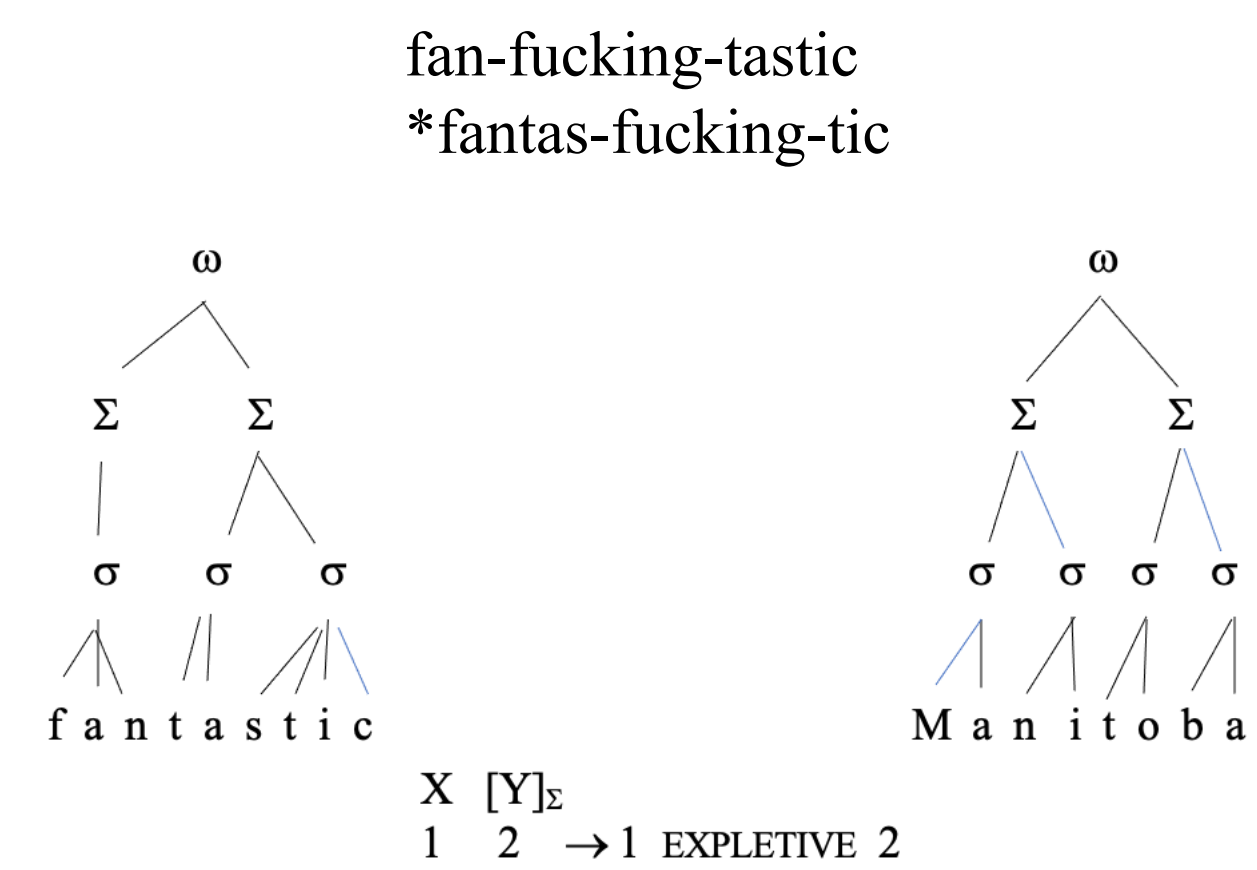


# The Second Language Acquisition of English Expletive Infixing

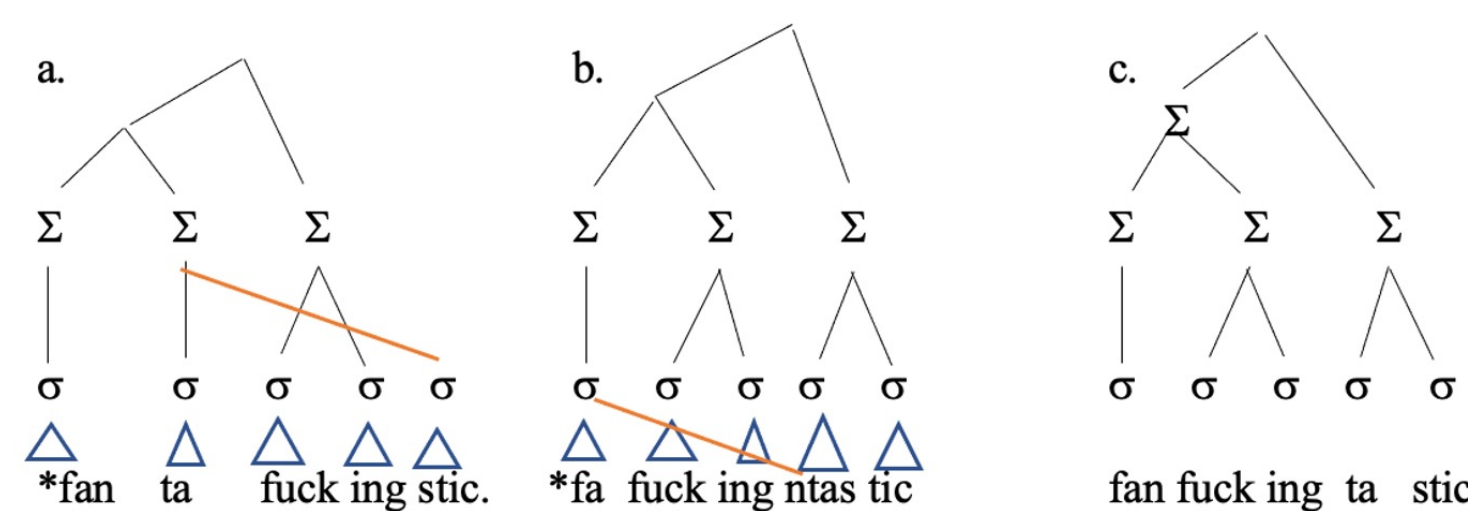
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## English has Infixing?



## Recursion



## ARE L2 GRAMMARS CONSTRAINED BY UNIVERSALS?

## Universals

- Prosodic Morphology
- Prosodic Circumscription
- No Crossing of Association Lines

## The L1s

- English: *trochaic feet for stress*
- Mandarin: *trochaic foot structure for stress and tone sandhi*
- Spanish: *trochaic foot structure for stress*
- Japanese: *trochaic foot structure for loan words' pitch accent*
- French: *no feet; no word stress*

## Methodology

Auditory and orthographic lexical decision task (LDT)

Which of the following forms do you prefer:

1. *fan-fucking-tastic*      2. *fantas-fucking-tic*

L1	Count	English Intermediate	English Advanced
Spanish	14	2	14
Mandarin	21	14	7
Japanese	46	39	7
French	18	1	17
English	15	-	-

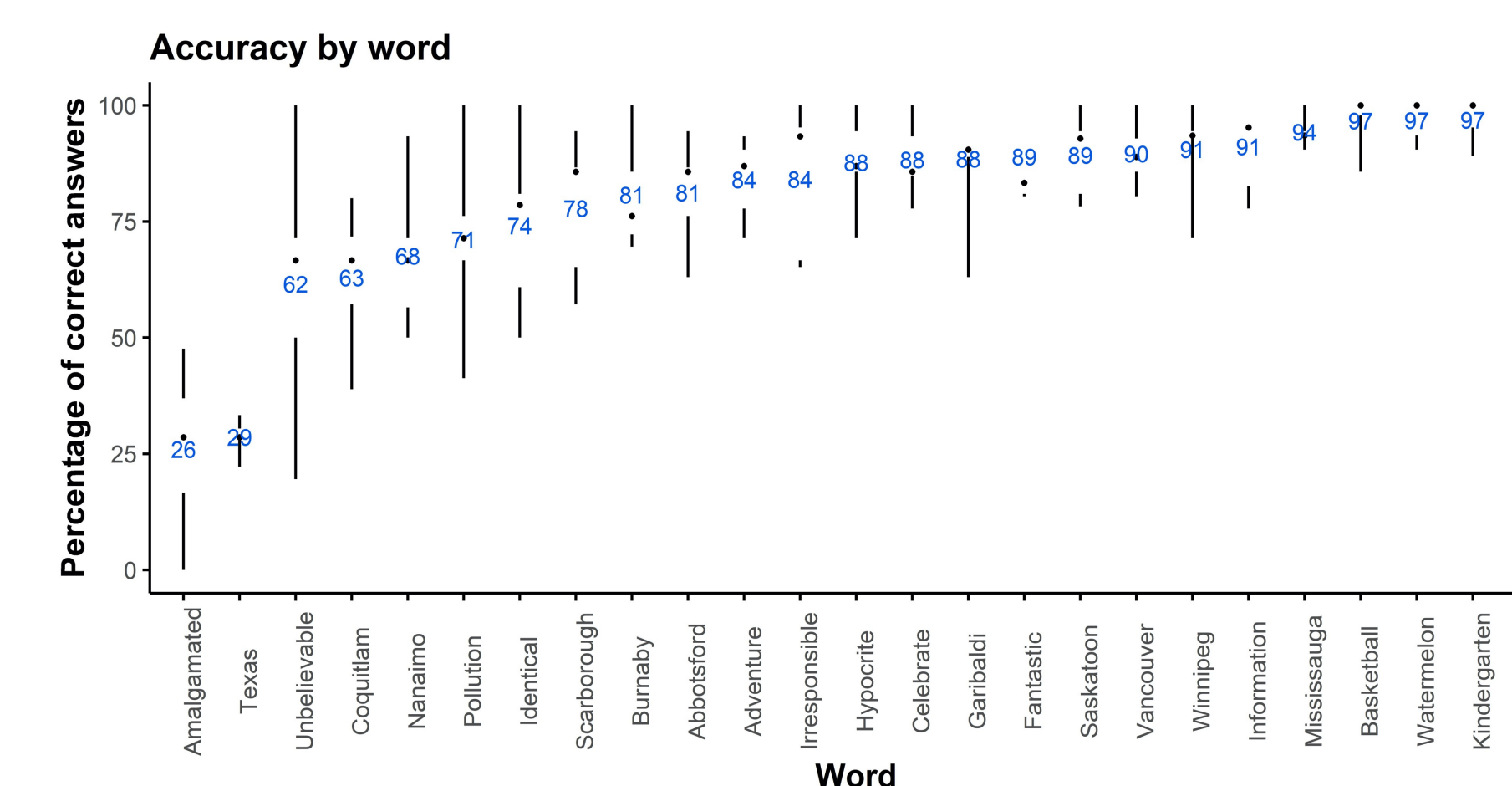
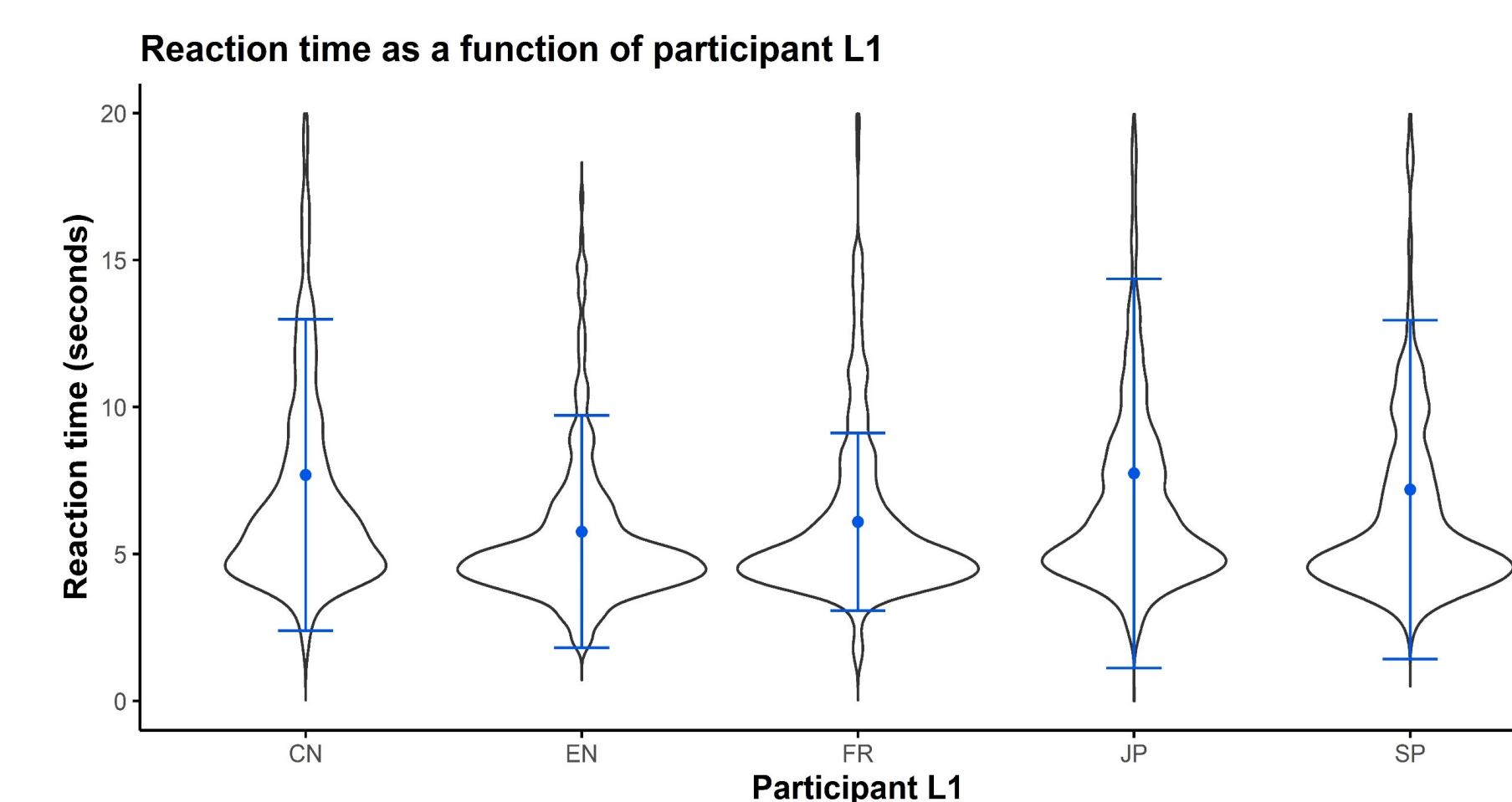
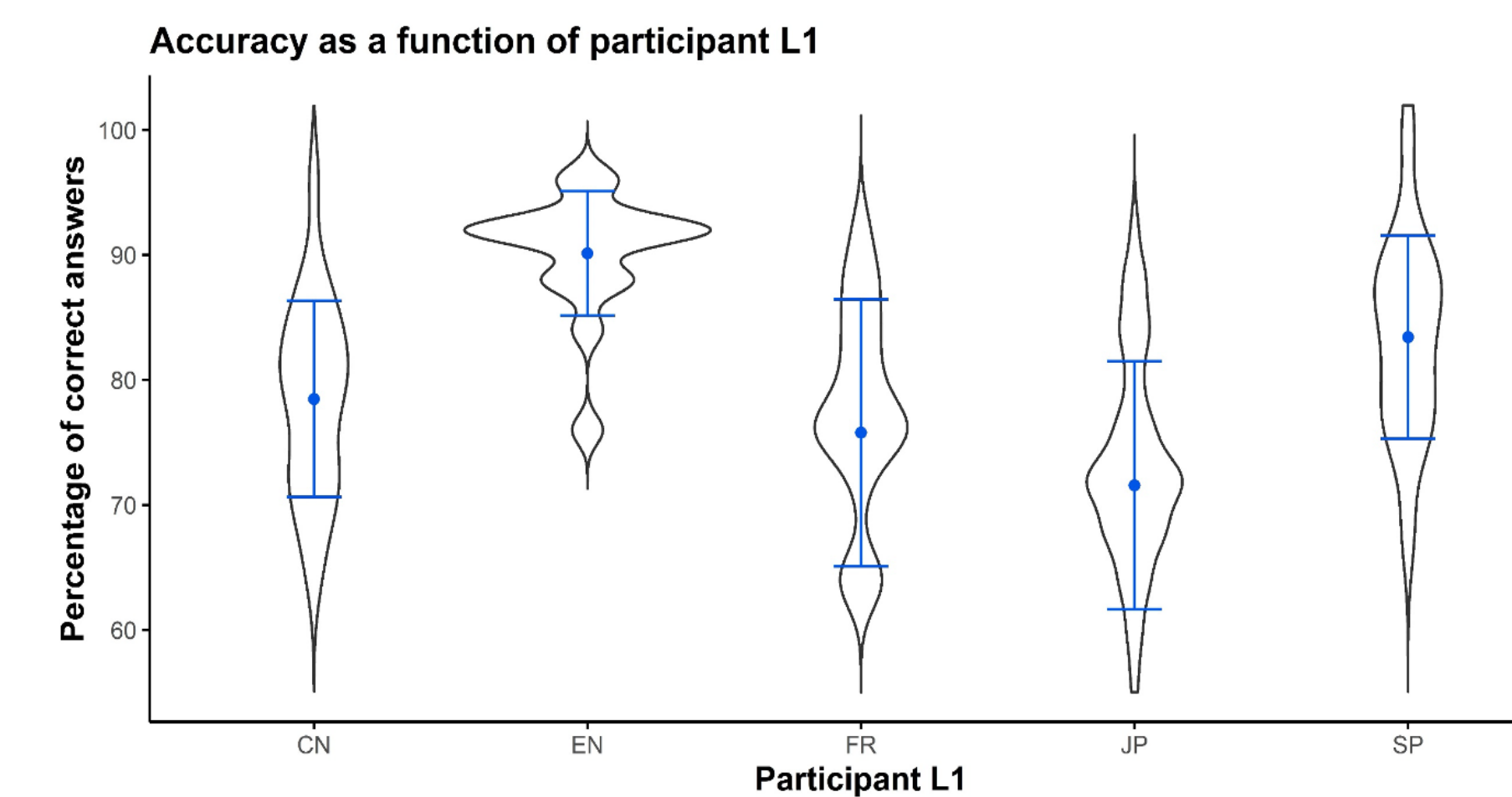
## L2 GRAMMARS ARE CONSTRAINED BY UNIVERSALS

\*fantas-fucking-tic

“L2 learners are able to acquire abstract recursive structures based on infrequent input - thus demonstrating that their grammars are hierarchical and constrained by Universal Grammar...”

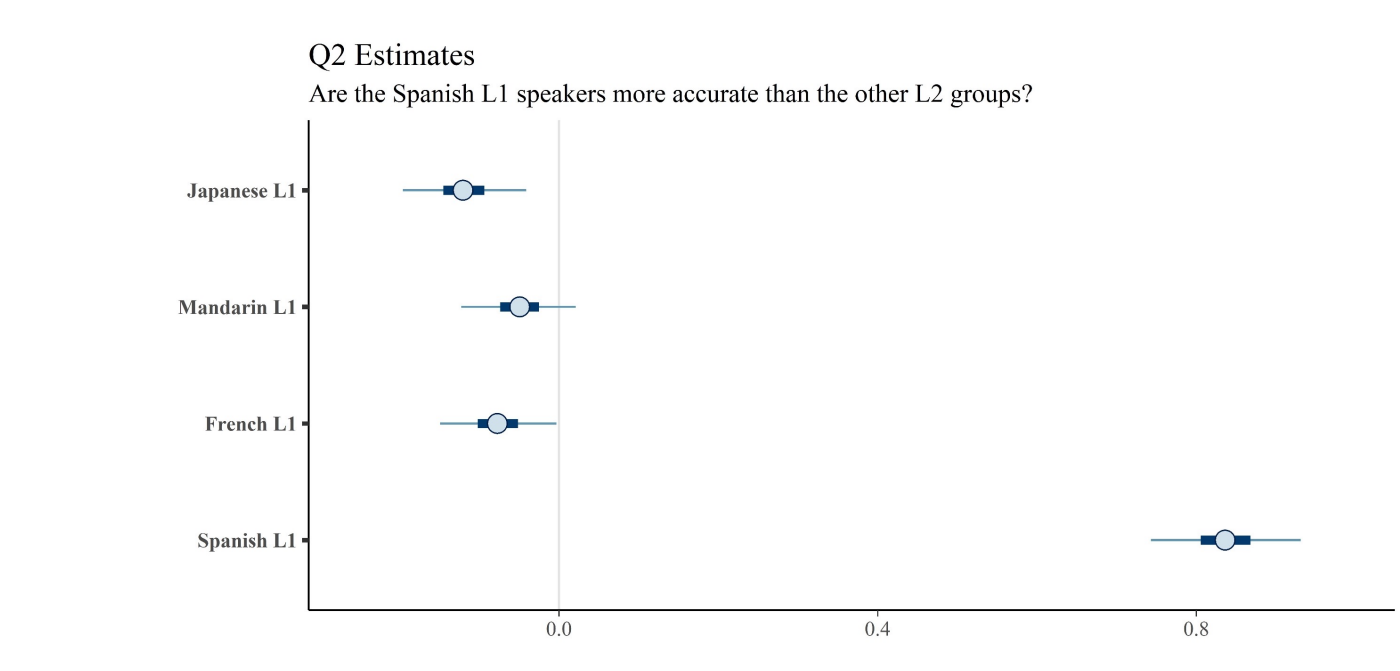
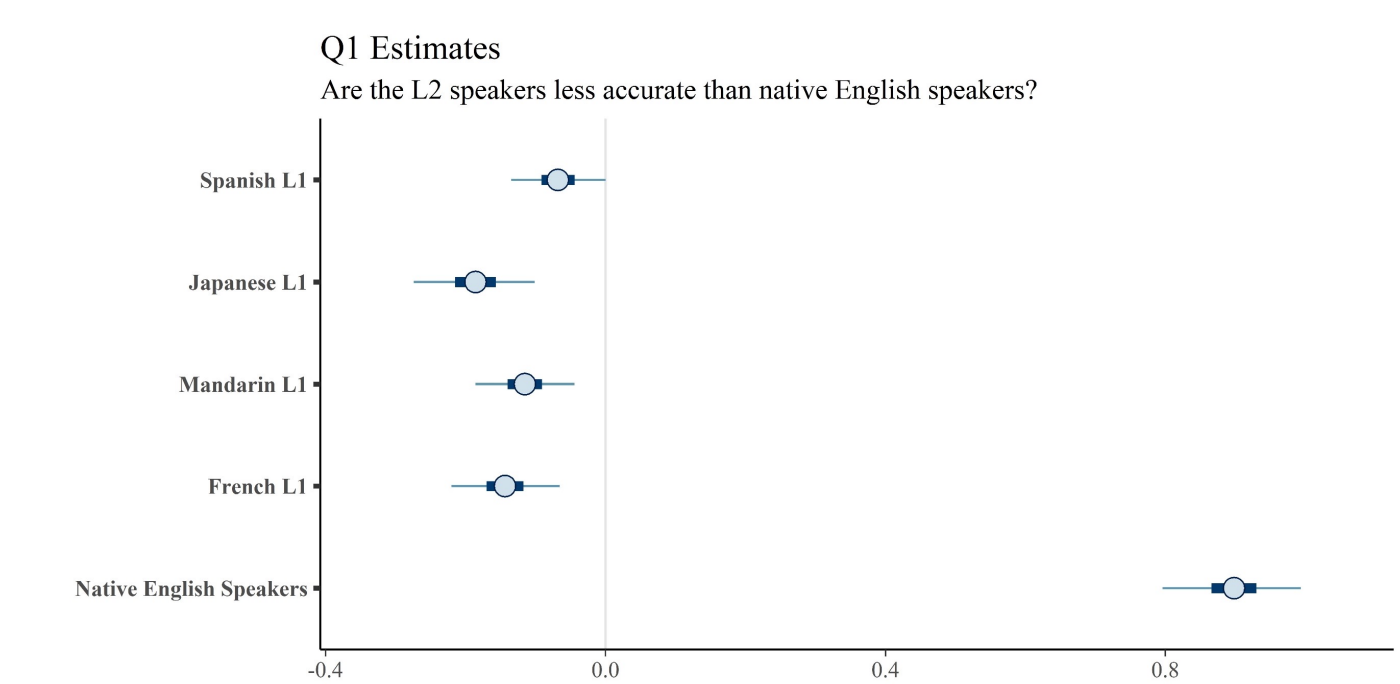
\*Winn-fucking-ipeg

## Results



Accuracy Rate	Lexical Items
>90%	Hypocrite, Garibaldi, Winnipeg, celebrate, information, basketball, watermelon, everybody, kindergarten, Mississauga
>80%	Abbotsford, Scarborough, adventure, irresponsible, Vancouver, Saskatoon, fantastic
>70%	Identical, pollution, Burnaby
50%-70%	Coquitlam, Nanaimo, unbelievable
<50%	Amalgamation, Texas

## Bayesian Analyses



fantastic → fan(tastic) → fan(fucking)-(tastic)  
kernel

## Conclusions

1. Interlanguage grammars have hierarchical structure; they are not 'shallow.'
2. The accuracy of responses is based on structures which are infrequent and not taught which suggest the learners were consulting representations which included recursive metrical feet.
3. Our differential difficulty hypothesis was not supported.
4. L2 learners retain access to universal properties of generative word formation processes such as prosodic morphology.

