



ViEW

Variation in English Worldwide

Universidade de Vigo

Negation and the Cognitive Complexity Principle in the English clausal complementation system

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Aim

- Complexity Principle – Embedded Negation Constraint
- Complementation
- REGRET
- World Englishes (WEs)

Complementation and World Englishes (WEs)

- Many **diachronic** studies: **Great Complement Shift**
 - Massive restructuring
 - Spread of infinitive clauses at the expense of finite clauses
 - Expansion of the Acl type of infinitive clauses to verbs of knowing, thinking and declaring (*And þus seip Crist, 'þat he seip hise apostlis to be hise frendis...'*)
 - Rise and development of *for* NP *to*-infinitives (*it was easy for him to go*)
 - the gerund's development of verbal features during Late ME (*weakening the body by too much abstinence*)
 - the gerund's establishment as a second type of non-finite complements alongside infinitives

(Warner 1982; Fischer 1988; Rohdenburg 1995, 2006; Fanego 1996, 2004, 2007; Rudanko 1999, 2000; Vosberg 2003; De Smet 2013; Rickman & Rudanko 2018)

Complementation and World Englishes (WEs)

- **World Englishes** → Area subject of innovation and change
 - “a classic example [of **innovation** in varieties in phase 3, nativization] is the **complementation patterns** which verbs and also adjectives typically enter” (Schneider 2007: 86)
 - “core area of lexicogrammar showing **clear traces of regional differentiation** is verb complementation” (Mukherjee & Hoffmann 2006: 148)
 - **understudied**
 - Ditransitive verbs
 - Competition between gerunds and infinitives

(Olavarria de Ersson and Shaw 2003; Mukherjee and Hoffmann 2006; Mukherjee and Schilk 2008; Mukherjee and Gries 2009; Bernaisch 2013; Nam et al. 2013; Schilk et al. 2012, 2013; Deshors 2015; Gries and Bernaisch 2016; Deshors and Gries 2016)

Complementation and World Englishes (WEs)

- Language contact and Second Language Acquisition (SLA) processes
 - **Isomorphism or transparency**

one-to-one mapping of form and meaning

Steger & Schneider (2012) study **complementation** and argue that **WEs** should show a **preference for finite patterns** over non-finite structures, that is, a preference for more explicit forms

(Slobin 1980 ; Williams 1987; Schneider 2012, 2013; Steger & Schneider 2012; Green 2017)

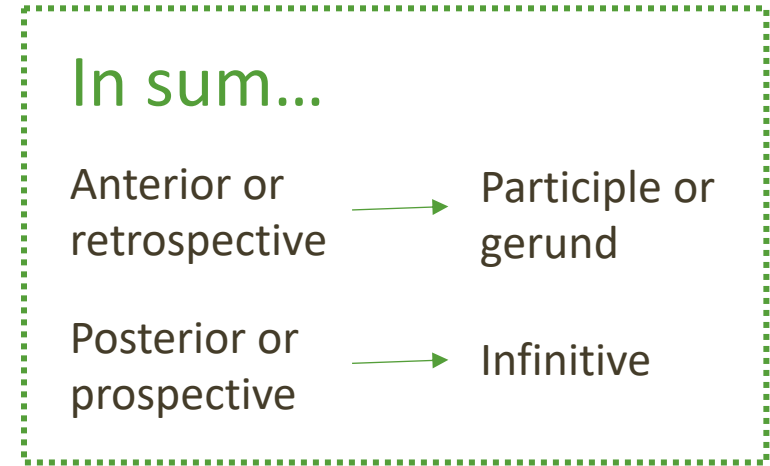
REGRET

- Retrospective verb

(iii) **RETROSPECTIVE VERBS.** For three verbs *forget*, *remember*, and *regret*, the ‘potentiality’/‘performance’ distinction becomes extended into the past so that there is a temporal (as well as in part modal) difference between the two constructions. The **infinitive construction** indicates that the action or event takes place after (and as a result of) the mental process denoted by the verb has begun, while the reverse is true for the **participle construction**, which refers to a preceding event or occasion coming to mind at the time indicated by the main verb:

{ I *regret* to tell you that John stole it. [‘I regret that I am about to tell you that John stole it’]
 { I *regret* telling you that John stole it. [‘I regret that I told you that John stole it’ or ‘. . . that I am now telling you . . .’]

(Quirk et al 1985: 1993)



REGRET

- [56] i a. *She tried₁ to open the window.* b. *She tried₂ opening the window.*
 ii a. *They fear₁ to go out at night.* b. *They fear₁ going out at night.*
 iii a. *He scorns to co*
 iv a. *I regret₁ to info*

specifically on his part. I
present state or past situ
 with 1st person simple p
 the subordinate situation

Scope of variation

Anterior and
 simultaneous
 meanings

gerund

that/zero

anterior
 ing

to-infinitive

that/zero

(Huddleston & Pullum 2002: 1243)

- *that/zero*-CCs → anterior, posterior and simultaneous meanings (Independent Time Reference (ITR); Noonan 2007: 103)
- infinitive → performative function with verbs of speaking → bound to be simultaneity (Vosberg 2003: 2015)

└─→ formulaic

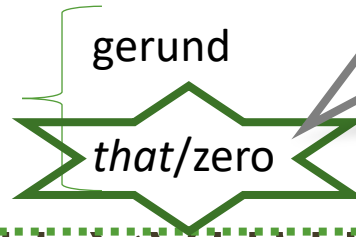
Complexity Principle

in the case of more or less explicit constructions
 one(s) will tend to be realized by maximally explicit clausal structures
 (Rohdenburg 1996: 15)

(Rohdenburg 1996: 15)

Scope of variation

Anterior and simultaneous meanings



explicitly marked for:

- tense and agreement
- modality
- complementizer

(Givón 1985: 200; Steger & Schneider 2012: 165)

Embedded negation constraint (Horn 1978)

Negated complements tend to be realized by maximally explicit clausal structures (Rohdenburg 2018: 138)

(Rohdenburg 2018: 138)

Negation

- **Widely studied** → negative scope with quantifiers, *neg*-raising, and double or multiple negation (Tottie 1991:1)
 - NOT the variation between *not*-negation and *no*-negation
 - NOT in complementation
- “some forms of ***no*-negation** exhibit a **similar** influence on the **choice** of clausal variants to that of ***not*-negation**” (Rohdenburg 2015: 103)
 - Considers *not*-neg and *never*
- “**would have preferred** to include a series of detailed analyses of at least **some major types** of ***no*-negation**” (Rohdenburg 2015: 103)

| I | II | III |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| Free | Bound | |
| Nonaffixal | | Affixal |
| <i>Not</i> -negation | <i>No</i> -negation | |
| | never | a- |
| | neither | dis- |
| | nobody | in- |
| | no | non- |
| not, -n't | none | un- |
| | nor | |
| | nothing | -less |
| | nowhere | -out |

(Tottie 1991: 8)

Research questions

1. Is there a preference for *that*/zero-CCs over *-ing* CCs when there is negation in the CC? (Complexity Principle)
2. Is there a preference for *that*- over zero-CCs when there is negation in the CC? (Complexity Principle)
 - 1a-2a. Is this preference stronger in L2 varieties? (Isomorphism and transparency)
3. Do *not*-negation and *no*-negation have the same effect with both complementation patterns (*that*/zero-CCs and *-ing* CCs)?
4. Do *not*-negation and *no*-negation have the same effect with both complementation patterns (*that*- and zero-CCs)?

Methodology

- *Corpus of Global Web-Based English (GloWbE)*
 - **L1 varieties** (British (GB) and American English (US)) → stage 5 (similar distribution)
 - **Asian varieties** (India (IN), Sri Lanka (LK), Pakistan (PK), Bangladesh (BD), Singapore (SG), Malaysia (MY), Philippines (PH), Hong Kong (HK))
 - **African varieties** (South Africa (ZA), Nigeria (NG), Ghana (GH), Kenya (KE), Tanzania (TZ))
 - **Caribbean variety** (Jamaica (JM))

| | | # examples | |
|-----------|----|------------|------|
| L1 | GB | 612 | 1176 |
| | US | 564 | |
| Asia | IN | 343 | 1699 |
| | LK | 156 | |
| | PK | 213 | |
| | BD | 106 | |
| | SG | 303 | |
| | MY | 232 | |
| | PH | 196 | |
| L2 | HK | 150 | 1030 |
| | ZA | 158 | |
| | NG | 349 | |
| Africa | GH | 216 | 1030 |
| | KE | 171 | |
| | TZ | 136 | |
| Caribbean | JM | 132 | |
| TOTAL | | 3473 | |

Methodology

0. complementation type & temporal relation

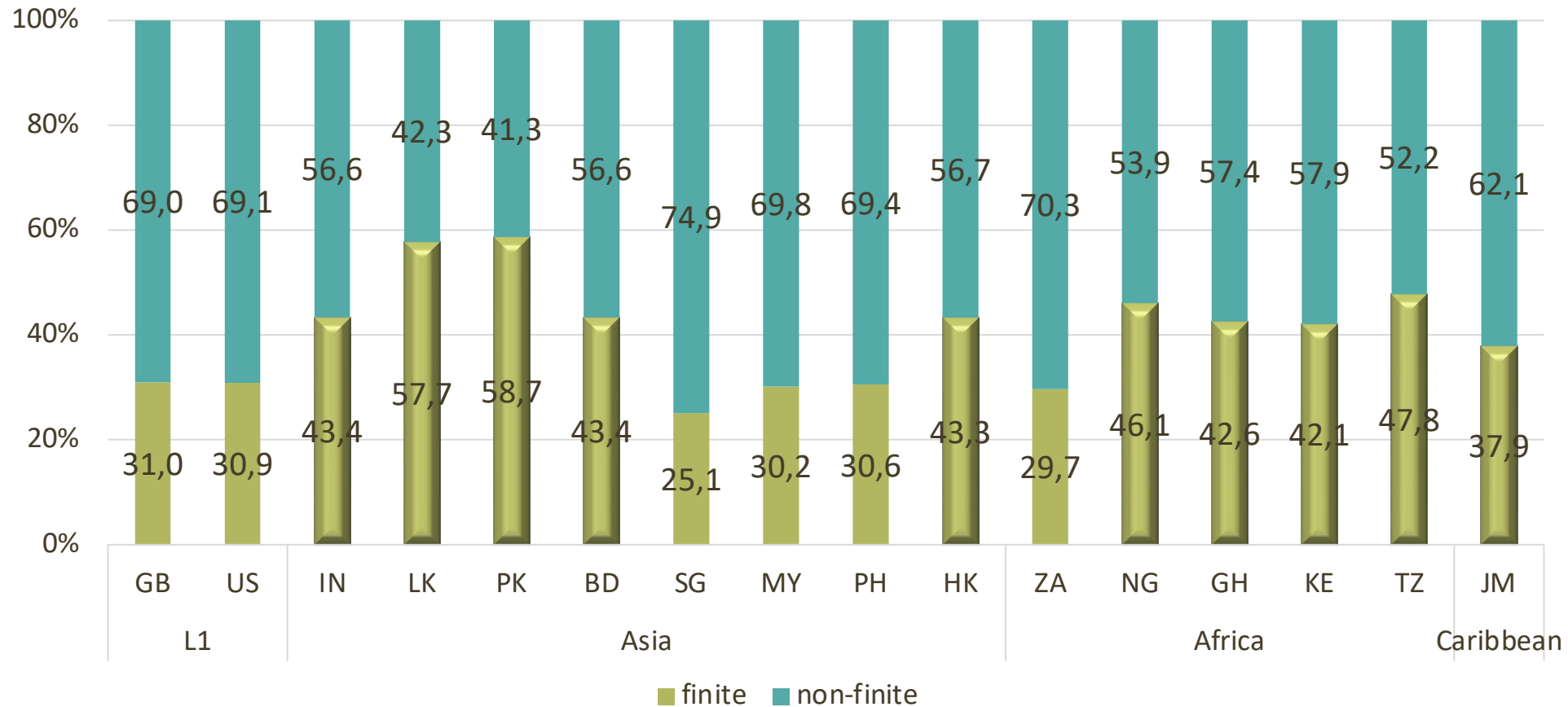
1. positive CC **VS.** negative CC

2. negative marker

3. type of negation

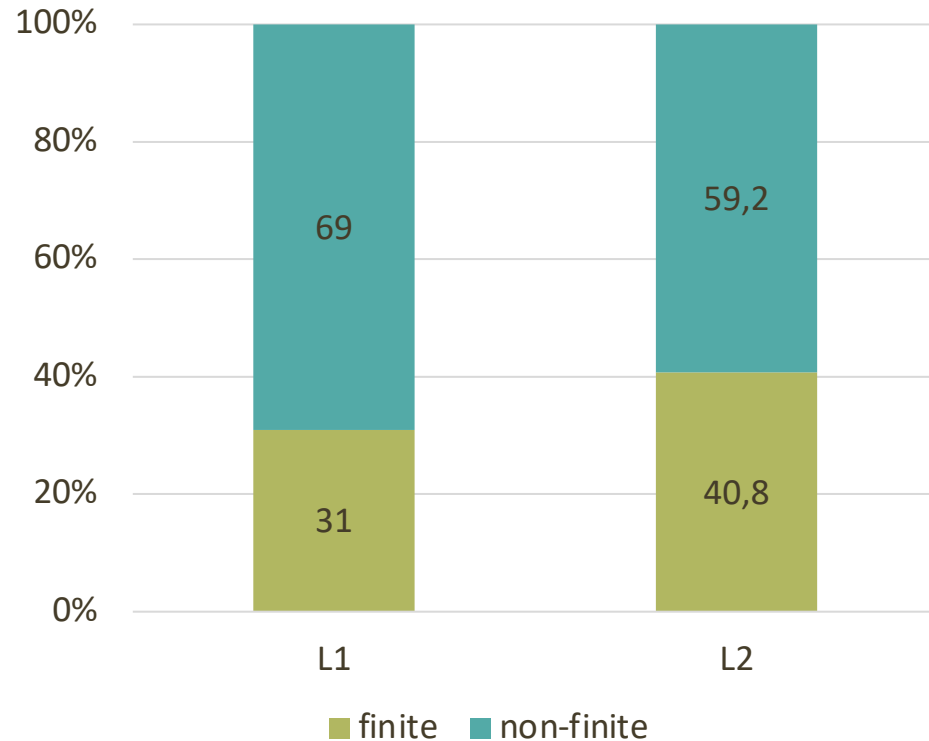
| <i>Not</i> -negation | <i>No</i> -negation |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| | never |
| | neither |
| | nobody |
| | no |
| not, -n't | none |
| | nor |
| | nothing |
| | nowhere |

Overview of the data / CC pattern



Steger & Schneider (2012) study **complementation** and argue that in **WEs** should show a **preference for finite patterns** over non-finite structures, that is, a preference for more explicit forms

Overview of the data / Cc pattern



☐ Always preference for non-finite

I did not **regret** *investing* my time in reading it.
(GloWbE-BD)

☐ More finite in L2s

(χ^2 (df=1) 34.49, <.0001)

Steger & Schneider (2012) study **complementation** and argue that in **WEs** should show a **preference for finite patterns** over non-finite structures, that is, a preference for more explicit forms

Overview of the data / Cc pattern

| | | Regret | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| | | <i>That</i> | <i>-ing</i> |
| CEECS | RawF | 0 | 0 |
| | RelF | 0% | 0% |
| | NormF | 0 | 0 |
| CEMET | RawF | 0 | 0 |
| | RelF | 0% | 0% |
| | NormF | 0 | 0 |
| CLMET (1710-1920) | RawF | 126 | 38 |
| | RelF | 76.8% | 23.2% |
| | NormF | 0.839 | 0.253 |
| COBUILD (1990s) | RawF | 108 | 147 |
| | RelF | 42.4% | 57.6% |
| | NormF | 0.192 | 0.262 |

(Heyvaerts & Cuyckens 2010: 141)

Why this difference b/w L1 and L2?

1. Language contact and SLA processes

Steger & Schneider (2012) study **complementation** and argue that in **WEs** should show a **preference for finite patterns** over non-finite structures, that is, a preference for more explicit forms

- Substrate languages (Romasanta forthcoming)

2. Historical trait

“The study of syntactic variation in non-standard varieties offers at the same time a look at the past and the future”

(Kortmann 2006)

Gerund with v. regret → 18th C. (Visser 1963-73 : 1867)

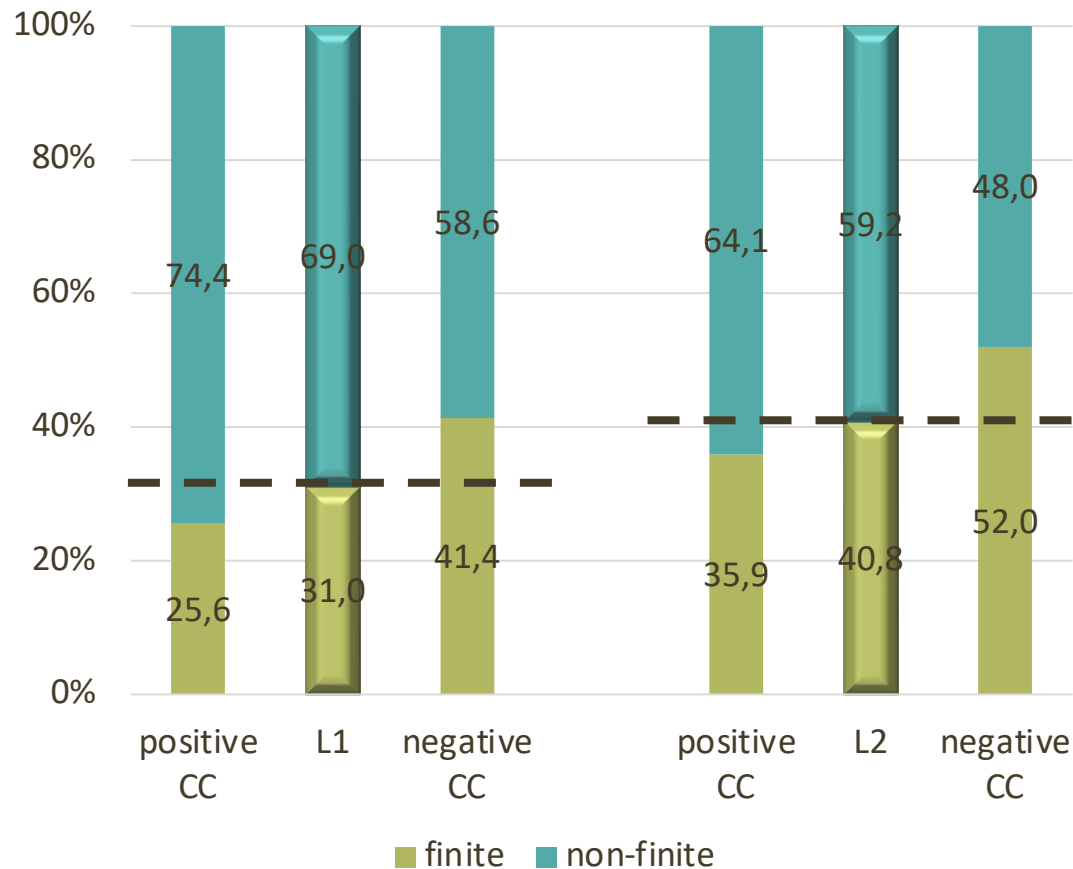
British colonies → 16th C. – 18th C.

Results

1. Is there a preference for that/zero-CCs over –ing CCs when there is negation in the CC?
(Complexity Principle)
2. Is there a preference for that- over zero-CCs when there is negation in the CC?
(Complexity Principle)
 - 1a-2a. Is this preference stronger in L2 varieties? (Isomorphism and transparency)

Positive vs negative CC

1. Choice between non-finite *-ing* and finite *that/zero* CCs



L2s always stronger use of **finite** CC

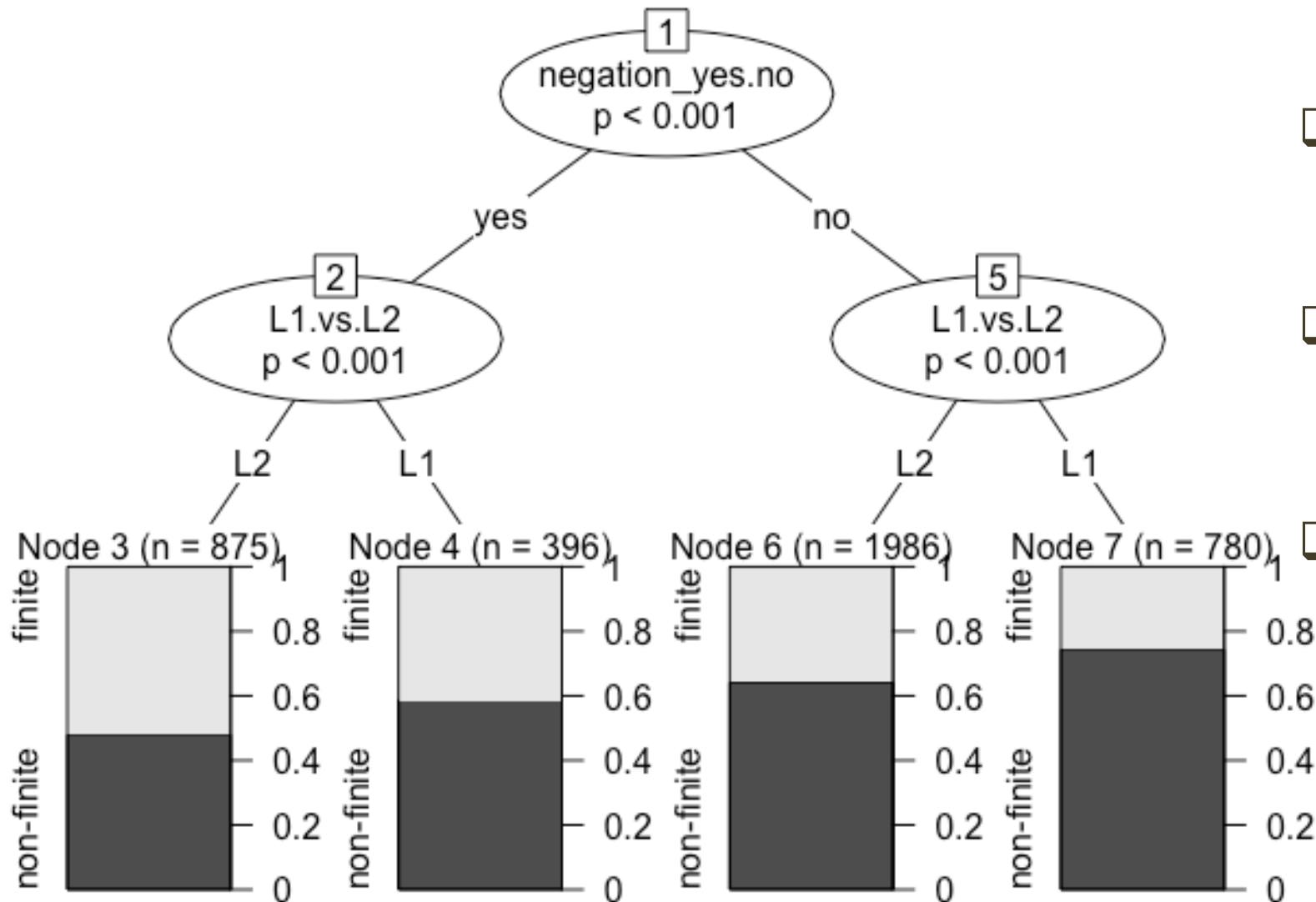
Negative CCs → stronger use of **finite** patterns

I **regret** *that* my conduct in this matter did not meet the standards to which I have always held myself (GloWbE-US)

Same increase in **L1 and L2s** (10%)

Positive vs negative CC

1. Choice between non-finite *-ing* and finite *that/zero* CCs



Ranking of factors:

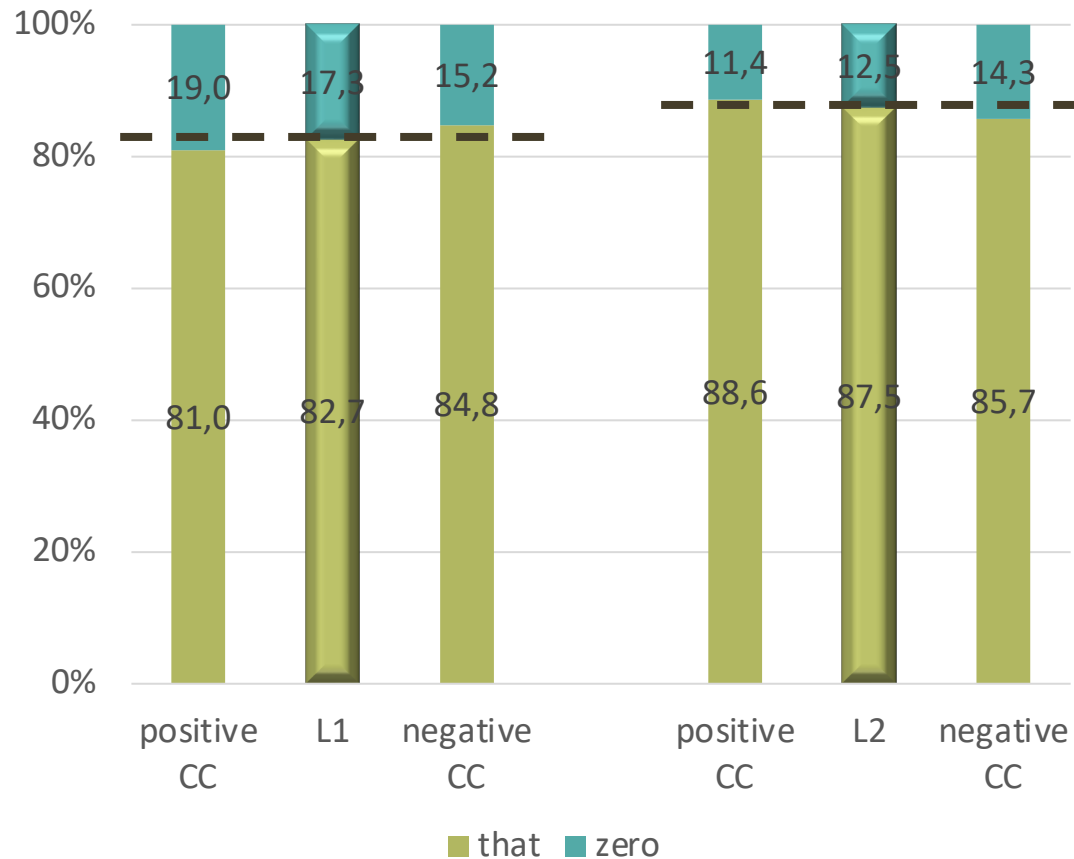
1. Negation
2. L1 vs L2

Negative marker + L2 stronger tendency for finite

Other factors?

Positive vs negative CC

2. Choice between finite patterns *that* and zero CCs



☐ Always **preference** for *that-CCs*

☐ **L1** → slightly **stronger** use of *that*

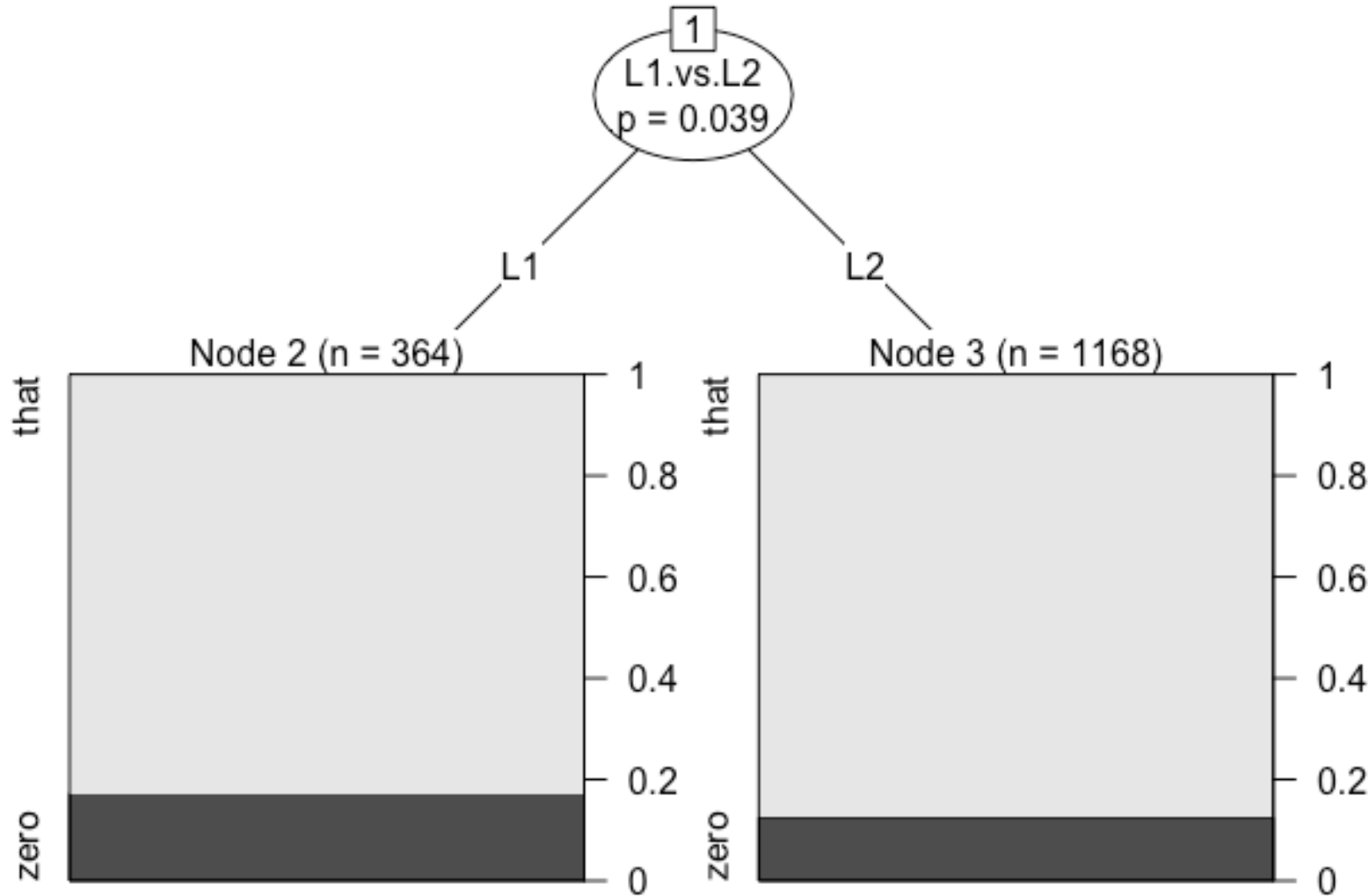
I **regret** *that* I haven't kept a running record of this outside of their charts. (GloWbE-GB)

☐ **L2** → slightly **stronger** use of *zero-CCs*

... I **regret** \emptyset I can not agree with you. (GloWbE-LK)

Positive vs negative CC

2. Choice between finite patterns *that* and zero CCs

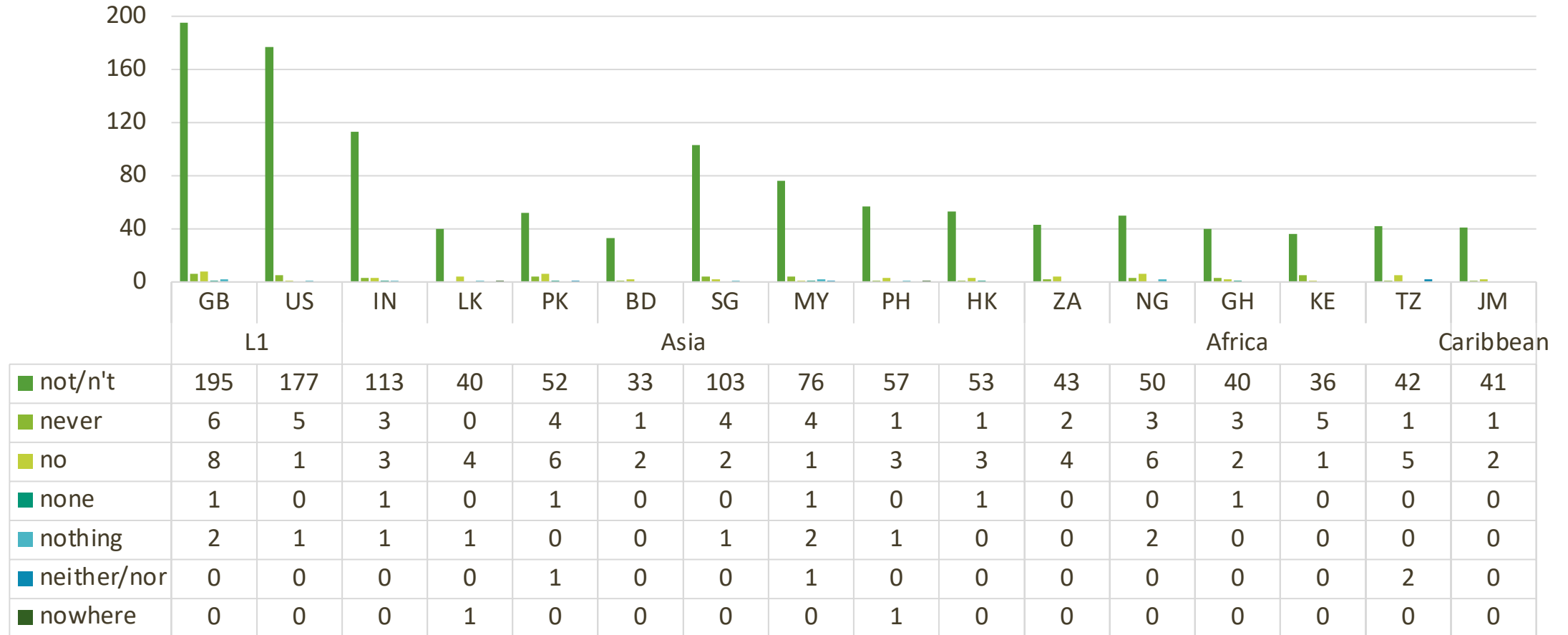


- Negation is not significant
- L1 vs L2 is significant
- Other factors?

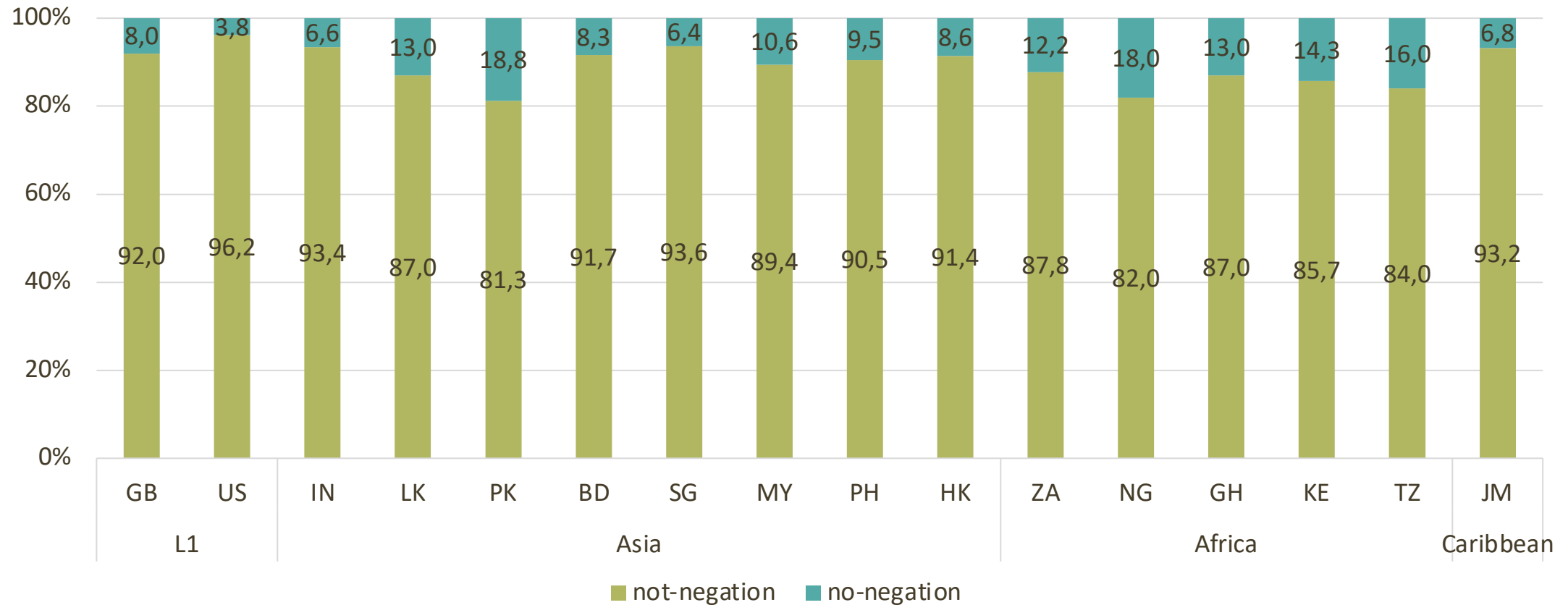
Results

3. Do *not*-negation and *no*-negation have the same effects with both complementation patterns (*that*/zero-CCs and *-ing* CCs)?
4. Do *not*-negation and *no*-negation have the same effects with both complementation patterns (*that*- and zero-CCs)?

Overview of the data / Negative markers

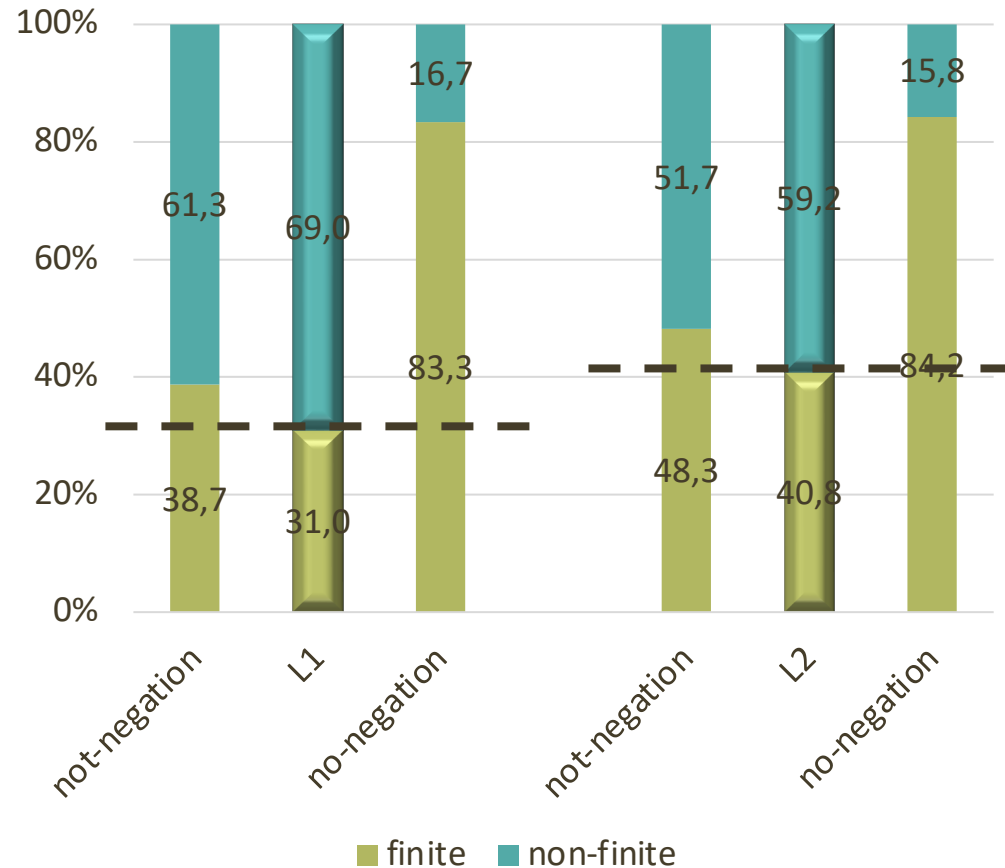


Overview of the data / Negative markers



Not-negation and *no*-negation

3. Choice between non-finite *-ing* and finite *that/zero* CCs



- “some forms of **no-negation** exhibit a **similar** influence on the **choice** of clausal variants to that of **not-negation**” (Rohdenburg 2015: 103)

□ *Not-negation* → preference for non-finite

- Slight increase in the use of finite

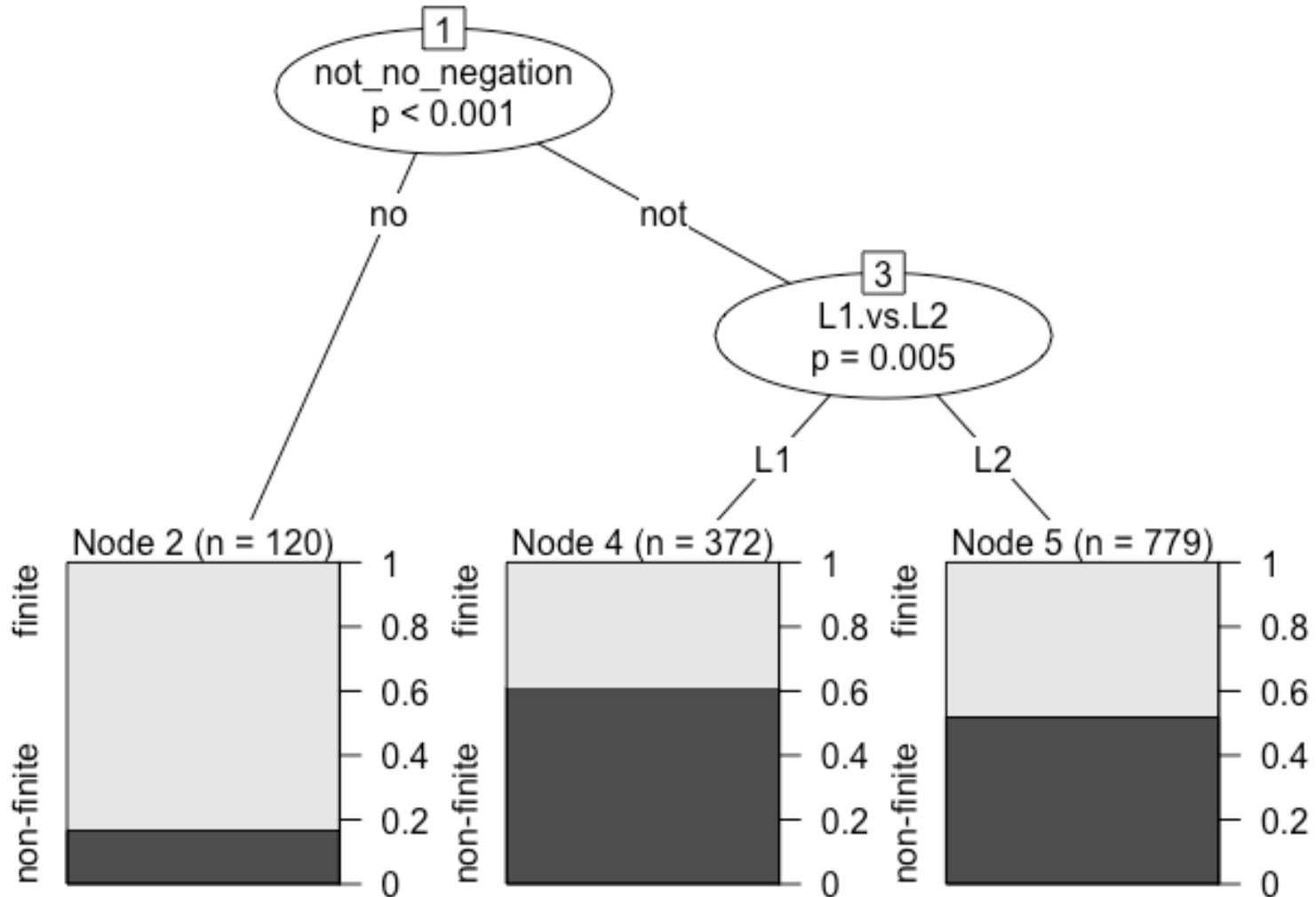
I do **regret** *not* breaking it off sooner (GloWbE-US)

□ *No-negation* → stronger preference for finite

He **regretted** that the upper class saw *no* reason why people should complain about the idea (GloWbE-NG)

Not-negation and *no*-negation

3. Choice between non-finite *-ing* and finite *that/zero* CCs



Ranking of factors:

1. Negation
2. L1 vs L2

No-negation → diff. b/w L1 and L2 not significant

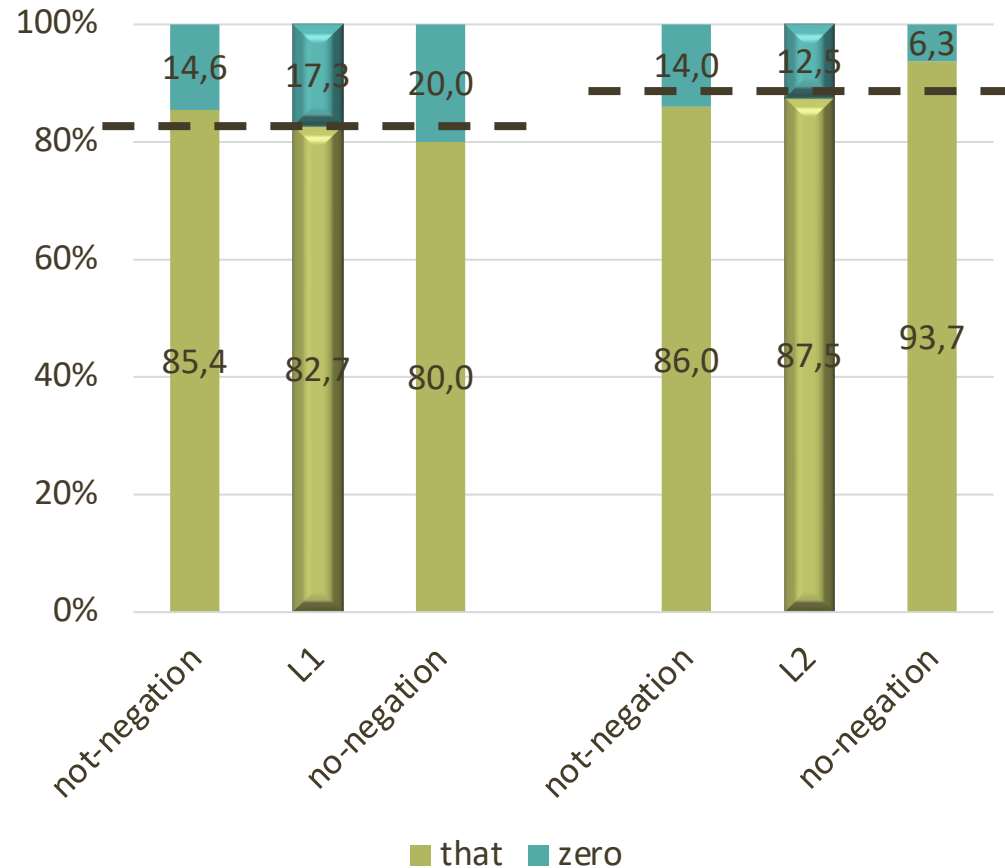
- Preference for finite

Not-negation

- Preference for non-finite
- L2 stronger preference for finite

Not-negation and *no*-negation

4. Choice between finite patterns *that* and zero CCs



- “some forms of **no-negation** exhibit a **similar** influence on the **choice** of clausal variants to that of **not-negation**” (Rohdenburg 2015: 103)

Not-negation

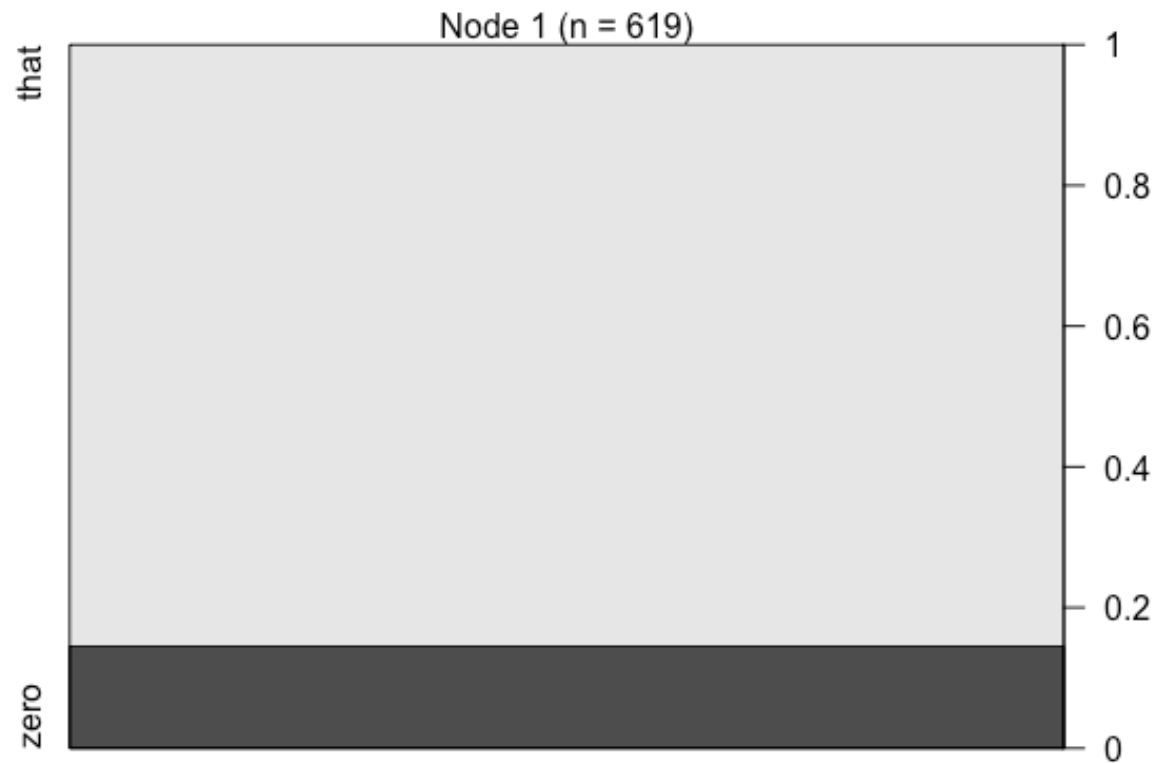
- L1: Slight increase in the use of finite
- L2: Slight decrease in the use of finite

No-negation

- L1: Slight decrease in the use of finite
- L2: Slight increase in the use of finite

Not-negation and *no*-negation

4. Choice between finite patterns *that* and zero CCs



Differences are not significant for both the factors

examples low

especially zero-CC with *no*-neg

Conclusion (i)

✓ WEs → preference for finite CC (Steger & Schneider 2012)

1. Is there a preference for *that*/zero-CCs over *-ing* CCs when there is negation in the CC? (Complexity Principle)

✓ YES

1a. Is this preference stronger in L2 varieties? (Isomorphism and transparency)

✓ YES

2. Is there a preference for *that*- over zero-CCs when there is negation in the CC? (Complexity Principle)

X NO, differences are not significant

2a. Is this preference stronger in L2 varieties? (Isomorphism and transparency)

NA

Conclusion (ii)

✓ *Not*-negation → preferred type of negation

3. Do *not*-negation and *no*-negation have the same effects with both complementation patterns (*that*/zero-CCs and *-ing* CCs)?

X NO

- *no*-negation → stronger preference for finite

- *not*-negation → stronger preference for non-finite, weaker in L2

4. Do *not*-negation and *no*-negation have the same effects with both complementation patterns (*that*- and zero-CCs)?

✓ YES

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