

# Multi-language Design Smells: Characteristics, Prevalence, and Impact

- Ph.D. Dissertation -

Mouna Abidi

Supervisor: Prof. Foutse Khomh

Computer Engineering and Software Engineering Department – Polytechnique Montreal

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The logo consists of a white cloud shape with a black outline. Inside the cloud, the word "SWAT" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

SWAT

The logo features a circular emblem with a gear and a bee in the center, surrounded by a laurel wreath. Below the emblem is a banner with the motto "UT SCIENTIA SERVETUR". To the right of the emblem is a vertical bar with four colored segments: blue, green, yellow, and red.

POLYTECHNIQUE  
MONTRÉAL  
LE GÉNIE  
EN PREMIÈRE CLASSE



# Multi-language Systems



# Benefits of Multi-language Systems



Lower development cost



Leveraging Strengths



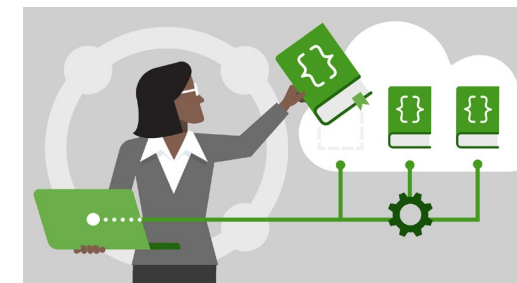
Save development time



Choose programming language



Reuse of code

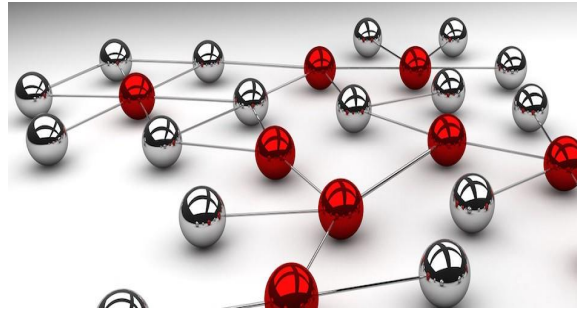


Reuse of libraries

# Limitations of Multi-language Systems



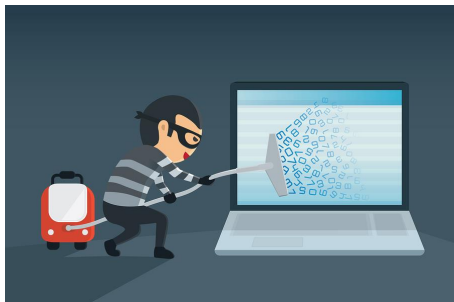
Complex interactions



Dependency issues



Higher maintenance cost



Security issues



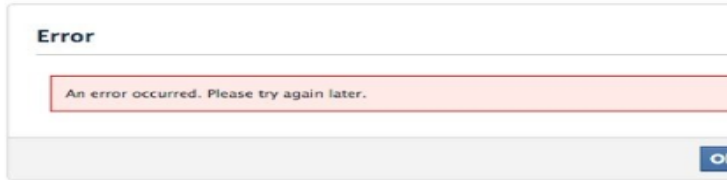
Hard to understand



Additional bugs

# Issues Related to Multi-language Systems

## Apparent Facebook Widget Snafu Brings Down Sites



THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE ACROSS THE WEB SAW ON THURSDAY WHEN TRYING TO REACH MANY SITES THROUGH FACEBOOK WIDGETS.

SEVERAL SITES ACROSS the web could not be reached by so visitors on Thursday afternoon, apparently because of a problem with Facebook widgets embedded in the sites. Several sites – including Business Insider, Huffington Post and Salon – were reportedly affected, redirecting visitors to a Facebook error page.

Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but the problem has apparently been fixed. The problem was first reported by Marketing Land.

When trying to visit a page that used Facebook Connect or Like widgets, users were redirected to a page saying simply "An error occurred. Please try again later." When they clicked the "Okay" button, they were taken to an error page. If they hit back, they would get to the page they were trying to visit momentarily before being automatically forwarded to the error page again.

Facebook provides code to embed widgets that display information such as which of your friends like a site's Facebook page, or which articles have recently been "liked" by a friend. These widgets execute JavaScript code in the user's web browser that originates at Facebook, not the site that the user is trying to view. The problem only seems to affect users who are not logged into Facebook.

## JNI UnsatisfiedLinkError issue

Asked 5 years, 2 months ago Active 5 years, 2 months ago Viewed 172 times

I am creating a Java program using JNI to gather data via a C program. I have gone through this JNI tutorial ([https://thenewcircle.com/static/bookshelf/java\\_fundamentals\\_tutorial/java\\_native\\_interface\\_jni.html](https://thenewcircle.com/static/bookshelf/java_fundamentals_tutorial/java_native_interface_jni.html)) and everything compiles correctly. However, when I try to run the Java program in Eclipse, I keep getting this error:

Exception in thread "main" java.lang.UnsatisfiedLinkError: no TurtleTrackerImpl in java.library.path at

- [JRUBY-6248] - thread leak
- [JRUBY-6250] - When executing an Ant build.xml file, the Ant executable should not be required to live on the environment's SPATH
- [JRUBY-6251] - NailGun and 1.9 seem not to be usable at the same time (--1.9 and --ng)
- [JRUBY-6259] - ant test - fails in WinXP: (LoadError) no such file to load -- jruby
- [JRUBY-6265] - Setting load path on ScriptingContainer with LocalContextScope.SINGLETON does not work
- [JRUBY-6266] - Unicode encoding problem in CSV.foreach
- [JRUBY-6269] - JRuby --1.9 cannot load YAML output from JRuby --1.8
- [JRUBY-6277] - Dependency to compiler package from org.jruby.Ruby breaks Ruboto
- [JRUBY-6278] - [dev only] Double require bug in the handling of concurrent requires
- [JRUBY-6279] - Invokedyynamic support is missing 'float\_op\_equal'
- [JRUBY-6280] - Fails to open fifo for writing.
- [JRUBY-6281] - [1.9] Applet does not work in the 1.9 mode
- [JRUBY-6282] - Colon is not allowed in a file name on Windows
- [JRUBY-6283] - Master crashes when calling an FFI-attached C library function
- [JRUBY-6284] - Calls to Kernel#exit result in an exception printed on stderr
- [JRUBY-6285] - JRuby 1.7 master on Java7u2 is \*slower\* running a benchmark than master on Java6
- [JRUBY-6291] - Closing One Stream From IO, popen4 Results in Stream Closed Error When Reading Other Streams
- [JRUBY-6292] - Massive perf degradation in pack after ByteList update
- [JRUBY-6293] - jruby-dist-master does not build C extensions
- [JRUBY-6295] - Dir.chdir, \$HOME and \$LOGDIR behavior
- [JRUBY-6300] - TestMethodmissing testcase fails with Java 7
- [JRUBY-6301] - scripting\_lang.jruby:undefined method in test\_loop\_1\_9.rb
- [JRUBY-6305] - C Extension fails to build

## ANN] JRuby 1.7.0.preview1 released

ruby-talk

- Performance and concurrency improvements
- Java 5 support dropped (Java 6+ required)
- Update to Rubygems 1.8.24
- Update to Rake 0.9.2.2
- 259 issues resolved

\*Note on invokedyynamic performance:

Invokedyynamic is still a new feature for the JVM, so we recommend building a build of Java 7 as possible. Builds of Java 7 prior to "update 2" will show poor performance.

Invokedyynamic can be disabled with `invokedyynamic=false` (passed to JRuby) for investigating performance.

ays don't inherit from java.lang.Object in JRuby hierarchy. Invokedyynamic is slower in JRuby than MRI. Invokedyynamic should load relative path reference to AOT classes. Invokedyynamic reopen a class from an included module. Invokedyynamic work replacement char with russian charset. Invokedyynamic \_class should be deprecated in favor of java.lang.Class (Module given) (TypeError) name(\_\_FILE\_\_) doesn't return correct value when classpath is set. Invokedyynamic reopen JRUBY-3894. Invokedyynamic server#accept can't be interrupted by kill/raise. Invokedyynamic load with wrap=true does not protect the global object. Invokedyynamic program. Invokedyynamic tracer doesn't trace. Invokedyynamic #select puts connectable sockets in the read set.

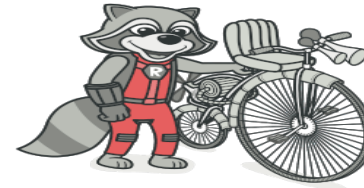
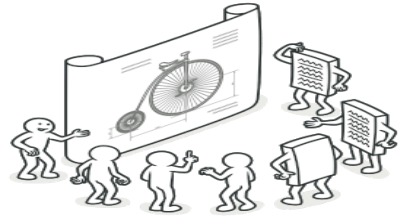
Invokedyynamic rec: SimpleDelegator send spec fails due to bug in

Invokedyynamic b:24: superclass must be a Class (Module given) (TypeError) name(\_\_FILE\_\_) doesn't return correct value when classpath is set. Invokedyynamic reopen JRUBY-3894.

Invokedyynamic server#accept can't be interrupted by kill/raise. Invokedyynamic load with wrap=true does not protect the global object. Invokedyynamic program. Invokedyynamic tracer doesn't trace. Invokedyynamic #select puts connectable sockets in the read set.

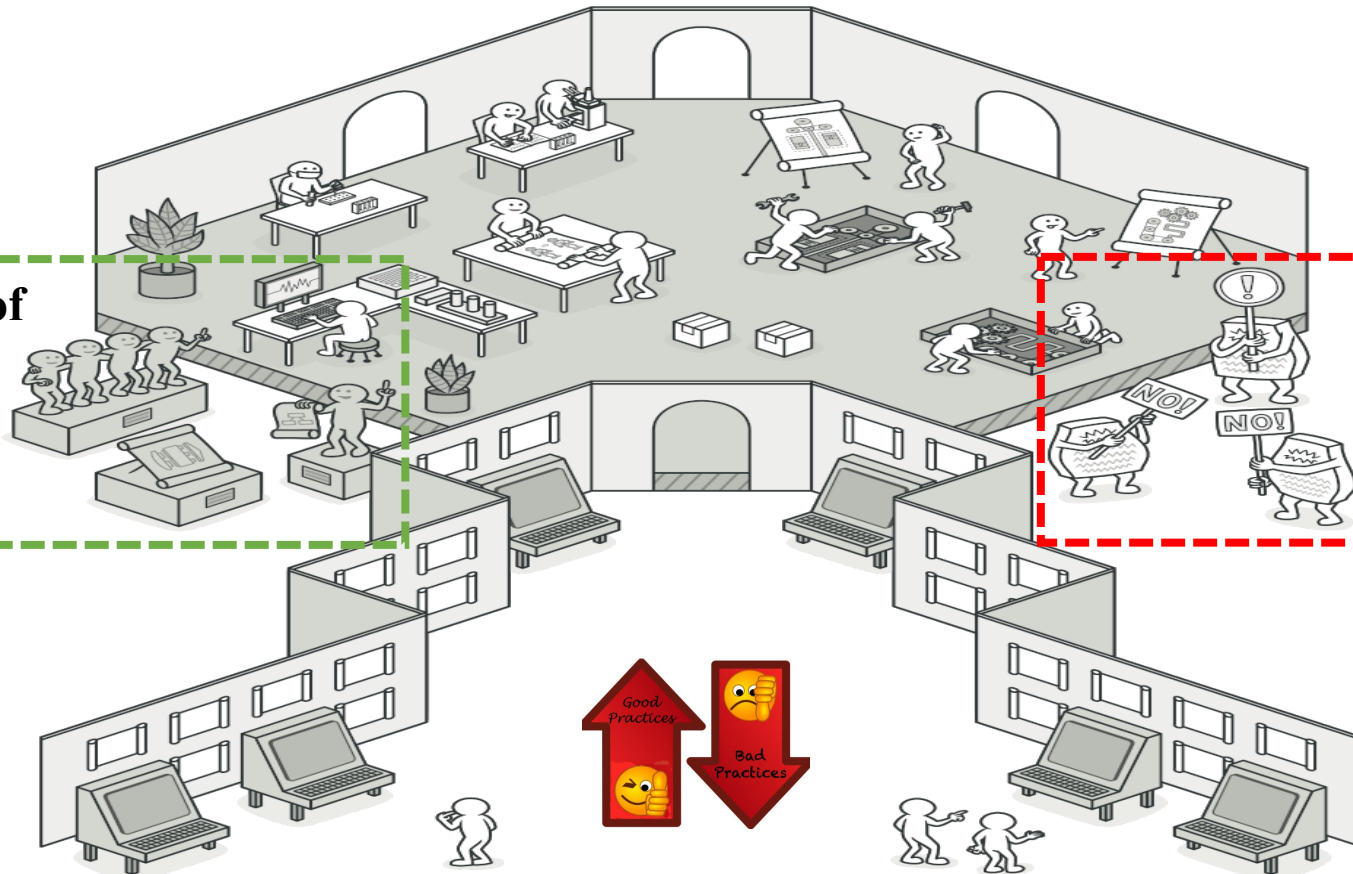
Invokedyynamic w digest methods are missing (base64digest and

# Design Smells



**Identification of  
good practices  
and design  
patterns**

**Identification of  
bad practices and  
design smells**



## Piecemeal Migration of a Document Archive System with an Architectural Pattern Language

### Finding Bugs in Java Native Interface Programs

Goh Kondoh Tamiya Onodera  
Tokyo Research Laboratory  
IBM Research  
1623-14, Shimotsuruma,  
Kanagawa-ken, J.  
+81-46-215-4584, +81-4  
{gkondo,tonodera}@j

JOURNAL OF SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND EVOLUTION: RESEARCH AND PRACTICE  
*J. Softw. Maint. Evol.: Res. Pract.* 2002; 14:1–30 (DOI: 10.1002/smr.243)

#### Research

### Piecemeal legacy migrating with an architectural pattern language: a case study

M. Goedicke and U. Zdun\*<sup>†</sup>

*Specification of Software Systems, University of Essen, Germany*

#### SUMMARY

Numerous large applications that have evolved over many years are well-functioning and reliable, but have severe problems regarding flexibility and reuse. Due to the many fixes that were applied in a system's lifetime, it is often hard to customize, change or exchange system parts. Therefore, it is problematic to migrate such systems to a more flexible architecture or to new technologies. The document archive/retrieval system, discussed in this article, is an example of a large C system that had such problems. As a solution, we will sketch an architectural pattern language that involves patterns well-suited for a piecemeal migration process. The patterns aim at building and composing highly flexible black-box component architectures with an object-oriented glueing layer. We present a re-engineering case study for the document archive/retrieval system based on these patterns. The patterns are used to wrap the existing C implementations and integrate them with an object system. Moreover, the patterns introduce flexibility hooks into the hot spots of the architecture and let components define their required environment. This enables an easier future evolution of the system. The case study demonstrates a pattern language as an approach for piecemeal legacy migration apart from implementation details. Copyright © 2002 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

KEY WORDS: software pattern; pattern language; re-engineering; component architecture

## Build System Issues in Multilanguage Software

An  
Depa

### Finding Bugs in Exceptional Situations of JNI Programs

Siliang Li  
Department of Computer Science and  
Engineering  
Lehigh University  
sil206@cse.lehigh.edu

Gang Tan  
Department of Computer Science and  
Engineering  
Lehigh University  
gtan@cse.lehigh.edu



...tive methods may defeat Java's guaran-  
...urity. One common kind of flaws in na-  
...from the discrepancy on how exceptions  
...and in native methods. Unlike excep-  
...tions raised in the native code through  
...erface (JNI) are not controlled by the  
...ne (JVM). Only after the native code  
...ill the JVM's mechanism for exceptions  
...repancy makes handling of JNI excep-  
...process and can cause serious security  
...itten using the JNI.  
...rel static analysis framework to exam-  
...port errors in JNI programs. We have  
...l consisting of exception analysis, static  
...warning recovery. Experimental results  
...ool allows finding of mishandling of ex-  
...accuracy (15.4% false-positive rate on  
...de). Our framework can be easily ap-  
...ftware written in other foreign function  
...the Python/C interface and the OCam-

#### Subject Descriptors

Software Engineering—*Software/Program*  
[Software]: Software Engineering—*In-*

much less vulnerable. As another example, Perl's taint mode prevents attacks based on malicious user input. In both cases, managed environments provide a natural and extensible way of enforcing relevant security policies.

To interoperate with software components in other languages, most managed programming languages also support foreign function interfaces (FFIs). The Java Native Interface (JNI) allows Java components to interoperate with native components developed in C, C++, or assembly languages. Similarly, .NET provides the P/Invoke interface for invoking library functions.

Native components are usually the security dark corner of software applications. They are outside of managed environments and relevant security policies cannot be enforced on them. In Sun's JDK 1.6, there are over 800,000 lines of C/C++ code.<sup>1</sup> Any vulnerability in this trusted native code can compromise the security of the JVM. Several vulnerabilities have been discovered [24, 30, 29]. A recent empirical security study [28] on Sun's JDK 1.6 found over 126 software errors in a mere 38,000 lines of C code. 59 of them are security critical.

One of the most revealing aspects of the security study is that many of the discovered errors are due to a discrepancy on how exceptions are handled between Java and the JNI. Managed environments such as the JVM provide runtime support for exception handling, which native components cannot rely on. We next explain why this discrepancy may lead to security vulnerabilities and why it is common in foreign function interfaces.



# Developers' Blogs

android developers > NDK

HOME GUIDES REFERENCE SAMPLES DOWNLOADS

Introduction  
Getting Started  
Concepts  
JNI Tips  
Building

## Best practices for Interface(JNI)

Reference and JNI Functions

HTML Goodies : [HTML5](#) : [HTML5 And JavaScript](#)

## Best Practices for Combining JavaScript with HTML

By Octavia Anghel



**WEBINAR: On-Demand** Desktop-as-a-Service Designed for Any Cloud ? Nutanix Frame [Watch](#)

This article will help you discover some of the best practices for combining JavaScript with HTML



### Generate Dynamic HTML

Whenever a Web page is loaded, the browser creates a Document Object Model of the page; the HTML documents can be easily viewed and managed using the HTML DOM which shows the HTML document as a tree structure. We can use the Document object to access all HTML elements (as node objects) in a page, so we can also add or remove element. JavaScript has some very useful and often-used functions that we will utilize next. In the example below, createElement() method creates an Element Node with the specified name and the appendChild() method appends a node as the last child of the node.

In the example below, we will create a dynamic HTML contact form using the method presented above:

Email Article

Search

LF

# CSS and JavaScript accessibility best practices

Learn web development > Accessibility > CSS and JavaScript accessibility best practices

Android Developers > NDK > Guides

## JNI tips

Quora

Home

Answer

Spaces

Notifications

Search Quora accessibility

Next

JNI is the Java Nat managed code (wr (written in C/C++). libraries, and while

Java (software platform) Learning Java +2

## What are the best practices with JNI for using C/C++ native code libraries in Java?

Answer Follow · 5 Request

Ad by JetBrains

### Level up your Java code with IntelliJ IDEA.

Discover instant and clever code completion, on-the-fly code analysis, and reliable refactoring tools.

Free Trial

### 1 Answer

Andy Heilveil, programming since 1967. Answered Jan 15

Since I have been A2A:

General advice on JNI: Avoid it. Look for some place where you can run data over a socket to the C++ code with adequate performance. If java can't do what you want without a native code extension then it is probably the wrong language to be using at even higher layers of your application.

The labor to create such a socket interface might be more than that of the JNI interface, but then the service you create will be web ready and available to other languages with no further work.

52 views · Answer requested by Sylvain Saurel

Note: Becau programmir programmir Kotlin and A

If you're not already sense for how JNI immediately obvio

To browse global J the JNI heap view i

### General tips

Try to minimize the JNI solution shouk with the most impc

- Minimize ma

re the potential to allow for accessible web sibility if misused. This article outlines some considered to ensure even complex content

y, a basic understanding of HTML, and understanding of what accessibility

using CSS and JavaScript eb documents to maximise extract from it.

### Be accessible?

te importance for accessibility as HTML, but depending on how they are used. To put it best practice advice to make sure that your ibility of your documents.

# Developers' Blogs

## What is the best practice for using Android JNI and frag

Asked 4 years, 9 months ago Active 4 years, 8 months ago Viewed 328 times

▲ What is the best practice for using JNI to call into an application which uses fragments?

0 For instance, I would like to use the master detail flow template (scroll down on this page

## ▼ Best practice for multiple native code library binding development?

★ Asked 5 years, 6 months ago Viewed 85 times

▲ Closed. This question needs to be more focused. It is not currently accepting answers. [Learn more.](#)

2 Want to improve this question? Update the question so it focuses on one problem only by [editing this post.](#)

★ 1 I am developing a native C library that needs bindings to Java (JNI) in both Oracle and Android NDK settings, Ruby, Python, and Perl.

I have written bindings in all these environments individually. But is there any best practice wisdom for setting up such a project in Eclipse so that all the bindings compile automatically from a common C codebase?

1 Ans

If not Eclipse, then Netbeans?

I do realize that memory allocation within the library will need to be different for each language platform, but this appears manageable with macros.

java ruby eclipse perl netbeans

span than activities do. Additionally, several instances of the same Fragment subclass can be displayed at once. So by loading your library in the activity instead of the fragment, you're r the load on the system in general.

If it's the activity, how do I then make the fragment update whenever a new item gets added?

## Best practice for building shared-object (.so) in C that will be used from different FFI including JAVA (JNI) and NodeJs (node-ffi)

Asked 3 months ago Viewed 25 times

▲ I know the basics on how to make C library java compatible using JNI, but I need this same library to

## 0 Best Practices for Calling Scipy From C

Asked 5 years, 3 months ago Viewed 95 times

★ I've written some C-code to call scipy functions. The body, including variable declarations and using EXIT FAIL to denote messages and cleanup steps, is:

2

```
PyObject *module_name, *module = NULL;
PyObject *funcnt = NULL;
PyObject *output = NULL;
int j;
double dInVal, dOutVal;

Py_Initialize();

module_name = PyString_FromString("scipy.stats");
module = PyImport_Import(module_name);
Py_DECREF(module_name);
if (!module)
    EXIT_FAIL

funcnt = PyObject_GetAttrString(module, "ppf");
if (!funcnt)
    EXIT_FAIL
Py_DECREF(module);

for (j=0; j<=10; j++)
{
    dInVal = (double)j/10.0;

    output = PyObject_CallMethod(funcnt, "ppf", "(f,f,f)", dInVal, 50.0, 50.0);
    if (!output)
        EXIT_FAIL

    dOutVal = PyFloat_AsDouble(output);
    Py_DECREF(output);
    printf("%6.3f %6.3f\n", dInVal, dOutVal);
}

Py_DECREF(funcnt);
Py_Finalize();
```



design patterns|

- design patterns
- design patterns **java**
- design patterns **book**
- design patterns **c#**
- design patterns **python**
- design patterns **interview questions**
- design patterns **programming**
- design patterns **mvc**
- design patterns **list**
- design patterns **wiki**

design patterns for multi-language|

- design **pattern multi language**
- database design pattern multi language**

Google Search    I'm Feeling Lucky

# Thesis Statement



- **Design smells exist** in multi-language systems (**H1**)
- Multi-language design smells are **prevalent** in open source projects (**H2**)
- Multi-language design smells present **negative impacts** on the software quality (**H3**)

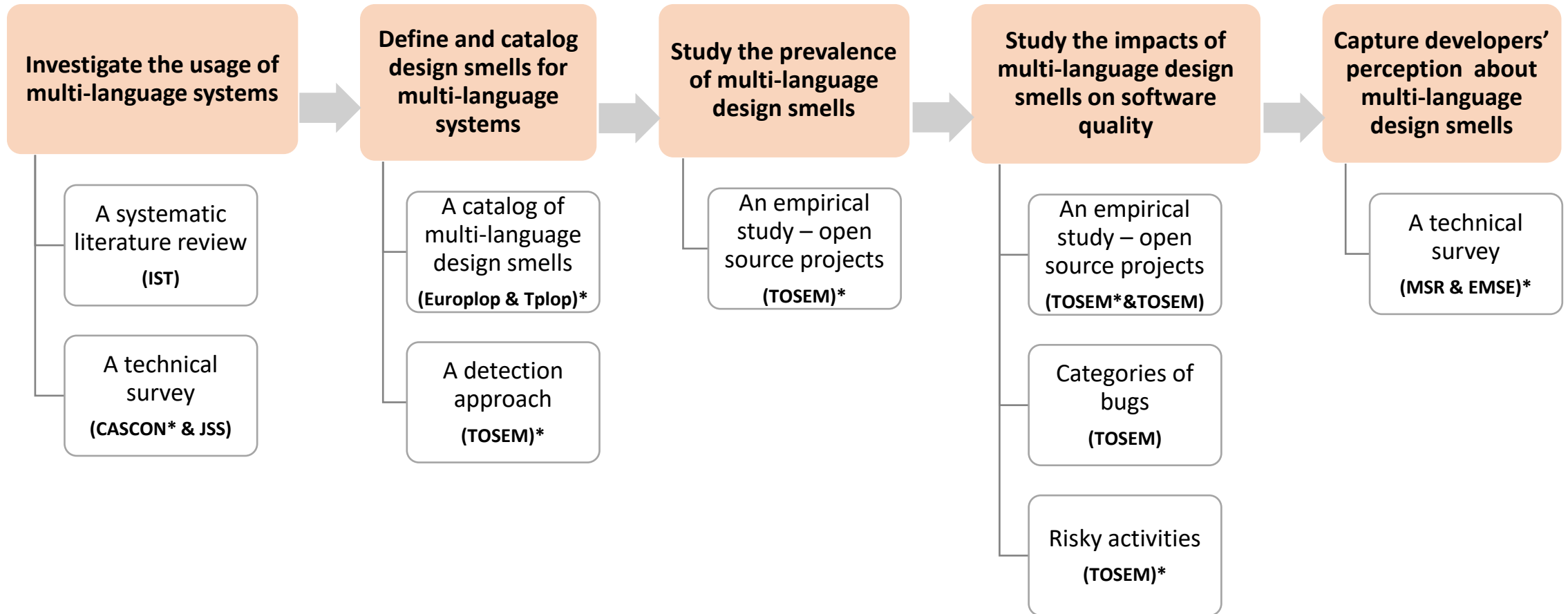
# Objectives



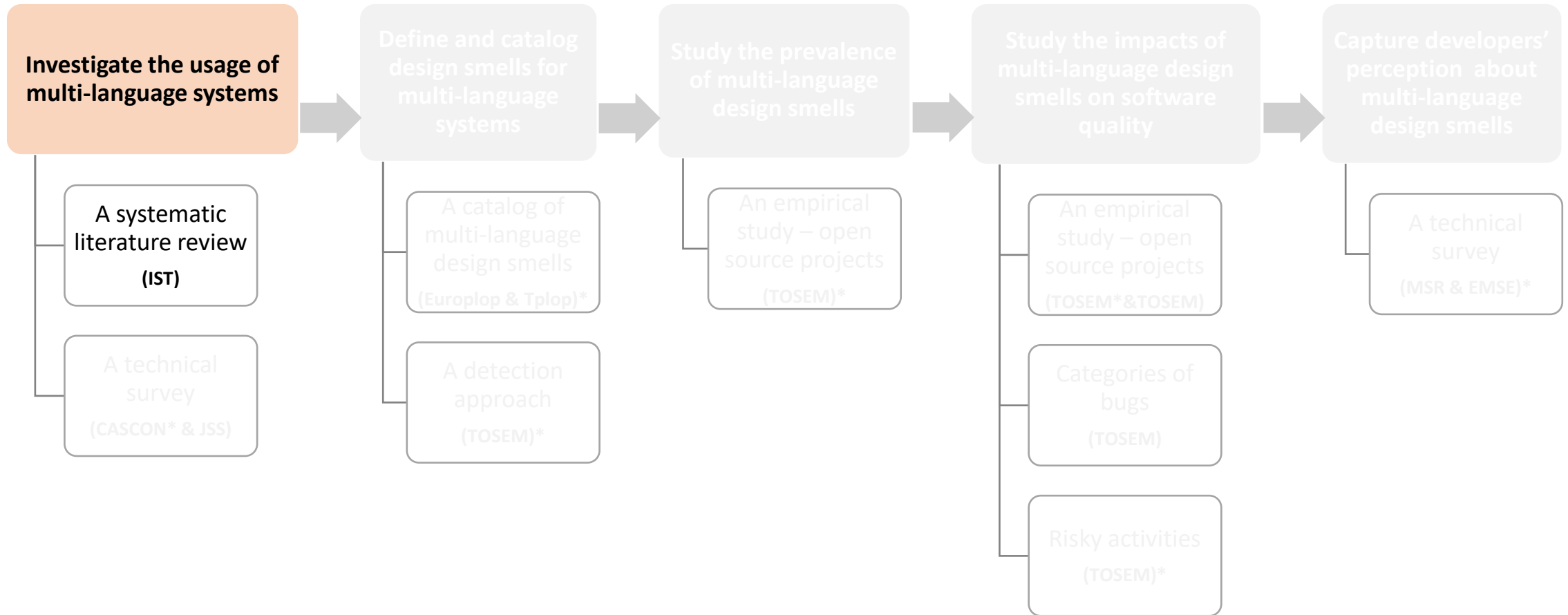
- Define and **catalog** design **smells** for **multi-language systems**
- Study the **prevalence** of multi-language design **smells**
- Study the **impacts** of multi-language design **smells** on **software quality**



# Thesis Overview



# Thesis Overview



# Pilot 1 - Systematic Literature Review

**Query 3:**  
((((((((((((((((('multiple languages' OR 'multiple language' OR multi-language\* OR 'multi language' OR 'multi languages' OR mixed-language\* OR 'mixed language' OR 'mixed languages' OR 'heterogeneous language' OR 'heterogeneous languages' OR polylingual OR polyglot)wn KY AND (software\* OR Program\* OR Analys\* OR System\* )wn KY) )))))))) )))) AND ((2020 OR 2019 OR 2018 OR 2017 OR 2016 OR 2015 OR 2014 OR 2013 OR 2012 OR 2011 OR 2010) wn YR)) AND (english wn LA))

**Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria**

3694 papers

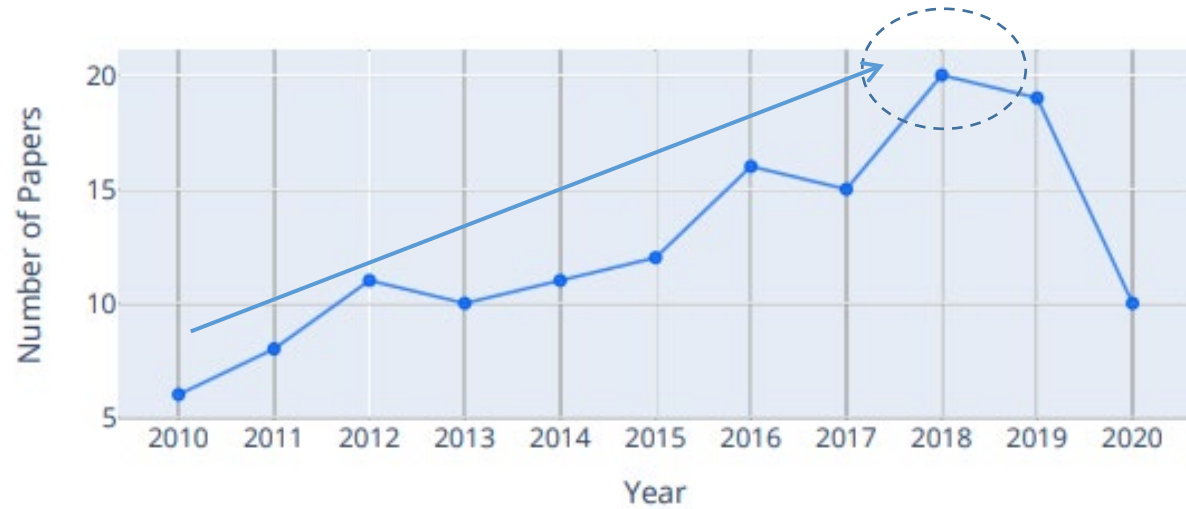


**Data Extraction**

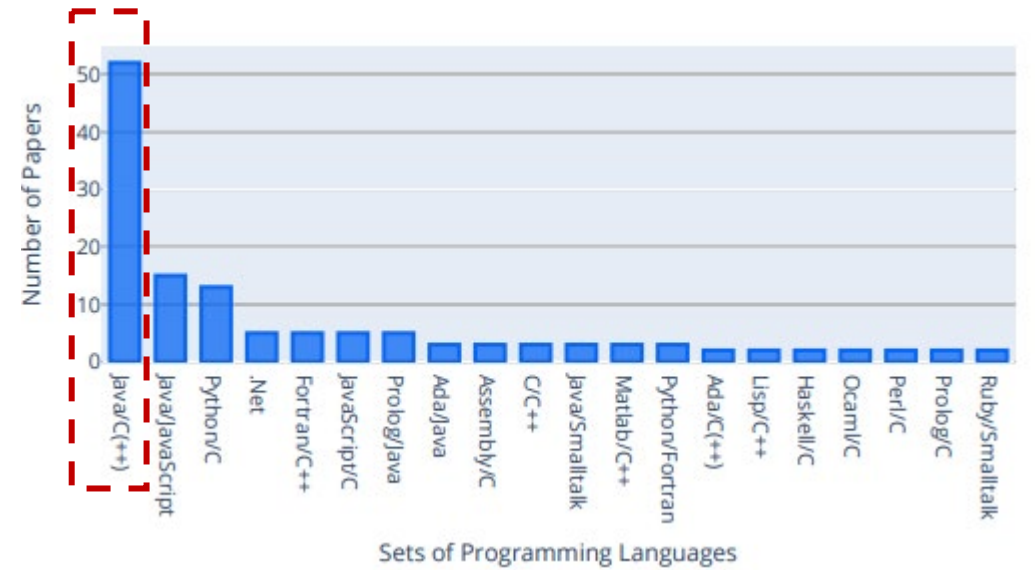
138 papers



# Study Results

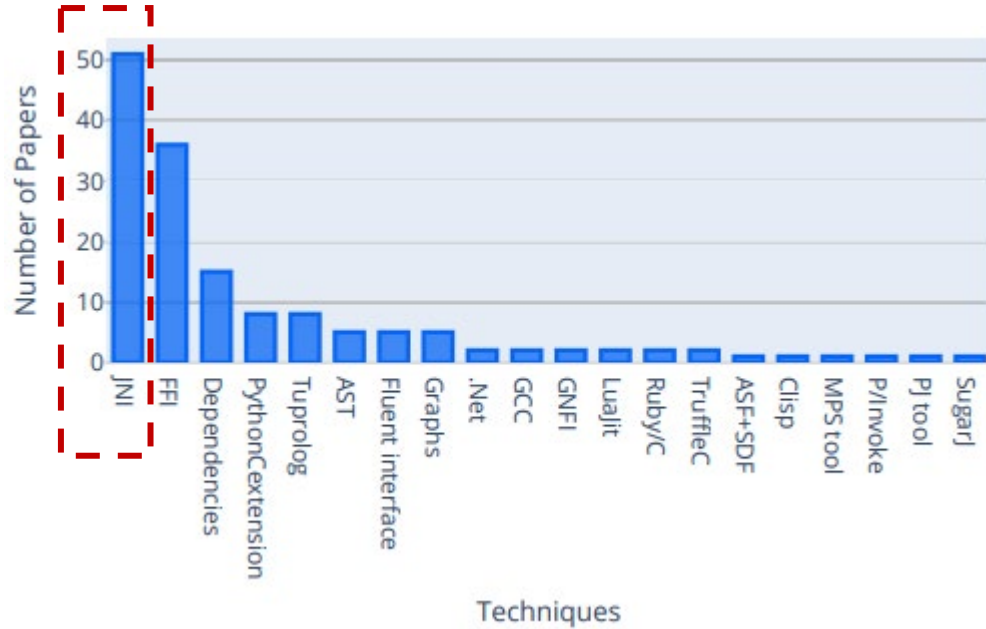


Multi-language Papers Over Time

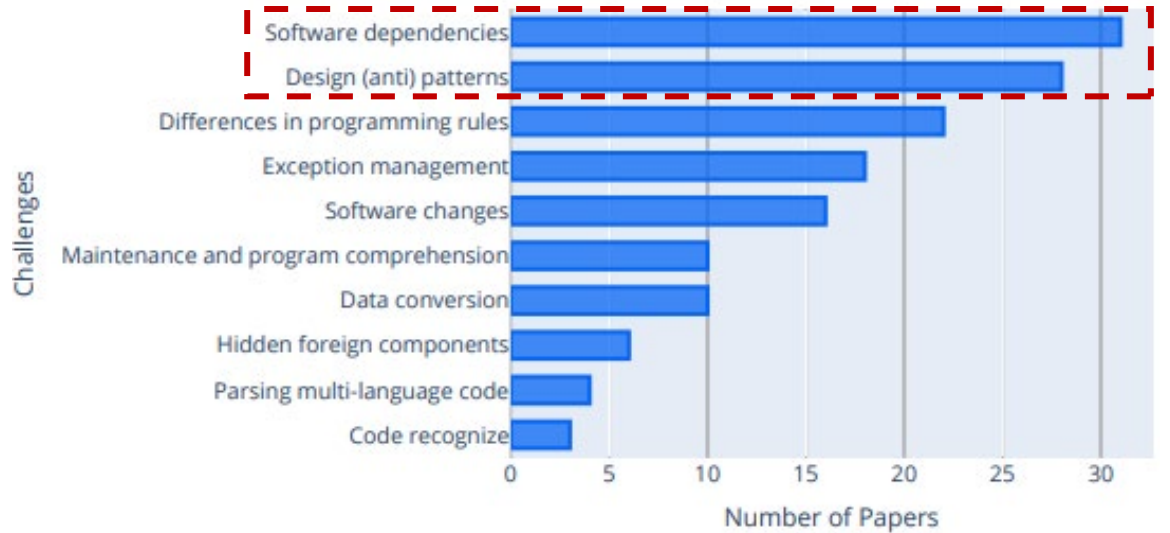


The Top 20 Combinations of Programming Languages Discussed in Literature

# Study Results

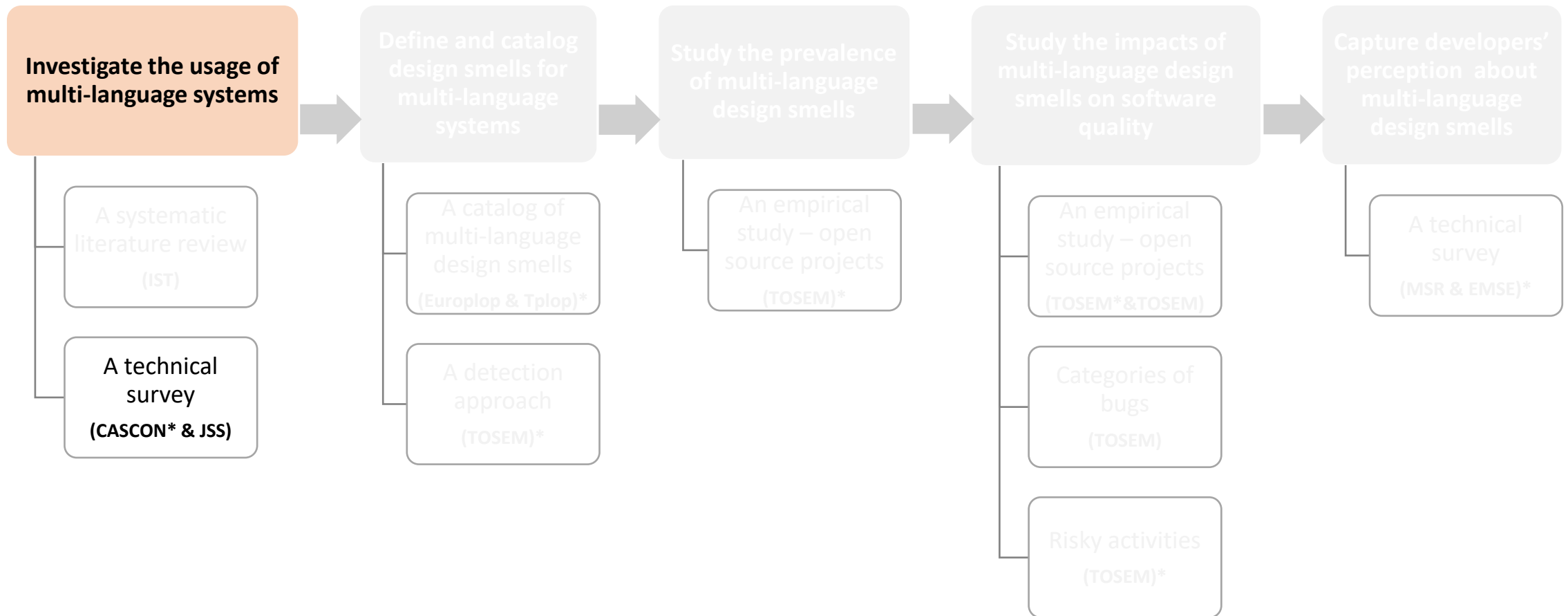


Techniques Used for the Integration of Programming Languages

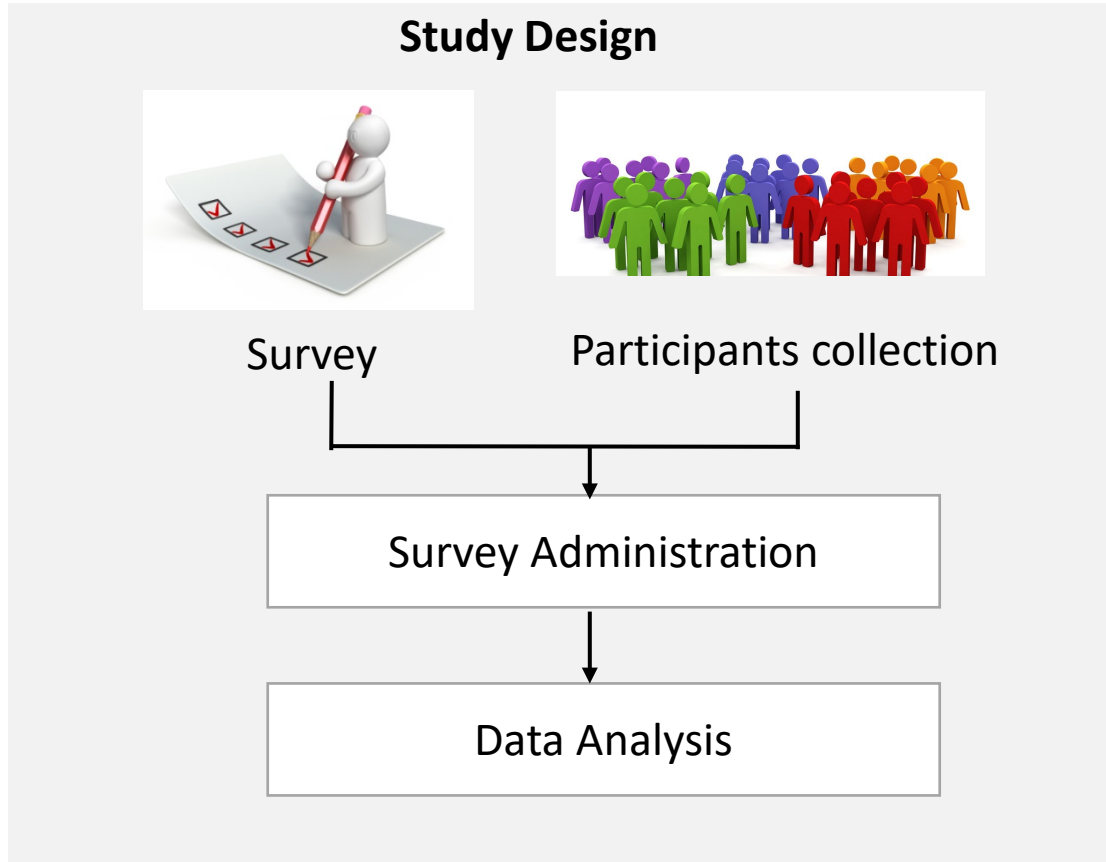


Major Challenges of Multi-language Systems

# Thesis Overview



# Pilot 2 – Technical Survey



**133 participants (47.5%)**



# Developers' Perspectives on Multi-language Systems

- **Increasing popularity**

- **Perceived benefits:**

- Ease implementation of the initial code
- Reuse of code
- Benefits from each programming language
- Increase developers' motivation



**“Good practices and tools for multiple language may help developers keep their code clean and maintainable”** (Participant)

- **Perceived Challenges:**

- Complex maintenance
- Diverse competences requirements
- Complex dependencies
- Lack of dedicated support

- **Current Solution:**

- Mono-language patterns and solutions for multi-language systems

# Implications from the Pilot Studies



Information scattered



Concrete relevance

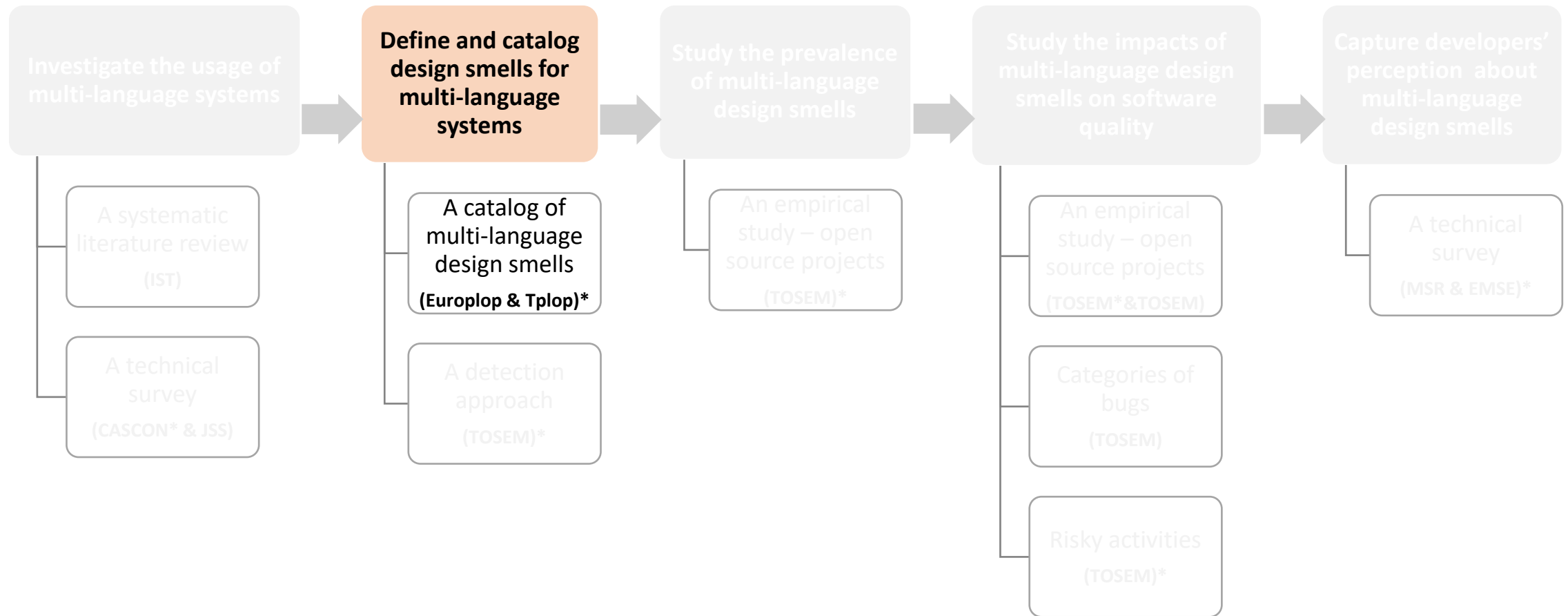


Evaluation of impact



Developers' perception

# Thesis Overview



# Multi-language Design Smells

- **Multi-language design smells** are defined as **poor design** and **coding decisions** when **bridging** between **different programming languages**
- Design smells include anti-patterns and code smells
- They represent **violations** of **best practices** related to the **combination of programming languages** that often indicate the presence of bigger problems

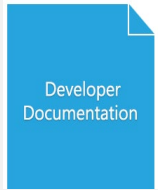


# Study Design

## Data Collection



Literature



Documentation



Bug reports



Source code

Practices Collection

Coding Practices

## Validation Process

Validation Process

Inclusion Criteria

Exclusion Criteria

Documentation Process



Design Smells

# Examples of Collection of Practices

## Error handling

Using native methods in Java programs breaks the Java security model in several ways. Because Java programs run in a controlled runtime system (the JVM), the Java platform decided to help the programmer by checking common run-time errors, such as array indices, out-of-bounds errors, and null pointer errors. C and C++, on the other hand, do not have such runtime error checking, so native method programmers must handle conditions that would otherwise be caught in the JVM at runtime.

For example, it is common and correct practice in Java programs to catch and handle exceptions by throwing an exception. C has no exceptions, so instead you must use the error handling functions of JNI.

## JNI's exception handling functions

There are two ways to throw an exception in the native code: you can use the `ThrowNew()` function. Before calling `ThrowNew()`, you first need to create a `Throwable` object for you. In the example code snippet below, we throw an exception using the `ThrowNew()` function:

```
1. /* Create the Throwable object. */
2. jclass cls = (*env)->FindClass(env, "java/io/IOException");
3. jmethodID mid = (*env)->GetMethodID(env, cls, "<init>", "V");
4. jobjectable e = (*env)->NewObject(env, cls, mid);
5.
6. /* Now throw the exception */
7. (*env)->Throw(env, e);
8. ...
9.
10. /* Here we do it all in one step and provide a message */
11. (*env)->ThrowNew(env,
12.                  (*env)->FindClass("java/io/IOException"),
13.                  "An IOException occurred!");
```

## 2. Performance pitfalls

- Not caching method IDs, field IDs, and Classes

To access Java objects' fields and invoke their methods, native code must make calls to `FindClass()`, `GetFieldID()`, `GetMethodID()`, and `GetStaticMethodID()`. The IDs returned for a given class don't change for the lifetime of the JVM process. But the call to get the field ID requires significant work in the JVM. Because the IDs are the same for a given class, you should look them up once and then reuse them.

## General tips

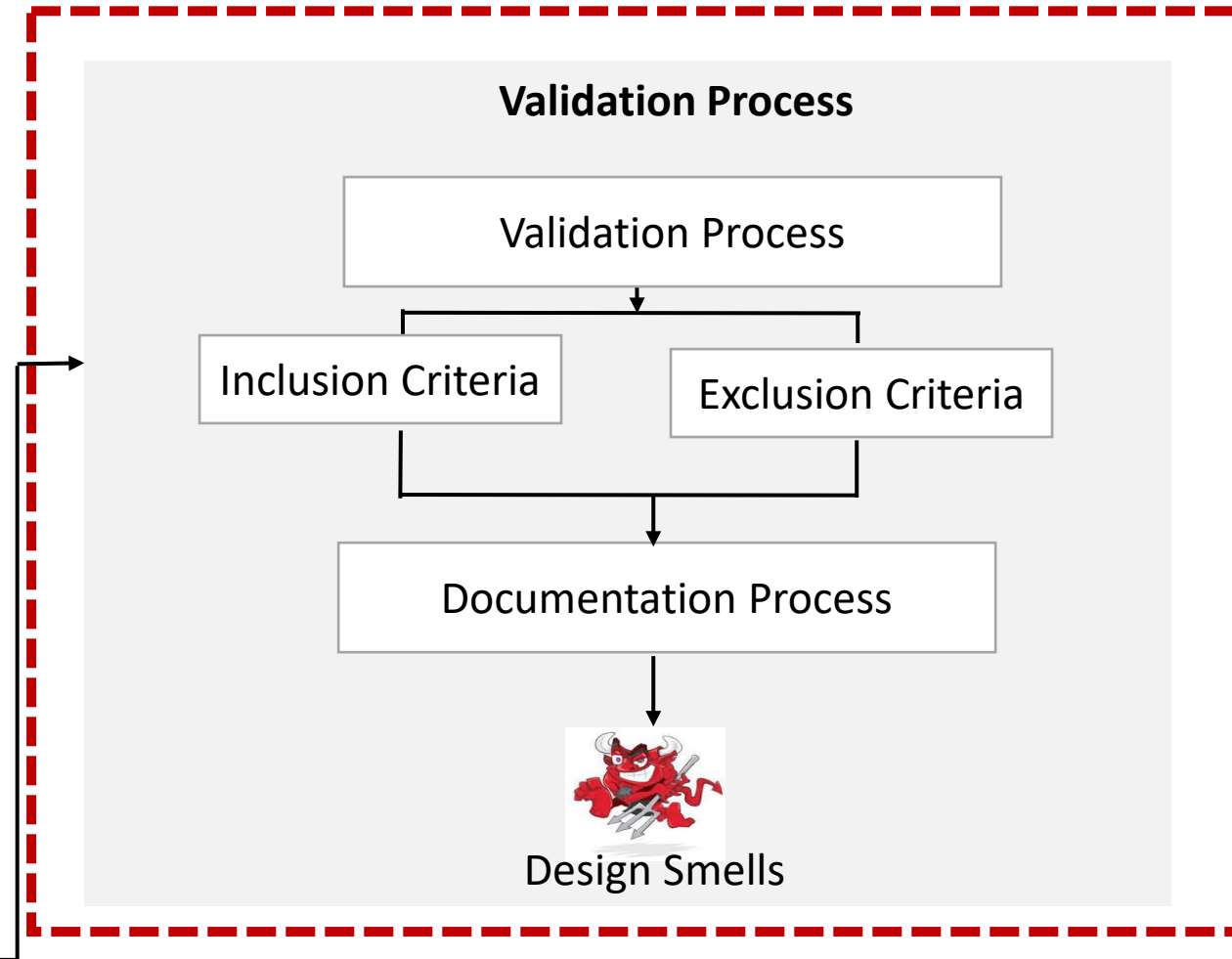
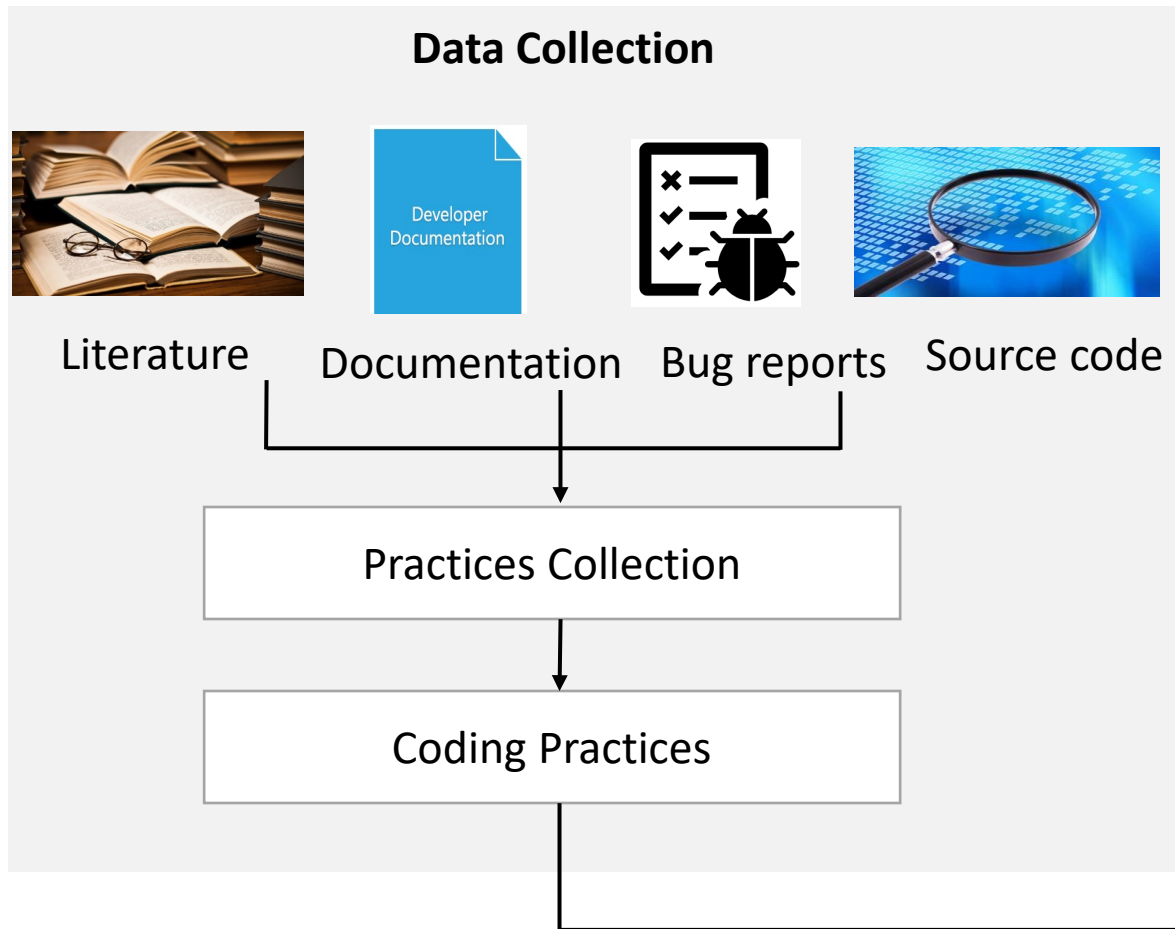
Try to minimize the footprint of your JNI layer. There are several dimensions to consider here. Your JNI solution should try to follow these guidelines (listed below by order of importance, beginning with the most important):

- **Minimize marshalling of resources across the JNI layer.** Marshalling across the JNI layer has non-trivial costs. Try to design an interface that minimizes the amount of data you need to marshal and the frequency with which you must marshal data.
- **Avoid asynchronous communication between code written in a managed programming language and code written in C++ when possible.** This will keep your JNI interface easier to maintain. You can typically simplify asynchronous UI updates by keeping the async update in the same language as the UI. For example, instead of invoking a C++ function from the UI thread in the Java code via JNI, it's better to do a callback between two threads in the Java programming language, with one of them making a blocking C++ call and then notifying the UI thread when the blocking call is complete.
- **Minimize the number of threads that need to touch or be touched by JNI.** If you do need to utilize thread pools in both the Java and C++ languages, try to keep JNI communication between the pool owners rather than between individual worker threads.
- **Keep your interface code in a low number of easily identified C++ and Java source locations to facilitate future refactors.** Consider using a JNI auto-generation library as appropriate.

Bad Practices

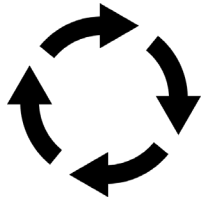
Good Practices

# Study Design

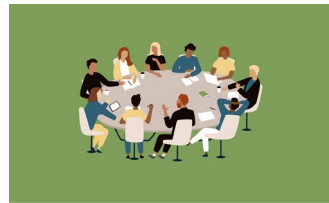


# A Catalog of Multi-language Design Smells

- A catalog of 15 types of Multi-language Design Smells



Rounds of shepherding  
Process



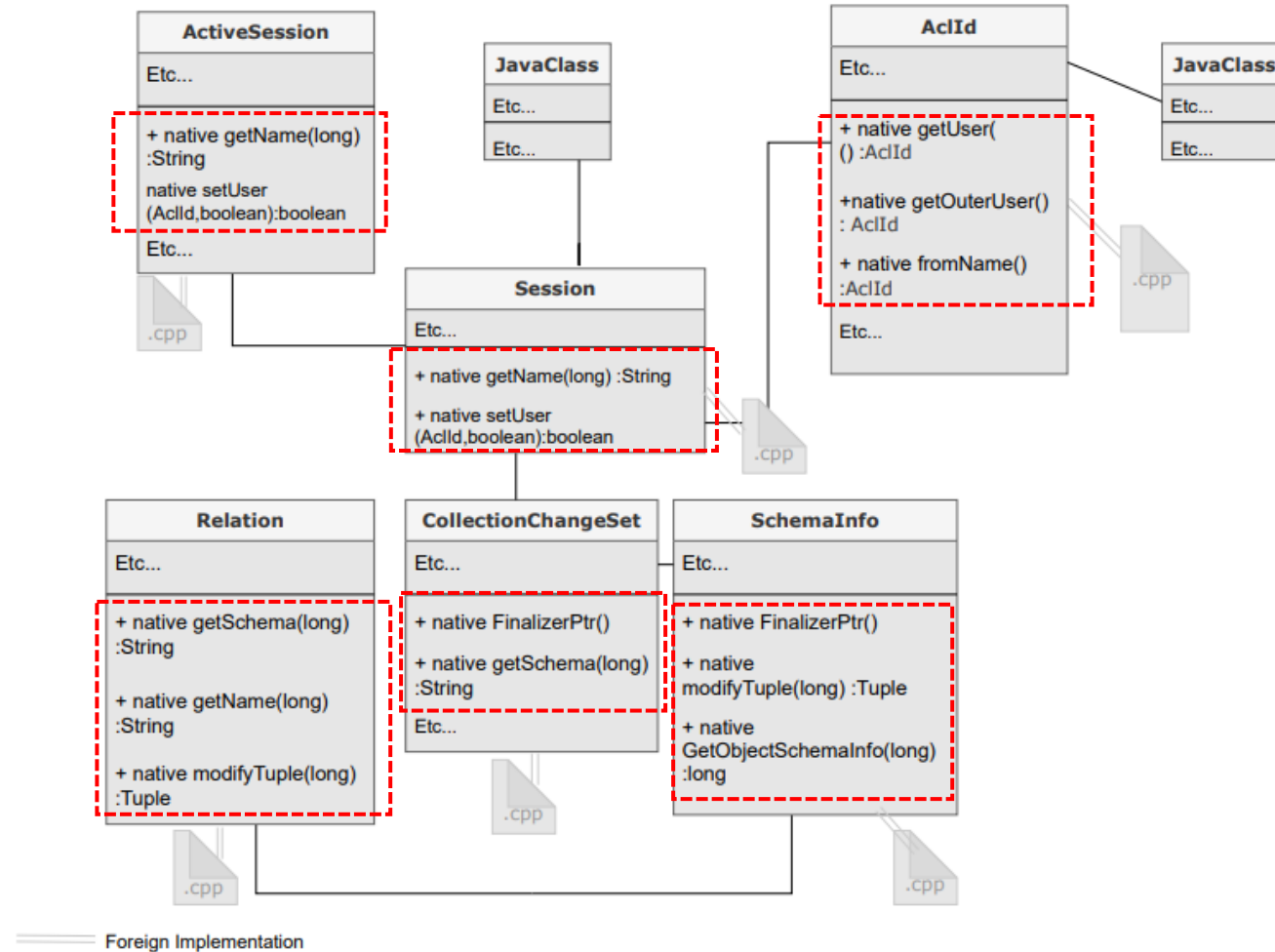
Writers' Workshop



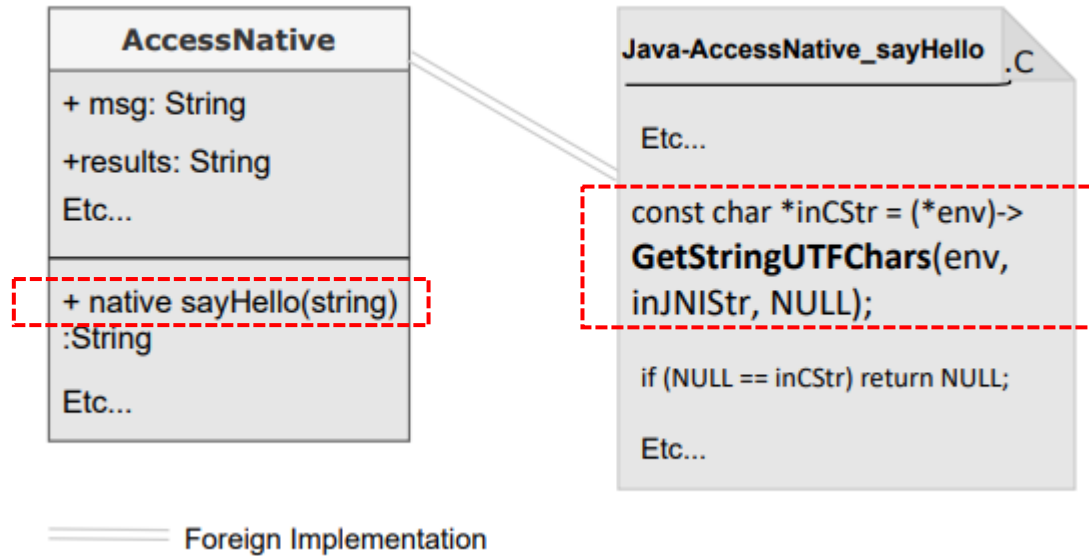
Refine Design Smells

| N. | Multi-language Design Smells           |
|----|--|
| 1  | Not Handling Exceptions                |
| 2  | Not Securing Libraries                 |
| 3  | Local Reference Abuse                  |
| 4  | Memory Management Mismatch             |
| 5  | Excessive Objects                      |
| 6  | Too Much Clustering                    |
| 7  | Unused Method Implementation           |
| 8  | Unused Parameters                      |
| 9  | Assuming Safe Return Values            |
| 10 | Not Using Relative Path                |
| 11 | Hard Coding Libraries                  |
| 12 | Not Caching Objects                    |
| 13 | Too Much Scattering                    |
| 14 | Excessive Inter-language Communication |
| 15 | Unused Method Declaration              |

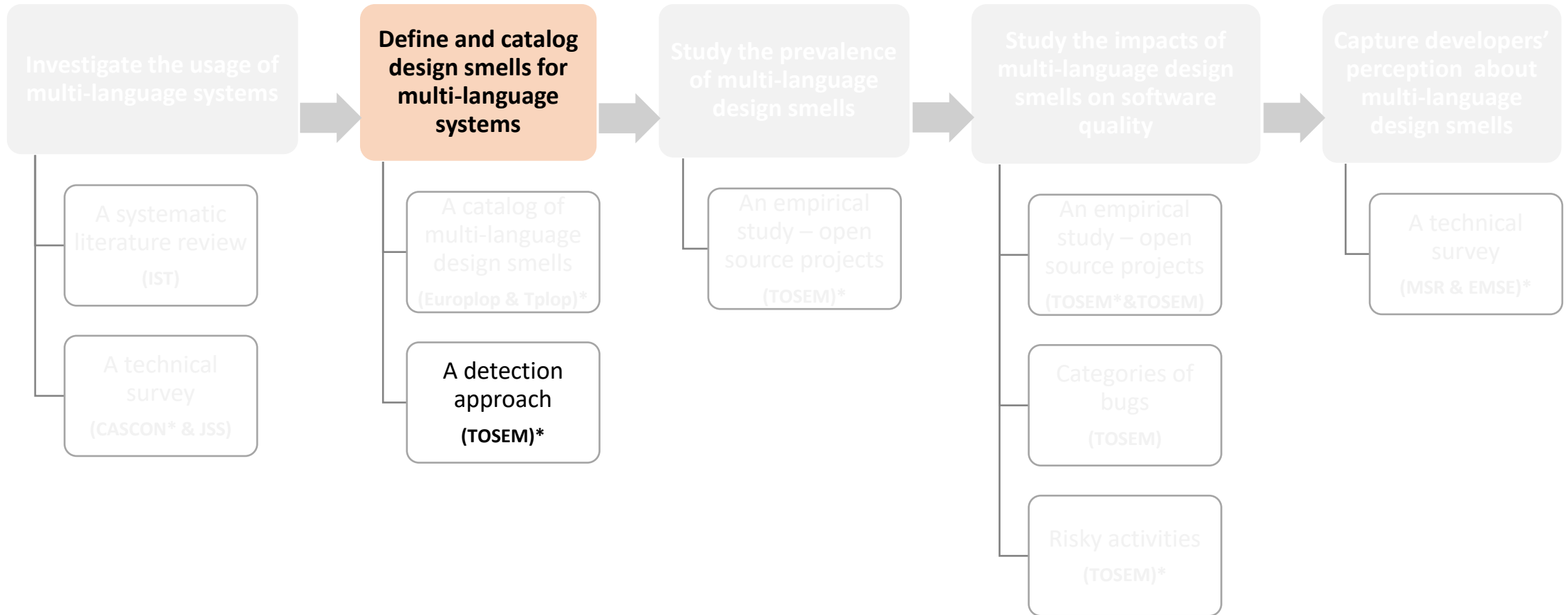
# Too Much Scattering



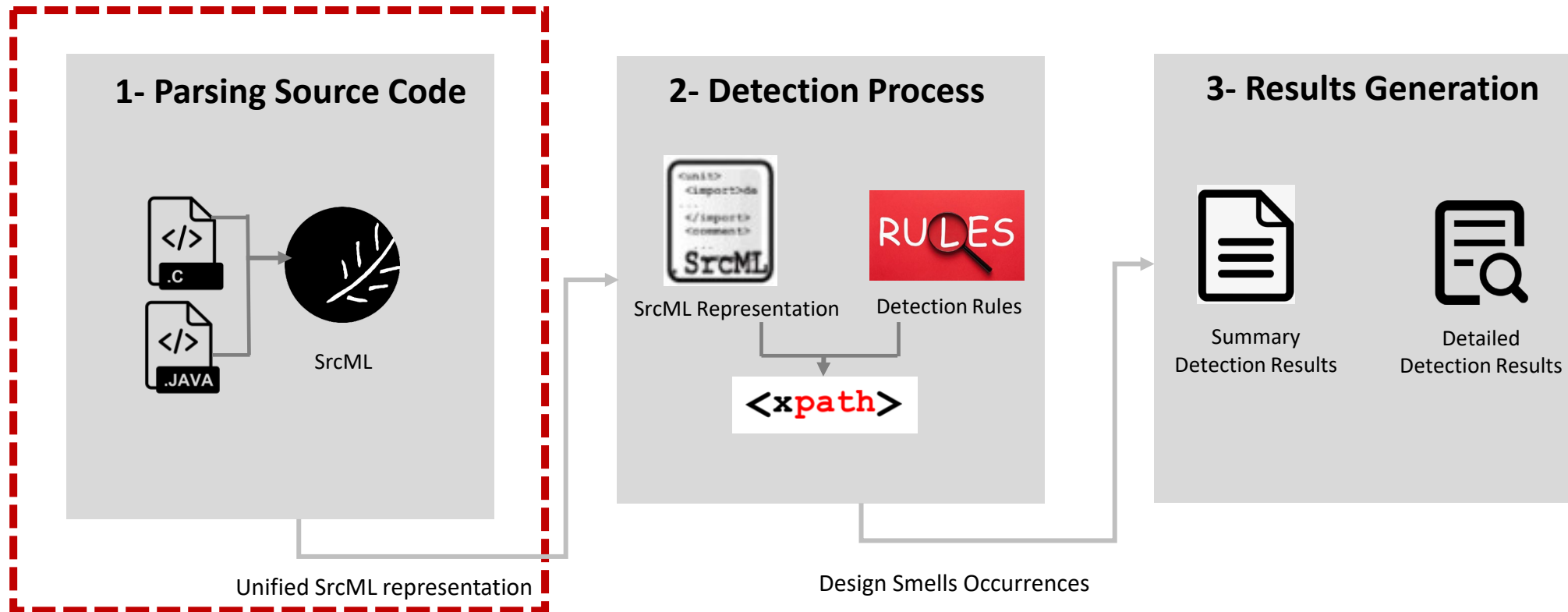
# Memory Management Mismatch



# Thesis Overview

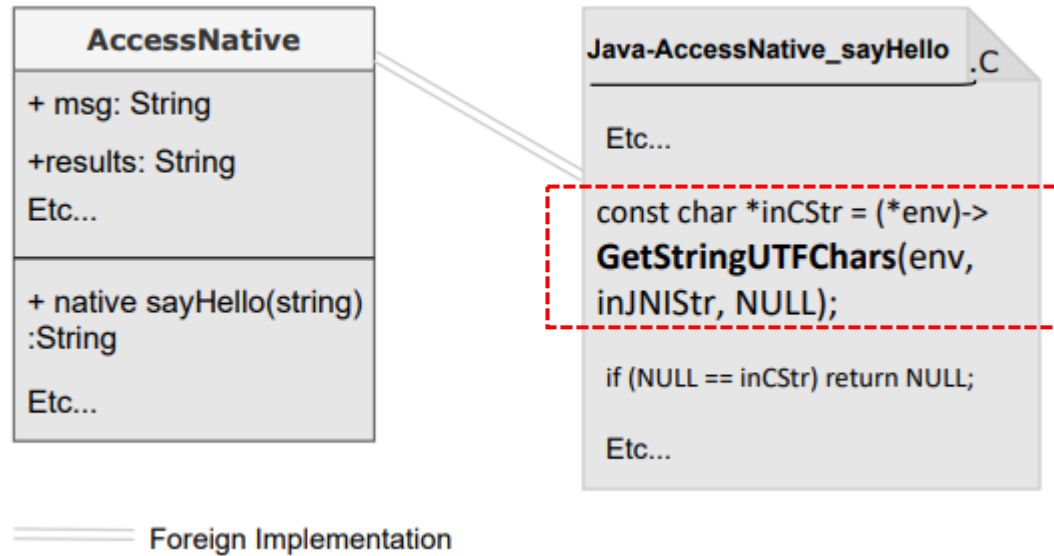


# MLSIInspect: A Detection Approach For Multi-language Design Smells





# Memory Management Mismatch



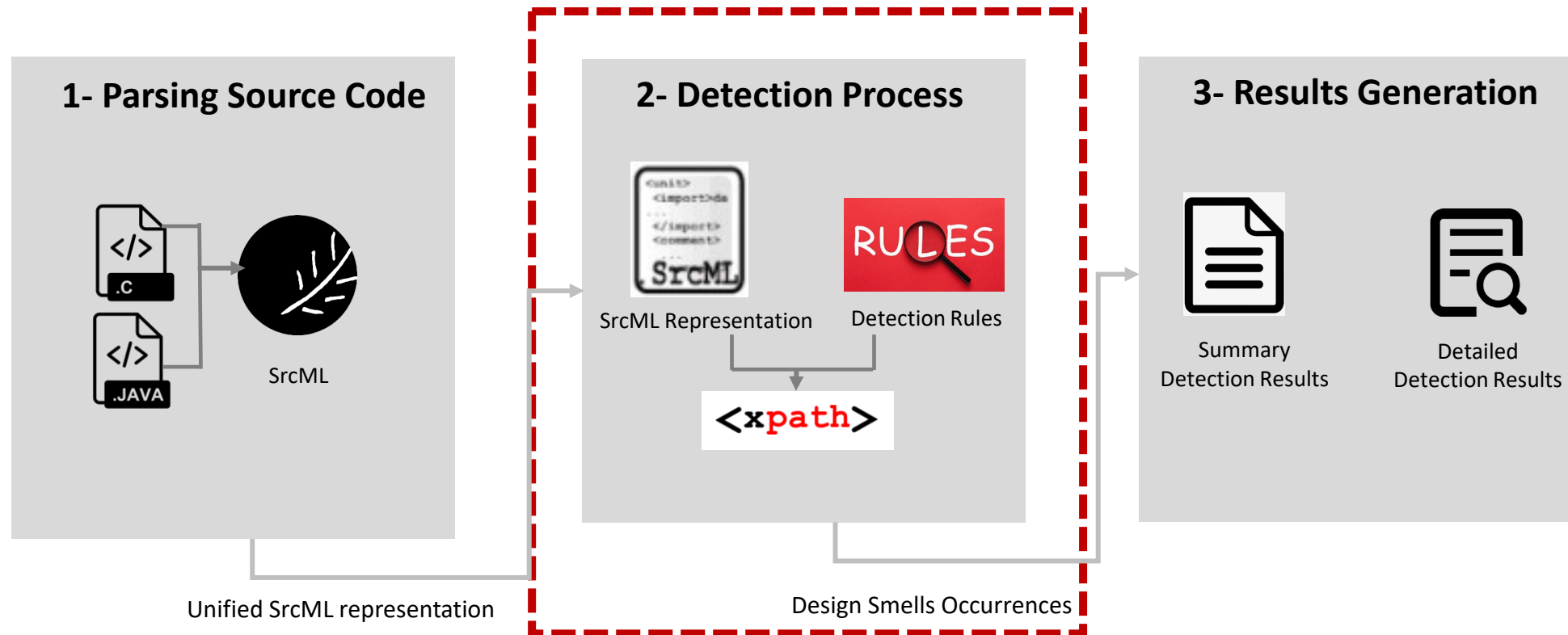
# Parsing Source Code

```
JNIEXPORT jstring JNICALL Java_AccessNative_sayHello(JNIEnv *env, jobject thisObj, jstring inJNISTR)  
{  
    const char *inCStr = (*env)->GetStringUTFChars(env, inJNISTR, NULL);  
    if (NULL == inCStr) return NULL;  
  
    printf("In C, the received string is: %s\n", inCStr);  
  
    char outCStr[128];  
    printf("Enter a String: ");  
    scanf("%s", outCStr);  
  
    return (*env)->NewStringUTF(env, outCStr);  
}
```



```
<function><type><name>JNIEXPORT</name> <name>jstring</name> <name>JNICALL</name></type> <name>Java_AccessNative_sayHello</name><parameter_list>  
(<parameter><decl><type><name>JNIEnv</name> <modifier>*</modifier></type><name>env</name></decl></parameter>, <parameter><decl><type>  
<name>jobject</name></type> <name>thisObj</name></decl></parameter>, <parameter><decl><type><name>jstring</name></type> <name>inJNISTR</name>  
</decl></parameter>)</parameter_list> <block>{ <decl_stmt><decl><type><specifier>const</specifier> <name>char</name> <modifier>*</modifier></type>  
<name>inCStr</name> <init>= <expr><call><name><operator></operator><operator>*</operator><name>env</name><operator></operator><operator>-&gt;</operator>  
<name>GetStringUTFChars</name></name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><name>env</name></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>inJNISTR</name></expr>  
</argument>, <argument><expr><name>NULL</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr></init></decl>;</decl_stmt>  
    <if>if <condition>(<expr><name>NULL</name> <operator>==</operator> <name>inCStr</name></expr>)</condition><then> <block type="pseudo"><return>return <expr>  
    <name>NULL</name></expr>;</return></block></then></if> <expr_stmt><expr><call><name>printf</name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><literal type="string">  
    "In C, the received string is: %s\n"</literal></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>inCStr</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;  
</expr_stmt> <decl_stmt><decl><type><name>char</name></type> <name><name>outCStr</name><index>[<expr><literal type="number">128</literal></expr>]</index>  
</name></decl>;</decl_stmt><expr_stmt><expr><call><name>printf</name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><literal type="string">"Enter a String: "</literal></expr>  
</argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;</expr_stmt><expr_stmt><expr><call><name>scanf</name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><literal type="string">"%s"  
</literal></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>outCStr</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;</expr_stmt><return>return <expr><call>  
<name><operator></operator><operator>*</operator><name>env</name><operator></operator><operator>-&gt;</operator><name>NewStringUTF</name></name><argument_list>  
(<argument><expr><name>env</name></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>outCStr</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;</return>  
</block></function>  
</unit>
```

# MLSIInspect: A Detection Approach For Multi-language Design Smells



# Detection Process

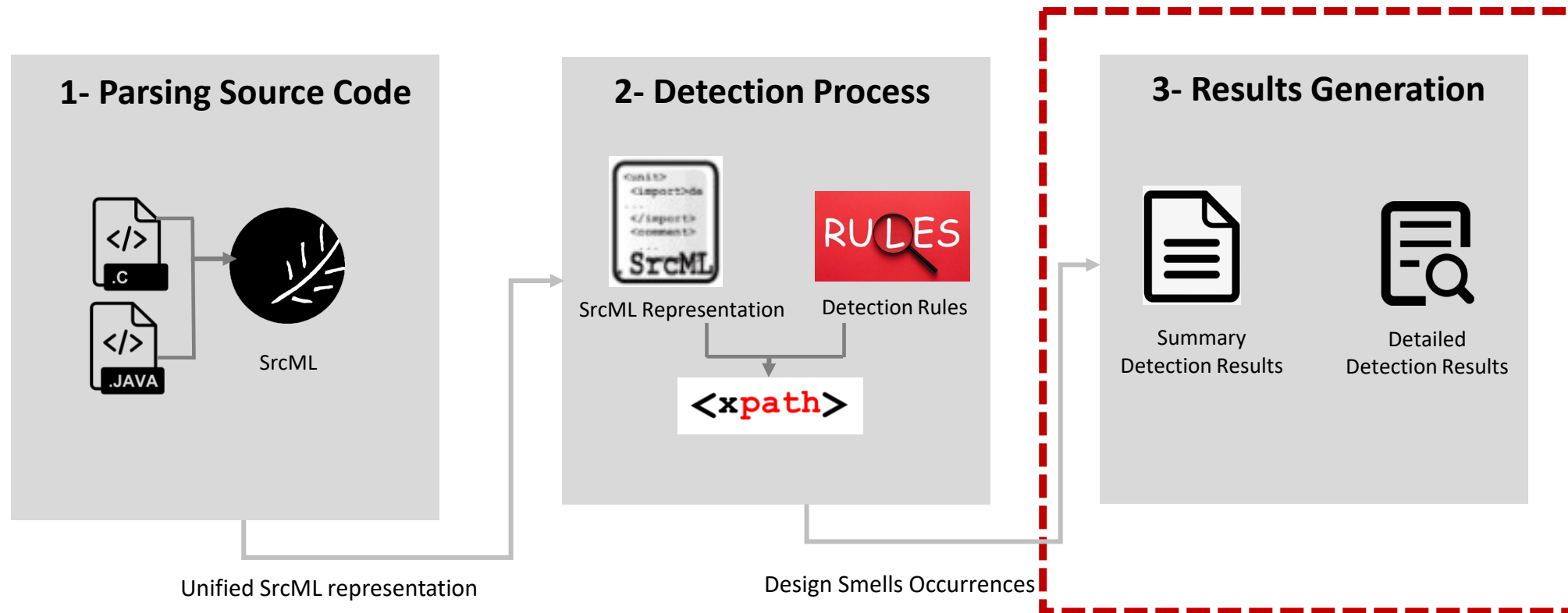
genericCallQuery = "descendant::call[name/name='%s']"

(mem  $\leftarrow$  f1(y) | f1  $\in$  {GetStringChars, **GetStringUTFChars**,...})

**AND** ( $\nexists$  f2(mem) | f2  $\in$  {ReleaseGetStringChars, **ReleaseGetStringUTFChars**,...})

```
<function><type><name>JNIEXPORT</name> <name>jstring</name> <name>JNICALL</name></type> <name>Java_AccessNative_sayHello</name><parameter_list>
(<parameter><decl><type><name>JNIEnv</name> <modifier>*</modifier></type><name>env</name></decl></parameter>, <parameter><decl><type>
<name>jobject</name></type> <name>thisObj</name></decl></parameter>, <parameter><decl><type><name>jstring</name></type> <name>inJNIstr</name>
</decl></parameter></parameter_list> <block>{ <decl_stmt><decl><type><specifier>const</specifier> <name>char</name> <modifier>*</modifier></type>
<name>inCStr</name> <init>= <expr><call><name><operator></operator><operator>*</operator><name>env</name><operator></operator><operator>-&gt;</operator>
<name>GetStringUTFChars</name></name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><name>env</name></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>inJNIstr</name></expr>
</argument>, <argument><expr><name>NULL</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr></init></decl>;</decl_stmt>
<if>if <condition>(<expr><name>NULL</name> <operator>==</operator> <name>inCStr</name></expr>)</condition><then> <block type="pseudo"><return>return <expr>
<name>NULL</name></expr>;</return></block></then></if> <expr_stmt><expr><call><name>printf</name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><literal type="string">
<name>In C, the received string is: %s\n</literal></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>inCStr</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;
</expr_stmt> <decl_stmt><decl><type><name>char</name></type> <name><name>outCStr</name><index>[<expr><literal type="number">128</literal></expr>]</index>
</name></decl>;</decl_stmt><expr_stmt><expr><call><name>printf</name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><literal type="string">"Enter a String: "</literal></expr>
</argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;</expr_stmt><expr_stmt><expr><call><name>scanf</name><argument_list>(<argument><expr><literal type="string">"%s"
</literal></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>outCStr</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;</expr_stmt><return>return <expr><call>
<name><operator></operator><operator>*</operator><name>env</name><operator></operator><operator>-&gt;</operator><name>NewStringUTF</name></name><argument_list>
(<argument><expr><name>env</name></expr></argument>, <argument><expr><name>outCStr</name></expr></argument>)</argument_list></call></expr>;</return>
}</block></function>
</unit>
```

# MLSInspect: A Detection Approach For Multi-language Design Smells



# Results Generation

The XML of the project was created.

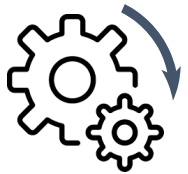
AssumingSafeMultiLanguageReturnValues: 12  
 MemoryManagementMismatch: 11  
 NotHandlingExceptions: 7  
 LocalReferencesAbuse: 0  
 NotCachingObjectsElements: 2  
 UnusedDeclaration: 16  
 UnusedImplementation: 0  
 PassingExcessiveObjects: 0  
 NotUsingRelativePath: 1  
 HardCodingLibraries: 2  
 UnusedParameters: 74  
 NotSecuringLibraries: 9  
 ExcessiveInterLanguageCommunication: 81  
 TooMuchClustering: 21  
 TooMuchScattering: 33



| ID   | Name              | Variable         | Method             | Class               | Package     | File                  | File Name          | System  | Version   | Release   |
|------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| CS1  | UnusedDeclaration | setUseOsBuffer   | EnvOptions         | EnvOptions          | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | EnvOptions.java    | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS2  | UnusedDeclaration | getFromBatchAnd  | WriteBatchWithInde | WriteBatchWithInde  | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | WriteBatchWithInde | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS3  | UnusedDeclaration | getFromBatch     | WriteBatchWithInde | WriteBatchWithInde  | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | WriteBatchWithInde | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS4  | UnusedDeclaration | iteratorCF       | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS5  | UnusedDeclaration | multiGet         | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS6  | UnusedDeclaration | newSstFileWriter | SstFileWriter      | SstFileWriter       | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | SstFileWriter.java | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS7  | UnusedDeclaration | getProperty0     | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS8  | UnusedDeclaration | compactRange0    | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS9  | UnusedDeclaration | useOsBuffer      | EnvOptions         | EnvOptions          | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | EnvOptions.java    | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS10 | UnusedDeclaration | keyMayExist      | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS11 | UnusedDeclaration | deleteRange      | WriteBatchWithInde | WriteBatchWithInde  | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | WriteBatchWithInde | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS12 | UnusedDeclaration | openROnly        | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS13 | UnusedDeclaration | compactRange     | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS14 | UnusedDeclaration | setComparatorHan | Options            | Options             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | Options.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS15 | UnusedDeclaration | getLongProperty  | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS16 | UnusedDeclaration | singleDelete     | RocksDB            | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS17 | NotUsingRel       | rocksdbjni       | loadLibrary        | RocksDB             | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | RocksDB.java       | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS18 | HardCodingL       | sharedLib        | loadLibrary        | NativeLibraryLoader | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | NativeLibrary      | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |
| CS19 | HardCodingL       | jniLibrary       | loadLibrary        | NativeLibraryLoader | org.rocksdb | rocksdb-5.6.2/java/sr | NativeLibrary      | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | 8/12/2017 |

| File                        | System  | Version   | Package     | Release   | Class      | ExcessiveI | Too much | Too much | UnusedM | UnusedM | UnusedPa | Assuming | ExcessiveI | NotHandl | NotCachir | NotSecuri | HardCodir | NotUsingF | MemoryM | LocalRefe | FilePath |                  |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|------------------|
| 1 EnvOptions.java           | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | EnvOption  | 6          | 1        | 0        | 2       | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |
| 2 WriteBatchWithIndex.java  | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | WriteBatc  | 2          | 1        | 0        | 3       | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |
| 3 RocksDB.java              | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | RocksDB    | 4          | 1        | 0        | 9       | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 3         | 0         | 2         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |
| 4 SstFileWriter.java        | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | SstFileWri | 0          | 1        | 0        | 1       | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |
| 5 Options.java              | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | Options    | 1          | 1        | 0        | 1       | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |
| 6 NativeLibraryLoader.java  | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | NativeLibi | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 4         | 2         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |
| 7 internal_stats.cc         | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | rocksdb     | 8/12/2017 |            | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 2        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/dl |
| 8 db_compaction_filter_test | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | rocksdb     | 8/12/2017 | KeepFilte  | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 1        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/dl |
| 9 document_db.cc            | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | rocksdb     | 8/12/2017 | Document   | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 2        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ut |
| 10 transaction_impl.cc      | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | rocksdb     | 8/12/2017 | Handler    | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 1        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ut |
| 11 full_filter_block.cc     | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | rocksdb     | 8/12/2017 |            | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 4        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ta |
| 12 StatsCallbackMock.java   | rocksdb | rocksdb-5 | org.rocksdb | 8/12/2017 | StatsCallb | 0          | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0       | 4        | 0        | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0        | rocksdb-5.6.2/ja |

# MLSInspect Evaluation



MLS Inspect



Evaluated on 6 open source projects



| Systems   | Recall     | Precision  |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Openj9    | 93%        | 96%        |
| Rocksdb   | 87%        | 95%        |
| Conscrypt | 80%        | 95%        |
| PIJava    | 90%        | 99%        |
| JNA       | <u>74%</u> | <u>88%</u> |
| JMonkey   | 92%        | 94%        |



# (H1) Design Smells Exist in Multi-language Systems

## Catalog of Multi-language Design smells

| N. | Multi-language Design Smells           |
|----|--|
| 1  | Not Handling Exceptions                |
| 2  | Not Securing Libraries                 |
| 3  | Local Reference Abuse                  |
| 4  | Memory Management Mismatch             |
| 5  | Excessive Objects                      |
| 6  | Too Much Clustering                    |
| 7  | Unused Method Implementation           |
| 8  | Unused Parameters                      |
| 9  | Assuming Safe Return Values            |
| 10 | Not Using Relative Path                |
| 11 | Hard Coding Libraries                  |
| 12 | Not Caching Objects                    |
| 13 | Too Much Scattering                    |
| 14 | Excessive Inter-language Communication |
| 15 | Unused Method Declaration              |

✓ H1

## Detection Approach



MLS Inspect



Evaluated on 6 open source projects

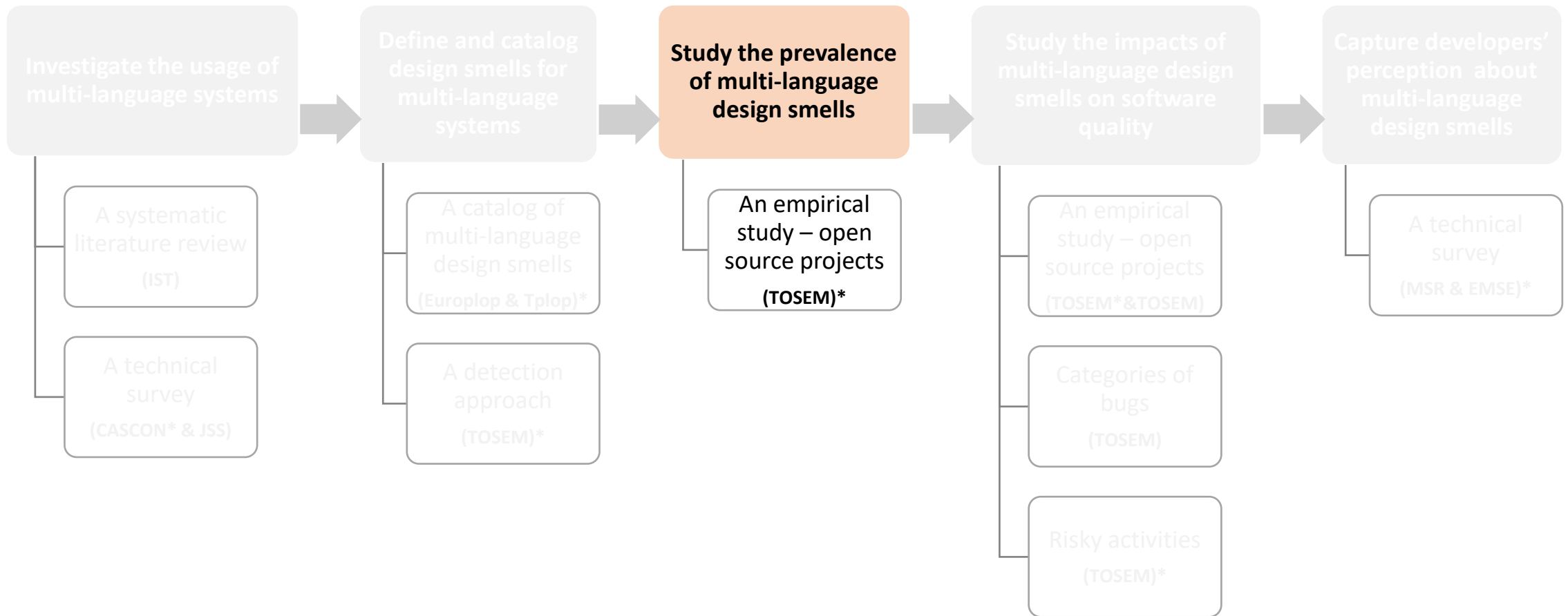


Minimum precision of 88%

Minimum recall of 74%

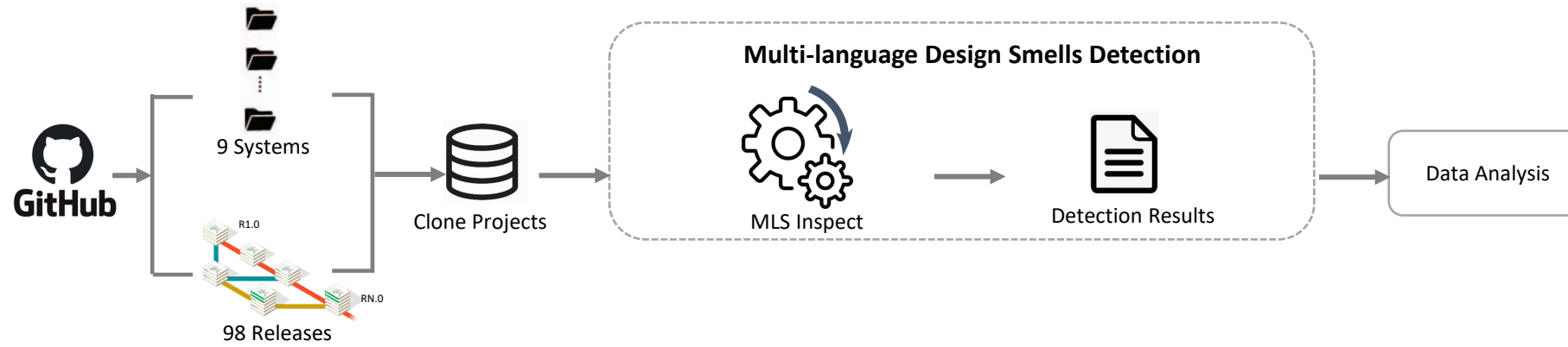


# Thesis Overview



# Prevalence of Multi-language Design Smells

## Study Design

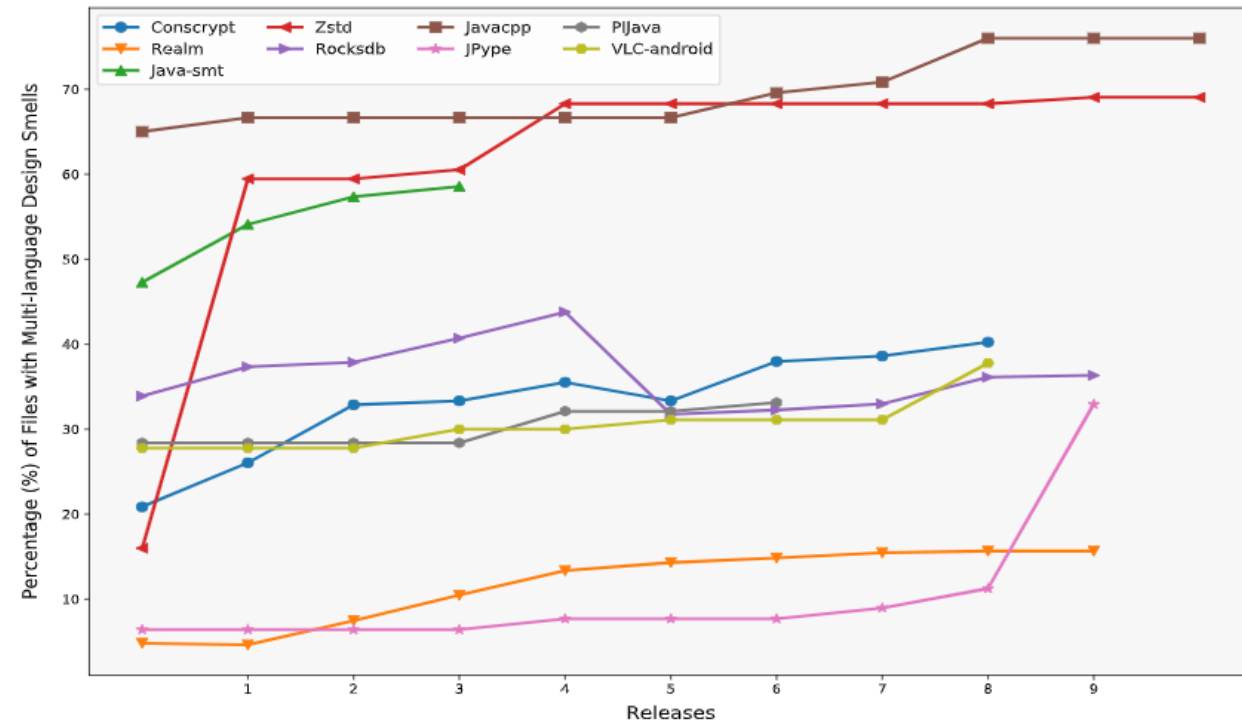


# Do Multi-language Design Smells Occur Frequently in Open Source Projects?

| Systems     | Releases Analyzed              | %Files with Smells |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Conscript   | 1.0.0.RC2 - 2.3.0              | 30.21%             |
| Realm       | 0.90.0 - 5.15.0                | 11.67%             |
| Java-smt    | 1.0.1 - 3.0.0                  | 36.21%             |
| Zstd-jni    | 0.4.4 - latest release         | 61.36%             |
| Rocksdb     | 5.0.2 - latest release         | 36.30%             |
| Javacpp     | 0.9 - 1.5.1-1                  | 58.97%             |
| JPytype     | 0.5.4.5 - latest release       | 10.18%             |
| PlJava      | REL1_5_STABLE - latest release | 30.13%             |
| VLC-android | 3.0.0 – latest release         | 30.49%             |

# Do Multi-language Design Smells Occur Frequently in Open Source Projects?

- Multi-language design smells are **prevalent** in open source projects
- Multi-language design smells **persist** and even **increase** over the releases



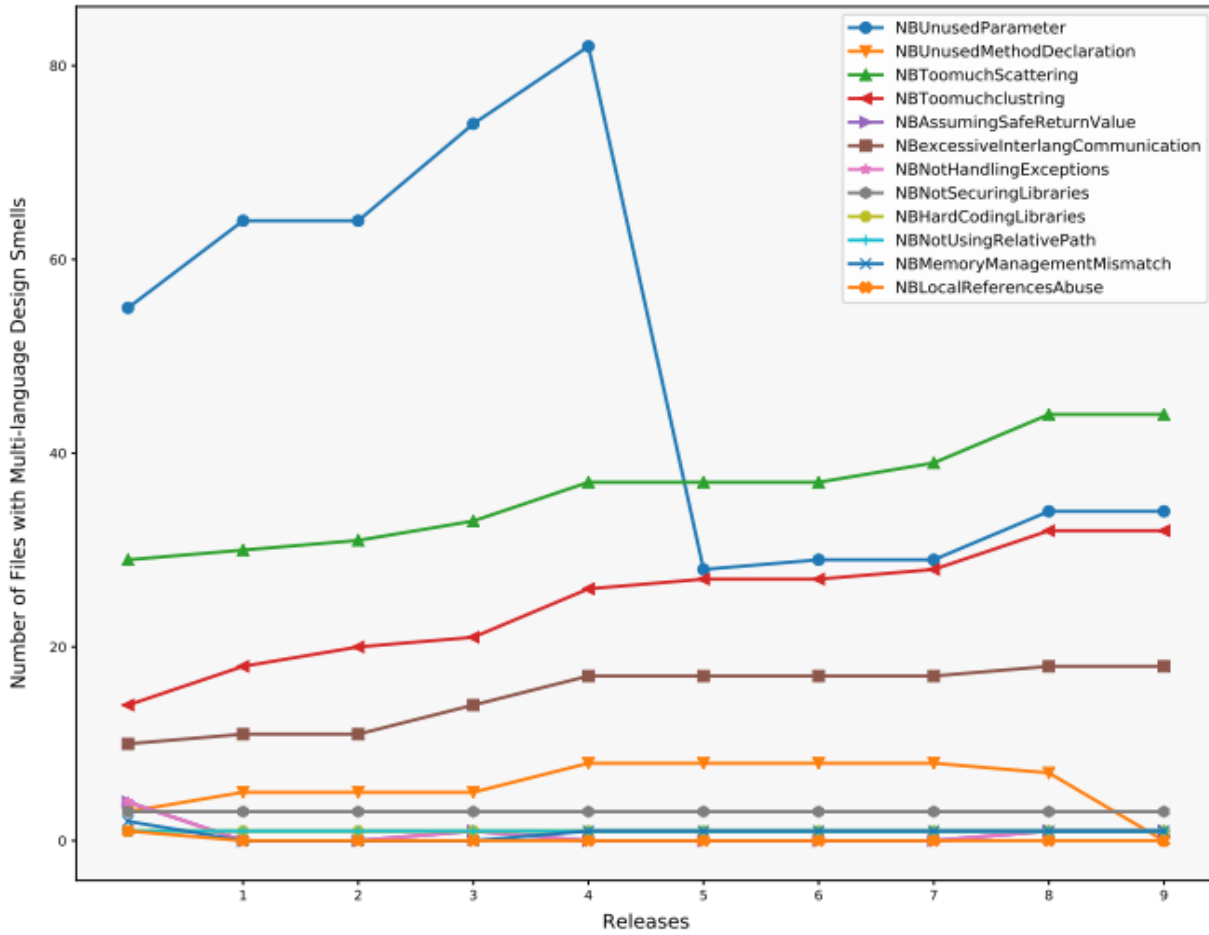
Evolution of Design Smells in the Releases of the Studied Systems

# Are Some Specific Multi-language Design Smells more Frequent than Others in Open Source Projects?

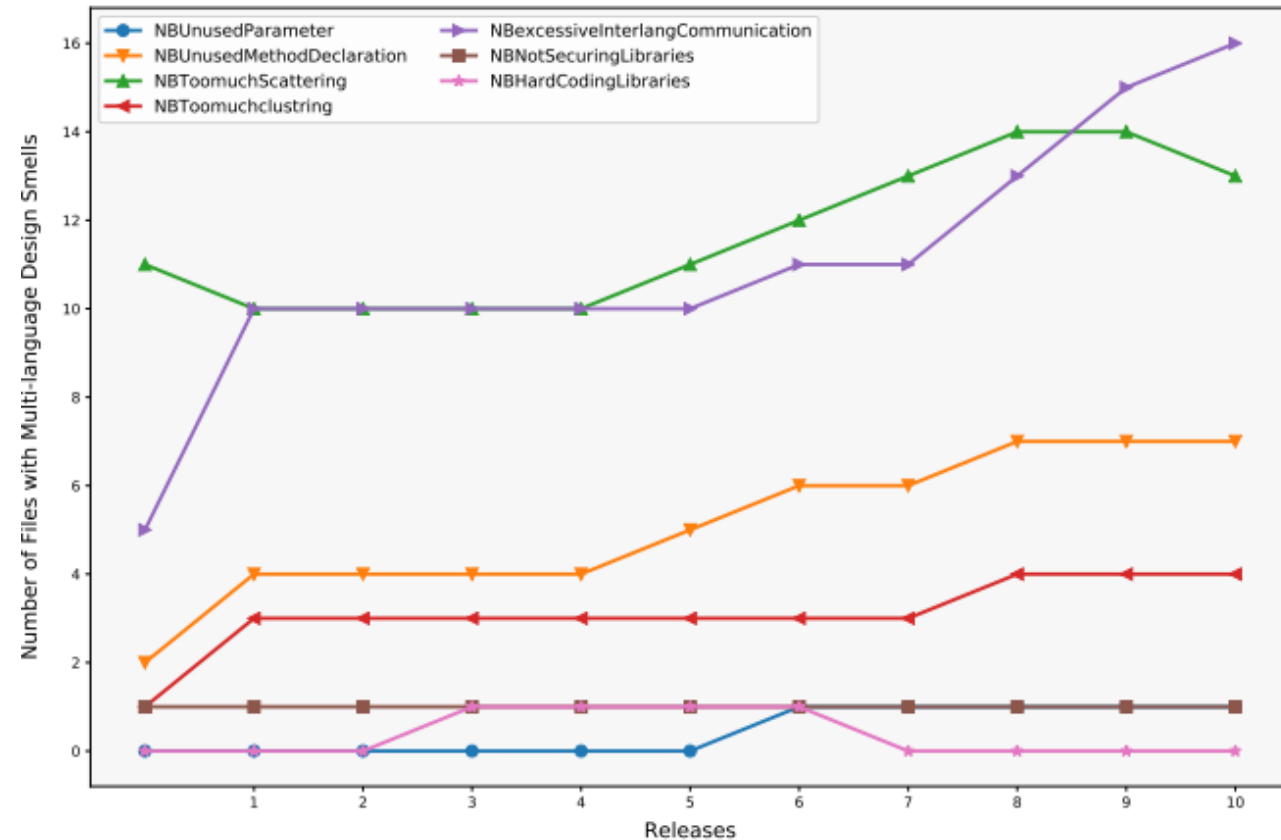
| Systems     | UP     | UM     | TMS    | TMC    | UMI   | ASR    | EO    | EILC   | NHE    | NCO   | NSL    | HCD   | NURP  | MMM   | LRA   |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Conscript   | 79.60% | 4.40%  | 0%     | 1.90%  | 0%    | 3.99%  | 0%    | 1.90%  | 3.99%  | 0%    | 5.71%  | 0%    | 3.80% | 3.78% | 3.78  |
| Realm       | 67.68% | 3.066% | 9.75%  | 14.86% | 2.32% | 4.33%  | 0%    | 12.58% | 5.15%  | 0%    | 2.17%  | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    | 0.79  |
| Java-smt    | 0%     | 0%     | 0%     | 0%     | 0%    | 0%     | 0%    | 0%     | 0%     | 0%    | 94.06% | 2.96% | 2.96% | 0%    | 0%    |
| Zstd        | 10.46% | 0.95%  | 13.98% | 12.36% | 3.47% | 17.98% | 0%    | 23.55% | 21.45% | 0%    | 5.74%  | 3.47% | 0%    | 2.25% | 0%    |
| Rocksdb     | 44.55% | 5.48%  | 34.48% | 23.47% | 0%    | 0.67%  | 0%    | 14.35% | 0.67%  | 0.91% | 2.85%  | 0.95% | 0.95% | 0.79% | 0.10% |
| Javacpp     | 2.53%  | 31.70% | 74.19% | 19.49% | 0%    | 0%     | 0%    | 69.14% | 0%     | 0%    | 6.48%  | 2.51% | 0%    | 0%    | 0%    |
| JPytype     | 89.24% | 0%     | 0%     | 0%     | 0%    | 1.78%  | 0%    | 0.35%  | 1.78%  | 0%    | 0%     | 0%    | 0%    | 8.25% | 1.07  |
| PLJava      | 64.45% | 35.62% | 31.02% | 8.42%  | 2.04% | 0%     | 0%    | 4.36%  | 2.04%  | 0%    | 0%     | 0%    | 0%    | 2.04% | 0%    |
| VLC-android | 63.67% | 25.71% | 24.74% | 17.10% | 7.34% | 3.67%  | 0.82% | 13.29% | 3.67%  | 0%    | 3.92%  | 0%    | 6.01% | 0%    | 3.67% |

**Acronyms:** **Up:** UnusedParameters, **UM:** UnusedMethodDeclaration, **TMS:** ToomuchScattering, **TMC:** Toomuchclustering, **UMI:** UnusedMethodImplementation, **ASR:** AssumingSafeReturnValue, **EO:** ExcessiveObjects, **EILC:** excessiveInterlangCommunication, **NHE:** NotHandlingExceptions, **NCO:** NotCachingObjects **NSL:** NotSecuringLibraries, **HCD:** HardCodingLibraries, **NURP:** NotUsingRelativePath, **MMM:** MemoryManagementMismatch, **LRA:** LocalReferencesAbuse

# Evolution of Multi-Language Design Smells Over the Releases



Rocksdb




JavaCpp

# (H2) Multi-language Design Smells are Prevalent



H2

 **Some Multi-language smells are more prevalent than the others:**

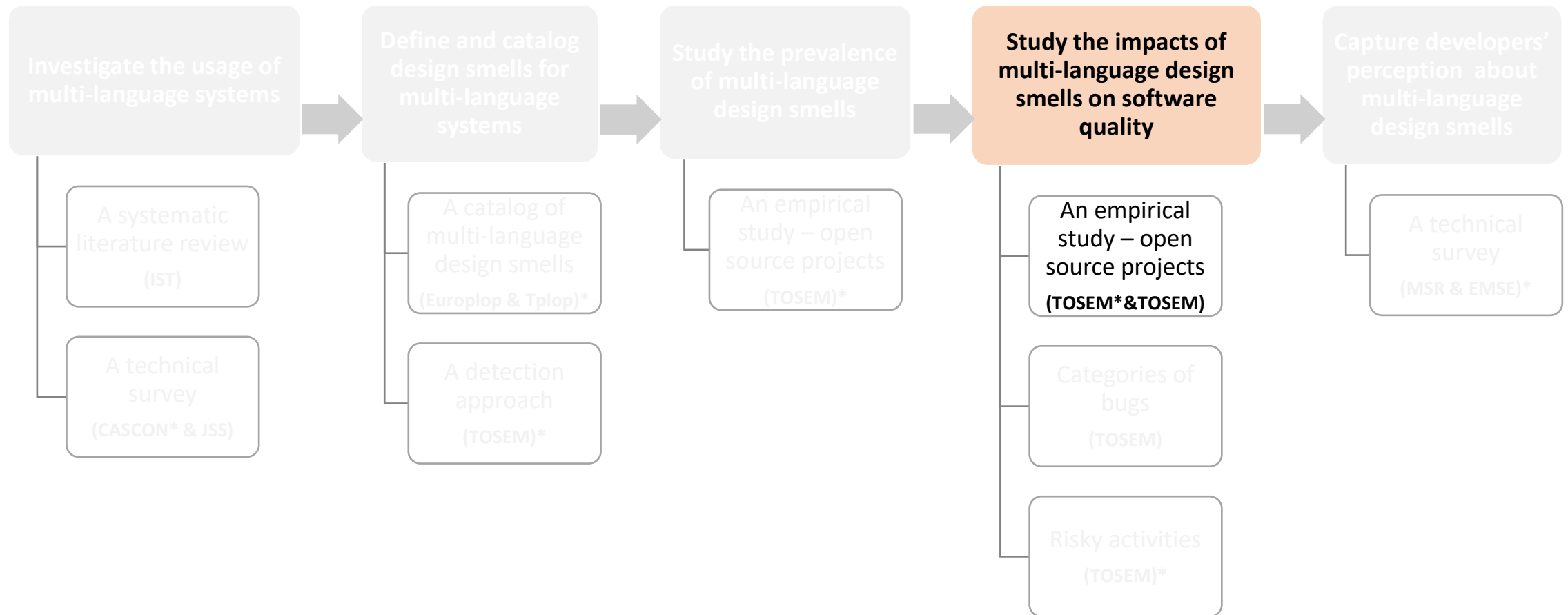
- Unused Parameters
- Too Much Scattering
- Not Securing Library
- Excessive Inter-language Communication
- Unused Method Declaration

 **While others are less prevalent:**

- Excessive Objects
- Not Caching Objects

Most of those smells remain and mostly increase from one release to another

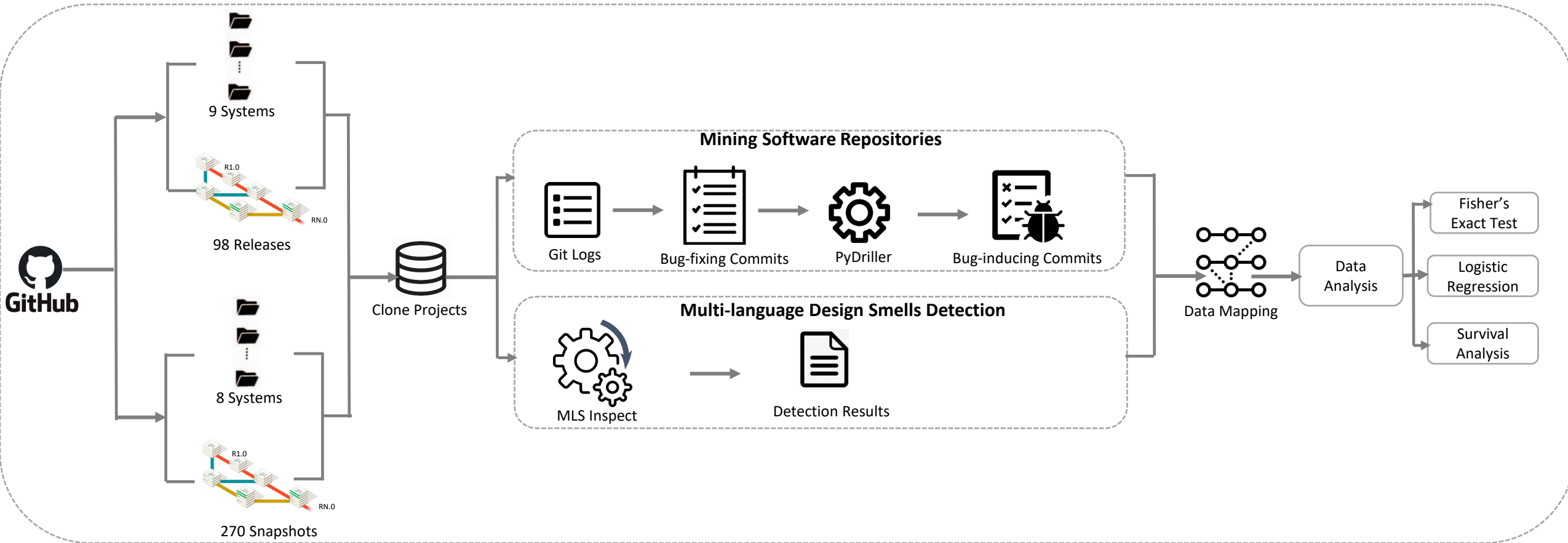
# Thesis Overview





# Impacts of Multi-language Design Smells on Software Quality


## Study Design



# Are Files with Multi-language Design Smells more Fault-prone than Files without?

**Method:** Fisher's Exact Test

| Releases                   | Smelly-<br>buggy | Buggy-<br>NotSmelly | Smelly-<br>NotBuggy | NotBuggy-<br>NotSmelly | Odds<br>ratio | p-values | Confidence<br>Interval |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------------|
| rocksdb-5.0.2              | 82               | 85                  | 17                  | 108                    | 6.13          | <0.01    | (1.2184, 2.4076)       |
| rocksdb-5.6.2              | 90               | 80                  | 24                  | 107                    | 5.01          | <0.01    | (1.0771, 2.1480)       |
| pljava-1_5_0b3             | 32               | 33                  | 14                  | 83                     | 5.75          | <0.01    | (1.0026, 2.4954)       |
| pljava-1_5_1b2             | 39               | 36                  | 14                  | 76                     | 5.88          | <0.01    | (1.0436, 2.4998)       |
| pljava-1_5_2               | 38               | 34                  | 15                  | 78                     | 5.81          | <0.01    | (1.0392, 2.4806)       |
| realm-java-0.90.0          | 21               | 89                  | 2                   | 365                    | 43.06         | <0.01    | (2.2938, 5.2315)       |
| realm-java-1.2.0           | 20               | 169                 | 2                   | 285                    | 16.86         | <0.01    | (1.3592, 4.2912)       |
| realm-java-2.3.2           | 33               | 177                 | 3                   | 269                    | 16.72         | <0.01    | (1.6194, 4.0135)       |
| realm-java-3.7.2           | 43               | 165                 | 8                   | 271                    | 8.82          | <0.01    | (1.3988, 2.9570)       |
| zstd-jni-1.3.4-1           | 20               | 1                   | 8                   | 12                     | 30            | <0.01    | (1.2025, 5.5998)       |
| zstd-jni-latest<br>release | 22               | 1                   | 7                   | 12                     | 37.71         | <0.01    | (1.4198, 5.8403)       |
| conscrypt-1.0.0.RC2        | 23               | 20                  | 6                   | 90                     | 17.25         | <0.01    | (1.8270, 3.8686)       |

 **Findings:** Files with occurrences of design smells can often **lead to bugs** more than files without these smells

# Are Some Specific Multi-language Design Smells more Fault-prone than Others?

**Method:** Logistic Regression

 **Findings: Some smells are more related to bugs than others:**

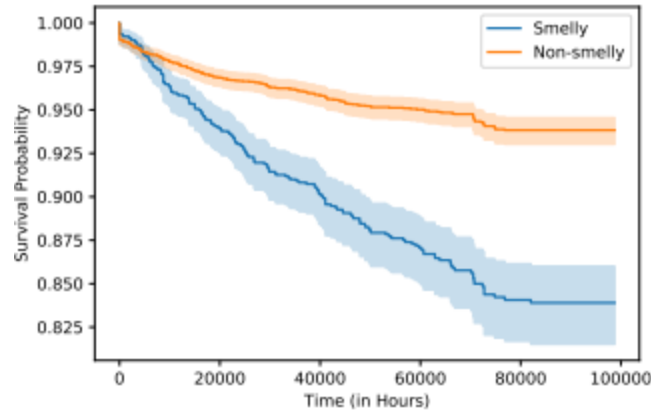
- Unused Parameters
- Too Much Clustering
- Too Much Scattering
- Hard Coding Libraries
- Memory Management Mismatch

| Multi-language Design Smells           | Number and Percentage of Systems |             |                   |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|  | LO > 0                           | LO in Top 5 | (LO>0 and p<0.01) |
| Excessive Inter-language Communication | 25%(2/8)                         | 2           | 0                 |
| Too Much Clustering                    | 62.5%(5/8)                       | 5           | 4                 |
| Too Much Scattering                    | 100%(6/6)                        | 6           | 3                 |
| Unused Method Declaration              | 37.5%(3/8)                       | 2           | 1                 |
| Unused Method Implementation           | 25%(1/4)                         | 1           | 1                 |
| Unused Parameters                      | 66.6%(6/9)                       | 5           | 4                 |
| Not Handling Exceptions                | 42.8%(3/7)                       | 3           | 2                 |
| Not Securing Libraries                 | 28.5%(2/7)                       | 2           | 1                 |
| Hard Coding Libraries                  | 75%(3/4)                         | 3           | 2                 |
| Memory Management Mismatch             | 50%(2/4)                         | 1           | 1                 |
| Local References Abuse                 | 0%(0/5)                          | 0           | 0                 |
| Excessive Objects                      | NA                               | NA          | NA                |
| Not Caching Objects                    | NA                               | NA          | NA                |

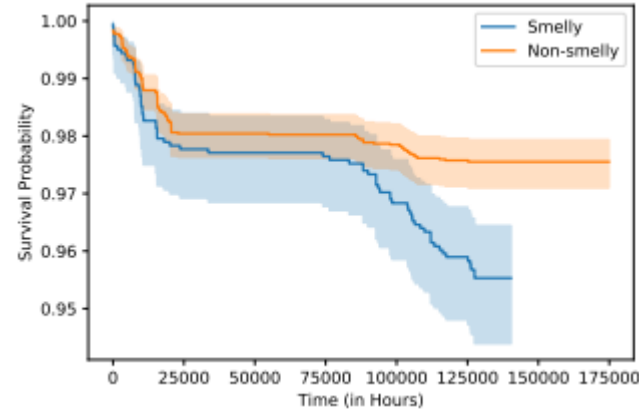
LO = Log Odds (regression coefficient estimate) of the corresponding smell from the logistic regression model.  
 NA = Corresponding Log odds are not available from the LR models due to singularities

# Is the Risk of Bugs Higher in Files With Multi-Language Smells in Comparison With Those Without Smells?

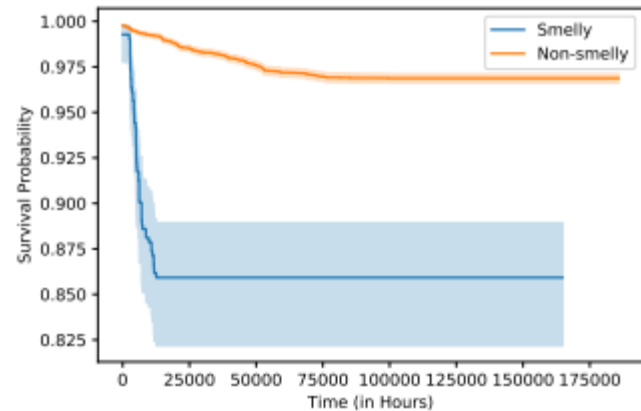
**Method:** Survival Analysis



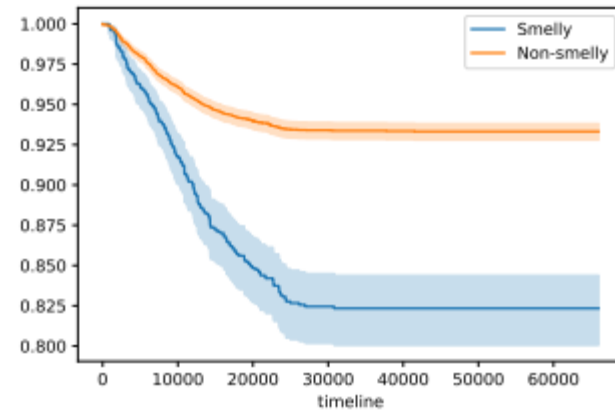
Conscript



PJava



JNA

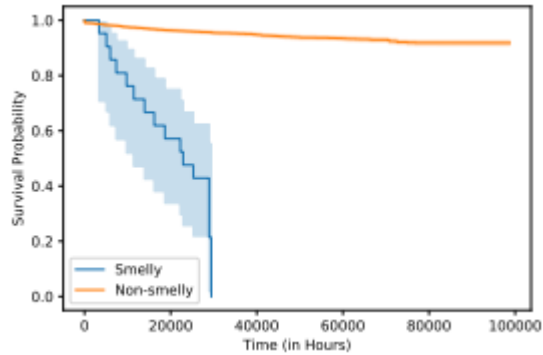


Realm

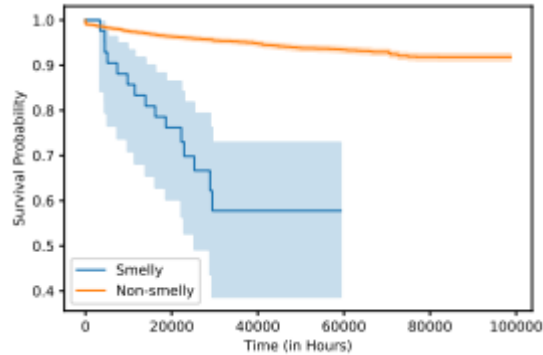
| Systems   | exp(coef) | p-value (CHM) | p-value (PHA) |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Rocksdb   | 1.64      | 6.162e-26     | 1.258e-05     |
| Frostwire | 3.123     | 1.749e-52     | 0.641         |
| Realm     | 2.747     | 7.487e-37     | 9.112e-05     |
| Conscript | 2.598     | 3.218e-23     | 0.0001        |
| Pljava    | 1.805     | 6.425e-05     | 0.002         |
| Javacpp   | 2.237     | 3.003e-08     | 0.164         |
| JNA       | 5.033     | 9.526e-32     | 1.254e-14     |
| OpenDDS   | 0.229     | 1.468e-09     | 0.992         |

**CHM:** Cox Hazard Model, **PHA:** Proportional Hazards Assumption  
**exp(coef):** The exponentiated coefficients for the hazard ratios

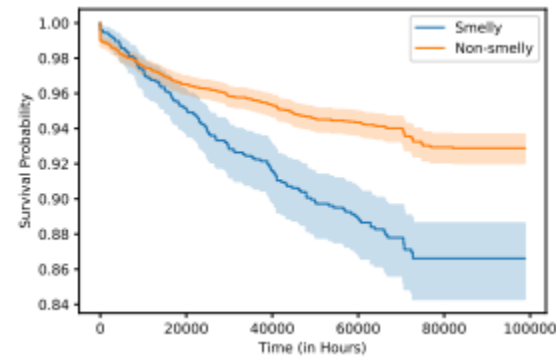
# Is the Risk of Bugs Equal from One Multi-language Design Smell Type to The Other?



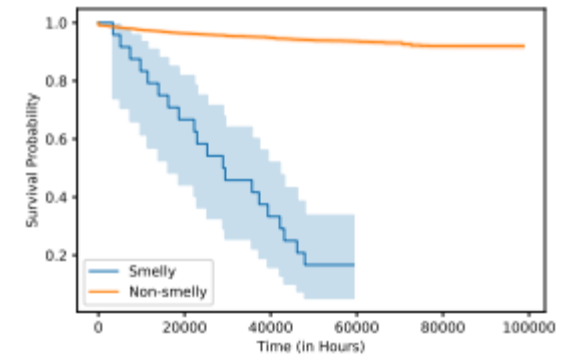
Conscript – Memory Management Mismatch



Conscript – Not Handling Exceptions



Conscript – Unused Parameters



Conscript – Local Reference Abuse

# Is the Risk of Bugs Equal from One Multi-language Design Smell Type to The Other?

**Method:** Survival Analysis

 **Findings: Some smells lead faster to faults than others:**

- Memory Management Mismatch
- Hard Coding Libraries
- Unused Parameters
- Not Handling Exception
- Local Reference Abuse
- Unused Implementation

| Multi-language Design Smells          | #System | SFB | NSFB | % SFB  | % NSFB |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----|------|--------|--------|
| Unused Parameters                     | 8       | 7   | 1    | 87.50% | 12.50% |
| Unused Method Declaration             | 8       | 5   | 3    | 62.50% | 37.50% |
| Too Much Scattering                   | 6       | 3   | 3    | 50.0%  | 50.0%  |
| Too Much Clustering                   | 8       | 5   | 3    | 62.50% | 37.50% |
| Unused Method Implementation          | 5       | 4   | 1    | 80.0%  | 20.0%  |
| Assuming Safe Return Value            | 6       | 4   | 2    | 66.67% | 33.33% |
| Excessive Objects                     | 0       | N/A | N/A  | N/A    | N/A    |
| Excessive Interlanguage Communication | 7       | 5   | 2    | 71.43% | 28.57% |
| Not Handling Exceptions               | 7       | 6   | 1    | 85.71% | 14.29% |
| Not Caching Objects                   | 0       | N/A | N/A  | N/A    | N/A    |
| Not Securing Libraries                | 8       | 6   | 2    | 75.0%  | 25.0%  |
| Hard Coding Libraries                 | 2       | 2   | 0    | 100.0% | 0.0%   |
| Not Using Relative Path               | 6       | 3   | 3    | 50.0%  | 50.0%  |
| Memory Management Mismatch            | 5       | 5   | 0    | 100.0% | 0.0%   |
| Local References Abuse                | 6       | 5   | 1    | 83.33% | 16.67% |

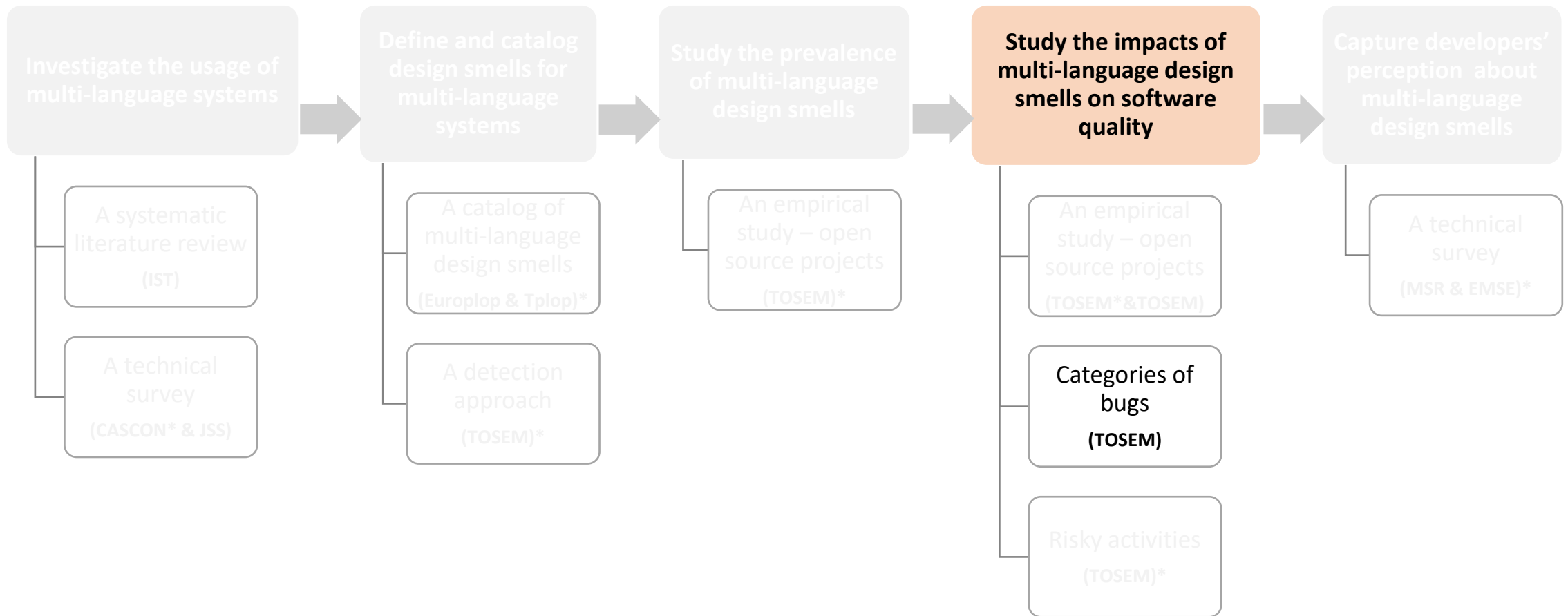
SFB: %Systems where smelly files are more bug-prone than non-smelly files

NSFB: %Systems where files without (specific) smells are more bug-prone than smelly files

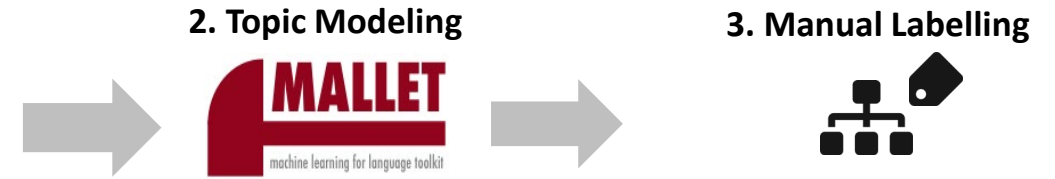
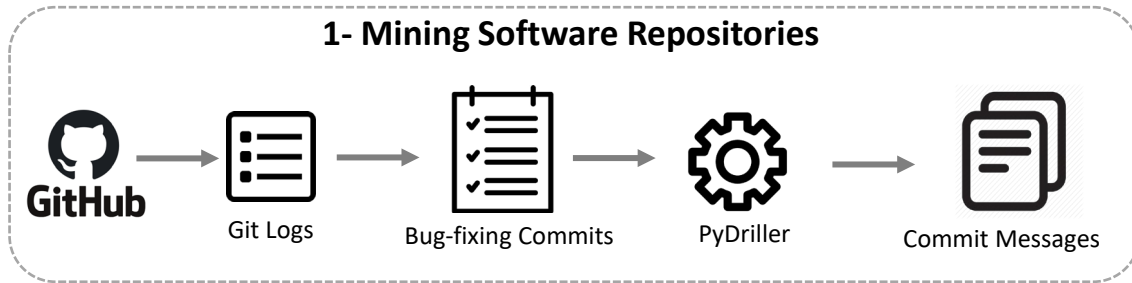
#System: No. of Systems where we have hazard ratios for the concerned smell (covariate)

\* Colored percentage values indicate the top-6 bug-prone smell types

# Thesis Overview



# What are the Categories of Bugs that Exist in Multi-language Smelly Files?

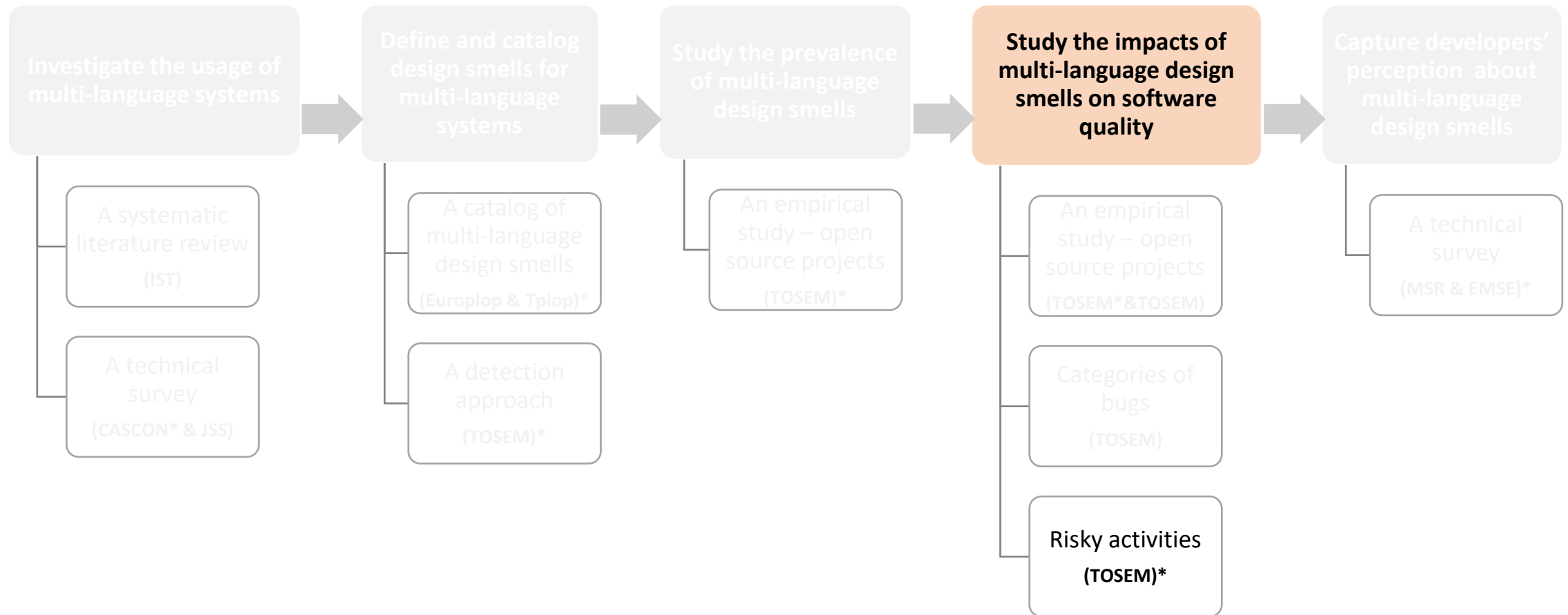


## Categories of bugs:

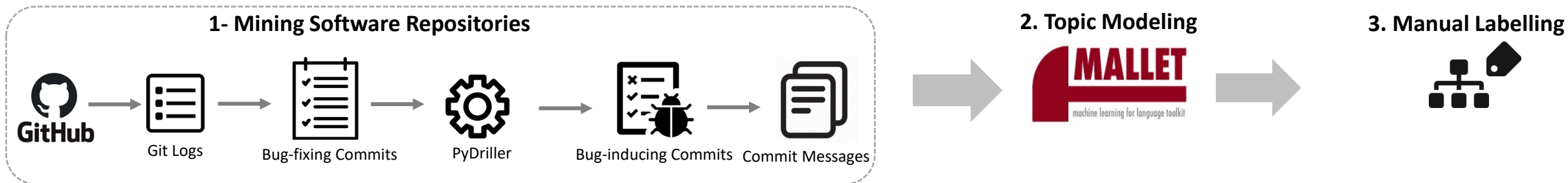
- Programming errors
- Libraries and Features Support
- Memory
- Communication and Network
- Concurrency
- Platform and Dependencies



# Thesis Overview



# What are the Activities that are more Likely to Introduce Bugs in Smelly Files?



## Risky Activities:

- Data conversion
- Memory management
- Exception management
- Restructuring the code
- API usage

# (H3) Multi-language Design Smells Present Negative Impacts on the Software Quality

## Relationship between Smells and Bugs

 **Some smells are more related to faults than others:**

- Unused Parameters
- Too Much Clustering
- Too Much Scattering
- Hard Coding Libraries
- Memory Management Mismatch

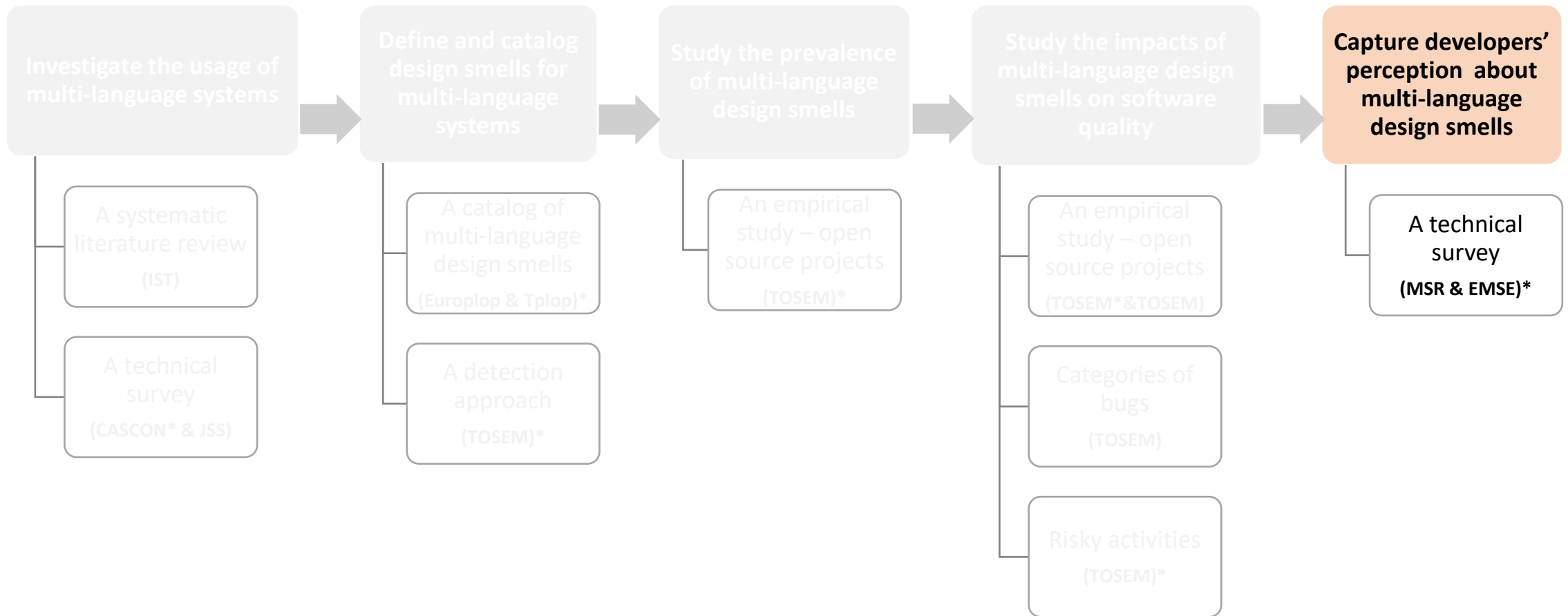


## Survival Analysis

 **Some smells lead faster to faults than others:**

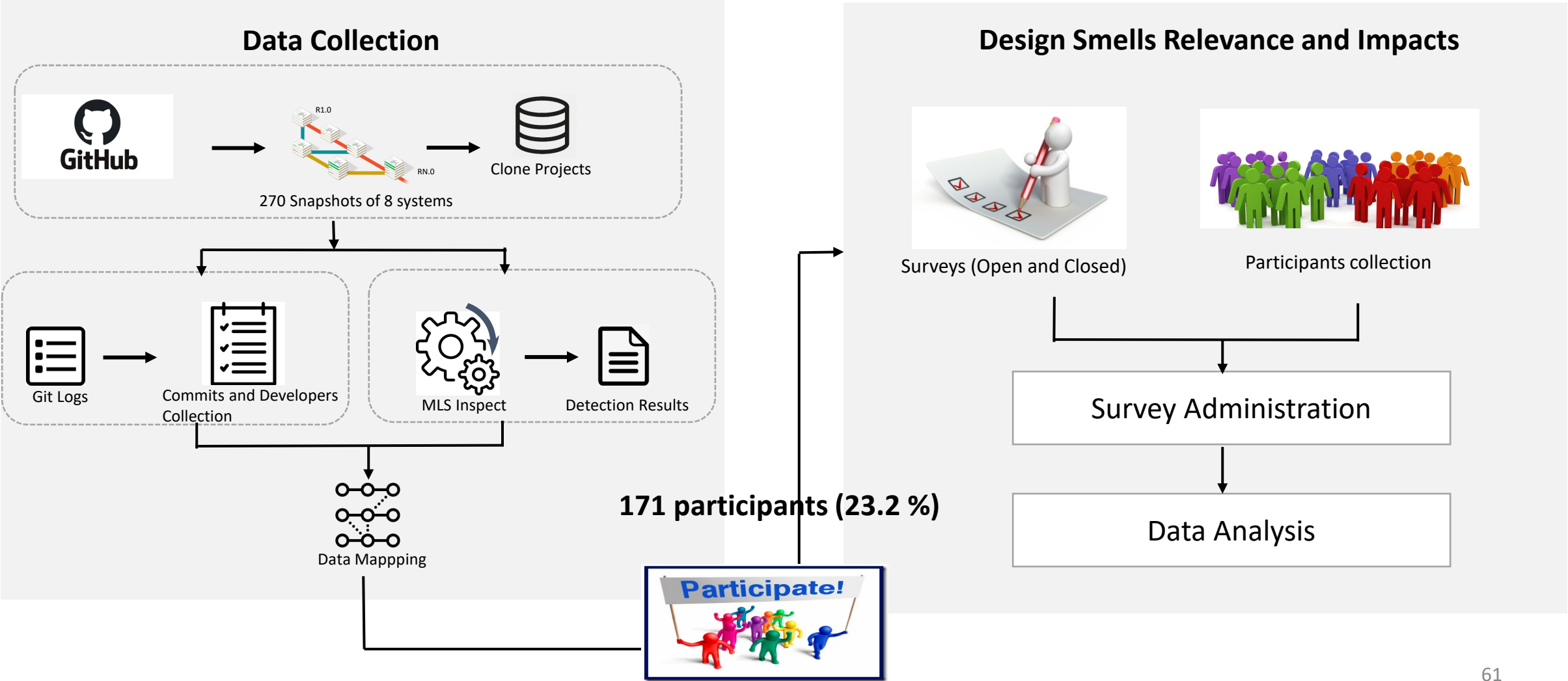
- Memory Management Mismatch
- Hard Coding Libraries
- Unused Parameters
- Not Handling Exception
- Local Reference Abuse
- Unused Implementation

# Thesis Overview



# Developers' Perception about Multi-language Design Smells

## Study Design



# To What Extent Do Multi-language Design Smells Reflect Developers' Perception of Design Problems?

## • Most frequently identified design smells:

- Unused Method Implementation
- Unused Declaration
- Not Securing Libraries
- Memory Management Mismatch
- Not Caching Objects

## • Less frequently identified design smells:

- Hard Coding Libraries
- Excessive Objects
- Not Using Relative Path

| Multi-language Design Smells          | % of Correct Identified | % Incorrect Identified |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Not Handling Exceptions               | 74.95%                  | 25.05%                 |
| Not Securing Libraries                | 82.5%                   | 17.5%                  |
| Local Reference Abuse                 | 74.8%                   | 25.2%                  |
| Memory Management Mismatch            | 81.9%                   | 18.1%                  |
| Excessive Objects                     | 38.6%                   | 61.4%                  |
| Too Much Clustering                   | 74.95%                  | 25.05%                 |
| Unused Method Implementation          | 87.95%                  | 12.05%                 |
| Unused Parameters                     | 75.95%                  | 24.05%                 |
| Assuming Safe Return Values           | 73.55%                  | 26.45%                 |
| Not Using Relative Path               | 49.65%                  | 50.35%                 |
| Hard Coding Libraries                 | 31.9%                   | 68.1%                  |
| Not Caching Objects                   | 34.8%                   | 65.2%                  |
| Too Much Scattering                   | 72%                     | 28%                    |
| Excessive Interlanguage Communication | 66.75%                  | 33.25%                 |
| Unused Method Declaration             | 84.3%                   | 15.7%                  |

# What are the Design Smells that Developers Perceive as the Most Harmful?



## • Most harmful design smells:

- Not Handling Exception
- Assuming Safe Return Values
- Local Reference Abuse
- Memory Management Mismatch
- Excessive Inter-language Communication
- Too Much Clustering



## • Less harmful design smells:

- Unused Parameters
- Unused Method Declaration
- Not Using Relative Path
- Hard Coding Libraries

| Multi-language Design Smells          | Score (Borda Count) | Median Severity |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Not Handling Exceptions               | 2261                | 12              |
| Assuming Safe Return Value            | 2137                | 12              |
| Local Reference Abuse                 | 2063                | 11              |
| Memory Management Mismatch            | 2052                | 9               |
| Excessive Interlanguage Communication | 2040                | 11              |
| Too Much Clustering                   | 1876                | 10              |
| Not Securing Libraries                | 1358                | 7               |
| Too Much Scattering                   | 1342                | 7               |
| Excessive Objects                     | 1211                | 6               |
| Unused Method Implementation          | 964                 | 5               |
| Not Caching Objects                   | 812                 | 6               |
| Hard Coding Libraries                 | 764                 | 5               |
| Not Using Relative Path               | 632                 | 5               |
| Unused Method Declaration             | 588                 | 5               |
| Unused Parameters                     | 438                 | 5               |

# What are the Perceived Impacts of Multi-language Design Smells on Software Quality?



| Multi-language Design Smells           | Expandability | Simplicity | Reusability | Learnability | Understandability | Modularity |
|--|---------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Not Handling Exceptions                | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Not Securing Libraries                 | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Local Reference Abuse                  | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Memory Management Mismatch             | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Excessive Objects                      | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Too Much Clustering                    | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Unused Method Implementation           | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Unused Parameters                      | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Assuming Safe Return Values            | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Not Using Relative Path                | NEU           | NEU        | -           | NEU          | -                 | -          |
| Hard Coding Libraries                  | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Not Caching Objects                    | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Too Much Scattering                    | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Excessive Inter-language Communication | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |
| Unused Method Declaration              | -             | -          | -           | -            | -                 | -          |

- : Negative impact NEU : Neutral Impact  Most impacted





# What are the Perceived Impacts of Multi-language Design Smells on Software Quality?

-  **Main negatively impacted quality attributes:**
  - Understandability
  - Reusability
  - Expandability
-  **Less negatively impacted quality attributes:**
  - Learnability
  - Modularity

# Do Developers Plan to Refactor Multi-language Design Smells?

✓ • **Design smells considered for refactoring:**

- Memory Management Mismatch
- Too Much Clustering
- Assuming Safe Return Values
- Not Securing Libraries
- Too Much Scattering

⚠ • **Design smells not considered for refactoring:**

- Excessive Objects
- Unused Method Declaration
- Unused Method Implementation

| Multi-language Design Smells          | %No Refactoring | % Yes Given Solution | % Yes Alternative Solution |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Not Handling Exceptions               | 29.4            | 64.95%               | 5.65%                      |
| Not Securing Libraries                | 25.25           | 72.8%                | 1.95%                      |
| Local Reference Abuse                 | 29.65           | 60.35%               | 9.9%                       |
| Memory Management Mismatch            | 10.9            | 81.45%               | 7.65%                      |
| Excessive Objects                     | 62.9            | 31.4%                | 5.7%                       |
| Too Much Clustering                   | 14.3            | 78.1%                | 7.6%                       |
| Unused Method Implementation          | 55.15           | 42%                  | 2.85%                      |
| Unused Parameters                     | 36.5            | 57.5%                | 5.95%                      |
| Assuming Safe Return Values           | 24.05           | 73.6%                | 2.35%                      |
| Not Using Relative Path               | 35.9            | 14.75%               | 49.3%                      |
| Hard Coding Libraries                 | 12.5            | 35.4%                | 52.1%                      |
| Not Caching Objects                   | 39.6            | 52.1%                | 8.3%                       |
| Too Much Scattering                   | 23.85           | 66.15%               | 9.95%                      |
| Excessive Interlanguage Communication | 49.1            | 15.2%                | 35.65%                     |
| Unused Method Declaration             | 55.95           | 41.65%               | 2.4%                       |

# Developers' Perception Versus Empirical Findings (Prevalence)

## Empirical investigation

- **Most prevalent design smells:**
  - Unused Parameters
  - Too Much Scattering
  - Not Securing Libraries
  - Excessive Inter-language Communication
  - Unused Method Declaration
- **While others are less prevalent:**
  - Excessive Objects
  - Not Caching Objects

## Survey

- **Frequently identified design smells:**
  - Unused Parameters
  - Too Much Scattering
  - Not Securing Libraries
  - Excessive Inter-language Communication
  - Unused Method Declaration
  - Not Caching Objects
- **Less frequently identified design smells:**
  - Excessive Objects

# Developers' Perception Versus Empirical Findings (Impact)

## Empirical investigation

### Some smells lead faster to bugs than others:

- Memory Management Mismatch
- Not Handling Exception
- Local Reference Abuse
- Unused Implementation
- Unused Parameters
- Hard Coding Libraries

### Some smells are more related to bugs than others:

- Memory Management Mismatch
- Too Much Clustering
- Too Much Scattering
- Unused Parameters
- Hard Coding Libraries

## Developers' Survey

### • Perceived as harmful design smells:

- Memory Management Mismatch
- Not Handling Exception
- Local Reference Abuse
- Unused Implementation
- Too Much Clustering
- Too Much Scattering

### • Perceived as less harmful design smells:

- Unused Parameters
- Hard Coding Libraries

# Recommendations for Researchers

- Investigate **design smells** and **design patterns** for multi-language software development
- Investigate **why and how some specific types of smells are more frequent than others**
- Explore the **causes** and **circumstances** under which the studied **smells** may increase the **risk of bugs**
- Investigate the **roots causes** and **recommend mitigation strategies** related to the **categories of bugs**

# Recommendations for Practitioners

- Developers should **pay attention** to the **design smells** studied in this thesis
- Apply MLSInspect to **detect occurrences of the studied design smells**
- **Prioritize** multi-language **smells types** for **maintenance** activities
- They could also leverage our results to better **prioritize** their **refactoring activities**



# What is Next?

---

- Expand our study to other combinations of programming languages
- Investigate and document design patterns for multi-language systems
- Consider refactoring strategies for multi-language design smells
- Study the co-occurrence of multi-language design smells with traditional smells
- Study the combination of programming languages in machine learning applications:
  - Design smells and design patterns
  - Categories of bugs and issues

# Conclusion

## Multi-language Design Smells

- **Multi-language design smells** are defined as **poor design** and **coding decisions** when **bridging** between **different programming languages**
- Design smells include anti-patterns and code smells
- They represent **violations** of **best practices** related to the **combination of programming languages** that often indicate the presence of bigger problems

## (H2) Multi-language Design Smells are Prevalent

✓ H2

- ⚠ **Some Multi-language smells are more prevalent than the others:**
- Unused Parameters
  - Too Much Scattering
  - Not Securing Library
  - Excessive Inter-language Communication
  - Unused Method Declaration

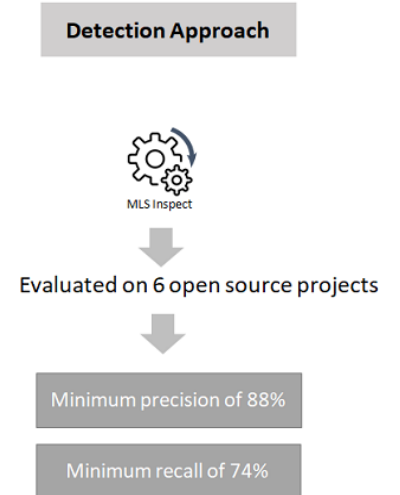
- ⚠ **While others are less prevalent:**
- Excessive Objects
  - Not Caching Objects

Most of those smells remain and mostly increase from one release to another

## (H1) Design Smells Exist in Multi-language Systems

| Catalog of Multi-language Design smells |  |
|---|--|
| N.                                      | Multi-language Design Smells           |
| 1                                       | Not Handling Exceptions                |
| 2                                       | Not Securing Libraries                 |
| 3                                       | Local Reference Abuse                  |
| 4                                       | Memory Management Mismatch             |
| 5                                       | Excessive Objects                      |
| 6                                       | Too Much Clustering                    |
| 7                                       | Unused Method Implementation           |
| 8                                       | Unused Parameters                      |
| 9                                       | Assuming Safe Return Values            |
| 10                                      | Not Using Relative Path                |
| 11                                      | Hard Coding Libraries                  |
| 12                                      | Not Caching Objects                    |
| 13                                      | Too Much Scattering                    |
| 14                                      | Excessive Inter-language Communication |
| 15                                      | Unused Method Declaration              |

✓ H1



## (H3) Multi-language Design Smells Present Negative Impacts on the Software Quality

Relationship between Smells and Bugs

- ⚠ **Some smells are more related to faults than others:**
- Unused Parameters
  - Too Much Clustering
  - Too Much Scattering
  - Hard Coding Libraries
  - Memory Management Mismatch

✓ H3

Survival Analysis

- ⚠ **Some smells lead faster to faults than others:**
- Memory Management Mismatch
  - Hard Coding Libraries
  - Unused Parameters
  - Not Handling Exception
  - Local Reference Abuse
  - Unused Implementation