

EXPLORING AN INVERTED STYLE-PATTERN: VARIATION, CHANGE, AND SOCIO-INDEXICAL MEANING OF ANGLO-CORNISH DIALECT LEXIS

BACKGROUND

- A study of Anglo-Cornish dialect lexical (onomasiological) usage in the Cornish towns of Camborne and Redruth.

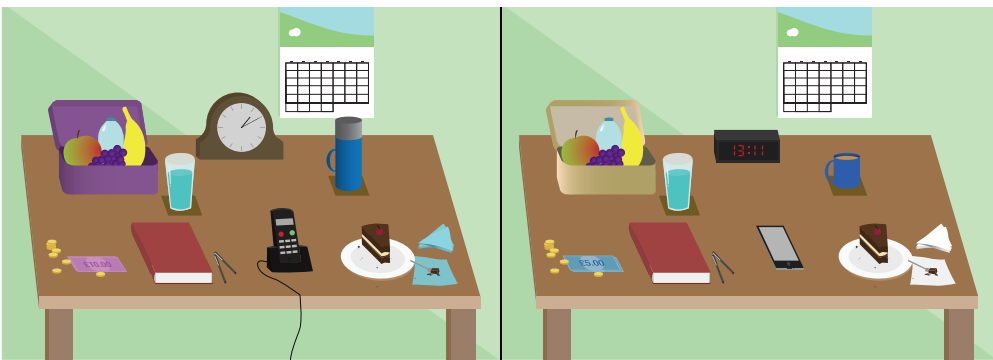
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How is lexical usage structured on the levels of intra- and inter-speaker variation?
- To what extent can socio-indexical meaning account for quantitative patterns of lexical variation?

METHOD

- Interviews with 80 participants, balanced for (binary) age, gender, and socioeconomic-class.
- Participants also completed an Identity Questionnaire (Llamas 1999).
- Two elicitation procedures which vary in the participants' attention-to-speech, spot-the-difference tasks and naming tasks.

CASUAL ELICITATION PROCEDURE- *Spot the difference task*

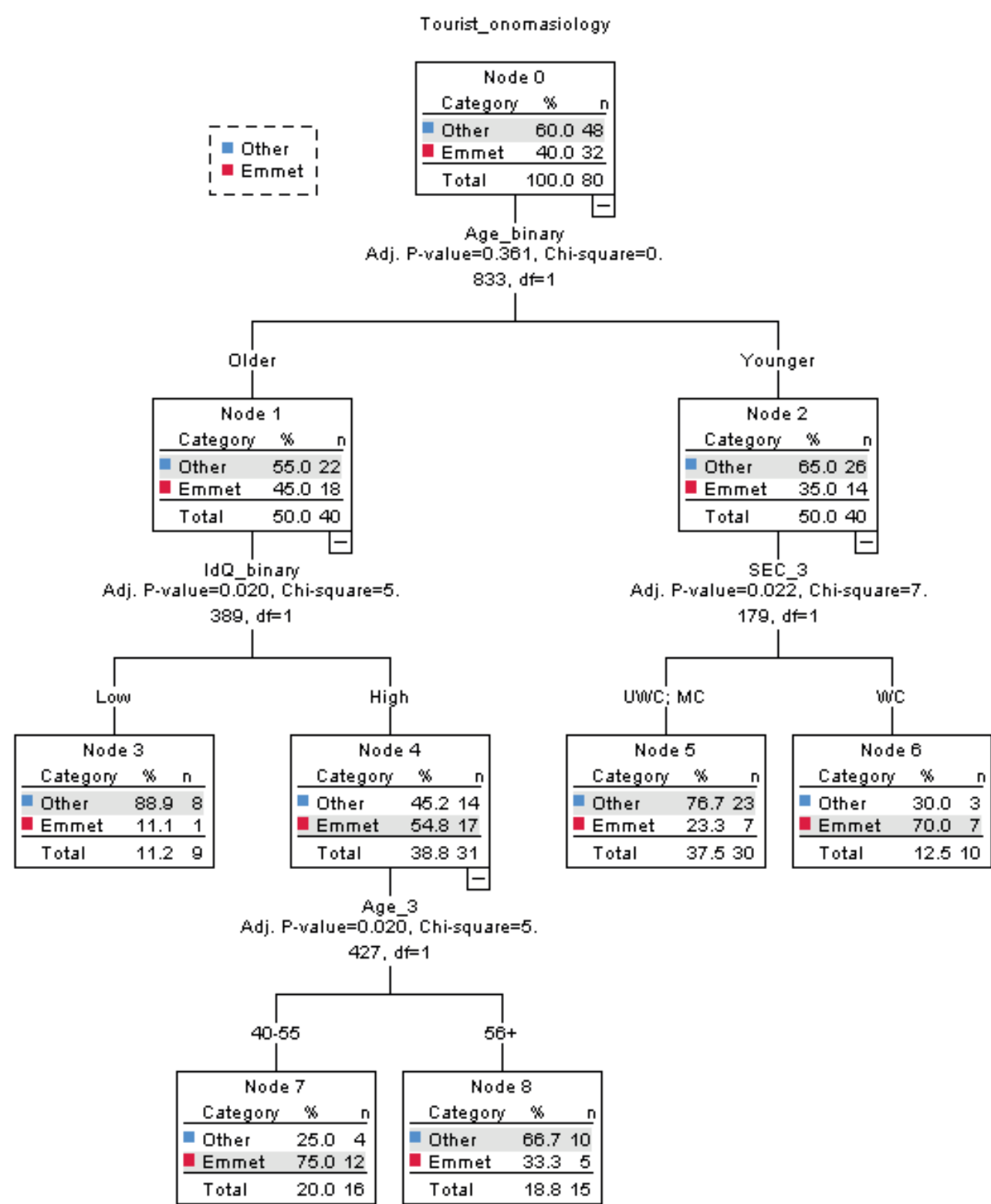


CAREFUL ELICITATION PROCEDURE- *Naming tasks*



INTER-SPEAKER VARIATION:

Emmet



ANALYSIS

- Strength of local identity is not only a strong predictor of lexical usage, it has a strong degree of explanatory power and is consistent with speakers' meta-linguistic commentaries.
- Intra-speaker variation exhibits an *inverted* style pattern
- While *crib/croust*, *maid*, and *stank* index an 'Industrial Celt' identity, *emmet* can additionally index the 'Lifestyle Cornwall' identity.

DISCUSSION

- Many Cornish people assign value on an alternative linguistic market, the Cornish micro-market, on which the local dialect confers greater capital than the standard (cf. Snell 2018).
- An alternative value system which subverts the standard language ideological orthodoxy is visible through an inverted pattern of style shifting.
- Locally meaningful ideologies are most visible in careful speech styles, where such stances become mobilised.
- This is indicative of a minority-group reaction, (see Edwards 2018), where lexis is being used to stylise the 'real me' (see Sharma 2018).

CONCLUSIONS

- Ideological variation becomes more linguistically visible when speakers are presenting an idealised version of themselves in careful speech styles.
- Anglo-Cornish lexis is employed to 'do' being Cornish. What this 'Cornish' is varies between Lifestyle Cornwall and the Industrial Celt identities.

INDUSTRIAL CELT

Cornwall is a country

National Celtic identity

Othering of England and the English

Industrial (particularly mining) identity

Display negative affect pertaining to tourism and concomitant industries

Conservative attitude to change

LIFESTYLE CORNWALL

Cornwall is a county

Regional identity

Mock othering of England and the English

Display positive affect in relation to Cornwall's industrial history and aesthetics, e.g. engine houses.

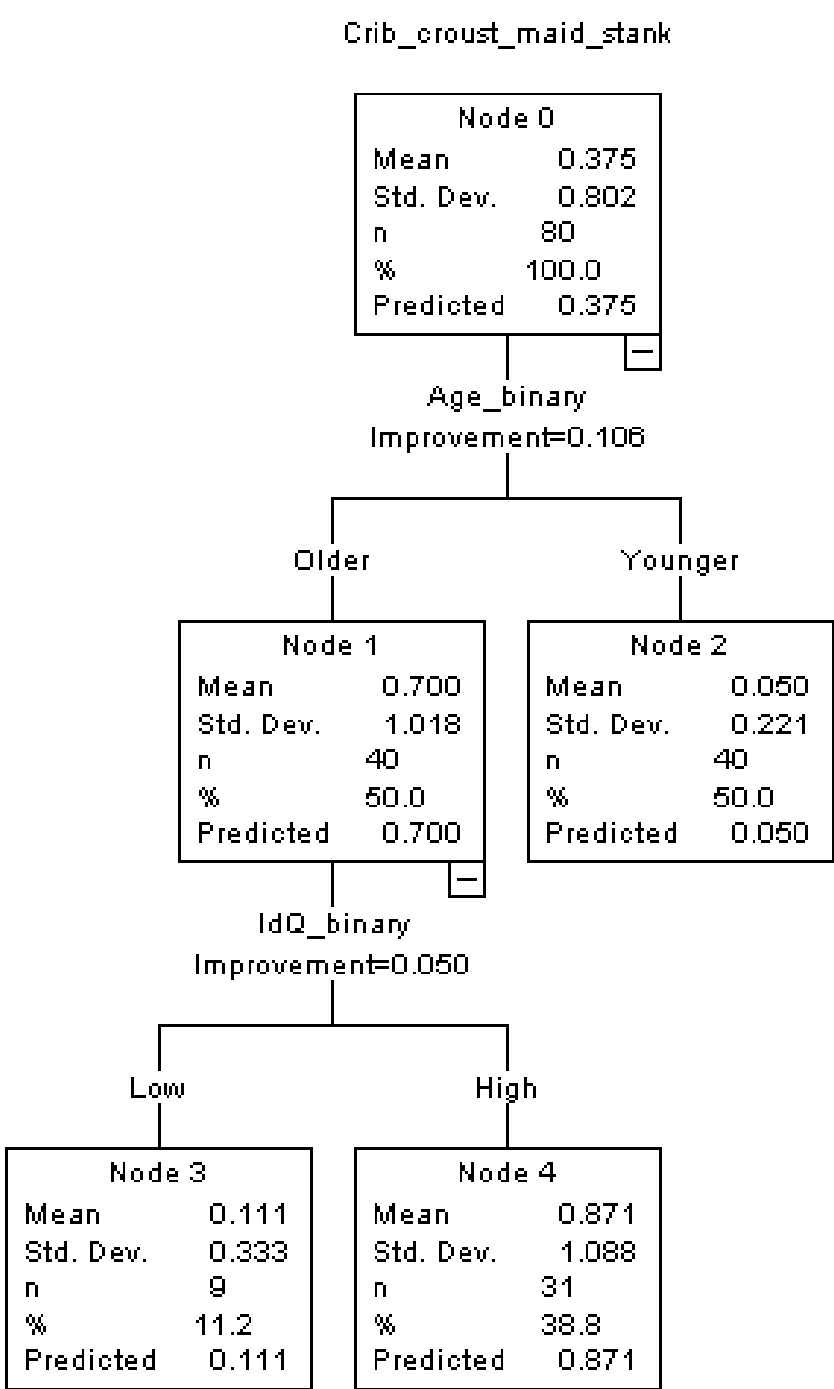
Display overall positive affect pertaining to tourism and concomitant industries

Welcoming of change

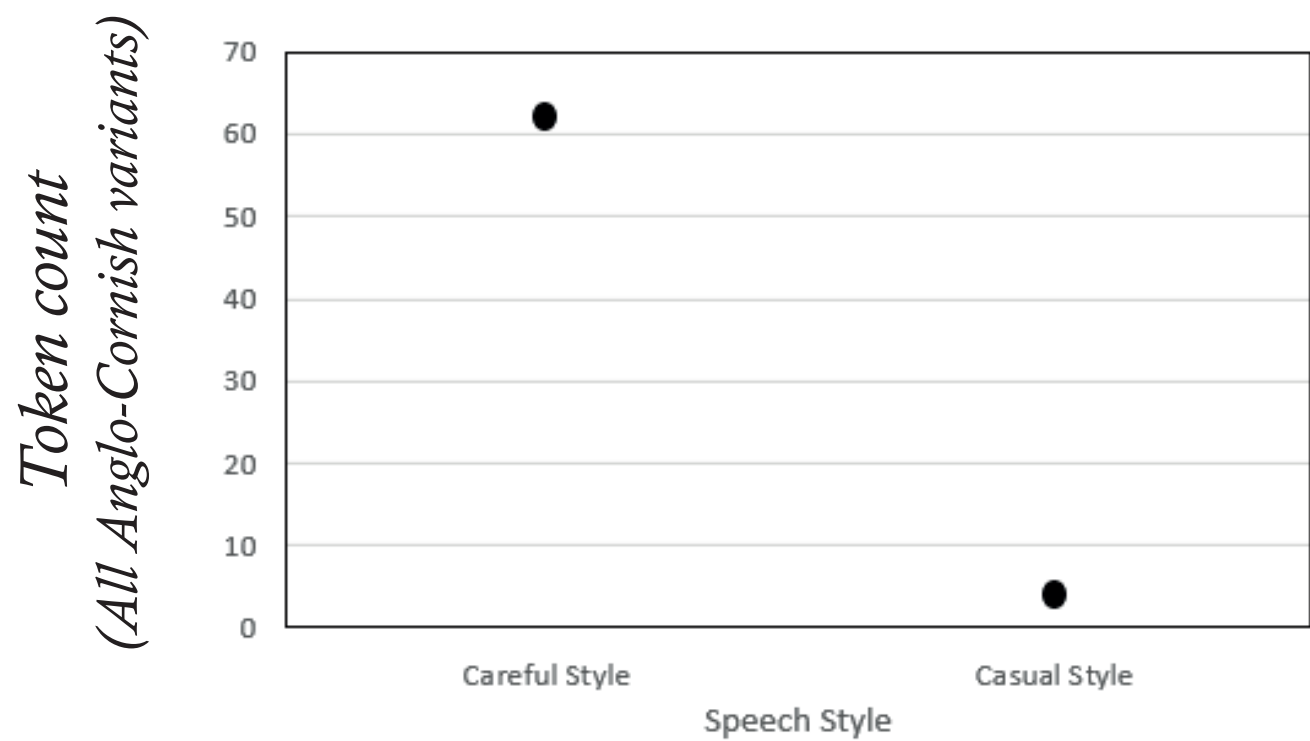
Cornwall is 'cool'

INTER-SPEAKER VARIATION: META-VARIABLE

(*crib, croust, maid and stank*)



INTRA-SPEAKER VARIATION:



REFERENCES

- Edwards, John. (2018). Nonstandard dialect and identity. In Reem Bassiouney (Ed.), *Identity and Dialect Performance*, 17–34. Oxon: Routledge.
- Llamas, Carmen. (1999). A new methodology: data elicitation for social and regional language variation studies. *Leeds Working Papers in Linguistics and Phonetics*, 7, 95–118.
- Sharma, Devyani. (2018). Style dominance: Attention, audience, and the 'real me'. *Language in Society*, 47 (1), 1–31.
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VARIABLES

LUNCH-BOX- (*packed*) lunch box, *crib box*, *croust tin*

WOMAN- *girl*, woman, *maid*

WALK- *walk*, *hike*, *stank*

TOURIST- *tourist*, *holiday-maker*, *emmet*

