

Learning effects in answering surveys in a non-native language

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Presentation for the CSDI Workshop, Stockholm 2013

- Relevance and previous work
- Data and Model
- Findings
- (Work in progress)

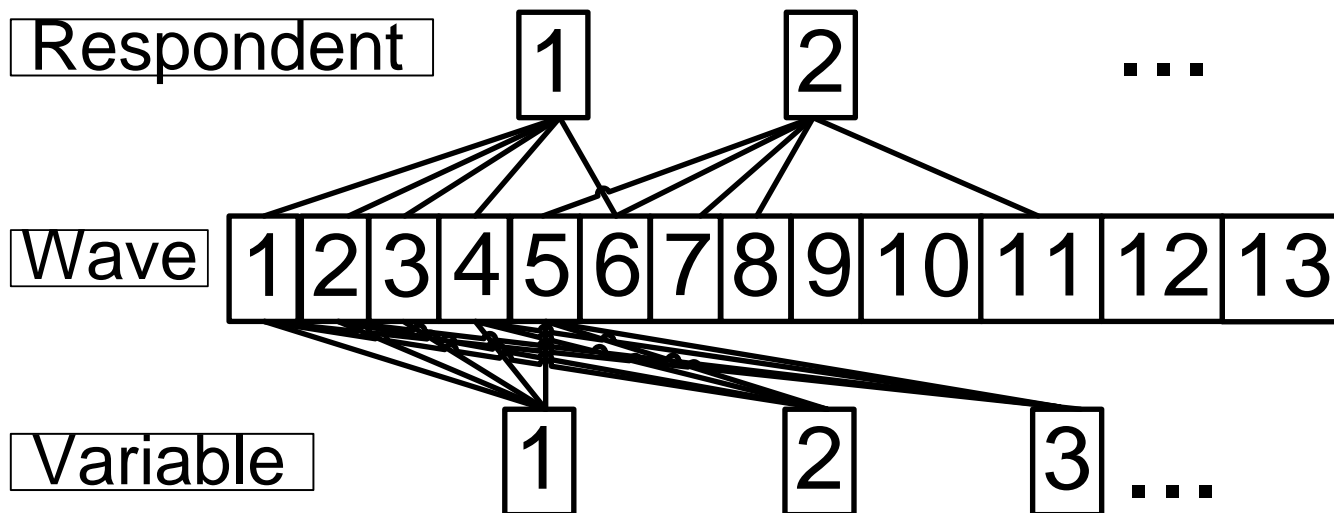
- Foreigners **are** surveyed in foreign language (causes: no alternative, 1st contact language, want to, ...)
- Kleiner et al. 2012: poorer data quality (DK)
 - Foreigners who speak survey language: motivation
 - Other foreigners: plus language / cultural distance
 - (— Age / education , - question characteristics)
- Krosnick 1991 (Satisficing): Poor understanding / motivation

Why longitudinal ?

To identify and distinguish

- Selection effects and endogeneity
- Motivation effects
- Language learning / acculturation effects
- Waterton and Lievesley (1989): DK reduced as a result of participation
- Sturgis et al. (2009) reliability and stability of attitudes and opinions increase

- Swiss Household Panel 1999-2011:
 #natives (random) = #neighbors = #other foreign.
- Model: crossed data structure:
 - Respondents (N=2,400) clustered in variables
 - Variables (N=300) clustered in respondents

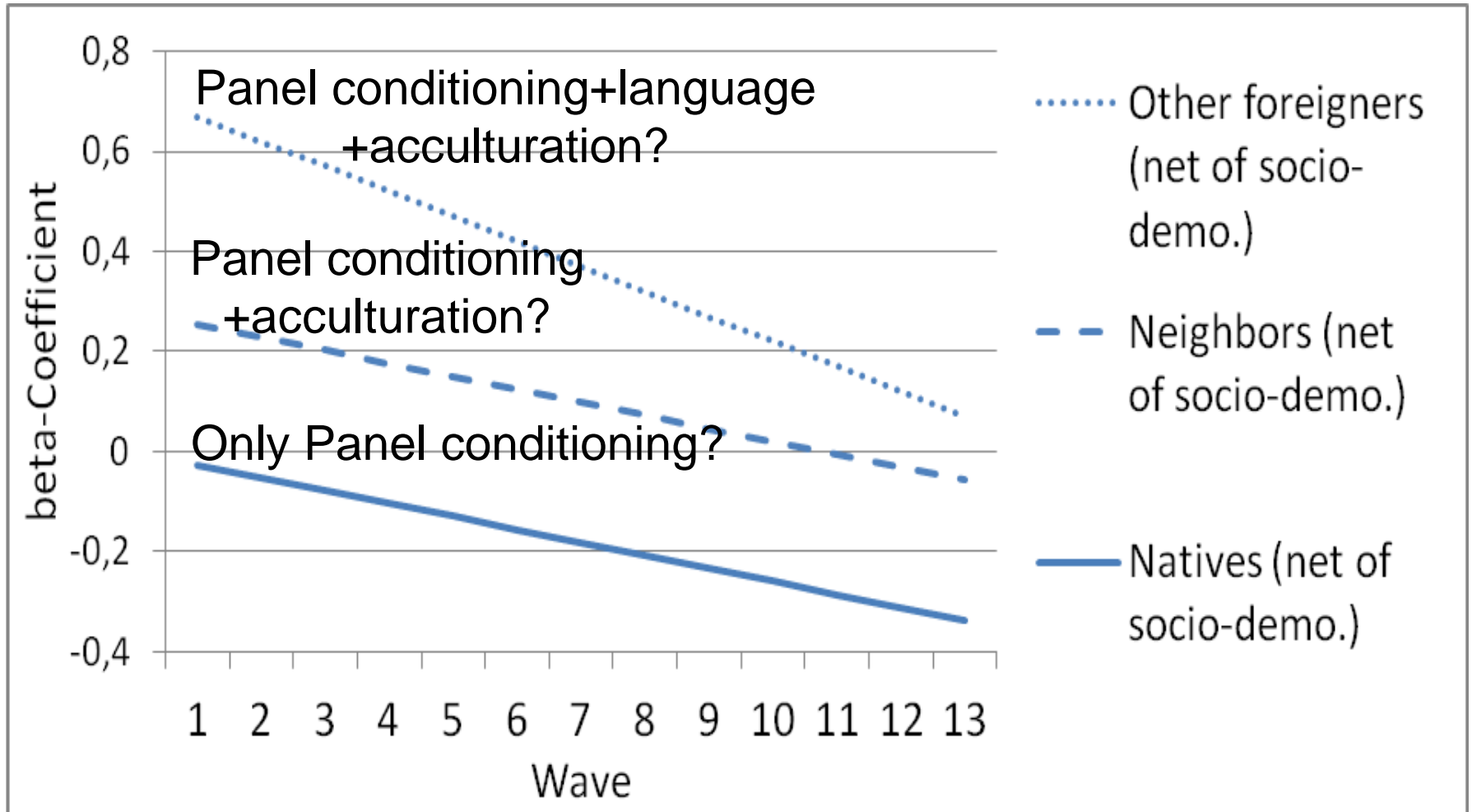


Findings I: between-estimation

- Total variance composition:
respondent / variable / wave ~ 1:2:2
- Time in country: less DK
- Time in panel: less DK (panel conditioning)
- Second-best language more DK
- More so for foreign language

Model controlled: sex, age, education

Findings II: learning curves



Survey Language Transitions

| from | to | First best mastered | Second best mastered | Foreign language |
|----------------------|----|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| First best mastered | | 6,740 (99.4%) | 26 (.4%) | 12 (.2%) |
| Second best mastered | | 37 (1.9%) | 1,940 (97.7%) | 8 (.4%) |
| Foreign language | | 21 (2.3%) | 12 (1.3%) | 879 (96.4%) |

Fixed Effects: language changes

| DK | to | First best mastered | Second best mastered | Foreign language |
|----------------------|----|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| from | | | | |
| First best mastered | | | Decrease ? | Increase |
| Second best mastered | | | | Increase |
| Foreign language | | | | |