

Quant à lui/eux versus lui/eux

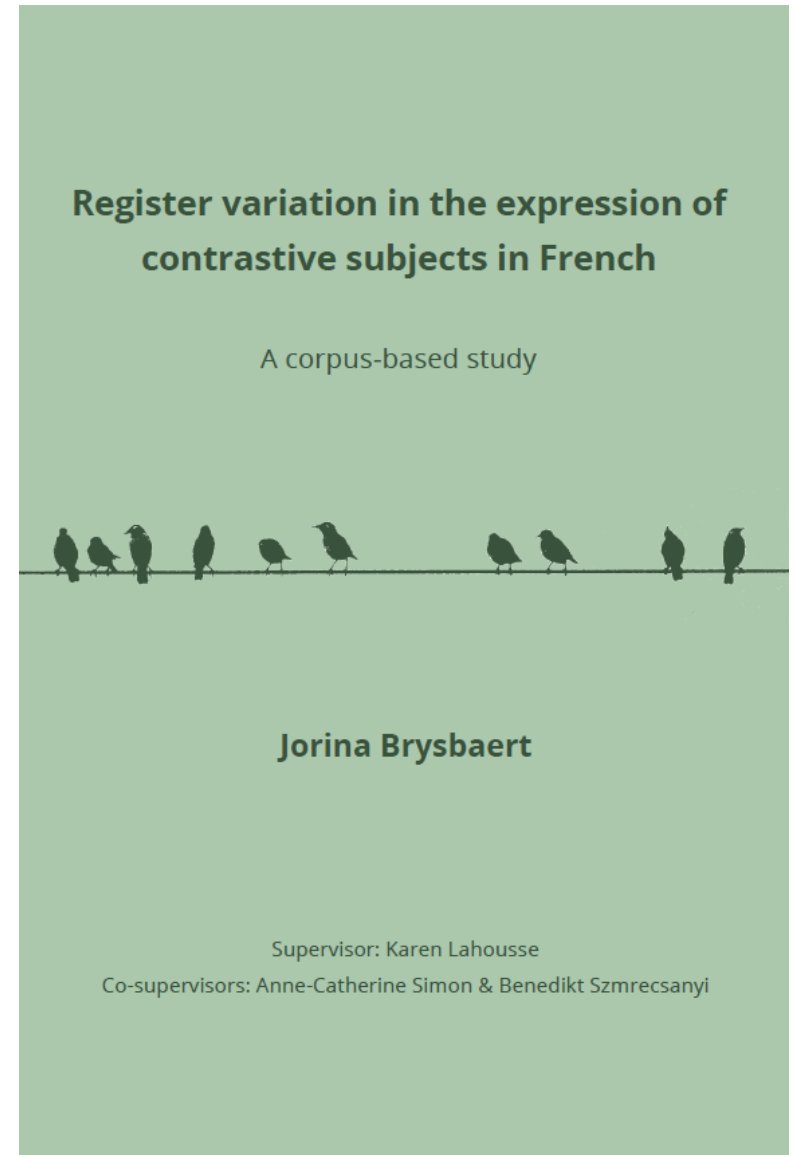
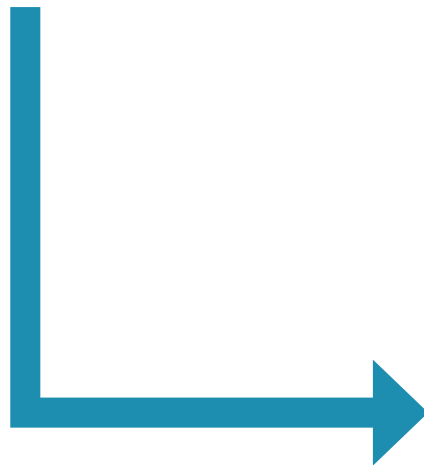
Influence of register and syntactic complexity on their alternation and syntactic position

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Quant à lui/eux versus lui/eux
**Influence of register and syntactic
complexity on their alternation and
syntactic position**



Two interchangeable markers



Alice adore les chats.



(I) EMPHATIC PRONOUN

*Léo **lui** préfère les chiens.*

(II) QUANT À + EMPHATIC PRONOUN

*Léo **quant à lui** préfère les chiens.*

Two interchangeable markers



« less explicit »
variant

(I) EMPHATIC PRONOUN

Léo **lui** préfère les chiens.

« more explicit »
variant

(II) QUANT À + EMPHATIC PRONOUN

Léo **quant à lui** préfère les chiens.

Two interchangeable markers



cf. Rohdenburg 2020

*He put the coins
in his pocket.*

*He put the coins
into his pocket.*

« less explicit »
variant

« more explicit »
variant

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into his pocket.*

« more explicit »
variant

(II) QUANT À + EMPHATIC PRONOUN

*Léo **quant à lui** préfère les chiens.*

PART I: alternation between the two markers

Caddéo 2006; Choi-Jonin 2003; Rocquet 2014 → no extensive analysis

Different syntactic positions

(1) *Alice adore les chats.*

a. ***Léo** [lui] préfère [lui] les chiens [lui].*

b. ***Léo** [quant à lui] préfère [quant à lui] les chiens [quant à lui].*

Different syntactic positions

(1) *Alice adore les chats.*

a. **Léo** [*lui*] préfère [*lui*] les chiens [*lui*].

b. **Léo** [*quant à lui*] préfère [*quant à lui*] les chiens [*quant à lui*].

PART II: syntactic position of the two markers

Caddéo 2004 → no quantitative analysis

Goal of this talk

The alternation and syntactic position are influenced by ...

- the register (cf. methodology)
- the formal complexity of the subject → post-modification

(2) *Alice adore les chats.*

a. SUBJECT WITHOUT POST-MODIFICATION

***Léo** préfère les chiens.*

b. SUBJECT WITH POST-MODIFICATION

***Léo, son frère**, préfère les chiens.*

***Léo, qui est allergique aux chats**, préfère les chiens.*

***Les autres enfants de sa classe** préfèrent les chiens.*

Hypothesis

Complexity Principle (Rohdenburg 2020)

In the case of more or less explicit grammatical options, the more explicit one(s) will tend to be preferred in cognitively more complex environments.

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quant à lui/eux

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quant à lui/eux

subject with post-modification

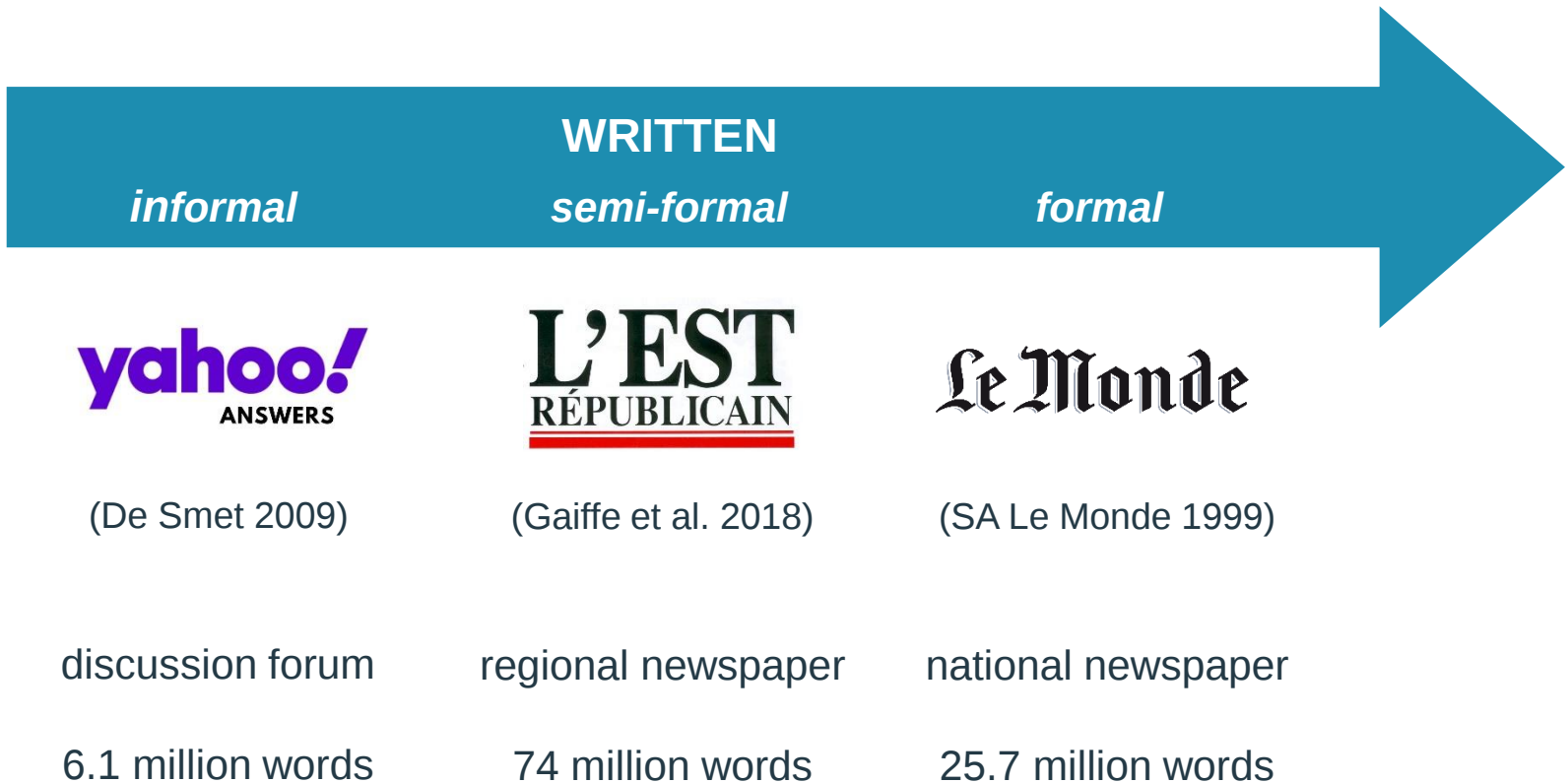
Léo, son frère, préfère ...

Léo, qui est allergique aux chats, préfère ...

Les autres enfants de sa classe préfèrent ...

Methodology

Quantitative analysis of 4965 E-Pros and 1804 *quant à* E-Pros in different corpora → different registers



Methodology

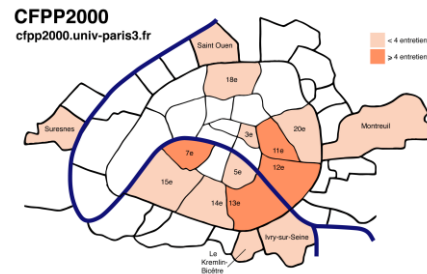
SPOKEN *semi-formal*



(Avanzi et al. 2012-2020)

interviews

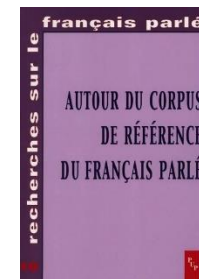
1.01 million words



(Branca-Rosoff et al. 2012)

interviews

0.7 million words



(Équipe DELIC 2004)

interviews + public speech

0.44 million words

1. ALTERNATION

EMPHATIC PRONOUN (E-PRO)

Léo *lui* préfère les chiens.



QUANT À + EMPHATIC PRONOUN (QUANT À E-PRO)

Léo *quant à lui* préfère les chiens.

In general

E-Pros > *quant* à E-Pros

	LM (formal written)	ER (semi-formal written)	YCC (informal written)	SPOKEN
E-Pro	85% (1789)	66% (2812)	90% (282)	100% (82)
<i>Quant</i> à E-Pro	15% (326)	34% (1446)	10% (32)	0% (0)
TOTAL	100% (2115)	100% (4258)	100% (314)	100% (82)



Influence of register

Quant à E-Pros: semi-formal written (34%) > informal written (10%) & spoken (0%)

($\chi^2 = 326.29$, $N = 6769$, $df = 3$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.22$)

	LM (formal written)	ER (semi-formal written)	YCC (informal written)	SPOKEN
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MORE COMPLEX REGISTER → MORE EXPLICIT MARKER

(cf. Szmrecsanyi & Engel 2023 on English and Dutch)

Influence of register

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Quant à E-Pros: formal written (15%)

Hypothesis: more frequent use of other complex markers (e.g. *en revanche*, *pour sa part*, *de son côté*)

Influence of complexity of subject

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros
Subject <u>without</u> post-modification	70% (1135)	51% (165)	70% (1754)	55% (785)	85% (140)	81% (26)	87% (20)	
Subject <u>with</u> post-modification	30% (478)	49% (161)	30% (744)	45% (637)	15% (25)	19% (6)	13% (3)	
TOTAL	100% (1613)	100% (326)	100% (2498)	100% (1422)	100% (165)	100% (32)	100% (23)	

WRITTEN (SEMI-)FORMAL:

E-Pros: S simple (70%) > S complex (30%)

Influence of complexity of subject

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros
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WRITTEN (SEMI-)FORMAL:

↪ E-Pros: S simple (70%) > S complex (30%)

↪ *Quant à* E-Pros: S simple (51%-55%) ≈ S complex (49%-45%)

(LM : $\chi^2 = 47.89$, $N = 1939$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.16$ / ER : $\chi^2 = 89.50$, $N = 3920$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.15$)

Influence of complexity of subject

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros
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WRITTEN (SEMI-)FORMAL:

MORE COMPLEX SUBJECT → MORE EXPLICIT MARKER

(cf. Complexity Principle, Rohdenburg 2020)

Influence of complexity of subject

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
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WRITTEN INFORMAL:

E-Pros: S simple (85%) > S complex (15%)

Quant à E-Pros: S simple (81%) > S complex (19%)

} no difference

($\chi^2 = 0.26$, $N = 197$, $df = 1$, $p = .61$)

Influence of complexity of subject

HYPOTHESIS: DIFFERENT DEGREE OF COMPLEXITY

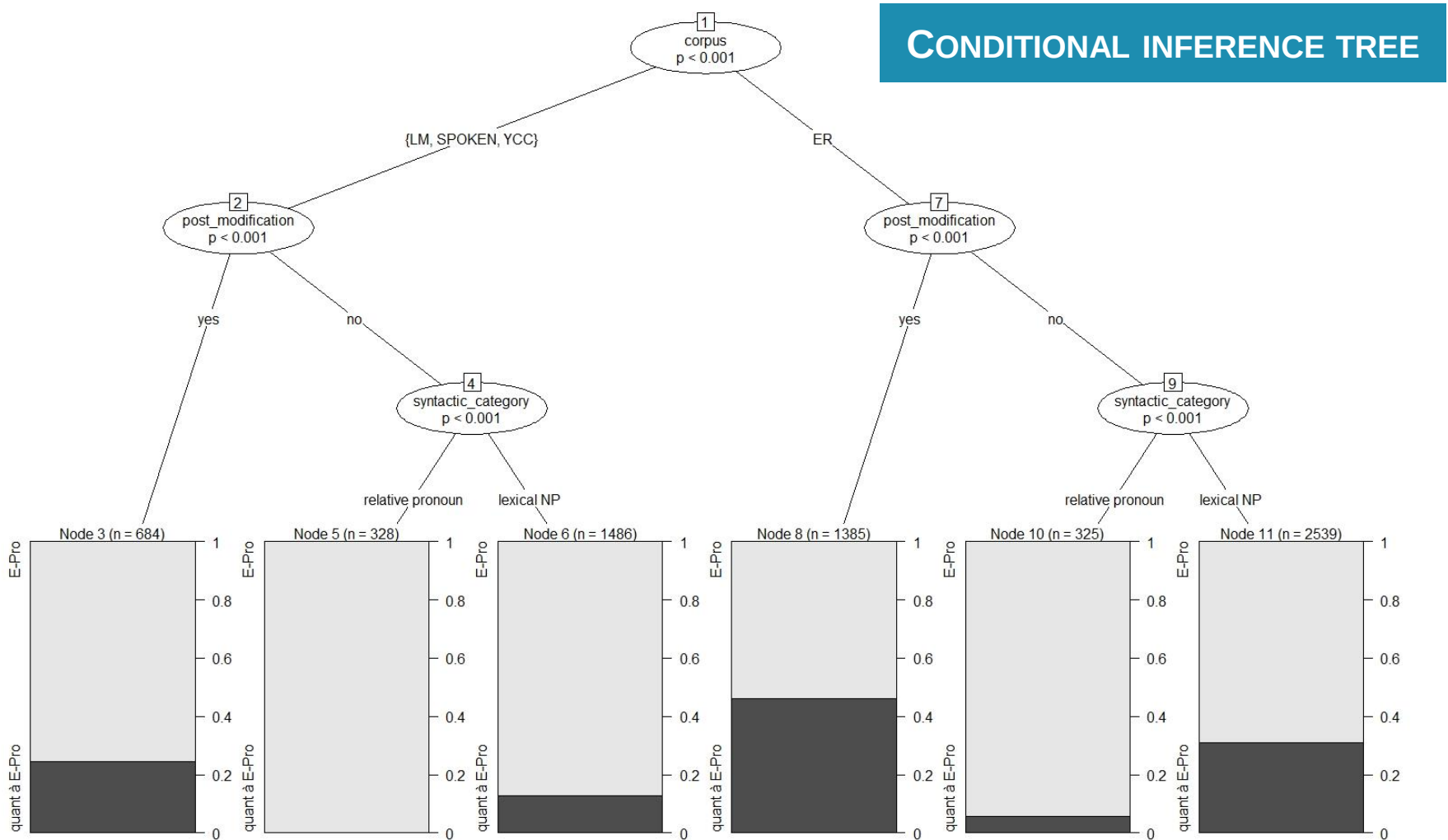
Written (semi-)formal:

Sourire aux lèvres, M. Sarkozy a ostensiblement serré longuement la main du Premier ministre sortant à son départ de l'Elysée peu après 19 h 30. [...]
Le numéro deux du gouvernement, Jean-Louis Borloo, qui convoitait Matignon,
*a été reçu **quant à lui** vers 17 h 30 par le président. (ER)*

Written informal:

Mon beau papa travaille dans une société qui en vend, il est VRP.
*Son fils (mon chéri quoi!) **lui** travaille sur la fabrication des appareils de radiographie classiques et numériques dans les hôpitaux et les cabinets privés.*
(YCC)

Interaction: register & complexity of subject



2. SYNTACTIC POSITION

BETWEEN SUBJECT AND FINITE VERB

Léo *(quant à) lui* préfère les chiens.



AFTER FINITE VERB

Léo préfère *(quant à) lui* les chiens *(quant à) lui*.

In general

E-Pros: between S and finite V

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros
Between S and finite V	61% (1093)	25% (82)	54% (1519)	28% (401)	83% (235)	56% (18)	82% (67)	
After finite V	39% (696)	75% (244)	46% (1293)	72% (1045)	17% (47)	44% (14)	18% (15)	
TOTAL	100% (1789)	100% (326)	100% (2812)	100% (1446)	100% (282)	100% (32)	100% (82)	

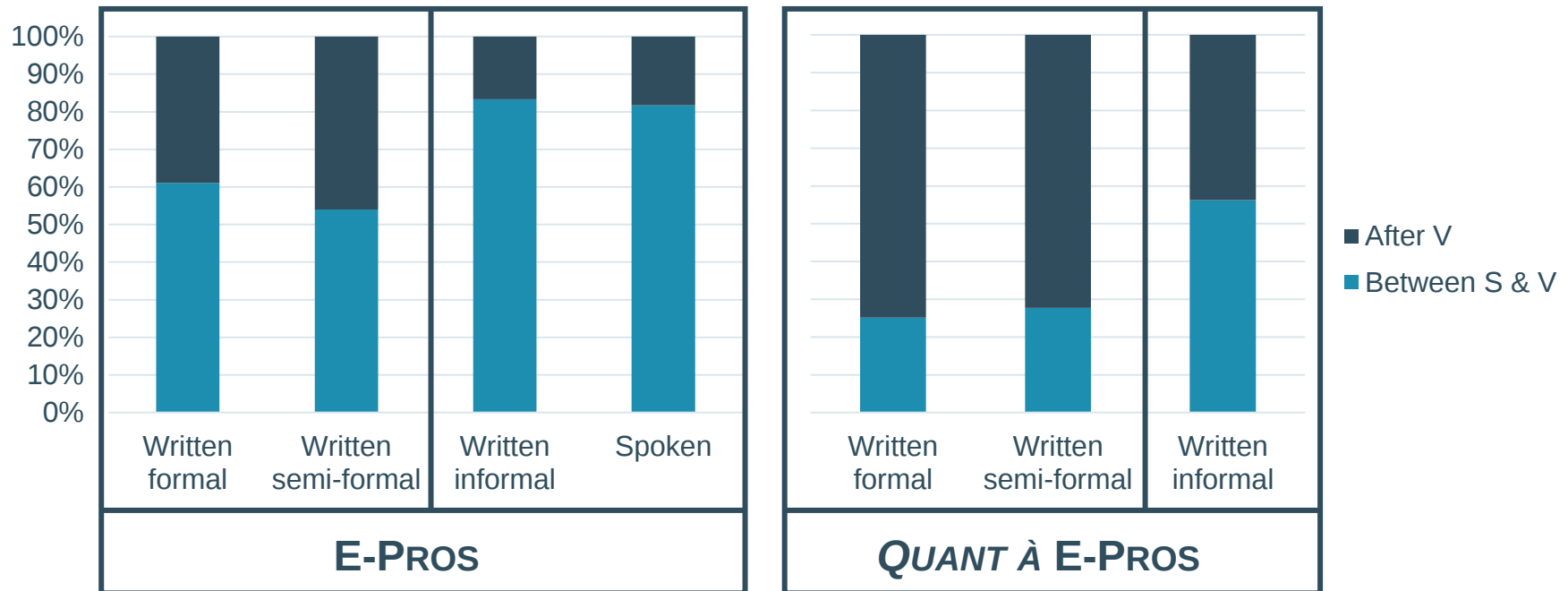
In general


 E-Pros: between S and finite V
quant à E-Pros: after finite V (except for YCC)

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros	E-Pros	<i>Quant à</i> E-Pros
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Influence of register

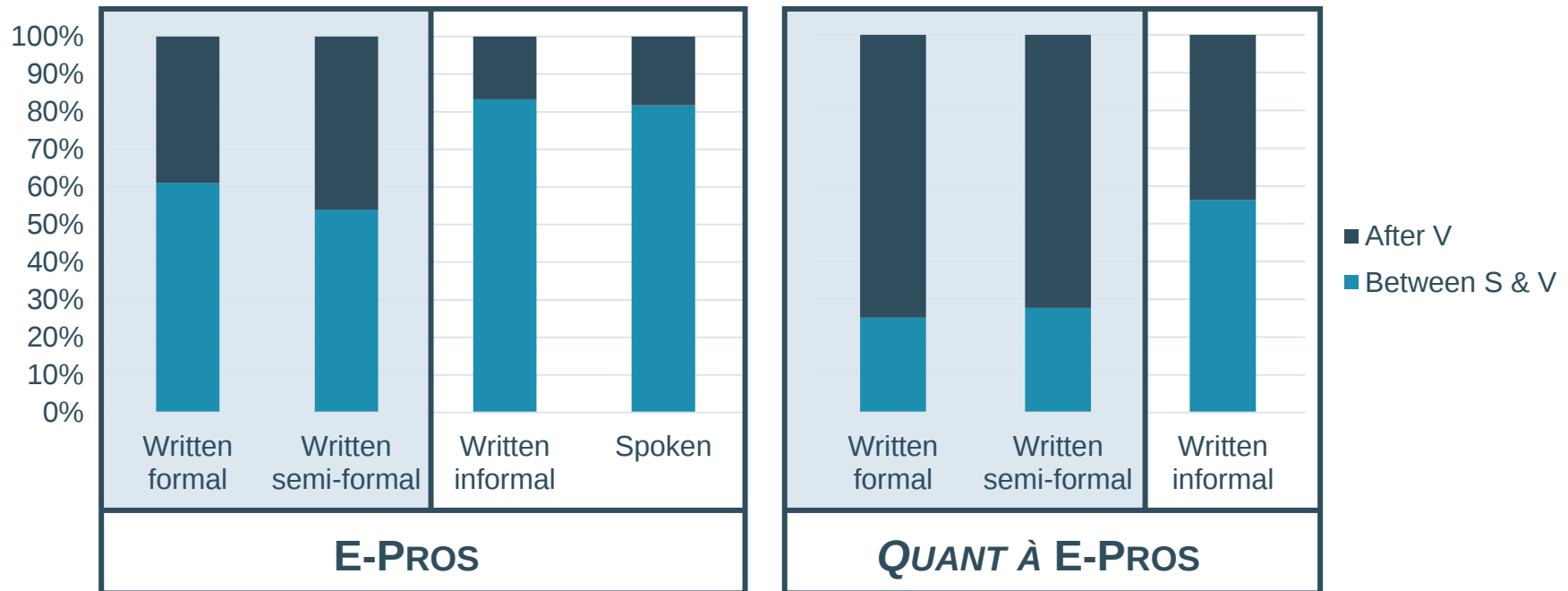
Position after finite V: written (semi-)formal > written informal & spoken



(E-Pros : $\chi^2 = 126.57$, $N = 4965$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.16$ / *quant à* E-Pros : $\chi^2 = 11.76$, $N = 1804$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.08$)

Influence of register

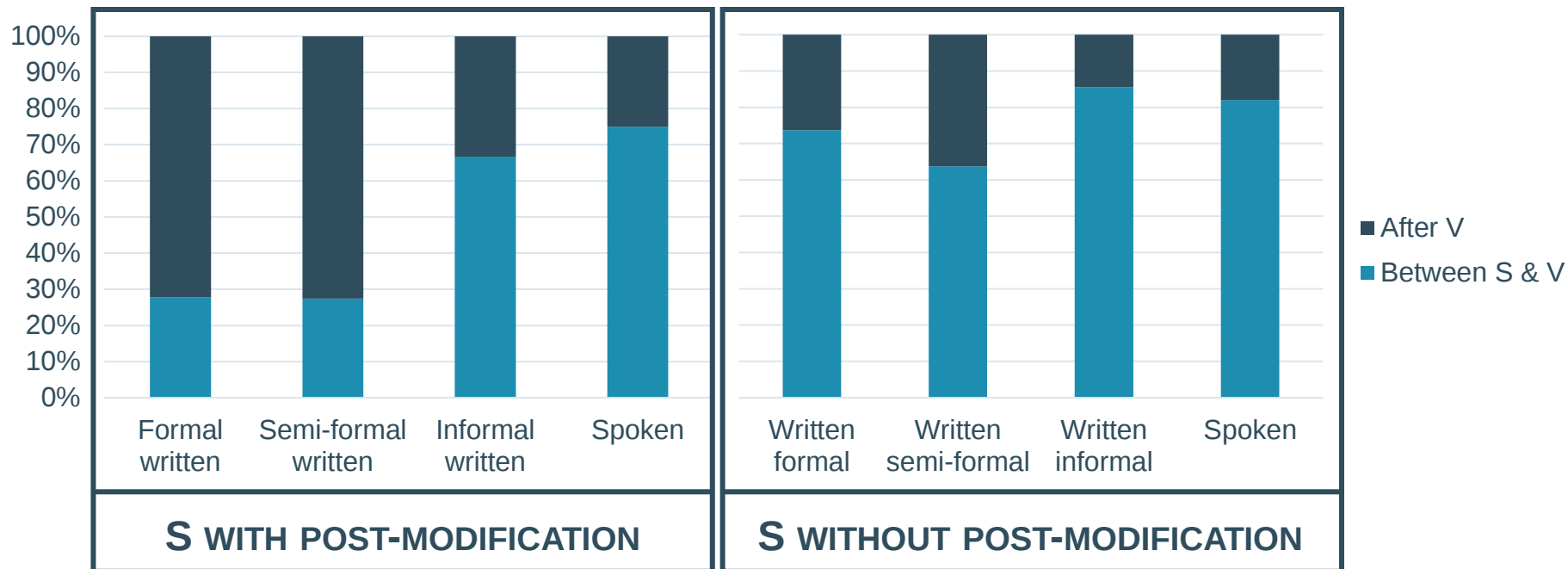
Position after finite V: written (semi-)formal > written informal & spoken



(E-Pros : $\chi^2 = 126.57$, $N = 4965$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.16$ / *quant à* E-Pros : $\chi^2 = 11.76$, $N = 1804$, $df = 1$, $p < .001$, Cramer's $V = 0.08$)

Influence of complexity of subject

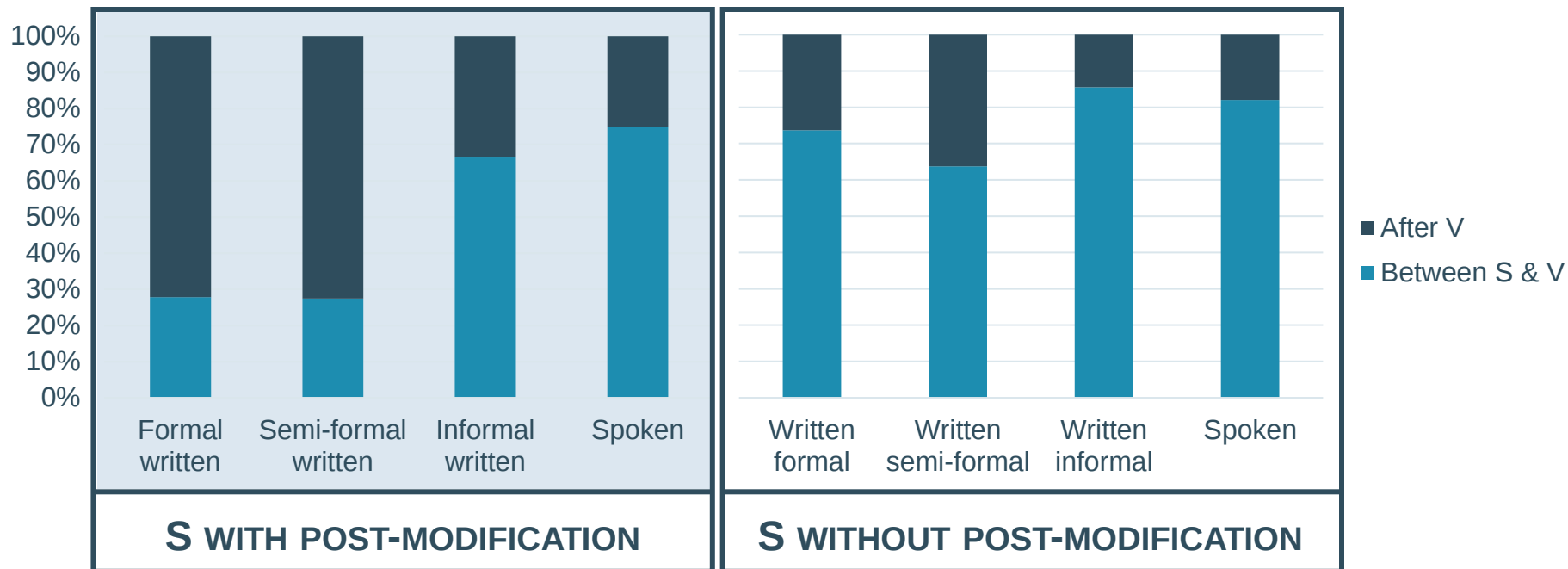
Subject with post-modification: more often after V



(LM : $\chi^2 = 314.67$, $N = 1783$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.001$, Cramer's $V = 0.42$ / ER : $\chi^2 = 289.56$, $N = 2794$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.001$, Cramer's $V = 0.32$ / YCC : Fisher's exact test, two-tailed, $N = 269$, $p = 0.007$ / PARLÉ : Fisher's exact test, two-tailed, $N = 79$, $p = 0.49$)

Influence of complexity of subject

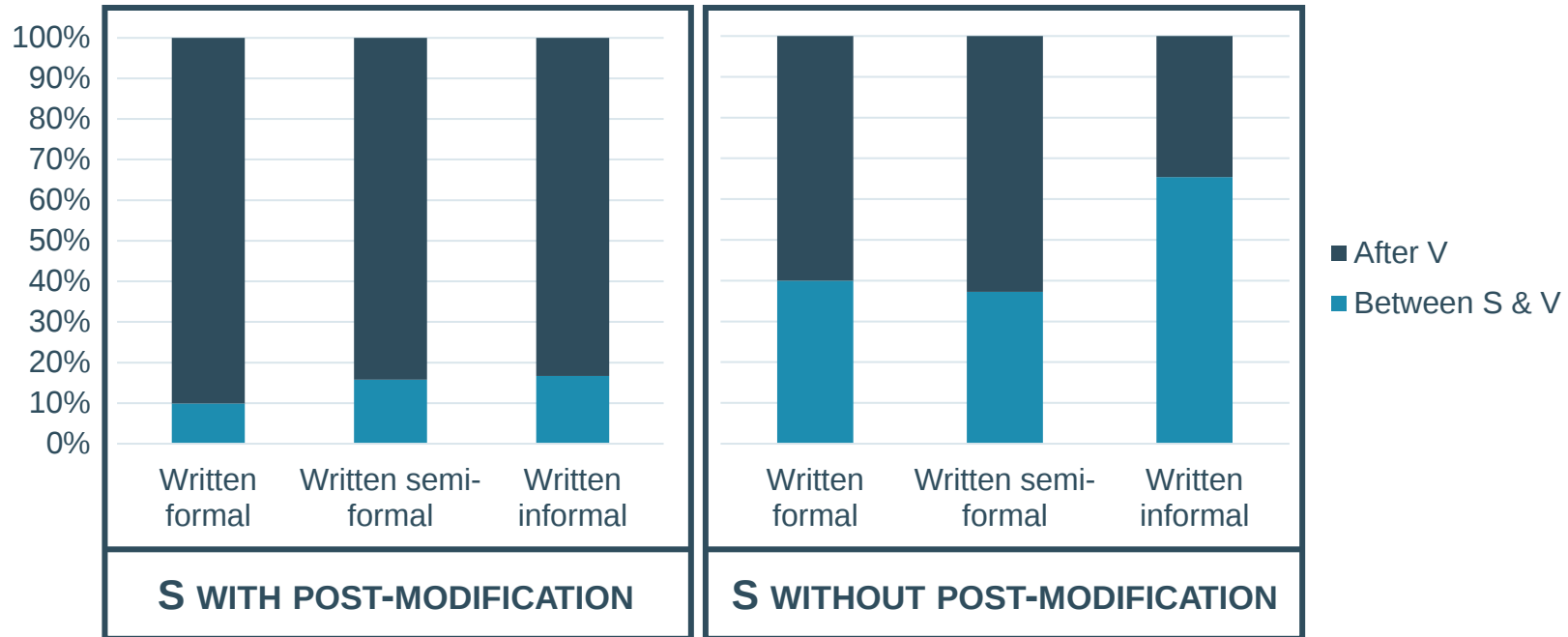
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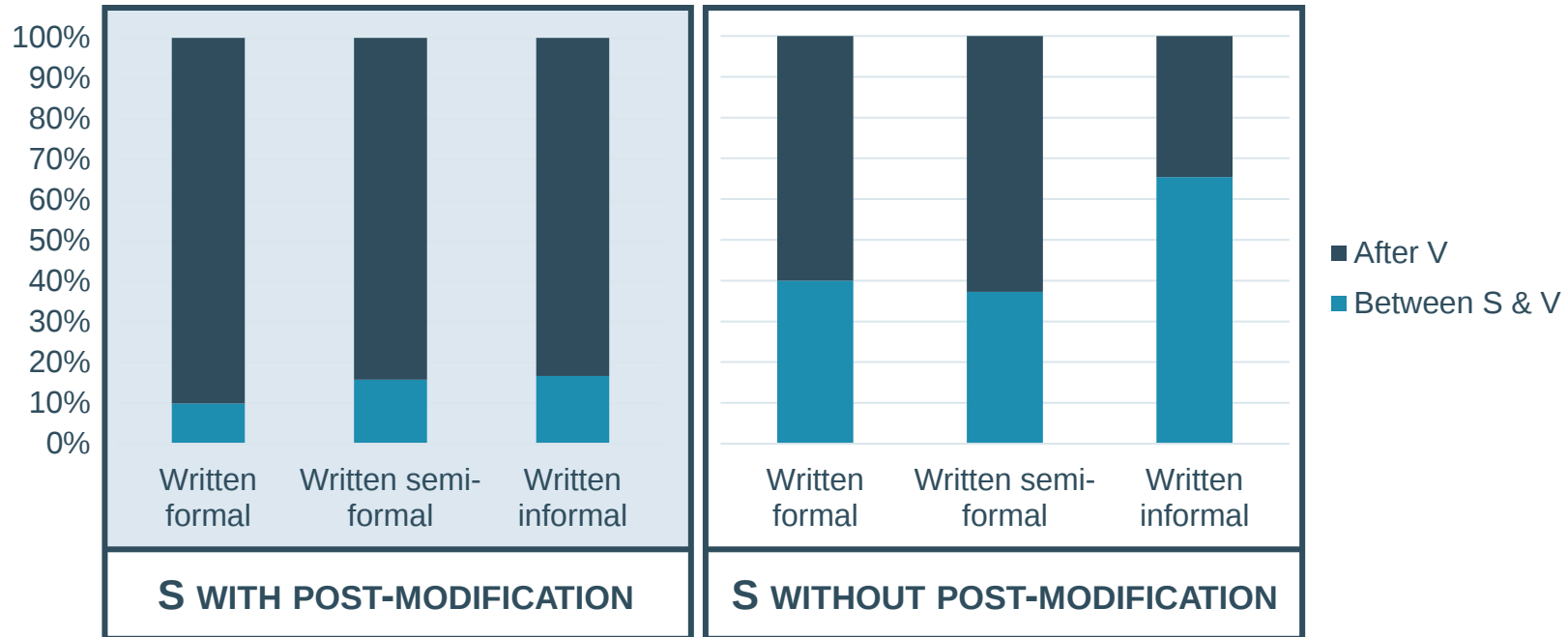
Subject with post-modification: more often after V



(LM : $\chi^2 = 38.03$, $N = 323$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.001$, Cramer's $V = 0.34$ / ER : $\chi^2 = 80.18$, $N = 1427$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.001$, Cramer's $V = 0.24$ / YCC : Fisher's exact test, two-tailed, $N = 32$, $p = 0.06$)

Influence of complexity of subject

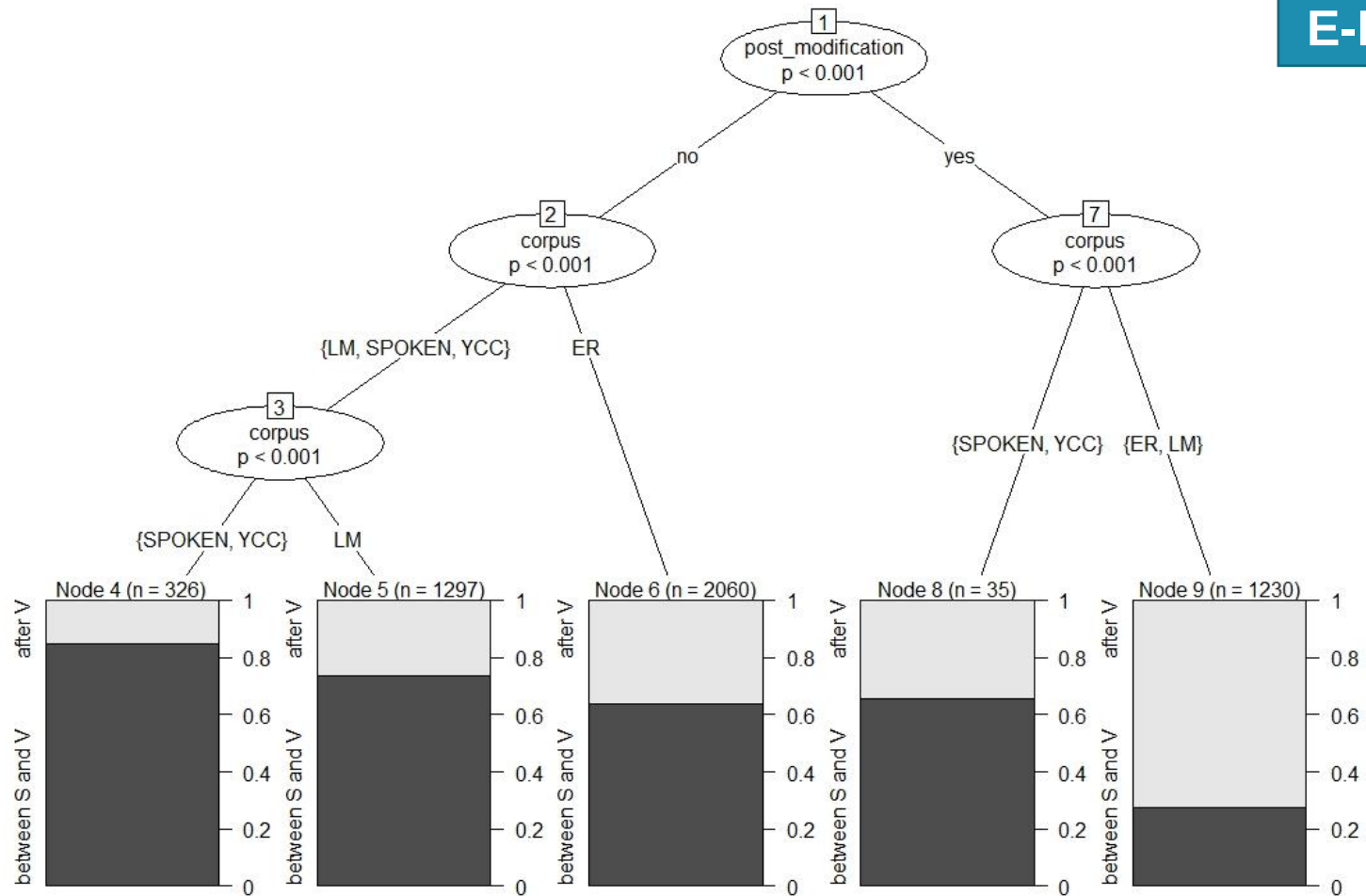
Subject with post-modification: more often after V



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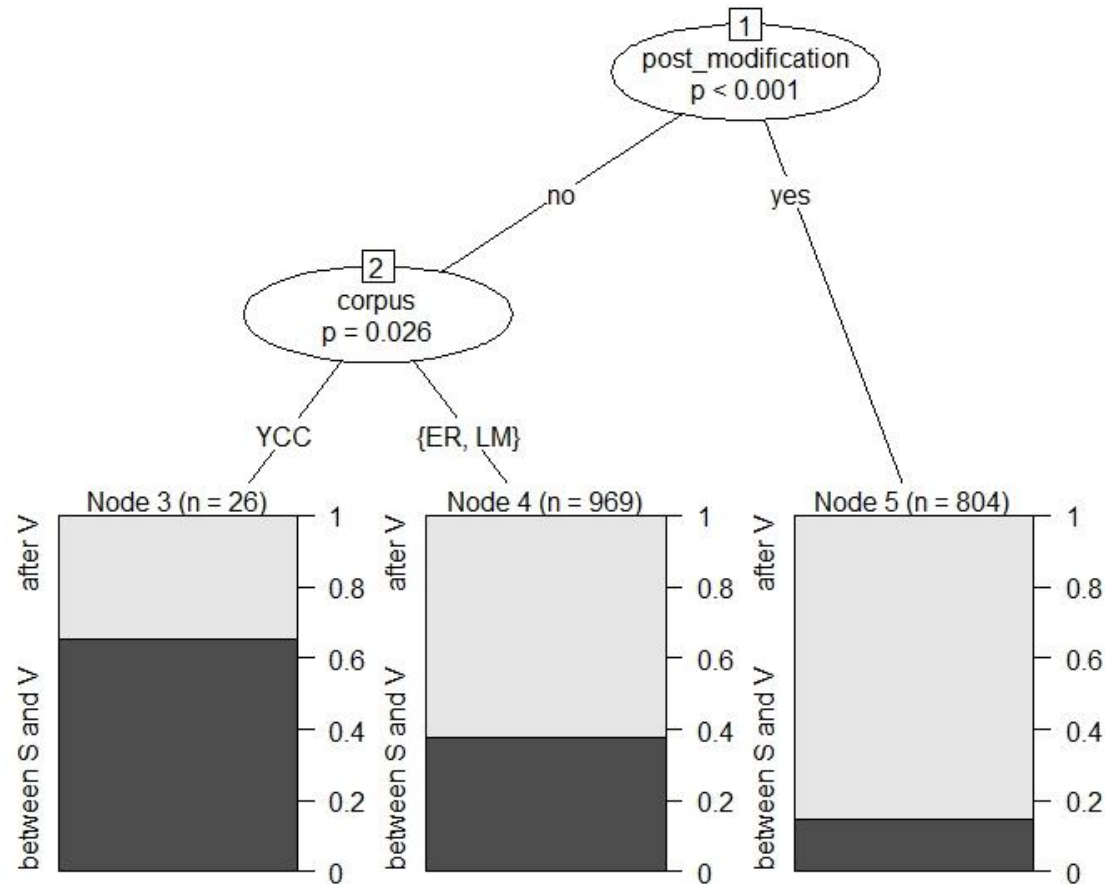
Interaction: register & complexity of subject

E-PROS



Interaction: register & complexity of subject

QUANT À
E-PROS



Conclusion: *lui/eux* vs. *quant à lui/eux*

The alternation and the syntactic position are influenced by ...

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The alternation and the syntactic position are influenced by ...

- the register

written (semi-)formal French → higher chance on *quant à lui/eux* & position after finite V

Conclusion: *lui/eux* vs. *quant à lui/eux*

The alternation and the syntactic position are influenced by ...

- the register

written (semi-)formal French → higher chance on *quant à lui/eux* & position after finite V

- the formal complexity of the subject (= presence of post-modification)

complex subject (= post-modified) → higher chance on *quant à lui/eux* & position after finite V

Conclusion: *lui/eux* vs. *quant à lui/eux*

The alternation and the syntactic position are influenced by ...

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complex subject (= post-modified) → higher chance on *quant à lui/eux* & position after finite V



cf. Complexity Principle, Rohdenburg 2020

THANK YOU!

Questions?

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This work is part of the project 1166619N, funded by the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO).

Influence of complexity of subject

Absolute and relative frequencies

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)		SPOKEN	
	Com- plex	Simple	Com- plex	Simple	Com- plex	Simple	Com- plex	Simple
Between S and finite V	28% (137)	74% (956)	27% (206)	64% (1313)	67% (22)	86% (213)	75% (3)	82% (64)
After finite V	72% (355)	26% (341)	73% (545)	36% (748)	33% (11)	14% (36)	25% (1)	18% (14)
TOTAL	100% (492)	100% (1297)	100% (751)	100% (2061)	100% (33)	100% (249)	100% (4)	100% (78)

Influence of complexity of subject

Absolute and relative frequencies

	LM (formal written)		ER (semi-formal wr)		YCC (informal written)	
	Com- plex	Simple	Com- plex	Simple	Com- plex	Simple
Between S and finite V	10% (16)	40% (66)	16% (101)	37% (300)	17% (1)	65% (17)
After finite V	90% (145)	60% (99)	84% (539)	63% (506)	83% (5)	35% (9)
TOTAL	100% (161)	100% (165)	100% (640)	100% (806)	100% (6)	100% (26)