

MULTIMODAL PROMINENCE RELATIONS:

post-focal de-accentuation and de-gesticulation in German?

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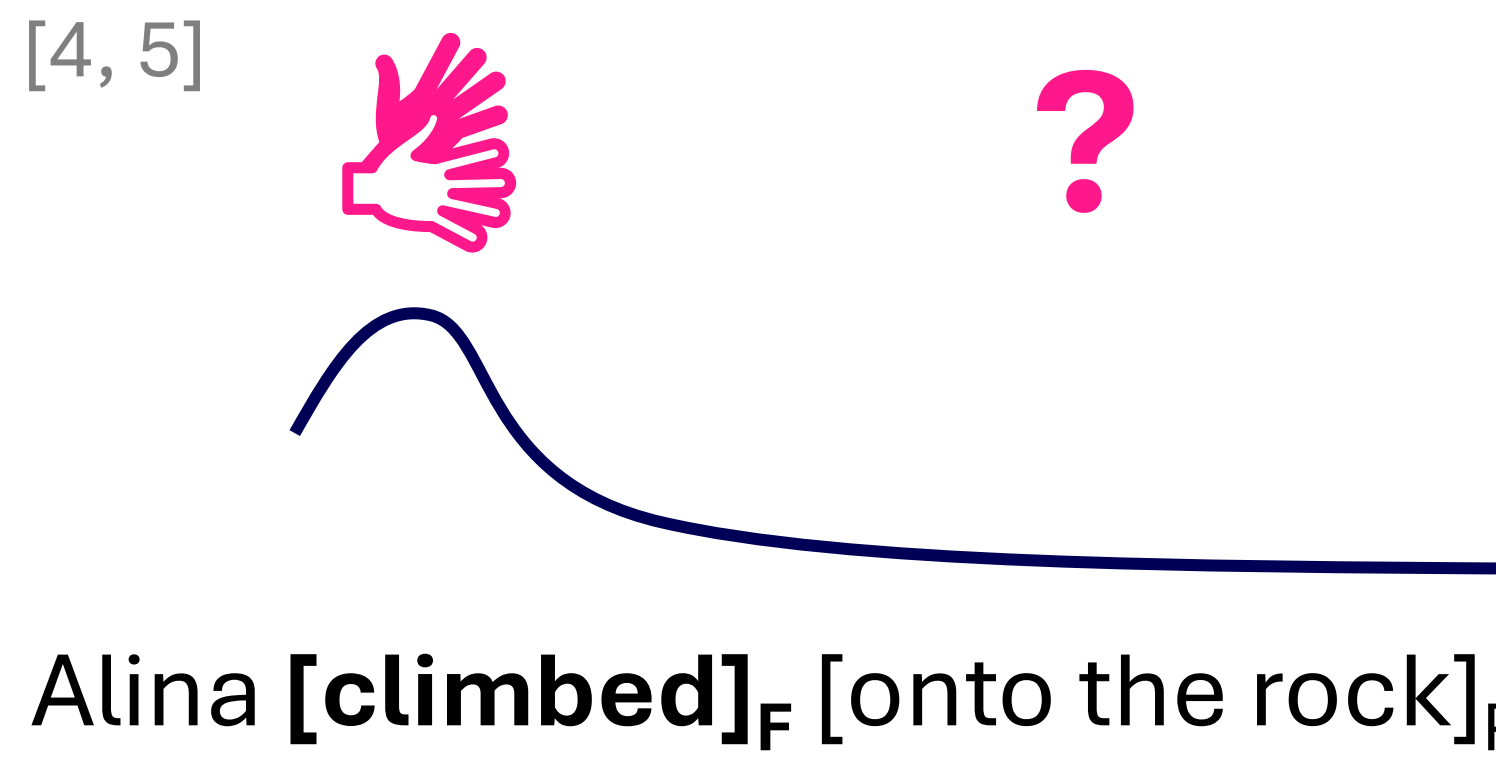


THE FOCAL & POST-FOCAL DOMAIN

Higher pragmatic prominence (e.g., focus)
↓
Higher prosodic & gestural prominence
[1, 2, 3]



How did Alina get onto the rock?
[4, 5]



RQ1: Is multimodal prominence reduced in the post-focal domain?

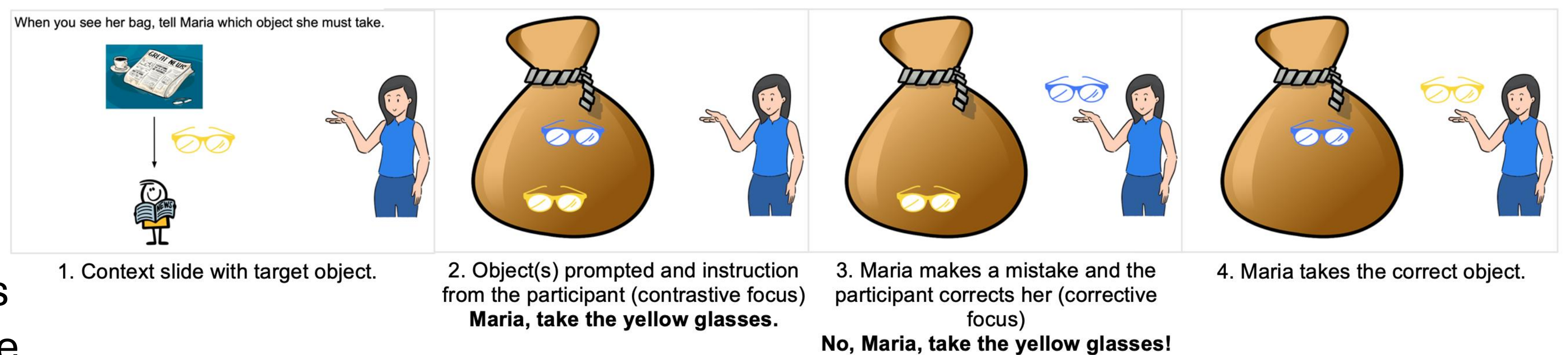
GESTURES

- Presence induces prominence [1]
- Salience induces prominence [3, 6]
- Alignment induces prominence [7, 8]

RQ2: Does the focal domain pull gestures away from the post-focal domain?

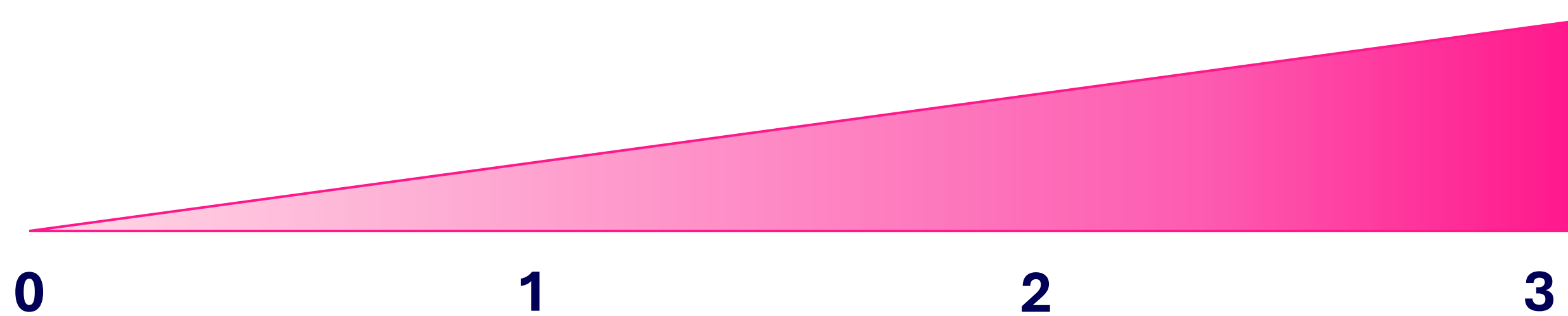
DATABASE: THE MULTIFOCUS CORPUS [9]

- Semi-spontaneous focus elicitation task cf. [10]
- 35 German speakers
- 895 utterances
- Focused adjective + post-focal noun
- Focus with increasing contrastivity [11]: background, information focus, contrastive focus, corrective focus
- Annotation: gestures, gestural & prosodic prominence

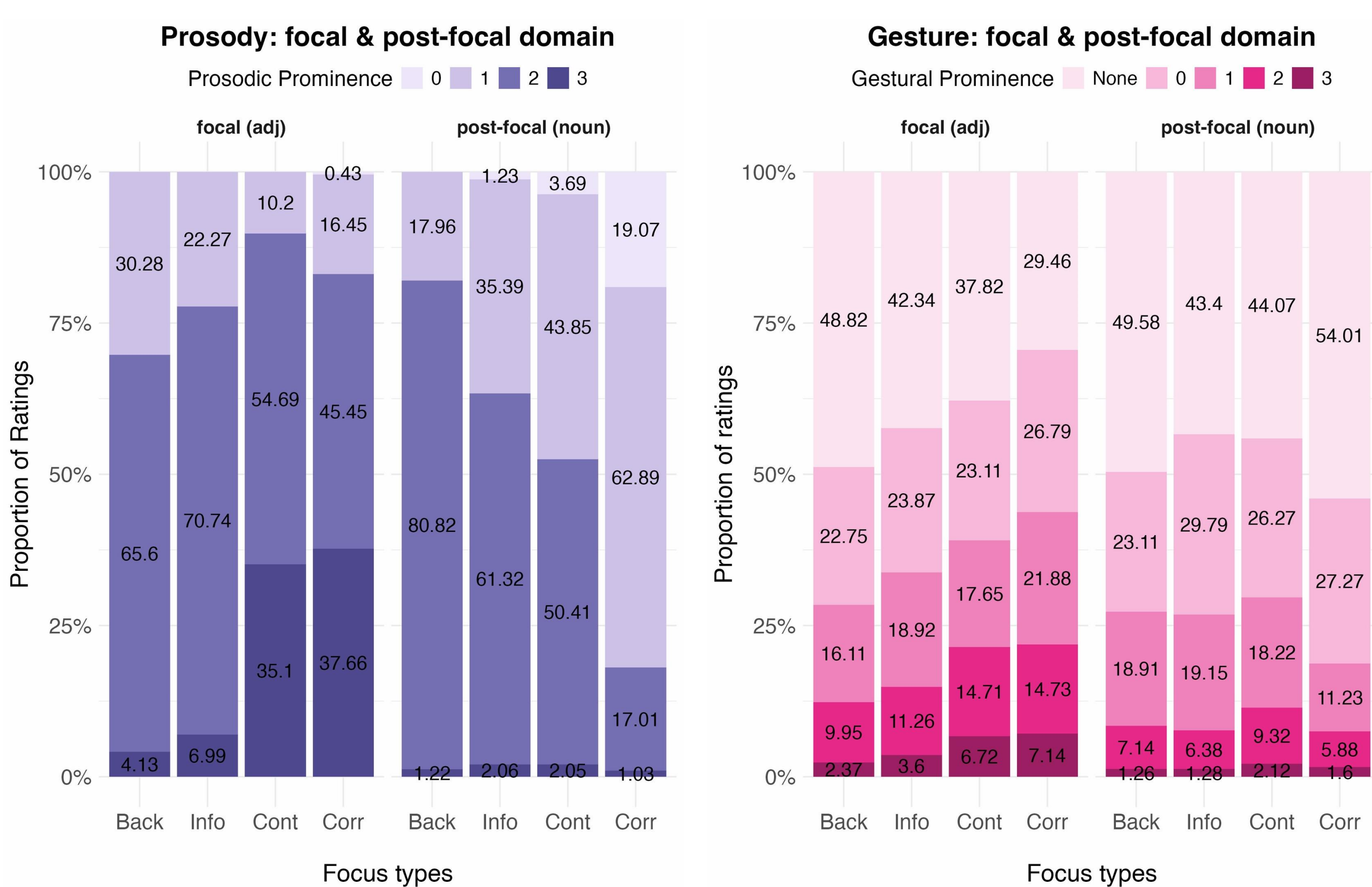


MULTIMODAL PROMINENCE

Higher rating = higher prominence

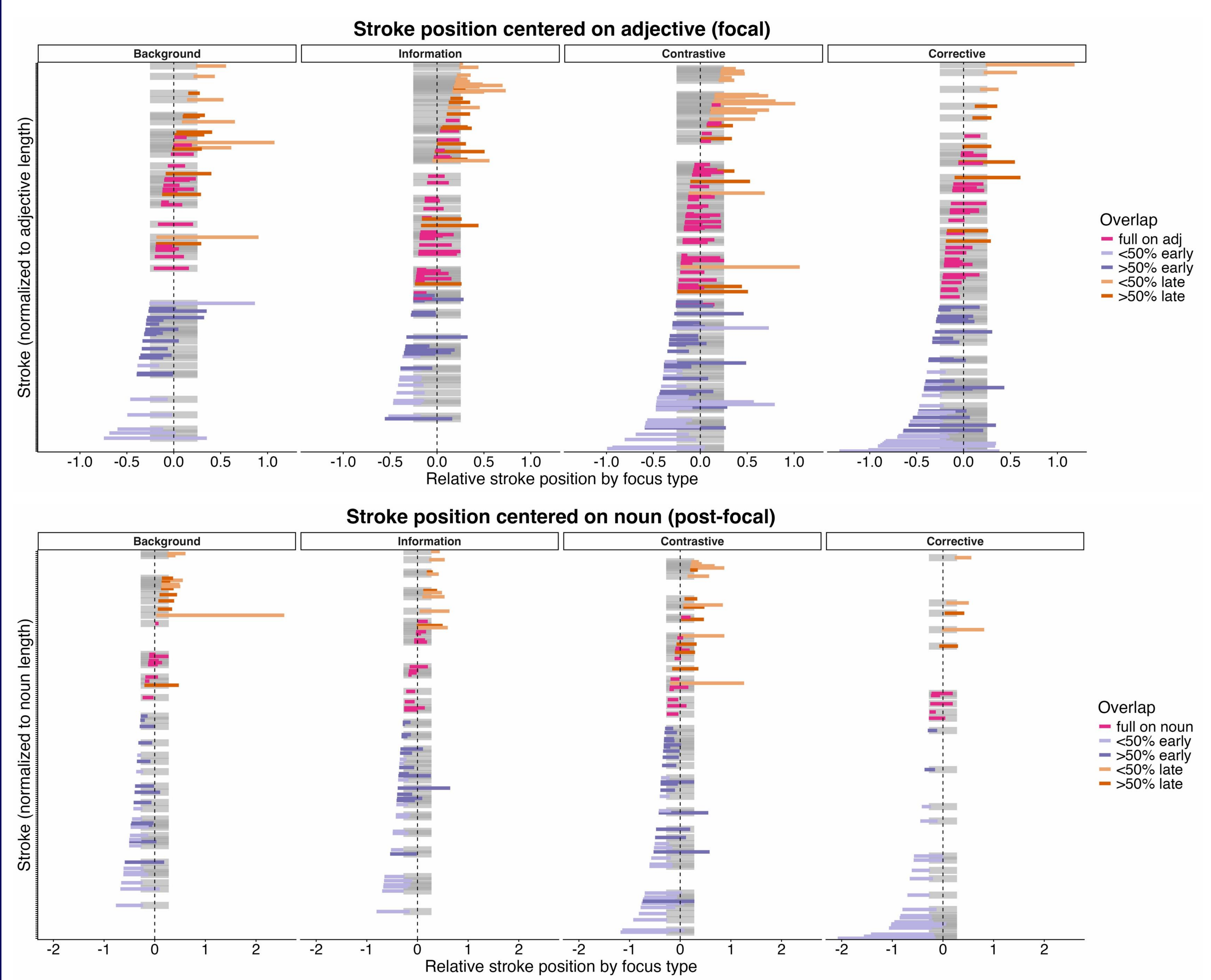


- Ratings based on M3D (gesture [12]) and DIMA (prosody [13])
- Ratings have high inter-rater reliability
- Analysis per focus domain (focal / post-focal)
- Analysis per focus type with increasing contrastivity
- Gestural rating "none": no gesture present at all



STROKE OVERLAP

- Normalized stroke position relative to the target word
- Axis centered on word
- Noun follows adjective → noun-preceding stroke indicates stroke towards adjective



DISCUSSION

- Holistic measure of prosodic prominence reflects findings for pitch accentuation: fine-grained reduction of post-focal information
- Gestural prominence shows general reduction of prominence, but only distinction between corrective and other focus types
- With increasing contrastivity, gesture strokes are pulled away from the post-focal noun towards the adjective in corrective focus
- General tendency for earlier gesture strokes with increasing contrastivity

Prosodic and gestural prominence and the position of gesture strokes contribute to focus marking, on the focused constituent, but also by reducing salience of the post-focal domain

References

