

Catching variation during fieldwork on Nakh-Daghestanian languages

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26 November 2019



Investigating variation [Dorian 2010: 3]:

“Two equally interesting questions are at the heart of this book: how an extraordinary degree of idiosyncratic linguistic variation can coexist with an extraordinarily homogeneous speaker population, and how linguists might overlook the possibility of their coexistence.”

According to [Eckert 2016] there are three waves of Variationism:

- [Labov 1963] on Martha's Vineyard /ai/ ~ /au/, [Trudgill 1974] on Norwich speech, [Wolfram 1969] on Detroit Afro-American speech

Data were collected from

- 44 speakers (Upper Andic, Northeast Caucasian) during the fieldwork in 2019 in Zilo (Botlikh district, Dagestan)



Created with [lingtypology](#) [[Moroz 2017](#)]

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- and 23 Nakh-Daghestanian researches via online questionnaire

Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers)

16 questions were asked:

- 1 'big butterfly'
- 2 'big butterflys'
- 3 'big grasshopper'
- 4 'big grasshoppers'
- 5 'parents left'
- 6 'pour your father some whater'
- 7 'pour your cow some whater'
- 8 'third girl'
- 9 'On the wedding the bride were beautiful'
- 10 'heels'
- 11 'sons-in-law'
- 12 'they are eating'
- 13 'when he come, we will eat'
- 14 'rainbow'
- 15 'north'
- 16 'thousand'

Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers): class attribution

source	lect	m	f	an	-an 1	-an 2	-an 3	-h
[Alekseev 1999: 221]	An, sg	w	j	b	b	r	-	-
[Alekseev 1999: 221]	An, pl	w	j	j	b	r	-	-
[Salimov 1968: 47–62]	Ga, sg	w	j	b	b	r	-	-
[Salimov 1968: 47–62]	Ga, pl	w	j	j	b	r	-	-
[Suleymanov 1957: 131–162]	Ri, sg	w	j	b	b	r	b	-
[Suleymanov 1957: 131–162]	Ri, pl	w	j	j	b	r	r	-
Field data	Zi, sg	w	j	b	b	r	-	-
Field data	Zi, pl	w	j	j	b	r	-	-
[Tsertsvadze 1965]	Mu, sg	w	j	-	-	-	-	b
[Tsertsvadze 1965]	Mu, pl	w	j	-	-	-	-	b

- *odoruk'a* ‘butterfly’ (1, 2) and *kats'a* ‘grasshopper’ (3, 4) belong to -an3 class in Rikwani [[Suleymanov 1957](#)]
- *odoruk'a* ‘butterfly’ (1, 2) is one of the most variable words from [[Moroz and Verhees 2019](#)]

Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers): dative

(6, 7)

Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers): agreement

17

Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers): plural forms

We observed some variability in plural forms formation, but stimuli selected for this topic (10, 11) were not variable at all...

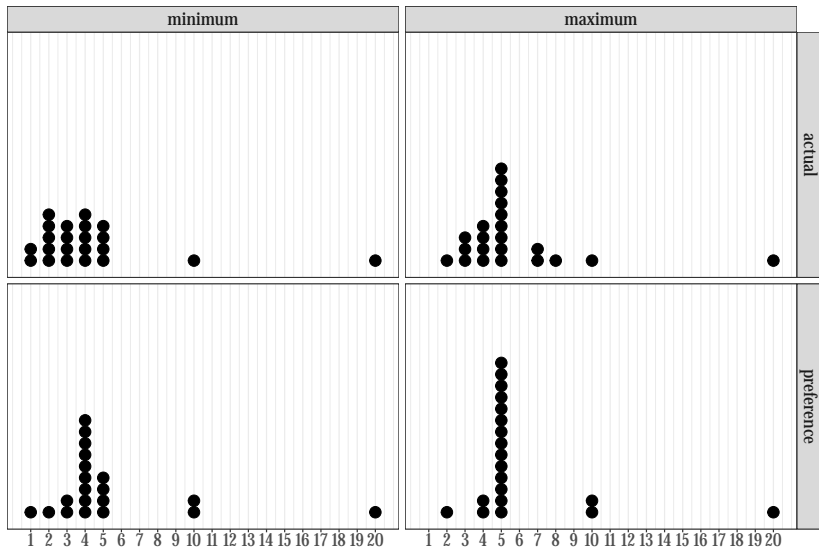
Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers): verb

Samira, say something about (9, 12, 13), please

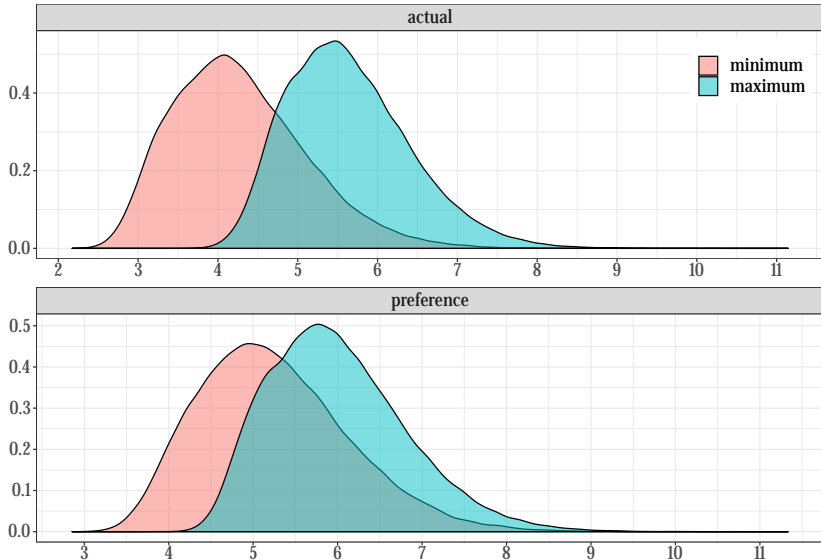
Zilo questionnaire (44 speakers): lexics

Examples 'rainbow', 'north', 'thousand' (14, 15, and 16) were selected since there were known problems in borrowings (14, 15) and borrowing adaptation (16): *ozrugu*, *ozirugu*, *ozurugu*.

Number of speakers



Bootstrapped mean number of speakers (10^5 iterations)



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