

## Introduction

This study focuses on double object constructions in Italian. More specifically, we investigate argument order (theme-beneficiary vs beneficiary-theme) and its relationship with different types of verbs (causative verbs, verbs with a locative beneficiary and with an animate beneficiary). In the case of verbs with locative beneficiaries, we further investigate whether there is a relationship between argument order and the animacy of the beneficiary. The research questions are the following:

**RQ1:** Is there a relationship between verb type and argument order?

- (1) Marco mostra i suoi progressi a Maria.  
'Marco shows his progress to Maria.'
- (2) Marco mostra a Maria i suoi progressi.  
'Marco shows to Maria his progress.'

**RQ2:** Regarding locative sentences, is there a relationship between animacy of the beneficiary and argument order?

- (3) Marco manda un libro a Maria.  
'Marco sends a book to Maria.'
- (4) Marco manda a Maria un libro.  
'Marco sends Maria a Book.'
- (5) Marco manda un libro a Milano.  
'Marco sends a book to Milan.'
- (6) Marco manda a Milano un libro. ??  
'Marco sends to Milan a book. ??'

### Type 1. Causative

- (7) Claire **mostra** a Justine alcuni siti internet.  
'Claire **shows** Justine some websites.'

### Type 3. Animate beneficiary

- (10) Il duca **riferì** al principe questa risposta.  
'The duke **reported** this answer to the prince.'

### Type 2. Locative beneficiary

- (8) Apple **manda** due avvocati a Seattle.  
'Apple **sends** two lawyers to Seattle.'
- (9) Dioguardi **spedi** quei documenti a Tel Aviv.  
'Dioguardi **sent** those documents to Tel Aviv.'

## Method

- Sketch Engine

- CQLs:



- 1) theme-beneficiary

- 2) beneficiary-theme

- Corpus: itTenTen16

- The Italian Web corpus (itTenTen) is an Italian corpus made up of texts collected from the Internet.

- 4.9 billion words (tagged by TreeTagger) .

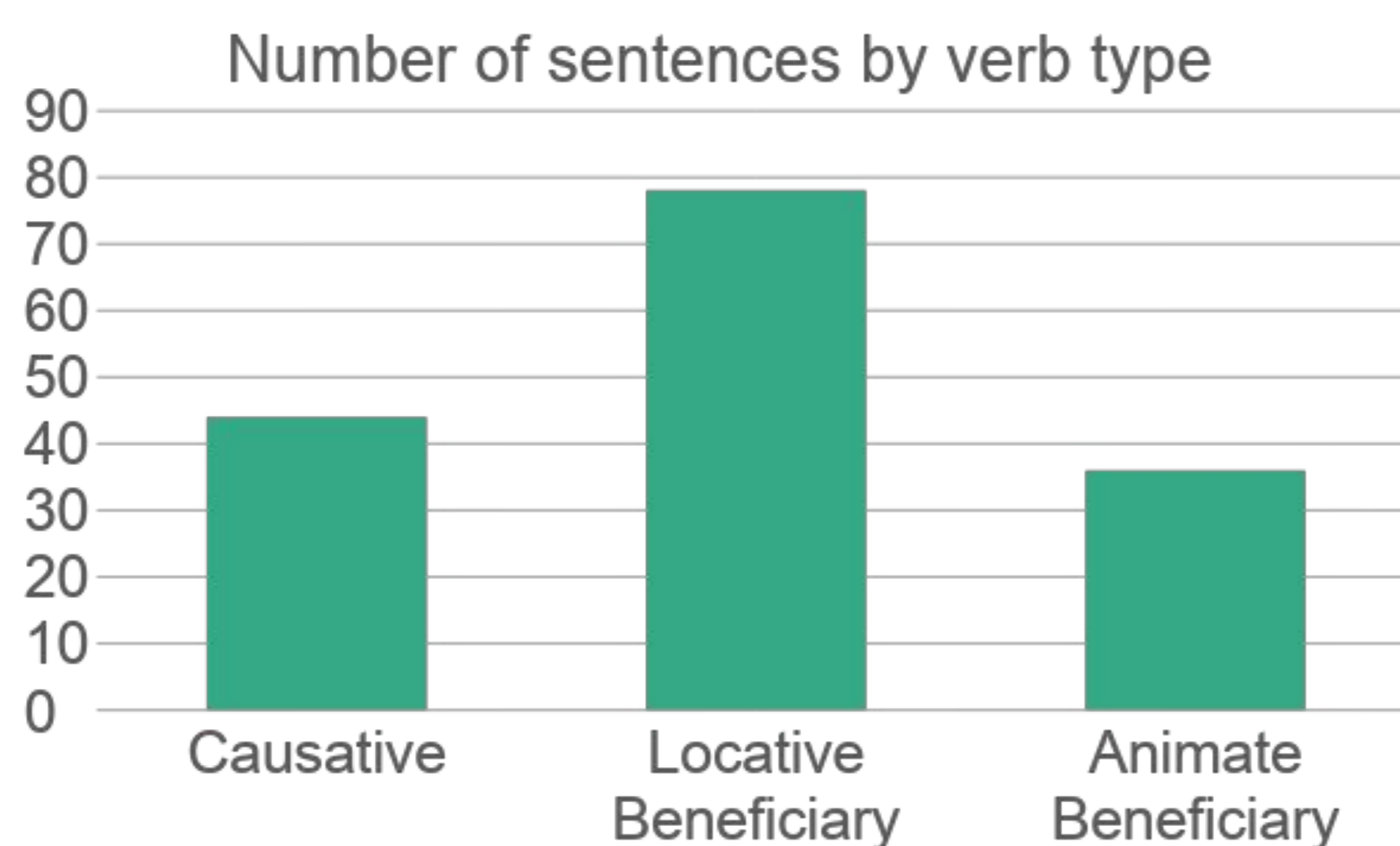


- Data was annotated/cleaned in Excel.

- Chi-square test was conducted on the data on vassarstats.net.

## Data

We extracted a total of 158 sentences. For the causative type, we analyzed 44 sentences containing the verb *mostrare* ('to show'). For the locative beneficiary type, 58 sentences containing the verb *mandare* ('to send') and 20 sentences containing the verb *spedire* ('to send' [by mail]). For the animate beneficiary type, 36 sentences containing the verb *riferire* ('to pass information').



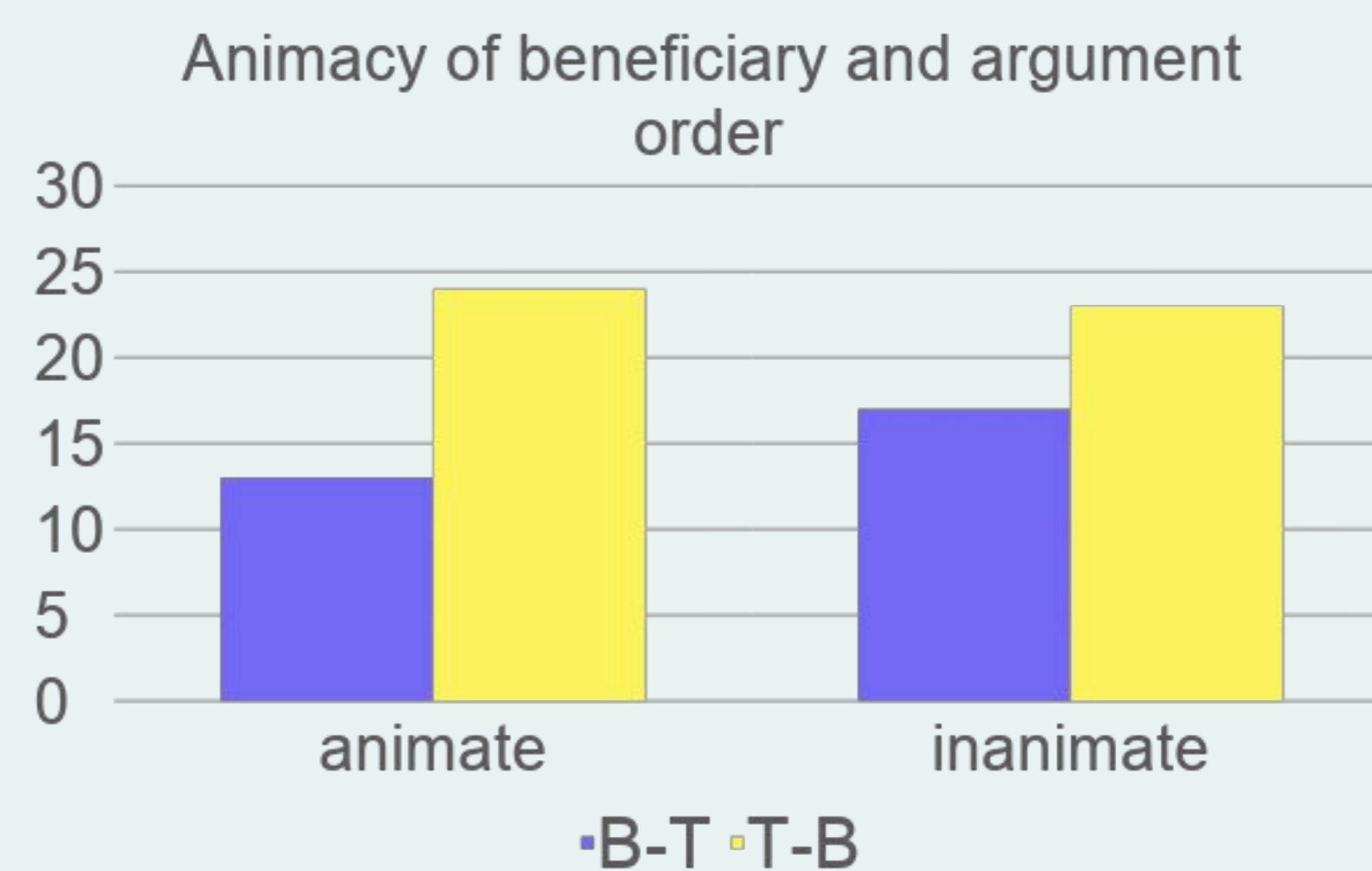
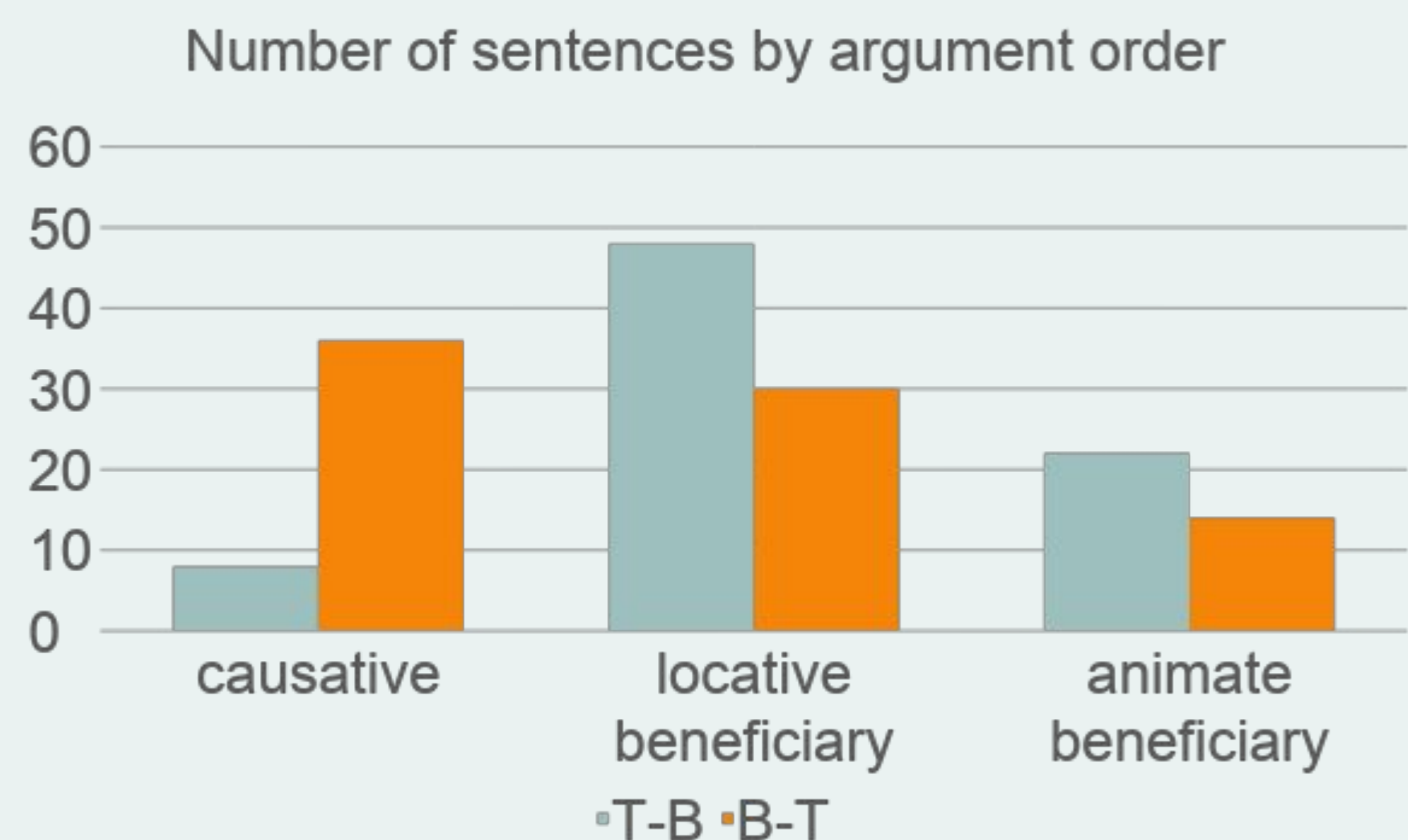
## Analysis

**RQ1:**  $\chi^2(2)=23.73, p < .0001$ .

There is a significant difference in terms of the preferred argument depending on verb type.

**RQ2:**  $\chi^2(1)=0.18, p=0.671$ .

In sentences of the locative type, there is not a significant relationship between animacy of the beneficiary and argument order.



## Conclusions

The data shows some other interesting patterns that should be analyzed in future: the T-B pattern is particularly frequent when the beneficiary has a heavier role in the sentence. For example, if he is the subject of a relative clause, or the phrase's rheme. Meanwhile, the B-T structure is more popular at the end of the sentence.

## Contacts

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