



LSA Annual Meeting: Satellite Workshop for Sociolinguistic Archive Preparation January 4-5, 2012, Portland, Oregon

Organizers

Malcah Yaeger

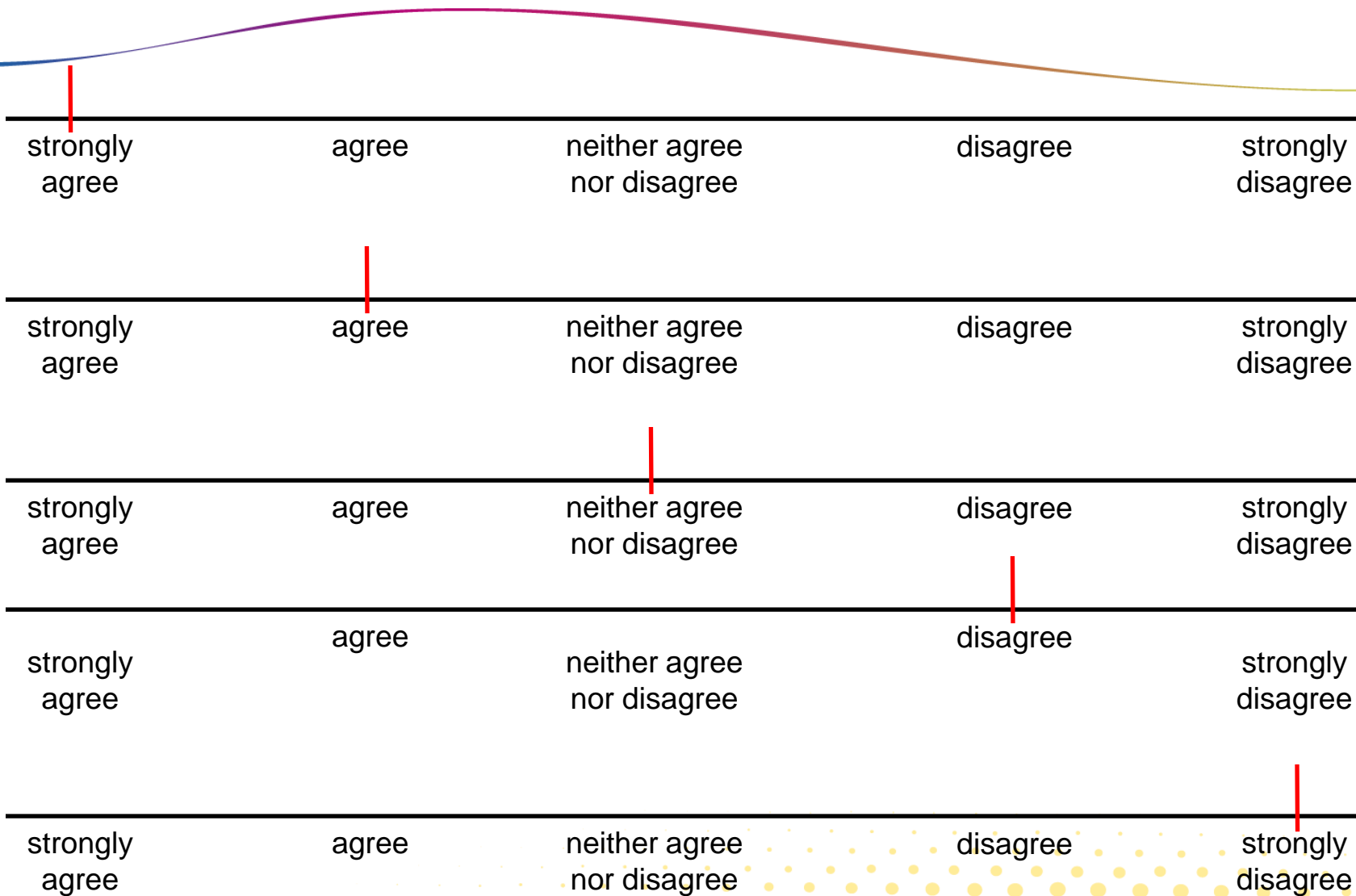
Christopher Cieri

Laurel Mackenzie

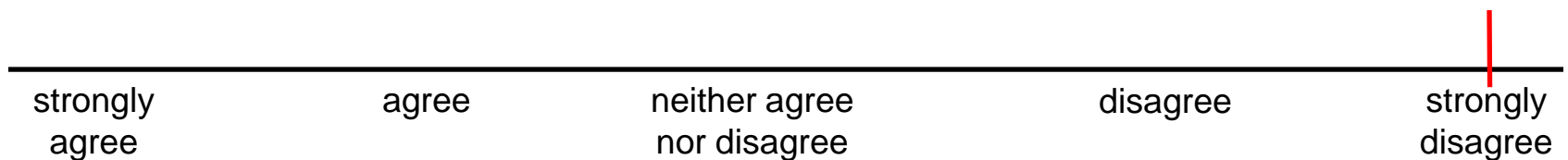
Brittany McLaughlin



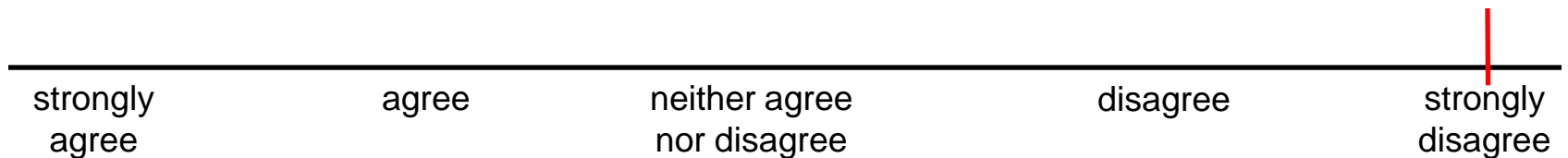
An attitude elicitation device for sociolinguists



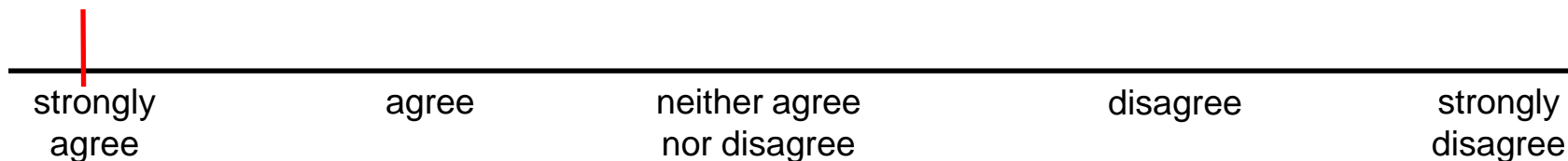
In the future, it will be quite easy to enforce standards such that every sociolinguist elicits the same metadata from their subjects and codes according to the same categories and values.



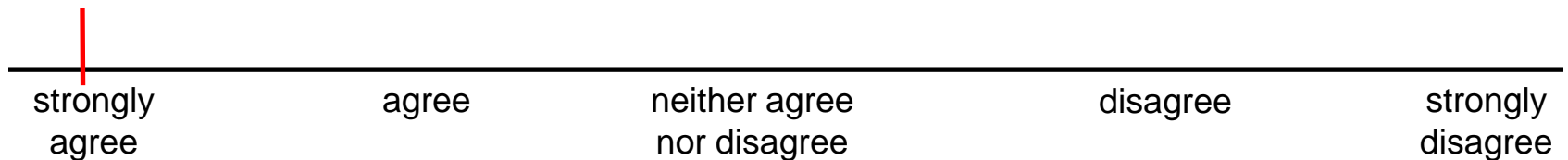
Enforcing a uniform standard across all sociolinguist fieldworkers is a reasonable objective and the principal goal of this workshop.



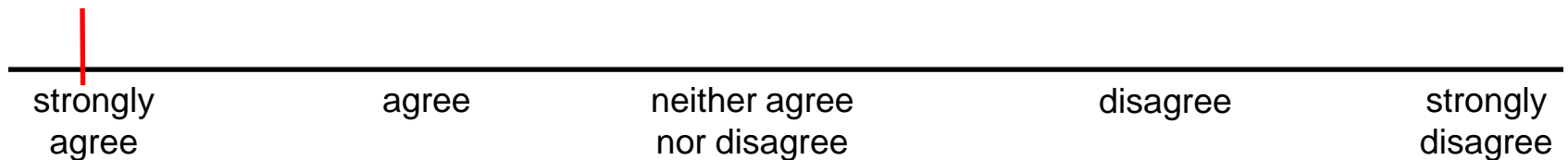
Difference in coding practice reduces comparability of independent studies, data sets. Comparison, while not impossible, requires some reductions in the speakers and/or variables compared.



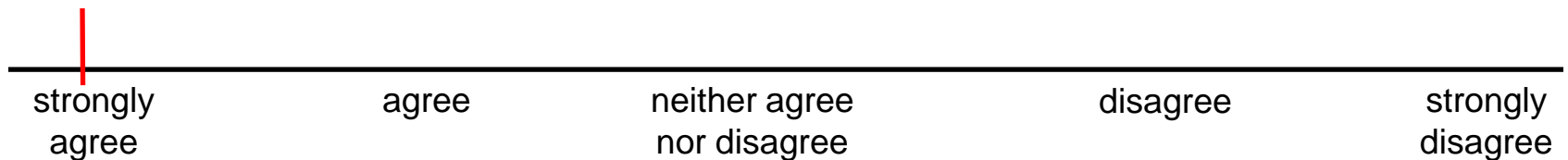
Some variations in coding practice are due to historical accident or lack of communication among practitioners and are thus is candidate for harmonization.



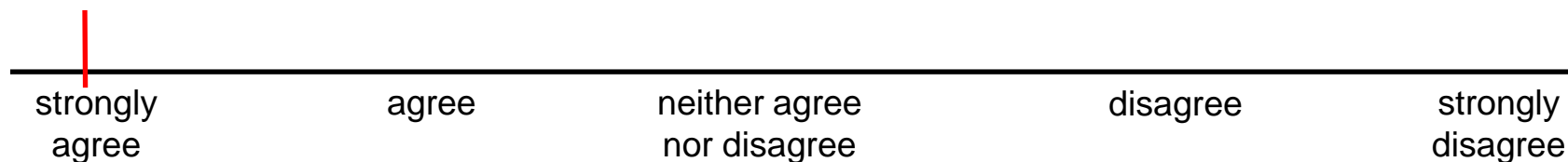
The sociolinguistic research community would benefit from infrastructure that supports the broad documentation of coding practice allowing new efforts to consult prior practice and make informed, affirmative choices.



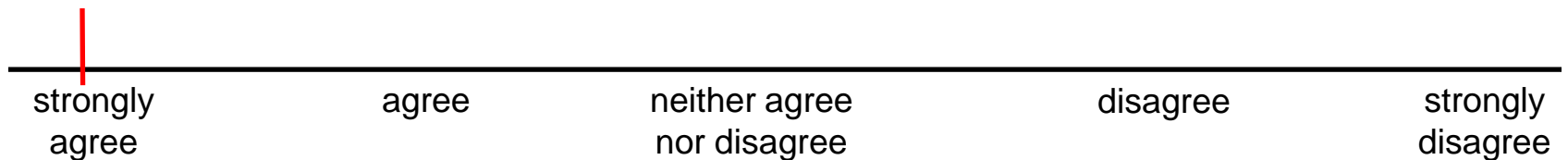
To the extent coding practice can be harmonized, doing so allows independent studies to be compared, independent data sets to be combined, panels studies to be compiled.



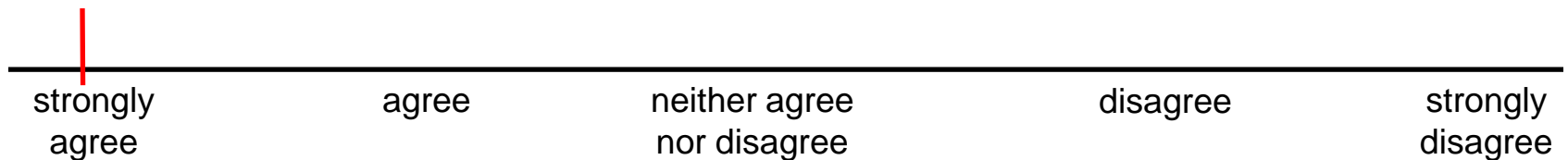
Although many sociolinguists create and maintain corpora of broad interest, and many are willing to share, and many share in smaller groups, publication or broad sharing is not common.



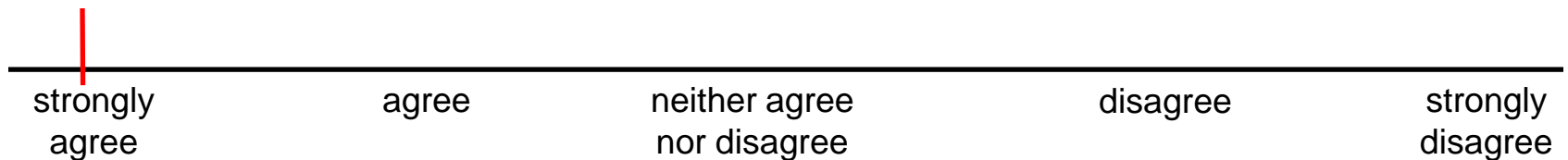
There exist infrastructures such as archives and aggregators that support robust sharing of sociolinguistic(-like) data while removing much of the burden from individual researchers



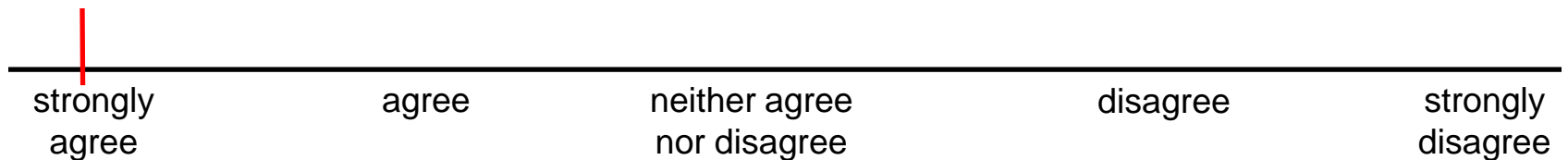
Data sharing increases academic impact as measured by the number of published papers that rely upon the data (>10,000 published papers rely on CHILDES, Talbank and LDC data)



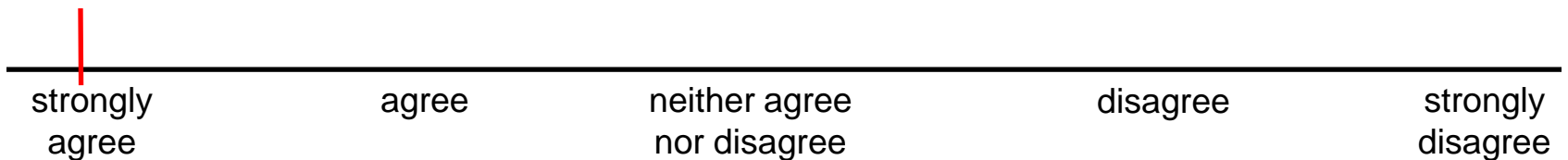
Demographic values dealing with ethnicity ('Black', 'Asian', 'Latino') are more complex than originally believed and are thus frequently underspecified.



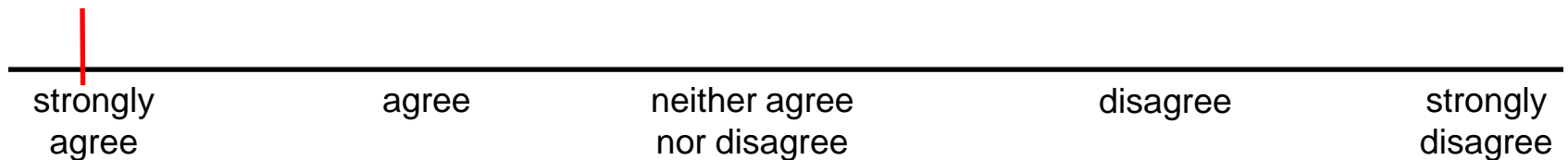
Some variables, like religion, are presumed insignificant -- possibly because they are a matter of personal choice



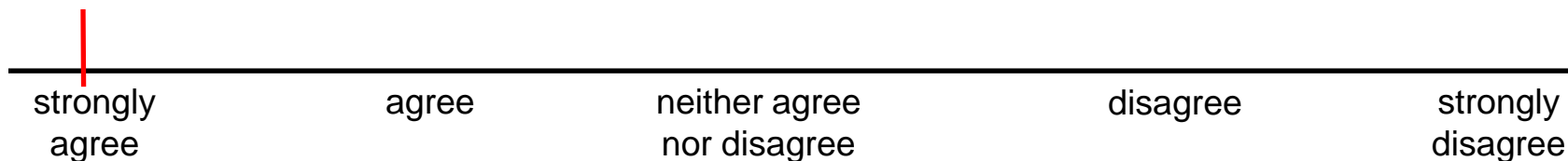
For religion, practicing or not is also relevant.



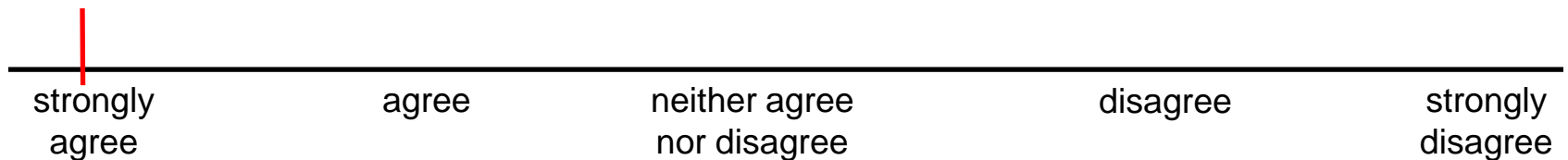
Speakers, especially those in ethnically mixed communities may maintain multiple, hybrid or mixed identities.



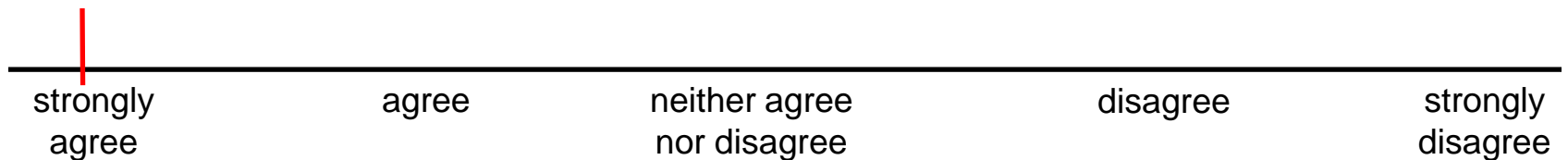
In immigrant communities, variables such as generation, recentness of immigration, tenure in local community, country of ancestry and race ideology though frequently overlooked are relevant.



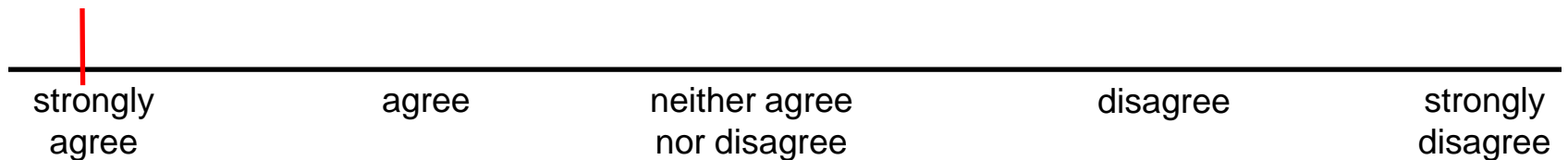
Survey instruments may elicit practice in addition (comparison) to values and attitudes.



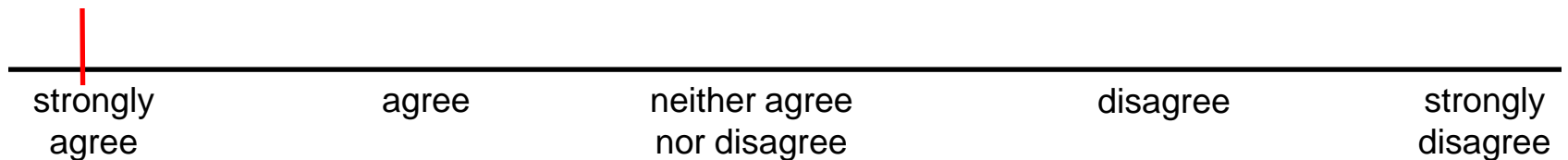
Attitudes may also be elicited by asking about the community meaning of identity terms and about tensions and boundaries in community ideology.



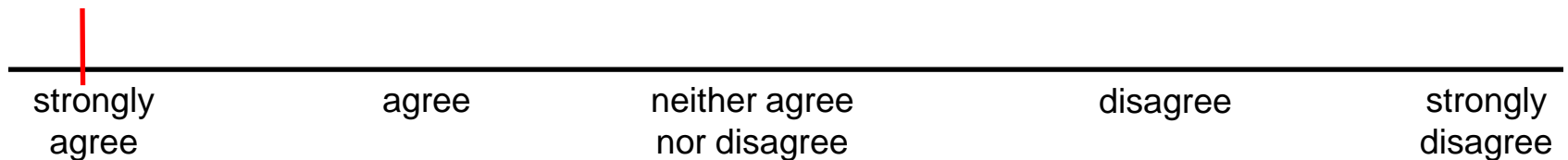
Language varieties include standard, ethnic, other local, non-native, code switching



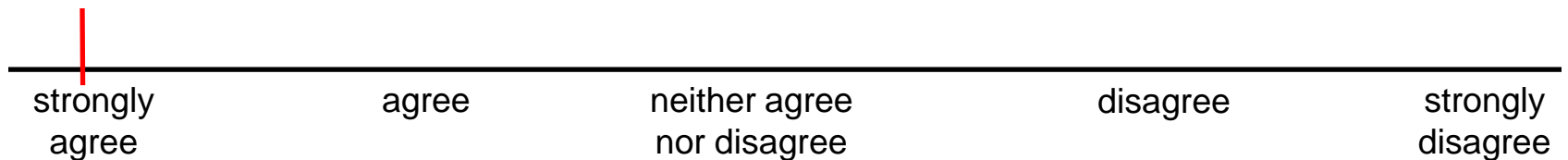
Group membership is sometimes also indexed via the avoidance of features (marginalization).



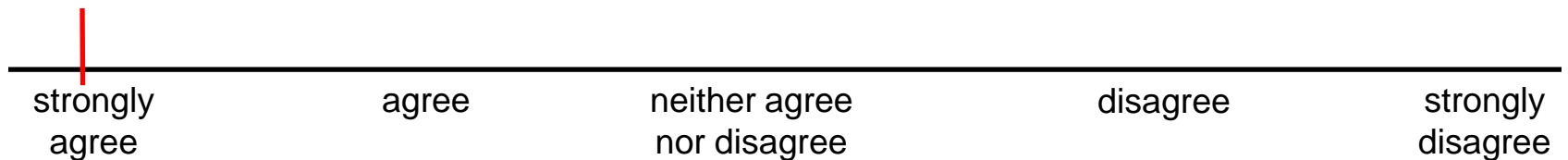
The questions we ask, those we avoid asking, the way we structure those questions and even the assumption of a pre-determined set of questions to be asked may limit or prime the responses given.



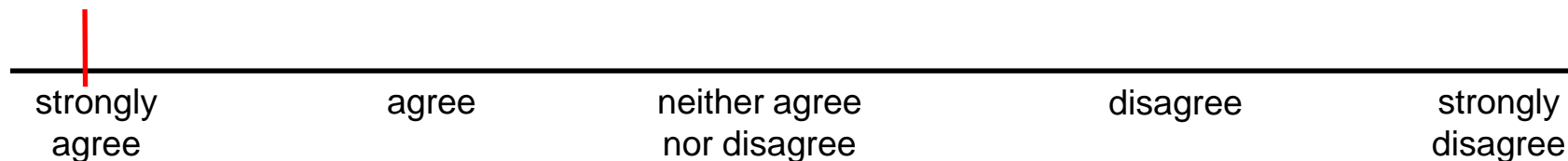
Elicitation of metadata via direct query versus post-analysis of interaction yield different (complementary, contrasting).



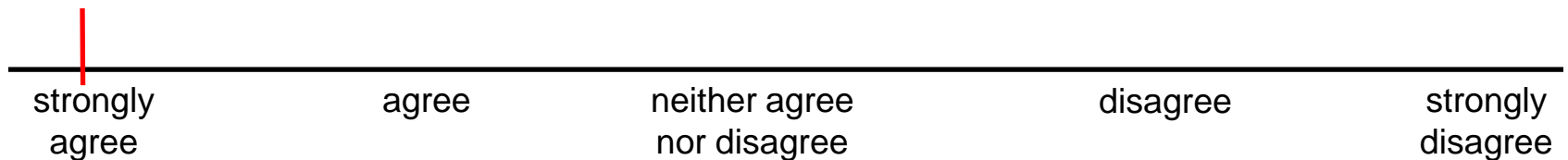
Clusters independent and dependent variables correlate (perhaps making it unnecessary to elicit all)



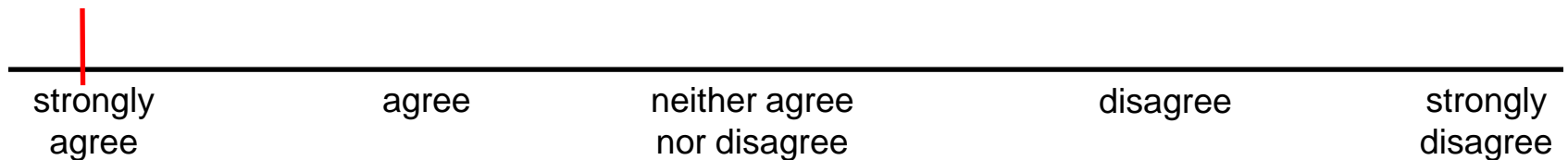
Corpus=raw data collected, selected and annotated for a specific purpose. There is natural tension between collecting a corpus for ones own work and sharing.



Responses to questionnaires complicated by the tension among perception by self, perception by others, desired perception ...



Attitude is not a simple variable but is composed of belief + evaluation + readiness to act.



In border communities, proximity to border and 'national identity' – even where this seems cut and dried – can be significant

