

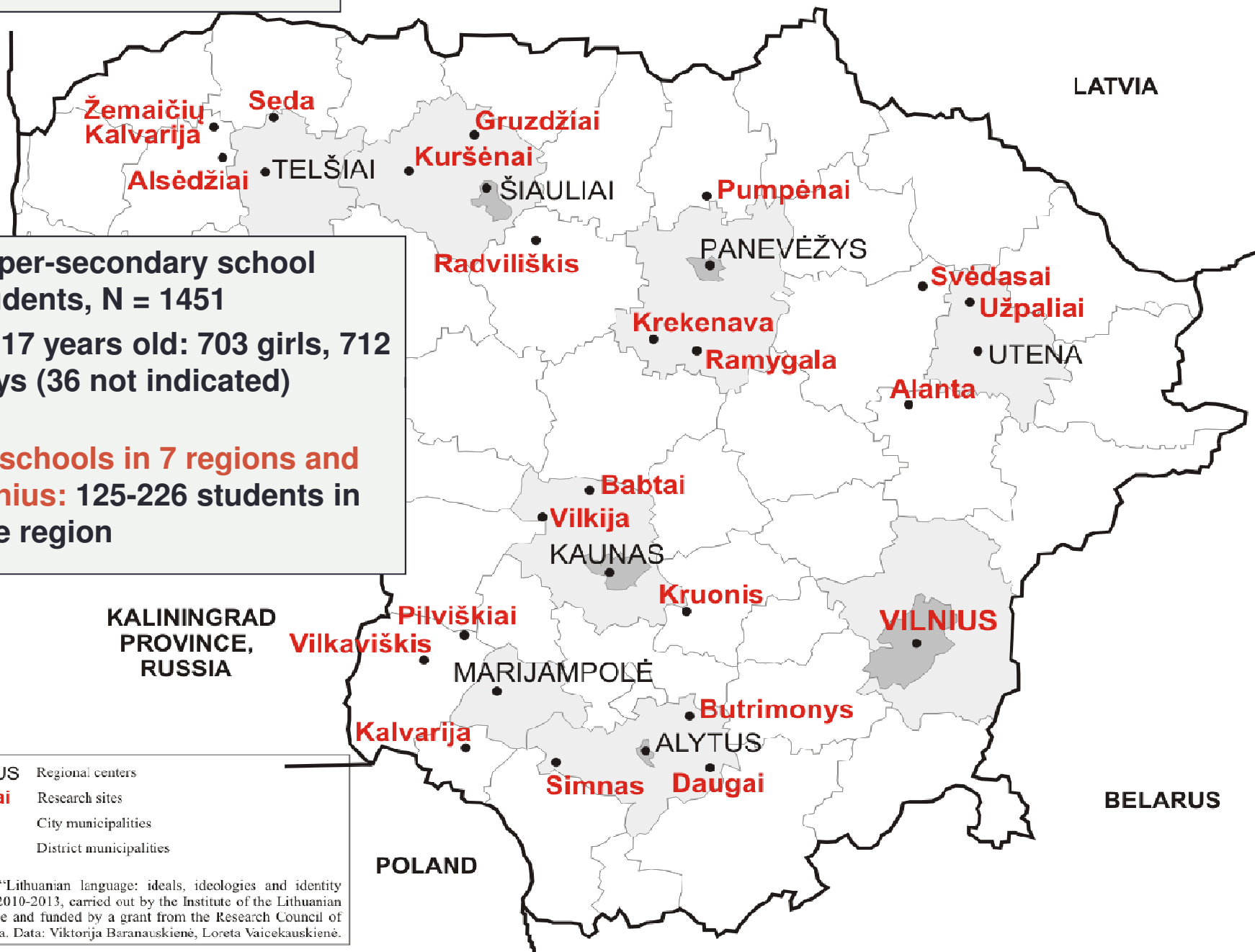
SLICE experiences in Lithuania

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MAIN STUDY

EXPERIMENTS WITH LITHUANIAN ADOLESCENTS: RESEARCH SITES, 2012



Upper-secondary school students, N = 1451
 15-17 years old: 703 girls, 712 boys (36 not indicated)

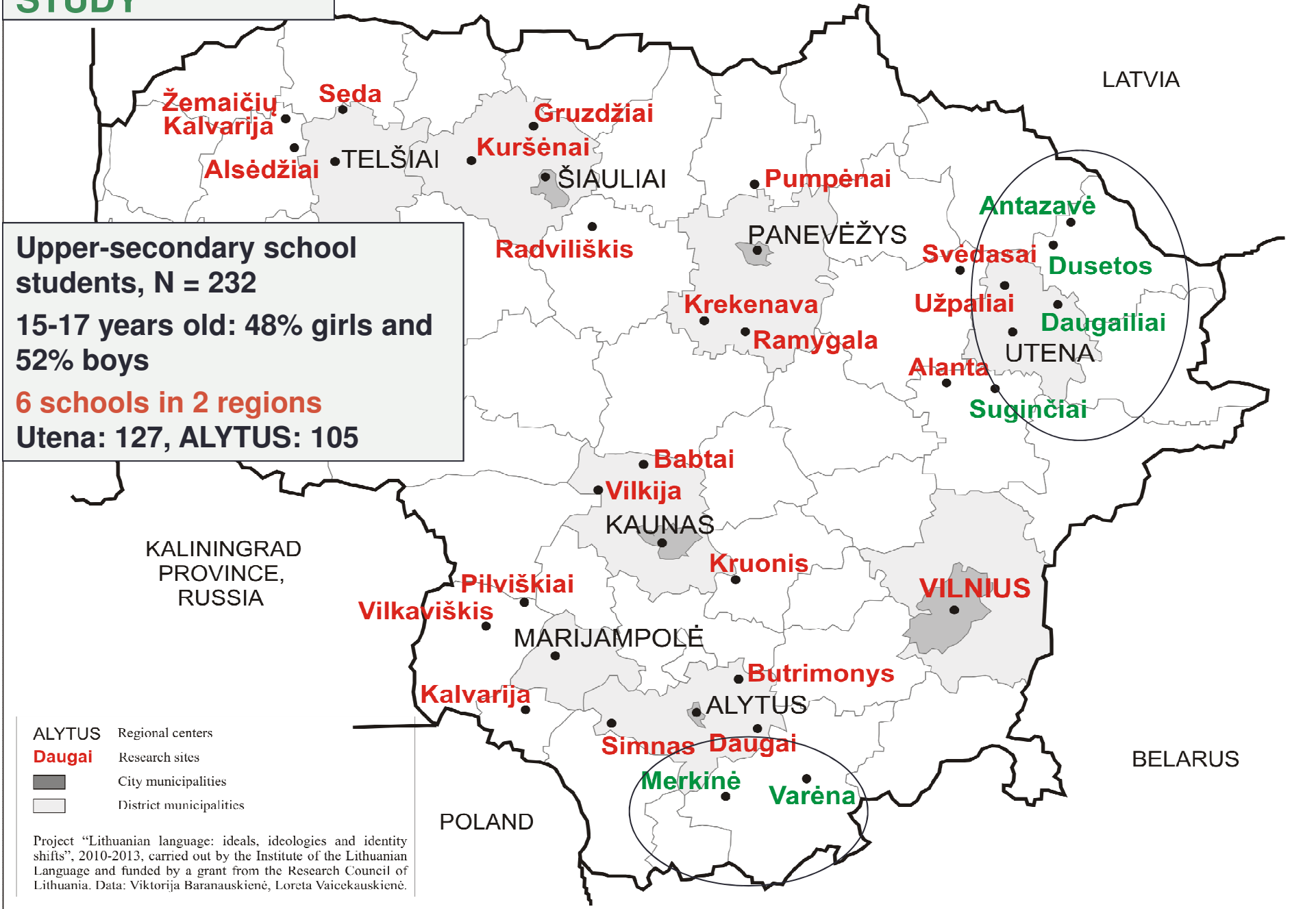
23 schools in 7 regions and Vilnius: 125-226 students in one region

ALYTUS Regional centers
Daugai Research sites
 ■ City municipalities
 ■ District municipalities

Project "Lithuanian language: ideals, ideologies and identity shifts", 2010-2013, carried out by the Institute of the Lithuanian Language and funded by a grant from the Research Council of Lithuania. Data: Viktorija Baranauskienė, Loretta Vaicekauskienė.

FOLLOW-UP STUDY

EXPERIMENTS WITH LITHUANIAN ADOLESCENTS: RESEARCH SITES, 2012-2013



Part II: Label ranking task (LRT), standardness and geographical affiliation tests

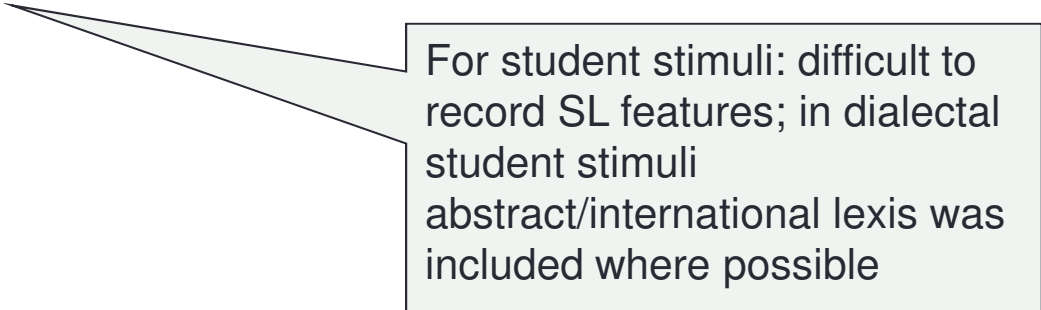
(1) LRT: SL, Vilnius speech, Local speech – randomly listed with names of the other regional varieties, including two additional local varieties; in total 12 labels

(2) Assessment of how standard the played voices sounded on a 7-point scale

(3) Allocation where the speakers behind the voices came from: multiple choice (local city, Vilnius) and open choice

Both studies

- 2012-2013: 7 regions and Vilnius: 29 schools, about 1700 students (15-17 years old, two last grades of compulsory schooling)
- The only difference between the two surveys were the voice-stimuli: students vs teachers
- The initial idea with teacher-voices – to sharpen and to test the Standard-Vilnius distinction; to higher the level of abstractness of the dialectal voices.



For student stimuli: difficult to record SL features; in dialectal student stimuli abstract/international lexis was included where possible

Lithuanian answers to SLICE questions

Number of language-ideological systems: one or two?

√ TO / DU!

Does subconscious value assignment have to do with the distinction of categories “superiority” vs “dynamism”?

TO SOME EXTENT!

Do subconscious attitudes account for (changes in/standard-relaxing) language production?

HARDLY? PARTLY?



Two levels of consciousness: Lithuanian evidence

When the linguistic (and social) distinction between the studied varieties is clear, we get evidence on the existence of two language-ideological systems

Assessment results for dialect vs non-dialect: general pattern from both studies

Conscious values

Region-dialectal varieties > Non-dialectal* varieties

Subconscious values

Non-dialectal voices > Region-dialectal voices

-
- In the sense that the morphology is based on a written standard



Assessment results for non-dialectal voices, general pattern from both studies

Conscious values: Vilnius does slightly better*

Vilnius speech >/ SL

(in 4/9 sites VLN > SL, in 4/9 VLN / SL, in 1/9 SL > VLN)

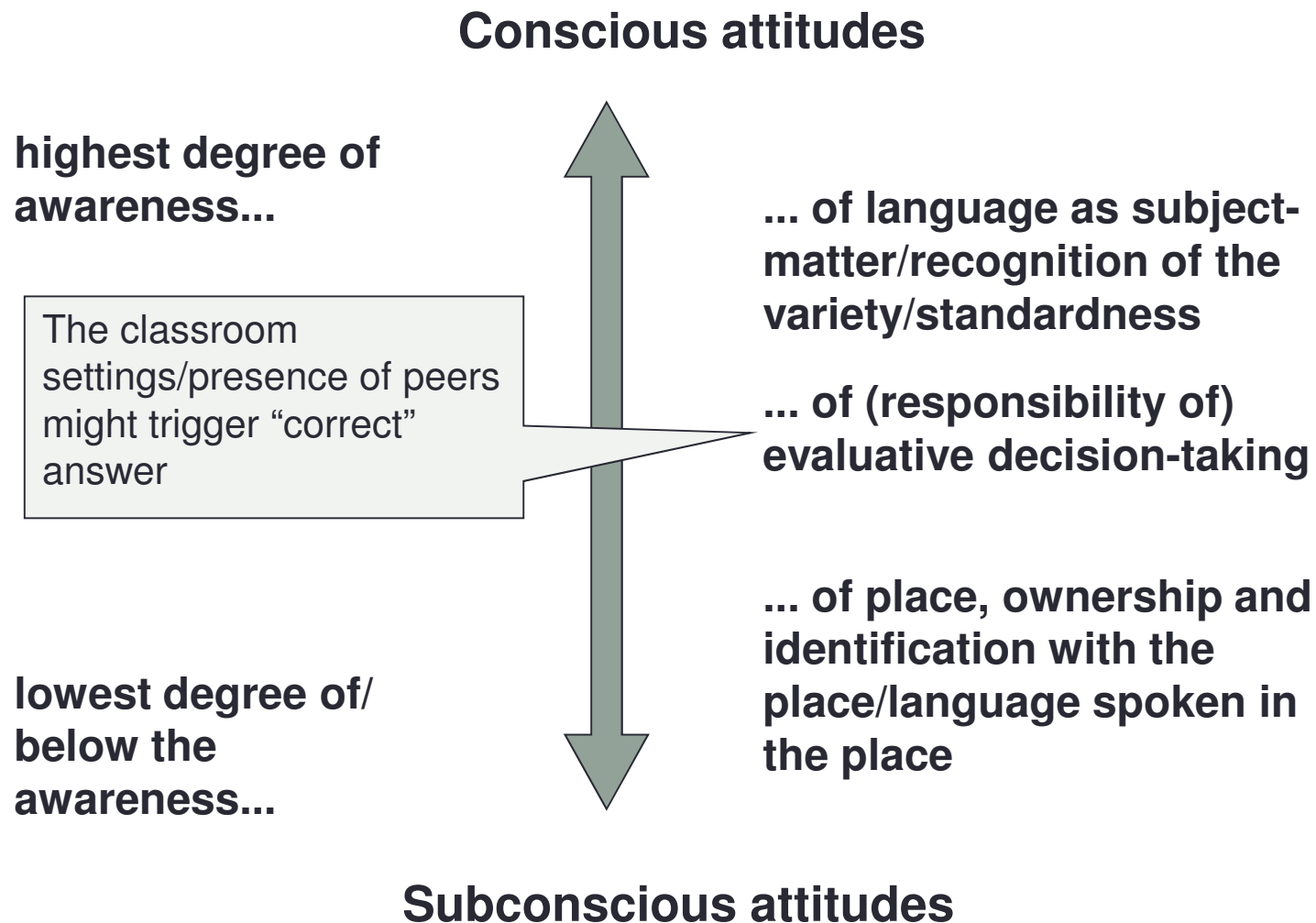
** excluded research in Vilnius city, where Vilnius is the Local*

Subconscious values: SL voices does better

SL >/ Vilnius speech



Awareness involved: the levels, the degree and the nature of awareness



Impact of place awareness in LRT: general pattern, Main + Follow-up research

1. **LOCAL CITY speech**

2. Vilnius – I (capital) or Bendrinė (SL) – “common language”

3. Kaunas - II

4. Klaipėda - III

5. Šiauliai - IV

6. Alytus/Panevėžys – VI/V

7. Utena - VIII

8. Marijampolė/Telšiai – VII/IX

SL: if not upgraded as “common” language then placed under Vilnius as “one more Vilnius”?

Social stigma for both cities



Standardness and geographical affiliation of the voices, Main research

Voice assessments in terms of ‘being from Vilnius’ (figures are percentages) **and**
‘speaking standard’ (figures are means in a scale from 1 to 7; low value is ‘more standard’)

Allocation to Vilnius	Sg (1)	Sg (7)	Sb (4)	Vg (11)	Sb (10)	Vb (2)	Vb (8)	Vg (5)	Local
	75	67	65	62	58	56	52	51	21
Standardness	Sg (1)	Sg (7)	Sb (4)	Vg (11)	Vg (5)	Vb (2)	Sb (10)	Vb (8)	Local
	2,0	2,0	2,3	2,5	2,6	2,8	2,9	3,0	4,3

S= Standard Language, V= Vilnius Speech, L= Local Speech, g= girl, b= boy, (x)= the stimuli's order of appearance on the stimulus CD



Standardness and geographical affiliation of the voices, Follow-up research

UTENA site Allocation to Vilnius	Sm (10)	Sf (7)	Vf (11)	Vf (5)	Vm (2)	Sf (1)	Sm (4)	Vm (8)	Local
	73	66	65	62	59	56	47	46	36
Standardness	Sf (7)	Vm (2)	Vf (11)	Vf (5)	Sm (10)	Sf (1)	Sm (4)	Vm (8)	Local
	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.7	3.7	3.7

ALYTUS site Allocation to Vilnius	Sf (7)	Vm (2)	Vf (11)	Sm (4)	Sm (10)	Vf (5)	Vm (8)	Sf (1)	Local
	69	61	60	54	54	51	48	43	37
Standardness	Sf (7)	Vm (2)	Vf (11)	Sm (10)	Vf (5)	Sf (1)	Sm (4)	Vm (8)	Local
	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.4

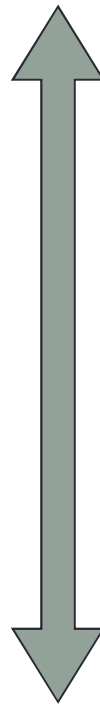
Assessment of regional-dialect

Conscious values: *I hereby claim to you, adult and researcher – and next-sitting peer, that I LIKE MY own LOCAL SPEECH better than the others speech elsewhere*

**Place, ownership,
identification**

**(Responsibility of)
evaluative decision-taking**

Language as subject-matter



**Place, ownership,
identification**

**(Responsibility of)
evaluative decision-taking**

**Language as subject-
matter/recognition of the variety**

Subconscious values: *someone (not ME) from around, speaks dialect; it seems not very attractive (stereotypes involved?)*

Card task: choose personality traits typical for a dialect speaker

Negative traits: villager (59 %), *old-fashioned* (42 %), *old* (35 %), *narrow-minded* (26 %), *uneducated* (16 %), *having no good job* (12 %), *uncool* (4)

(Significantly more frequent choice than for Vilnius and SL speakers, numbers are percent of students that chose the particular trait, ASRESID (adjusted standardized residual) >2)

Speaker stereotypes:

Group discussions with 83 students (17-18 years old; 40 boys and 43 girls) in 10 high schools in 9 cities; 8 students in a group on average



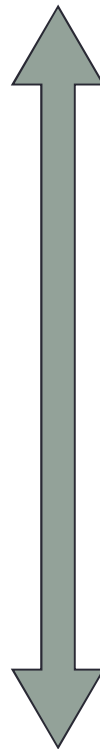
Assesment of Vilnius speech and voices

Conscious values: *I hereby claim to you, adult and researcher, that I am a young judge and I like our modern and dynamic capital, the biggest city of Lithuania and urban speech as well*

**Place, ownership,
identification**

Language as subject-matter

**(Responsibility of)
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**Place, ownership,
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**Language as subject-
matter/recognition of the variety**

Subconscious values: *look, it's someone from the city [any city], no dialectal features, (s)he's cool*

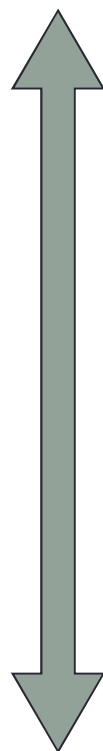
Assesment of standard language

Conscious values: *I hereby claim to you, adult and researcher, that I think “common/Vilnius standard language” is good*

**(Responsibility of)
evaluative decision-taking**

**Place, ownership,
identification**

Language as subject-matter



**Place, ownership,
identification**

**(Responsibility of)
evaluative decision-taking**

**Language as subject-
matter/recognition of the variety**

Subconscious values: *Oh, (s)he must be from Vilnius city, sounds very standard (stereotypes involved?)*

Card task: choose personality traits typical for a SL speaker

Positive traits: *educated (79%), intelligent (65%), responsible (47%), goal-directed (36%), a leading person (32%), having good job (31%), witty (31%), successful (26%), decisive (18%)*

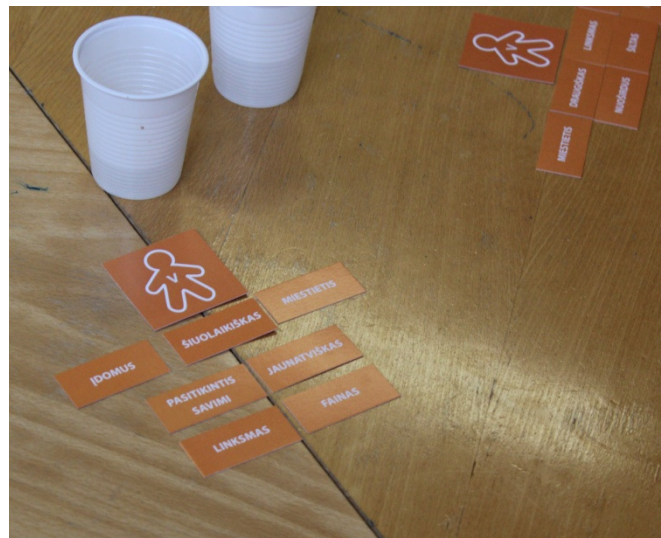
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Card task: choose personality traits typical for Vilnius speaker

Positive trait: *modern* (41 %)

(Significantly more frequent choice than for Vilnius and SL speakers, numbers are percent of students that chose the particular trait, ASRESID (adjusted standardized residual) >2)



Awareness related factors that might have given positive or negative effect for the **conscious/subconscious** assessment



For dialect:

- Identification with local place/speech and responsibility for answering correctly
- Awareness of non-standardness of the stimuli-voices that possibly involves negative stereotypes



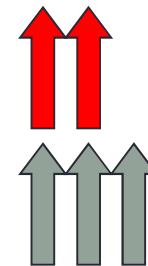
For Vilnius speech:

- High status of (modern) capital city
- Familiar urban sounding



For the SL:

- Reference to “common language” or probable allocation of the SL to Vilnius and responsibility for answering correct
- Awareness of standardness, allocation to Vilnius and positive stereotypes



Outcomes of the SEE in Main + Follow-up research

Main research: SL voices get highest results for allocation to Vilnius and standardness; their scores for personality traits are highest:

Standard > Vilnius > Local
(general pattern)

Follow-up research: there is no clear awareness of whether SL or Vilnius or even some Local stimuli come from Vilnius and are standard; their scores for personality traits are close:

Vilnius / Standard > Local (for Utena)

Vilnius / Standard / Local (for Alytus)

(general pattern)

Despite more salient phonological differences between Vilnius and Standard

Impact of place and awareness of standardness in SEE: general pattern, Main + Follow-up research

Interrelated convictions that the speaker comes from Vilnius and speaks standard language might be decisive for subconscious assessments of both non-dialectal and dialectal voices

Equalized level of abstractness in the teacher-voices might have had an effect for the perceptions of standardness



Lithuanian answers to SLICE questions

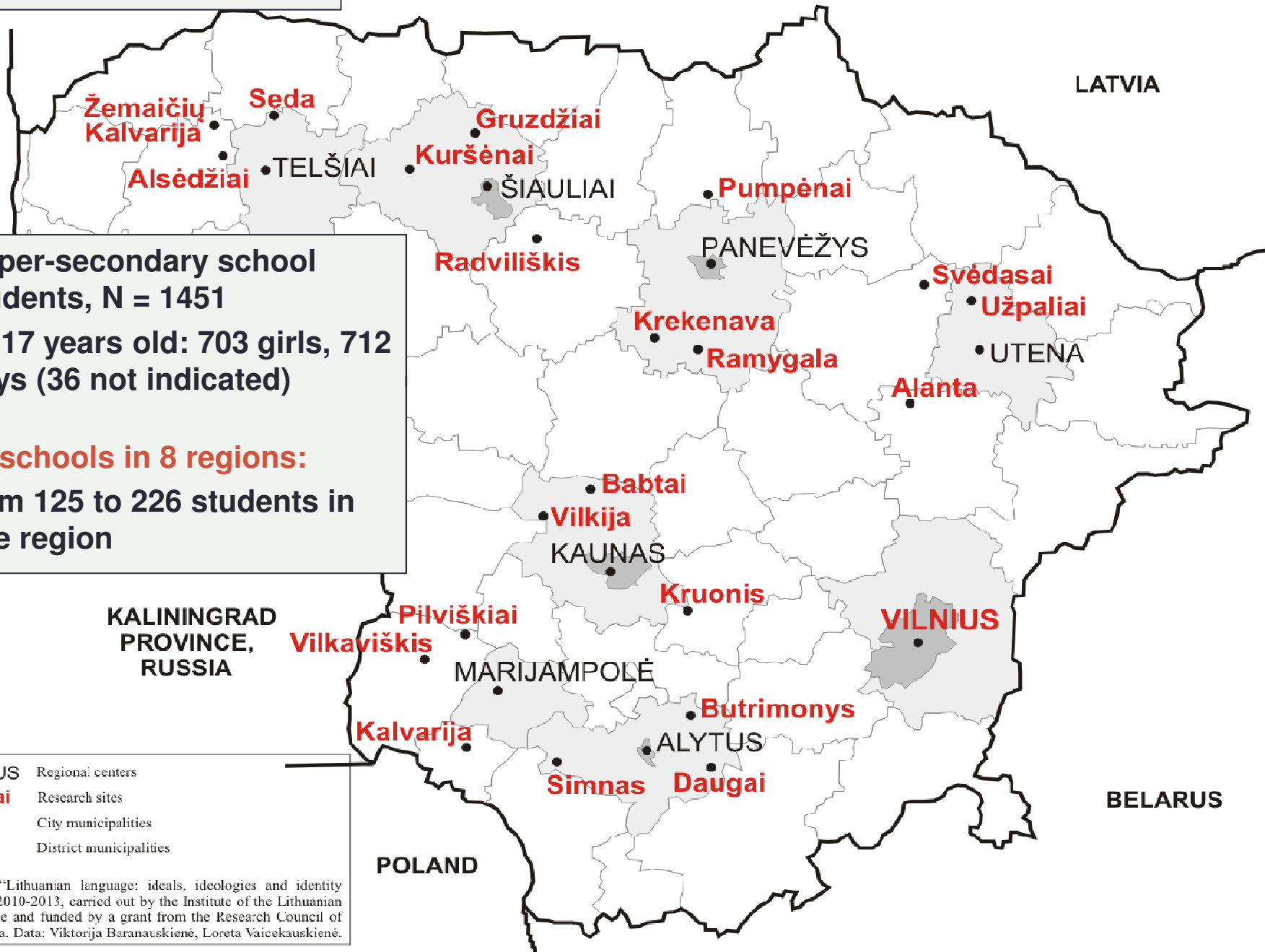
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TO SOME EXTENT!

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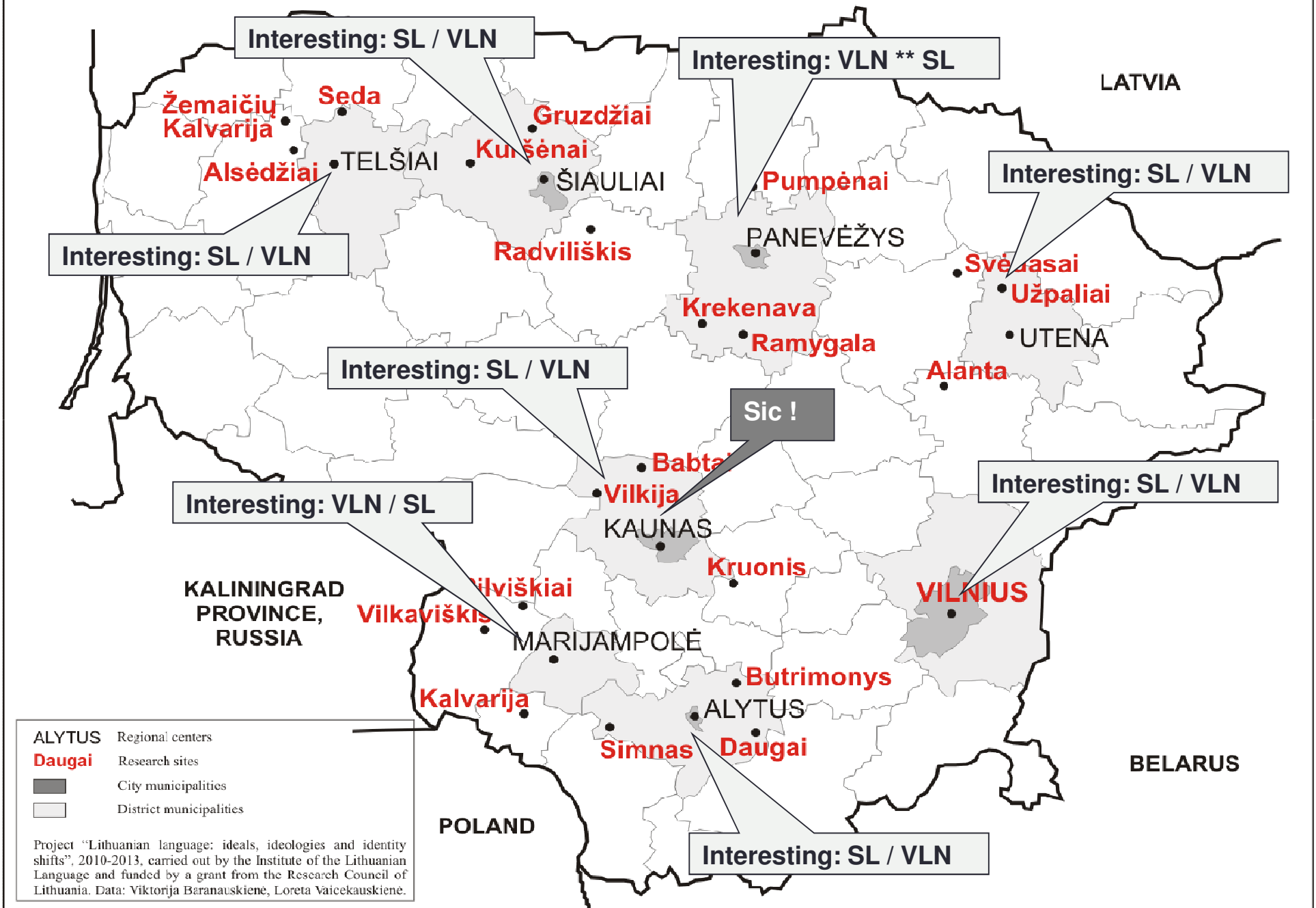
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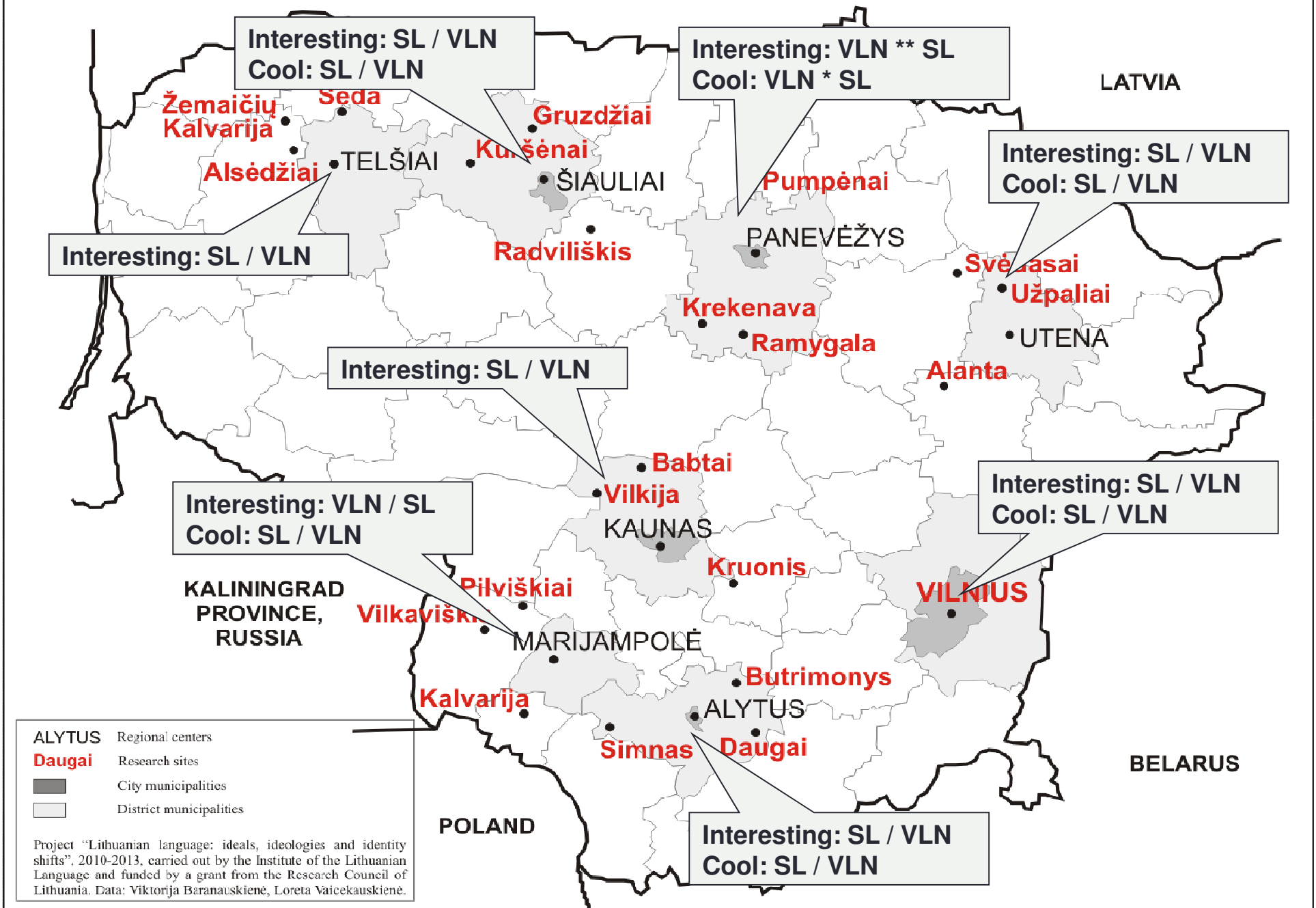
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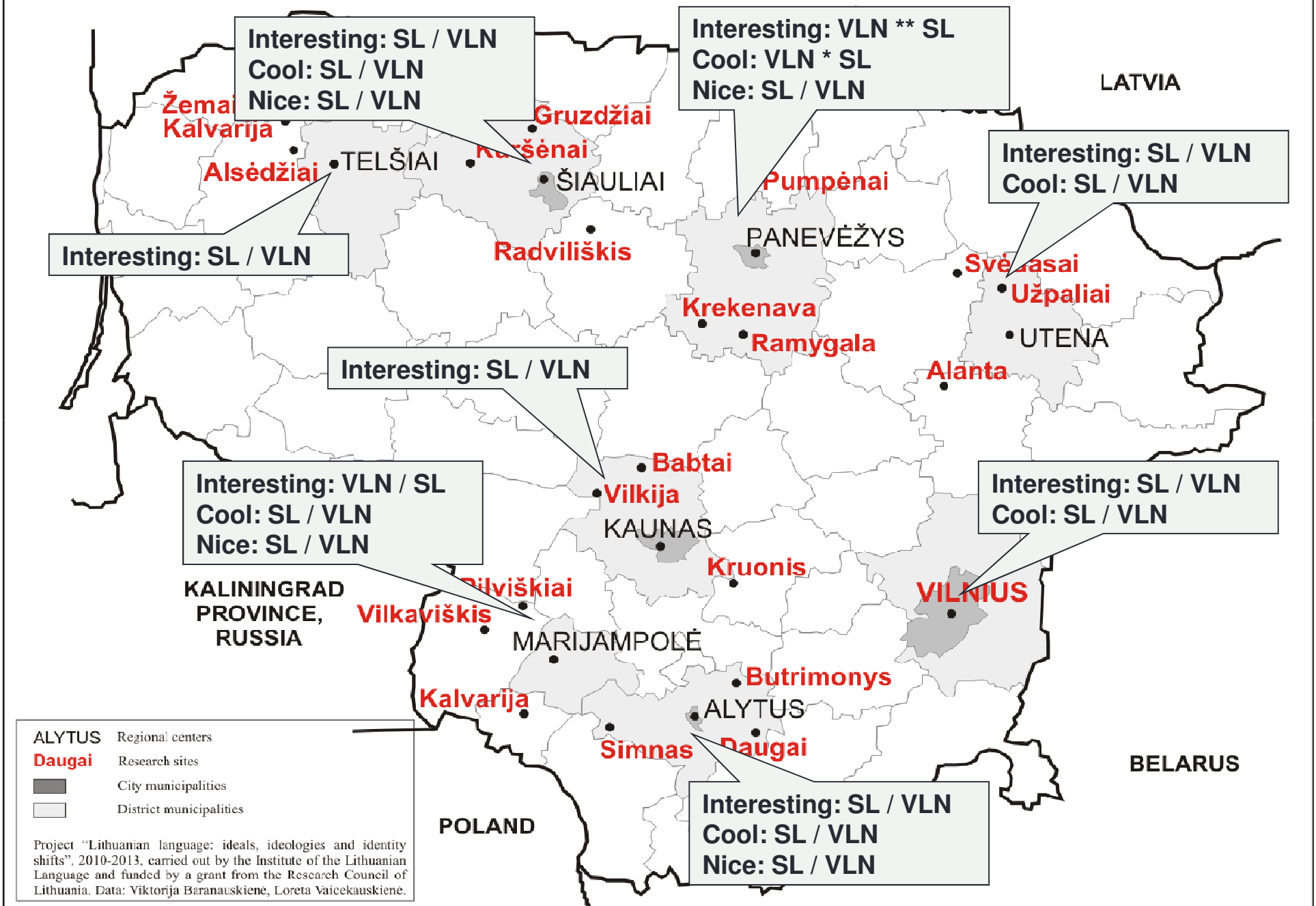
LANGUAGE ATTITUDE EXPERIMENTS WITH LITHUANIAN ADOLESCENTS: RESEARCH SITES, 2012



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LANGUAGE ATTITUDE EXPERIMENTS WITH LITHUANIAN ADOLESCENTS: RESEARCH SITES, 2012



Subconscious distinction of categories “superiority” vs “dynamism”: both studies

Main study

Standard > Vilnius > Local

Standard > Vilnius: on traits *intelligent, conscientious, goal-oriented, trustworthy, self-assured*

Vilnius / Standard > Local

Interesting in 7/8 regions Vilnius / Standard; in 1/8 Vilnius > Standard

Cool in 5/8 regions Vilnius / Standard; in 1/8 Vilnius > Standard

Nice in 4/8 regions Vilnius / Standard

Follow-up study

ALYTUS

Vilnius / Standard / Local

Except

intelligent and *conscientious*:

Vilnius / Standard > Local

UTENA

Vilnius / Standard > Local

Except *interesting*: Vilnius > SL

cool: Vilnius / Standard / Local

Lithuanian distinction of categories “superiority” vs “dynamism” and translation difficulties

SUPERIORITY	
Intelligent – Stupid	
Conscientious – Happy-go-lucky	
Goal-oriented – Dull	+ Modern? Trendy?
Trustworthy – Untrustworthy	
Self-assured – Insecure	
DYNAMISM	
Interesting – Boring (<i>Fascinating? Da. Spændende – Kedelig; Lit. Įdomus – Nuobodus</i>)	
Cool – Uncool (Da. <i>Tjekket – Utjekket; Lit. Kietas – Nevykėlis</i>)	
Nice – Repulsive ? (Da. <i>Flink – Usympatisk; Lit. Malonus – Nemalonus</i>)	

Relevance of the Lanchart personality traits for assessment of the SL, Vilnius and dialect speaker in the individual card-task (of in total positive 28 traits and 28 their counterparts)

	SL	Vilnius speaker	Dialect speaker	
<i>Intelligent</i>	65 %	18 %	8 %	SL > VLN > Dialect
<i>Conscientious</i>	49 %	12 %	0 %	SL > VLN > Dialect
<i>Goal-directed</i>	36 %	15 %	1 %	SL > VLN > Dialect
<i>Trustworthy</i>	27 %	0 %	14 %	SL > Dialect > VLN
<i>Nice</i>	31 %	10 %	27 %	SL > Dialect > VLN
<i>Self-assured</i>	45 %	38 %	28 %	SL > VLN > Dialect
<i>Fascinating</i>	38 %	34 %	59 %	Dialect > SL / VLN
<i>Cool</i>	3 %	9 %	3 %	VLN > SL / Dialect

From:
Group discussions with 83 students (17-18 years old; 40 boys and 43 girls) in 10 high schools in 9 cities; 8 students in a group on average

Numbers are percent of students that chose the particular trait

Lithuanian answers to SLICE questions

Do subconscious attitudes account for (changes in/ standard-relaxing) language production?

PARTLY?

Perceptions and diffusion I

- 1) Subconscious downgrading of regional dialects might be the cause of use restrictions of dialectal features in public. But this may be due to the overt stigmatization as well.
- 2) VLN is upgraded to the SL: **everybody wants to sound interesting and cool?**
- 3) SL gets best scores and no preference in production. Ever.

Use of standard phonetic features in the broadcast media

“**Today** we can claim that a **new** pronunciation **variety** has developed and is widely spread [in the media – LV] [...] **unstressed long vowels in all positions are shortened**” (Pupkis 1999: 4-6)

Dr. G. K. ...

Group ...

... ..

... ..

LET ...

... ..

Radio listener complaint letter about my shortening of unstressed vowels

Use of standard phonetic features in the broadcast media: time impact

! Preliminary data

BUT the prescribed features have never dominated media discourse!

Journalists	1960–1975	1976–1990	1991–2011	News readers
<i>Unstressed [iə] [ua]</i>	63%	67%	66%	72%
<i>Not lowered [o:] [e:]</i>	23%	15%	12%	35%
<i>Unstressed [i:] [u:] [æ:] [a:]</i>	6%	1%	0,5	8%

Numbers for news readers are constant over time; variation depends on individual speakers

Perceptions and diffusion II

4) Upgrading of the SL:

- Positive effects of exotic sounding peer?? (cf. adult voices in follow-up research)
- Flemish version: conservative public ideology in private subconsciousness, i.e. upgrading of what is believed to be the standard and downgrading of the rest?
- Class-room settings/teacher-topic/implicit interview for an adult in the stimuli might have triggered the official ideology?