

MODELLING “CONSTRUCTIONAL TRANSFER”: A COMPARATIVE CORPUS STUDY OF MORPHOLOGICAL AND SYNTACTIC INTENSIFIERS IN L1 FRENCH, DUTCH AND L2 DUTCH

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18 December 2015 – Morphology Days

Outline

1. Introduction
2. A constructional view on foreign language acquisition
3. Intensifying constructions in Dutch and French
4. Corpus analysis
5. Conclusions

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- Intensifier: “a scaling device... which co-occurs with a gradable adjective” (Quirk et al. 1997: 445)
- Intensifier as amplifier – “upward scaling”
 - E.g. *très riche* “very rich”, *gloednieuw* “brand new”, *hypersensitive*
- Previous studies on intensifiers:
 - Rapid renewal and variety intensifiers due to constant need for emotional expressivity (Foolen, Wottrich & Zwets 2012, Van der Wouden & Foolen, forth.)
 - Stylistic specialisation (Hoeksema 2005, Foolen, Wottrich & Zwets 2012)
 - Abundant intensification in youth language (Lorenz 1999, De Decker & Vandekerckhove 2013)
- Focus of my research: acquisition of intensifying constructions

1.2 Project on CLIL education

- Project on CLIL education “Assessing Content and Language Integrated Learning: Linguistic, Cognitive and Educational Perspectives”
 - Université catholique de Louvain and Université de Namur
 - 2014- 2019
- My Phd
 - Comparison adjectival intensification by French-speaking CLIL and non-CLIL learners of English and Dutch
 - Pilot corpus study L1 French, Dutch and L2 Dutch

2. A CONSTRUCTIONAL VIEW ON FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

2.1 Construction Grammar

- *Construction Grammar* (i.a. Verhagen 2005, Goldberg 2006, Hoffmann & Trousdale 2013)
- Intensifying construction $[[X]_{\text{ADV}} [Y]_{\text{ADJ}}]_{\text{AP}} \leftrightarrow \text{“very Y”}$
- At the interface of lexicon and grammar
 - $[[\text{heel}]_{\text{ADV}} [\text{moe}]_{\text{ADJ}}]_{\text{AP}} \leftrightarrow \text{“heel moe”}$
 - $[[\text{dood}]_{\text{N}} [\text{moe}]_{\text{ADJ}}]_{\text{ADV}} \leftrightarrow \text{“doodmoe”}$
- “learning words and learning grammar are really all part of the same developmental process” (Tomasello 2003:42).

2.2 Constructional view on SLA

- Acquiring a (second) language means acquiring the constructions of that language (Ellis & Cadierno 2009; Goldberg 2010; Ellis 2013)
- Competition between L1 and L2 constructions (cf. Ellis 2008, Ellis & Cadierno 2009)
- Competition can result in:
 - Overuse of typical/preferred L1 constructions
 - Underuse constructions that are typical/preferred in the L2

➔ **“constructional transfer”**

2.3 Diasystematic Construction Grammar (DCxG)

- Multilingual speakers have an “interlingual network of constructions with different degrees of schematicity” (Höder 2012:255)
- “(...) Diasystematic Construction Grammar assumes that, within a multilingual system, some constructions are unspecified for language (such as abstract syntactic constructions and lexical concepts), while others (above all lexically and phonologically filled constructions) are language-specific” (Höder 2012:247).
- “Diasystematic links and dia-elements constitute a network through which two language systems used within a multilingual speaker group are interconnected. The degree to which two varieties in contact participate in the common diasystem depends, of course, on their typological similarity: closely related typologically similar languages can more easily develop a high degree of diasystematicity – i.e. the common intersection of their system is larger – than more distant languages, which retain a larger proportion of idiosyncrasies in their systems” (Höder 2012:246).
- Applied to intensification:
 - diasystematic constructions
 - $[[X]_{\text{INT}}[Y]_{\text{Gradable A}}]_{\text{A/AP}}$
 - idiosyncratic constructions
 - e.g. $[[X]_{\text{Prefix}}[Y]_{\text{Adj}}]_{\text{A}}$ (overgelukkig)
 - e.g. $[[X]_{\text{N}}[Y]_{\text{A}}]_{\text{A}}$ (ijskoud)
 - e.g. $[[X]_{\text{ADV}}[Y]_{\text{AP}}]$ (très gentil)

3. INTENSIFYING CONSTRUCTIONS IN L1 DUTCH AND FRENCH

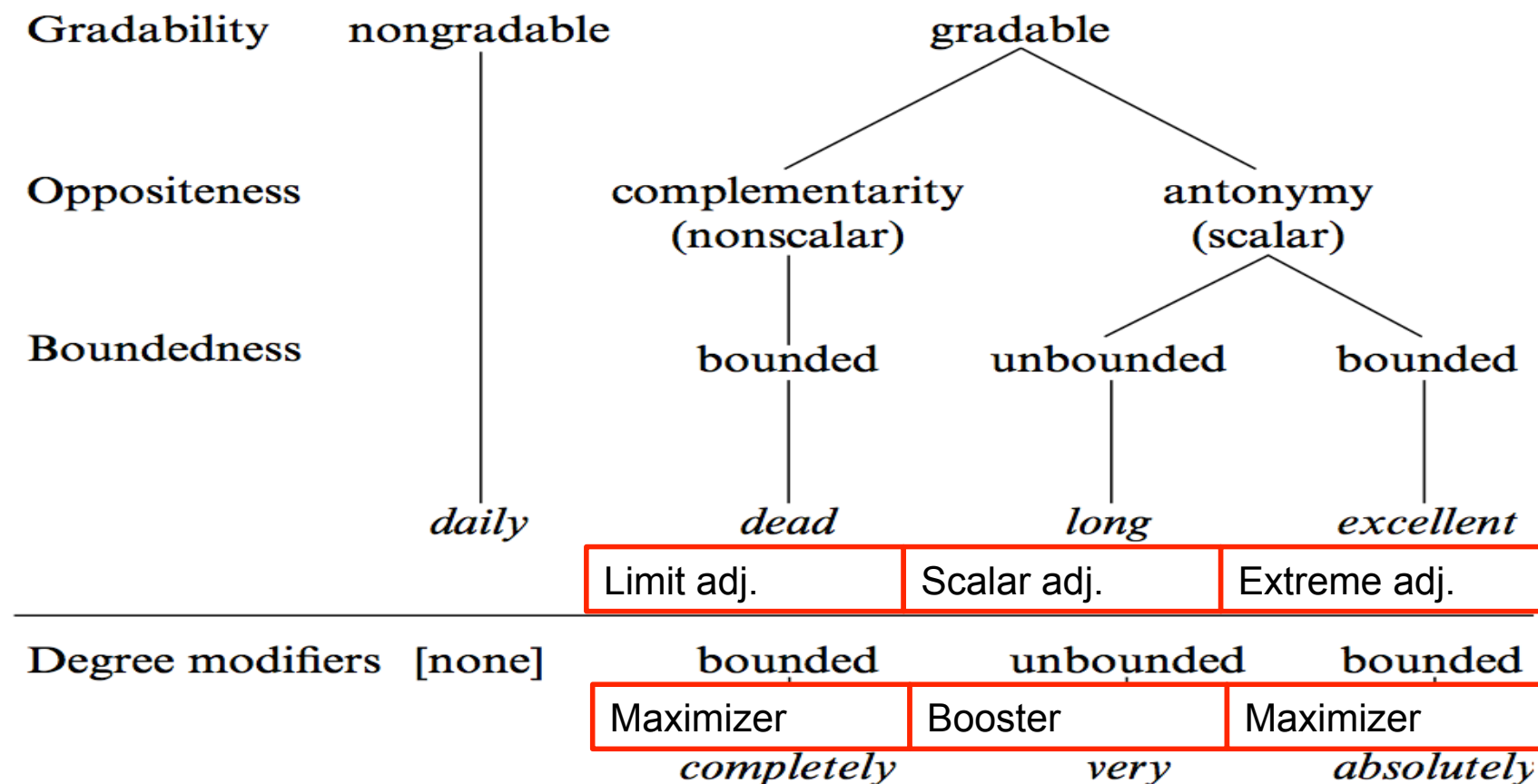
3.1 Adjectival Intensification: Formal criteria

Language Domain	Intensifying construction	Dutch	French
SYNTAX	[Adv + Adj] _{AP}	<i>heel ziek, diep ontgoocheld</i>	<i>très malade, profondément déçu</i>
	[Adj Adj] _{AP} [Adj <i>maar dan</i> ook Adj] _{AP}	<i>mooi, mooi mooi maar dan ook echt mooi</i>	<i>un monde fou fou fou joli mais alors vraiment joli</i>
	[as ADJ as X] _{AP}	<i>zo trots als een aap</i>	<i>fort comme un Turc</i>
MORPHOLOGY	[Prefix + Adj] _{ADJ}	<i>overgelukkig, aartsmoeilijk, supermodern</i>	<i>superpuissant, surdoué, ultramoderne</i>
	[N + Adj] _{ADJ}	<i>beresterk, doodmoe, bloedmooi</i>	?
PHONOLOGY	Stress / vowel lengthening	<i>Het was prAch-tig!</i>	<i>C'était maaaagnifique !</i>

3.2 Adjectival Intensification: Semantic criteria

Gradability and boundedness (Paradis 1997:62)

SCHEMATICITY IN ADJECTIVES



3.3 Additional Semantic Criteria

- Maximizers
 - *absoluut onvoldoende, complètement fou*
- Boosters
 - *zeer mooi, très sympa*
- **Similes**
 - *glashelder, dur comme de la pierre*
- **Excess**
 - *overvol, hypermoderne*
- **Lexicalised meaning**
 - *overweldigend, extraordinaire*

3.4 Hypotheses

- Constructional transfer hypothesis applied to intensifying constructions
 - Overgeneralization (transfer) of the preferred mother tongue constructions
 - Especially syntactic constructions (adverbial modification, repetition, [as ADJ as X]_{AP})
 - Underuse of idiosyncratic second language constructions
 - Especially morphologic constructions (intensifying compounds, prefixes)

4. CORPUS ANALYSIS

4.1 Method

- Corpora
 - L1 Dutch (*Corpus Hedendaags Nederlands: CHN*)
 - Extraction 21200 adjectives through interface
 - L2 Dutch (*Leerdercorpus Nederlands: LCN*)
 - Extraction 8454 adjectives through CGN tagger-lemmatizer
 - L1 French (*Frantext corpus*)
 - Extraction 9009 adjectives through interface

4.2 Results: Proportions intensified adjectives

	CHN (L1 Dutch)	LCN (L2 Dutch)	Frantext (L1 French)
Adjectives extracted per corpora	21200	8454	9009
Intensified adjectives	308	498	353
Percentage intensified adjectives	1.45%	5.89%	3.92%

- Granger 1998, Lorenz 1999

4.3 Results: Variation and productivity

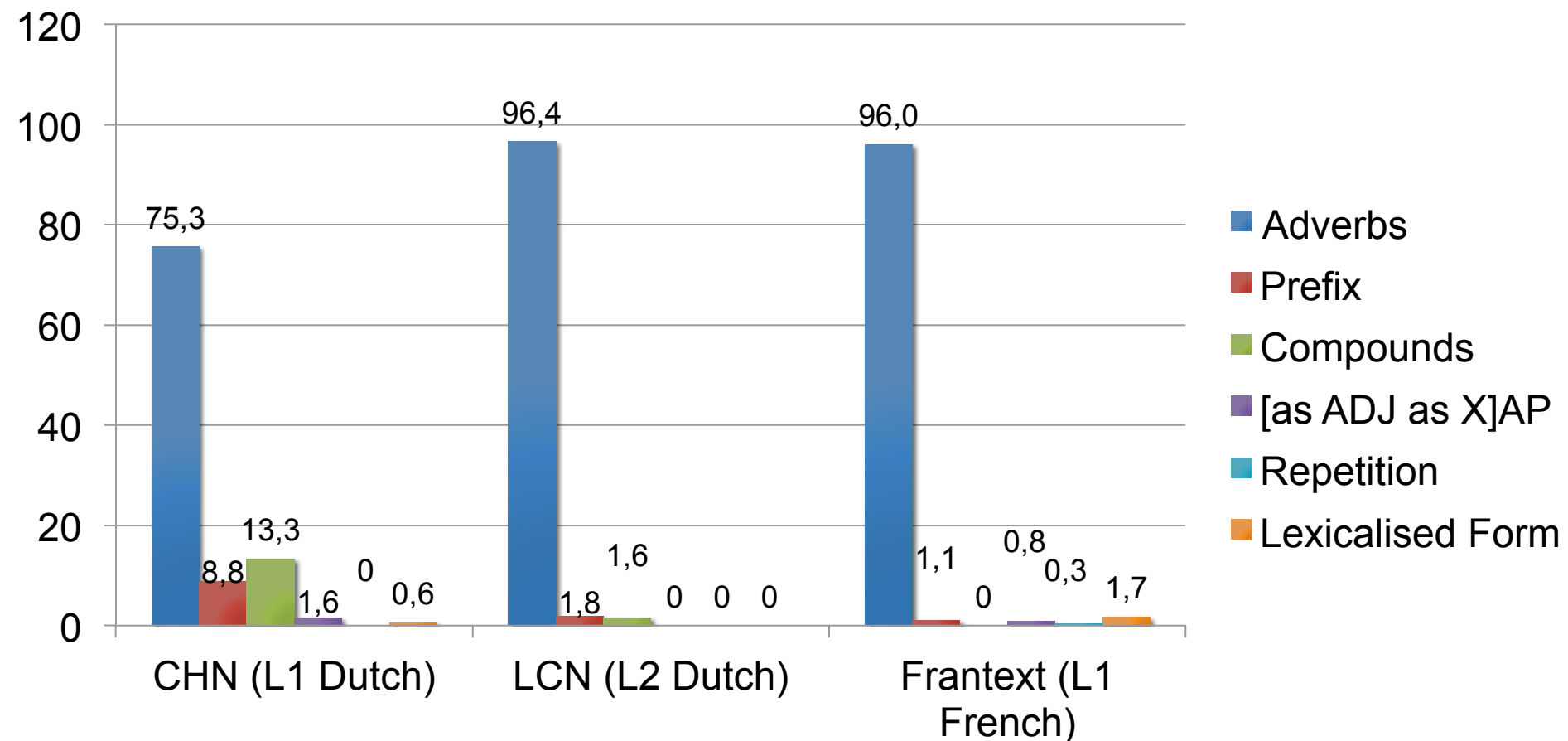
- (Baayen 2009)

	CHN (L1 Dutch)	LCN (L2 Dutch)	Frantext (L1 French)
Type/token ratio	82/308 = 0,266	29/ 498 = 0,058	43/353 = 0,122
Illustration variation	erg hoog heel hoog toren hoog uitzonderlijk hoog	heel hoog	/
Hapax legomena	45/308 = 0,146	10/498 = 0,020	20/ 353 = 0,057

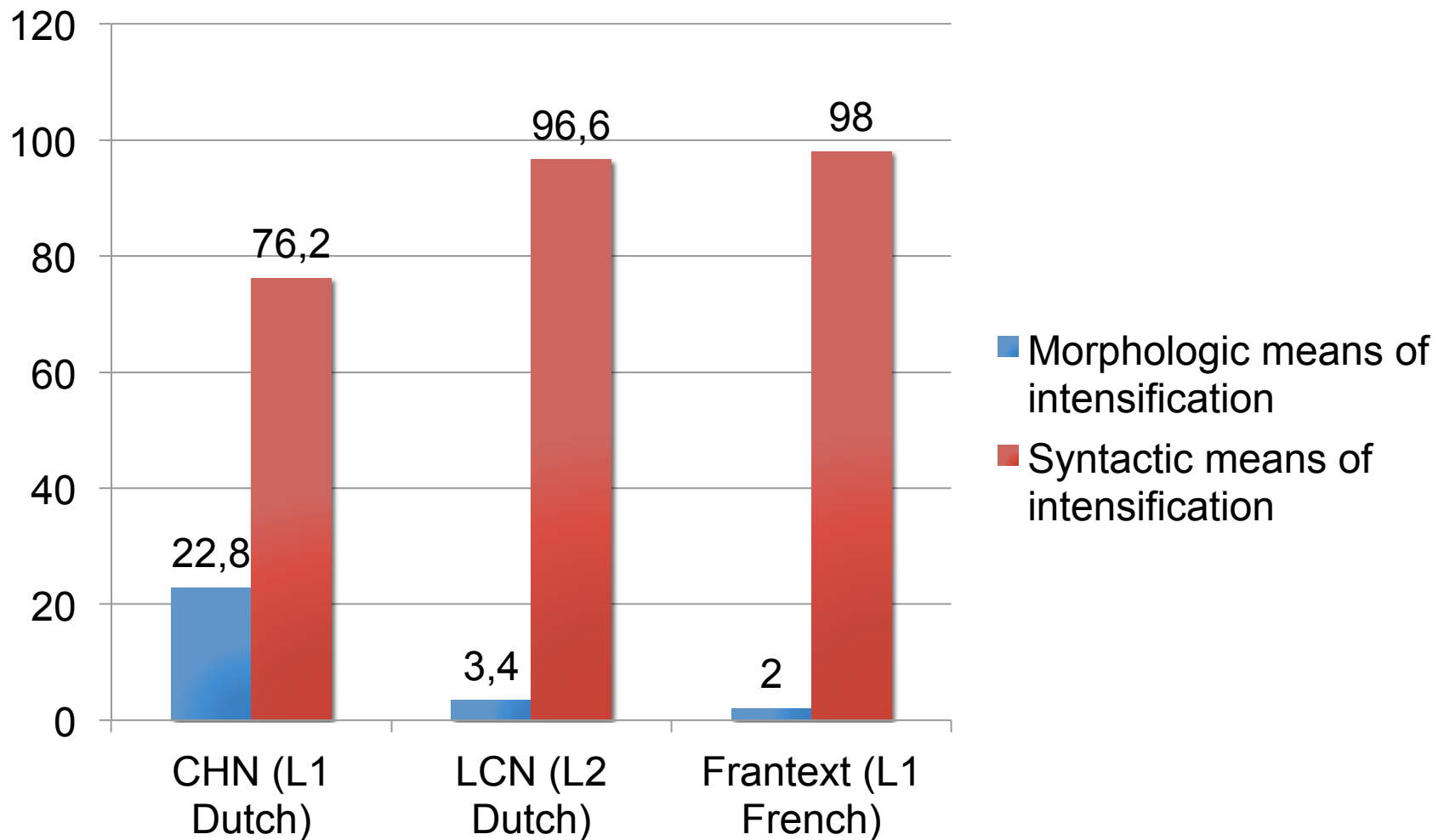
4.4 Results: Most frequent intensifiers

	CHN (L1 Dutch)	LCN (L2 Dutch)	Frantext (L1 French)
Most frequent Intensifiers (normalized frequencies)	1. heel/héél (21.1%) 2. zeer (9.8%) 3. bijzonder (5.5%) 4. aller- (3.6%) 5. over- (2.9%)	1. heel (54.8%) 2. zeer (13.7%) 3. zo (7.4%) 4. erg (7.2%) 5. echt (3.4%) veel (1.4%)	1. très (41.1%) 2. tout(e)(s) (18.3%) 3. si (12.2%) 4. purement (2.5%) 5. parfaitement (2.0%)
Examples	<i>“Het is heel belangrijk dat iemand de leiding neemt”</i> <i>“Vooral op onderwijsvlak een bijzonder succesvolle samenwerking”</i>	<i>“We moeten een heleboel bladen van buiten leren en dat vind ik heel moeilijk en ook vermoeiend”</i> <i>“Kinderen hebben kost namelijk veel duur”</i>	<i>“J'en suis restée tout étonnée, très flattée”</i> <i>“Et j'ai aimé aussi le nom si inattendu d'une des rues qui longent le rempart”</i>

4.5 Results: Formal comparison intensifiers

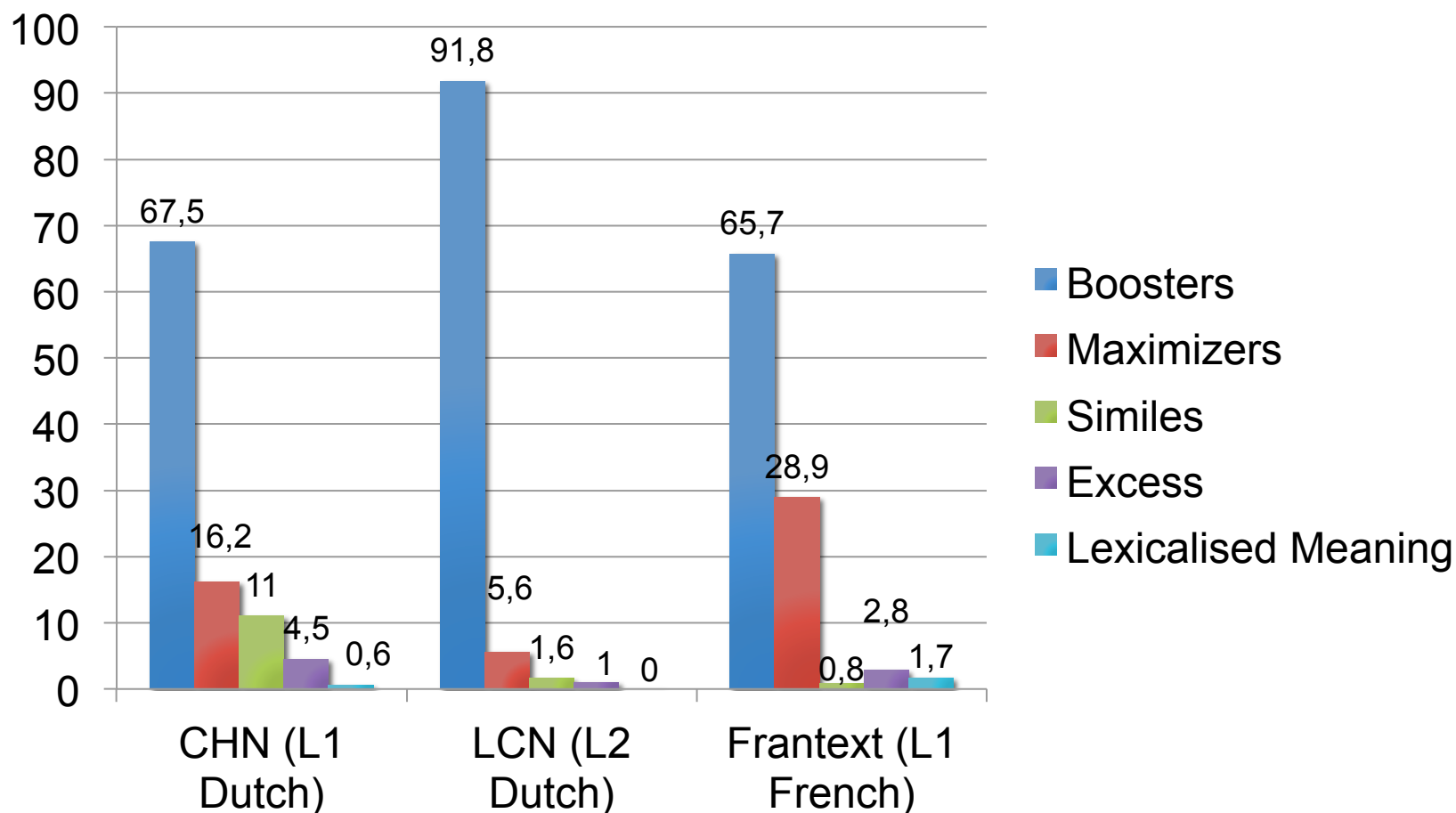


4.5 Results: Formal comparison intensifiers

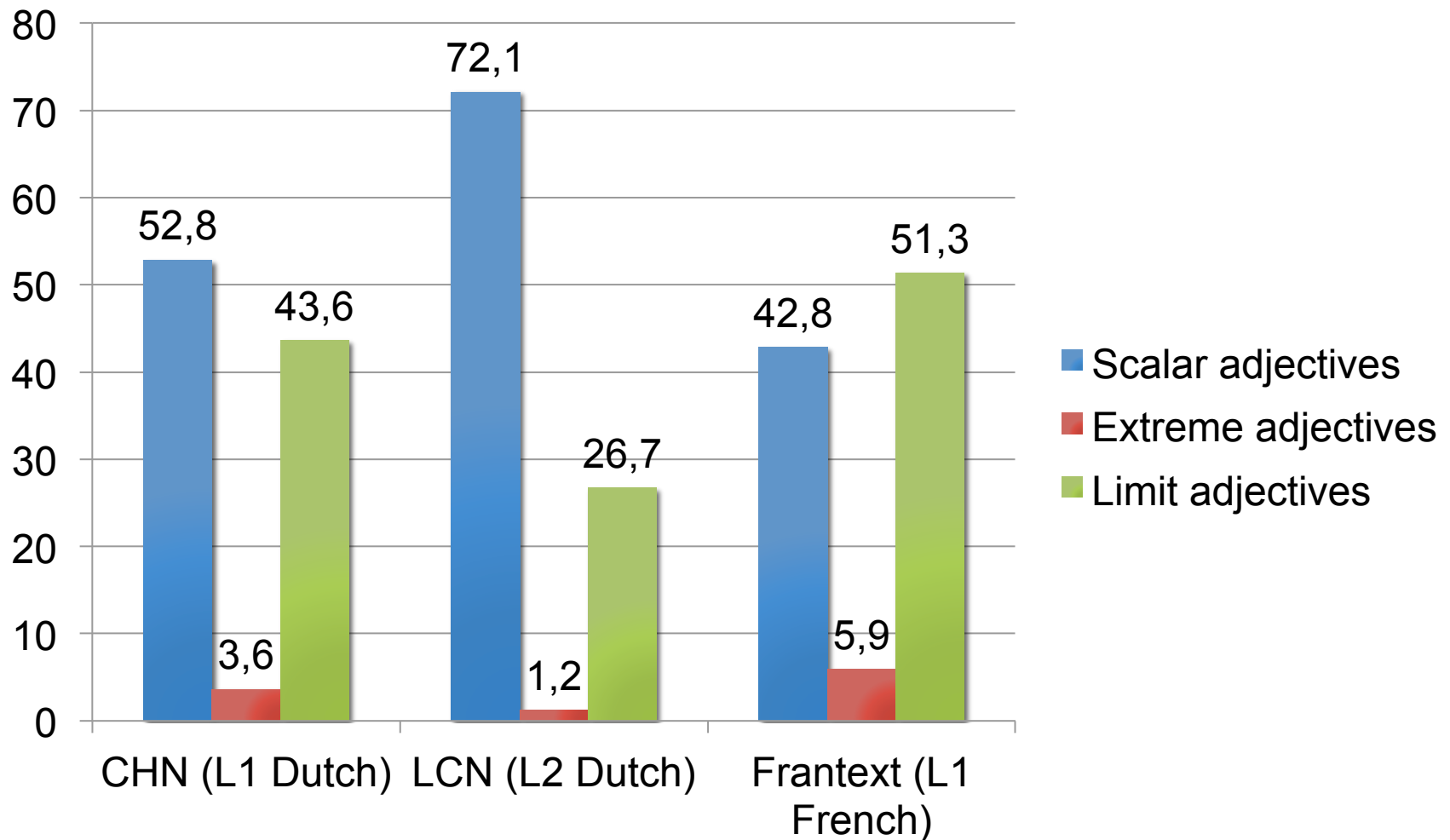


construction	CHN (L1 Dutch)	LCN (L2 Dutch)	Frantext (L1 French) ²¹
[Adv + Adj] _{AP}	“Kopenhagen op deze manier verkennen is bijzonder leuk , ook met kinderen.”	“Vroeger was het huwelijk iets heel belangrijk ”	“On sent que, d'ores et déjà, aucun orateur, fût-il pour ou contre l'amnistie, ne pourra satisfaire aux exigences de ce public intensément humain. ”
[Adj Adj] _{AP}	-	-	“les bureaux des armateurs, les entrepôts, les marchés publics, tout est petit, petit... Petit ”
[as ADJ as X] _{AP}	“Daarover wordt een zo breed mogelijk maatschappelijk debat gevoerd”	-	“...il n'est presque plus séparable de ces enveloppes, aussi concentriques et aussi serrées que les pelures d'un oignon , enveloppes qui le dessinent, le moulent, et presque en définitive pour nous le font être”
[Prefix + Adj] _{Adj}	“Vindt iedereen wel zijn weg in het overvolle aanbod aan info en initiatieven?”	“De allermooiste stad die we gezien hebben was Delphi”	“Cette ubiquité omniprésente de l'imagination, quel fabuleux miracle. ”
[N + Adj] _{Adj}	“Bovendien zijn de instrumenten peperduur en hebben we het geld niet om ze aan te kopen”	“Als je je partner niet kan vertrouwen wort je meestal doodongelukkig ”	-
Lexicalised	“Steeds meer consumenten willen de overweldigende beeld- en geluidservaring”	-	“La Bourdette est vraiment un carrefour extraordinaire ”

4.6 Results: Semantic comparison Intensifiers



4.7 Results: semantic categories adjectives



Adjective	Intensifier	CHN (L1 Dutch)	LCN (L2 Dutch)	Frantext (L2 French)	24
Scalar	Maximizer	10.5% _c	3.1% _b	18.5% _a	
	Booster	69.1% _a	95.8% _b	78.8% _a	
	Simile	16.7% _b	0.3% _a	0.7% _a	
	Lexicalised				
	Excess	3.7% _a	0.8% _b	2.0% _{a, b}	
		100%	100%	100%	
Extreme	Maximizer	9.1% _a	16.7% _a	19.0% _a	
	Booster	63.6% _a	83.3% _a	52.4% _a	
	Simile				
	Lexicalised	18.2% _a		28.6% _a	
	Excess	9.1% _a			
		100%	100%	100%	
Limit	Maximizer	23.9% _c	12.0% _b	38.7% _a	
	Booster	65.7% _a	81.2% _b	56.4% _a	
	Simile	5.2% _b	5.3% _b	1.1% _a	
	Lexicalised				
	Excess	5.2% _a	1.5% _a	3.9% _a	
		100%	100%	100%	

4.8 Results: correlation semantic types intensifiers and adjectives

- In all corpora a preference for boosters, strongest in combination with scalar adjectives (especially among learners (Cf. Höder 2012 Diasystematic construction grammar))
 - Scalar adjective intensified by booster
 - “Hana is een **zeer kletserig** meisje en begint dus te praten over de verkoper van hun nieuwe koelkast” (LCN, L2 Dutch)
 - Extreme adjective intensified by maximizer
 - “Nous touchons ici à un sujet **extrêmement grave** que je n'ai pas le loisir de développer aujourd'hui (...)” (Frantext, L1 French)
 - Limit adjective intensified by simile
 - “Het cabaret is bij onze noorderburen nog altijd **springlevend**”. (CHN, L1 Dutch)

5. CONCLUSIONS

5 Conclusions

- On the formal level
 - Learners use proportionally more often intensifying constructions than natives
 - Lowest variety and productivity in learner corpus
 - **Constructional transfer effects: French-speaking learners of Dutch use more syntactic constructions than native Dutch-speakers but less than native French-speakers**
- On the semantic level
 - overuse of $[[\text{INT}]_{\text{Booster}} [\text{ADJ}]_{\text{scalar}}]_{\text{AP}}$ by the learners (cf. Höder 2012 Diasystematic Construction Grammar)

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Super bedankt!

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