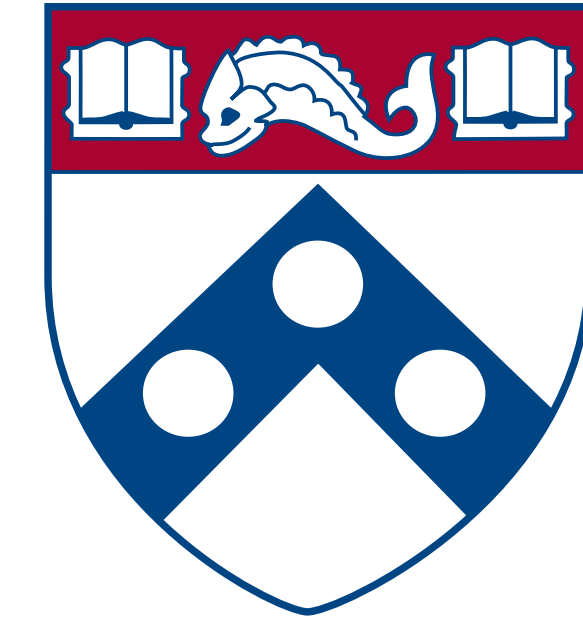


Syntax, Stigmatization, and the Sociolinguistic Monitor

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What is the Sociolinguistic Monitor?

- The sociolinguistic monitor: “tracks, stores, and processes information on linguistic variation” (Labov et al. 2011).
 - Tested reactions to nonstandard ING using a “newscast paradigm.”
 - Logarithmic effect** for the older speakers.
 - Develops with age** (specifically in the workforce, post-college).
- Explicit **social salience** plays a role (Levon and Fox 2014).
 - Almost no effect for ING and TH-fronting, due to unclear indexical meaning of ING variation in UK
- Possible difference in processing phonological vs. syntactic variables (Buchstaller and Levon, 2014).

Data and Methods

- Exp. 1: Undergraduates at UPenn and family and friends were recruited (22 for ING and 37 for GET/BE).

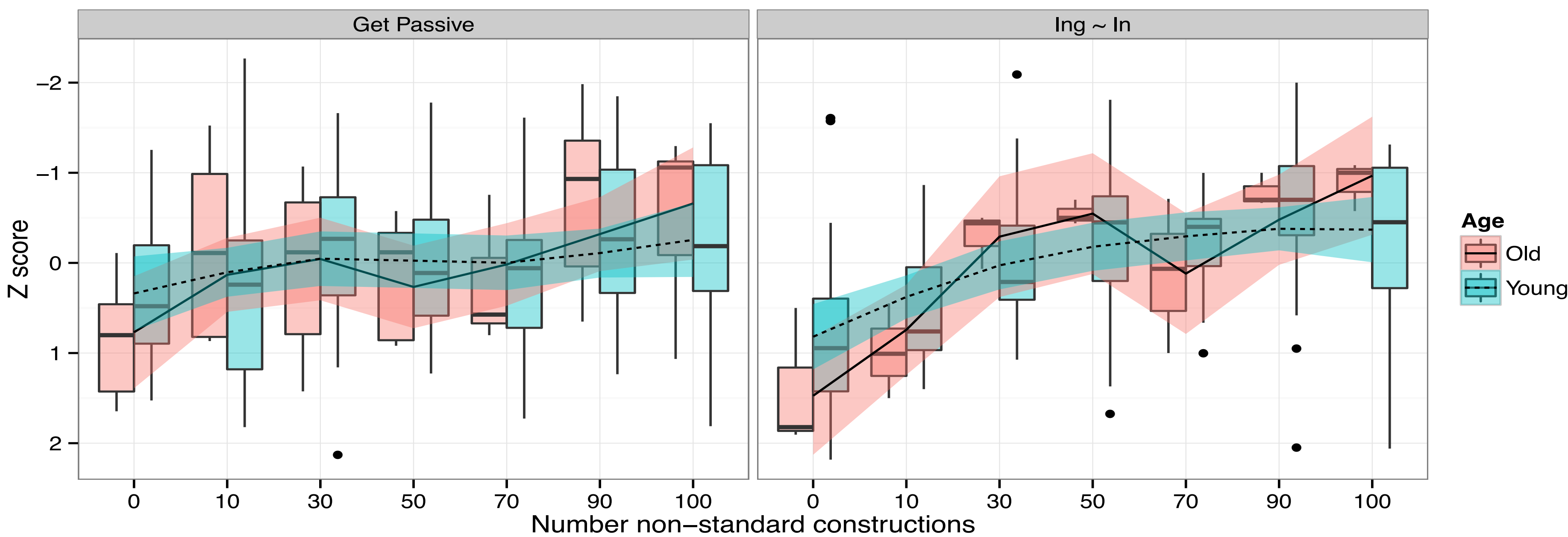
Morphophonological	IN vs. ING
Syntactic	GET-Passive vs. BE-Passive

- Exp. 2: Prolific Academic used to recruit 100 participants for each of 4 syntactic variables.

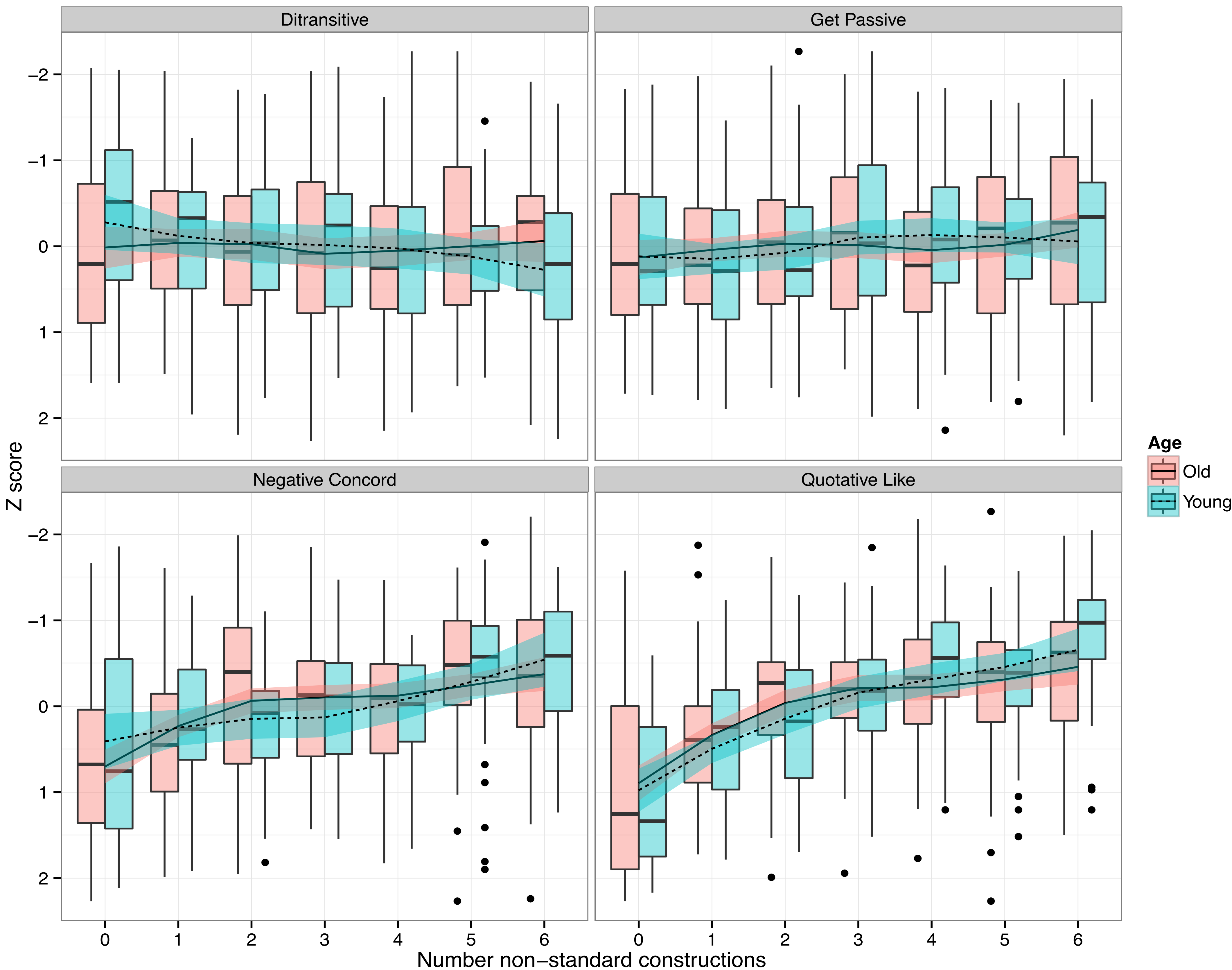
	Stable	Changing
Not Salient	Ditransitive Gave Jennings \$50,000 Gave \$50,000 to Jennings	GET-Passive Got arrested Was arrested
Salient	Negative Concord Won't ever work Won't never work	BE LIKE Walsh said Walsh was like

- Each condition contained 6 randomly presented trials with different frequencies of the nonstandard variant: 0/6, 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6.
- Participants were asked to judge the “professionalism” of the newscaster on a scale from 0-100 (“perfectly professional”).

Experiment 1: Syntactic vs. Morphophonological



Experiment 2: Syntax and Change



Discussion and Conclusion

- Direct correlation between positive slope and fraction of participants who explicitly mentioned the variable under consideration when asked if anything “stuck out to them”

Ditransitive: 0%	GET-Passive: 6%
Negative Concord: 46%	BE LIKE: 68%
- Suggests that overt **social salience** plays a key role in what constructions are monitored.
- Therefore, syntactic variables can be attended to as long as they are sufficiently socially salient.
- No difference between younger speakers and older speakers
 - Sociolinguistic Monitor does not develop with age for these variables
- Changes in progress are not more salient (GET-passives show almost no effect).

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