# Preposition drop in Daghestanian Russian

Final project on linguistic data analysis (version 2, 14.06.20) Anastasia Panova, anastasia.b.panova@gmail.com

#### 0. Preliminary remarks

This project is a statistical part of the bigger project "Preposition drop in Russian spoken in Daghestan" carried out at Linguistic Convergence Laboratory (HSE) by me and my colleague Tatiana Philippova. Although we annotated data together since November 2019, the statistical part was done by me during the course on linguistic data analysis (mainly in April 2020), so I hope I am allowed to submit this work as my research project now. Some parts of the present document are taken from our recently submitted paper.

## 1. Research objectives and hypothesis to be tested

As Daniel et al. (2009) note, "[a] very frequent, and indeed probably one of the most salient linguistic features of the local variety of Russian [in Daghestan] is dropping of the prepositions", cf. (1).

```
(1) tam naprimer Curibe jest' vrač
there for_example Tsurib.LOC COP.PRS.SG doctor
'For instance, [in] Tsurib there is a doctor.' (Daniel et al. 2010: 74)
```

In the previous studies (Daniel & Dobrushina 2009, 2013; Daniel et al. 2010), the phenomenon of preposition drop had been described primarily in qualitative terms. The purpose of the present project was a detailed quantitative study of this phenomenon across a large number of speakers of different L1s. In particular, we wanted to understand what factors condition the phenomenon of preposition drop in locative, directional and temporal phrases.

Based on existing literature on preposition drop in different variaties of different languages, we decided to check whether the probability of preposition drop in Daghestanian Russian depends on preposition type, phonetic environment, semantic type of prepositional complement and sociolinguistic characteristics of the speakers.

# 2. Description of input data: features and values, descriptive statistics, data visualisation

For this research we used data from the Corpus of Russian spoken in Daghestan (DagRus). Specifically, my input data was a dataset consisting of 2350 prepositional phrases, coming from sociolinguistic interviews with 47 speakers.

Each prepositional phrase (with or without preposition drop) was annotated with a number of parameters:

- speaker's ID;
- sex:
- year of birth:
- native language;
- education level;
- prepositional head;
- initial phoneme of the prepositional complement (consonant/vowel);
- complement type (toponym, temporal location, institution, other).

A csv file with annotated data can be found on Github.

In addition, for each speaker we annotated the degree of nonstandardness of his/her speech. The nonstandardness was calculated as a ratio of the total number of discrepancies from Standard Russian (excluding preposition drop) to the total number of words produced by a speaker.

The data on nonstandardness can be found on Github as well.

Now let me load and prepare these datasets for further analysis (you can surely skip section 2.1, if your are not intersted in these rather technical things).

#### 2.1. Preparation of the data

The first dataset:

```
dat <- read.csv("Prep_drop_final_data.csv")
dat %>%
  select(3:5, 7:8, 14:16, 18) -> mydat
names(mydat)[9] <- "preposition"
# summary(mydat)</pre>
```

The second dataset (the nonstandardness is multiplied by one hundred to obtain the average number of discrepancies from Standard Russian per 100 words):

```
dat_lR <- read.csv("Prep_drop_DagRus - level of Russian.csv")
dat_lR %>%
  mutate (nonstandardness = non.standardness*100) %>%
  select(1, 16) -> dat_lR
names(dat_lR)[1] <- "respondent"
# summary(dat_lR)</pre>
```

Merging two datasets into one:

```
full_join(mydat, dat_lR, by = "respondent") -> mydat
```

```
## Warning: Column 'respondent' joining factors with different levels, coercing to
## character vector
```

The variables education and language group have some values which are represented by a too small number of datapoints, so I unite five levels of education into just two (higher and lower) and unite language groups into language families (Daghestanian, Indo-European, Turkic).

I exclude speakers with Russian as L1 because they do not omit prepositions at all and this ruins the logistic regression in the end.

```
mydat %>%
filter(lang_family != "Indo-European") -> mydat
```

Below I put into order the values of the parameter omitted. I do not include these lines in pdf because they contain cyrillic characters which for some reason ruin the process of knitting to pdf.

# 2.2. Descriptive statisctics and data visualization

In this section I look at each of my parameters separately and try to visualize their possible correlations with preposition drop.

First, I look at different prepositions. The table shows that only two prepositions v 'in(to)' and na 'on(to)' are omitted frequently.

```
mydat %>%
  count(preposition, omitted) %>%
  spread(omitted, n, fill = 0) %>%
  mutate(total_n = no+yes) %>%
  mutate(yes_percent = (yes/total_n)*100) %>%
  arrange(desc(total_n))
```

```
## # A tibble: 33 x 5
##
      preposition
                                       yes total_n yes_percent
##
      <fct>
                              <dbl> <dbl>
                                             <dbl>
                                                          <dbl>
##
   1 v 'in(to)'
                                479
                                       351
                                               830
                                                          42.3
   2 u 'at'
##
                                400
                                         0
                                               400
                                                           0
##
    3 na 'on(to)'
                                289
                                        45
                                               334
                                                          13.5
##
   4 s 'with/from/off'
                                193
                                        14
                                               207
                                                           6.76
##
   5 iz 'from, of'
                                 88
                                         4
                                                92
                                                           4.35
   6 do 'up to, until'
                                 69
                                                69
                                                           0
##
                                         0
##
    7 za 'behind; for'
                                 64
                                         3
                                                67
                                                           4.48
   8 k 'to'
##
                                 61
                                         3
                                                64
                                                           4.69
  9 po 'along/about/up to'
                                 64
                                         0
                                                64
                                                           0
## 10 posle 'after'
                                  44
                                         0
                                                 44
                                                           0
## # ... with 23 more rows
```

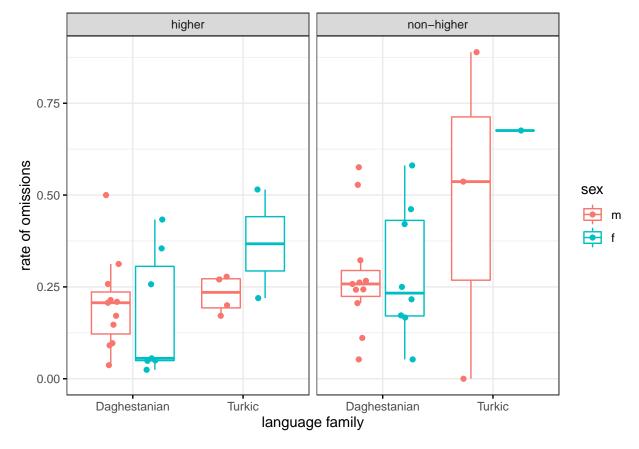
Second, I look at the first phoneme of the prepositional complement. The difference is very small.

```
mydat %>%
  count(initial.phoneme, omitted) %>%
  spread(omitted, n, fill = 0) %>%
  mutate(total_n = no+yes) %>%
  mutate(yes_percent = (yes/total_n)*100)
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 x 5
##
     initial.phoneme
                             yes total n yes percent
                        no
                                    <dbl>
##
     <fct>
                     <dbl> <dbl>
                                                <dbl>
## 1 consonant
                      1601
                             354
                                     1955
                                                 18.1
## 2 vowel
                       328
                               67
                                      395
                                                 17.0
```

Then I turn to sociolinguistic parameters. Level of education, sex and language family are visualized together with the library ggpubr. In the following figures I consider only prepositional phrases that are headed by seven prepositions that are in principle omittable: this way I partially solve the problem of an uneven distribution of omittable and non-omittable prepositions across speakers.

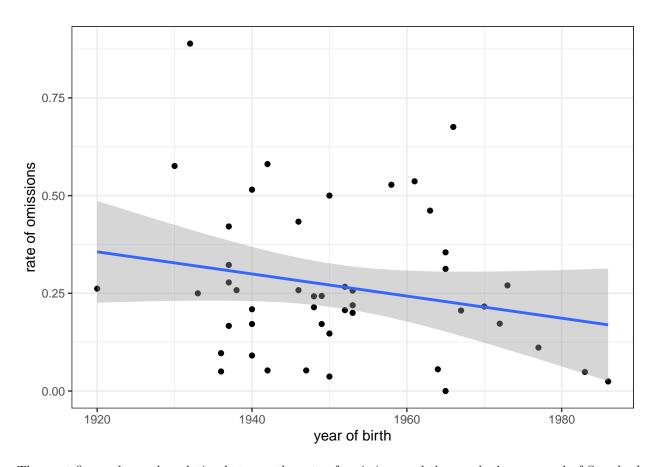
```
mydat %>%
  filter(preposition == "v 'in(to)'" | preposition == "na 'on(to)'" |
           preposition == "s 'with/from/off'" | preposition == "iz 'from, of'" |
           preposition == "za 'behind; for'" | preposition == "k 'to'" |
           preposition == "pro 'about") %>%
  count(respondent, ed_levels, lang_family, sex, omitted) %>%
  spread(omitted, n, fill = 0) %>%
  mutate(n = yes+no)%>%
  mutate(ratio = yes/n)%>%
  ggboxplot(x = "lang_family", y = "ratio",
            color = "sex",
            add = "jitter",
            outlier.shape = NA,
            ggtheme = theme_bw(),
            add.params = list(jitter = 0.3),
            ylab = "rate of omissions",
            xlab = "language family",) -> p
facet(p, facet.by = "ed_levels")
```



The next figure shows how the ratio of omissions to the number of produced omittable prepositions depends on the year a speaker was born in. Each point corresponds to one speaker. We see that there is no significant

correlation.

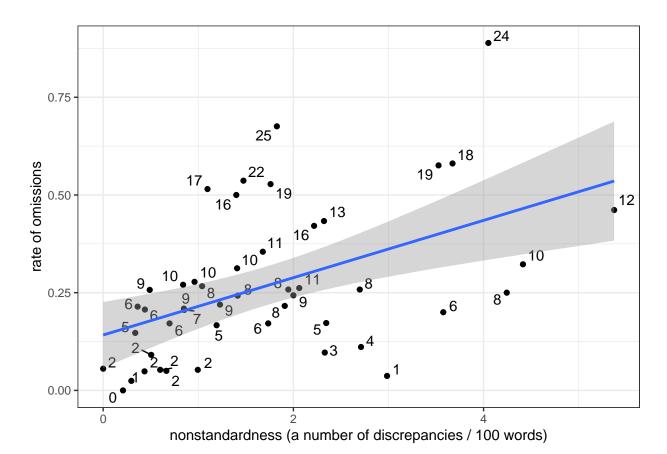
## 'geom\_smooth()' using formula 'y ~ x'



The next figure shows the relation between the rate of omissions and the speaker's command of Standard Russian. The linear trend reveals that speakers with a better command of Standard Russian (displaying fewer non-standard features) tend to omit prepositions less frequently.

```
mydat %>%
  filter(preposition == "v 'in(to)' | preposition == "na 'on(to)' |
           preposition == "s 'with/from/off'" | preposition == "iz 'from, of'" |
           preposition == "za 'behind; for'" |
           preposition == "k 'to'" | preposition == "pro 'about") %>%
  count(respondent, nonstandardness, omitted) %>%
  spread(omitted, n, fill = 0) %>%
  mutate(n = yes+no)%>%
  mutate(ratio = yes/n)%>%
  ggplot(aes(nonstandardness, ratio, label = paste0(yes)))+
  geom_point()+
  ggrepel::geom_text_repel()+
  geom_smooth(method=lm, se=TRUE) +
  labs(x = "nonstandardness (a number of discrepancies / 100 words)",
       y = "rate of omissions")+
  theme_bw()
```

## 'geom\_smooth()' using formula 'y ~ x'



## 3. Discussion of the methods of analysis and their application

### 3.1. What kind of prepositional phrases allow preposition drop

I decided to use a logistic regression to assess the significance of the factors discussed above.

Before running a regression, I had to reduce a number of levels in the parameter **preposition**. I grouped prepositions in two types based on linguistic grounds: the prepositions v 'in(to)' and na 'on(to)' in Standard Russian are precisely those used in general locative and directional phrases, not necessarily specifying the relation between the locatum and the location. Therefore, they are grouped together and contrasted to all other prepositions.

Then I change values of the parameter year.of.birth in order to make it more centered. I save all values as factors.

```
mydat %>%
  mutate(year.of.birth = year.of.birth-1900) -> log_dat
log_dat %>%
  mutate(year.of.birth = as.integer(year.of.birth)) -> log_dat
log_dat %>%
  mutate(omitted = as.factor(omitted)) -> log_dat
```

I use library lme4 to run a mixed-effects model. I have one random effect which is a speker.

```
library("lme4")
## Loading required package: Matrix
##
## Attaching package: 'Matrix'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:tidyr':
##
##
       expand, pack, unpack
glmer.res <- glmer (omitted ~ sex + year.of.birth + ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness + initial
summary(glmer.res)
## Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace
##
    Approximation) [glmerMod]
## Family: binomial (logit)
## Formula:
## omitted ~ sex + year.of.birth + ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness +
```

2341

initial.phoneme + prep\_type + (1 | respondent)

logLik deviance df.resid

1570.2

## Control: glmerControl(optimizer = "bobyqa")

-785.1

BIC

1640.0

##

##

## ##

##

##

Data: log\_dat

AIC

1588.2

```
## Scaled residuals:
##
      Min
              1Q Median
                               30
                                      Max
## -2.1187 -0.4091 -0.1320 -0.0710 17.4458
## Random effects:
## Groups
              Name
                          Variance Std.Dev.
## respondent (Intercept) 0.5852
## Number of obs: 2350, groups: respondent, 47
##
## Fixed effects:
                        Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)
                                   0.616555 -7.556 4.16e-14 ***
                        -4.658645
## sexf
                        0.028581
                                   0.277834
                                              0.103 0.91807
                                   0.009703 -0.985 0.32485
## year.of.birth
                       -0.009553
## ed_levelsnon-higher
                                   0.290527
                        0.296403
                                              1.020 0.30762
## lang_familyTurkic
                        0.626626
                                   0.317312
                                              1.975 0.04829 *
                                              3.043 0.00234 **
## nonstandardness
                                   0.120291
                        0.366063
## initial.phonemevowel -0.426730
                                   0.174045 -2.452 0.01421 *
                                   0.223124 15.704 < 2e-16 ***
## prep_typeprep_v/na
                        3.503915
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr) sexf
                            yr.f.b ed_lv- lng_fT nnstnd intl.p
## sexf
               0.034
## year.f.brth -0.824 -0.231
## ed_lvlsnn-h -0.081 0.012 -0.034
## lng_fmlyTrk -0.090 0.087 -0.082 0.102
## nnstndrdnss -0.461 -0.097 0.257 -0.414 -0.006
## intl.phnmvw -0.020 0.025 -0.005 -0.008 -0.008 -0.005
## prp_typpr_/ -0.346 -0.004 -0.008 0.007 0.009 0.070 -0.070
```

After that I am trying to choose the best model based on AIC.

```
drop1(glmer.res, test = "Chisq")
```

```
## Single term deletions
##
## Model:
## omitted ~ sex + year.of.birth + ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness +
       initial.phoneme + prep_type + (1 | respondent)
##
##
                  npar
                           AIC
                                 LRT Pr(Chi)
## <none>
                        1588.2
                     1 1586.2
                                 0.01 0.91855
## sex
## year.of.birth
                     1 1587.2
                                 0.96 0.32629
## ed_levels
                     1 1587.2
                                 1.02 0.31311
## lang_family
                     1 1589.9
                                 3.67 0.05530
## nonstandardness
                     1 1594.8
                                 8.58 0.00340 **
## initial.phoneme
                     1 1592.3
                                 6.15 0.01312 *
                      1 2086.6 500.42 < 2e-16 ***
## prep_type
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

The line which has the smallest AIC is sex, so I remove sex.

```
glmer.res2 <- glmer (omitted ~ year.of.birth + ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phon</pre>
summary(glmer.res2)
## Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace
    Approximation) [glmerMod]
  Family: binomial (logit)
## Formula: omitted ~ year.of.birth + ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness +
##
       initial.phoneme + prep_type + (1 | respondent)
     Data: log_dat
## Control: glmerControl(optimizer = "bobyqa")
##
##
       AIC
                BIC
                      logLik deviance df.resid
##
    1586.2
             1632.3
                     -785.1
                              1570.2
                                          2342
##
## Scaled residuals:
##
      Min
               1Q Median
                               30
## -2.1205 -0.4076 -0.1321 -0.0707 17.5168
##
## Random effects:
## Groups
              Name
                          Variance Std.Dev.
## respondent (Intercept) 0.5857
                                   0.7653
## Number of obs: 2350, groups: respondent, 47
##
## Fixed effects:
##
                        Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)
                       -4.660779 0.616411 -7.561
                                                      4e-14 ***
## year.of.birth
                       ## ed_levelsnon-higher 0.296038
                                  0.290584
                                            1.019 0.30831
## lang_familyTurkic
                        0.623800
                                   0.316189
                                            1.973 0.04851 *
## nonstandardness
                        0.367283
                                   0.119757
                                             3.067 0.00216 **
## initial.phonemevowel -0.427187
                                   0.173991 -2.455 0.01408 *
                        3.504032
                                   0.223122 15.705 < 2e-16 ***
## prep_typeprep_v/na
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
              (Intr) yr.f.b ed_lv- lng_fT nnstnd intl.p
## year.f.brth -0.839
## ed_lvlsnn-h -0.082 -0.032
## lng_fmlyTrk -0.093 -0.064 0.101
## nnstndrdnss -0.460 0.243 -0.415 0.003
## intl.phnmvw -0.021 0.000 -0.008 -0.010 -0.003
## prp_typpr_/ -0.346 -0.009 0.007 0.009 0.070 -0.070
drop1(glmer.res2, test = "Chisq")
## Single term deletions
## Model:
## omitted ~ year.of.birth + ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness +
      initial.phoneme + prep_type + (1 | respondent)
##
                          AIC
                                LRT
                                      Pr(Chi)
##
                  npar
```

```
## <none>
                        1586.2
                     1 1585.2
                                 0.97 0.324629
## year.of.birth
## ed levels
                     1 1585.2
                                 1.01 0.313735
## lang_family
                      1 1587.9
                                 3.67 0.055497 .
## nonstandardness
                      1 1592.9
                                 8.70 0.003188 **
## initial.phoneme
                     1 1590.4
                                 6.17 0.012995 *
## prep_type
                      1 2084.8 500.55 < 2.2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
The lines which have the smallest AIC is year.of.birth and ed_levels, so I remove year.of.birth.
glmer.res3 <- glmer (omitted ~ ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme + prep_type</pre>
summary(glmer.res3)
## Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace
     Approximation) [glmerMod]
  Family: binomial (logit)
##
## omitted ~ ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme +
       prep_type + (1 | respondent)
##
##
      Data: log_dat
## Control: glmerControl(optimizer = "bobyqa")
##
##
        AIC
                 BIC
                      logLik deviance df.resid
     1585.2
                      -785.6
##
              1625.5
                               1571.2
                                           2343
##
## Scaled residuals:
##
      Min
                1Q Median
                                3Q
  -2.0955 -0.4012 -0.1346 -0.0696 17.8065
##
## Random effects:
## Groups
              Name
                           Variance Std.Dev.
## respondent (Intercept) 0.5969
                                    0.7726
## Number of obs: 2350, groups: respondent, 47
## Fixed effects:
                        Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)
                                     0.3362 -15.402 < 2e-16 ***
                         -5.1775
## ed_levelsnon-higher
                          0.2864
                                     0.2925 0.979 0.327524
## lang_familyTurkic
                          0.6038
                                     0.3178
                                             1.900 0.057387 .
## nonstandardness
                          0.3969
                                     0.1169
                                              3.395 0.000687 ***
## initial.phonemevowel -0.4279
                                     0.1739 -2.460 0.013889 *
## prep_typeprep_v/na
                          3.5047
                                     0.2230 15.717 < 2e-16 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
               (Intr) ed_lv- lng_fT nnstnd intl.p
## ed_lvlsnn-h -0.200
## lng_fmlyTrk -0.271 0.099
## nnstndrdnss -0.487 -0.421 0.019
## intl.phnmvw -0.038 -0.008 -0.010 -0.003
## prp_typpr_/ -0.649 0.007 0.008 0.074 -0.070
```

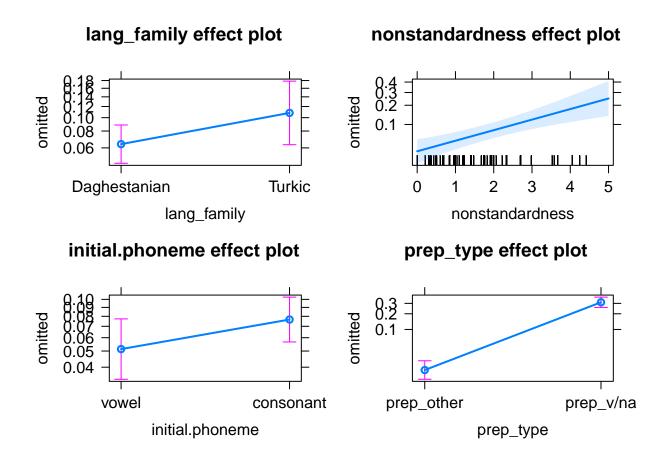
```
drop1(glmer.res3, test = "Chisq")
## Single term deletions
##
## Model:
## omitted ~ ed_levels + lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme +
       prep_type + (1 | respondent)
##
                           AIC
                                  LRT
                                        Pr(Chi)
                   npar
## <none>
                        1585.2
## ed levels
                      1 1584.1
                                 0.94 0.332832
## lang_family
                      1 1586.6
                                 3.41 0.064783 .
## nonstandardness
                      1 1593.7 10.52 0.001182 **
## initial.phoneme
                      1 1589.4
                                 6.19 0.012825 *
## prep_type
                      1 2084.2 501.05 < 2.2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
The line which has the smallest AIC is ed_levels, so I remove ed_levels.
glmer.res4 <- glmer (omitted ~ lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme + prep_type + (1|respond
summary(glmer.res4)
## Generalized linear mixed model fit by maximum likelihood (Laplace
     Approximation) [glmerMod]
## Family: binomial (logit)
## omitted ~ lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme + prep_type +
       (1 | respondent)
##
      Data: log_dat
##
## Control: glmerControl(optimizer = "bobyqa")
##
##
        AIC
                       logLik deviance df.resid
                 BIC
##
     1584.1
              1618.7
                       -786.1
                               1572.1
                                           2344
##
## Scaled residuals:
##
      Min
                1Q Median
                                3Q
## -2.0888 -0.3847 -0.1340 -0.0667 18.5750
##
## Random effects:
## Groups
              Name
                           Variance Std.Dev.
## respondent (Intercept) 0.6195
## Number of obs: 2350, groups: respondent, 47
## Fixed effects:
                        Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
                                     0.3317 -15.430 < 2e-16 ***
## (Intercept)
                         -5.1178
## lang_familyTurkic
                          0.5725
                                     0.3210
                                              1.783
                                                      0.0745 .
## nonstandardness
                          0.4461
                                     0.1075
                                              4.148 3.35e-05 ***
## initial.phonemevowel -0.4273
                                     0.1740 - 2.456
                                                      0.0141 *
## prep_typeprep_v/na
                          3.5060
                                     0.2229 15.726 < 2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr) lng_fT nnstnd intl.p
## lng_fmlyTrk -0.257
## nnstndrdnss -0.645 0.065
## intl.phnmvw -0.040 -0.009 -0.007
## prp_typpr_/ -0.656 0.007 0.084 -0.071
drop1(glmer.res4, test = "Chisq")
## Single term deletions
## Model:
## omitted ~ lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme + prep_type +
##
       (1 | respondent)
##
                  npar
                           AIC
                                 LRT
                                       Pr(Chi)
## <none>
                        1584.1
## lang_family
                     1 1585.1
                               3.02 0.0820835 .
                     1 1597.1 14.95 0.0001102 ***
## nonstandardness
## initial.phoneme
                     1 1588.3
                                6.17 0.0130045 *
## prep_type
                     1 2083.7 501.54 < 2.2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
```

The line which has the smallest AIC is <none>, so this is the best model.

I visualize the obtained model with effects package.

```
log_dat$initial.phoneme<- relevel(log_dat$initial.phoneme, ref = "vowel")
glmer.res4 <- glmer (omitted ~ lang_family + nonstandardness + initial.phoneme + prep_type + (1|respond
plot(allEffects(glmer.res4))</pre>
```



#### 3.2. Does preposition drop pattern significantly correlate with nonstandardness?

As an additional observation, in the paper we note that context type and preposition type reveal the existence of three groups of speakers in the sample.

The groups are the following:

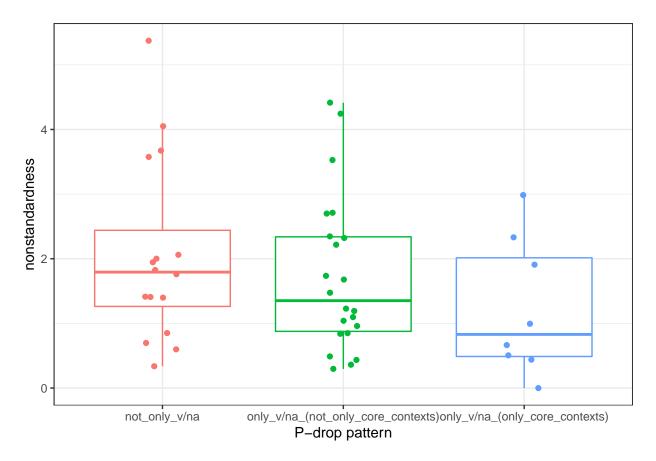
- speakers who only omit prepositions v 'in(to)', na 'on(to)' and only in core contexts\*
- speakers who only omit prepositions v 'in(to)', na 'on(to)' in core and non-core contexts
- speakers who omit prepositions v 'in(to)', na 'on(to)' in core and non-core contexts and also omit other prepositions

\*Core contexts are contexts where the prepositional complement is a toponym, an exact temporal location or an institution. Non-core contexts are all other contexts.

A natural question to ask at this point is whether the observed patterns correlate with the speakers' command of Standard Russian. Below I am trying to check this hypothesis.

For each speaker we annotated his/her pattern (membership in one of three groups), so I load the csv file with annotation of speakers one more time, and clean it a little (this chunk is not included because of the problem with cyrillic charachters).

We can see from the figure that the smaller the average number of non-standard features (the better the command of Standard Russian), the narrower the range of environments with preposition drop.



However, the difference between the groups does not reach statistical significance (p = 0.32, ANOVA test).

This is the end of the statistical part of the research. In the paper we disuss the obtained results also in light of some cross-linguistic considerations.