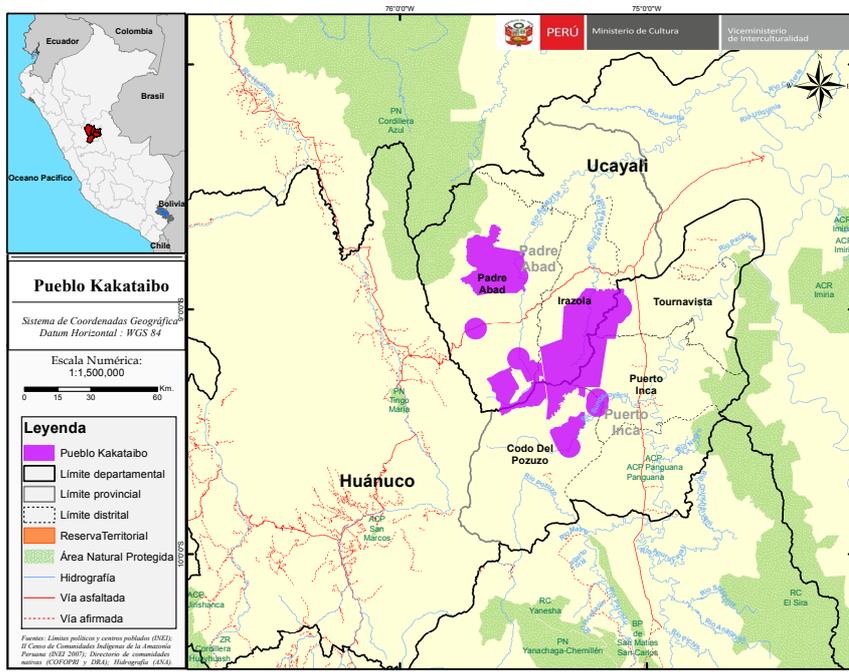


- Cross-linguistically, topics are expressed by dedicated morphemes (e.g. *-wa* in Japanese Kuno 1973), a specialized position in the clause (e.g. initial position in Turkish Erguvanlı 1984); or phonological clues (e.g. f_0 variations in Italian (Frascarelli and Hinterhölzl 2007)).

Kakataibo language

- Kakataibo (ISO 639,3 code ‘cbr’) is a Panoan language spoken by approximately 1500 people (Frank 1994) along the Aguaytía, San Alejandro and Sungaroyacu rivers in the Peruvian Amazon regions of Ucayali and Huánuco (see Map 1).

Map 1. Kakataibo native communities territory (Peruvian Ministry of Culture)¹



- Pro-drop is highly frequent; subject arguments are cross-referenced on the second-position clitic complex (2CL) and on the verb.

- Split-alignment: ergative for nouns (A marked by =*n*; S/O marked by \emptyset); accusative for pronouns (A/S =*n* and O \emptyset ; cf. Zariquiey 2011). Overall, accusative profile throughout the grammar.

- Complex system of switch reference, and pervasive use of clausal nominalizations.

- Relatively free constituent order restricted by two syntactic landmarks and dependent on information structure, e.g. focus and topic.

(1) _____ =2CL _____ V

¹ This map is available at: <http://bdpi.cultura.gob.pe/mapa/407>

- (2) a. inu=n=ka=a nis-i-a.² (New topic)
 jaguar=A/S=VAL=3A/S stand.up-IPFV-N.PROX
 ‘A jaguar is standing up.’
- b. kwan-i-a. (Continuing topic)
 go-IPFV-N.PROX
 ‘(The jaguar) goes.’
- c. kwan-kin=ka=a chaxu mēra-i-i. (Continuing topic)
 go-A/S>A:SE=VAL=3A/S deer find-IPFV-PROX
 ‘(The jaguar) finds a deer while going.’
- d. mēra-kin=ka=a chaxu kwan-i-a. (New of topic)
 find-A/S>A:SE=VAL=3A/S deer go-IPFV-PROX
 ‘The deer walks away while (the jaguar) finds (it).’
- e. a=n nui-i ‘i-kē kwan-i-a baka=nu. (CT)
 3=A/S follow-A/S>S:SE be-NFUT.NMLZ go-IPFV-N.PROX water=LOC
 ‘What the jaguar follows goes to the water.’
- d. baka=nu kwan-a. (Continuing topic)
 water=LOC go-PFV
 ‘(The deer) went.’
- e. baka=nu asin-i-a. [...] (Continuing topic)
 water=LOC go.in-IPFV-N.PROX
 ‘(The deer) goes into the water.’
- f. kwan-tan-mainun=ka=a nukēn chichi baka=nu
 go-GO.IMP-A/S≠A/S:S=VAL=3A/S 1PL.O/POSS grandmother water=LOC
 nain-i-i. (New topic)
 shower-IPFV-PROX
 ‘While (the deer) is going away, the water’s mother is taking a shower on the river.’
 (Nukēn_chichi-ET-2012-11-05-CBR-1.1-1.7, 1.11)

(3) Morpho-syntactic strategies to express topic

- Grammatical encoding
- Type of NP
- Position in the clause
- Grammatical relation
- Type of clause
- Subordinating morphology

² Abbreviations: 1 ‘first person’, 2 ‘second person’, 3 ‘third person’, A ‘subject of transitive verb’, COMP ‘comparative’, DUR ‘durative’, EVID ‘evidential’, GO.IMP ‘go imperative (andative), IPFV ‘imperfective’, LOC ‘locative’, NFUR.NMLZ ‘non-future nominalizer’, N.PROX ‘non-proximate’, O ‘object of transitive verb’, PE ‘previous event, PFV ‘perfective’, PL ‘plural’, REC.PT ‘recent past’, REFL ‘reflexive’, REM.PST ‘remote past’, S ‘subject of intransitive verb’, SE ‘simultaneous event’, VAL ‘validation’,

Position in the clause

Initial position:	Topic	=2CL	_____	V
Middle position:	_____	=2CL	Topic XP	V
Preceding verb:	_____	=2CL	_____ Topic	V

Grammatical relation

- A: subject of transitive verb
- S: subject of intransitive verb
- O: object of transitive verb

Type of clause

- Main clause
- Subordinate clause

Subordinating morphology

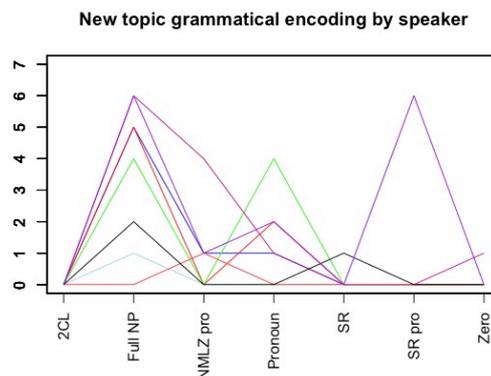
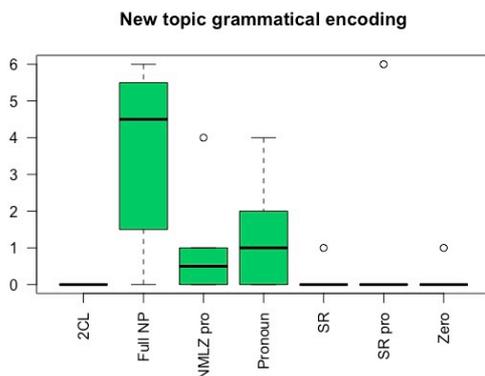
- Same subject (SS)
- Argument to argument (ARG to ARG)
- Different subjects (DS)
- Nominalizer (NMLZ)

3 Results

3.1 New topic

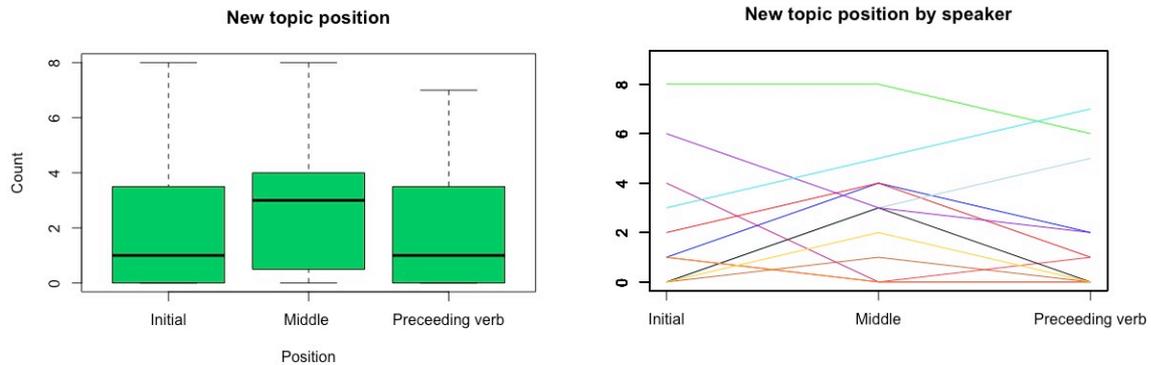
Grammatical encoding

- New topics are significantly preferred to occur overtly in the form of a Full NP, $X^2(6, N=56) = 25.38, p < .001$.
- A *post hoc* test shows that new topics are preferred to be grammatically encoded as an NP over 2CL ($p < .001$), switch-reference (SR) suffixes ($p = .004$), SR plus a pronoun ($p = .009$) and pronoun ($p = .003$).
- Other pairwise comparisons with NP as one of the elements did not show a significant difference.



Position

- No significant preference was found, $X^2 (2, N=36) = 2.09, p < .35$.

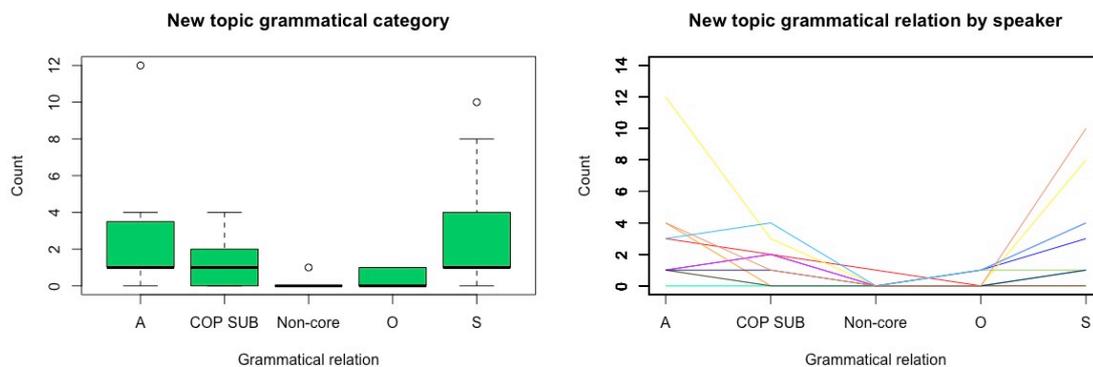


Grammatical relation

- New topics are preferred to occur as the grammatical subject (conflation of A and S), $X^2 (4, N=60) = 24.11, p < .001$.

- A following pairwise *post hoc* test shows that both the A and S grammatical relations are preferred over the O grammatical relation ($p < .05$ for A and $p < .009$ for S) and over non-core arguments ($p < .005$ for A and $p < .001$ for S).

- However, there is no significant preference for new topics as either A instead or S or vice versa.



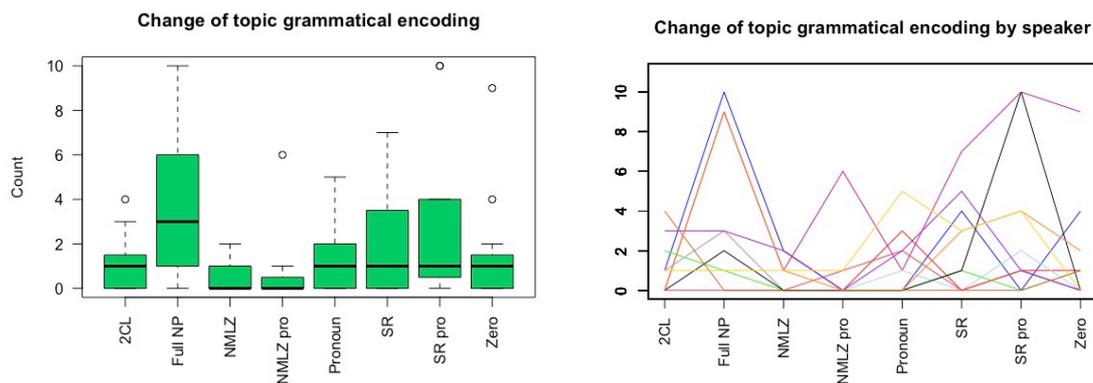
Type of clause

- There is not a significant preference for new topics to occur in either type of clause, ($W = 58, p = 0.8905, (n=11)$).

3.2 Change of topic

Grammatical encoding

- A significant preference for using a Full NP to express the change of topic was found, $X^2(7, N=88) = 16.28, p < .024$.
- Nonetheless, this significant preference was shown to be only applicable to the pairwise comparison between a Full NP and a nominalization plus pronoun (NMLZ pro, $p < .026$).
- Other pairwise comparisons involving the Full NP were not found to be significant.



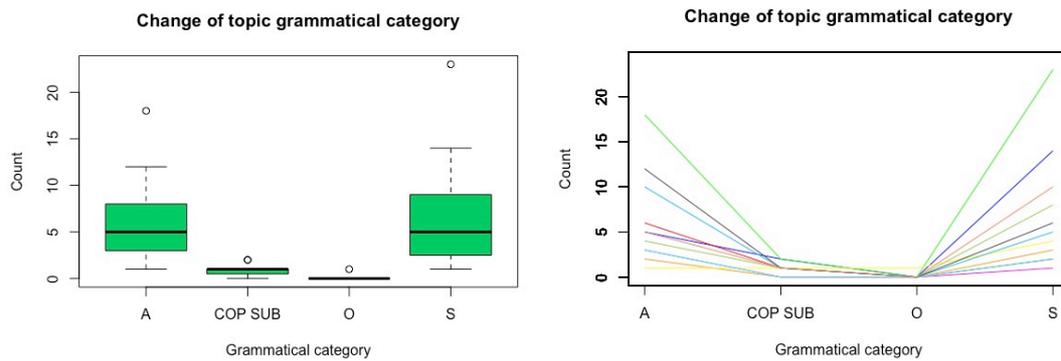
- (9) a. [...] ñapó nē ěo ‘amainunká kuěuni
 ñapon nē ěo ‘a-mainun=ka=a kuěun-i
 sábaló mm different do-A/S≠A/S:SE=VAL=3A/S stab.on.a.stick-A/S>S:SE

kwanti kixuidá ka kakěxa.
 kwan-ti ki-xun=id=a =ka=a ka-akě-x-a
 go-FUT.NMLZ say-A/S>A:PE=EVID=3A/S =VAL=3A/S tell-REM.PST-3-N.PROX
 ‘Then, (the man) told his woman “let’s go stab (some fish) while I fish *sábaló*”’.

- b. xanu kwankěxa.
 xanu kwan-akě-x-a
 woman go-REM.PST-3-N.PROX
 ‘(Then, his) wife went (fishing).’ (Abuelo_que_picó_a_su_nieto-ET-2012-11-11-
 CBR.1.6-1.7)

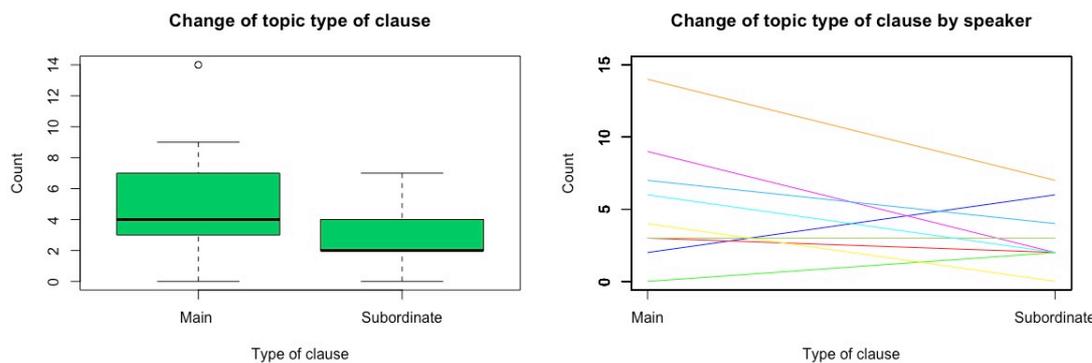
Type of NP

- The use of a bare noun is significantly preferred over the other two options, $X^2(2, N=33) = 19.58, p < .001$.
- A *post hoc* analysis shows that the use of the bare noun is significantly preferred over both complex NP ($p < .001$) and over nouns plus third person pronoun ($p < .001$).



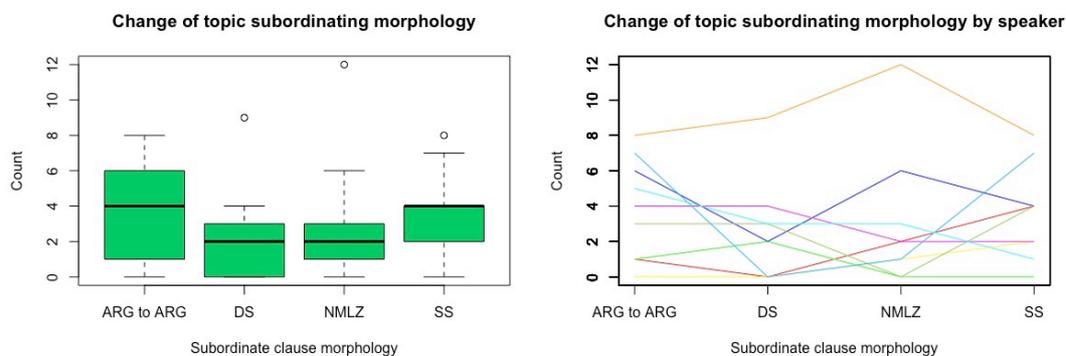
Type of clause

- No significant preference was found with regard to placing the topical constituent in either the main or subordinate clause, $W = 55, p=0.2097$ ($n = 18$).



Subordinating morphology

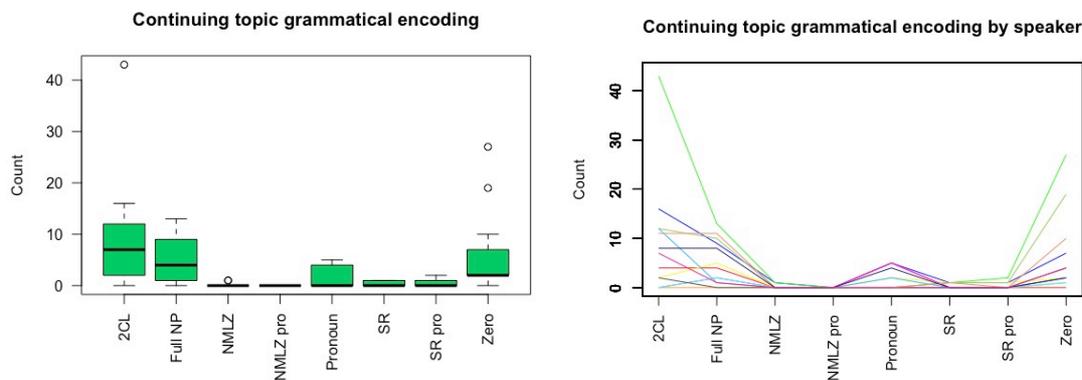
- None of the morphological markers reached significance, $X^2 (3, N=36) = 0.96, p=.81$.



3.3 Continuing topic

Grammatical encoding

- A statistically significant preference for certain strategies marking a continuing topic over the others, $X^2(7, N=104) = 54.38, p < .001$.
- A *post hoc* analysis shows that the strategies that involve the least morpho-syntactic coding, zero marking and second-position enclitics, are favored to express this kind of topic.
- Continuing topics with zero marking are preferred over the NMLZ ($p < .001$) and SR ($p < .001$) strategies.
- The use of second-position enclitics to signal continuing topics has a wider preference over other grammatical devices such as NMLZ ($p < .001$), NMLZ pro ($p < .001$) and SR pro ($p < .001$).
- However, the use of a Full NP was also found statistically significant in marking continuing topics over the NMLZ ($p < .001$), NMLZ pro ($p < .001$) and SR pro ($p = .013$) strategies.

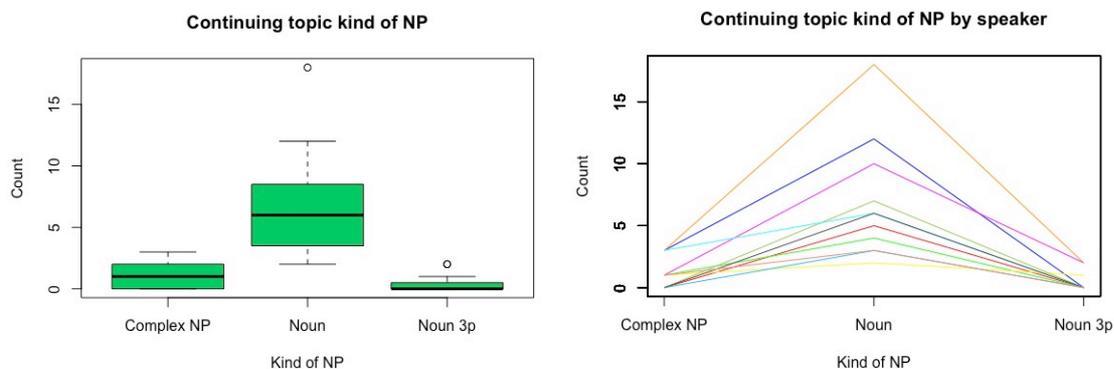


- (11) a. anúbi kwankëxa.
 a=nu=bi kwan-akë-x-a
 3=LOC=CONT go-REM.PST-3-N.PROX
 ‘(They) kept going there.’
- b. ‘aidá kwankëxa.
 ‘ai=id=a kwan-akë-x-a
 then=EVID=3A/S go-REM.PST-3-N.PROX
 ‘Then, (they) went.’
- c. *como trescientos metroín dapiidá kwankëxa.*
 como trescientos metro=ín =dapi=id=a kwan-akë-x-a
 like three.hundred meter=EXCL =DUBT=EVID=3A/S go-REM.PST-3-
 N.PROX
 ‘(They) walked only for three hundred meters.’
- d. maënu kwankë ‘aibiidá
 maë=nu kwan-kë ‘ai=bi=id=a
 abandoned.farm=LOC go-NFUT.NMLZ then=CONT=EVID=3A/S

nukuákëxa.
 nuku-t-akë-x-a
 reach-REFL-REM.PST-3-N.PROX
 ‘When (they) had gone to the *purma*, but (they) arrived (there).’
 (Historia_de_murciélago-ET-2012-11-16-CBR.7.10)

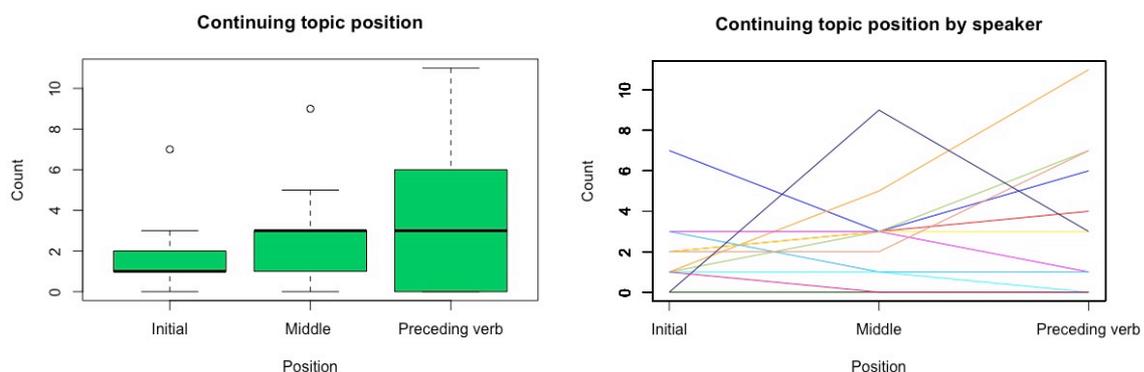
Type of NP

- A preference for the type of NP expressing continuing topic was found, $\chi^2(2, N=33) = 19.44, p < .001$.
- A following *post hoc* test showed that the bare NP strategy was preferred over the other two strategies, complex NP ($p < .001$) and Noun 3p ($p < .001$).



Position

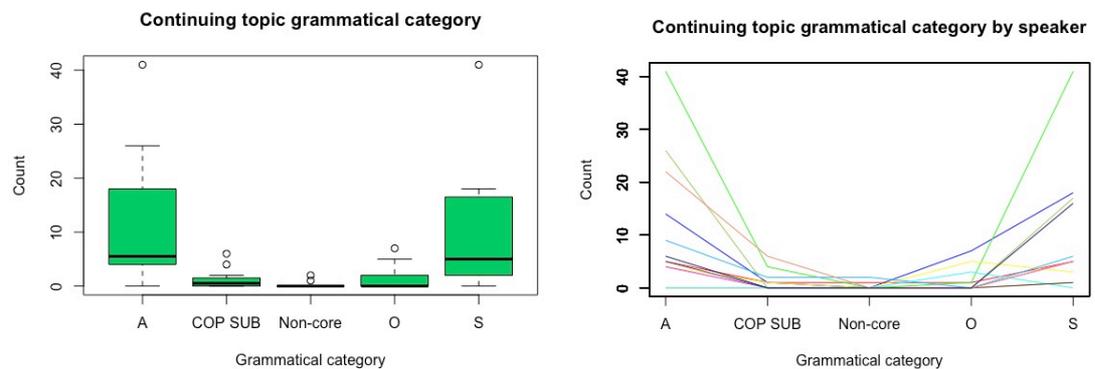
- It was found that no position was favored to express this kind of topic, $\chi^2(2, N=39) = 0.474, p = .079$.



Grammatical relation

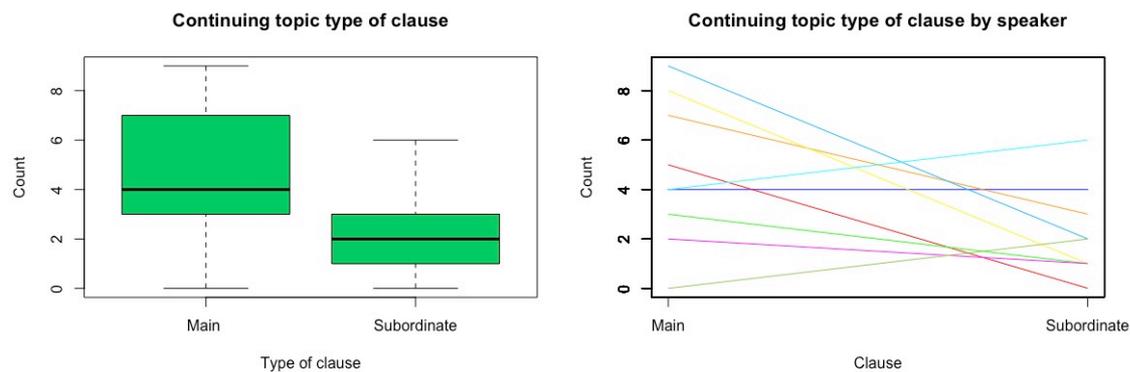
- Continuing topics are preferred statistically to occur as the A or S argument, the subject grammatical relations, $\chi^2(4, N=60) = 22.2, p < .001$,

- A *post hoc* test shows that both A and S are significantly favored over all the other grammatical relations considered in this variable.



Type of clause

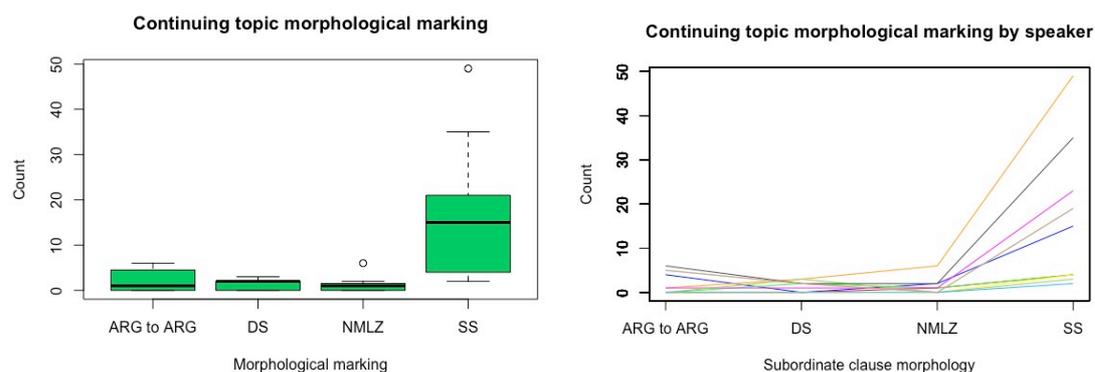
- No statistically significant preference was found for any of these two clause types, $W = 62$, $p = .062$, $n = 18$.



Subordinating morphology

- Only the same subject (SS) switch reference strategy is statistically favored to be used with continuing topics, $\chi^2(3, N=44) = 21.93$, $p < .001$.

- A *post hoc* test evidences that the SS strategy was preferred over the three other alternatives: same subject over nominalizer ($p < .001$), same subject over argument to argument ($p < .001$) and same subject over different subjects ($p < .001$).



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