

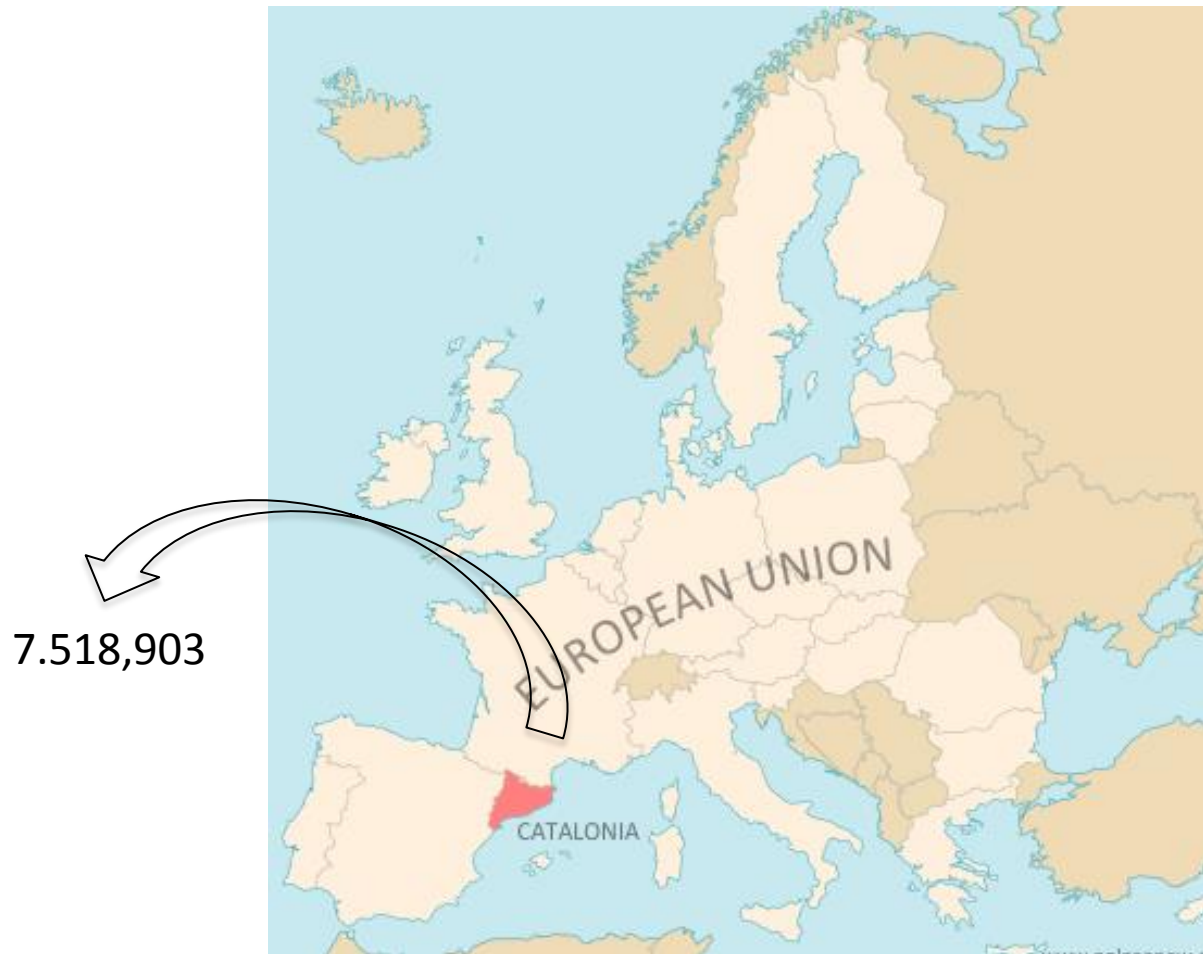
# CATALAN

Some political  
demographic  
and linguistic features

# WHERE IS CATALONIA?



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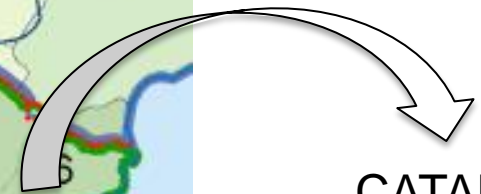
# A ROMANCE LANGUAGE



# OTHER LANGUAGES IN SPAIN

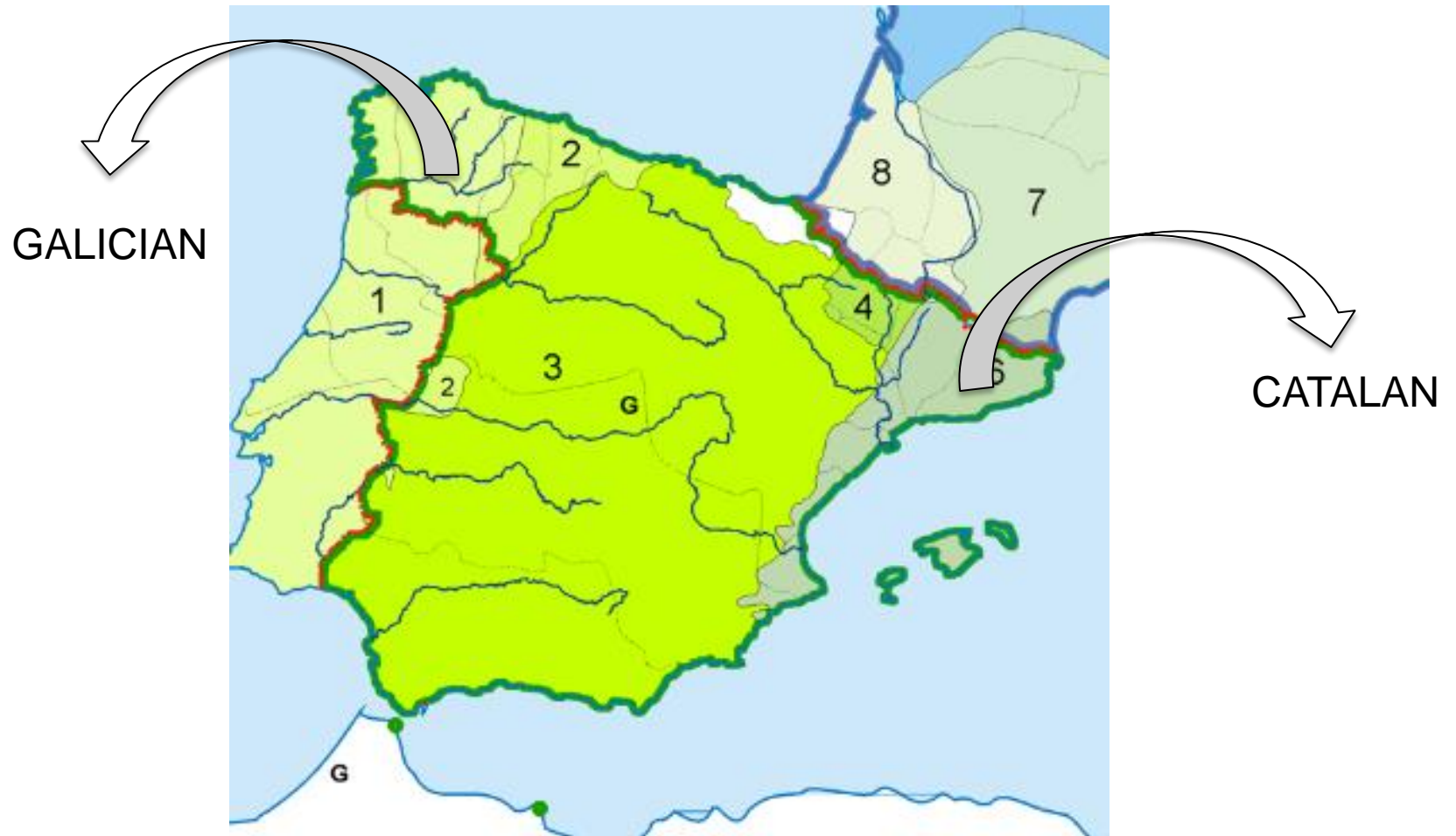


# OTHER LANGUAGES IN SPAIN

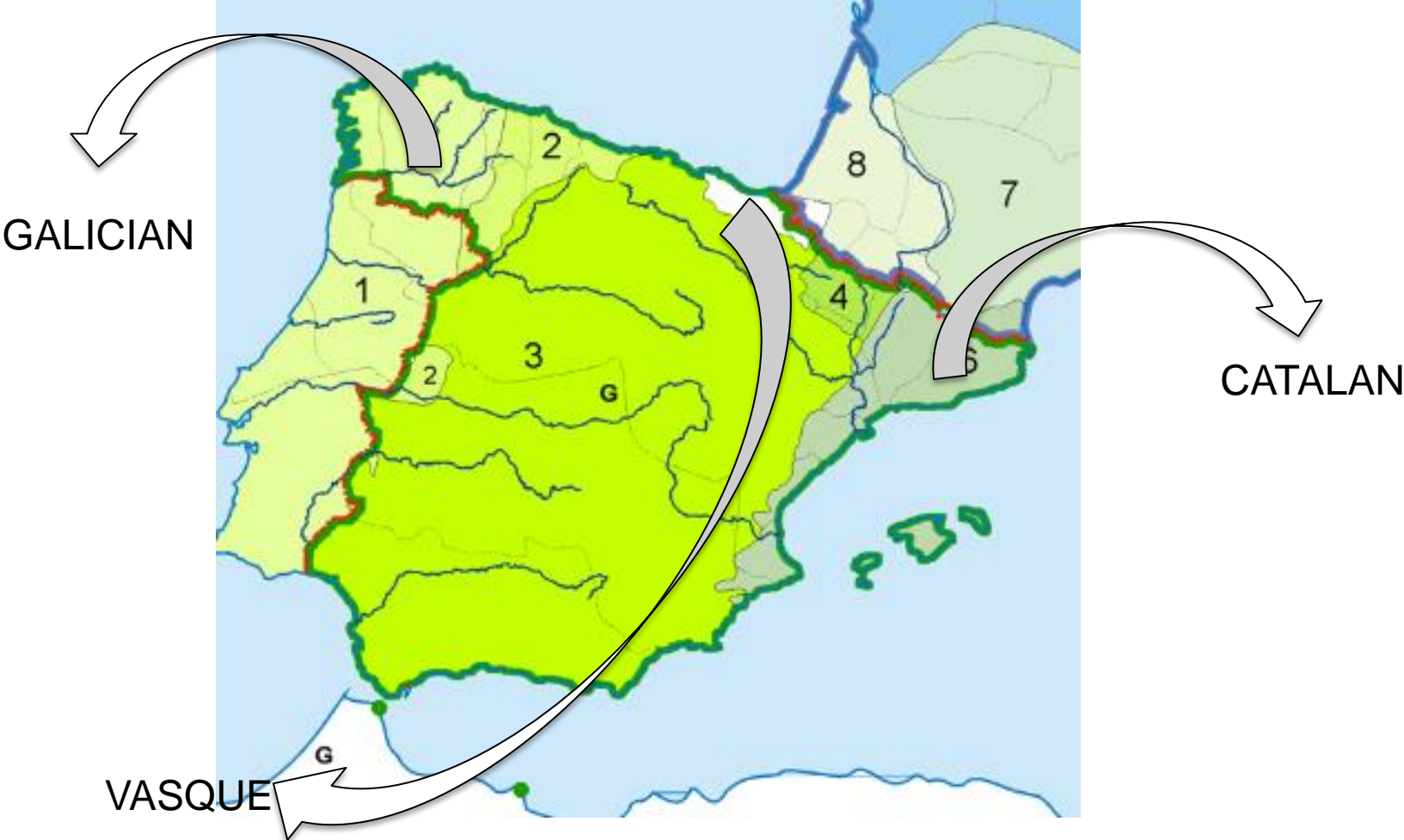


CATALAN

# OTHER LANGUAGES IN SPAIN



# OTHER LANGUAGES IN SPAIN





# WHO SPEAKS CATALAN?



Catalan is co-official with Spanish in Catalonia

1.360.556 (< 20)

- 82% can speak it
- 75% can read it
- 68% can write it

5,686.347 (> 20)

- 74% can speak it
- 83% can read it
- 55% can write it

# RECENT HISTORY OF CATALAN



1939. The public use of Catalan is forbidden

1940-1970. Massive migration from West and Southern Spain into Catalonia (population increases from 2.890.974 in 1940 to 5.508112 in 1970)

1975. The right to use Catalan is restored

1983. A television channel broadcasting only in Catalan

1983 Programa Immersió Lingüística

Catalan becomes the only curricular language

# THE CATALAN SCHOOL SYSTEM TODAY



2000s. Second important wave of immigration

Today 1,548.038 children of ages 0 to 16 attend nursery (0 to 6) and compulsory education (6 to 16).

25% of these children have Catalan as their only home language

12,7% of these children are of immigrant origin

More than 300 languages are spoken in Catalonia

Catalan is the only language of instruction and Spanish is taught as a subject matter (English is taught as L2)

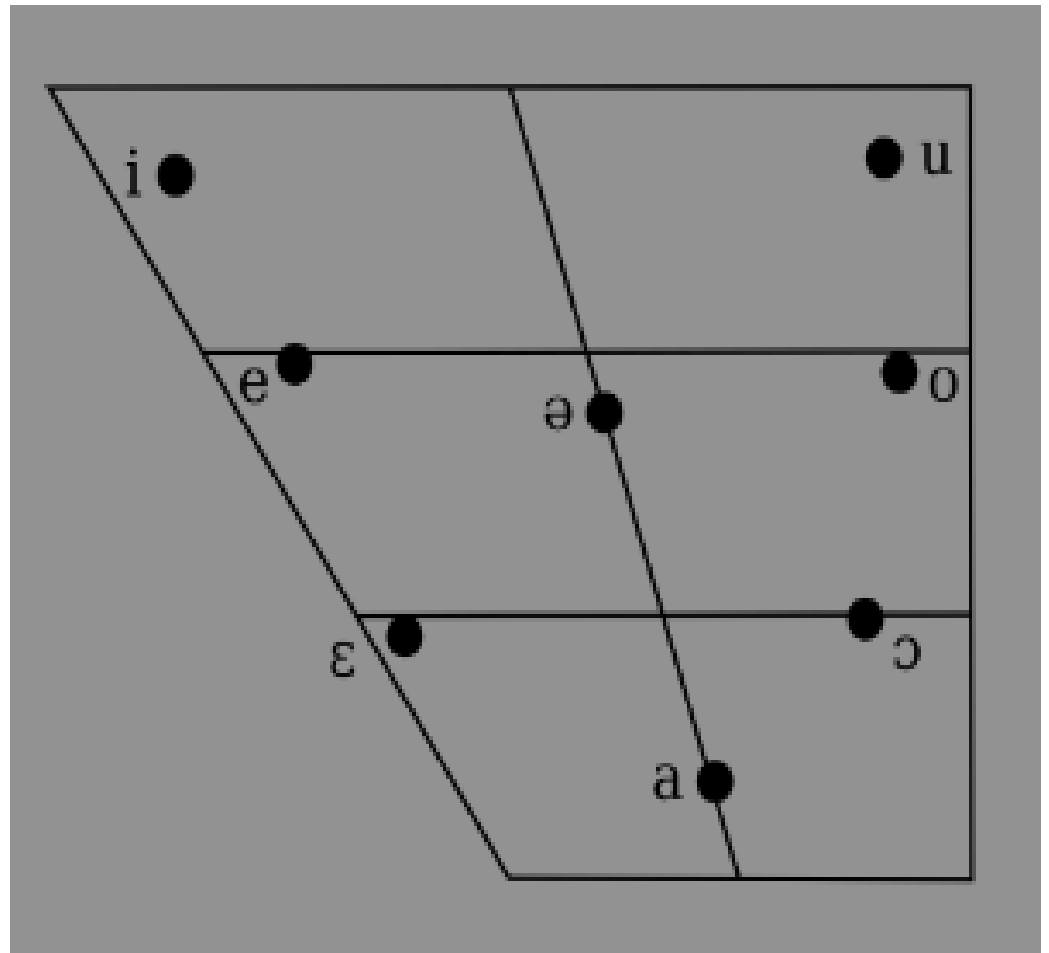
Teacher's proficiency in Catalan varies

There are no specific guidelines regarding the teaching of spelling

- Phonographic correspondences and orthographic rules are considered key to proficient spelling/writing

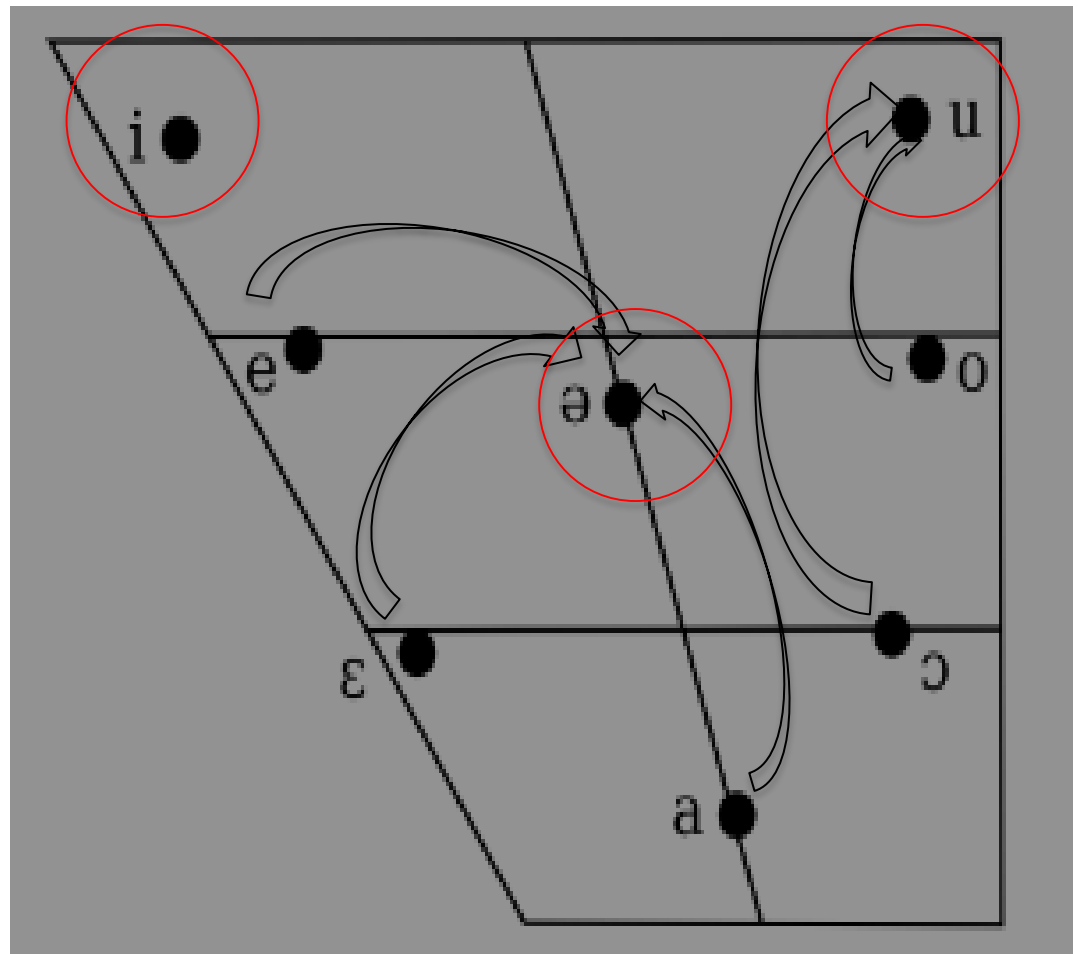
# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

In stressed position  
8 vocalic phonemes  
(represented by 5 letters)



# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

Reduces to 3 in non-stressed position  
(represented by 5 letters)



# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

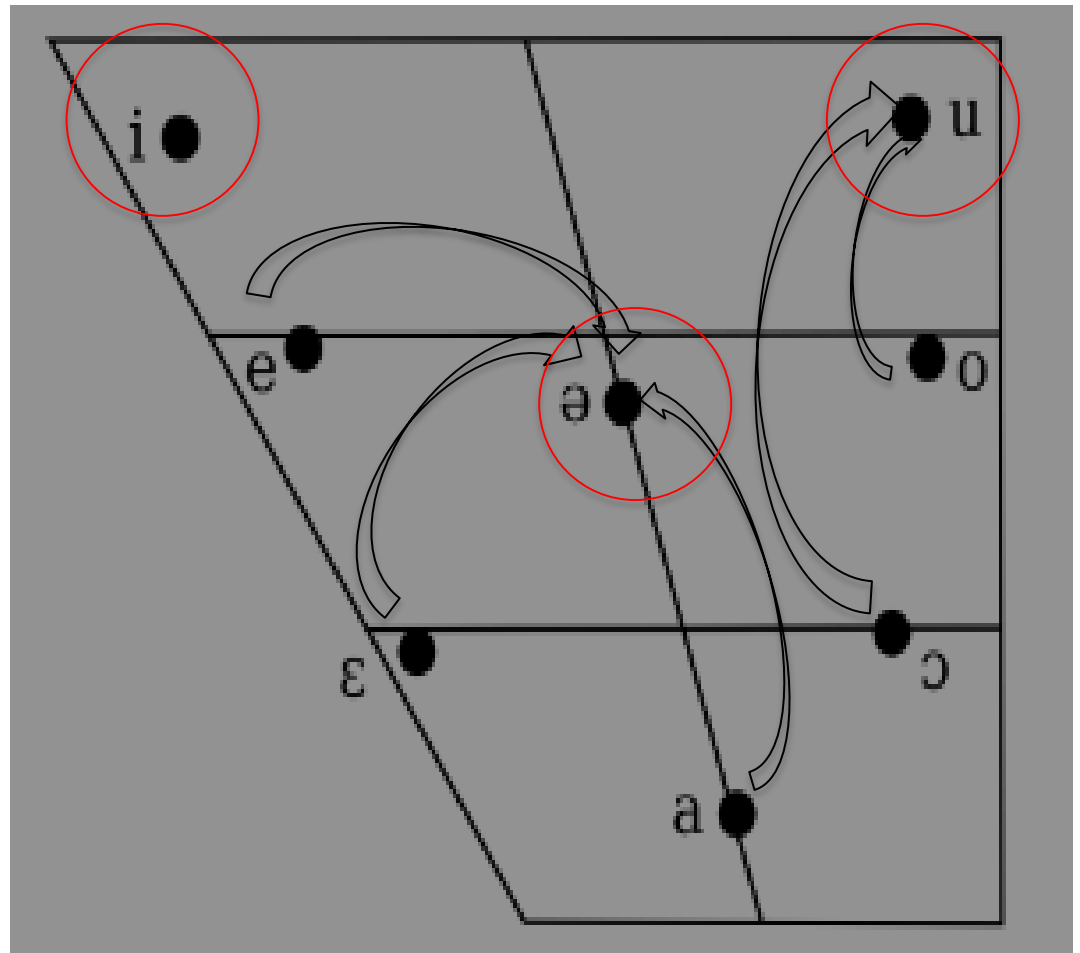
Reduces to 3 in non-stressed position  
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Problematic spelling:

/ə/

→ /əm/ **AMB** 'with'

→ /ən/ **EN** 'in'



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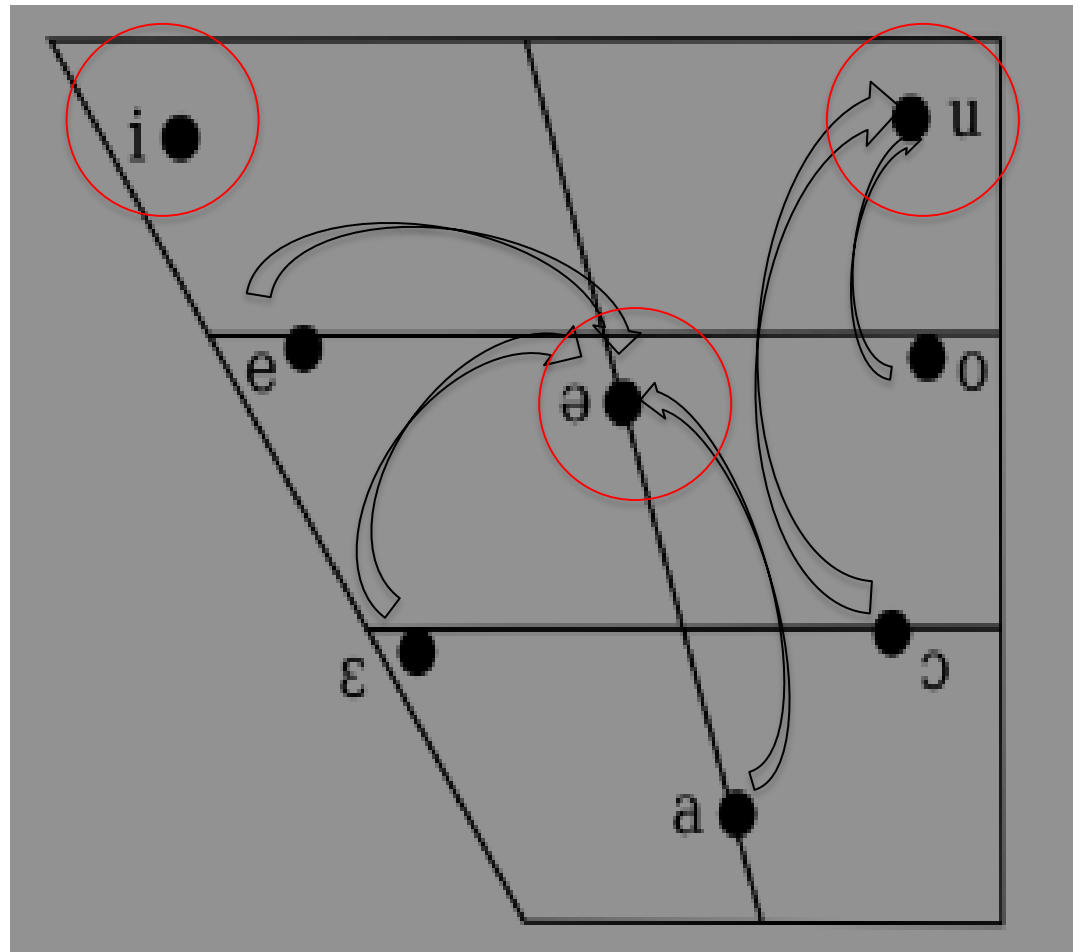
→ /əm/ **AMB** 'with'

→ /ən/ **EN** 'in'

/ɔ/ and /u/

→ /'ʒɔjə/ **JOIA** 'jewel'

→ /ʒu'je/ **JOIER** 'jewel  
maker'



# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

		LLOC D'ARTICULACIÓ														
		BILABIAL		LABIO-DENTAL		DENTAL		ALVEO-LAR		PREPA-LATAL		PALATAL		VELAR		
		-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	
OBSTRUENTS	<i>oclusius</i>	p	b			t	d	s z		f	ʒ			k	g	
	<i>fricatus</i> <i>africats</i>			f	θ			ʃ	ʒ	tʃ	dʒ					
SONANTS	<i>nasals</i>		m		ɱ				n				ɲ		ŋ	
	<i>laterals</i>						l						ʎ			
	<i>rotics</i>	<i>bate-gant</i>						r								
		<i>vi-brant</i>								r						
	<i>aproximants</i>	<i>espi-rants</i>		β				ð								ɣ
<i>semi-vocals</i>											j				w	

31 phonemes represented by 21 letters and 8 digraphs

10 phonemes can be spelled by more than one letter/digraph

9 letters represent more than one phoneme

h is always phonologically empty and r, t, p can be too



# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

## VERBAL INFLECTION

### Regular verbs

	FINITE				NON-FINITE		
	IMPERFECTIVE		PERFECTIVE				
	INDICATIVE	SUBJUNCTIVE	INDICATIVE	SUBJUNCTIVE	INFINITIVE	PART PARTICIPLE	GERUND
					3	3	3
Present	24	18	6	6			
Imp. Past	12	12	6	6			
Simple Past	18	--	6	--			
Per. Past	6	--	6	--			
Future	6	6	6	6			
						TOTAL:	159

+ set of frequent irregular verbs

# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

## **Inflecting Det, N and Adj**

Determinants, nouns and adjectives are inflected for

**gender:**

M: -∅ ; -a ; -e ; -o

F: -∅ ; -a ; -e

**Number:**

S: -∅

P: -s ; -ns ; -es ; -os ; sos

# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

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## Spelling inflected Det, N and Adj

is *problematic* as inflection morphemes occur in non-stressed syllables the speaker/writer needs to **decide** whether -a or -e represents reduced /ə/

M: *par-e* 'father' ; *map-a* 'map'

F: *llun-a* 'moon' ; *mar-e* 'mother'

Pl.: *par-es* 'fathers' ; *llun-es* 'moons'

# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

**Derivation** is a productive means of word creation

N → N/V/Adj/Adv

V → V/N/Adj/Adv

Adj → Adj/N/V/Adv

Derivation can be recursive

*conversa* (N) 'talk' → *conversa-ció* (N) 'conversation' → *conversa-ció-(n)al*  
(Adj) 'conversational'

Derivation morphemes precede inflection morphemes

*Conversa-ció-ns* 'conversa-tion-s'

# LINGUISTIC FEATURES: MORPHOLOGICAL SYSTEM AND ITS REPRESENTATION

Morphologically based spellings

/tər'do/ tard**or** 'autum' (\*tardó, \*tardo)

/nəðə'do/ nedad**or** 'swimmer' (\*nedadó, \*nedado)

/pər'la/ parl**ar** 'to talk' (\*parlà, \*parla)

/dəs'tral/ destr**al** 'ax' (\*dastral)

/dəsbəs'ti/ desvest**ir** 'undress' (\*dasvestir)

## SOME CHALLENGES

Considerations about literacy development of non Catalan native speakers

Design of research informed teaching practices for writing (whether or not Catalan L1)

Screening language/learning difficulties

Continue with teaching other languages