I know one of the waiters who was/were working at the restaurant last night. Which would you pick?

1. What did I do?
- Research topic: "Fuzzy" subject-verb agreement
- Subject and participants, which enables in-situ observations and requests for data collection
- Main Focus
  - An analysis of verb choices made by native English, French, and German speakers
- Aims of Project
  - Demonstrate how varying the content fuzzy agreement & impact on communication

2. How did I go about this?
- Surveys in English, French and German (online & in person)
- Administration
  - English surveys: Wisconsin, USA
  - French surveys: PACA region, France
  - German surveys: Lower Austria & Styria, Austria
- Participants
  - Targeted participants: English, French and German native speakers
  - 50 participants per language, Ages 18 +, male and female, any occupation
- Results
  - Over 200 participants across different nationalities and language preferences

3. What did I find?
- English Speakers
  - High preference for singular
- French Speakers
  - Young age groups preferring plural
  - General decline in preference for plural in older age groups
- German Speakers
  - High preference for plural, independent of age groups
- Exceptions
  - Sentences 8, 9 triggered more plural responses across all ages and languages,
    whereas sentence 10 seemed to trigger singular responses

4. Why might this happen?
- Semantics (interpretation of the meaning of sentences)
  - Detail, specificity: use of modifiers such as few, many, at least...
- Syntax (formation of sentences)
  - Evident trends across languages
    - English: high singular preference
    - French: preference depends on age
    - German: high plural preference

5. Conclusion
- Evident trends in age groups' preferences
  - Young age groups' singular
  - Older age groups' plural
- More research must be conducted before current questions can be answered.

6. Current Questions
- Could there be evidence of a language change?
- What role does one's native language/culture play?
- What role do proximity, detail, and specificity play?

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