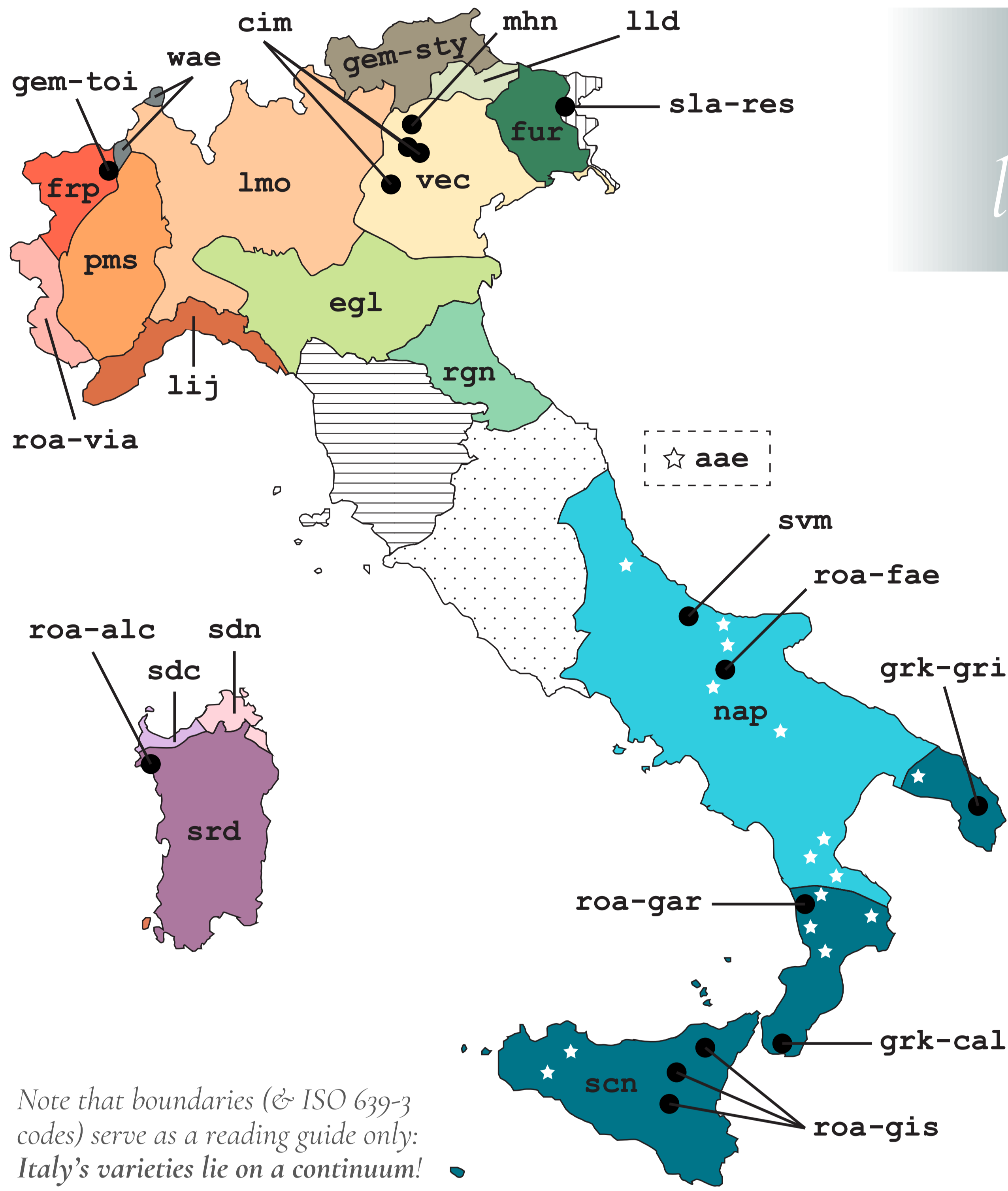


LANGUAGE VARIETIES OF ITALY

Technology Challenges and Opportunities



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We should start caring about local language varieties and their speakers

Orality Language functions Culture
Attitudes Local history
(Naturally-occurring) variation
Aspirations Socio-political contexts

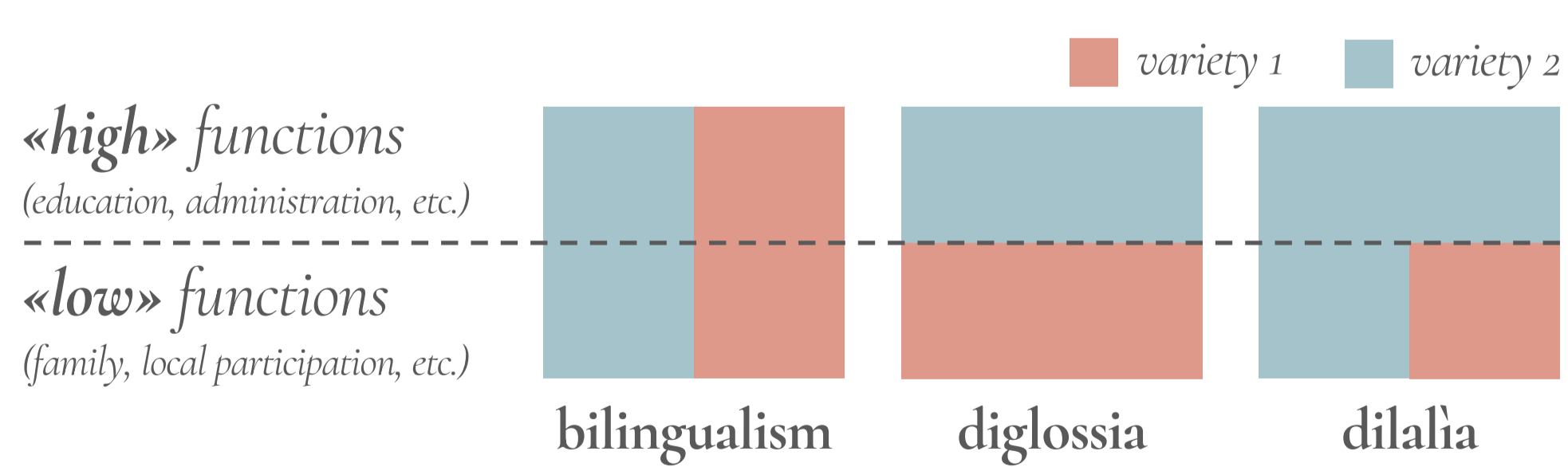
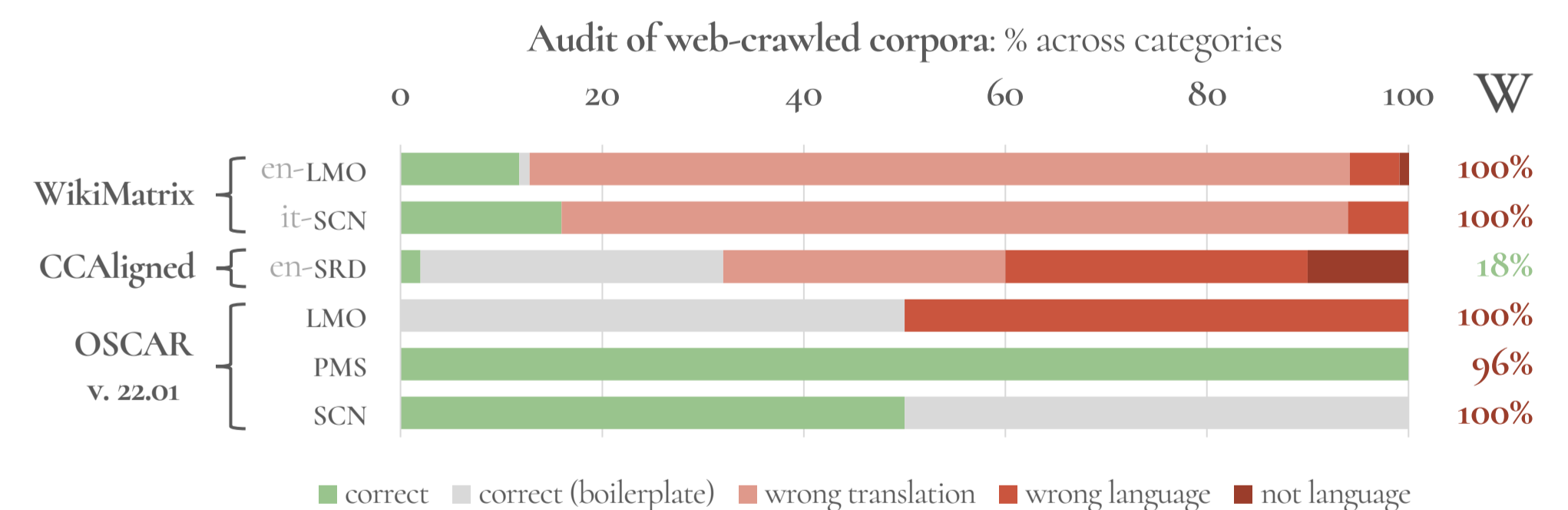
...and align our work to the (diverse) local agendas

Multilingual information access Culture preservation
Computer-assisted language education ? Intergenerational transmission

Shifting from a machine-centric to a speaker-centric approach

- 1 Persistent emphasis on written data scarcity**
Why resources are scarce? Do target communities need envisioned text-based technologies?
- 2 Little attention to representativeness**
What about the actual content of mainstream text collections used in current NLP?
- 3 Homogeneity in functions, contexts, and needs**
Are all language varieties similar to standardized languages with institutional support?

W Typically taken monolithically regardless of their actual content, guidelines, and metadata



- 1 Become aware of history and diverse attitudes**
Speech communities have many voices, and language ideologies may change over time!
- 2 Engage with local speech communities**
Learn and understand local agendas, participate to initiatives on language & culture
- 3 Involve speech communities at all design stages**
Locally-meaningful work designed with speakers, for serving speakers and their needs

Participatory work Community needs
Responsible practices Awareness raising

Join VARIETIES OF THE BOOT, a community aimed at responsibly supporting the vitality of language varieties of Italy!

