# ENGRI CROWD: An investigation into the affective and lexico-semantic content of English loanwords and their Croatian equivalents

SCAN ME

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## INTRODUCTION

- Unadapted English loanwords have become part of many languages
- The ENGRI CROWD database is the first to introduce **affective** (valence & arousal) and **lexico-semantic** (familiarity & concreteness) norms for:
  1. **Unadapted English loanwords** (e.g., e-mail, snowboard)
  2. **Croatian in-context equivalents** = correspond to the use of English loanwords in context (Eng. 'bug', Cro. *pogreška* 'glitch')
  3. **Croatian out-of-context equivalents** = Croatian speakers' translations of English loanwords when presented out of context (Eng. 'bug', Cro. *buba* 'beetle')
  4. **Adapted forms of English loanwords** (Eng. 'catering', Cro. *ketering*)

## METHOD: Participants

- 678 native Croatian speakers (224 male, 446 female, 8 other)
- **Age:** $M = 27.86$, $SD = 11.11$
- **Age of exposure to English**: $M = 7.12$; $SD = 5.53$
- **Age at which they began to learn English**: $M = 8.08$; $SD = 3.93$
- **LexTale score**: $M = 70.21$; $SD = 14.46$
- **S**elf-rated proficiency *(1- 6 scale corresponding to CEFR levels; 1 = A1, 6 = C2)*: Median = 4

## METHOD: Materials & Procedure

- 1,307 words rated for valence, arousal, familiarity, and concreteness
- 1. English loanwords ($N$=391); 2. In-context equivalents ($N$=286); 3. Out-of-context equivalents ($N$=146); 4. Adapted forms ($N$=92) + Croatian filler words ($N$=392)
- English loanwords selected from the Database of English loanwords and their Croatian equivalents (Bogunović et al., 2022) https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.20014364.v1
- 7 questionnaires with 186-188 words per questionnaire
- Valence & arousal: 9-point Likert-type scales
- Emotionality (i.e., extremity in valence), calculated by subtracting the valence value for each word from 5 (the middle point of the 1-9 valence scale): 0 (neutral) to 4 (highly emotional; positive or negative)
- Familiarity & concreteness: 7-point Likert-type scales

## RESULTS

### Correlations between English loanwords and Croatian equivalents
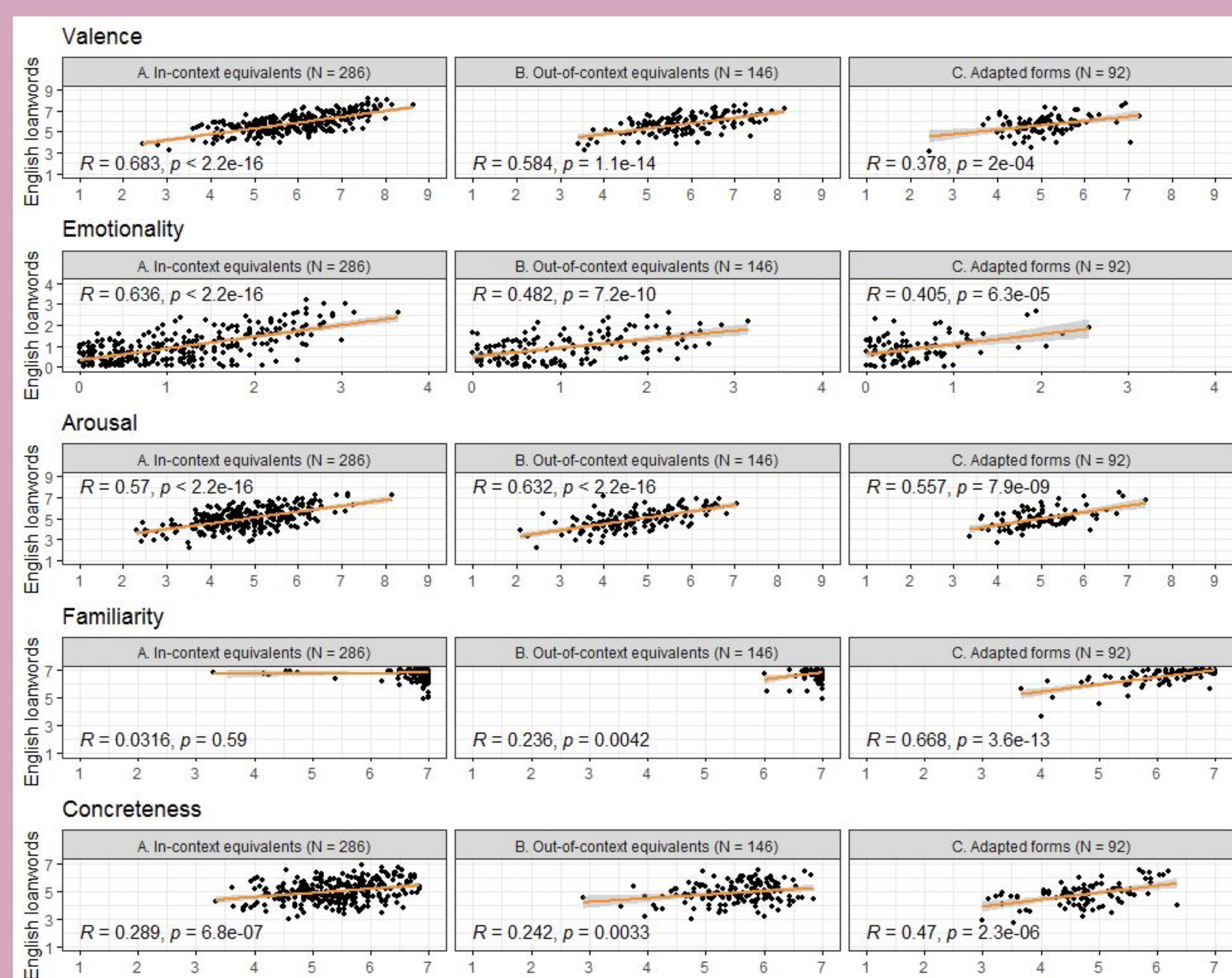


## Differences in rating between English loanwords and Croatian equivalents

**Table 1.** *Descriptive statistics*

| Comparisons | N | Valence | | Emotionality | | Arousal | | Familiarity | | Concreteness | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | M | SD | M | SD | M | SD | M | SD | M | SD |
| English loanwords | 286 | 5.80 | 0.88 | 0.96 | 0.71 | 4.97 | 0.94 | 6.78 | 0.32 | 4.97 | 0.75 |
| In-context equivalents | 286 | 5.88 | 1.07 | 1.13 | 0.81 | 4.81 | 0.96 | 6.84 | 0.42 | 5.38 | 0.72 |
| English loanwords | 146 | 5.74 | 0.86 | 0.94 | 0.64 | 4.88 | 0.93 | 6.76 | 0.34 | 4.87 | 0.74 |
| Out-of-context equival. | 146 | 5.87 | 0.97 | 1.08 | 0.74 | 4.70 | 0.97 | 6.91 | 0.16 | 5.50 | 0.69 |
| English loanwords | 92 | 5.64 | 0.86 | 0.87 | 0.61 | 4.95 | 0.94 | 6.53 | 0.56 | 4.76 | 0.79 |
| Adapted forms | 92 | 5.08 | 0.78 | 0.58 | 0.52 | 4.97 | 0.79 | 6.12 | 0.73 | 4.76 | 0.75 |

- **English loanwords vs. In-context equivalents**
  = valence; < emotionality; > arousal; < familiarity, < concreteness

- **English loanwords vs. Out-of-context equivalents**
  < valence; < emotionality; > arousal; < familiarity, < concreteness

- **English loanwords vs. Adapted forms**
  > valence; > emotionality; = arousal; > familiarity, = concreteness

## DISCUSSION

- Analysis showed differences in ratings between English loanwords and Croatian equivalents
- Croatian speakers perceive English loanwords as less emotional, less familiar and less concrete than Croatian equivalents, but more arousing
- This supports the view that L2 vocabulary is less embodied than L1 vocabulary (Imbault et al., 2021)
- The arousal ratings can be explained by the exposure to English through media, in which the content is predominantly arousing
- Adapted forms were rated as the least positive, emotional, familiar and concrete, which reflects their marginal status in Croatian

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