Production planning effects on variable contraction in English

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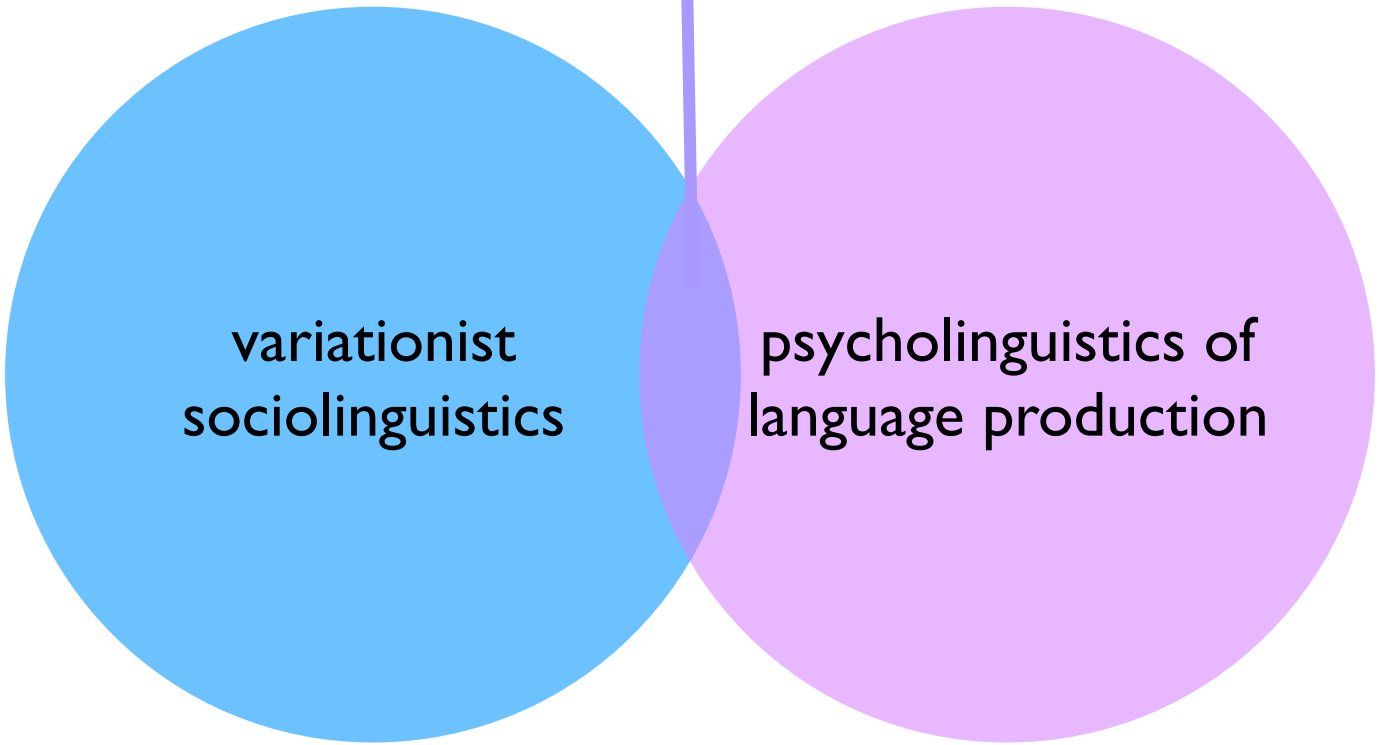
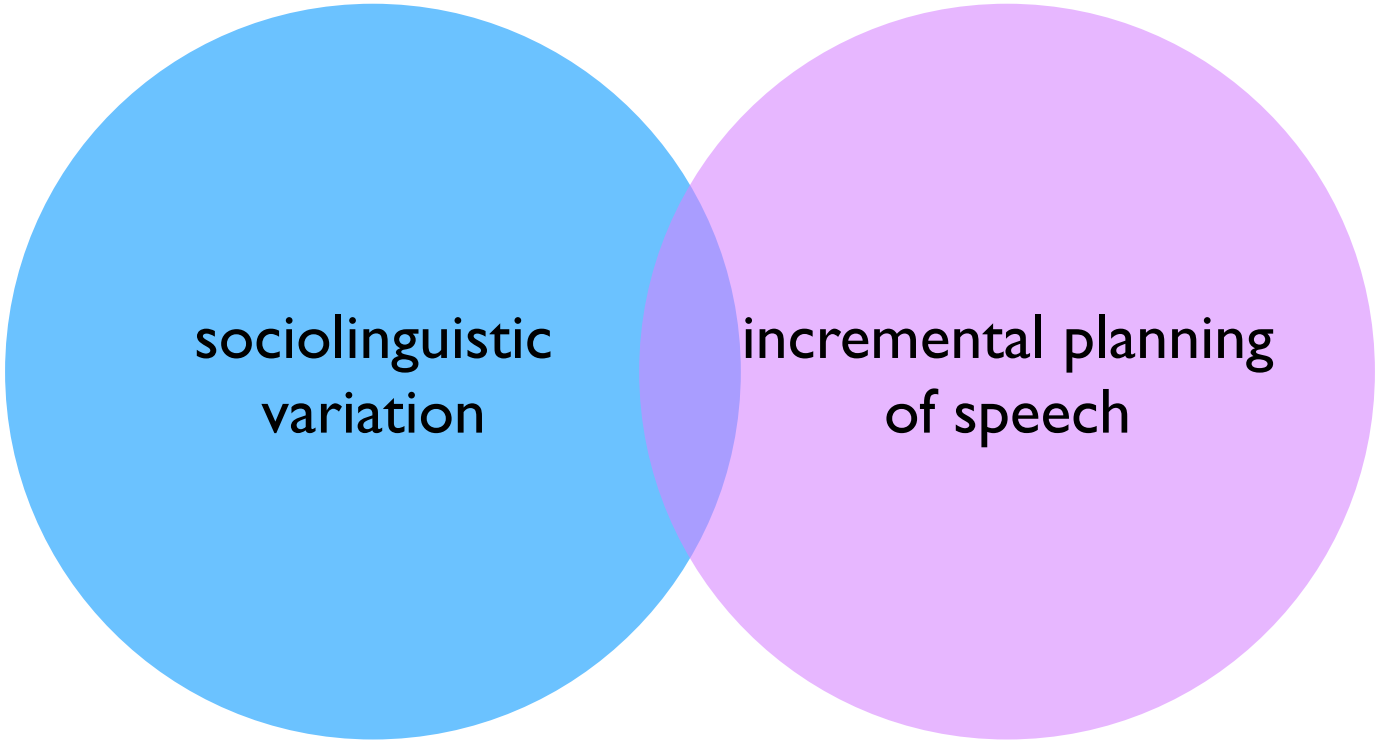
intersections

why & how does the language we produce take the shape that it does?



intersections



- exploring how the incremental planning of speech can shape the distribution of linguistic variants
  - case study of *is*-contraction in English
- drawing conclusions about how sociolinguistic variables might be shaped by the language production system

incremental planning

planning || production

incremental planning

planning

incremental planning

production

incremental planning

speakers don't mentally form a plan of an utterance in its entirety before producing it:

(Ferreira & Swets 2002)

incremental planning

rather, we plan out the later components of an utterance as we produce the earlier ones:

(Ferreira & Swets 2002)

incremental planning

this advance planning can be compromised by cognitive load or structural complexity:

(Ferreira 1991, V. Wagner et al. 2010)

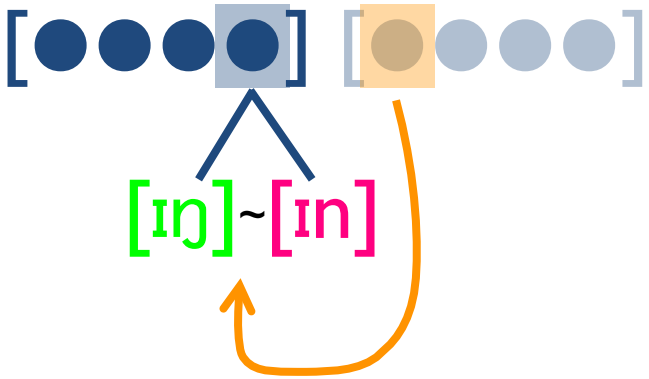
incremental planning

this advance planning can be compromised by cognitive load or structural complexity:

and in such cases, the linguistic information contained in an upcoming component of the utterance will not be available to the utterance being produced.

implications for linguistic variation

many linguistic variables are conditioned by surrounding elements of language:



(Bailey 2015, S.E. Wagner 2012)

implications for linguistic variation

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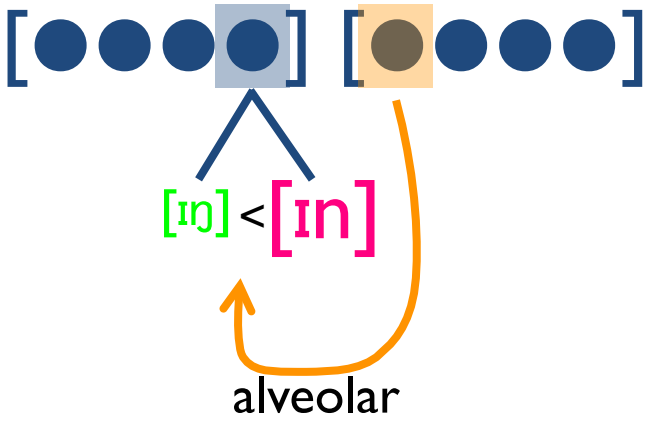

(S.E. Wagner 2012)

implications for linguistic variation

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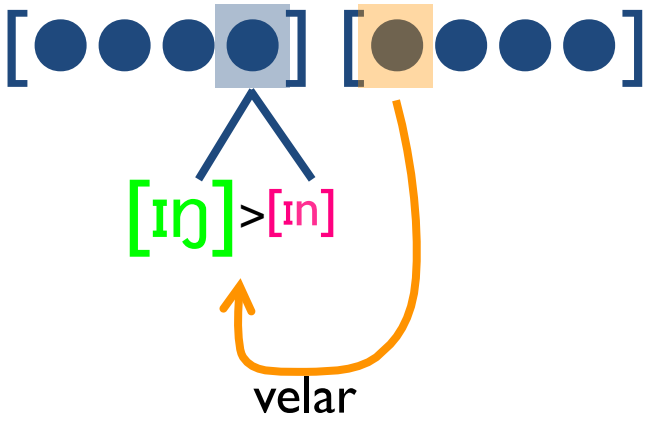

(Bailey 2015)

implications for linguistic variation

many linguistic variables are conditioned by surrounding elements of language:

and if a speaker has failed to plan ahead at the moment they produce a variable, no following material will be present…

implications for linguistic variation

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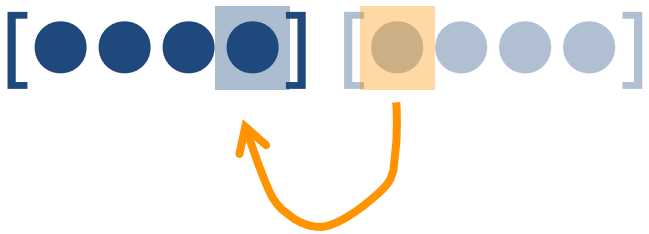
and if a speaker has failed to plan ahead at the moment they produce a variable, no following material will be present…

…so the distribution of variants should differ from when following material *has* been planned when the speaker goes to produce the variable.

implications for linguistic variation

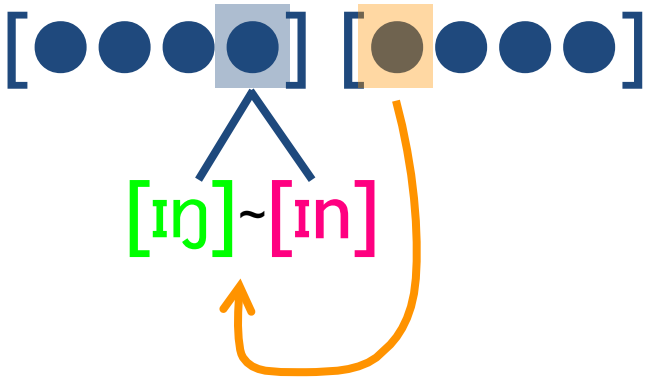


the less likely a speaker is to have planned ahead,

the less of a following element effect we'll find

evidence

evidence



(M. Wagner 2011)

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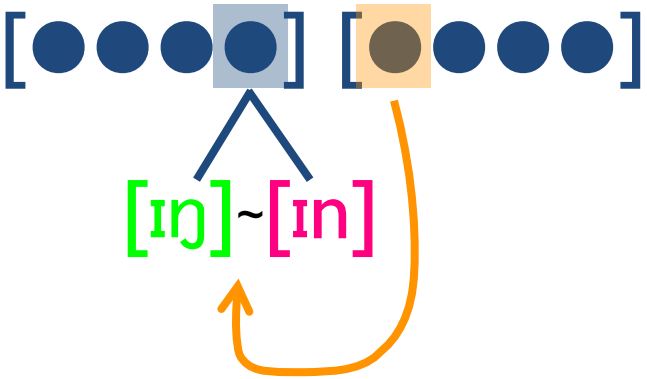

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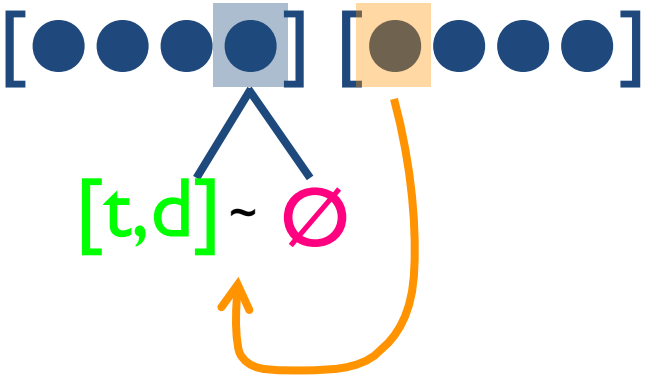
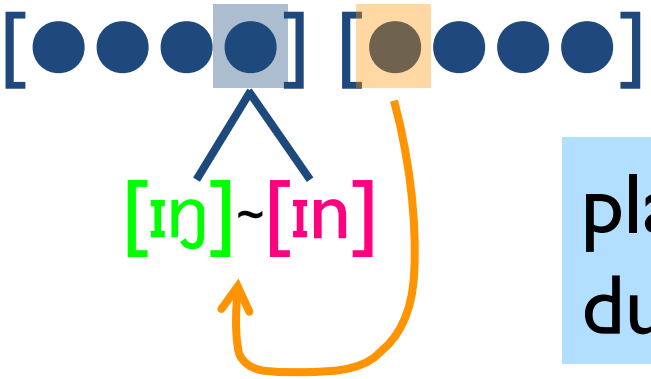


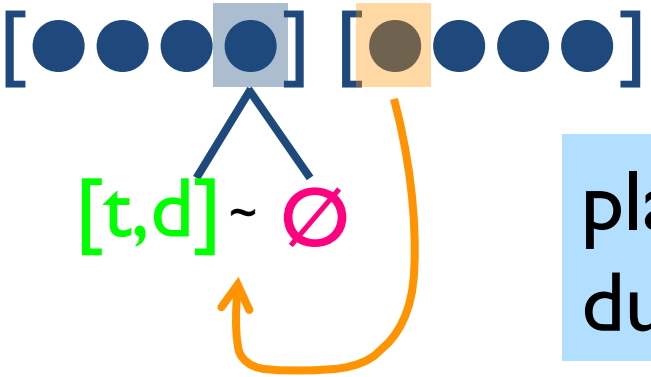
(Tanner et al. 2015)

evidence



(M. Wagner 2011)

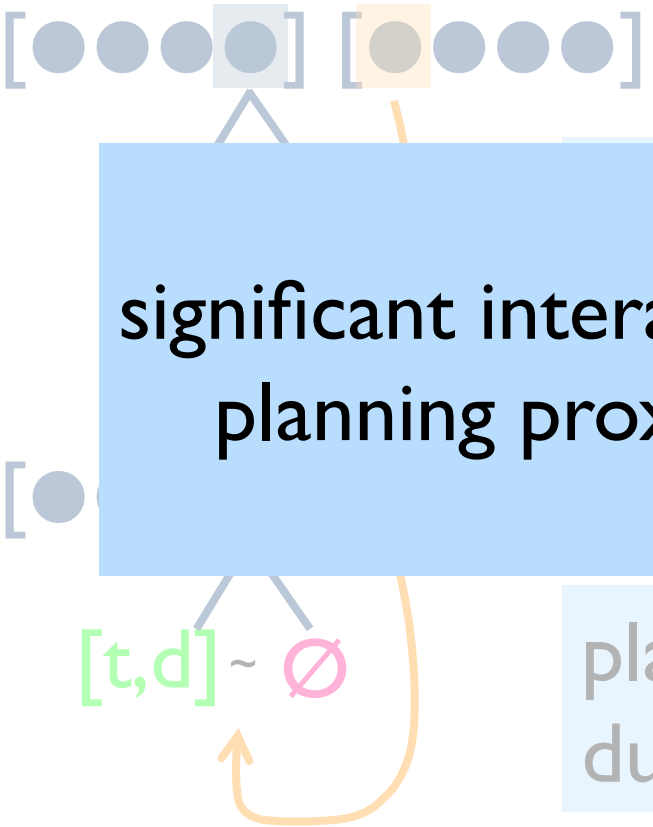
planning proxy:
duration of following word



(Tanner et al. 2015)

planning proxy:
duration of following pause

evidence



(M. Wagner 2011)

significant interaction effect:
planning proxy : following segment

5)

planning proxy:
duration of following pause

our question

is this effect in evidence for a variable where the following conditioning effect is in the **morphosyntactic** domain?

a cognitive load can interfere with planning in one domain (lexical selection) but not another (generation of syntactic structure)

(V. Wagner et al. 2010)

the variable: contraction of *is*

Yeah, Salzburg**'s** nice. Austria**'s** nice. Europe **is** nice!

corpora
Switchboard
Fisher
N = 1341

the variable: contraction of *is*

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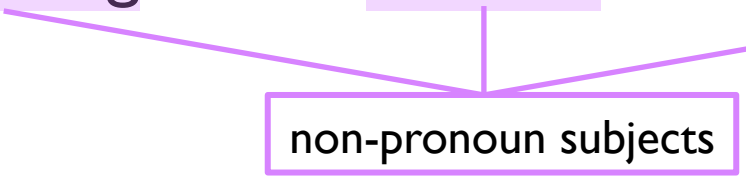

the variable:
contraction of *is*

Yeah, Salzburg**'s** nice. Austria**'s** nice. Europe **is** nice!

omission environments

pre-gap/movement site

stressed

sentence-initial

post-pause

post-sibilant

negated

the following conditioning factor: complement type

noun: *My name **is** Debbie*

adjective: *Wrestling **is** funny*

prepositional phrase: *Football**'s** always on TV*

progressive verb: *Gene**'s** working on his cars*

gonna: *I don't think any politician**'s** gonna do that*

the following conditioning factor: complement type

copula

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auxiliary

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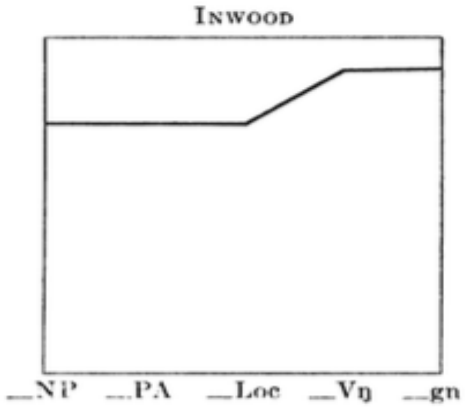

FIGURE 7
Contraction for the Inwood groups.

(Labov 1969:732–3)

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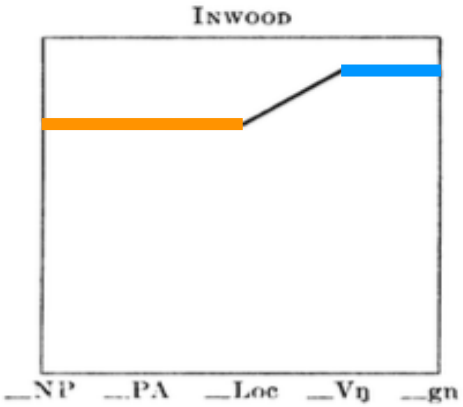

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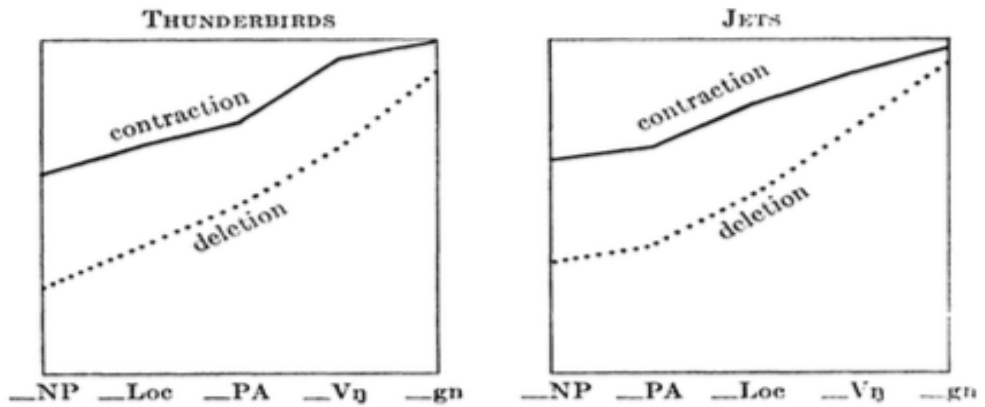

FIGURE 5
Per cent of full, contracted, and deleted forms of *is*, according to grammatical category of complement.

(Labov 1969:732–3)

the following conditioning factor: complement type

TABLE 9. *Variable rule weightings assuming a contraction rule by Following Grammatical environment*

Following environment	Variable rule weighting
gonna	.73
Verb + *ing*	.30
Locative	.74
Predicate adjective	.40
Noun phrase	.32

Source: Fasold, 1990: Table 3, p. 12.

(Fasold unpublished, cited by Rickford et al. 1991:125)

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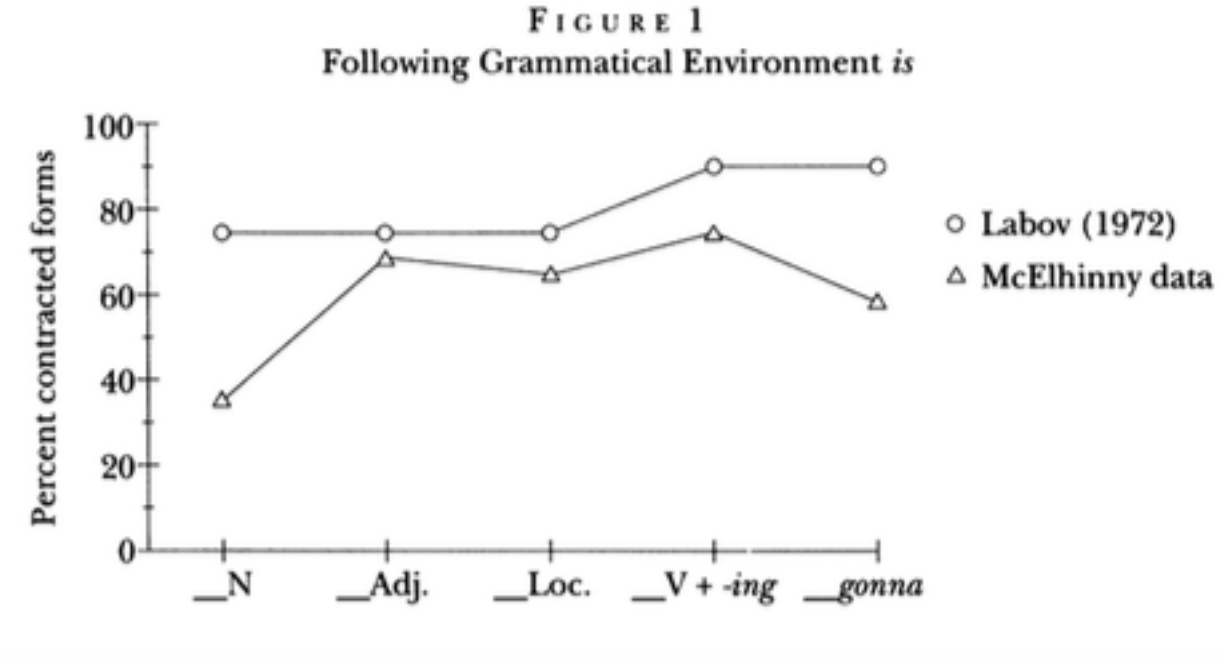

(McElhinney 1993:377)

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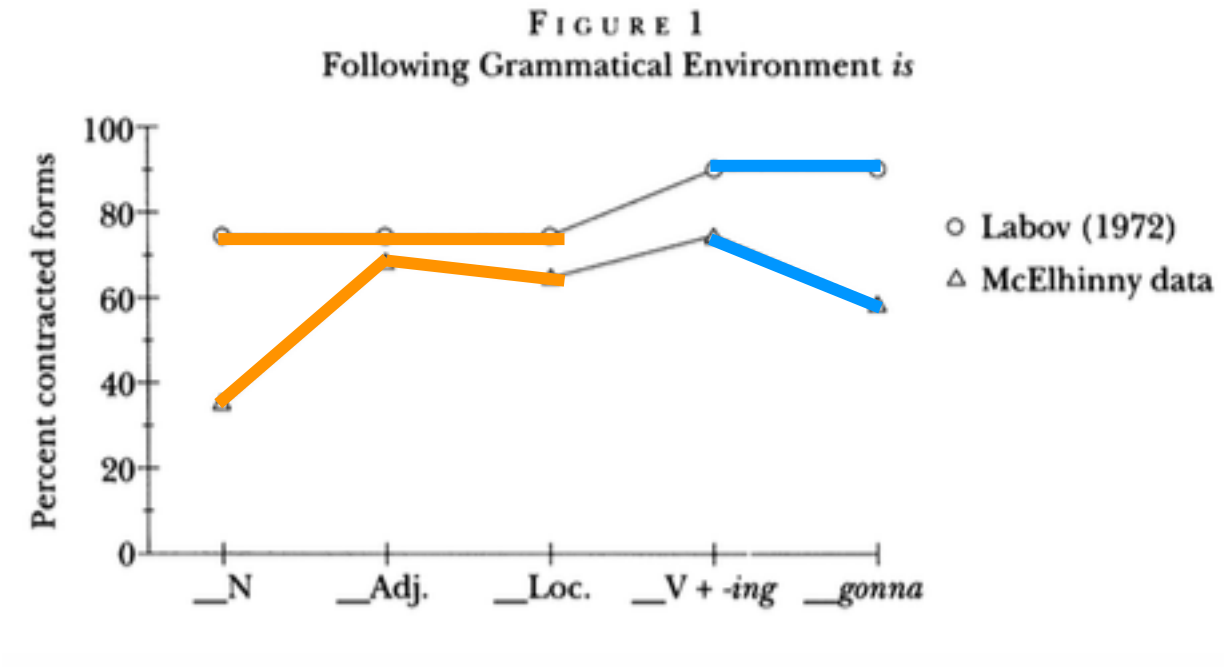

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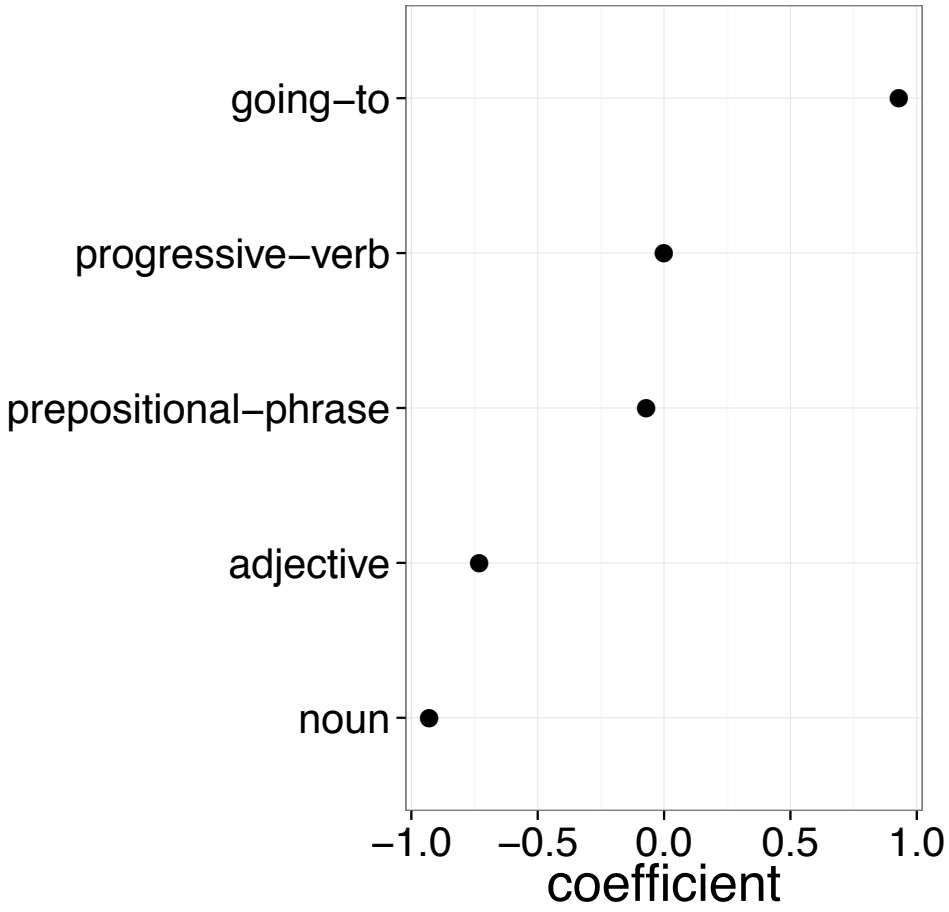

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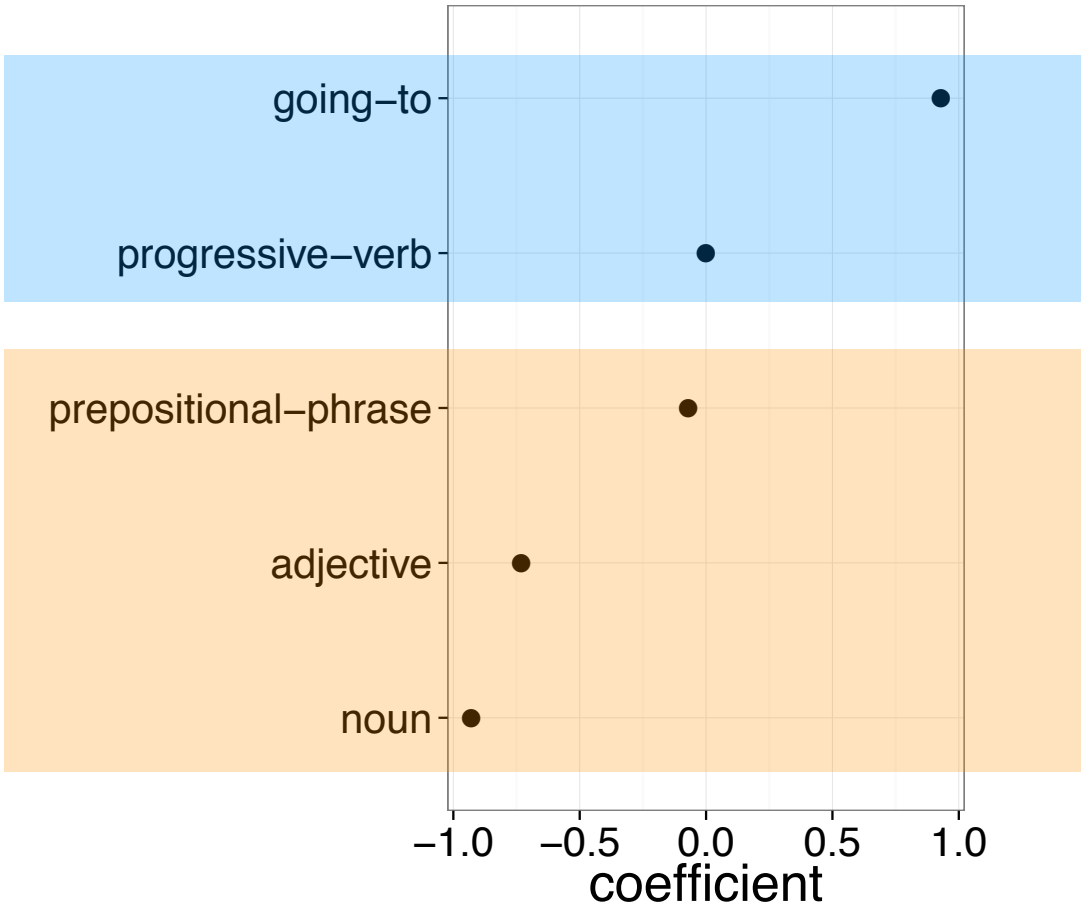

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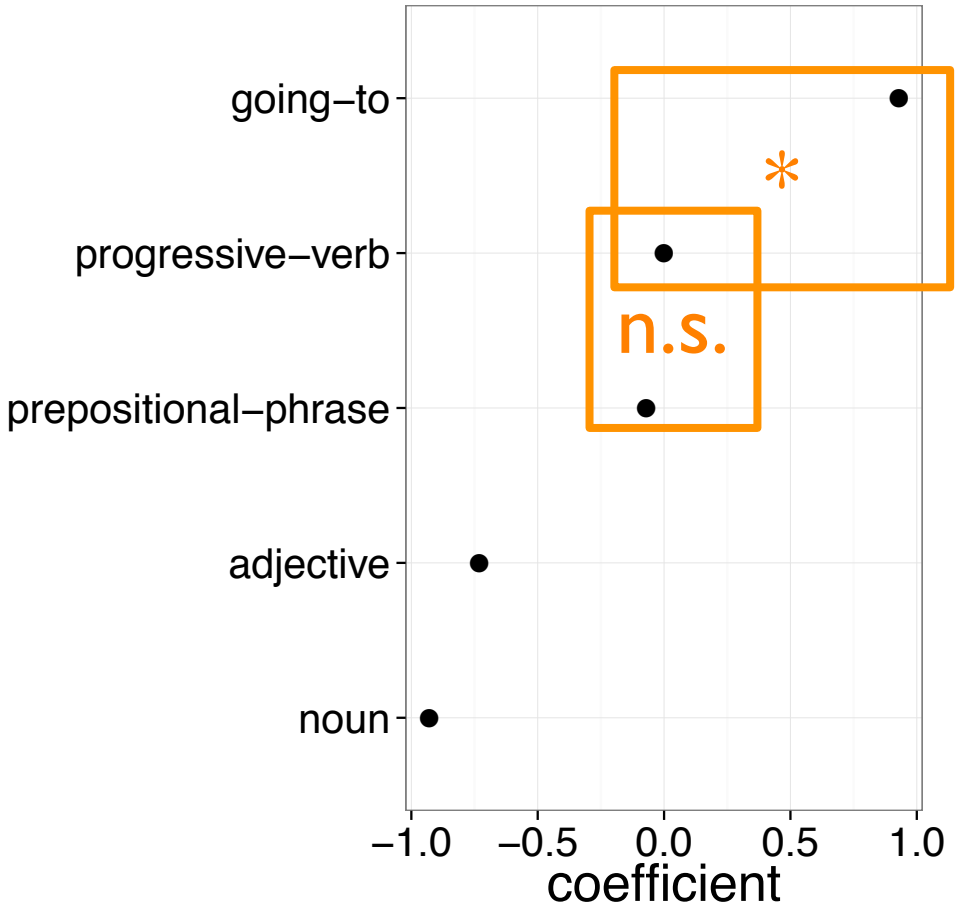

our question

do we see evidence for planning-induced mitigation of a following element effect in the morphosyntactic domain?

does this effect of following complement type diminish where a speaker hasn't been able to plan ahead?

planning proxy : following complement

the planning proxy

duration of following word

N = 336

noun: *My name **is** Debbie*

adjective: *Wrestling **is** funny*

prepositional phrase: *Football**'s** always on TV*

progressive verb: *Gene**'s** working on his cars*

gonna: *I don't think any politician**'s** gonna do that*

the model

- mixed-effects logistic regression in R
- fixed effects:
  - *** – log(duration of following word)
  - * – following complement type
  - ** – log(subject length in words)
  - *** – preceding segment: C vs. V
- random effect: speaker

n.s.

their interaction

(MacKenzie 2012)

(Labov 1969)

- no robust interaction between following complement and planning proxy
- contra previous work that *has* found such an interaction for following phonological elements
- this may represent a difference in advance planning scope, comparable to that found for lexical vs. syntactic structure

- contraction *does* show effect of following word duration: a new result
  - an important methodological point
  - an important theoretical point
- intersections!

thank you!