

# Changing the representation of speakers in and beyond academia

*Gergely Szabó<sup>1,2</sup> – Enikő Gréczi-Zsoldos<sup>3</sup>  
– Zsuzsanna Kocsis<sup>2</sup> – Fruzsina S. Vargha<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>ELTE Eötvös Loránd University

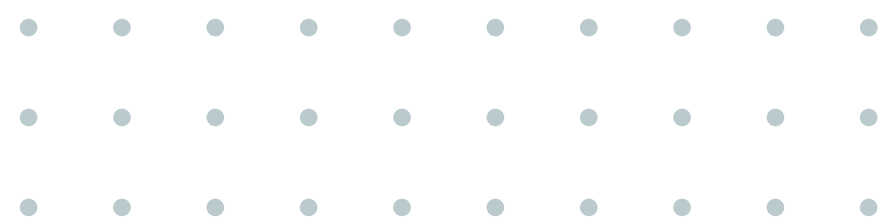
<sup>2</sup>HUN-REN Hungarian Research Centre for Linguistics

<sup>3</sup>University of Miskolc



# What is sociolinguistics?

- Sociolinguistics is a subfield of linguistics that
  - studies how social stratification reflects in language variation
  - and critically addresses language-related social inequalities.
- In the Hungarian context, stigmatization of dialect speakers is well-documented (Kontra 2018, Jánk 2023).
- Participatory approaches have emerged in the field (Bodó et al. 2022), including citizen science ones, aiming to tackle such issues for change.



01.

# Project 1

*on the representations  
of language variation online*



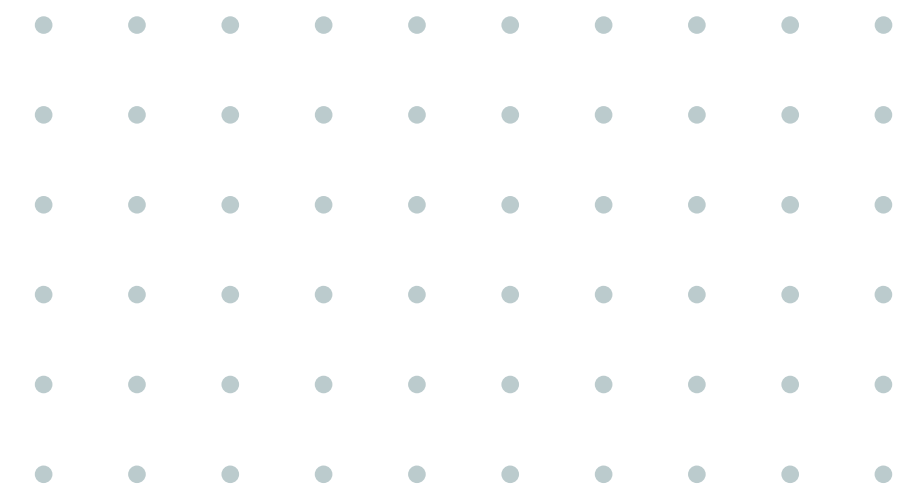


## PROBLEM

Citizens and scholars are taking steps to promote dialects – independently from each other.

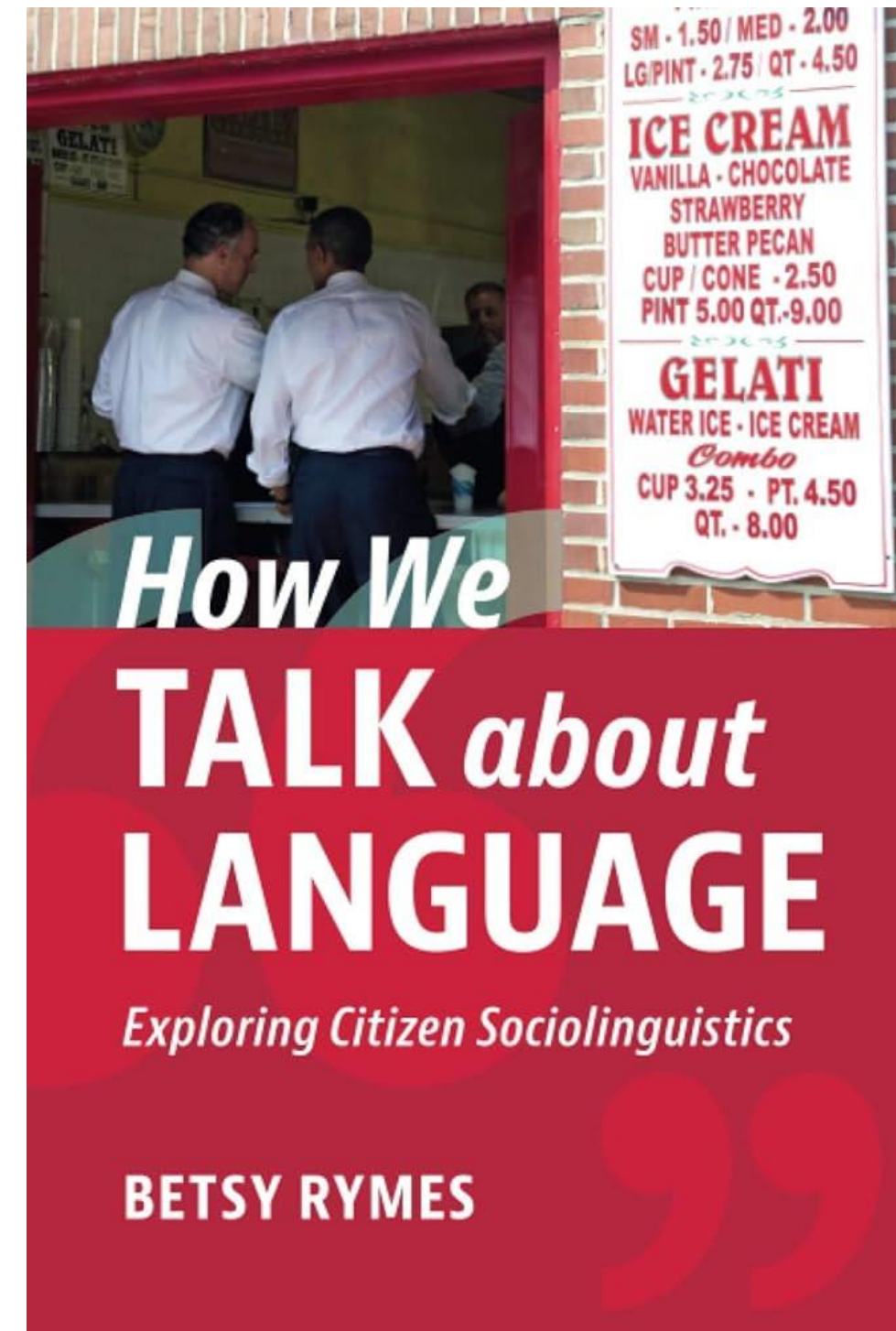
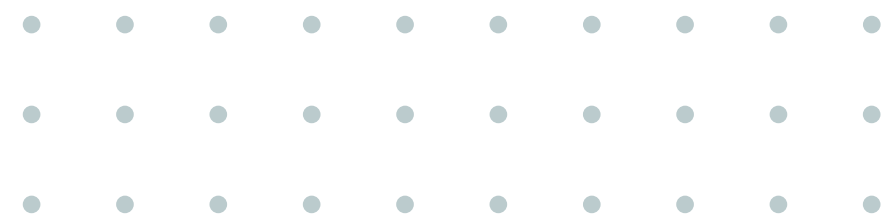
## SOLUTION

We created a database and a map with the intention of uniting these two different types of endeavors.



## Rymes' approach to CS

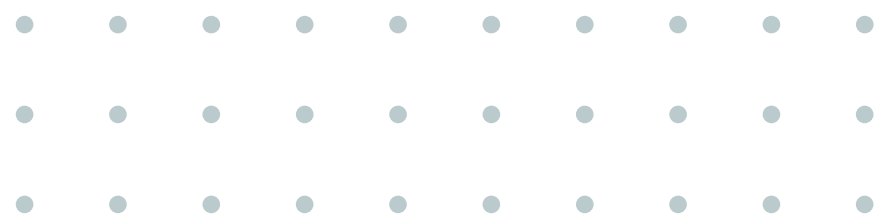
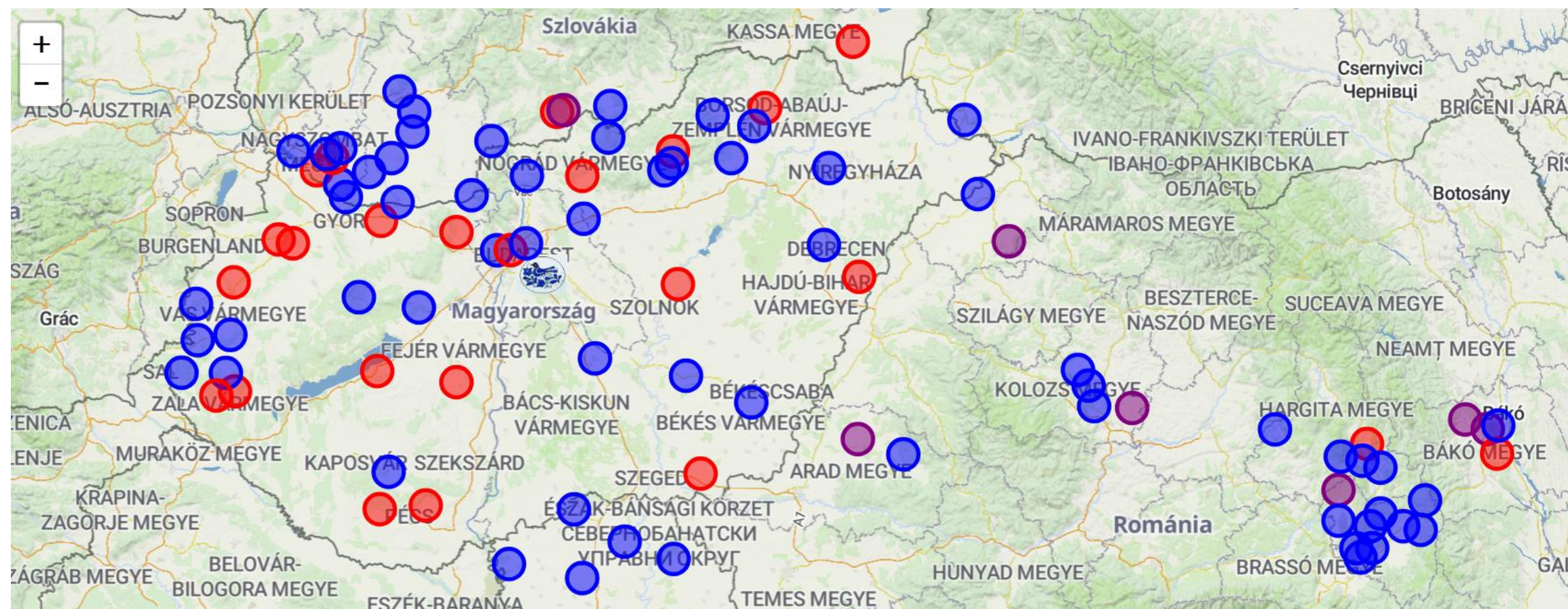
- Citizens do metalinguistic theorization actively online – that deserves to be acknowledged and studied (Rymes 2020, Bridges 2021).
- Criticism: this way citizens are left out of academic knowledge production.





# Our map

organizes and visualizes content on Hungarian dialects published on online platforms.

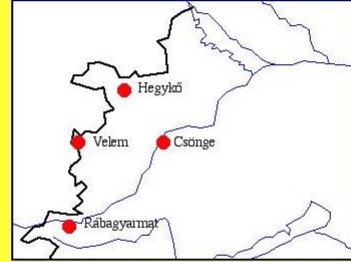


[https://bihalbocs.hu/civil\\_dialektologia/](https://bihalbocs.hu/civil_dialektologia/)



## Magyar Nyelvjárási Hangoskönyv I.

Szövegek Hegykőről, Velemből, Csöngéről és Rábagyarmatról

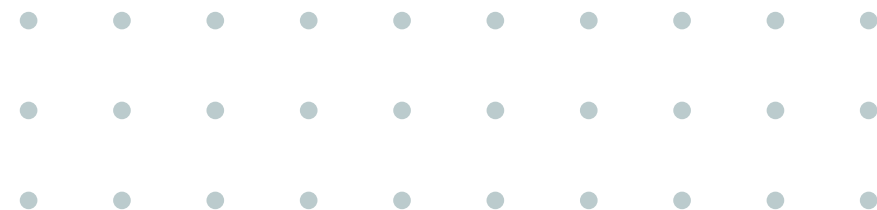
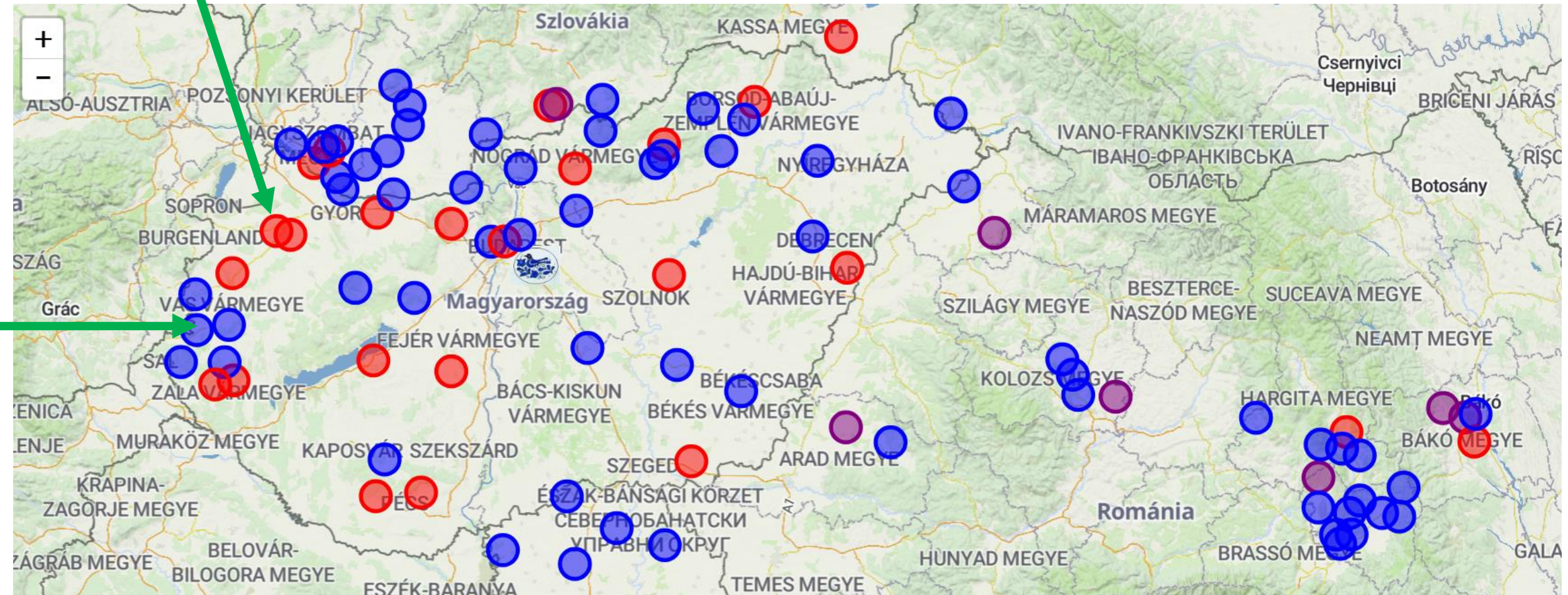
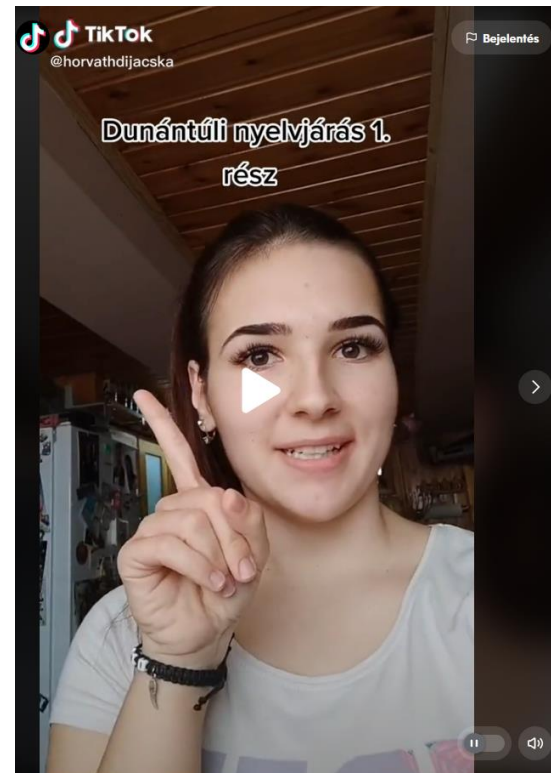


[A Magyar Nyelvjárási Hangoskönyvről](#)

[A Hangoskönyv átírási eljárásai](#)

[Használati útmutató](#)

[A Hangoskönyv készítői](#)

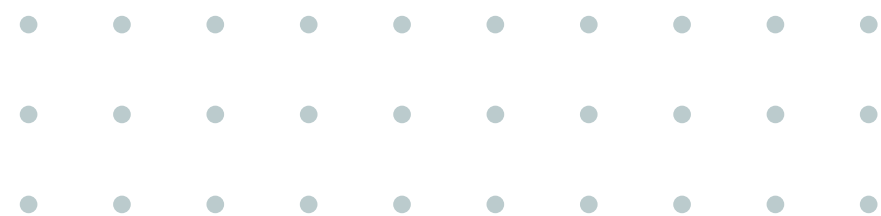


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# Other activities

- citizens invited to academic conferences
- interviews published w/ them in academic journals
- participation in summer camps and workshops for teacher trainees



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02.

# Project 2

*on acoustic variation*



NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION OFFICE  
HUNGARY

PROJECT  
FINANCED FROM  
THE NRDI FUND



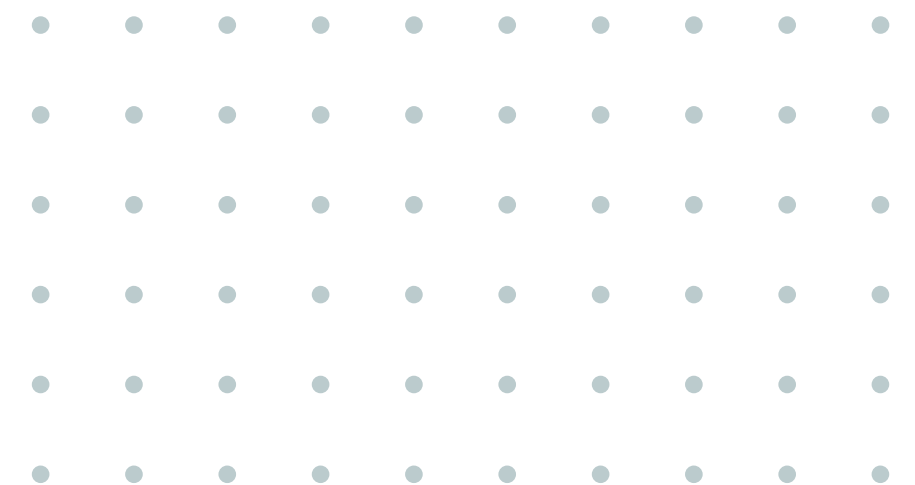


## PROBLEM

Scarce research on  
1) the acoustic variation of  
dialect speech, and  
2) the inter- and  
intra-speaker variation.

## SOLUTION

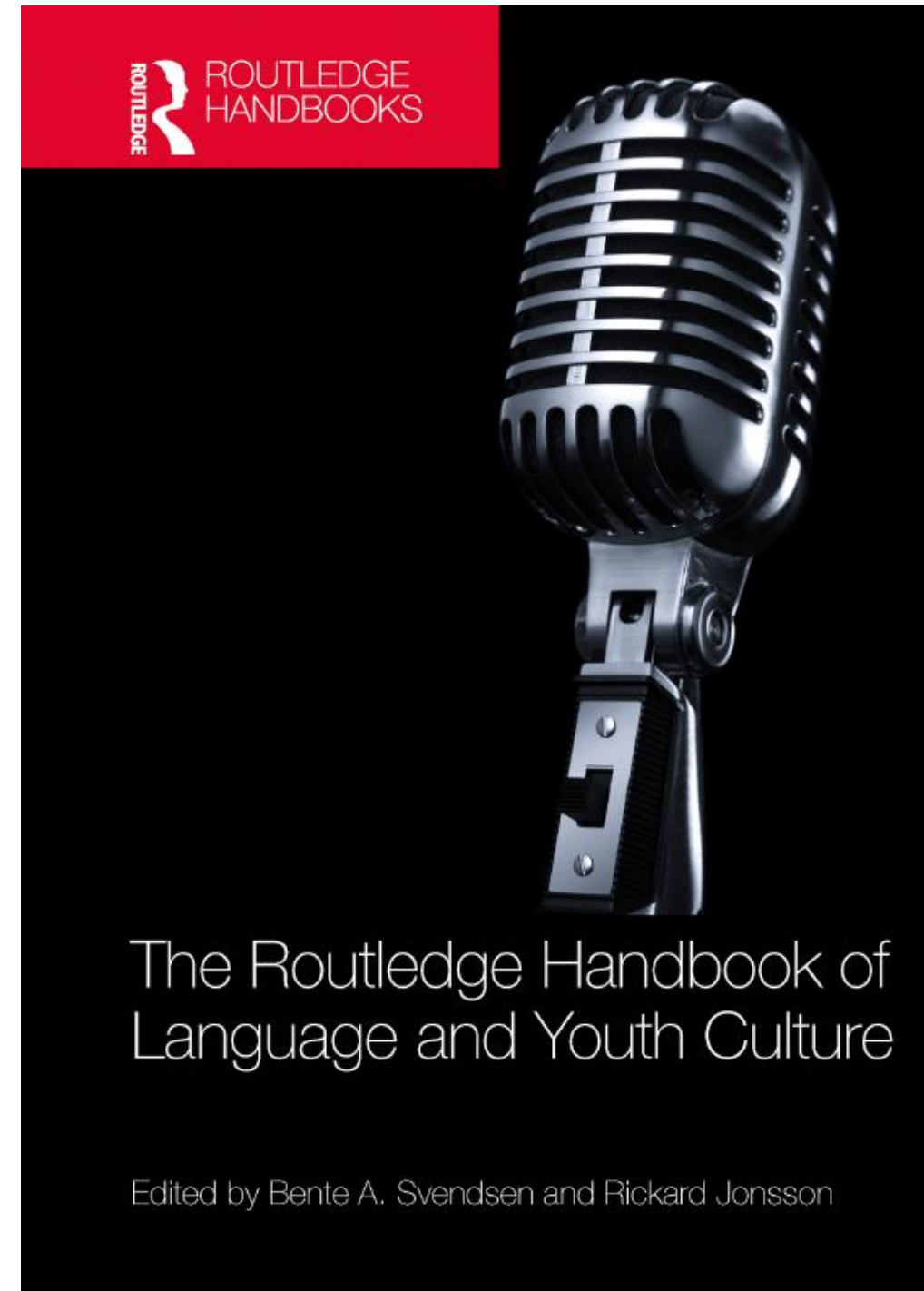
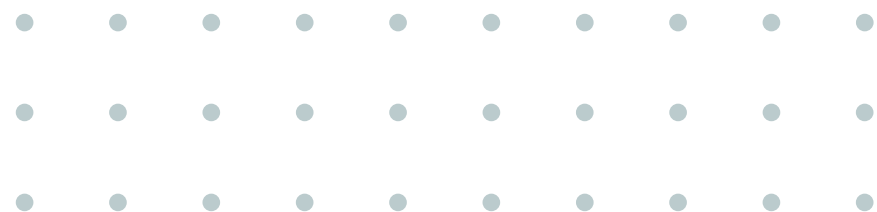
A combination of  
experimental and CS study  
w/ high school students  
(speakers of *Palóc* dialect).





# Svendsen' approach to CS

- Defined as “the engagement of non-professionals in doing sociolinguistic research” (Svendsen 2018: 137).
- Especially fruitful w/ pupils (Svendsen & Goodchild 2024, Laihonen et al. ms.).



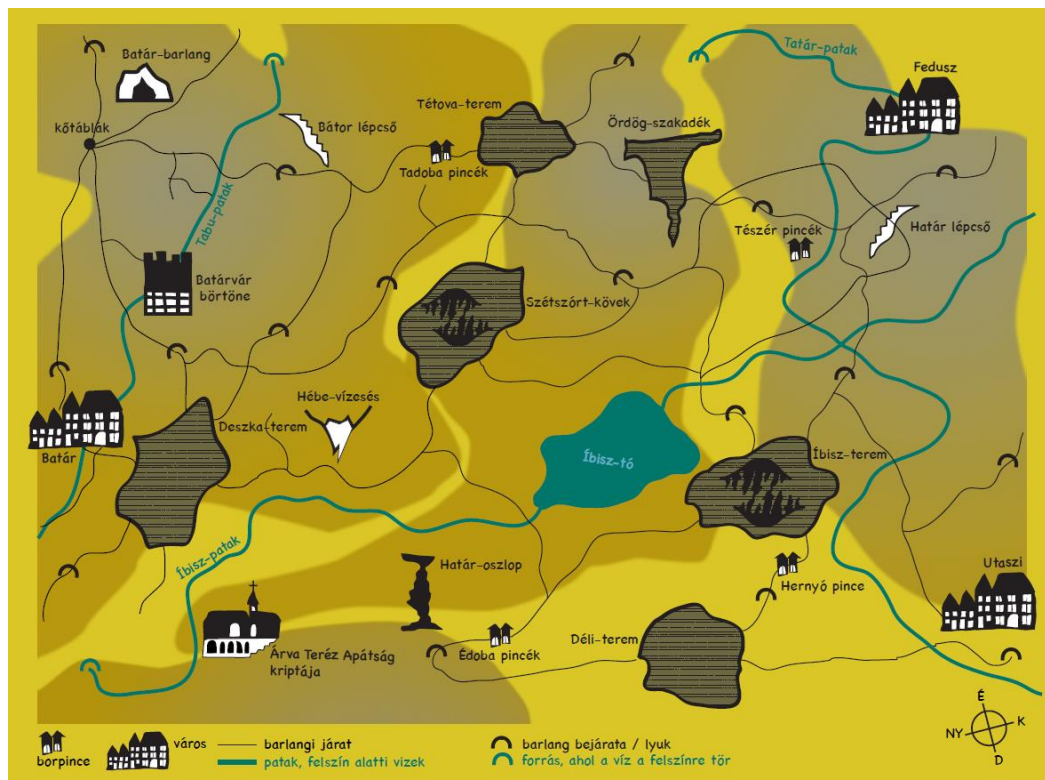


## PHASE 1

Map task experiment:  
to elicit spontaneous  
peer interactions

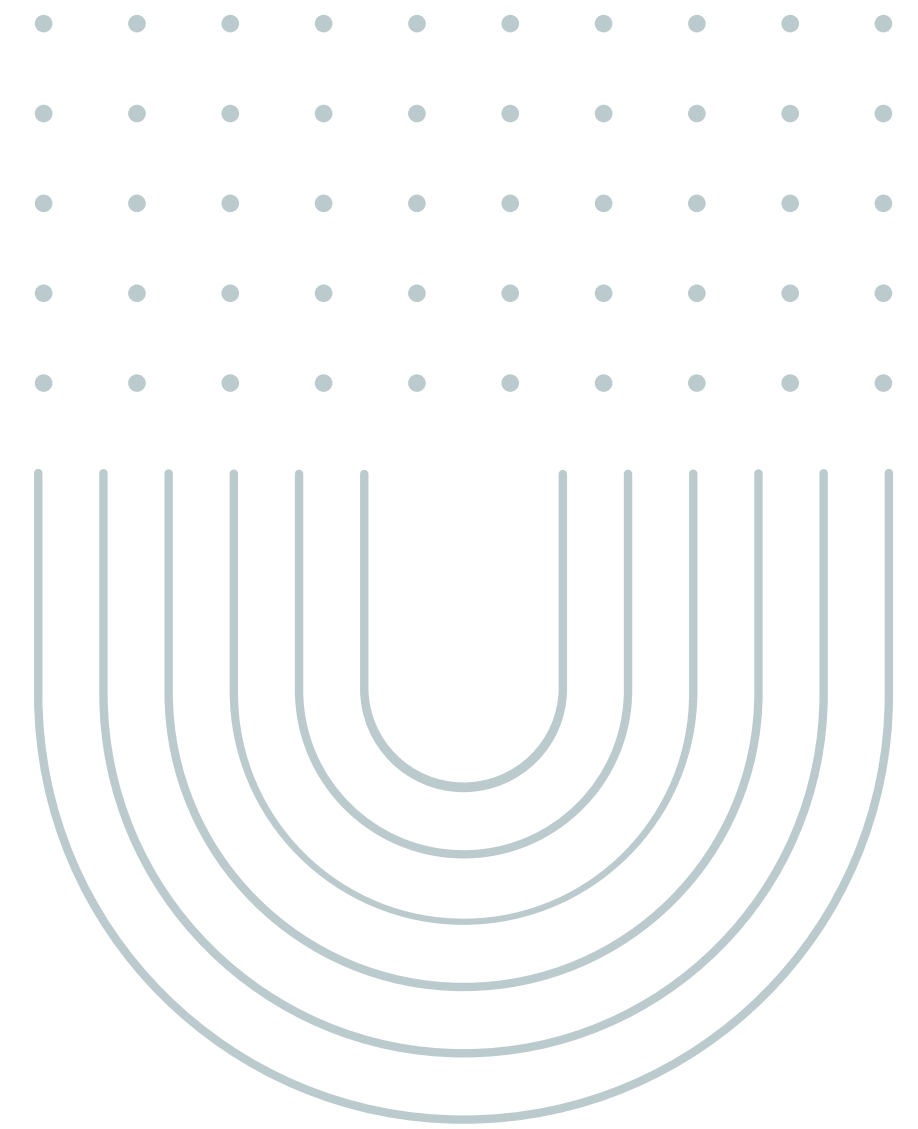
## PHASE 2

Students as citizen  
scientists invited to conduct  
interviews with the elderly



## PHASE 3

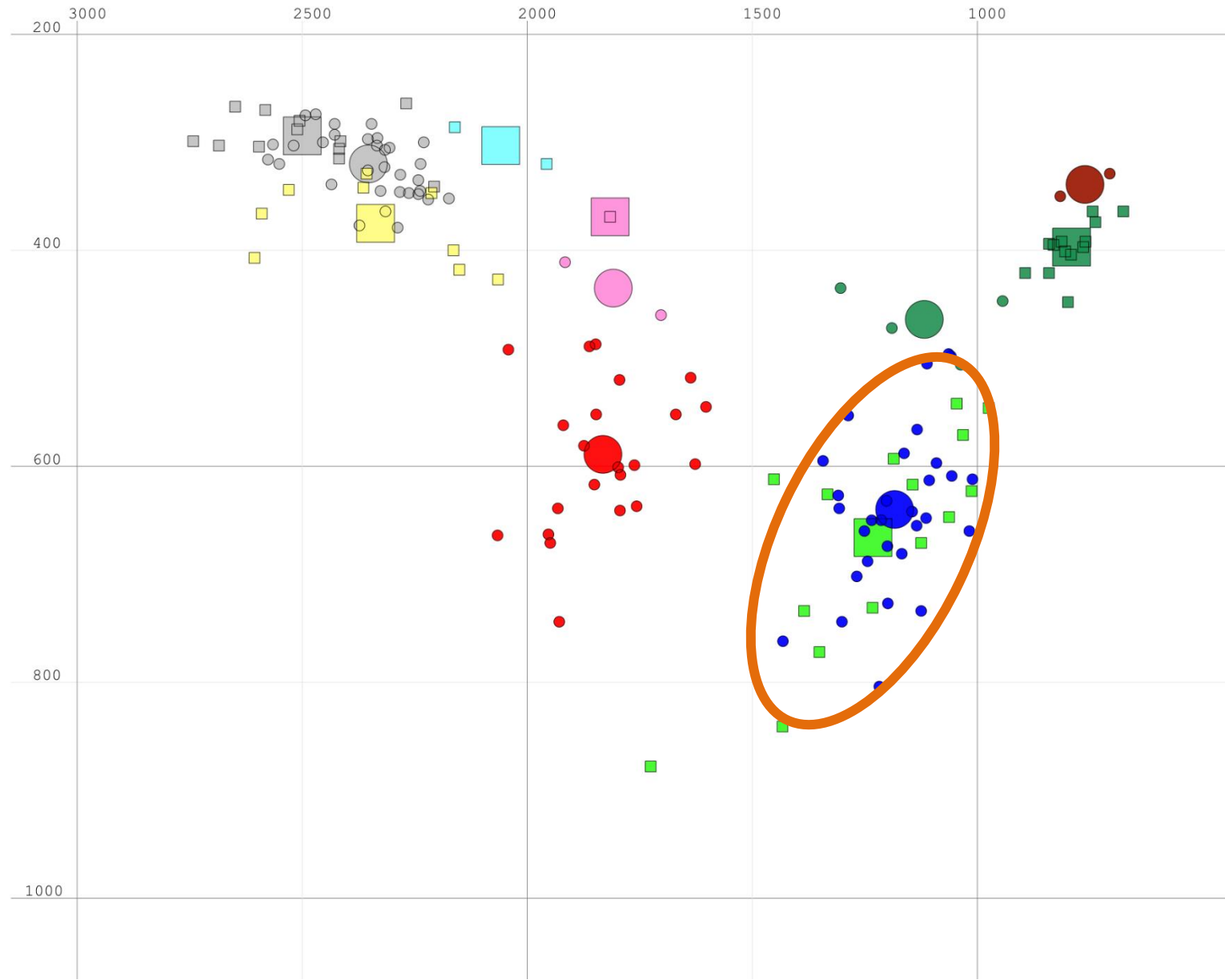
Online publication of  
co-selected recordings for  
wider audience



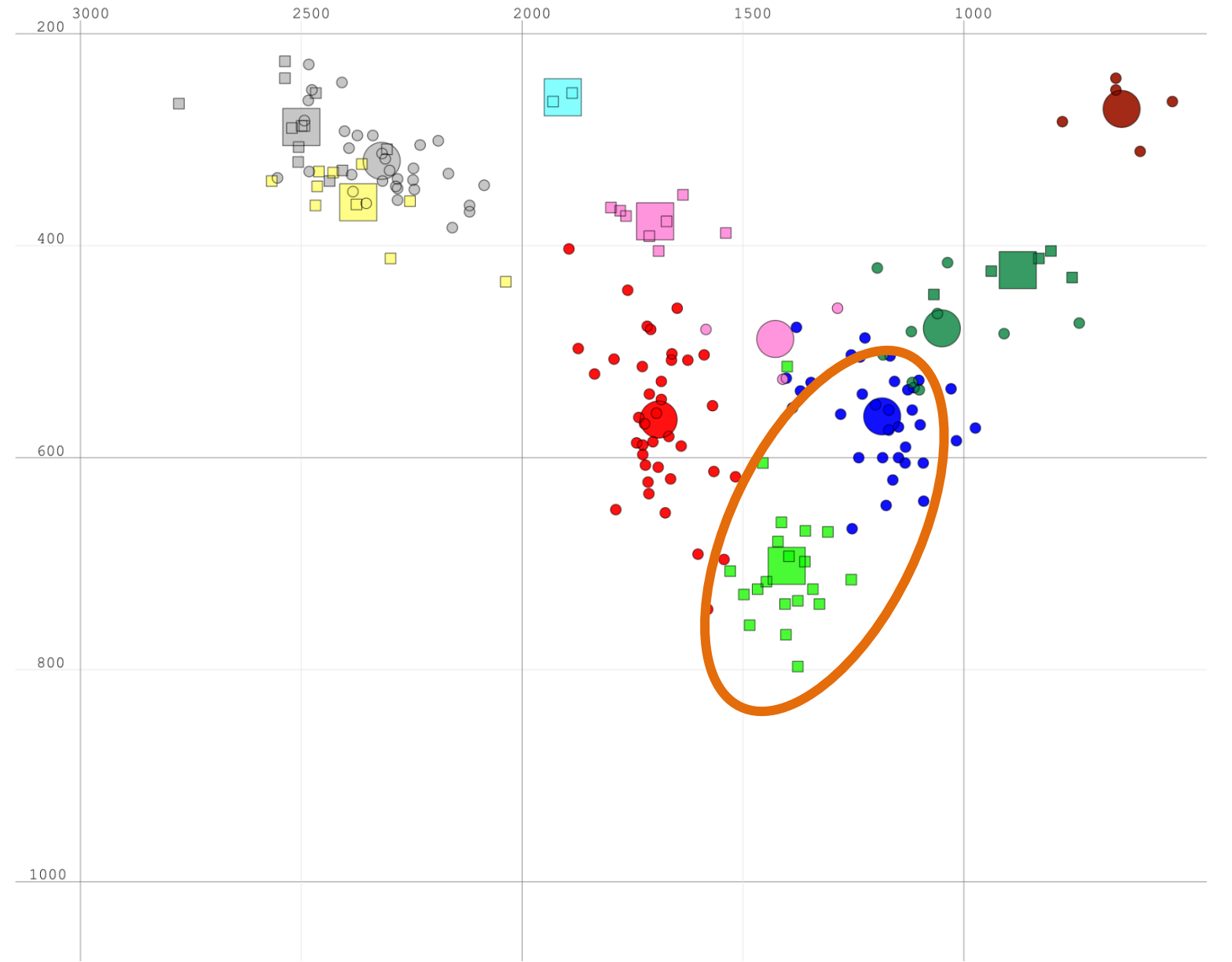
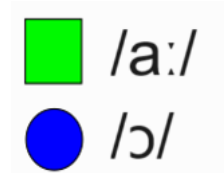
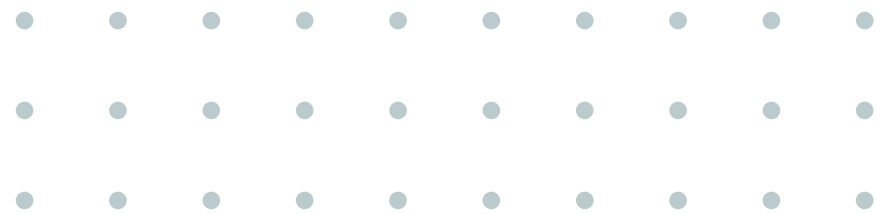
# THE STUDY



# PHASE 1: inter-speaker variability

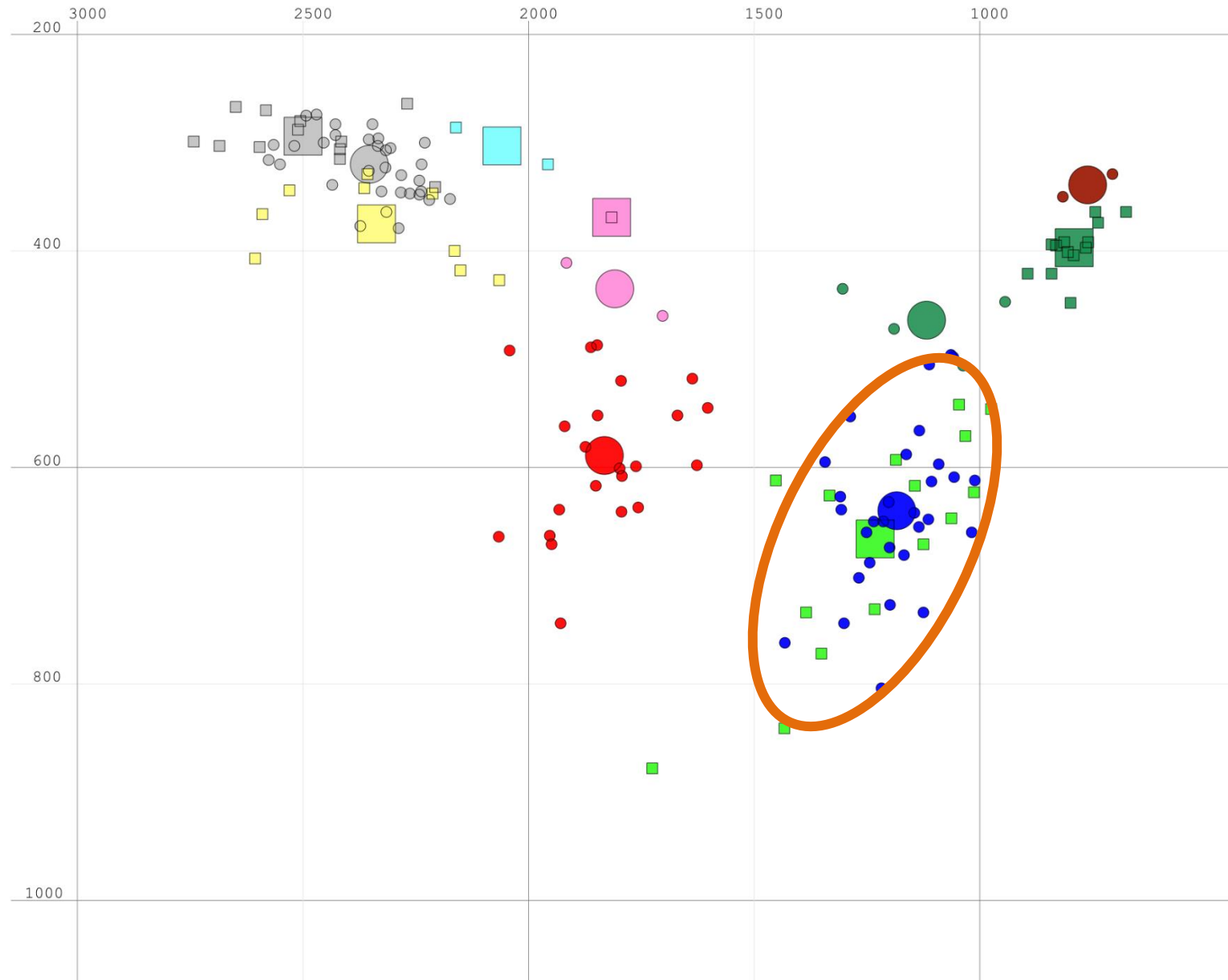


Speaker 1 /male, 17/

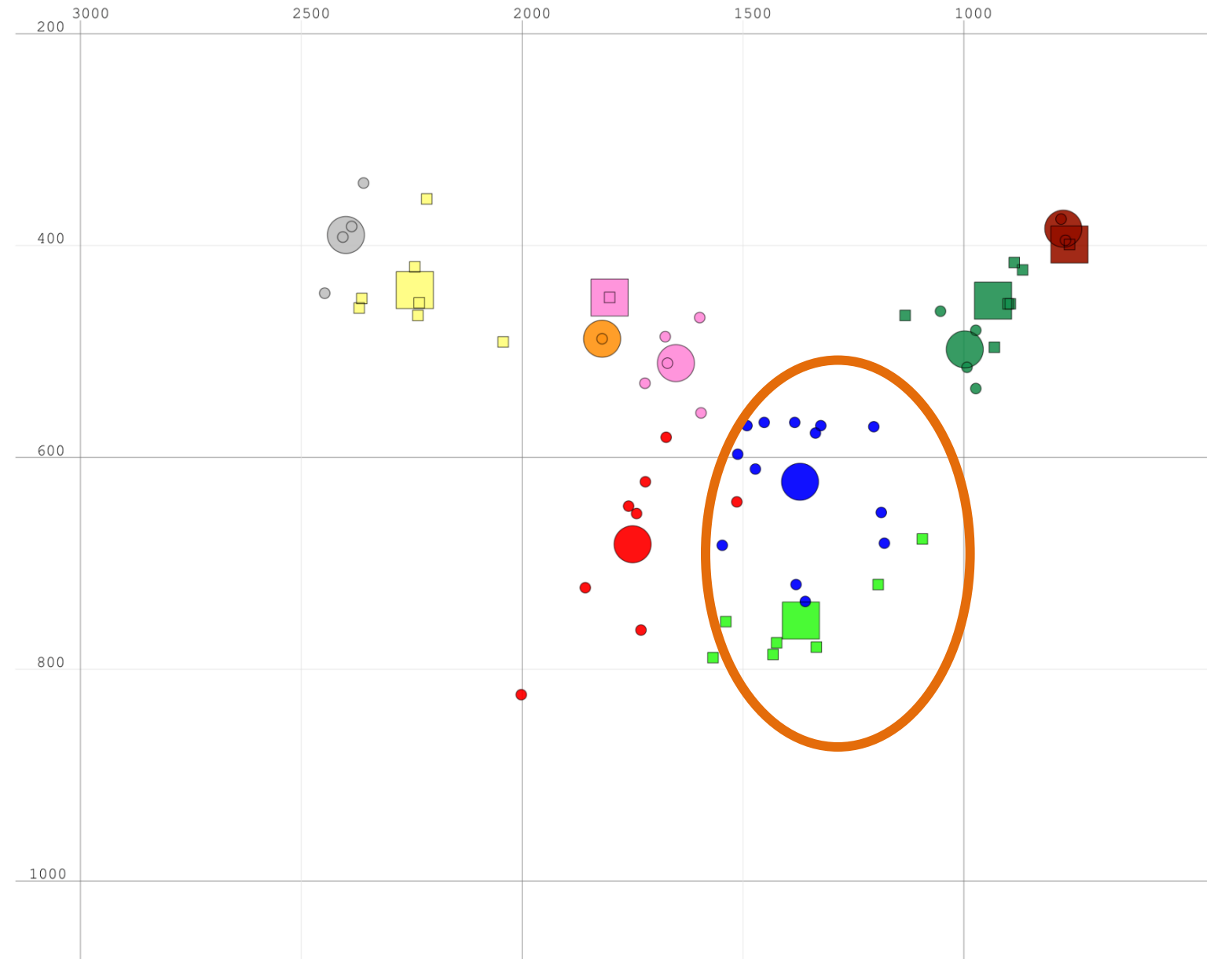


Speaker 2 /female, 17/

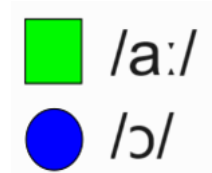
# PHASE 2: intra-speaker variability



Speaker 1 in experiment  
w/ a peer



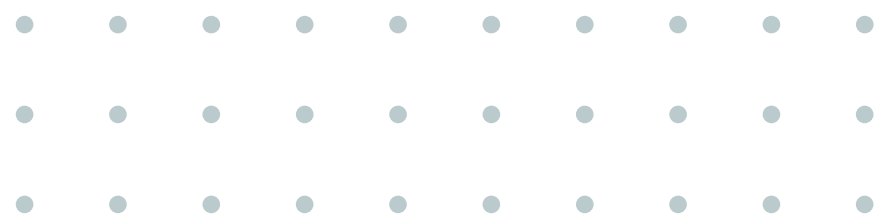
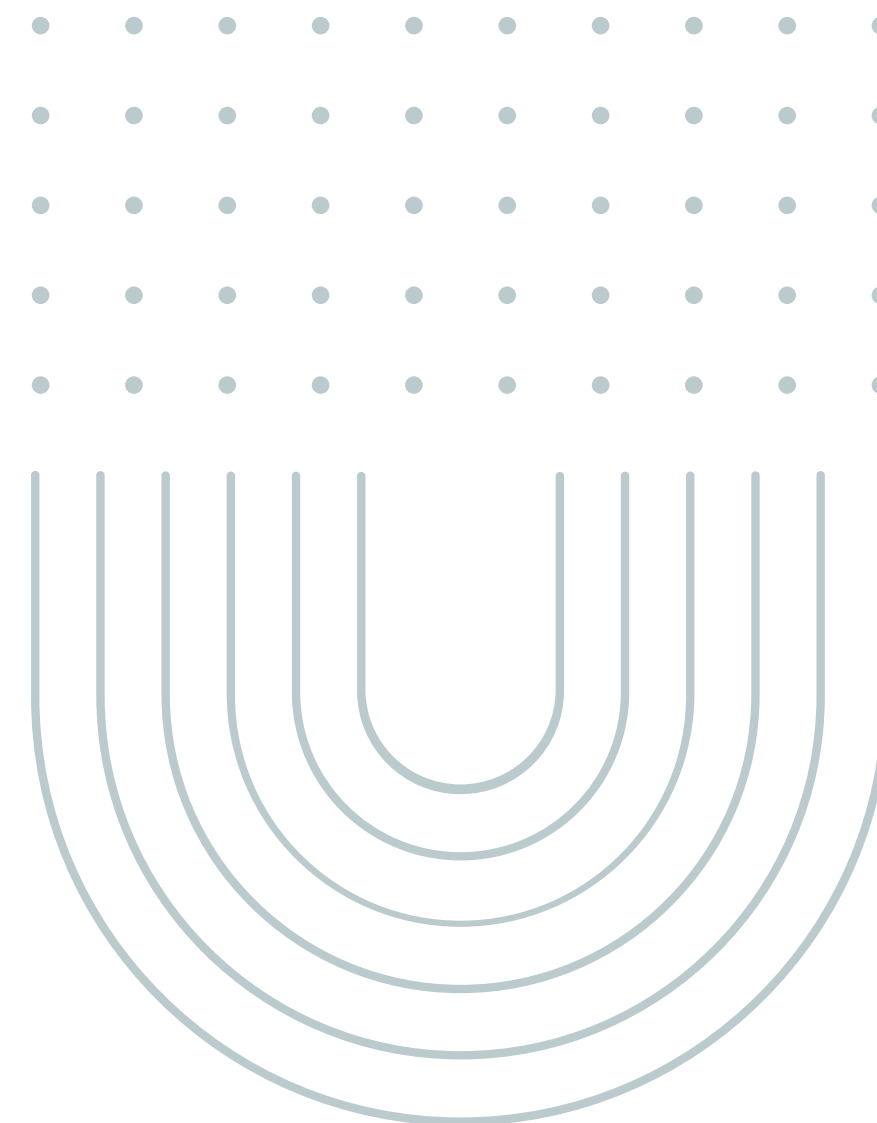
Speaker 1 in interview  
w/ his grand-grandmother /89, Bárna/





# Conclusions

- We presented two projects concerning spatial variation of the Hungarian language, in which citizens are invited to participate in separate ways.
- The representation of dialect speakers can only be changed if we also change conventional roles in research.



# References

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