



Athenians talk like this, but Thessalians talk like this:

What the Attic plays tell us about sociolinguistics in Ancient Greek discourse

Phillip Barnett & Taha Husain

University of Kentucky

Introduction

As drama is intended to represent speech of certain communities, often based on real groups of people, it stands to reason that the Ancient Greek plays are an important source of information on Ancient Greek discourse. In this project, we focused on the surviving Attic plays and their usage of various discourse particles.

Ancient Greek Discourse Particles

Much has been written about discourse markers in various Greek dialects (Soltic, Bakker & Wakker, Crespo, et. al.).

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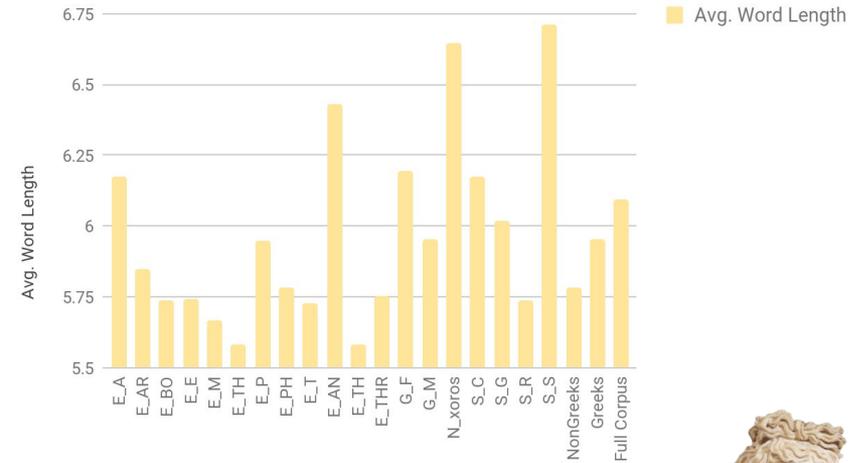
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Methods

We created a beta-code corpus of all complete (and mostly complete) Attic plays and tagged each speaker with metadata including gender <G>, status <S>, and ethnicity <E>. We then used Java scripting and Laurence Anthony's AntConc to use analyze the statistically significant differences in particle usage among the speaker groups.

`<SP><N *>apo/llwn<G M><S G><E D></SP>`

Avg. Word Length



References

Soltic, Jorie. Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies 53 (2013) 390–419.
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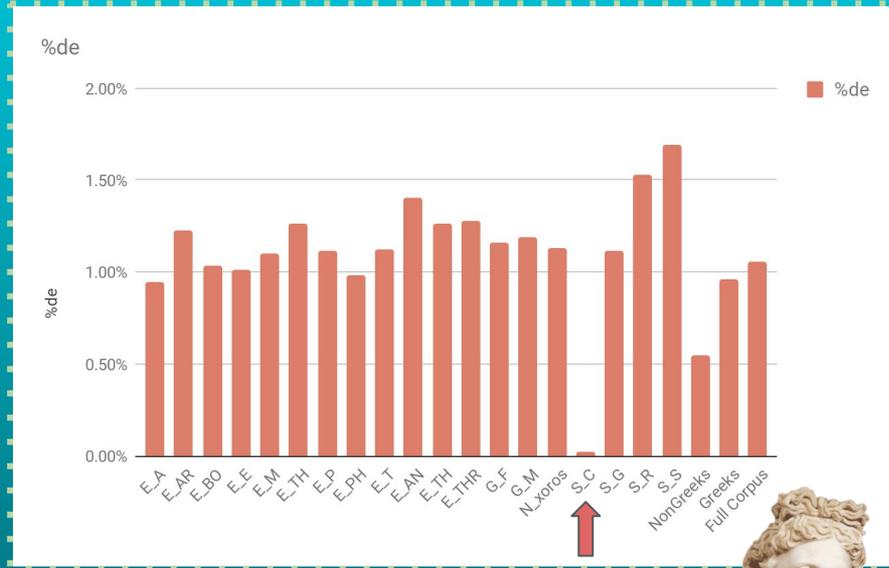
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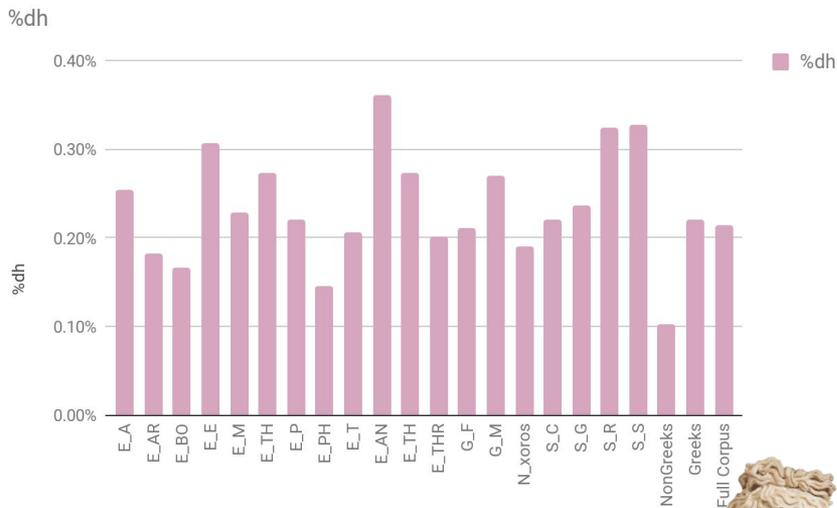
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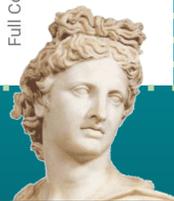
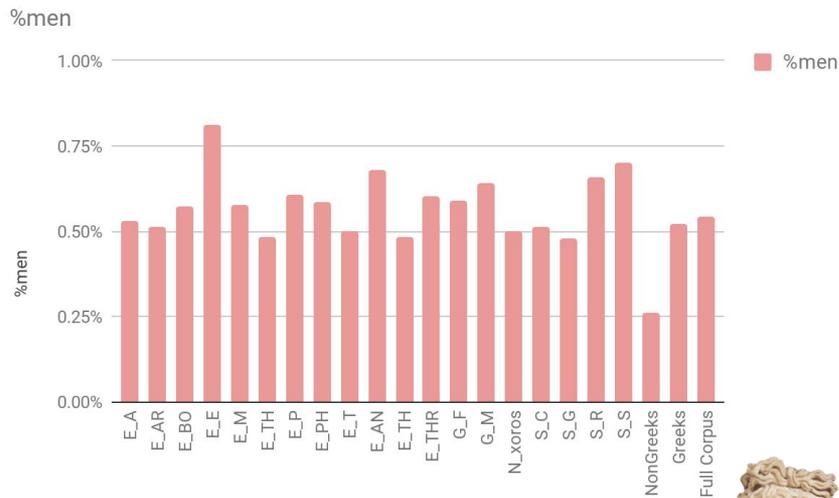
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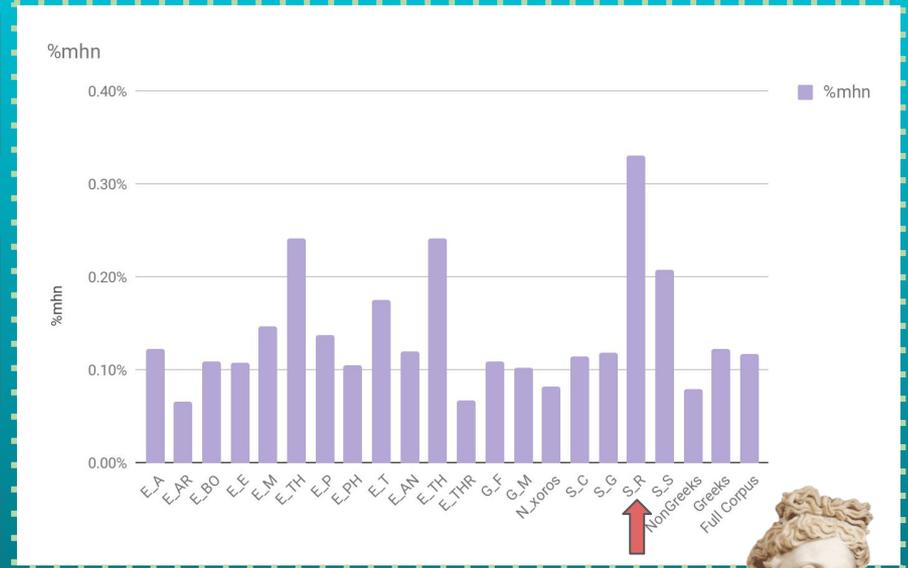
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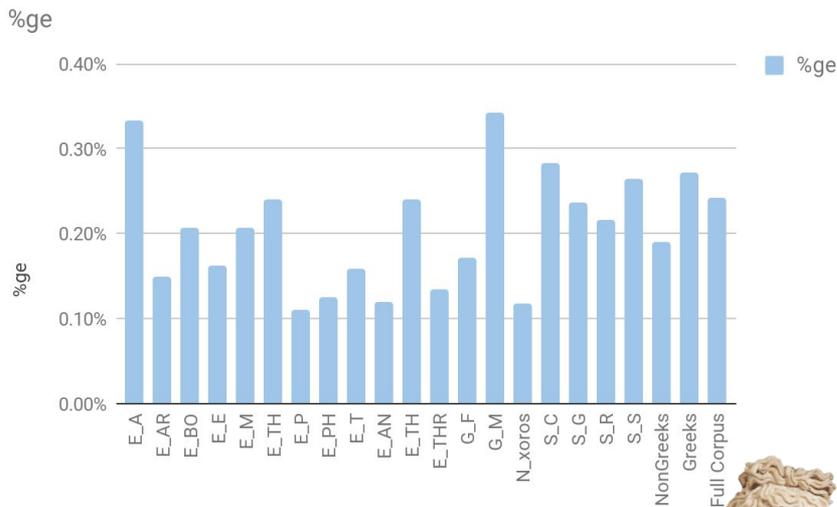
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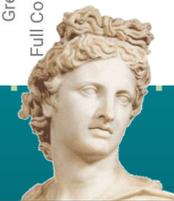
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