



The STRUT vowel in urban and rural accents of the West Midlands

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introduction

pilot study

pilot study

by-product

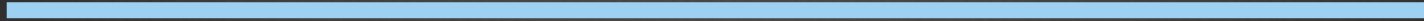
pilot study

by-product

under-researched area

border

North



South

Wells (1982: 349)

border

North

FOOT–STRUT split

/ʌ/ – /ʊ/

South

Wells (1982: 349)

FOOT–STRUT split

North

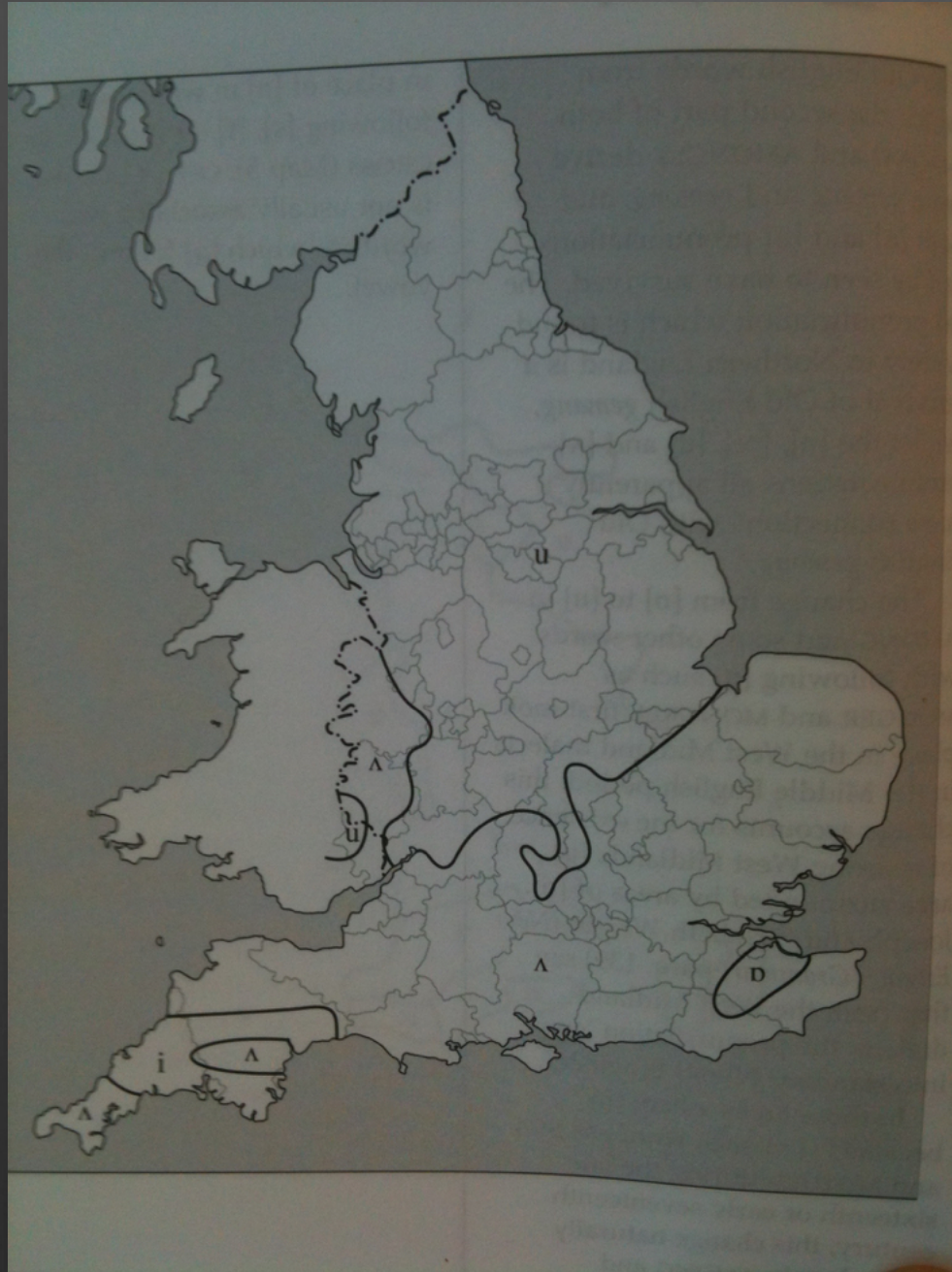
put /pʊt/

cut /kʊt/

South

put /pʊt/

cut /kʌt/



urban vs. rural



previous descriptions;
expectations

Birmingham: [ʊ], [ʌ], [ə], [ʌ], [ɒ]

previous descriptions;
expectations

Birmingham: [ʊ], [ʌ], [ə], [ʌ], [ɒ]

Stratford-upon-Avon: [ʌ]???

previous descriptions;
expectations

Birmingham: [ʊ], [ʌ], [ə], [ʌ], [ɒ]

Stratford-upon-Avon: [ʌ]???

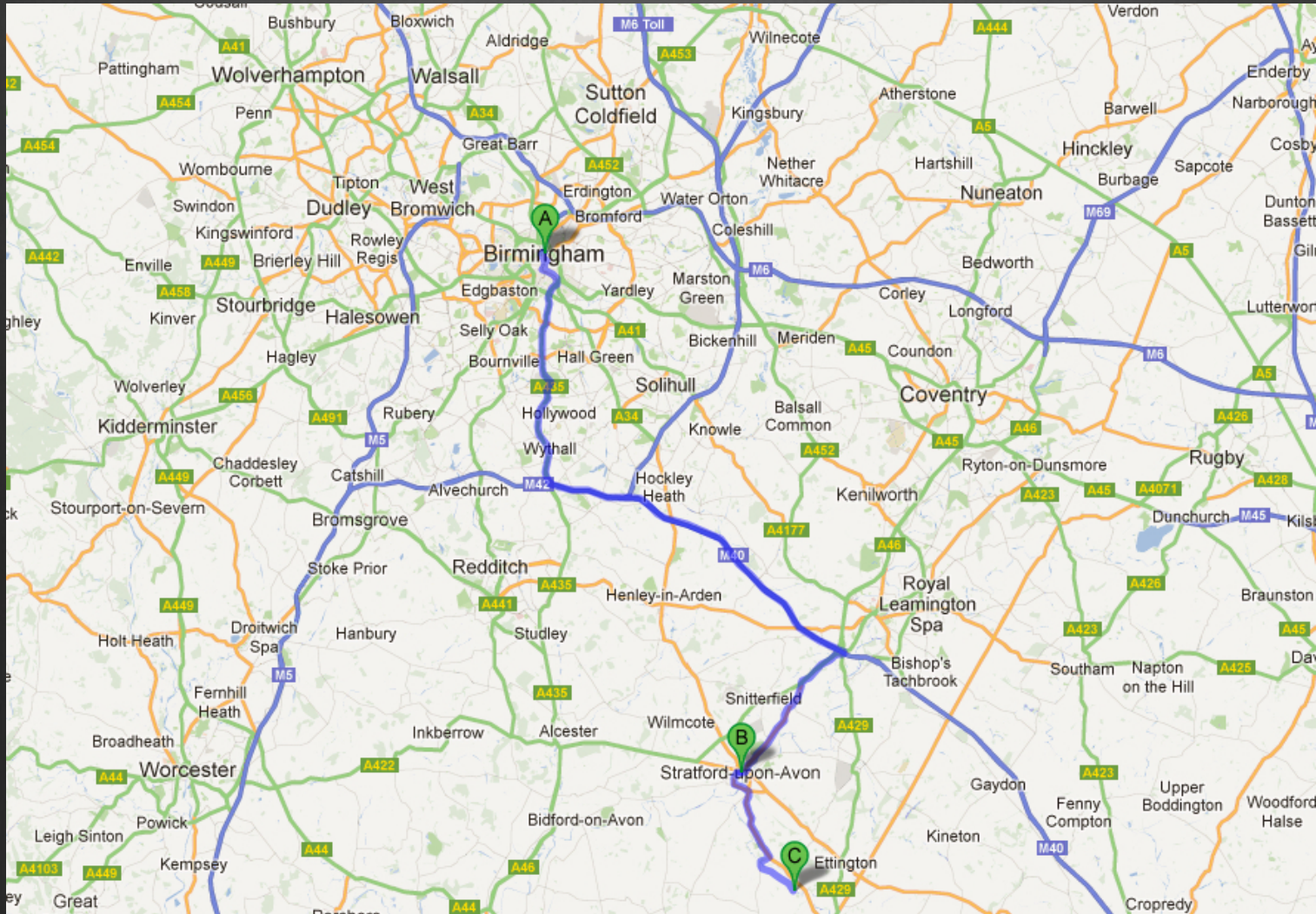
Aldermanster and Wimpstone [ʌ~ə]?

study

sample

Speaker	Age
City1	25
City2	32
Town1	27
Town2	27
Village1	22
Village2	24
	mean: 26.6

fieldwork



interviews

middle-class respondents

interviews

middle-class respondents

in pairs / individually

interviews

middle-class respondents

in pairs / individually

c. 30 min each

interview structure

1. conversation

interview structure

1. conversation
2. reading

interview structure

1. conversation
2. reading
 - a) reading passage

interview structure

1. conversation
2. reading
 - a) reading passage
 - b) wordlist

tokens

240 overall

tokens

240 overall

120 reading style

tokens

240 overall

120 reading style

120 conversation style

tokens

240 overall

120 reading style

120 conversation style

right context alveolar

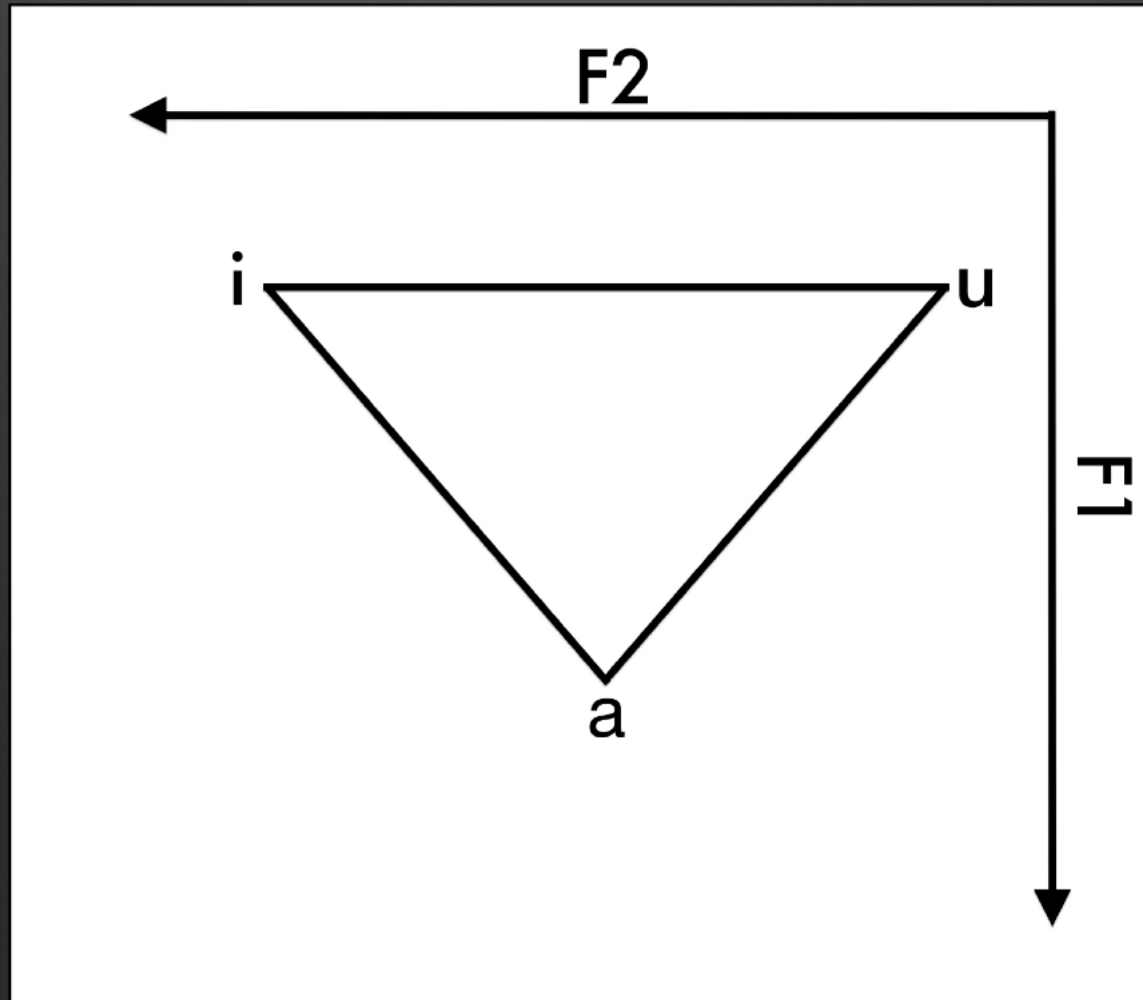
method

instrumental analysis

1. mean $F1/F2$

S-centroid normalisation

Fabricsius et al. (2009)

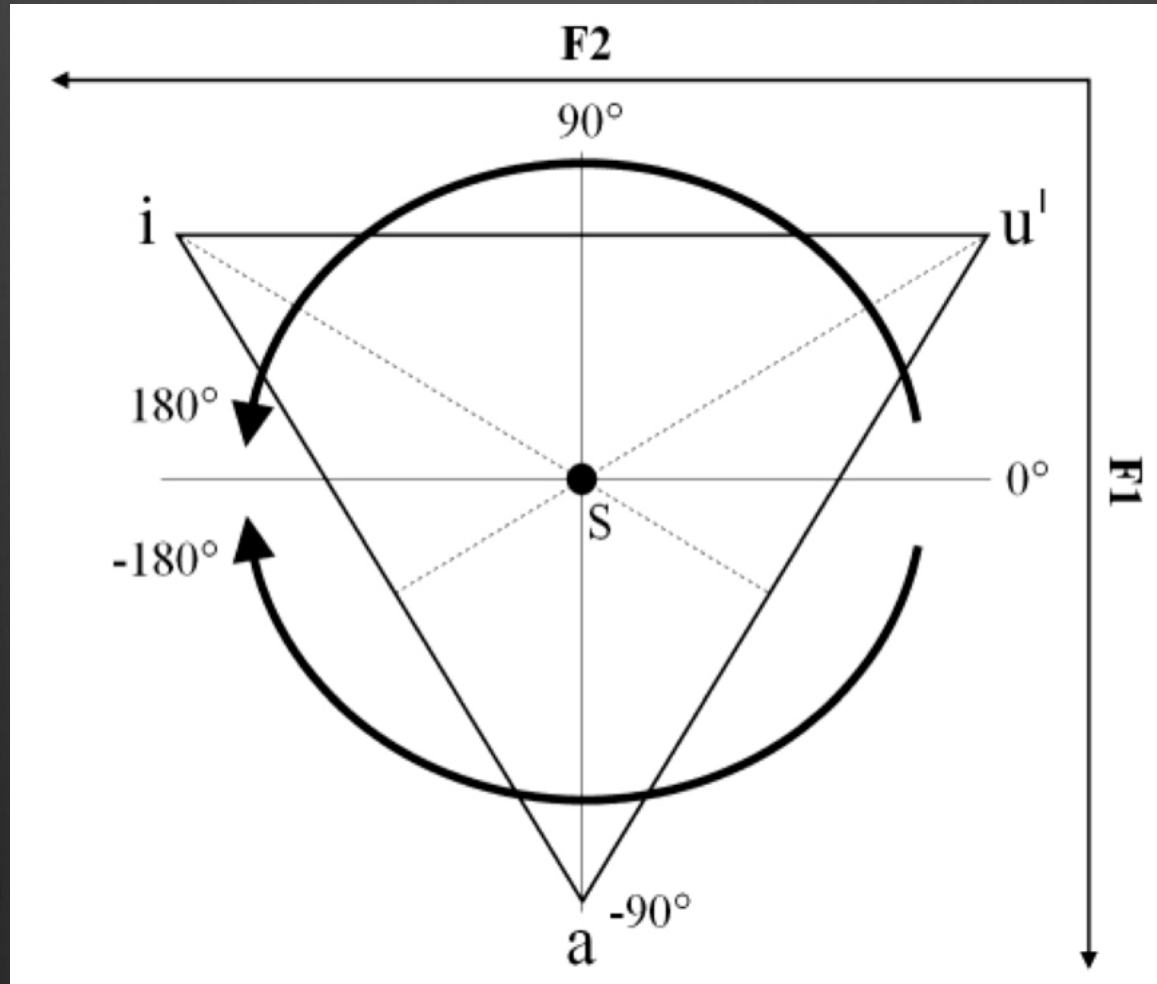


instrumental analysis

1. mean $F1/F2$
2. angles to *S*-centroid

angle relative to S

Watt and Fabricius (2011: 2104)

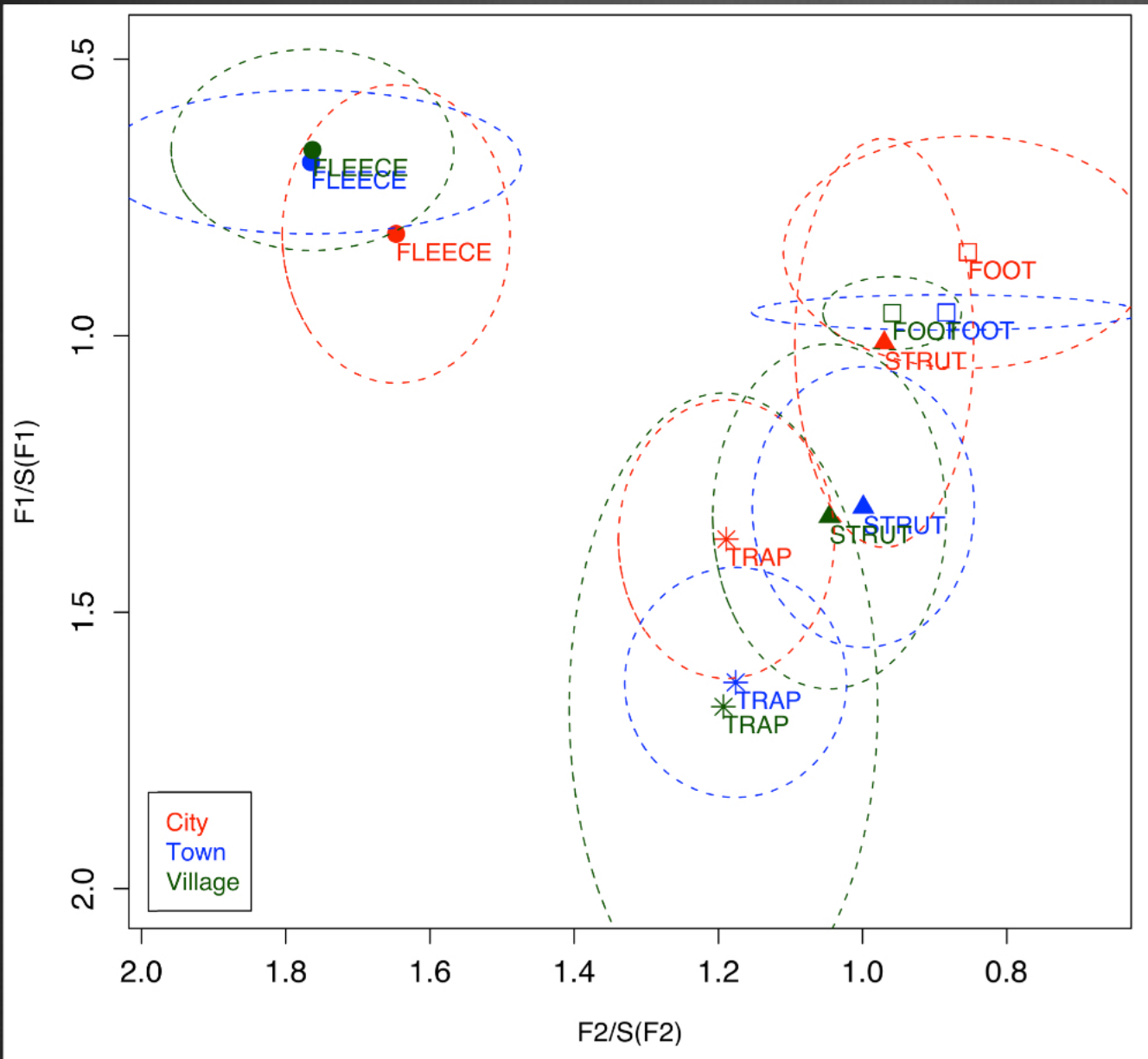


instrumental analysis

1. mean $F1/F2$
2. angles to *S*-centroid
3. Euclidean distance

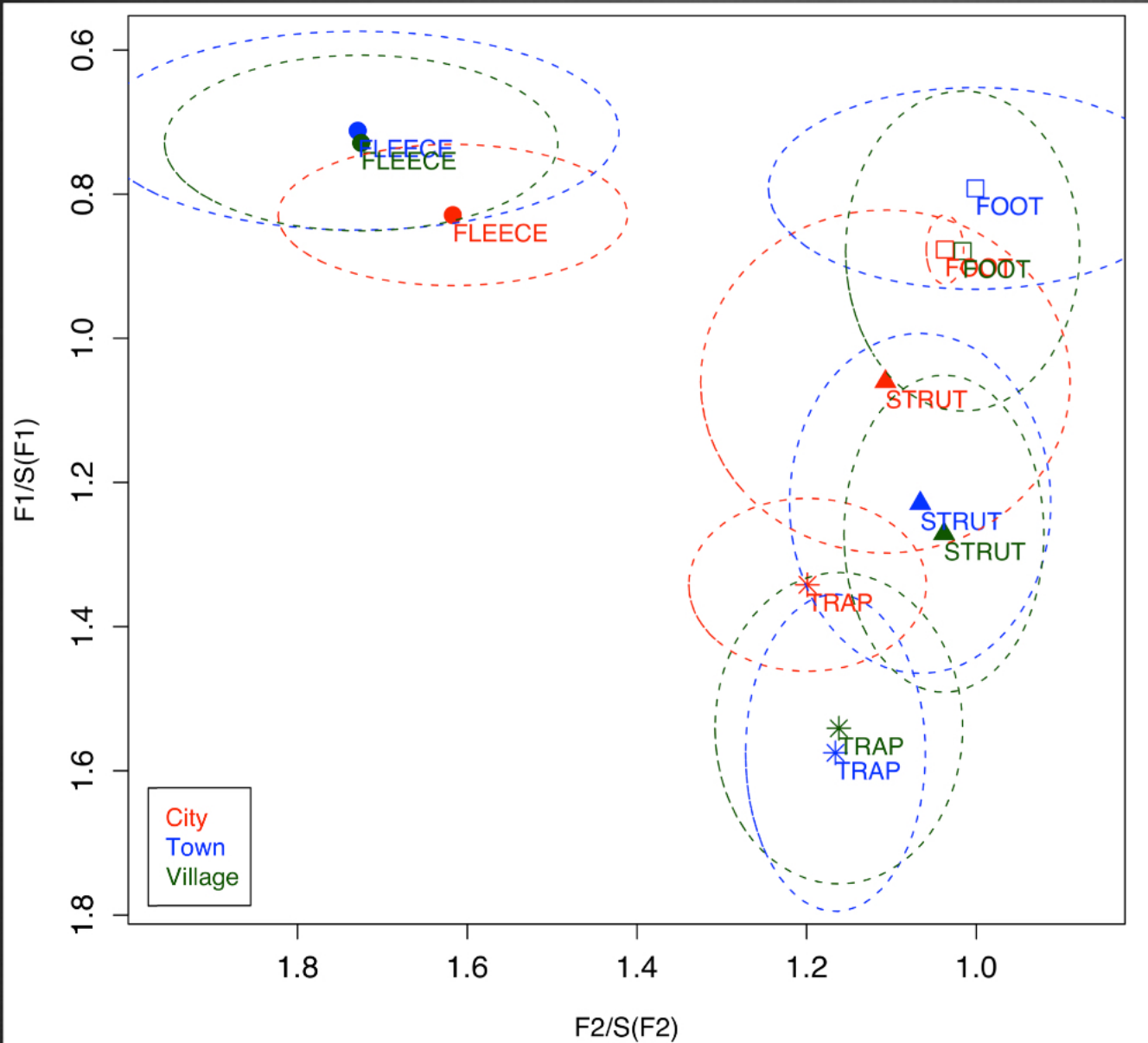
results

reading – group means (2SD)



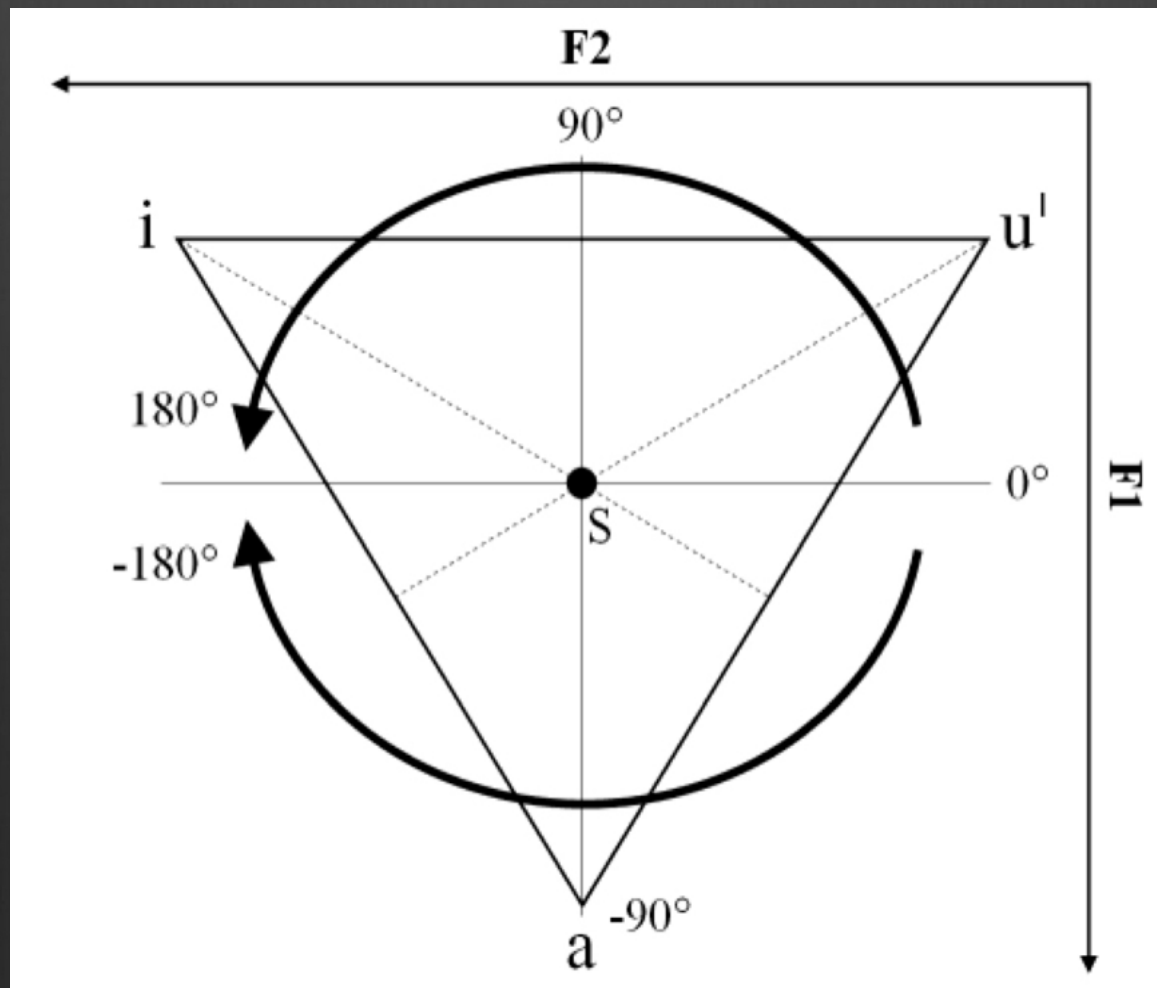
Group	F1/S	F2/S
City	1.013	0.97
Town	1.31	0.999
Village	1.327	1.046

conversation – group means (2SD)

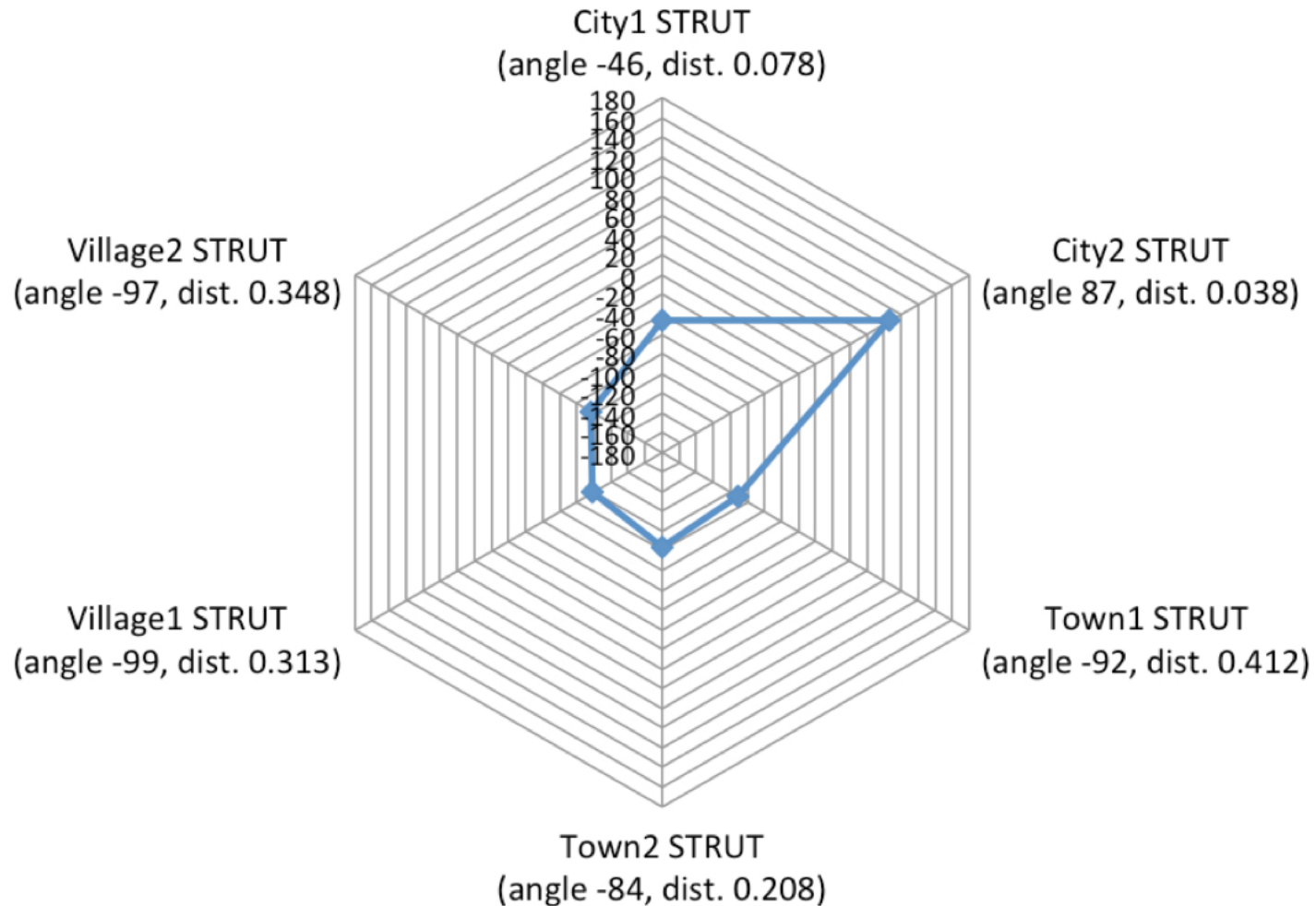


Group	F1/S	F2/S
City	1.06	1.107
Town	1.229	1.066
Village	1.271	1.038

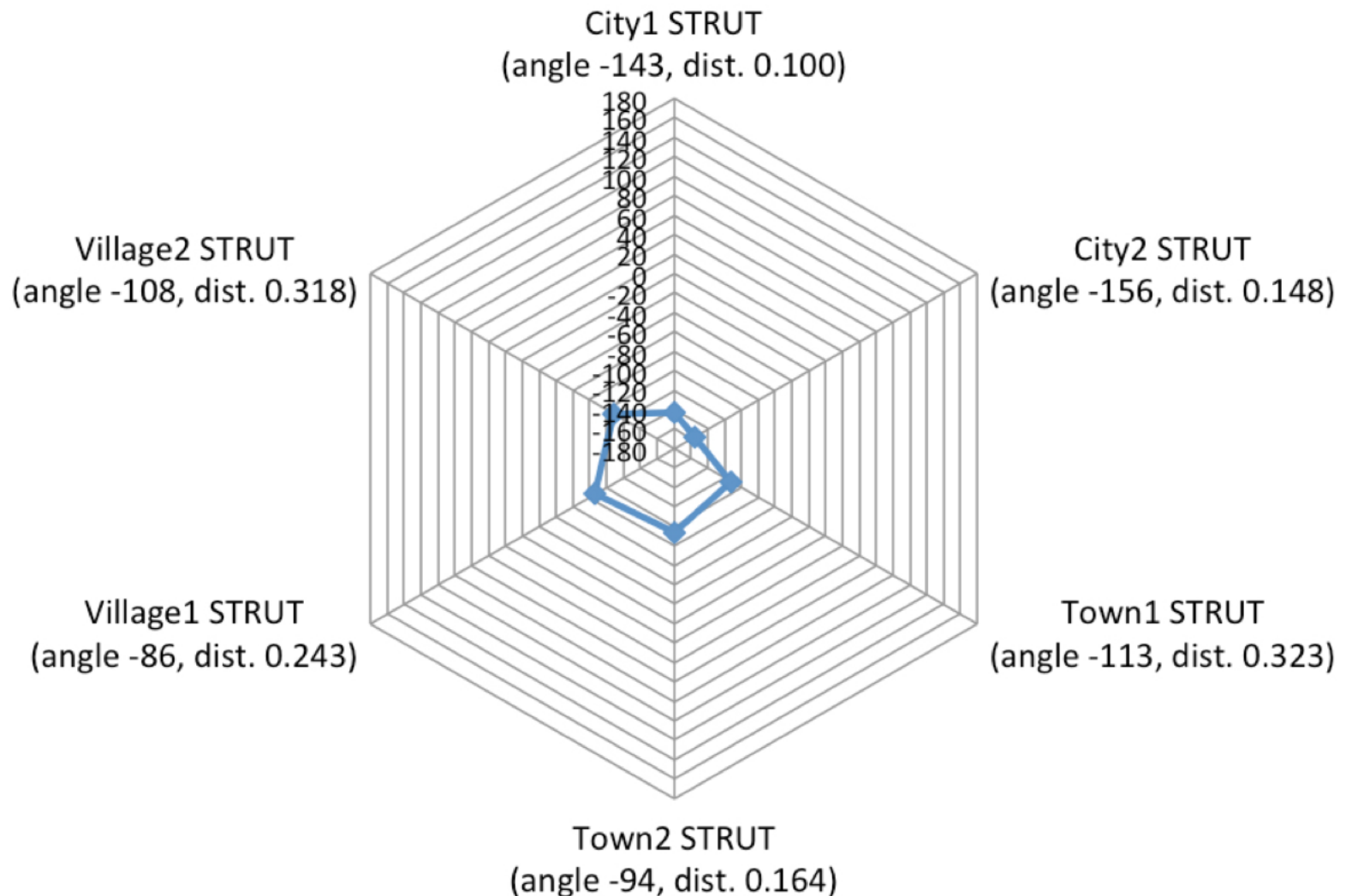
angle relative to S



reading – individual angles to S



conversation – individual angles to S



group comparison

☺ visible variation in angle relative to S

	F1/ S	F2/ S	angle to S	Euc. distance
City – reading	1.013	0.970	-23	0.033
City – conversation	1.060	1.107	-151	0.123
Town – reading	1.310	0.999	-90	0.310
Town – conversation	1.229	1.066	-106	0.238
Village – reading	1.327	1.046	-98	0.330
Village – conversation	1.271	1.038	-98	0.274

group comparison

☺ visible variation in angle relative to S

☹ little movement to/from S

	F1/ S	F2/ S	angle to S	Euc. distance
City – reading	1.013	0.970	-23	0.033
City – conversation	1.060	1.107	-151	0.123
Town – reading	1.310	0.999	-90	0.310
Town – conversation	1.229	1.066	-106	0.238
Village – reading	1.327	1.046	-98	0.330
Village – conversation	1.271	1.038	-98	0.274

conclusions

summary of results

STRUT and FOOT clearly distinguishable

summary of results

STRUT and FOOT clearly distinguishable
city [ʁ~ə]

summary of results

STRUT and FOOT clearly distinguishable

city [ɤ~ə]

town and villages [ʌ]

summary of results

STRUT and FOOT clearly distinguishable

city [ɤ~ə]

town and villages [ʌ]

little stylistic variation

further research

pilot; dedicated study needed

word classes

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