



Sonority and language attitudes

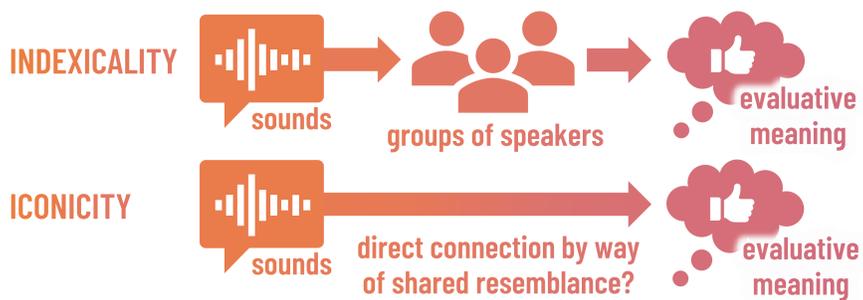
Indexicality versus iconicity

French sounds beautiful and romantic.

German sounds harsh and aggressive.

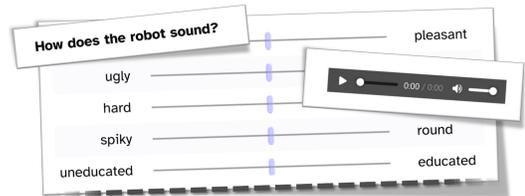
language attitudes 1-28

But why? 29-33 Indexicality 34-37 versus iconicity 38-51



Methodology Creation of new languages 52-54

"Bo jueno wi jeniulo iwusomu pameba nekia. Biwapo a luno simuwe awi nupiwoja somutau lujate sewajinu opeti. Jopawu joso kama ..."



Arabic	Dutch	German	Polish	Spanish
Hala	Zeyla	Laure	Robban	Daniel
Zeyla	Laure	Robban	Daniel	Hannah
Yevya	Jacak	Ola	Conchita	Lucia
Sergio				

control condition	target condition
mean sonority ≈ 9	mean sonority ≈ 12
consonants ≈ 47 %	consonants ≈ 47 %
vowels ≈ 53 %	vowels ≈ 53 %
sylls 90/10 CV/V	sylls 90/10 CV/V
no of words = 100	no of words = 100
max no of sylls = 4	max no of sylls = 4
sound inventory: /i, u, a, e, o, m, k, j, p, w, n, t, l, s, b/	sound inventory: /i, u, a, e, o, m, k, j, p, w, n, t, l, s, b/

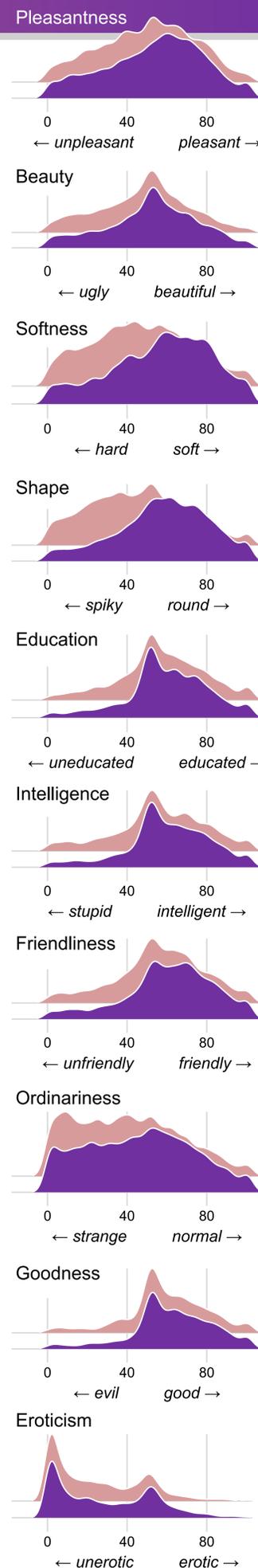
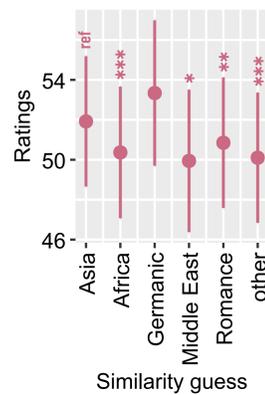
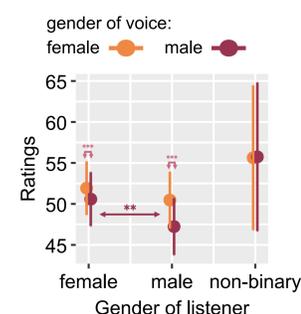
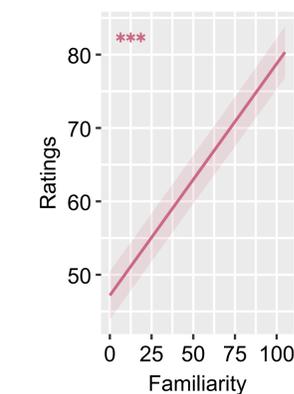
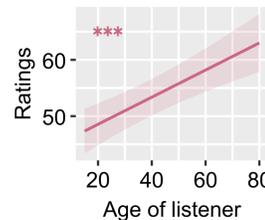
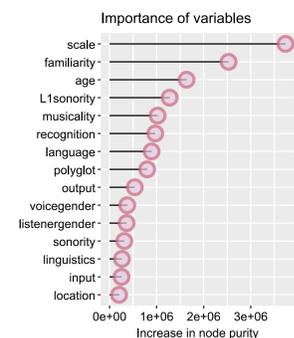
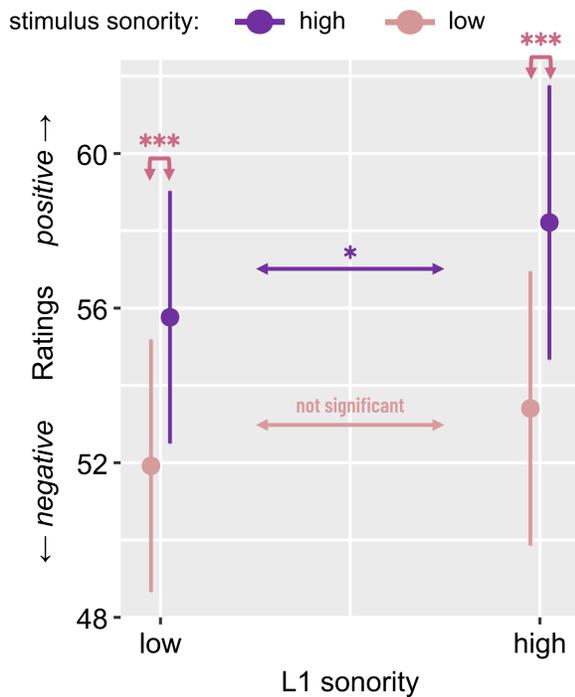
listener L1s	low sonority	high sonority
Czech	Dutch	English
Estonian	German	Hebrew
Hungarian	Korean	Polish
Romanian	Russian	Slovenian
Swedish	Turkish	
		Finnish
		Greek
		Italian
		Portuguese
		Spanish
		Vietnamese

- 1 software development new pseudotext generator called SSPG
- 2 text generation high and low sonority, other properties the same
- 3 speech synthesis with different languages, engines, voices 55
- 4 rating study semantic differential scale sliders, 463 listeners 56-57
- 5 modeling mixed models with lme4 58-59, randomForest 60 in R 61

In short Sonority sounds good regardless of exposure, but:

- For some scales, and across all scales, we do find an exposure effect on top.
- Language sounds worse to you if you perceive it as being less familiar. 62-64, cf. 30, 32, 33
- Men rate language worse. Women sound better overall, but less educated to men. 20, 65-70
- You rate language worse if you feel it's from regions like the 'Middle East' or 'Africa'. 71-72, cf. 30, 32

Results All semantic scales



We really like when language is sonorous. Because of how it sounds, but also because of who we are.

This implies that theories concerned with phonaesthetics and iconicity also need to take into account sociocultural effects on the associations humans have with speech sounds. 35, 73-81

REFERENCES, DATA, SCRIPTS

