

Language Variation and Change in Glaswegian

To what extent is dialect contact a factor?

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To what extent is dialect contact a factor?

Paper overview

This is the first paper to present results from our project. We begin by tackling the issue of dialect contact as an explanation for variation in consonantal variables. We present profiles of mobility and contact for our informants, and also preliminary results for the variables in read speech with only exploratory statistical analysis (correlations).

All results bar the dialect contact profiling have now been superceded by later analysis. See most recently, our paper, “Investigating the effects of television on change in urban accents: The story so far”, presented at Lancaster, 15 March 2005.

JSS/CT 31/03/05

Language variation and change in Glaswegian

To what extent is dialect contact a factor?

- Dialect contact in language change
- New data from Glasgow - the media project
- Research questions
- Methodology
- Indexing direct and mediated contact
- Results - Contact and communication
- Results - Linguistic variables
- Conclusions

Background

- Dialect contact (Trudgill 1986)
- Mobility and contact – processes of change (e.g. Milroy 2002, Chambers 2003)
- Chambers (2003: 73)
‘mobility causes people to speak and sound more like people from other places’
- The Glasgow conundrum

New data from Glasgow the media project

Is TV a contributory factor in accent change?
(ESRC R000239757)

Same working-class part of city as 1997

5 groups of adolescents; 12 adults

Longitudinal - tracks 2 age groups across 2 years

Range of data –

spontaneous conversations, read speech,
questionnaire, informal interviews, language
experiment (quiz show), diaries

Research questions

- What patterns of direct (face to face) and mediated contact (speech and text-based) do our speakers show?
- What are their patterns of linguistic variation for a set of selected variables?
- Are there relationships between contact and communication and linguistic variation?

Methodology

- 36 speakers
- 3 age groups
 - Age group 1: 10-11 years
 - Age group 2: 12-13 years
 - Age group 3: 14-15 years
- male and female
- (th) (dh) L-vocalization R-vocalization
- Auditory analysis of read speech

Indexing contact and communication

Initial baseline criteria: born and raised in area
(2.8% born in England, 2001 Census)

Questionnaire yielded data on:

Location of family and friends

Direct (face to face) contact with family and friends

Mediated (speech/text) contact with family and friends

‘active mobility’ in terms of visiting specific cities

(further data exists in informal interviews/conversations – to be analysed)

Indexing contact and communication

Family and friends – location of family within and beyond Glasgow

Direct contact external – face to face contact with family beyond Glasgow (incl. frequency)

Mediated contact external – indirect contact with family beyond Glasgow (incl. frequency)

City visiting – place and amount

Indexing contact and communication

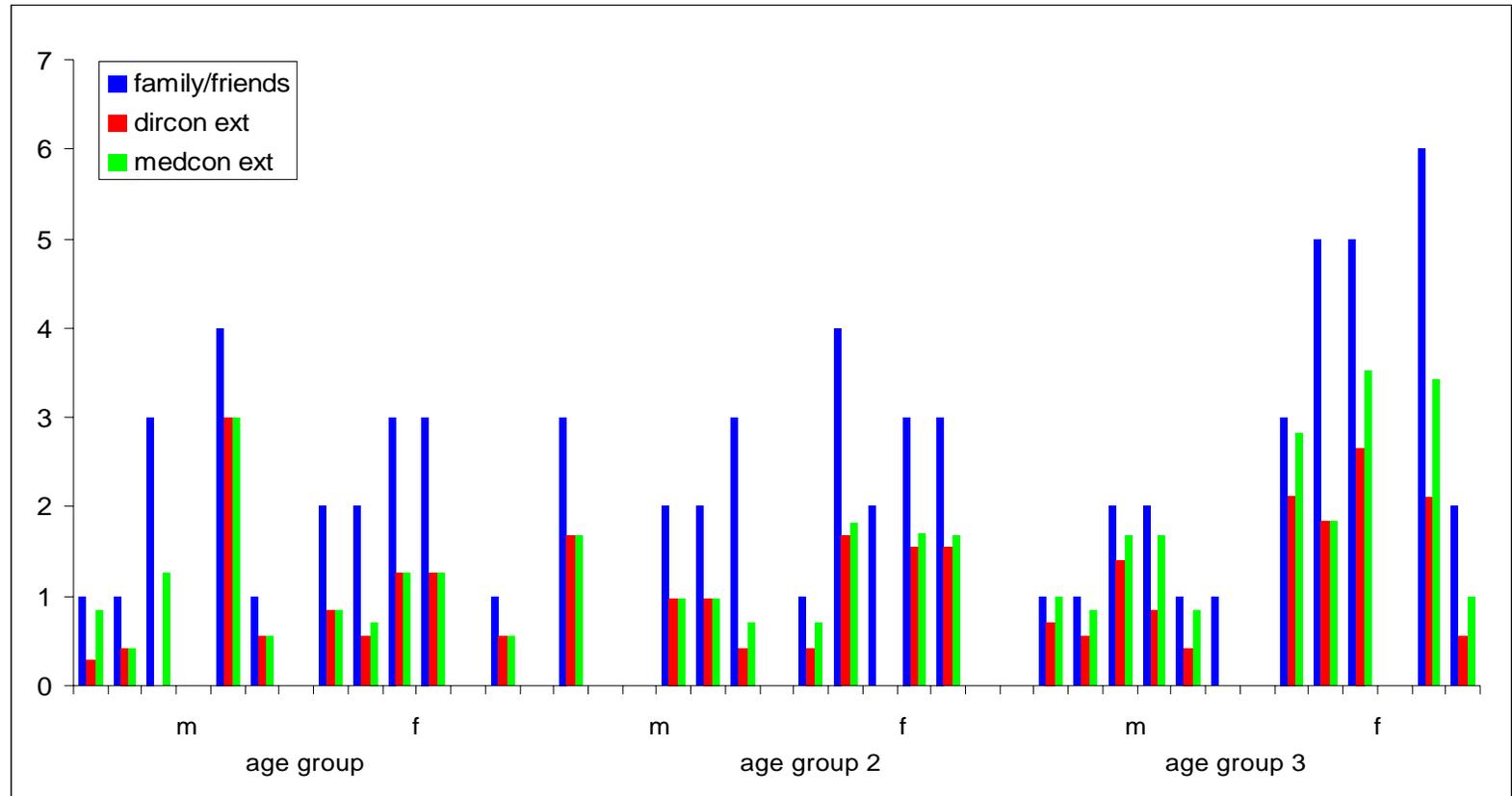
Direct contact internal – face to face contact with friends/bestfriend/boyfriend within Glasgow (incl. frequency)

Mediated contact internal – indirect contact with friends/bestfriend/boyfriend within Glasgow (incl. frequency)

Mediated text contact external – email, chat, text with those outside Glasgow

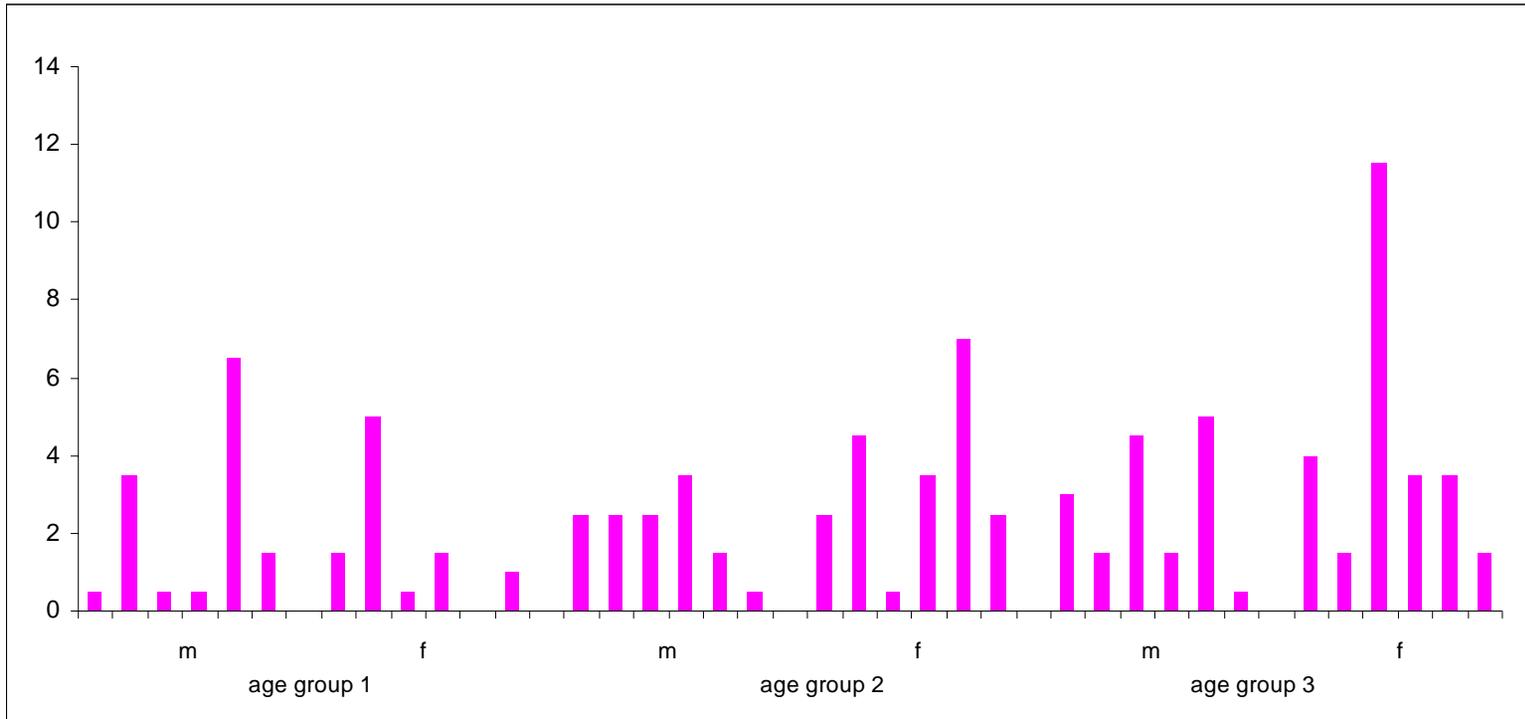
Mediated text contact internal – email, chat, text with those within Glasgow

Contact/communication – beyond Glasgow



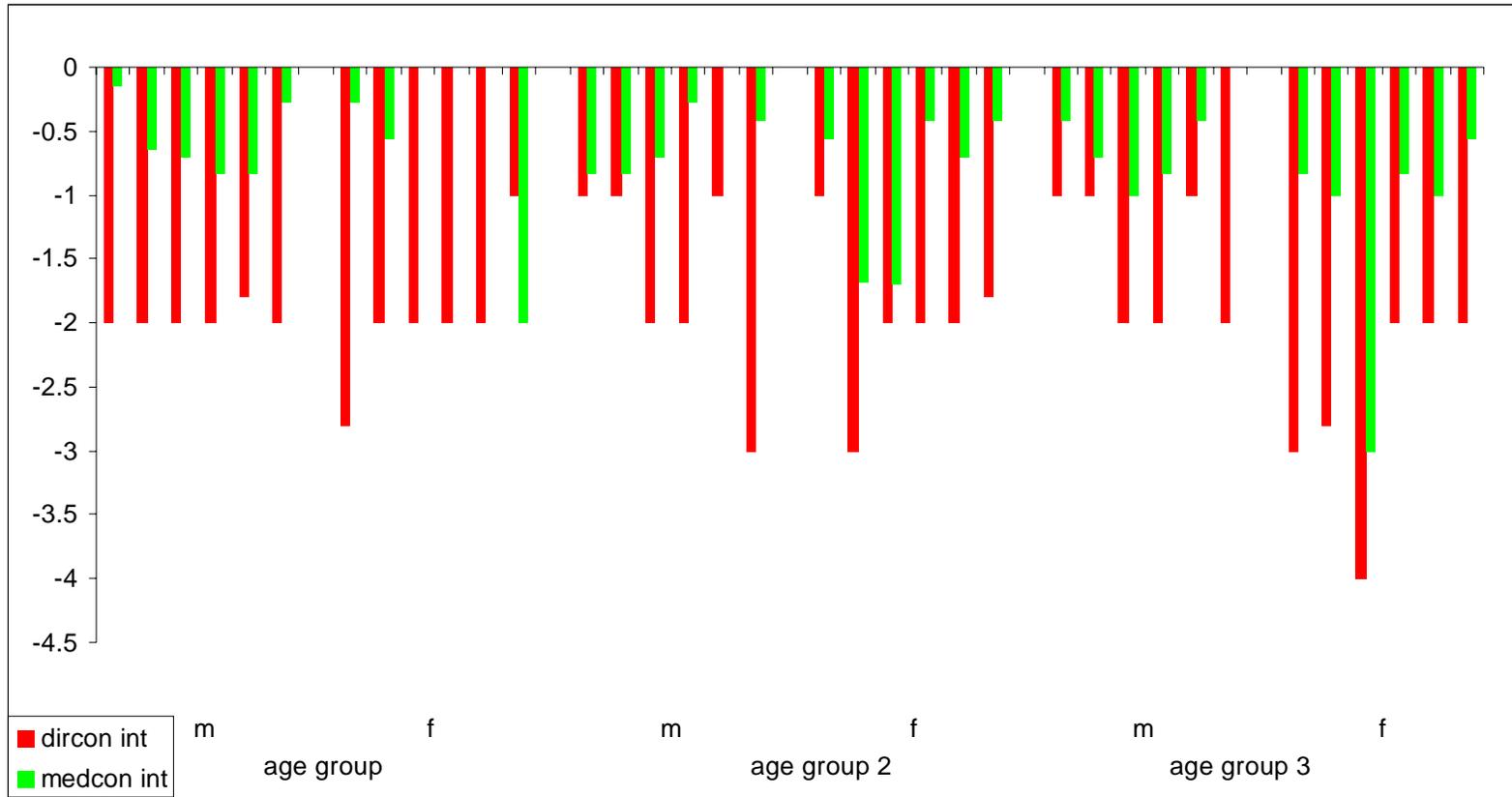
Most have a few relatives who have moved away from Glasgow.
More mediated contact than face to face contact.
Older informants have more mediated contact than younger ones.

City visiting (active mobility)



Most have visited at least one city (Edinburgh).
No differences according to age and gender.

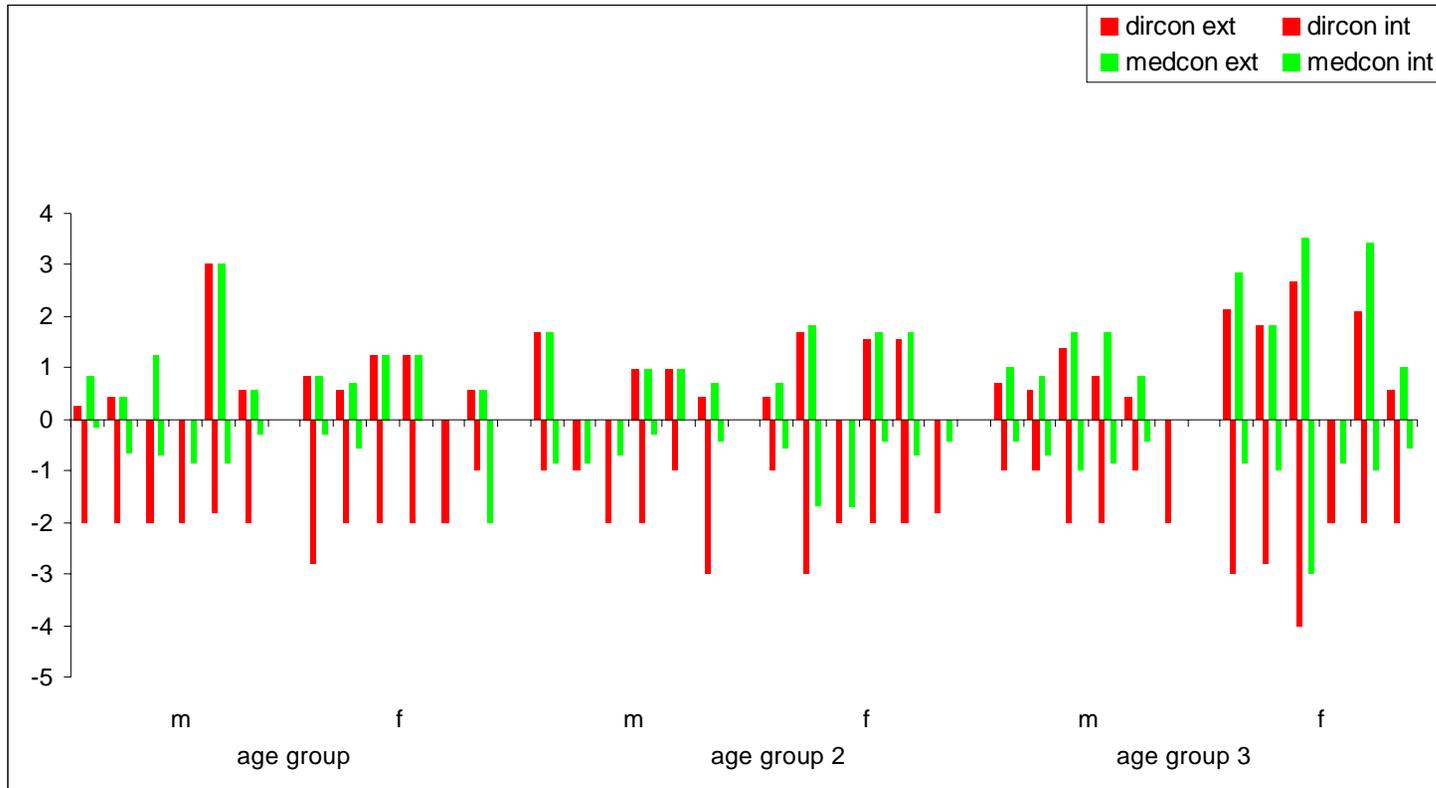
Contact/communication – within Glasgow



Most have friends in same area.

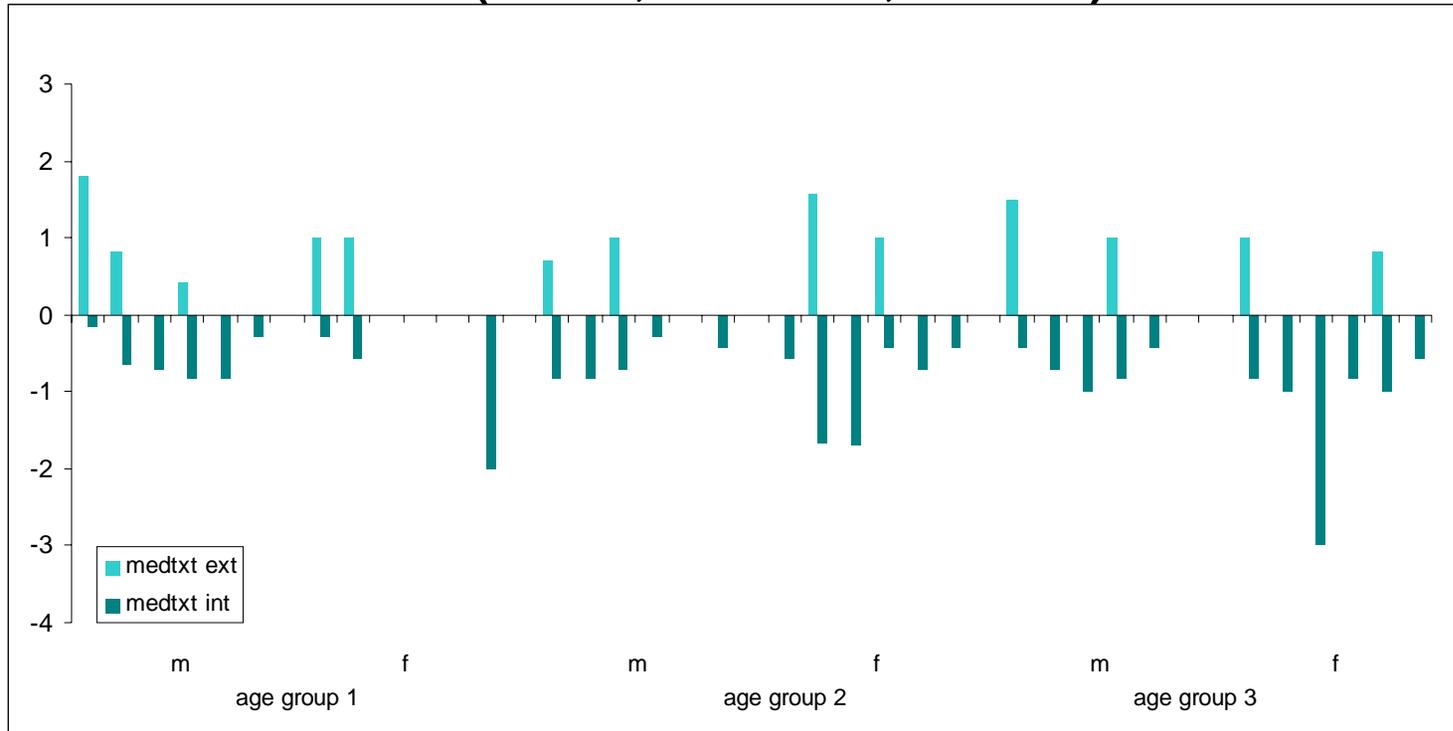
More face to face interaction than mediated interaction.

Contact/communication - general



Those who have more contact/communication outside the city also have more within the city (and this is also linked with having relatives outside the city).

Text-based communication (text, email, chat)



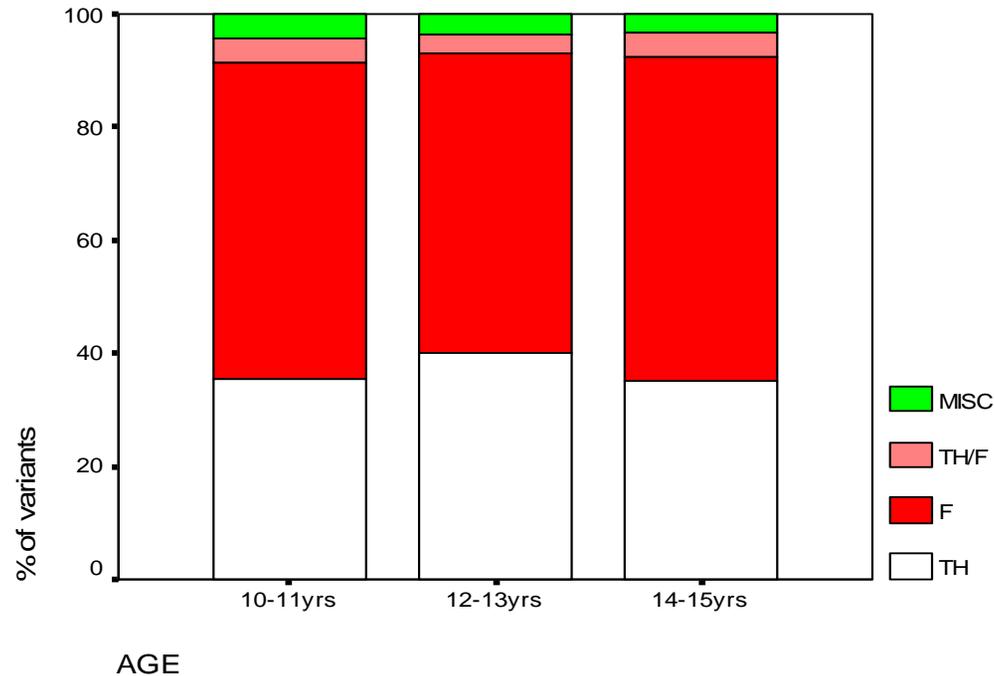
- Not all participate in text-based communication.
- Link between communicating outside the city and within the city.

Contact/communication: summary

- Majority have a few relatives beyond Glasgow, whom they talk to more than they see (when the relatives visit them).
- Most show a low degree of active mobility outside the city.
- Majority have face to face contact with friends (and family) within Glasgow.
- Those who communicate do so beyond and within the city.
- Those who use text-based communication do so beyond and within the city.

(th)

N = 756



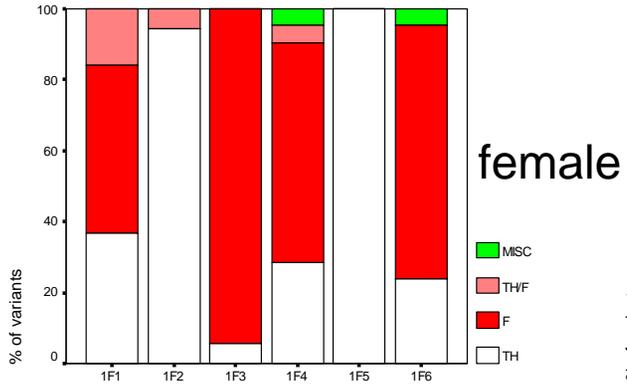
No differences according to age or gender.

More [f] than in 1997.

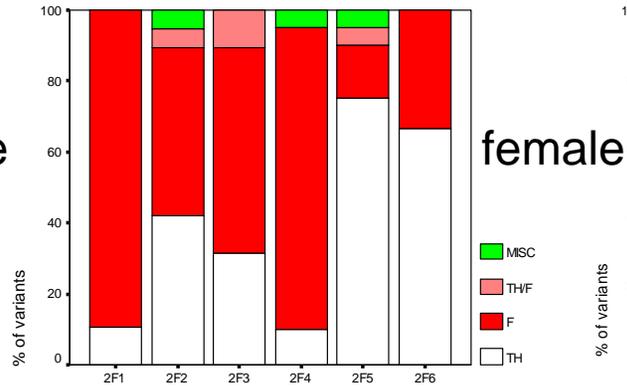
More word-finally/internally than word-initially.

(th) – individual variation

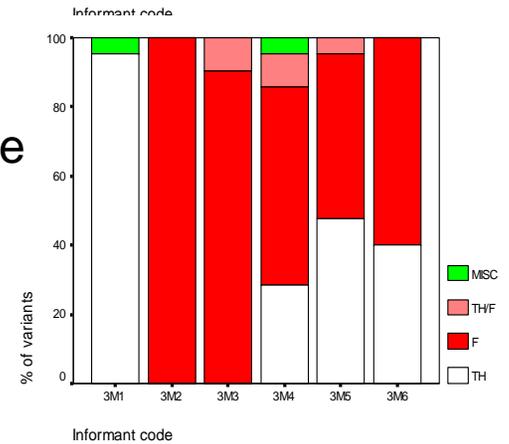
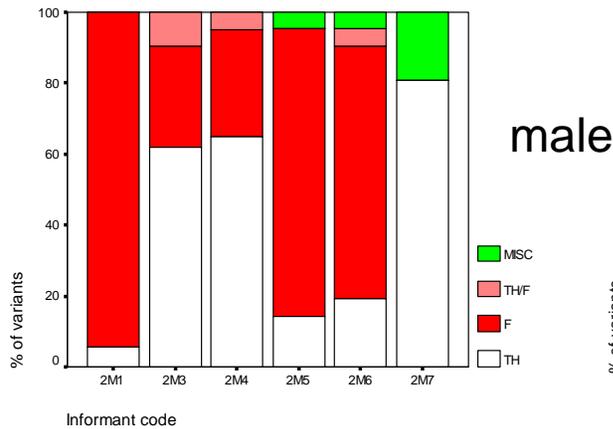
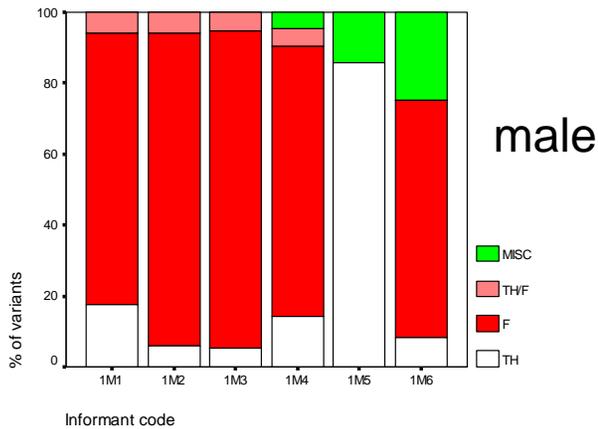
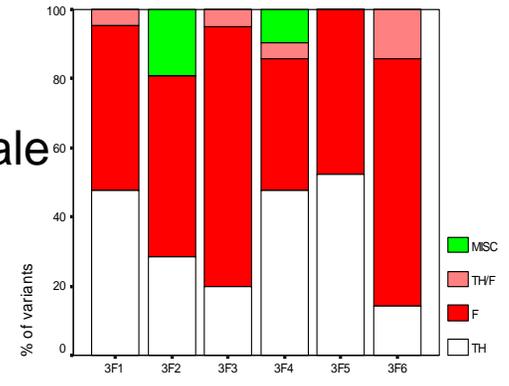
Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



(th) and contact/communication

No statistical relationship with any variant and any contact/communication index.

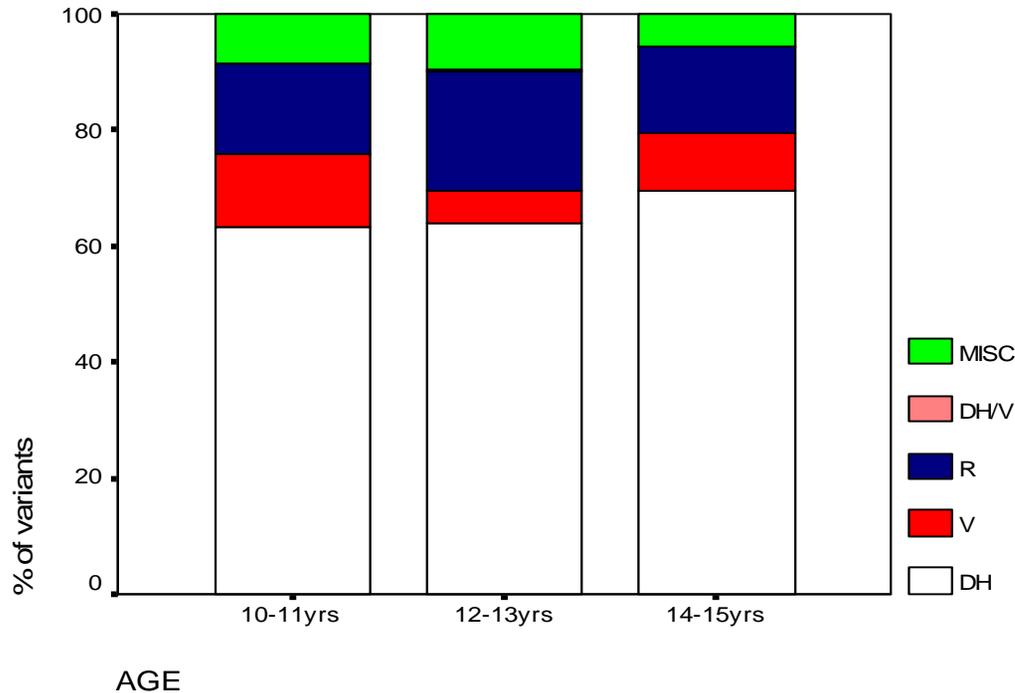
Individuals who avoid [f] may have no external contacts (like 1f5) or more (like 1m5)

Similarly those who prefer [f] may have few external contacts (e.g. 3m2) or more (e.g. 3f3).

‘In need of some speech therapy’ *Scotsman* 25/9/02

(dh)

n = 720



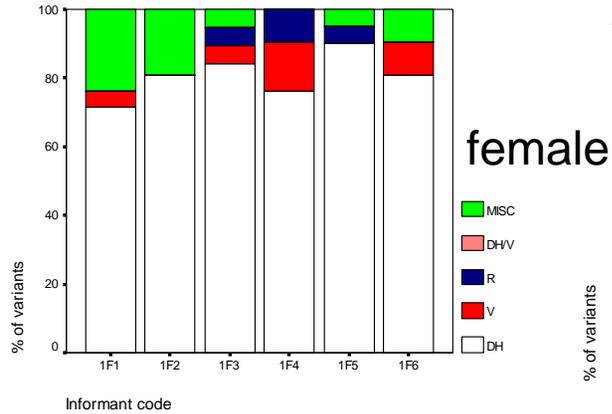
No differences according to age and gender

Less [v] than 1997, but more pervasive across speakers.

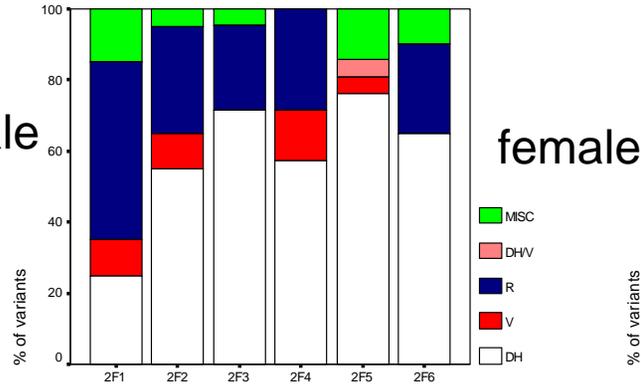
[v] mainly in word-final position, but occurs word-internally.

(dh) – individual variation

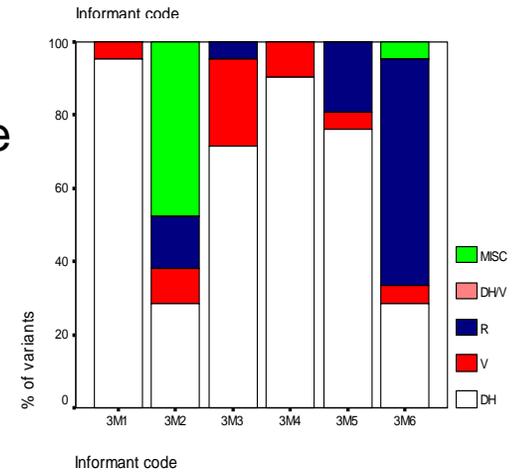
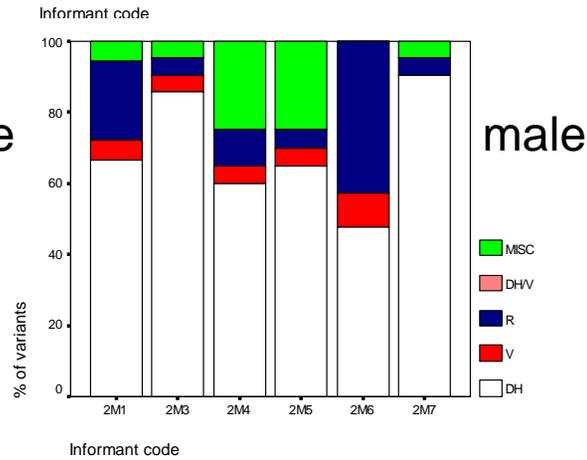
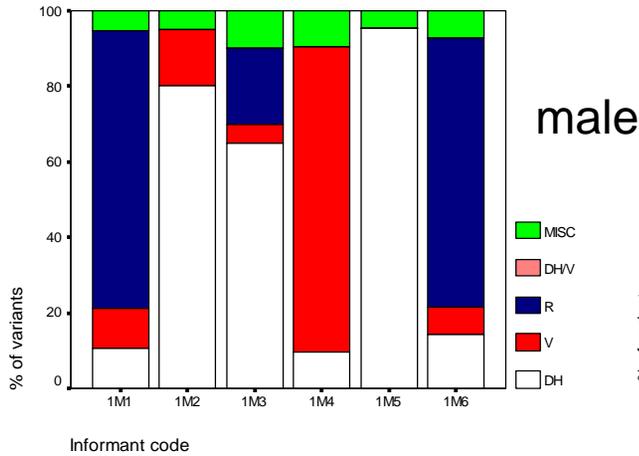
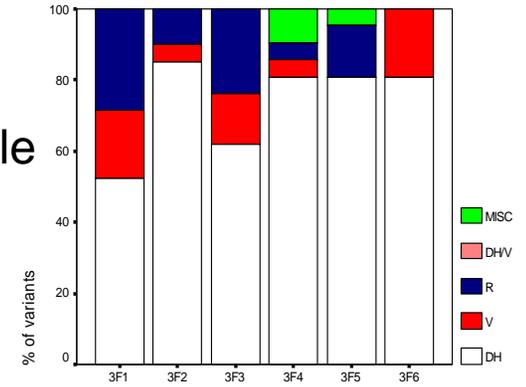
Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



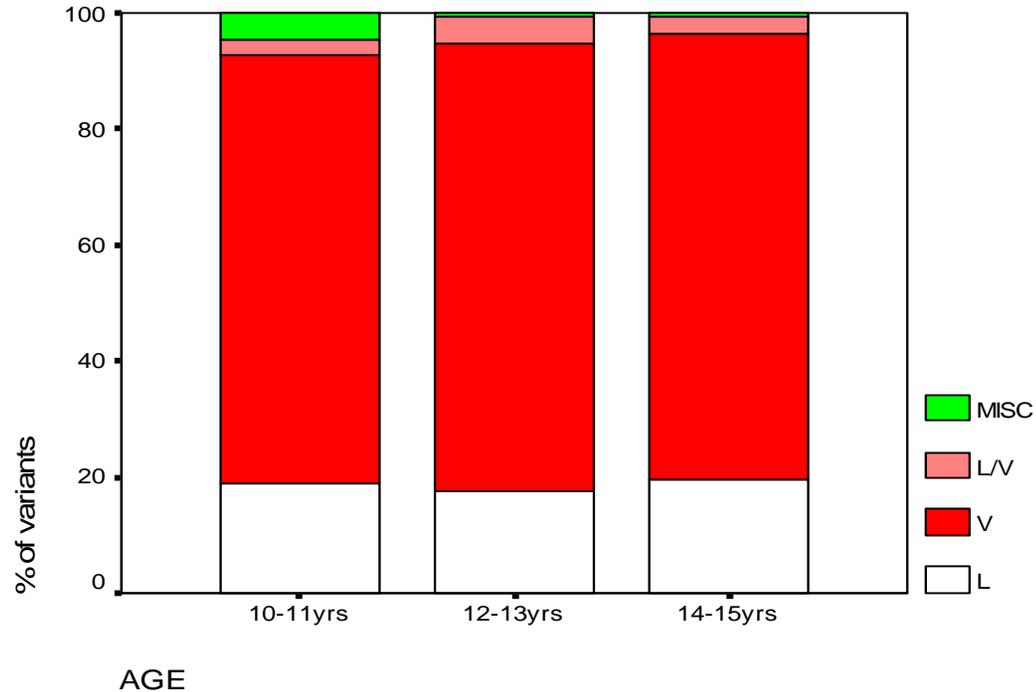
(dh) and contact/communication

No statistical relationship with any variant and any contact/communication index.

4/5 individuals who avoid (th):[f] also avoid [v] (1f2, 1f5, 1m5, 2m7); they vary considerably in contact/comm. profile.

L-Vocalization

n = 900



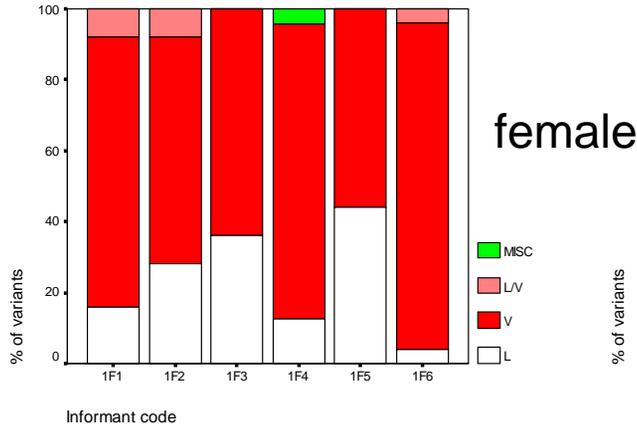
No differences according to age and gender.

More [V] than in 1997.

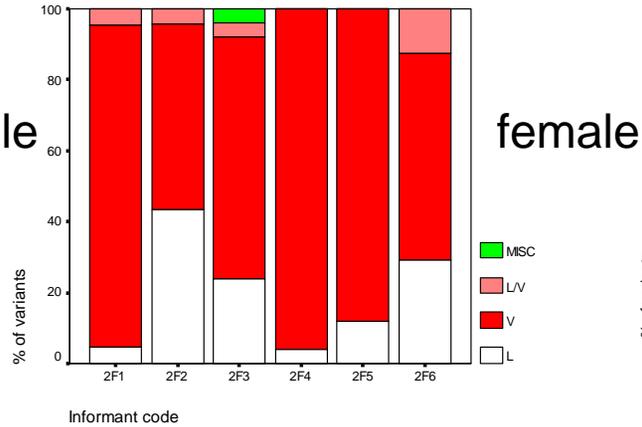
More common in word-final, but most in syllabic position.

L-vocalization – individual variation

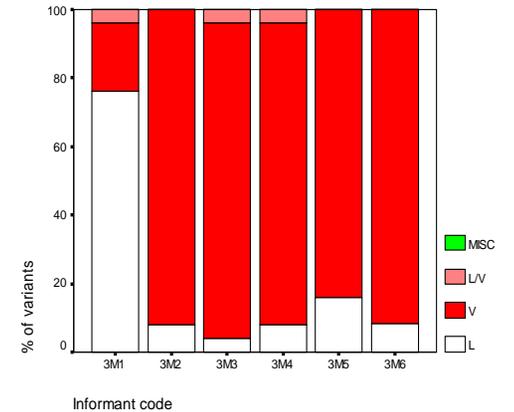
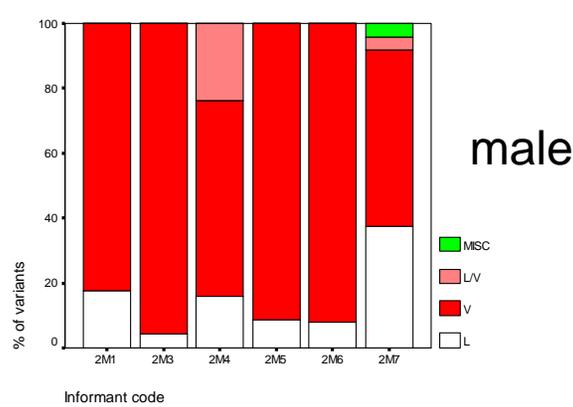
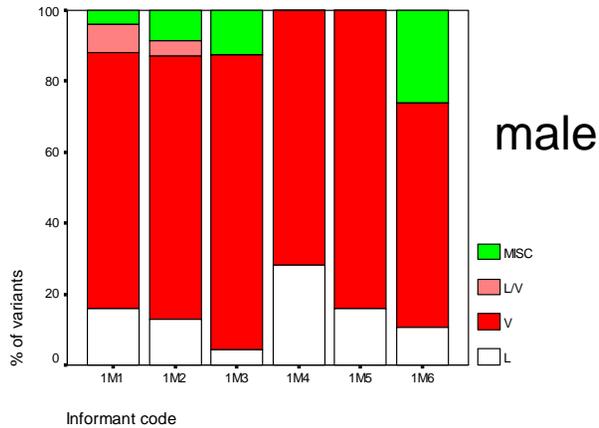
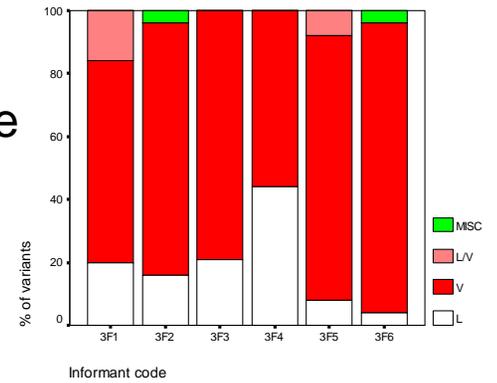
Group 1



Group 3



Group 3



L-vocalization and contact/communication

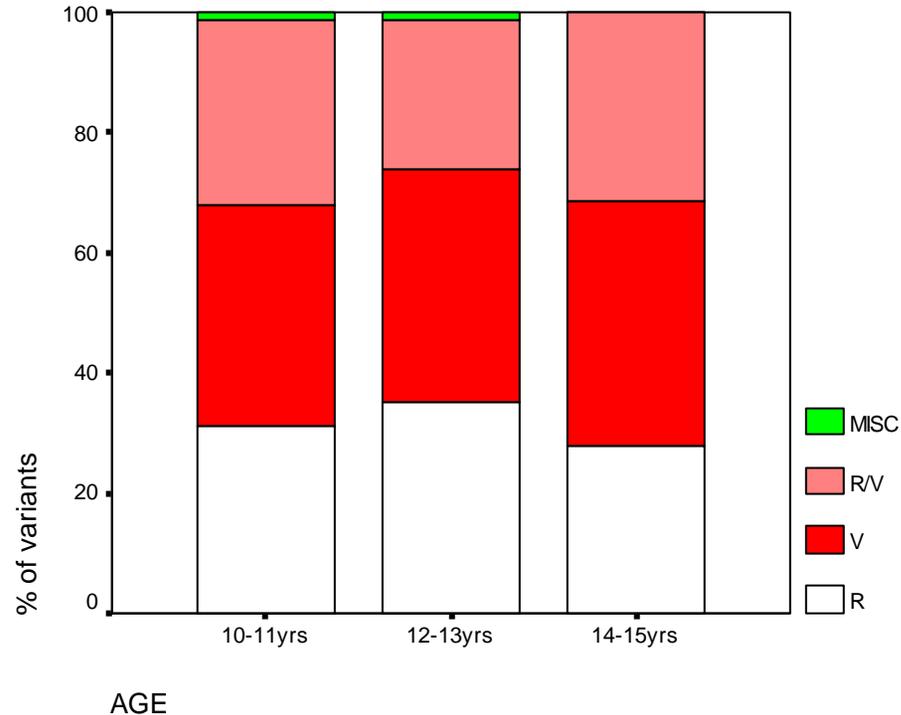
Significant relationship between

- [l/V] and text-based communication (both beyond and within Glasgow)
 - this holds for word-final position (e.g. *feel*)
 - and for syllabic position (e.g. *middle*) beyond Glasgow
- [V] and text-based communication with same restrictions

Why?

R-vocalization

n = 1476

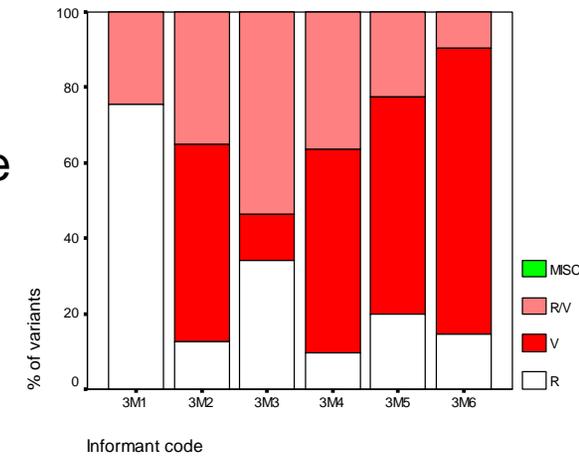
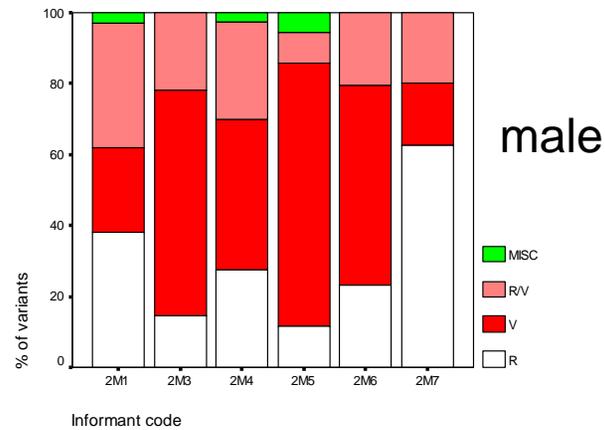
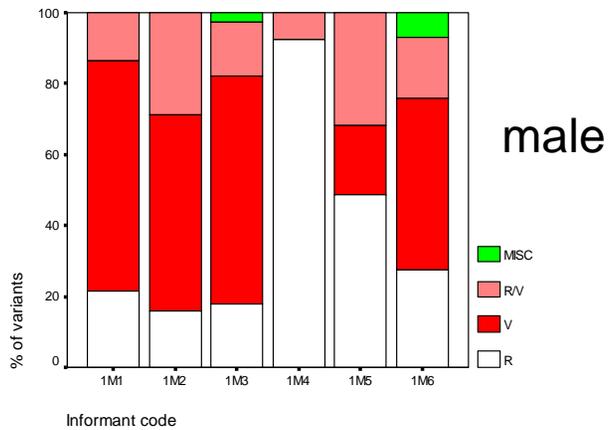
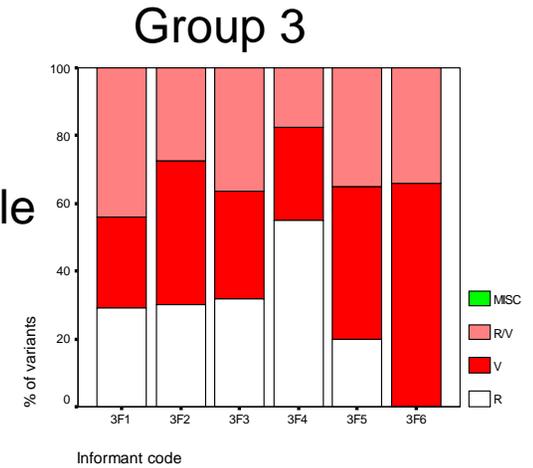
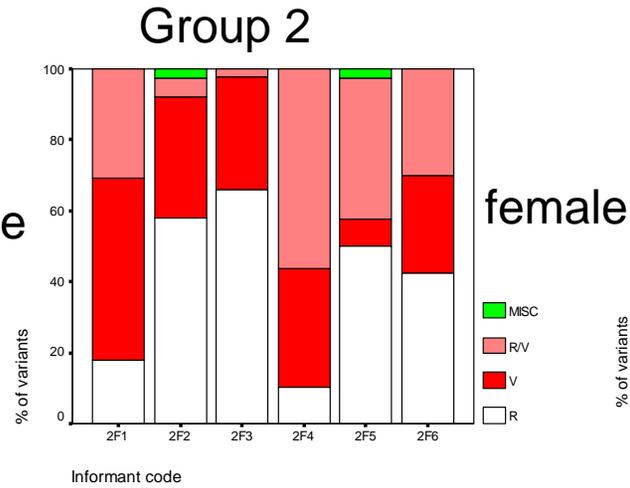
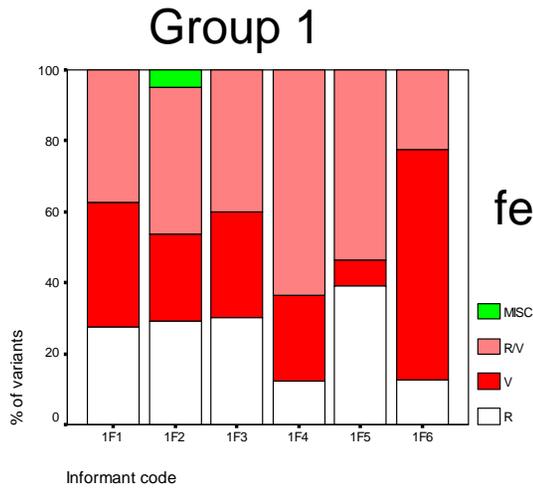


No differences according to age and gender.

Less [V] than 1997, but more [r/V].

Differences according to word-position.

R-vocalization – individual variation



R-vocalization and contact/communication

Significant relationship between

- [r/V] and contact and communication beyond Glasgow.
- This holds for unstressed prepausal (e.g. *batter*) with face to face contact
- And for preconsonantal (e.g. *card*) with mediated contact.

Why?

summary

Our speakers vary in their contact/communication profiles (as determined by these – gross – indices).

No relationship found for (th) or (dh) and contact/communication.

Relationships found for L-vocalization and R-vocalization, but not as expected.

Concluding remarks

- These data do not demonstrate clear relationships between direct and mediated contact and linguistic variation and change as we might expect.
- This is only the beginning - as well as needing to understand these data better, we also need to consider:
 - variables in spontaneous speech
 - vowels
 - the attitudinal/ideological consequences of contact/communication