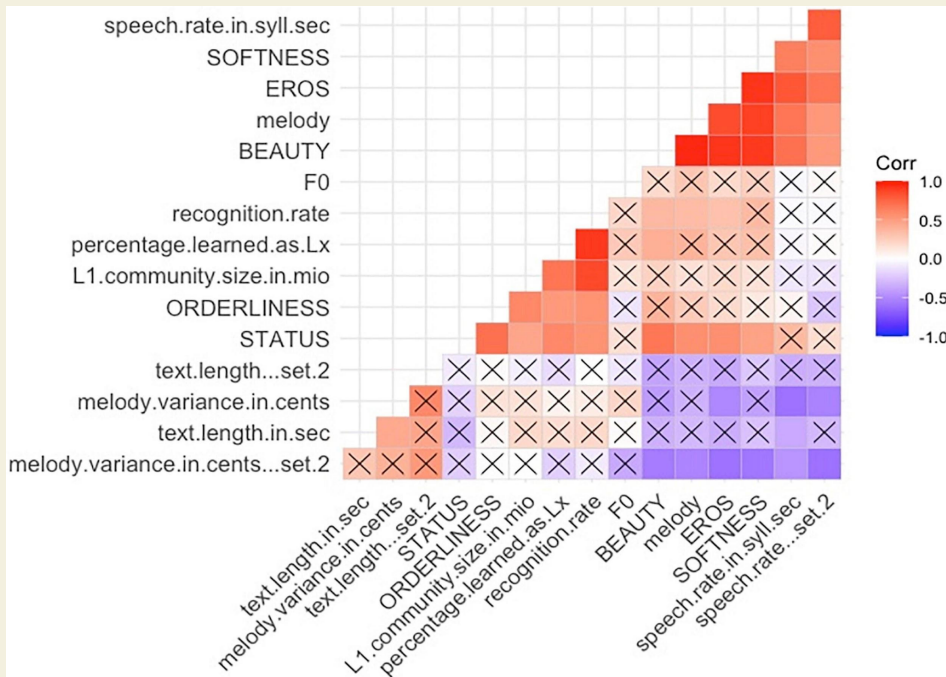


Beautiful Languages— Exam Questions

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Data parsing

X-axis: language feature/quality measured within study

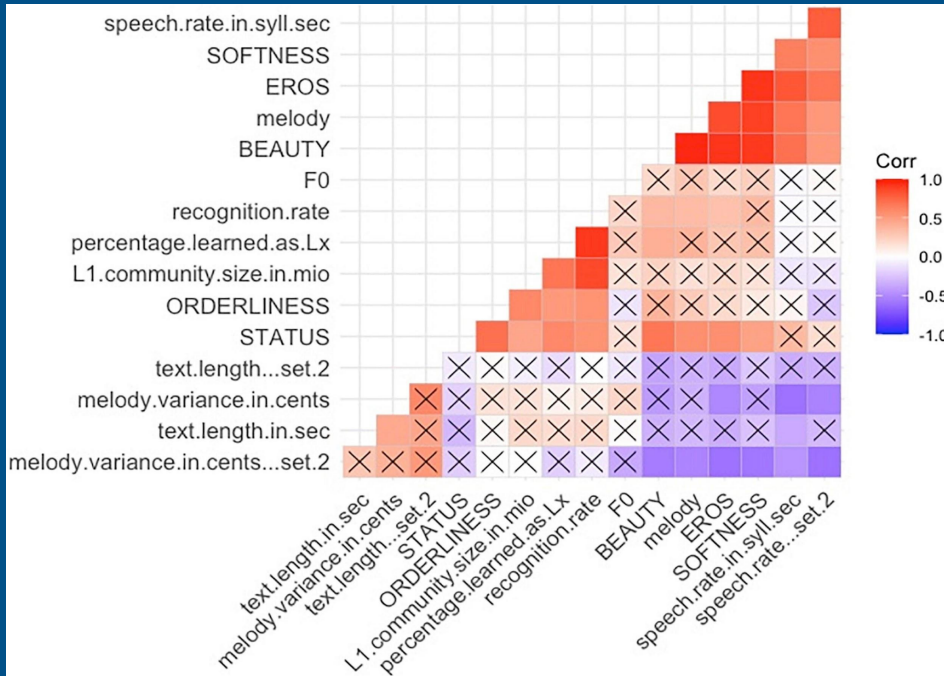
Y-axis: language feature/quality measured within study

Individual squares: the relationship between the two categories measured

-an X denotes insignificant relationship ($p > 0.05$)

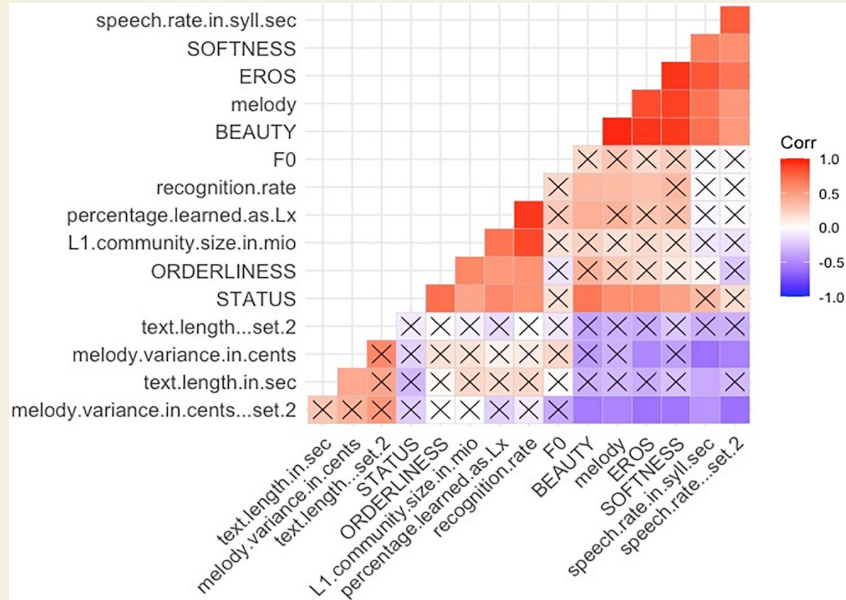
-a red hue denotes a POSITIVE correlation

-a purple squares shows a NEGATIVE correlation



What is the correlation between familiarity with a language and its perceived beauty, and what does this tell us about the kinds of languages participants judged to be beautiful?

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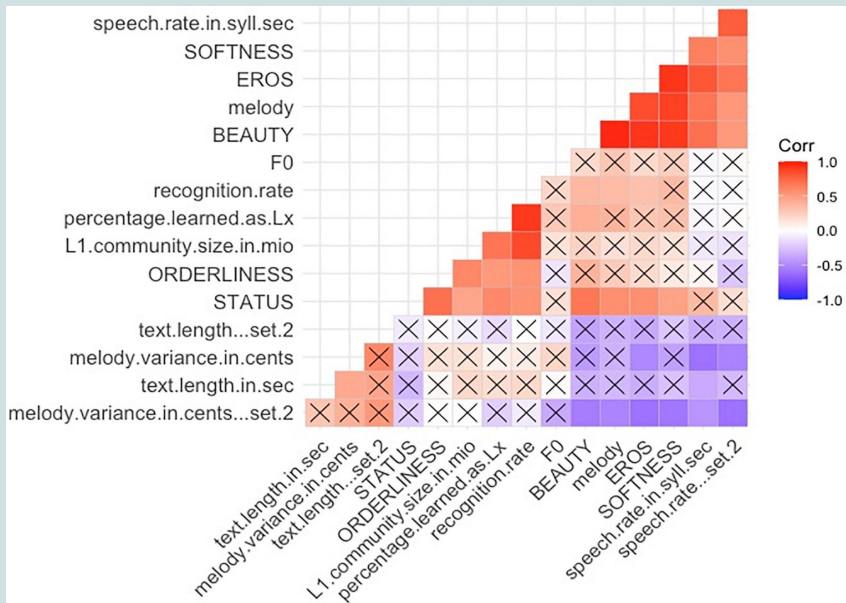


Recognition rate and Lx percentage correlate **POSITIVELY** with listeners' judgements of a language's beauty.

This demonstrates that languages that participants had learned in the past or were able to recognize upon hearing were more likely to be judged as beautiful.

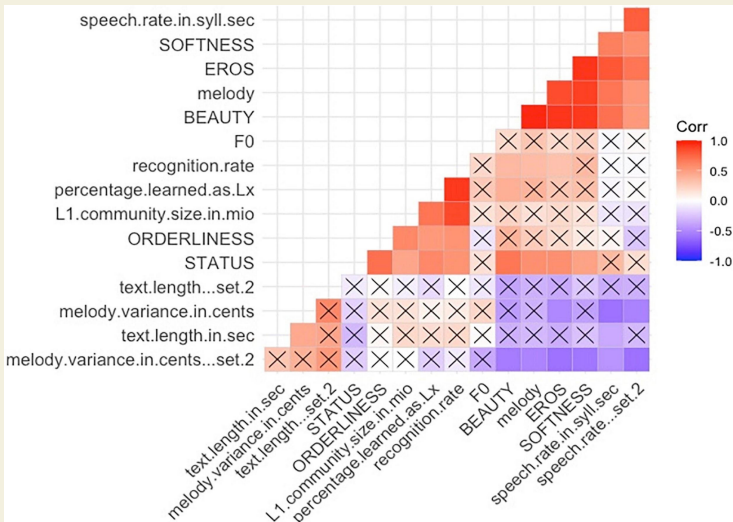
Kaplan's myth: 'The most beautiful language is French.'

i.e. languages themselves can be more beautiful/uglier than others



Are acoustic qualities solely responsible for listeners' perceptions of a language's beauty?

From the data graphic, we can see that while some acoustic qualities such as speech rate and melody are associated with how beautiful speakers perceive a language to be, a speaker's own experience with a language impacts how beautiful they judge it to be. Thus, these judgements are not fully based on objective measures. While some qualities within a language may *contribute* to how beautiful it is perceived as, it is just one piece of the puzzle. The perception of a language is based upon a wide variety of acoustic, societal, and psychological factors.



To bring it back to Kaplan's myth: one language cannot be declared as universally more beautiful because individual factors contribute to perceived beauty. While French may have a quicker speech rate and be more melodious, contributing to its beauty, it is not inherently more beautiful than the rest of the world's languages.

Kogan, Vita & Reiterer, Susanne. 2021. Eros, Beauty, and Phon-Aesthetic Judgements of Language Sound. We Like It Flat and Fast, but Not Melodious. Comparing Phonetic and Acoustic Features of 16 European Languages. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* 15.