



Can two unrelated languages be mixed? Evidence from a new method to investigate codemixing

Jeanine Treffers-Daller (UoR), Zehra Ongun (UoR), Çiçe Çavuşoğlu (Near East University, Northern Cyprus, Cyprus), Valentina Christodoulou (University of Cyprus, Cyprus), Theodosia Demetriou (University of Nicosia, Cyprus), Christiana Themistocleous (UoR), Julia Hofweber (University College London) & Michal Korenar (UoR)

RUEG2021 Dynamics of Language Contact,

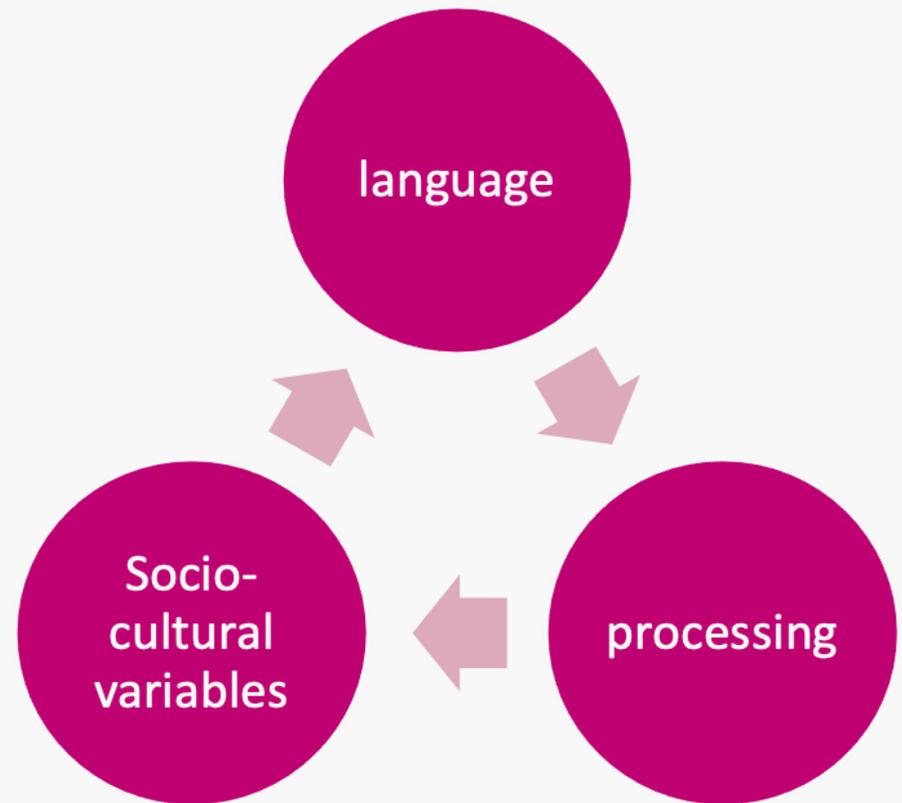
21-23 February 2021

Overview

- Why study code-switching?
- Different types of code-switching (Muysken, 2000; 2013)
- Developing a Turkish-English code-switching frequency task (CSFT)
- Preliminary results from a study among three groups of Turkish-English bilinguals
 - To what extent does congruent lexicalization occur in data from unrelated languages?
 - Which background variables predict variability in congruent lexicalization? Cultural affiliation or country of residence?
 - How useful is the CSFT for studying variability in CS patterns?
- Discussion – next steps

Why study code-switching (CS)?

- Linguistics: What are the constraints/rules on CS
- Psycholinguistics: How can bilinguals keep their languages separate AND switch in appropriate settings?
- Sociolinguistics: Which socio-cultural variables covary with the CS patterns we find?



Why study CS among heritage speakers?

- Does CS promote or accelerate language change/attrition in heritage speakers? (Backus, 2005)
- Which types of CS are most likely to be mechanisms for structural change?
 - The most intimate types of CS (congruent lexicalization)?
- Which aspects of language structure are most likely to be affected by CS?
 - Word order?

Different types of CS

(A) insertion

(B) congruent lexicalization

L1

L1/L2



UP

L2

(C) alternation

(D) back-flagging

Muysken, 2013

(A) insertion

(B) congruent lexicalization

Insertion

Chunks from language B inserted into grammar of language A

We didn't bring **SCHUHWERK** for hiking.

We didn't bring SHOES for hiking.

(Hofweber et al. , 2019)

(A) insertion

(B) congruent lexicalization

Alternation

Loosely connected phrases from languages A and B alternate

Ich kann heute nicht kommen **BECAUSE I'M ILL.**

I can today not come BECAUSE I'M ILL.

„I cannot come today because I am ill.“ (Hofweber et al. , 2019)

UP

L2

(C) alternation

(D) back-flagging

(A) insertion

(B) congruent lexicalization

Backflagging

Insertion of heritage language discourse markers in L2 discourse

- a. Maya: It was the only way, Mama.
- b. Rosa: **¡Ay!**, Maya, you're taking this too far.
(English/Spanish; Specker, 2008, p. 114)

UP

L2

(C) alternation

(D) back-flagging

(A) insertion

L1

(B) congruent lexicalization

L1/L2

Congruent lexicalisation co-activation of grammar, semantics and lexicon of languages A and B

Wir haben FRIENDS gemacht mit'm SHOP OWNER.

We have FRIENDS made with th' SHOP OWNER.

We have made FRIENDS with th' SHOP OWNER (Hofweber et al., 2019)

Diagnostic criteria for congruent lexicalization

	<i>INSERTION</i>	<i>ALTERNATION</i>	<i>CONGRUENT LEXICALIZATION</i>	<i>BACK-FLAGGING</i>
SWITCH SITE				
Major clause boundary		+		+
Peripheral		+		+
Embedding in discourse		+		+
Flagging	-	+	-	
Dummy word insertion	+		-	-
Bidirectional code-switching	-	+	+	+
PROPERTIES				
Linear equivalence		+	+	+
Telegraphic mixing	+	-	-	-
Morphological integration	+	-	+	-
Doubling	-	+	-	-
Homophonous diamorphs		-	+	-
Triggering			+	-
Mixed collocations		-	+	-
Self-corrections	-	+	-	

Note: Here no value refers to the non-applicability of a specific feature.

Muysken,
Deuchar and
Wang, 2007)

Adaptation of the model (Muysken, 2014)

Key distinction:

- **insertion** (clear matrix language imposing its constraints): Essentially selected items
- **alternation** (involving several languages imposing their constraints): Essentially adjuncts

Congruent lexicalization: insertion or alternation under condition of similarity between languages

Questions:

a) Can congruent lexicalization („mixing“) be found in languages that are not related?

b) What does it mean for languages to be related (see Ringbom & Jarvis, 2009)?

Gaining deeper insights into variability in CS

- A corpus will give us authentic, ecologically valid data, but limited information about all possible switches + variability
- Frequency data from small bilingual corpora inconclusive
- Questionnaires with self-reported CS may not tap into real life CS because of stigma or lack of awareness. No distinction made between types of CS (Hofweber et al, 2019)
- Experimental techniques needed (Gullberg, Indefrey & Muysken, 2009; Treffers-Daller, 2021)
- Frequency judgments are indicative of cognitive embedding (Backus, 2015)
- Usage-based approach (Croft, 2000), combined with experimental techniques (Onar Valk, 2014; Backus 2015; Hofweber et al. 2016, 2019 and 2020; Treffers-Daller et al., 2021)

Code-switching frequency task (CSFT)

- Stimuli based on naturalistic examples from CS corpora, but controlled for length in syllables
- Oral presentation through headphones with support on PPT
- Presentation in non-standard varieties (if applicable)
- Inclusion of monolingual stimuli (Ebert & Koronkiewicz, 2018)
- Respondents indicate on a Likert scale how frequently they **encounter** stimuli in their environment (**not** grammaticality judgement)
- **Validation evidence:** frequency ratings from the CSFT predicted bilinguals' use of congruent lexicalization in an email production task in German-English CS (see appendix) (Hofweber et al., 2019)

THE CURRENT PROJECT

Research questions

1. Can speakers of two unrelated languages engage in congruent lexicalization (CLX)?
2. Do CS patterns among three groups of Turkish-English bilinguals differ, in particular in relation to CLX?
 - Turks from the mainland (recent immigrants to UK)
 - Turkish Cypriots (in the UK since 1914)
 - Turkish Cypriots living in Cyprus
3. Which variables explain the variance in CLX?
 - Residence (UK versus Cyprus)
 - Cultural affiliation (Turkish versus Cypriot culture)
4. How successful is CSFT in revealing CS patterns?

Hypotheses

1. CLX category with lowest frequency among Turkish-English bilinguals, because of typological distance
2. Bilinguals with longer tradition of language contact with English more likely to engage in CLX (Muysken, 2000;2013)
 - Cypriots > Turks (cultural affiliation)
3. Bilinguals living in the UK more likely to engage in CLX
 - UK resident Cypriots > Cyprus-based Cypriots
 - Relative importance of culture/residence?

Participants: adult Turkish-English bilinguals

	Cyprus-based	UK-based	total
Cypriots	40	28	68
Turks	-	30	30
total	40	58	98

Mean age: 32.21 (sd 9.3); 53 males, 45 females

Two informants from the UK-based Cypriots were removed because of outliers (3SD above mean) on code-switching frequency task

Background variables by place of residence

	UK	Cyprus	difference
	Mean	Mean	
gender	1.43	1.50	ns
education ^(M=1, F=2) (1-4)	2.79	2.63	ns
English self rating	5.84	6.28	*
Turkish self rating	5.62	6.60	**
Turkish years of use	26.21	33.90	**
English years of use	19.66	28.10	**
age	28.90	37.03	**

- Covariates included in further analyses:
- E and T self ratings
 - Years of use of T and E
 - age

The CS frequency judgement task

- Authentic examples from literature on Turkish-English CS, translated from Turkish-German or Turkish-Danish CS
- Stimuli (98)
 - 14 per code-switching type from authentic corpora (T->E and E->T)
 - 14 mixed verbal compounds (T->E and E->T)
 - 14 switches between utterances (T->E and E->T)
 - 14 monolingual control sentences (7 T and 7 E)
- Standard Turkish + Cypriot Turkish version

Presentation of the CSFT

- **Presentation:** visual and audio format & randomised
- **Instructions:** “How often do you come across this type of sentence when talking to other Turkish/Cypriot people in your environment?”
- **Visual analogue scale** (Llamas & Watt, 2014)

1	Ben celebrating yapmıyacağım	never		always
2	Ağustos is iğrenç, değil mi?	never		always
3				

Example of congruent lexicalization (E>T)

In that film many mistakes were **mademiş**
“In that film many mistakes were made.”



audio

Reliability and dimensional structure CSFT

- Cronbach's alpha = .961
- Factor analysis: two dimensions (rotated factor solution, direct oblimin, suppression of factor loadings smaller than .3)

Component Matrix^a

	Component	
	1	2
monoTURK	.548	.705
monoENG	.422	.762
INTER_tot	.601	
INS_tot	.902	
BFL_tot	.889	
ALT_tot	.897	
CLX_tot	.830	

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

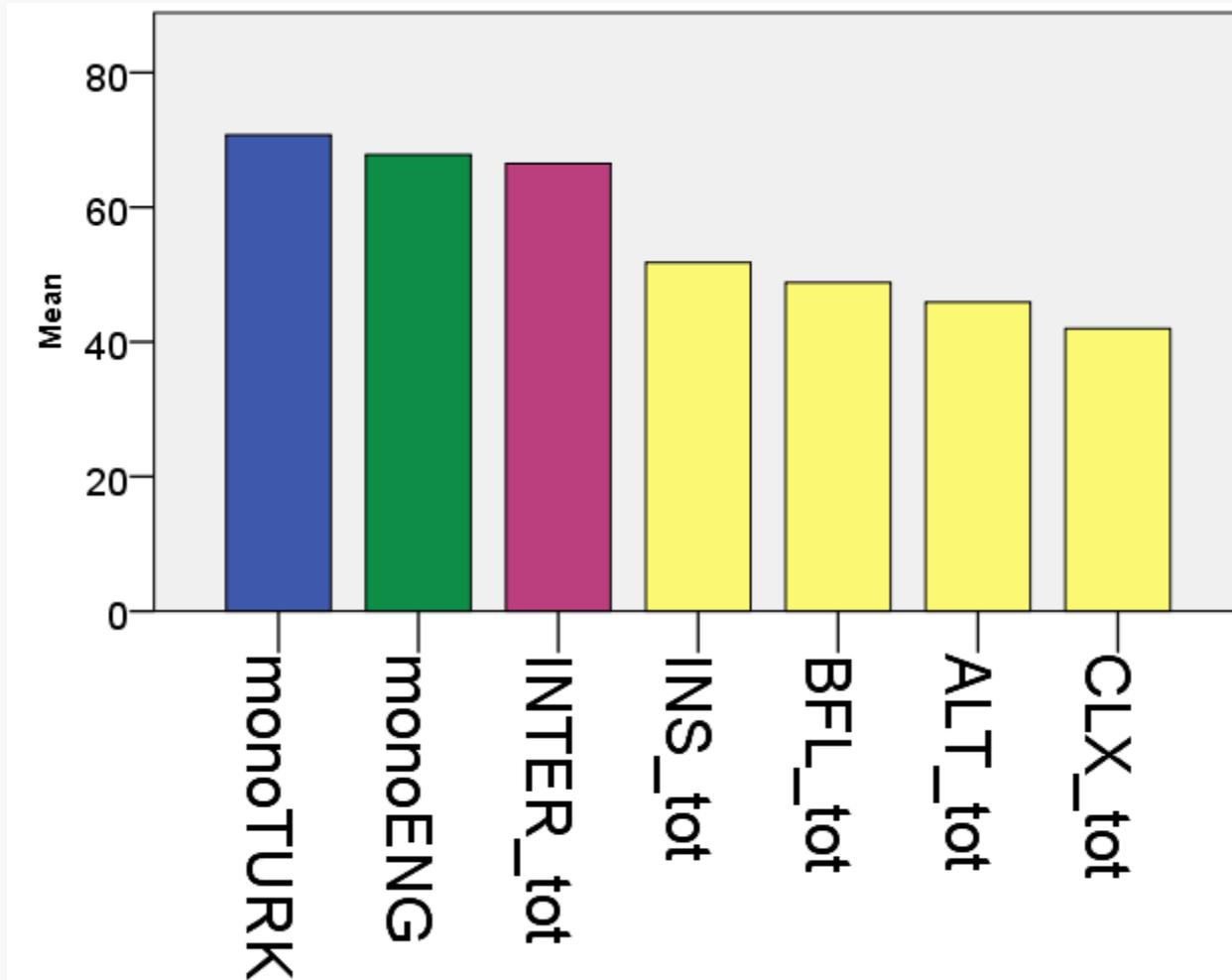
a. 2 components extracted.

Monolingual sentences perceived to be a separate dimension

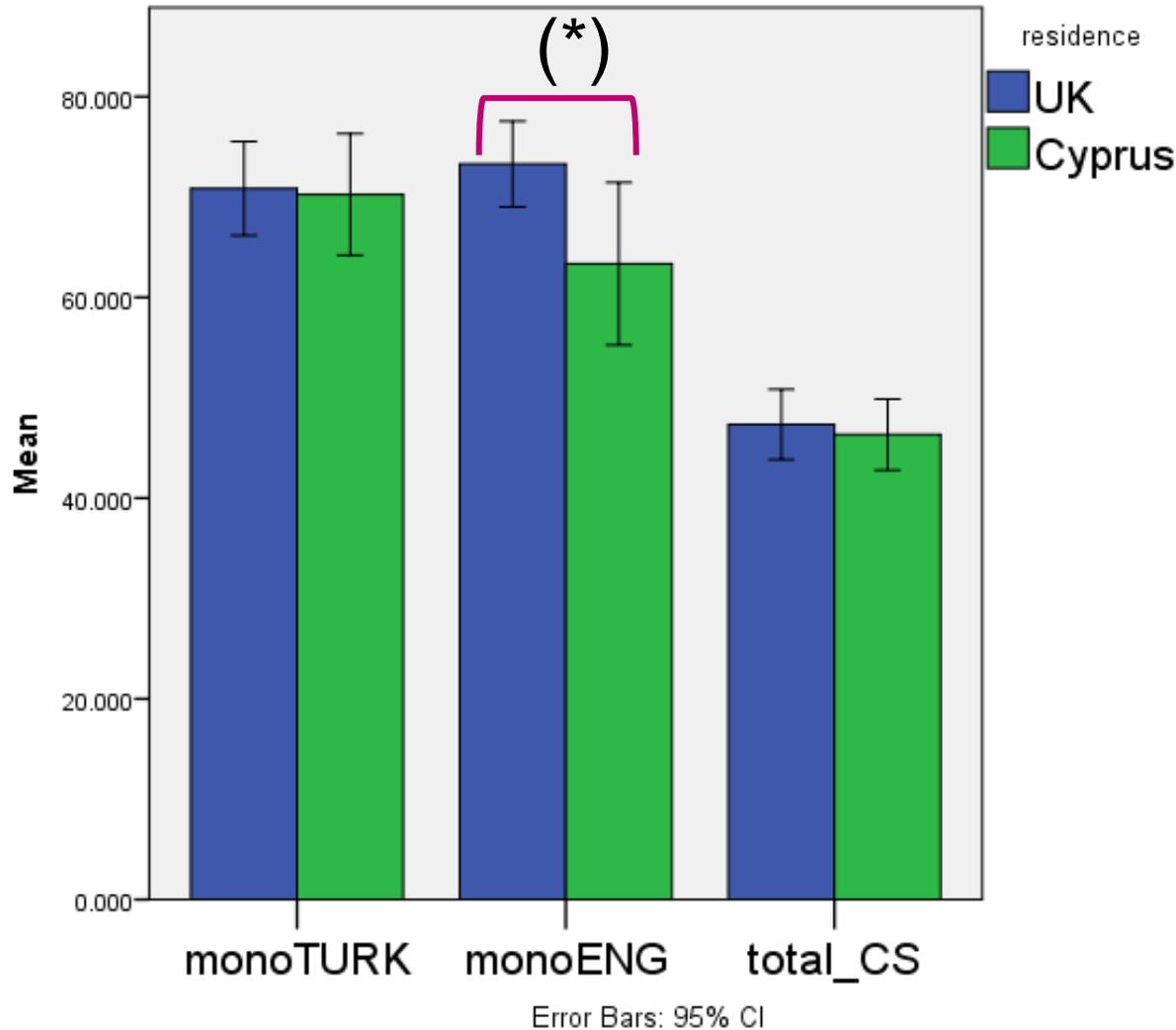
All CS types perceived as part of one dimension

RESULTS

How often do you hear sentences such as X in your environment?



Differences in frequency of monolingual sentences and total CS, by country of residence

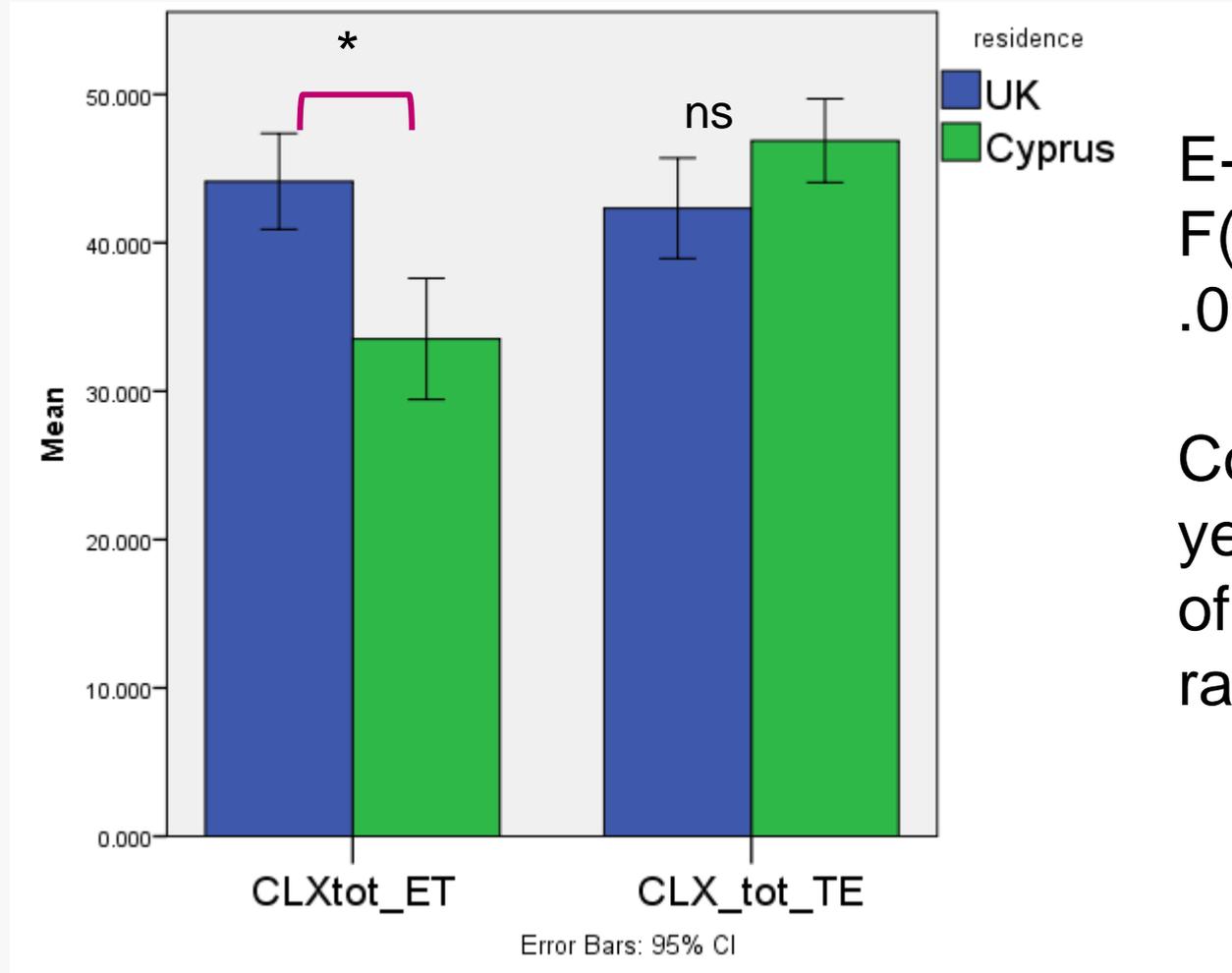


$F(1) = 3.74, p = .057,$
 $\eta^p = .04)$

Respondents in the UK hear more monolingual English sentences than respondents in Cyprus. Important validation evidence for the task.

Total CS significantly lower than monolingual sentences (Friedman, $Z = -7.88, p < .001$)

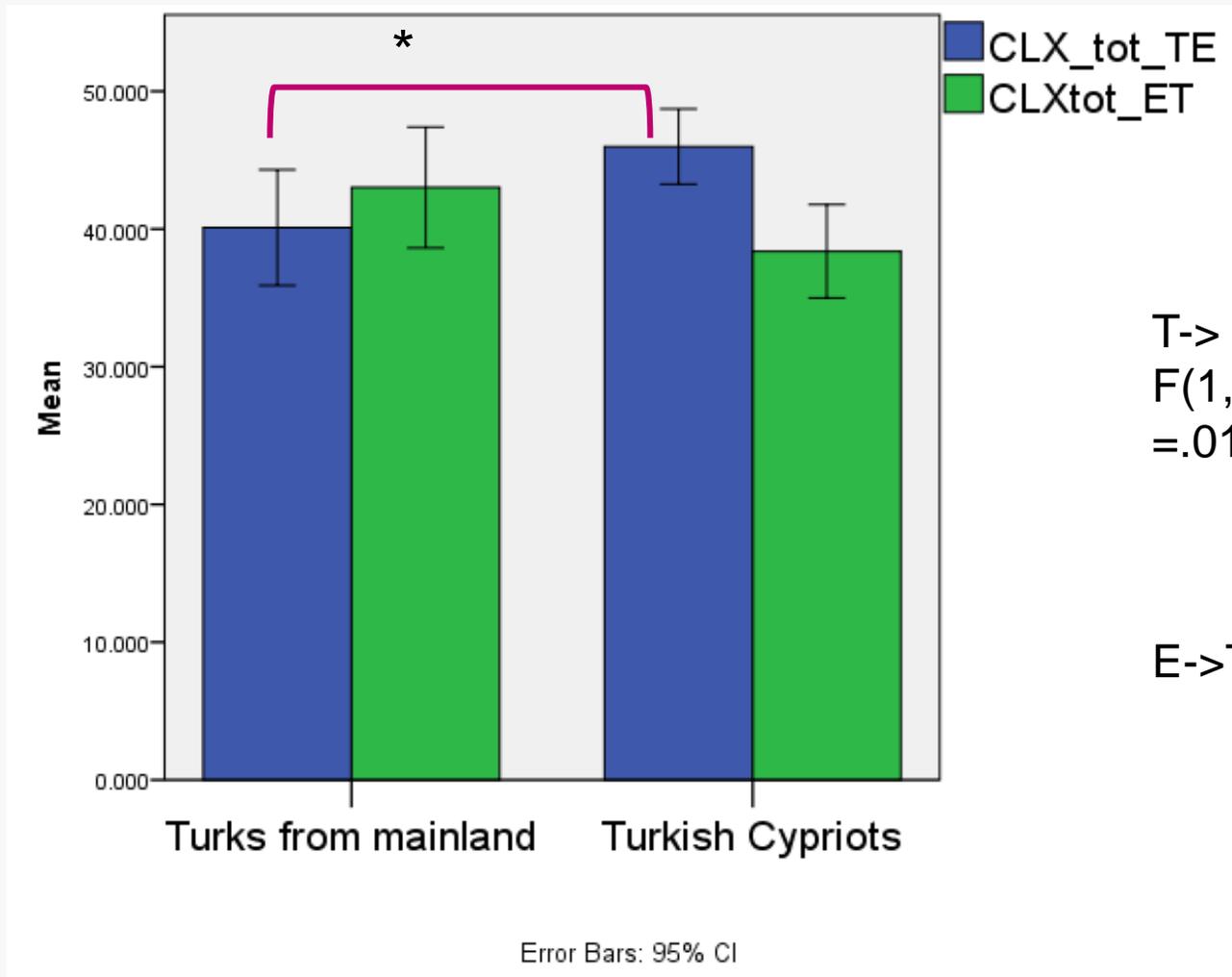
Congruent lexicalization E->T and T->E by country of residence



E->T
 $F(1) = 5.66, p = .002, \eta^p = .06$

Covariates: age, years of usage of E and T, self ratings E and T

CLX T->E and E->T by cultural group



T-> E
 $F(1,97) = 6.39, p = .013, \eta^2 = .065$

E->T ns.

Discussion

Answers to research questions

1. Can speakers of two unrelated languages engage in congruent lexicalization (CLX)?

YES, but it is the least frequent type of CS

2. Do CS patterns among groups of Turkish-English bilinguals differ, in particular in relation to CLX?

YES, but need to separate out direction of CLX.

CLX most frequent among UK-based Cypriots, as predicted, but:

- Small number of extreme values in this group
- Effect sizes small

Answers to research questions

3. Which variables predict the variance in CLX?
 - Residence (UK versus Cyprus) for E-T
 - Cultural affiliation (Cyprus versus Turkey) for T-> E.
4. Can CSFT demonstrate differences in CS patterns? **Yes,**
 - a) high reliability
 - b) possibility to investigate non-standard varieties,
 - c) CSFT can reveal information about frequency of infrequent phenomena:

Monolingual > Intersentential > INS > BFL > ALT > CLX

But: further validation necessary (bilingual spontaneous data, more language pairs)

Where do we go from here?

- Data from Turkey-born bilinguals resident in Cyprus needed
 - Interaction between residence/cultural affiliation/place of birth
 - Interaction with language proficiency/use
- Analysis of Greek-English CSFT
- To what extent do results from CSFT correlate with task switching (executive functions) or creativity (ATTA)?
- What are the structural neural correlates of CS?
- Preliminary results suggest that frequency ratings of CLX from CSFT are positively related to brain volumes of regions involved in language switching (Korenar et al. in prep.)

References

- Backus, A. (2005). Code-switching and language change: one thing leads to another? *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 9(3&4), 307–340.
- Gullberg, M., Indefrey, P., & Muysken, P. (2009). Research techniques for the study of codeswitching. In B. E. Bullock & J. A. Toribio (Eds.). *The Cambridge handbook of linguistic code-switching* (pp. 21–39), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hofweber, J., Marinis, T. & Treffers-Daller, J. (2019). Predicting executive functions in bilinguals using ecologically valid measures of code-switching behaviour. In: D. Miller, F. Bayram, J. Rothman and L. Serratrice (Eds.). *Bilingual Cognition and Language. The State of the Science across its subfields* (pp. 161-180). Studies in Bilingualism, Benjamins Publishing.
- Ebert, S & Koronkiewicz, B. (2018). Monolingual stimuli as a foundation for analyzing code-switching data. *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism* 8:1 (2018), 25–66.
- Llamas, C. & Watt, D. (2014). Scottish, English, British?: Innovations in Attitude Measurement. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 8(11), 610-617.
- Muysken, P. (2000). *Bilingual speech. A typology of codemixing*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Muysken, P. (2013). Language contact outcomes as the result of bilingual optimization strategies. *Bilingual. Lang. Cogn.* 16, 709–730.
- Onar Valk, P., & Backus, A. (2013). Syntactic change in an immigrant language: from non-finite to finite subordinate clauses in Turkish. *Journal of Estonian and Finno-Ugric Linguistics*, 4(2): 7–29

Onar Valk, P. (2014) Convergent developments on Dutch Turkish word order: A comparative study between ‘production’ and ‘comprehension’ data: Converging evidence? *Applied Linguistics Review*, 5(2), 351–372.

Pfaff, C. W. (1979). Constraints on language mixing: intrasentential codeswitching and borrowing in Spanish/English. *Language* 55, 291–318.

Poplack, S. (1980). Sometimes I’ll start a sentence in Spanish y termino en español. Toward a typology of code-switching. *Linguistics* 18, 581–618.

Ringbom, H. & Jarvis, S. (2009). The Importance of Cross-Linguistic Similarity in Foreign Language Learning. In: Long, M.H. & Doughty, C.J. (eds.). *The Handbook of Language Teaching*, chapter 7.

Treffers-Daller, J. (2021). Turkish-German code-switching patterns revisited: What naturalistic data can(not) tell us. In Smith, N., Veenstra, T. & Aboh, E.O (eds.). *Advances in Contact Linguistics. In honour of Pieter Muysken*, pp. 237-260.

Treffers-Daller, J, Ruigendijk, E. & Hofweber, J. (eds.) (2021). Behavioral and neurophysiological approaches to code-switching and language switching. *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Treffers-Daller, J., Ongun, Z., Hofweber, J. & Korenar, M. (2020). Explaining Individual Differences in Executive Functions Performance in Multilinguals: The Impact of Code-Switching and Alternating Between Multicultural Identity Styles. *Frontiers in Psychology*.

Many thanks to CeLM, the Centre for British Research in the Levant and to all participants in the project.

More recent work on code-switching:

Treffers-Daller, J, Ruigendijk, E. & Hofweber, J. (eds.) (2021). Behavioral and neurophysiological approaches to code-switching and language switching. *Frontiers in Psychology*.



appendix

- Examples of different types of English-German code-switching (Hofweber et al., 2019) as found in an email discourse completion task.

Email discourse completion task - instruction

„Sie moechten einem deutsch-englischen Freund you know well vorschlagen, heute abend ins Kino zu gehn. Formulieren Sie eine kurze email, in der Sie Sprachen switchen wie im Alltagsleben. Beginnen Sie die email mit ein bisschen small talk, indem Sie erzaehlen, was Sie am Wochenende gemacht haben.“

„You would like to suggest to a German-English friend you know well to go to the cinema tonight. Formulate a short email in which you switch languages as you would do in everyday life. Start the email with a little small talk by telling them about what you did at the weekend.“

“Alternatively, you can copy and paste a real email you exchanged with a German-English bilingual friend into the textbox.”

Analysis codes:

(i) insertion

(a) alternation

(d) dense code-switching

(o) other / attrition / failure to acquire

(t) transfer / interference

Email discourse completion task – SA participant 12013

Hi Name,

long time no see (a), aber es tat gut, mal wieder von dir zu hören. Wie war denn euer **holiday (i)** in den Bahamas? Habt ihr denn auch ge**suntanned (d)**? Schick doch mal ein paar **snapshots (i)** von euch auf **der beach (d)**! **My old man (i)** und ich haben am **weekend (i)** im Garten geschuftet. Der neue „**Digger**“ **(i) kam dann sehr handy (d)** und **verkürzte** die Arbeit **by half (d)**. Danach, **quite by chance (a)**, kam der Nachbar reingeschneit - wollte sich 'nen Spaten leihen, sah den **Digger (i)** und war **blown away mit der neuen technology (d)**. **What happened then? (a)** Sure, **jetzt baggert das Ding bei ihm im Garten und bei uns ist Ebbe (a)**! So ein cooles Gerät will ja jeder haben, **not so (a)**? Lisa geht's **so-so (i)**. Hat schon wieder Kopfschmerzen, **like there's no tomorrow (a)**. **Throbbing (a)**, sagt sie. **Oh well (a)**, was soll man erwarten wenn sie jede Nacht **durch partied (d)**? Looks to me **als ob die Jugend nie auslernt (a)**! Müssen ja alle erst **aus Erfahren ihre lessons lernen (d)**! Und **gibt sie eine helping hand (d)** in der Küche? Nichts da. Mama ist ja **hands on (i)**. War ich auch so als **teenager (i)**? Mensch haben unsere Eltern uns **jobben lassen (d)**. Weißt du noch? Nichts von wegen **all night out (i)**, und so! Ja, **times are changing (a)**, sag ich dir! **All the best (a)**, Bruderherz und grüß mir dein **little wife (i)**.

Deine participant 12013