

IMMIGRATION

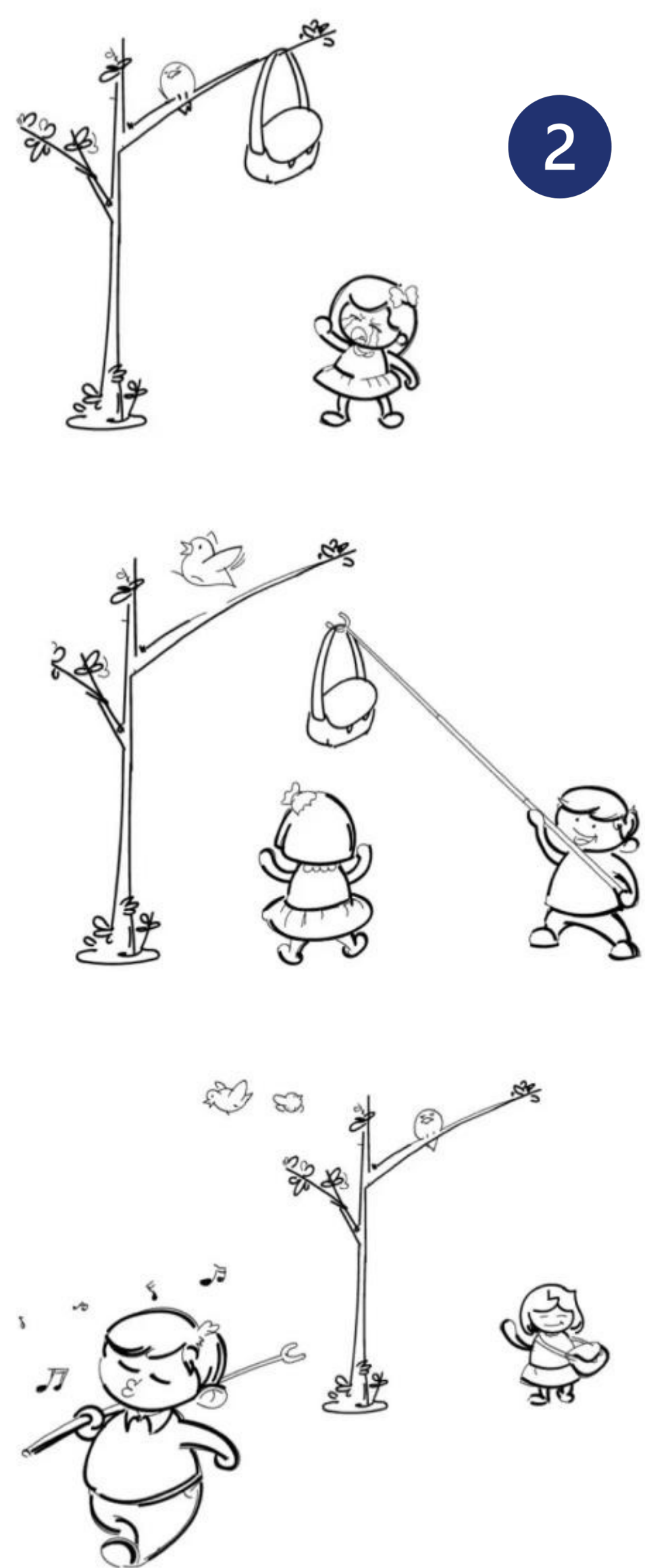
How gender affects immigrants' accent variation ?

--An acoustic study on Hunan immigrants in Beijing

ZOU Ziyang¹ ; YOU Shuxiang²
Chinese University of Hong Kong¹
Macau University of Science and Technology²



Methodology: “Elicited Production Test”



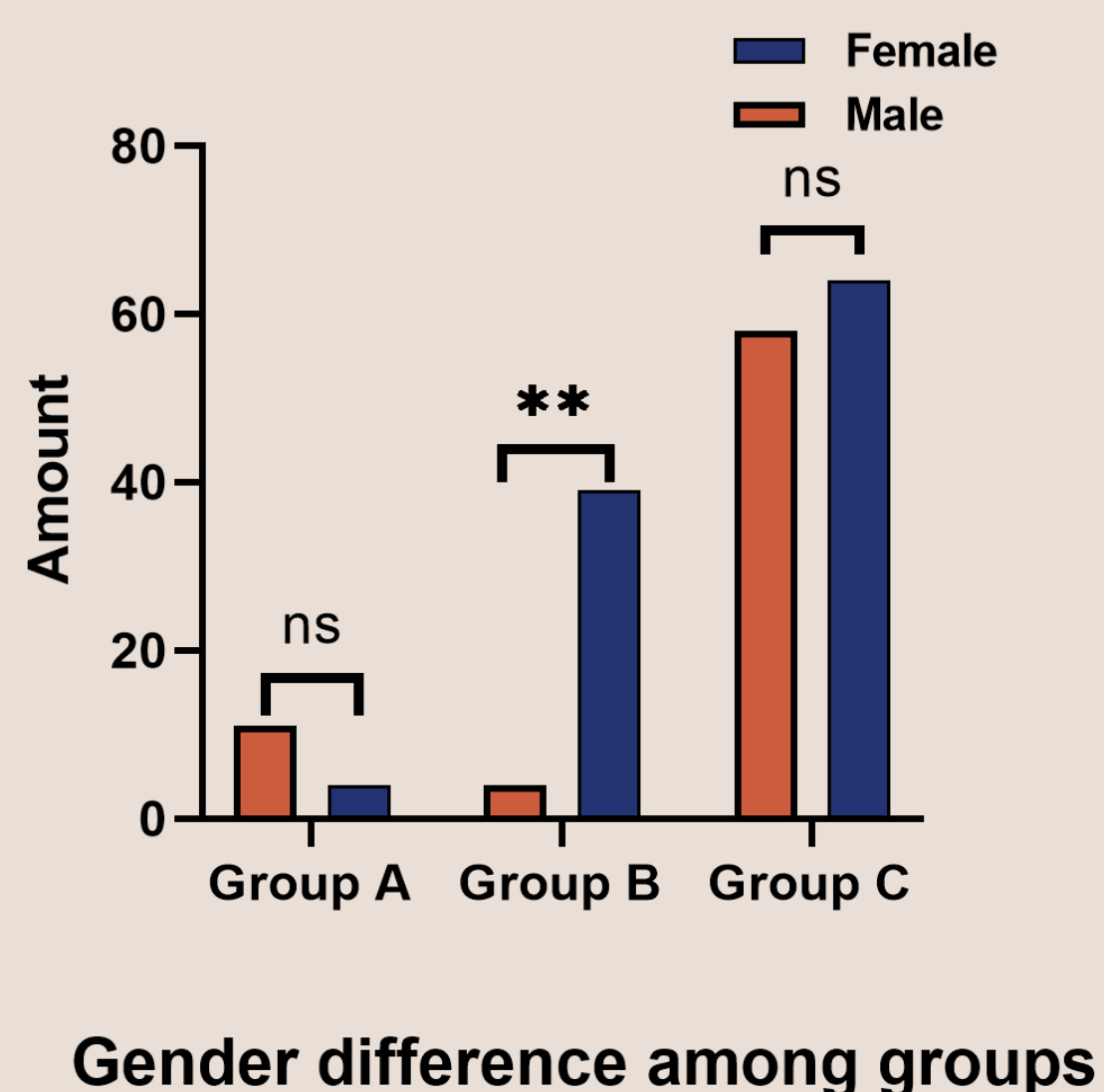
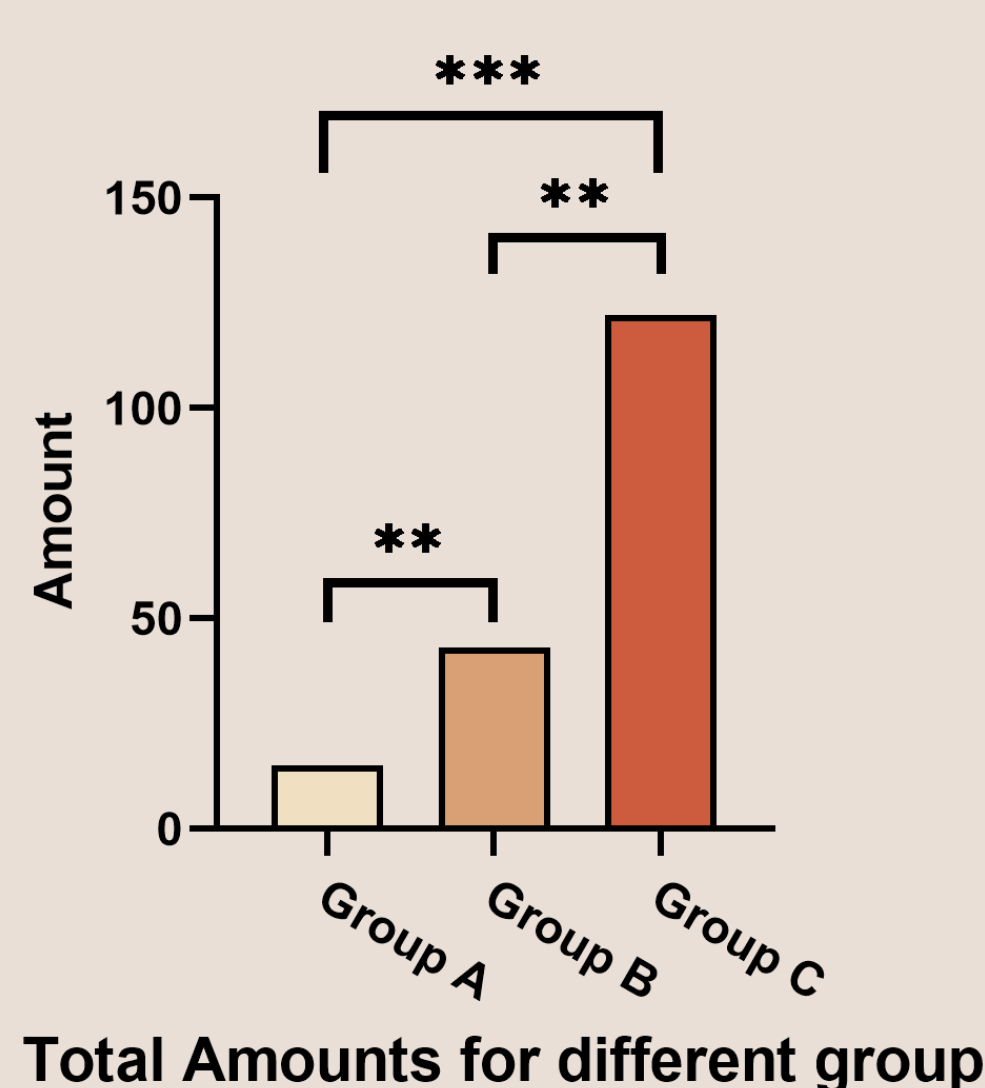
Participants

30 people in total (5 males + 5 females in each group)

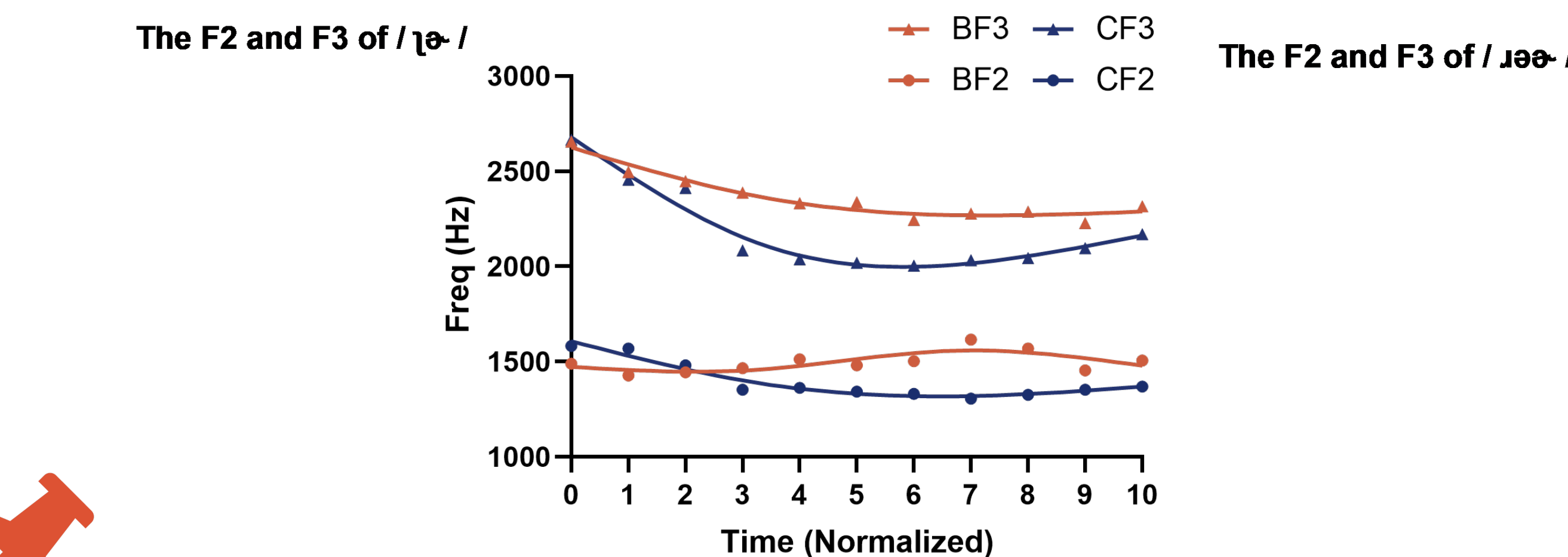
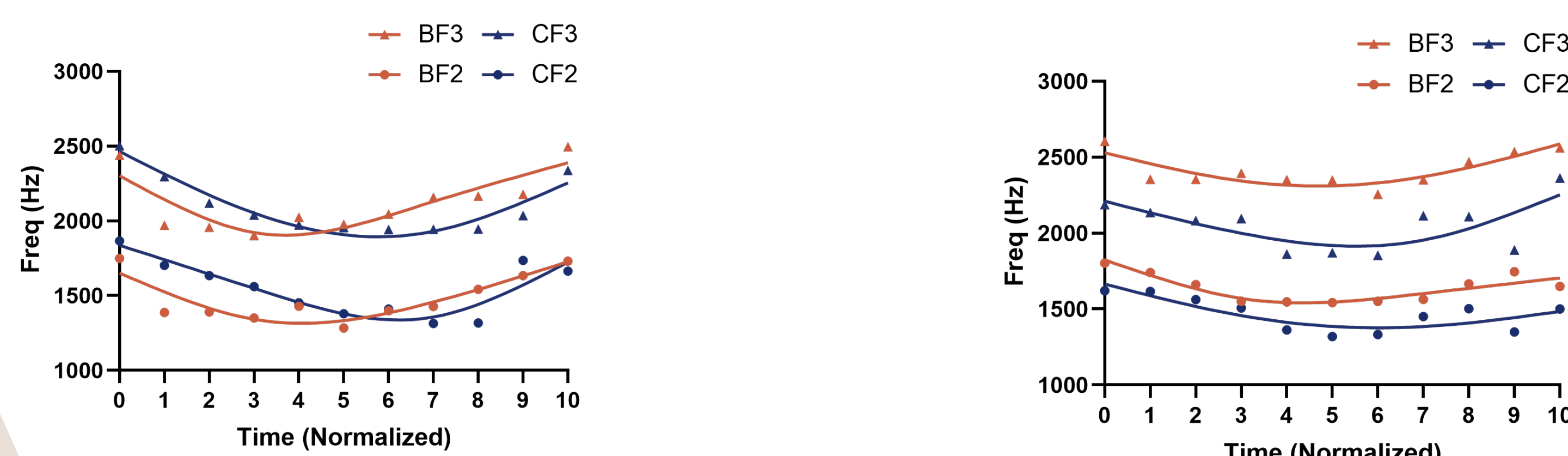
	Group A	Group B	Group C
Age	20-40	20-40	20-40
Current Residence Location	Hunan	Beijing	Beijing
Hometown (born & raised)	Hunan	Hunan	Beijing
Length of residence in Beijing	Never	6-7years	All the time
Working Language	Mandarin	Mandarin	Mandarin
Other dialect	Xiang dialect	Xiang dialect	No
Education Background	Bachelor or above	Bachelor or above	Bachelor or above

Results

Amount of /er/ production



Acoustic Analysis Between Females in Group B & C

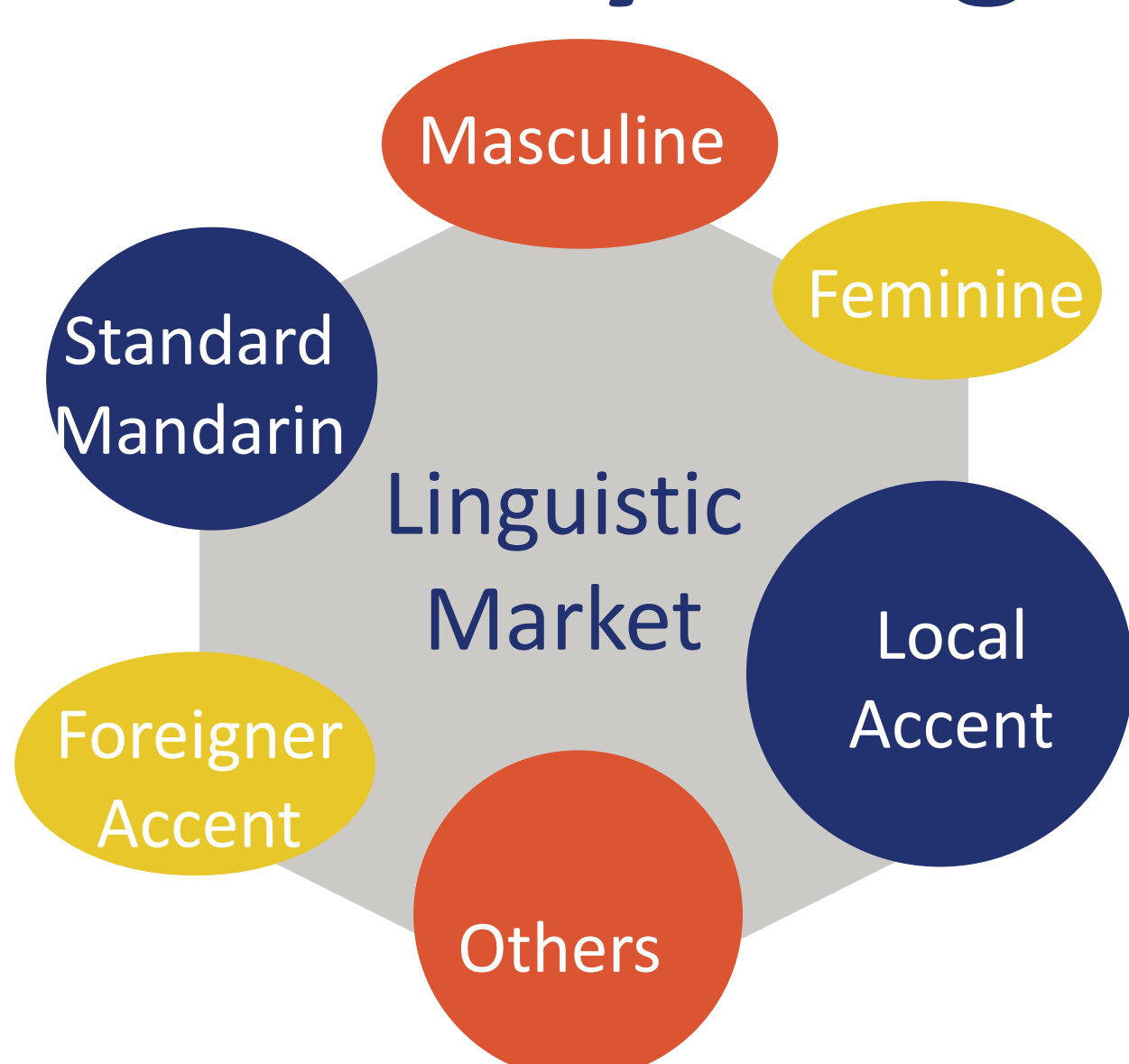


The F2 and F3 of / xæ /

Conclusion

- The variation in immigrants' accents is a dynamically changing process.
- It is hard for female immigrants acquiring *er* suffixation by implicit learning through daily life talking since the huge acoustics difference exists between Group B&C's production.
- Native language has an impact on second language learning since it is harder for Hunan immigrants to produce consonants which don't exist in their native language inventory .
- This example from immigrant society broader the clarification that women, deprived of access to real power, must claim their social status using symbolic features.

Primary insights



Bourdieu (1975) Linguistics Market

- Every feature is equally involved in linguistics market.
- Culture background would input different values into different culture.

In this immigrants' society

- The local accent holds a higher value than standard mandarin accent.
- Masculine also has a greater value than feminine feature.