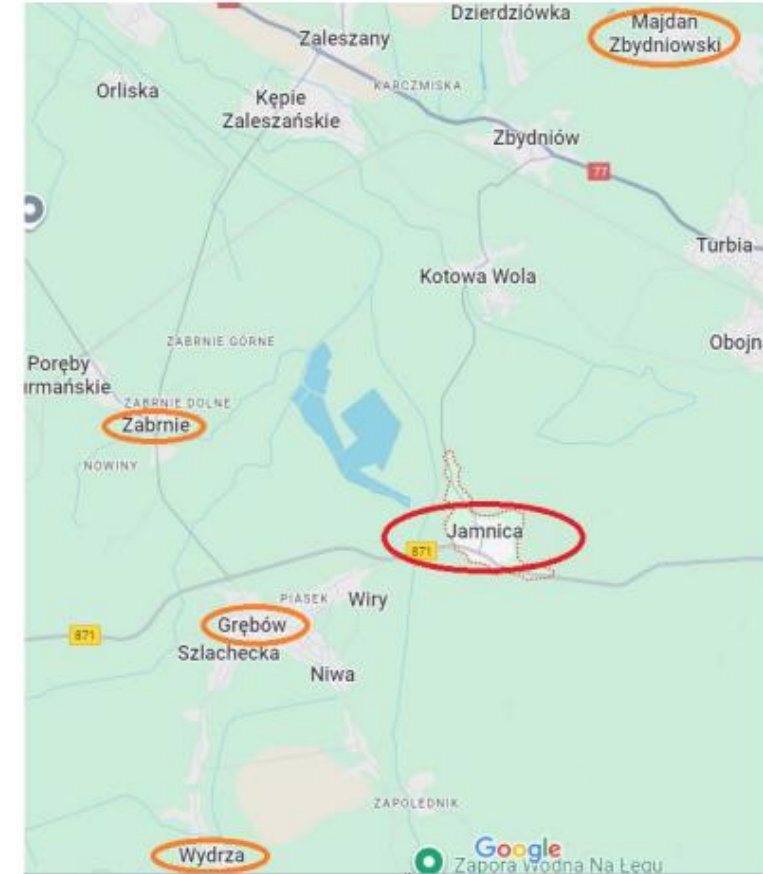
linguistic discrimination, prestige, non-WEIRD, Lasovia dialect, standard speech

Comparative study: current vs. former speakers

Non-WEIRD features: rural, age

Location-related attitudes:

school, university, church, municipal office, doctor, city



The area of examined villages.
Snap from Google Maps.

Research Overview

Hypotheses 1

1. **Linguistic discrimination** experienced in cities, at universities, at school or at work, and reinforced by political discourses, became the reason why people who work or live outside the village decided to stop using the examined dialect.
2. Younger dialect speakers are discouraged from cultivating the dialect due to its **lower prestige** and the **bias that it is an incorrect form** of the language.

Study Design

Mixed method design

- Two groups of respondents (**28** in total)
 - Current and former users of Lasovia dialect
 - 18 – 92 years old
 - Southern Poland
- One questionnaire for both groups
 - 42 questions
(8 background, 5 definition-related, attitude and discrimination-related)
 - Paper and online version for both age groups
 - Facilitated vocabulary in one questionnaire
- Polarity Profile Semantic Differential Template
- Interviews
- Empirical observation

Results: Linguistic Discrimination

Ambiguity of the results

Directness vs. Indirectness

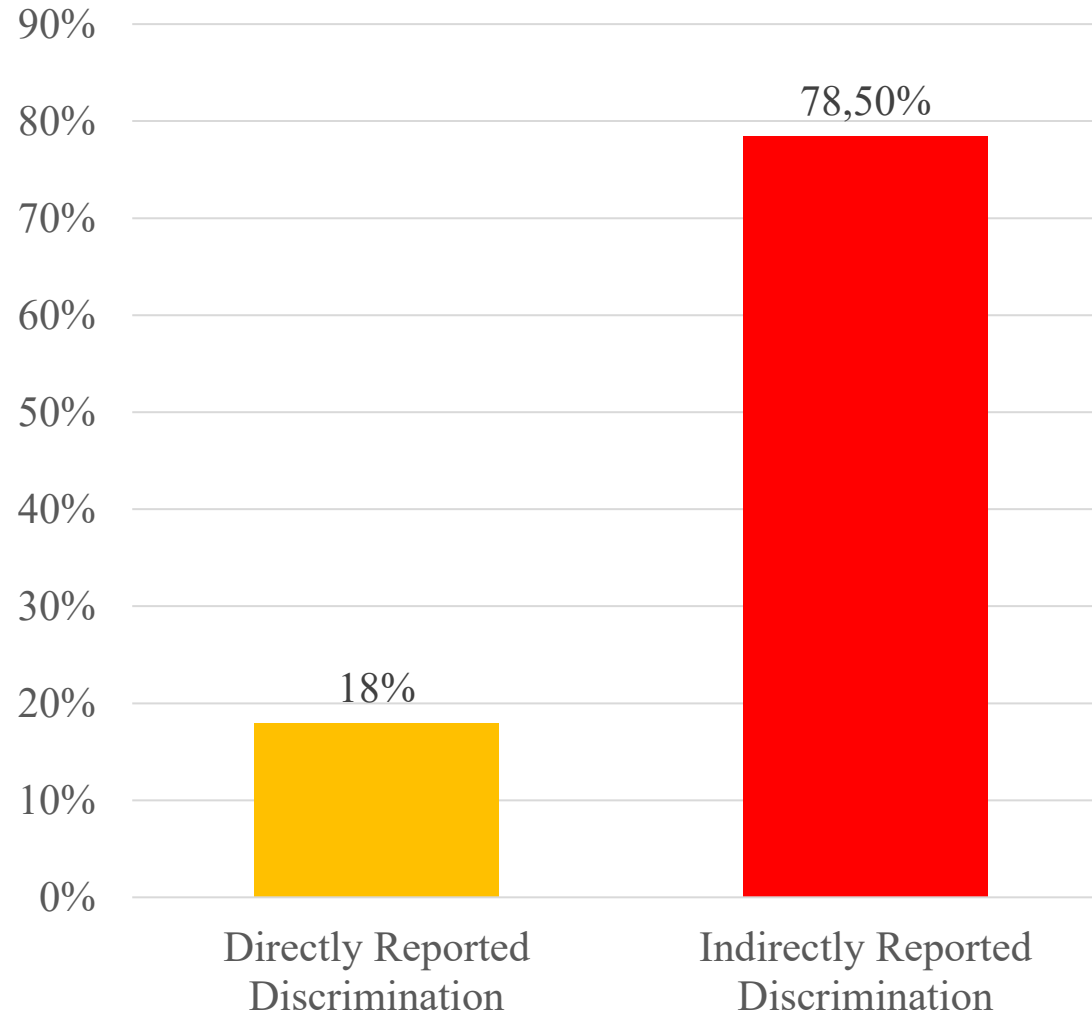
When participants were asked **directly** if they had ever experienced **linguistic discrimination**:

- **only 5 out of 28 participants, so about 18 percent**, said they had
- those who responded affirmatively belonged to the group of former dialect speakers

When asked **indirectly**, i.e. if they had ever **been ashamed of using the dialect**, the percentage was higher (next slide).

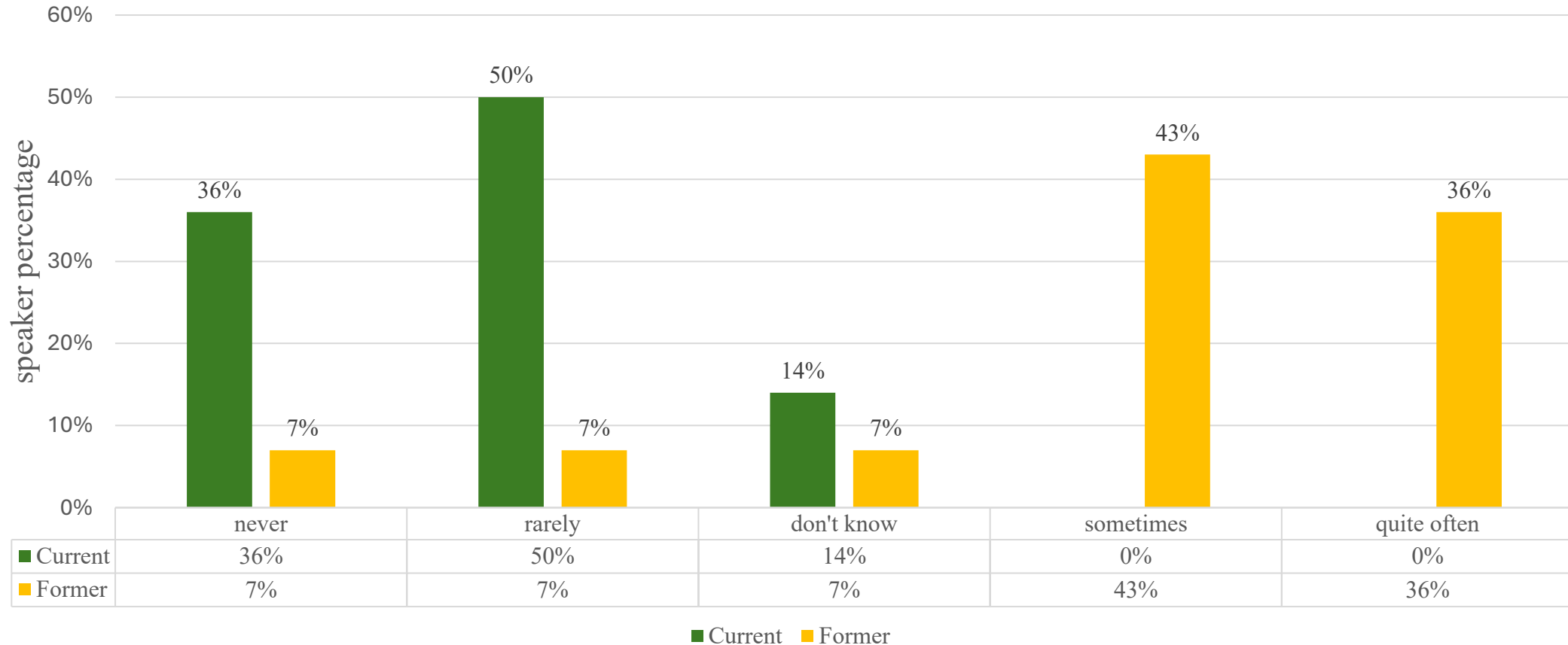
Results and Findings

Direct VS Indirect Reports of Discrimination



Results and Findings

Have you ever been ashamed of using dialect?



Results and Findings

Descriptive Statistics

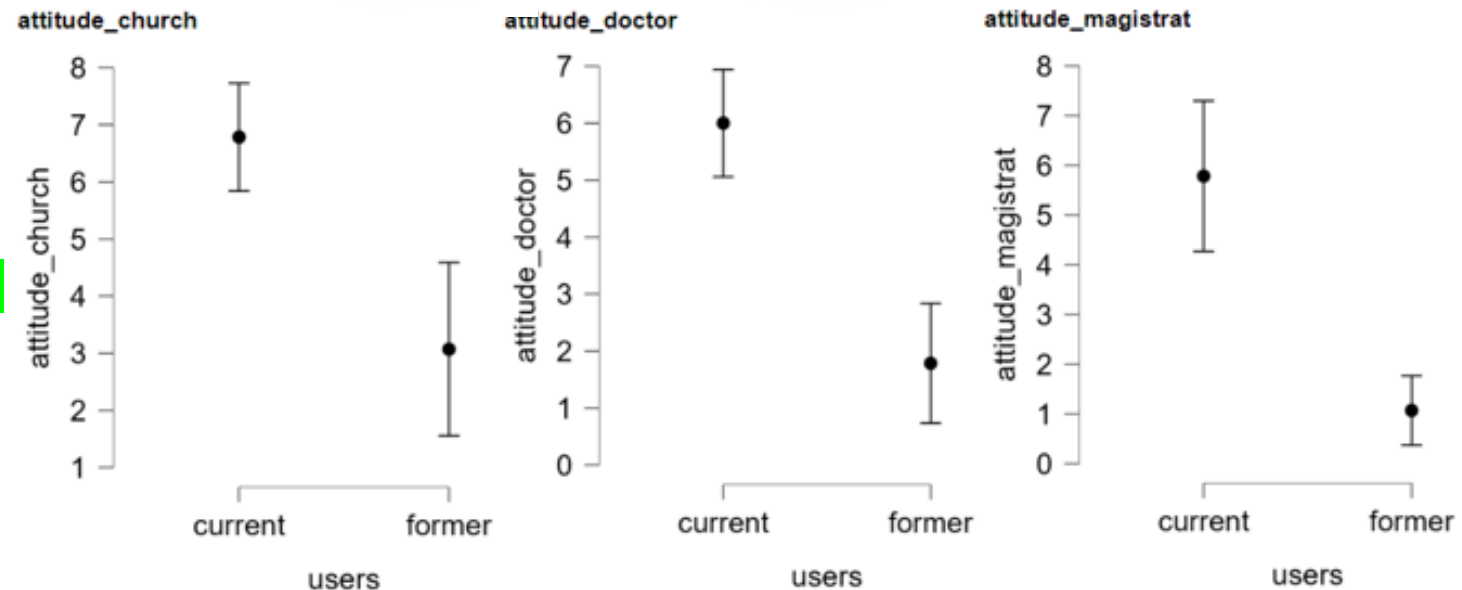
	attitude_church		attitude_doctor		attitude_magistrat	
	current	former	current	former	current	former
Valid	14	14	14	14	14	14
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median	7.000	3.000	6.500	1.000	6.000	0.500
Mean	6.786	3.071	6.000	1.786	5.786	1.071
Std. Deviation	1.805	2.895	1.797	2.007	2.887	1.328
Minimum	2.000	0.000	3.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Maximum	9.000	7.000	8.000	6.000	9.000	4.000

Discomfort variables regarding:

church, doctor and municipal offices in JASP.

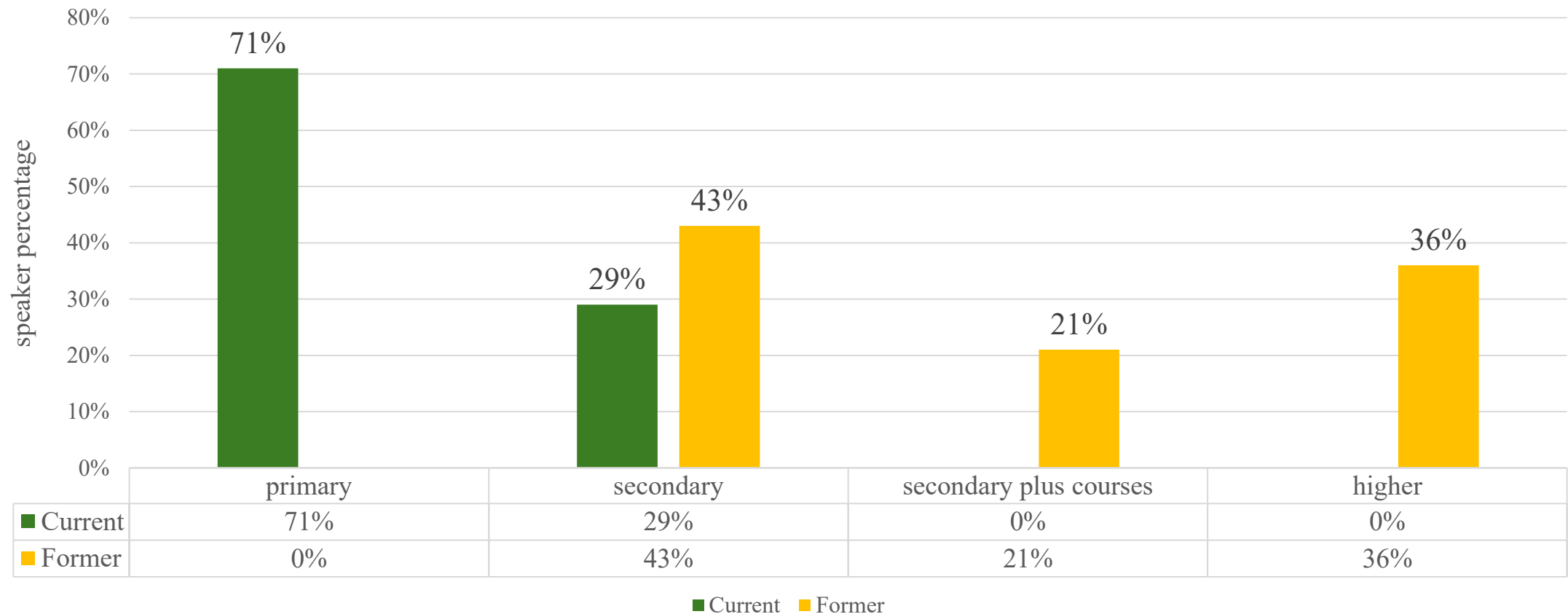


Interval plots of **church, doctor and municipal office** discomfort variables in JASP.



Results and Findings

Education level among current and former dialect speakers



Results and Findings

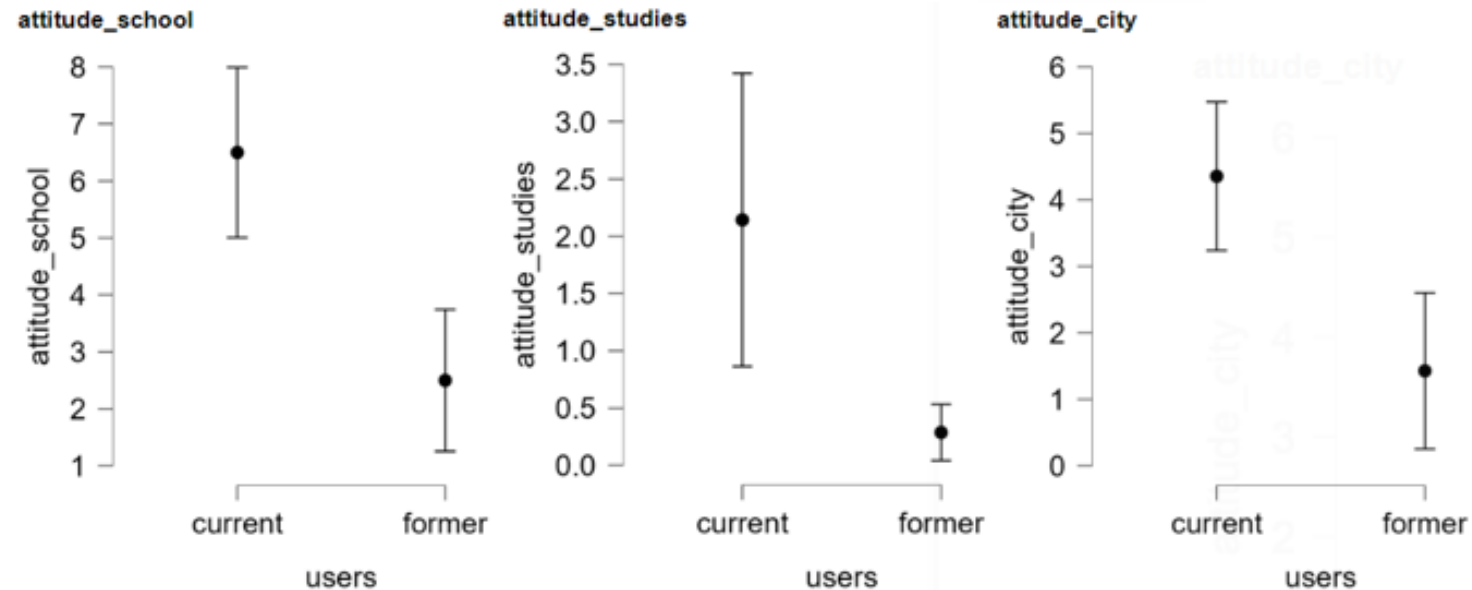
Descriptive Statistics

	attitude_school		attitude_studies		attitude_city	
	current	former	current	former	current	former
Valid	14	14	14	14	14	14
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Median	7.000	2.000	1.000	0.000	4.000	0.000
Mean	6.500	2.500	2.143	0.286	4.357	1.429
Std. Deviation	2.849	2.378	2.445	0.469	2.134	2.243
Minimum	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Maximum	9.000	7.000	8.000	1.000	8.000	7.000

Discomfort variables regarding:
school, university and city in JASP.



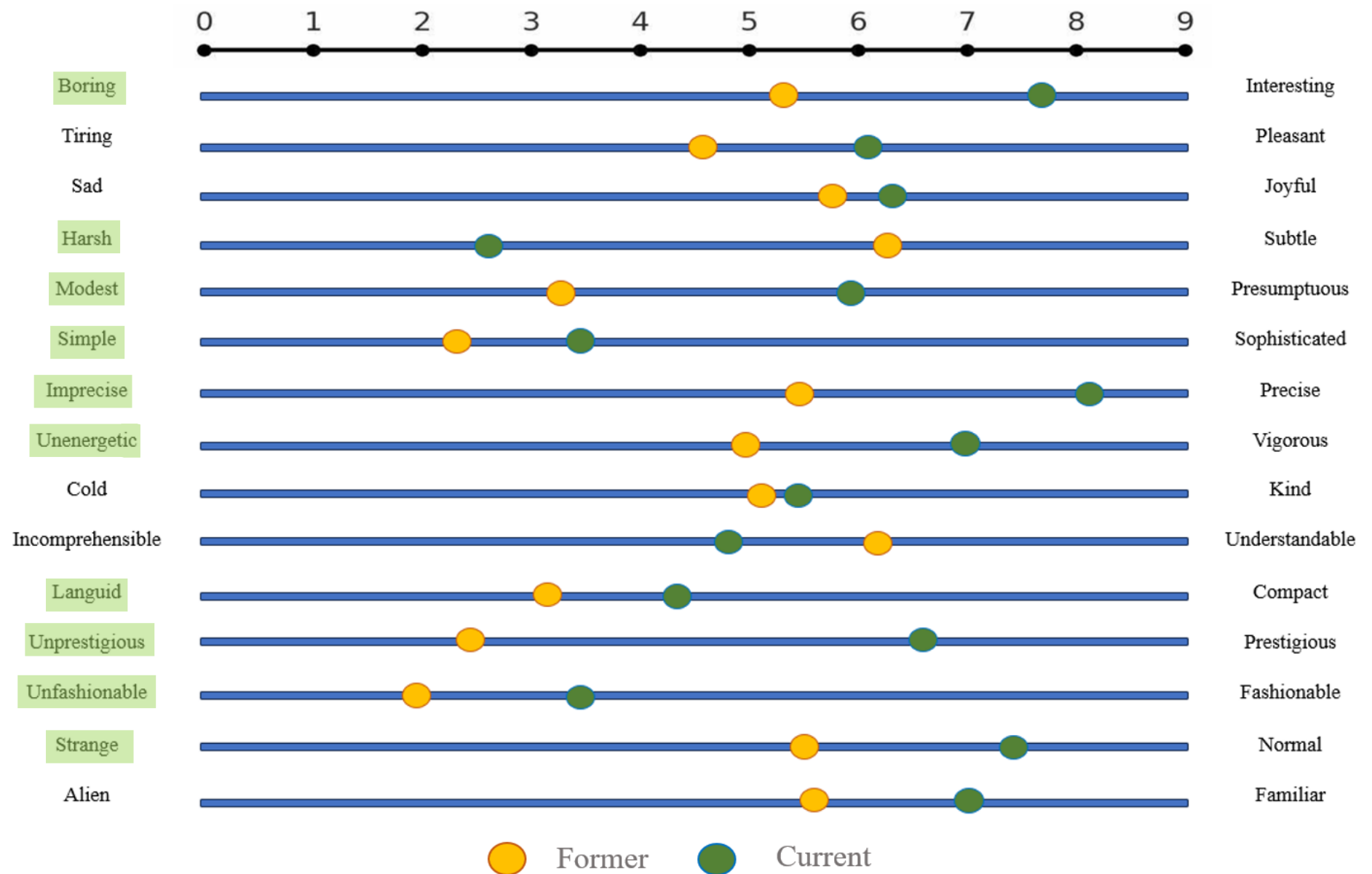
Interval plots of school, university and city discomfort variables in JASP.



Polarity Profile Semantic Differential: separate mean for current and former Lasovia dialect speakers

DATA analysed that was **significant (green)**:

- boring/interesting;
- harsh/subtle;
- modest/presumptuous;
- simple/sophisticated;
- imprecise/precise;
- unenergetic/vigorous;
- languid/compact;
- unprestigious/prestigious;
- unfashionable/fashionable;
- strange/normal



Conclusion

In the context of Lasovia Dialect:

- Endangered variety; lower status
- Discouraging political actions
- Direct VS Indirect Reports of Linguistic Discrimination
- Church – the highest comfort level
- Univeristy – the lowest comfort level
- Univeristy and city negatively perceived by both groups
- The biggest disparity in the perception of prestige
- The lowest values in both groups in: fashionability, simpleness/sophistication

Thank you for your attention!



Time for Discussion



Joanna Turek, BA

Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna

a12205279@unet.univie.ac.at

Jamniczanki



Fotos from the Jamniczanki collection.

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Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Susanne Maria Reiterer

Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna

susanne.reiterer@univie.ac.at

Lukas Nemestothy, BA BSc MA

Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna

lukas.nemestothy@univie.ac.at

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Types of Questions

➤ Likert scale

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 – not at all, 10 – completely fine)

Would you feel comfortable speaking your dialect in a city?

➤ Multiple choice

Can you switch to the standard dialect of the language?

- Yes, without difficulties
- Yes, but it's not comfortable for me
- It's hard to say, but I don't feel the need to do so
- No, I can't use the standard variety
- Now I only use the standard

➤ Open questions

Have you encountered linguistic discrimination? If so, what kind?

 Your response: _____

Limitations

- Relatively small population of Lasovia dialect current speakers
- No data on the number of speakers; only a few very minor research conducted in the last 50 years (speech particularities mainly examined, no political status)
- Extremely time-consuming (ca. 1-3 hours for a person)
- Participants of the current speaker group aged over 65 (till 92; 11/14 of them)
- Elders with reading and hearing problems
- Problematic travelling and finding willing participants related to the Lasovia dialect
- Reluctant to be a part of the research
- Lower question comprehension (disparities between former and current group)
- Likert scale questions as a challenge for majority
- Need to be on site to collect the data