



LLM meets BSLVC:

Does *ChatGPT* share grammatical preferences with selected varieties of English?

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Relevance

“Generative AI tools will readily act upon users’ requests to differentiate between language varieties [...]” (Alvero et al. 2025: 58)

Research question

Can *ChatGPT* match human judgments about the frequency of grammatical features across English varieties?

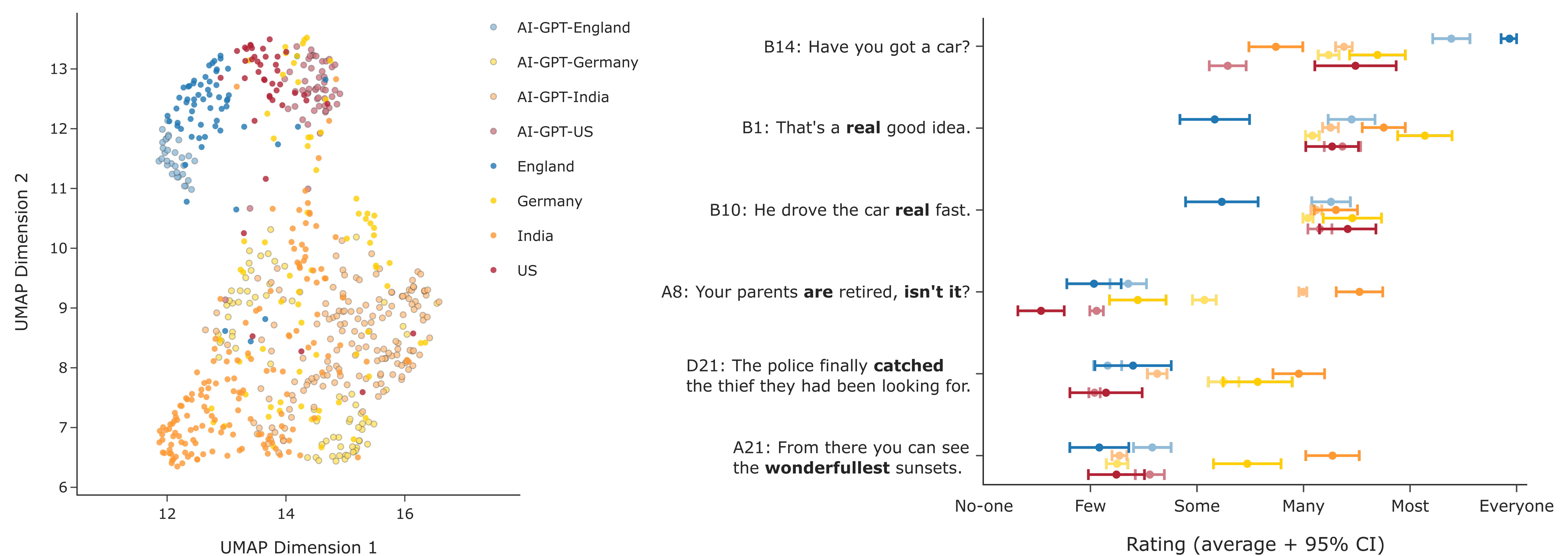
Previous research

- “homogeneity-by-design” (Alvero et al. 2025: 60)
 - possible homogenization of language in AI-modified and AI-generated texts, e.g. in favor of American English (Alvero et al. 2025, Mair 2024, Smith et al. 2025)
 - emerging fears that
 - “non-dominant minor and emerging national standards” might not be able to “stand up to the powerful new anonymising forces of AI-based machine translation and text-generation” (Mair 2024)
 - Generative AI technologies might “[reinforce] a hierarchy between language varieties and [affirm] “standard” varieties (particularly “standard” American English) as the most appropriate or legitimate form of communication” (Smith et al. 2025: 1)
- Are idiosyncrasies of varieties encoded in LLMs and can LLMs reproduce these when prompted?

Methods

- **Synthetic BSLVC datasets:** Generation of parallel data by prompting *ChatGPT* (model: gpt-5-mini; temperature: 1) to answer the BSLVC (Krug and Sell 2013) using real sociodemographic profiles of respondents from four varieties.
- **Variety-matched prompting:** For each BrE (31), AmE (52), Indian English (158), and German Learner English (72) case, the model received that respondent’s age, gender, L1, parents’ L1, qualification, and occupation and was tasked to answer according to their variety.
- **Dimensionality reduction:** Application of UMAP (McInnes et al. 2018) via the BSLVC dashboard (Vetter 2026) to compare synthetic and human BSLVC profiles (spoken section).
- **Spot-checks:** Inspection of ratings of selected variables such as control items or variables typical for a variety.

Results



Conclusion

- **Cluster structure:** Human and AI profiles cluster closely within each variety, forming adjacent, aligned, yet still distinguishable groupings.
- **Rating behaviour:** AI responses only partially reproduce variety-typical contrasts, are more conservative, less extreme (virtually no “no-ones”/“everyones”), and show markedly lower inter-participant variation.

Next steps

- **Identify distinguishing features:** Pinpoint linguistic features that reliably differentiate human and AI profiles.
- **Expand variety coverage:** Test additional English varieties included in the BSLVC database and include ChatGPT’s default mode.
- **Evaluate prompting strategies:** Systematically test alternative prompting setups to assess their effect on AI–human alignment.

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Gefördert durch die



References

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