

Analysis of Phonology and Morphology in the Kobani Dialect

Raman Ahmad¹, Christian Schuler²

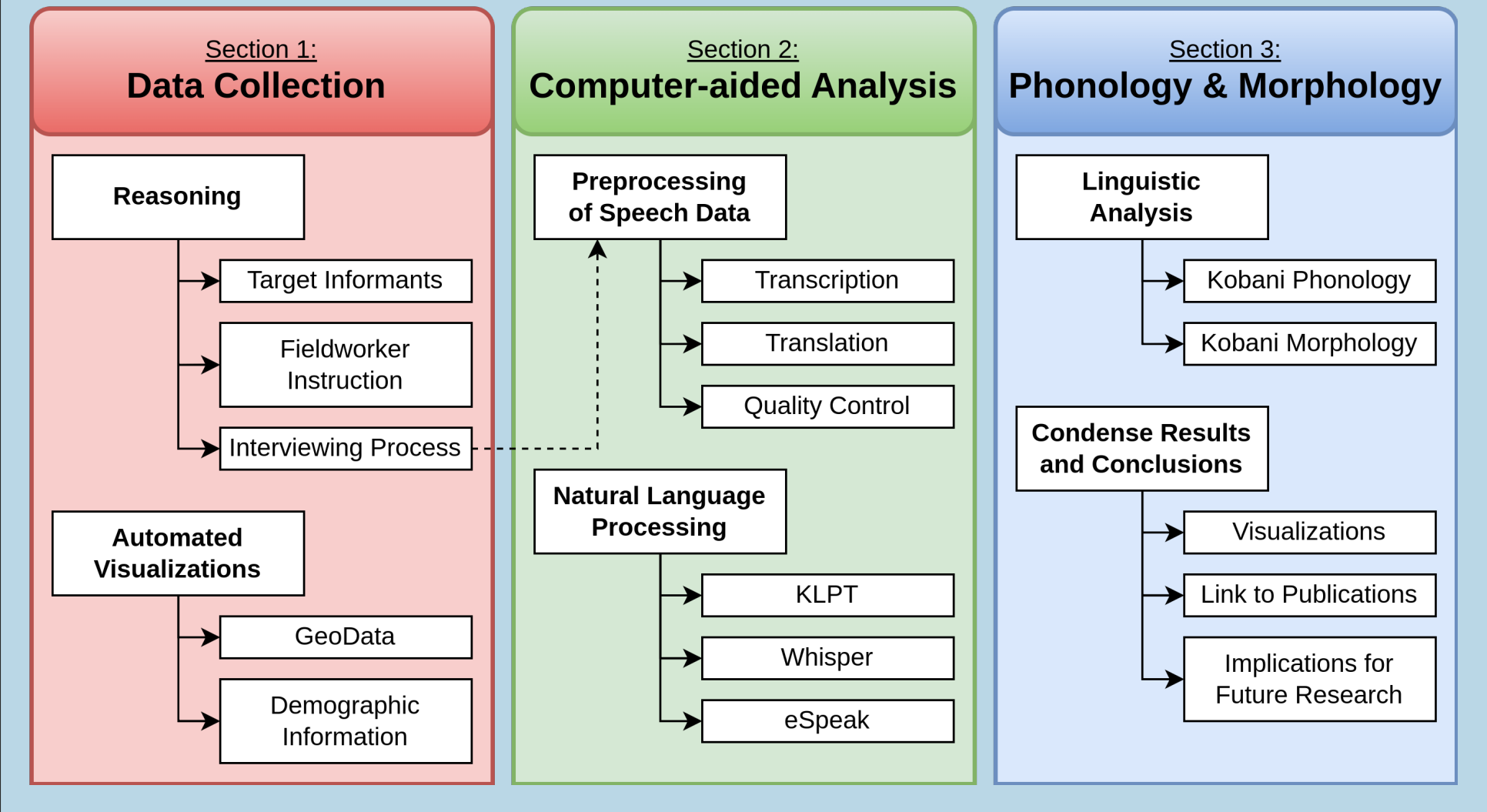
¹Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg ²Universität Hamburg

{raman.ahmad2022,christianschuler8989}@gmail.com

Introduction

Kobani is a Kurdish dialect spoken in and around Kobani (Ain al-Arab), which is the capital city of the district 'Ain al-'Arab in the gouvernement Aleppo in Syria. The Kobani dialect can be considered to be part of the **Southern Kurmanji dialect-group** according to [1]. Kobani has approximately 200,000 native speakers.

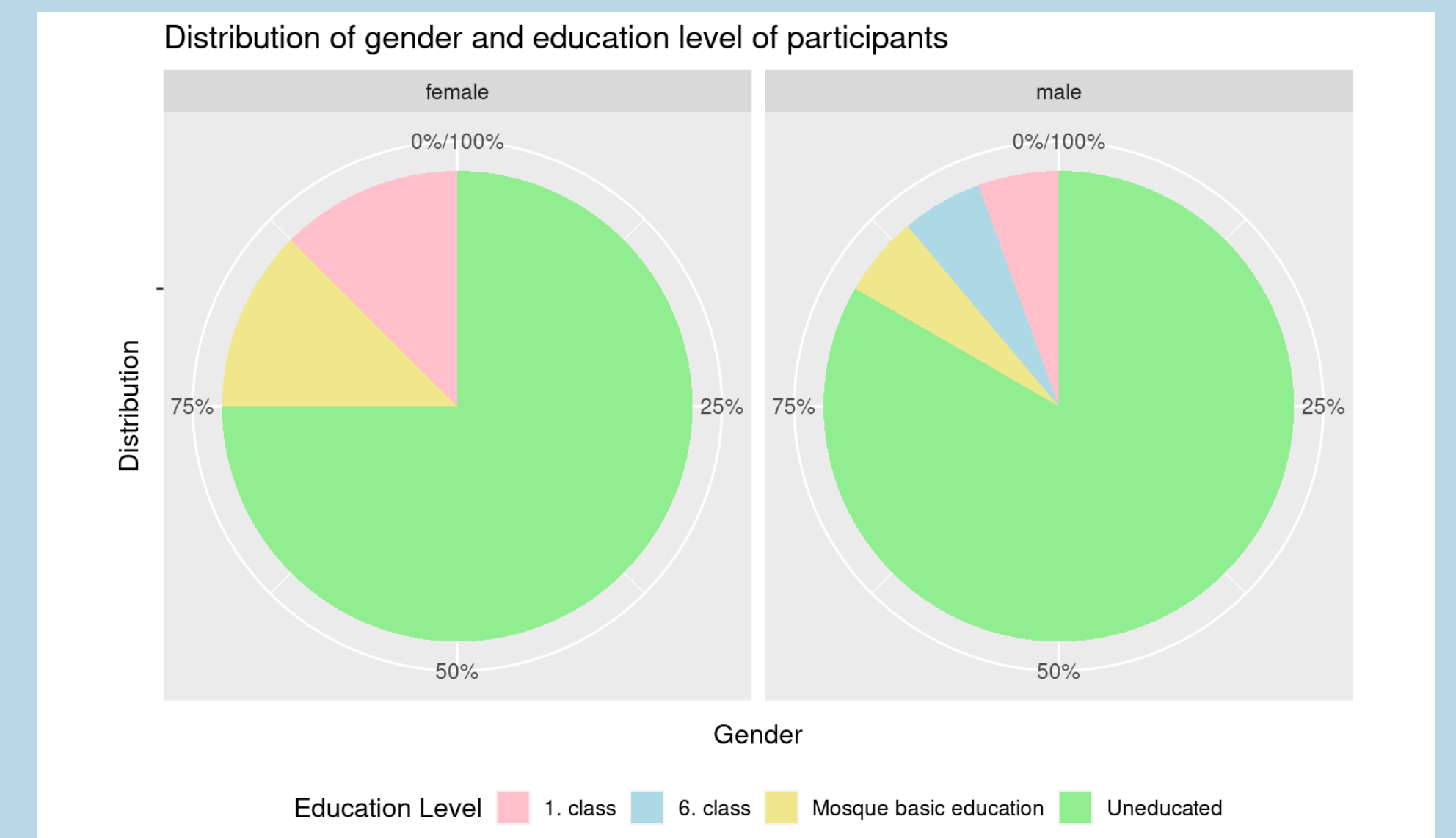
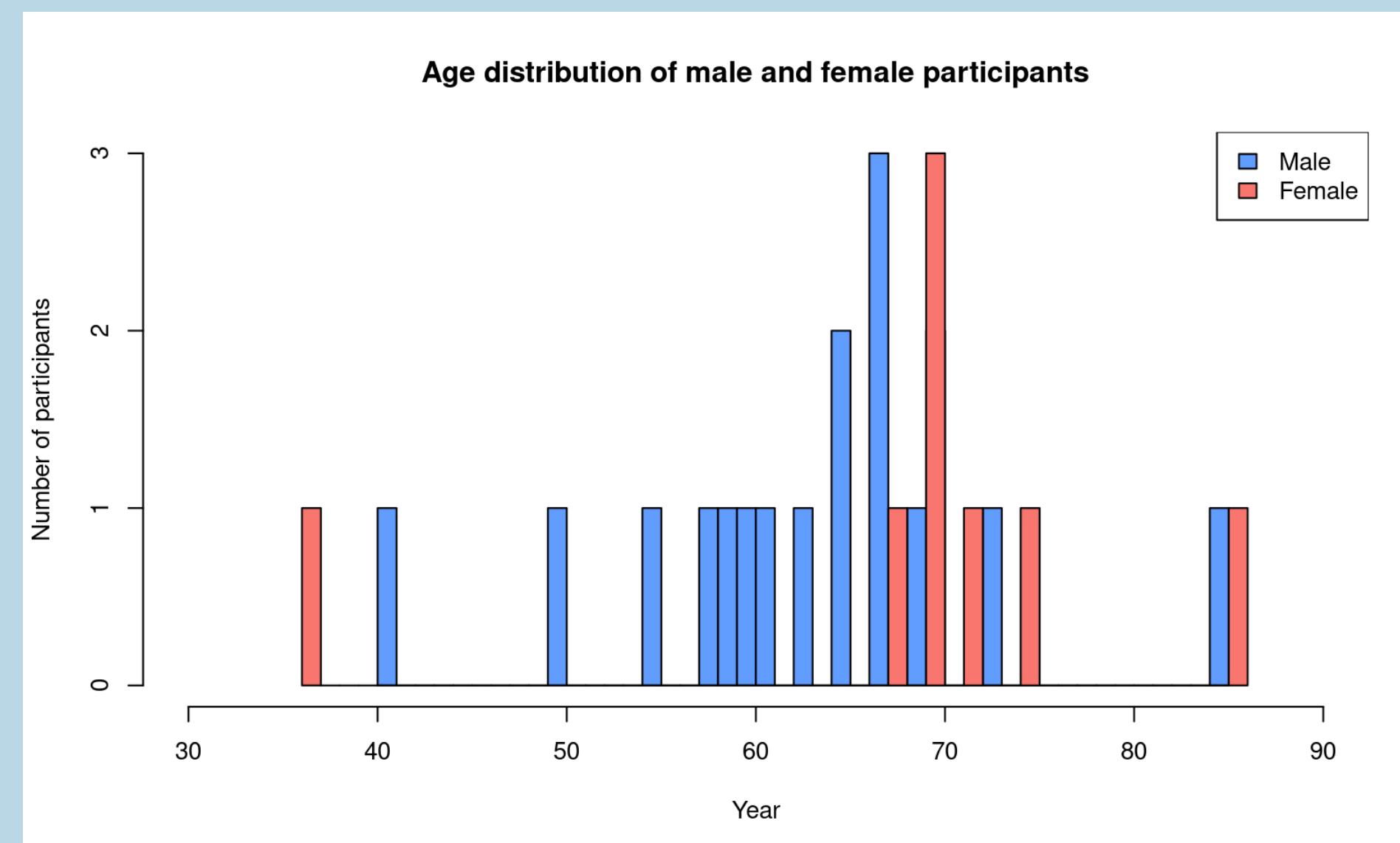
In the following we present the preliminary results of our work so far and what is yet to come.



Methods & Data

In our analysis, we employed the method of "**corpus-based analysis**". We utilized a novel collection of recordings (stories) as our primary material and conducted our analysis based on this corpus. This approach draws inspiration from [4], [5]. The data has been collected **from February to July of 2021** and consists of **320 minutes of recorded speech** by native speakers of the Kobani dialect. The instructed interviewers always made an effort to pretend not to record audio in order to prevent the interviewees from speaking in Standard Kurdish. However, after every interview, the participants were informed that the recording had been captured and asked for permission to use it for analysis.

Demographics



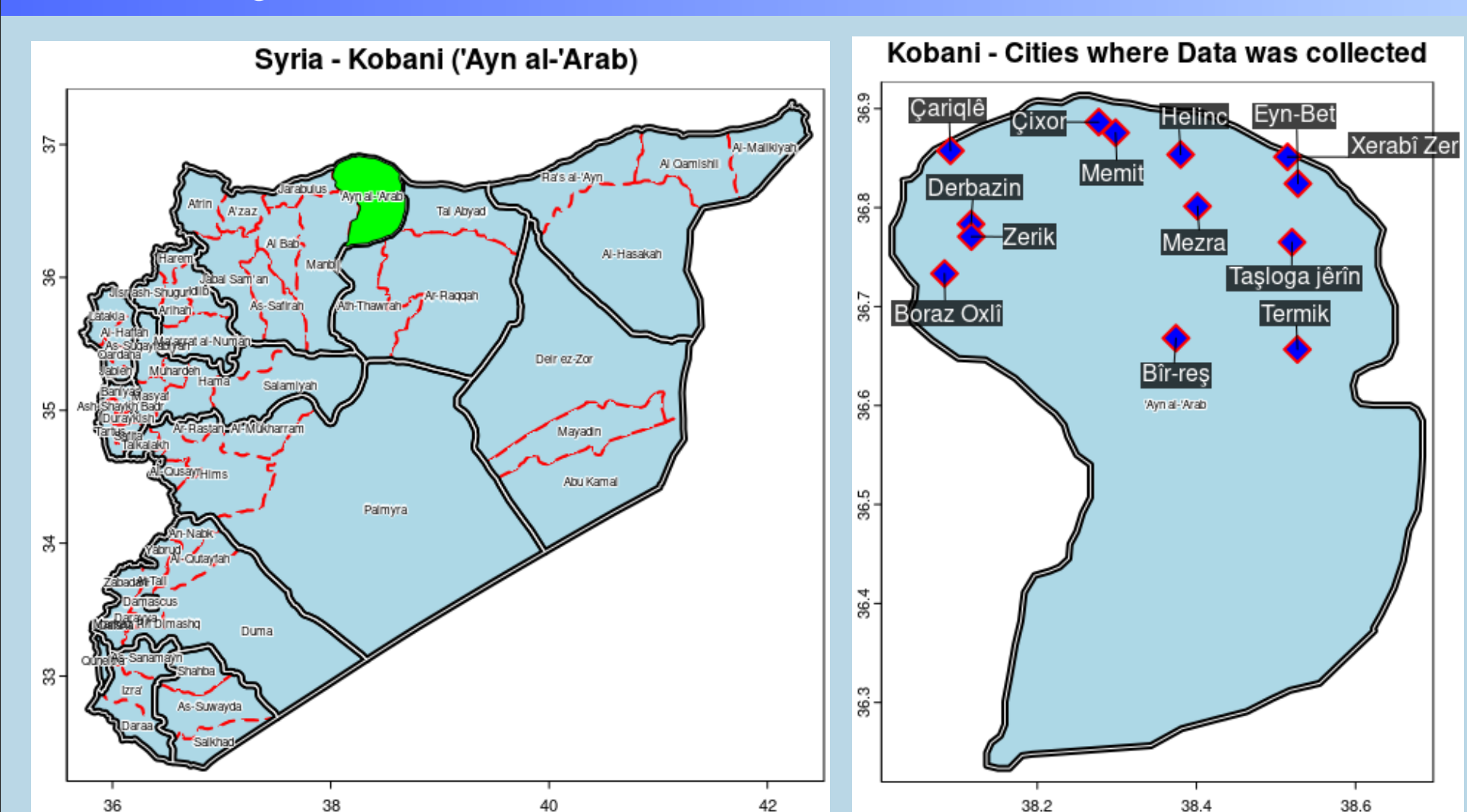
Demographics of study participants, aimed at less-educated elderly native speaker of Kobani.

Related Work

The only work on the Kobani variety of Kurmanji that the authors could find is of a smaller scope and mainly reports about the **Izafe phenomenon** and reported three observations [2]:

1. Presence of additional form for the **Izafe**
2. This form of Izafe for the **definite singular feminine** and that it can probably be the same as the presumed loss of gender phenomenon by [3] in the Diyarbakir varieties
3. Presence of **Izafe markers** on the **subject of copular sentences**

Study Location



References

[1] Öpengin, E., & Haig, G. (2014): *Regional variation in Kurmanji : A preliminary classification of dialects*. Kurdish Studies, 2. doi: 10.33182/ks.v2i2.399

[2] Najem-Aldin, A. (2021): *Izafe in the Kobani variety of Kurmanji*, ICKL-5 Book of Abstracts. 5th International Conference on Kurdish Linguistics.

[3] Dorleijn, M. (1996): *The decay of ergativity in Kurmanji*.

[4] Geyik, R. (2022): *Taybetmendiye zimannasiya Kurdî (Kurmançî) di kovara Hawarê de (Fonolojî û morfolojî)*. Yayınlanmamış doktora tezi, Dicle Üniversitesi, Diyarbakır.

[5] Jafarzadeh, M. (2017): *Analîza Kurmançiya Deregeza Xorasanê Li Gor Hêmanên Zimannasiyê*.

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Results

Nouns always get an **ending in copular clauses**.

	Ending	Standard Kurdish	Kobani Dialect
masculine singular	î	Alan rind e	Alan-î rind e
feminine singular	e	Nalîn xweşik e	Nalîn-e xweşik e
plural masculine/feminine	e	Dîwar bilind in	Dîwar-e bilind in

Second part of **compound prepositions** ends in "a".

Standard Kurdish	Kobani Dialect
Bi hev re	Bi hev ra
Di vir de	Di vir da
Ji mêj ve	Ji mêj va

Verbs receive the ending ê when **conjugated with the third person singular**.

Standard Kurdish	Kobani Dialect
Jinik avê radike	Jinik avê radikê
Mîr zêr dikire	Mîr zêr dikirê

Fusion of (vowel, semi-vowel, vowel) into one sound.

vowel, semi-vowel, vowel	Fusion sound	Standard Kurdish	Kobani Dialect
(î)/iyê	ê	Ew ji Kobaniyê ye	Ew-ê ji Kobanê ye
êyê	ê	Di Rêyê re çû	Di rê ra çû
eyê	ê	Em paleyê dikin	Em palê dikine

Examples of **Shexi-pronunciations**.

Standard Kurdish	Shexi-pronunciation	Most used pronunciation
Derî	Qapî	Qapî
Kevçî	Kevçî	Kevçî
Xanî	Xanî	Xanî

Transformation of "ê" to "î".

Standard Kurdish	Kobani Dialect
Mêvan	Mîvan
Nêçîrvan	Nîçîrvan
Bêrvîvan	Bîrvîvan

Transformation of "û" to "o".

Standard Kurdish	Kobani Dialect
Tûj	Toj
Gûz	Goz
Bilûr	Bilor

Conclusion

Our initial analysis agrees with the findings reported by [2]. Furthermore, we have discovered several intriguing differences between standard Kurdish and the Kobani dialect which we plan to compare and align with analyses of other Kurdish dialects in the future.

We were able to determine that the **continuous present tense also exists in the Kobani dialect**.

- Em teqê vedikin → Em teqê vedikine
- Ew porî xwe şe (şeh) dikê → Ew porî xwe şe (şeh) dikêye

We observed a distinct group (clan) going by the name Shexi, situated in the villages of Zerik, Lihen, Taslug, and Reqas. There are several disparities between the pronunciation of this group and the standard pronunciation. For instance, our analysis revealed that in **Shexi-pronunciation, all nouns ending in "î" are pronounced as "î"**.