

# **The lexicalisation of HAPPINESS in the Malayic varieties of Indonesia**

Presented online at the *International Seminar on Austronesian Languages and Literature IX*

**Gede Primahadi Wijaya Rajeg & I Made Rajeg (10 September 2021)**

# Outlines

- Lexicon & Lexicalisation 
  - Aims
- Methodological aspects
  - Introducing the colloquial Malay/Indonesian corpora of the MPI EVA JFS
- Findings & discussion
- Conclusions

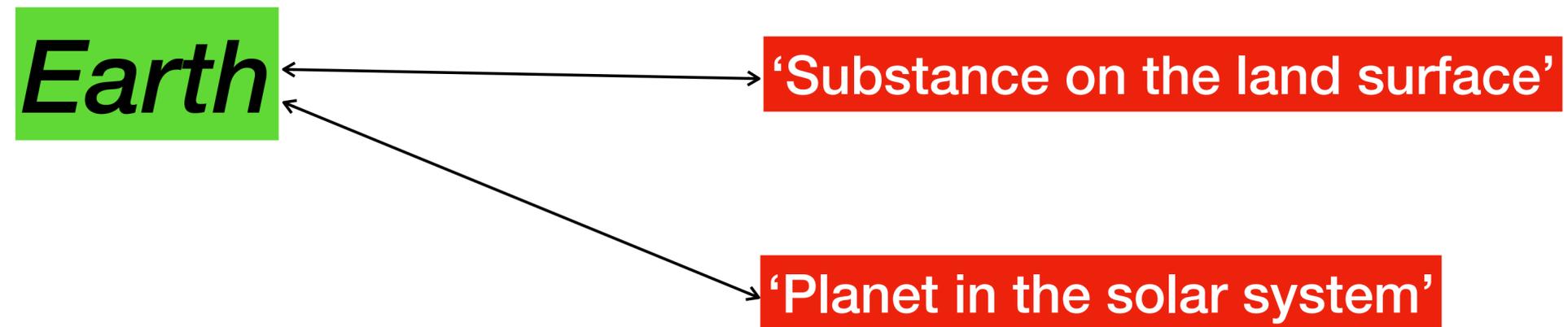
## LEXICON

**A (set of) word(s) and the meaning, or  
“information content” (Jezeck 2016: 5) its  
expresses**

Jezeck, Elisabetta. 2016. *The lexicon: An introduction* (Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics (Otl)). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

# LEXICON

Form  $\longleftrightarrow$  Content/Meaning



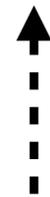
[https://twitter.com/Terry\\_McDonough/status/1221372869541867520](https://twitter.com/Terry_McDonough/status/1221372869541867520)

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LEXICON

CONCEPT

??? <—> Content/Meaning



“mental categories carrying some information content, which can be said to exist independently from language” (Jezek 2016: 5)

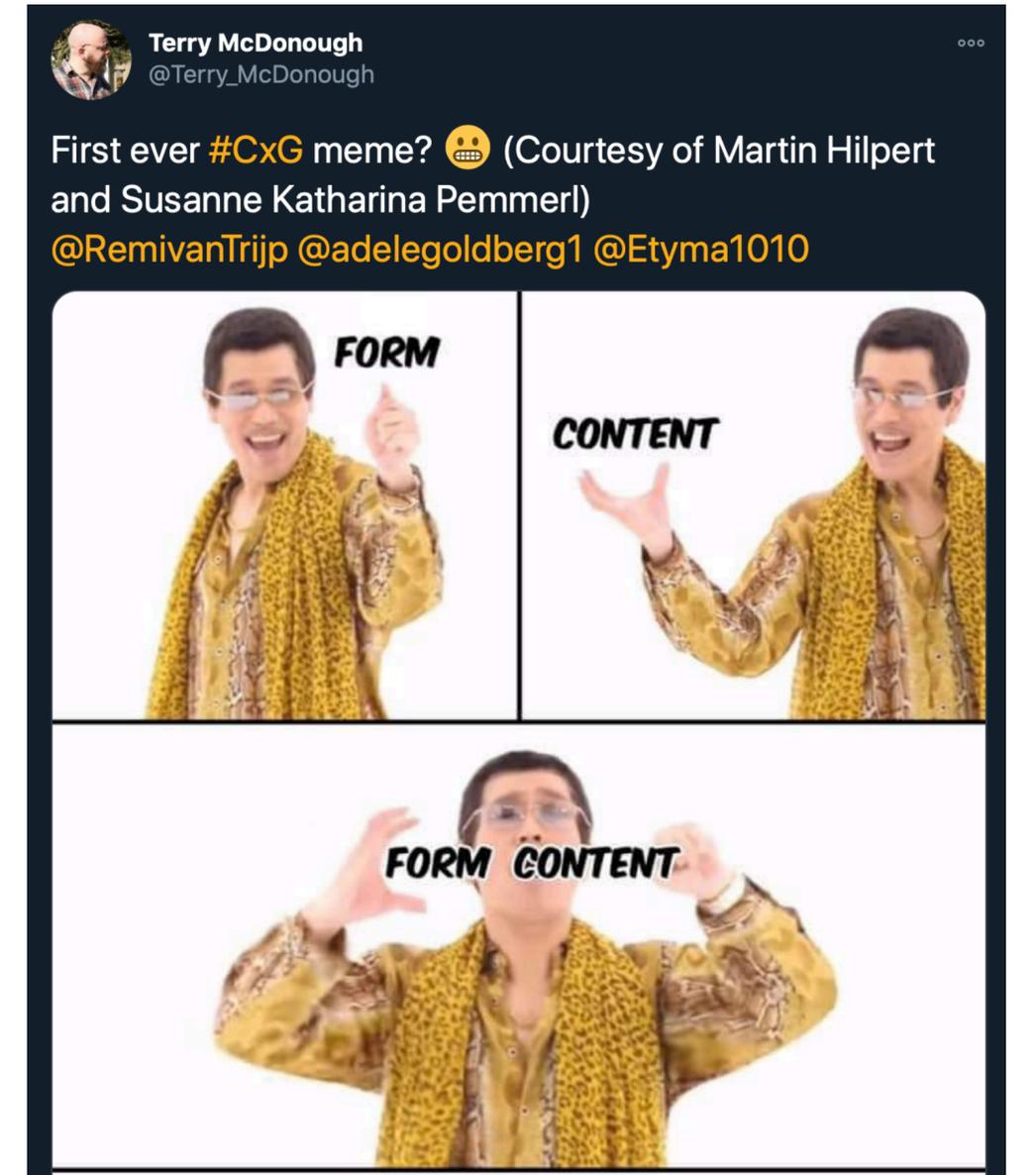


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# LEXICALISATION

The way in which concept is directly linked with a lexical form or word in a language.



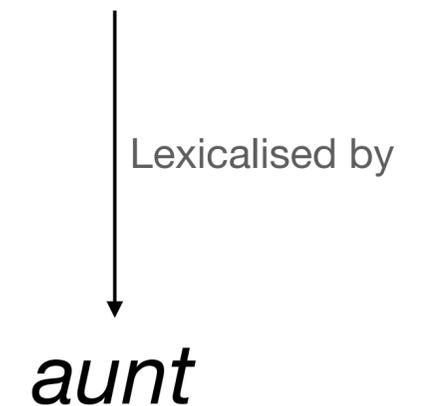
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LEXICALISATION — definition in this paper

FATHER'S OR  
MOTHER'S SISTER

**Lexical encoding or expressions of  
concept or conceptual categories  
(Brinton & Traugott 2005: 18)**



Brinton, Laurel J. & Elizabeth C. Traugott. 2005. *Lexicalization and language change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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AIMS

# The lexicalisation of HAPPINESS concept in some colloquial Malayic varieties in the Indonesian archipelago



# Aims

## **The lexicalisation of HAPPINESS in the colloquial Malayic varieties of Indonesia**

- The inventory of lexical forms, and their conceptual categories, referring to the generic concept of HAPPINESS in English
- Variation along the quantitative and sociolinguistic dimensions (esp. regional variation)

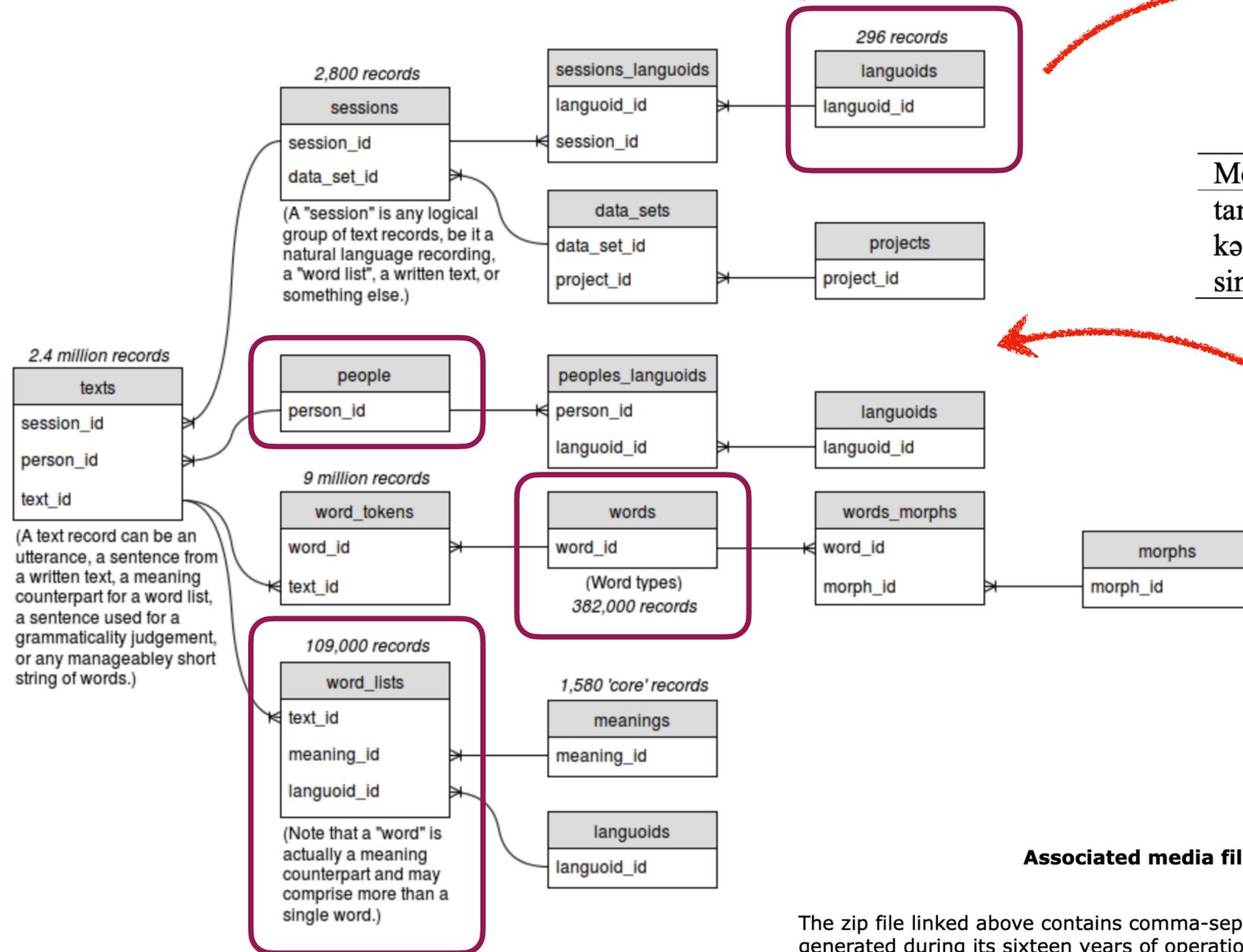
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# Data from the Jakarta Field Station (JFS), Department of Linguistics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, 1999-2015

Gil et al (2015) – <https://lingweb.eva.mpg.de/archive/jakarta/data.php.html>

Schematic of table relationships



Join each .csv table (programmatically with R) by the "key" id

Table 1: Snippet of the corpora with selected variables/columns

Morphs text	Gloss	Languoid name	Region
tante girang	aunt happy	Ternate Malay	North Maluku
kəluwarga da? bahagia	family NEG happy	Tapan Binjai	West Sumatra
sinan hak- ikat bahagia	there right- bundle happy	Minangkabau, Padang	West Sumatra

Download (relational CSV files): [data\\_20160716.zip](#) (248 MB)

**Data of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology Jakarta Field Station**

Former data page (out of date!)

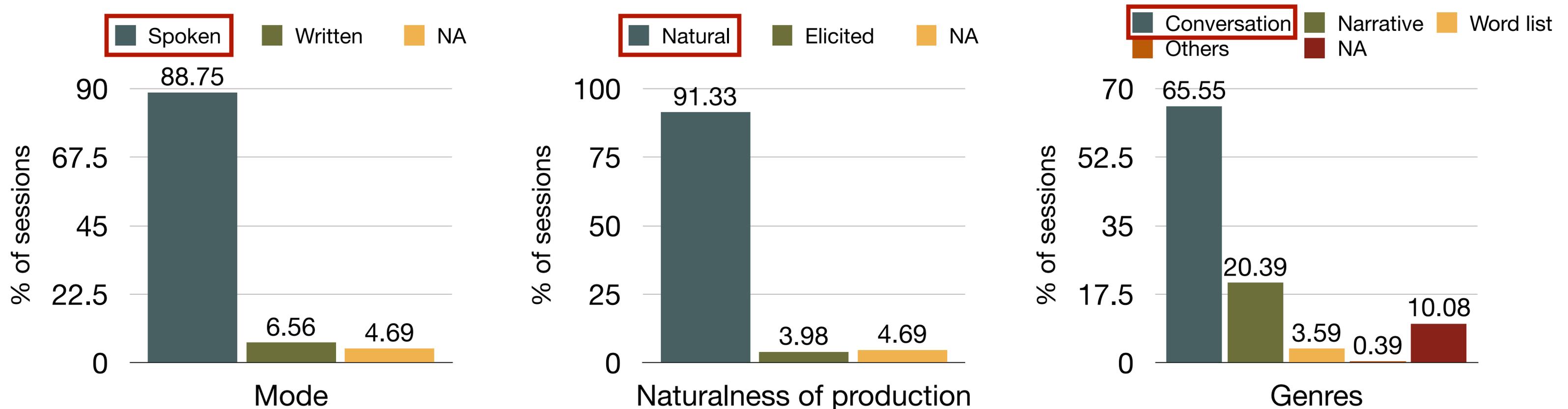
Download (relational CSV files): [data\\_20160716.zip](#) (248 MB)

Associated media files (audio and video), as well as Toolbox and ELAN files, are available at [The Language Archive](#) under this [node](#).

The zip file linked above contains comma-separated plain text files comprising the vast majority of the coding data of the Jakarta Field Station and its collaborating projects, generated during its sixteen years of operations from 1999 to 2015.

# The colloquial Malayic database

- Filter the languoid codes beginning with “M” — ‘Malayic Family’
  - Filter languoid names containing the word “Malay” (e.g., Kupang **Malay**)
- Size: 5,286,633 Million word-tokens (1,280 sessions)



# The HAPPINESS database

- Filter morphs glossed as ‘happy’, ‘glad’, ‘joyful’

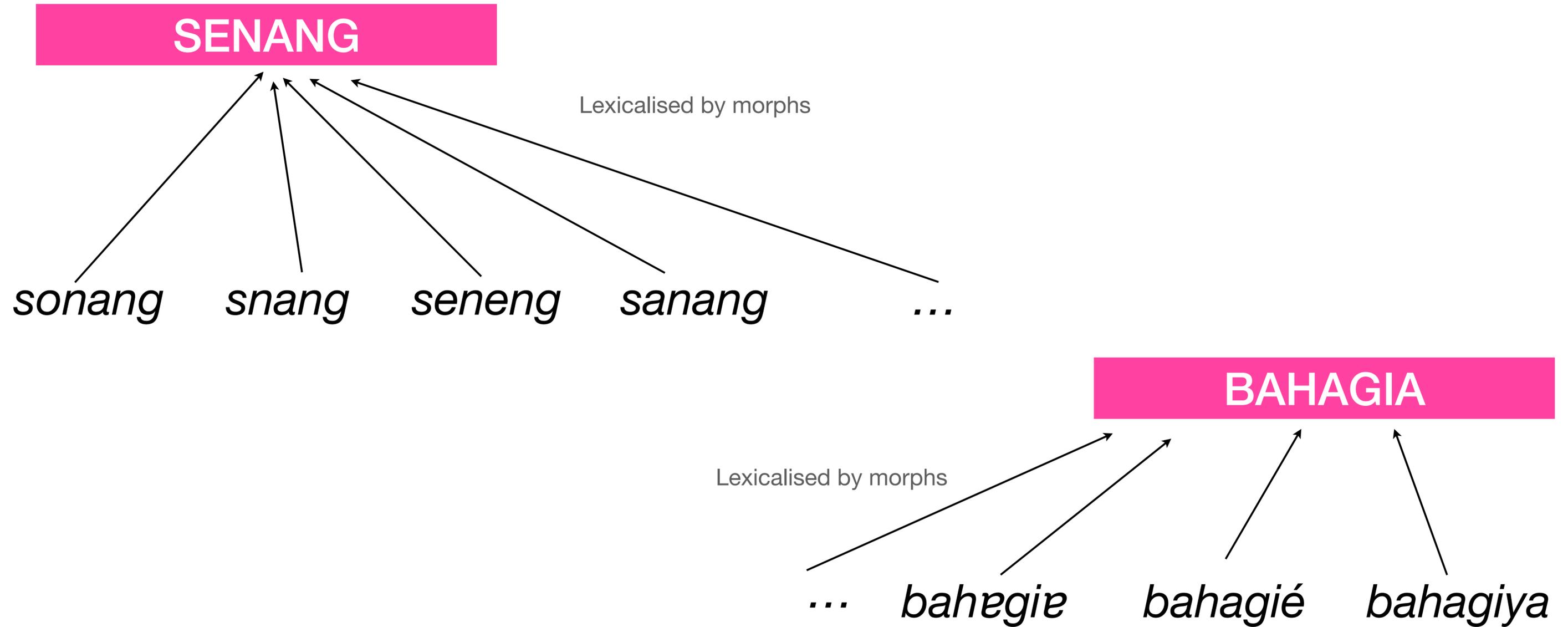
Table 2: Snippet of the HAPPINESS lexicon database

Phon. transc.	Morphs	Gloss	Languoid name	Region
ribaŋ	ribang	happy	Besemah	West Sumatra
gəmbira	gembira	happy	Kerinci, Sungai Penuh	Jambi Province
riyaʔ	ria	happy	Bekasi	West Java

Only 8.1% of the total 691 cases of the HAPPINESS lexicon database contain the phonetic transcription information

# Qualitative data analysis

## Grouping of conceptual categories



# Quantitative data analysis



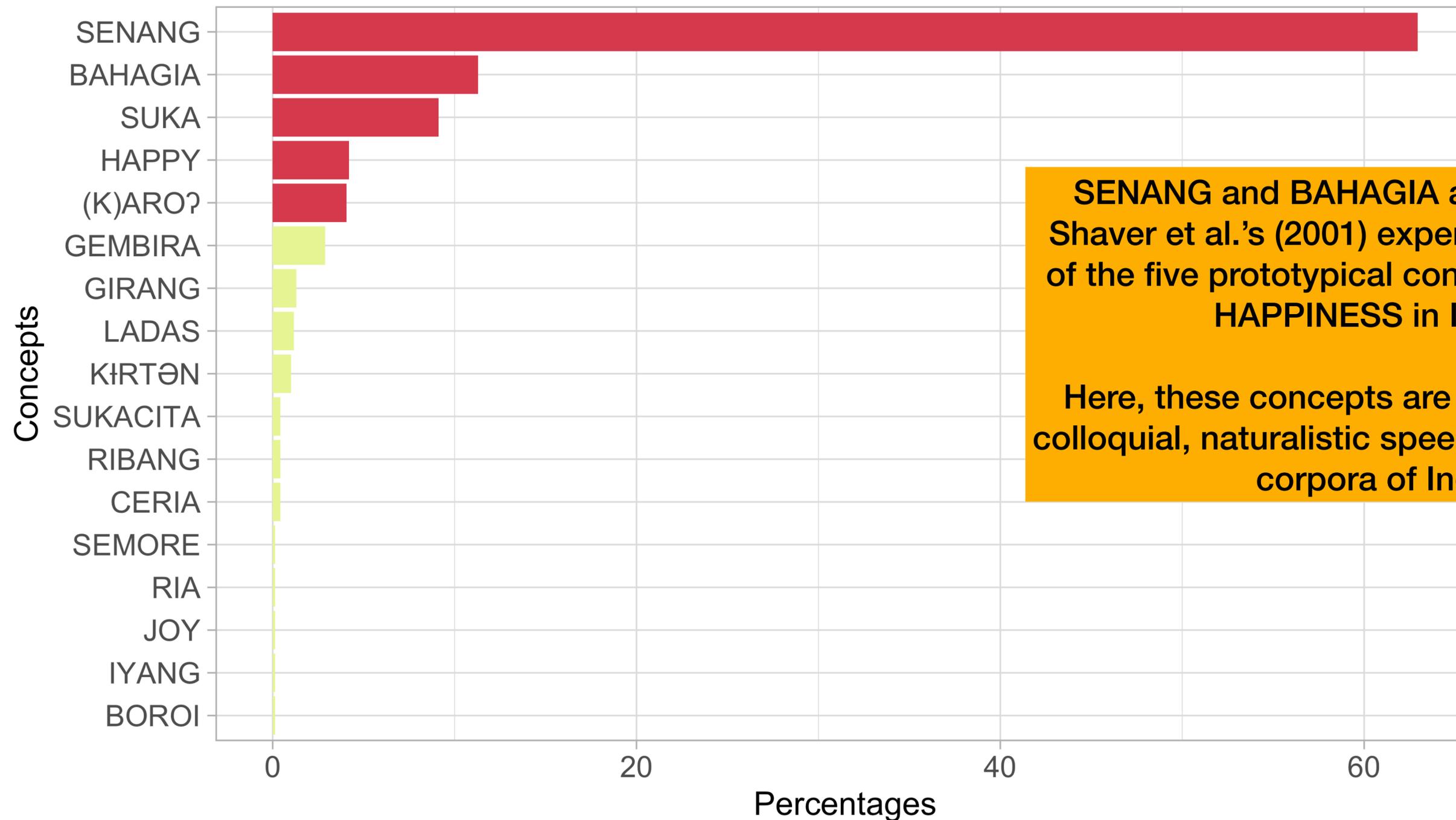
Univariate & bivariate descriptive statistics (Gries 2013: 102, 136) + geospatial visualisation

- Descriptive stats: Frequency count and percentages
- Univariate design:
  - What: total count (in %) of morphs lexicalising a given concept(ual category)
  - Aim: assess the relative prominence of the concept
- Bivariate design:
  - What: cross-tabulation of the % of the concepts by region
  - Aim: assess the relative prominence of the concepts by region (i.e., their lectal variation)
- Geospatial visualisation of the concepts (and morphs) by region

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# Distribution of the concepts of HAPPINESS in colloquial Malayic varieties



**SENANG and BAHAGIA are also identified in Shaver et al.'s (2001) experimental study as two of the five prototypical conceptual categories for HAPPINESS in Indonesian**

**Here, these concepts are prominent as well in colloquial, naturalistic speech of Malayic varieties corpora of Indonesia**

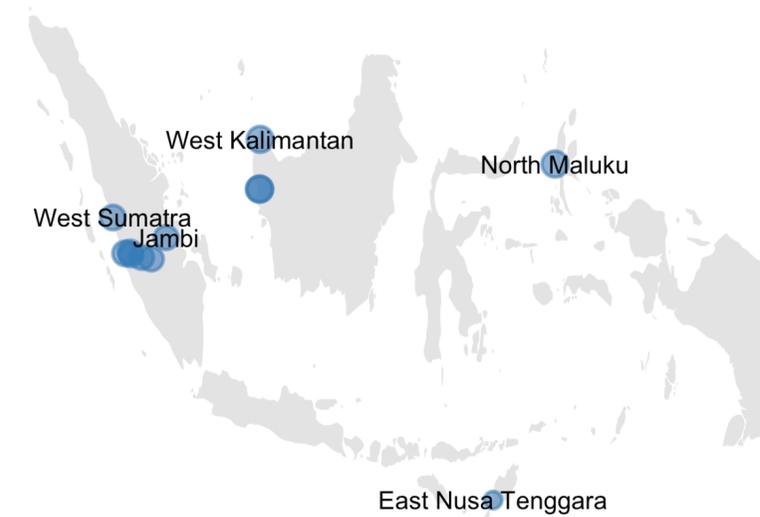
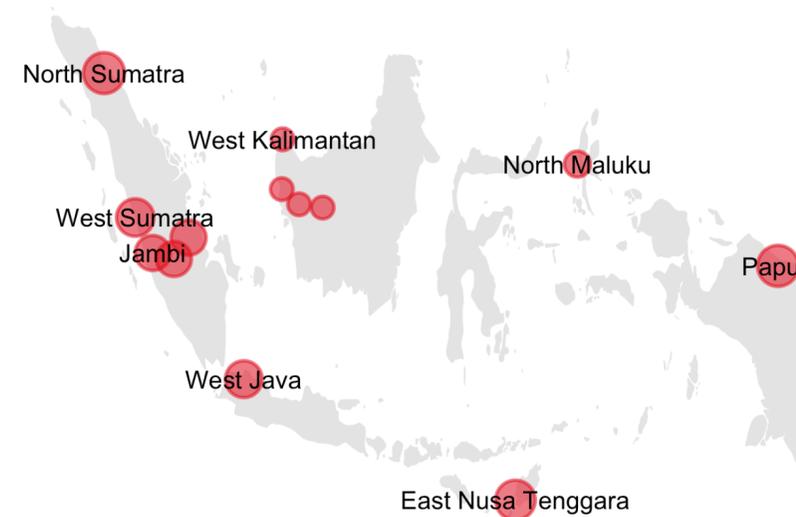
The top-5 concepts are in red bars.



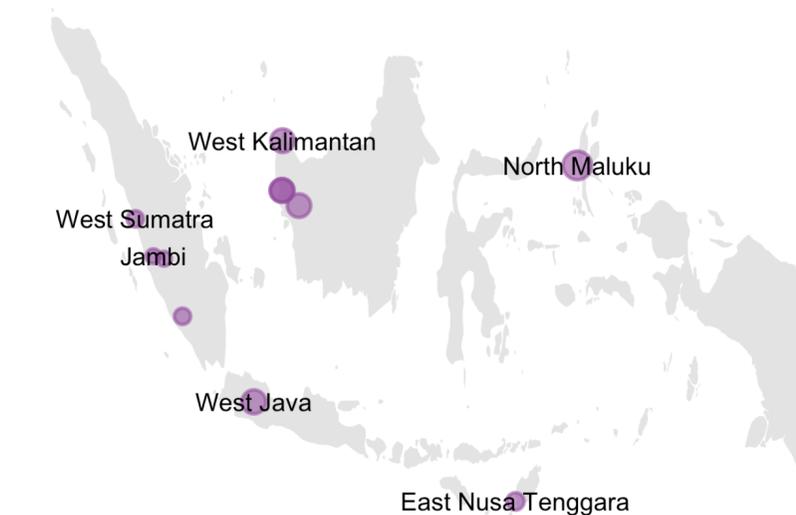
# Distribution of the top-five HAPPINESS concepts by regions

Concept   ● SENANG   ● BAHAGIA   ● SUKA   ● HAPPY   ● (K)ARO?

SENANG   BAHAGIA   SUKA



HAPPY   (K)ARO?



The size of the bubble is proportional to the percentages of the concepts per region.



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# Conclusions

- SENANG as the dominant conceptual category for HAPPINESS in colloquial Malayic varieties
  - Corroborating Shaver et al's (2001: 208) finding in Indonesian
- Regional variation of the HAPPINESS concepts
  - The number of concept types per region
  - The frequency of each concept

# Conclusions

- QUALitative and QUANTitative variation of morphs lexicalising a given concept in a region:
  - Phonemic structure of the morphs (QUAL)
  - The number of different morphs for a concept attested in a region (QUANT)
  - The frequency of occurrence for a morph of a concept in a region (QUANT)

**THANK YOU AND LOOKING FORWARD TO ANY FEEDBACK**

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