

Nouns in *-ion* and denominal verbs: can the output be explained?

The case of English and French

Part 1 – Introduction

1. General context
2. Context of the study
3. Research questions

Part 2 – Data

1. Data collection
2. Data extraction

Part 3 – Data description

1. English verbs
2. French verbs

Part 4 – Discussion & concluding remarks



Part 1 – Introduction

1. General context

✓ **Context of the study**

Ongoing PhD: “Construction and meaning of denominal verbs in English and French”
(co-supervision: D. Jamet – Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University & É. Corre – Sorbonne Nouvelle University)

✓ **Aims**

Predictive models
Contrastive analysis

✓ **Assumption**

Most probable meaning/form of a denominal verb predictable from nominal base



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✓ **What is a denominal verb?**

Various definitions in the literature: [Clark & Clark 1979] VS [Kiparsky 1997] VS [Karolak 1990]

→ **Selected definition:**

a verb formed on a noun + shares a semantic relation with this noun



Part 1 – Introduction

2. Context of the study

✓ Denominal verbs based on *ion*-nouns

Various possible segmentation of DV data: morphological choice on base noun
ion-nouns \leftrightarrow backformation (not only)

Backformation = lack of analysis in DV literature but productive process in English
[Nagano 2007: 67-68]



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[Nagano 2007: 67-68]

✓ Nagano's account of backformation in English [Nagano 2007]

Conversion + clipping

*When an input has a nominal or adjectival (pseudo-) suffix (e.g., television_N), conversion to a verb yields a categorially verbal but formally nominal/adjectival output (e.g. television_V). In such cases, **conversion uses clipping to remove the categorially obstructive element**, i.e., the (supposed) suffix, to adjust the output form to the output category [Nagano 2007: 59]*



Part 1 – Introduction

3. Research questions

✓ Research questions

Issue#1 (VdenomEN): *pincushion_N/pincushion_V, proposition_N/proposition_V*

RQ#1: is ambiguity avoidance the only motivation for backformation?

Issue#2: unknown situation for languages other than English

RQ#2: is Nagano's explanation of backformation relevant for languages other than English?

✓ Focus of the study

French + English

-*?ion* ending (*-cation/-tion/-ation/etc.*) ≈ *-ion* suffix (< Latin)

Deverbal nominalization: [V + -*?ion*]_N (N ≈ the action of doing V)



Part 2 – Data

1. Data collection

✓ Methodology

- Data-driven
 - Polysynchronic
 - VdenomEN & VdenomFR
 - Lexicographic resources (1800+)
 - *Oxford English Dictionary online* (EN)
 - *Green's Dictionary of Slang* (EN)
 - *Grand Robert* (FR)
 - *Trésor de la Langue Française informatisé* (FR)
 - *Dictionnaire historique et philologique du français non conventionnel* [Enckell 2017] (FR)
- 5,932 English denominal verbs
- 2,368 French denominal verbs



Part 2 – Data

2. Data extraction

✓ Methodology

- Random sampling (600 verbs)

VdenomEN-600	
Conversion	63,00%
Backformation	14,67%
Suffixation	12,33%
Complex	5,33%
Prefixation	3,33%
Clipping	1,33%

VdenomFR-600	
Conversion	57,00%
Suffixation	13,67%
Prefixation	13,17%
Backformation	12,33%
Complex	3,83%

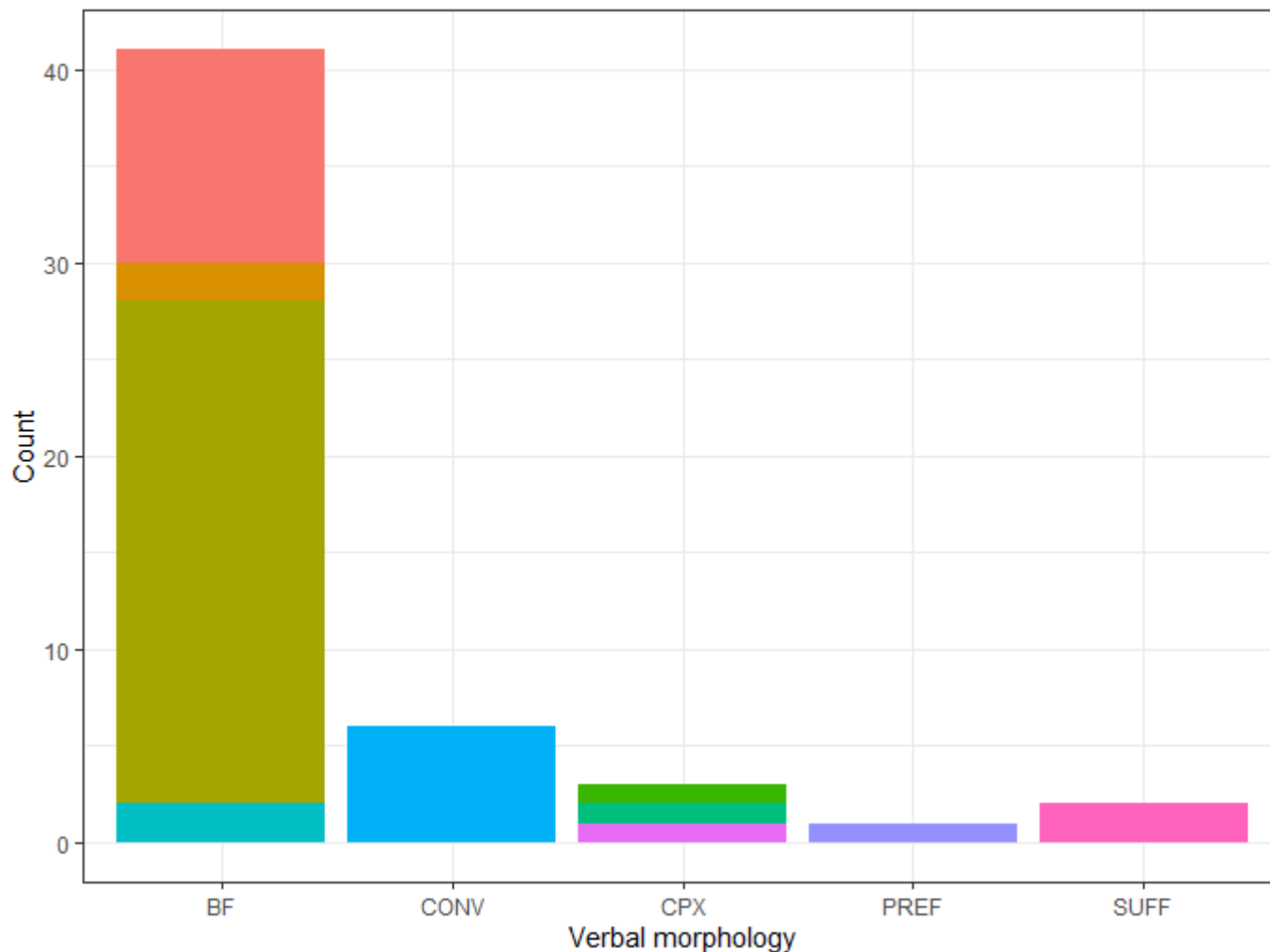
- Textual filter > only verbs based on *ion-nouns*



Part 3 – Data description

1. English verbs

Morphology of verbs based on *ion*-nouns (VdenomEN)



	n	%
BF	41	77.4
CONV	6	11.3
CPX	3	5.7
SUFF	2	3.8
PREF	1	1.9

Fine-grained verbal morphology

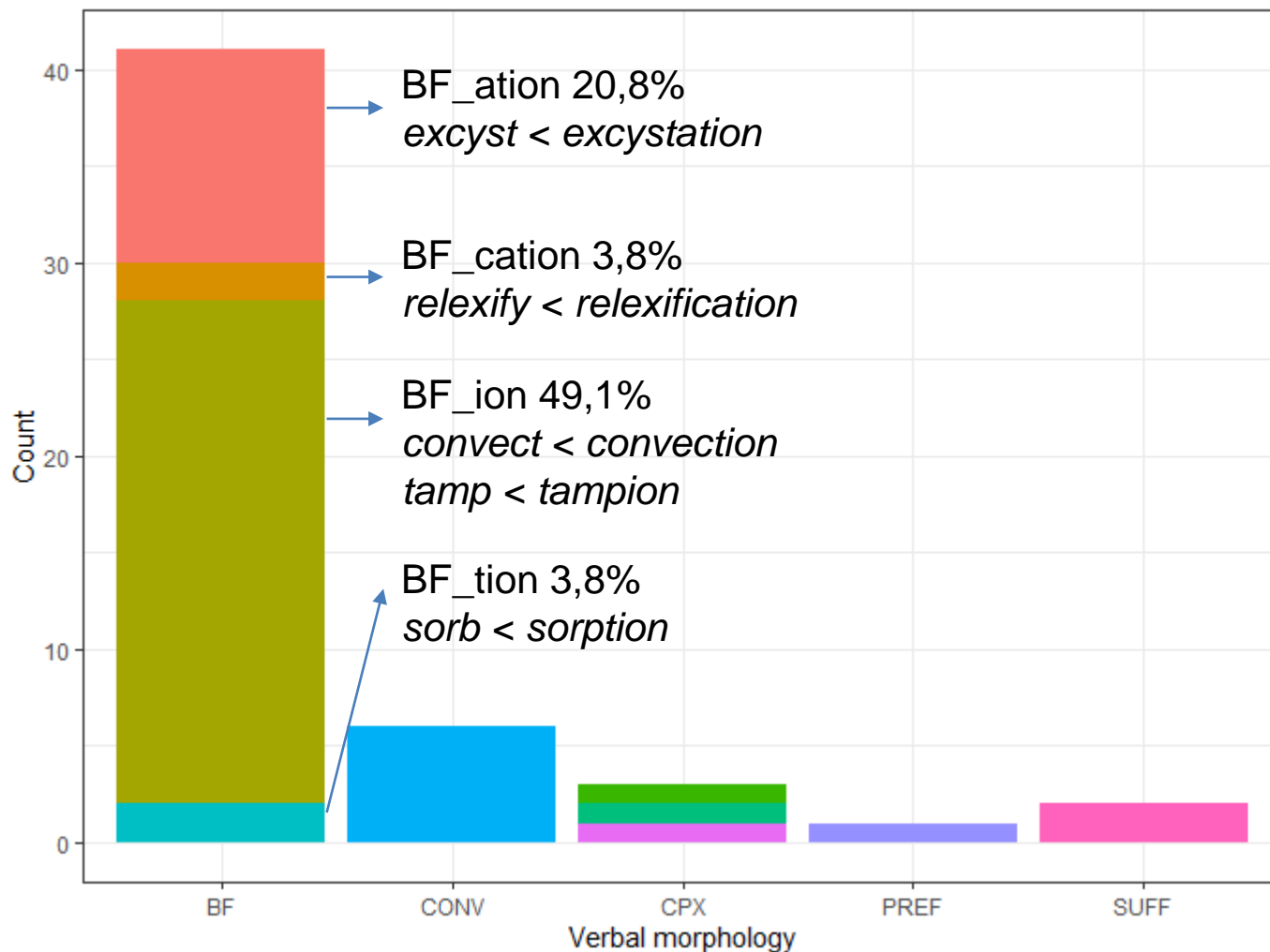
- BF_ation
- BF_cation
- BF_ion
- BF_ion/SUFF_fy
- BF_ition/SUFF_ize
- BF_tion
- CONV
- PREF_pre
- PS_de/ize
- SUFF_ize



Part 3 – Data description

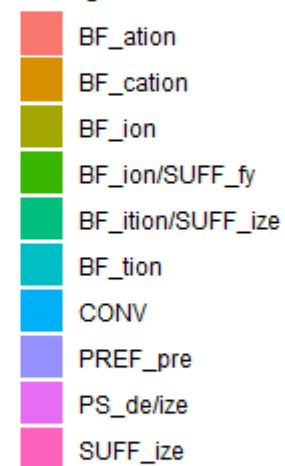
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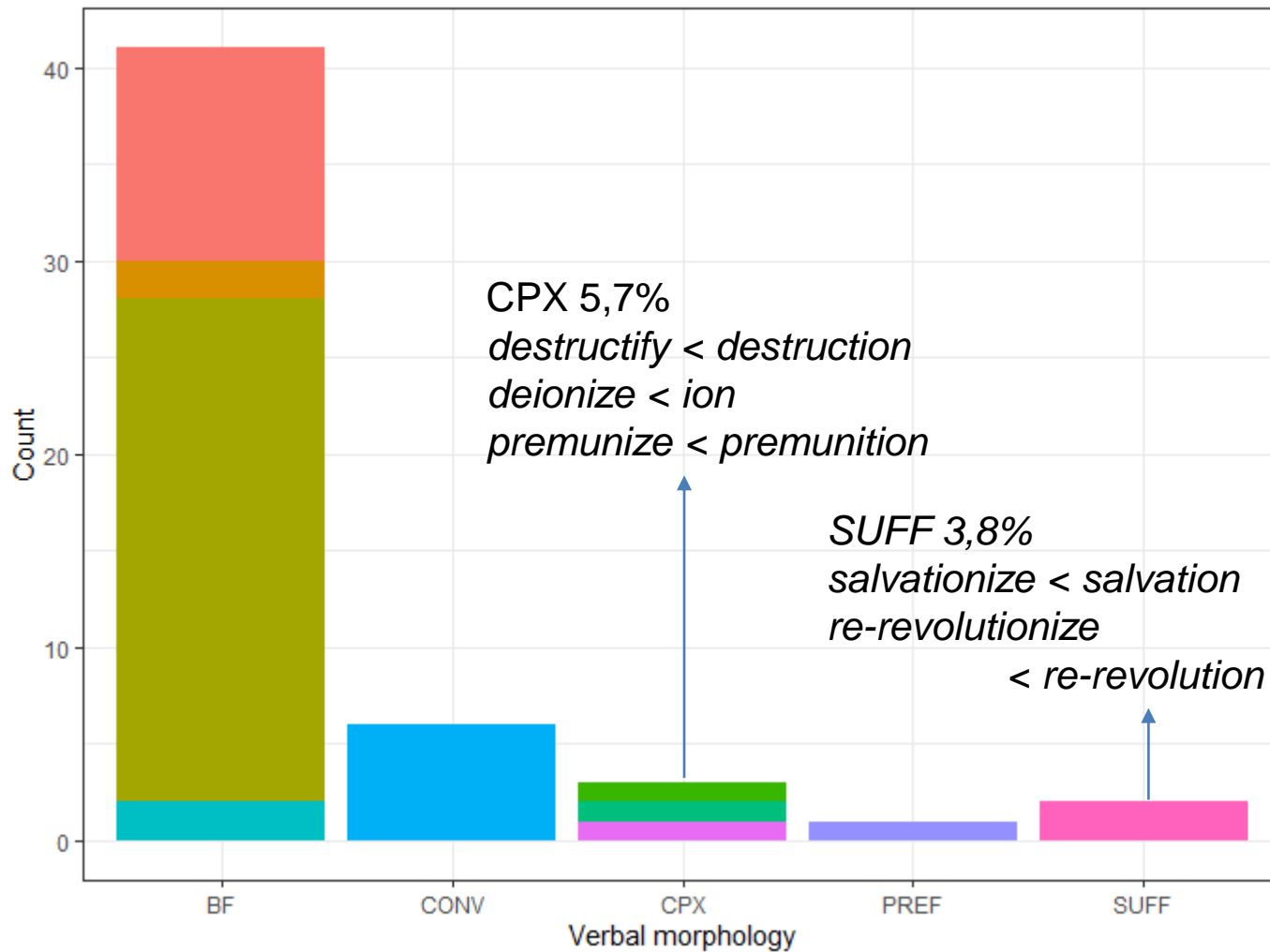




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CPX 5,7%
destructify < *destruction*
deionize < *ion*
premunize < *premuniton*

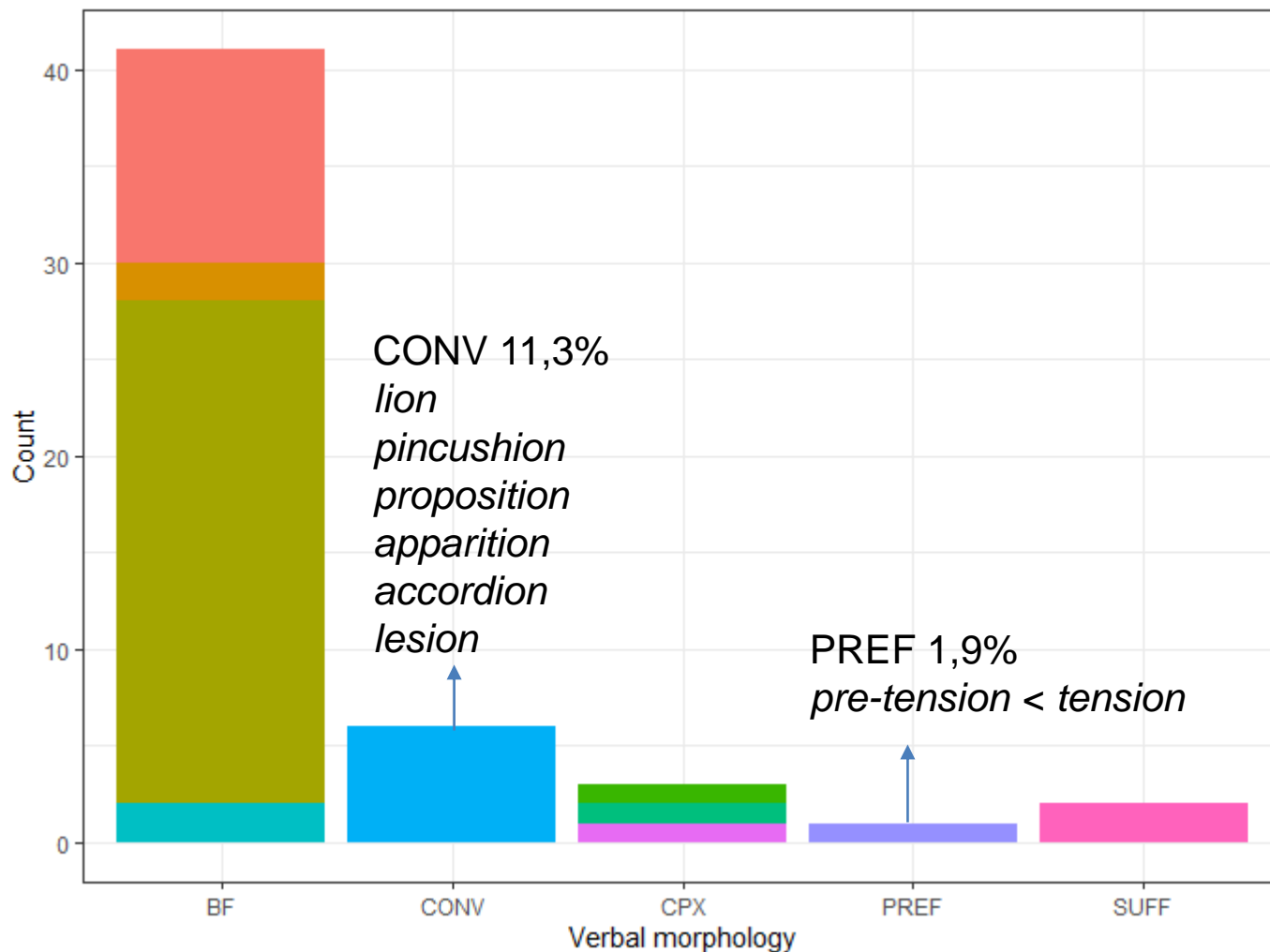
SUFF 3,8%
salvationize < *salvation*
re-revolutionize
< *re-revolution*



Part 3 – Data description

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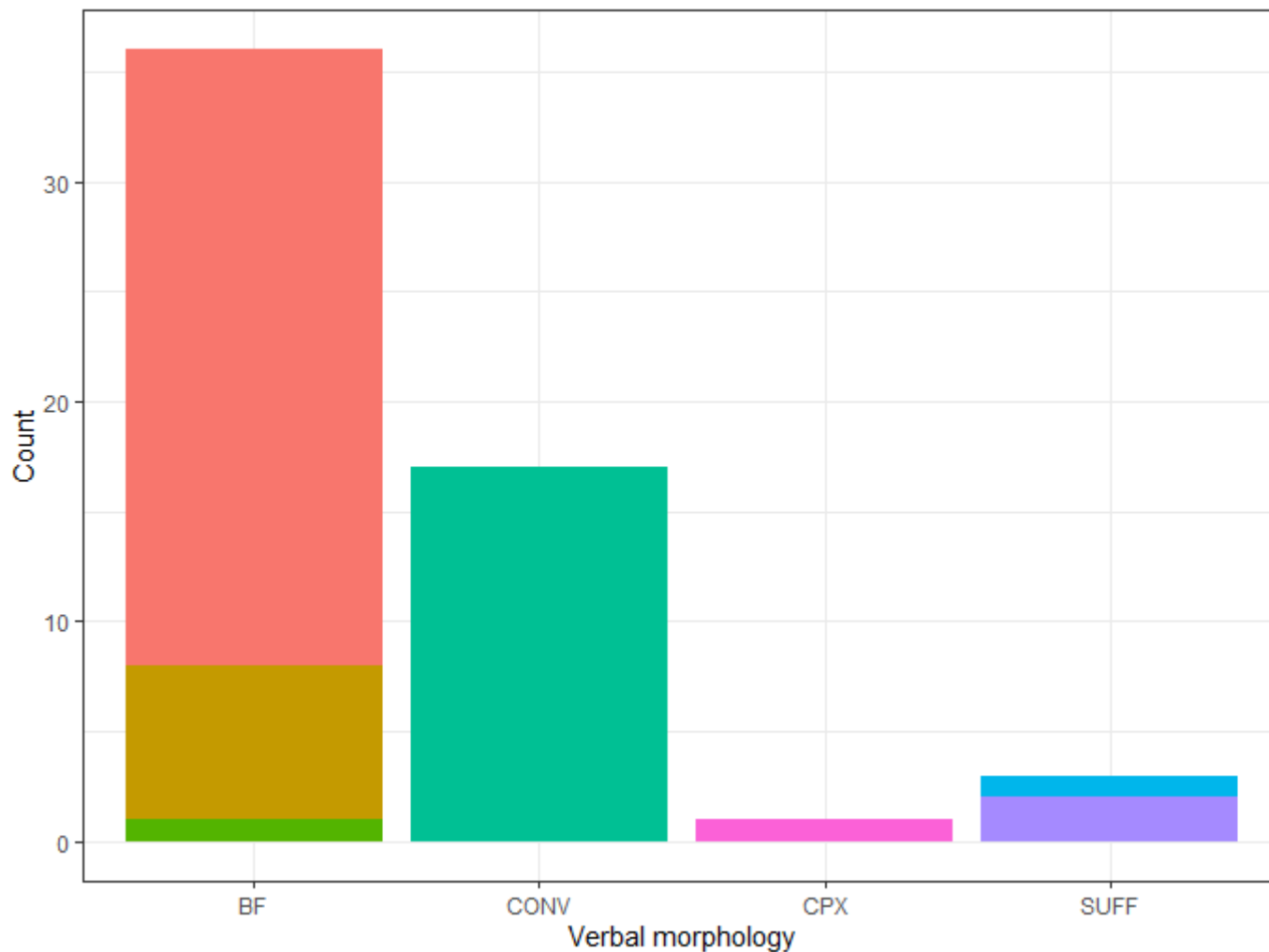


Part 3 – Data description

2. French verbs

Morphology of verbs based on *ion*-nouns (VdenomFR)

	n	%
BF	36	63.2
CONV	17	29.8
SUFF	3	5.3
CPX	1	1.8



Fine-grained verbal morphology

- BF_ation
- BF_ion
- BF_tion
- CONV
- SUFF_aliser
- SUFF_iser
- XF_duction/duire

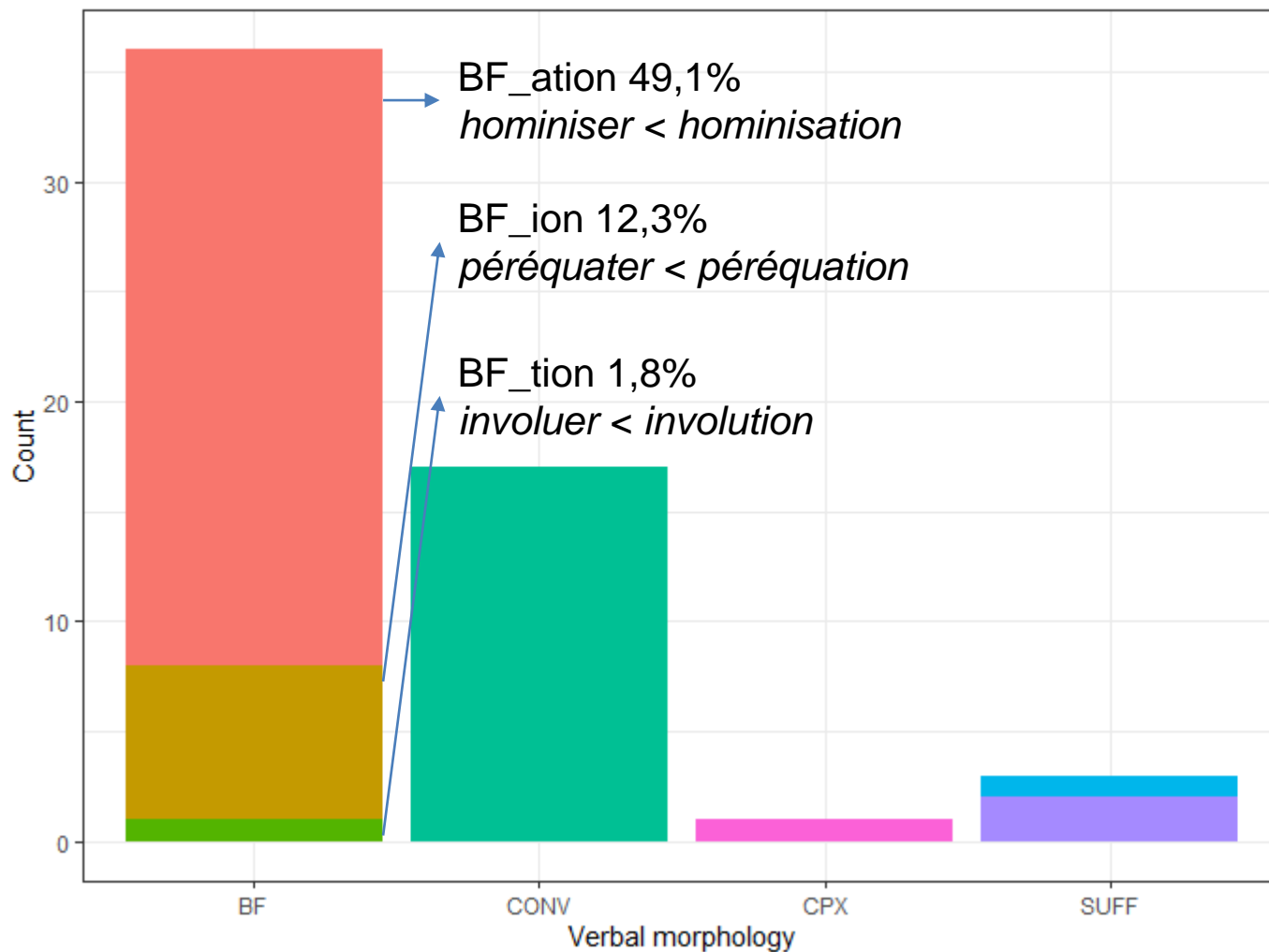


Part 3 – Data description

2. French verbs

Morphology of verbs based on *ion*-nouns (VdenomFR)

	n	%
BF	36	63.2
CONV	17	29.8
SUFF	3	5.3
CPX	1	1.8



Fine-grained verbal morphology

- BF_ation
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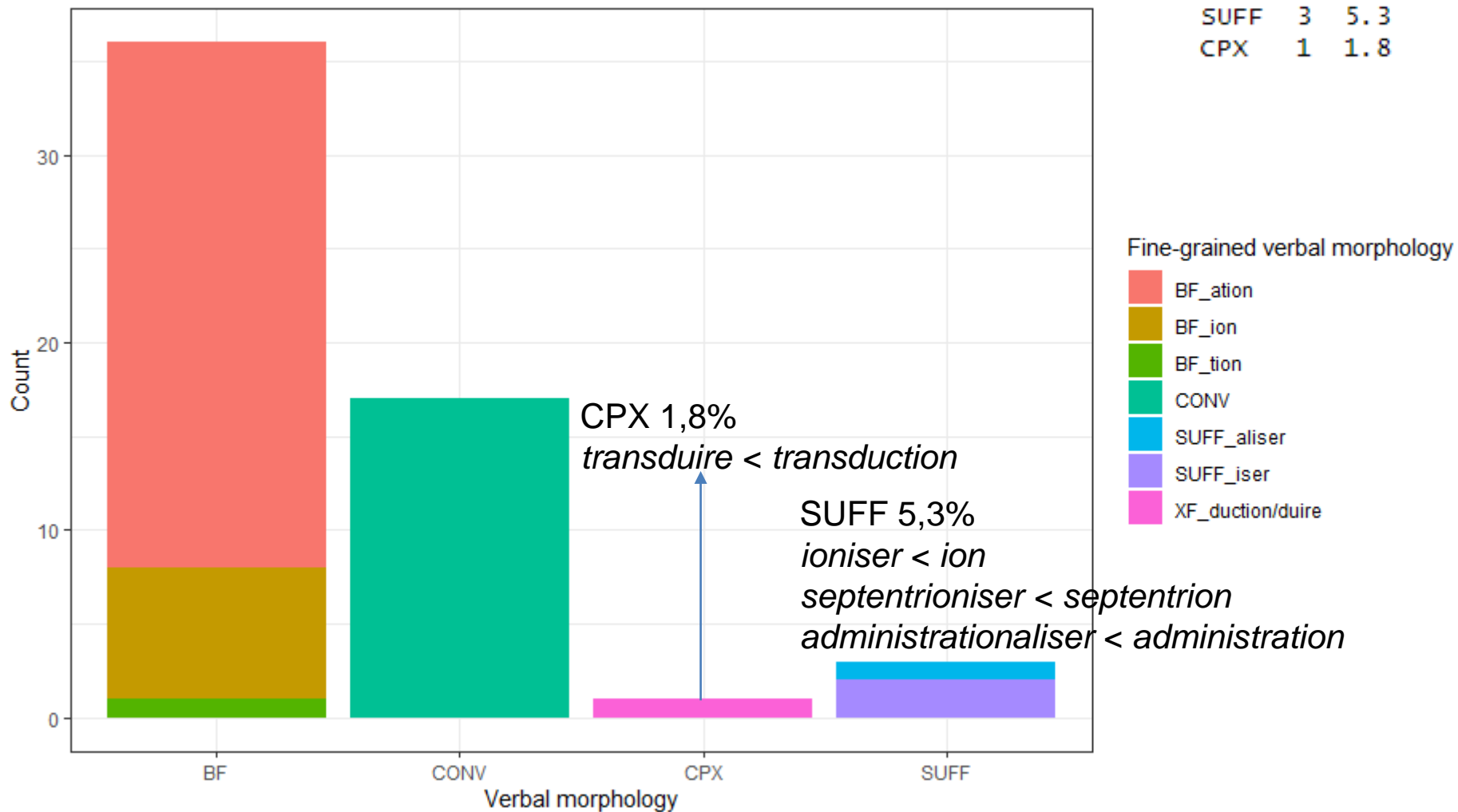


Part 3 – Data description

2. French verbs

Morphology of verbs based on *ion*-nouns (VdenomFR)

	n	%
BF	36	63.2
CONV	17	29.8
SUFF	3	5.3
CPX	1	1.8



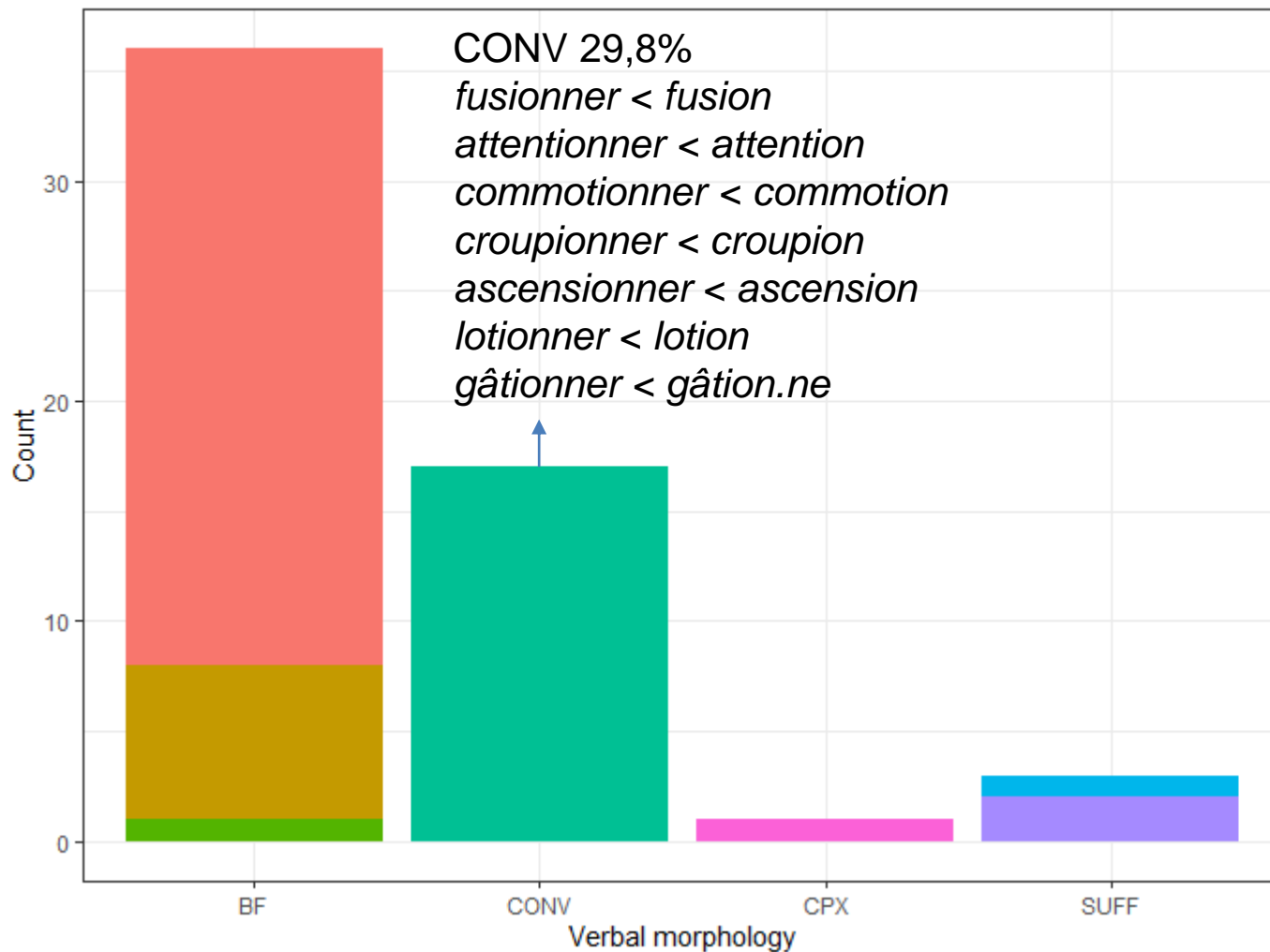


Part 3 – Data description

2. French verbs

Morphology of verbs based on *ion*-nouns (VdenomFR)

	n	%
BF	36	63.2
CONV	17	29.8
SUFF	3	5.3
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Fine-grained verbal morphology

- BF_ation
- BF_ion
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Part 4 – Discussion & concluding remarks

✓ Nagano's hypothesis

Efficacy for: English BF (SUFF+CPX out of analysis)

Issues for English: CONV+PREF

Issues for French: BF

Added variables?

+ prosodic blocking (mono/disyllabic nouns VS 5-to-7 syllables)

OK EN: lion (CONV), lesion (CONV), tension (PREF)

BUT EN: tampion (BF), sorption (BF)

OK FR: 2 syll (CONV), 5+ syll (BF)

BUT FR: 4 syll (BF+), 3 syll (BF/CONV) → **50% of FR BF**

+ conceptual blocking (availability of nominal concept)

OK EN: accordion (CONV) → homonymy blocking?

NO FR

+ paradigmatic blocking (preexisting V with different meaning)

OK EN: proposition (CONV), apparition (CONV)

NO FR

? EN: pincushion (CONV)



Part 4 – Discussion & concluding remarks

✓ Paradigmatic hypothesis (Correspondence rule [Haspelmath 2002])



✓ Remaining issues

BF without semantic criterion met

EN: *tamp < tampion*

Processes other than BF with morphological and semantic criteria met

CONV: *proposition* (EN)
ascensionner (FR)

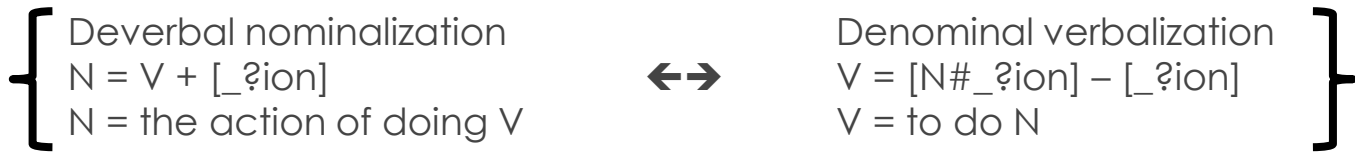
SUFF: *re-revolutionize* (EN)

CPX: *destructify* (EN)
transduire (FR)



Part 4 – Discussion & concluding remarks

✓ Paradigmatic hypothesis (Correspondence rule [Haspelmath 2002])



✓ Remaining issues

BF without semantic criterion met

EN: *tamp* < *tampion* → **CLIPPING?**

Processes other than BF with morphological and semantic criteria met

CONV: *proposition* (EN)
ascensionner (FR)

SUFF: *re-revolutionize* (EN)

CPX: *destructify* (EN)
transduire (FR)

} **PARADIGMATIC BLOCKING?**
 [Lignon & Namer 2014]



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Thank you for your attention!