Variation in the use of case endings in formal Arabic speech styles

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April 9–11 2015

Corpus

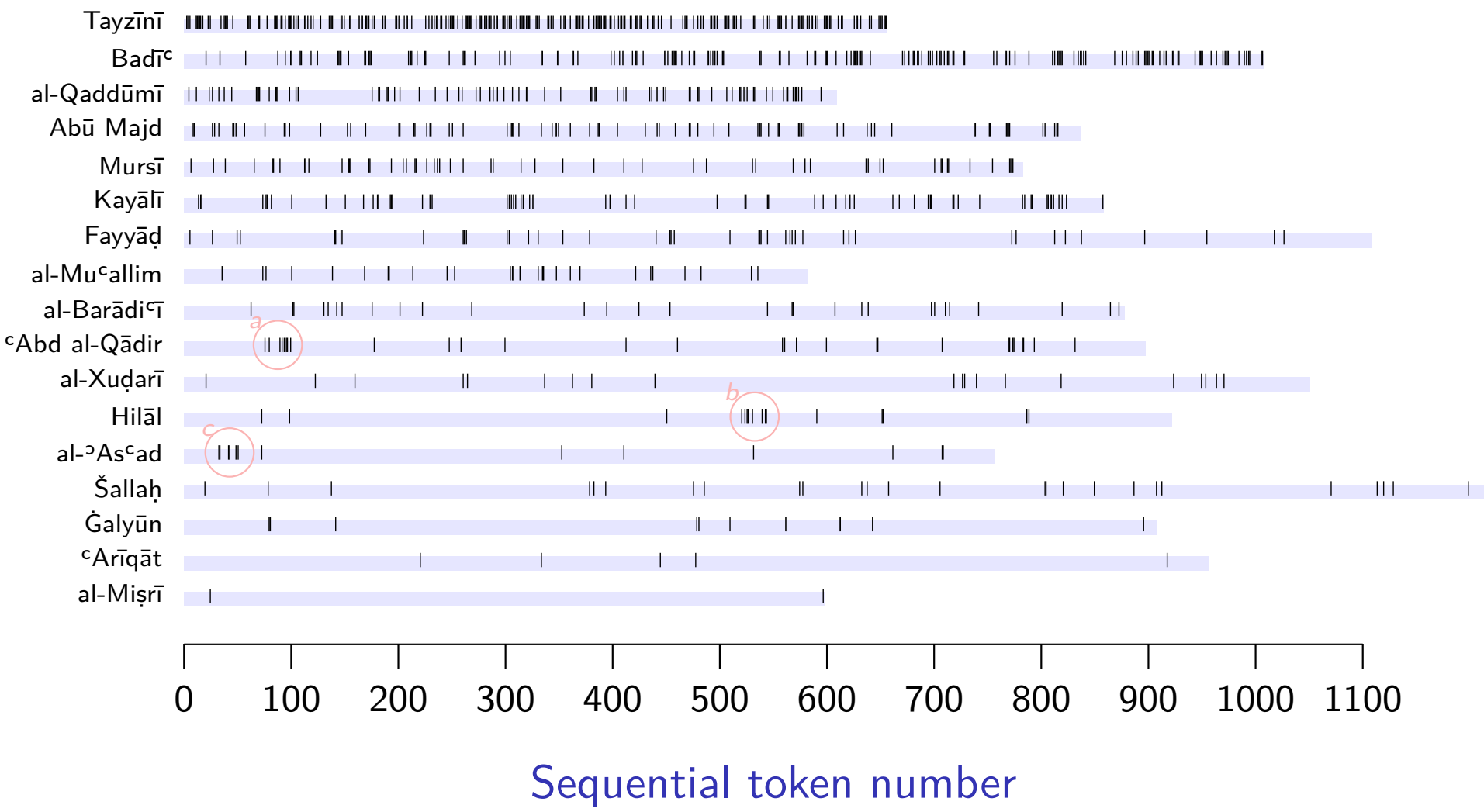
*INF: wlm tkn fy ywm$HED:GEN/PRE:IND:TRI:XXX mn
´l#áy´m$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM sryp$HED:ACC/KAN:IND:TRI:UNM km´ yẓn
´l#bʿḍ$HED:NOM/VSO:ART:TRI:UNM lán ´l#sryp$HED:ACC/INN:ART:TRI:UNM
mʿn´-h´$HED:NOM/TOP:PRO:ALF:NOC šyʾ-uu$HED:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:MAR
āxr$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:DIP:UNM fy ´l#ádʿ-a$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:AMB
´l#tnẓymy$ATT:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM . •
*INF: ám´ ´l#íxw´n$HED:NOM/TOP:ART:TRI:UNM k´nw´ lhm
tršyḥ´t$HED:NOM/TOP:IND:SFP:UNM fy
´l#mj´ls-i$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:DIP:AMB ´l#ny´byp$ATT:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM
fy 84[N] wfy 87[N] wfy 95[N] wfy álf-yn$HED:GEN/PRE:IND:DUA:AMB wfy
2005[N] wfy 2010[N] . •
*INF: f´l#íxw´n$HED:NOM/SVO:ART:TRI:UNM k´nw´
d´ẏm-´aa$HED:ACC/ADV:IND:TRI:MAR yʿmlwn fy
´l#ʿln$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM b#kl$HED:GEN/PRE:CON:TRI:UNM
wḍwḥ$HED:GEN/ABS:IND:TRI:UNM +/. •
*INT: lkn hḍh áwl mrp tʿml fy íṭ´r sy´sy ḥzby . •
*INF: āh yʿny hḍh áwl$HED:NOM/COM:CON:DIP:UNM mrp$HED:GEN/ABS:IND:TRI:UNM
ykwn l#jmʿ´p$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM ḥzb$HED:NOM/VSO:IND:TRI:UNM
lánn´ kn´ wm´ zln´ nqwl ánuh ´l#ʿml-i$HED:NOM/FII:ART:TRI:AMB
´l#sy´sy$ATT:NOM/FII:ART:TRI:UNM wm´ k´nt tm´rsh
jmʿ´p-a$HED:NOM/VSO:CON:TRI:AMB <´l#íxw´n ´l#mslmyn>[P] mn
ʿml$HED:GEN/PRE:IND:TRI:UNM sy´sy$ATT:GEN/PRE:IND:TRI:UNM ínahu
ʿml$HED:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM šrʿy$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM
w#q´nwny$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM w#dstwry$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM . •
*INF: wqd dlln´ ʿlý ḏlk fy ḥyn-ih$HED:GEN/PRE:PRO:TRI:MAR . •
*INF: ám´ wán jmʿ´p-a$HED:ACC/INN:CON:TRI:AMB <´l#íxw´n ´l#mslmyn>["] fy

Research question

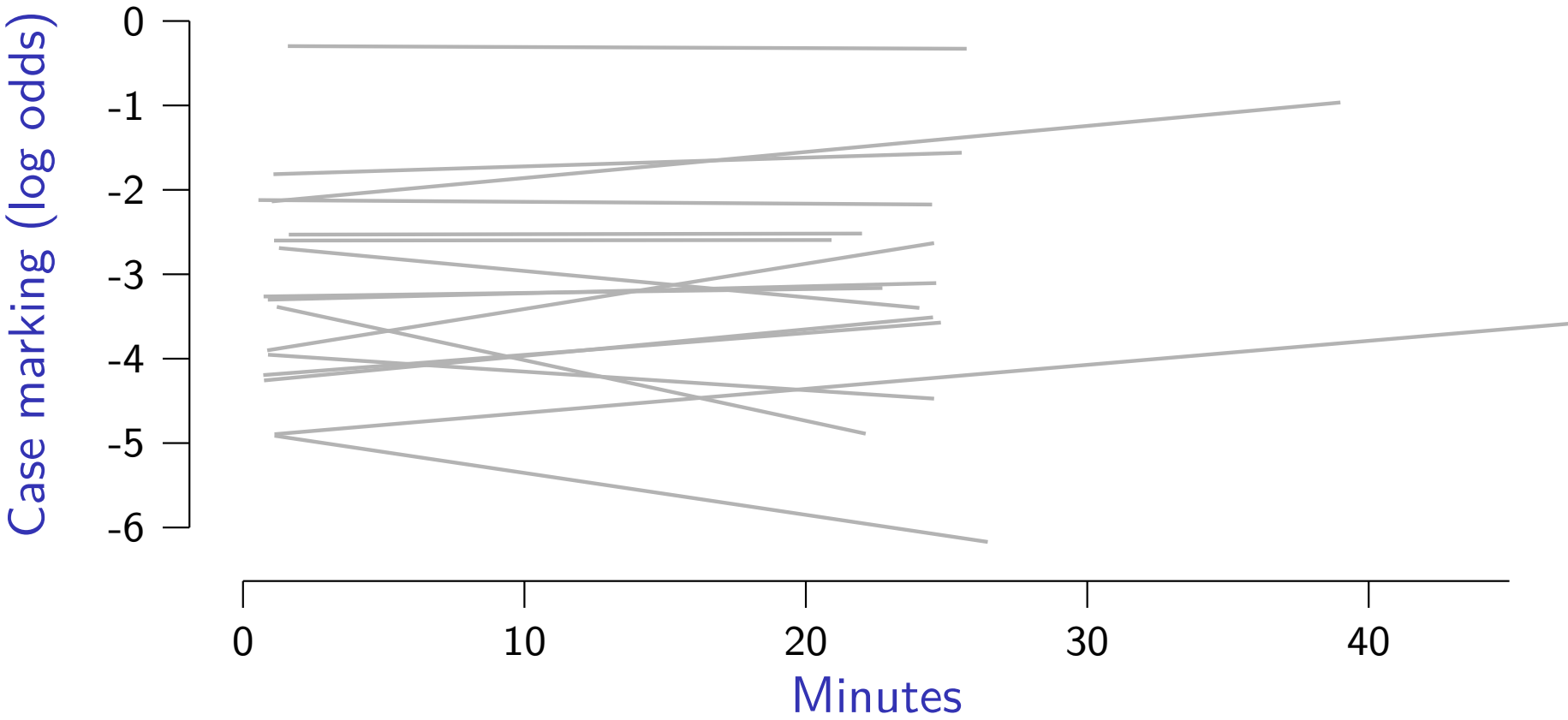
Internalzied and productive?

- Maintainability ('discourse drift')
- Fixed phrases

Discourse drift



Discourse drift



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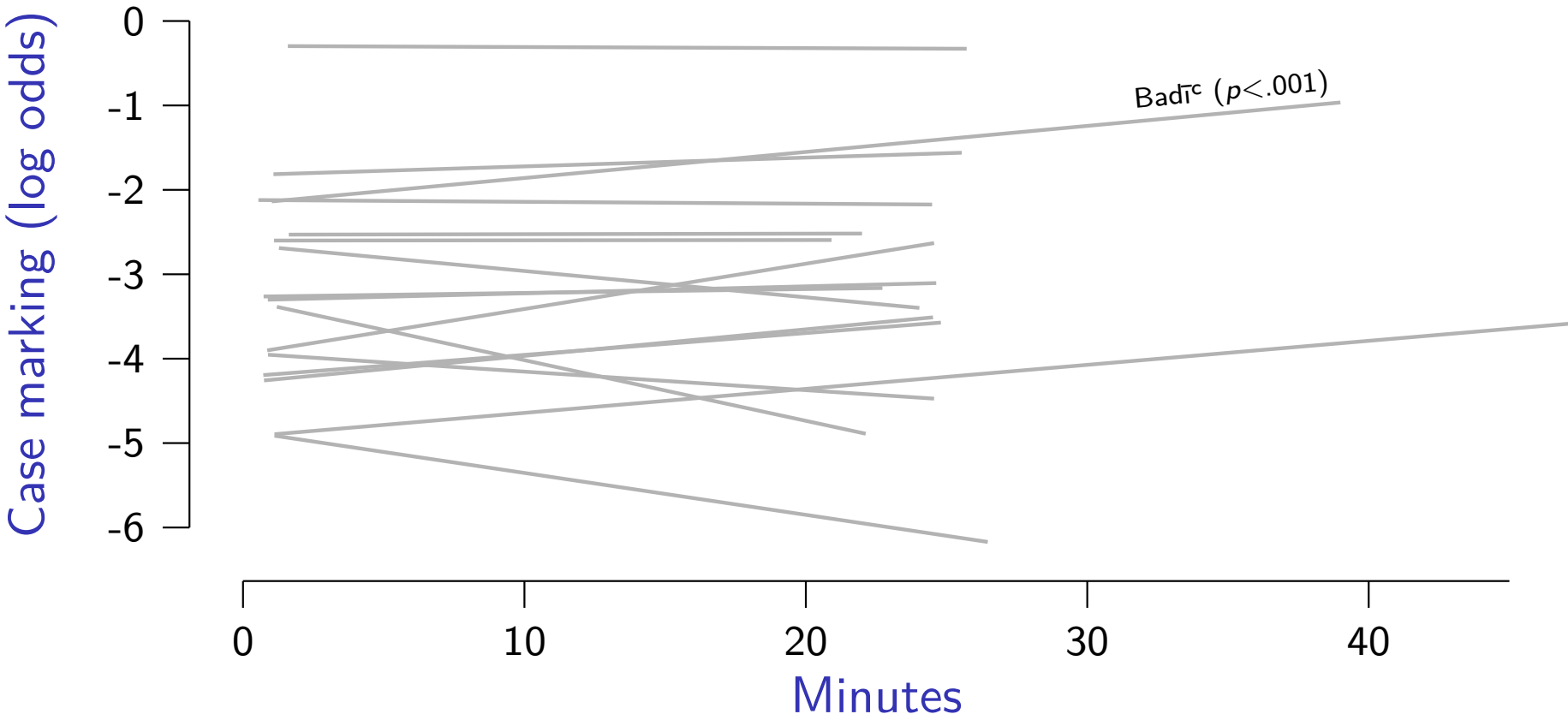

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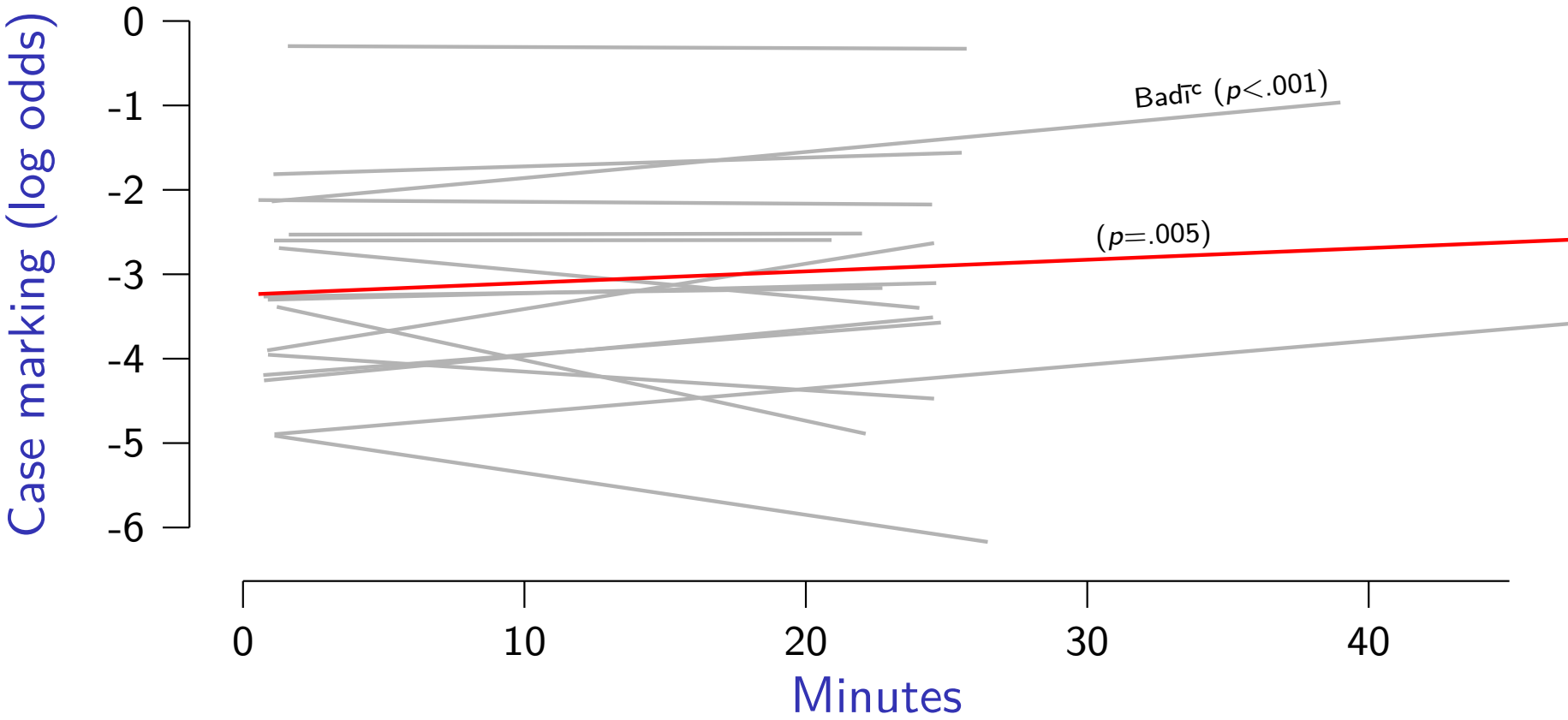

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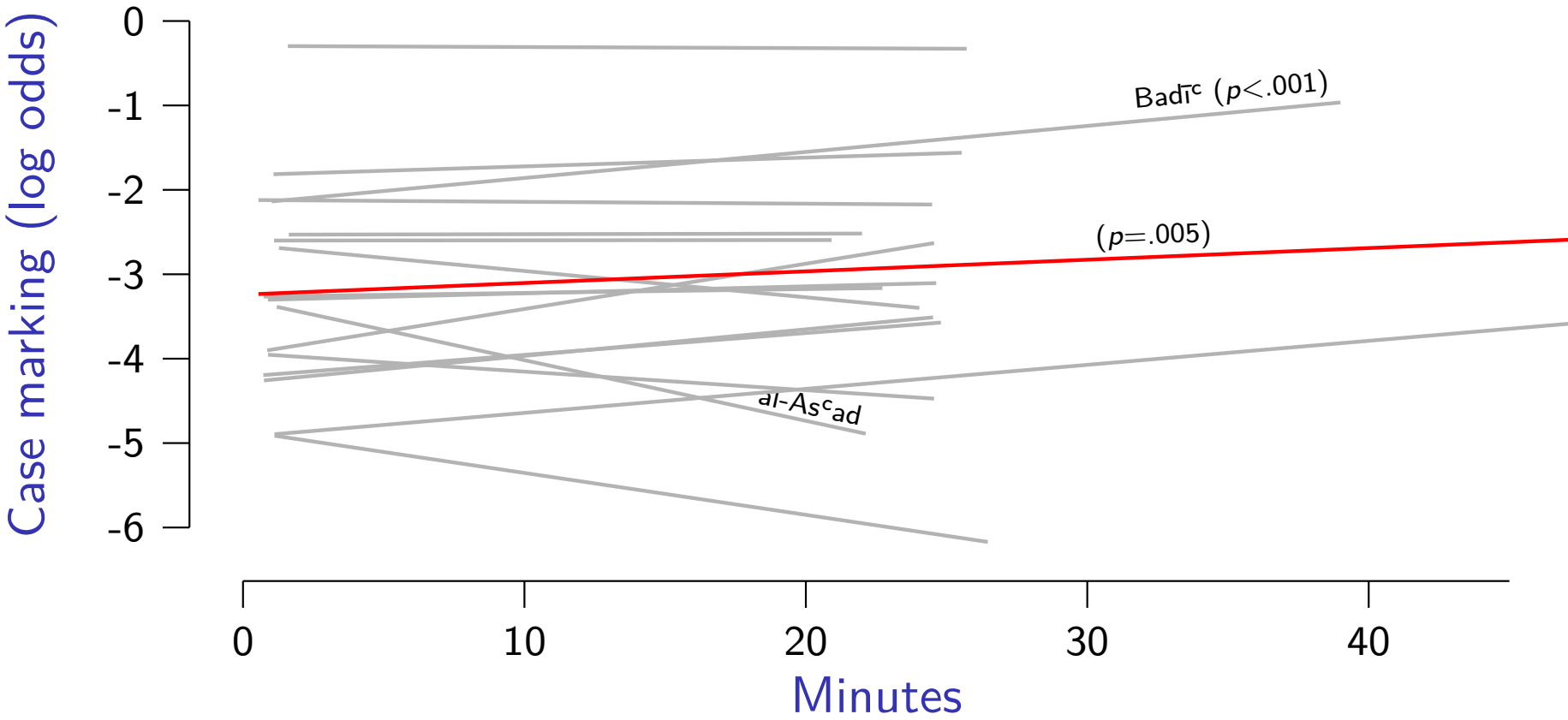

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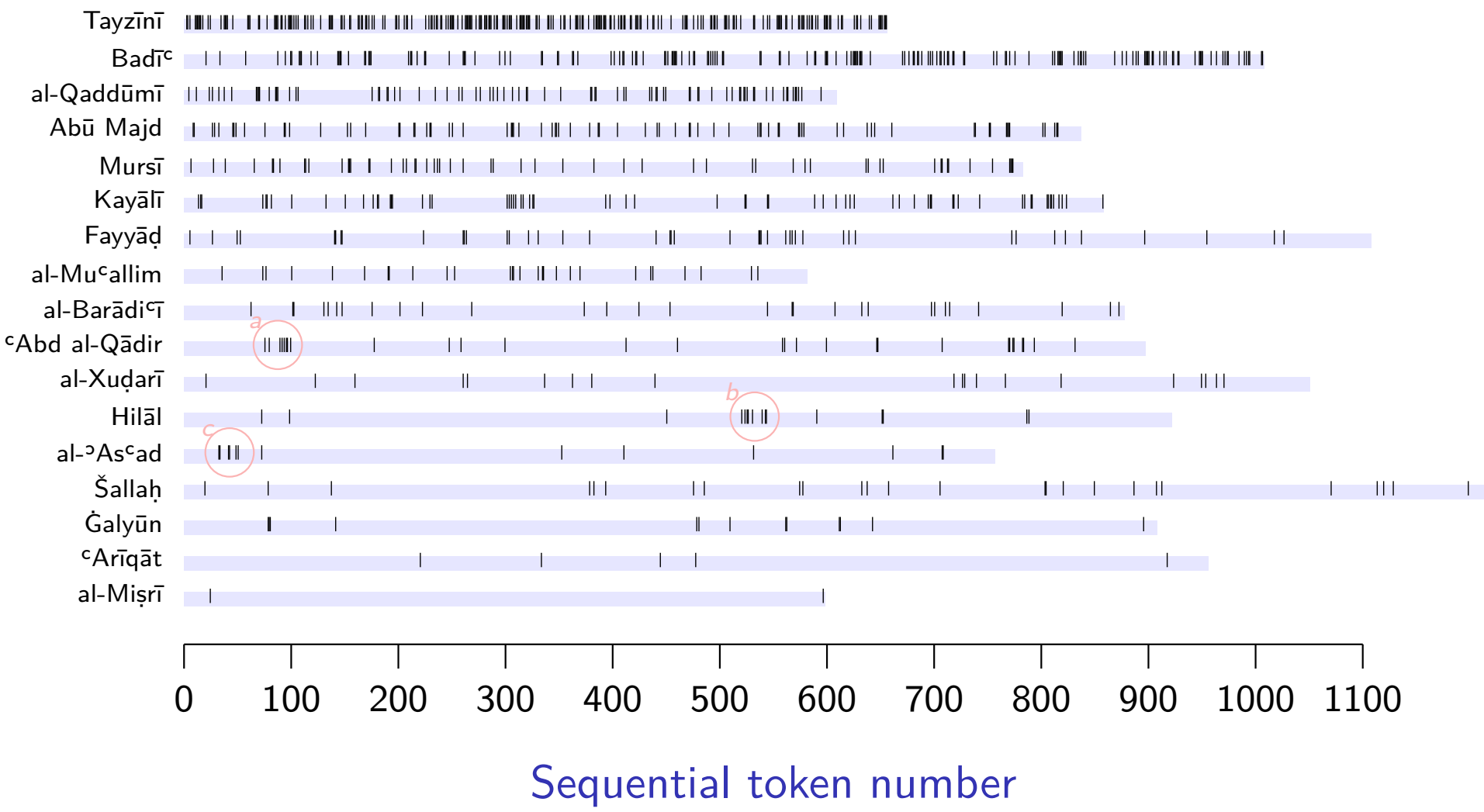

Fixed phrases

bi-šakl-in	*ADJ*
in-way-GEN	ADJ
‘in an ADJ way’	

la	*šakk-a*
no	doubt-ACC
‘[there is] no doubt’	

Fixed phrases

bi-šakl-in	*ADJ*
in-way-GEN	ADJ
‘in an ADJ way’	

la	*šakk-a*
no	doubt-ACC
‘[there is] no doubt’	

a stem-suffix combination occurring in the same syntactic position three or more times in one interview.

Fixed phrases

Speaker	Total	In fixed phrases
Tayzīnī	241	20
Badīᶜ	174	15
al-Qaddūmī	80	11
Abū Majd	80	–
Mursī	57	3
Kayālī	68	–
Fayyāḍ	44	4
al-Muᶜallim	28	–
al-Barādiᶜī	29	11
ᶜAbd al-Qādir	29	5
al-Xuḍarī	20	3
Hilāl	16	6
al-ʾAsᶜad	13	–
Šallaḥ	35	–
Ġalyūn	13	–
ᶜArīqāt	5	–
al-Miṣrī	2	–
Total	934	78

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al-Barādiᶜī	29	11	*NUM ᶜāman* (8)
ᶜAbd al-Qādir	29	5	Rhetoric repetition
al-Xuḍarī	20	3	
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al-ʾAsᶜad	13	–	
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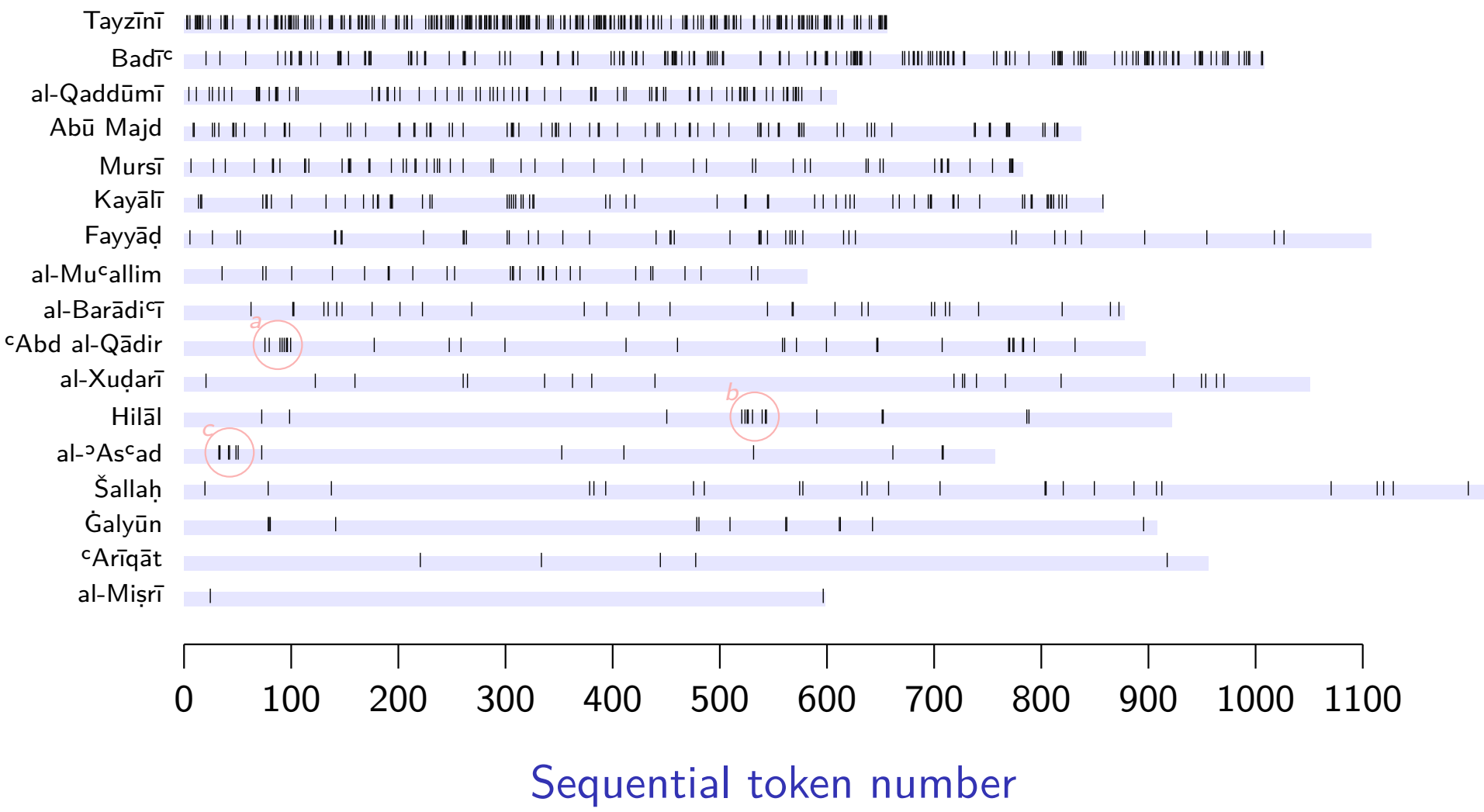

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Conlcusion

- Proficient speakers develop styles with maintanable rates of case marking
- Fixed phrases play a minor role