



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

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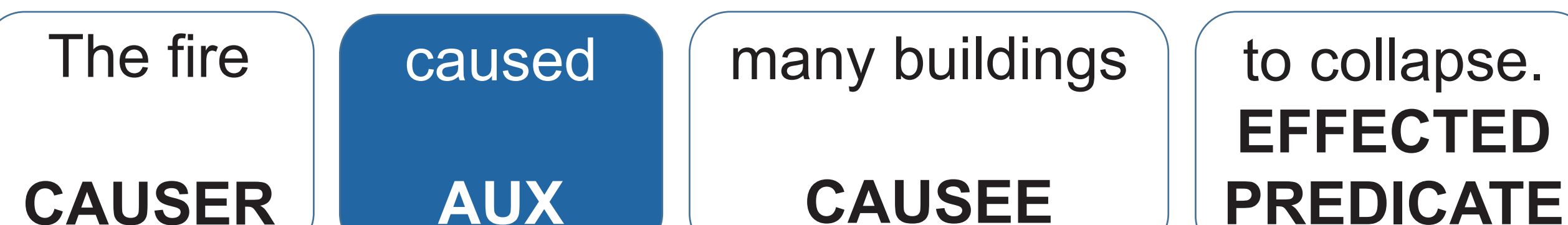
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INTRODUCTION

Chinese analytic causative construction

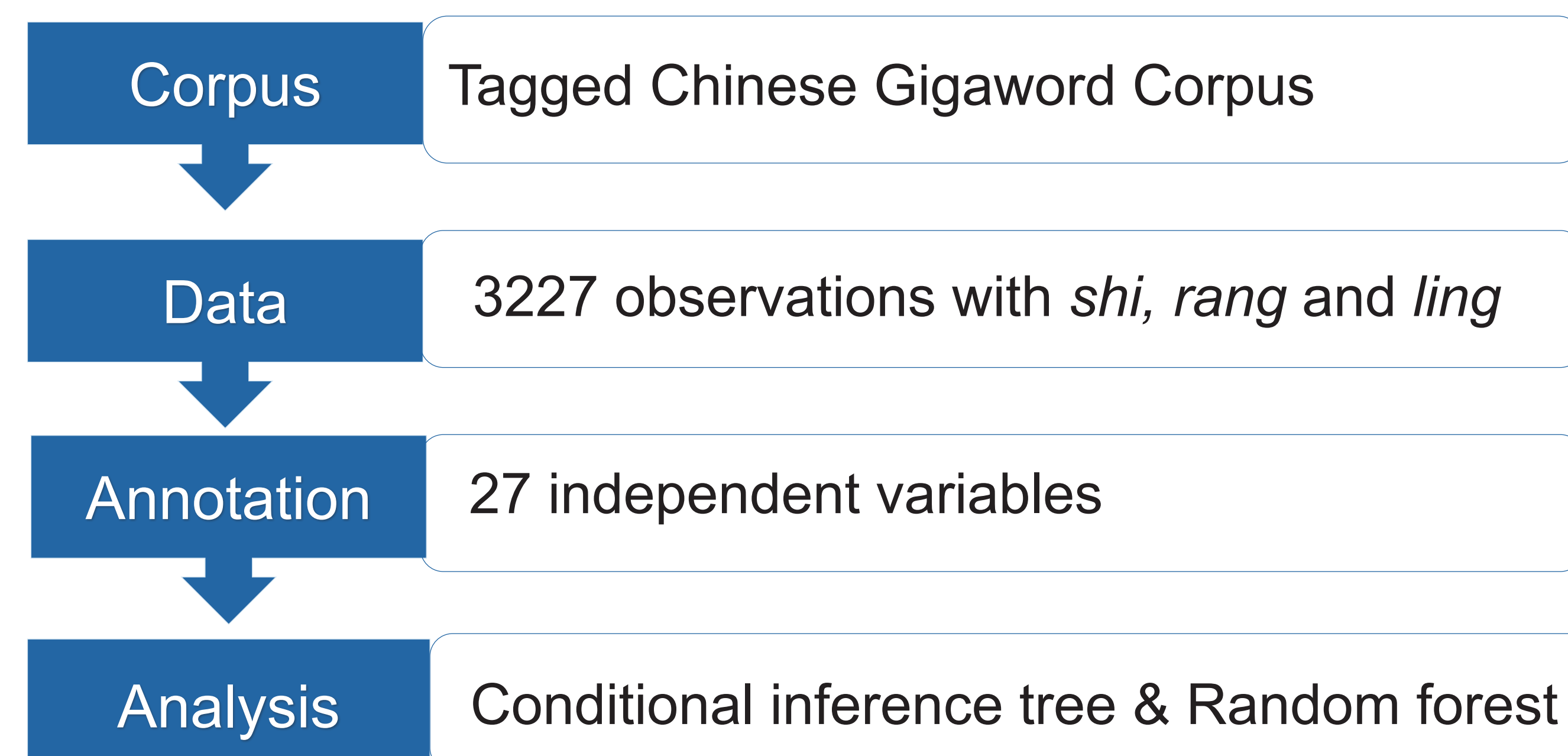
火灾 使/让/令 多处建筑 倒塌。
Huǒzāi shǐ/ràng/lìng duōchùjiànzhù dǎotā.



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

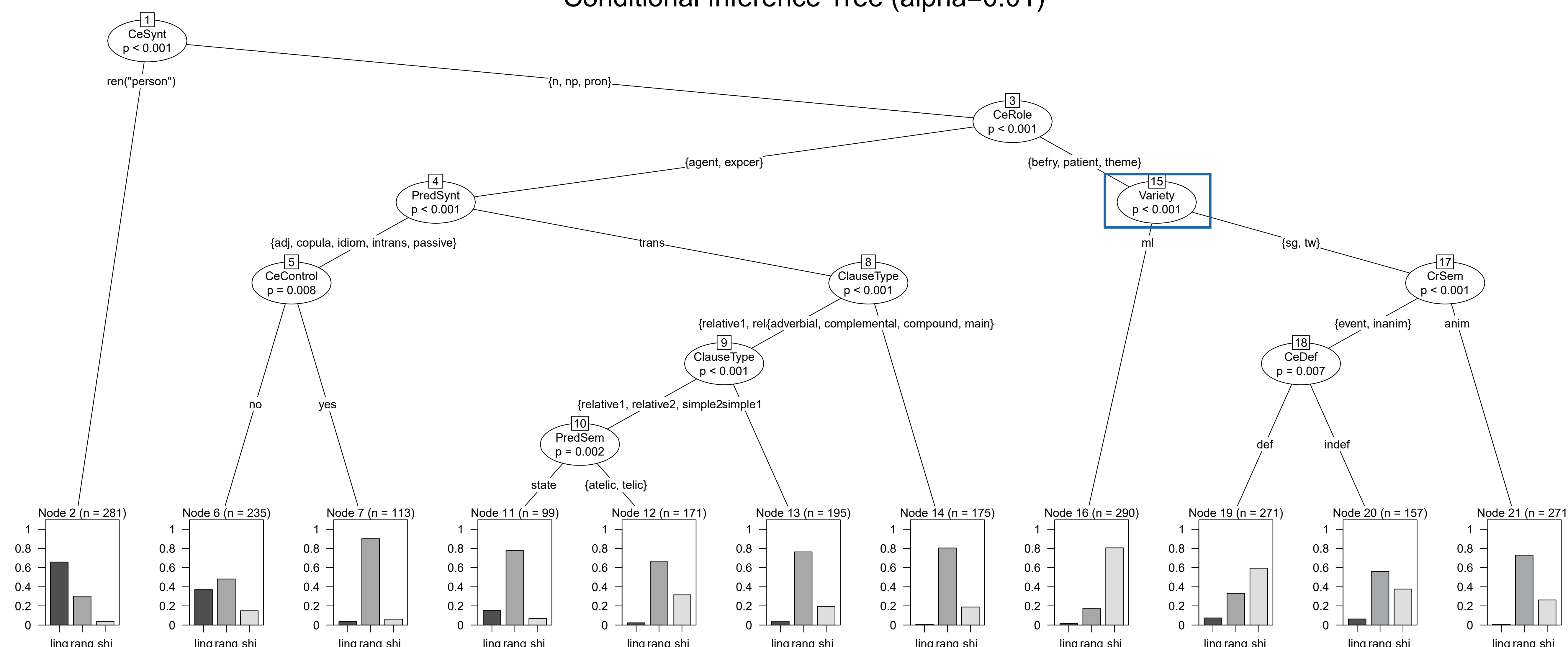
- What are the factors that constrain the alternation of *shi*, *ling* and *rang*?
- Do Mainland, Taiwan and Singapore Chinese differ in the choice of causative auxiliaries?

METHOD



RESULT

Conditional Inference Tree (alpha=0.01)



Random Forest (ntree=1000)

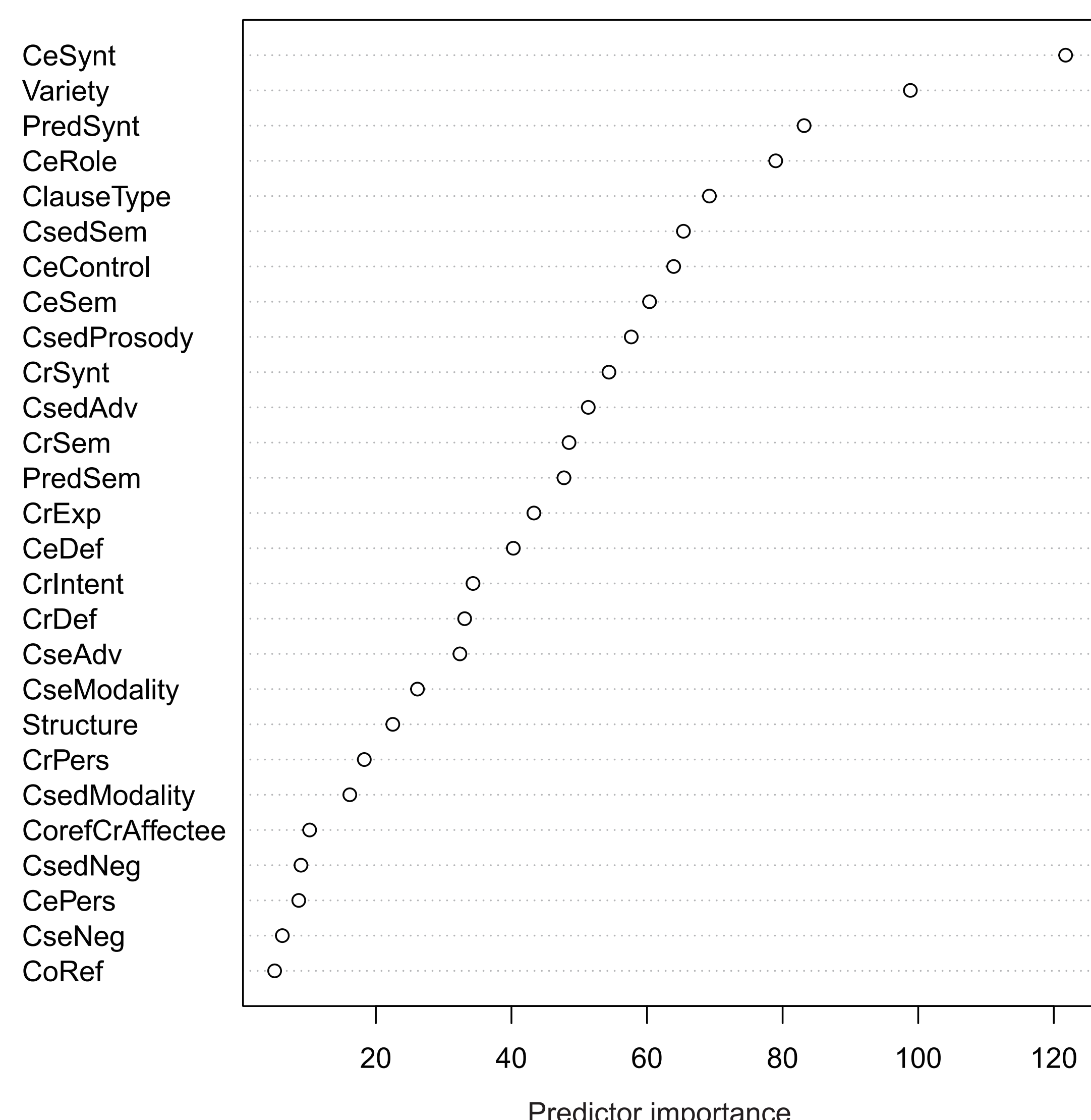


Table1. Prediction accuracy of conditional inference tree on 30% test data: **68.46%**

Predicted \ Observed	ling	rang	shi
ling	76	55	15
rang	37	414	66
shi	5	127	172

Table2. Prediction accuracy of random forest on 30% test data: **72.91%**

Predicted \ Observed	ling	rang	shi
ling	86	41	19
rang	28	416	73
shi	5	96	203

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)