

# TYPOLOGICAL SURVEY OF TRANSITIVITY

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# OUTLINE

- Research objectives and hypothesis to be tested
- Previous researches
- Input data, descriptive statistics, data visualization
- Obtained results and their linguistic interpretation

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND  
HYPOTHESIS TO BE TESTED



# TRANSITIVITY

- transitive construction is a basic construction with bivalent predicate
  - (1) *Петя бросил камень.*
- set of values of semantic parameters that is universally associated with high transitivity:
  - actionality (as opposed to stativity)
  - telicity
  - volitionality
  - control of one participant of the other
  - ...

[Hopper and Thompson's 1980]

# INTRANSITIVITY

- intrasitive constructions are much more diverse

(2) *У Пети болит голова.*

(3)     *Pet'a-n'*            *m'el'-s*            *tukšn-i*            *t'e*            *panar-os'*  
          Petja-GEN            mind-ILL            go-PRS.3SG            this            shirt-NOM.DEF

'Petja likes this shirt'.

(4)     *Bhǎnkùlǎ*            *líǎ*            *à*            *wàà*            *Tía*            *gí.*  
          Макура            любовь            3SG.PRF            прибывать            Тиа            в

'Тиа влюбился в Макуру'.



# LANGUAGES

Russian, Standart Arabic, Guarani, Estonian, Tsaxur, Tuvan, Ingermanlandic, Basque, French, German, Bagwalal, Japanese, Lithuanian, Kalmyk, Khmer, Bashkir, Latvian, Guro, Looma, Lezgi, Modern Greek, Ancient Greek, Albanian, Spanish, Irish, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Romani (Kalderash), English, Mandarin, Polish, Dutch, Italian, Komi-Zyrian, Ossetic, Serbian, Chukchee, Norwegian (B).

TOTAL: 38 languages

# LANGUAGES

**Russian**, Standart Arabic, Guarani, Estonian, Tsaxur, Tuvan, Ingermanlandic, Basque, **French**, **German**, Bagwalal, Japanese, **Lithuanian**, Kalmyk, Khmer, Bashkir, **Latvian**, Guro, Looma, Lezgi, **Modern Greek**, **Ancient Greek**, **Albanian**, **Spanish**, **Irish**, **Armenian**, Azerbaijani, **Romani (Kalderash)**, **English**, Mandarin, **Polish**, **Dutch**, **Italian**, Komi-Zyrian, **Ossetic**, **Serbian**, Chukchee, **Norwegian (B)**.

**Indo-European**: 19 languages



# CONSTRUCTIONS

feel\_pain, have#illness#, be\_afraid, throw, have\_enough, resemble, believe, take, see, influence, encounter, enter, win, go\_out, drive, bend, tell, hold, catch\_up, milk, reach, touch, fight, be\_friends, think, eat, fry, wait, forget,...

TOTAL: **130** constructions

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Do languages/constructions form distinctive groups depending on (in)transitivity?
- What are the outliers? Why?
- Do areal and genetic characteristics metter?

# PREVIOUS RESEARCHES

were made by S. Say  
(using the same database)

# BIVALENT VERB CLASSES IN THE LANGUAGES OF EUROPE: A QUANTITATIVE TYPOLOGICAL STUDY

## Objectives:

- to propose methods for measuring (dis)similarities in the organization of valency class systems across languages
- to test them on a sample of European languages in order to reveal areal and genetic patterns

## Main conclusion:

- (in)transitivity is correlated with areal factors

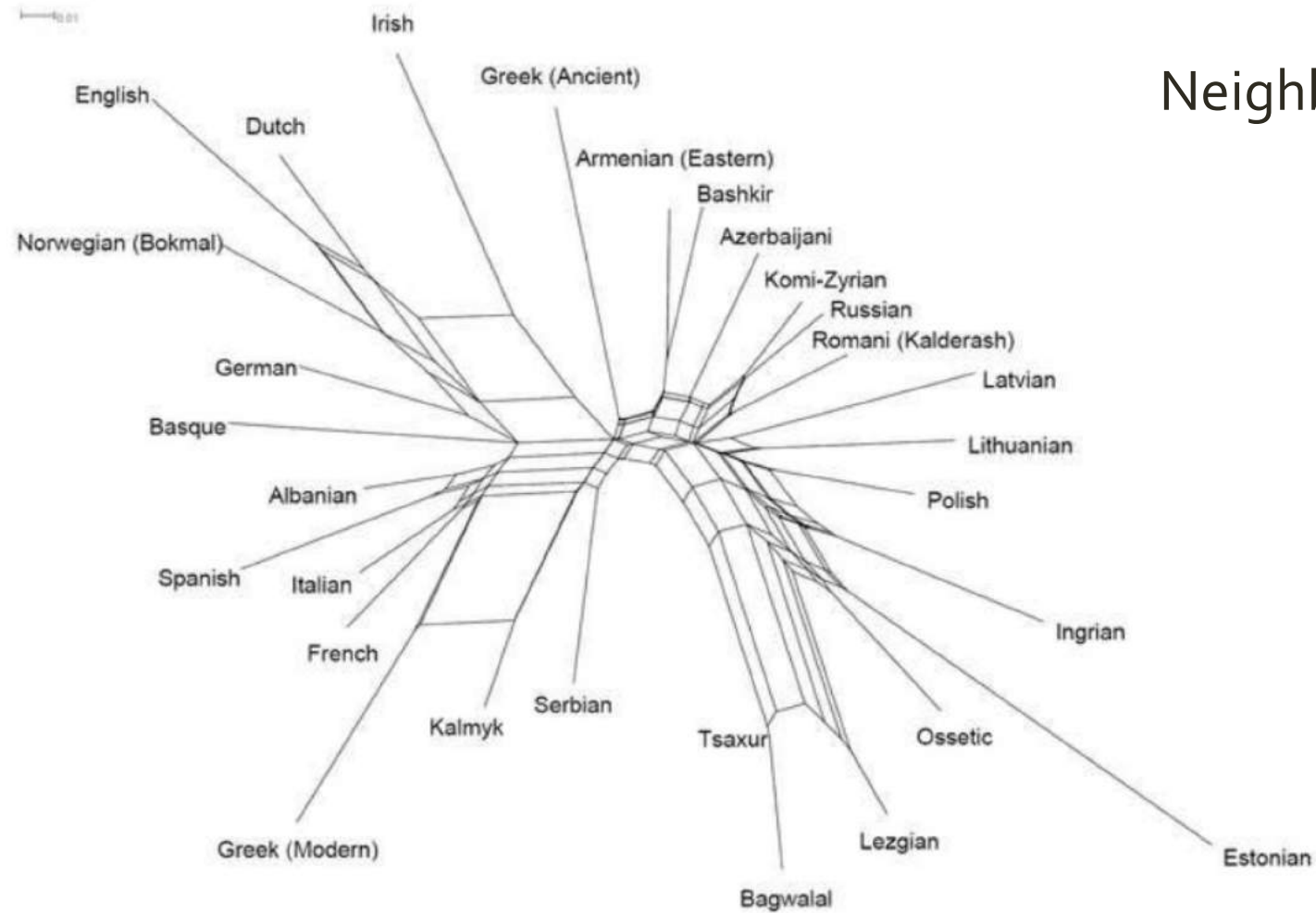
[Say 2014]

# METHODS OF ANALYSIS

- comparison of (in)transitivity ratio
- Pearson's correlation for intrasitivity ration and number of cases
- degree of dissimilarity in pairs of languages (relative Hamming distance) : the proportion of predicates with non-identical transitivity values out of all predicates that have been obtained for both languages

[Say 2014]

# EXAMPLE OF VISUALIZATION



NeighbourNet

# INPUT DATA, DATA VISUALIZATION



# BASIC DATAFRAMES

- **df**: categorical, languages as variables

	Construction <fctr>	Russian <fctr>	Arabic <fctr>	Guarani <fctr>	Estonian <fctr>	Tsaxur <fctr>	Tuvan <fctr>	Ingerm <fctr>	Basque <fctr>	French <fctr>	German <fctr>	Bagwalal <fctr>	Japanese <fctr>	Lithuanian <fctr>	Kalmyk <fctr>
1	feel_pain	intr	unknown	unknown	intr	unknown	intr	intr	unknown	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	unknown
2	have#illness#	intr	intr	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	intr	tr	tr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr
3	be_afraid	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	unknown	intr	intr
4	throw	tr	tr	tr	unknown	tr	tr	tr	tr	tr	tr	tr	tr	tr	tr
5	have_enough	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	unknown	unknown	intr	unknown	intr	intr	intr
6	resemble	intr	tr	unknown	intr	unknown	intr	unknown	unknown	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	tr

6 rows | 1-16 of 43 columns

- **tdf**: categorical, constructions as variables

	Language <fctr>	have.illness. <fctr>	be_afraid <fctr>	throw <fctr>	have_enough <fctr>	resemble <fctr>	believe <fctr>	take <fctr>	see <fctr>	influence <fctr>	encounter <fctr>	enter <fctr>	win <fctr>	go_outr <fctr>	drive <fctr>
1	Russian	intr	intr	tr	intr	intr	intr	tr	tr	intr	intr	intr	intr	intr	tr
2	Arabic	intr	intr	tr	intr	tr	tr	tr	tr	intr	intr	tr	unknown	intr	tr
3	Guarani	unknown	intr	tr	intr	unknown	intr	tr	tr	unknown	tr	intr	unknown	intr	tr
4	Estonian	unknown	intr	unknown	intr	intr	unknown	tr	intr	intr	intr	intr	tr	intr	tr
5	Tsaxur	unknown	intr	tr	intr	unknown	unknown	tr	intr	unknown	intr	intr	intr	intr	tr
6	Tuvan	unknown	intr	tr	intr	intr	intr	tr	tr	intr	intr	intr	tr	intr	tr

6 rows | 1-16 of 132 columns



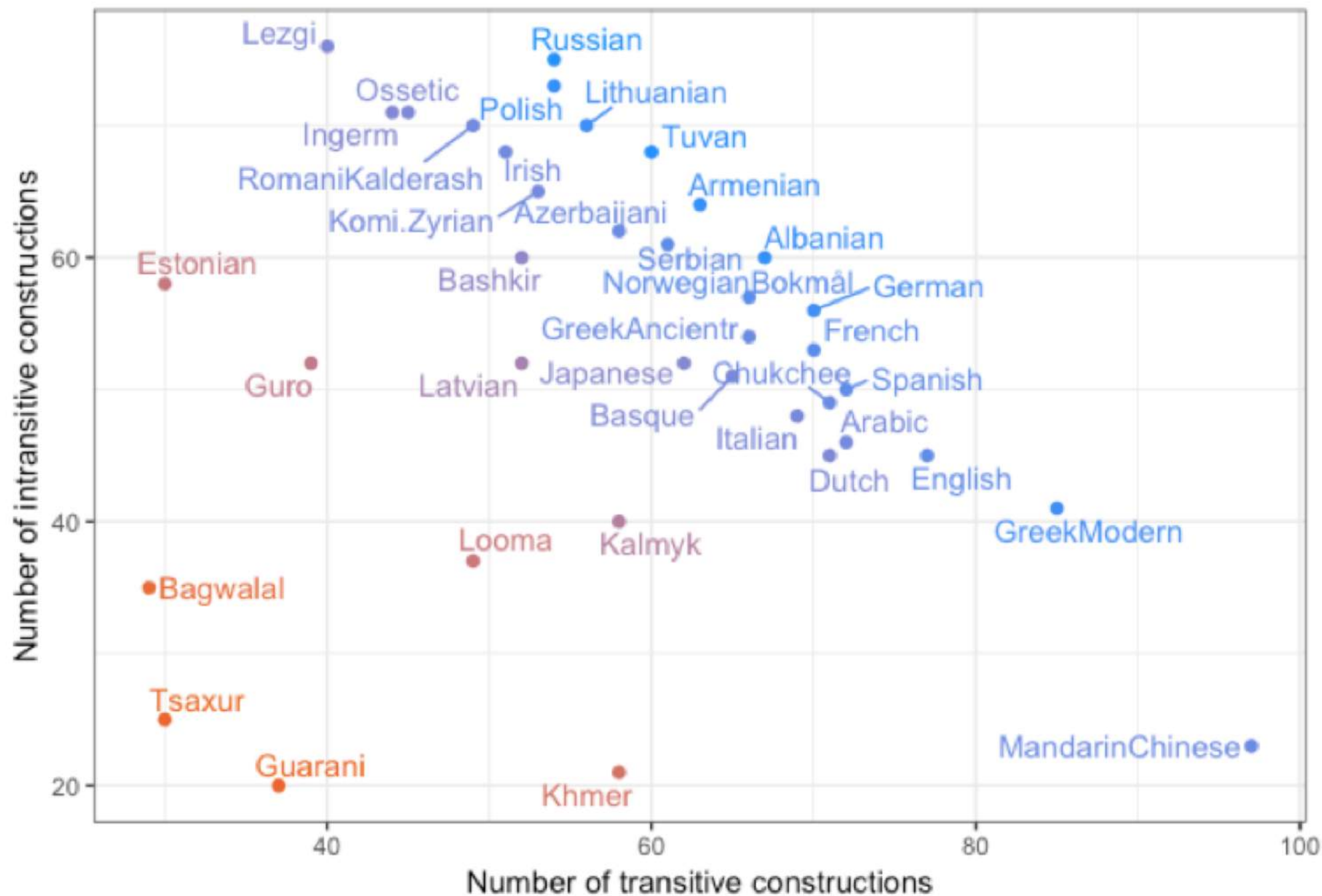
# DATAFRAMES MADE FOR EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

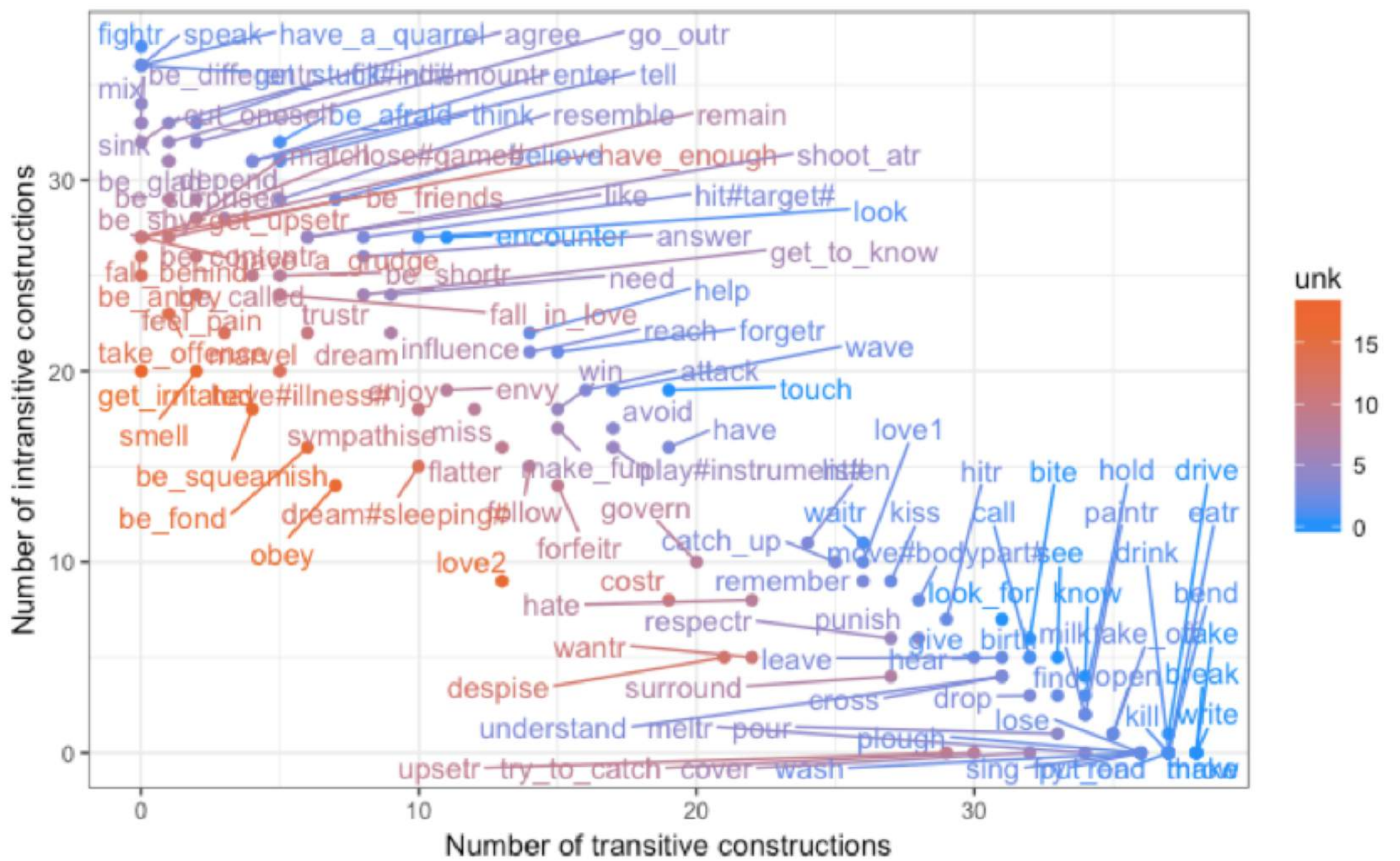
- **num**: numeric, languages as variables

	lang	tr	intr	unk
Albanian	: 1	Min. :29.00	Min. :20.00	Min. : 0.00
Arabic	: 1	1st Qu.:49.50	1st Qu.:45.25	1st Qu.: 6.25
Armenian	: 1	Median :58.00	Median :53.50	Median :10.50
Azerbaijani	: 1	Mean :57.95	Mean :53.26	Mean :17.79
Bagwalal	: 1	3rd Qu.:68.50	3rd Qu.:64.75	3rd Qu.:16.50
Bashkir	: 1	Max. :97.00	Max. :76.00	Max. :74.00
(Other)	:32			

- **tnum**: numeric, constructios as variables

	constr	tr	intr	unk
agree	: 1	Min. : 0.00	Min. : 0.00	Min. : 0.000
answer	: 1	1st Qu.: 4.00	1st Qu.: 4.25	1st Qu.: 2.000
attack	: 1	Median :14.50	Median :17.00	Median : 4.000
avoid	: 1	Mean :16.95	Mean :15.75	Mean : 5.292
be_afraid	: 1	3rd Qu.:31.00	3rd Qu.:27.00	3rd Qu.: 8.000
be_angry	: 1	Max. :38.00	Max. :37.00	Max. :18.000
(Other)	:124			



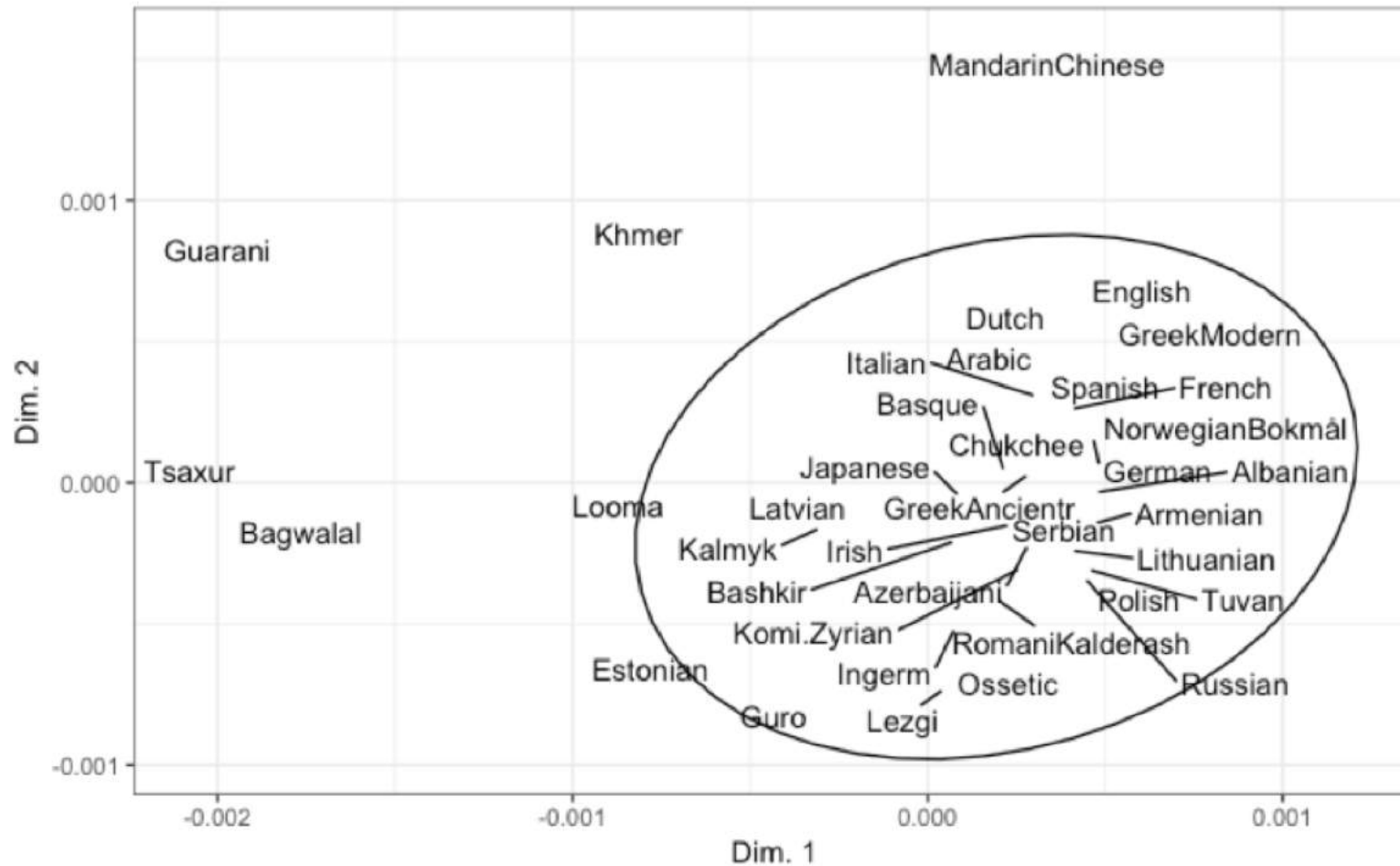


# SOME OBSERVATIONS

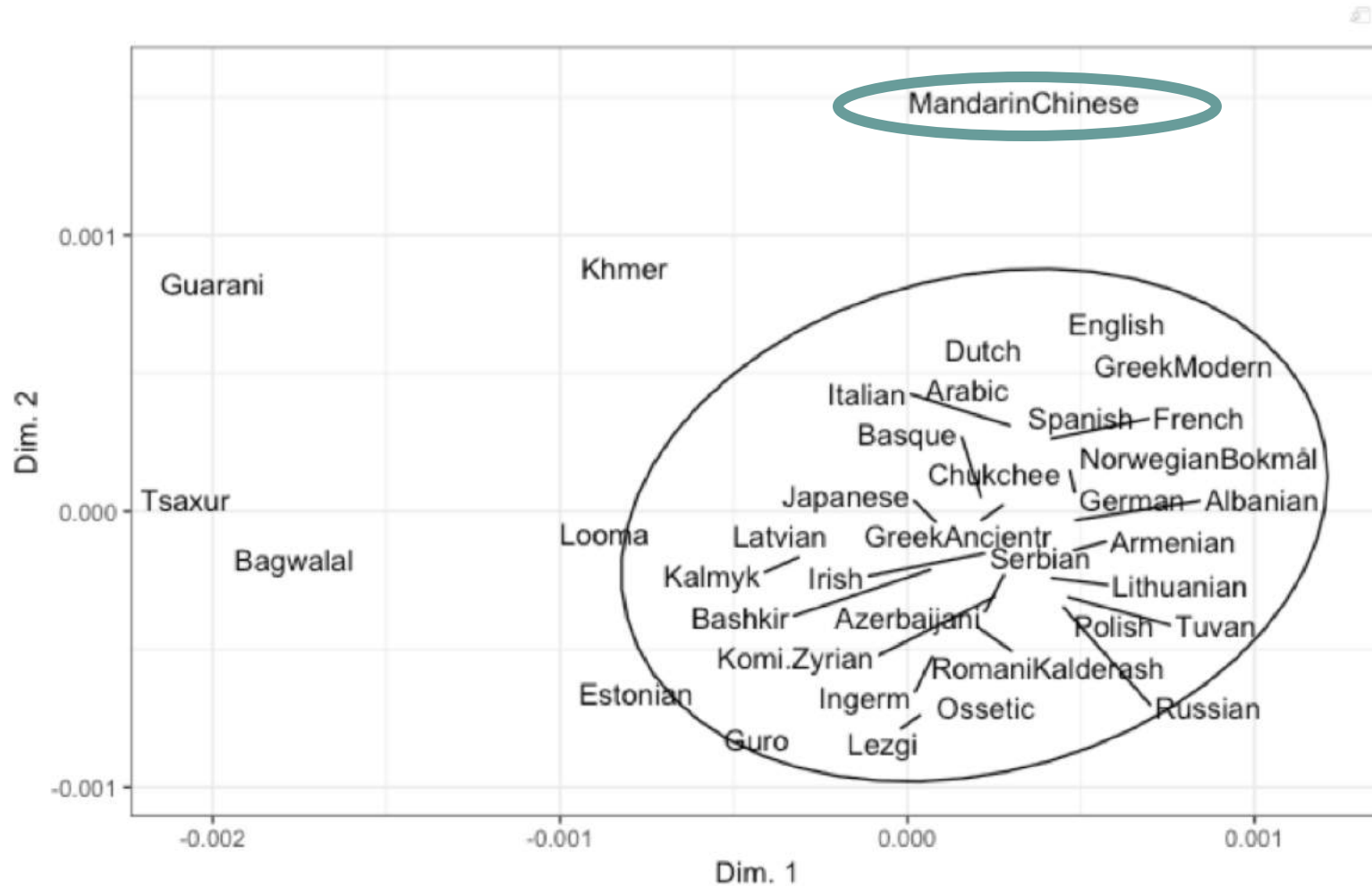
- There is a significant difference in distribution of (in)transitive constructions across languages. As far as constuctions are concerned, they do demonstrate prefernces to be (in)transitive.
- We need to solve a problem of empty values. On the plots the number of empty values for each variable is indicated by color. I see three possible solutions:
  - exclude from analysis languges and constructions which do not have enough data
  - normalize data
  - **make component analysis and exclude empty values from resultive plots (but is it really a solution?..)**

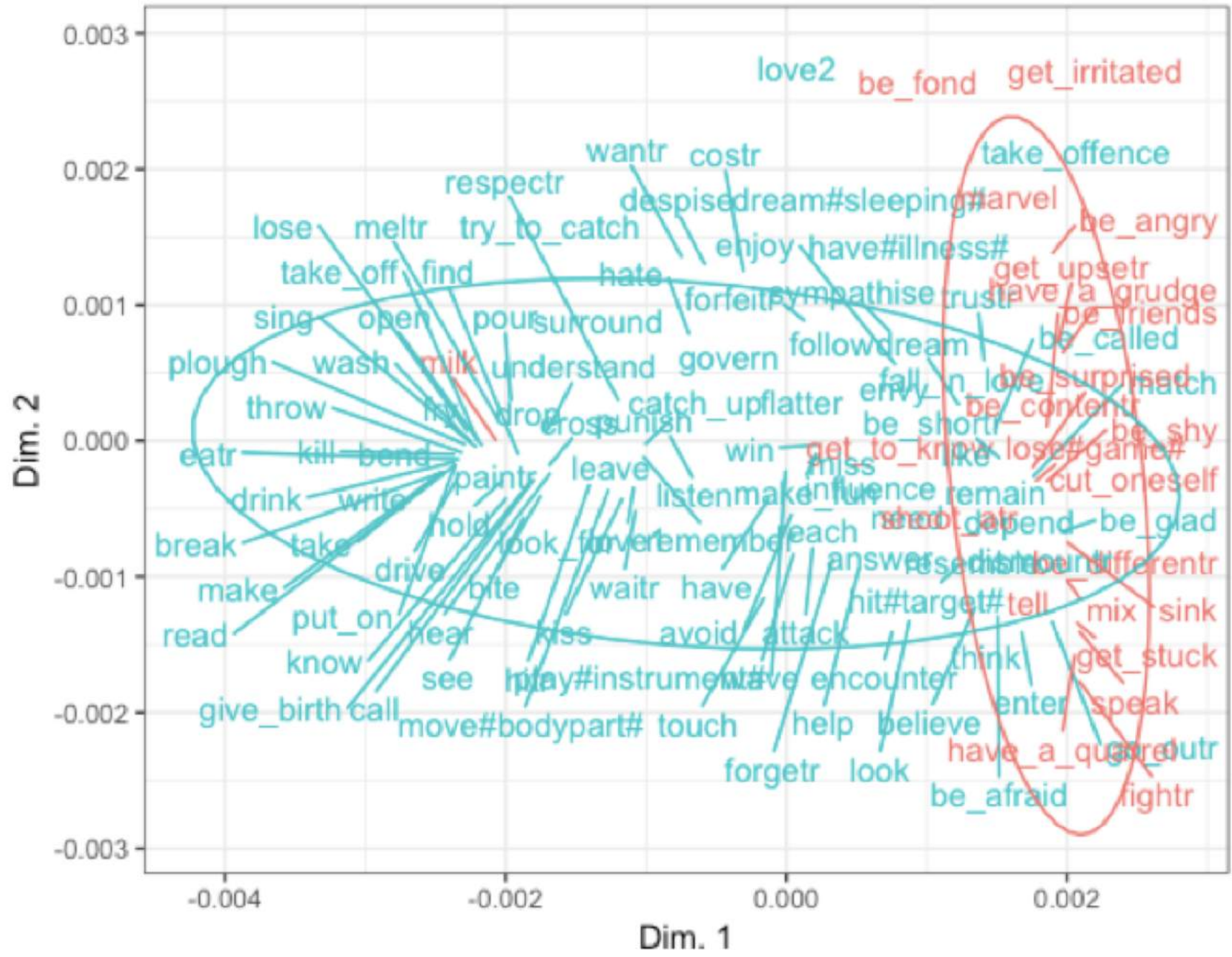
# RESULTS AND THEIR LINGUISTIC INTERPRETATION

# MCA FOR LANGUAGES



# LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT OUTLIERS





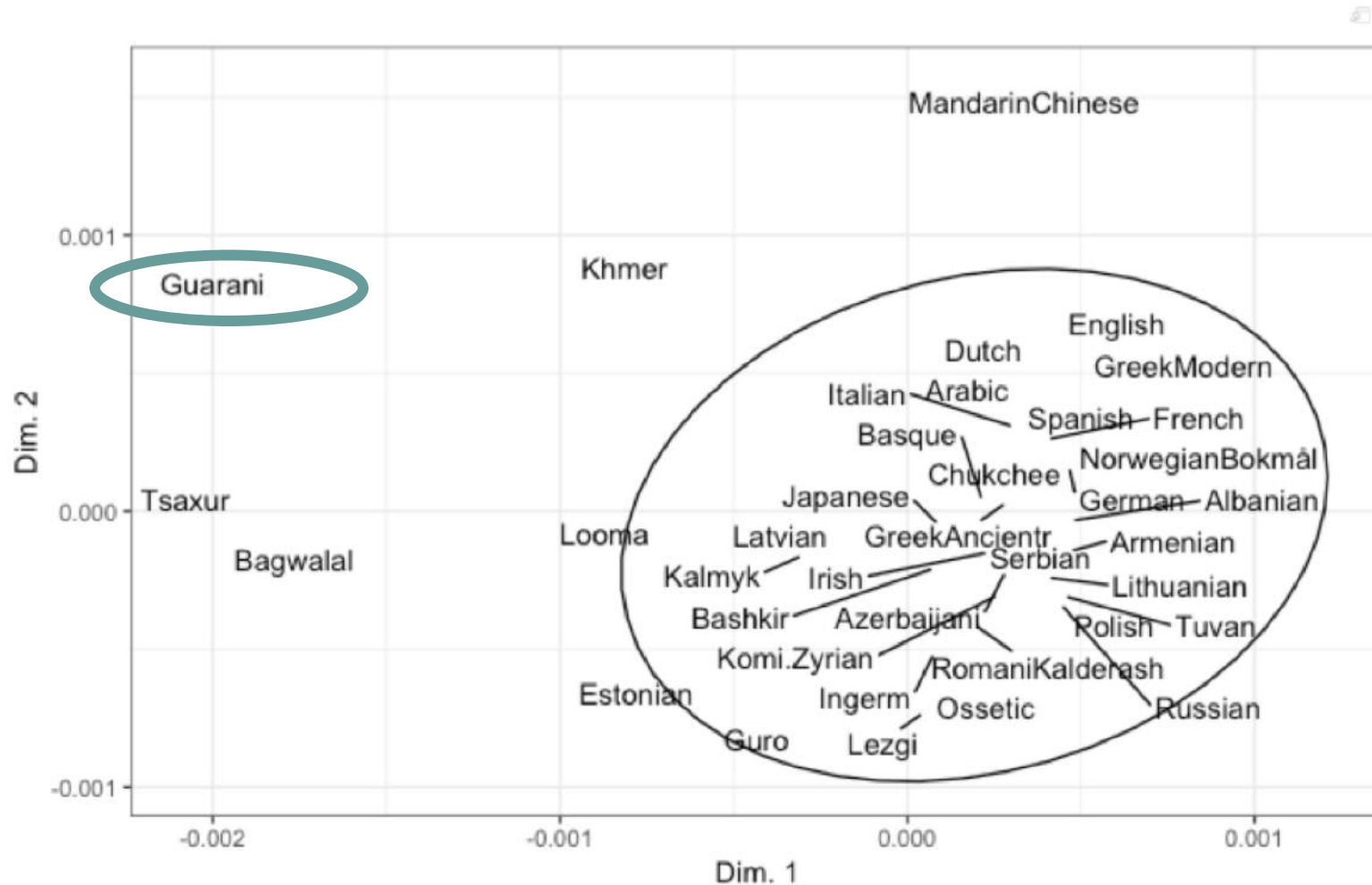
MandarinChinese

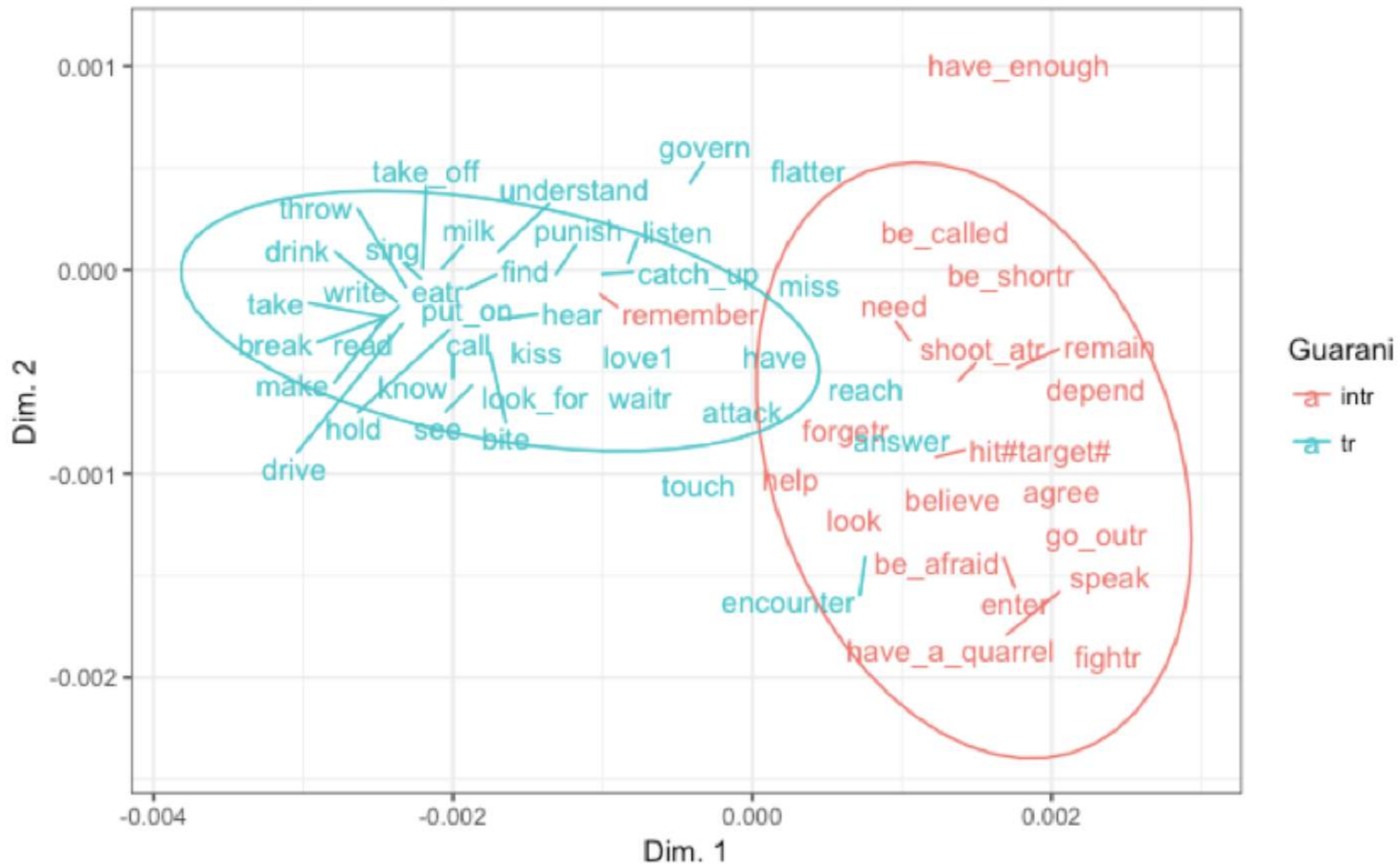
- a intr
- a tr

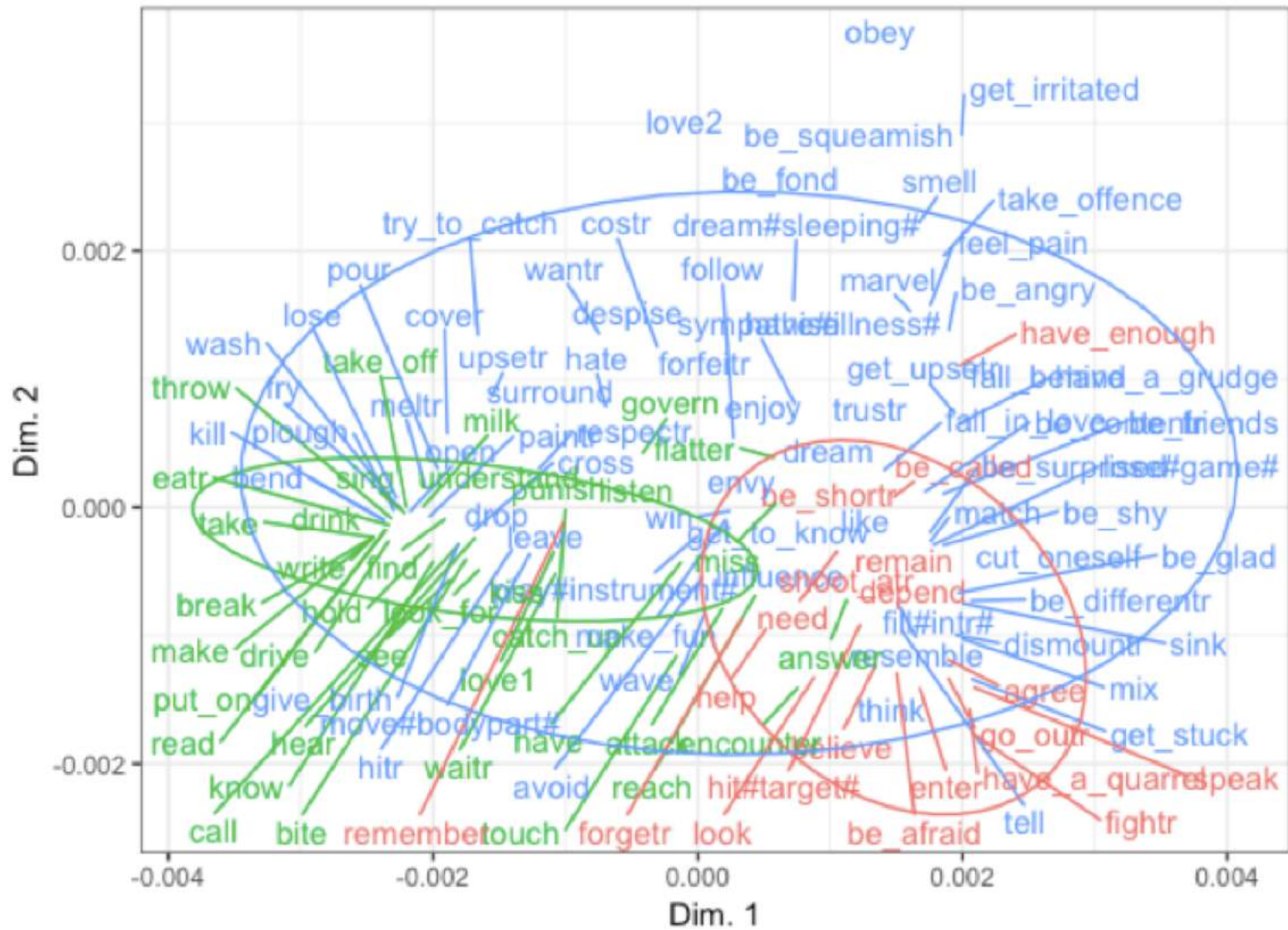
very transitive



# LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT OUTLIERS



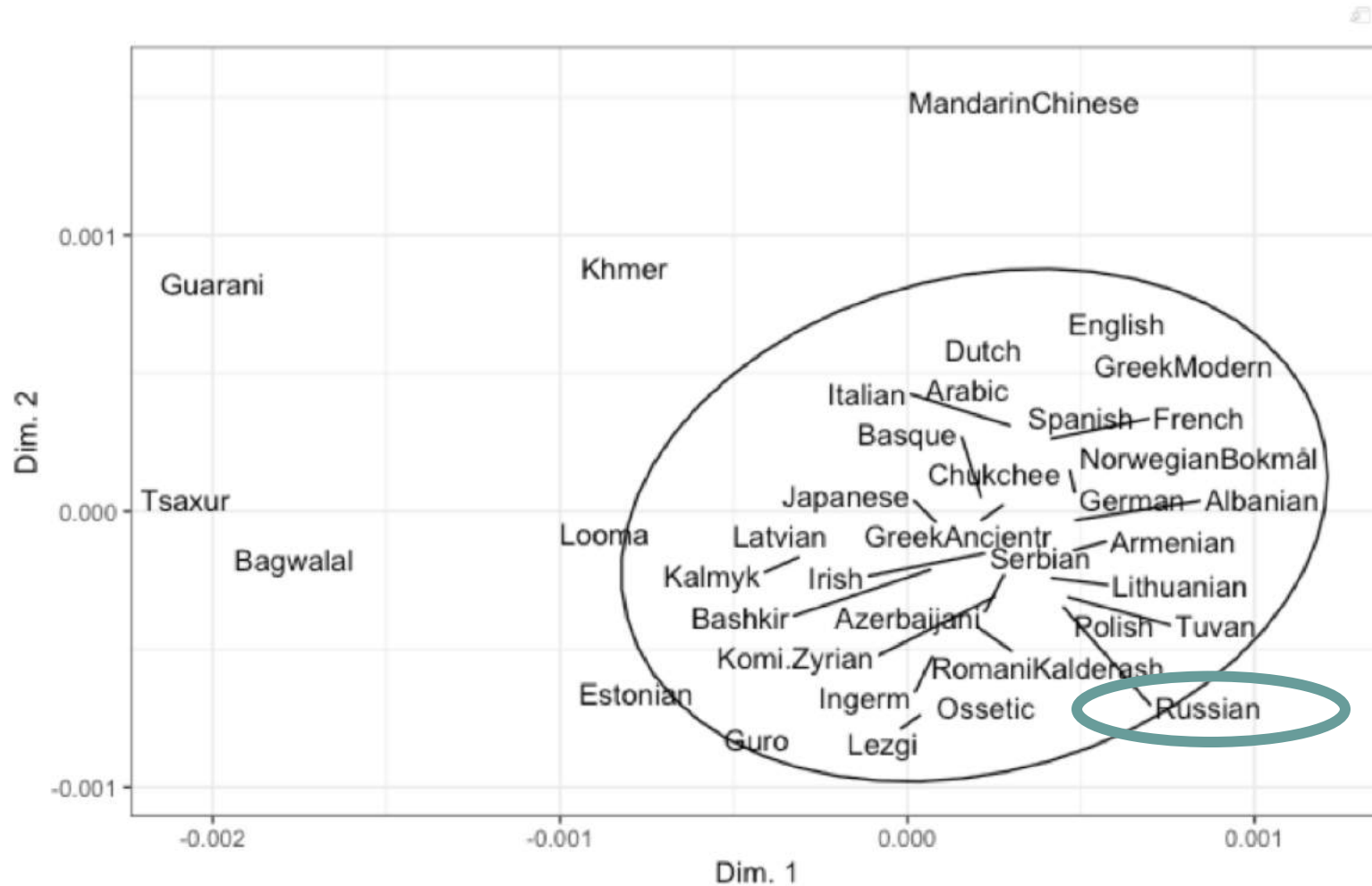


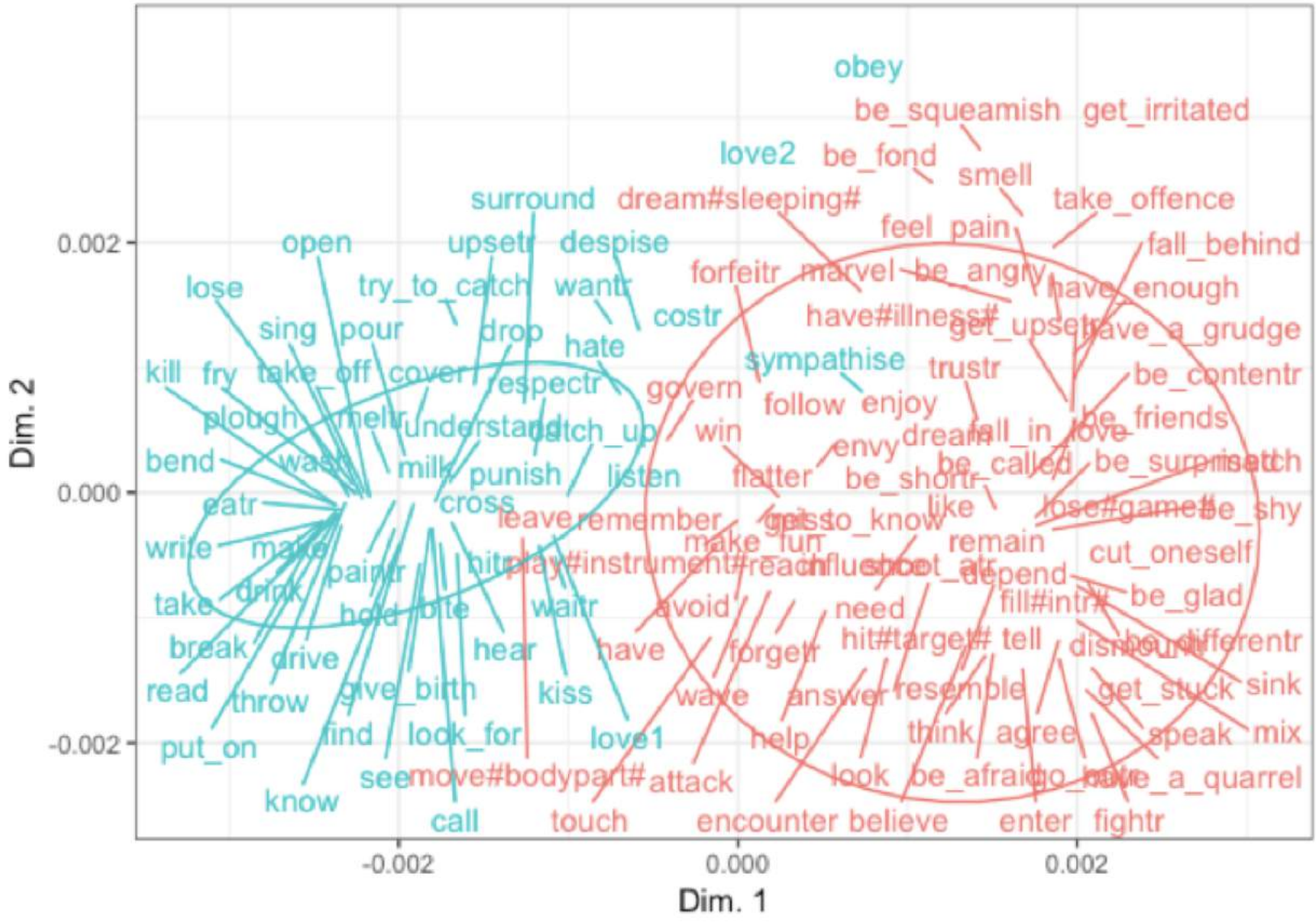


Guarani  
 intr  
 tr  
 unknown

empty values... same is true for Tsaxur, Bagwalal and Khmer

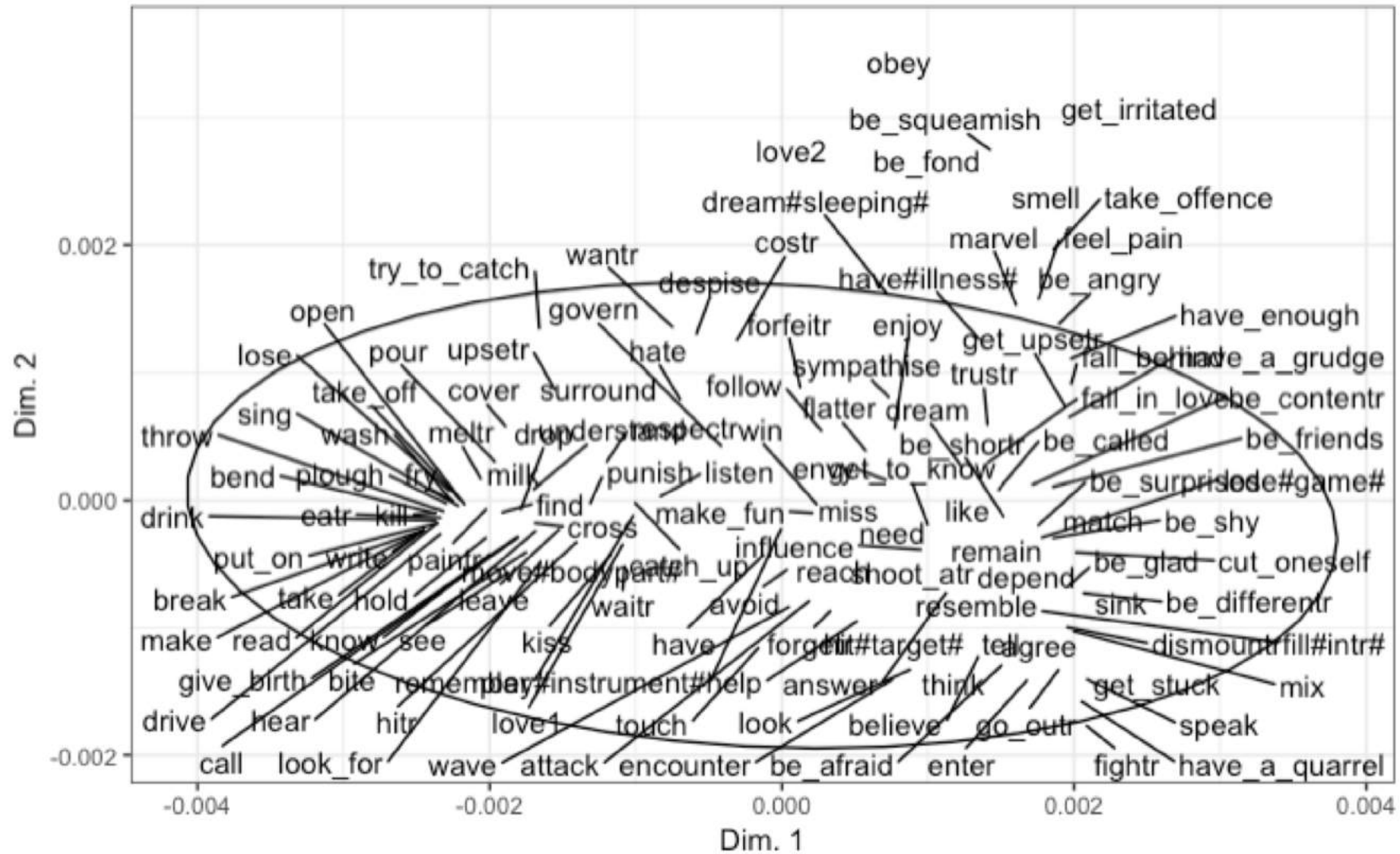
# LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT OUTLIERS



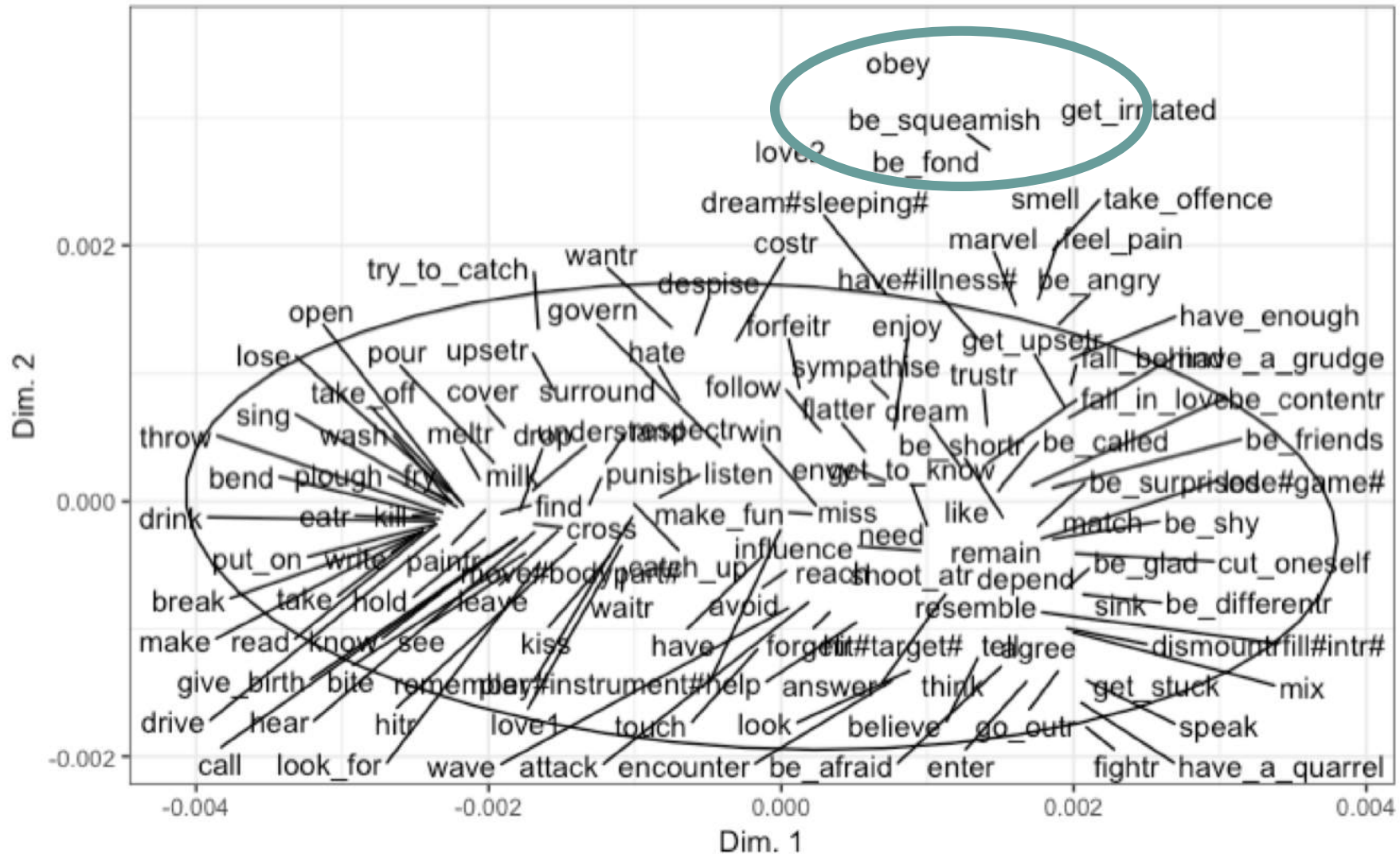


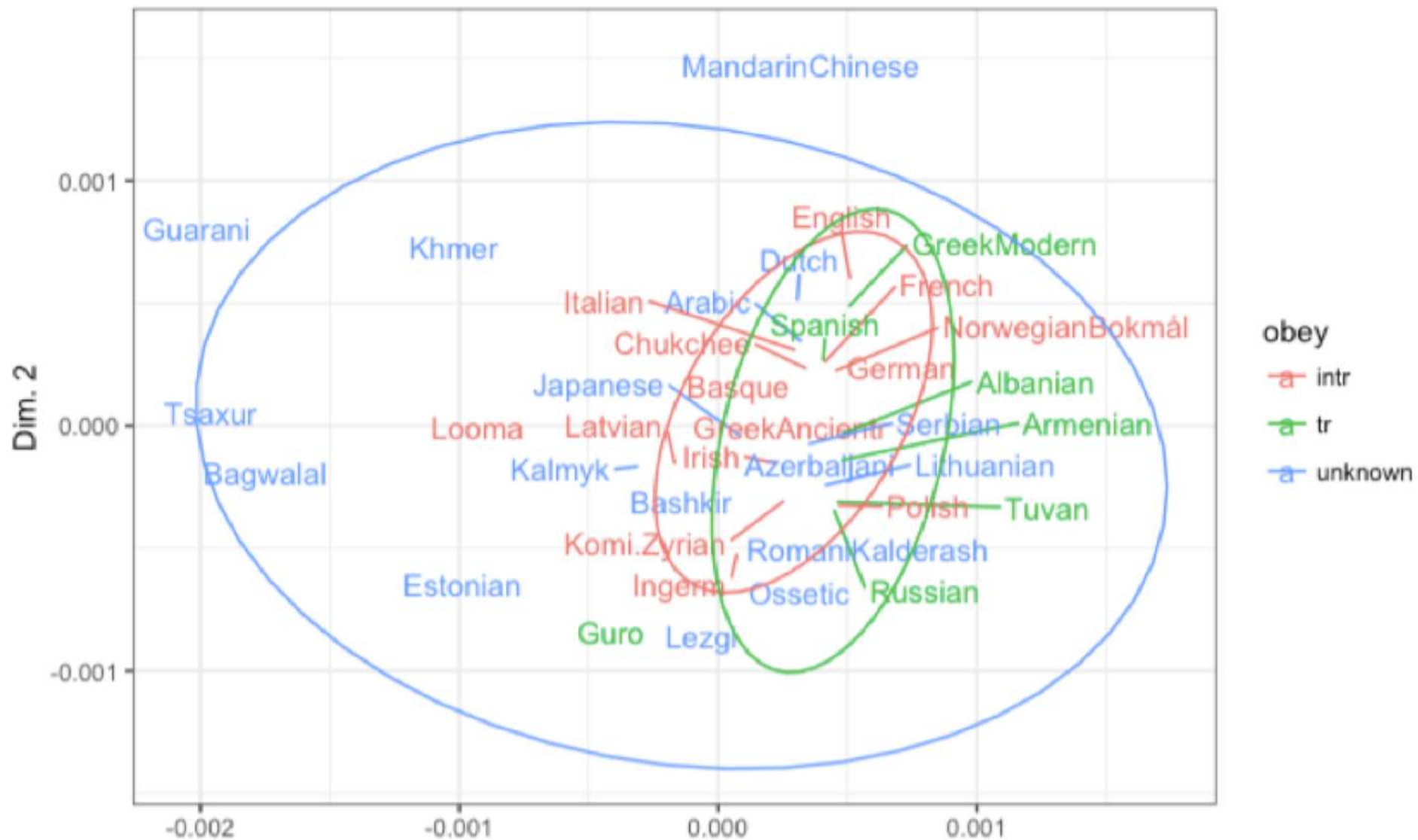
very  
intransitive

# MCA FOR CONSTRUCTIONS



# MCA FOR CONSTRUCTIONS

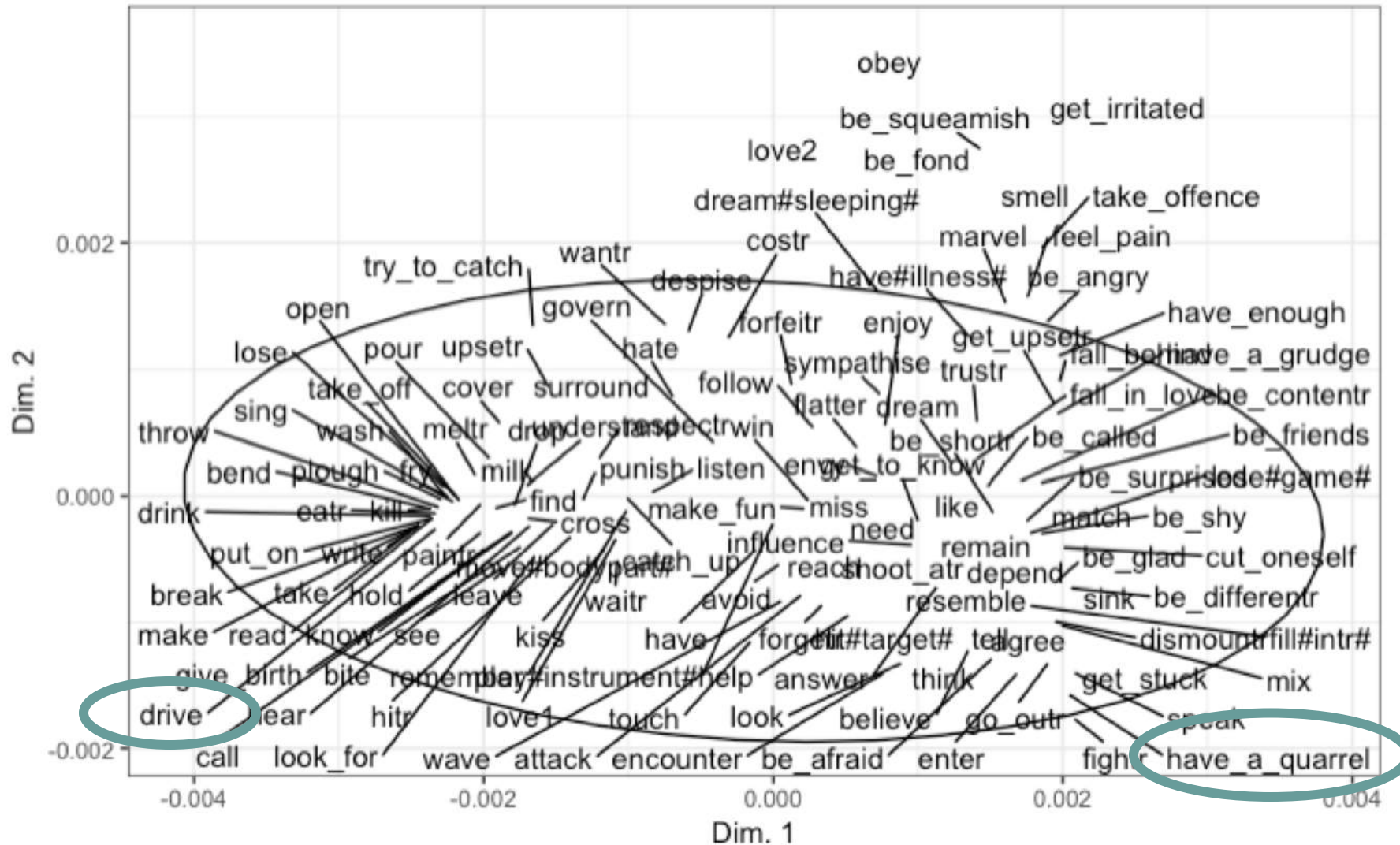


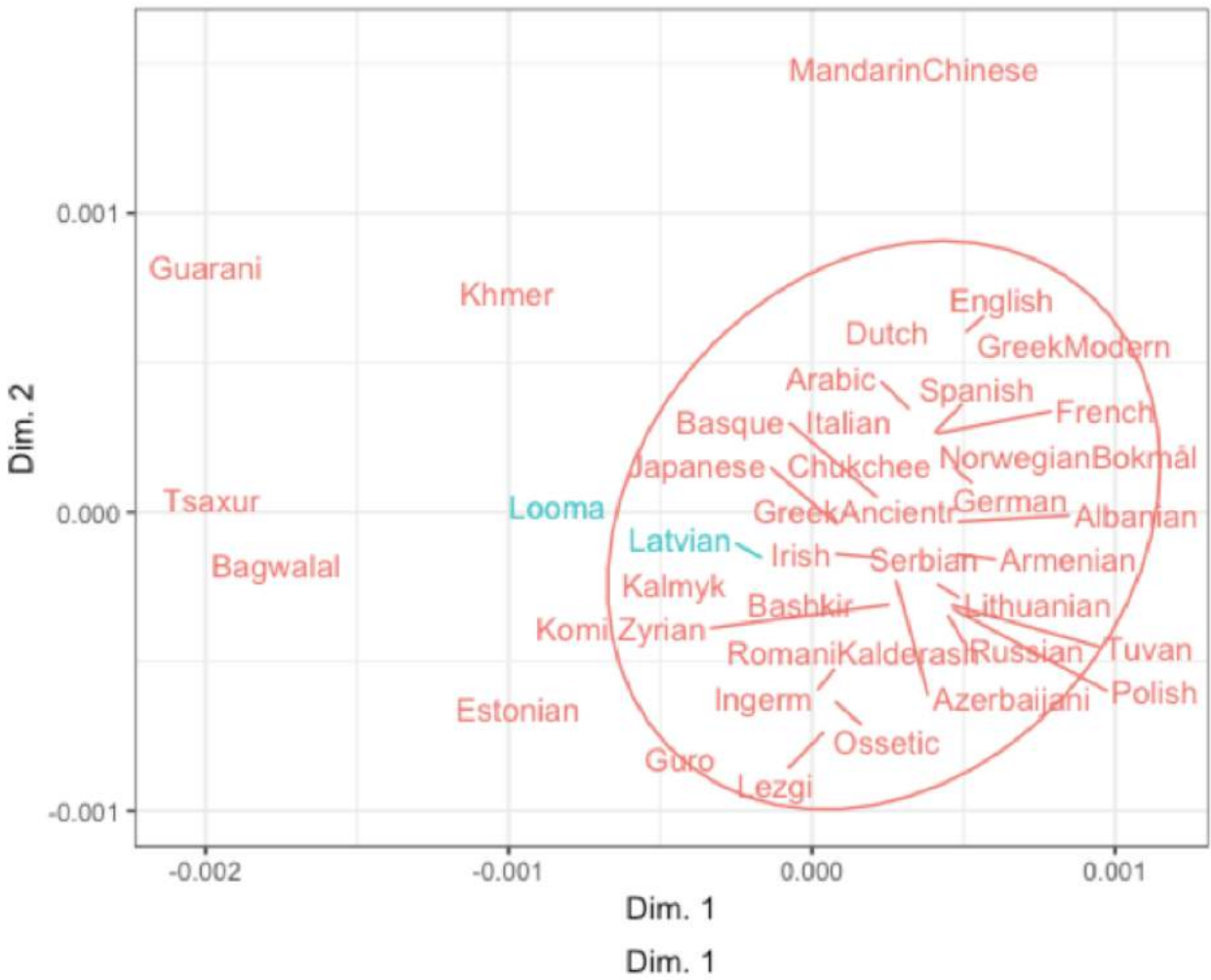


empty values...



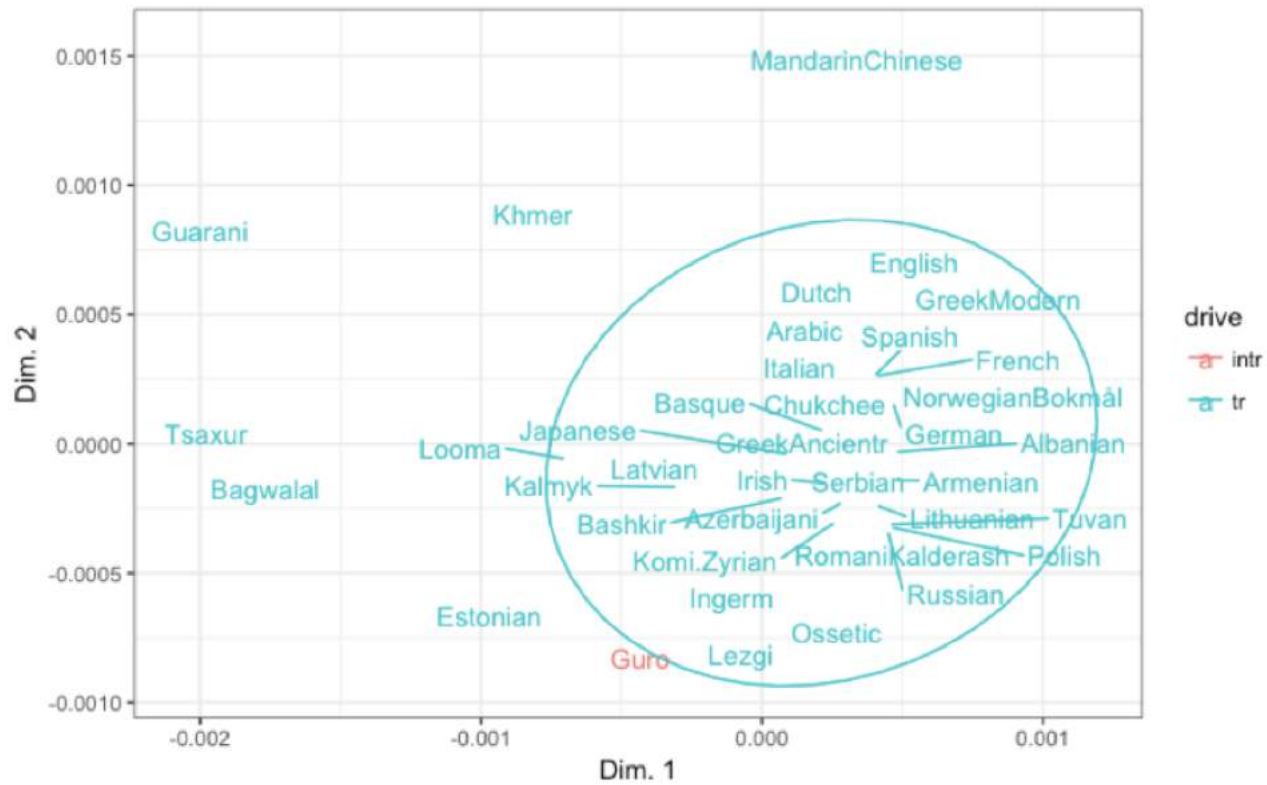
# MCA FOR CONSTRUCTIONS





have\_a\_quarrel

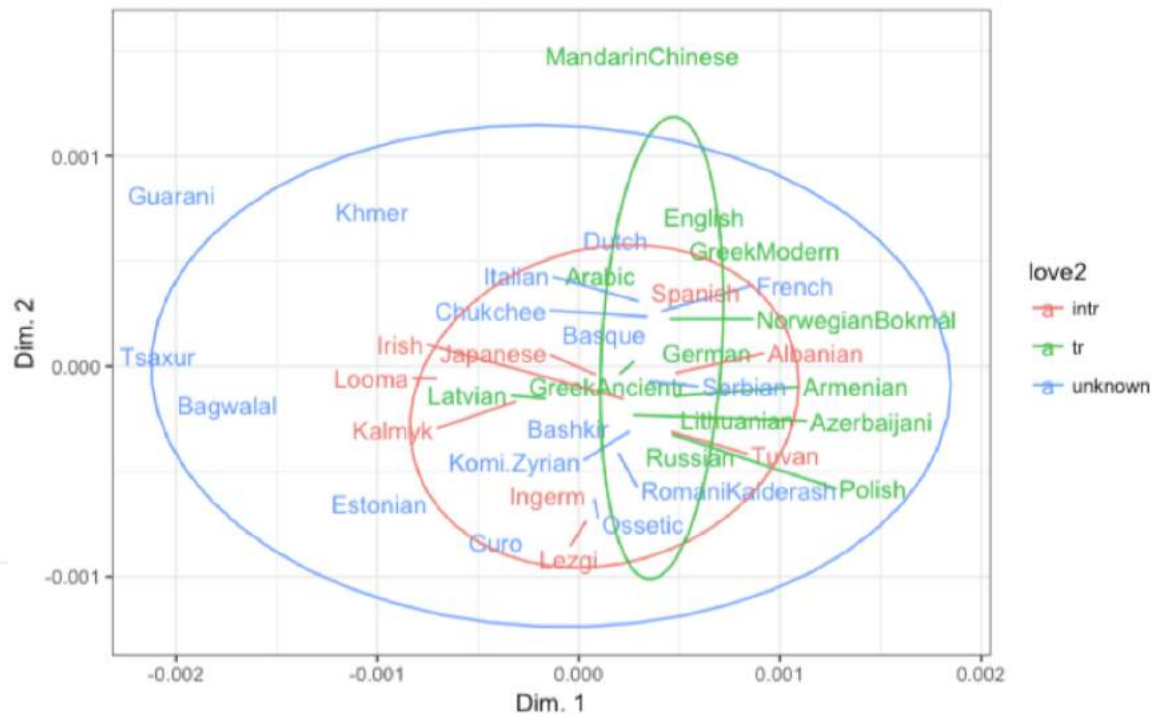
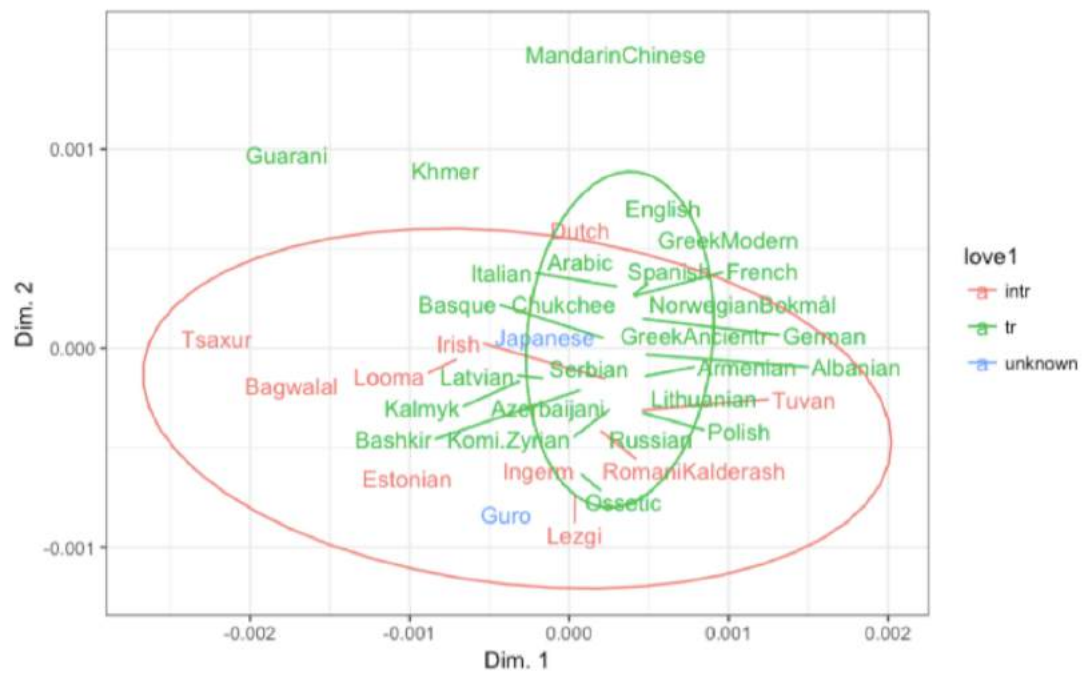
- intr
- unknown



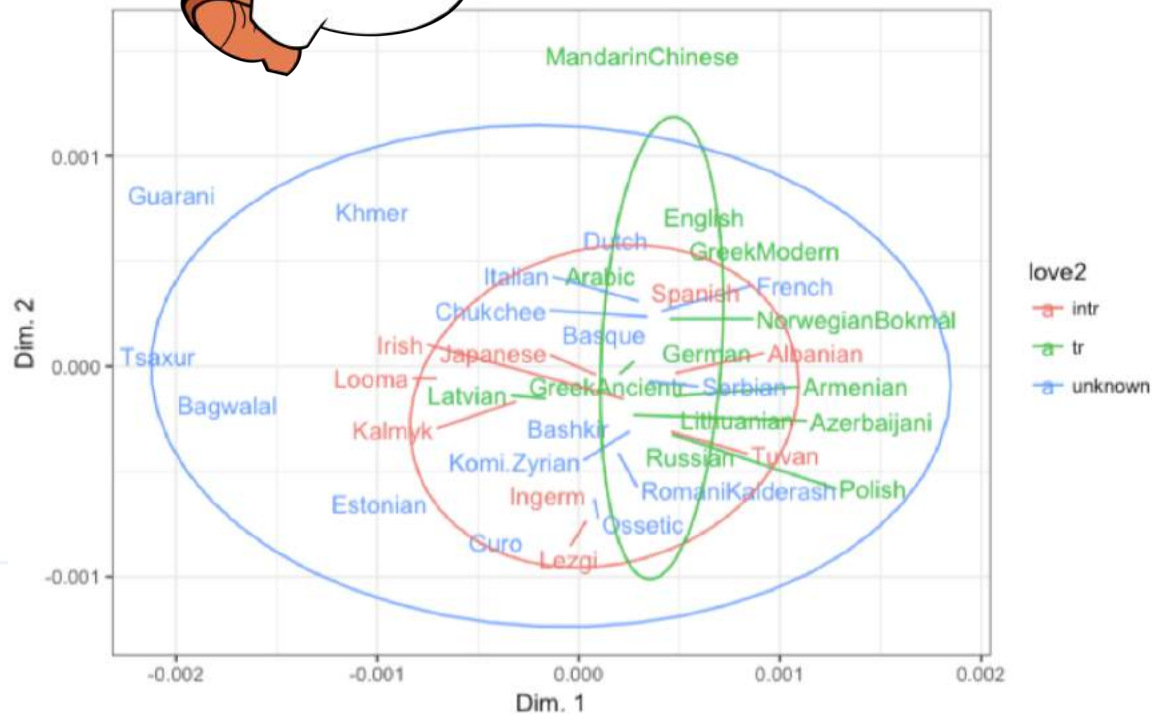
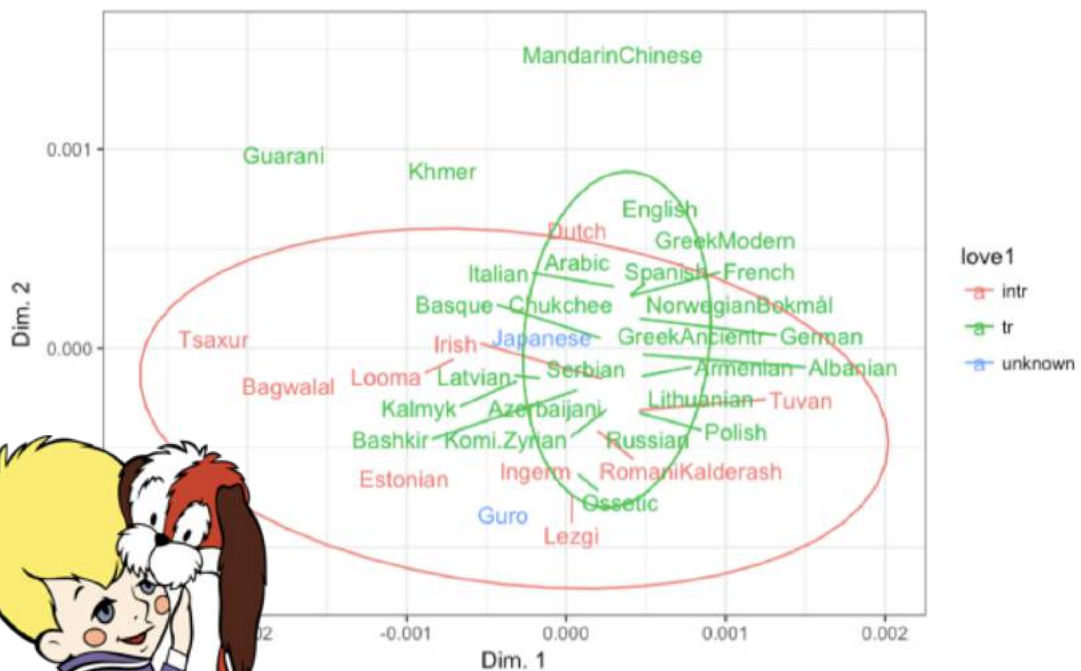
drive

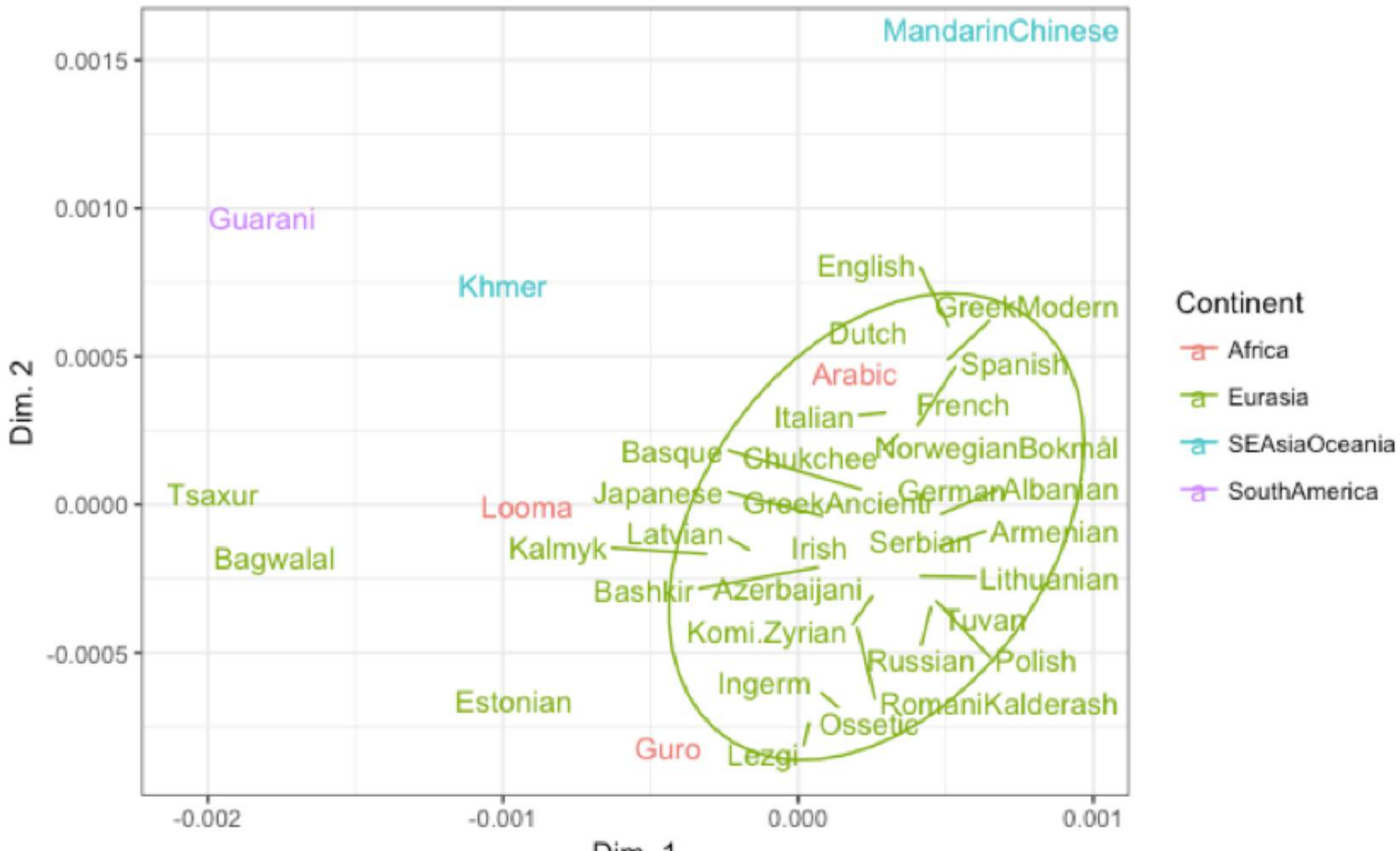
- intr
- tr

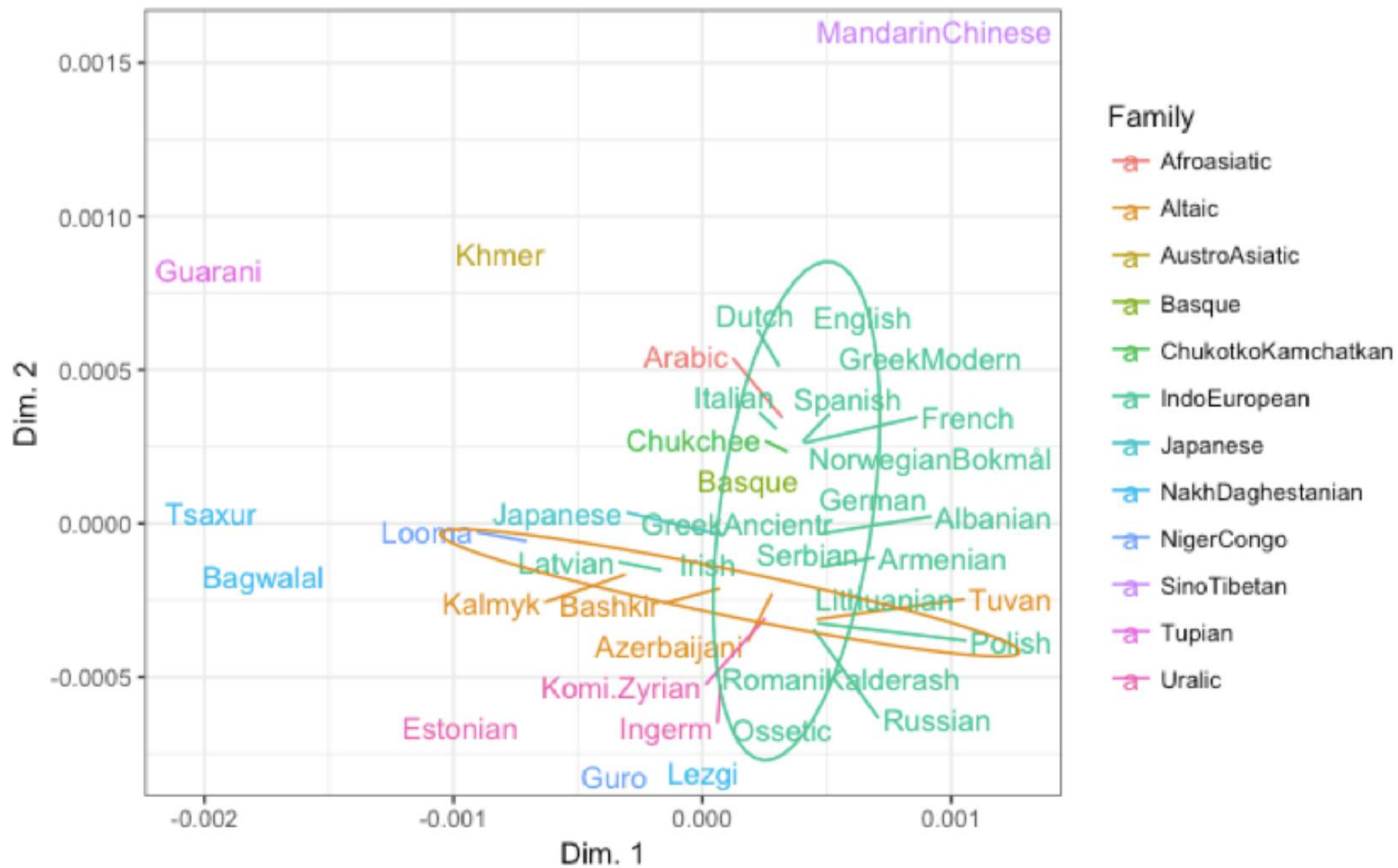
# LOVE1 AND LOVE2

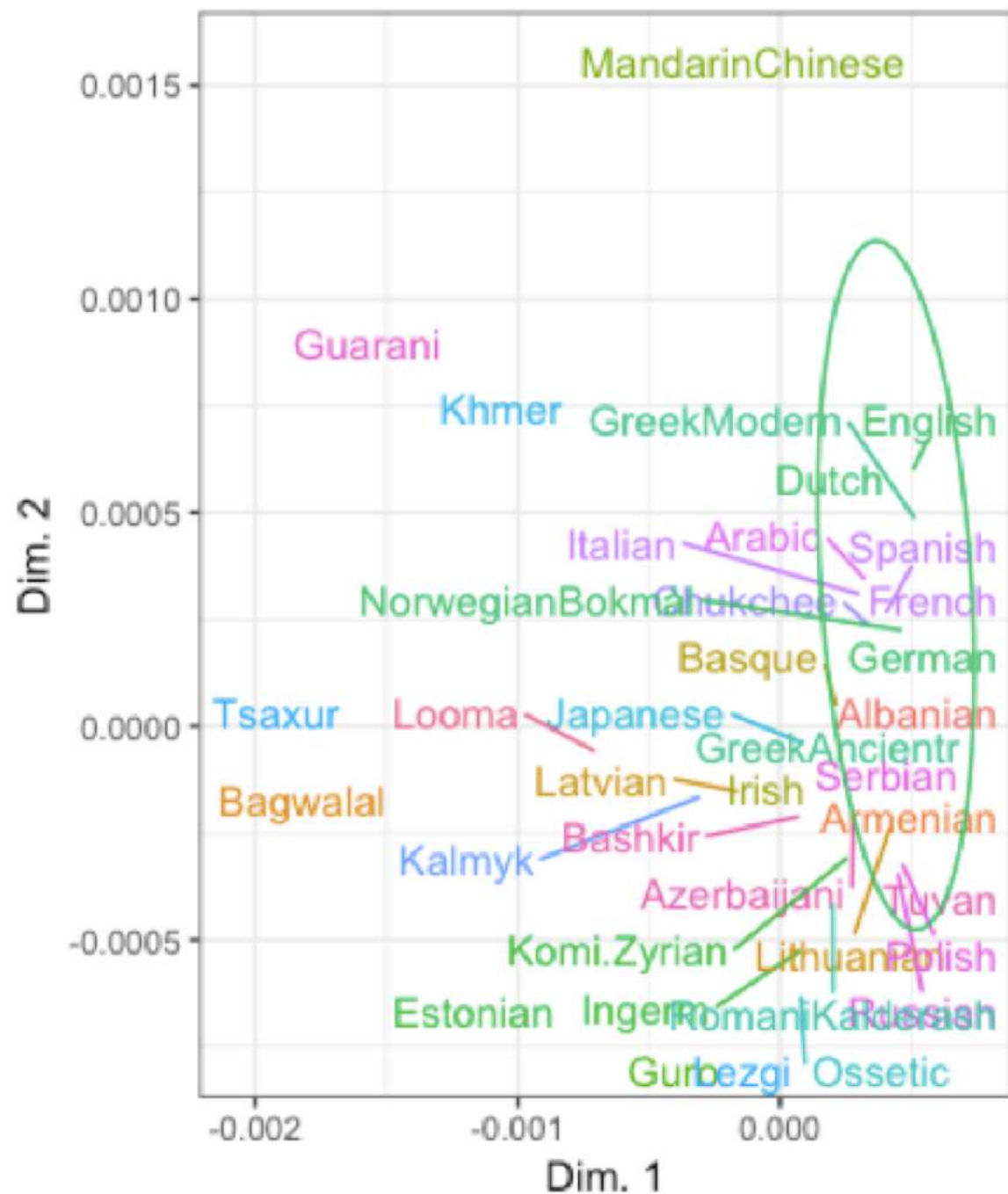


# LOVE1 AND LOVE2









### Group

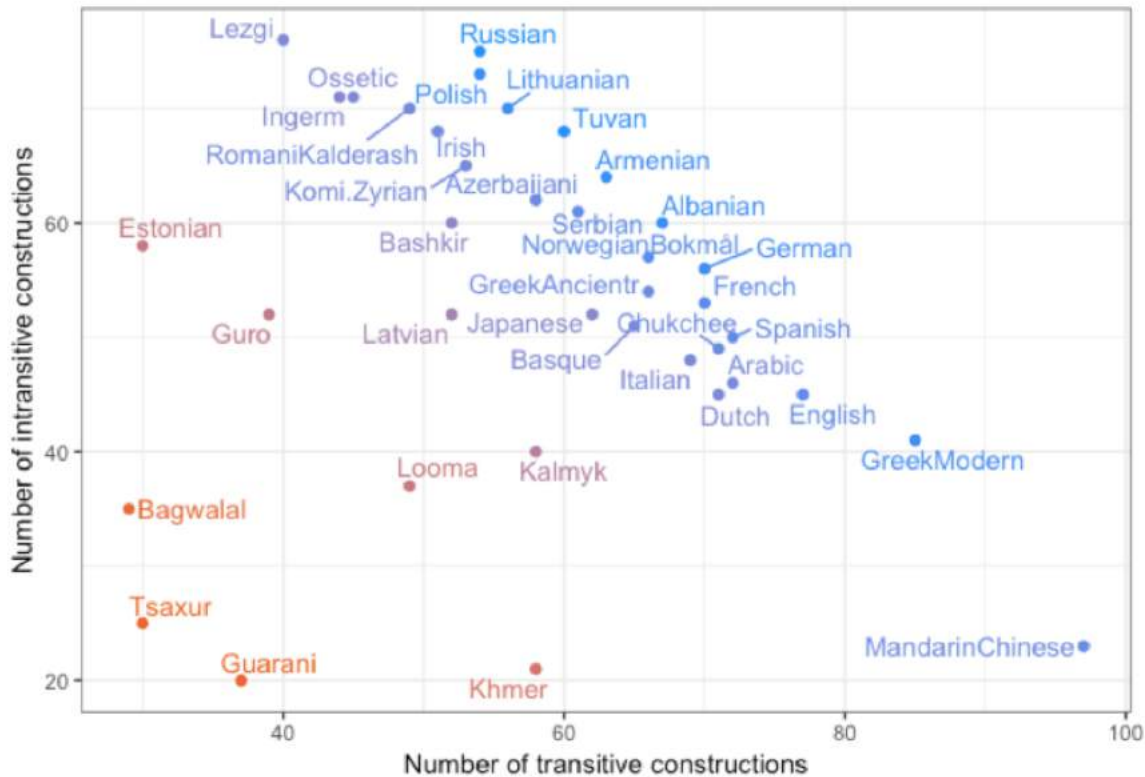
- Albanian
- Armenian
- AvarAndicTsezic
- Baltic
- Basque
- Celtic
- Chinese
- EasternMande
- Finnic
- Germanic
- Greek
- Indic
- Iranian
- Japanese
- Khmer
- Lezgif
- Mongolic
- NorthernChukotkoKamchatkan
- Romance
- Semitic
- Slavic
- TupiGuarani
- Turkic
- WesternMande

COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS  
PRODUCED BY DIFFERENT  
METHODS

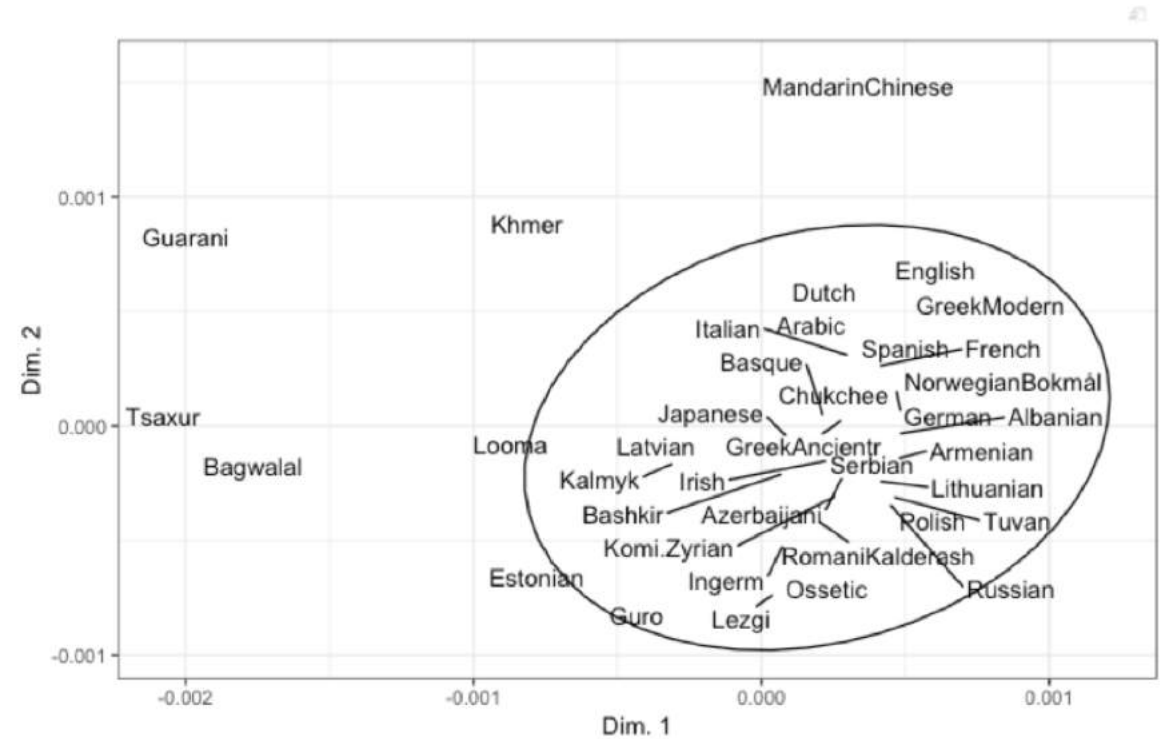


# LANGUAGES

Scatter plot

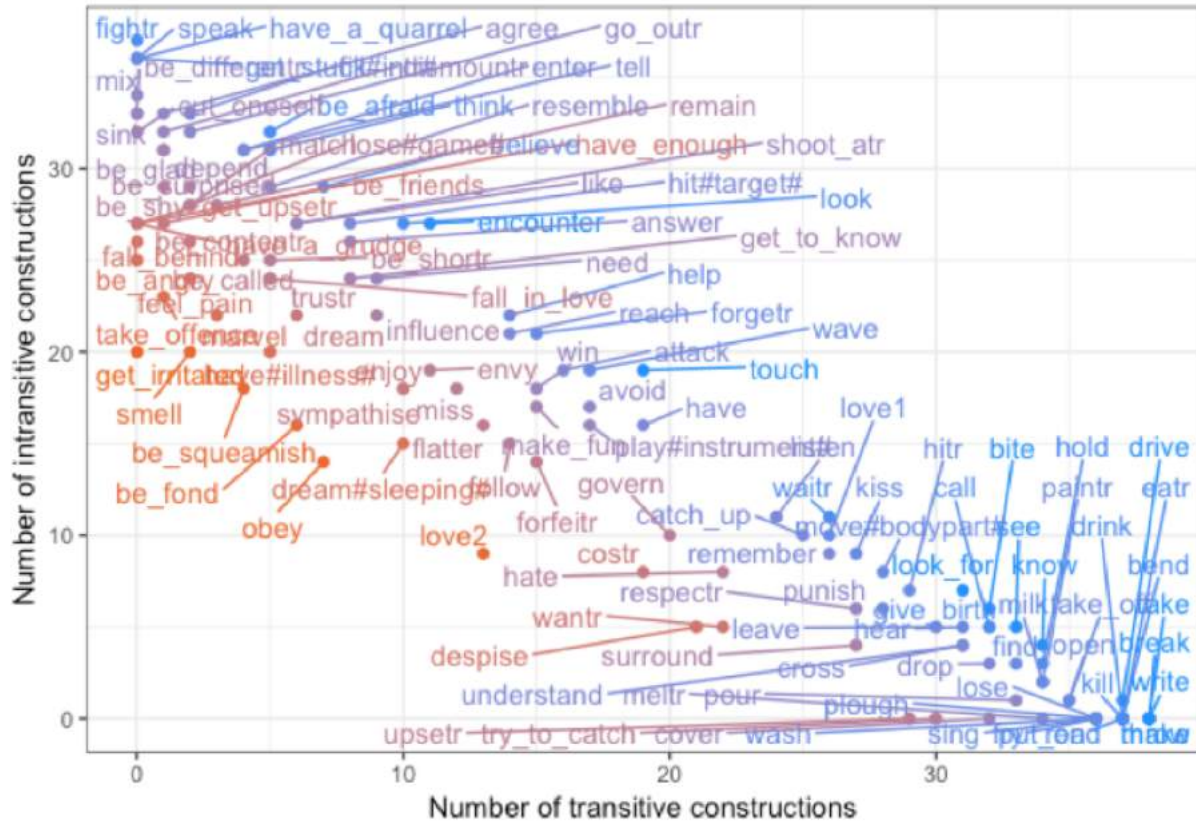


MCA

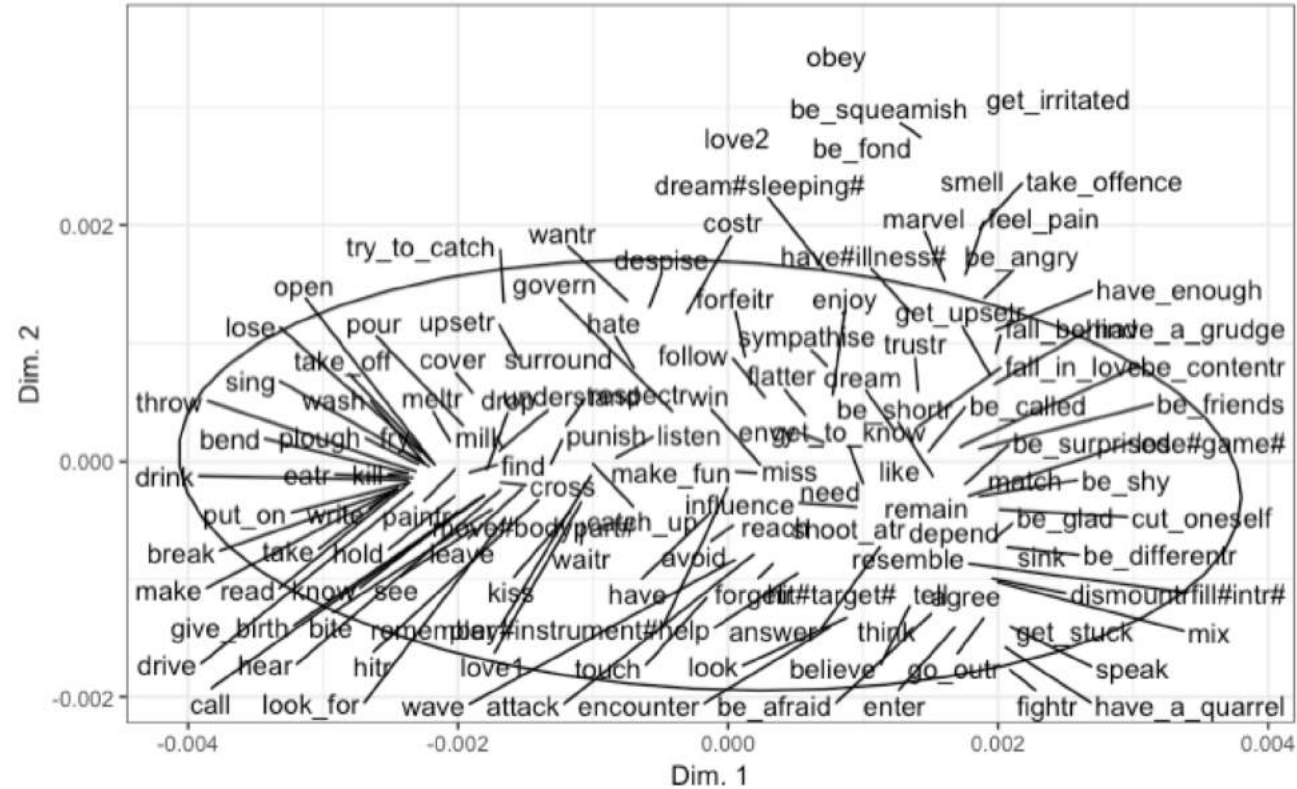


# CONSTRUCTIONS

Scatter plot



MCA



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!

# REFERENCES

Hopper, Paul J. and Thompson, Sandra A. 1980. Transitivity in grammar and discourse. *Language* 56: 251–299.

Say, Sergey. 2014. Bivalent verb classes in the languages of Europe. *Language Dynamics and Change* 4.1: 116-166.