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Eduardo Louredo Rodríguez (2015): “A study of Galician-Castilian contact based on the verb morphology of dialects of the Ribeiro district”. *International Conference on Language Variation in Europe 8 (ICLaVE)*. Leipzig (Alemaña), 27-29 maio 2015



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A study of Galician-Castilian contact based on the verb morphology of dialects of the Ribeiro district

Eduardo Louredo Rodríguez

eduardo.louredo@usc.es

Instituto da Lingua Galega

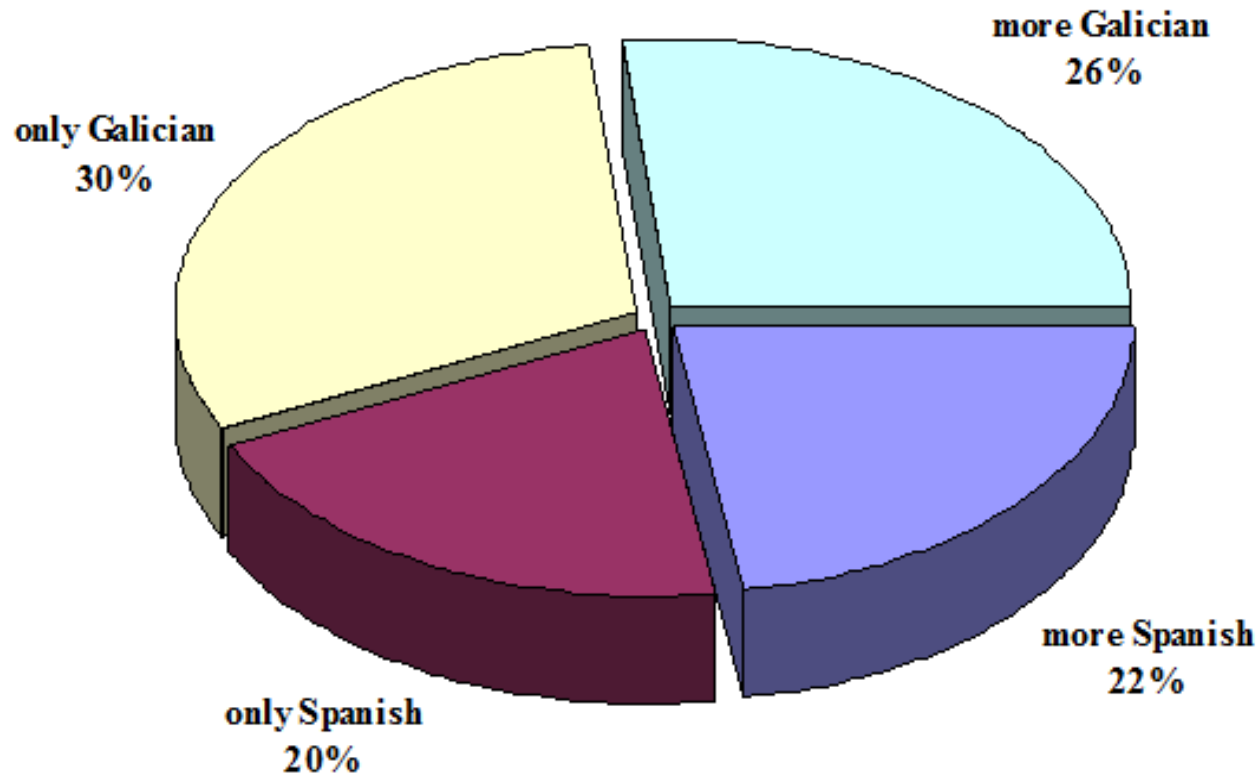
Investigation Group GI-1743

Universidade de Santiago de Compostela

1. Introduction

- Contact between Galician and Castilian.
- XX century: the number of people who speaks Spanish increases.

Usual language in Galicia (IGE, 2013)



Source: Professor Henrique Monteagudo

1. Introduction

- Contact linguistic situations → borrowing and code-switching.
- Loan words.
- Interferences, Weinreich (1953).
- Standard Galician (1982) and Galician at school.

1. Introduction

- Lexical loans and morphological interferences.
- Morphological contact is more difficult to explain than lexical contact.
- Ca. 1980 → Galician at school.
- Knowledge of standard Galician → people under 30 years old.

1. Introduction

- Between XV and XX centuries → Diglossia (Fishman) between Galician basilects and acrolect (Castilian).
- Roof language (*Dachsprache*, Kloss) → Castilian.
- “exoglossic diglossia” (Peter Auer 2005: 9).
- With standard Galician → “diaglossia” (Auer 2005: 22).
 - Castilian > Standard Galician > Popular Galician.

2. Methodology



Table 1: Generations

Generation	Generation I	Generation II	Generation III
Age	More than 60 years	40-56 years	16-30 years
People interviewed	10	10	11

2. Methodology

- semi-structured interview and a questionnaire.
- Problem: scarce frequency of morphological variants .
- Main objective: to highlight some tendencies in linguistic change in Galician and to establish a small typology of changes.
- Be careful! The number of people consulted is not sufficiently representative.

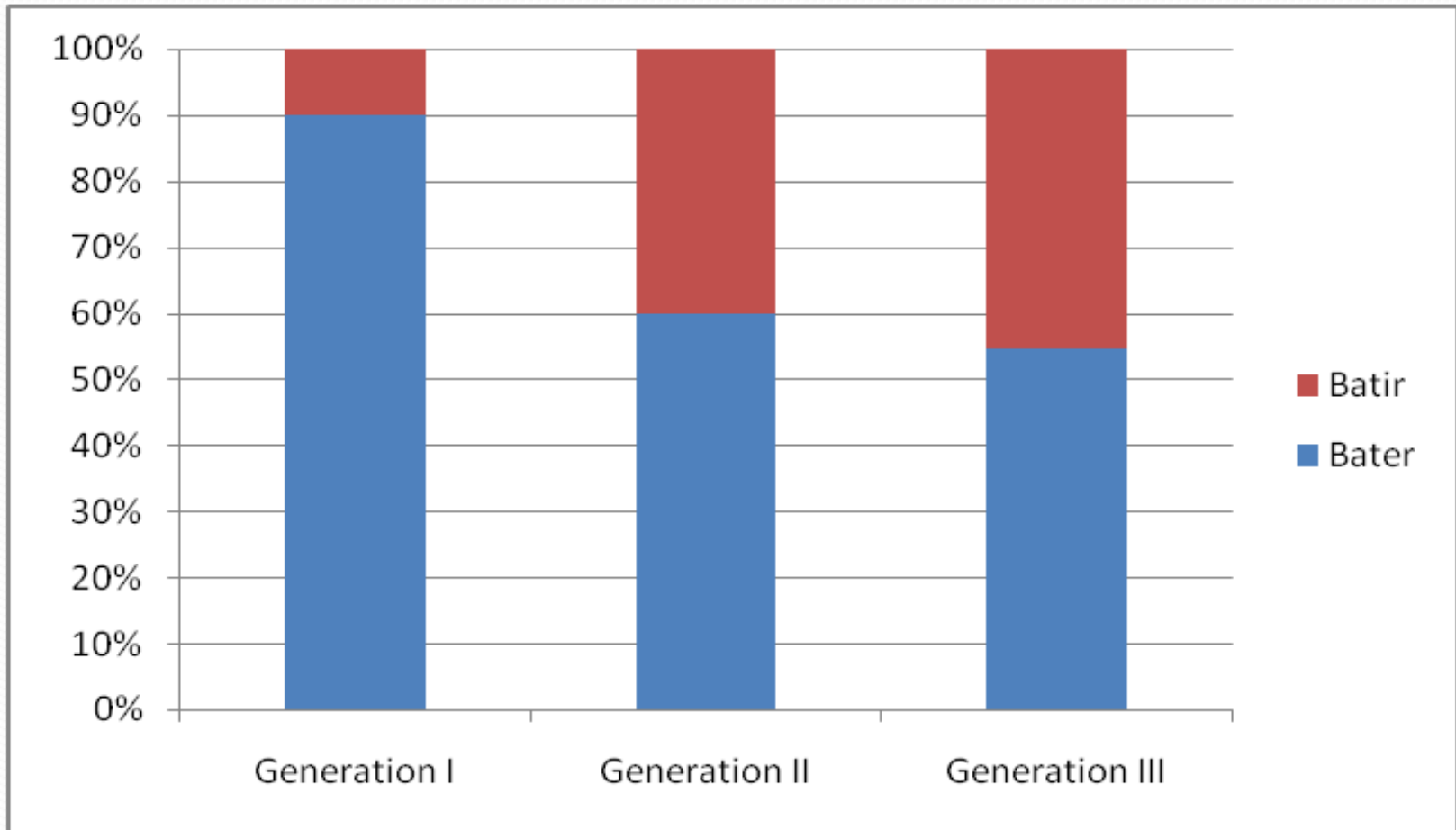


3. Analysis of the variables

1. Substitution of a Galician form by a Castilian form

- Galician infinitive *bater* (to beat) vs. Spanish *batir*.

Graph II: Batir ~ Bater



1. Substitution of a Galician form by a Castilian form

- Variation *vallo* ~ *valo* ~ *valgo*
- oldest and most conservative variant → *vallo* (<VALĚO).
- *Valgo* (Castilian form).
- *Valo* (Galician): process of analogical regularization:

andar > ando

to walk > I walk

comer > como

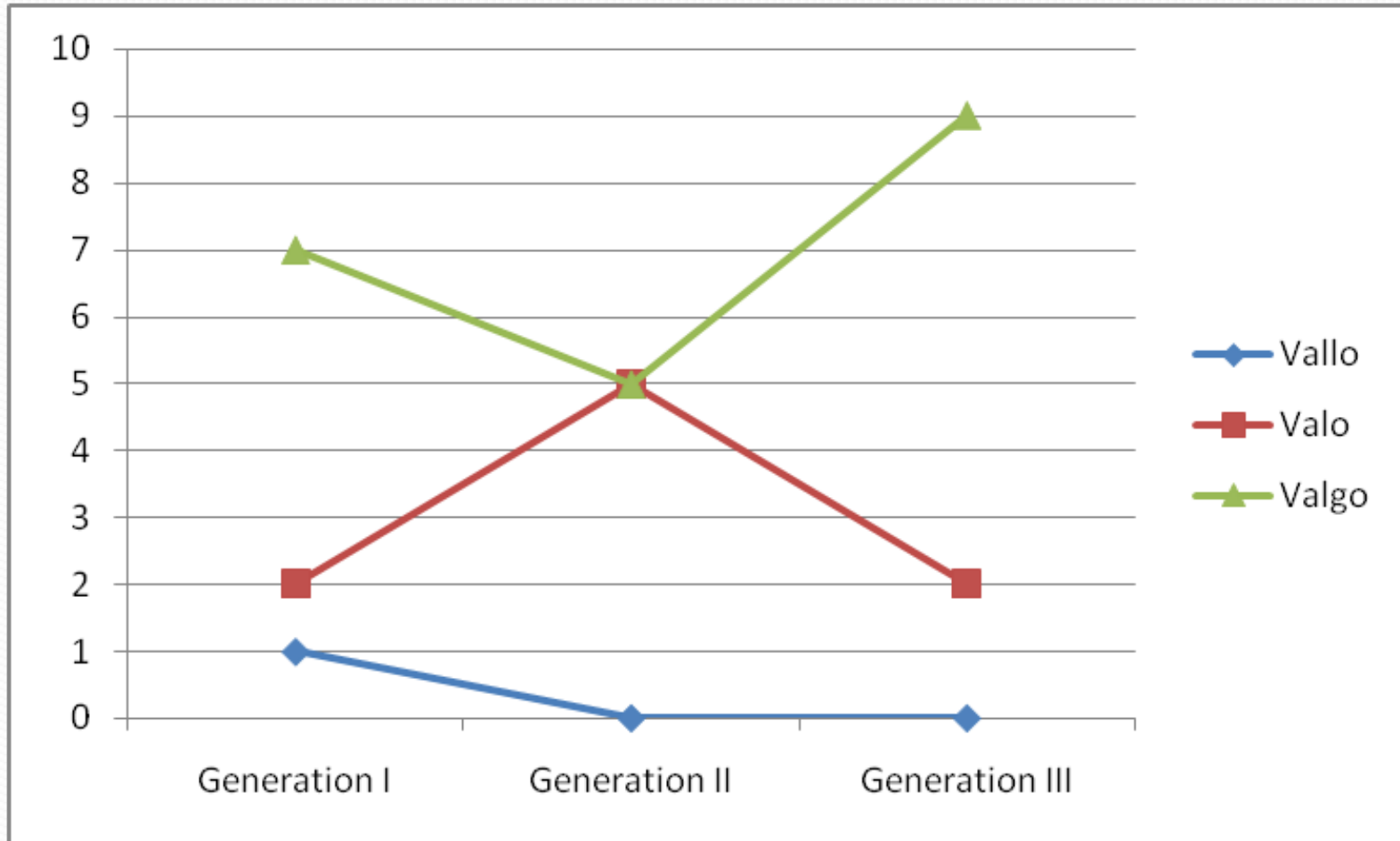
to eat > I eat

valer > valo (cfr. vallo)

to be good at > I am good at

Figure I

Graph III: Vallo ~ Valo ~ Valgo

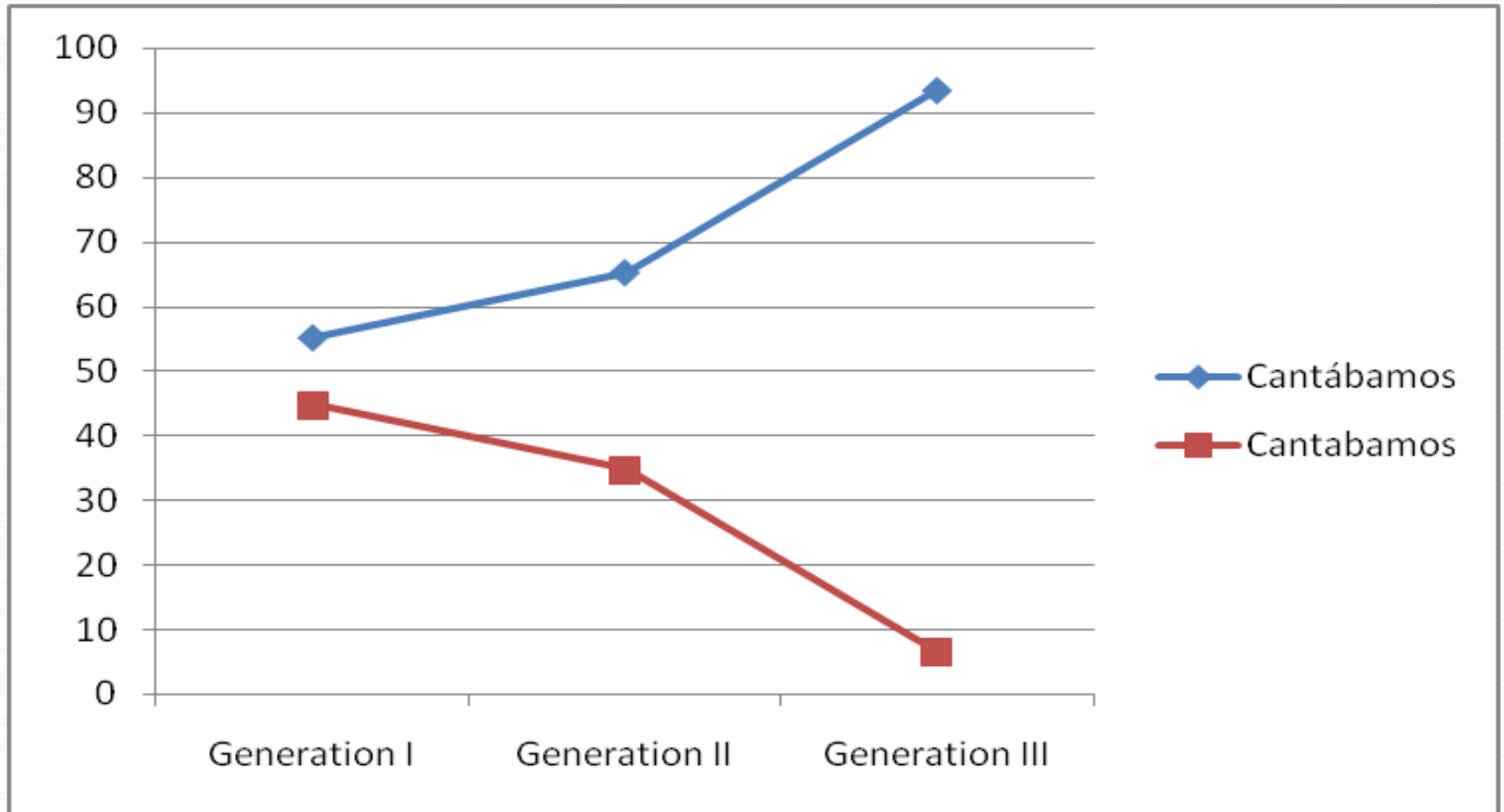


2. The dialectal form coinciding with Castilian expands

- a dialectal variant coinciding with Castilian is more employed than the other which does not possess the same formal identity.
- *convergence* (Gumperz / Wilson 1971).
- Cantabamos ~ cantábamos ('we used to sing').

- A) Cantabamos ~ cantábamos (‘ we used to sing’).
- The proparoxytone variant (cantábamos) is like Spanish form.
- This variant (cantábamos) occupies an important area in Galicia.

Graph IV: Cantábamos ~ Cantabamos



tendency of the language to regularize the paradigm?

Cantába

Cantábas

Cantába

Cantabámos → Cantábamos

Cantabádes → Cantábades

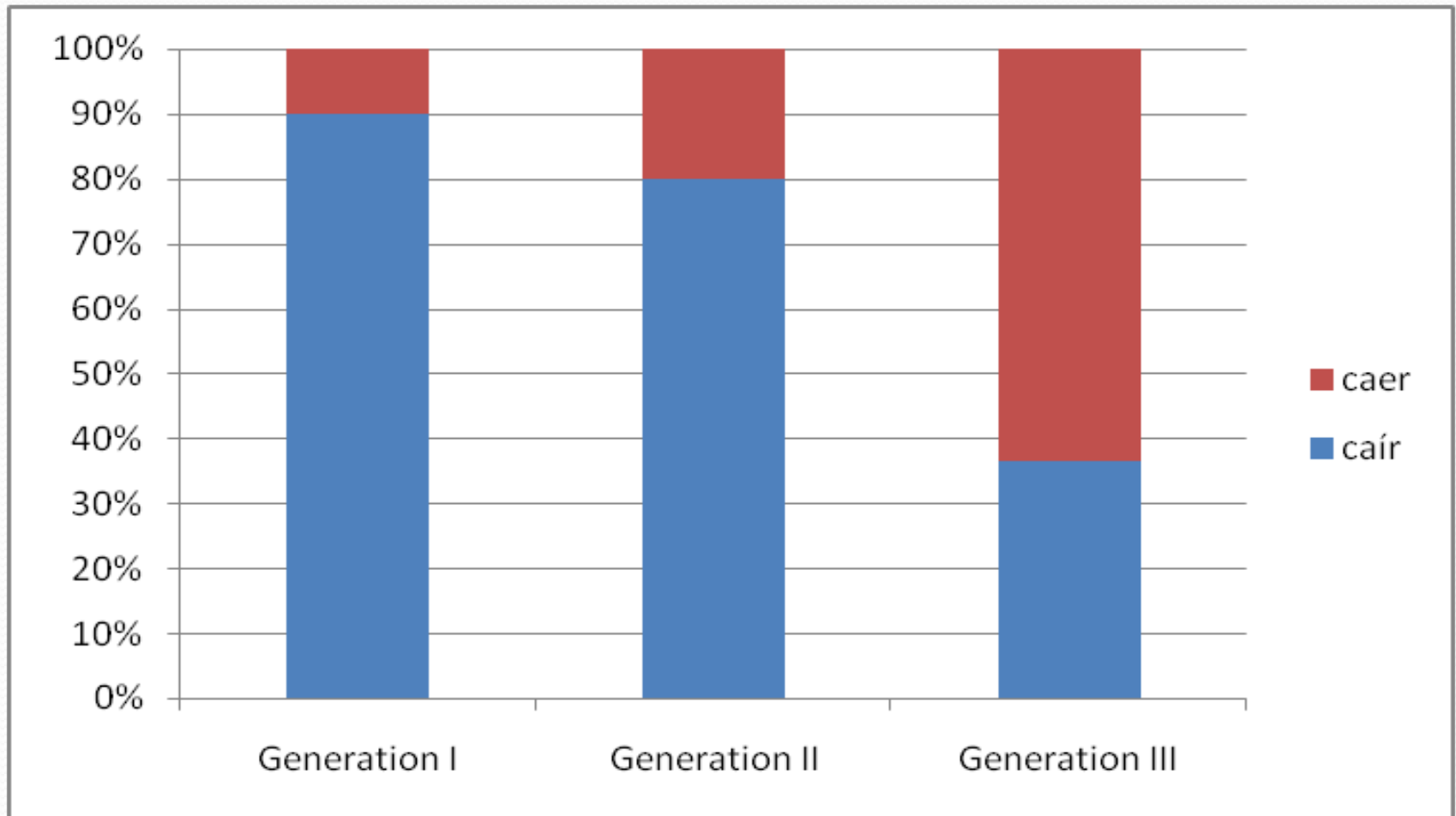
Cantában

Figure 2

Group 3: Expansion of a variant coinciding with Castilian and standard Galician.

- *caír* ('fall') vs. *Caer*.
- *Caír* is the majority form in the south of Galicia whilst *caer* is its equivalent in the north.
- *Caer* is also the Castilian word.

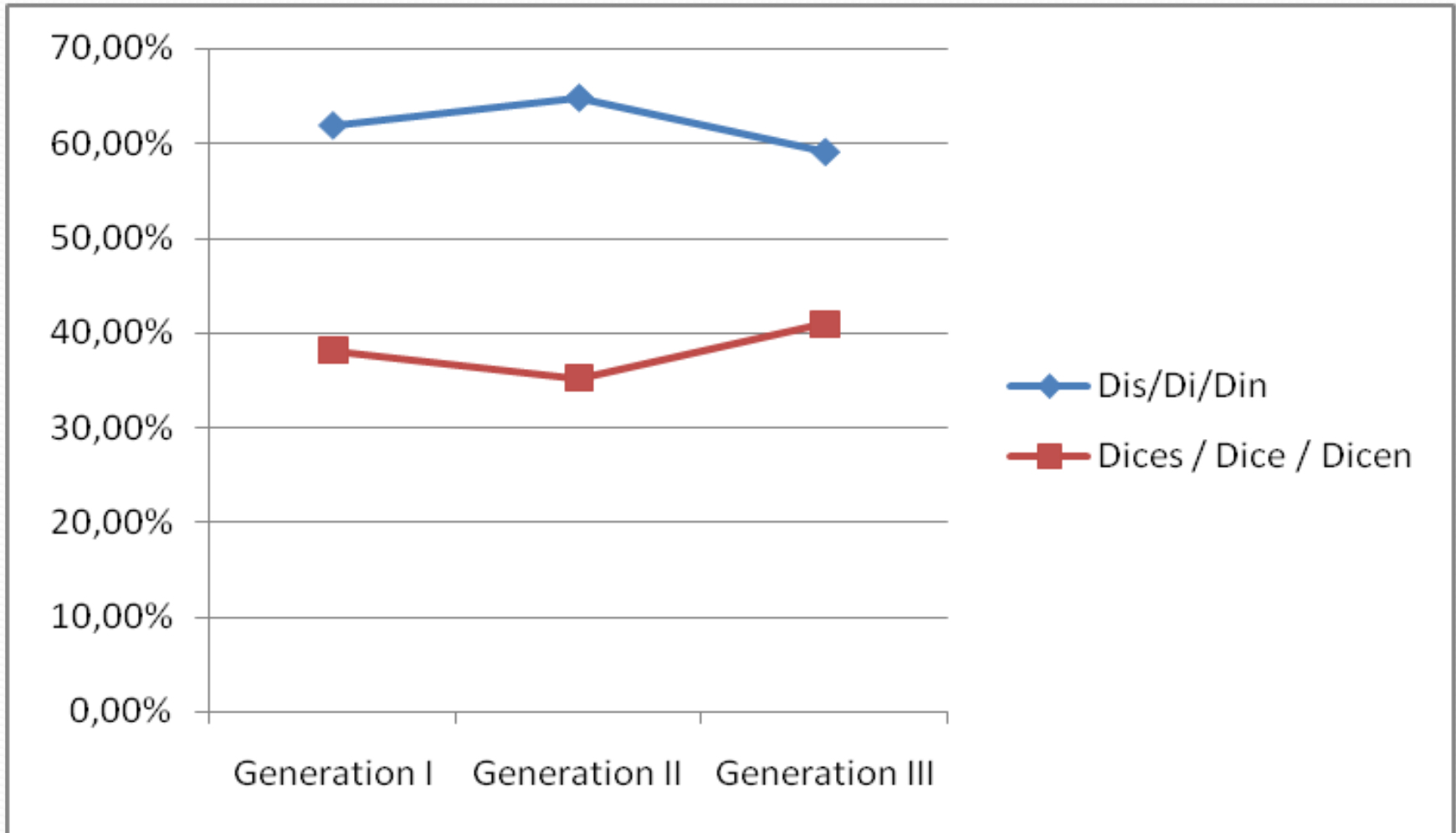
Graph V: Caír ~ Caer



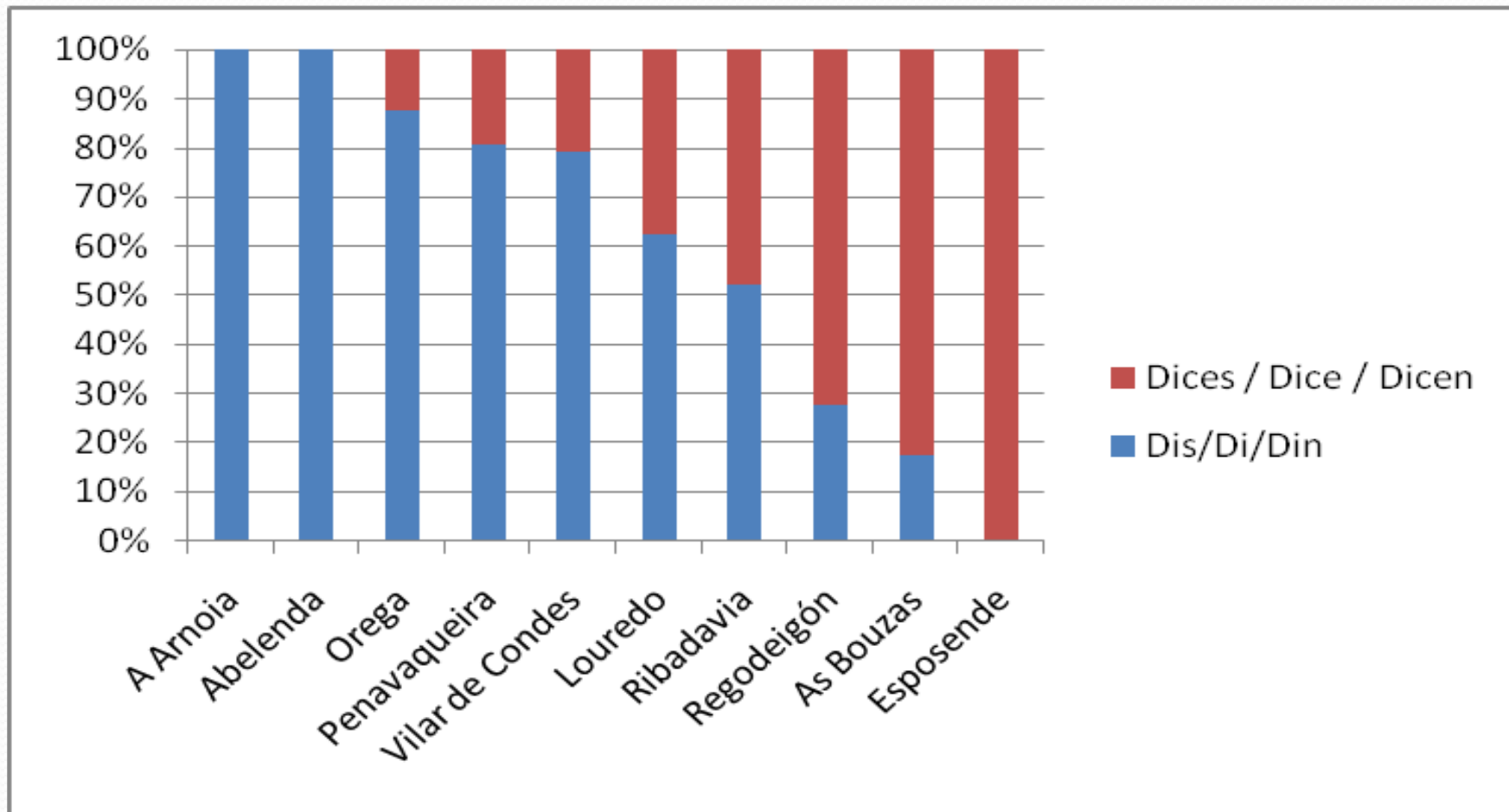
Group 4: The expansion of a variant coinciding with Castilian which is more morphologically regular.

- verb *dicir* ('to say').
- In the majority of Galician dialects: *dis* (you say), *di* (he/she says) and *din* (they say).
- in a large area of the territory studied the variants *dices*, *dice* and *dicen* (cfr. Spanish *dices*, *dice*, *dicen*).
- Are they continuations of the medieval Galician *dizes*, *diz* and *dizen* Ferreiro (1996: 327)?

Graph VI: Dis ~ Dices, etc.



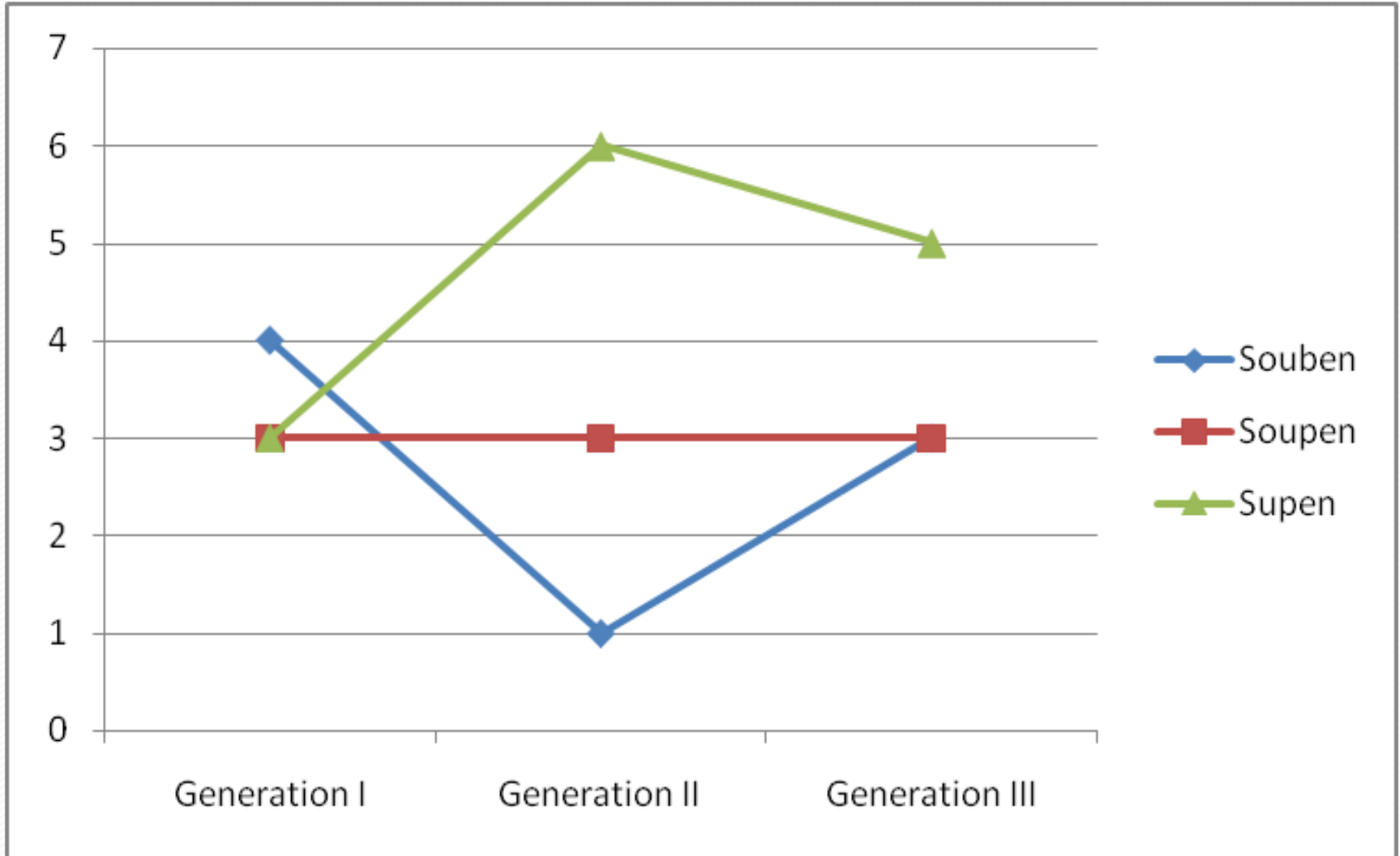
Graph VII: Dis ~ Dices, etc.



Group 5: Contact with Castilian causes hybrid forms.

- Linguistic contact can cause variants to appear which did not exist in any of the languages in question.
- In this case the element which changes is the root of the word.
- *Souben* ~ *Soupen* ~ *Supen* (I knew). Cfr. Spanish *supe*.
- *Souben* is the Galician variant.

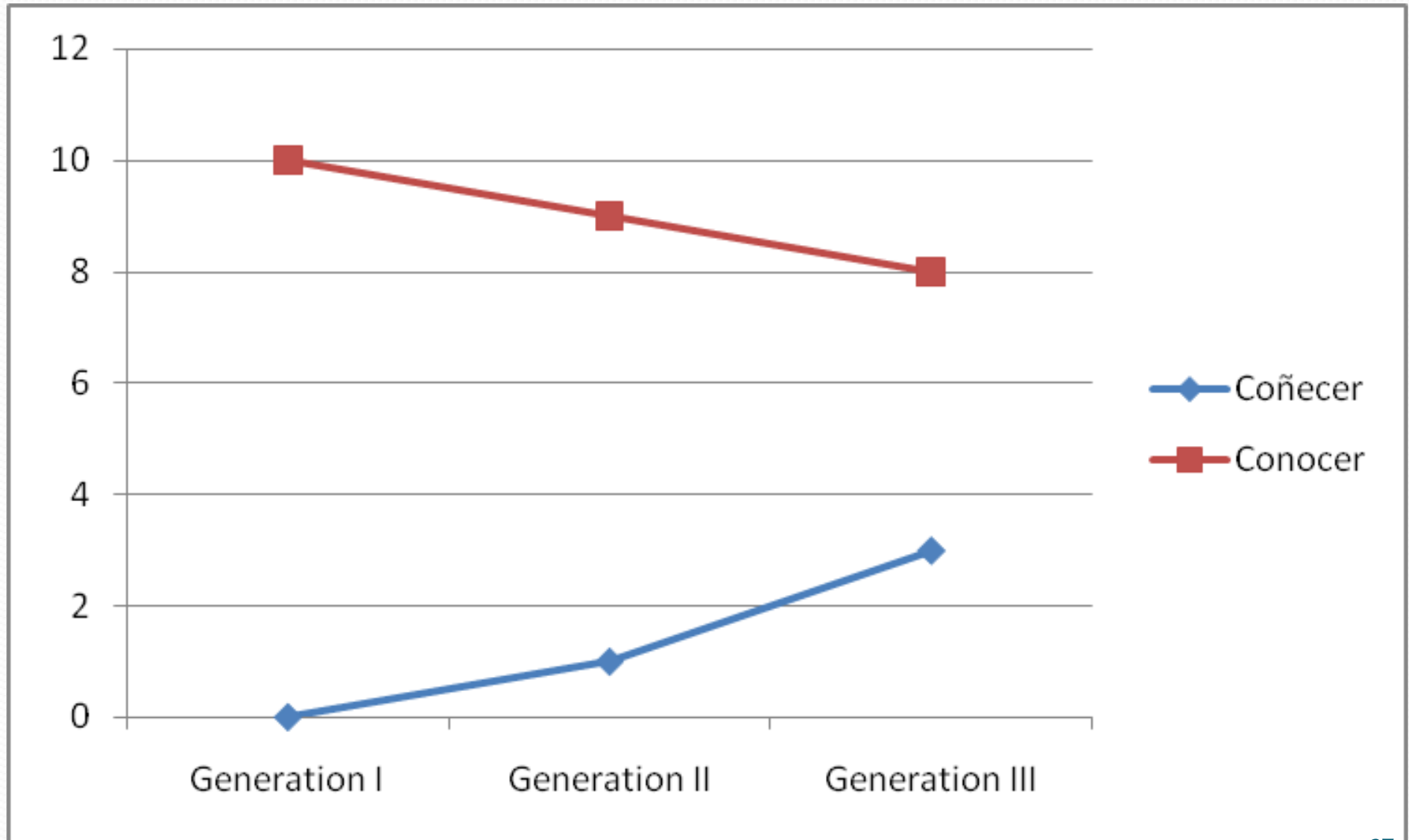
Graph VIII: Souben ~ Soupen ~ Supen



Group 6: Emergence in the use of standard Galician forms.

- The infinitive of the verb *coñecer* ('to know') presents the variants *conocer* and *coñecer*.
- *Conocer* is a loan word from the Castilian.

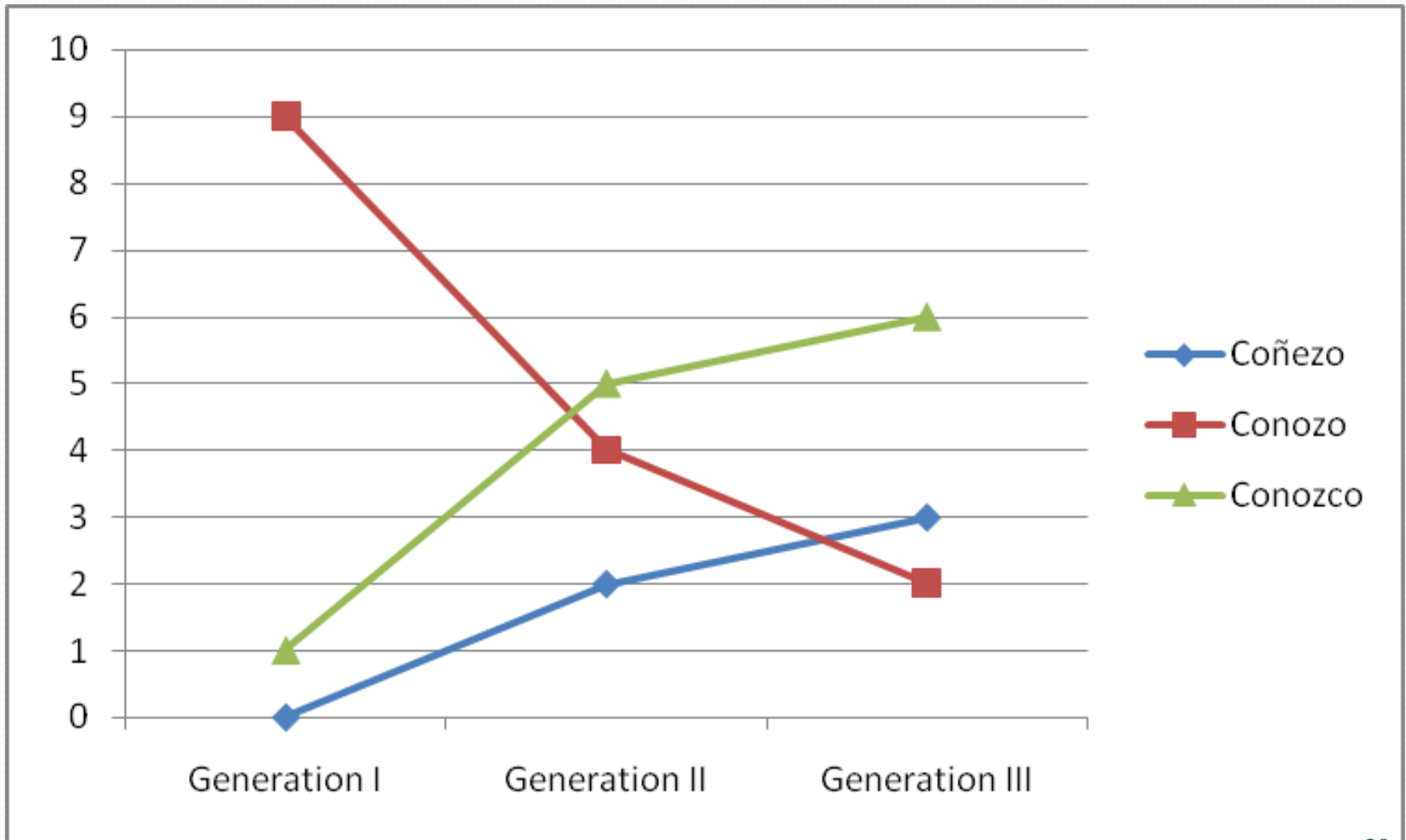
Graph IX: Coñecer ~ Conocer



Group 6: Emergence in the use of standard Galician forms.

- The first person singular of the present of the same verb: *Coñezo* ~ *Conozo* ~ *Conozco* ('I know')
- *Conozo*, formed upon the infinitive *conocer*.
- *Conozco* (from) Spanish.
- *Coñezo* (standard Galician).

Graph X: Coñezo ~ Conozo ~ Conozco




4. Conclusions

- Castilian is one more linguistic variant which may or may not condition the development of popular Galician.
- The role of standard Galician, which acts in many cases as a leveller of dialectal variation (such as in the case of *ouír*, *oucir*, *ouvir*) or as an incipient restriction of some former interferences (for example, in the verb *coñecer*), should be taken into account.
- In the majority of variables studied, it is the members of the youngest generation who most use those variants which coincide with Castilian, whilst only in some of the cases can the influence of the standard language be detected.

References

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Thank you!
Gracias!
eduardo.louredo@usc.es