

Introduction

Group singing can be an effective method for addressing the challenges faced by newcomers in Québec, such as learning French while integrating into an unfamiliar society. However, no study has explored choir quantitatively as a multi-functional tool facilitating the acquisition of a second language, social integration and the improvement of newcomers' well-being.

Goals

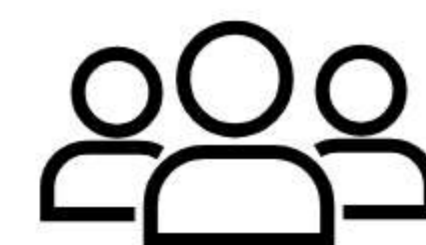
Assess the reliability and sensitivity of qualitative and quantitative measures of French language acquisition, connectedness, and well-being in 30 adult immigrants.

Participants



Choir

Waitlist

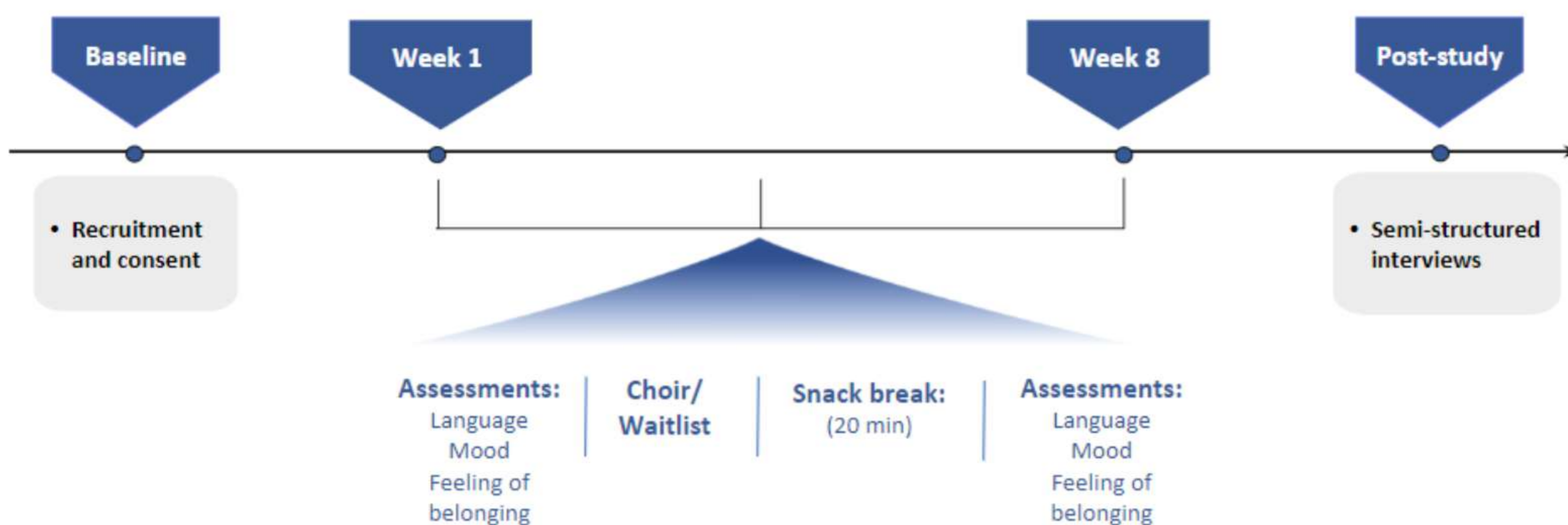


16 Females, 4 males
Age: $M=37.5$ (21-60)
Musical experience: 11 years

9 Females, 1 male
Age: $M=41.1$ (23-61)
Musical experience: one year

Most have lived in QC for less than a year
Mostly university graduates
Half (per group) of participants have taken French courses
Most had beginner French level

Procedure



References



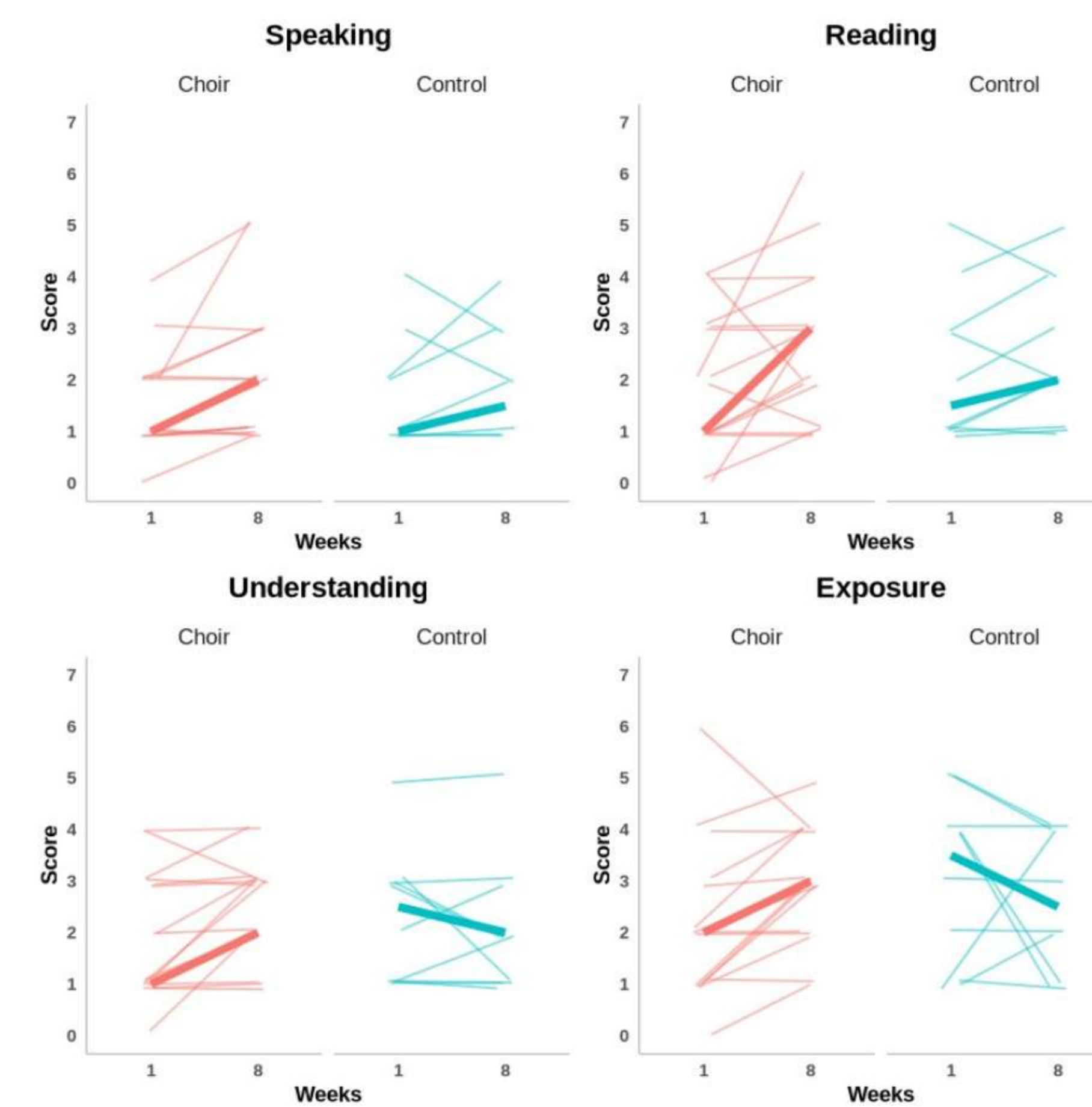
Sharing Music With Newcomers: Proof-Of-Concept Study

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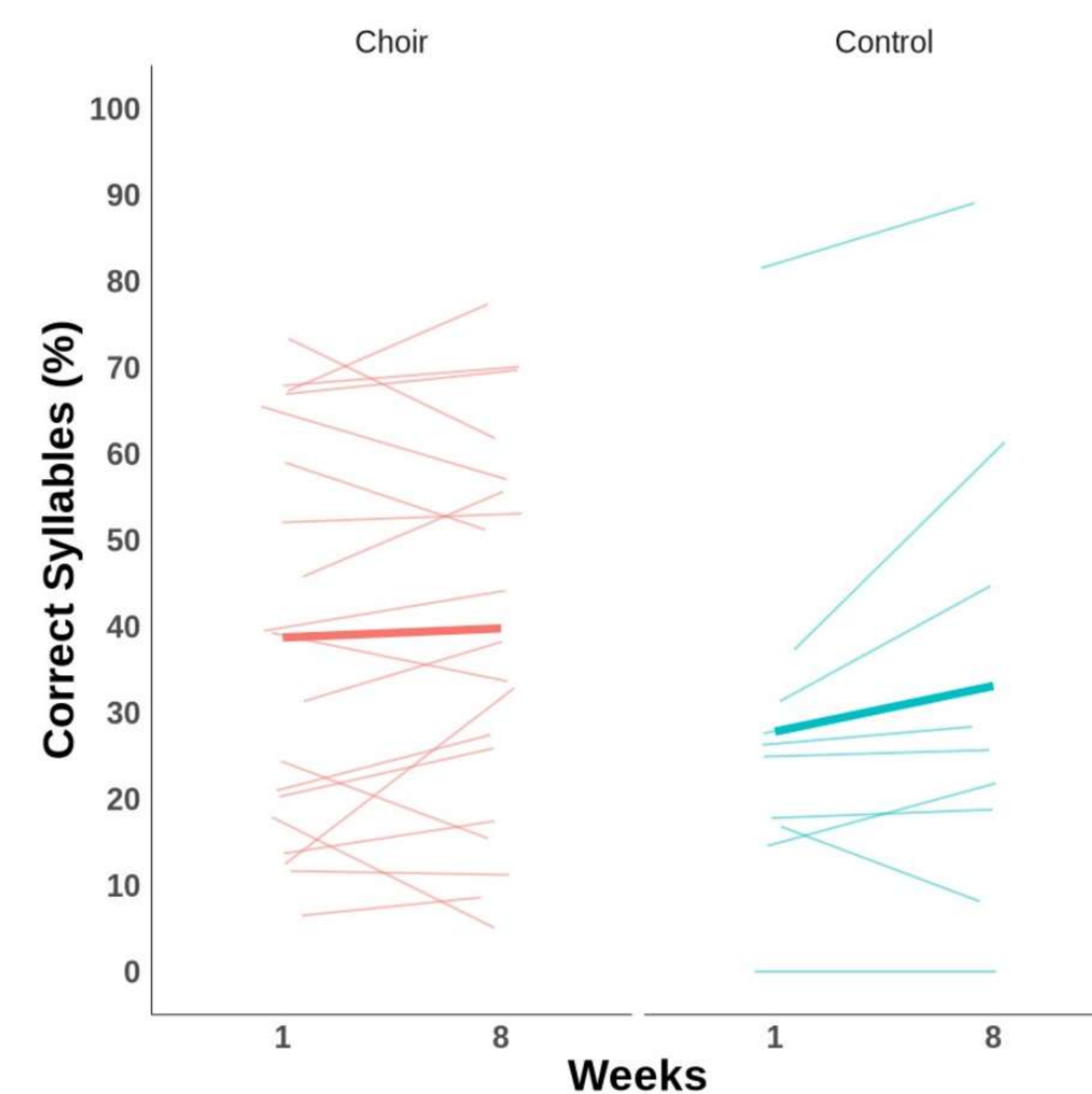
Results

Interviews with participants showed that they think that participating in the choir helped them improve their French pronunciation and vocabulary, particularly by boosting their confidence to begin speaking the language.

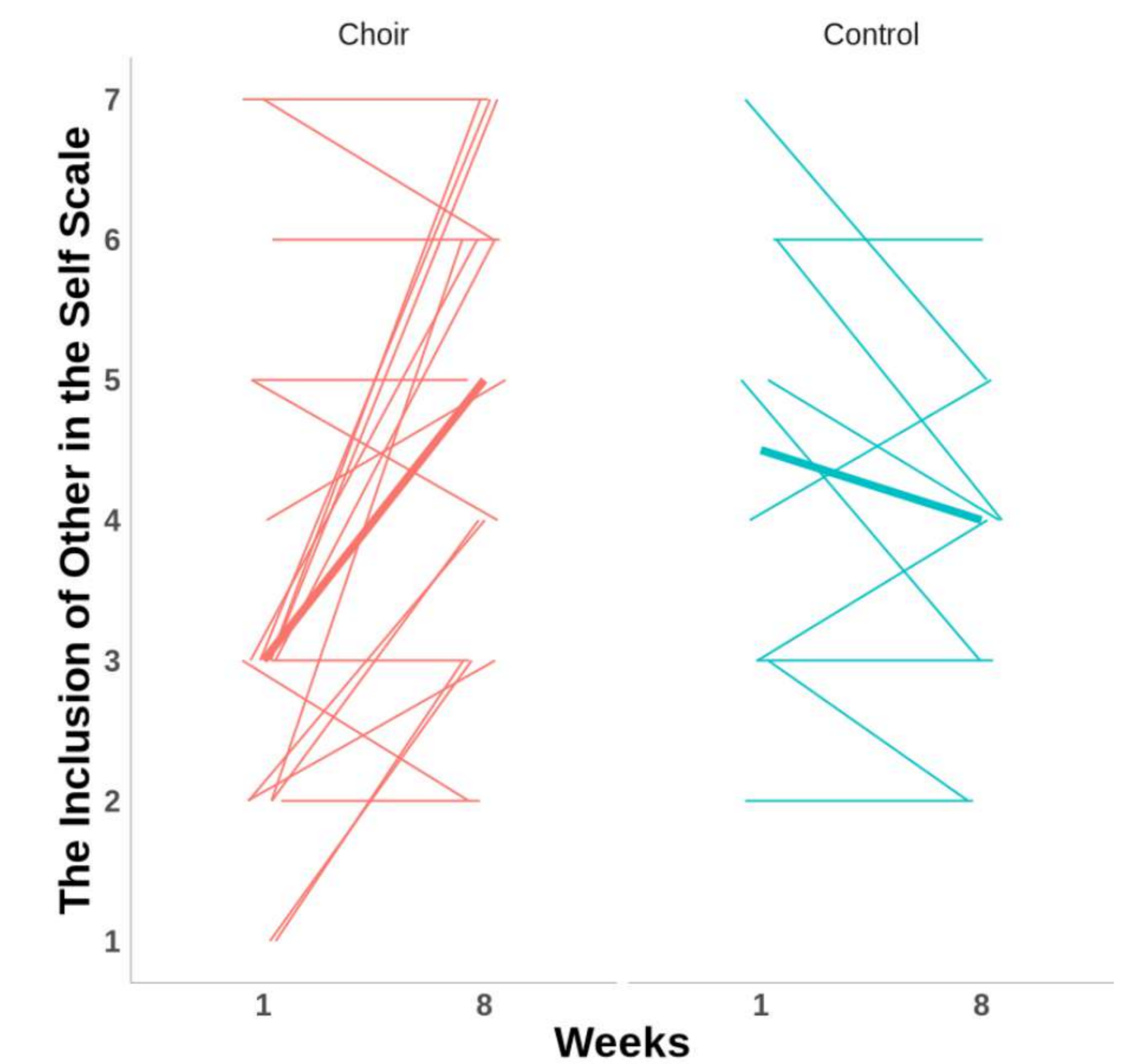
Choir participation **boosts** self-reported French proficiency and exposure



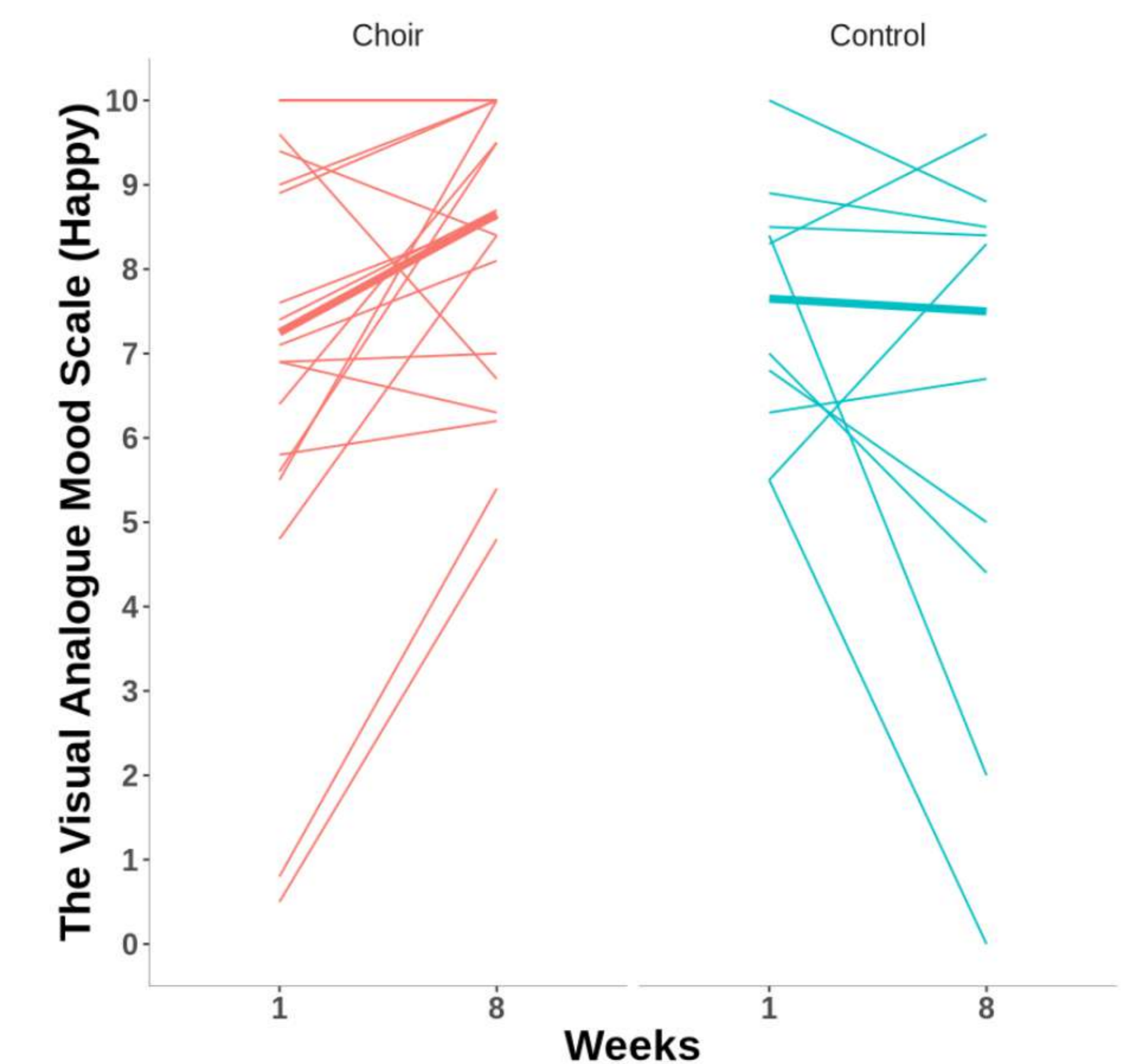
Choir participation **did not improve** pronunciation in a formal sentence repetition task



Choir participation **strengthens** sense of group belonging



Choir participation **increases** positive mood



Discussion

- This proof-of-concept study provides initial evidence of the social and psychological benefits of choral singing for new immigrants to Québec.
- It confirms the feasibility of conducting a randomized controlled trial to further assess the efficacy of this approach.
- Although it did not quantitatively and objectively confirm the effect of choir on French acquisition, the qualitative and subjective feedback from participants indicate that the choir has promise as a tool for linguistic integration.