



Insiders' and outsiders' views on German from Austria's perspective:



**Austrian Standard German and German Standard German
- the odd couple**

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Demographics

	Austria	Germany
population 2015	8.6 million	82.2 million



Pluricentric languages?

Oscar Wilde / George Bernard Shaw

“England and America are two nations
divided by a common language”

Karl Farkas

“Der Österreicher unterscheidet sich vom
Deutschen durch die gemeinsame Sprache.”

German as a pluricentric language

The term “pluricentric language” applies to a language which is used as a national or regional official language in more than one country and if various linguistic features have developed in its standard language.

Only countries and regions which have developed their own distinctive linguistic features in their standard language are called “centres”. The term “full centre” is used if the special linguistic features in the standard language are codified and authorized in dictionaries.

This is the case for Austria, the German-speaking part of Switzerland and Germany, which are all considered “national full centres” of the German language.

(taken from: Variantenwörterbuch des Deutschen p. XXXI)

German-speaking countries and regions



Lexicography



Research on Austrian German – why?

Views from outside:

ASG abroad



Ransmayr, Jutta: On the status of Austrian German at universities abroad. A study at university departments for German in Great Britain, France, the Czech Republic, Hungary.

The sample:

- University students of German: $n = 780$ (GB, FR, CZ, HU)
- University teachers of German: $n = 129$ (British, French, Czech, Hungarian, German, Austrian)
- Methodology: questionnaires, interviews
- Relevant domains:
 - attitudes towards ASG
 - ASG in German classes
 - Year abroad in Austria
 - ASG and exams

Interviews with university teachers

German lecturer in France:

“Well, the Austrians’ pronunciation – from my point of view – is somehow sunnier, not so uptight.” [laughs] (*„Also die Aussprache, ganz subjektiv mal, das ist eine sonnigere Aussprache, eine weniger verklemmte [lacht].“*)

“A very, very beautiful dance-like rhythm. And the other thing is the melody of speech. Harmonious, and very beautiful.” (*„Ein sehr, sehr schöner, tänzerischer Rhythmus. Und sonst, was mir auffällt, ist die Sprachmelodie. Harmonisch, und sehr schön.“*)

Interviews with university teachers

Czech Republic:

“We teach Standard German here. The Austrian lecturers really only add a bit of decoration.” („Wir lehren Binnendeutsch, Standarddeutsch. Die österreichischen Lektoren geben wirklich nur die Verzierung dazu.“)

Interviews with university teachers

France:

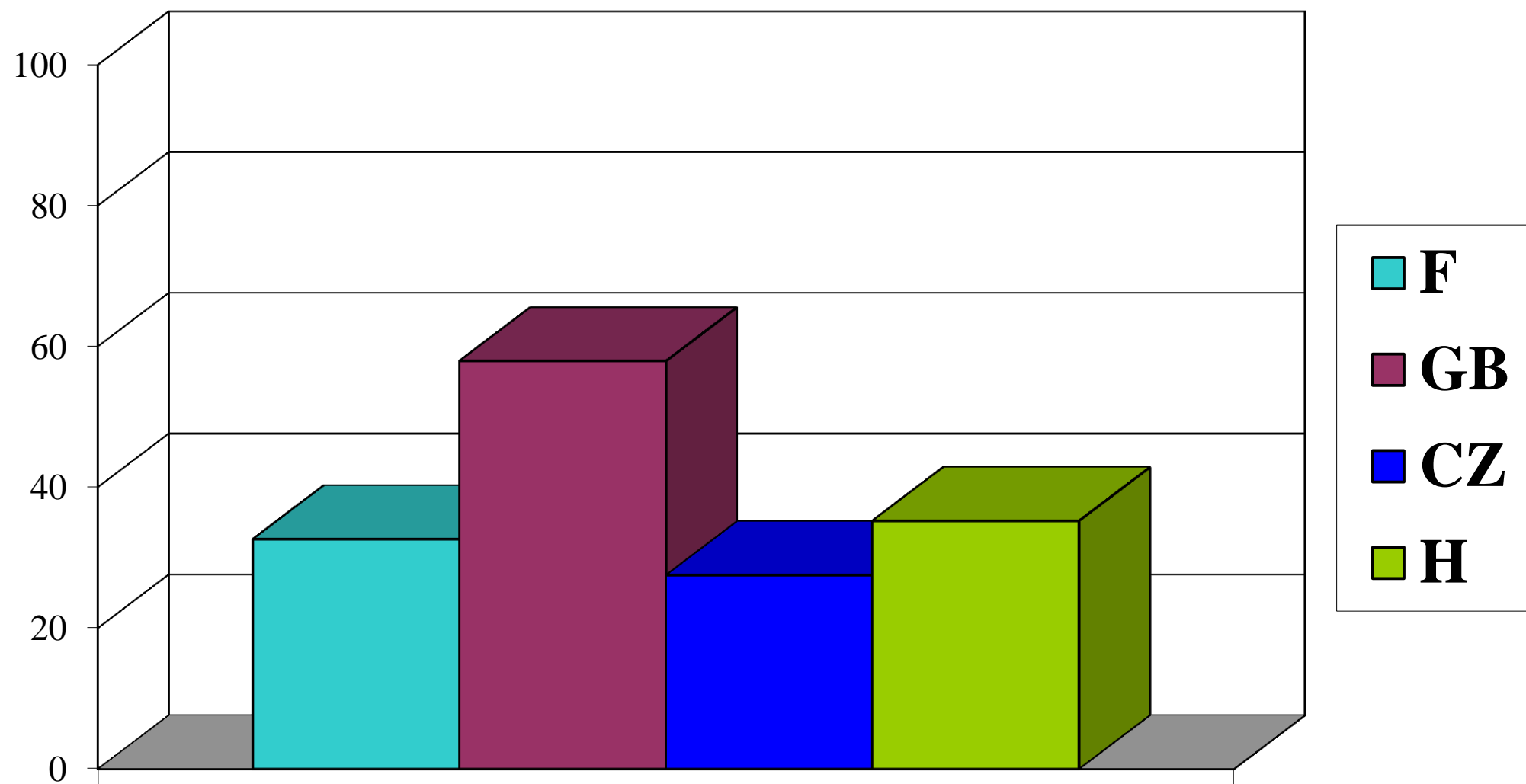
“What do you call “Austrian German”? Is it all the different dialects or is there a predominant dialect? Maybe it doesn’t exist at all, this so-called “Austrian German!” („Was nennen Sie das österreichische Deutsch? Also sind das diese verschiedenen Dialekte oder gibt es einen vorherrschenden Dialekt? Vielleicht gibt es das gar nicht, dieses österreichische Deutsch.“

Interviews with university teachers

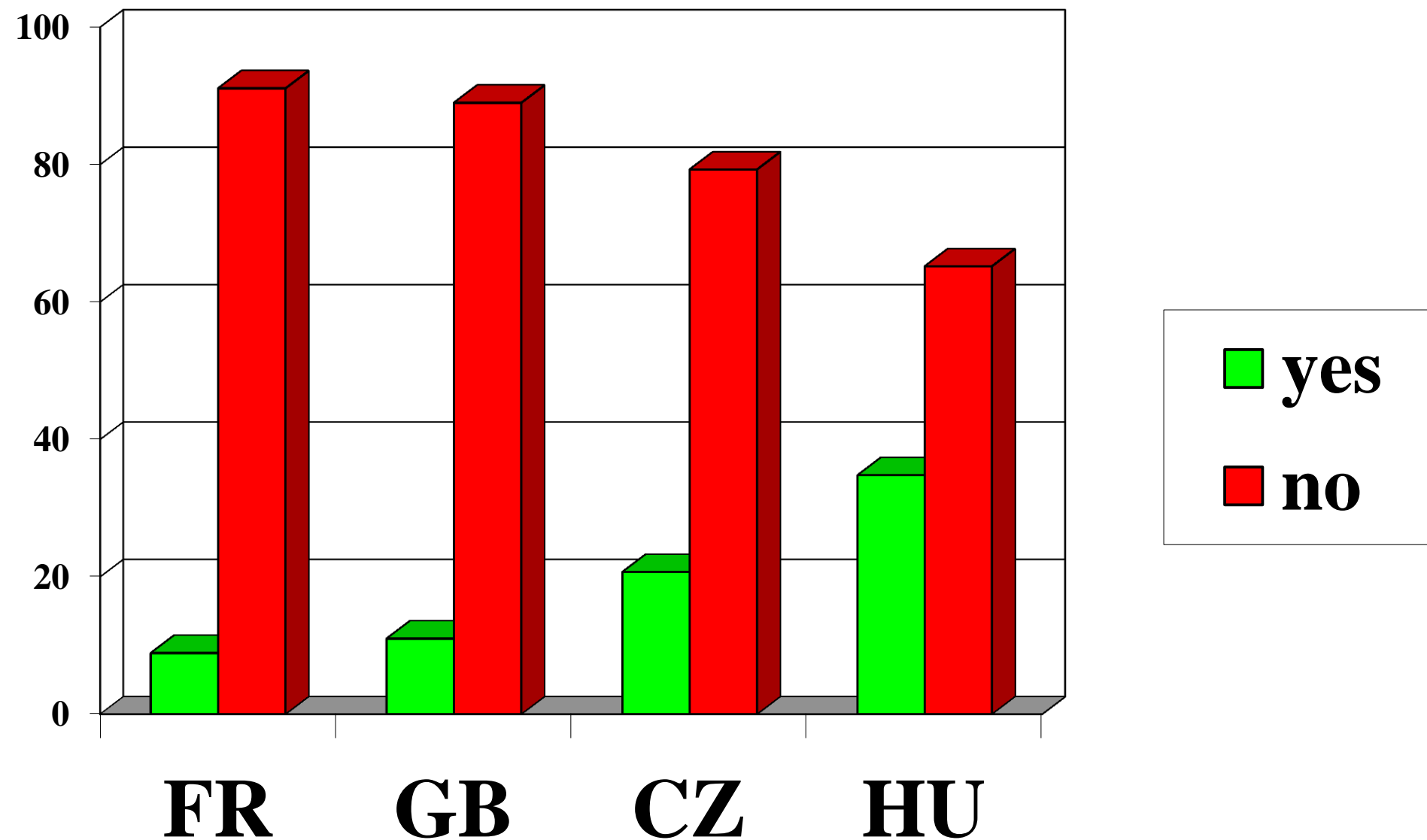
German lecturer: “Rural.” (“Ländlich.”)

French lecturer: “Charming, but wrong.” (“Charmant,
aber falsch.”)

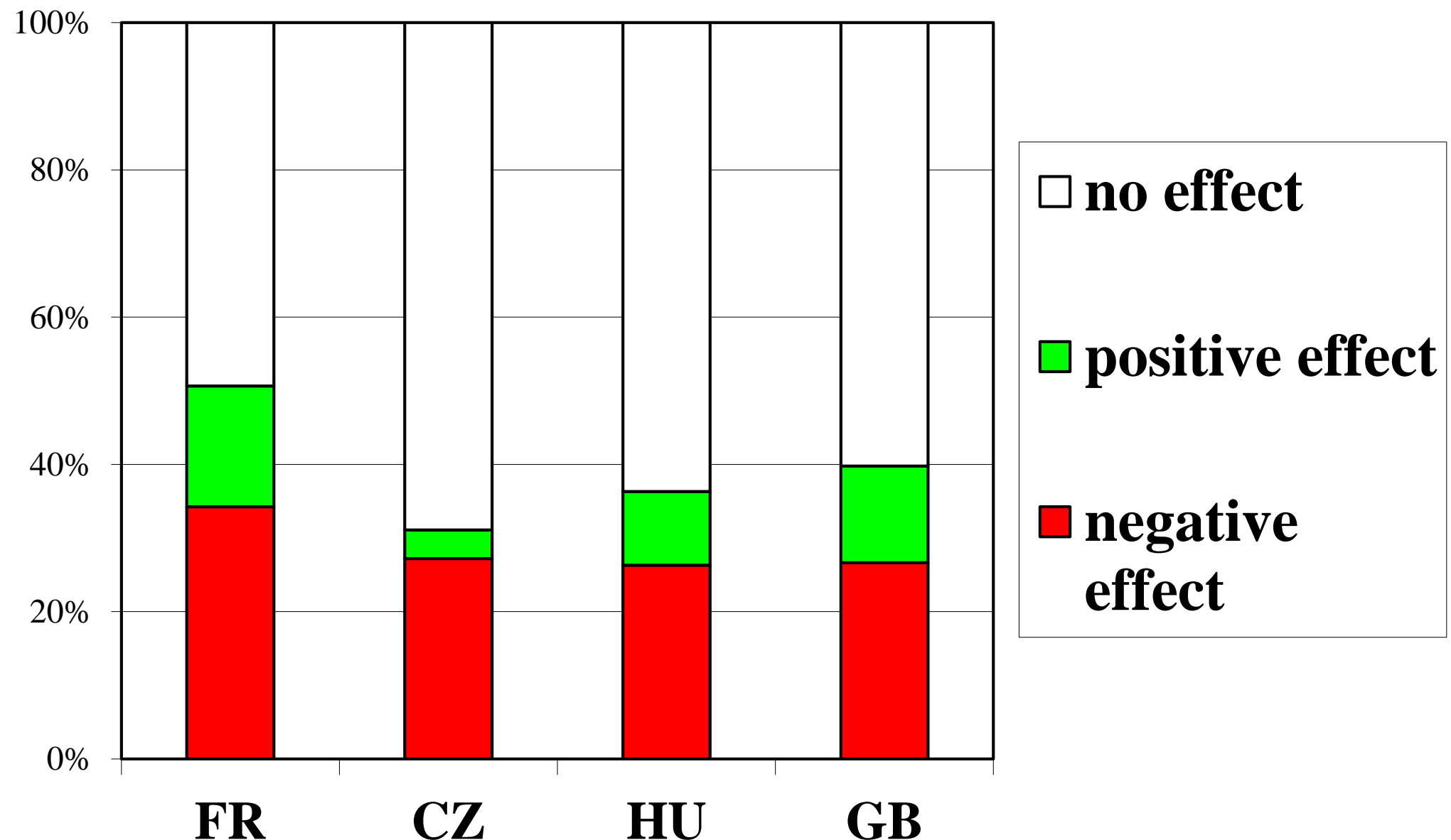
Austrian German = “dialect” (students):



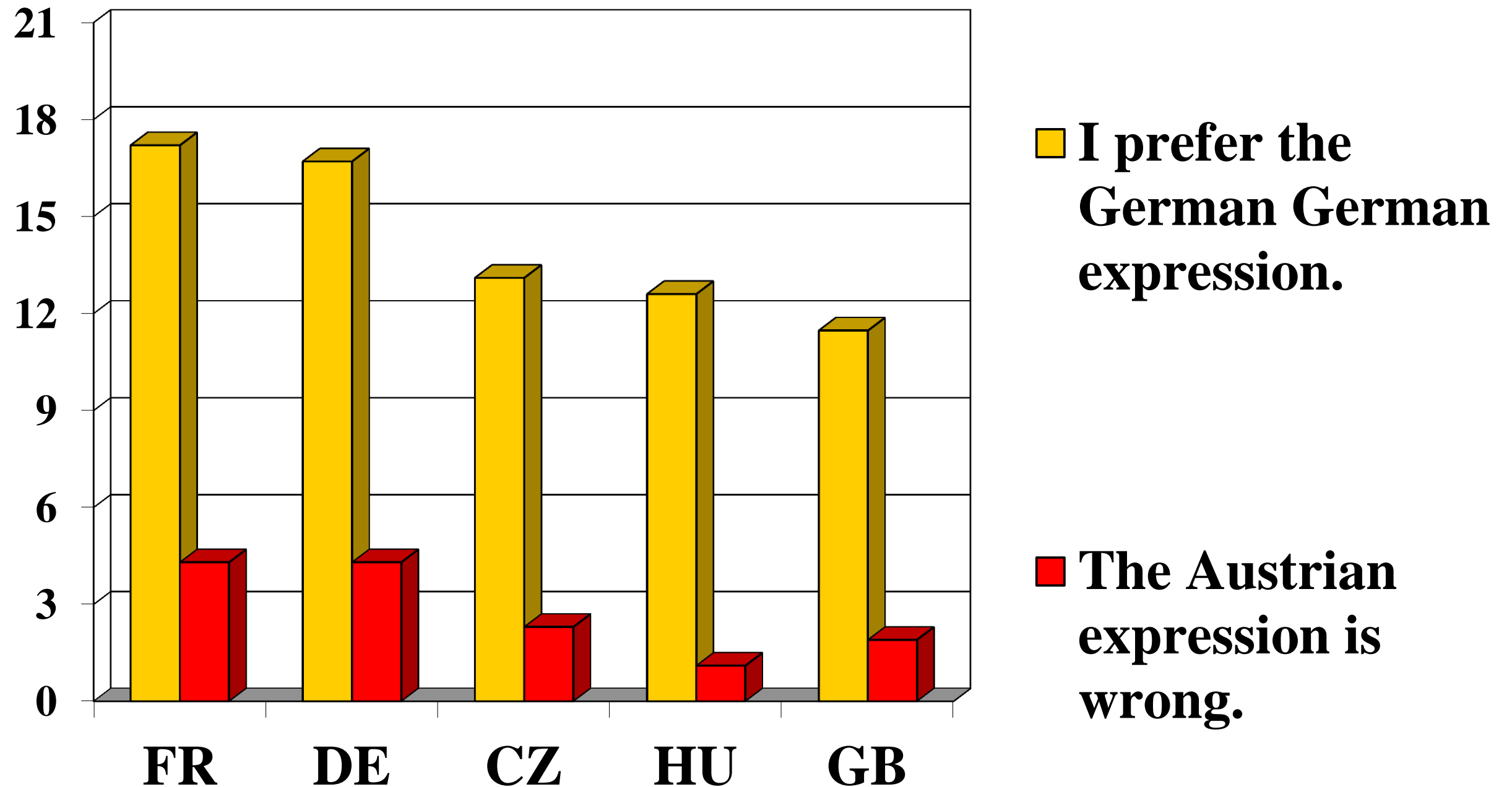
Would you use “Austriazisms” in an exam? (students)



What can be the effect of an Austrian accent in an oral exam?



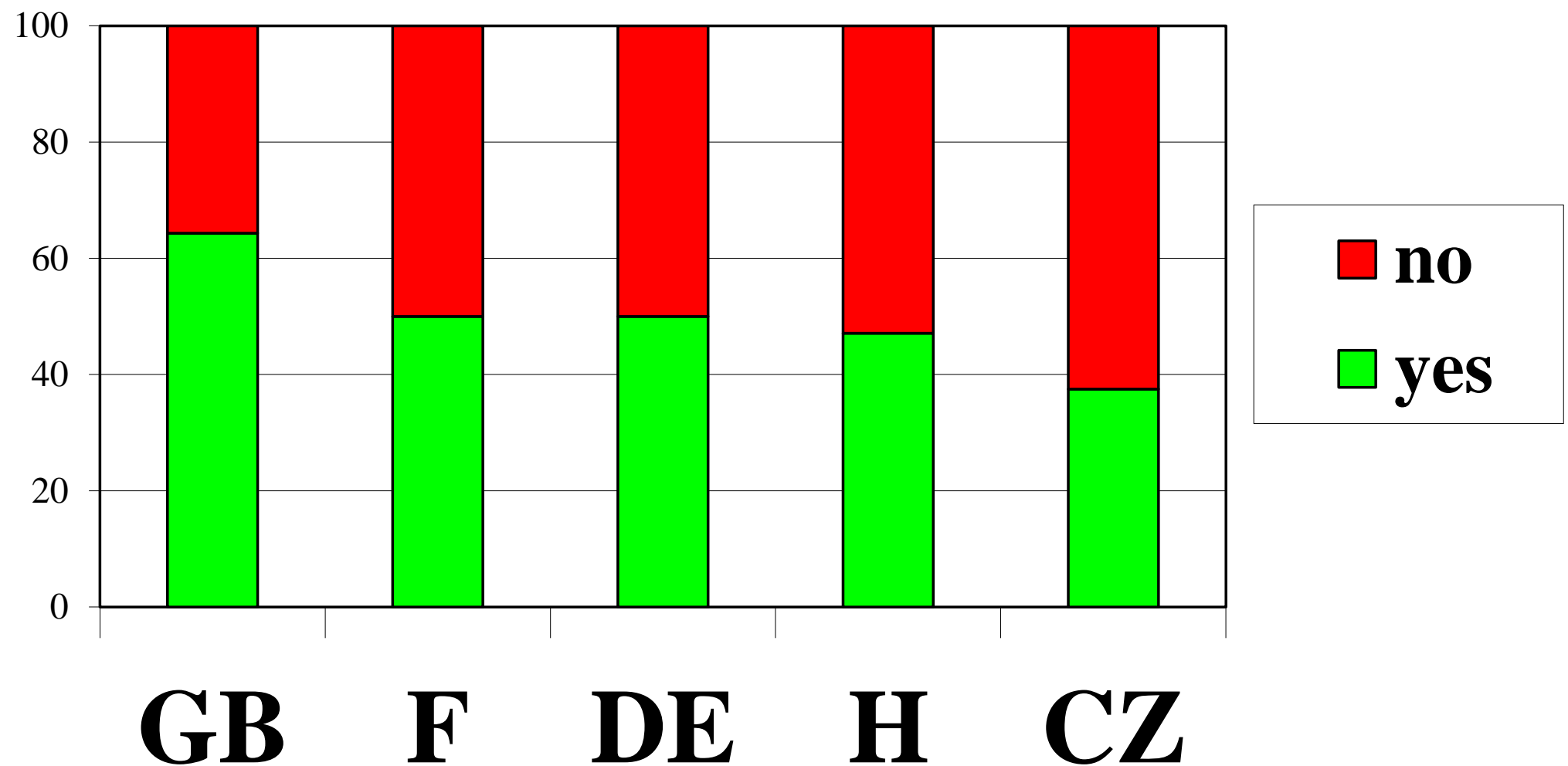
Correctness of Austrian and German expressions (lecturers)



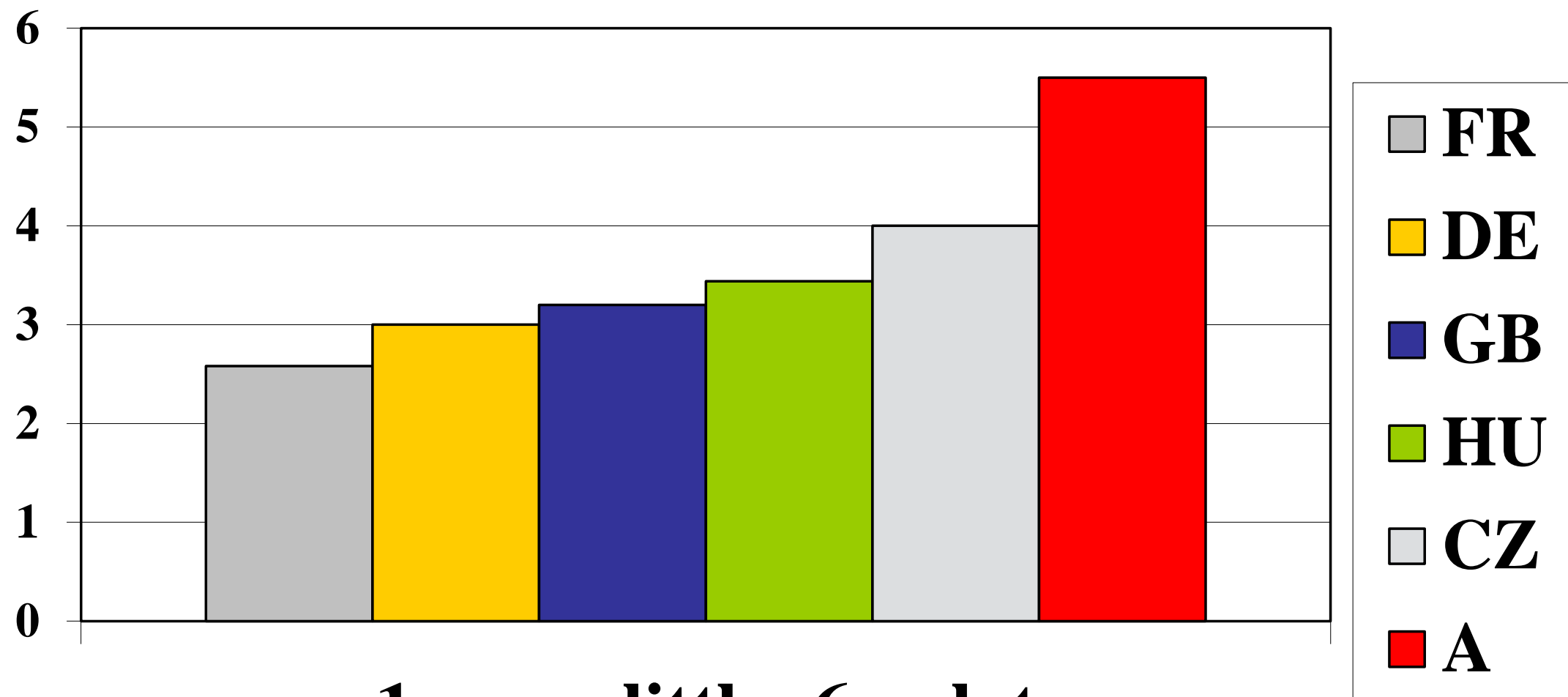
France:

“Deviations [from the “German German” norm]
are strictly counted as mistakes.”

Would you use Austrian texts in your language classes? (lecturers)



How much do you know about Austrian German?



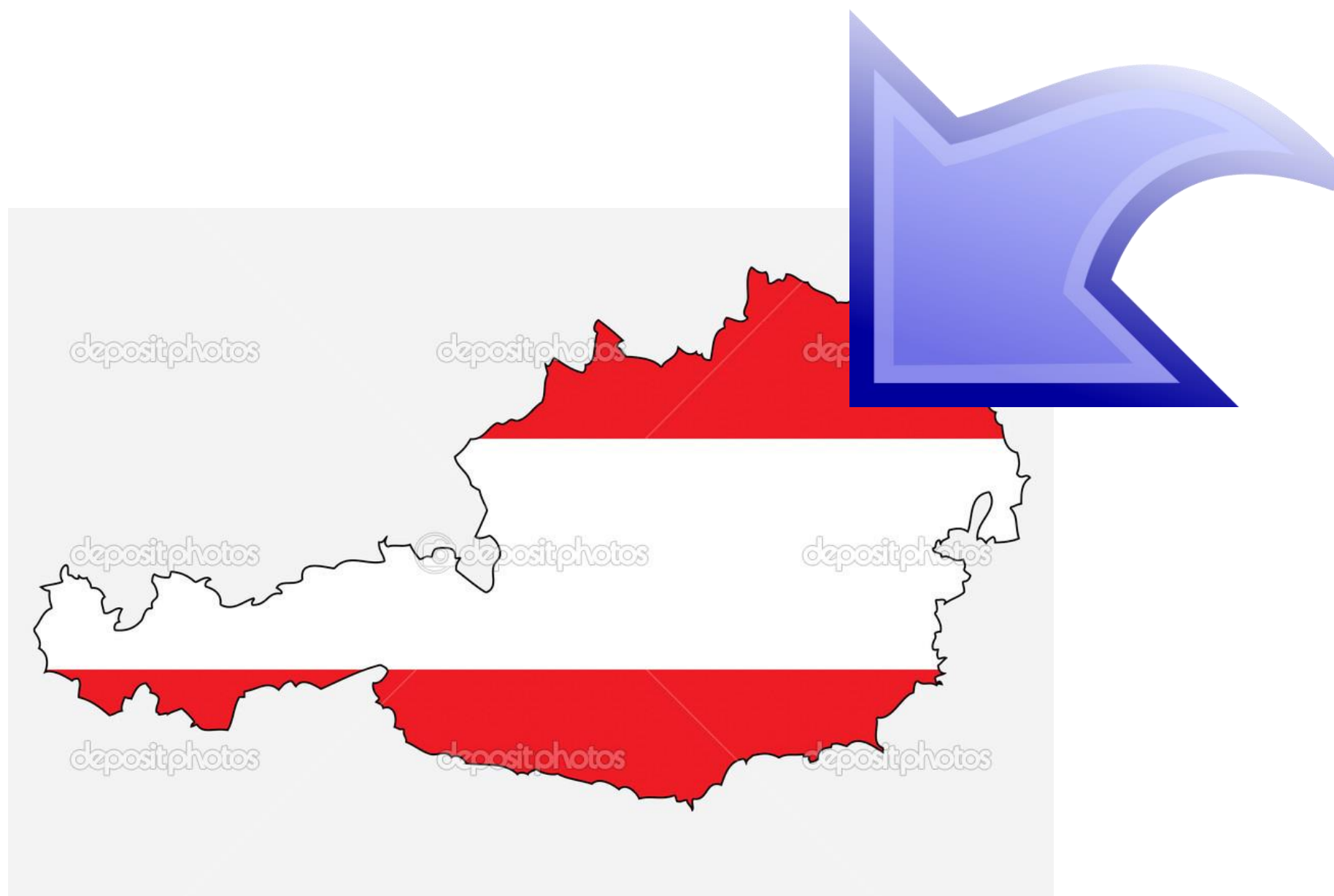
1=very little, 6=a lot

Learning German abroad: In Germany or in Austria?

German lecturer: “Maybe in Germany, to be
on the safe side?”

French lecturer: “There is the danger of
acquiring an Austrian accent.”





Views from inside



Research project “Austrian Standard German as a language of instruction and education”

(September 2012 - April 2015; Rudolf de Cillia/ Jutta Ransmayr/ Ilona Fink)

- based on the theory of *pluricentric languages*
- the **role of the Austrian standard variety of German** in the context of schools
- **concepts of linguistic norms** among Austrian **teachers/students**
- the **attitudes** of **Austrian teachers/students** towards ASG and GSG



Views from inside

ASG in Austria

Austrian German is...

closely linked to Austrian identity; high emotional potential when discussed in the media
(Protocol no. 10/EU accession, “Marmeladenkrieg”)

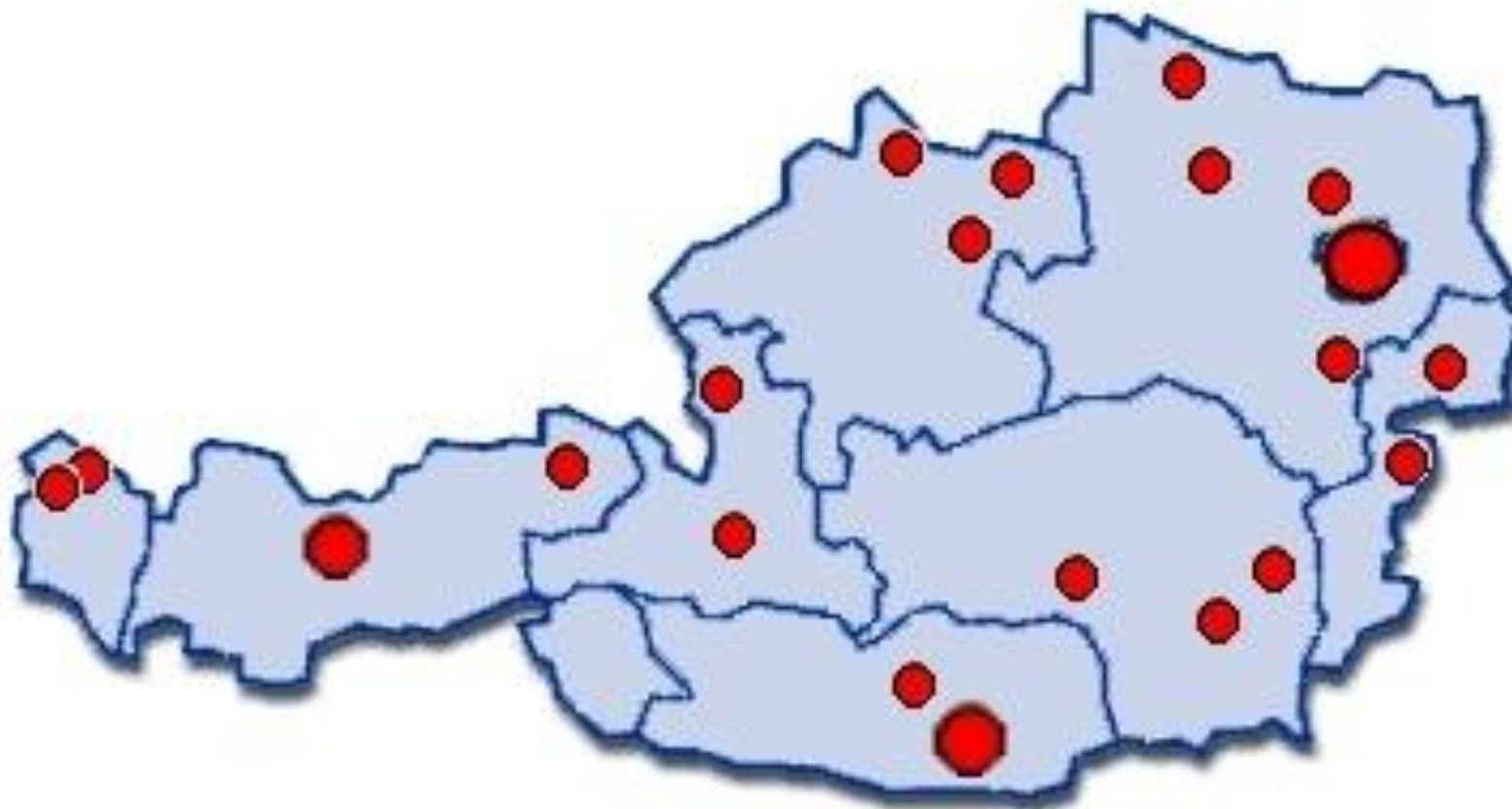
something Austrians have ambivalent feelings about

characteristic among speakers of non-dominant varieties

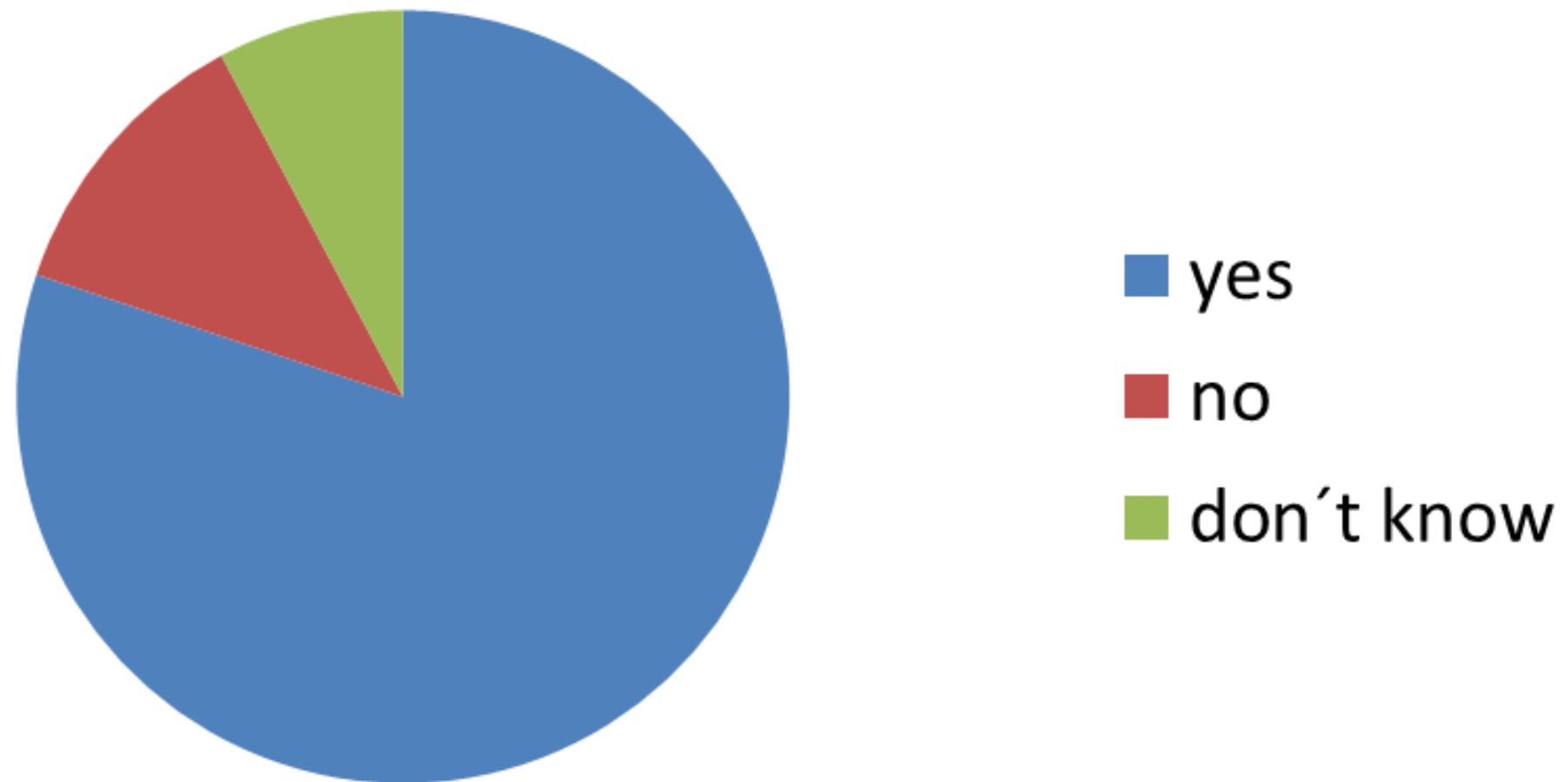
- Curricula for schools, Curricula for universities, books, survey, interviews, participatory observation in class, group discussions

The survey

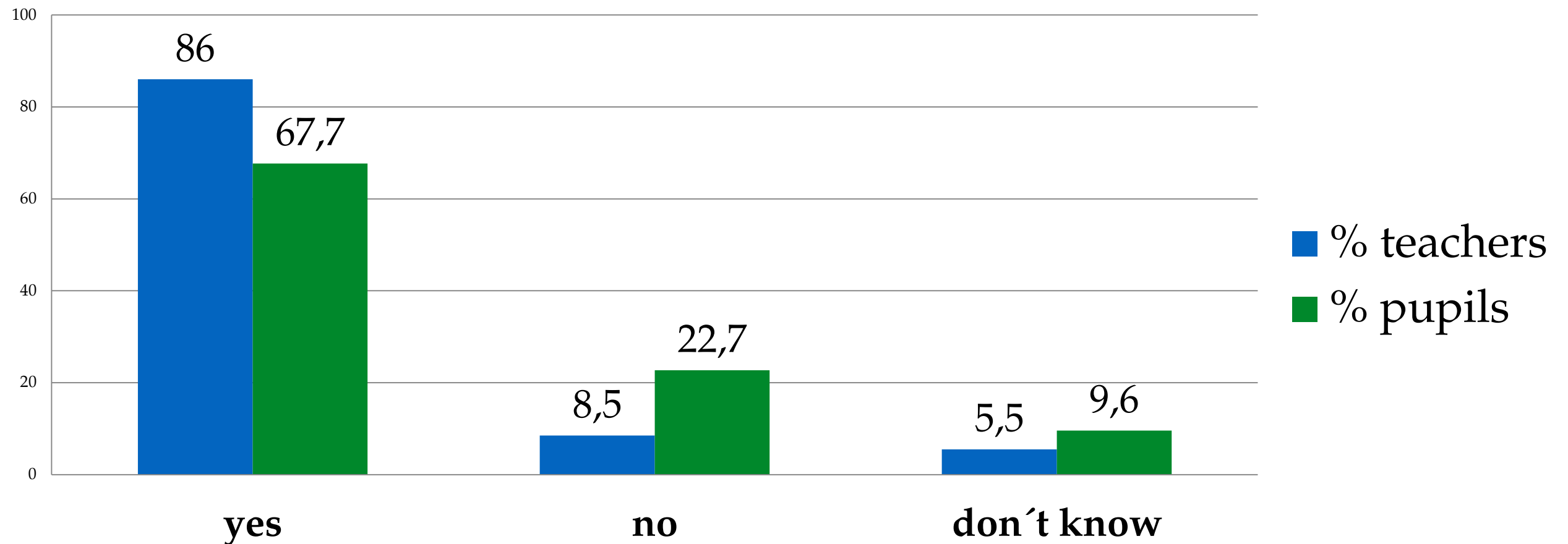
- 1264 students of upper secondary level at 27 schools all over Austria (85.3% native German speakers, 3.4% BCS, 2.5% Turkish, 8.8% others)
- 164 teachers of all main school types, all across Austria.



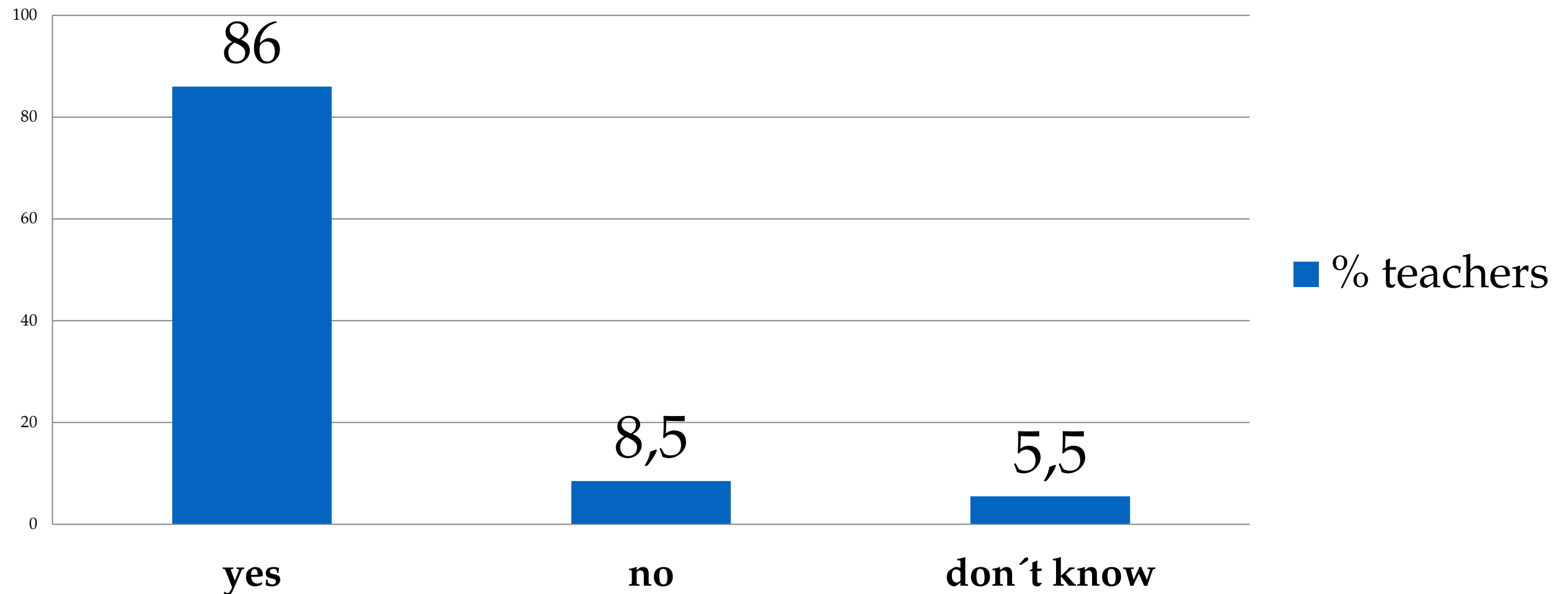
Would you say that "Austrian Standard German" exists?



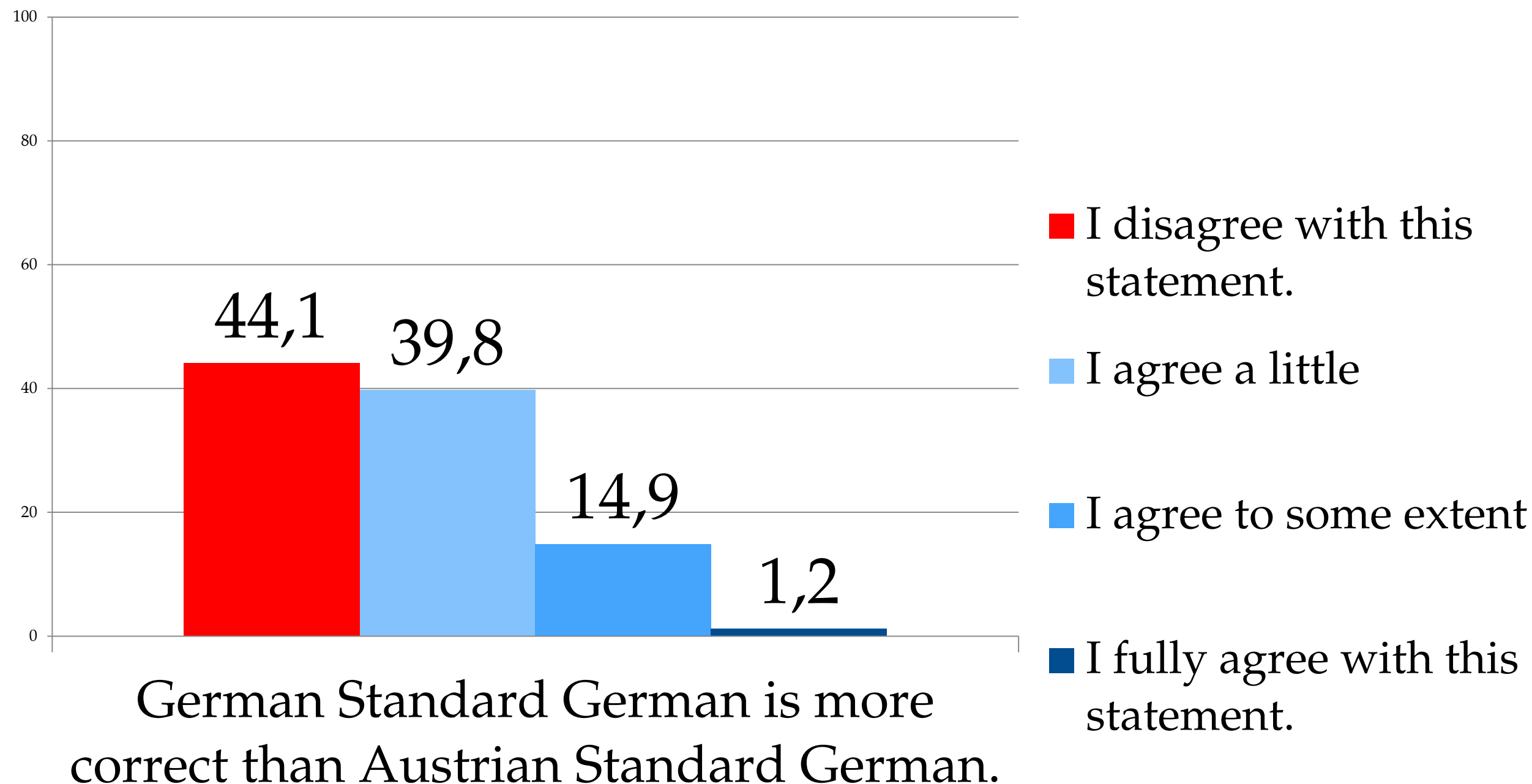
Would you say that Standard German as it is used in Austria is as correct as German Standard German?



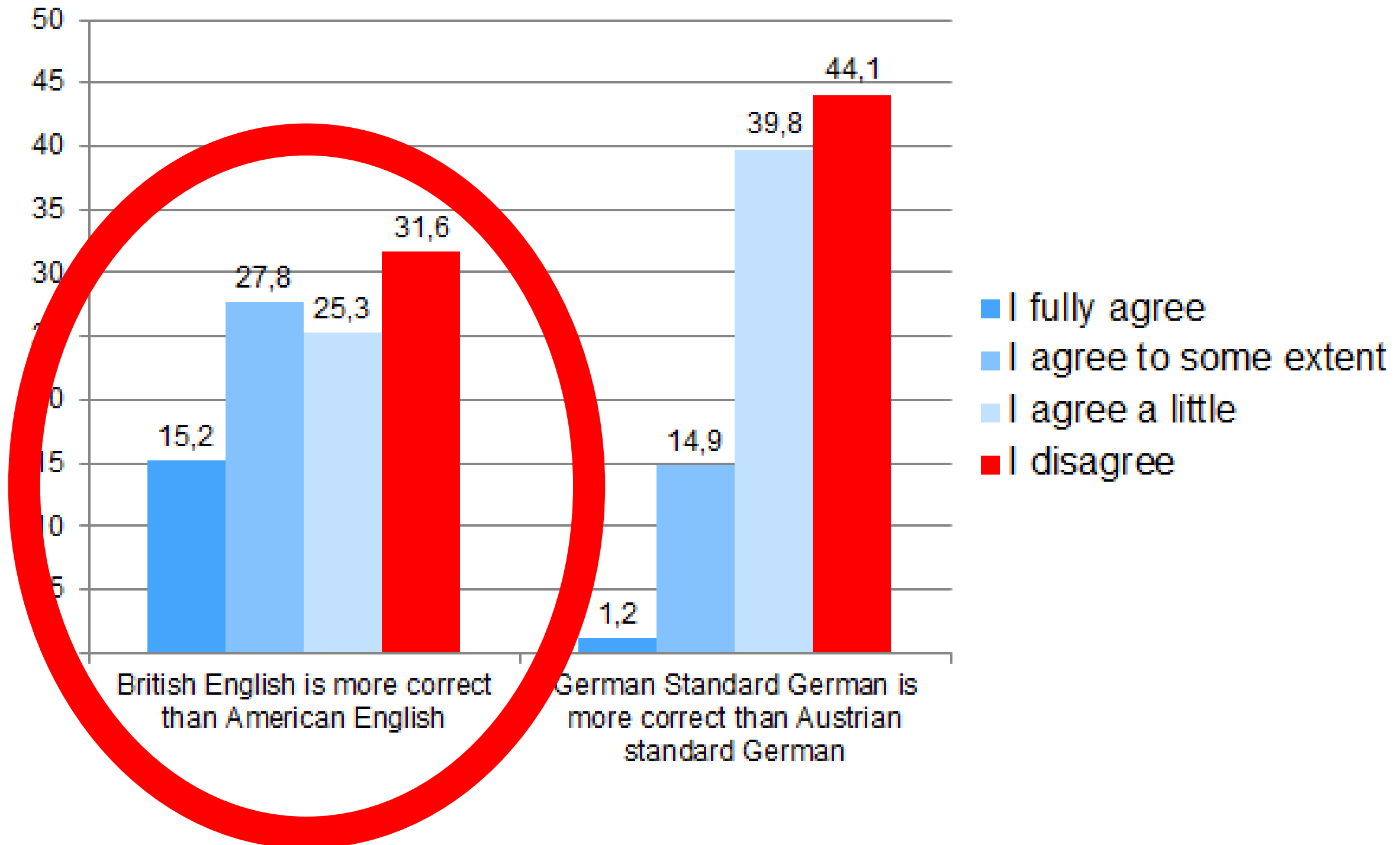
Would you say that Standard German as it is used in Austria is as correct as German Standard German?



Would you agree with the following statement? (teachers)



Would you agree with the following statements? (teachers)



Ausdrücke in Deutschland und Österreich

Wir Österreicherinnen und Österreicher sprechen zwar Deutsch – aber vieles hört sich doch ganz anders an als in Deutschland. Während wir von einem „Sessel“ und einem „Kasten“ sprechen, sagen die Deutschen zu denselben Möbelstücken „Stuhl“ und „Schrank“.

5 Versuche einer/einem Deutschen das „österreichische Deutsch“ Schritt für Schritt beizubringen!

Für Anfängerinnen und Anfänger: ... heißt auf gut Deutsch ...

„Extrawurst“ – _____

Flasche – _____

Nickerchen – _____

Gschaftlhuber – _____

Gschlader – _____

Gstätten – _____

Häferl – _____

Jauckerl – _____

Bartwisch – _____

Dippel – _____

Beistrich – _____

Grant – _____

Gschau – _____

Gschrapp – _____

Gupf – _____

Hutsche – _____

Kampel – _____

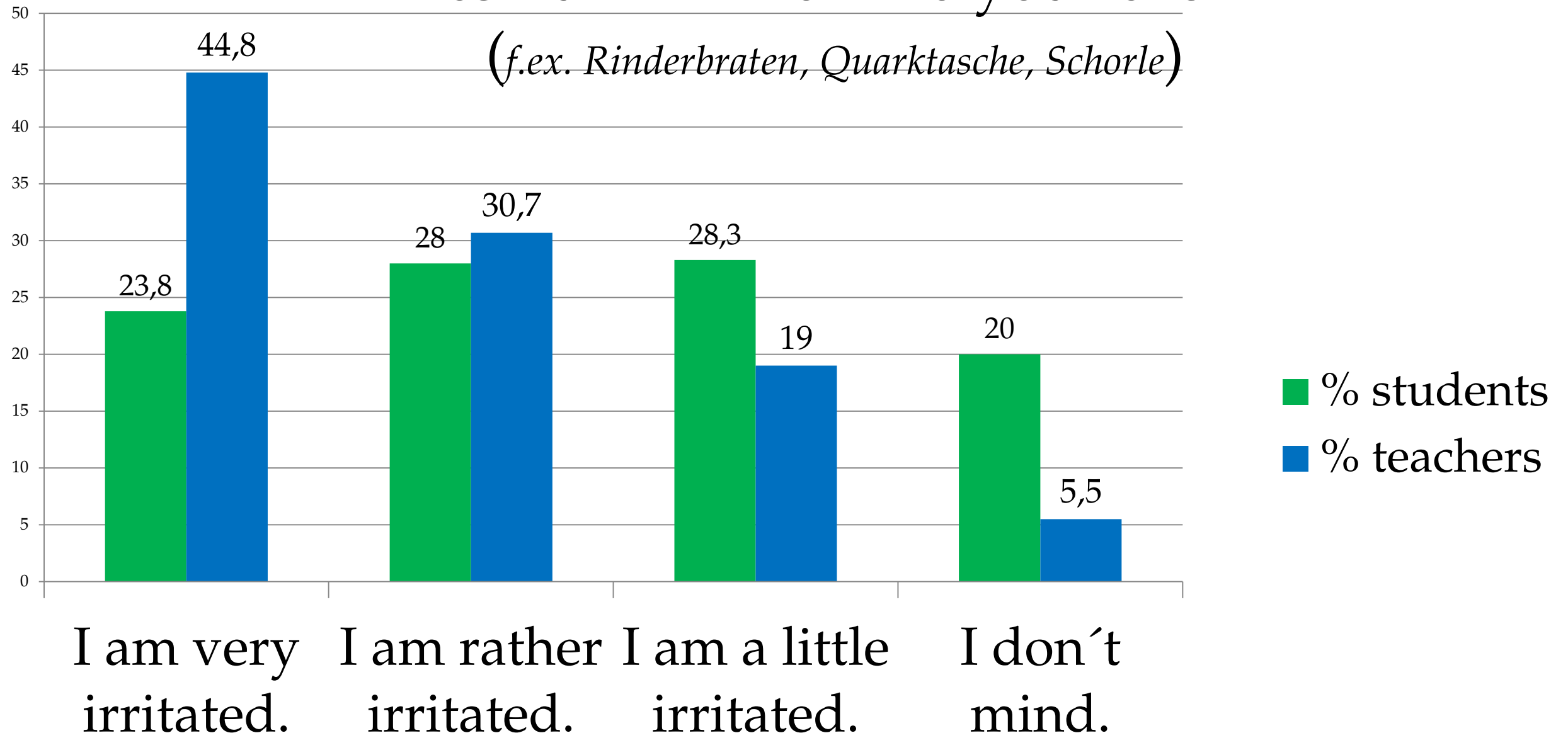
Bosnigel – _____

üble Laune, Blick, Spaß,
kurzer Schlaf, Komma,
Ohrfeige, Beule,
Wichtigtuier, Ausnahme,
Erhebung, Kind, Kamm,
Injektion, kleiner Besen,
boshafter Mensch,
Tasse, Schaukel, unge-
nießbares Getränk,
ungepflegtes
Grundstück

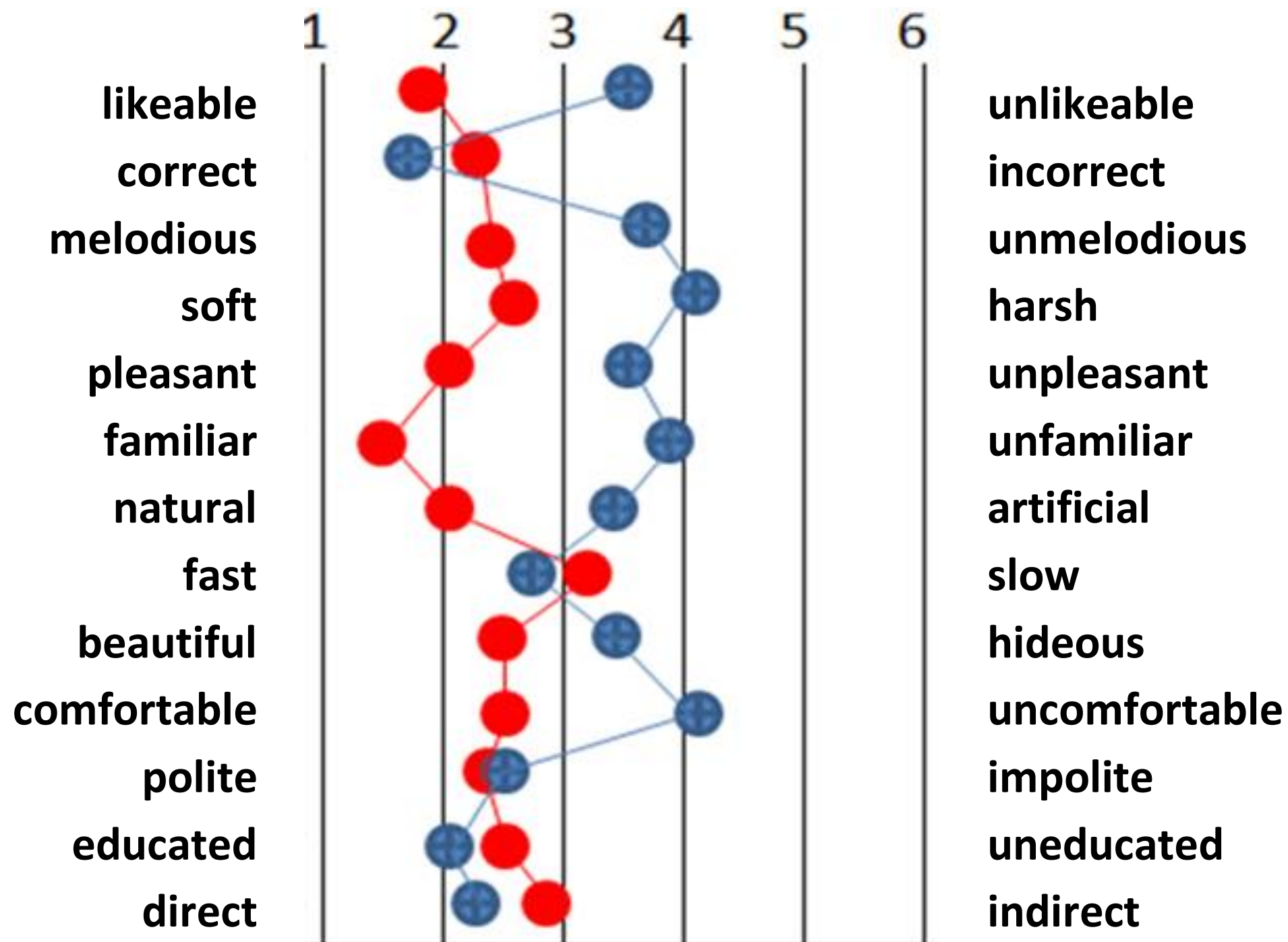
“Language loyalty”

When you find German expressions for Austrian dishes in the menu of an Austrian restaurant – how do you react?

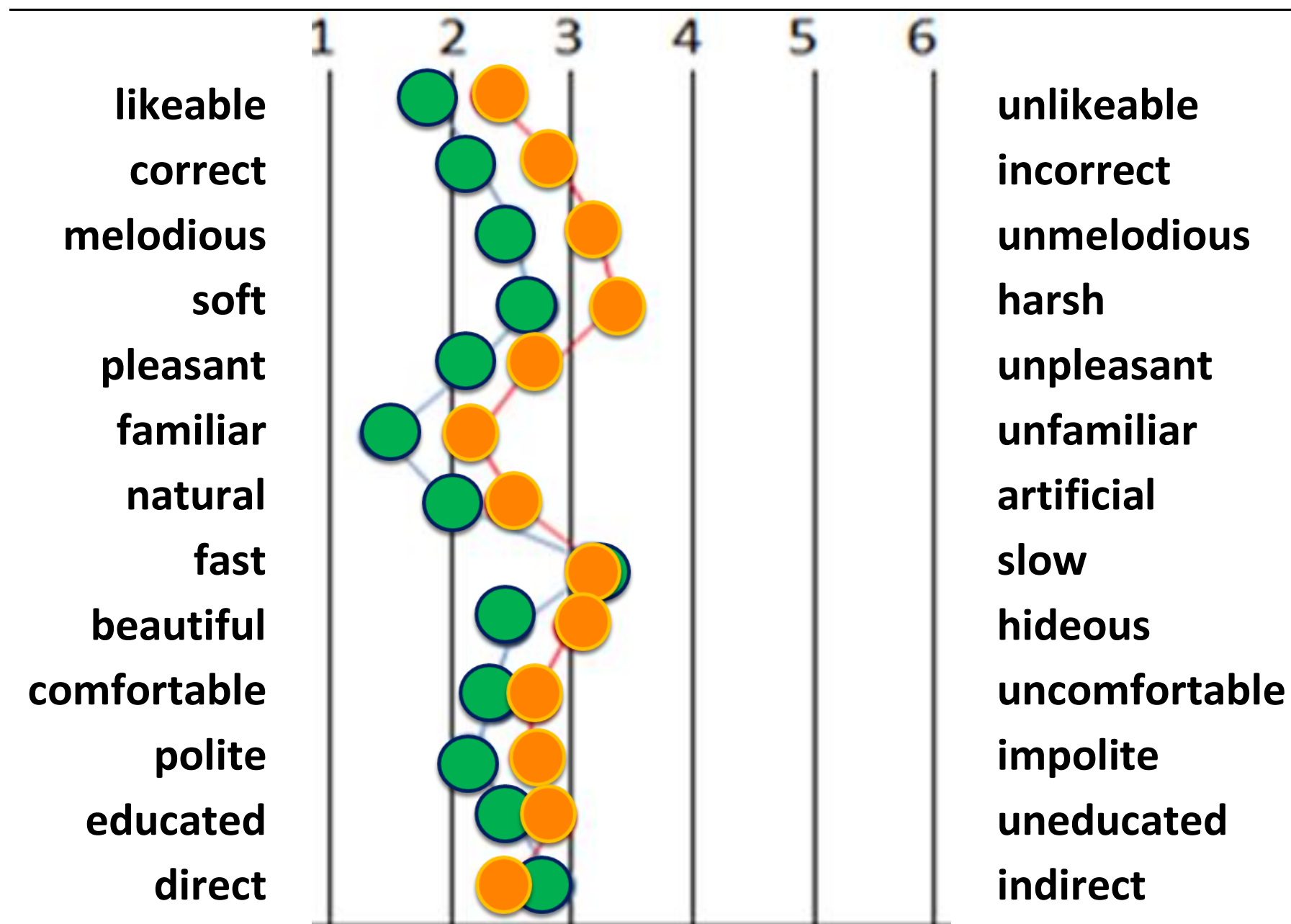
(f.ex. Rinderbraten, Quarktasche, Schorle)



Language attitudes of Austrian teachers towards spoken ASG ● and GSG ●



Language attitudes of Austrian teachers● and pupils● towards spoken ASG



(ÖSTERREICHISCHES) DEUTSCH

als
Unterrichts-
und
Bildungssprache



Reactions in Germany

Headline in *Augsburger Allgemeine* :

How Austrians fight off “High German”

Wie sich Österreicher gegen
Hochdeutsch wehren

Heißt es "Paradeiser" oder "Tomate"? Österreichs Bildungsministerin fürchtet, dass das Österreichisch zu sehr eingedeutscht wird. Deshalb gibt es jetzt in Österreich eine Offensive. *Von Pia Jakob*

Gefällt mir

Teilen

0

Twittern

G+

0



"Beiried", "Eierschwammerl",
"Fisolen" oder "Karfiol" verstehen
hierzulande wohl nur die Wenigsten.
"Roastbeef", "Pfifferlinge", "Grüne
Bohnen" und "Blumenkohl" dagegen
schon. Die meisten Österreicher
dürften beide Varianten kennen. Und
genau darin sieht die österreichische
Bildungsministerin Gabriele Heinisch-
Hosek ein Problem.

Reactions in Germany

Headline in *Die Welt* :

“Austria declares war on High German”



Reactions in Germany

Headline in *Spiegel* :

“Austria fights against German German”

≡ **SPIEGEL ONLINE** DER SPIEGEL SPIEGEL TV

Forum: Kultur

Sprachpflege an Schulen: Österreich kämpft gegen deutschländisches Deutsch



Das Wiener Bildungsministerium will die Heimatsprache vor dem Aussterben retten. Lehrer werden ermutigt, im Unterricht Austriazismen zu verwenden. Die Devise: Schlagobers statt Sahne.

Reactions in Switzerland

Headline in *Tagesanzeiger* :

“Dialect protection in Austria. Austria wants to defend its dialect against German”

Dialektschutz in Österreich

Die Politik will den eigenen Dialekt gegen das Deutsche verteidigen.

Österreichs Politiker sorgen
sich wegen Verdeutschung
des österreichischen Dialekts.

Résumé

- Strong reactions show how much language is part of our identity
- Touchy subject → needs to be addressed carefully
- Initiatives and research projects need to be clearly dissociated from nationalism or chauvinism
- It is all about creating more language awareness: make people aware of diversity within German, its national varieties, functions and domains

Résumé

- Terminology of varieties (standard, dialect, non-standard...) and the domains of the varieties need to be clearly sorted out for teachers and learners
- Relevant for schools, universities, language training institutes, translators...
- Not a one-way road: interaction needs to take place from more than one side
- Enrichment: With proper knowledge about more than just one variety you can reach out much further.

Thank you.



Questions?