FUTURE TENSE VARIATION PATTERNS IN SAIPANESE ENGLISH AND L1 VARIETIES

Workshop Leuven: 04.04.2016

Probabilistic variation across dialects and varieties

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

- New emerging English variety
- North-western Pacific Ocean
- Grammaticalization of *going to*
- Different usage of the future tense in the L1

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2. The future tense
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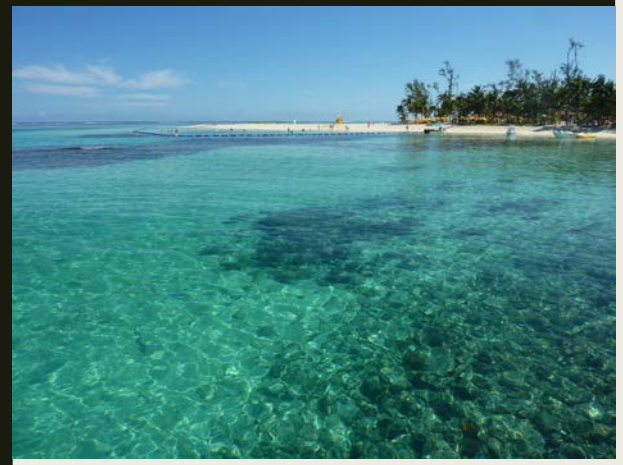
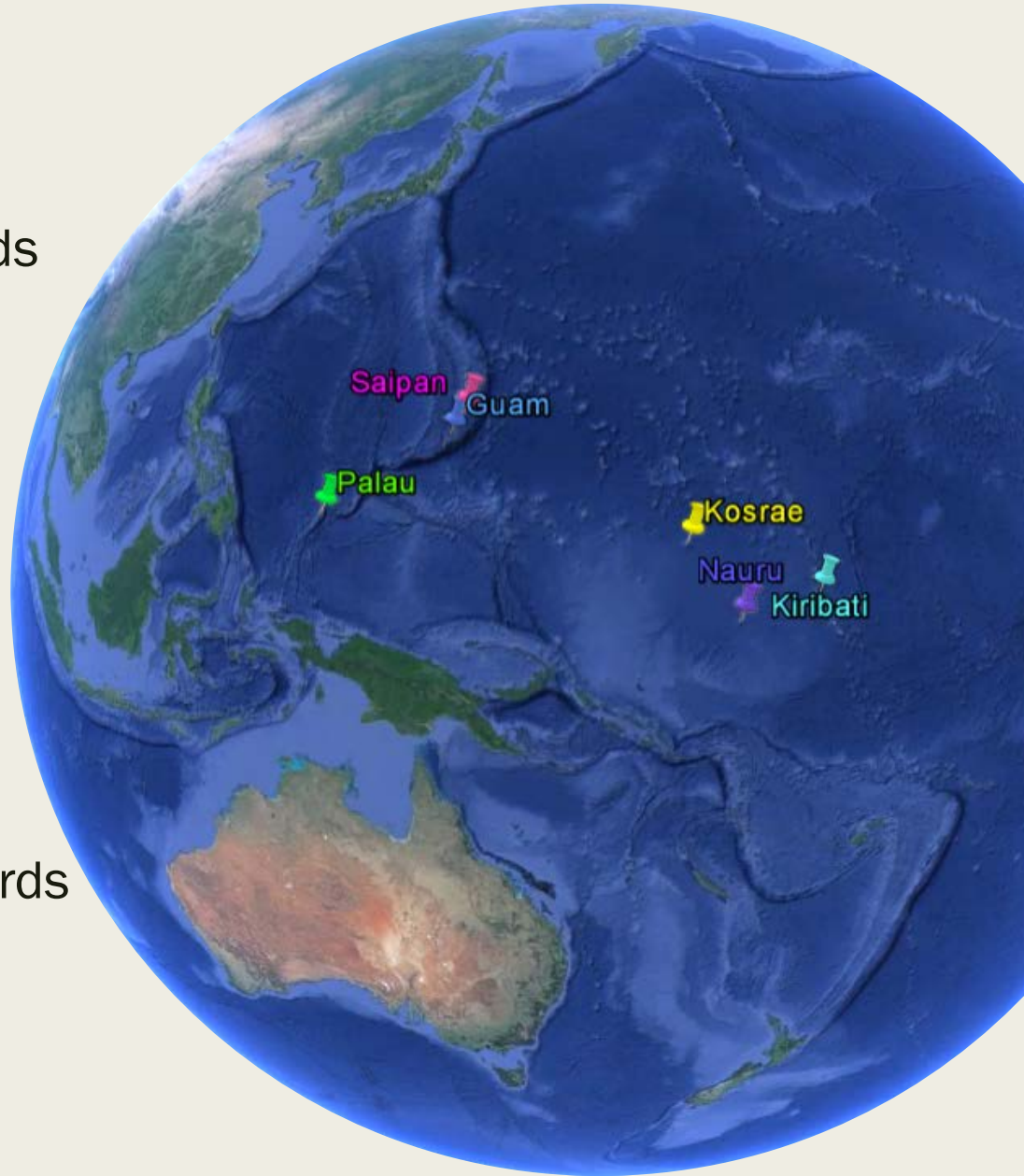
1. OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT AND DATA

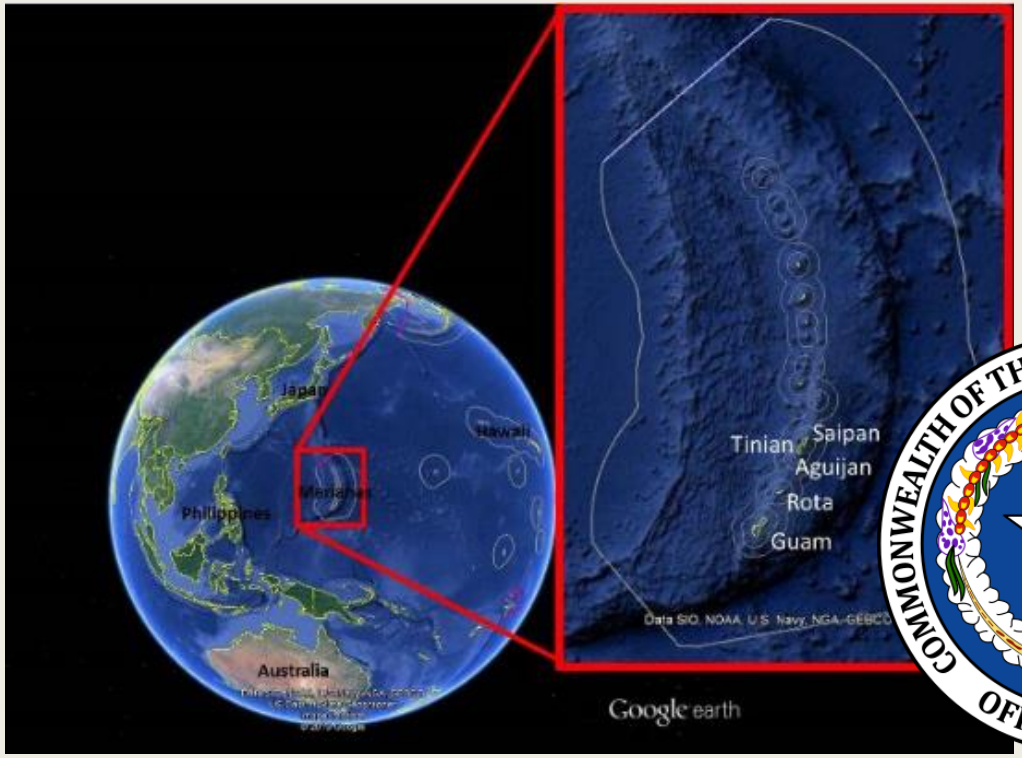


The Micronesia Project

- Different and complex historical backgrounds
  - *different colonisers*
  - *different colonisation periods*
- Different developments
  - *social*
  - *political*
  - *economic*
  - *linguistic*
- Different futures
- The corpus exists of just over 1.5 million words (without Guam)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)



CNMI (14 Islands)

- Land: 475.3 km^2
- Population (2010 Census): 53‘883

Saipan

- Land: 115.4 km^2 (= Dublin)
- Population (2010 Census): 48‘220

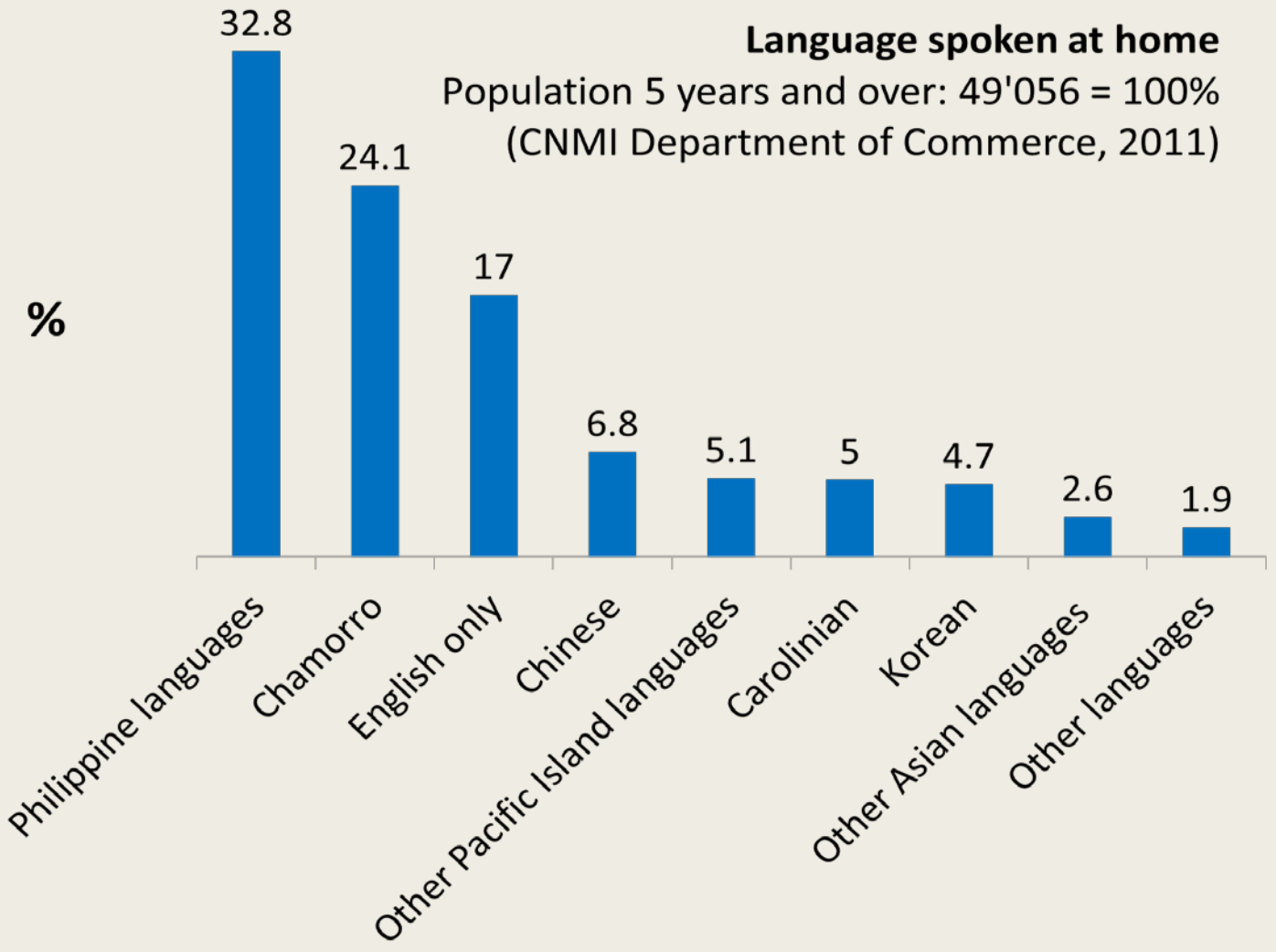
General Information

- Colonized by Spain, Germany, Japan and the USA
- 1978: Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

CNMI Department of Commerce (2011)

- Indigenous people: Chamorro (22%) and Saipan Carolinians (5%)
- Multicultural Saipan (51% Asians, 34% Pacific Islanders, 2% White, 13% residents are of two or more ethnic origins or races)

Use of language in the CNMI



Frequency of English Usage

- English only: 17%
- Speak other languages (83%)
  - Less frequently than English: 15%
  - Equally often as English: 27%
  - More frequently than English: 39%
  - Does not speak English: 2%

ELF
English
speakers
language
people
tongue
native
mother
far
use
important
diversity
risk
norms
extreme
Jenkins
many
place
non-native
articles
safety
Safety
users
interactions
features
version
idea
blog
may
now
Health
sense
Adam
years
teacher
aspect
idiomatic
ways
aim
site
huge
certain
aspire
least
sites
council
planes
referring
rights
year
Language
allusions
fair
generate
underestimate
seen
development
People
person
disparaging
sparked
children
evidence
discovery
measures
privileged
need
3rd
elf
avoid
dangers
international
set
final
hard
proposes
phraseology
communication
accepted
simplified
correctness
deal
ensure
follow
unnecessary
learning
taken
concerned
palm
danger
nice
minimizing
refuse
elsewhere
contributor
represent
banning
take
Franca
controversy
regulations
semantic
go
UK
like
transparency
experience
agree
celebrating
pronunciation
famous
approach
surprise
lot
present
include
interact
working
common
basic
designed
example
expected
defective
standardising
good
conform
Catalonia
Barbara
otherwise
reminds
comments
penicillin
somehow
Seidlhofer
press
effective
body
simple
trees
cultural
enough
death
facts
goal
case
taste
strikes
reality

Saipan Data

- **Hypothesis:** Saipan presents an interesting transitional phase of English becoming a first language with local ‘island’ features.
- **Research Question:** Does Saipanese English assimilate towards L1 varieties and to which extent do local factors influence their use of English?

- recorded informal conversations with 95 indigenous Chamorro and Saipan Carolinians ranging in age from 12 to 79
- Approx. 377’000 words

2. THE FUTURE TENSE

Historical perspective on developments of future temporal reference forms (Tagliamonte, Durham, & Smith, 2014, p. 78)

Old English	Sixteenth century	Seventeenth century	Modern English
shall: present obligation	*shall:* simple future	*shall:* 1st p. future	*shall:* ●restricted ●formulaic ●infrequent
will: ●volition ●willingness	*will:* modal future	*will:* ●2nd+3rd pers. future ● prescriptive rules of usage	*will:* simple future *be going to:* ?? future
	be going to: actual motion	*be going to:* ●immediate or impending ●correlated with motion verbs	

Future tense: Dependent variable

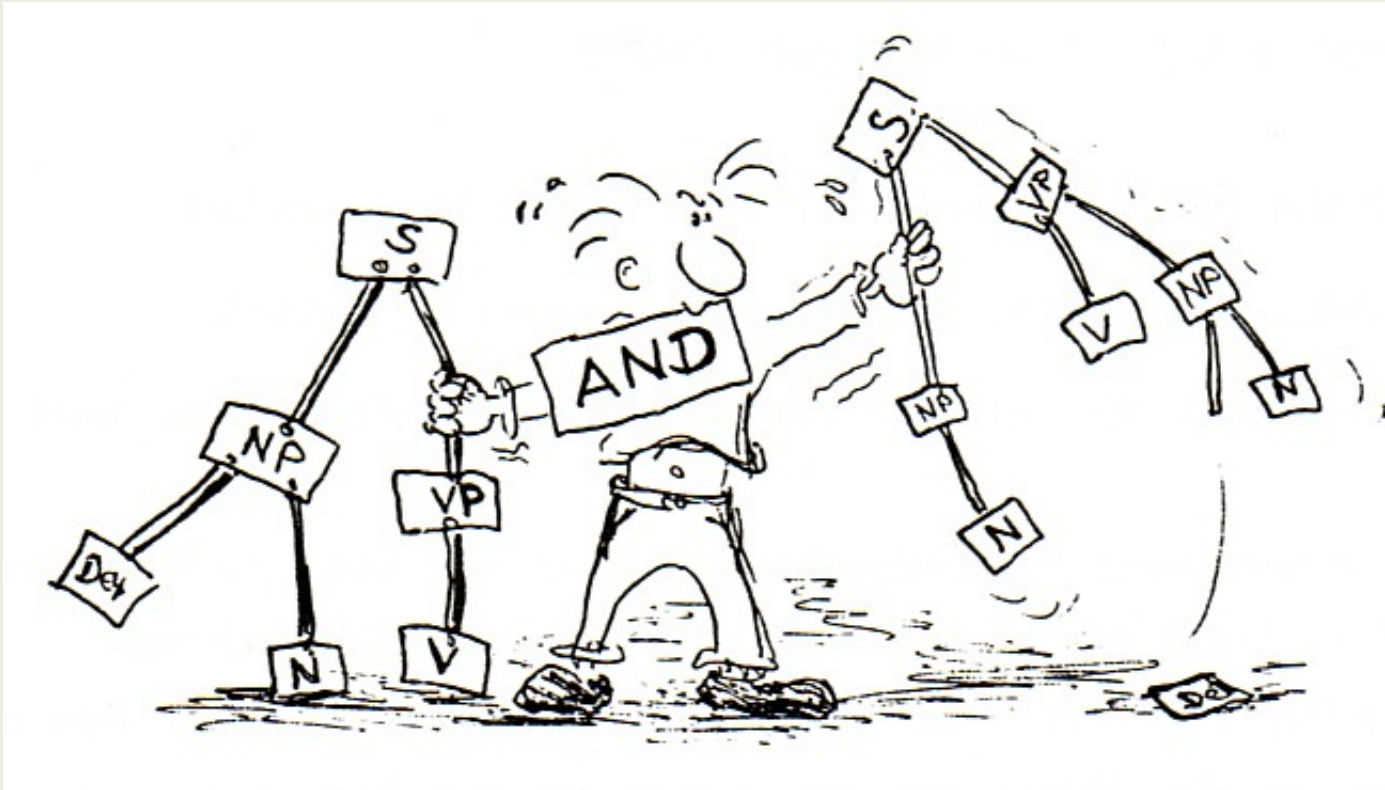
- *Will*
  - *will*
  - *'ll*
- *Be going to*
  - *going to*
  - *be gonna*
  - *gonna*
- *Present futurate*
  - *present simple*
  - *present progressive*
- *(Shall)*
- *(About to)*

Extra-linguistic variables

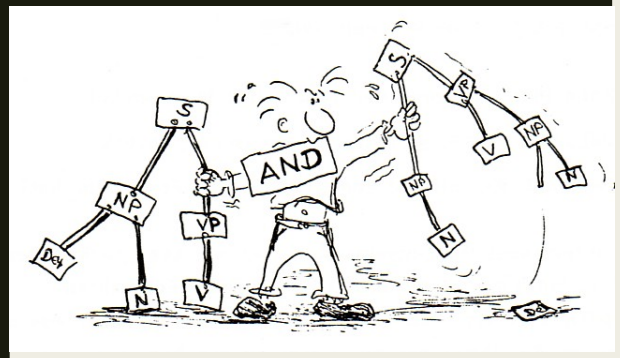
- Sex
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Education type
- Occupation type
- Mobility

Intra-linguistic variables

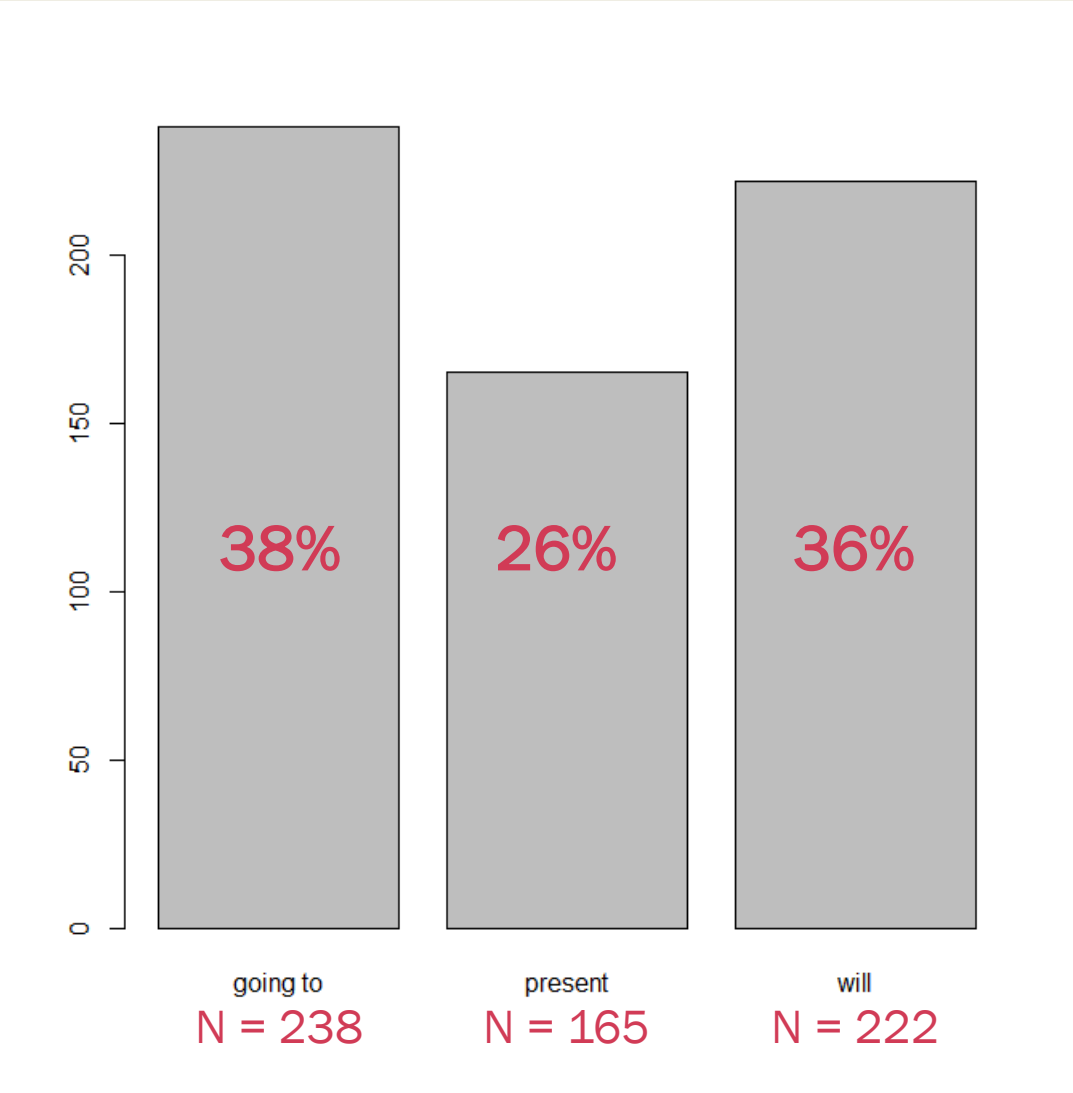
- Clause type
- Sentence type
- Grammatical person
- Animacy of subject
- Semantic class of verb
- Temporal adverbials
- Proximity



3. RESULTS – LINGUISTIC FACTORS



The Future Tense overall



20 speakers

- *10 Chamorro*
- *10 Saipan Carolinians*
- *12 people aged 20-25*
- *8 people aged 37-48*
- *625 Tokens*

Comparison of rates of *be going to* in Saipanese English with L1 varieties

Data	%	N	Reference
10 communities across the UK	22	4,764	Tagliamonte et al. (2014, p. 83)
Guysborough Village	27	258	Poplack and Tagliamonte (1999, p. 326)
Corpus of Spoken Professional American English (CSPAE)	31	18,744	Szmrecsanyi (2003, p. 302)
Ottawa	34	408	Poplack and Tagliamonte (1999, p. 326)
Saipan: Carolinian	36	258	
Saipan overall	38	625	
North Preston	38	1,016	Poplack and Tagliamonte (1999, p. 326)
Saipan: Chamorro	40	367	
Guysborough Enclave	40	1,193	Poplack and Tagliamonte (1999, p. 326)
Quebec Toronto	42	3,337	Cacoullos and Walker (2009, p. 328) Tagliamonte (2006, p. 314)
Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English (CSAE)	47	496	Szmrecsanyi (2003, p. 302)
Samaná	50	453	Poplack and Tagliamonte (1999, p. 326)

	going to		
Input prob. = 0.65			
Total N = 460			
Deviance = 513.645		52	238
	FW	%	N
Proximity			
Immediate	**.66**	74	70
Non-immediate	**.47**	53	120
No reference	**.37**	46	270
Range	*29*		
Clause Type			
Subordinate	**.62**	68	104
Main	**.38**	47	356
Range	*24*		
Grammatical Person and Animacy of Subject			
3rd person inanimate	**.59**	66	79
3rd and 2nd person animate	**.53**	50	222
1st person	.38	47	159
Range	*21*		
Semantic Class of Verb			
Verb of motion	.55	61	43
Other verb	.45	51	417

Factors contributing to the choice of future *going to* (vs. *will*) in Saipanese English.

Futurate Present			
Input prob.= 0.37			
Total N = 625			
Deviance = 558.039		26.4	165
	FW	%	N
Semantic Class of Verb			
Verb of motion	**.65**	50	85
Other verb	**.36**	23	540
Range	*30*		
Proximity			
Immediate	**.59**	40	116
Non-immediate	**.57**	40	199
No reference	**.34**	13	310
Range	*25*		
Temporal Adverbial			
Specific	**.62**	53	142
Nonspecific	**.48**	24	41
No adverbial	**.40**	18	442
Range	*22*		
Sentence Type			
Interrogative	.65	41	42
Declarative	.44	26	542
Negative	.41	17	41
Grammatical Person and Animacy of Subject			
1st person	.53	32	234
3rd person inanimate	.48	26	107
3rd and 2nd person animate	.47	22	284

Factors contributing to the choice of Futurate Present (simple Present (N = 106) and Present Progressive (N = 59) vs. *will* and *going to*) in Saipanese English.

Predictions for stages of grammaticalization of *be going to* (Tagliamonte, Durham, & Smith, 2014, p. 89)

	Early stage	Late stage	Change
Sentence type	Interrogatives and negatives highly favour; interrogative > negative	Interrogatives and negatives highly favour; interrogative > negative	No change
Clause type	Subordinate clauses favour	Subordinate clauses favour	Expansion into main clauses
Proximity	Non-immediate favours over proximate	Proximate favours	Proximity effect develops
Animacy	Animates favour	Animate = Inanimate	Expansion into inanimate contexts
Grammatical person	Non-first favours	Non-first favours	Strengthening of 2nd/3rd person for *going to* (1st person favours *'ll*)

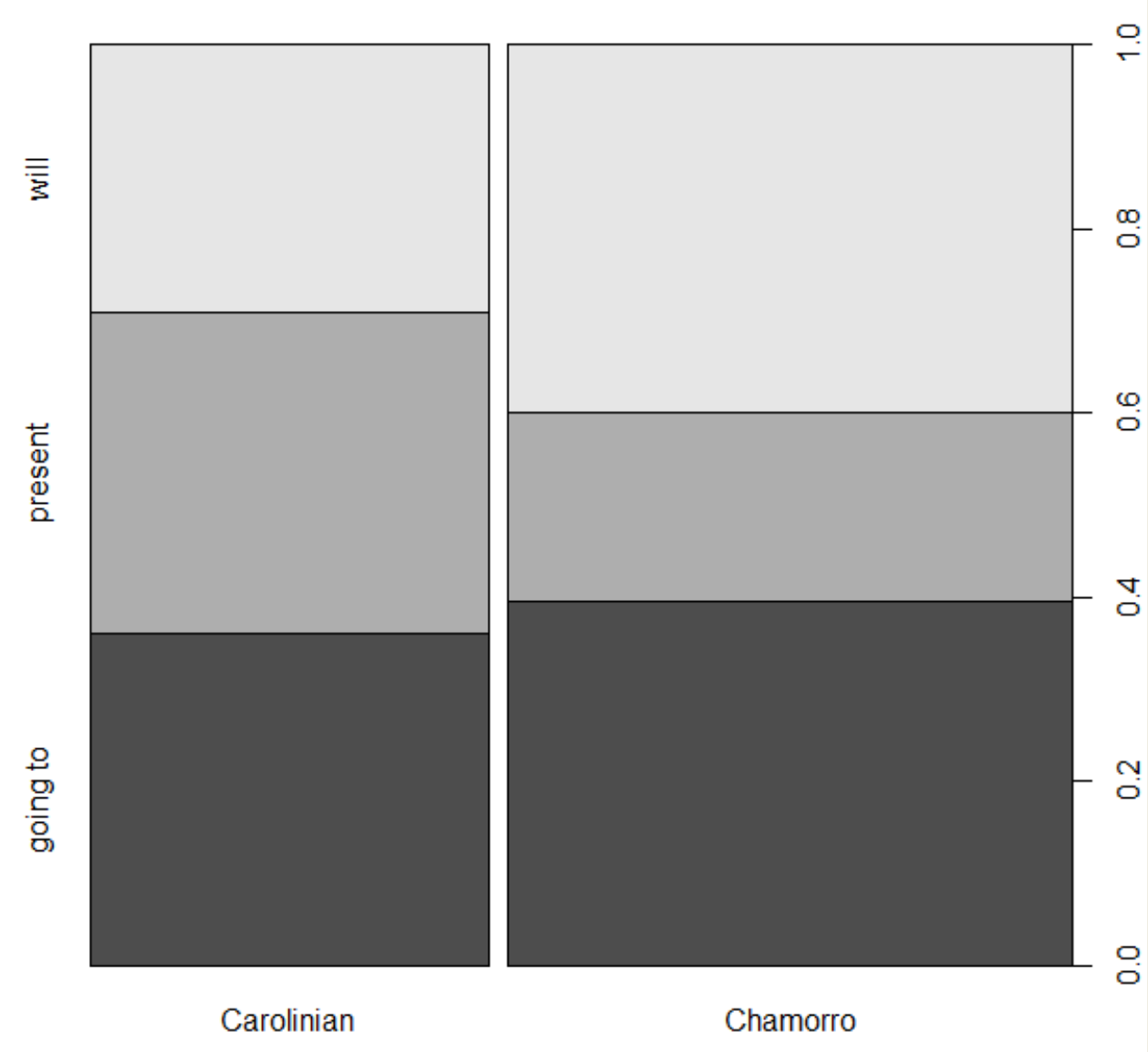
Concluding

The trajectory of the grammaticalization of the future tense in Saipanese English, thus, follows a development similar to that of L1 varieties and, in this respect at least, demonstrates the convergence of Saipanese English towards them.

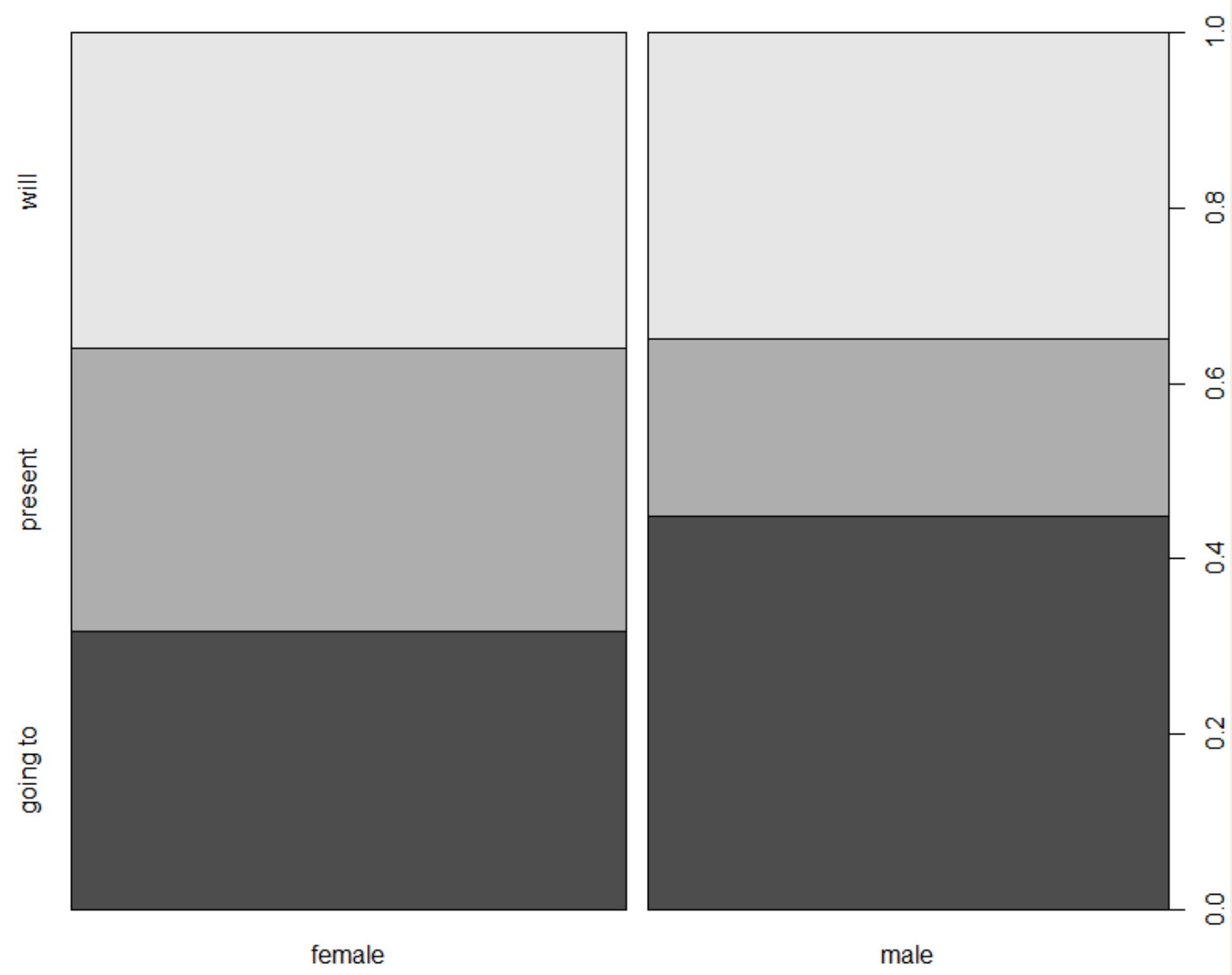
HOWEVER, HOW DO SOCIAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE VARIATION OF THE FUTURE TENSE?

4. RESULTS – SOCIAL FACTORS

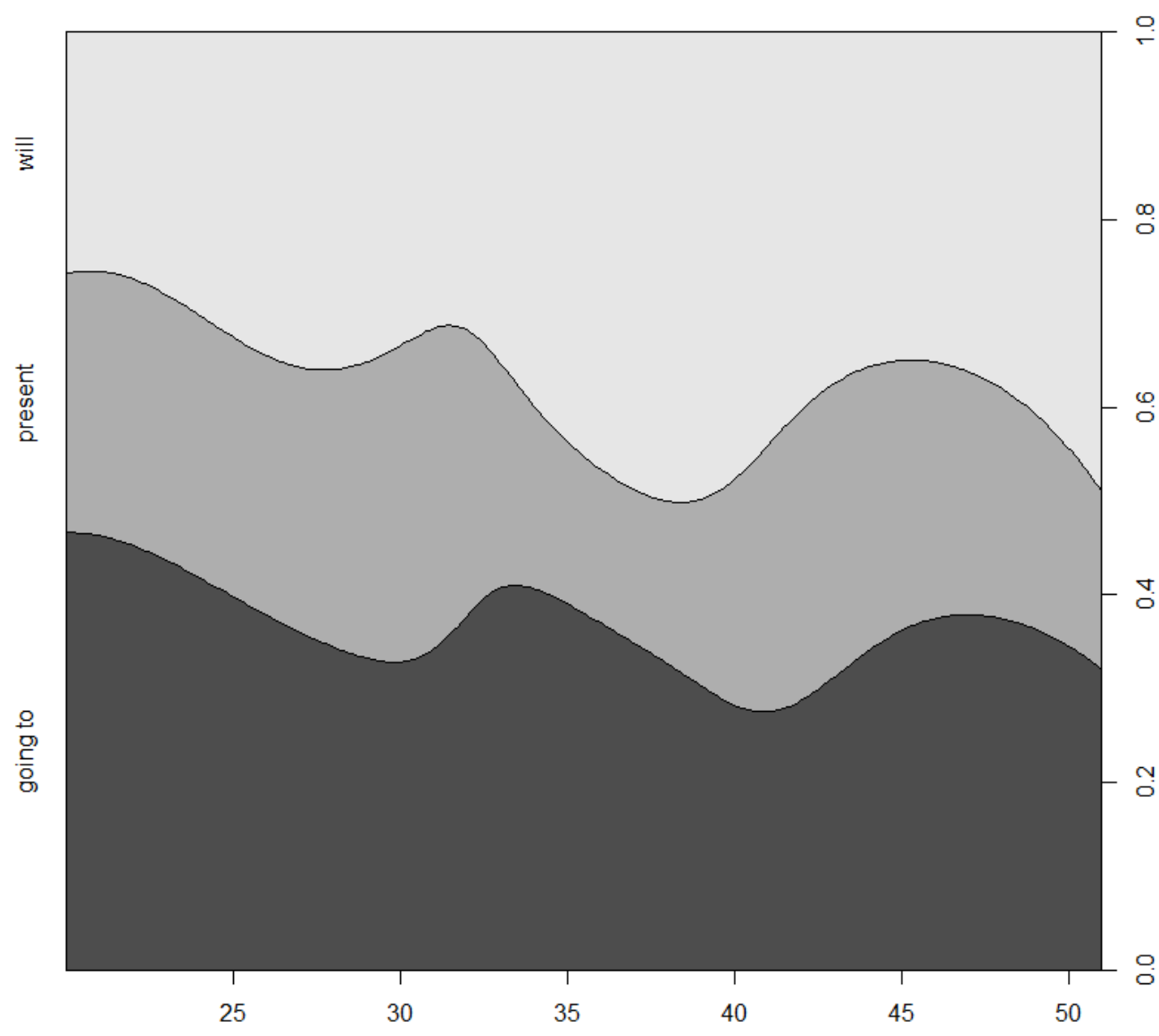
Future Tense and Ethnicity



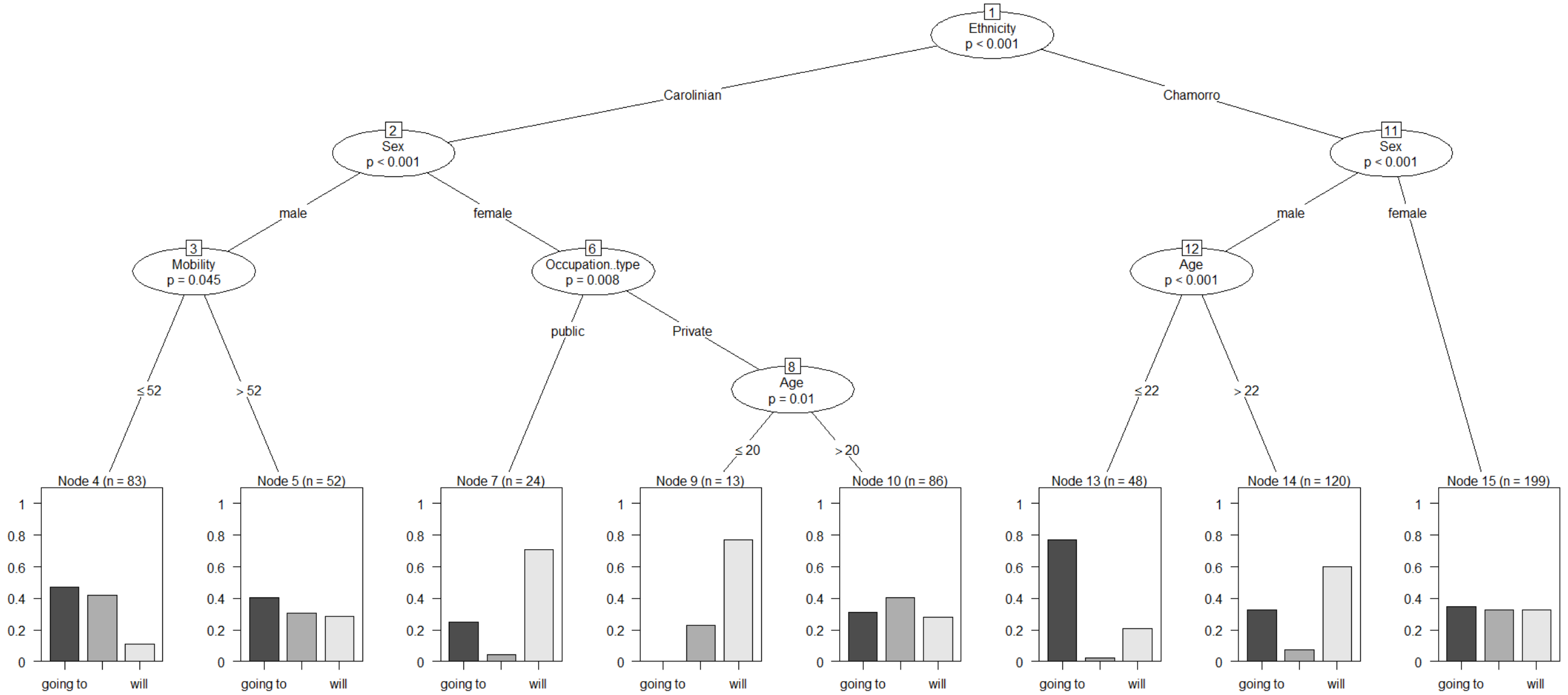
Future Tense and Sex



Future Tense and Age



Conditional inference tree: Ethnicity + Sex + Age + Mobility + Education Type*Occupation Type



5. CONCLUSION

INTRALINGUISTIC FACTORS

- Results suggest the same development as other L1 varieties

→ Transitivity of verb, IF-clauses, seriality, future implication

EXTRALINGUISTIC FACTORS

- Results suggest complex interactions of social factors (ethnicity, sex) that contribute to the choice of *will, going to* and the futurate present.

Favoring of *will*:

- *female Carolinian speakers*
- ***older** male Chamorro speakers*

Favoring of *going to*:

- *male speakers*
- *especially **young** male Chamorro speakers*

Favoring of *futurate present*:

- *Carolinian speakers*
- *(female Chamorro speakers)*

→ It seems like Carolinian lag behind the Chamorro in the development of the future tense

→ L1, teaching materials, Filipino English, interaction with non-local people

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