

Turkism usage rates among Bulgarian speakers



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What is a Turkism

Turkism is a loanword of Ottoman Turkish or Turkic origin (Stamenov, 2012).

Background

- Increased language contact between the 14th and 19th centuries
- 7,000 to 11,000 Turkisms in Bulgarian
- Bulgarian autonomy in the late 1800s and a halt
- Soviet government in Bulgaria and forced collectivization
- Hostile language policies and a mass exodus of Bulgarian Turks
- Transition to democracy (1989) and current revival of Turkisms

Research question

How do the Turkism usage rates between the pre- and post-transition generations compare?

Methodology

Experiment 1: (n=90) pilot study

- Task: 10 off-line, fill-in-the-blank questions
- Participants: L1 Bulgarian speakers; all over 18 years old; born after 1989

Experiment 2: (n=140) Small-scale study

- Task: 10 off-line, forced-choice questions
- Participants: L1 Bulgarian speakers; all over 18 years old; all ages

Experiment 1 - Results

- Answers contained both Turkisms and words of Bulgarian etymological origin.
- Answers from this study were used to create the choices in the second experiment.
- In six questions, participants were more likely to use a Turkism.

Experiment 2 - Results

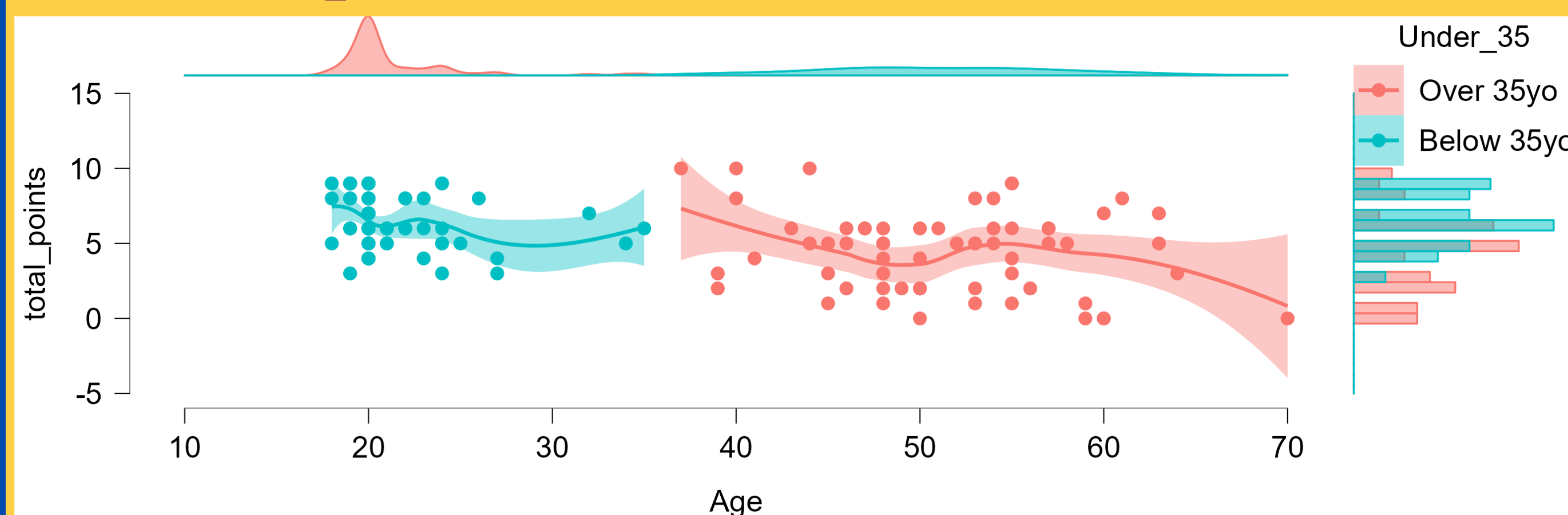


Figure 1. A scatter points graph depicting the relation between the age and the total score of a participant

- Participants born after 1989 used Turkisms in 60% of their answers.
- Participants born before 1989 used Turkisms in 40% of their answers.

Conclusions

L1 Bulgarian speakers born after 1989 are more likely to use Turkisms compared to people born before 1989.

References

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