

The use of markers of stance among English L1 speakers and Estonian L1 learners of English

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Background

- Stance – "linguistic means by which speakers and writers convey their personal attitudes and emotions" (Gray and Biber 2012)
- Stance constructions (Biber et al. 1999: 969–970):
 - stance adverbials: **importantly**
 - stance complement clause constructions: **it is important that**
 - stance noun plus prepositional phrase: **the importance of**
- Morphological relatedness plays a role in the distribution of stance markers (Larsson 2017, 2019)
- Register unawareness is an important factor influencing the use among novice writers (Gilquin et al. 2007, Larsson 2019)

Research questions

- what are the main trends in the use of stance markers among English L1 and Estonian L1 learners of English
- what is the influence of register on the distribution of stance markers

Data

- Estonian component of the Louvain International Database of Spoken English Interlanguage (LINDSEI, Gilquin et al. 2010): 25 interviews
- Louvain Corpus of Native English Conversation (LOCNEC, De Cock 2004): 50 interviews
- Tartu Corpus of Estonian Learner English (TCELE): 76 BA thesis
- British American Written English (BAWE): a sample of 294 essays

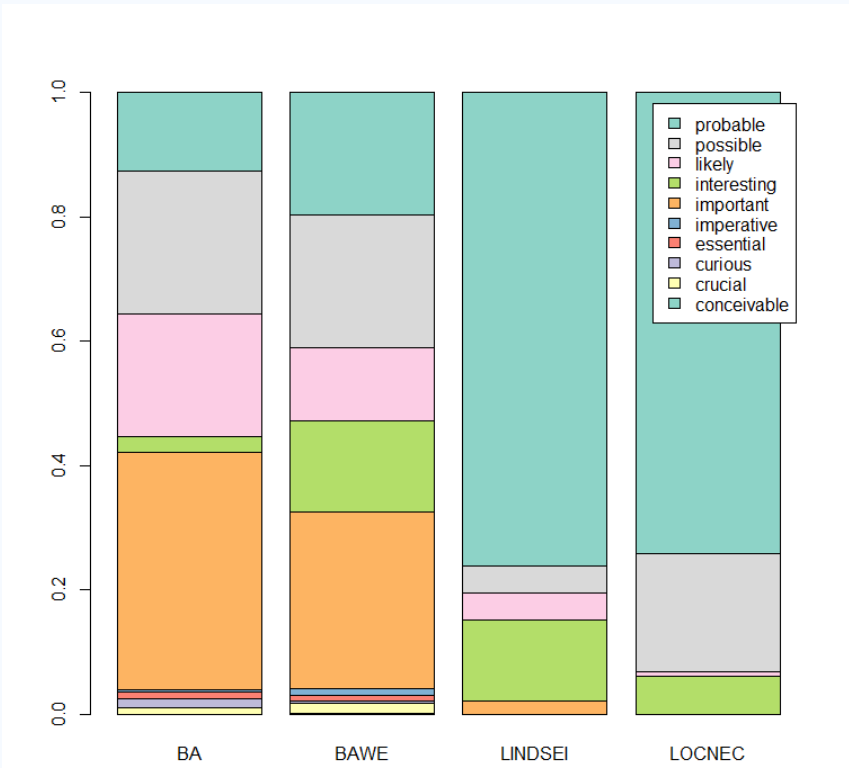


Figure 1. Proportion of types across the data sets

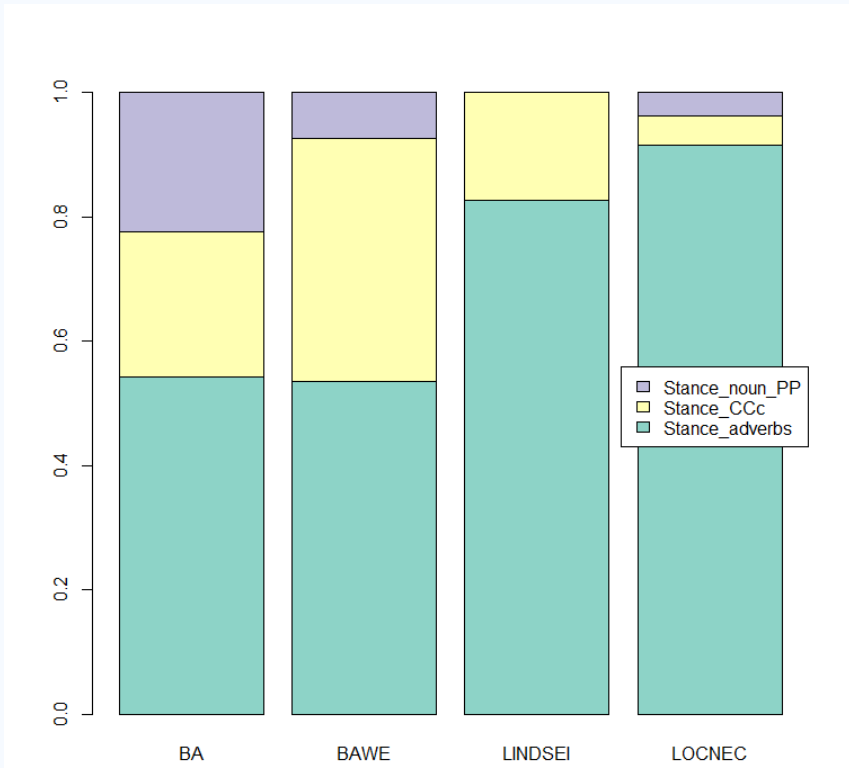


Figure 2. Proportion of constructions across the data sets

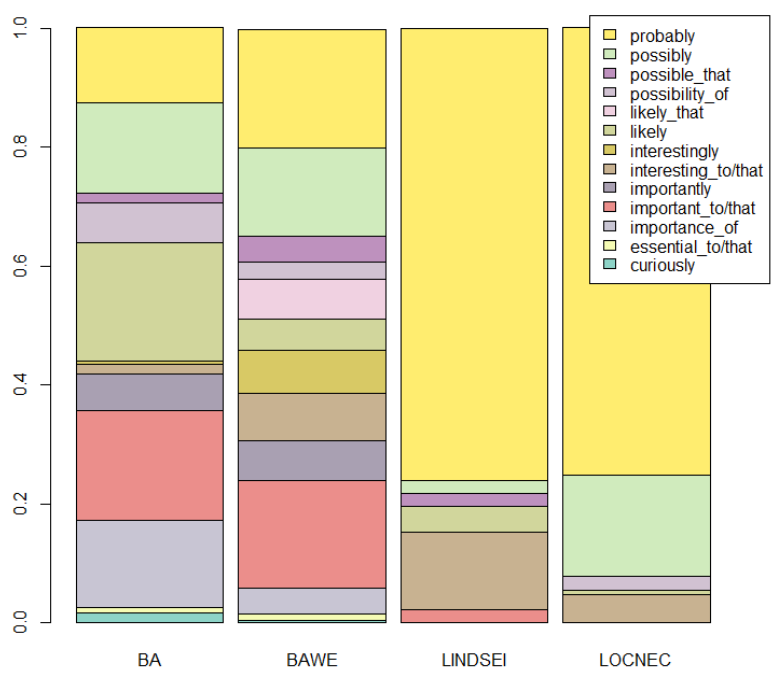


Figure 3. Proportion of stance markers across the data sets

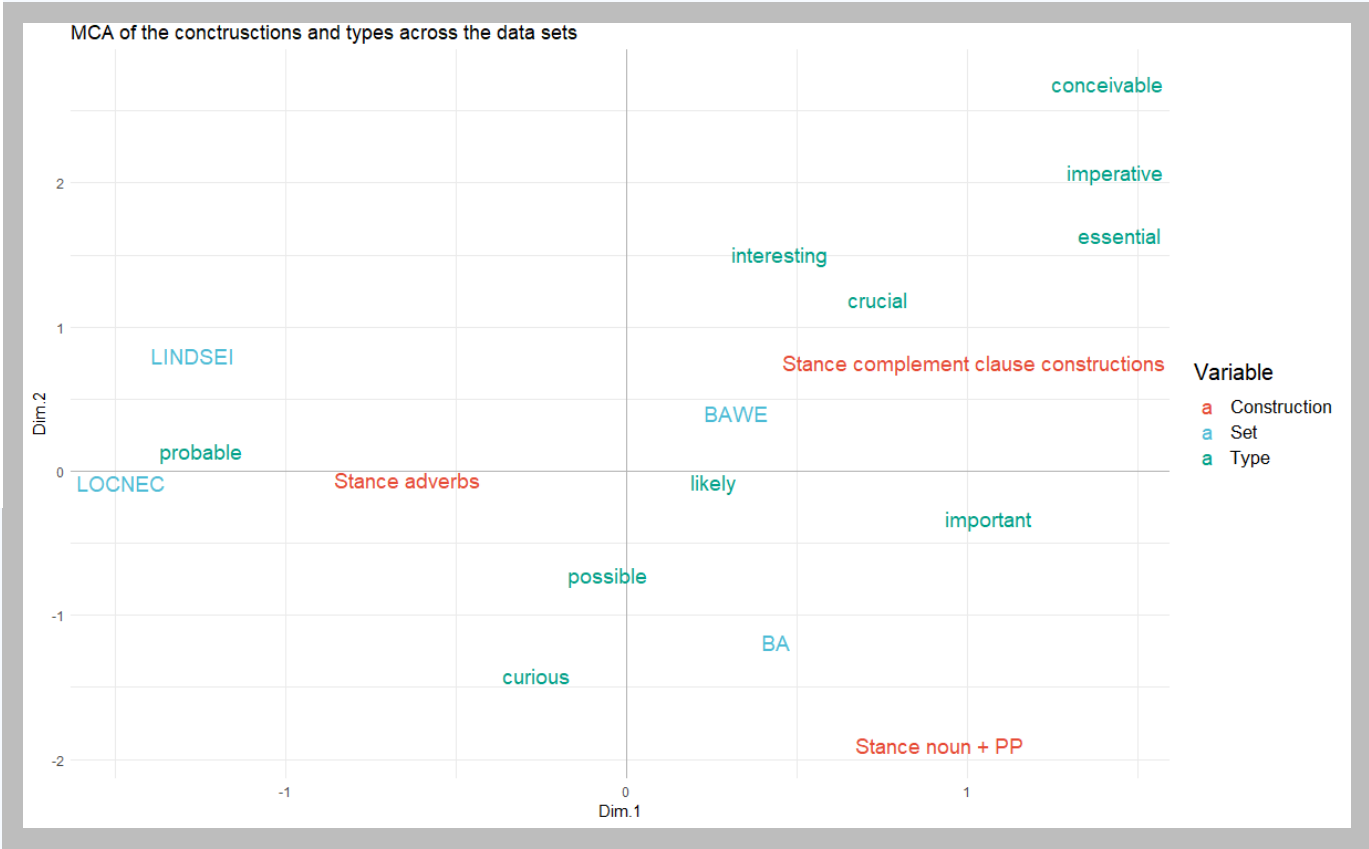


Figure 4. MCA of the constructions and types across the data sets

Discussion

- Similarly to the findings reported in Larsson(2019), learners of English show a trend to overuse stance noun constructions in comparison with English L1 speakers.
- Further research:
 - compare findings to the distribution of stance markers to academic texts by expert writers
 - investigate the influence of individual differences of speakers
 - collect more comparable data

References

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