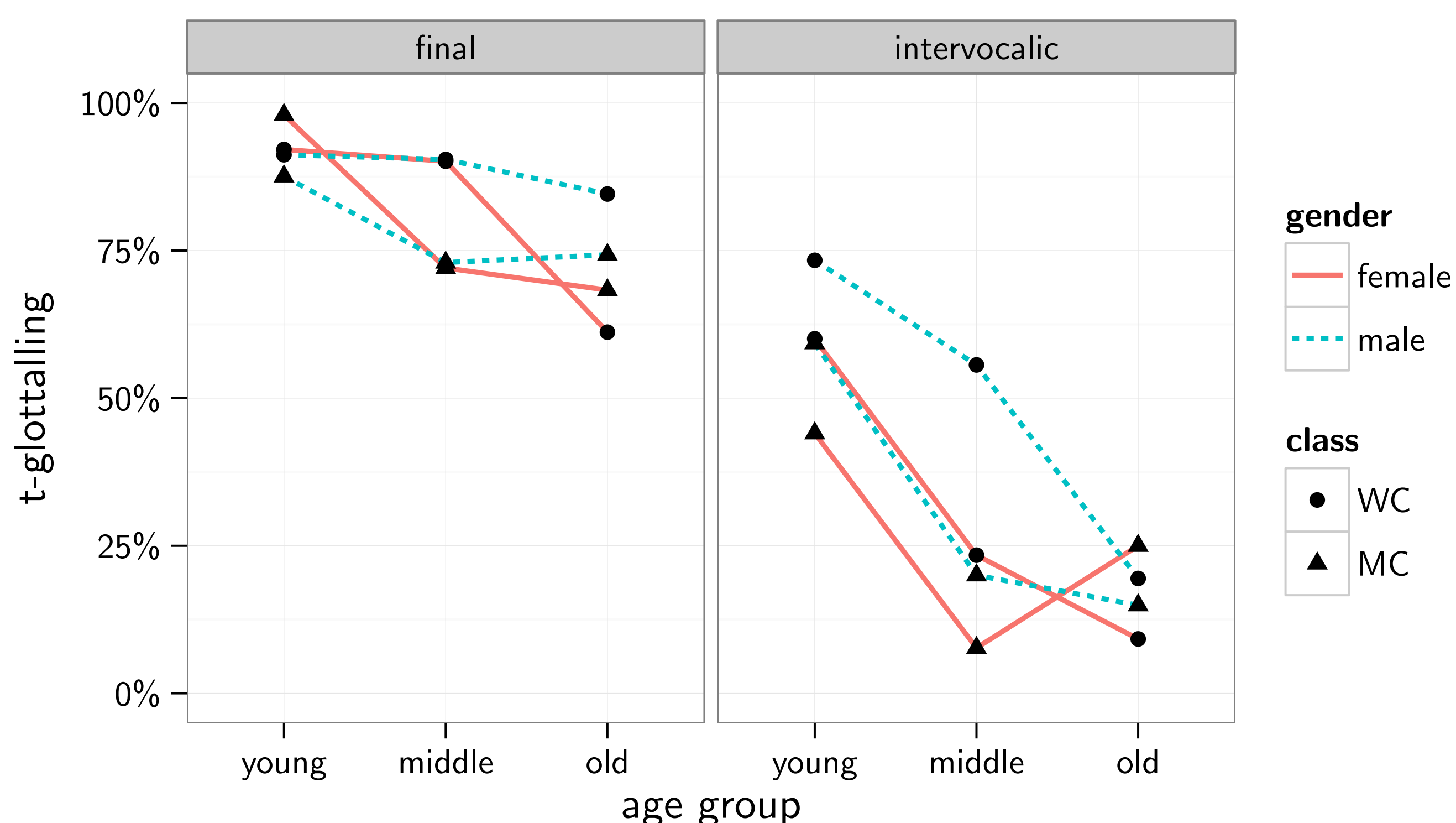


## Introduction

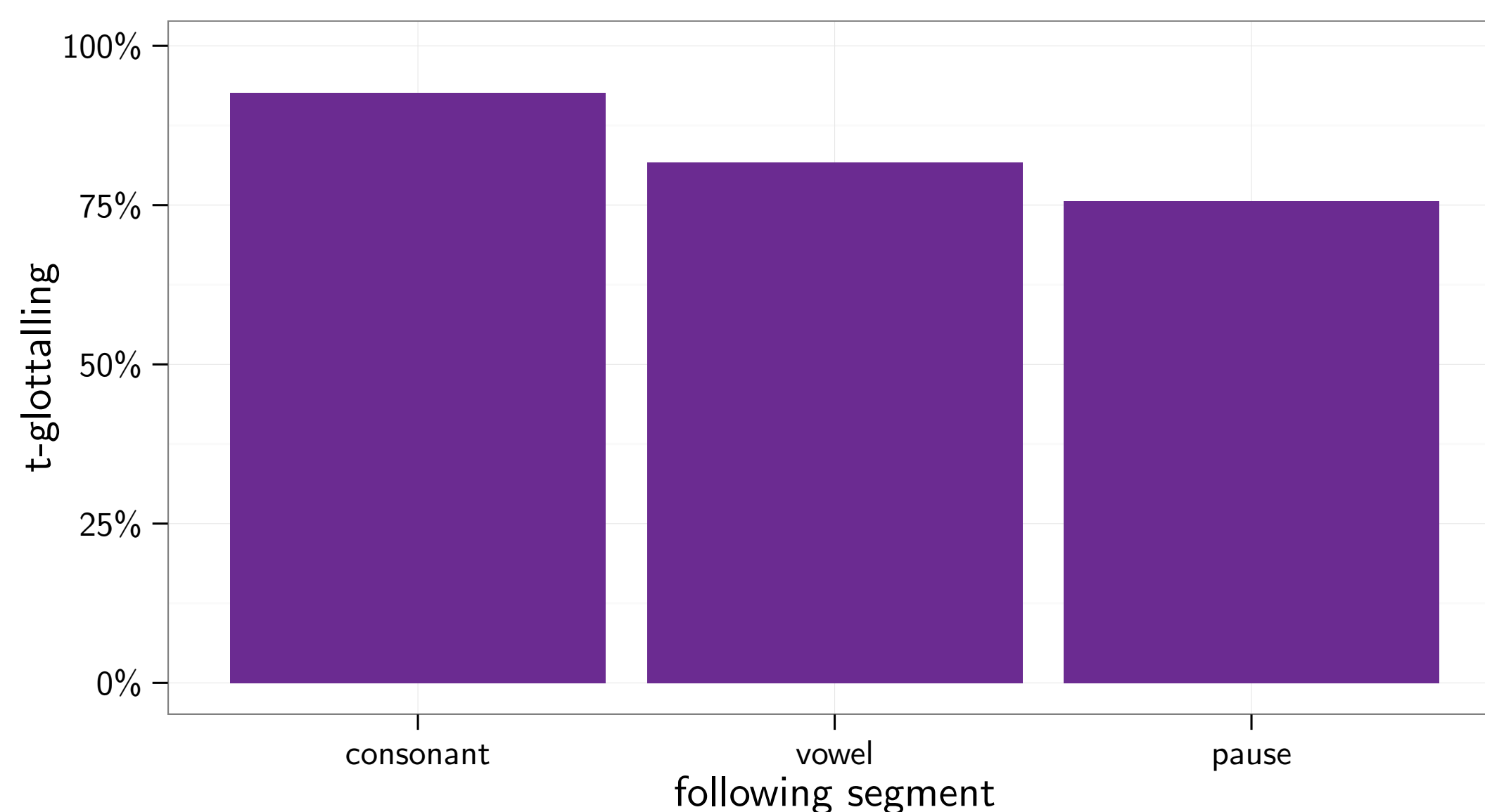
- ▶ Despite Manchester's status of one of the largest and most prominent cities in Britain, the accent has been under-researched in comparison with other dialect areas of the UK, particularly in terms of large-scale phonetic analysis.
- ▶ This study focusses on three consonantal variables: t-glottalling, th-fronting and h-dropping.
- ▶ In this study, sociolinguistic interviews with 86 speakers (39 female, 46 male, aged 11 - 81) were subjected to auditory analysis of the three variables.
- ▶ All data were analysed using R and lme4 package (Bates and Maechler 2009) by use of generalised mixed effects logistic regression, using speaker and word as random effects.
- ▶ The predictors for all models included age, gender, social class, preceding and following segment, position in the word, as well as grammatical category (h-dropping only) and voicing (th-fronting only).
- ▶ Full statistical analysis can be found in Baranowski and Turton (2014).

## t-glottalling

- ▶ T-glottalling, the phonological process whereby /t/ is replaced with a glottal stop in non-initial position, has been reported for accents all over the UK (Foulkes and Docherty 1999) and Manchester is no exception.

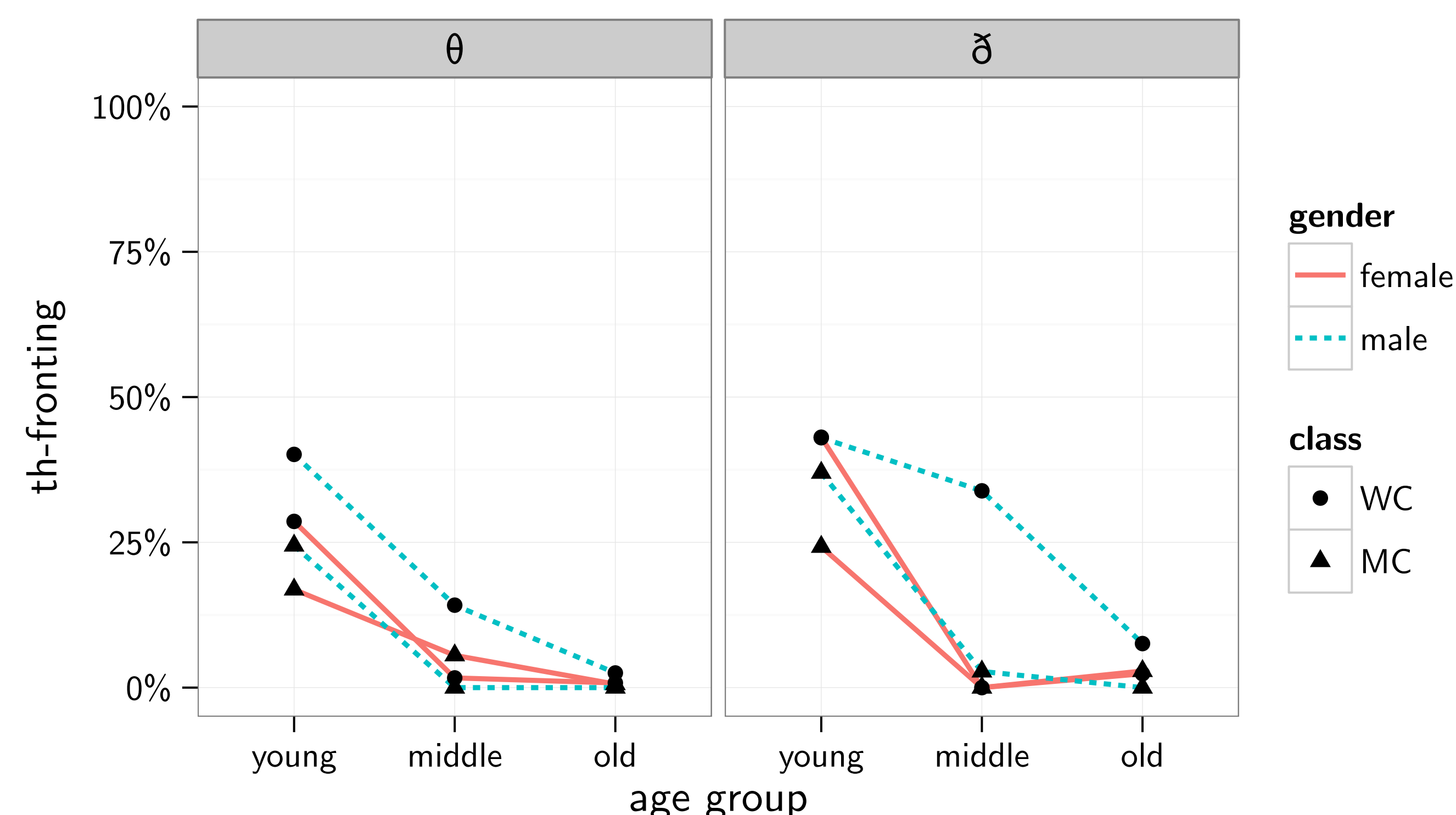


- ▶ Word-final glottalling is ahead of intervocalic glottalling.
- ▶ All three sociolinguistic predictors of intervocalic t-glottalling (gender, age and social class) are significant.
- ▶ For word-final t-glottalling, age is the only significant social predictor, as well as the linguistic predictor of following segment:

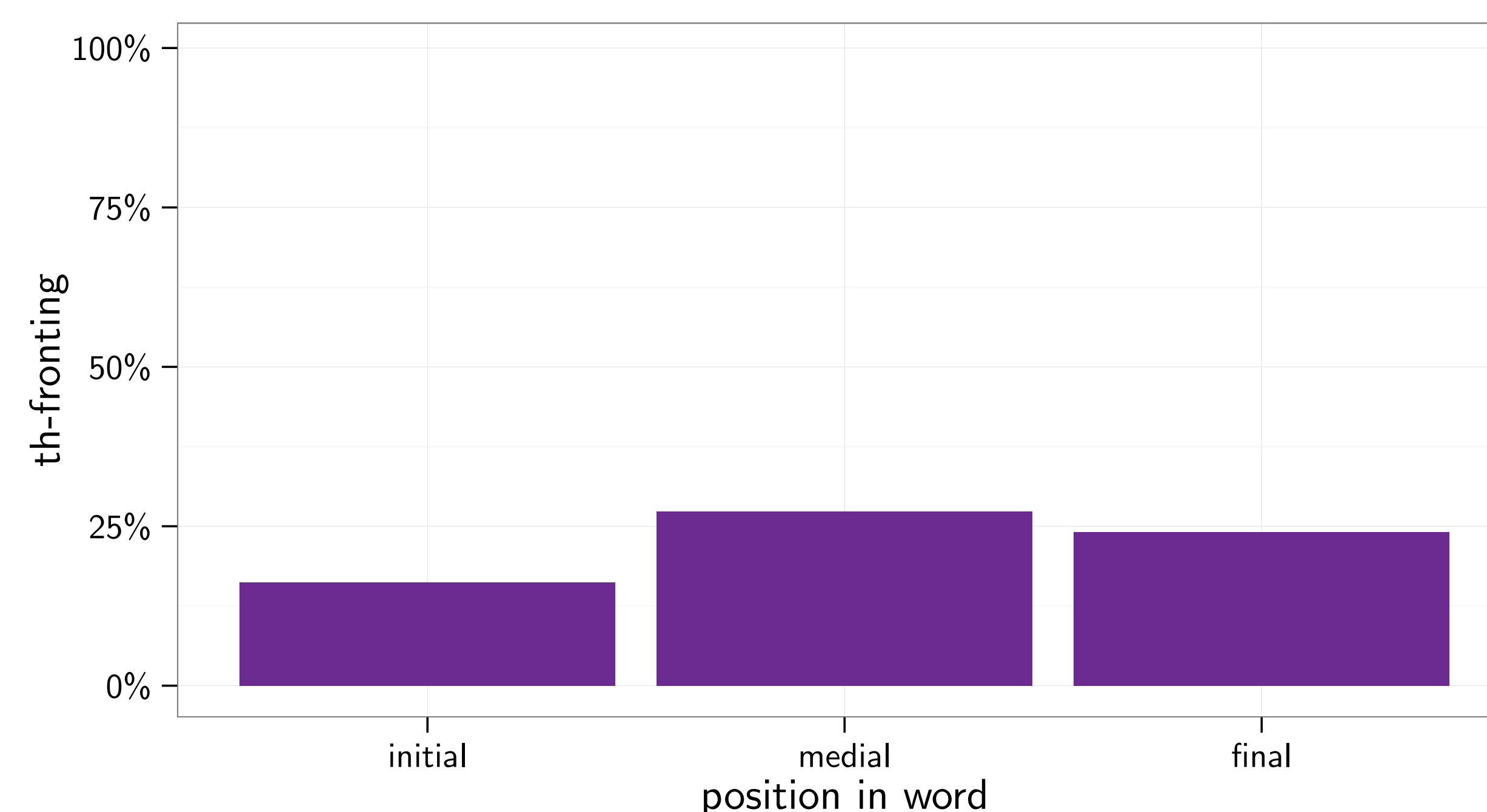


## th-fronting

- ▶ Fronting of the dental fricatives /θ, ð/ to labiodental /f, v/ is said to be one of the fastest spreading phonological changes in non-standard English (Trudgill 1999).
- ▶ Initial /ð/ words, such as function words *these*, *those*, *them* do not undergo th-fronting and are excluded from this analysis.



- ▶ Age and gender are significant social predictors of th-fronting
- ▶ Unsurprisingly, younger speakers are leading this change in Manchester.
- ▶ Voicing is significant, with the change originating in voiced segments before voiceless ones (see also Williams and Kerswill 1999; Llamas 1998; Britain 2009).
- ▶ Working class males seem to be the innovators with th-fronting in Manchester, also found for Edinburgh, Milton Keynes, Reading and Middlesbrough.



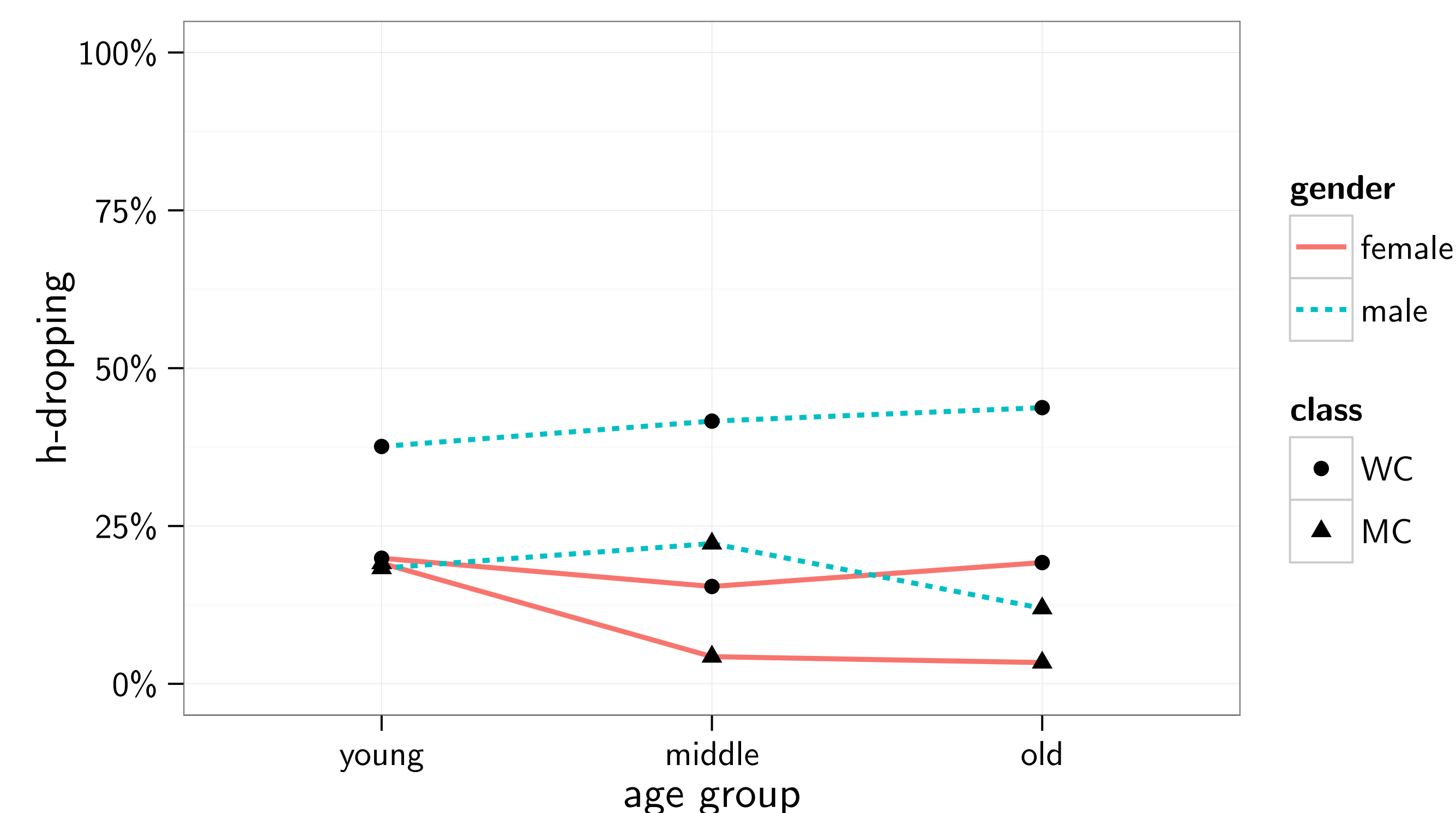
- ▶ Position is significant, with medial position favouring fronting.
- ▶ Following segment is another significant linguistic predictor, with following pauses more likely to result in a fronted variant, i.e. phrase-final variants.

## References

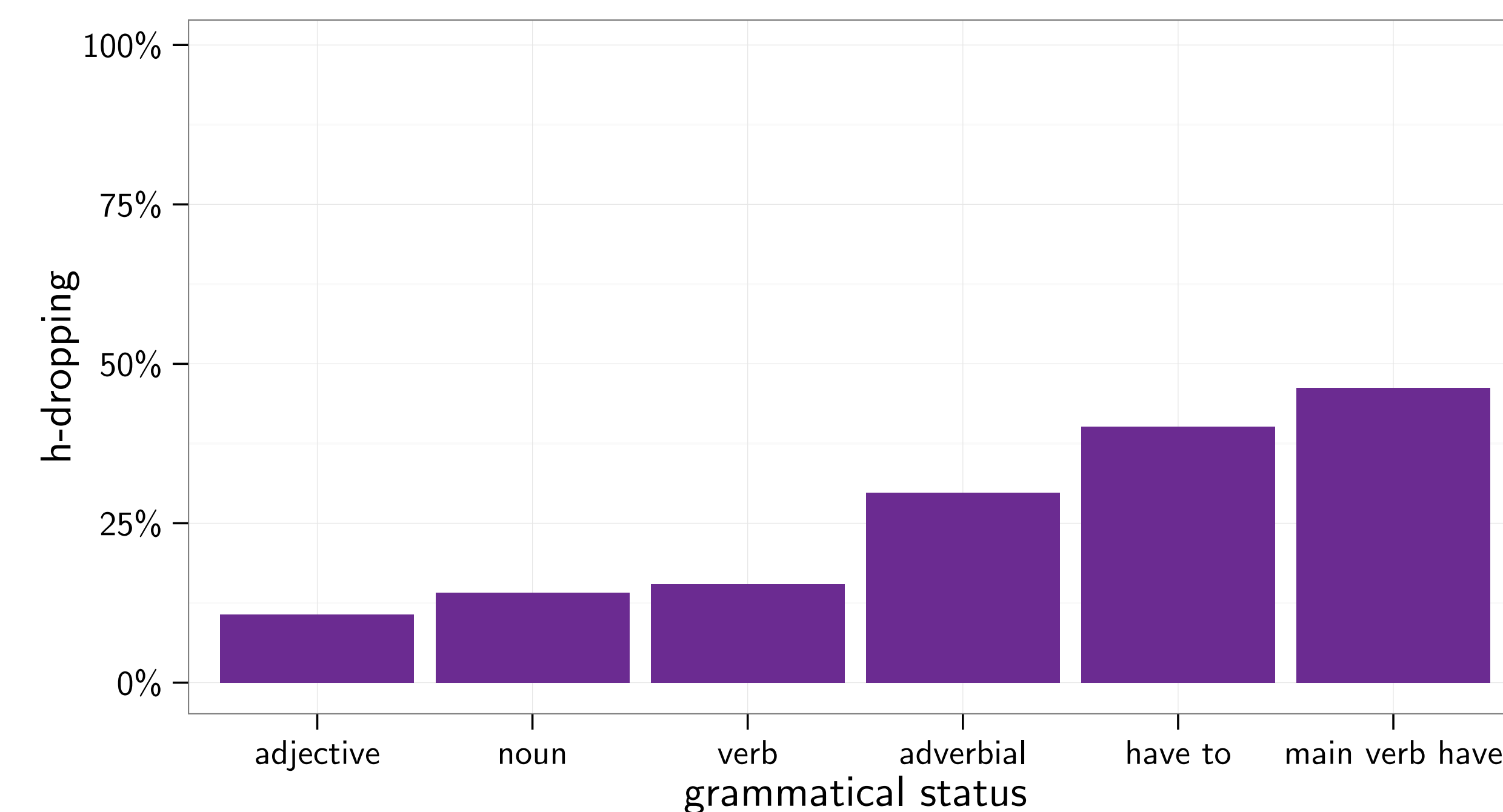
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## h-dropping

- ▶ h-dropping, e.g. 'ouse for *house*, has been reported in dialects across Britain for hundreds of years.
- ▶ It is often cited as a typical example of stable variation, as speakers of all ages tend to show equal usage of the dropped variant within their social category.
- ▶ Unstressed auxiliaries, such as *have*, *has*, *had*, and pronouns such as *he*, *her*, *his* are excluded from analyses of h-dropping in this study.



- ▶ Gender and class are significant sociolinguistic predictors of h-dropping.
- ▶ Age is not significant, confirmed the stability of this variable in Manchester.
- ▶ Position is significant, with phrase-initial /h/ less-likely to be dropped.



- ▶ Grammatical category is a significant linguistic predictor, as main verb *have* is more likely to exhibit h-dropping than adverbials, which in turn are significantly more likely to drop (h) than nouns, verbs and adjectives.

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