

A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS: TRACKING STYLE SHIFTING FROM LOCAL TO STANDARD FORMS

JENNIFER SMITH & SOPHIE HOLMES-ELLIOTT

Social Meaning Workshop | Sheffield | 2015

Buckie



insider



outsider



- 
- ‘There are no single style speakers’
(Labov 1972: 208)

Gillian (12 years old) with insider

- She aieways gives me easter eggs every year and she kens fitt kind of easter egg I like, like I like a One Direction ain with like a mug and athing Mhmm and then fann I finally opened it on easter I noticed inside she'd put like a loom band actually inside the chocolate so she'd like smashed a hole in the chocolate put it back in then like wrapped it back up in tin foil and then I phoned my cousin, I was like "Abby is-- is this yours? Did you drop it in the chocolate or somethin'?" she was like "No it's for you" and I was like "Oh thank you" 'cause like I'd aieways wanted a loom bracelet and then I finally got ain.

Gillian with outsider



- Em fann me and Gemma like went to school today, I walked in em like to the library to her sittin' on the chair with black boots on, black leggings on, she had no glasses on but she needs glasses but she can see without them she had her hood up like a little bit so her fringe was still showing and then she had like black mascara on, black eyeliner, black eye shadow, black lipstick and I was just like "Gemma what is wrong with you?" and she was just like "I'm acting like a goth, don't judge" and I was just like "I'm going to judge"

Lucy (12 years old) with insider



I like to like experiment and I've-- she like makes me follow athing that I've got to do and athin'. Oh right. Like I like to change things, nae like the normal way. Aye. See like even finn I'm with my pals and athing-- like I like doing athin' different like-- see in this photo-- wait here 'til I'll get rid of a' this messages so you can see it. Like they're a' wearin' the leggings and the disco pants and the crop tops and that and then I'm wearin' a skirt-- Aye. And my hair's different fae all them and athing and I'm wearin' heels and they're all wearin' trainin-- Aye. Trainers. Like I like to be different fae abody else bu- That's good though, you're a individual. Aye. Mm mm. I dinna like copying folk. No. You just like to do it yoursel'. Aye.

Lucy with outsider

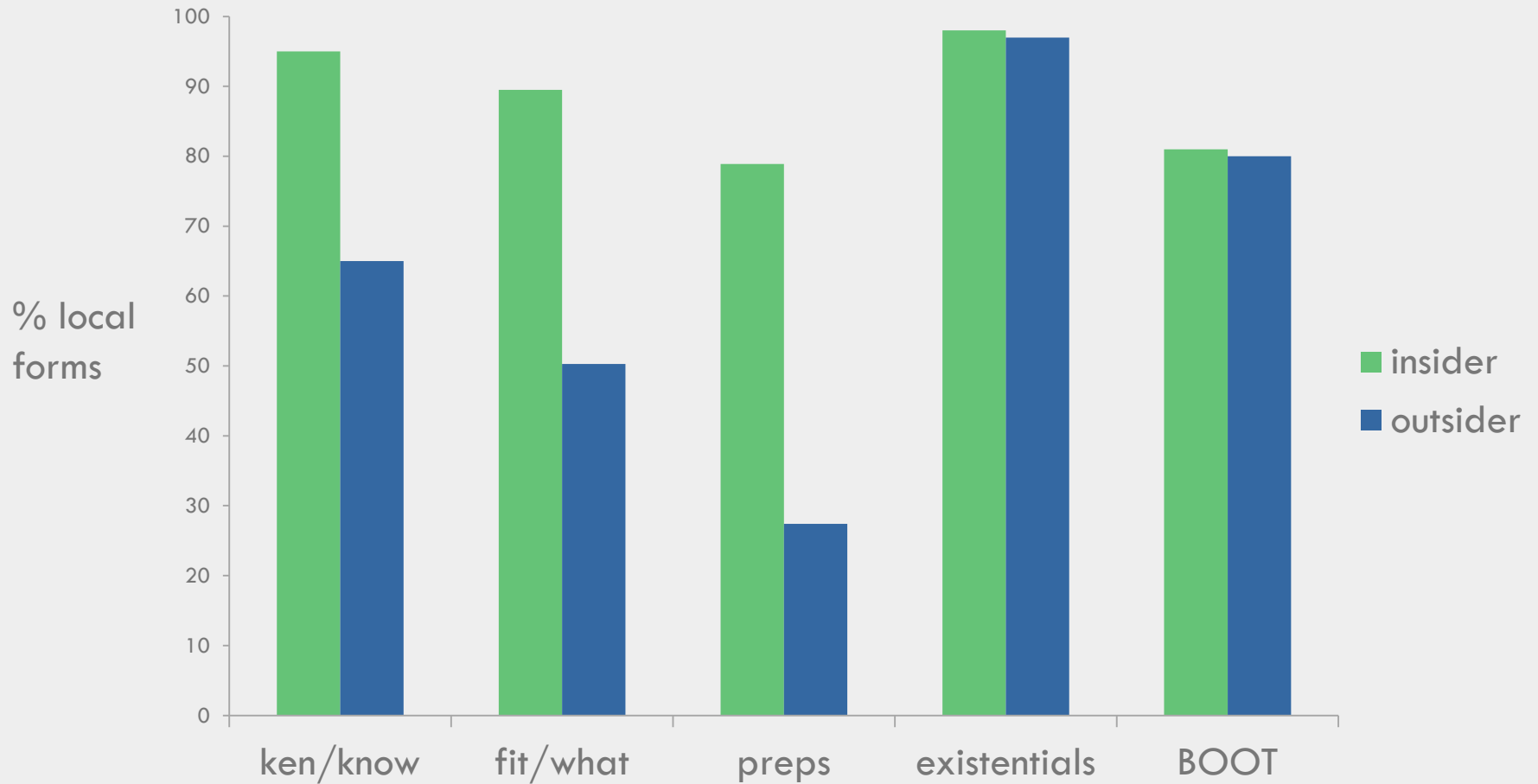


- Well there's like that over the whole school, nae like- basically in year groups. Like there's like the trouble makers. Mm. They do na hang about in the school area, they hang about aside the pool, and they do like stuff that they should na be doing there like- Mm. smoke and stuff like that.

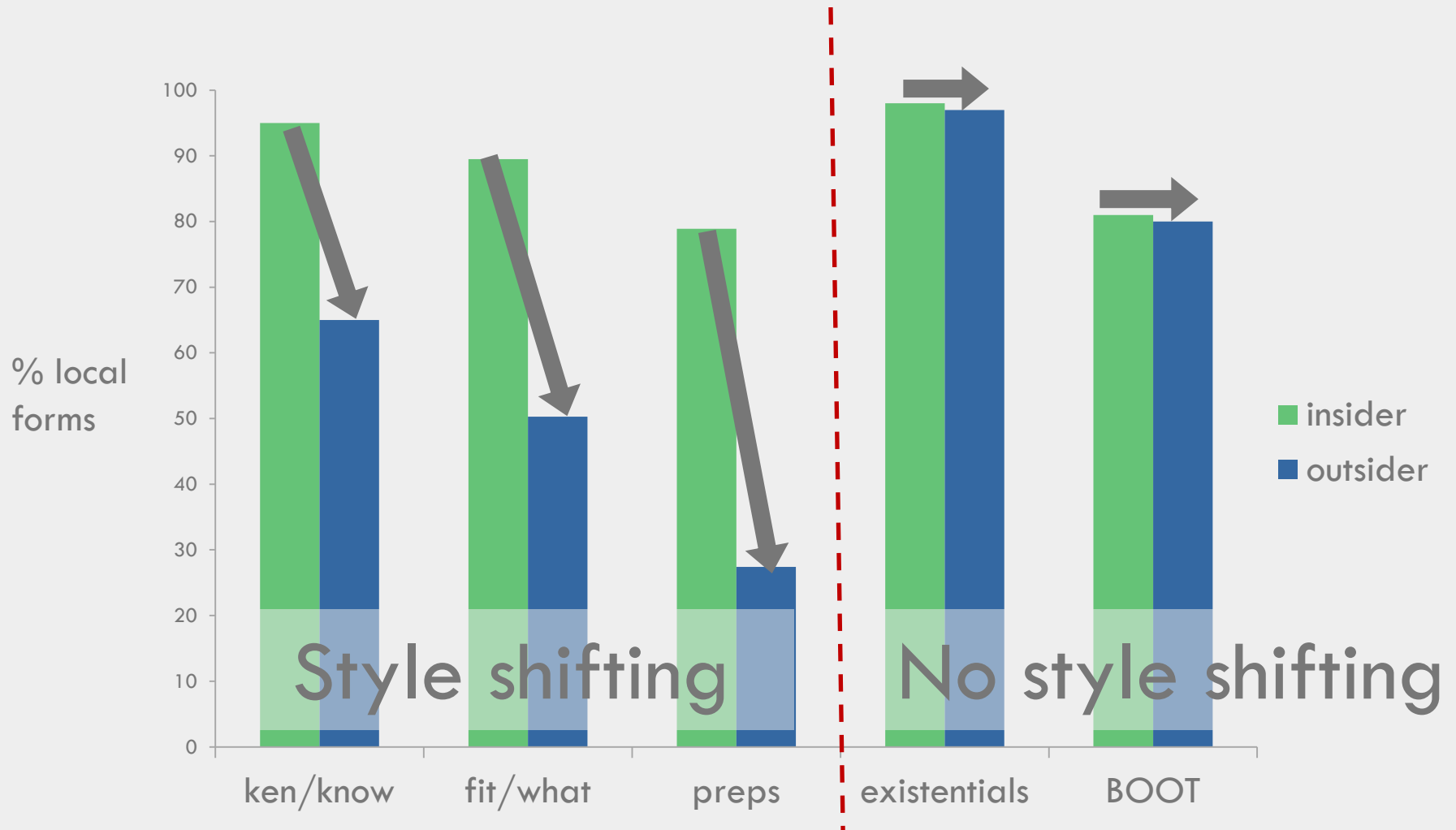
Analysis: variables

- **ken vs know:** **Ken** fit ken means? It's like **know**. (Jill, young)
- **fit vs what:** They were like “**Fit's** that mean?” Or no, “**What's** that mean?” (Liana, young)
- **Prepositions:** He gave it up a while **afore**-- **before** I was born. (Keifer, young)
- **Existentials:** **There are** a lot of bands through there like... Probably about six or seven year ago it died down, but **there is** a few bands (Neil, young)
- **BOOT vowel:** goose, you, news, look (GOOSE + FOOT)

Overall...



Overall...



Variable split

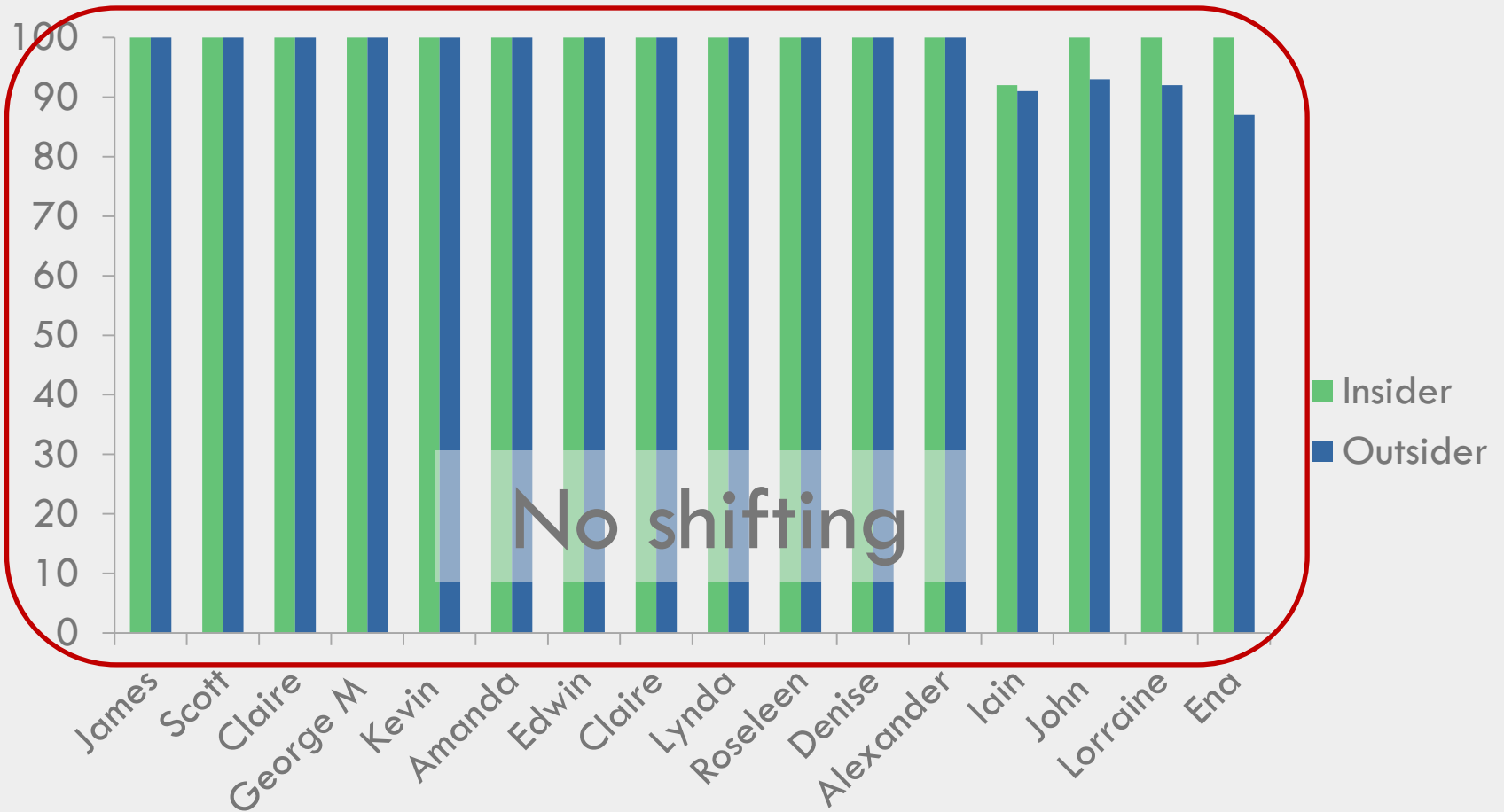
- Overall distributions
- Variables show different levels of style-shifting
- Labov's Sociolinguistic Monitor (1993, 2008)
- 'members of the speech community evaluate the surface form of language but not more abstract structural features'

Variables vs individuals?

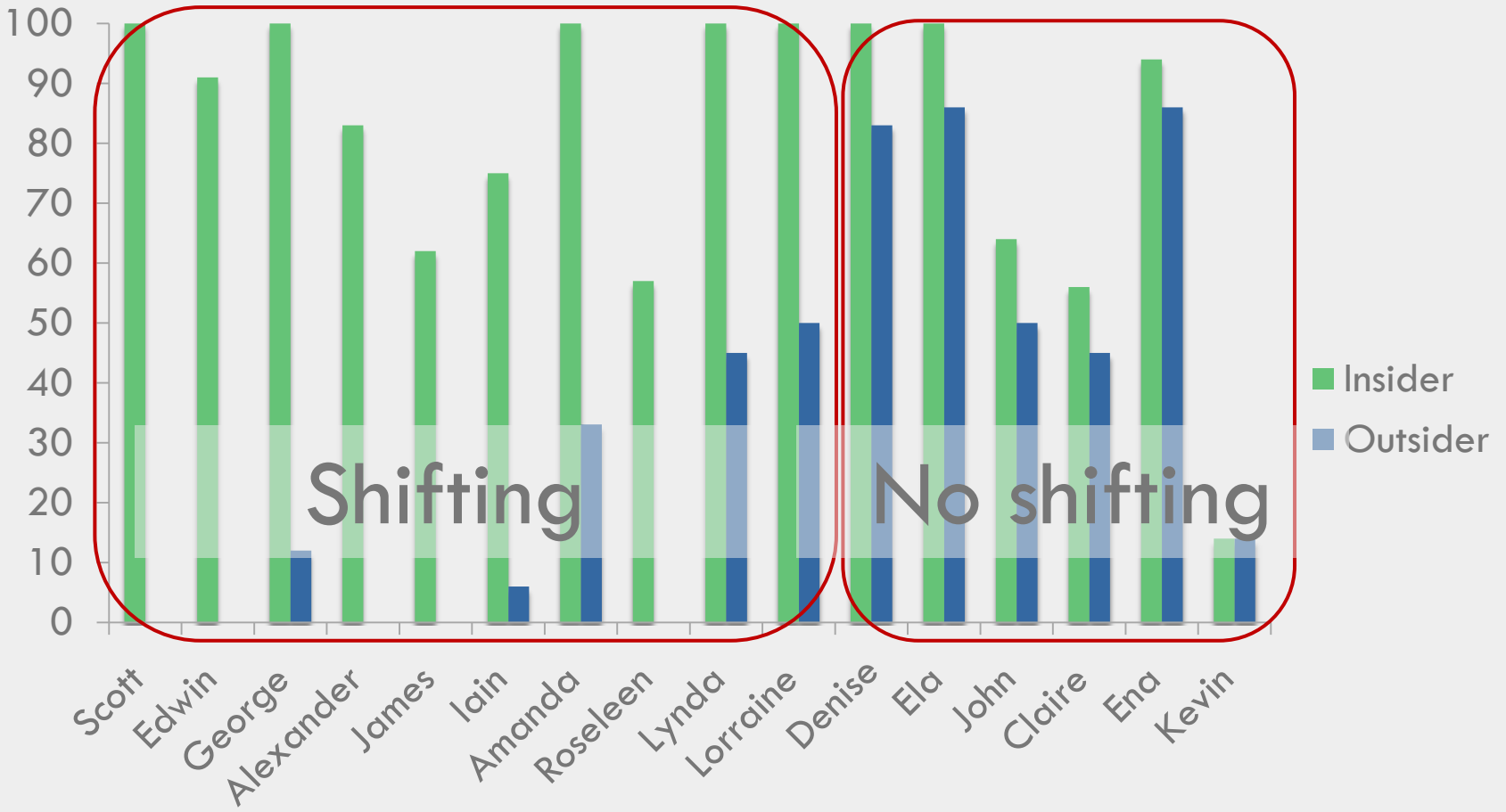


- Existentials: no style shifting
- Prepositions: highest level of style-shifting
- Do the individuals behave uniformly?

Existentials



Prepositions



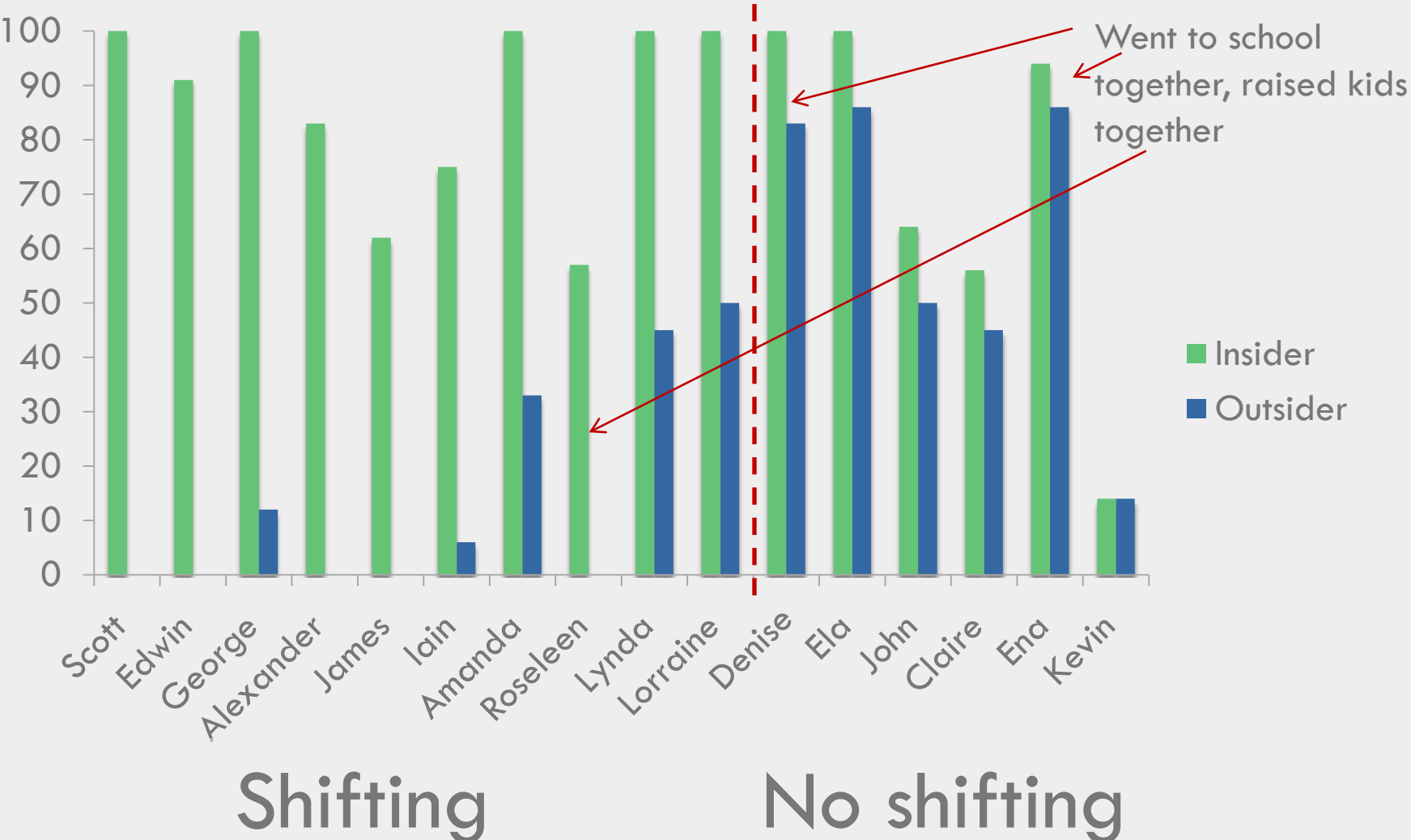
Why?



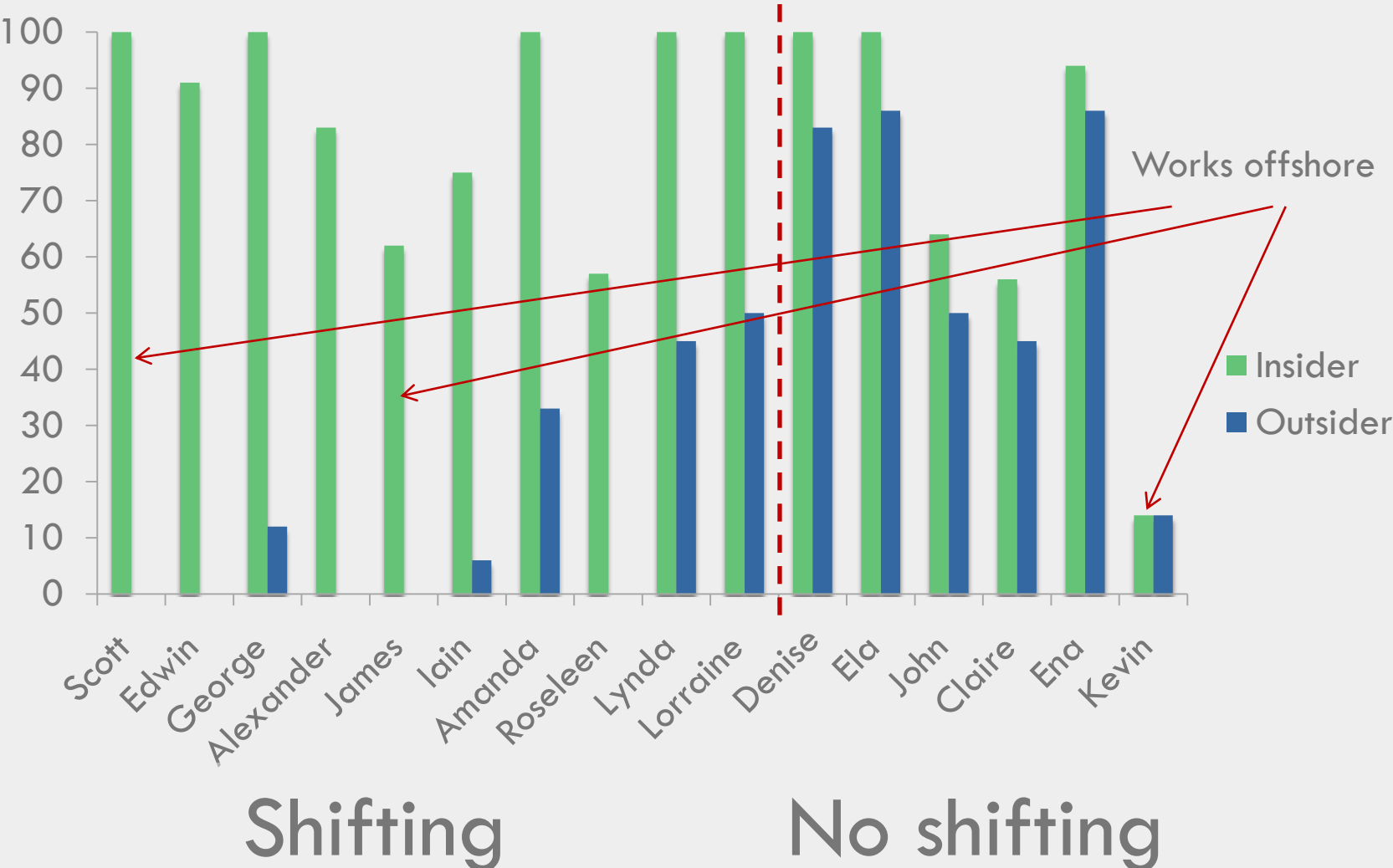
- Can't style shift?
- Don't want to styleshift?

- Different networks?
- Different occupations?
- Lived away?

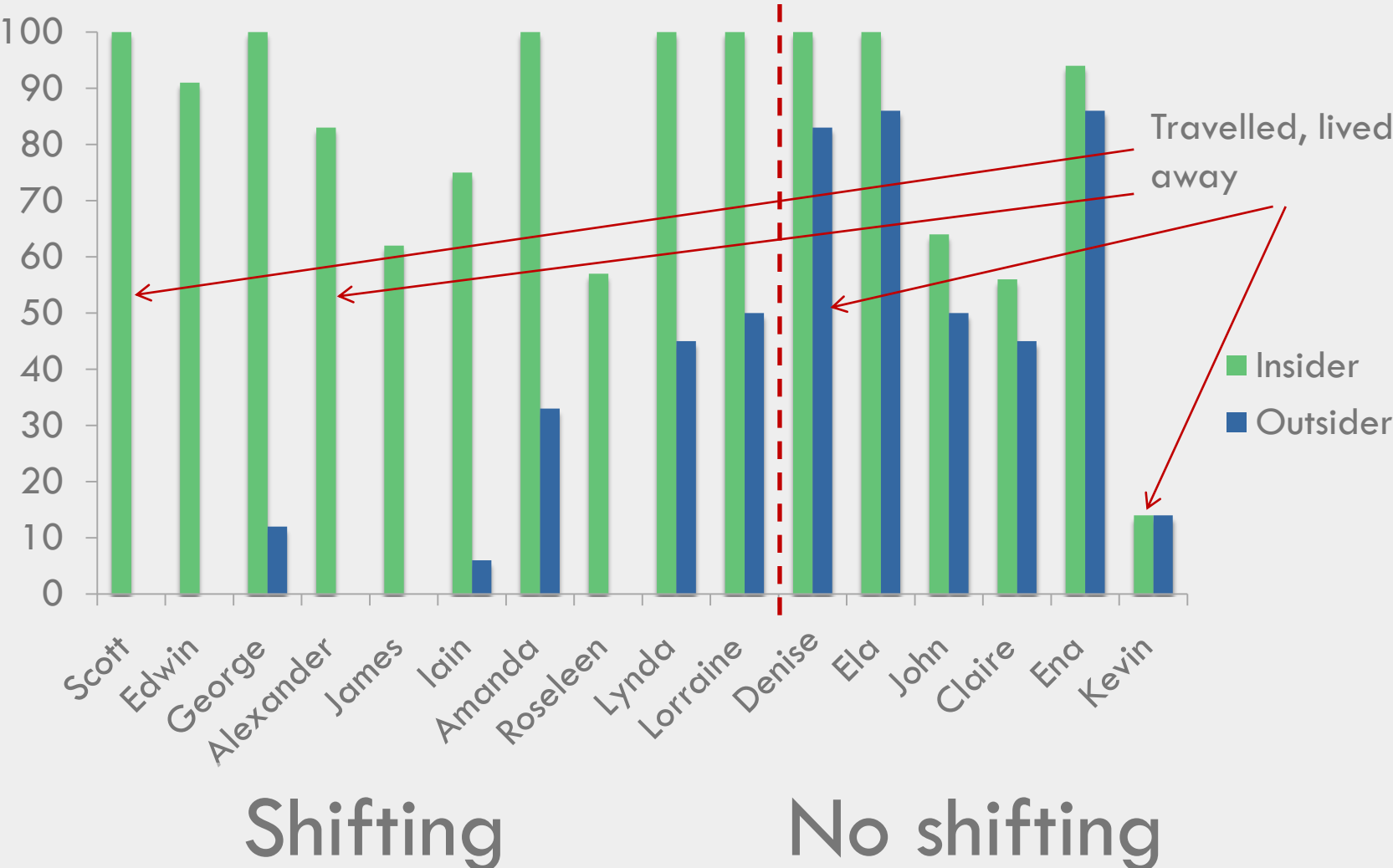
Different networks?



Different occupations?



Lived away?



Individual speakers

- Rickford & Price (2013) **linguistic chameleons**
- “The sociolinguist sampling the speech of individuals in a community to study variation and change is like a fisherman throwing a net into a sea.
- What the net yields will depend to some extent on the relative mix of chameleons and ‘almost single style speakers’ there are in the sea (i.e. community) on a given day”



Individual speakers

- Sankoff & Blondeau (2006)
- Change across the lifespan: [R] in Montreal French
- Great interspeaker variation: Lysiane B. & Alain L.

Individual speakers

- Social psychology and perception of linguistic variation
- Yu (2010, 2013) social evaluation of linguistic variability and autistic traits
- Broad Autism Phenotype Questionnaire (Hurley et al, 2007)
- Sociolinguistic monitor studies (Evans-Wagner & Hesson, 2014; Bushstaller & Levon, 2014)

Follow up study...

- **Broad Autism Phenotype Questionnaire (BAPQ)**
- **Social Intelligence (SI)**: an awareness of situations and the social dynamics that govern them... a knowledge of interaction styles and strategies that can help a person achieve his or her objectives (Albrecht, 2004)
- **Empathy Quotient (EQ)**: understand the intentions of others, predict their behavior...In short, empathy allows us to interact effectively (Baron-Cohen & Wheelwright, 2004)

Thanks to....



- Beth Ralston
- Ellie Sutherland

Lexical: aye vs yes/yeah

- Community:

*Inverness to Gatwick, **Aye**, **Yes**, on the Sunday as well.*

- Caregiver:

***Aye**, I ken you 're sleepy, but just keep it on anow.*

- Preschooler:

***Aye** kissie kissie yes kissie **yes** huggle.*

- Preadolescent:

***Aye** some of the ornaments are just mega bonnie.*

Phonological: *hoose* vs *house*

- Community:

I ø na chuck it d[u:]wn your throat you ken.

- Caregiver:

We'll just go r[ʌt]nd by that h[u:]sie.

- Preschooler:

H[ʌt]w many sleeps 'til Christmas.

- Preadolescent:

We got knocked o[u:]t in the second r[ʌt]nd.

Lexical item

- house
- down
- town
- out
- outside
- hour
- about
- now (adverb)
- thousand
- Round
- around
- ...

Morphosyntactic: *plural existentials*

- Community:

There is a few still going.

- Caregiver:

There are elephants at the party... *there's* nae ghosts there, chum.

- Preschooler:

There are clouds outside....*there's* ghosts in there.

- Preadolescent:

There's nae a lot of quines my age go.