

THE METHOD OF QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION OF SYNTACTICAL INVERSION

or

The freedom of the Russian syntax is overestimated

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The Goal of the Project



Just for fun.

The Goal of the Project

How we can measure differences, or similarities, among languages?

Syntactical Inversion

In some languages the same phrase can have both head initial and head final word orders.

In this work, we will consider syntactical inversion between two syntactically connected word types.

Syntactical Inversion

W Rudnikach w **województwie opolskim** znajduje się już też Szkoła Podstawowa im. Andrzeja Wajdy.

Wczoraj **warszawska rada miasta niemal jednogłośnie ...**

<http://wyborcza.pl/7,101707,23638985,powstanie-centrum-kultury-filmowej-im-andrzeja-wajdy-w.htm>

Method of Analysis

1. Let us calculate frequencies of tuples <type of head node, type of a tail node, syntactical connection, direction> of a for a syntactically tagged corpus.
2. Find tuples where head and tail nodes are swapped.
3. Calculate the criteria of symmetry: $s = 1 - \frac{|f_1 - f_2|}{(f_1 + f_2)}$
where f_1 and f_2 – frequencies of sufficient tuples.

Method of Analysis

$s=1$ if $f_1 = f_2$ - completely symmetrical (irregular) connection.

$s=0$ if $f_1 = 0$ or $f_2 = 0$ - completely unsymmetrical (regular) connection.

Method of Analysis

4. Calculate the importance of inversion: $i=s*q$, where q – relative frequency of a tuple in the corpus.
5. Select 10 most important tuples for every analysed language. Join all important tuples of all languages in a list.
6. Calculate the sum of importance for the top 10 tuples and for the tuples in the constructed list. These figures are considered as the measure of irregularity of the syntax of considered languages.

Method of Analysis

7. Calculate the matrix of correlations for all of syntactical connections in the corpus for all languages.

Used Corpora

Universal Dependencies v 2.0 и 2.1

46 languages: Czech, Slovak, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Serbian Slovenian, Old Church Slavonic, Lettish, English, German, Gothic, Dutch, Afrikaans, Norwegian (separately Bokmål and Nynorsk), Swedish, Danish, Spanish, Catalan, French, Portuguese, Brazilian, Galician, Italian, Romanian, Latinic, Finnish, Estonian, Hungarian, Greek (modern and ancient), Hebrew, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Basque, Turkish.

Used Corpora

Universal Dependencies v 2.0

Size of corpora starts from 34K tokens (Estonian)
to 1,8M (Czech).

Universal Dependencies v 2.1

Size of corpora starts from 43K tokens (Vietnamese)
to 2,2M (Czech).

Top 10 Languages (v 2.0) with the Strictest Word Order

Language	Size of a corpus	Importance	Importance, top10
Spanish	906 000	0,213	0,09
Catalan	472 000	0,188	0,086
Arabic	846 000	0,151	0,08
French	456 000	0,17	0,079
English	422 000	0,154	0,072
Farsi	135 000	0,129	0,052
Turkish	46 000	0,217	0,047
Urdu	123 000	0,054	0,035
Hindi	316 000	0,039	0,018
Japanese	362 000	0,016	0,001

Top 10 Languages (v 2.1) with the Strictest Word Order

Language	Size of a corpus	Importance	Importance, top10
French	1 099 000	0,191	0,086
Arabic	1 042 000	0,150	0,082
English	496 000	0,156	0,071
Farsi	152 000	0,129	0,054
Turkish	74 000	0,215	0,049
Urdu	138 000	0,053	0,036
Chinese	153 000	0,148	0,025
Hindi	375 000	0,039	0,018
Korean	97 000	0,019	0,006
Japanese	402 000	0,016	0,001

Top 10 Languages (v 2.0) with the Weakest Word Order

Language	Size of a corpus	Importance	Importance, top10
Estonian	34 000	0,447	0,274
Finnish	324 000	0,342	0,222
Slovak	93 000	0,376	0,214
Polish	72 000	0,355	0,21
Slovenian	145 000	0,309	0,169
Dutch	290 000	0,278	0,166
Czech	1 838 000	0,317	0,159
German	277 000	0,278	0,157
Lettish	44 000	0,353	0,155
Hungarian	37 000	0,278	0,143

Top 10 Languages (v 2.1) with the Weakest Word Order

Language	Size of a corpus	Importance	Importance, top10
Gothic	55 000	0,423	0,352
Anc. Greek	414 000	0,446	0,35
Old Church Slav.	57 000	0,411	0,348
Latin	491 000	0,480	0,333
Estonian	106 000	0,46	0,262
Finnish	377 000	0,342	0,226
Slovak	106 000	0,366	0,211
Polish	83 000	0,355	0,210
Basque	121 000	0,361	0,198
Slovenian	170 000	0,308	0,171

Data Comparison(2.0 vs 2.1)

Language	Size of a corpus	Importance	Importance, top10
Estonian	72 000 (212%)	0,012723	-0,011995
Finnish	53 000 (16%)	0,000478	0,003719
Slovak	13 000 (14%)	-0,010019	-0,003008
Polish	11 000 (15%)	0,000480	0,000149
Slovenian	25 000 (17%)	-0,000918	0,002582
Dutch	20 000 (7%)	0,008396	-0,004849
Czech	384 000 (21%)	0,007520	0,007005
German	36 000 (13%)	0,002159	0,000583
Lettish	46 000 (139%)	0,015990	0,008563
Hungarian	5 000 (14%)	0,004348	0,002743

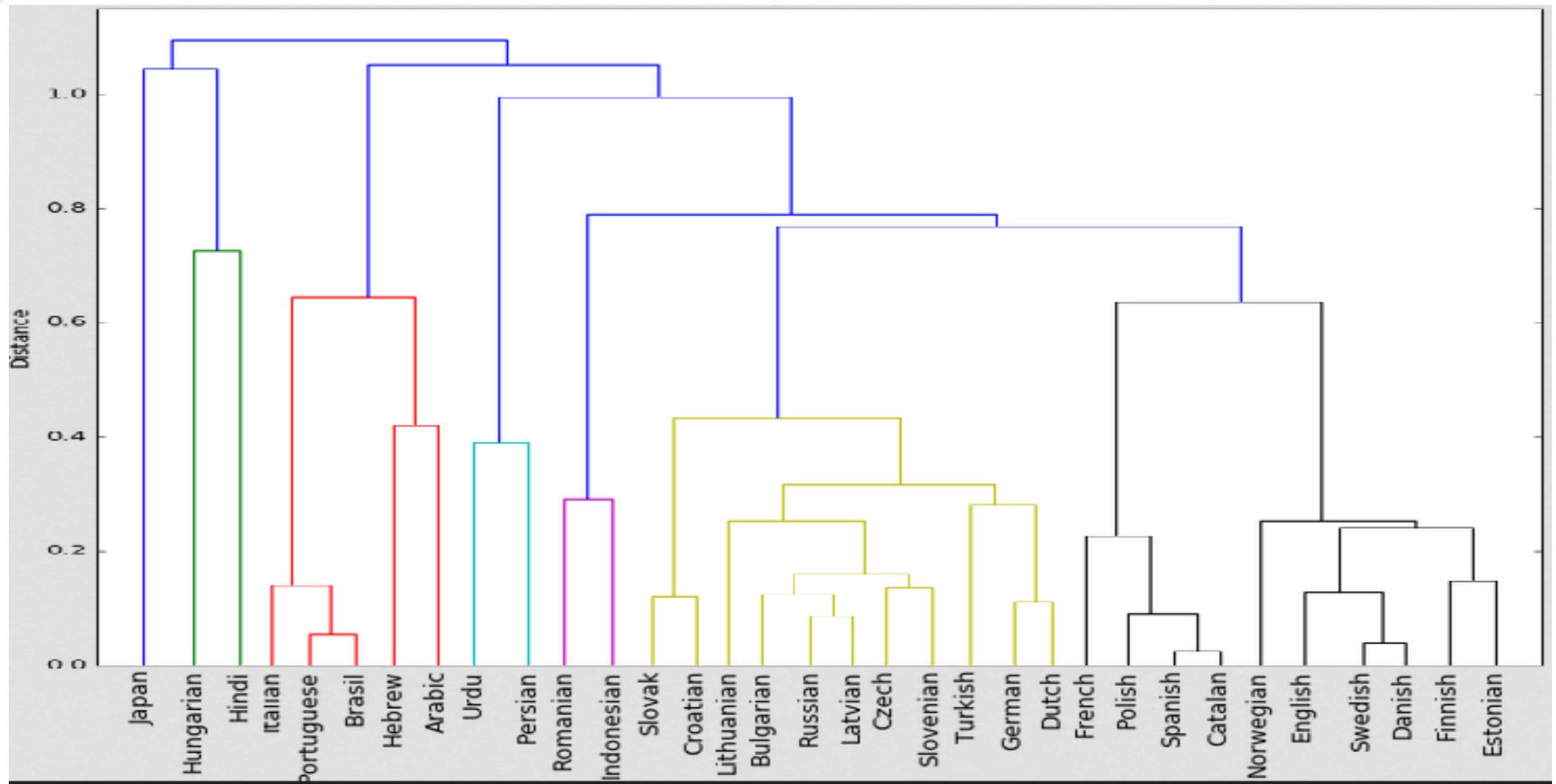
Interrogative sentences

	Quest. marks	Corpus size	Importance
Latin	57	491 000	0,480
Estonian	485	106 000	0,46
Ancient Greek	2	414 000	0,446
Gothic	0	55 000	0,423
Old Church Slavonic	0	57 000	0,411
Slovak	398	106 000	0,366
Basque	240	121 000	0,361
Polish	615	83 000	0,355
Finnish	455	377 000	0,342
Slovenian	517	170 000	0,308

Correlation among Languages

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	
1 Czech	100	90	80	88	93	90	77	61	87	41	86	58	81	38	84	66	65	73	64	66	78	85	6	62	22	16	49	78	72	71	84	39	75	62	13	1	14	8	18	-4	36	14	42	25	81	75	
2 Slovak	90	100	62	84	87	85	89	76	83	39	81	53	80	34	79	68	61	66	60	63	59	67	1	43	15	8	35	64	59	65	79	33	67	55	11	0	9	4	7	-4	42	6	36	20	80	70	
3 Polish	80	62	100	60	69	65	50	38	59	33	54	39	49	31	50	38	44	58	41	43	94	99	12	75	26	27	59	68	69	44	52	26	56	46	8	1	6	5	26	-3	17	7	25	18	56	53	
4 Russian	88	84	60	100	96	91	78	61	89	44	94	50	83	40	85	66	64	69	59	59	60	69	4	42	15	6	36	64	69	66	83	33	70	63	12	2	13	10	10	-3	38	-1	41	24	73	75	
5 Ukrainian	93	87	69	96	100	91	77	60	91	45	93	56	87	41	89	70	66	72	64	64	68	76	6	51	19	11	42	68	73	72	88	39	74	67	12	2	15	9	10	-3	39	-2	39	23	77	79	
6 Bulgarian	90	85	65	91	91	100	73	58	85	47	90	65	80	42	80	59	73	78	73	72	68	77	3	52	20	13	43	67	70	85	30	80	62	14	1	6	7	10	-4	30	2	35	19	74	73		
7 Croatian	77	89	50	78	77	73	100	92	78	32	75	34	74	28	72	77	50	54	41	44	45	54	1	28	8	0	25	46	53	50	66	29	51	48	6	0	7	6	8	-3	40	-2	30	19	75	59	
8 Serbian	61	76	38	61	60	58	92	100	62	28	58	23	58	23	53	60	41	47	33	35	35	43	0	18	5	-1	19	35	36	35	51	24	44	34	8	2	0	2	-3	30	-3	19	11	63	46		
9 Slovenian	87	83	59	89	91	85	78	62	100	37	88	55	86	33	87	74	63	65	63	62	56	66	2	44	14	5	33	62	63	72	84	34	66	62	9	0	17	9	9	-3	39	2	39	23	77	71	
10 Church Slavonic	41	39	33	44	45	47	32	28	37	100	43	35	30	97	31	14	35	40	36	32	36	40	5	26	12	9	24	41	70	30	38	18	47	71	7	-2	8	18	4	-4	9	-3	22	15	53	33	
11 Latvian	86	81	54	94	93	90	75	58	88	43	100	57	65	40	85	70	71	75	63	62	54	65	3	38	14	8	33	60	68	76	88	37	73	70	12	3	18	26	26	-3	38	-4	36	22	74	73	
12 English	58	53	39	50	56	65	34	23	55	35	57	100	58	32	55	40	78	72	84	87	52	58	0	60	26	24	37	65	44	82	78	7	81	50	14	-3	11	29	26	-3	10	8	26	7	52	55	
13 German	81	80	49	83	87	80	74	58	86	30	85	58	100	28	99	80	74	71	69	72	51	60	4	42	18	9	33	55	59	76	88	34	64	58	8	0	22	13	14	-4	43	-3	37	21	72	74	
14 Gothic	38	34	31	40	41	42	28	23	33	97	40	32	28	100	29	15	32	36	33	30	34	37	1	25	9	6	21	37	72	28	35	15	40	67	5	-3	7	17	8	-4	15	-3	19	18	48	31	
15 Dutch	84	79	50	85	89	80	72	53	87	31	85	55	95	29	100	80	69	67	67	69	50	60	1	41	13	4	30	55	63	76	88	39	61	61	7	-2	23	8	5	-3	43	-4	36	23	73	74	
16 Afrikaans	66	68	38	66	70	59	77	60	74	14	70	40	80	15	80	100	48	44	45	47	37	44	-1	32	8	-1	20	39	54	60	71	25	40	45	-1	-5	18	14	19	-3	45	-3	31	20	66	56	
17 Norwegian Bokmål	65	61	44	64	66	73	50	41	63	35	71	78	74	32	69	48	100	95	84	84	52	60	1	47	19	15	34	56	48	74	82	14	74	52	11	-2	7	31	33	-4	15	-2	24	9	53	64	
18 Norwegian Nynorsk	73	66	58	69	72	78	54	47	65	40	75	72	71	36	67	44	95	100	79	80	62	70	3	51	21	19	41	61	53	73	81	22	80	56	14	0	6	28	38	-4	13	0	22	9	55	66	
19 Swedish	64	60	41	59	64	73	41	33	63	36	63	63	69	33	67	45	84	79	100	96	51	60	2	57	26	21	37	65	43	80	84	12	82	48	16	-1	4	13	13	-3	12	1	25	7	52	61	
20 Danish	66	63	43	59	64	72	44	35	62	32	62	87	72	30	69	47	84	80	90	100	55	63	3	59	27	21	38	63	42	77	84	10	79	41	14	-1	6	14	-3	25	3	26	10	51	67		
21 Spanish	78	59	94	60	68	68	45	35	56	36	54	52	51	34	50	37	52	62	51	55	100	35	22	89	40	40	71	76	69	48	57	15	63	45	13	4	0	7	31	-3	17	14	33	19	59	56	
22 Catalan	85	67	90	69	76	77	54	43	66	40	65	58	60	37	60	44	60	70	60	63	98	100	18	34	37	34	67	77	70	56	67	21	72	51	14	2	2	7	27	-3	21	11	32	19	65	63	
23 Galician	6	1	12	4	6	3	1	0	2	5	3	0	4	1	1	-1	1	3	2	3	22	18	100	46	92	85	80	19	6	2	10	-3	18	5	39	54	-6	15	3	-3	4	0	34	-1	7	5	
24 French	62	43	75	42	51	52	28	18	44	26	38	60	42	25	41	32	47	51	57	59	89	84	46	100	65	63	86	77	55	47	53	0	59	34	19	17	-2	12	27	-4	9	21	43	16	49	46	
25 Portuguese	22	15	26	15	19	20	8	5	14	12	14	26	18	9	13	8	19	21	26	27	40	37	82	65	100	96	90	37	19	21	28	-1	38	15	41	50	-6	16	8	-4	-2	7	38	1	19	19	19
26 Brasil	16	8	27	6	11	13	0	-1	5	9	8	24	9	6	4	-1	15	19	21	21	40	34	85	85	96	100	85	34	16	23	21	-2	32	12	38	48	-4	23	17	-4	-6	10	31	-2	15	11	
27 Italian	49	35	59	36	42	43	25	19	33	24	33	37	33	21	30	20	34	41	37	38	71	67	80	86	90	85	100	62	45	33	43	7	52	31	36	41	-3	18	20	-4	4	15	46	9	41	37	
28 Romanian	78	64	68	64	68	73	46	35	62	41	60	65	55	37	55	39	56	61	65	63	76	77	19	77	37	34	62	100	63	59	65	13	71	52	13	-2	2	12	25	-4	17	41	72	22	74	54	
29 Latin	72	59	69	69	73	67	53	36	63	70	68	44	59	72	63	54	48	53	43	42	69	70	6	55	19	16	45	63	100	53	60	32	52	81	1	-4	23	30	31	-5	36	3	36	25	75	55	
30 Finnish	71	65	44	66	72	70	50	35	72	30	76	82	76	28	76	60	74	73	80	77	48	56	2	47	21	23	33	59	53	100	89	32	76	61	13	0	30	37	34	-4	26	5	28	12	62	67	
31 Estonian	84	79	52	83	88	85	66	51	84	38	88	78	88	35	88	71	82	81	84	84	57	67	10	53	28	21	43	65	60	89	100	34	81	64	16	6	18	25	22	-3	33	1	34	17	71	78	

Language Clustering



The Most Important Connections

Tail word	Head word	Label	English
ADV	VERB	advmod	0,0229272
NOUN	VERB	obl	0,0066593
VERB	VERB	advcl	0,00656007
NOUN	NOUN	nmod	0,00653802
NOUN	VERB	nsubj	0,00363285
PRON	VERB	obj	0,00297133
PROPN	NOUN	nmod	0,0024807
ADV	NOUN	advmod	0,0023925
NUM	NOUN	nummod	0,00203417
ADJ	NOUN	amod	0,00194597

The Most Important Connections

Tail word	Head word	Label	Russian
NOUN	VERB	obl	0,0371461
NOUN	VERB	nsubj	0,0224947
ADV	VERB	advmod	0,00981738
VERB	VERB	advcl	0,00641601
PRON	VERB	obl	0,00607148
NOUN	VERB	obj	0,005625
VERB	NOUN	acl	0,00468809
PRON	VERB	obj	0,00413086
NOUN	VERB	nsubj:pass	0,00324844
PRON	NOUN	nmod	0,00324316

The Most Important Connections

Tail word	Head word	Label	Gothic
CCONJ	VERB	cc	0,073344
VERB	VERB	advcl	0,0449217
NOUN	VERB	nsubj	0,0272581
NOUN	VERB	obl	0,0249297
NOUN	VERB	obj:dir	0,0214372
PRON	VERB	obj:dir	0,0204737
ADV	VERB	advmod	0,0167001
VERB	VERB	xcomp	0,0150943
ADJ	NOUN	amod	0,0135287
ADV	VERB	discourse	0,012766

The Most Important Connections (Gothic)

1	Jah	jah	CCONJ	C-	_	5	cc
2	atsteigands	at-steigan	VERB	V-		5	advcl
3	in	in	ADP	R-	_	4	case
4	skip	skip	NOUN	Nb	2		obl
5	ufarlaib	ufar-leiþan	VERB	0			root
6	jah	jah	CCONJ	C-	_	5	cc
7	qam	qiman	VERB	5			conj
8	in	in	ADP	R-	_	10	case
9	seinai	*seins	ADJ	10	nmod		
10	baurg	baurgs	NOUN		7		obl

The Most Important Connections (Old Church Slavonic)

1	¶	и	CCONJ	C-	6	cc
2	вълѣзъ		вълѣсти	VERB	6	advcl
3	въ	въ	ADP R-	_	4	case
4	корабъ		корабль	NOUN	2	obl
5	йсъ	исоусъ	PROPN	6	nsubj	
6	прѣде		прѣхати	VERB	0	root
7	¶	и	CCONJ	C-	6	cc
8	приде		прити	VERB	6	conj
9	въ	въ	ADP	11	case	
10	свои	свои	ADJ	11	nmod	
11	градъ	градъ	NOUN	8	obl	

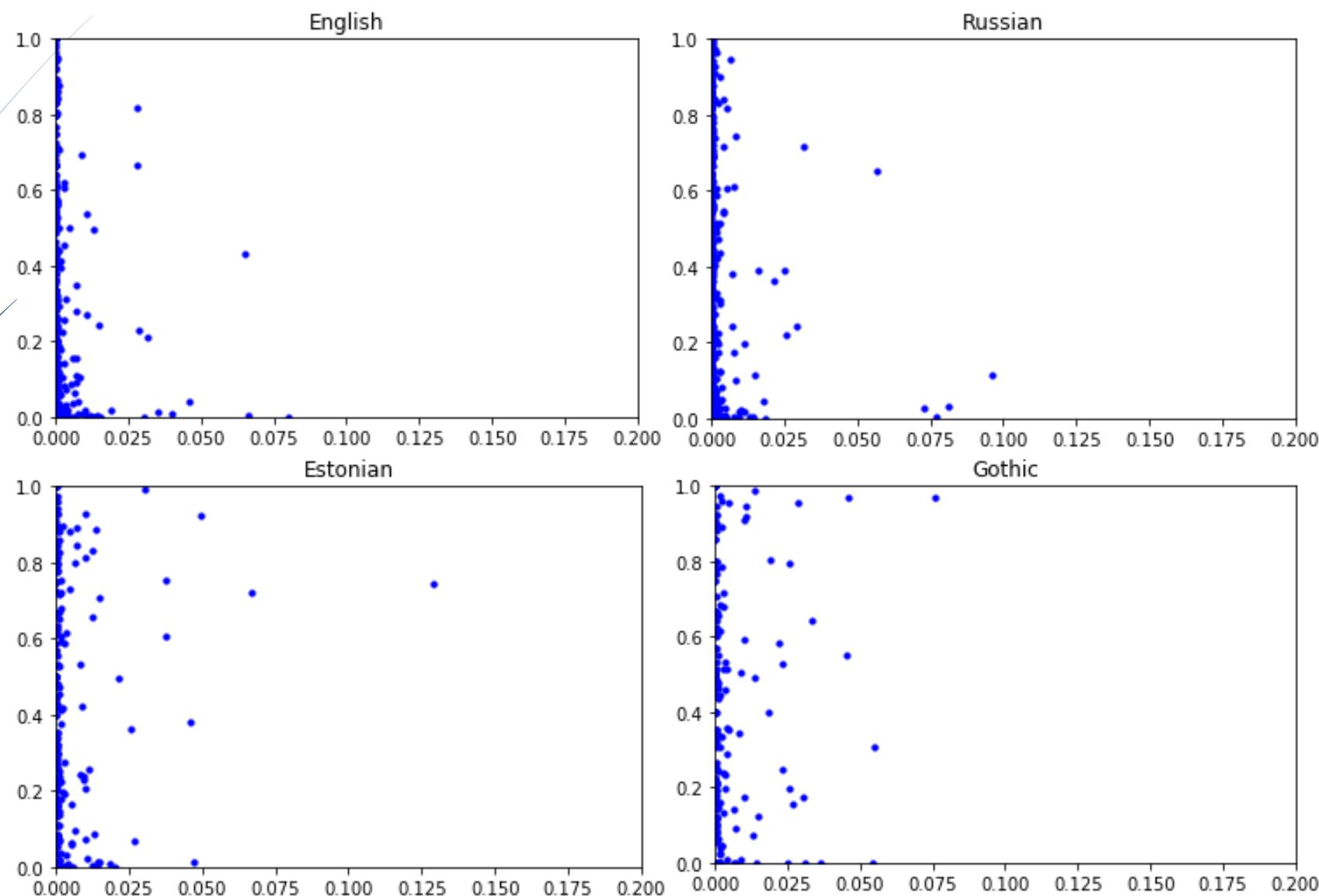
The Most Important Connections

- <NOUN, VERB, obl>, bigger than 0.001 in 39 languages;
obsolete for Japanese, Korean and Brazilian (but presented in
Portuguese).
- <NOUN, VERB, nsubj>, bigger than 0.001 in 38 languages;
obsolete for Japanese and Korean.
- <ADV, VERB, advmod>, bigger than 0.001 in 37 languages;
obsolete for Japanese, Vietnamese.
- <VERB, VERB, advcl>, bigger than 0.001 in 35 languages;
obsolete for Japanese, Korean, Afrikaans and Turkish.

The Most Important Connections

<NOUN, VERB, obl>, bigger than 0.01 in 29 languages;
<NOUN, VERB, nsubj>, bigger than 0.01 in 24 languages;
<ADV, VERB, advmod>, bigger than 0.01 in 26 languages;
<VERB, VERB, advcl>, bigger than 0.01 in 5 languages.

The Most Important Connections



Conclusion

1. It is easy to evaluate the differences among syntactical irregularities of different languages.
2. It is easy to find where languages are the same.
3. It looks like a correct method since it adequately arranges languages.

We Can Do It! Together.

I don't know all of these languages, but possibly we can explain some linguistic effects together.

