

# Chinese Causative Constructions with *shi*, *ling* and *rang*: A Cross-variety Perspective

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## INTRODUCTION

### Chinese analytic causative construction

火灾 使/让/令 多处建筑 倒塌。  
*Huǒzāi shǐ/ràng/lìng duōchùjiànzhù dǎotā.*

The fire  
**CAUSER**

caused  
**AUX**

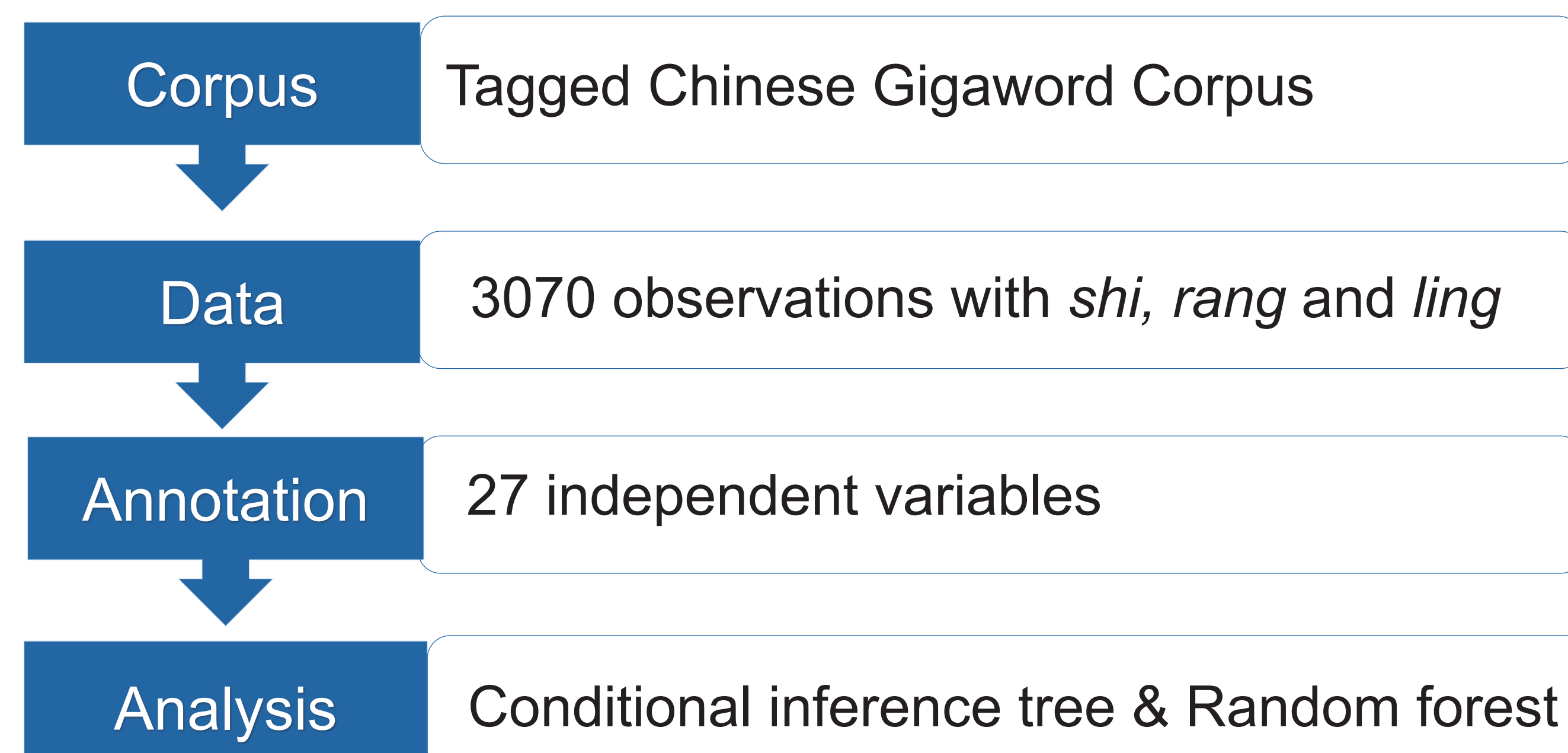
many buildings  
**CAUSEE**

to collapse.  
**EFFECTED  
PREDICATE**

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

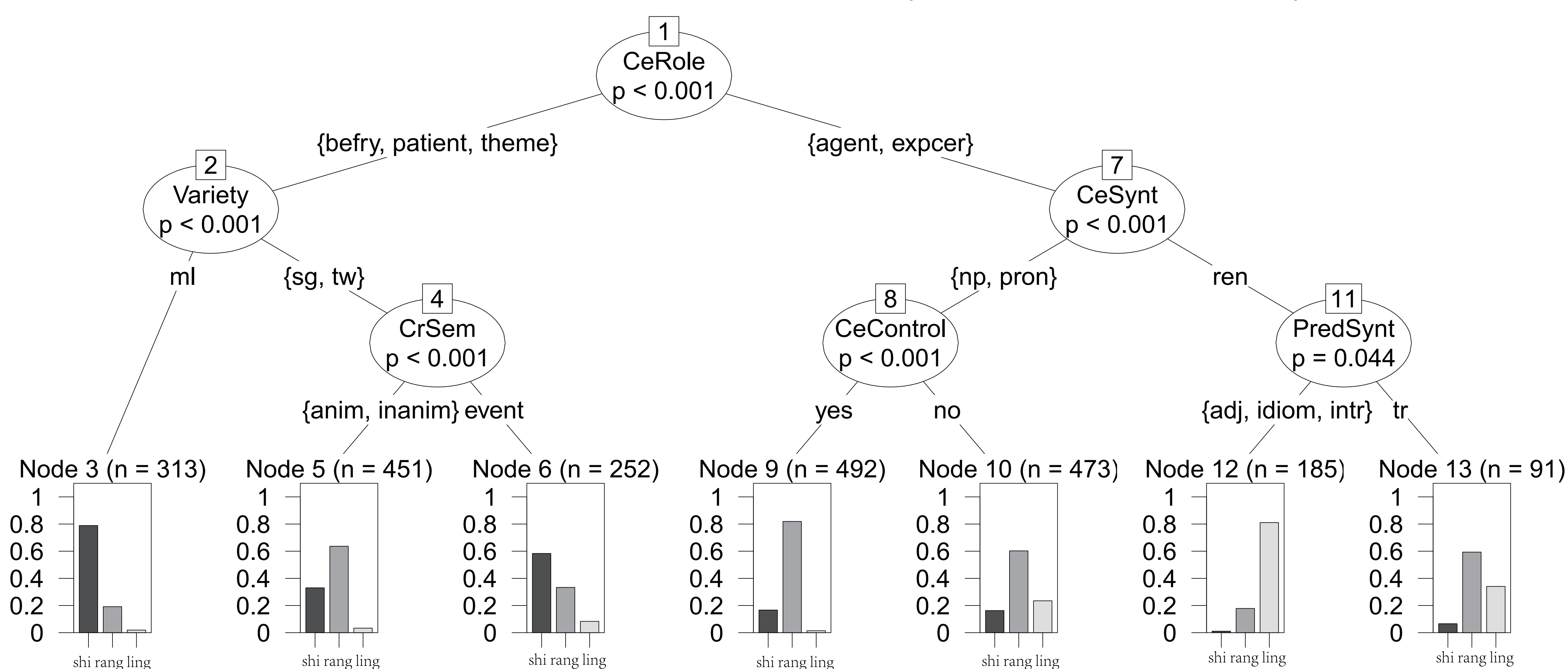
- What are the factors that constrain the alternation of *shi*, *ling* and *rang*?
- Do Mainland, Taiwan and Singapore Chinese differ in the choice of causative auxiliaries?

## METHOD



## RESULTS

### Conditional Inference Tree (alpha=0.05,min = 50)



Random forest (ntree=1000)

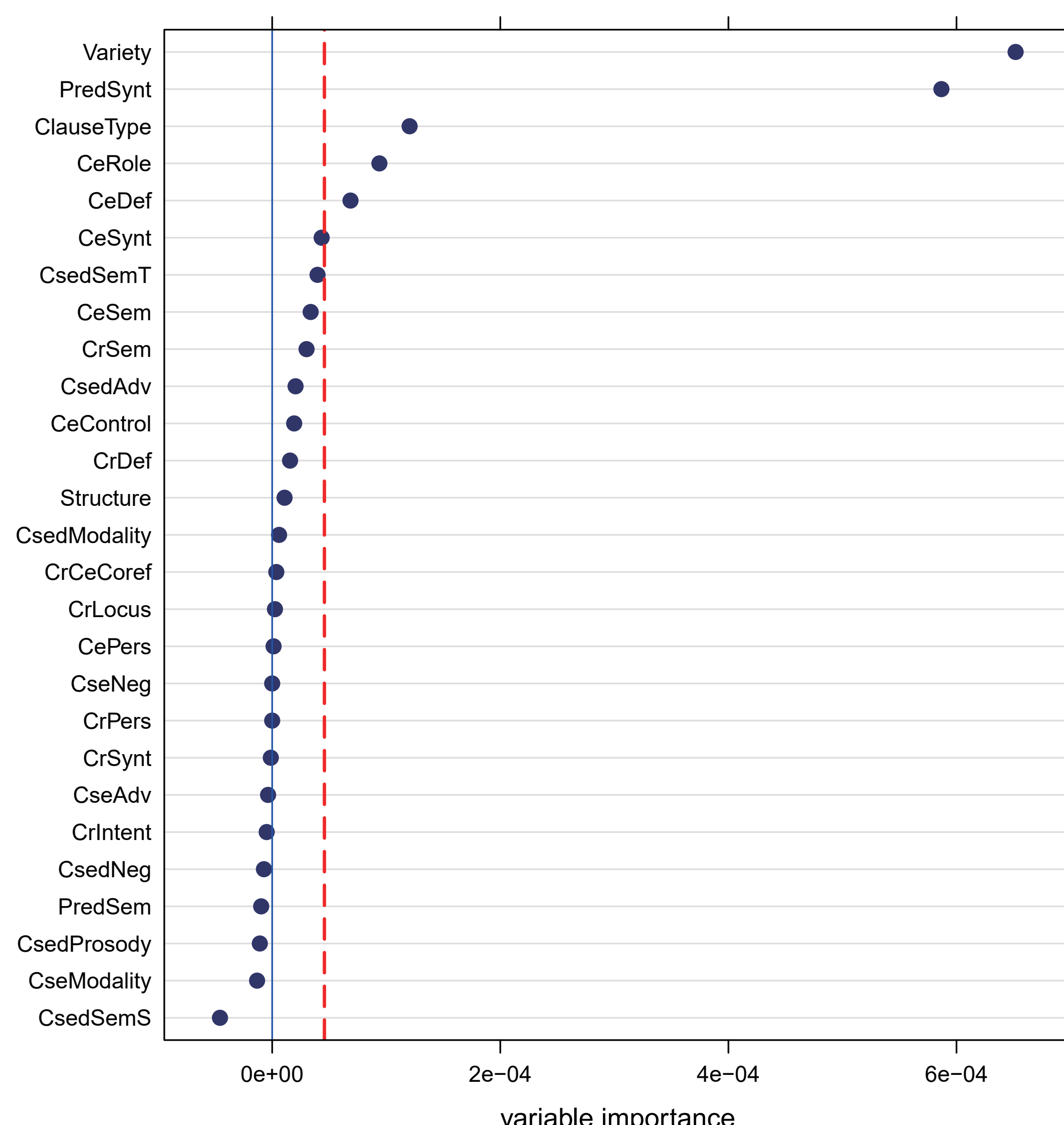


Table1. Prediction accuracy of conditional inference tree on 30% test data: 70.36%

Predicted \ Observed	ling	rang	shi
ling	69	68	9
rang	11	451	54
shi	2	142	159

Table 2. Prediction accuracy of random forest on 30% test dataset: 72.33%

Predicted \ Observed	ling	rang	shi
ling	77	59	10
rang	16	445	55
shi	1	126	176

## CONCLUSIONS

- Significant lectal variation**
  - shi* is more favoured in Mainland Chinese; Taiwan and Singapore prefer *rang*.
- Lexical fixation effect of *ling* and *ren* (“person”)**
  - in accord with previous Chinese literature (e.g. Niu, 2007).
- Hyponymy relation between *rang* and *shi*, *ling***
  - predominant in general, *rang* can be seen as a hypernym of *shi* and *ling*.
- Causee’s features more important than causer’s**
  - different from the findings of research on Dutch (e.g. Levshina 2011)