

## A Scoping Review of Sociological Literature on Sex Dolls and Sex Robots (2000–2024; cut-off 01 Jan 2025)

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### INTRODUCTION & AIM

•Socio-cultural research on **sex dolls/love dolls** and **sex robots** is expanding but remains fragmented across STS/posthumanism, sociology of emotions, and sexuality studies.

•Non-standardized labels and definitions limit comparability and cumulative knowledge.

•A **scoping review** maps concepts, empirical bases, and evaluative stances, highlighting patterns and gaps.

**Aim:** To map socio-cultural literature on sex dolls and sex robots (2000–2024; cut-off 01 Jan 2025).

Outcomes: (i) artefact focus; (ii) empirical basis; (iii) stance toward technology.

#### Research questions:

- How are the artefacts labeled and conceptualized?
- Which stances/theoretical framings dominate?
- Which empirical materials and methods are used?

### METHOD

•**Design:** scoping review (Arksey & O’Malley), reported using **PRISMA-ScR**.

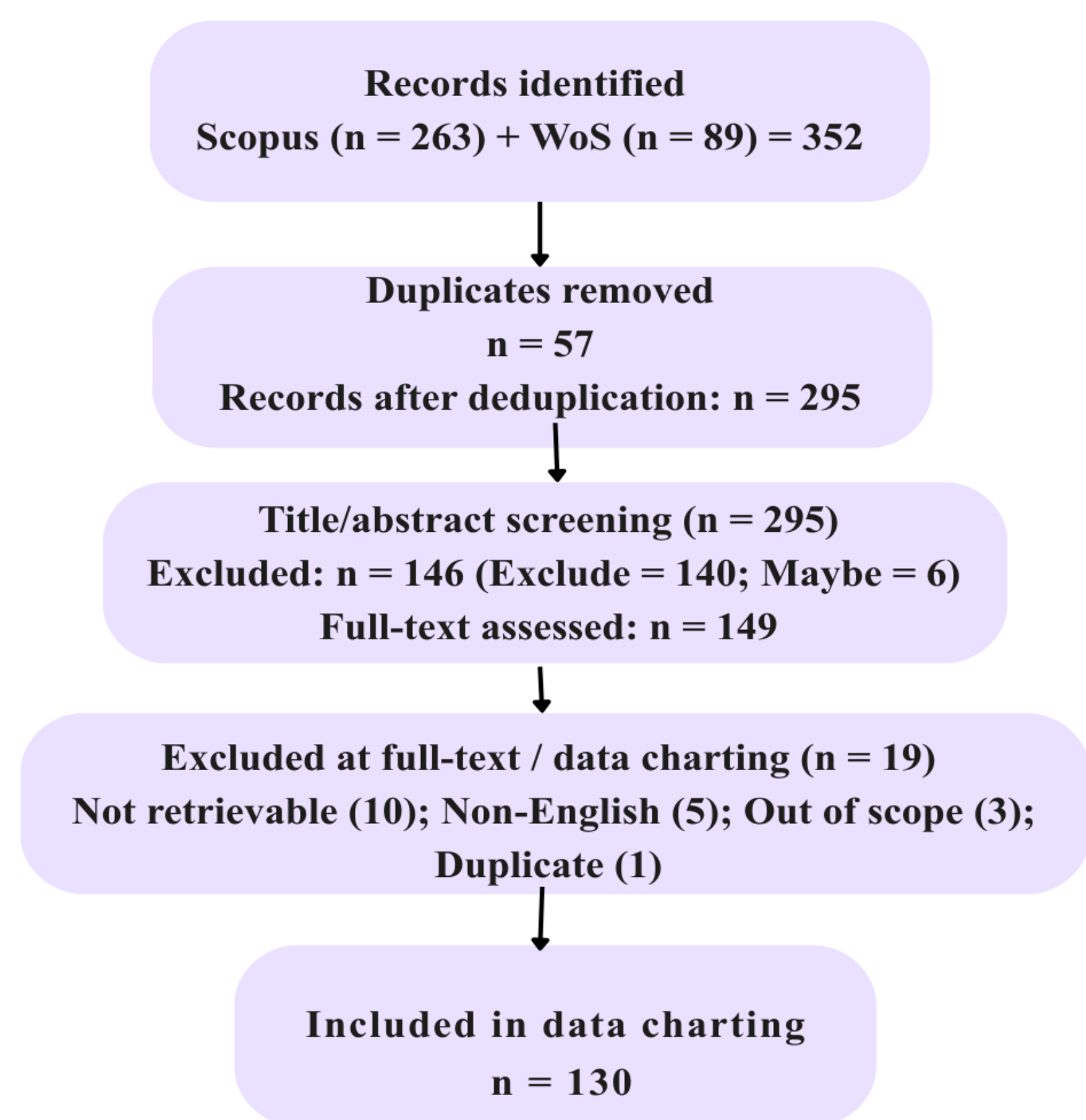
•**Sources:** Scopus + Web of Science (export: 25 Nov 2025).

•**Time window:** 01 Jan 2000–31 Dec 2024 (**cut-off:** 01 Jan 2025).

•**Search/export date:** 25 Nov 2025 (filtered to cut-off).

•**Workflow:** merge + deduplication → title/abstract screening → full-text assessment → full-text **data charting**.

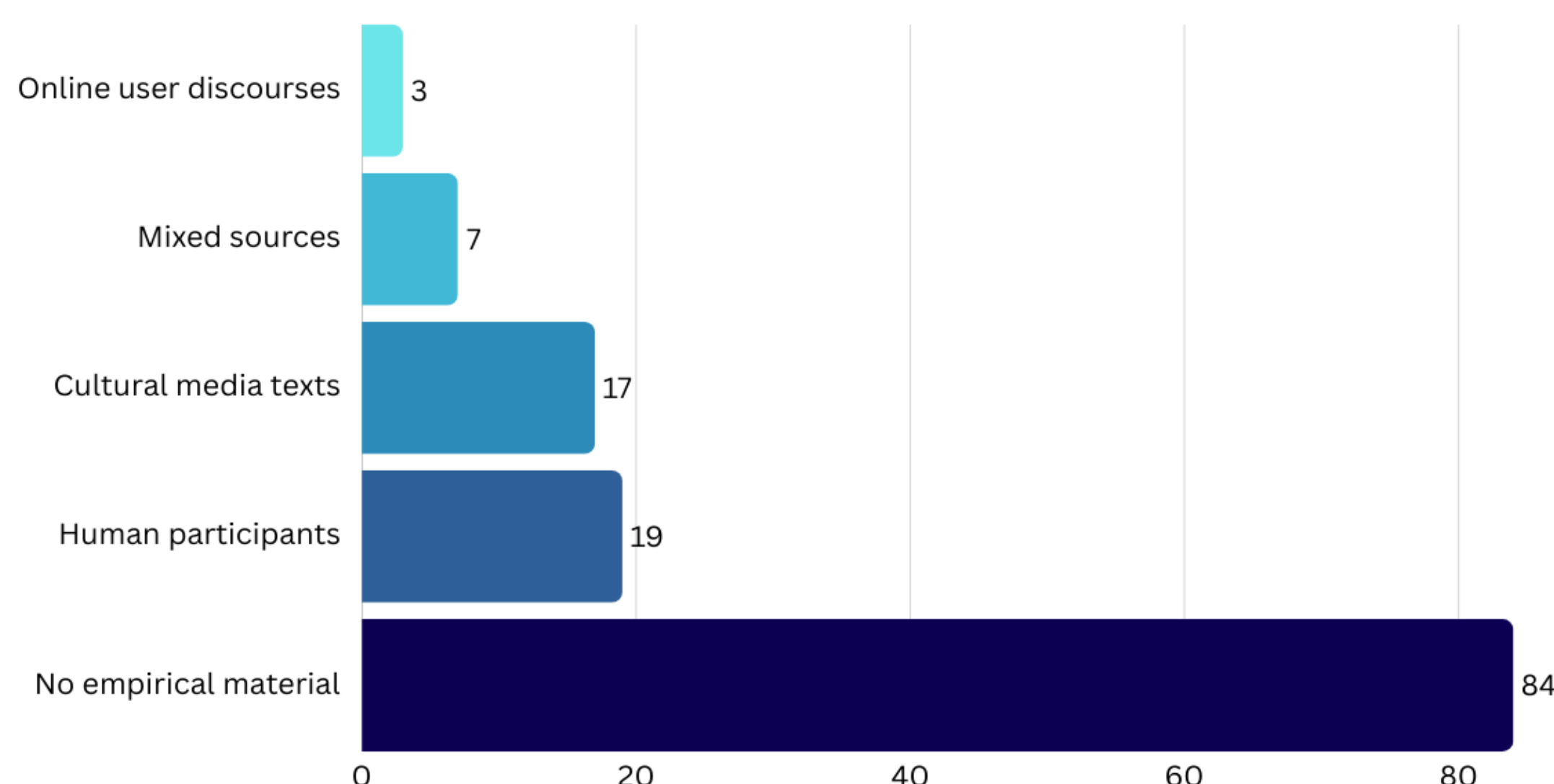
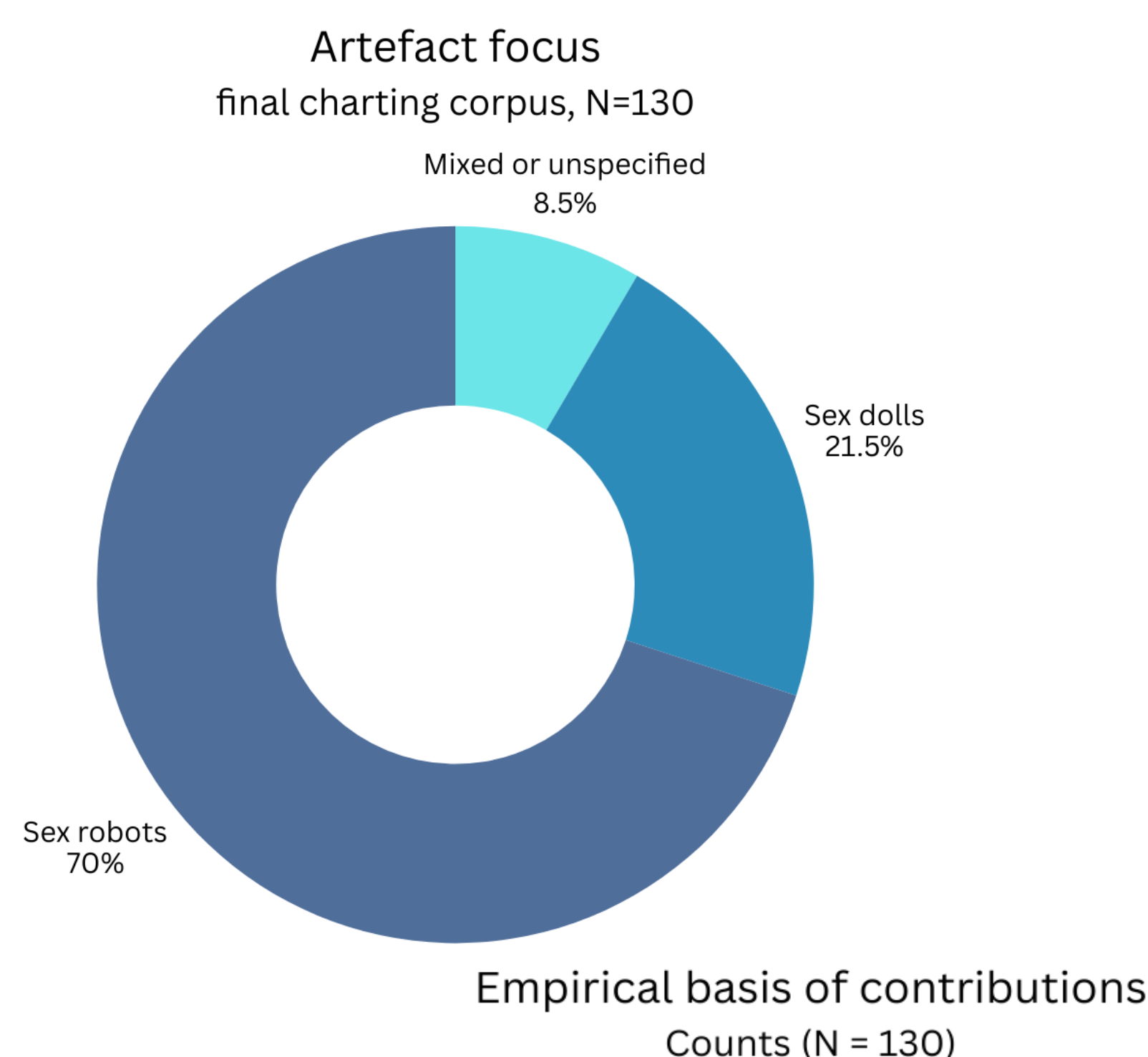
•**Denominators:** bibliometrics **N=149**; charted full-texts **N=130**.



### CONCLUSION

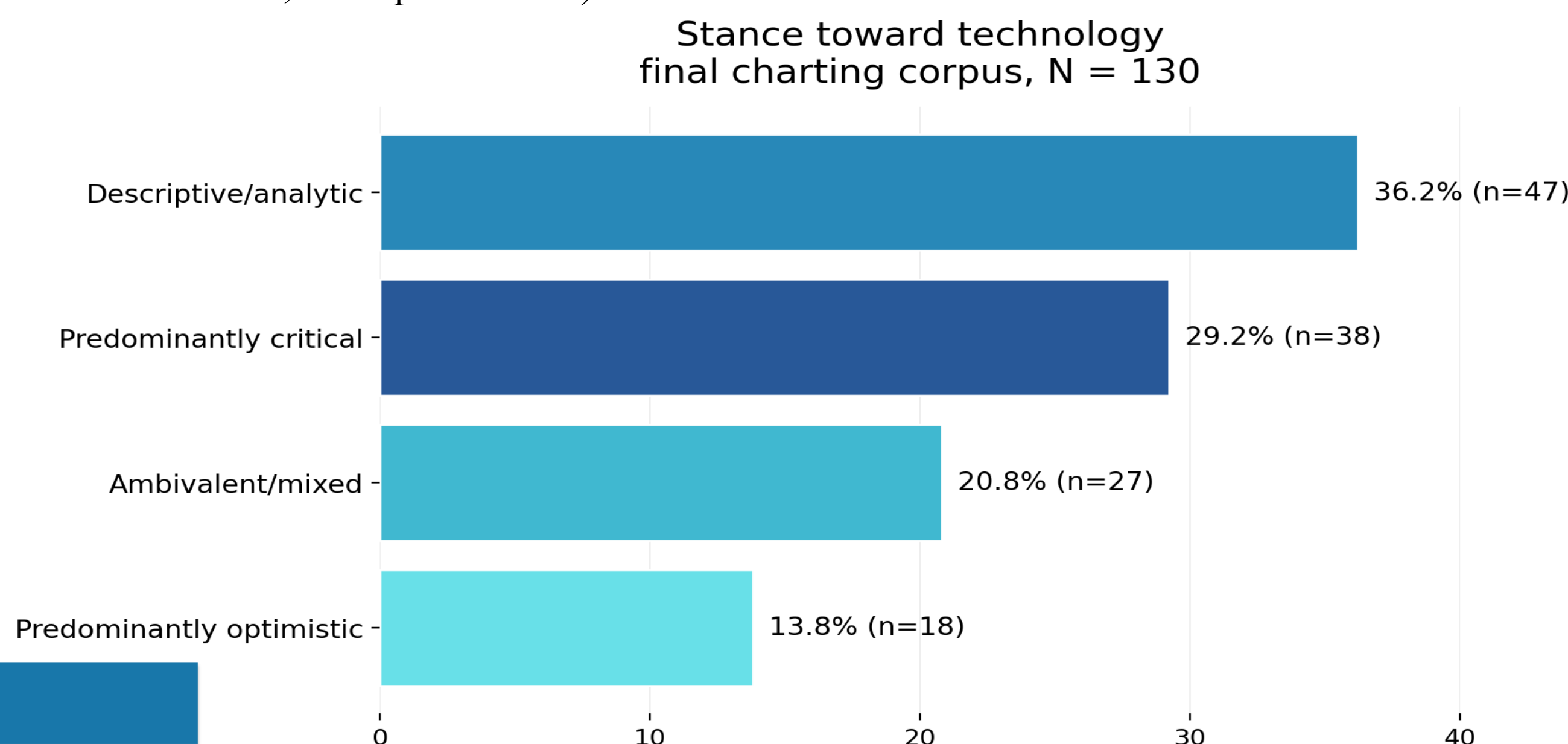
- The corpus is **robot-dominant** (70.0%), while dolls account for 21.5% (N=130).
- Most contributions are **non-empirical** (64.6%), indicating a field still shaped by conceptual and normative debate.
- Stance is mainly **descriptive/analytic** (36.2%) alongside substantial **critical** (29.2%) and **ambivalent** (20.8%) positions.

### RESULTS & DISCUSSION



•**Sex dolls:** mostly framed as *descriptive/analytic* (18/28 = 64.3%).

•**Sex robots:** more polarised stances (critical 31.9%, ambivalent 25.3%, descriptive 26.4%).



### FUTURE WORK / REFERENCES

**Future work:** Empirical study of how *relational credibility* is constructed in online marketplaces and user forums (credibility clues, relational scripts, community validation, platform affordances).

**References:** Arksey & O’Malley (2005); Tricco et al. (2018, PRISMA-ScR).