



Singular vs. Plural You

Ambiguous in modern formal English

Given:

- (1) English text
- (2) Target "you" in it

Identify:

Plural or singular "you" ?

I am terribly sorry, Mr Hänsch and Ms Cox. I did not see **you** asking to speak.

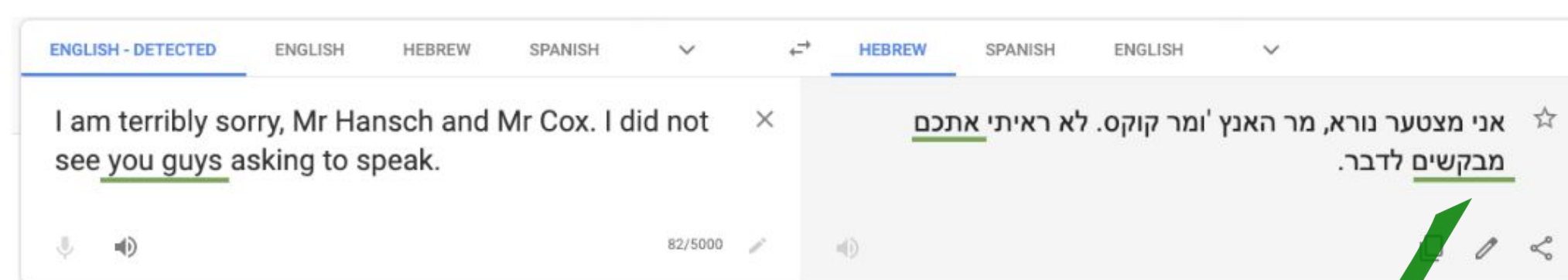
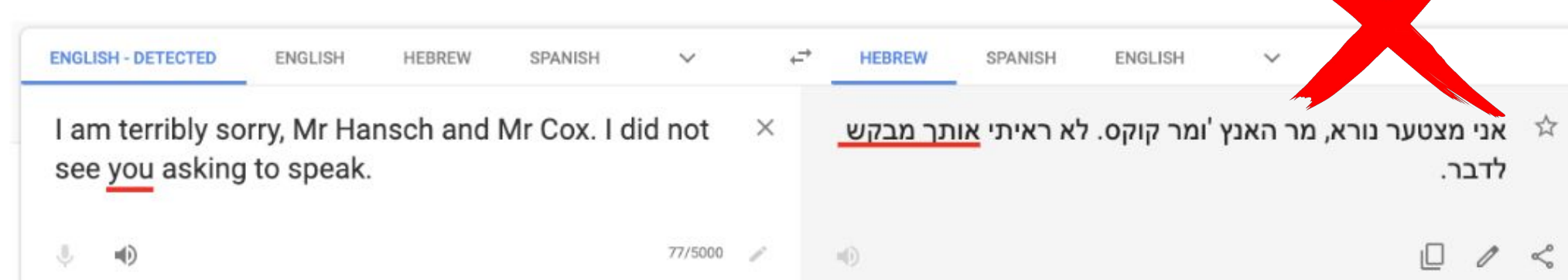


I should be very grateful, Mrs Schroedter, if **you** include this in the proposal.



Useful distinction in downstream tasks

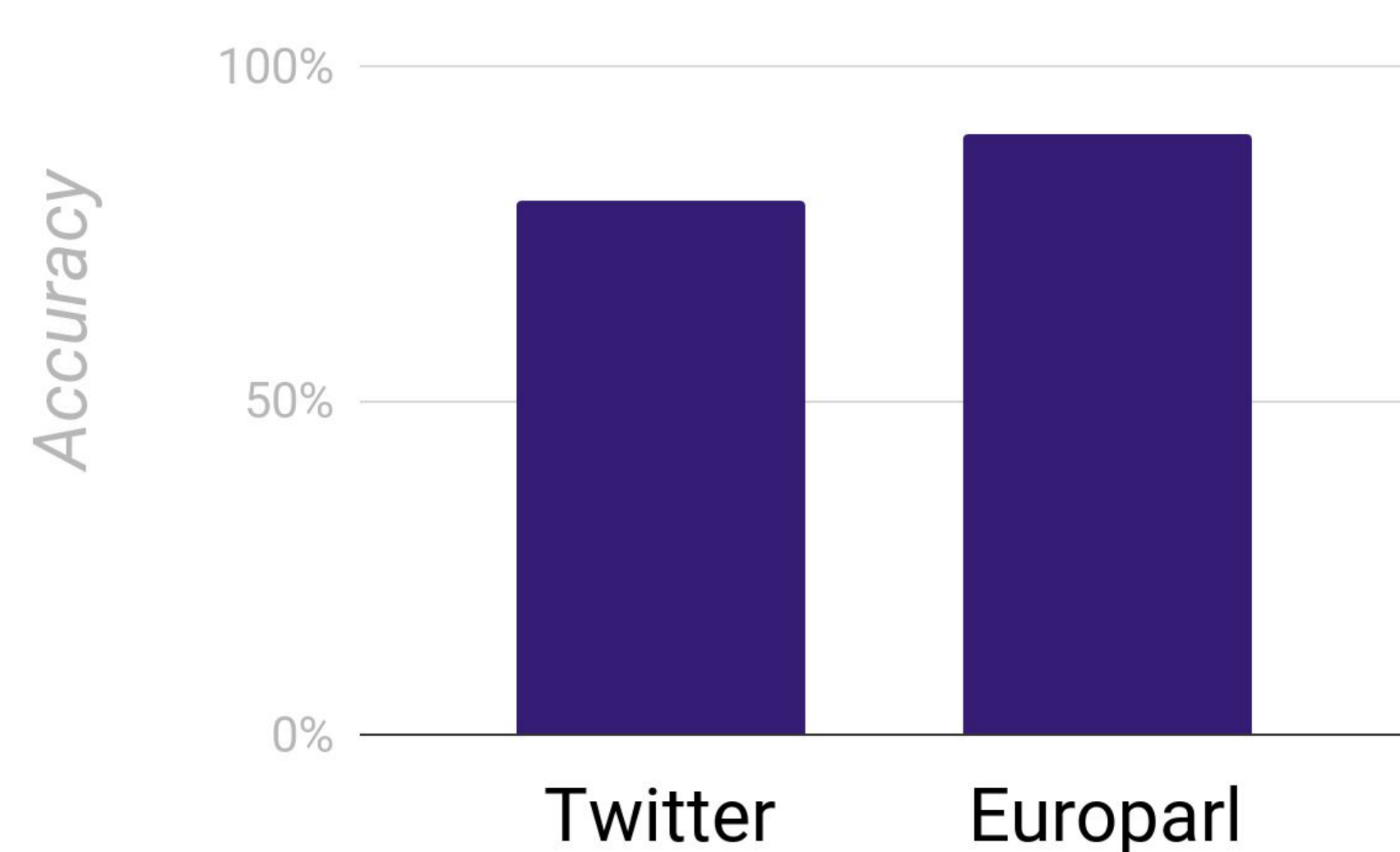
Wrong singular inflections for "you" and "ask"



Both errors fixed with the introduction of informal plural "you"

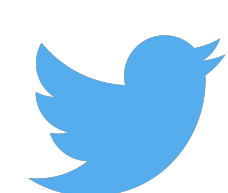
Human performance

People can disambiguate



Two sources for supervision

Colloquial use on Twitter and alignment with Spanish



I made \$180 at my yard sale! What did ~~you guys~~ do today?
you

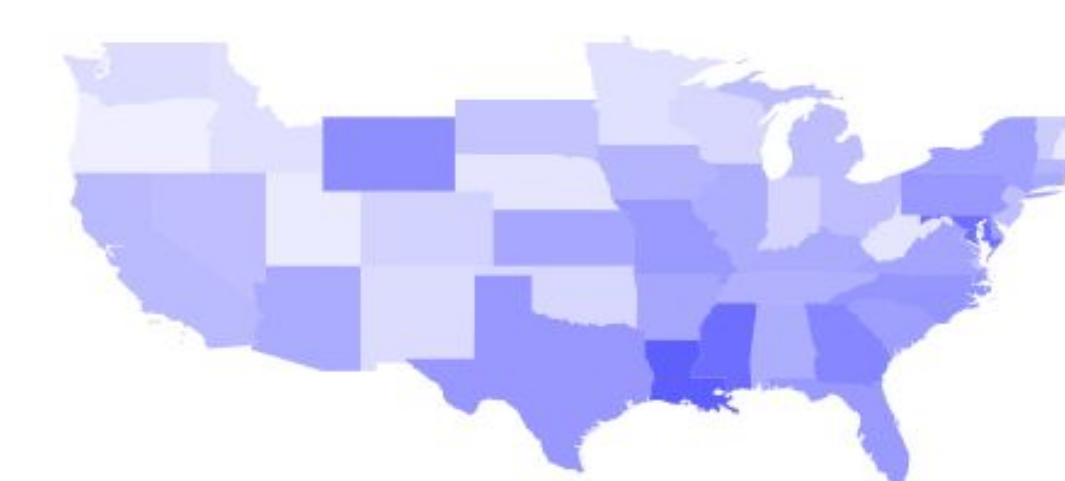
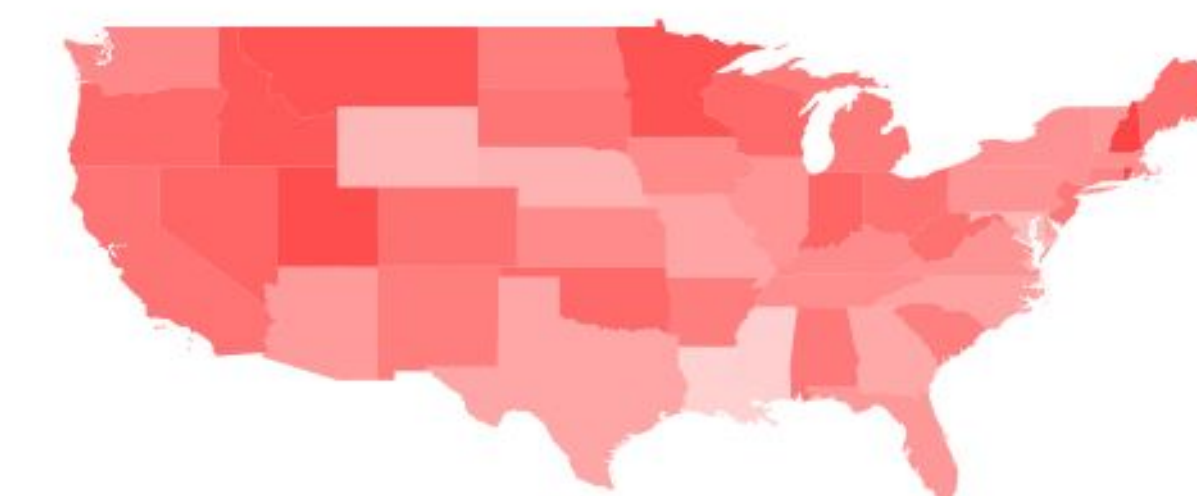
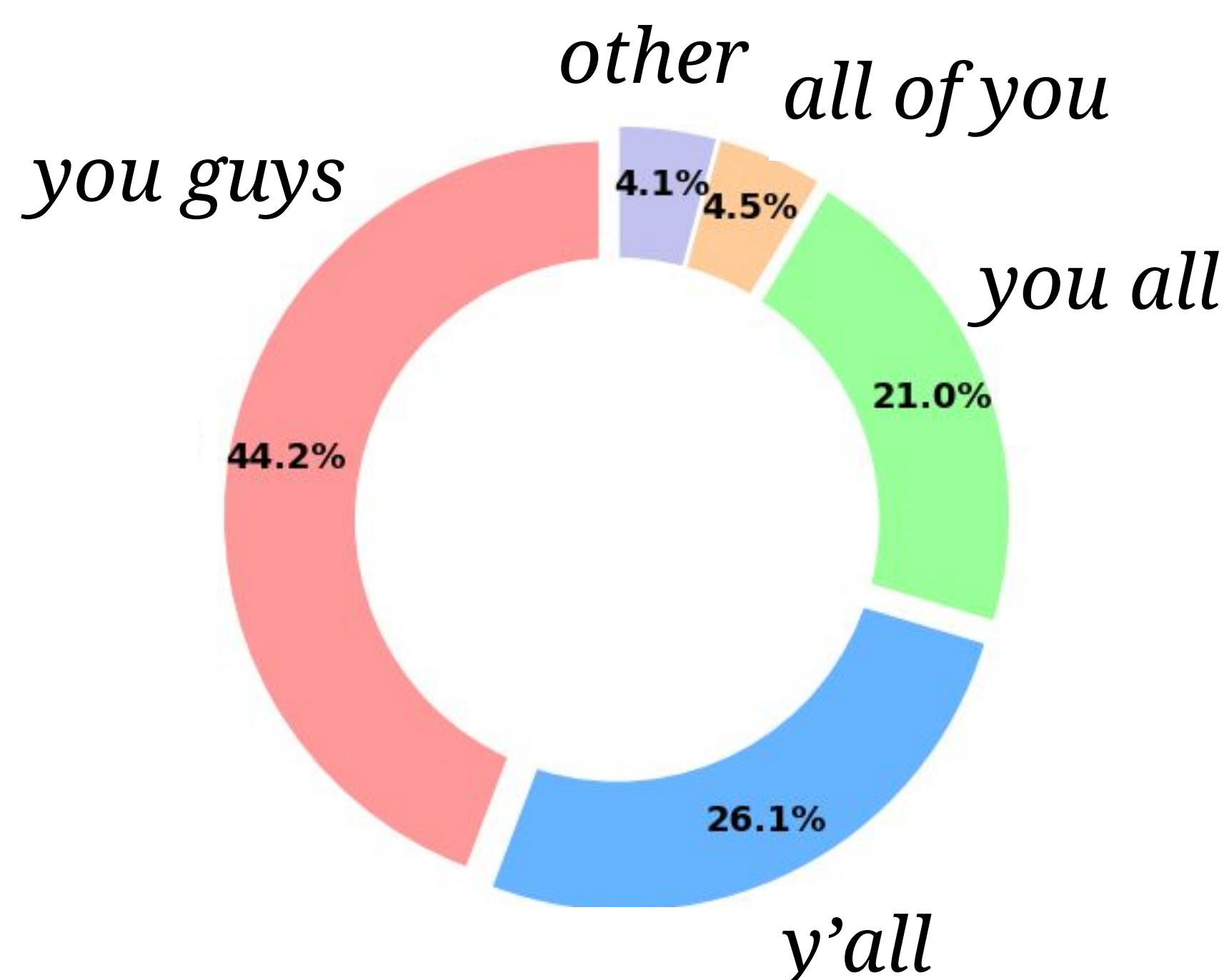


Lo siento mucho, señor Hänsch, señora Cox. No he advertido que **ustedes** pedían la palabra.



I am terribly sorry, Mr Hänsch and Ms Cox. I did not see **you** asking to speak.

U.S. Twitter usage analysis



you guys y'all

Contextual cues are domain dependent

BERT-based classification

good performance in domain

almost random out of domain

