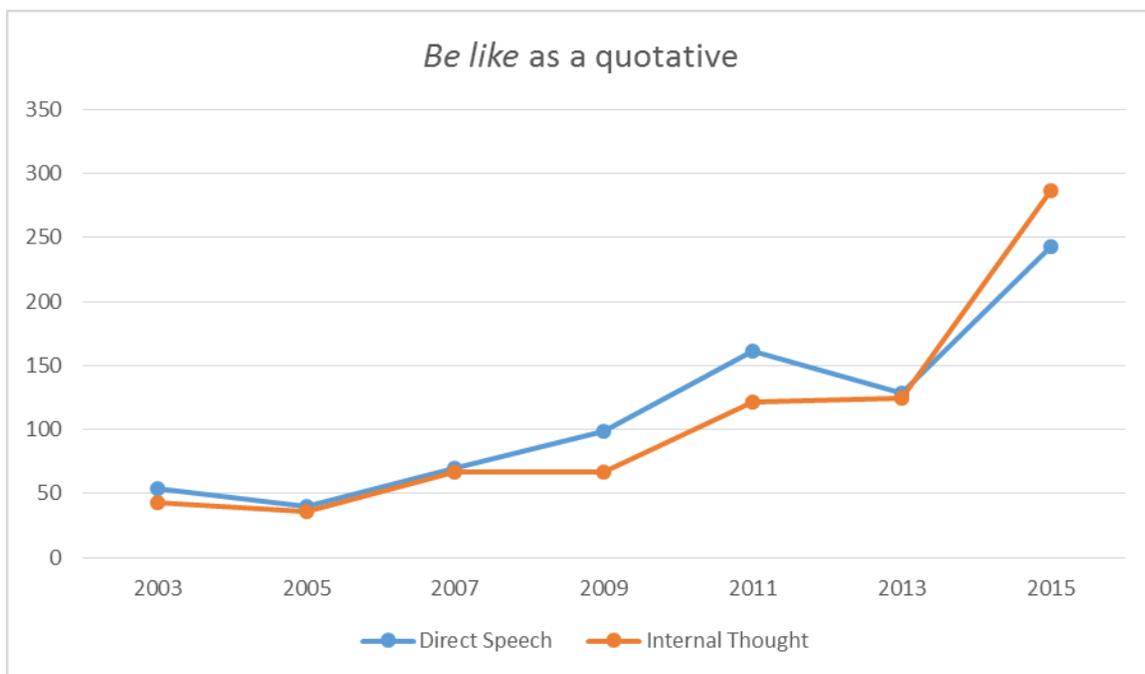


4 Results

In this section, the information that appeared in the Analysis section will be interpreted and supported by the chi square significance test and literature from previous studies by other authors. After observing all the charts through all the tenses and persons, some interesting constants can be clearly seen, such as the downslope in the years 2005 and 2013, and the high jump in 2015. This is clearly evident in in Figure 1 below, which compiles all grammatical persons and tenses. This only comprises *be like* as a quotative. All other functions of *like*, such as a preposition, focuser, adverb, and reaction phrase will be discussed in the next sub-section.

Figure 1. Chart for *be like* as a quotative



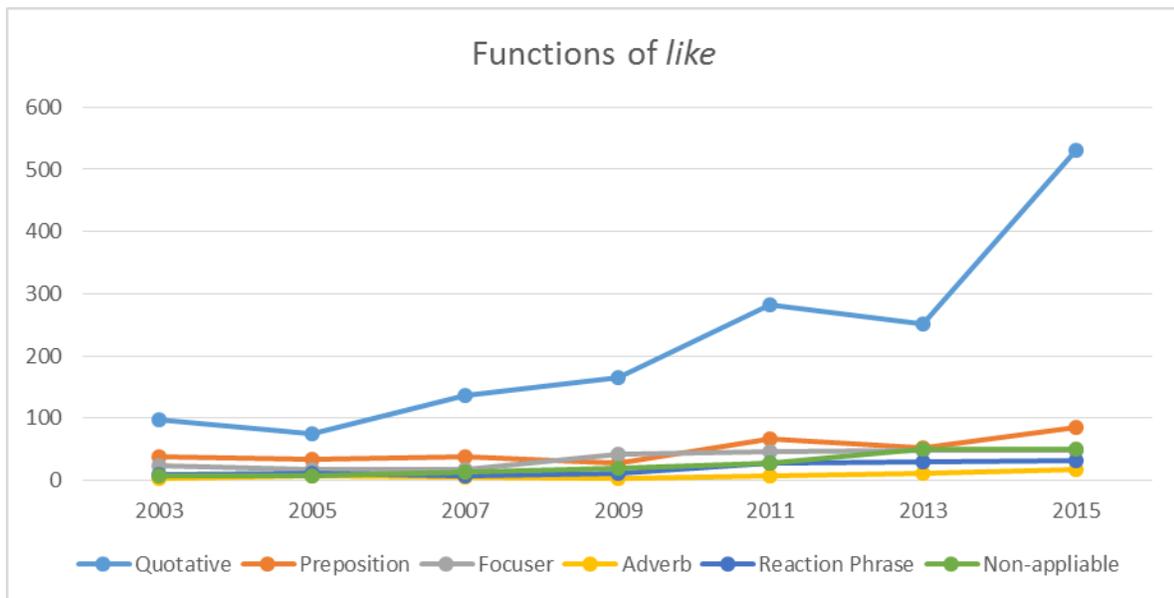
The quotative use of *be like* has a constant but slow increase, though from the years 2003 to 2005 and 2011 to 2013 there is a small decrease, the reason being that this year simply reported fewer numbers in general. Since in most charts this downslope and the

increase in 2015 is present, I decided to divide the years from 2003 to 2011 and 2013 to 2015 for the future chi square significance tests that will be shown shortly. This should allow us to tell if the 2013 downslope is statistically significant.

4.1 General

Taking into account that quotative *be like* was first discussed by Butters in 1982, and that past research has pointed out how relatively fast its use has grown in several English speaking communities around the globe (Barbieri, 2009; Buchstaller, 2001), it is not surprising to see it as the primary use of *like* as late as 2003, as seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2. Chart for functions of *like*



What is surprising then, is the exponential rate at which the raw frequency increases, especially after comparing it with its other uses. In the earliest year, it easily doubled the other uses in sheer concordance result numbers, and, except for the small

decrease in 2005 and 2013, it shows a successful use of *be like* which was increasingly, consistently, and constantly used. By 2015, its frequency numbers are over 4 times the frequency numbers of preposition *like*, which has been in the English language since the 13th century. As the COCA is a corpus that keeps its genres equally balanced for each update, this could be explained by a growing popularity in the use of *be like* as a quotative in general, and as a reporter of Direct Speech and Internal Thought.

Table 4.

Be like

Year	Be like							
	Total tokens	Direct speech	Internal thought	Focus particle	Preposition (description)	Adverb (approximation)	Response Cry	Non-applicable
2003	170	54	43	23	30	3	9	8
2005	146	40	36	18	26	8	12	7
2007	213	70	67	18	33	6	7	13
2009	266	99	67	42	24	3	11	20
2011	450	161	121	46	59	8	28	27
2013	433	128	124	48	41	11	29	50
2015	748	243	287	49	69	17	31	50
Total	2426	795	745	244	282	56	127	175

Quotative *be like*'s complete domination of the chart in Figure 2 shows how predominant it is now compared to the other older uses. It is evident that even at its lowest during the year 2005, the quotative function it is still the most used, starting with a raw frequency of 100 in 2003 and reaching over 500 in 2015 (more clearly seen in Table 4 above). In second place, *be like* as a descriptor doesn't even reach a raw frequency of 100 in the last year, but it consistently stays above all other functions throughout the chart, excepting the year 2009, where it momentarily switches places with *be like* as a focuser, and continues with a more erratic evolution. Relating to this, focuser *be like* (the 'Valley Girl' use, as described by Blyth, Recktenwald, & Wang, 1990) stays at third place only

slightly under its use as a preposition, a use that has been around since the 13th century, as noted in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary (2016). With the only exception in 2009, this use as a focuser keeps increasing but at a very slow rate. All other functions consistently remain under a raw frequency of 50.

Now, to deduce if the increment of quotative use compared to other functions is statistically significant, I applied the chi square significance test, which is detailed in Chi square table 1 below. Thanks to this test, it is possible to know whether changes in two variables are independent to each other and significant. For *be like*, I divided the years analyzed in two time periods, one which comprises the years 2003-2011 and another which includes the years 2013 and 2015. These two are the two columns. The two independent variables are *be like* as a Quotative and as Other Functions. As shown in the table below, the raw frequencies of a variable per the time period were written down.

Table 6.

Functions of like

Functions of Like	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Quotative	758	782	1540
Ex. Quotative	802.5256	737.4744	
Other Functions	414	295	709
Ex. Other			
Functions	369.4744	339.5256	
Total	1172	1077	2249

In order to calculate the significance level, first I have to calculate the expected frequency if the variants were evenly distributed (called the *null hypothesis*). This has to be done for each variable. To do this, I have to multiply the row total by the column total, and

divide by the total sum of all frequencies. For Quotative in 2003-2011, it's the total of the Quotative row (1540) by the total of the 2003-2011 (1172), and divided by the total sum (2249). This means that the expected frequency of Quotative in 2003-2011 is $(1540 \times 1172) / 2249 = 802.5256$. The same applies for all variables, which leads us to the chi square table below. As I did all calculations using the software Microsoft Excel 2013, I rounded the results to 4 decimals so they wouldn't be too different from the results of a normal calculator.

Table 7.

Chi square table for functions of like

Functions of Like			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Quotative	758	782	1540
Ex. Quotative	802.5256	737.4744	
Other Functions	414	295	709
Ex. Other Functions	369.4744	339.5256	
Total	1172	1077	2249

qt 2003-2011	2.4704
qt 2013-2015	2.6883
of 2003-2011	5.3658
of 2013-2015	5.8391
	16.3635

To obtain the chi square value, I have to do another operation: subtract the expected frequency from the observed frequency, square the difference, and divide the result by the expected frequency. This has to be done for each cell of the observed data. For example, for *qt 2003-2011* (which refers to Quotative in the 2003-2011 period), the operation is $(758 - 802.5256)^2 / 802.5256 = 2.4704$. After obtaining a result from all periods and variables, these are all summed up into a final value, which in this case is **16.3635**. To confirm if this number is significant or not, I must compare it with the numbers corresponding to its significance level after determining the degree of freedom (which tells us how many cells

are free to vary) appropriate for these calculations (which in this case, is 1), as mentioned in the Procedure section.

Table 5

Significance level

	<i>Significance level</i>					
	0.20	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.001
df 1	1.64	2.71	3.84	5.02	6.64	10.83
df 2	3.22	4.61	5.99	7.38	9.21	13.82
df 3	4.64	6.25	7.82	9.35	11.34	16.27

Looking at the table, this means the resulting value of **16.3635** is significant at the $p < 0.001$

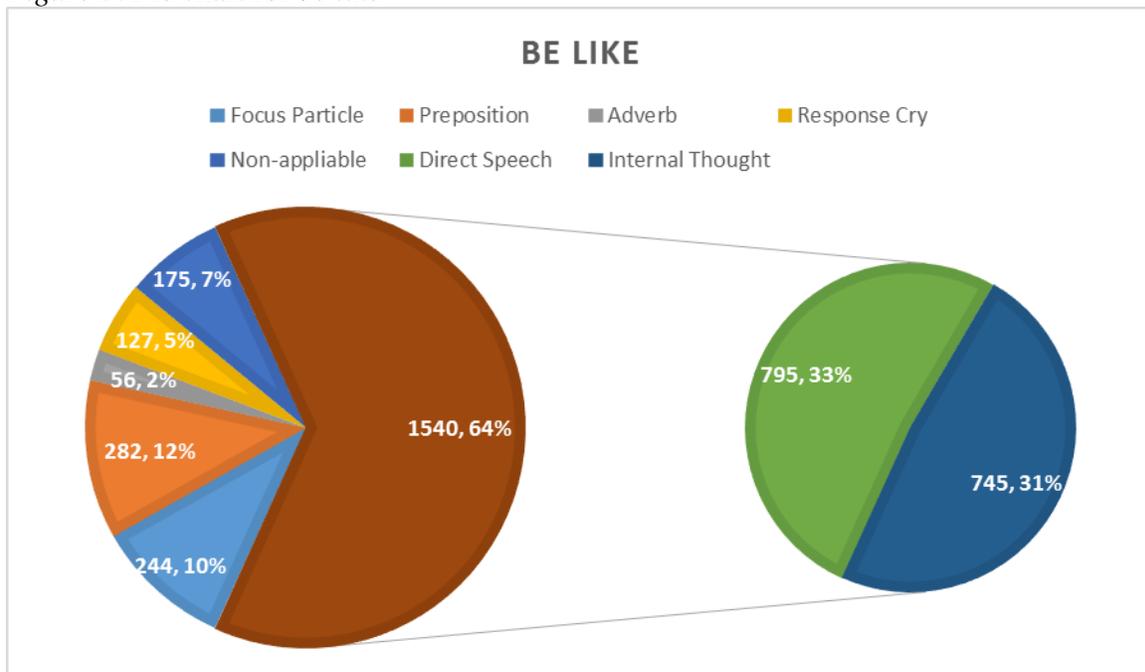
level. Since the accepted values for p are between 0.05 and 0.01 in the field of linguistics, which means that there should be a probability between 5% and 1% that the trend observed is due to chance (Lindquist, 2009), the results here obtained are highly significant in Table 7. While that means that the increase of use as a quotative is legitimate, Direct Speech and Internal Thought have a very similar evolution in the *be like* table, (which was shown in Figure 1 in the Results section) with Direct Speech barely staying above Internal Thought by a few numbers. However, both uses increase continuously in raw frequency (except in the year 2013), and therefore, in use.

4.2 *Be like* as a quotative

As shown in the pie chart below (Figure 3), the quotative function of *like* comprises at least two thirds of all concordances analyzed, which confirms the discussion in the General section: *be like* now is more used to quote things than it is used to describe them. Also, the two uses of quotative *be like* are almost used in a perfectly equal manner. The total raw frequencies of the concordances for Direct Speech is 795, while the total for Internal Thought amounts to 745, which shows a raw frequency difference of 50. Naturally, this

does not necessarily mean Direct Speech and Internal Thought are used equally, as variables like grammatical tense and person have yet to be accounted for. In the following sections, they will be analyzed individually alongside the proportions of these two uses of *be like*, to see if there is any change depending on these variables.

Figure 3. Pie chart for *be like*



This is just a supposition, as I haven't found out if these differences are statistically significant. For this, I also apply the same chi square test used in the earlier section, instead now comparing the two uses of quotative *be like* (Direct Speech and Internal Thought) in the same two periods of time (2003-2011 and 2013-2015). The expected frequencies are positioned below the observed frequencies, and marked as simply 'ex'.

As shown in Table 8, the result confirms that their evolution is also statistically significant at the $p < 0.001$ level, due to the last value being **11.1204**.

Table 8.

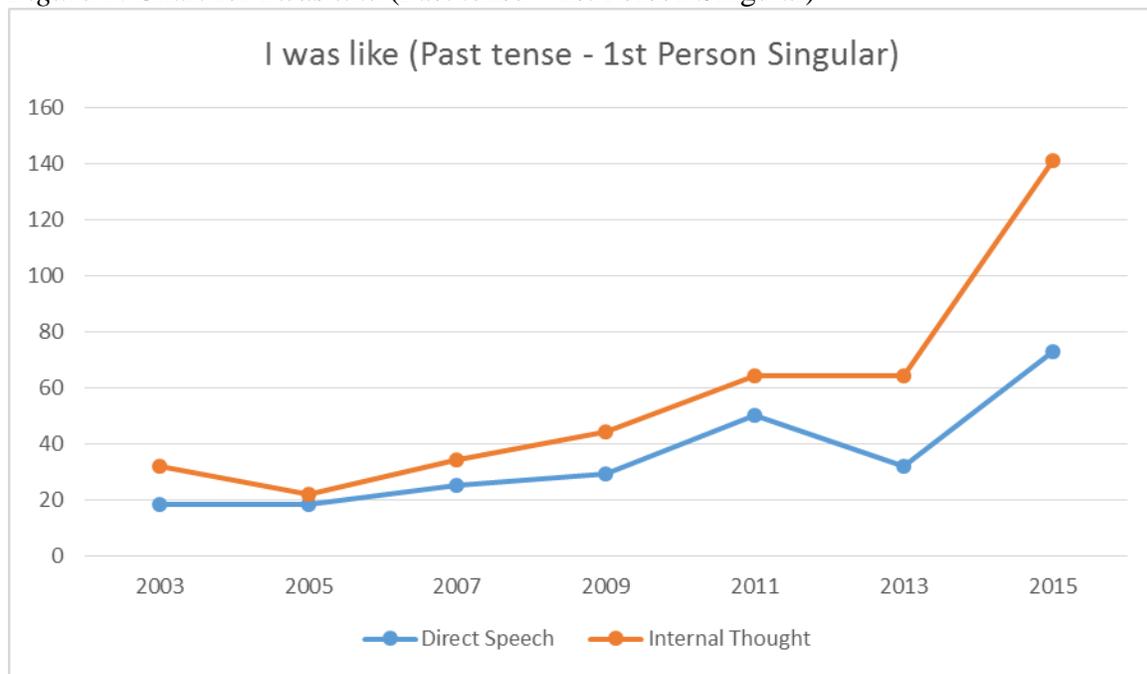
Be like as a quotative

Be like as a quotative			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct Speech	424	371	795
ex	391.3052	403.6948	
Internal Thought	334	411	745
ex	366.6948	378.3052	
Total	758	782	1540

ds 2003-2011	2.7318
ds 2013-2015	2.6479
it 2003-2011	2.9151
it 2013-2015	2.8256
	11.1204

4.2.1 *I was like* (Past tense – 1st Person Singular)

Figure 4. Chart for *I was like* (Past tense – 1st Person Singular)



In the chart above (Figure 4), which comprises the concordances of *I was like* as a quotative, we can see a clear dominance of Internal Thought throughout the years, starting in 2003 with around 35 tokens and ending in 2015 with 140. While Direct Speech follows a very similar pattern (with ups and downs), the last high jump in 2015 is less pronounced than the one in Internal Thought.

Table 9.

Chi square table for I was like

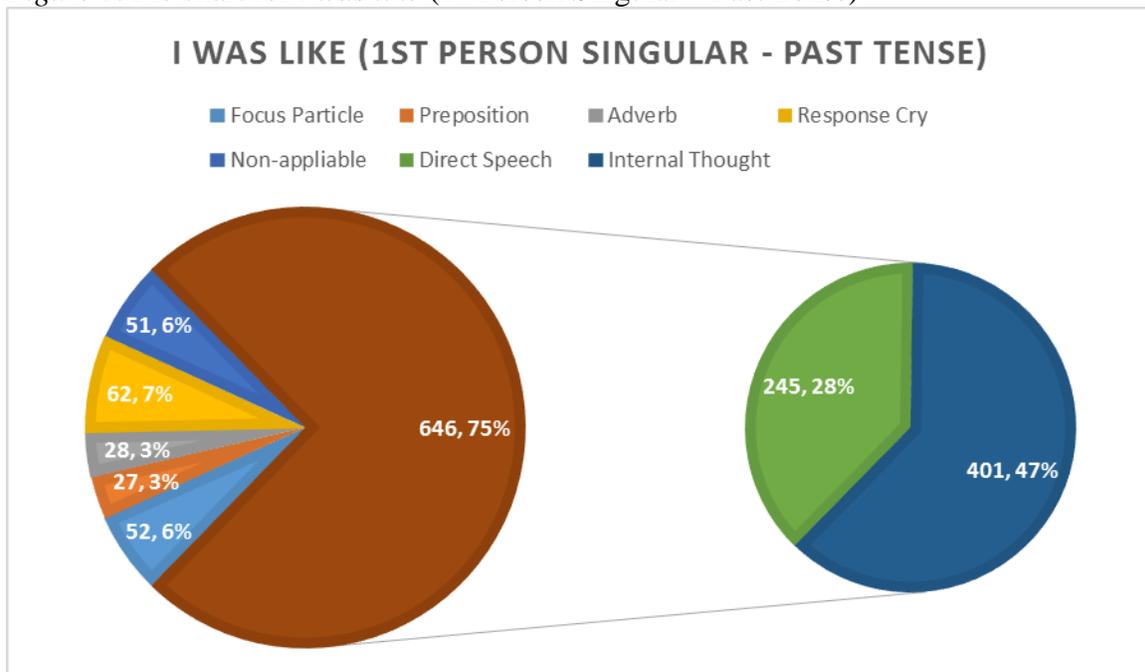
I was like			
	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct speech	140	105	245
ex	127.4303	117.5697	
Internal thought	196	205	401
ex	208.5697	192.4303	
Total	336	310	646

ds 2003-2011	1.2399
ds 2013-2015	1.3439
it 2003-2011	0.7575
it 2013-2015	0.8211
total	4.1623

Dividing it again in two time periods, for Direct Speech we have 140 tokens in the 2003-2011 period and 105 in the 2013-2015 period. For Internal Thought, we have 196 in 2003-2011 and 205 in 2013-2015. As with the Chi square testing of Table 9 reveals a final value of **4.1623**, which means that the two variables of Direct Speech and Internal Thought have a significance of $p < 0.05$, which is acceptable in the field of linguistics and suggests these numbers are not due to randomness. In addition, the conjugation *I was like* is one of the few where Internal Thought is dominant throughout the entire chart (which will become evident in the subsequent analysis of the other conjugations), A later comparison with other instances of Internal Thought in the Discussion chapter will tell if the raw frequency in these charts are so high they ‘compensate’ for the few times a dominant Internal Thought appears. First Person Singular, in the Past tense, is the conjugation most commonly used to recount events that happened in the past to the narrator. As mentioned above, this conjugation and *I’m like* (which is detailed below) are the only ones where Internal Thought is predominant in the entire chart, showing its place in speakers’ lexicon when talking about their own experiences. As feelings and thoughts are more intimate than words, and sometimes not the same at all (there is never a shortage of cases where the

speaker said something he didn't mean to say or where he says the exact opposite of what he was thinking), I believe speakers tend to prefer to talk about them when they retell their own stories. In addition, as they remember *be like* thanks to its commonness or the ease in which it can be confused for other functions of *like*, (such as a Focuser), they use it as a reporter for Internal Thought, rather than another quotative. It's important to mention that *be like*, being able to use it for both Internal Thought or Direct Speech, may also be popular compared to other quotatives for this very reason.

Figure 5. Pie chart for *I was like* (1st Person Singular – Past Tense)



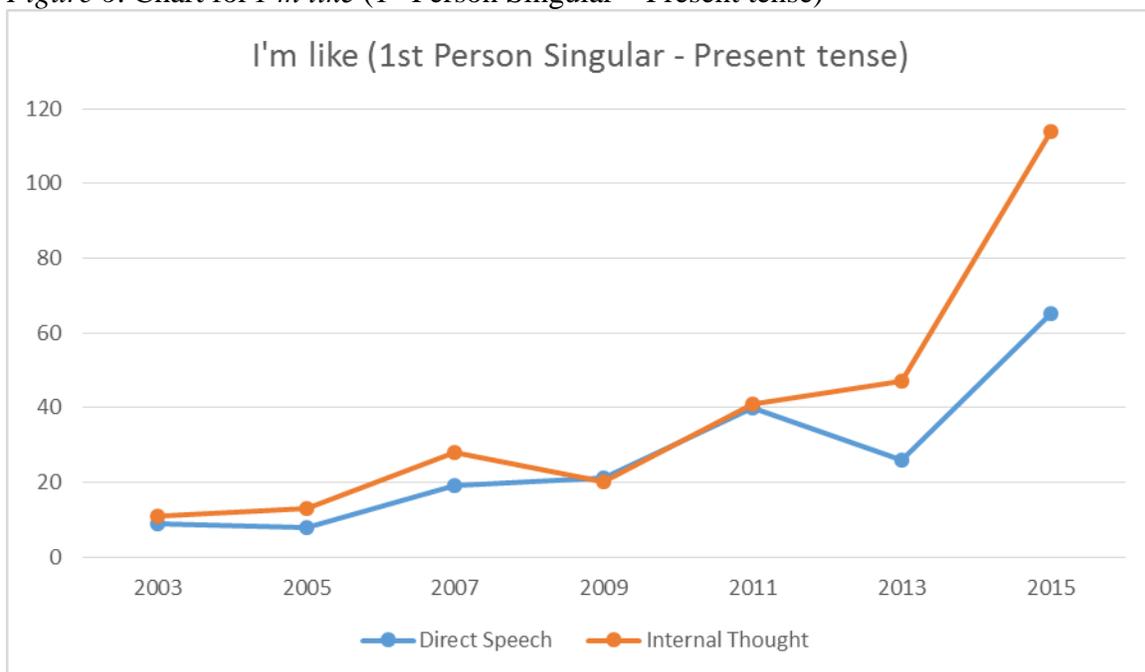
The pie chart above shows a large quantity of quotatives (representing around 3/4s of the total), while the other uses are a minority. It is interesting to note the function in second place in terms of size: Response Cry. An explanation for why in *I was like* has a majority of Internal Thought and Response Cry has a bigger part than in other forms could be very simple: it's the first person singular, so by definition it's better suited to talking

about one's feelings and thoughts. Similarly, response cries are usually summaries of a feeling. As it has been noted in the literature above, the use of *be like* favors the first person subject (Tagliamonte & D'Arcy, 2004, p. 495).

4.2.2 *I'm like* (Present tense – 1st Person Singular)

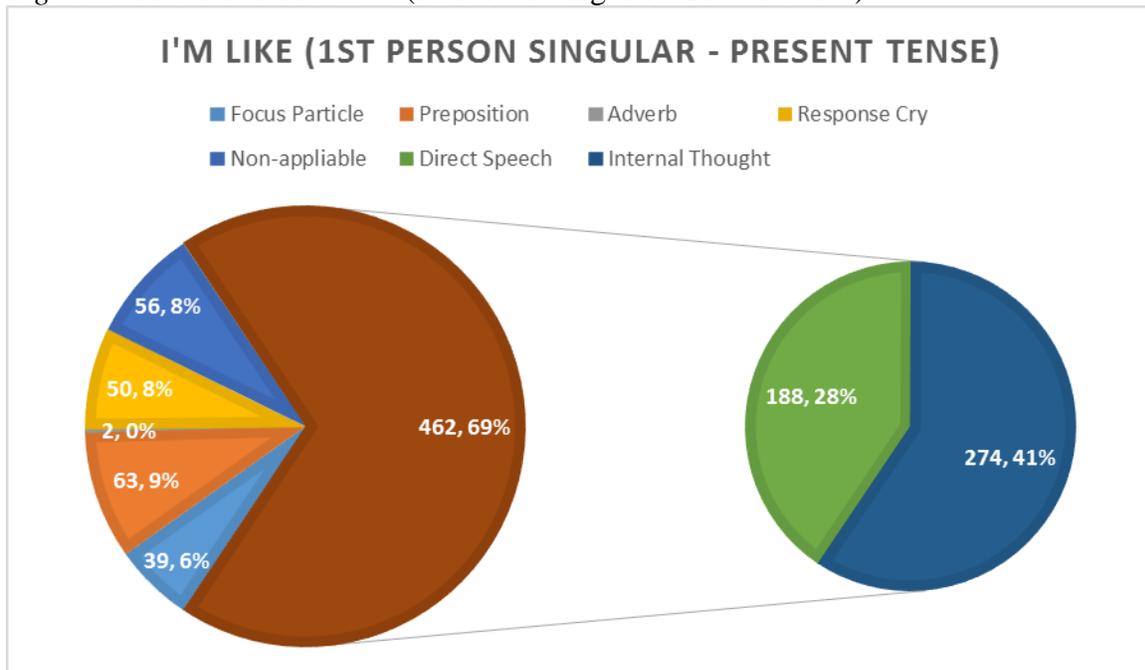
In 1st person singular present tense (*I'm like*, with its uncontracted form *I am like*), Internal Thought also leads, although not by much, and during 2009 and 2011 both uses hold the same place. While they start very closely in 2003 in 2015, Internal Thought suddenly has a higher token number. Similar to the conjugation above (*I was like*), in *I'm like* Internal Thought also has higher numbers than Direct Speech. But in this case, speakers make use of Historical Present. This allows them to not only be able to present past events using a present tense that will still make sense, but also makes the listeners feel what the speaker was thinking/feeling/saying 'in real time' as he retells the event.

Figure 6. Chart for *I'm like* (1st Person Singular – Present tense)



Looking at this form as a pie chart (below, in Figure 7), it shows there are many similarities with *I was like*, despite tense, which suggests tense does not make as much difference as person does, even though in some literature authors made claims about tense rather than person such as a suggestion mentioned in a previous chapter that new quotatives “are more likely to occur in the present tense than in the past” (Blyth, Recktenwald, and Wang 1990, and Ferrara and Bell 1995, as mentioned by Barbieri, 2005, p. 229). In Table 10 below, I used the chi square test to look for significance.

Figure 7. Pie chart for *I'm like* (1st Person Singular – Present tense)



Taking into account that the raw frequency of Direct Speech for the 2003-2011 period is 97 concordances, and that for the 2013-2015 period is 91, the total is 188. For Internal Thought, the total is 462 concordances, comprised of a raw frequency of 113 for 2003-2011 and 161 for 2013-2015. These totals can be seen in Table 10, where I also added the expected frequencies. The chi square test, based on the table below, gives the final

value of **4.6363**, or a significance of $p < 0.05$, the same level for *I was like*, which shares grammatical person with this conjugation.

Table 10.

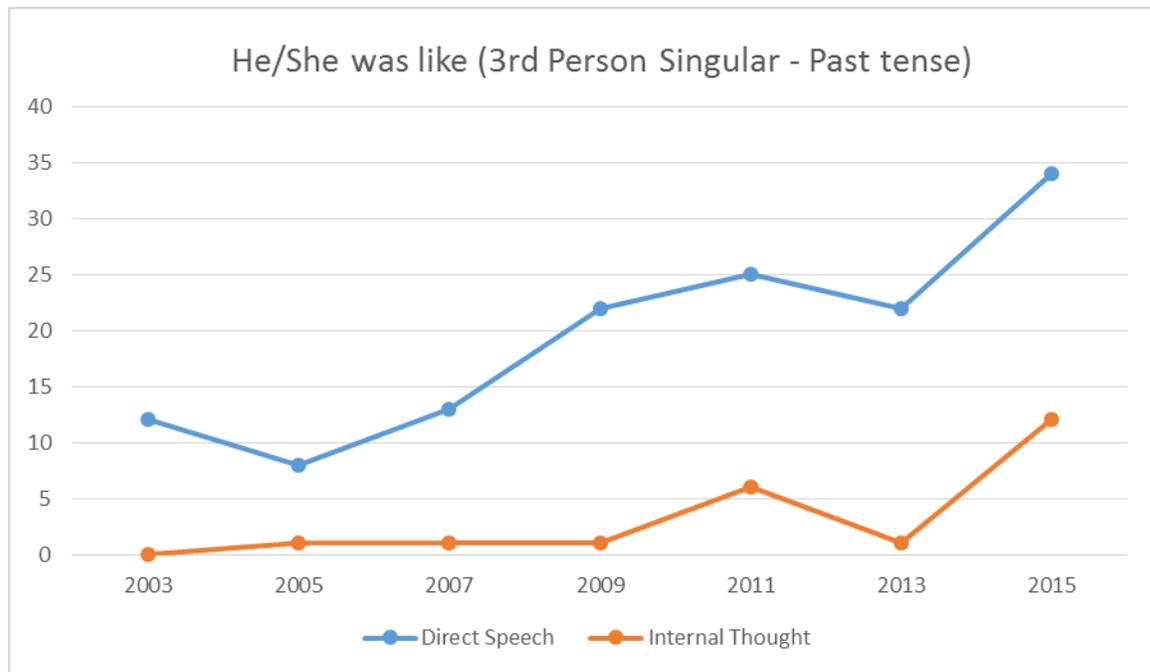
Chi square table for I'm like

I'm like			
	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct speech	97	91	188
ex	85.4545	102.5455	
Internal thought	113	161	274
ex	124.5455	149.4545	
Total	210	252	462

ds 2003-2011	1.3742
ds 2013-2015	1.2999
it 2003-2011	1.0703
it 2013-2015	0.8919
	4.6363

4.2.3 *He / She was like* (Past tense – 3rd Person Singular)

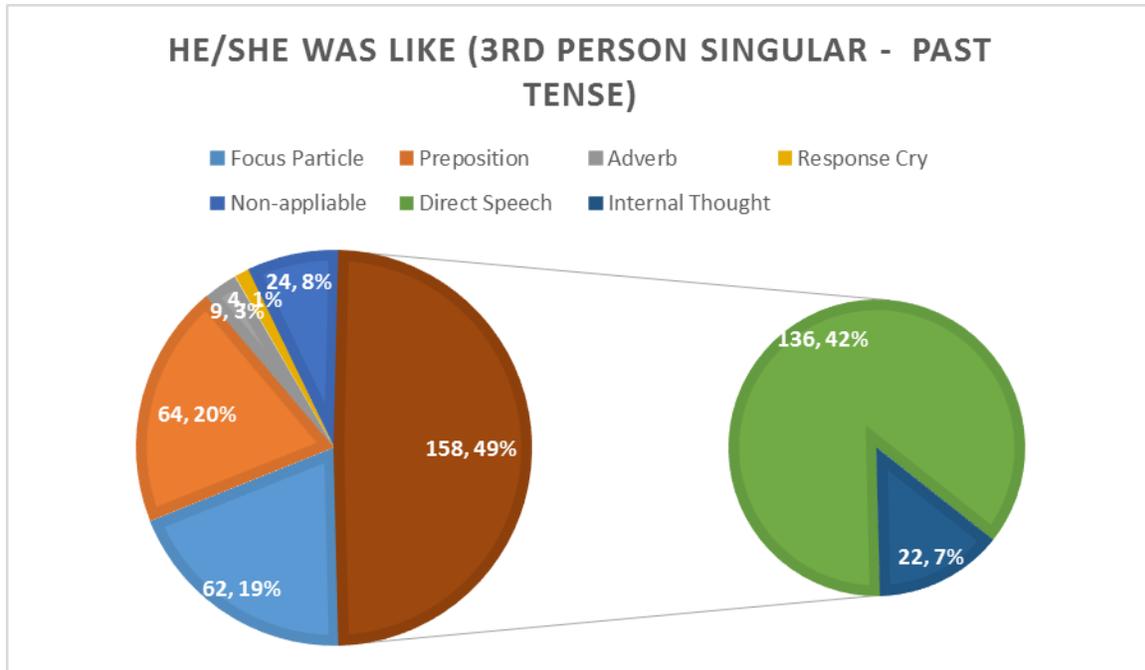
Figure 8. Chart for *He/She was like* (3rd Person Singular – Past tense)



Unlike the 1st person singular, the charts for 3rd person singular very clearly show Direct Speech having a much higher frequency of use compared to Internal Thought, possibly because it is harder for people to express what other people were thinking. However, Internal Thought seems to be very slowly increasing, as despite initially (in the

first year, 2003) having no numbers and having a shaky start, by 2015 it grew suddenly. Like in the other charts in this study, there is a decrease in the years 2005 and 2013, and 2015 shows the highest frequencies.

Figure 9. Pie chart for *He/She was like* (3rd Person Singular – Past tense)



The pie chart for this conjugation (Figure 9, above) shows that quotative *be like* represents almost half of the total. Surprisingly, it shows that its use as a preposition/descriptor is the second most used function, but still lags far behind Direct Speech. In addition, it almost shares places with *be like* as a focuser, due to both having a roughly equal number of tokens. Focusing on the quotative function, Internal Thought barely has a total of 22 tokens, which are very few compared to Direct Speech’s 136, Preposition’s 64, and Focus Particle’s 62. In other words, almost half the tokens that represent quotatives come from Direct Speech. The total for Direct Speech is 136 (divided in 80 for the 2003-2011 period and 56 for the 2013-2015 period), and the total for Internal

Thought is 22 (where 9 concordances appeared in the 2003-2011 period and 13 did in the 2013-2015 period).

Table 11.

Chi square table for He/She was like

He / She was like	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct speech	80	56	136
ex	76.6076	59.3924	
Internal thought	9	13	22
ex	12.3924	9.6076	
Total	89	69	158

ds 2003-2011	0.1502
ds 2013-2015	0.1938
it 2003-2011	0.9287
it 2013-2015	1.1978
	2.4705

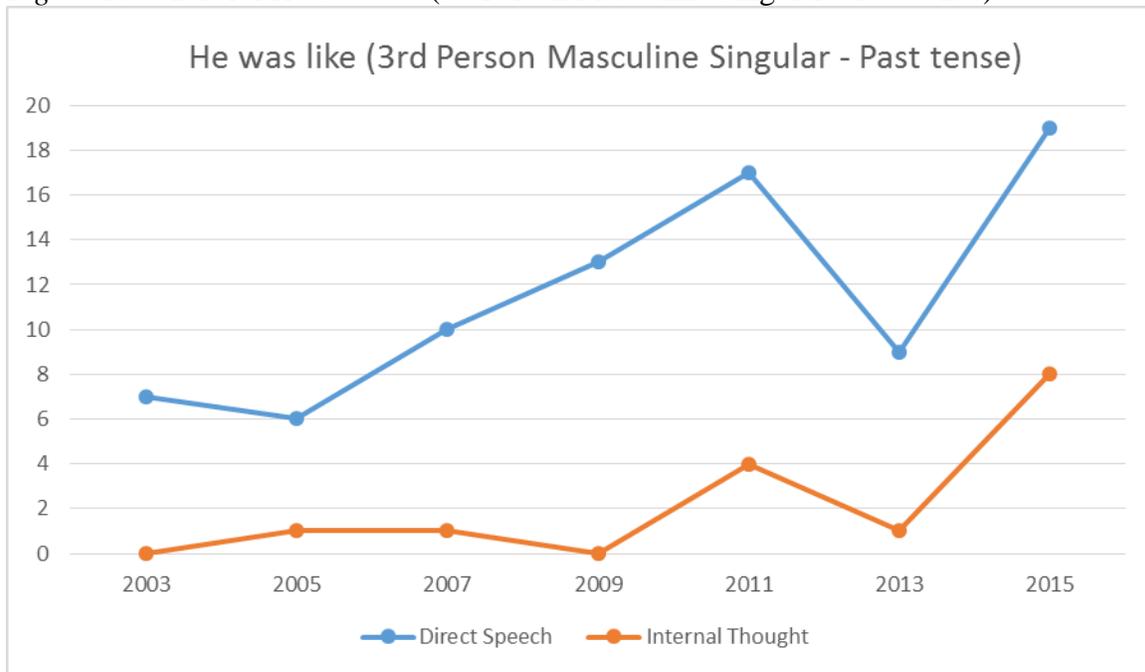
However, this is not particularly significant, as the chi square test showed a **2.4705**, which barely has a 0.20 significance level. As this analysis was done summing up *he* and *she*, the following part will interpret them individually, to see if gender is also an important factor, similar to person, or if it's not very relevant, similar to tense.

In terms of numbers alone, 3rd person singular is less used in general, not just as a quotative. A point of interest is the very low values of Internal Thought in the first years before rising, which could mean this use in particular is still very new but is slowly increasing.

4.2.3.1 *He was like* (Past tense – 3rd Person Singular)

Observing the chart in Figure 10, we can see that Direct Speech is once again the most used, while Internal Thought barely has one or two instances of use, even having none in 2009, until it rose sharply in 2011 and rose even more in 2015, after going through the same downslopes in 2005 and 2013 that also appears in other charts.

Figure 10. Chart for *He was like* (3rd Person Masculine Singular – Past tense)



Direct Speech, since 2003, increased sharply (except in 2013), which continued until 2015 albeit moderately. This could be due to its position as the 3rd grammatical person: it is easier for one to describe another person’s actions than it is to describe their internal feelings or thoughts. Additionally, the very low raw frequency numbers in 2007 and 2005, alongside the lack of them in 2003 suggest 2005 was the first year *be like* started to be used to report Internal Thought, which could suggest this use will consistently increase. This would not very important if it had no significance, so I used the chi square test to look for significance, as detailed in the table below.

However, the final value the chi square significance test showed **3.4559**, a 0.10 significance level.

Table 12.

Chi square table for He was like

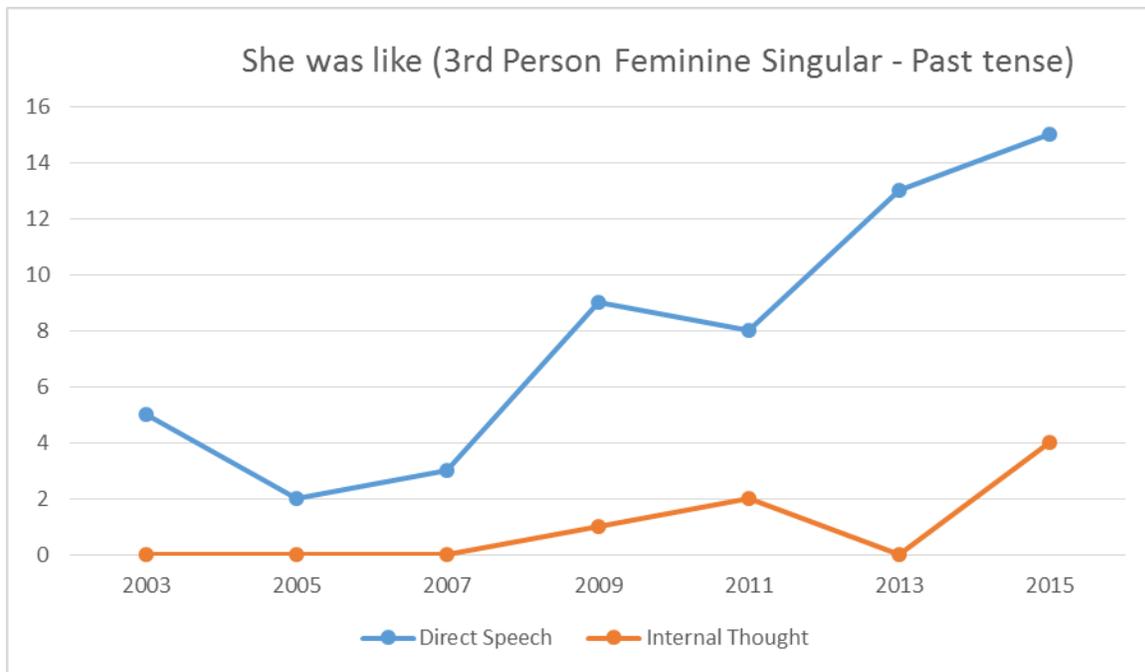
He was like			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct speech	53	28	81
ex	49.7813	31.2188	
Internal thought	6	9	15
ex	9.2188	5.7813	
Total	59	37	96

ds 2003-2011	0.2081
ds 2013-2015	0.3319
it 2003-2011	1.1238
it 2013-2015	1.7921
	3.4559

4.2.3.2 She was like (Past tense – 3rd Person Singular)

The use as Internal Thought, as little as it was (it had no tokens from 2003 to 2007), followed the same pattern in *he was like*, including the downslopes and a constant, if small increase towards 2015.

Figure 11. Chart for *She was like* (3rd Person Feminine Singular – Past tense)



The use as Direct Speech followed a different pattern of evolution through the years, when compared to *he was like*. Starting with a strong number of tokens in 2003, it

falls sharply down in 2005, from which it doesn't recover properly in 2007. Following this, there was a sharp increase in 2009, but in 2011 it fell again, while in 2013 and 2015 it only increases. This pattern does not appear in other charts. What is evident, though, is that despite having fewer numbers from the quotative use, the use of Direct Speech is a bit larger in *she was like*.

Table 13.

Chi square table for She was like

She was like			
	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct speech	27	28	55
ex	26.6129	28.3871	
Internal thought	3	4	7
ex	3.3871	3.6129	
Total	30	32	62

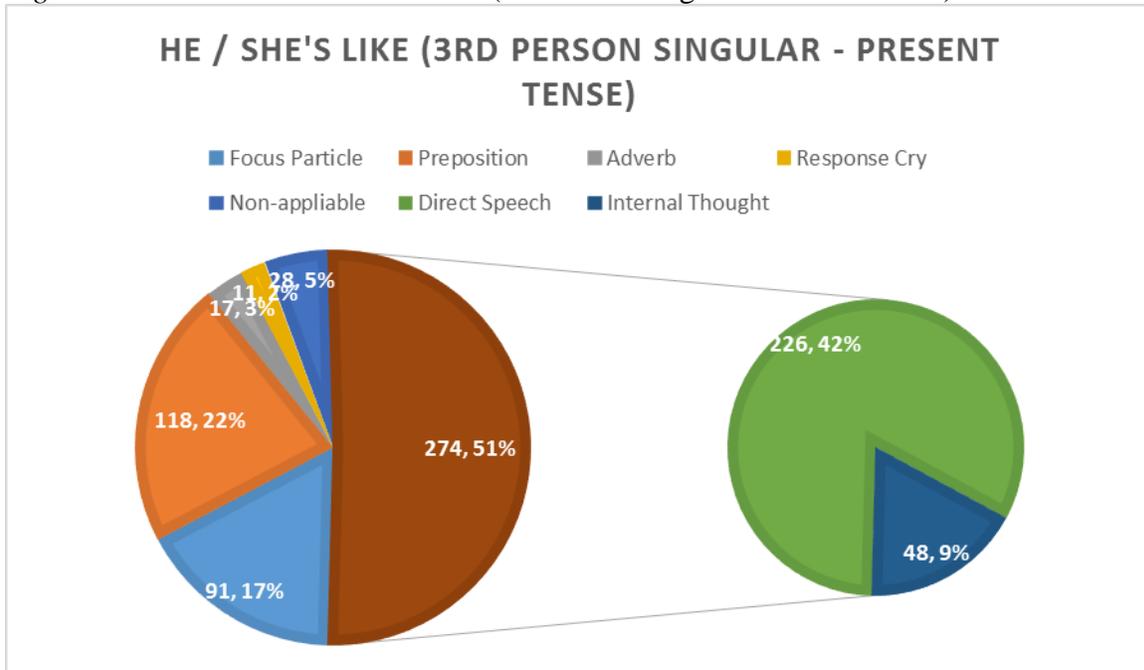
ds 2003-2011	0.0056
ds 2013-2015	0.0053
it 2003-211	0.0442
it 2013-2015	0.0415
	0.0966

However, in conjugation, the chi square tests shows that it is not significant at all, giving a value of **0.0966**. Curiously, and as shown above, *he was like*, which functionally is the same as *she was like*, also got values that weren't significant. This means that, at least in the Past Tense, the frequency numbers are so small they are not very relevant.

4.2.4 *He / She is like* (Present tense – 3rd Person Singular)

The chart shows the now familiar evolution of Direct Speech, which starts small in 2003 and rapidly increases in use. In contrast, for Internal Thought, neither *he's like* nor *she's like* had any tokens from 2003 to 2005, and their numbers increased, though very slowly.

Figure 12. Pie chart for *He/She's like* (3rd Person Singular – Present tense)



As a pie chart, when compared to *He/She was like* (Figure 8), there is little difference to be seen, which further supports the hypothesis that tense impacts very little compared to the grammatical person.

Table 14.

Chi square table for He/She's like

He / She's like			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct speech	107	119	226
ex	101.4526	124.5474	
Internal Thought	16	32	48
ex	21.5474	26.4526	
Total	123	151	274

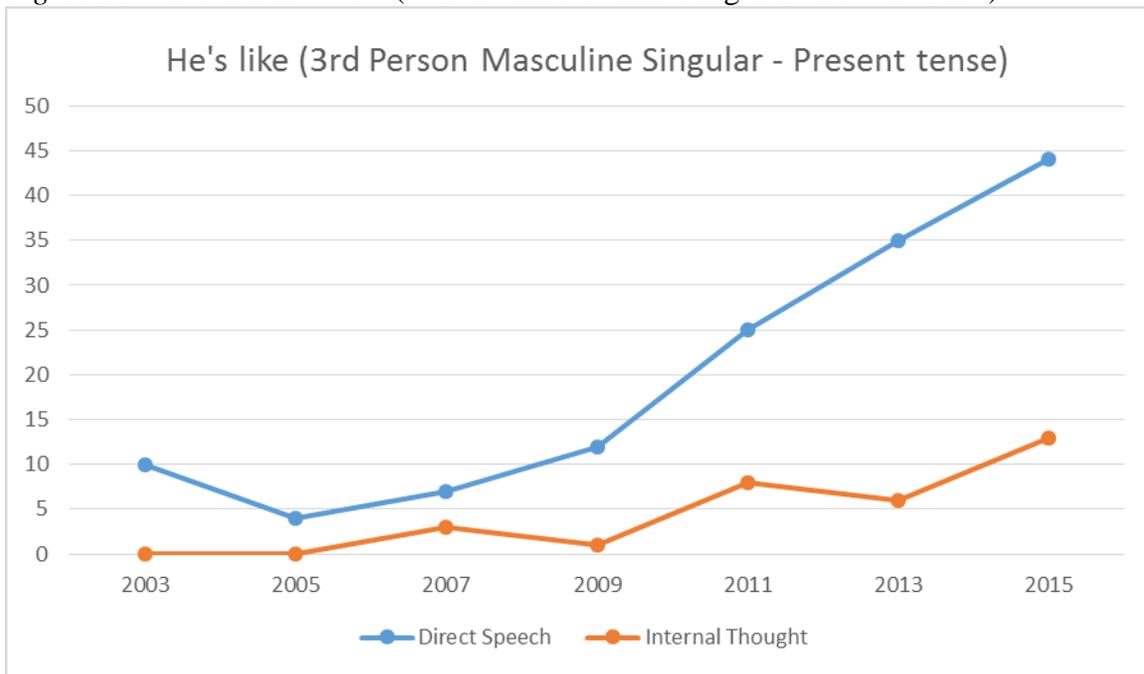
ds 2003-2011	0.3033
ds 2013-2015	0.2471
it 2003-2011	1.4282
it 2013-2015	1.1634
	3.1420

Like *he/she was like*, it holds little significance with a value of **3.1420**, which is barely a critical value of 0.10.

4.2.4.1 He's like (Present tense – 3rd Person Singular)

By comparing both charts, we can see that in *he's like*, the line for Direct Speech does not have the erratic pattern that appears in *she was like's* chart (Figure 11). Instead, we can see that this is one of the few charts where there is no 2013 decrease (but there is one for 2005), and Direct Speech starts with a high number, and follows with a fall from which it picks up back again, far away from Internal Thought, which fluctuates to a small height of 13.

Figure 13. Chart for *He's like* (3rd Person Masculine Singular – Present tense)



However, the resulting chi square tests negative for it being significant, showing a final value of **0.1368**.

Table 15.

Chi square table for He's like

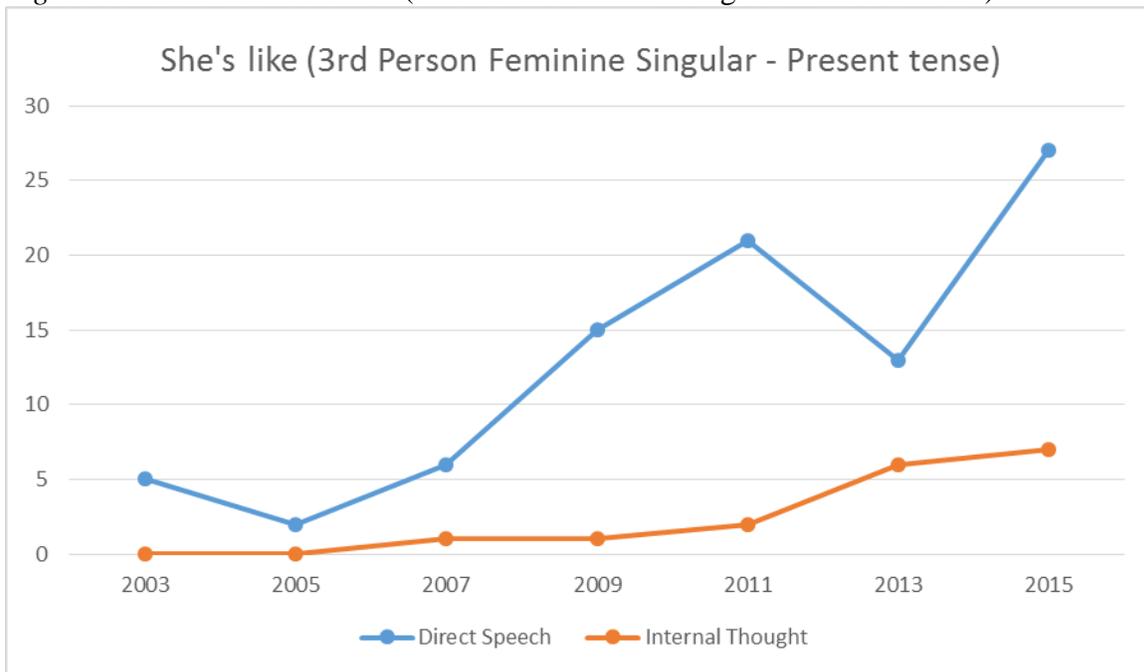
He's like			
	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct speech	58	79	137
ex	57.0833	79.9167	
Internal thought	12	19	31
ex	12.9167	18.0833	
Total	70	98	168

ds 2003-2011	0.0147
ds 2013-2015	0.0105
it 2003-2011	0.0651
it 2013-2015	0.0465
	0.1368

4.2.4.2 *She's like* (Present tense – 3rd Person Singular)

This form, like its version in the past tense, also looks at first glance to be similar to other forms, like *he's like*. However, unlike *she was like*, this form has the normal pattern of evolution for both Direct Speech and Internal Thought, where the first will increase, go down in 2013, and sharply increase again in 2015. The second one, on the other hand, may do the same but on a much smaller scale, in the earliest years not appearing at all.

Figure 14. Chart for *She's like* (3rd Person Feminine Singular – Present tense)



The chi square test shows that this evolution is significant at the $p < 0.025$ level, after ending with a final value of **5.6748**.

Table 16

Chi square table for *She's like*

She's like			
	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct speech	49	40	89
ex	44.5	44.5	
Internal thought	4	13	17
ex	8.5	8.5	
Total	53	53	106

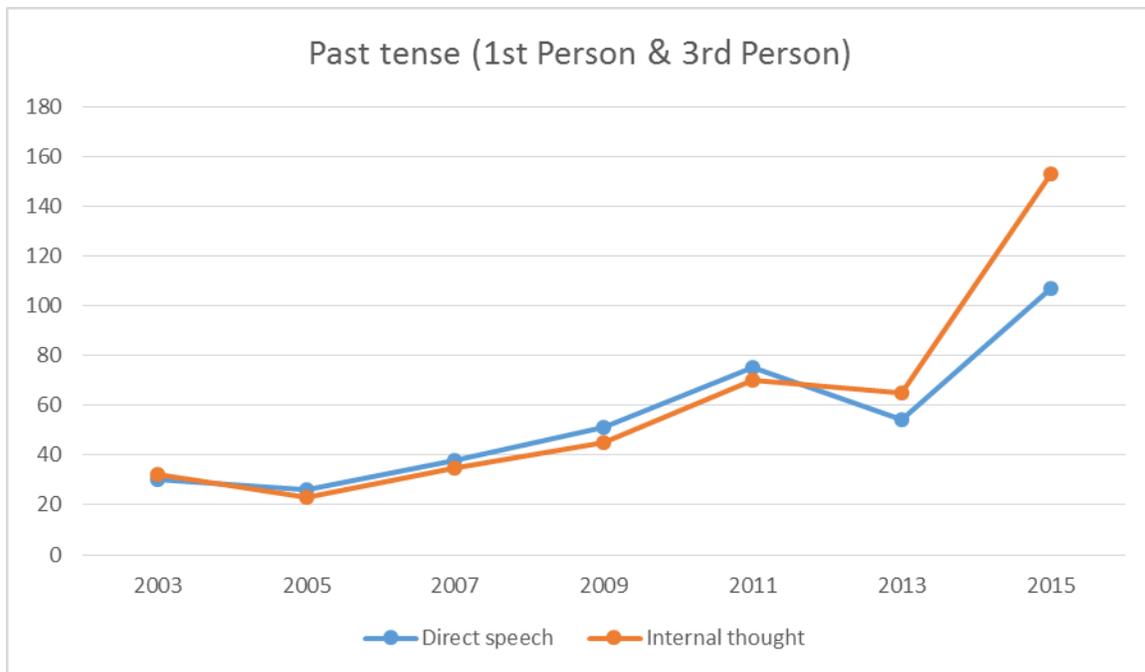
ds 2003-2011	0.4551
ds 2013-2015	0.4551
it 2003-2011	2.3824
it 2013-2015	2.3824
	5.6748

4.3 By tense (*I was like / He was like / She was like*)

Thanks to the data found above, the leading theory suggests that tense does not have much influence on the use of quotatives, but person does. However, the little evidence found about Internal Thought in previous charts suggest this use is actually completely new, and testing for significance in a broader category may show good results. Similarly, it could also confirm the hypothesis of person being more important than tense.

4.3.1 Past tense

Figure 15. Chart for Past tense (1st Person & 3rd Person)



Here, analysis by grammatical tense showed virtually equal numbers in both Direct Speech and Internal Thought (with a slight predominance of Direct Speech) until the year 2013, where Direct Speech reported fewer utterances and Internal Thought reported more. By 2015, both uses had significantly increased their frequency of use, though Direct

Speech, surprisingly, did not reassert its dominance. The starting numbers in 2003, where Internal Thought had showed slightly higher numbers than Direct Speech, suggest that the increase of use in Internal Thought is more influential than initially thought, as it may be what affects the chart (Figure 15) the most.

Table 17.

Chi square table for Past tense

Past tense			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct speech	220	161	381
ex	201.3993	179.6007	
Internal thought	205	218	423
ex	223.6007	199.3993	
Total	425	379	804

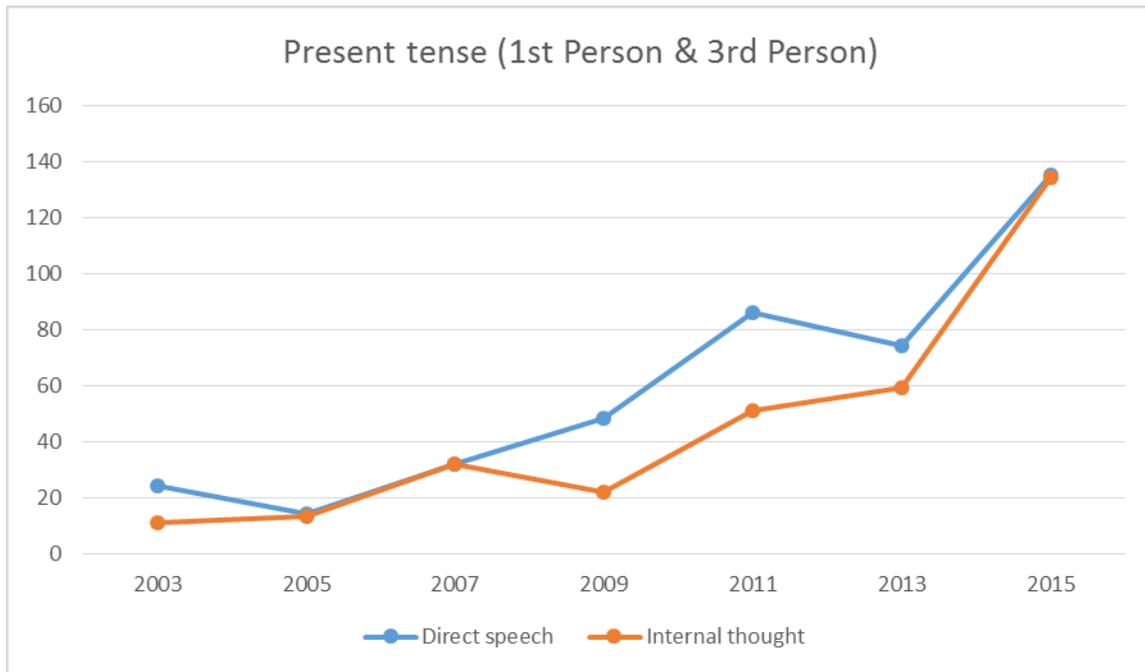
ds 2003-2011	1.7179
ds 2013-2015	1.9264
it 2003-2015	1.5473
it 2013-2015	1.7352
	6.9268

The final value of the chi square significance test, **6.9268**, shows it is significant at the $p < 0.01$ level.

4.3.2 Present tense

As expected, Direct Speech shows the now expected pattern of an increasing use, while Internal Thought had a similar, though not consistent evolution. We can see that both uses had fewer numbers in 2005, which causes a small decrease that they quickly bounce back from. Internal Thought, like the Present Tense – 3rd Person Singular (*Be like*), fluctuates across the chart, slowly going upwards to reach Direct Speech in 2015. This is interesting, since it is the only chart where both quotative uses have around the same number of tokens in the last year, where there is usually a clear dominant use.

Figure 16. Chart for Present tense (1st Person & 3rd Person)



Using the chi square test, we see that it is significant at the $p < 0.025$ level, having a final value of **6.205982**.

Table 18

Chi square table for Present tense

Present tense			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct speech	204	210	414
ex	187.3125	226.6875	
Internal thought	129	193	322
ex	145.6875	176.3125	
Total	333	403	736

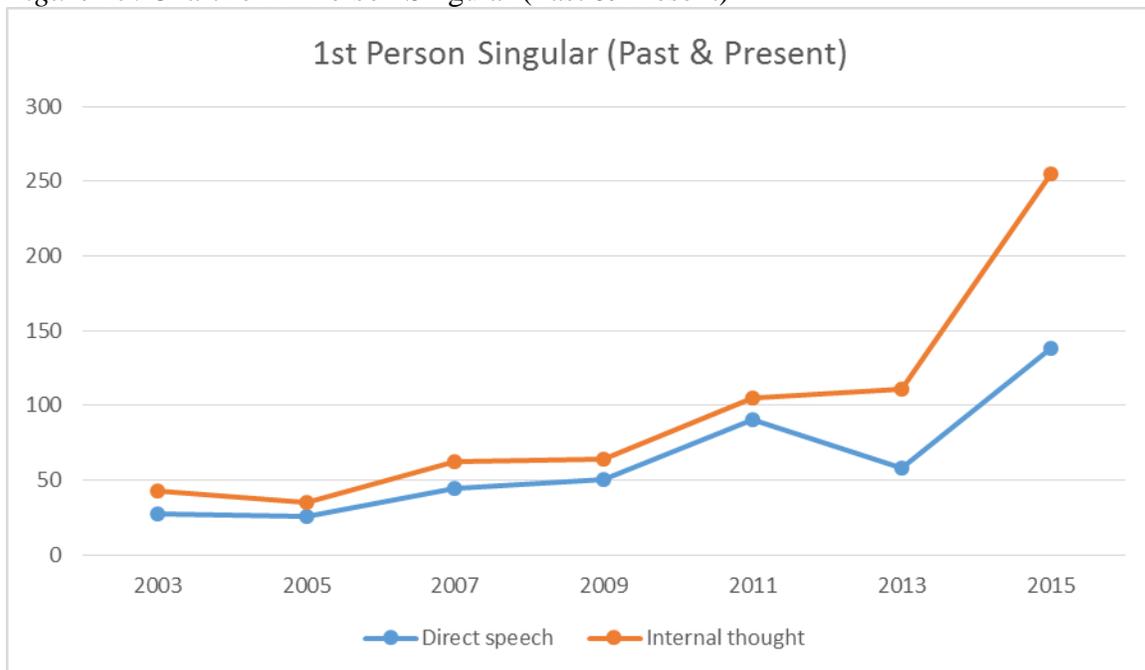
ds 2003-2011	1.4867
ds 2013-2015	1.2284
it 2003-2011	1.9114
it 2013-2015	1.5794
	6.2060

4.4 By person

The information found above referring to the influence tense and person have on the evolution of the two uses of quotatives suggest grammatical person will show more radical results than grammatical tense. Therefore, we will see if this is true.

4.4.1 1st Person Singular (*I was like, I'm like, and I am like*)

Figure 17. Chart for 1st Person Singular (Past & Present)



The Direct Speech line shows similar (or higher) numbers than the other charts, which means that the frequencies of Internal Thought are substantially higher, reaching in 2015 the highest count in all charts. Both lines appeared in a zigzag pattern very close to each other, before the 2013 downslope and the high jump in 2015 separated them, as Internal Thought showed a less pronounced downslope and a higher count in 2015 than Direct Speech. The chart above shows a dominance of Internal Thought through time despite how small the raw frequencies were in the earliest years.

Using the chi square test, this chart is significant at the $p < 0.01$ level, as a result of its final value being **8.4663**.

Table 19.

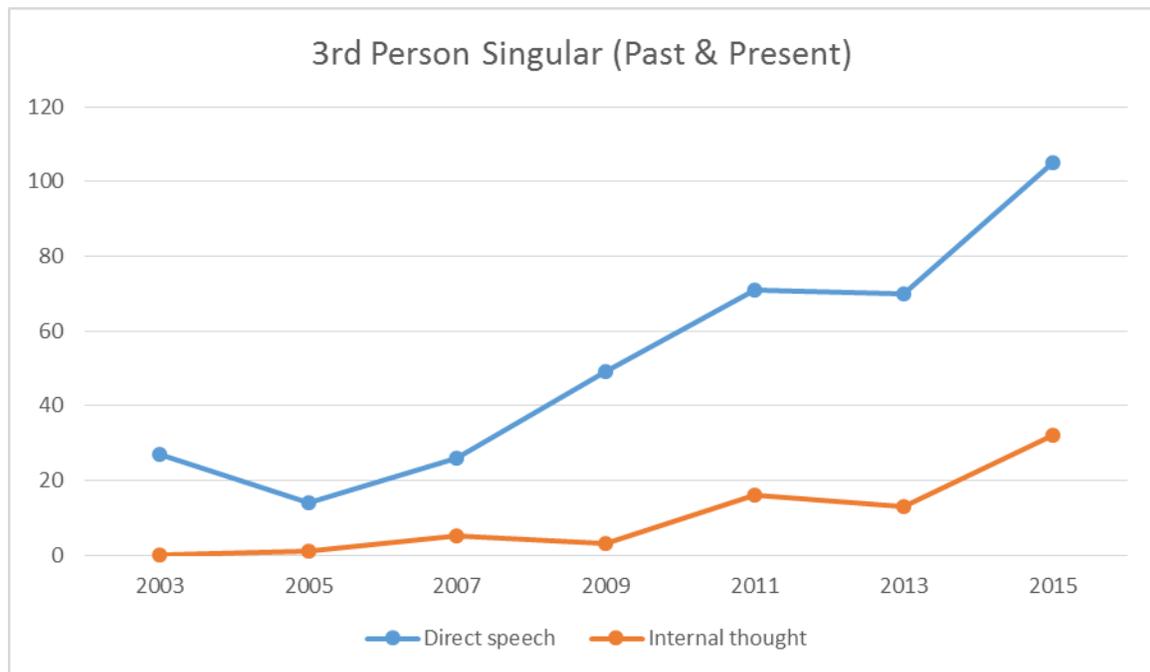
Chi square table for 1st Person Singular

1st person singular			
	2003-2011	2013-2015	Total
Direct Speech	237	196	433
Expected DS	213.3736	219.6264	
Internal Thought	309	366	675
Expected IT	332.6264	342.3736	
Total	546	562	1108

ds 2003-2011	2.6161
ds 2013-2015	2.5416
it 2003-2011	1.6782
it 2013-2015	1.6304
	8.4663

4.4.2 3rd Person Singular (*He was like, she was like, he's like and she's like*)

Figure 18. Chart for the 3rd Person Singular (Past & Present)



Here the opposite is true: there is a great disparity between the frequencies of Internal Thought and Direct Speech. The first, which had dominated in the 1st person singular chart, shows frequency numbers so low that it stays near the bottom of the chart for more than half the chart, until it picks up slightly in 2011, loses 3 numbers in 2013 (as in all the other graphs), and finally goes upward in 2015, but still shows small numbers. Meanwhile, Direct Speech follows a more-or-less straight ascendant line from 2005 to 2011, showing the same development it did in other charts.

Table 20.

Chi square table for 3rd Person Singular

3rd person singular			
	<u>2003-2011</u>	<u>2013-2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
Direct Speech	187	175	362
Expected DS	173.2796	188.7204	
Internal Thought	15	45	60
Expected IT	28.7204	31.2796	
Total	202	220	422

ds 2003-2011	1.0864
ds 2013-2015	0.9975
it 2003-2011	6.5545
it 2013-215	6.0183
	14.6567

The chi square test table above shows these results are significant at the $p < 0.001$, having a value of **14.6567**.