



Лаборатория сравнительных социальных исследований

Cultural Capital in the Creation of Social Capital: Is Civicness Inherited with Language Structures?

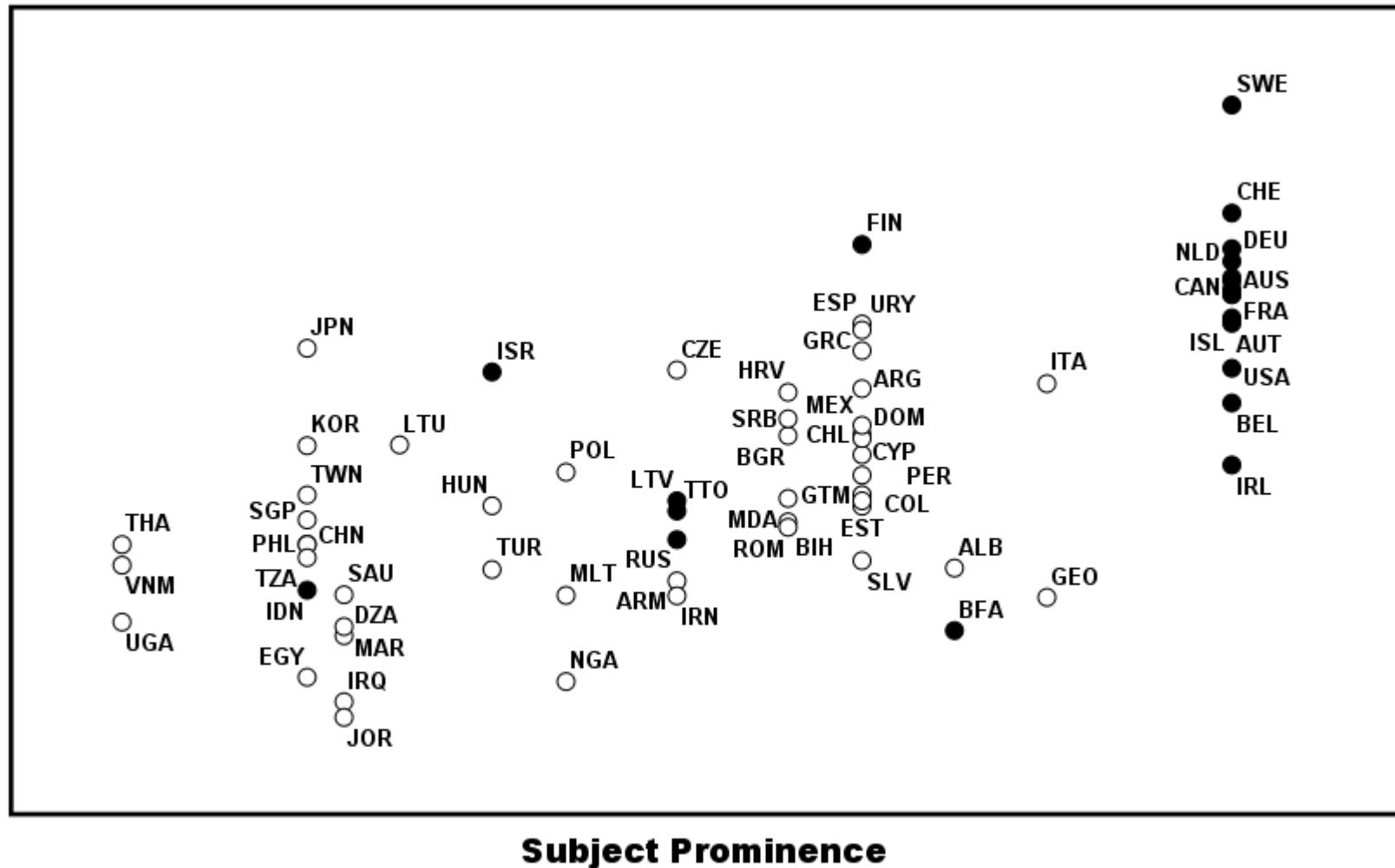
Matthias Meyer-Schwarzenberger

5th LCSR International Workshop

XVIth HSE April Conference, Moscow, 2015

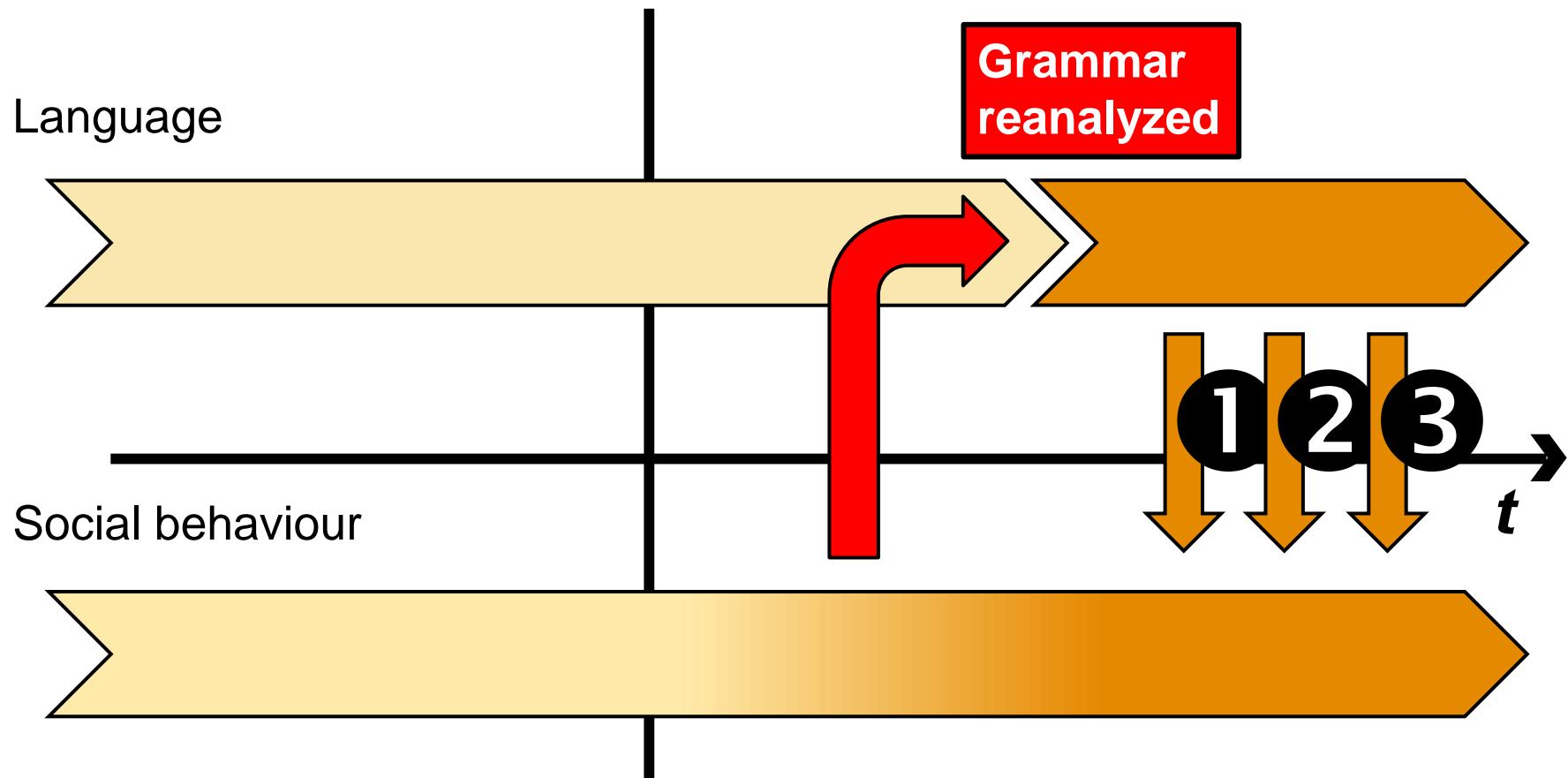
Introduction

Emancipative Values 1995 - 2005



Subject Prominence

Introduction



Introduction

Coleman (1987)

- Basic argument: Norms matter!
- Norms cannot be ignored in social theory.
- Norms as social capital
- **Norm internalization is more efficient than external enforcement.**
- However, “...leaving most of the questions unresolved. For example, nothing has been said about the conditions under which acceptance of internalization ... will be more or less successful” (1987: 152).

Introduction

Hypothesis:

The success of norm internalization by an individual depends on the degree to which the grammatical structure of this individual's mother tongue is in line with the norms to be internalized.

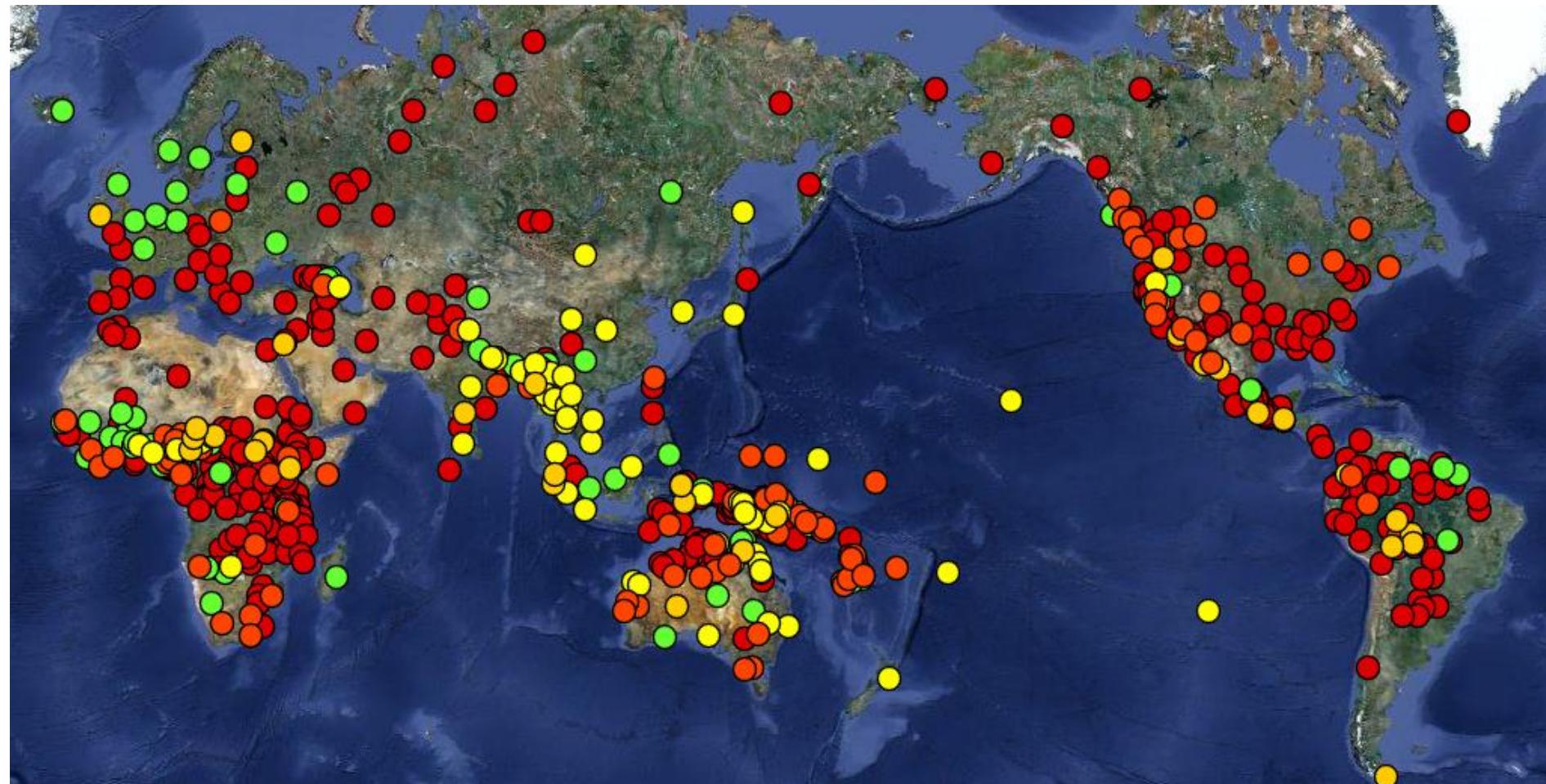
Restated at the group level:

The prevalence of a given norm among the speakers of a given language is affected by the degree to which the grammatical structure of this language is in line with this norm.

1

Effect of Linguistic Priming

Linguistic priming

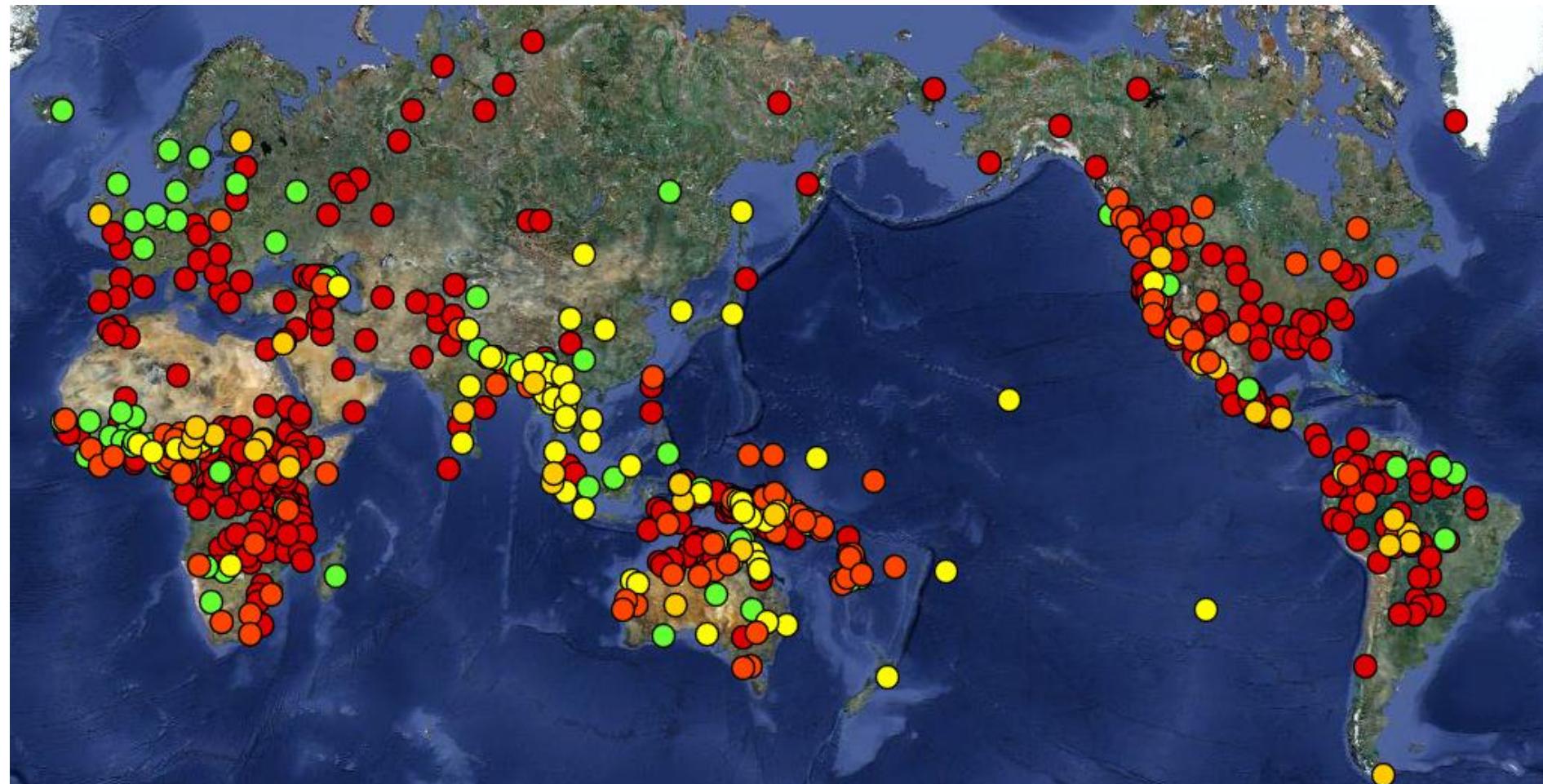


Dryer (2013)

②

Effect of Language Acquisition

Language acquisition



Dryer (2013)

③

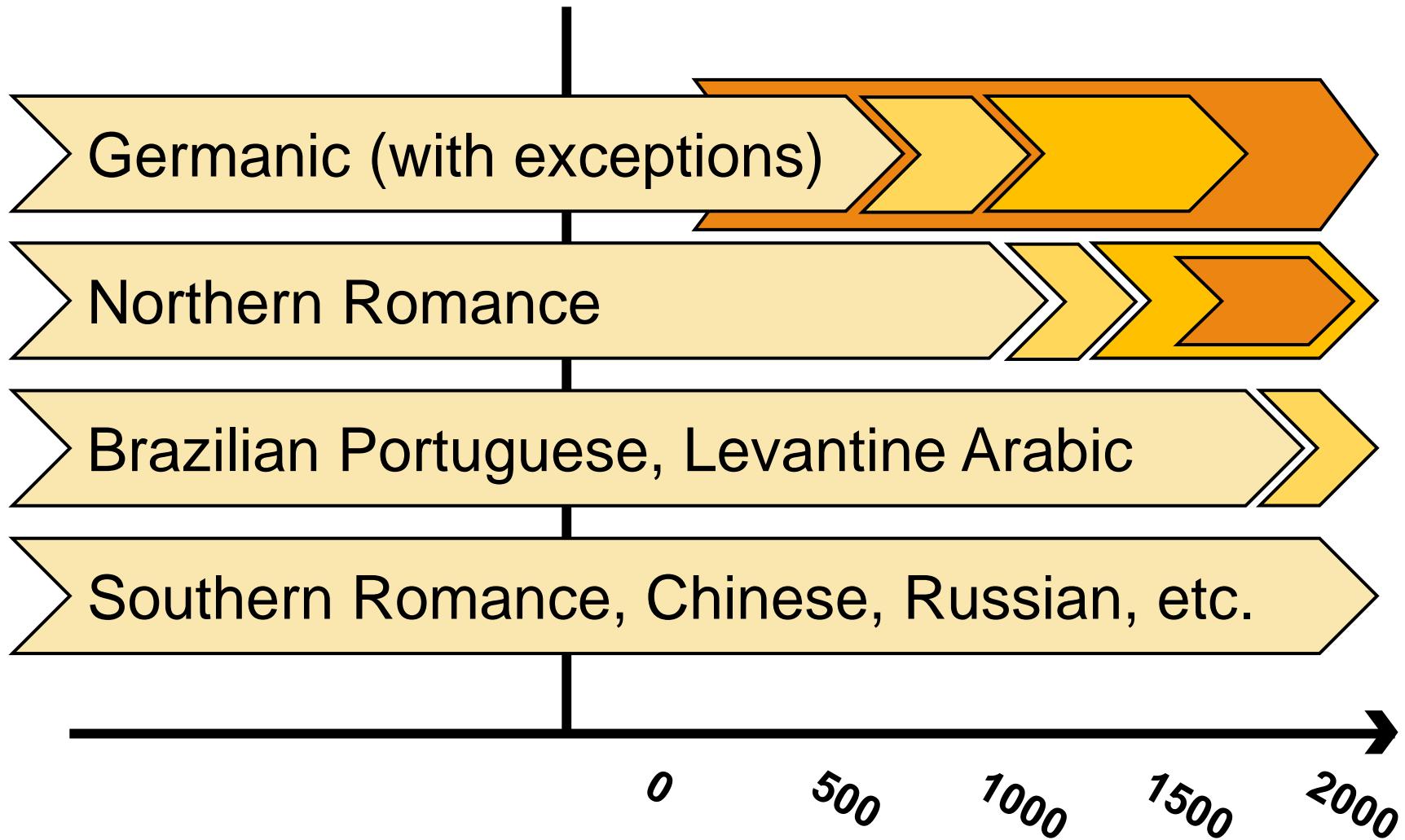
Effect of Linguistic Conditioning

Linguistic conditioning

- In Western modern languages, for instance, certain language games assign authority to the grammar rule that a sentence must be ‘complete’.
- As a result, grammatical correctness can serve as a powerful cognitive anchor for ‘correct’ social behaviour.
- Examples:
 - German ***Jetzt geht's ins Bett!***
 - French ***On se calme!***
 - English ***I can hear someone whispering!*** (adapted from Salecl, 1994)
- The obligatory subject of Western modern languages is not referential. In fact, it (sic!) integrates individual sentences into one universal discourse and invokes an intersubjective field of awareness (cf. Langacker, 2009).

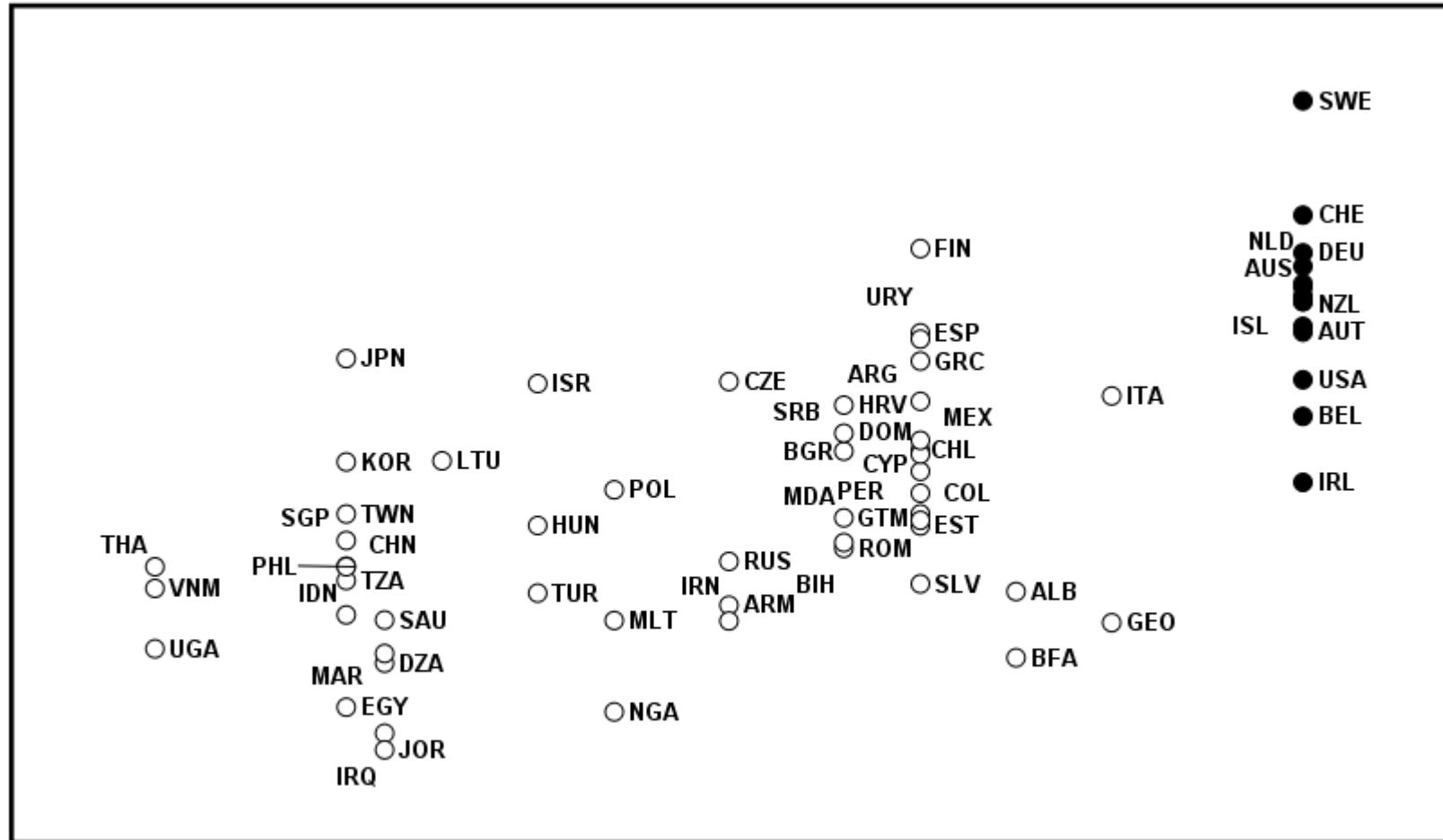
Innovation and accumulation

Innovation and accumulation (1)



Innovation and accumulation (2)

Emancipative Values 1995 - 2005



Subject Prominence

Innovation and accumulation (2)

Features of individualism in grammar:

- a. Prominence of the ‘subject’ in formal sentence structure
- b. Morphological markers of agency

a. Subject Prominence:

- Obligatory subject pronoun
- Subject relative pronoun
- Negative indefinite pronoun
- Copula for predicative nominals
- Copula for predicative adjectives
- Copula for predicative possession

b. Agent morphology:

- Accusative alignment
- Accusative alignment
- Accusative alignment

Innovation and accumulation (3)

c. Prevalence of nominative experiencers in a language (Bossong, 1998)

English:

- ✓ I am cold
- ✓ I am hungry
- ✓ I am thirsty
- ✓ I have a headache
- ✓ I am glad about X
- ✓ I am sorry
- ✓ I like X
- ✓ I remember X
- ✓ I forget X
- ✓ I see X

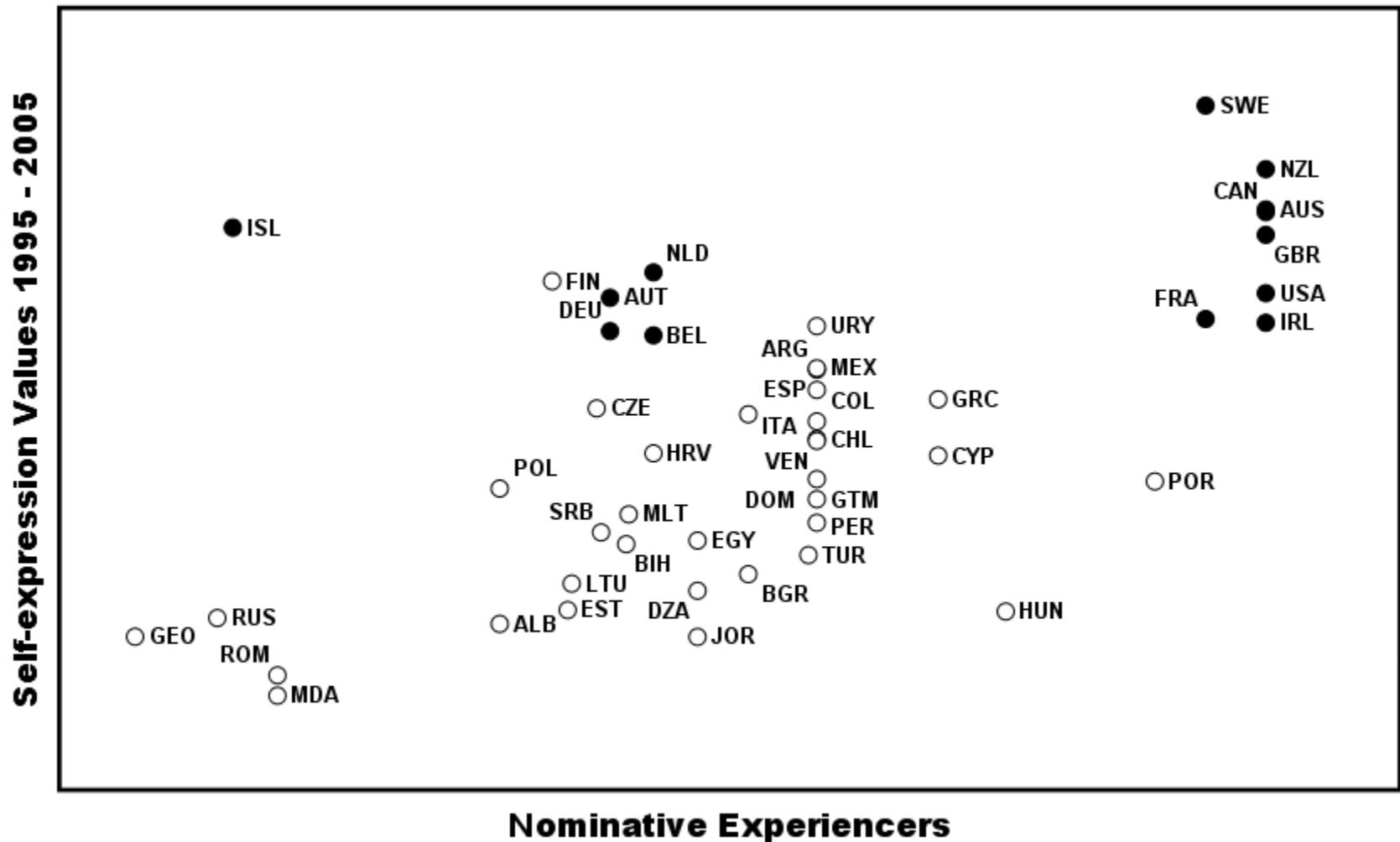
0 / 43 = 0.0

Russian:

- ✗ мне холодно
- ✗ мне хочется есть
(я голоден)
- ✗ мне хочется пить
(я хочу пить)
- ✗ у меня болит голова
- Х меня радует / радуюсь об X
- ✗ мне жаль
- ✗ X мне нравится
- мне помнится X / помню о X
- ✗ забываю X
- вижу X / X мне видно

42 / 17.5 = 2.4

Innovation and accumulation (3)



Nominative Experiencers

Earlier notions of linguistic capital

Earlier notions of linguistic capital

Language as a form of social capital

- Clark (1996)

The advantage of speaking a specific dialect or language

- Bourdieu (1977)
- De Swaan (2001)
- Ronen et al. (2014)

Grammatical resources in different languages

- Biber (1995)
- Duranti (1994)

Thanks for your attention and comments!

This report was presented at the 5th LCSR International Workshop “Social and Cultural Changes in Cross-National Perspective: Subjective Well-being, Trust, Social capital and Values”, which will be held within the XVI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development.

April 8 - 10, 2015 – Higher School of Economics, Moscow.

www.lcsr.hse.ru/en/seminar2015

Настоящий доклад был представлен на V международном рабочем семинаре ЛССИ «Социальные и культурные изменения в сравнительной перспективе: ценности и модернизация», прошедшего в рамках XVI Апрельской международной научной конференции НИУ ВШЭ «Модернизация экономики и общества».

8-10 апреля 2015 года – НИУ ВШЭ, Москва.

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