

# VARIATION IN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (VILA2)

La liaison variable en français L1 et L2,  
une étude contrastive de son acquisition

*Variable liaison in French L1 and L2,  
a contrastive study of its acquisition*

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Exploratory comparison of acquisition contexts in French L1 and L2
- Hypotheses
- Experimental design
- Methods for comparison between L1 and L2
- Results for Variable Liaison

# COMPARAISON OF ACQUISITION CONTEXTS IN FRENCH L1 AND L2

## Native French-speaking children

### (before elementary school)

- Implicit learning
- Oral contact only with the language : variability
- Massive input
- First language

## FFL Learners

### (academic context only)

- Explicit teaching
- Knowledge of spelling : stability of lexical units
- Input limited to the classroom
- Positive / negative transfers from their first language

➡ The acquisition of French liaison by L2 speakers could be based on written principles

# HYPOTHESES

- Having knowledge of spelling...

1. ...FFL learners should produce very few substitution errors like [gʁonami] for "gros amis".  
-> reference to the final letter form
2. ...FFL learners should judge the liaisons before producing them.  
-> the judgement task includes a metalinguistic component

# EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

## *FRENCH AS FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNERS (L2)*

### Longitudinal study

- reflects the evolution of each individual
- 3 recordings in a year (every 6 months)

### Subjects

- 17 Korean students in South Korea ( $\pm 21$  y.o. at T1)
- Reduction of interindividual differences
  - same academic year, same field of study : French language and literature
  - 3 hours per week of courses in French with a native speaking teacher (48 hours per semester)
  - very little input outside the classroom (no access to French-speaking radios / TV, very few French-speaking films and music)
  - never lived in France nor in a French-speaking country

# EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

## *NATIVE FRENCH-SPEAKING CHILDREN (L1)*

### Transversal study

- large sample : 165 children
- 4 years age difference between the youngest and the oldest child

### Subjects

- Native French-speaking children
  - no reading skills developed yet
  - interviewed at home, at the babysitter's home, in nursery or preschool
- four separate age groups
  - 40 children aged 28 to 39 months (2;4 - 3;3)
  - 44 children aged 40 to 51 months (3;4 - 4;3)
  - 40 children aged 52 to 63 months (4;4 - 5;3)
  - 41 children aged 64 to 75 months (5;4 - 6;3)

# EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

## TASKS

### Picture-naming task

- Context « determiner + adjective + noun »
  - Variable Liaison : well-known sociolinguistic marker of French
  - Two forms admitted : realization vs non-realization (un gros**Z**avion vs un gros\_avion)

*Video of  
the "tester"*

### Acceptability judgement task

- Context « determiner + adjective + noun »
- One picture, two variants :
  - well-realized liaison vs non-realized liaison (un petit**T**éléphant / un petit\_éléphant)

*Video of  
the "tester"*

# LIMITATIONS OF THIS CONTRASTIVE STUDY

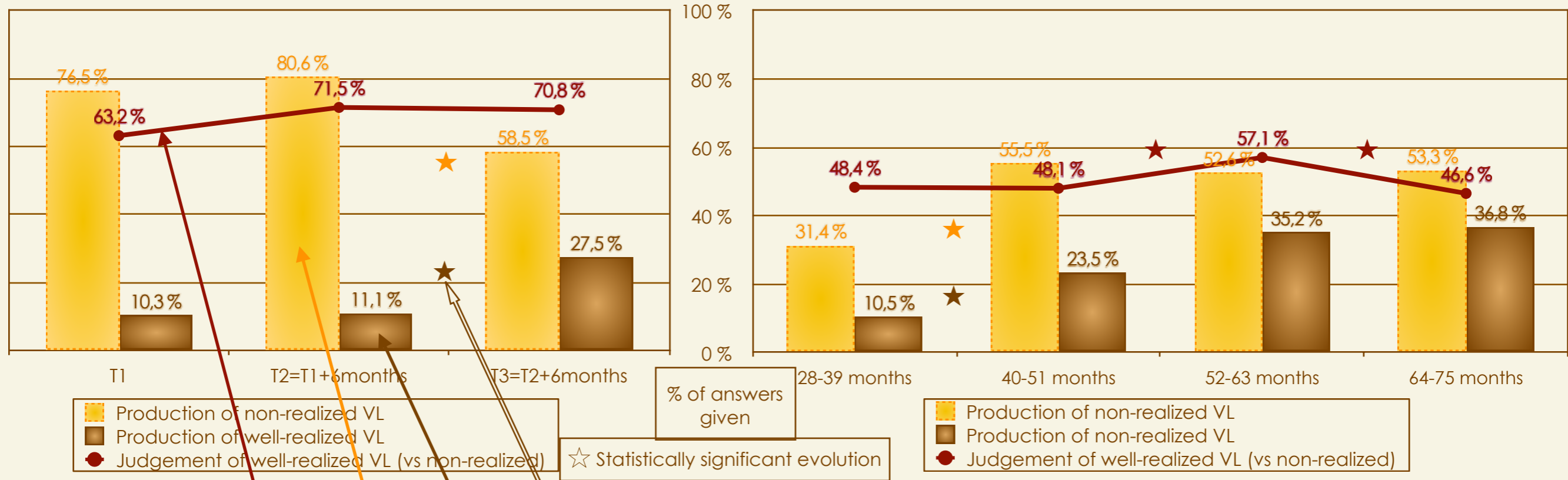
- Impossible to compare time durations
  - learning time  $\neq$  children's age
- Possible comparisons :
  - General pattern of evolution
  - Intra-group comparisons
  - Inter-group matchings



# GENERAL PATTERN AND INTRA-GROUP COMPARISONS

FFL Learners : judgement and production of VL

French NS Children : judgement and production of VL



Statistically significant evolution

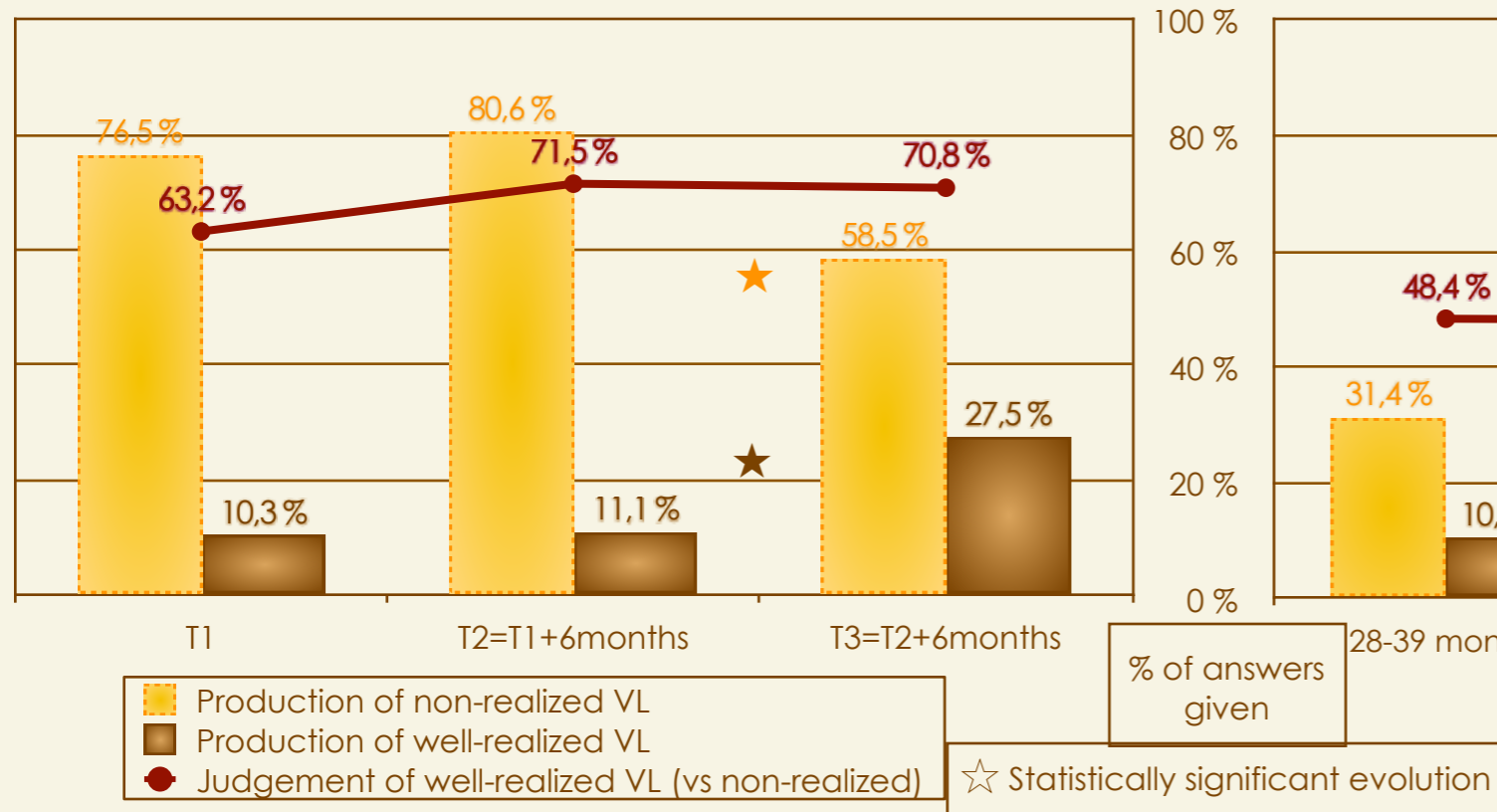
Production of well-realized VL

Production of non-realized VL

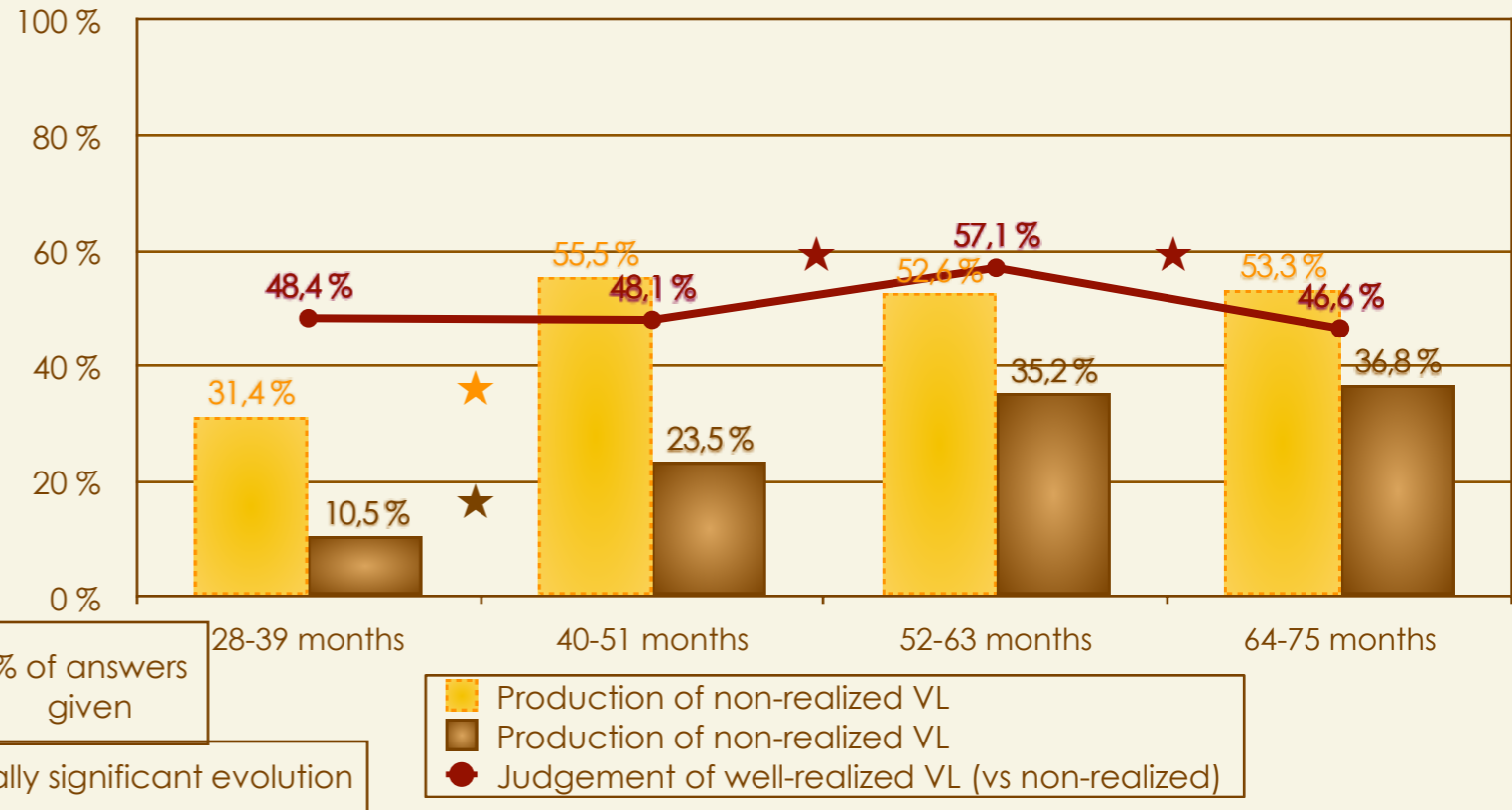
Judgement of well-realized VL (vs non-realized)

# GENERAL PATTERN AND INTRA-GROUP COMPARISONS

FFL Learners : judgement and production of VL



French NS Children : judgement and production of VL



## ● FFL Learners

- The judgement of VL remain stable ( $T1-T3 : f_{(2,28)} = 0.1, p=0.874$ )
- The judgement of VL deviates from the value of answers chosen randomly each time ( $T1, T2, T3 : t_{16} = p<0.001^{***}$ )
- The judgement of liaisons is stabilized prior production

⇒ **FFL learners judge the liaisons before producing them**

## ● Native French-speaking children

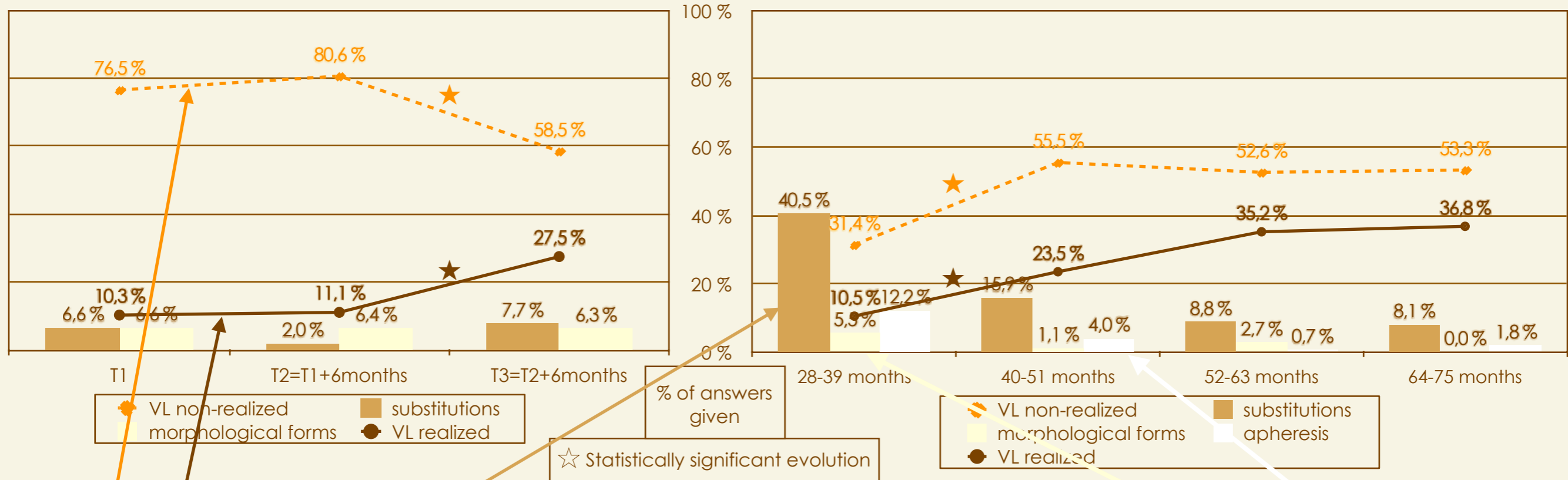
- After a period of stability, the judgement of VL rise then decline ( $28-75 \text{ mois} : f_{(3,161)} = 1.98, p=0.120$ )
- The judgement of VL don't deviate from the value of answers chosen at random except for the 3rd age group ( $52-63 \text{ mois} : t_{39} = 2.05, p=0.047^*$ )
- The production of the liaisons is stabilized prior to judgement

⇒ **Native French-speaking children progress into production of liaisons before judging them**

# GENERAL PATTERN AND INTRA-GROUP COMPARISONS

FFL Learners : production of Variable Liaisons

French-NS Children : production of Variable Liaisons



substitution : \* $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.pə.ti.zɛs.kav.go]$  for  $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.pə.ti.tɛs.kav.go]$  or  $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.pə.ti.ɛs.kav.go]$

morphological form : \* $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.gvo.savbv]$  for  $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.gvo.zavbv]$  or  $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.gvo.avbv]$

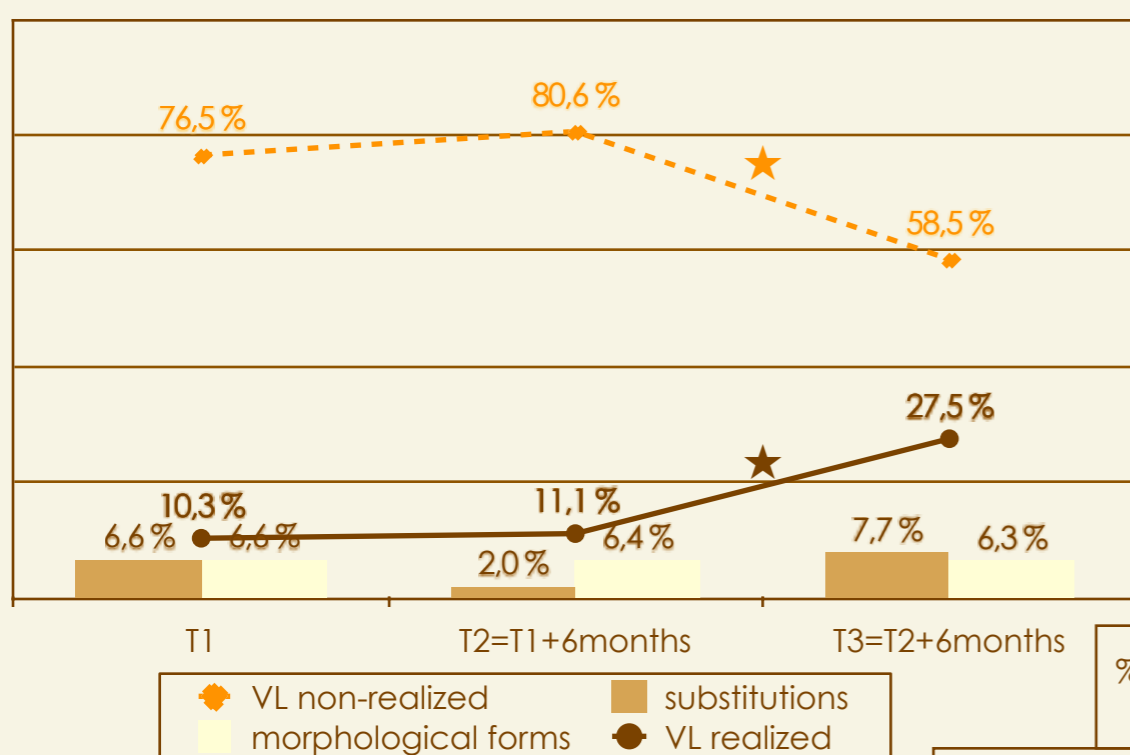
apheresis : \* $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.pə.ti.di.na.tœv]$  for  $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.pə.ti.tov.di.na.teuv]$  or  $[\tilde{\text{œ}}.pə.ti.ov.di.na.teuv]$

Production of well-realized VL

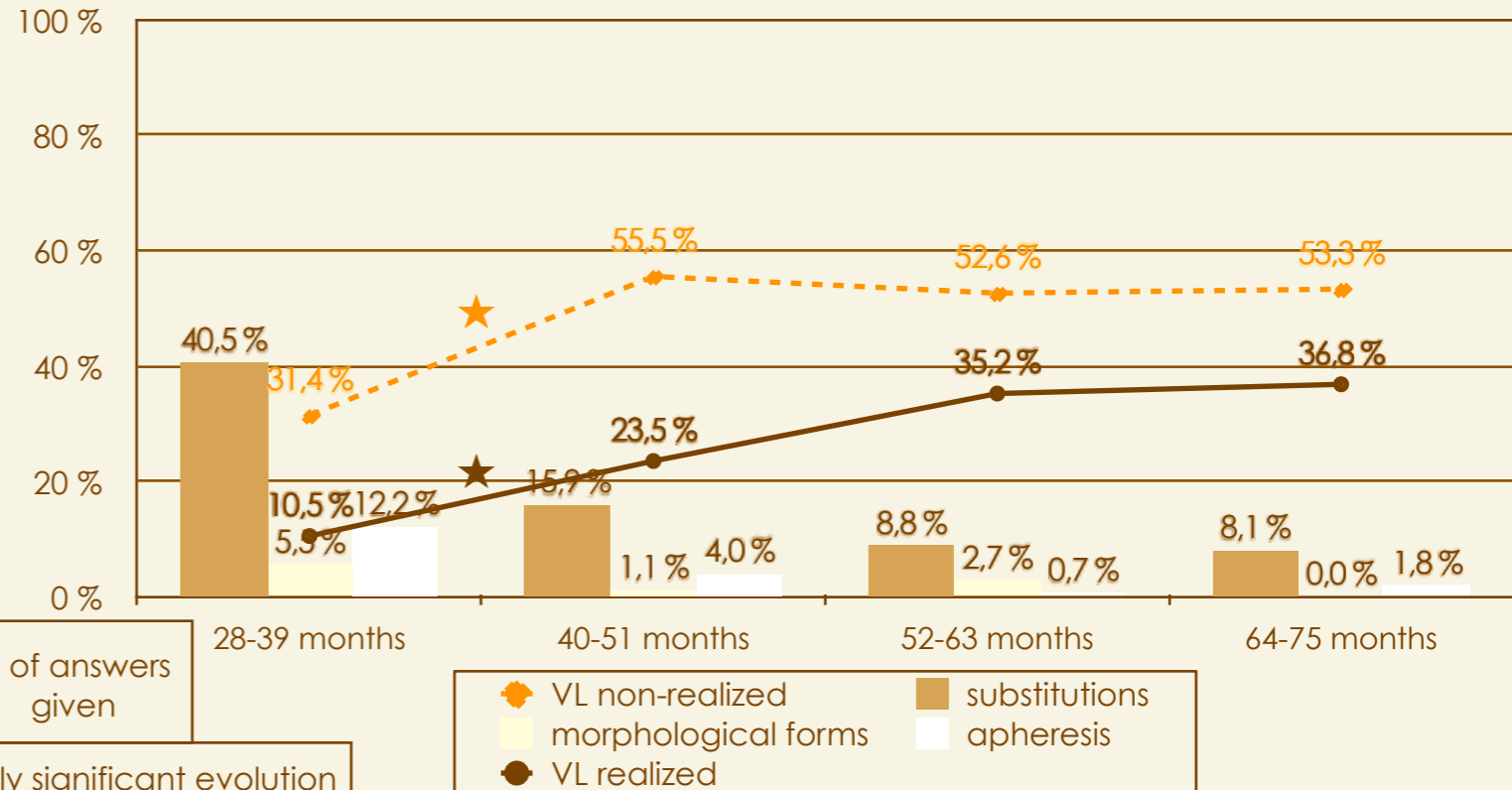
Production of non-realized VL

# GENERAL PATTERN AND INTRA-GROUP COMPARISONS

FFL Learners : production of Variable Liaisons



French-NS Children : production of Variable Liaisons



## ● FFL Learners

- After plateauing, well-realized VL rise (T2-T3 :  $f_{(1,16)} = 4.77, p=0.044^*$ )
- Non-realized VL are massive then decrease (T2-T3 :  $f_{(1,16)} = 4.51, p=0.05^*$ )
- The VL errors remain stable (Substitutions :  $f_{(2,24)} = 3.17, p=0.072$  / Morphological forms :  $f_{(1,20)} = 0.005, p=0.970$ )

⇒ **The realization of Variable Liaisons is done at the expense of their non-realization**

## ● Native French-speaking children

- Well-realized VL (TA1-TA2 :  $t_{66} = 2.69, p=0.009^{**}$ ) and non-realized VL (TA1-TA2 :  $t_{82} = 3.31, p=0.001^{***}$ ) rise then remain stable
- Substitution errors and apheresis decrease ( $f_{(3,161)} = 16.68, p<0.001^{***}$  /  $f_{(3,161)} = 8.44, p<0.001^{***}$ )
- No statistically significant difference between VL well-realized rate and VL non-realized rate from the 3rd age groups (28-39 mois :  $t_{39} = 3.72, p=0.001^{***}$  / 40-51 mois :  $t_{43} = 3.89, p<0.001^{***}$  / 52-63 mois :  $t_{39} = 1.72, p=0.094$  / 64-75 mois :  $t_{40} = 1.54, p=0.132$ )

⇒ **The realization and the non-realization of VL are perceived as two targets variants to achieve**

# INTER-GROUP MATCHINGS

- Same score in criterion 1 compared to scores in criterion 2
  1. choose a criterion 1 (ex : scores in LV realization)
  2. for each L2, match L1 who have the same score
  3. choose a criterion 2 (ex : scores in LV judgement)
  4. for each L2, note the scores of L1 who were matched on criterion 1, make an average to determine a L1 “prototype” on criterion 2
  5. compare results of L2 and L1

# INTER-GROUP MATCHINGS

## ● Production of variable liaisons matching

Selection of same scores in well-realized Variable Liaisons			
L2 at T1	score PVL	L1	Nb of L1
C04	0,0 %	D001-D002-D003-D004-D006-D009-D010-D013-D014-D016-D017-D018-D019-D021-D023-D024-D026-D031-D033-D041-D042-D043-D049-D050-D052-D053-D054-D055-D058-D059-D061-D062-D064-D065-D069-D072-D075-D078-D084-D093-D096-D098-D104-D105-D108-D112-D115-D116-D119-D125-D130-D131-D132-D133-D142-D146-D147-D149-D151-D158-D159-D163-D164	63
C07	0,0 %		63
C09	0,0 %		63
C11	0,0 %		63
C12	0,0 %		63
C17	0,0 %		63
C16	8,3 %		D045-D056-D071-D091-D107-D110-D135-D143
C01	10,0 %	D011-D038-D063	3
C02	10,0 %		3
C05	12,5 %	D030-D032-D040-D079	4
C15	12,5 %		4
C03	16,7 %	D005-D020-D060-D095-D139	5
C06	16,7 %		5
C10	16,7 %		5
C13	16,7 %		5
C14	18,2 %	NO : 16,7% : D005-D020-D060-D095-D139	0
C08	37,5 %	NO : 40% : D025-D077	0

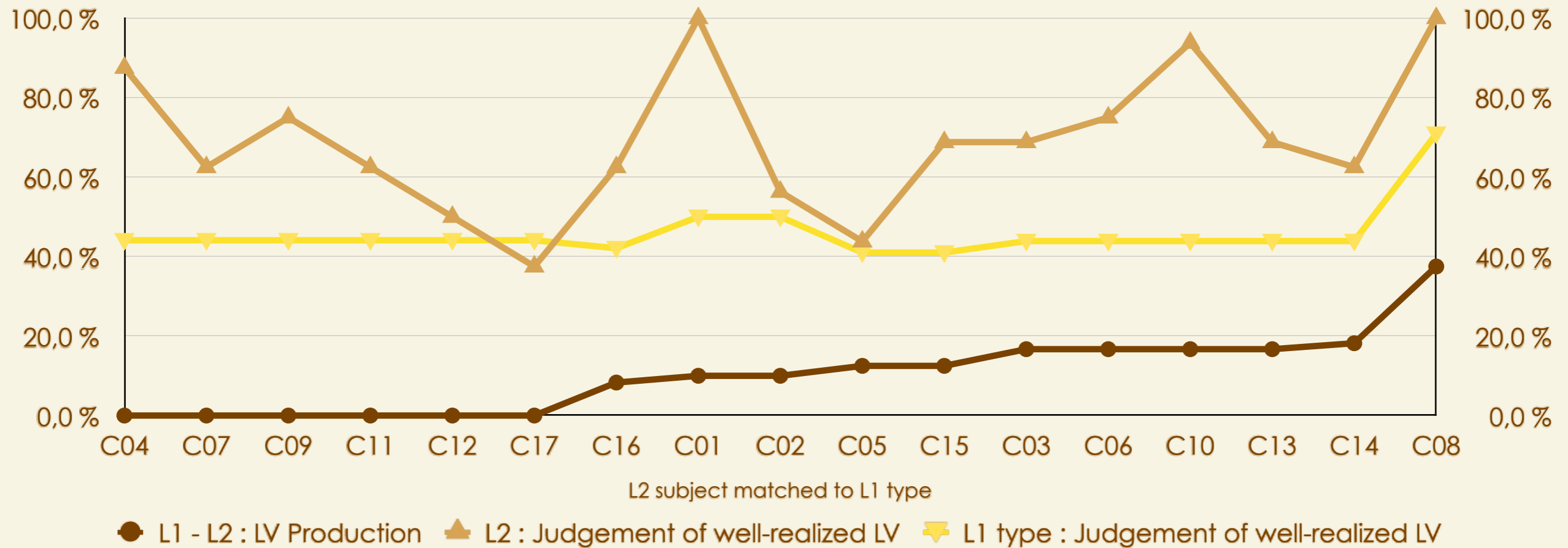
# INTER-GROUP MATCHINGS

Selection of results in Variable Liaisons Judgement				
L2 at T1	score JVL	L1 : scores JVL	L1 type JVL	score L2 ≤ L1
C04	87,5 %	D010 : 0% - D016 : 0% - D054 : 0% - D084 : 12,5% - D115 : 12,5% - D133 : 12,5% - D158 : 12,5% - D164 : 12,5% - D050 : 25% - D055 : 25% - D062 : 25% - D104 : 25% - D125 : 25% - D131 : 25% - D146 : 25% - D147 : 25% - D159 : 25% - D006 : 33,3% - D019 : 33,3% - D058 : 36,4% - D017 : 37,5% - D033 : 37,5% - D061 : 37,5% - D075 : 37,5% - D108 : 37,5% - D130 : 37,5% - D149 : 37,5% - D003 : 40% - D001 : 50% - D002 : 50% - D004 : 50% - D009 : 50% - D013 : 50% - D023 : 50% - D031 : 50% - D041 : 50% - D059 : 50% - D064 : 50% - D078 : 50% - D093 : 50% - D105 : 50% - D119 : 50% - D142 : 50% - D151 : 50% - D096 : 54,5% - D018 : 55,6% - D049 : 57,1% - D014 : 62,5% - D021 : 62,5% - D024 : 62,5% - D026 : 62,5% - D042 : 62,5% - D052 : 62,5% - D065 : 62,5% - D072 : 62,5% - D098 : 62,5% - D069 : 66,7% - D043 : 75% - D112 : 75% - D116 : 75% - D132 : 75% - D163 : 87,5% - D053 : 100%	44,1 %	62/63
C07	62,5 %		44,1 %	56/63
C09	75,0 %		44,1 %	57/63
C11	62,5 %		44,1 %	56/63
C12	50,0 %		44,1 %	44/63
C17	37,5 %		44,1 %	27/63
C16	62,5 %	D056 : 0% - D071 : 25% - D045 : 36,4% - D091 : 37,5% - D143 : 37,5% - D110 : 50% - D107 : 75% - D135 : 75%	42,1 %	6/8
C01	100,0 %	D011 : 50% - D038 : 50% - D063 : 50%	50,0 %	3/3
C02	56,3 %		50,0 %	3/3
C05	43,8 %	D032 : 25% - D040 : 33,3% - D030 : 50% - D079 : 55,6%	41,0 %	2/4
C15	68,8 %		41,0 %	4/4
C03	68,8 %	D005 : 12,5% - D095 : 37,5% - D060 : 44,4% - D139 : 50% - D020 : 75%	43,9 %	4/5
C06	75,0 %		43,9 %	5/5
C10	93,8 %		43,9 %	5/5
C13	68,8 %		43,9 %	4/5
C14	62,5 %		43,9 %	4/5
C08	100,0 %	D077 : 66,7% - D025 : 75%	70,9 %	2/2

# INTER-GROUP MATCHINGS

## ● Results

LV production matched to LV judgement by L1 and L2



To equal production, FFL learners judge the variable liaisons' normative variant as the correct variant more often than French NS Children.



# INTER-GROUP MATCHINGS

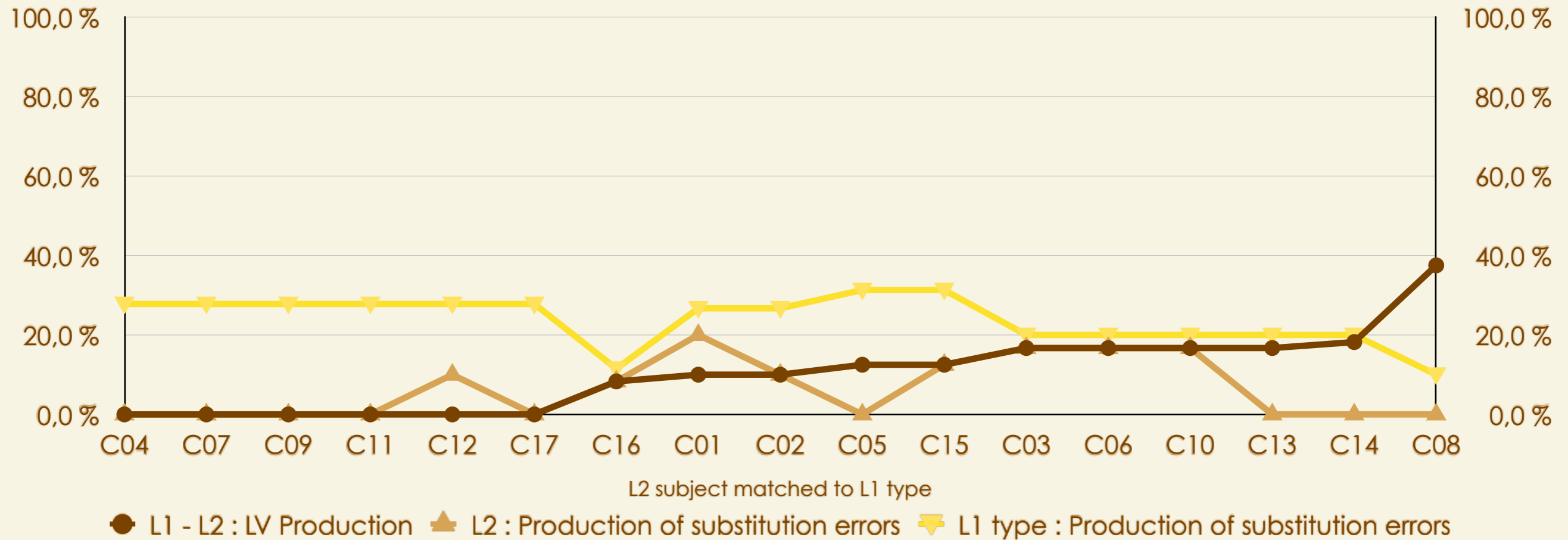
## Selection of results in Substitutions' Production

L2 au T1	score Sub	L1 : scores production des substitutions	L1 type Sub	score L2 ≤ L1
C04	0,0 %	D001 : 0% - D002 : 0% - D016 : 0% - D018 : 60% - D021 : 20% - D024 : 20% -	27,8 %	29/63
C07	0,0 %	D033 : 0% - D049 : 0% - D052 : 0% - D055 : 0% - D059 : 0% - D072 : 0% -	27,8 %	29/63
C09	0,0 %	D075 : 0% - D078 : 37,5% - D084 : 0% - D093 : 0% - D096 : 0% - D098 : 0% -	27,8 %	29/63
C11	0,0 %	D108 : 0% - D112 : 0% - D116 : 0% - D119 : 0% - D125 : 0% - D130 : 0% - D133 : 0% -	27,8 %	29/63
C12	10,0 %	D142 : 0% - D147 : 0% - D149 : 0% - D151 : 0% - D158 : 0% - D159 : 0% - D163 : 0%	27,8 %	33/63
C17	0,0 %	D164 : 0% - D115 : 8,3% - D105 : 9,1% - D058 : 10% - D131 : 10% - D061 : 12,5% -	27,8 %	29/63
C16	8,3 %	D064 : 12,5% - D043 : 16,7% - D042 : 20% - D069 : 25% - D132 : 33,3% -	11,5 %	7/8
C01	20,0 %	D006 : 50% - D013 : 50% - D004 : 55,6% - D062 : 57,1% - D054 : 58,3% -	26,7 %	2/4
C02	10,0 %	D010 : 60% - D019 : 62,5% - D009 : 66,7% - D050 : 66,7% - D065 : 70% -	26,7 %	2/4
C05	0,0 %	D023 : 75% - D031 : 75% - D014 : 80% - D041 : 80% - D104 : 80% -	31,3 %	1/4
C15	12,5 %	D053 : 83,3% - D146 : 87,5% - D003 : 100% - D017 : 100% - D026 : 100%	31,3 %	2/4
C03	16,7 %	D056 : 0% - D091 : 0% - D107 : 0% - D110 : 0% - D143 : 0%	20,0 %	3/5
C06	16,7 %	D045 : 8,3% - D135 : 8,3% - D071 : 75%	20,0 %	3/5
C10	16,7 %	D011 : 0% - D063 : 10% - D038 : 70%	20,0 %	3/5
C13	0,0 %	D079 : 0% - D040 : 12,5% - D032 : 50% - D030 : 62,5% -	20,0 %	3/5
C14	0,0 %	D060 : 0% - D095 : 0% - D139 : 0% - D020 : 33,3% - D005 : 66,7%	20,0 %	3/5
C08	0,0 %	D077 : 0% - D025 : 20%	10,0 %	1/2

# INTER-GROUP MATCHINGS

## ● Results

LV production matched to substitution production by L1 and L2



To equal production, FFL learners produce less substitution errors than French NS Children.

# CONCLUSION

## ● Inter-group matchings

### To equal production of realized variable liaisons

- FFL learners judge the variable liaisons' normative variant as the correct variant more often than French NS Children
- FFL learners produce less substitution errors than French NS Children

## ● General pattern of evolution comparisons & Intra-group comparisons

### Native French-speaking children

- They progress into production of liaisons before judging them
- The realization and the non-realization of VL are perceived as two targets variants to achieve

### FFL Learners

- They judge the liaisons before producing them
  - The realization of Variable Liaisons is done at the expense of their non-realization
- => *The realization of VL is perceived as the target variant to be achieved***

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