



University of Athens

Dpt of Communication and Media

**S. A. Moschonas**

## **Stylistic differentiation: Diglossia**

3/5/2017

## Diglossia

---

|                     | <i>High</i>               | <i>Low</i>                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Greek</i>        | Katharévousa              | Dhimotiki (Demotic)           |
| <i>Arabic</i>       | 'al-fush (Classical)      | 'al-'ammiyah (Colloquial)     |
| <i>Swiss German</i> | Hochdeutsch (High German) | Schweizerdeutsch (Low German) |

Ferguson C. A. (1959), *Diglossia*, *Word*, 15: 325-40.

Fishman, J. A. (1967), Bilingualism With and Without Diglossia; Diglossia With and Without Bilingualism. *Journal of Social Issues*, 23: 29–38.

### Diglossia

#### ■ A linguistic division of labour

##### Example 6

In Eggenwil, a town in the Aargau canton of Switzerland, Silvia, a bank-teller, knows two very distinct varieties of German. One is the local Swiss German dialect of her canton which she uses in her everyday interactions. The other is standard German which she learnt at school, and though she understands it very well indeed, she rarely uses it in speech. Newspapers are written in standard German, and when she occasionally goes to hear a lecture at the university it may be in standard German. The national TV news is broadcast in standard German, but weather broadcasts now use dialect. The sermons her mother listens to in church are generally in standard German too, though more radical clerics use Swiss German dialect. The novels Silvia reads also use standard German.

## Ferguson's definition

---

- » *DIGLOSSIA is a relatively stable language situation in which, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards), there is a very divergent, highly codified (often grammatically more complex) superposed variety, the vehicle of a large and respected body of written literature, either of an earlier period or in another speech community, which is learned largely by formal education and is used for most written and formal spoken purposes but is not used by any sector of the community for ordinary conversation.*

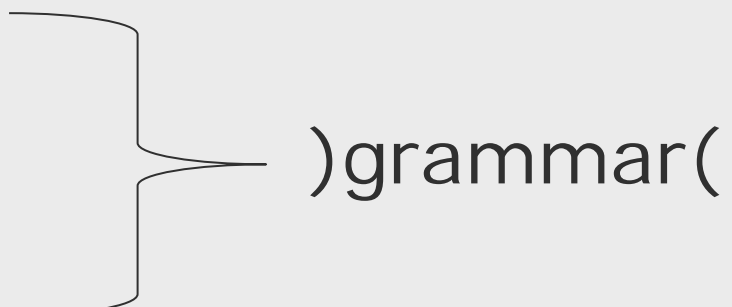
» Diglossia (διμορφία, διπλογλωσσία) is narrowly defined by:

1. Two distinct varieties of the same language are used in the same community: H(igh) – L(ow) Variety; (Υψηλή - Χαμηλή);
2. a specialization of function for H – L.  
H and L complement each other;
3. H is never used in everyday conversation, for casual or informal speech, small talk, etc.

diglossia ≠ standard + dialect

## «Ferguson's 9 rubrics»

---

1. different function/domains (πεδία χρήσης)
  2. prestige (κοινωνική αξιολόγηση)
  3. literary heritage (γραμματεία )
  4. mode of acquisition (τρόπος εκμάθησης)
  5. standardization (τυποποίηση )
  6. stability (σταθερότητα )
  7. morphology
  8. vocabulary
  9. phonology
- 
- )grammar(

## Domains (Πεδία χρήσης)

|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
| Church, religion                       | H  |    |
| Newspaper editorial                    | H  |    |
| Newspaper cartoons                     |    | L  |
| TV news                                | H  |    |
| TV soap opera, serials                 |    | L  |
| Radio news                             | H→ | ←L |
| Radio serials                          |    | L  |
| Education (written materials, lecture) | H  |    |
| Education (questions, discussion)      |    | L  |
| Academic discussion                    | H→ | L  |
| Political speech                       | H  |    |
| Written discourse                      | H→ | L  |
| Literature                             | H→ | L  |
| Family                                 |    | L  |
| Market                                 |    | L  |
| Gossip                                 |    | L  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| H | L |
| x |   |
|   | x |
| x |   |
| x |   |
| x |   |
|   | x |
| x |   |
|   | x |
| x |   |
|   | x |
| x |   |
|   | x |

Sermon in church or mosque  
 Instructions to servants, waiters, workmen, clerks  
 Personal letter  
 Speech in parliament, political speech  
 University lecture  
 Conversation with family, friends, colleagues  
 News broadcast  
 Radio 'soap opera'  
 Newspaper editorial, news story, caption on picture  
 Caption on political cartoon  
 Poetry  
 Folk literature

## Diglossia with/out bilingualism; diglossia with/out bilingualism (Fishman)

---

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>+ diglossia + bilingualism</b></p> <p>Spanish + Guarani (Paraguay)<br/>High German + Swiss German<br/>(Swiss-German cantons)</p>                 | <p><b>- diglossia + bilingualism</b></p> <p>Immigrant groups<br/>(«bilingualism without diglossia tends to be transitional»)</p>   |
| <p><b>+ diglossia - bilingualism</b></p> <p>French + Danish, Salish,<br/>Provençal, Russian, etc.<br/>(e.g., French as spoken by elites in courts)</p> | <p><b>- diglossia – bilingualism</b></p> <p>(«only very small, isolated and undifferentiated speech communities may be said to reveal neither diglossia nor bilingualism»)</p> |



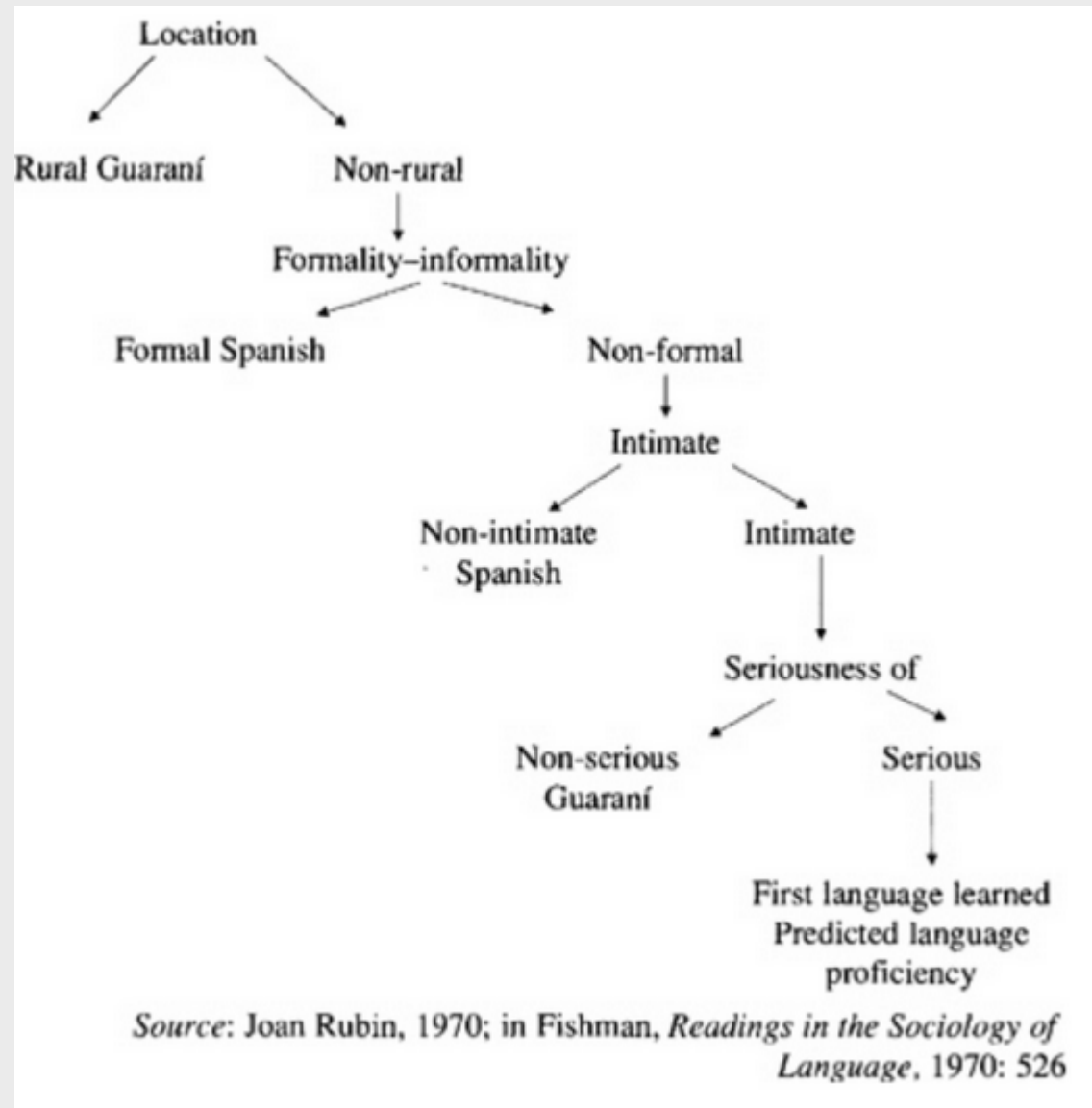
## Diglossia with/out bilingualism; diglossia with/out bilingualism (on the internet)

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>+ diglossia + bilingualism</b><br>(bilingual interface /<br>monolingual content) | <b>- diglossia + bilingualism</b><br>?  |
| <b>+ diglossia - bilingualism</b><br>?  | <b>- diglossia - bilingualism</b><br>(bilingual interface / bilingual<br>content) |

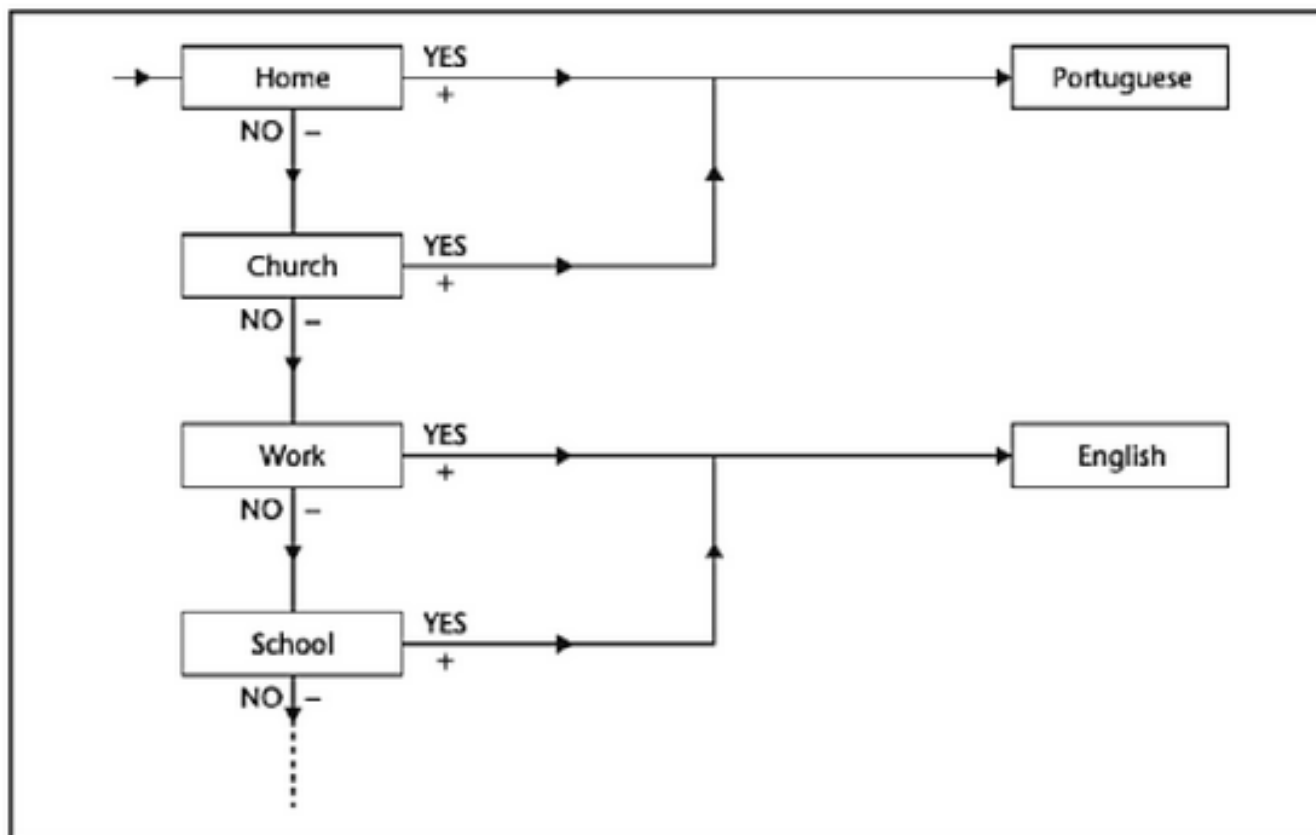
## Domains as decision trees

---



## Domains (from Holmes & Wilson, *op. cit.*)

---

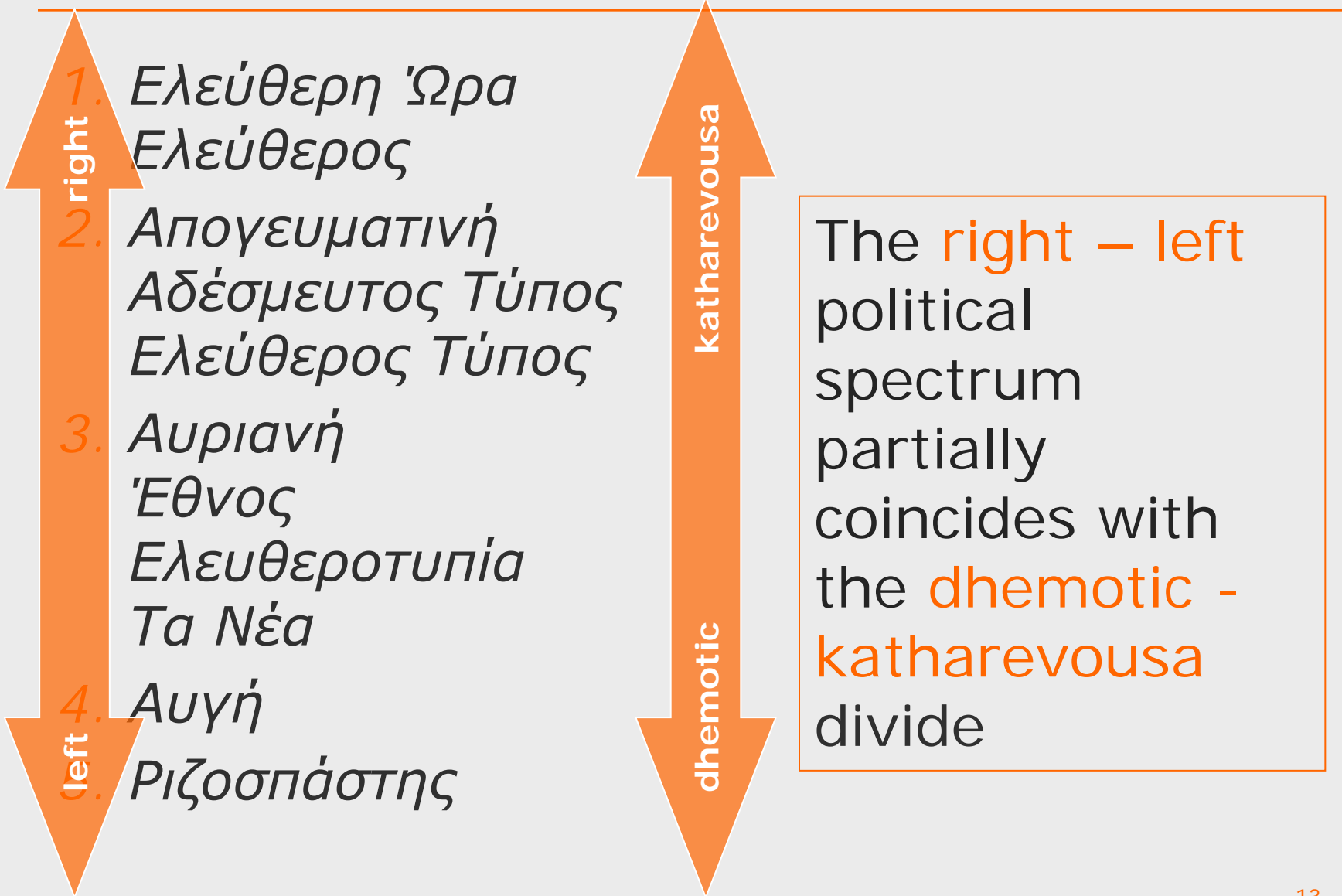


**Figure 2.1** Appropriate code choice in different domains among the Portuguese community in London

## » Morphological variation

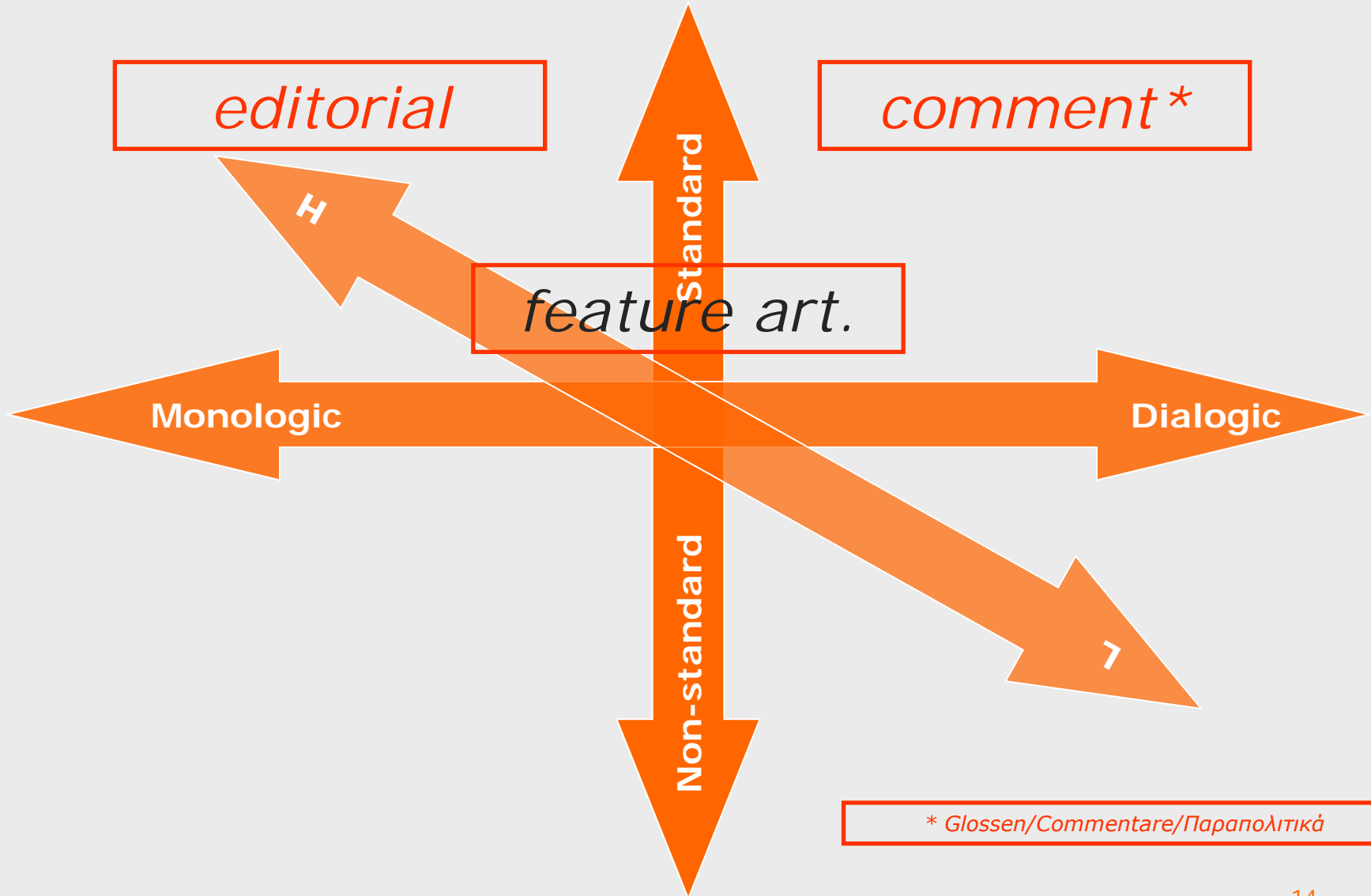
- ▶ (Τονικά συστήματα)
- ▶ Τελικό ν στην αιτιατική αρσενικού / θηλυκού άρθρου
- ▶ γεν. *-ης / -εως των σε -η / -ις* και γεν. *-ητος / -ητας των σε -ης / -ητα*
- ▶ Αναβιβασμός τόνου στη γεν. επιθέτων
- ▶ Επιρρήματα *-α / -ως*
- ▶ Παραθετικά επιθέτων και επιρρημάτων

## Residual diglossia in the Greek newspapers (Χατζησαββίδης, 1999)



## Stylistic differentiation?

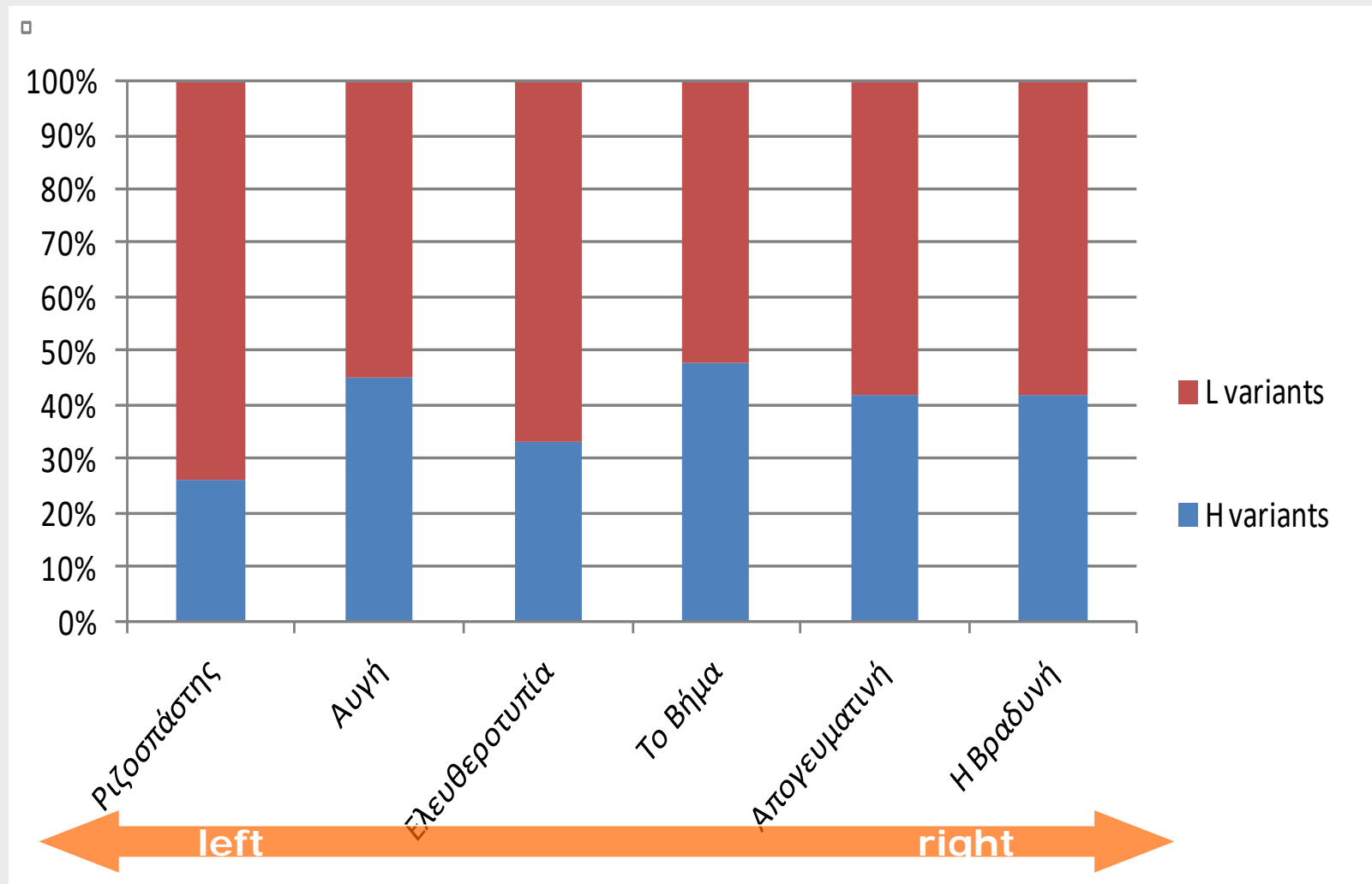
---



## » Morphological variables

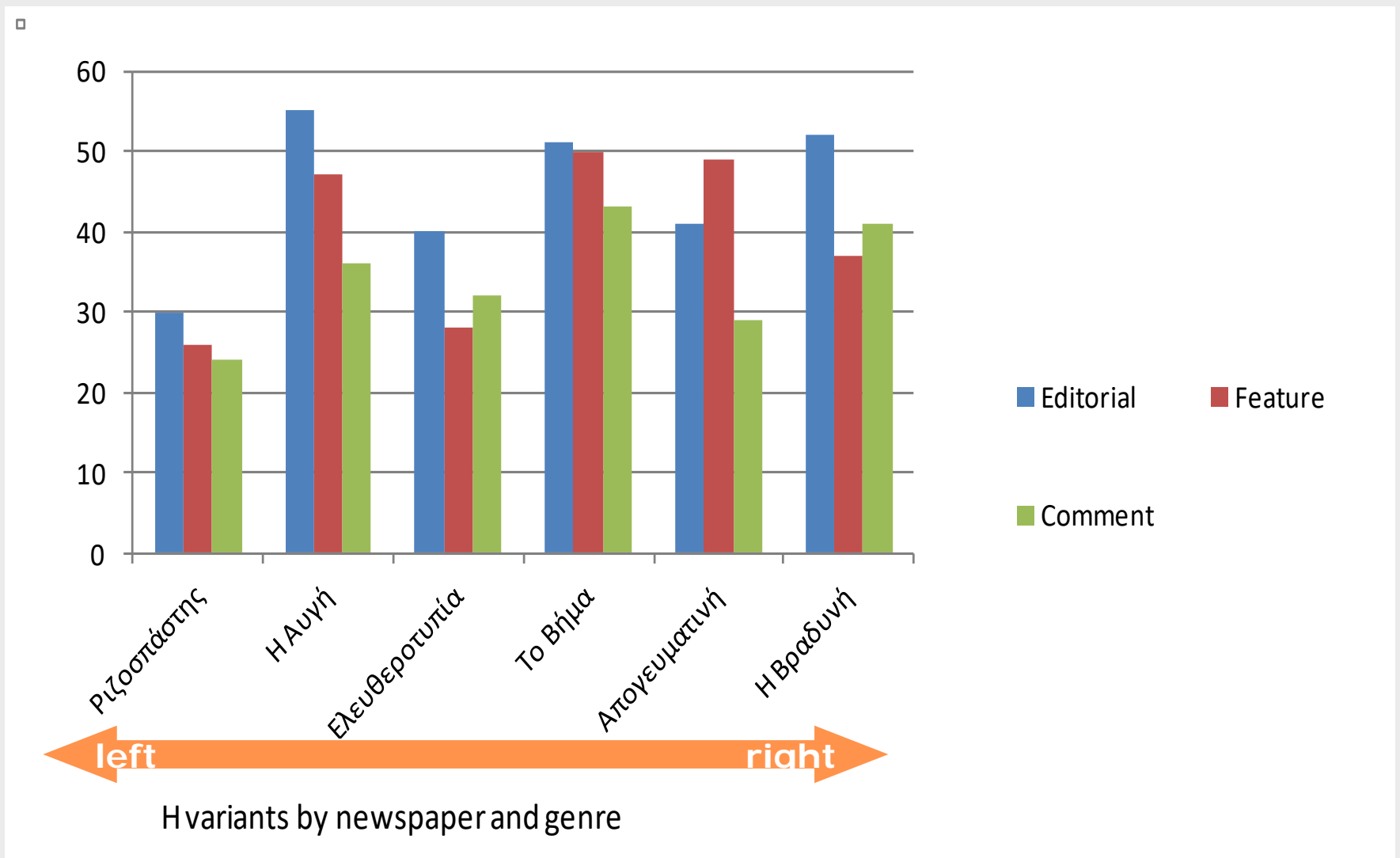
- ▶ επιρρήματα -α/-ως
- ▶ συμφωνικά συμπλέγματα: -χτ-φτ-στ- / -χθ-φθ-σθ-, ορίστηκε/ορίσθηκε
- ▶ συμφωνικά συμπλέγματα χθες/χτες
- ▶ τονισμός γενικής με /χωρίς αναβιβασμό, π.χ. δημοσίων / δημόσιων
- ▶ παθητικός αόριστος -ηκα, -ηκαν / -η, -ησαν
- ▶ κατάληξη γενικής -α/-ος, π.χ. μήνα/μηνός
- ▶ κατάληξη γενικής -εα/-εως, π.χ. εισαγγελέα / εισαγγελέως
- ▶ κατάληξη γενικής -ης/-ους, π.χ. αδαή/αδαούς.
- ▶ κατάληξη γενικής πρώην τριτόκλιτων -ης/-εως, π.χ. κυβέρνησης/κυβερνήσεως

## Residual diglossia in the Greek newspapers (Κόλλια κ.ά. 2013)





## Residual diglossia in the Greek newspapers (Κόλλια κ.ά. 2013)



## Residual diglossia: Ideological → Stylistic marker

---

Use of high/low variants does not correlate significantly with either the political stance of the newspaper or with the presumed formality / informality of newspaper genres

(Kollia *et al.* 2013)



## Residual diglossia in the Greek press: Bibliography (Greek students)

---

- » Σ. Χατζησαββίδης, 1. *Ελληνική γλώσσα και δημοσιογραφικός λόγος* (1999), 131-148, 2. «Η μορφολογική ποικιλία του δημοσιογραφικού λόγου ως δείκτης πολιτικής ιδεολογίας», στο *Δημοσιογραφία και γλώσσα*, επιμ. Π. Μπουκάλας & Σ. Α. Μοσχονάς (2001), 141-155.
- » Ά. Ιορδανίδου, 1. «Δημοσιογραφική “κοινή” : Προβλήματα ορισμού», στο *Δημοσιογραφία και γλώσσα*, επιμ. Π. Μπουκάλας & Σ. Α. Μοσχονάς (2001), 157-164, 2. «Γλωσσική ποικιλία και δημοσιογραφικός λόγος», *Ζητήματα Επικοινωνίας* 9 (2009), 102-114.
- » Μ. Κόλια, Ά. Σοφίου, Τ. Φούρλαρη & Σ. Α. Μοσχονάς, «Η λόγια μορφολογία στον ελληνικό Τύπο: Δείκτης ιδεολογικής ή υφολογικής διαφοροποίησης;», *Ζητήματα Επικοινωνίας* 16-17 (2013), 139-151.