

Acquisition by advanced English learners

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1. Why?

- Characteristic & Frequent in French
- Late L2 acquisition
- Supra-segmental relevance

2. Objectives

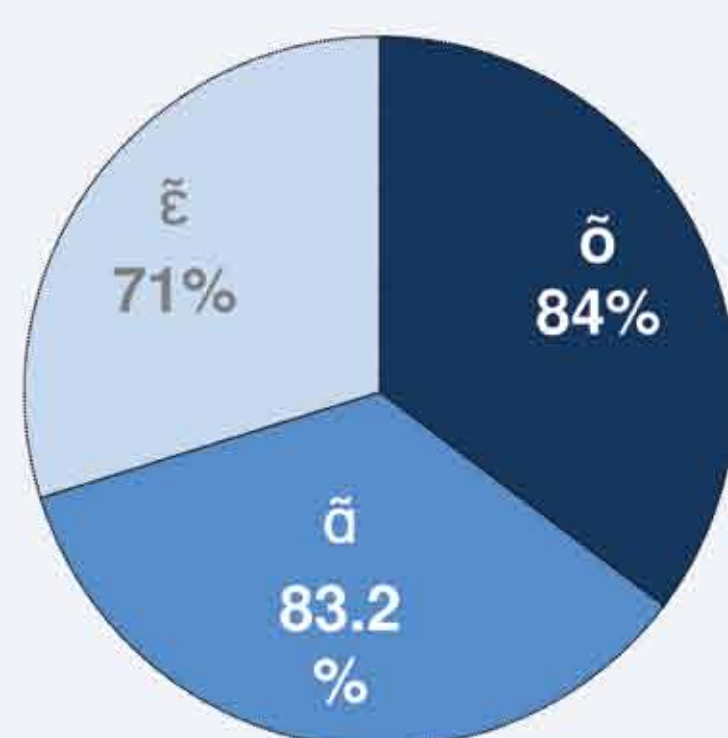
- To sketch acquisition patterns
- To capture patterns with Optimality Theory (OT)
- To inform Inter-language (IL)

3. Method

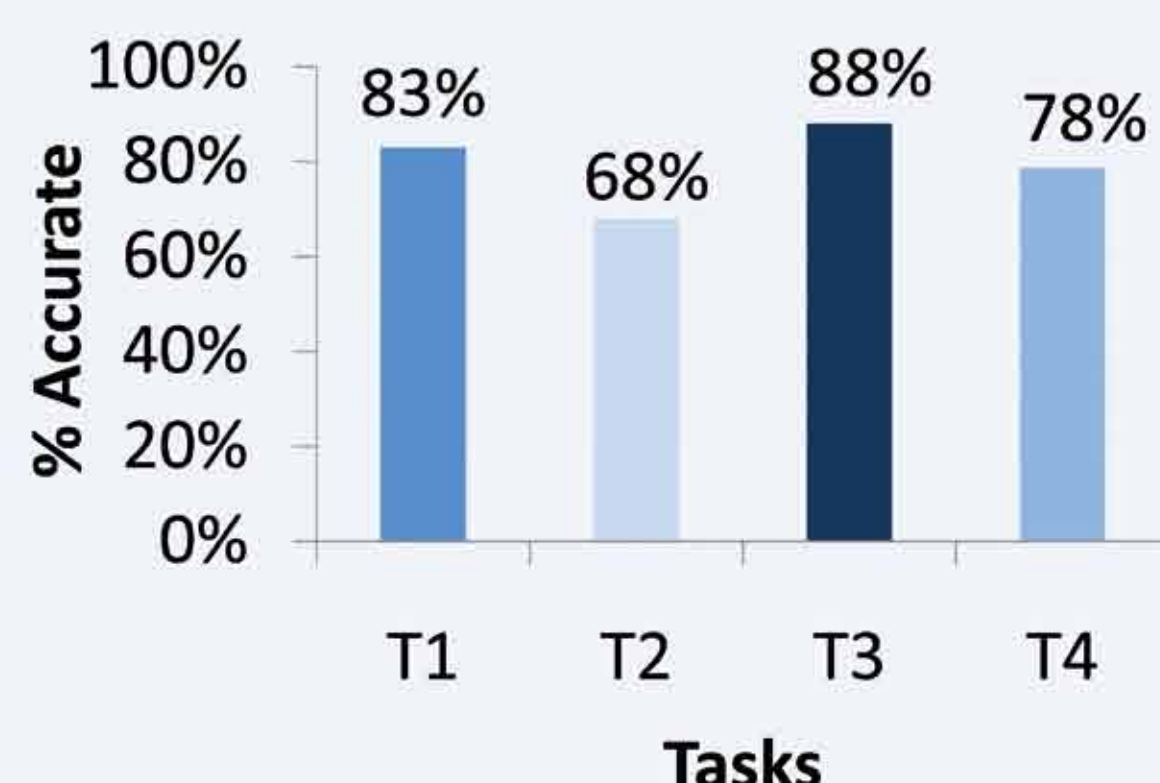
- 11 participants (7 f. + 4 m.)
- French BA year 2
- Cross-sectional data collection
- 4 Tasks

4. Results

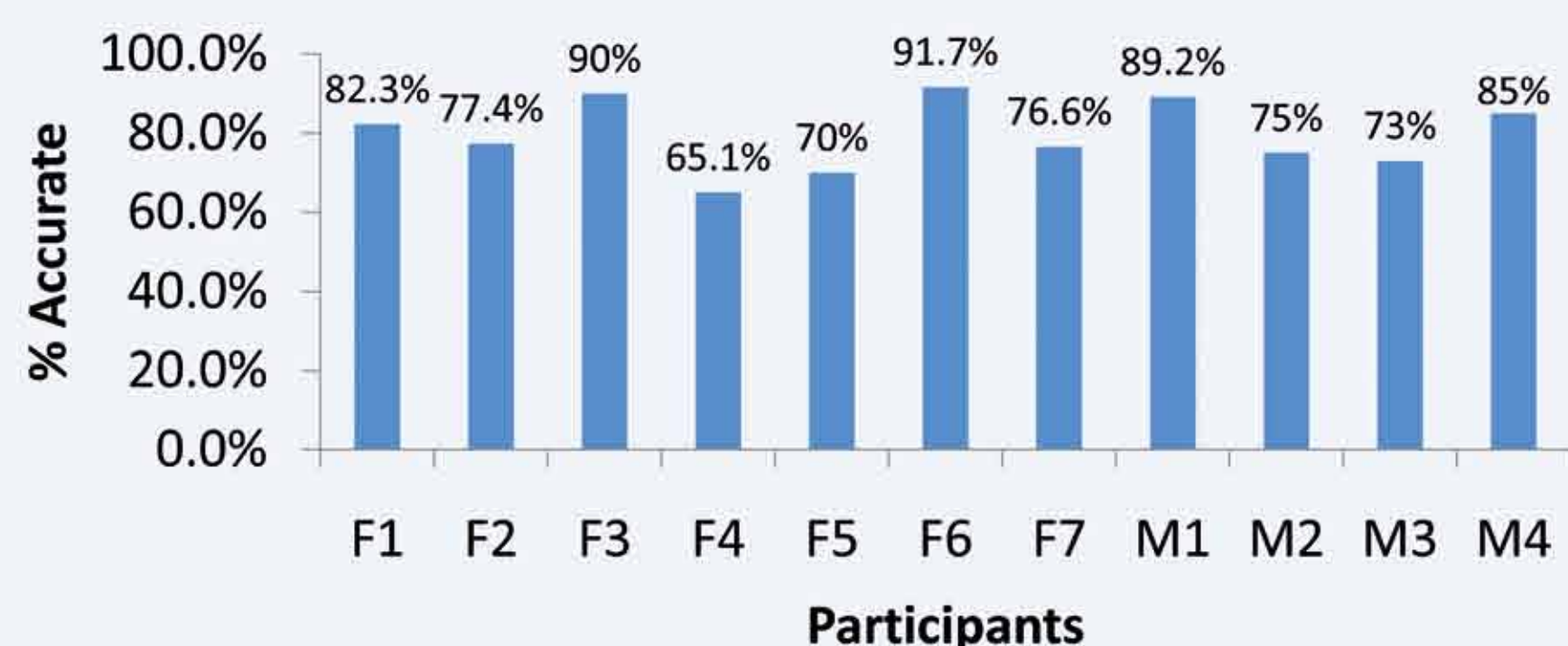
High accuracy



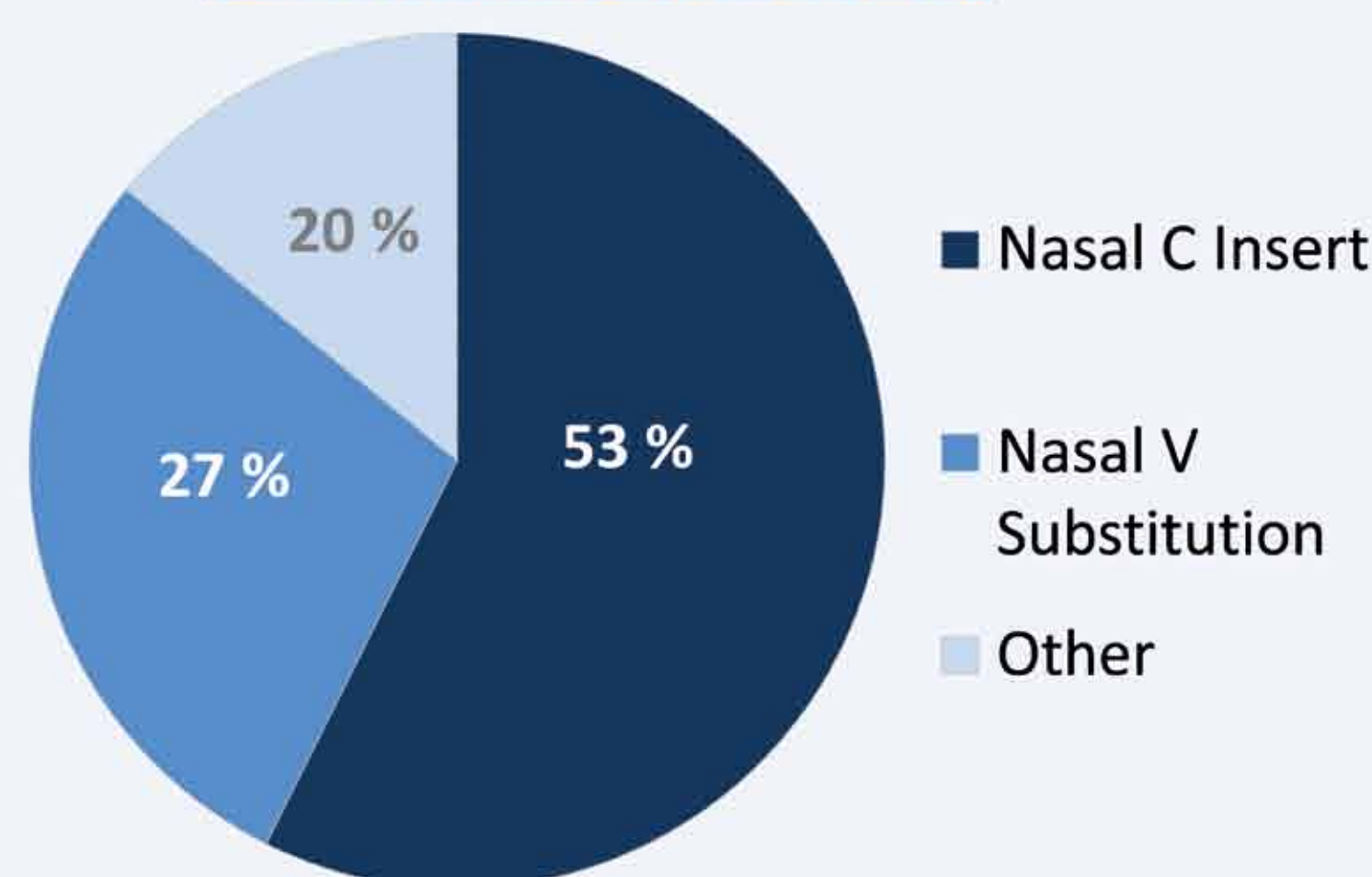
Task variability in accuracy



Individual variability in accuracy



Patterns of inaccuracy



5. Analysis

L1 English Nasalised Vowels constraint ranking

Input: /sænd/	*V _{ORAL} N	*V _{NAS}	IDENT-IO (nasal)
[sænd]	*!		*
☞ [sænd̃]		*	*

L1 French Nasal Vowels constraint ranking

Input: /pɑ̃/	IDENT-IO(nasal)	V _{NAS}]σ([l-nas]CO)	*NASAL OBS CODA	IDENT-IO (V _{ARTI})
[pɑn]	*!	*	*	
[pɑ̃n]	*!		*	
☞ [pɑ̃]				

IL = Conflicting L1 / L2 constraint ranking

Input: /pɑ̃/	L1 Constraints		L2 Constraints		
	*V _{ORAL} N	*V _{NAS}	IDENT-IO(nasal)	*NASAL OBS CODA	V _{NAS}]σ([l-nas]CO)
[pɑn]	*!		*!	*	*
☞ [pɑ̃n]				*	*
[pɑ̃]		*!			

IL managing conflict (1/2): consonant epenthesis

Input: /pɑ̃/	L1	L2	L2			L1
	*V _{ORAL} N	IDENT-IO (V _{ARTI})	IDENT-IO(nasal)	*NASAL OBS CODA	V _{NAS}]σ([l-nas]CO)	*V _{NAS}
[pɑn]	*!		*!	*	*	
☞ [pɑ̃n]				*	*	*!
[pɑ̃]	*!					*!

IL managing conflict (2/2): variable vocalic value

Input: /pɑ̃/	L2			L1		L2
	IDENT-IO(nasal)	V _{NAS}]σ([l-nas]CO)	*NASAL OBS CODA	*V _{ORAL} N	*V _{NAS}	IDENT-IO (V _{ARTI})
☞ [pɑ̃]				*	*	*!
[pɑ̃n]			*!			
[pɑ̃]				*	*	
☞ [pɑ̃]				*	*	*!

5. Conclusion

- Competing L1/2 hierarchies = Late acquisition
- IL L2 constraint ranking different to L1 French
- L2 constraint rearrangement = Mapping IL
- 1 hierarchy = 1 reference point on IL acquisition map

6. Further points & References

- Limitations
 - Task effects
 - Measurements
 - Learner set
- Future directions
 - Longitudinal study
 - Whole acquisition spectrum
- References: See handout