

The semantic differences between separable and inseparable verbs in Dutch

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BACKGROUND: VERB-PARTICLE CONSTRUCTIONS

1) Separable complex verbs (SCVs)

e.g., 'De zon gaat onder.' ('The sun goes down.')

vs.

2) Inseparable complex verbs (ICVs)

e.g., 'De man ondergaat zijn pijn.' ('The man undergoes his suffering.')

→ clear formal distinctions (separation vs. no separation)

... semantic differences? (2 main hypotheses)

1) Booij (2002)

SCV = concrete/spatial vs. ICV = abstract/aspectual

vs.

2) Blom (2004, 2005)

SCV = resultative vs. ICV = non-resultative

→ But, counterexamples for both hypotheses!

RQ: WHAT ARE THE SEMANTIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCVs AND ICVs?

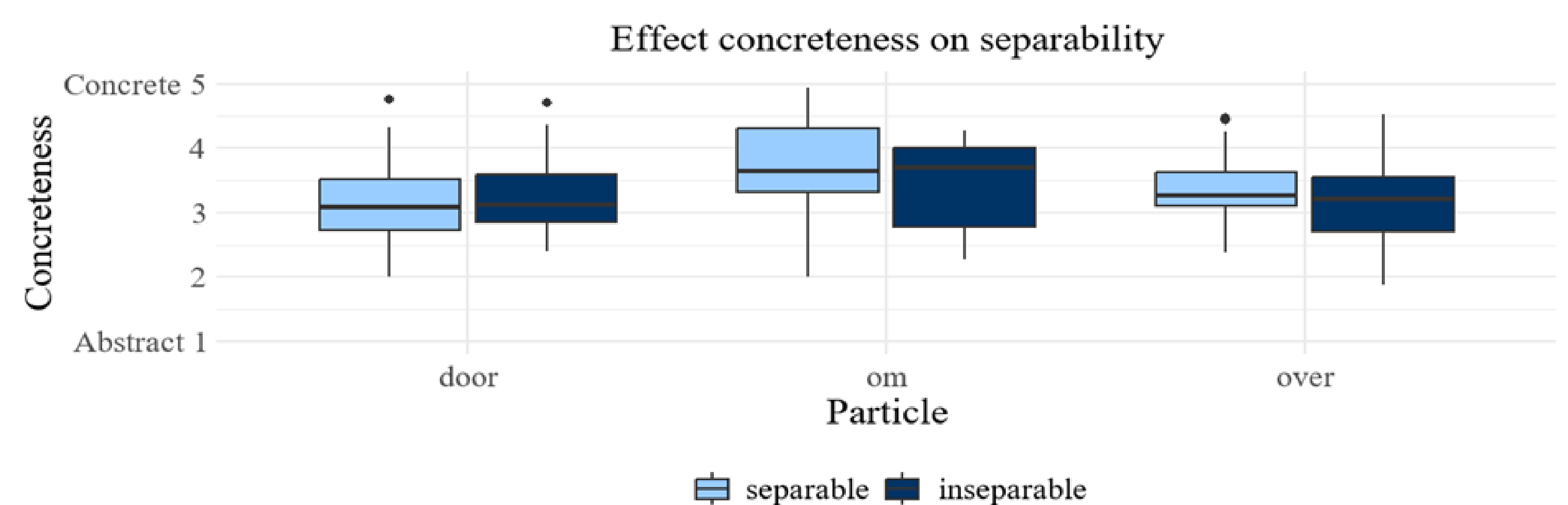
STUDY 1: CORPUS-BASED STUDY (CF. HYPOTHESIS BOOIJ)

Data

- All past participles in SoNaR (Oostdijk et al. 2013) and NITenTen20 (SketchEngine)
- Om-, door- and over-
- Patiens as proxy for verb's meaning (Frasinelli & Schulte im Walde 2019; Pijpops et al. 2021)
- Automatic identification
- Linking to dataset of Brysbaert et al. (2014)

Analysis (binomial logistic regression) (R core Team 2023)

- Average concreteness per verb



Results

- No effect of concreteness on separability

STUDY 2: EXPERIMENTAL STUDY (CF. HYPOTHESES BOOIJ & BLOM)

Participants

- 105 BA2 students

Task

- Forced-choice task

Material

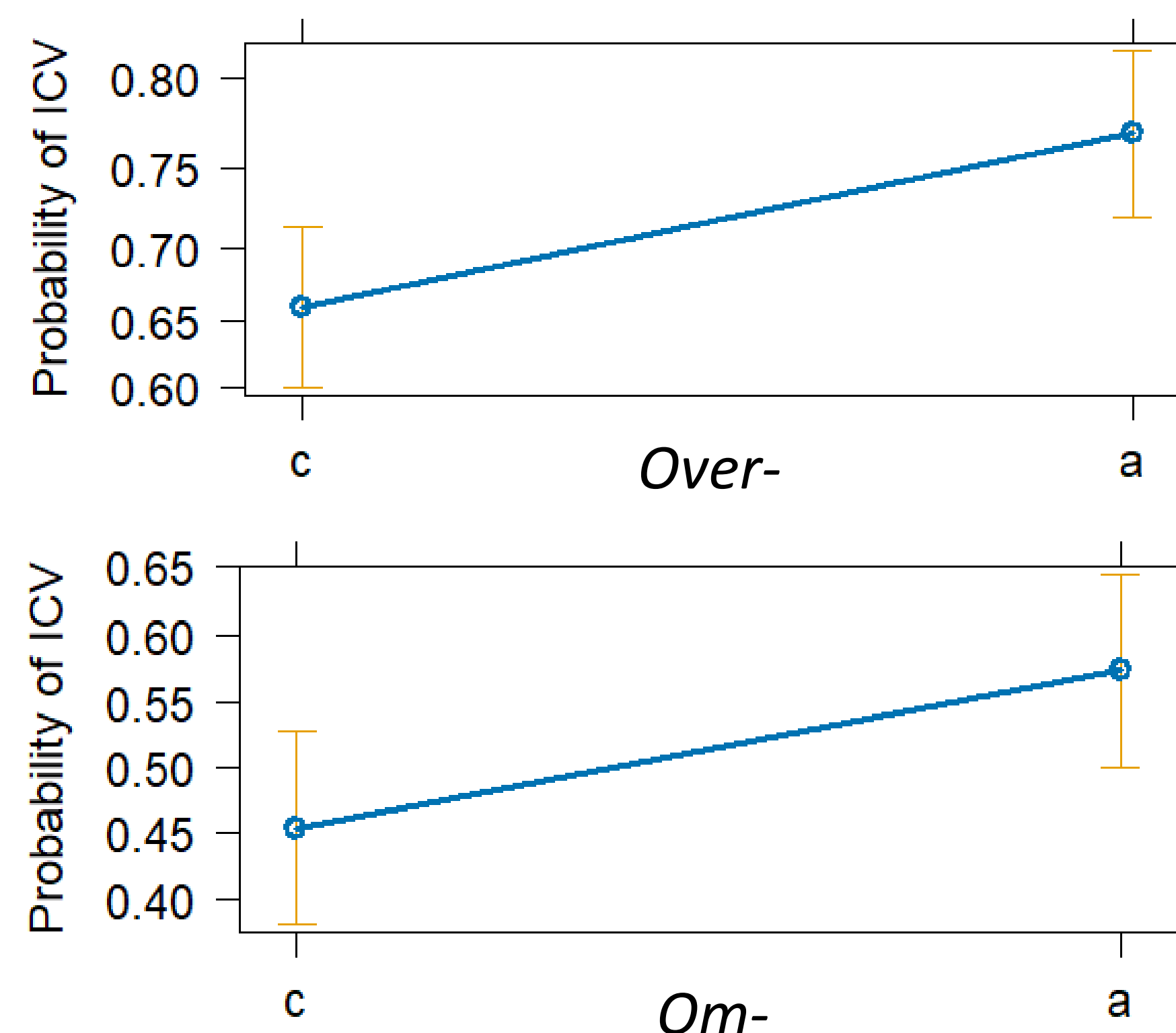
- 72 target items
- Non-sense verbs (om-, door- and over-) (De Smet 2021; De Smet & Rosseel 2023; ChatGPT)
- 144 fillers
- other variations: plural & past tense

Analysis (R core Team 2023)

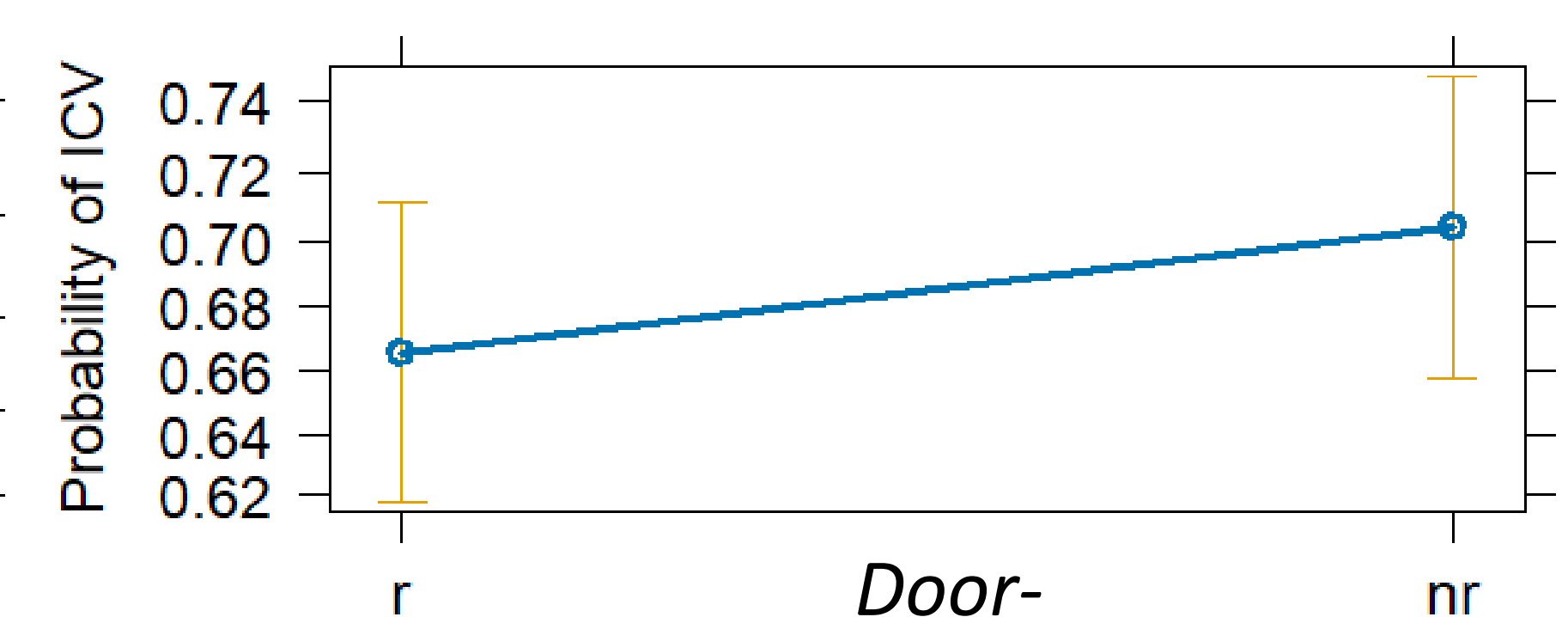
- mixed-effects logistic regression per particle

Results

1) Concreteness



2) Resultativity



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- On a cognitive level, people make semantic distinctions between SCV and ICV
- 1. Both concreteness and resultativity seem to play a role
 - ! Not shown in corpus-based study (but limitations)
- 2. Differences between individual particles
 - door- more salient resultative meaning?

REFERENCES

