

Host Family Speech:

An examination of stylistic variation as a form of linguistic accommodation towards the speech of foreign exchange students



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1. Introduction



- “Style is **everything** and **everywhere**,”

(Coupland, 2001)

- Stylistic variation of monolingual speakers
 - Labov (1984): “Styles may be ordered along a single dimension, measured by the amount of attention paid to speech.”
- Interlocutor
 - Linguistic accommodation theory (Giles, 1973)

1.1 Circumscribing the variables

- Word- and syllable-final /s/ weakening
 - Aspiration [s] > [h]
 - Caballo[s] > caballo[h]
 - Deletion [s] > [∅]
 - Caballo[s] > caballo[∅]
- Vocalization of final liquids
 - Co[l]mado > co [i̯] mado
 - Ca[r]ne > ca [i̯] ne
- Velarization of final /n/
 - Pa[n] > pa[ŋ]

1.2 Research Questions



- I. How does the host family use standard stylistic variants as a way to accommodate the speech of the American students?

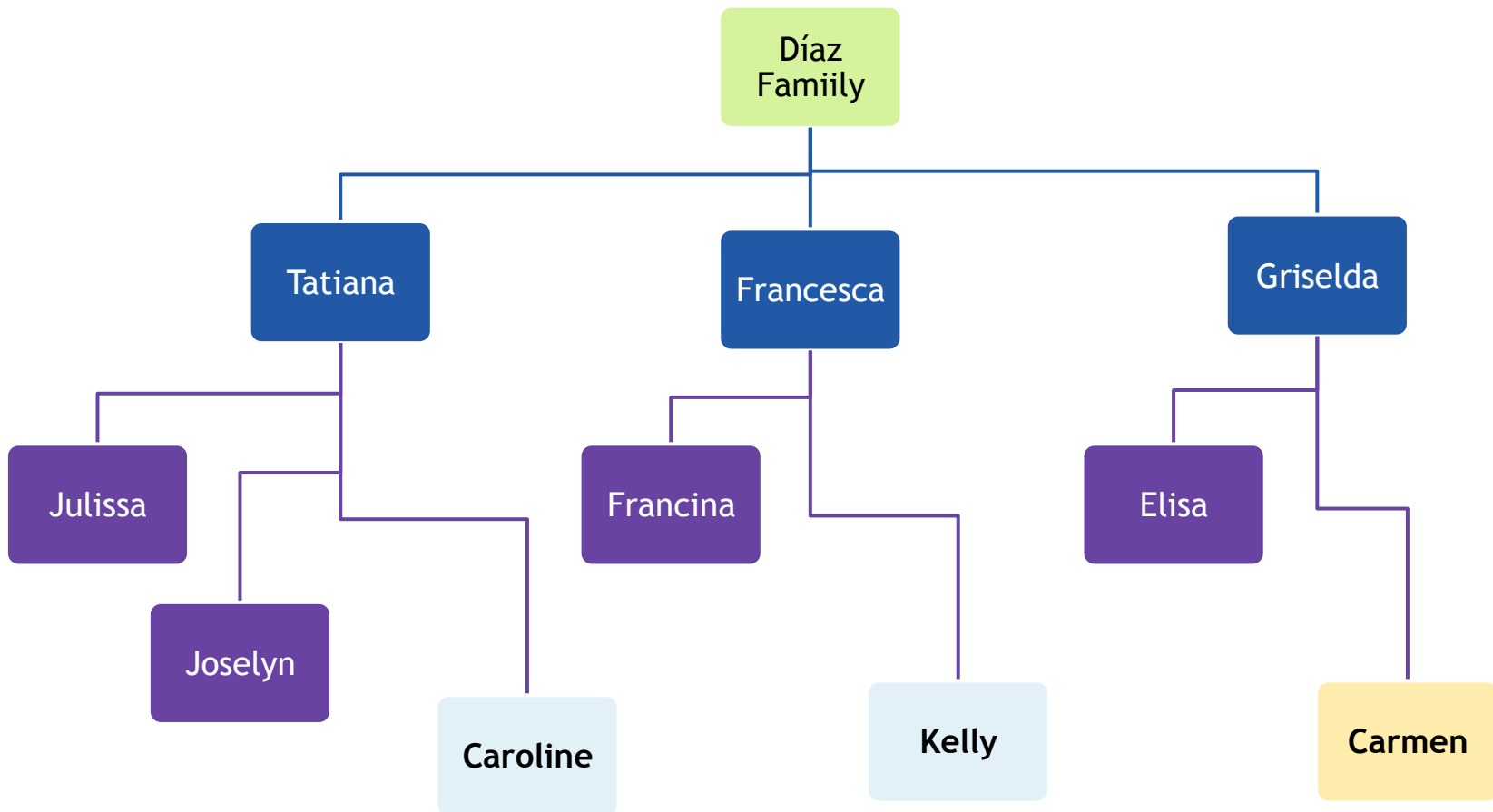
- II. Do the members of the host family who have had the most experience with non-native speakers of Spanish tend to use more standard stylistic variants to accommodate towards the speech of the American students?

3. Methodology

- Data collection: home video clips
 - Relaxed, informal
 - Daily life experiences
- Only analyzed utterances that were turns in a conversation
- Omitted utterances with an undetermined interlocutor, or an interlocutor that was not family or student



3.1 Informants



3.2 Procedures



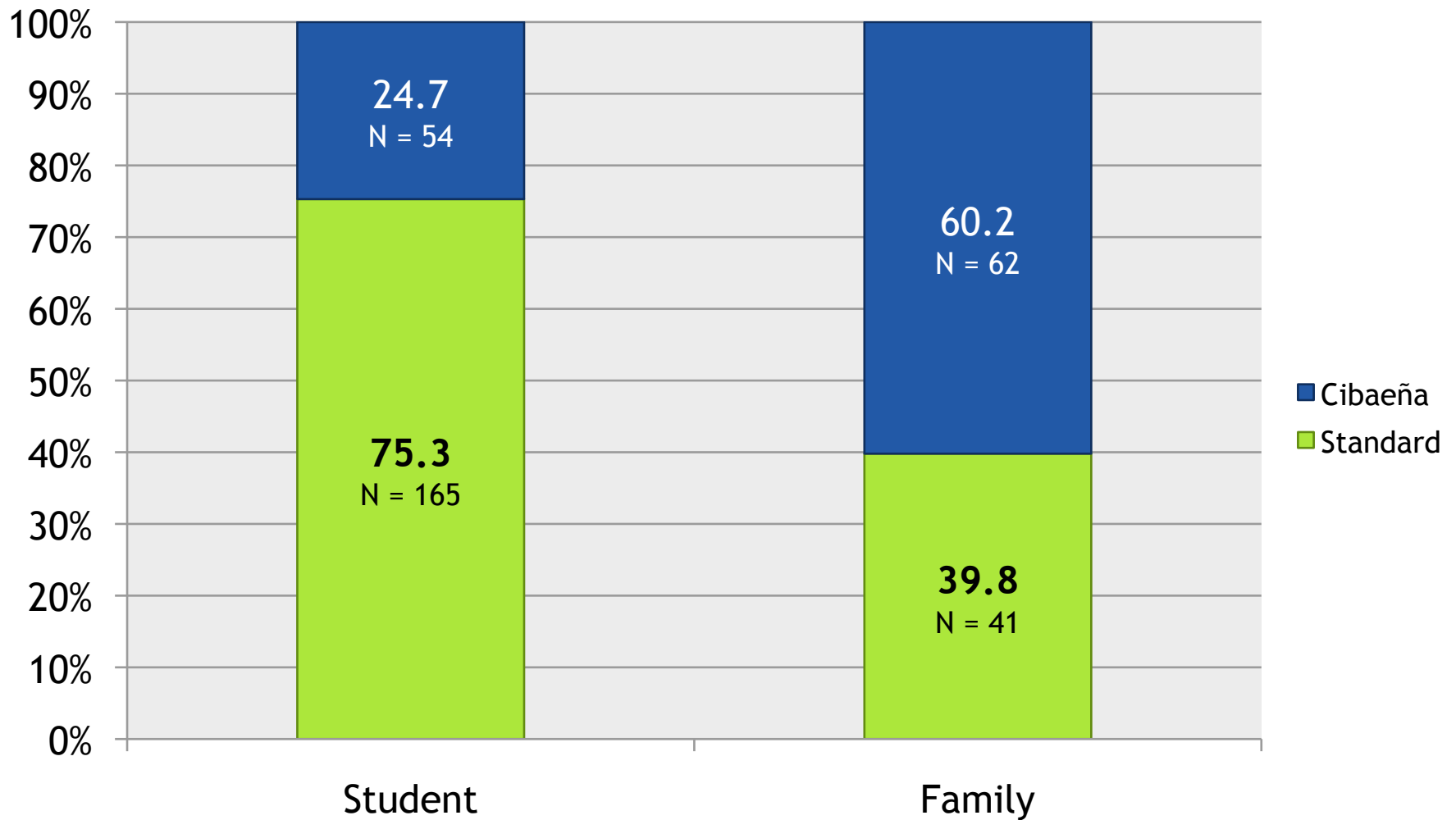
- The recordings were transcribed
- The exchanges were divided into groups according to interlocutor
- The use of stylistic variants in the host family members' speech was identified and coded
- The tokens of stylistic variation in articulation were examined with PRAAT and analyzed with GoldVarb X

4. Results

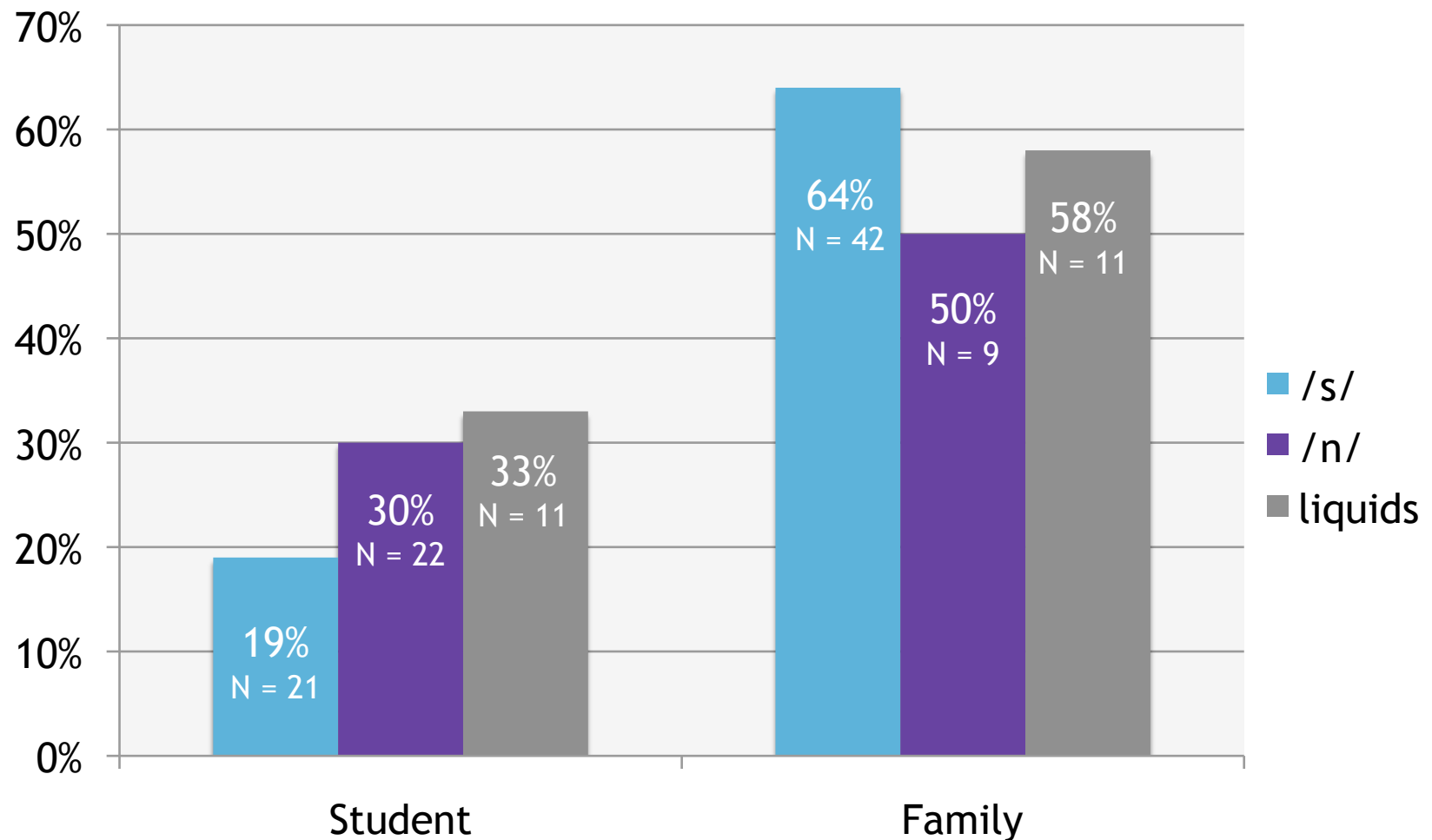


- The use of cibaena stylistic variants:
- 347 tokens
 - Final /s/ (n = 185)
 - Final /n/ (n = 102)
 - Liquids (n = 60)

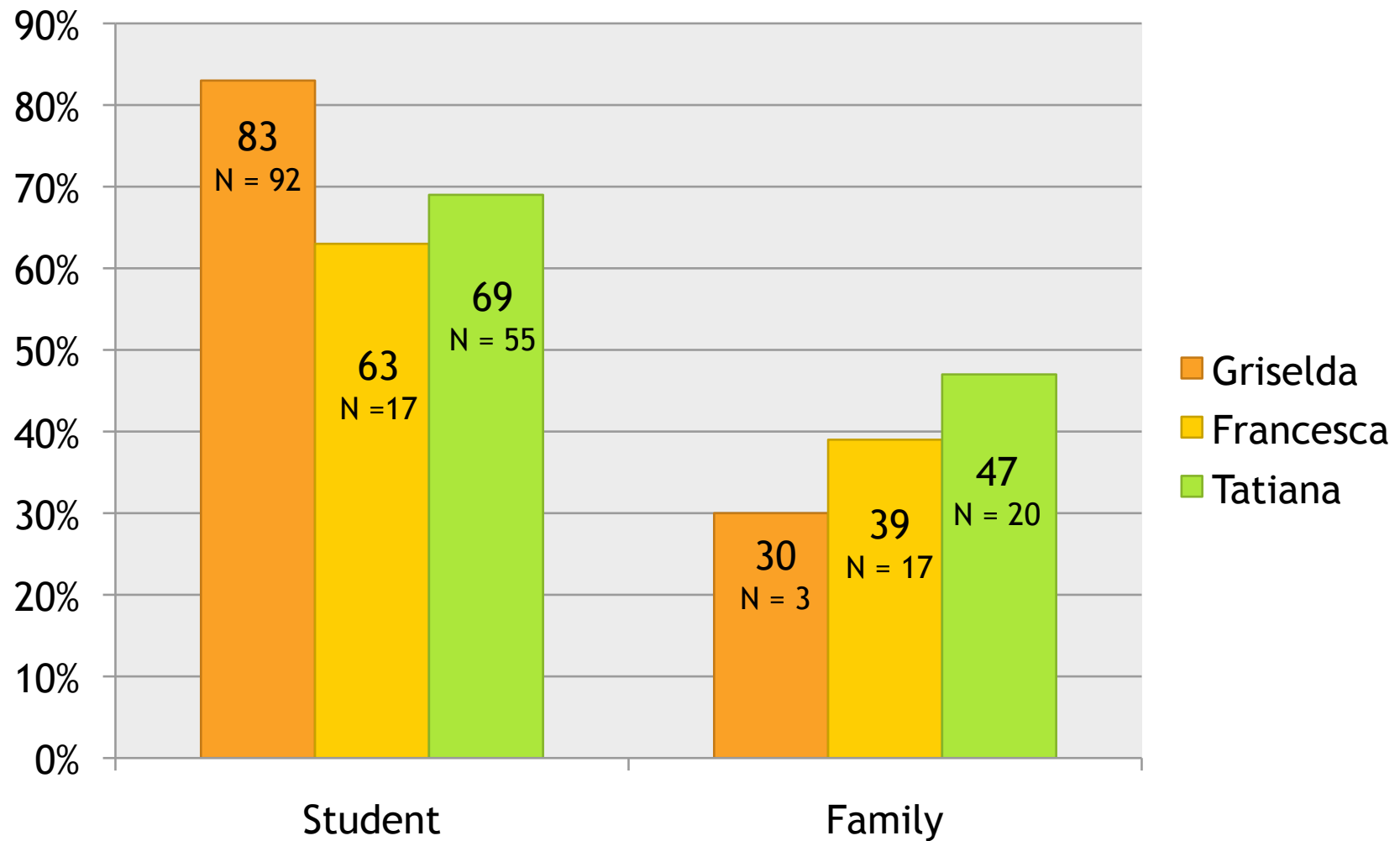
4.1 Figure 1: The use of standard versus cibaena speech variants across two interlocutor groups



4.2 Figure 2: A closer look at the use of cibaena stylistic variants across two interlocutor groups



4.3 Figure 3: The use of standard speech variants by each part of the host family across two interlocutor groups



5. Conclusion

- I. Does the host family use stylistic variants as a way to accommodate the speech of the American students? **Yes, but why?**

- II. Do the members of the host family who have had the most experience with non-native speakers of Spanish tend to use more stylistic variants to accommodate towards the speech of the American students?
Requires further research.



Thank you!

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