

ETHNOLINGUISTIC VARIATION IN TORONTO ENGLISH: POSSESSION AND DEONTIC MODALITY

James A. Walker & Michol F. Hoffman
York University (Toronto)

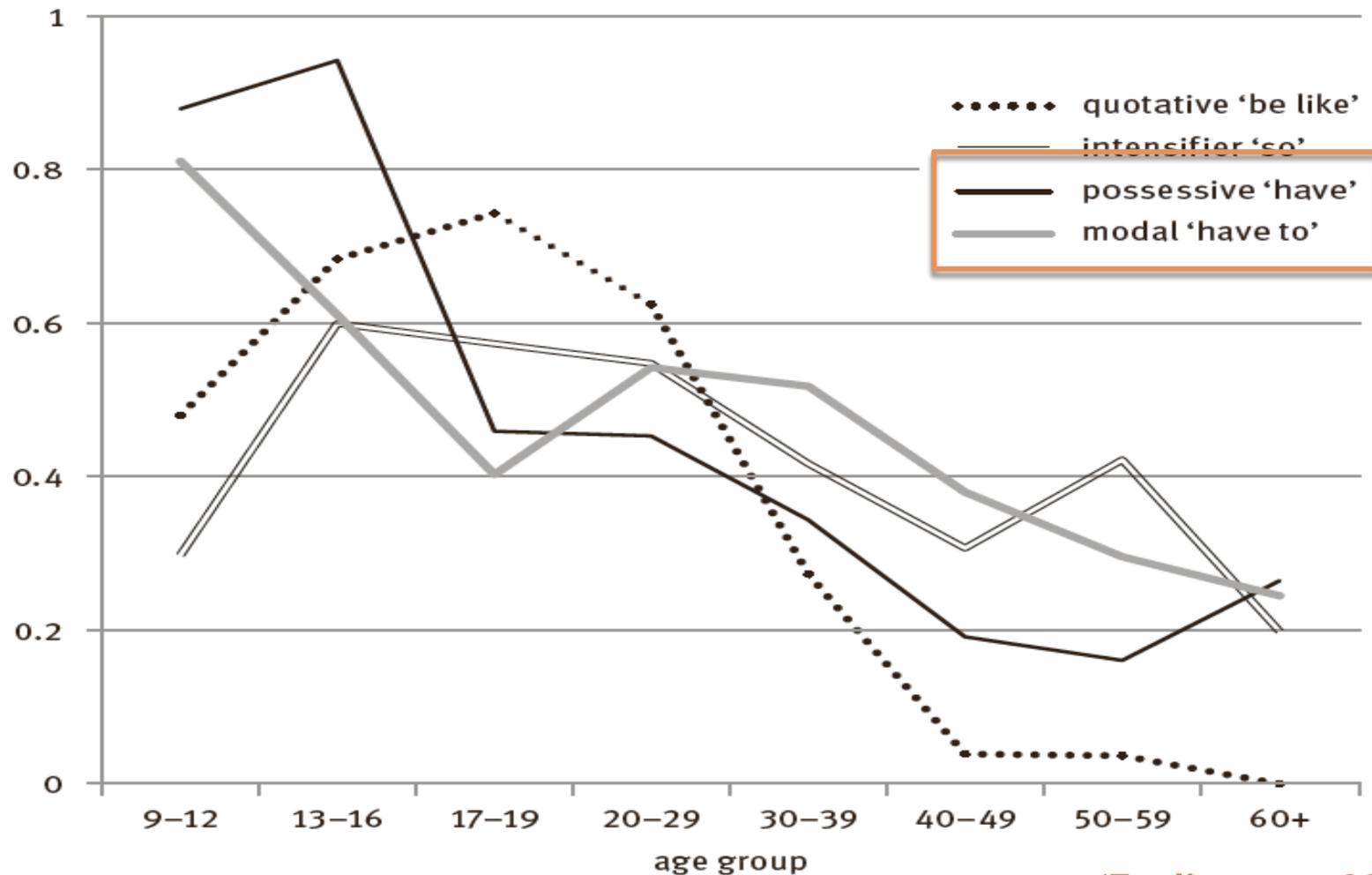


January 10, 2016



Washington, DC

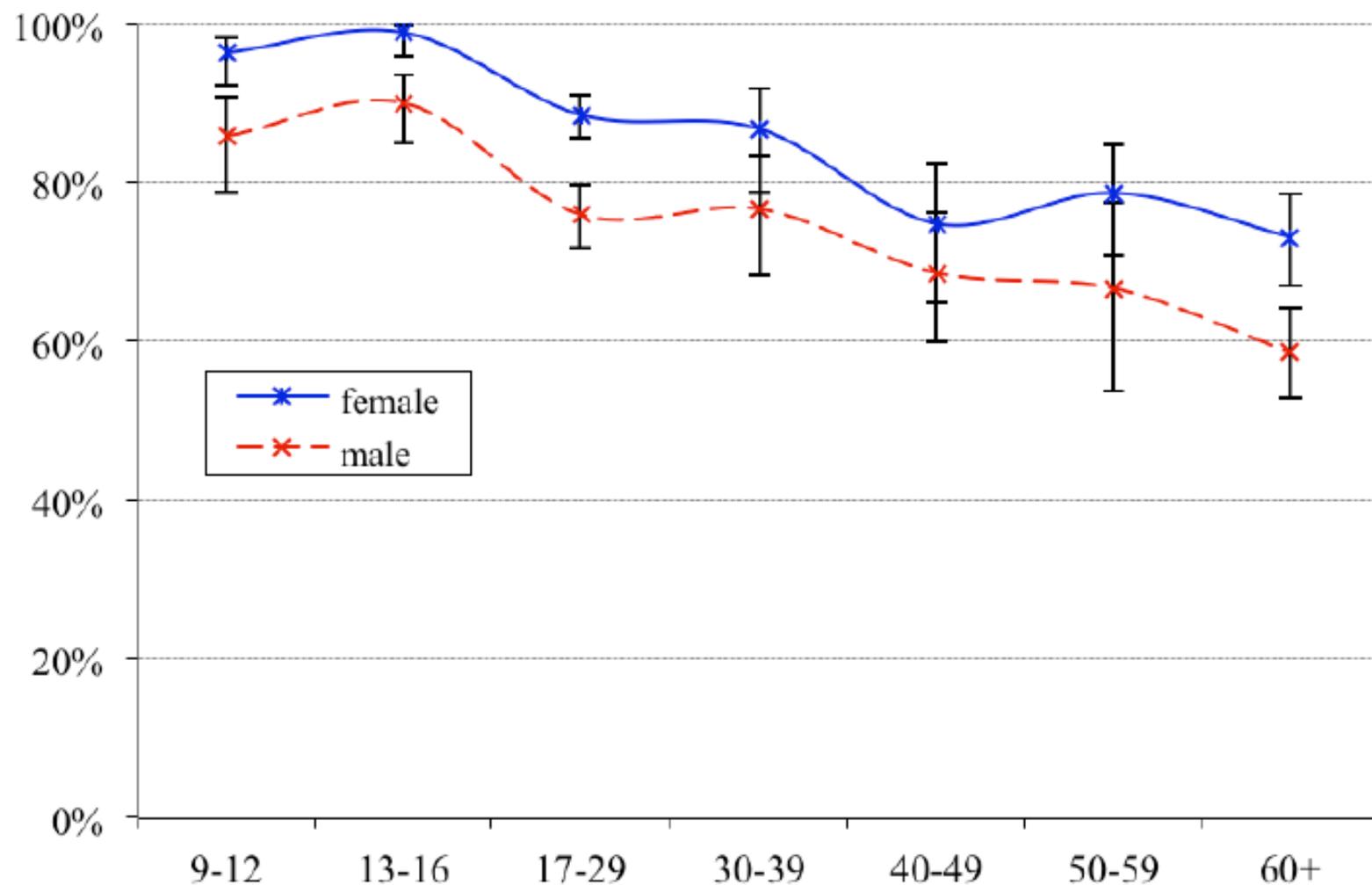
Canadian English Entering the 21st Century: Changes in Progress



(Tagliamonte 2006, 2013)

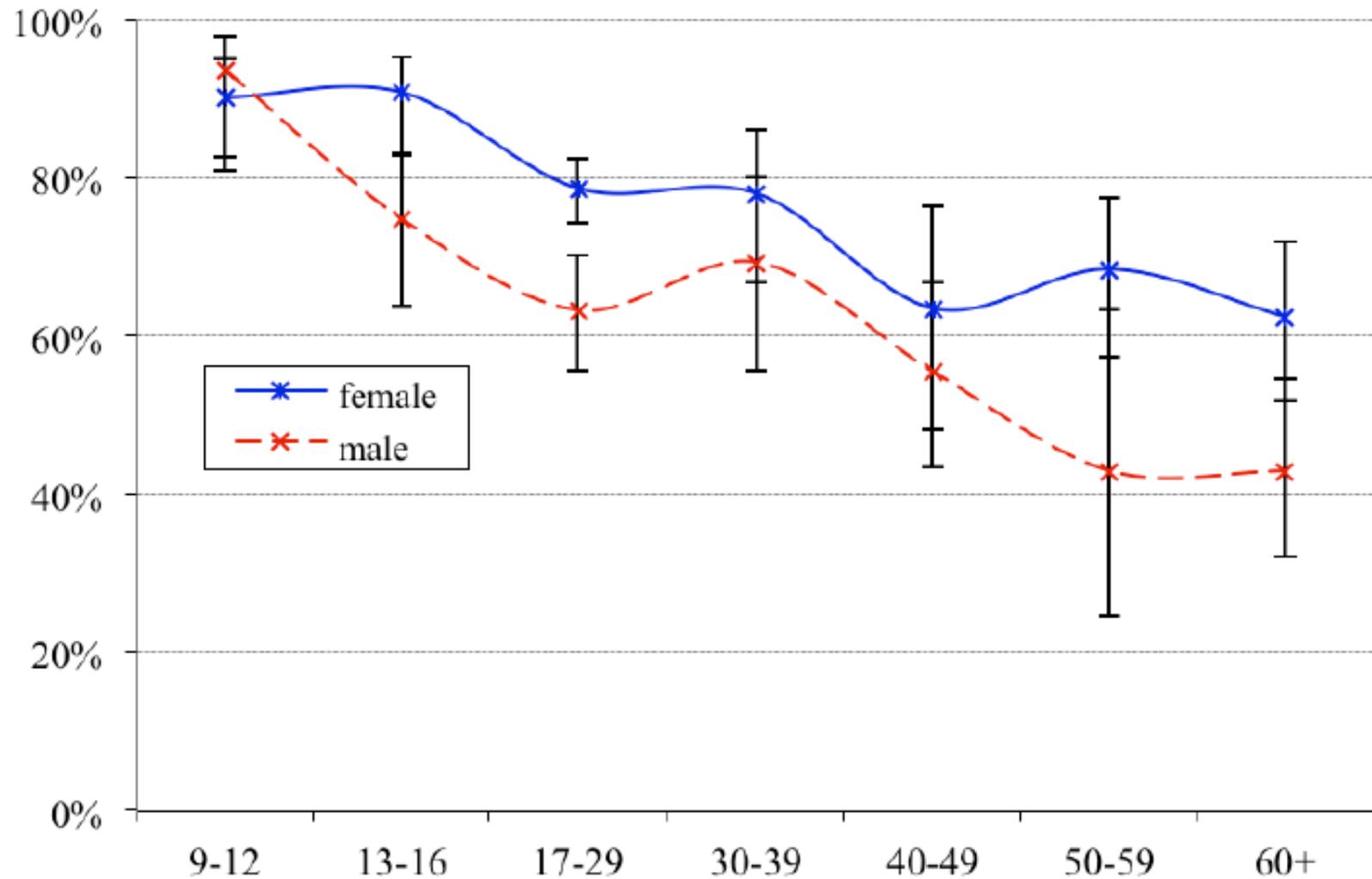
Rates of *have* in Toronto English

(Tagliamonte 2013)



Rates of *have to* in Toronto English

(Tagliamonte 2013)



Research Questions

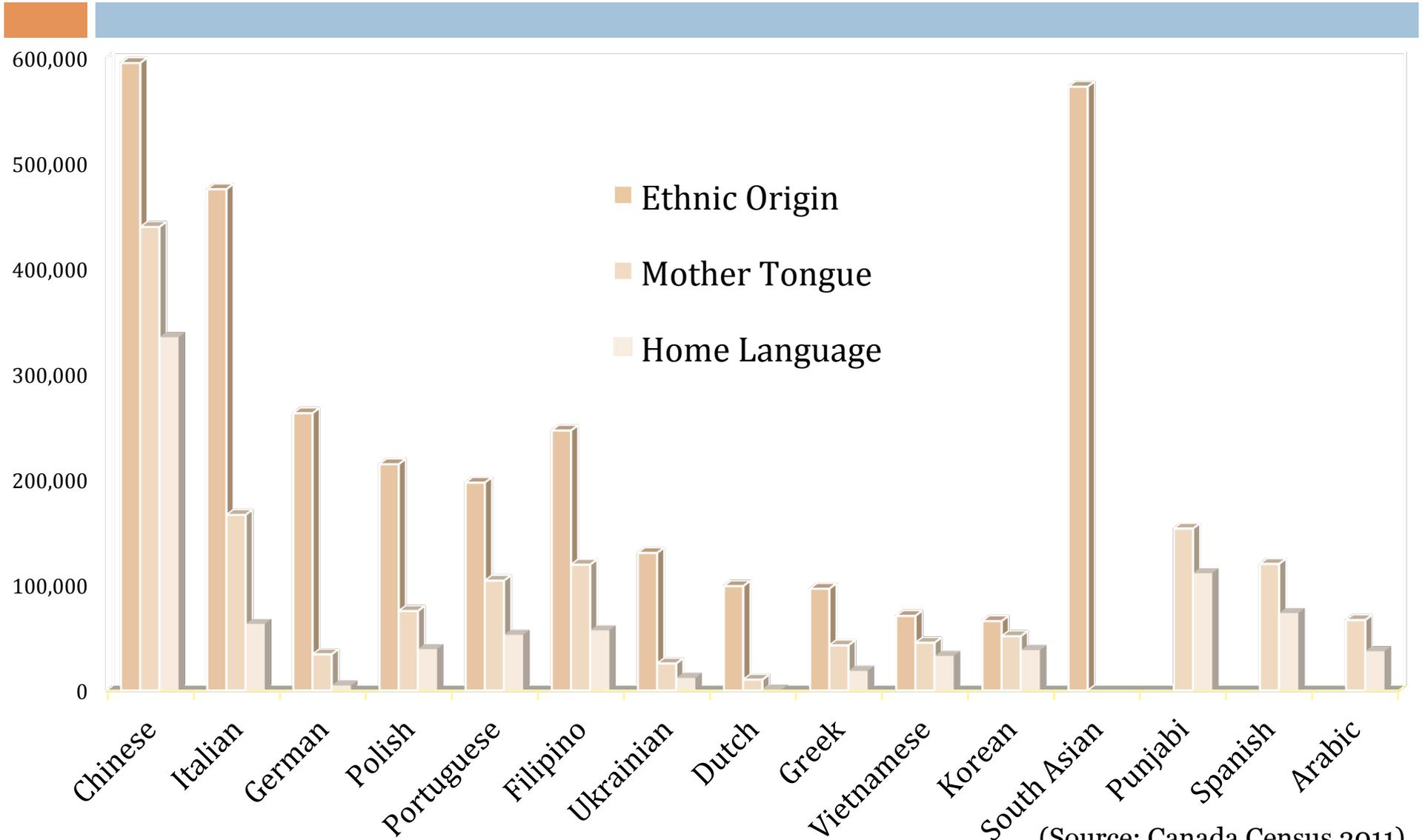


- Are there other social dimensions to the changes in possession and deontic modality?
 - ▣ Specifically, what is the effect of Canada's increasing **ethnolinguistic** diversity?

- What are the **linguistic** factors driving these changes?
 - ▣ Are these factors the same for both changes?

 - ▣ Are these factors the same for all ethnic groups?

Toronto's Ethnolinguistic Diversity: Number of Heritage Language Residents



(Source: Canada Census 2011)

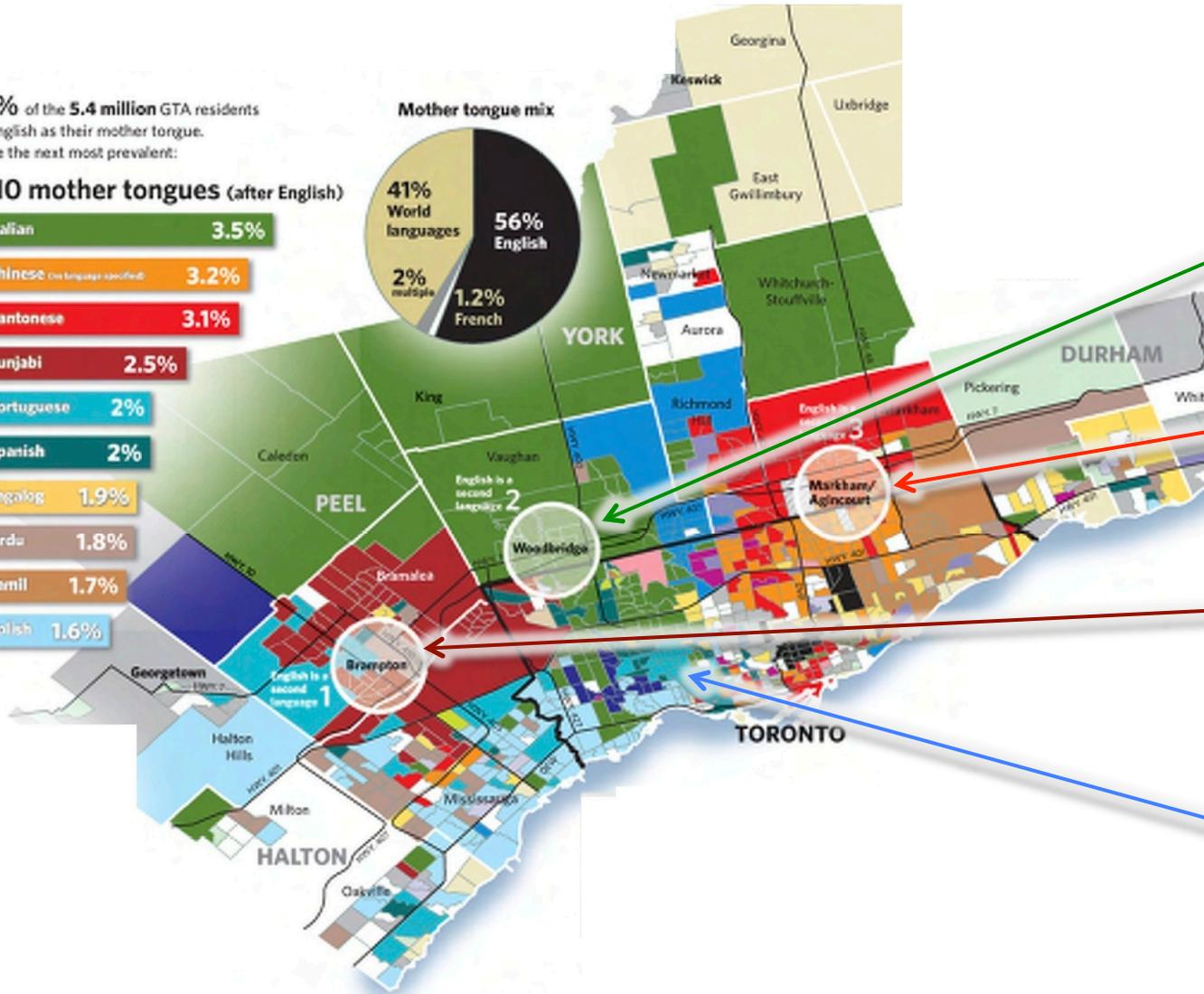
“Ethnic Enclaves” in Toronto

56% of the 5.4 million GTA residents count English as their mother tongue. Here are the next most prevalent:

Top 10 mother tongues (after English)

- ① Italian 3.5%
- ② Chinese (as language specified) 3.2%
- ③ Cantonese 3.1%
- ④ Punjabi 2.5%
- ⑤ Portuguese 2%
- ⑥ Spanish 2%
- ⑦ Tagalog 1.9%
- ⑧ Urdu 1.8%
- ⑨ Tamil 1.7%
- ⑩ Polish 1.6%

Mother tongue mix



Italian

Chinese

Punjabi

Portuguese

Source: *Toronto Star*, December 30, 2007

“Contact in the City”

(Hoffman & Walker 2010)



Stratification of Informants by Ethnic Origin, Generation and Sex

Ethnic Origin:

| Gen/ Age: | British/ Irish | | Italian | | Chinese | | Punjabi | | Portuguese | | Greek | |
|---|-------------------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|------------|---|-------|---|
| | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M |
| 1 st (40+) | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 nd /3 rd (18-30) | 6 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 16 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Total: | 14 | 12 | 15 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 17 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Ethnicity Total: | 26 | | 27 | | 33 | | 32 | | 12 | | 14 | |
| Grand Total: | 144 | | | | | | | | | | | |

In progress: Filipino, Jewish, Korean, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

Number of Speakers & Tokens

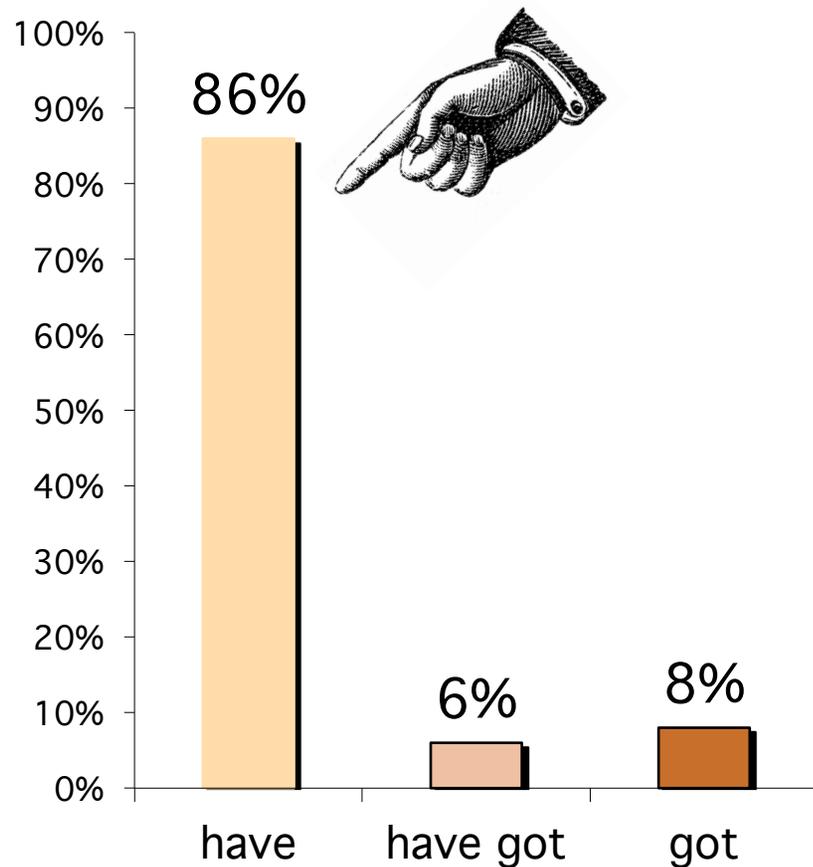
| | # Speakers | # Tokens |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------|
| British/Irish (older) | 12 | 571 |
| British/Irish (younger) | 11 | 516 |
| Chinese (G2/G3) | 18 | 743 |
| Greek (G2/G3) | 3 | 128 |
| Italian (G2/G3) | 13 | 578 |
| Portuguese (G2/G3) | 4 | 167 |
| Punjabi (G2/G3) | 9 | 682 |
| TOTAL: | 69 | 3,385 |

Linguistic Factor Groups

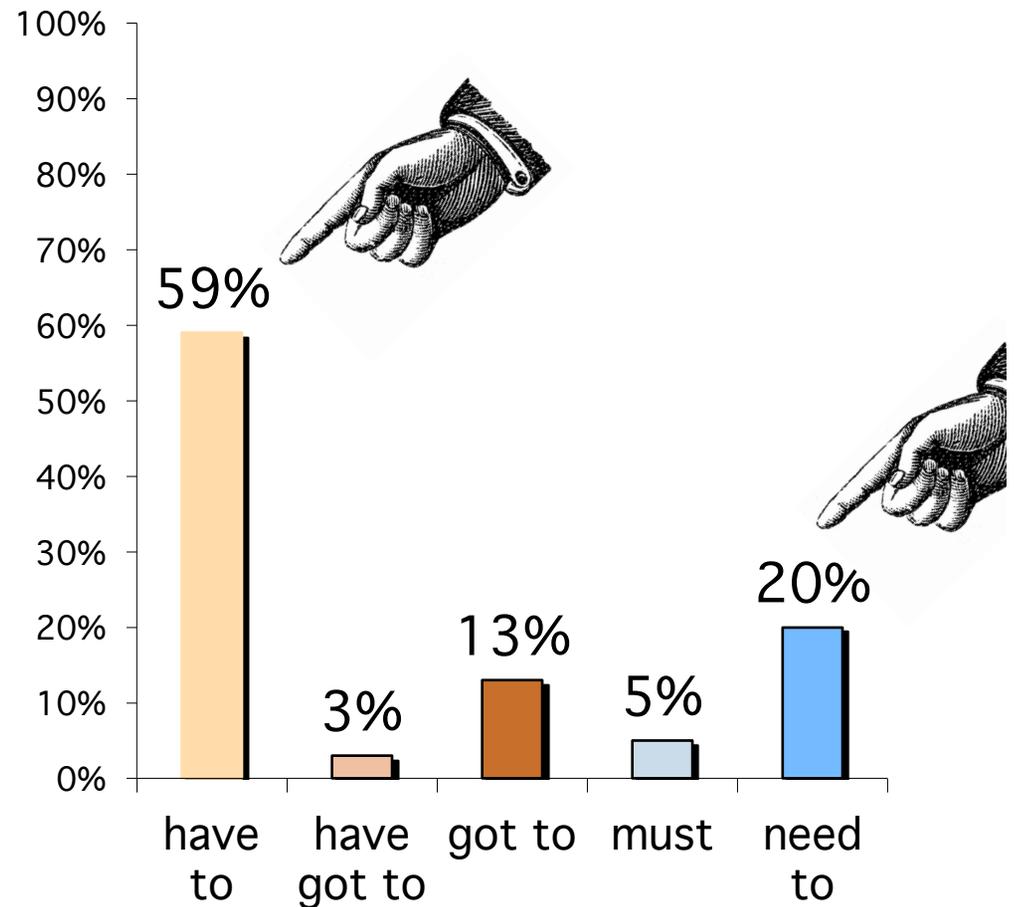
- Grammatical Function
 - ▣ Possession (1) vs. Deontic modality (2)
- Polarity (3)
 - ▣ Positive vs. Negative (+ different types of negative)
- Type of Sentence (4)
 - ▣ Declarative vs. Interrogative
- Type of Subject (5)
 - ▣ Noun Phrase vs. Personal pronoun vs. Generic (*you, they*)
- Abstractness of Object (Possession only) (6)
 - ▣ Abstract vs. Concrete
- Specificity of Object (Possession only) (7)
 - ▣ Specific vs. Generic
- Temporal Boundedness (Possession only) (8)
 - ▣ Temporary vs. Permanent

Overall Rates

Table 1 on the Handout



Possession



Deontic Modality

Possession



Left side of Table 3 on the handout!

Linguistic Conditioning of *have*

Polarity

Negative .56

Positive .40

Range: 16

Specificity of Object

Generic .61

Specific .48

Range: 13

Subject Type

Generic .34

Pronoun .53

NP .64

Range: 30

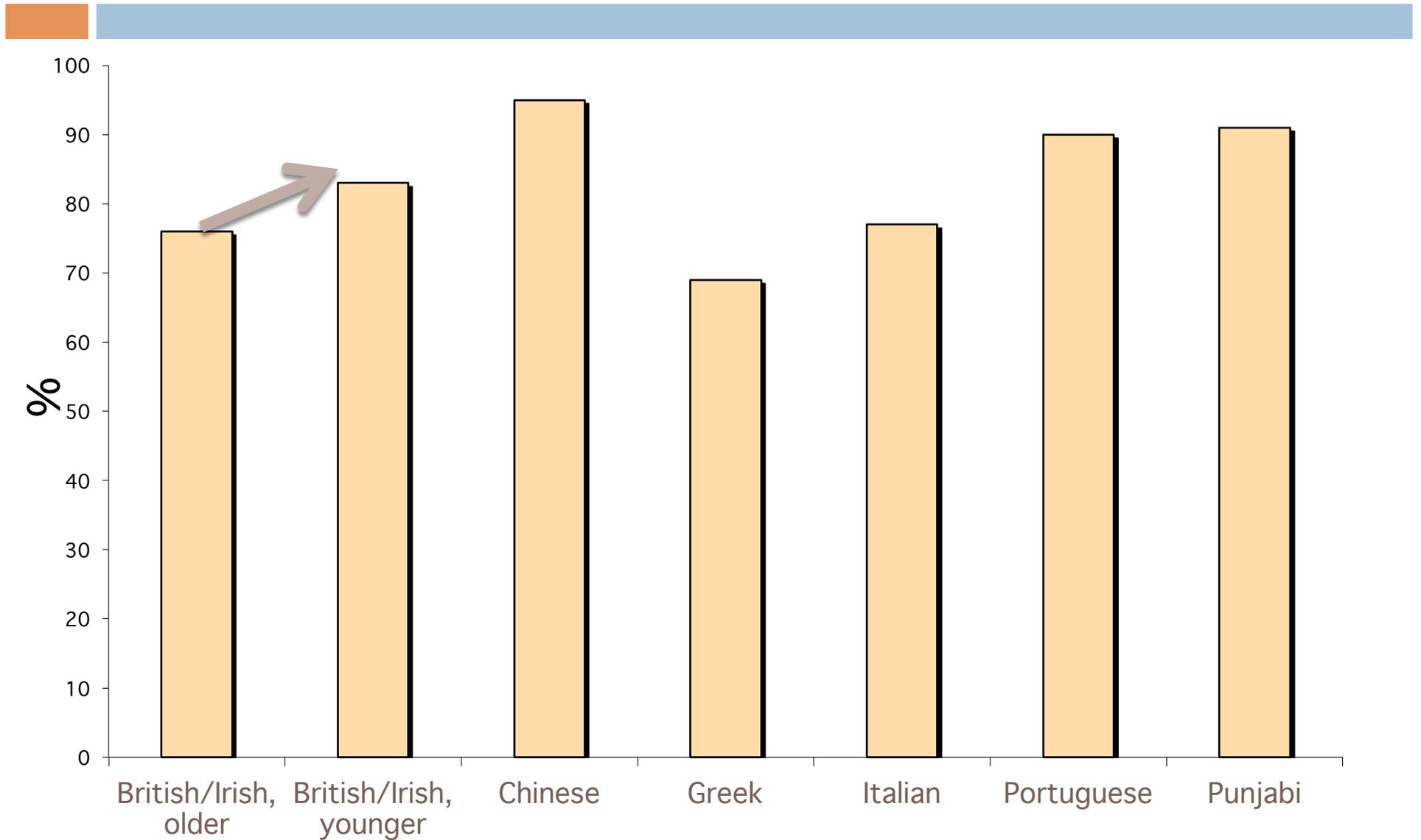
Abstractness of Object

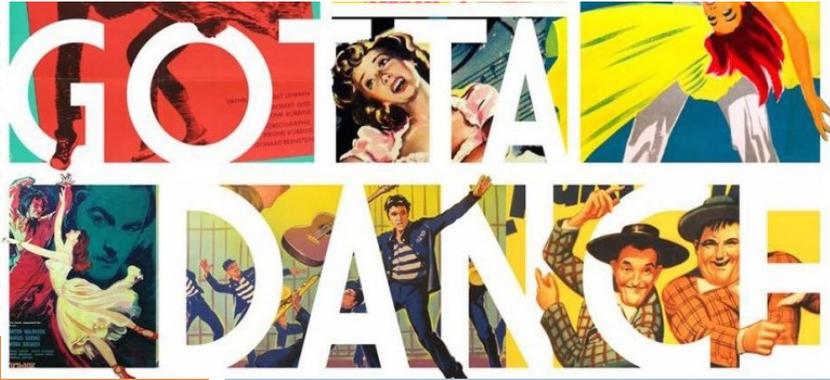
Abstract .54

Concrete .45

Range: 9

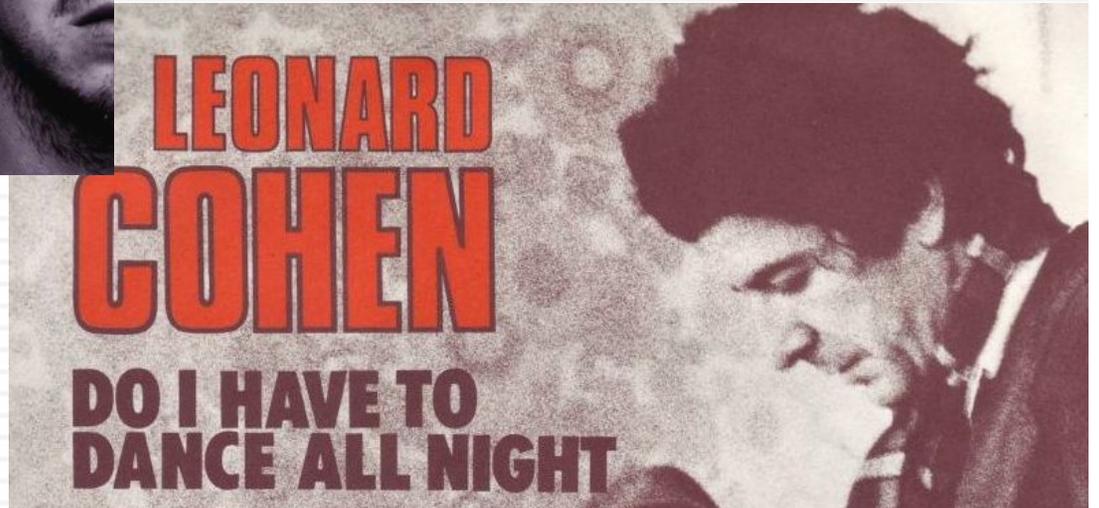
Overall Rates of *have* by Ethnic Background





Deontic modality

I JUST
NEED TO
DANCE



Right side of Table 3 on the handout!

Deontic Modality: Linguistic Conditioning

| | HAVE TO | NEED TO |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Polarity | | |
| Negative | .61 | .69 |
| Positive | .36 | .47 |
| Range: | 25 | 22 |
| Subject Type | | |
| Generic | | .43 |
| Pronoun | | .53 |
| NP | | .64 |
| Range: | | 21 |

Deontic Modality: Overall Rates by Ethnic Background

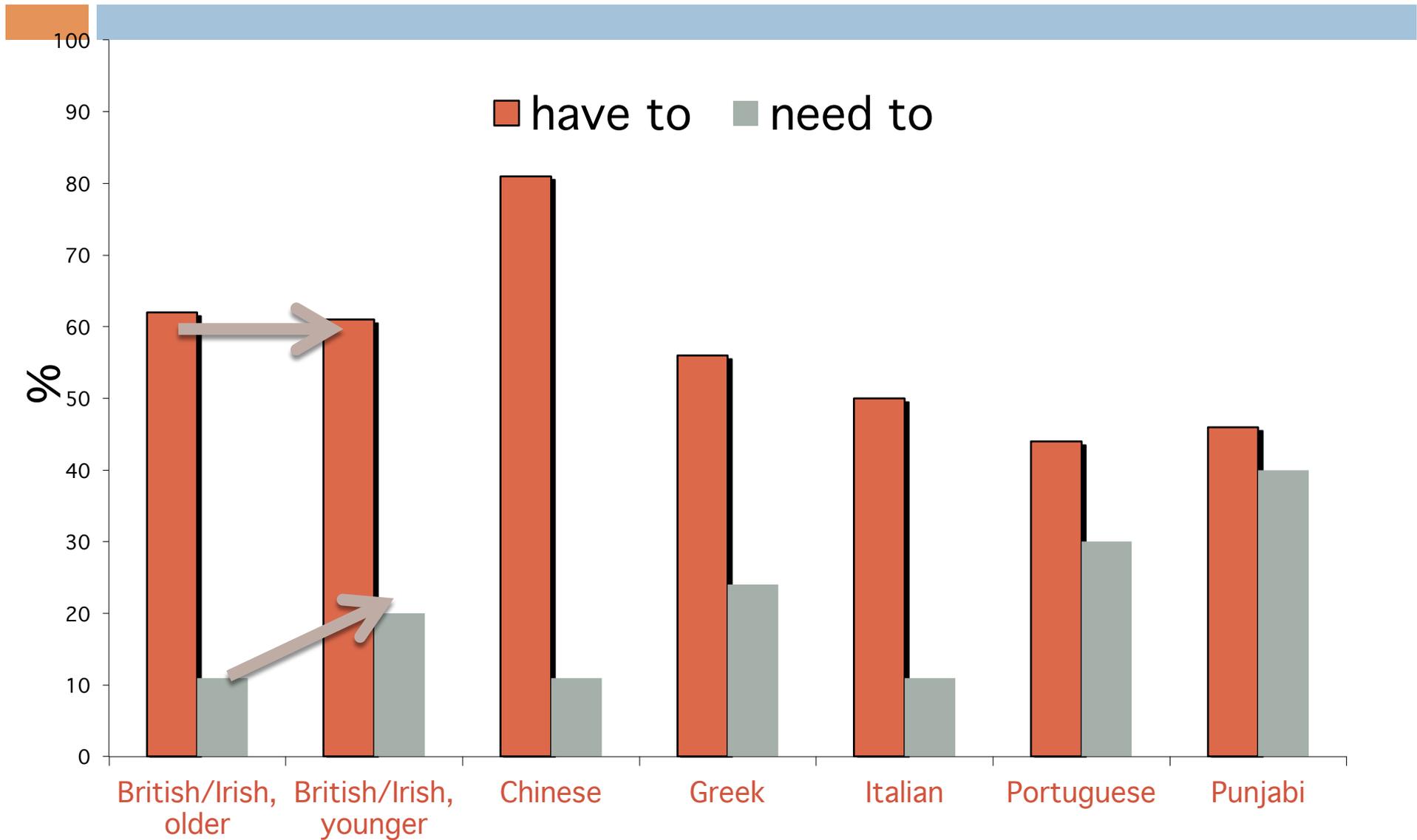


Table 2 on the handout!

Contribution of Social Factors

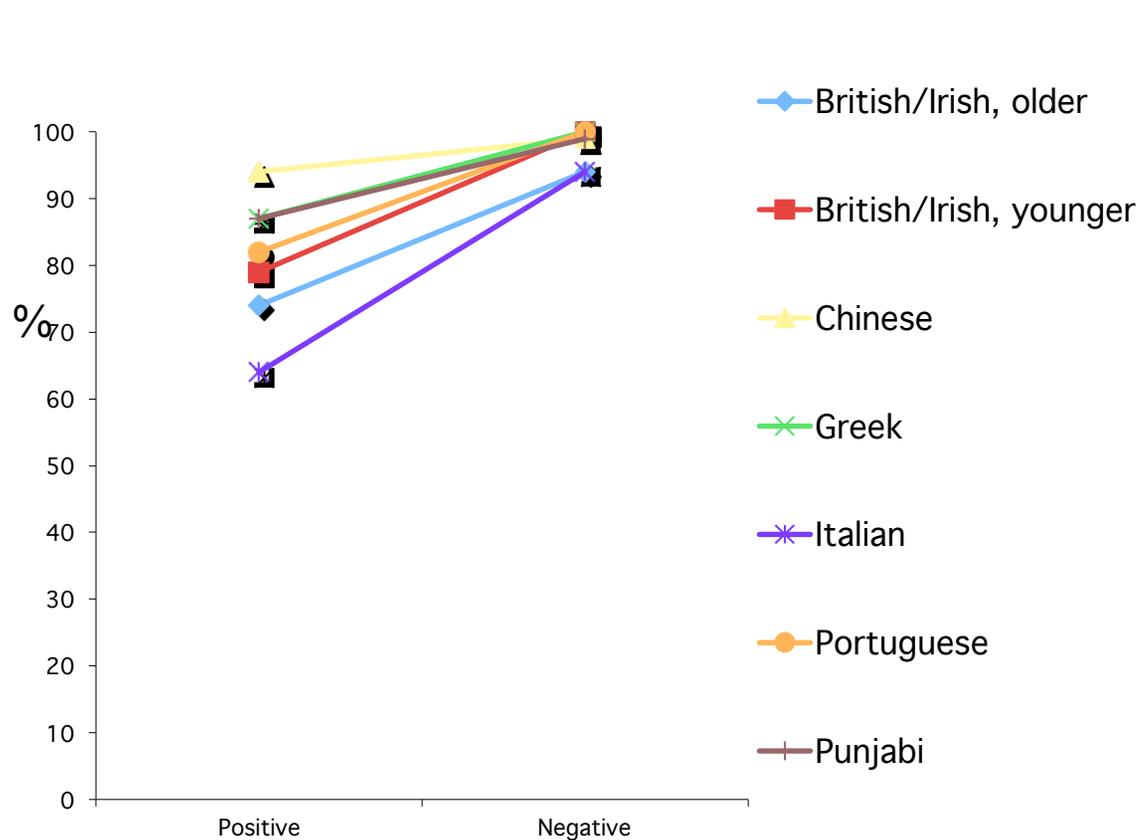
| | Possession | Deontic Modality | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------------|---------|----|
| | have | have to | need to | |
| Ethnic Background | | | | |
| British/Irish, older | .29 | .59 | .27 | |
| British/Irish, younger | .44 | .54 | .53 | |
| Chinese | .79 | .79 | .33 | |
| Greek | .67 | .47 | .57 | |
| Italian | .28 | .43 | .33 | |
| Portuguese | .54 | .29 | .73 | |
| Punjabi | .49 | .36 | .74 | |
| | Range: | 51 | 50 | 47 |
| Speaker Sex | | | | |
| Female | .66 | | .41 | |
| Male | .34 | | .58 | |
| | Range: | 32 | | 17 |

Table 2 on the handout!

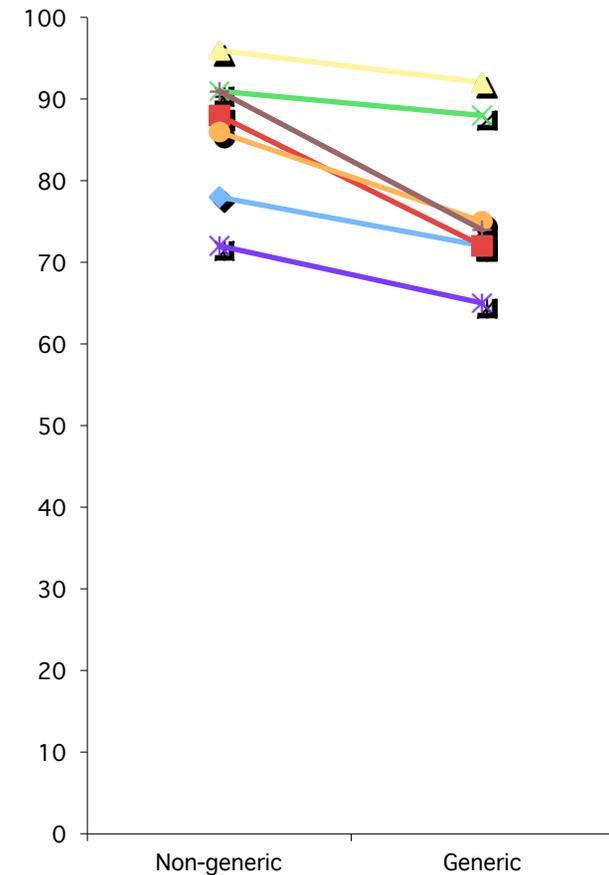
Contribution of Social Factors

| | Possession | Deontic Modality | |
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| | have | have to | need to |
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Linguistic Factors Conditioning *have(to)*, by Ethnic Background (Possession and Deontic Modality Combined)

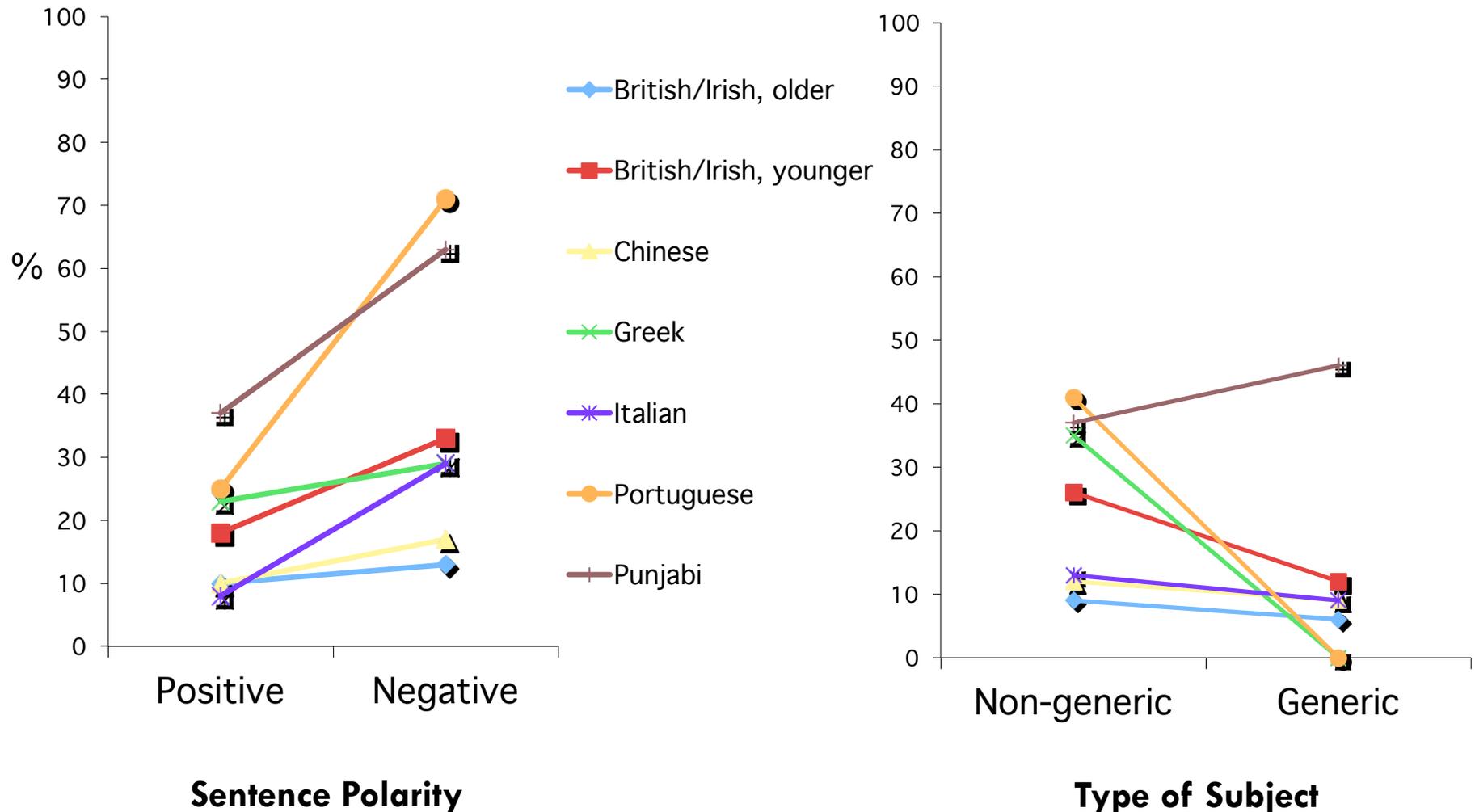


Sentence Polarity



Type of Subject

Linguistic Factors Conditioning *need to*, by Ethnic Background



Conclusions



- Evidence for change in apparent time for both possession and deontic modality
 - *have* ↑
 - *need to* ↑
- Linguistic conditioning parallel across changes
 - Negation promotes
 - Generic subjects disfavour

Conclusions



- Ethnic groups participate at different degrees
 - ▣ Young Italians and Greeks lag in move to *have*
 - ▣ Young Chinese ahead in move to *have to*
 - ▣ Young Chinese and Italians lag in move to *need to*
- BUT linguistic conditioning largely parallel for all variants and all ethnic and age groups (with one exception)
 - ▣ Shared linguistic system of Canadian English
 - ▣ Converges with previous studies on phonological variation

DO YOU HAVE ...

HAVE YOU GOT ...



Questions?

COMMENTS?

YOU GOT ...