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A Variationist Sociolinguistic Study Of /r/ Deletion In Turkish

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my grandmother, Sevim Coşar and to the memory of my grandfather, Salim Coşar. I wish he could have seen this as well as my grandmother. My grandparents were the ones and only ones showed me unconditional love and support in my childhood and adolescent years. I am so grateful to them for all the effort they put to raise me and my brother, and for all of the knowledge and wisdom that they have passed on to us over the years. Personally, my respected grandparents have played an important role in the development of my identity and shaping the individual that I am today. Millions of thanks to them, jazakallah alf khair!

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by

SEVDA RAHYMOV, BA

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Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Chapter 1: Background information and previous literature

In this chapter, I will present an introduction to my study and I will summarize previous literature related to the topic of /r/ deletion.

1.0 Introduction

Variable /r/ deletion in word final position has been explored in several languages such as English and different dialects of Spanish. This study will investigate /r/ deletion in Turkish, an Altaic language that belongs to Ural-Altaic languages family. Specifically, the purpose of this study is to explore the influence of linguistic and social factors in the variation of /r/ in the progressive affix, /-yor-/ in the dialect of Turkish spoken in Istanbul. I hypothesize that the variability in the deletion of /r/ is not random, but can be accounted for by the study of linguistic and social factors.

Regarding linguistic factors, I will consider the influence of Following Sound (vowel, consonant, sentence final), Tense (present progressive vs. past progressive), Person (1^{st}, 2^{nd}, 3^{rd}), and Number (singular vs. plural) on the occurrence of /r/ deletion in Istanbul Turkish. Within social factors, I will investigate the influence of Gender and inter-speaker vs. intra-speaker variation on /r/ deletion. Finally, I will analyze whether Style (formal vs. informal speech) has an influence on the occurrence of /r/ deletion in Istanbul Turkish.

To investigate /r/ deletion in Turkish, speech from DJs and newscast presenters (four males and four females) from online Istanbul radios was recorded. Data collected were examined using Goldvarb X, a multivariate analysis application for variationist sociolinguistics.

This study is important for two reasons. First, it provides the variationist sociolinguistic literature with information about the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors that affect this understudied variable in Turkish. Second, it contributes evidence of a well-studied cross-linguistic phenomenon such as /r/ deletion. These studies will be reviewed in section 1.3.

1.1 Background Information

Turkish is the only official language of Turkey and it is currently spoken by up to 85% of the population, around 75,627,384 million people (Turkish Statistical Institute, 2012). Other languages such as Kurdish, Arabic, Zaza, Laz are spoken by minorities. Istanbul Turkish Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University stated that "Today, the standard high Turkish is referred to as Istanbul Türkçesi, or, Istanbul Turkish" (2010). Since it is accepted as standard Turkish, Istanbul Turkish is almost the only variety used in mass media. .

Turkish is an agglutinative language. This means that endings are added one by one to the root of a word to produce the desired meaning (Frankfurt International School, 2013). The sound following the progressive affix varies depending on the person and tense of the verb. Therefore, to be able to study /r/ deletion in the progressive affix, /-yor-/, it is important to explore Tense, Person, and Number, which are the affixes attached to the progressive affix /-yor-/.

1.2 Tenses in Turkish

Tense is one of the linguistic factors that will be investigated in this study. There are 5 main tenses in Turkish, which are listed below:

1. Present simple tense (Geniş zaman)

Her zaman 7'de uyan – ır – ız.

Always 7 at wake up $_{\text{person}}$

'We always wake up at 7.'

2. Present progressive tense (Şimdiki zaman)

Annem kek yap – ı – yor.

Mother cake bake epen V prog

'My mom is baking a cake.'

3. Future tense (Gelecek zaman)

Yarın abim gel – ecek.

Tomorrow brother $_{\text{1st person possessive pronoun}}$ come will

'My brother will come tomorrow.'

4. Past tense with -di (-di'li geçmiş zaman – definite past tense)

Babannem bize yoğurt tatlısı yap – t- ı.

Grandma$_{\text{1st person possessive pronoun}}$ for us yogurt dessert make$_{\text{definite past tense-person}}$

'My grandma made yogurt dessert for us. I knew she made it.'

5. Past tense with -miş (-miş'li geçmiş zaman) – indefinite (also called the story past tense)

Neda sütünü iç – miş.

Neda milk$_{\text{3rd person singular possessive pronoun}}$ drink$_{\text{in definite past tense}}$

'Neda drank her milk. (I didn't know that she drank her milk)'

Further conjugation examples for the Present progressive tense and past progressive tense are given in § 1.2.1.

1.2.1 Conjugation in Turkish

Turkish has six personal pronouns. The three English pronouns (he/she/it) correspond to only one personal pronoun in Turkish, '*O*'. The rest of the personal pronouns are: 1st person singular *ben* (I), 2nd person singular *sen* (you), 1st person plural *biz* (we), 2nd person plural *siz* (you), and 3rd person plural *onlar* (they). Table 1.1 presents personal pronouns in Turkish.

Table 1.1 Personal pronouns in Turkish.

	Singular	Plural
1st Person	Ben (=I)	Biz (=we)
2nd Person	Sen (=you)	Siz (=you -pl-)
3rd Person	O (=he, she, it)	Onlar (=they)

Person affix, preceded by the progressive affix /-yor-/, varies for each tense that will be studied: the present progressive vs. the past progressive. Since the following affixes change, so does the sound that follow the progressive affix. Thus, /-yor-/ can be followed by a consonant, a vowel, or a following pause.

Table 1.2 presents conjugation of *yapmak* *'*to make*'* for the present progressive tense. It is important to note how the following sound after the progressive affix /-yor-/ changes across the different person/number affixes.

Table 1.2 Conjugation examples for the present progressive tense in Turkish.

Person (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	**Number (Singular, Plural)**	**Conjugation for the Present Progressive Tense in Turkish**
1st person	Singular	*Ben yap* – $ı_{epentheticvowel}$ – *yor* – um_{person} I am making
2nd person		*Sen yap* – $ı_{epentheticvowel}$ – *yor* – sun_{person} You are making
3rd person		*O yap* – $ı_{epentheticvowel}$ – *yor* S/he/it is making
1st person	Plural	*Biz yap* – $ı_{epentheticvowel}$ – *yor* – uz_{person} We are doing
2nd person		*Siz yap* – $ı_{epentheticvowel}$ – *yor-sun*$_{person}$ –uz_{number} You are making
3 rd person		*Onlar yap* – $ı_{epentheticvowel}$ – *yor* – lar_{number} They are making

As shown in table 1.2, when the progressive affix /-yor-/ is added to the verb- root, a vowel, V, is inserted between the progressive affix and the root (e.g. yap – **V -** yor). This epenthetic vowel may undergo a phonological rule called 'vowel raising' depending on the verb-root's final vowel: If the last vowel in the verb-root is not high (a, e, o, ö), the epenthetic vowel becomes high (I, i, u, ü, respectively),

when followed by the progressive affix, /-yor-/. If the last vowel in the verb-root is high, it does not undergo any change; the same vowel is duplicated and inserted between the verb-root and the progressive affix. In example (6), [a] is a low/back/unrounded vowel, which becomes a high/back/unrounded vowel, [ı]. In example (7), [ü] is a high/front/rounded vowel which does not undergo any change.

(6) *y**a**p – mak* (to make) → *yap – **ı** – yor* **yap – **a** – yor*

(7) *g**ü**l – mek* (to laugh) → *gül – **ü** – yor*

As seen in both (6) and (7), when undergoing 'vowel raising', the vowels retain their rounding and backness characteristics. That is, a low/back/rounded becomes a high/back/rounded or a low/front/unrounded becomes a high/front/unrounded vowel. Unlike vowel rising rule for the vowel preceding the progressive affix, there is not a single rule determining the following sound of the progressive affix: it varies depending on the personal pronoun for each tense. The following are the suffixes added to the verb in the different person and number forms for both tenses, Present Progressive and Past Progressive:

1.2.2 Person and Number Affixes for the Present Progressive

- 1st singular /-um/,
- 2nd singular /-sun/,
- 3rd singular Ø,
- 1st plural /-uz/,
- 2nd plural /-sunuz/,
- 3rd plural /-lar/

1.2.3 Person and Number Affixes for the Past Progressive

- 1st singular /-dum/,
- 2nd singular /-dun/,

- 3rd singular /–u/,
- 1st plural /-duk/,
- 2nd plural /-dunuz/,
- 3rd plural /-lardı/ or /-dular/ for the past progressive tense.

Table 1.3 exemplifies the conjugation of '*yapmak* = to make*'* for the past progressive tense.

Table 1.3 Conjugation examples for the past progressive tense

Person (1st, 2nd, 3rd)	Number (Singular, Plural)	**Conjugation for Past The progressive Tense in Turkish**
1st person	Singular	*Ben yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-d$_{tense}$-um$_{person}$* I was making.
2nd person		*Sen yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-d$_{tense}$-un$_{person}$* You were making.
3rd person		*O yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-d$_{tense}$-u$_{person}$* S/he was making.
1st person	Plural	*Biz yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-d$_{tense}$-uk$_{person}$* We were doing.
2nd person		*Siz yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-d$_{tense}$-unuz$_{person}$* You were making.
3 rd person		*Onlar yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-d$_{tense}$-u$_{person}$ –lar$_{number}$* *OR* *Onlar yap-ı$_{epentheticvowel}$-yor-lar$_{number}$-d$_{tense}$-ı$_{person}$* They were making.

As shown in table 1.2 and 1.3 above, the first affix attached to verb-root is the progressive affix preceded by an epenthetic vowel, for both tenses. Tense affix for the present progressive tense is ∅, so the progressive affix is followed by the person affix. Regarding the person affix for present progressive

tense, 2nd person singular (-**s**un) and plural (-**s**unuz), and 3rd person plural (-**l**ar) have a consonant as the initial sound, whereas 1st person singular (-**u**m) and plural (-**u**z) have a vowel as the initial sound. The 3rd person singular has no additional affix attached to the progressive affix, /-yor-/ is word final.

In contrast, /-yor-/ in the past progressive tense has the past tense affix /-d-/ attached to its right, followed by the person affix (table 1.3). There is an exception with 3rd person plural in this tense though; the progressive affix may optionally be followed by the number affix (-lar, -ler) instead of the tense affix /-d-/ in the past progressive tense. Both forms are grammatical. The tense affix /-d-/ is placed between the number and person affixes as shown in (8).

(8) *yap-ı-yor-lar*$_{number}$-*d*$_{tense}$-*ı*$_{person}$

In both forms of the 3rd person plural, the sound following the progressive affix /-yor-/ is a consonant. It is important to note that the progressive affix in the present progressive tense has a following consonant half of the time (3 out of 6), while the progressive affix in the past progressive tense is always followed by a consonant. This will be particularly relevant when I discuss the interaction between Tense and Following Context in Chapter 3.

1.3 Previous Research

This section will review a seminal work on /r/ deletion in English conducted by Labov, and other studies on Spanish /r/ deletion conducted by D'Introno et al. (1979), Ruiz-Sánchez, Díaz-Campos (2005), and Díaz-Campos and Sánchez (2008).

1.3.1 /r/ Deletion in New York City by William Labov (1972)

William Labov pioneered the variation studies with 'The Social Stratification of /r/ in New York City Department Stores' (1972), which explored the phenomenon of word final /r/ deletion in New York City. Labov was the first one to show that the use of variables was correlated with social stratification. He showed that /r/ deletion was not categorical, as was originally thought to be, but variable. To further investigate this, he conducted an experiment in different department stores where he asked sales

assistants a question that would elicit the answer 'fourth floor'. The interviewer would pretend not to have heard the answer and asked the question again. The first answer represented casual speech, while the second represented careful speech. Based on the data from 70 individual interviews in different stores, Figure 1.1 presents the percentages of /r/ occurrence in New York (Labov, 1972:175).

Social Stratification of /r/ in New York Department Stores

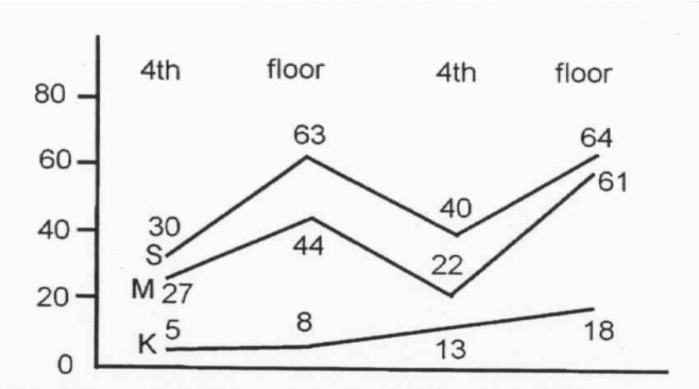

Figure 1.1 Distribution of /r/ occurrence by different ranking department stores, (highest to lowest ranking relatively: S=Saks Fifth Avenue, M=Macy's K=S. Klein), in New York City by Labov (1972:175)

As seen in Figure 1.1, the employees in the lowest-ranked store, S. Klein, had the lowest incidence of /r/. Conversely, the employees in the highest-ranked store, Saks, had the highest incidence of /r/. Labov (1972) concluded that there was a correlation between /r/ deletion and social class, where speakers from the lower socioeconomic status had a higher percentage of /r/ deletion than the speakers from the higher socioeconomic status. Based on these analyses, he argued that the occurrence of /r/ was more prestigious while /r/ deletion was less prestigious.

1.3.2 /r/ Deletion in Venezuelan Spanish

1.3.2.1 /r/ Deletion in Caracas Spanish by D'Introno *et al.* (1979)

This study analyzes Caracas Spanish, where liquids, (/-l/and /-r/) in syllable-final position are subject to deletion and alternation (producing /-r/ instead of /-l/). D'introno *et al*. found that the

alternation of liquids had a relatively low frequency of occurrence in comparison with the percentages of /-r/ deletion in this dialect of Spanish. In this summary, I will focus on /r/ deletion only. In their investigation of a corpus of 36 recordings, D'Introno *et al*. reported that Gender and Social Class were relevant to /-r/ deletion. Specifically, men in lower social class tended to omit /-r/ in frequent words such as 'porque' (because), 'por' (for), and infinitives. The results of the analysis of social class indicated that /-r/ deletion in Caracas Spanish is most likely to be considered a less prestigious variant.

1.3.2.2 /r/ Deletion in Andalusian Spanish by Ruiz-Sánchez

Ruiz-Sánchez (2006, 2007, 2009) evaluated the influence of Phonetic Context and grammatical category of the word on the occurrence of /r/ deletion. The author also studied the influence of Gender, Education, Social Class and Age on the occurrence of /r/ deletion. According to Ruiz-Sánchez's (2009) results, all following phonetic contexts other than a following obstruent triggered the occurrence of /r/ deletion. Regarding Grammatical Category, infinitives showed the highest incidence of /r/ deletion. Considering the position of /r/ in the word (initial, mid, final), /r/ in the word-final position presented higher percentages of /r/ deletion than those with /r/ in initial and mid positions in the word. And with respect to stress (stressed vs. unstressed syllables), /r/ deletion was more frequent with stressed syllables, 42 %). As for the influence of the social factors, Age, Gender and Education were investigated. Concerning Age, the phenomenon was found to be more common among the youngest generation and female speakers. In terms of Education, groups with lower formal education showed a higher incidence of /r/ deletion than those with secondary education (38 % and 35 %, respectively). Figure 1.2 presents the distribution of /r/ deletion by Education.

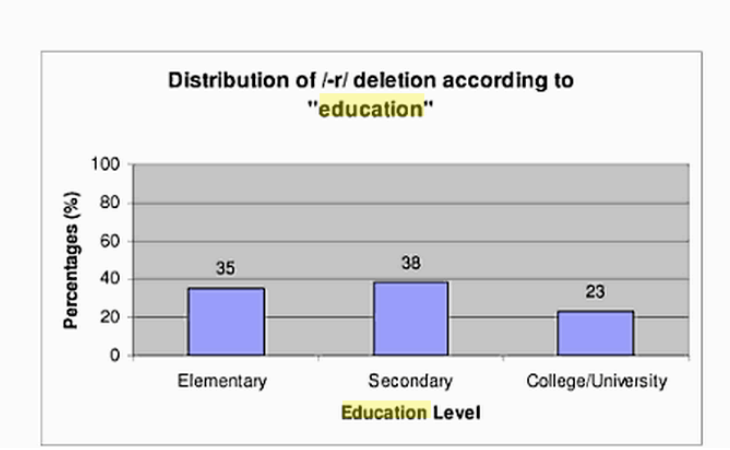

Figure 1.2 Distribution of /r/ deletion by Education from Ruiz-Sánchez (2009:153)

1.3.2.3 /r/ Deletion in Caracas Spanish by Manuel Díaz-Campos (2005)

Motivated by D'Introno *et al.*'s (1979) findings, Díaz-Campos studied frequency effect on word final /r/ deletion. He used the *Estudio Sociolingüístico de Caracas* which included the speech samples of people who were born and raised in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. He studied three distinct variants of syllable-final /r/: lateralization, /r/ deletion and retention. Similar to D'Introno's study, the percentage of deletion (30.2%) was high compared to the percentage of lateralization (2.5%). Figure 1.3 presents the distribution of /r/ in Caracas Spanish.

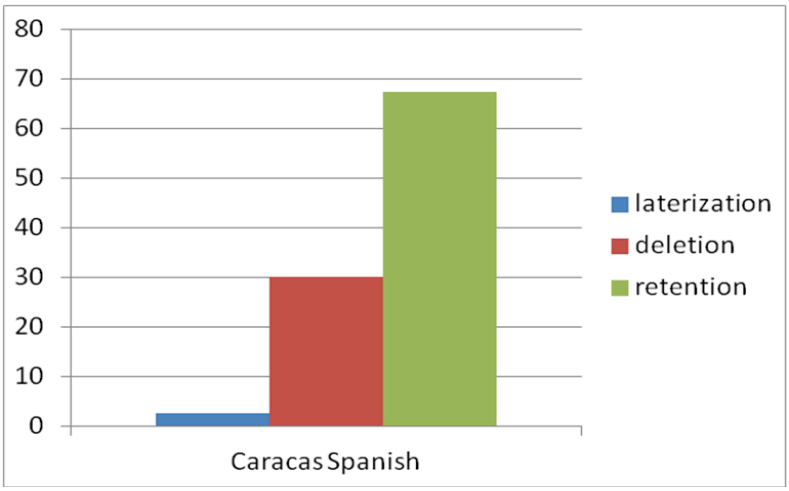

Figure 1.3 Distribution of /r/ in Caracas Spanish based on 7,200 tokens from the corpus *Estudio Sociolingüístico de Caracas* (1987). (Díaz-Campos and Sanchez, 2008)

The linguistic factors considered in this study were (1) Phonetic Context (following sonorant, vowel, pause, and obstruent), (2) Grammatical Category (infinitive, conjunction, noun, adverb, adjective, preposition) and (3) Frequency (high vs. low frequency words). The social factors considered were (4) Age, (5) Socio-economic class and (6) Gender. All the phonetic contexts significantly triggered /r/ deletion, but following obstruent did not. Regarding Grammatical Category, only infinitives and conjunctions favored /r/ deletion. In terms of Frequency, /r/ deletion occurred more often in high frequency words than in low frequency words. Concerning social factors, 'age' was selected as significant; older people tended to delete /r/ more often than younger people. Another relevant factor was socio-economic class: /r/ deletion was more frequent in lower socio-economic class. And lastly, gender was found relevant as well: male speakers showed a higher incidence of /r/ deletion than females did.

1.3.3 /r/ Deletion in Andalusian Spanish and Caracas Spanish by Díaz-Campos and Sánchez (2008)

Díaz - Campos and Sánchez (2008) performed a comparative analysis of syllable-final /r/ deletion in two different dialects of Spanish: Andalusian Spanish vs. Caracas Spanish. The following figures show the location of Caracas - Venezuela and Andalusia - Spain on the map respectively.

Figure 1.4 Location of Caracas on the map (World Atlas, n.d)

Figure 1.5 Location of Andalusia on the map (Food History, 2013)

Díaz - Campos and Sánchez (2008) investigated linguistic and social factors and the effect of lexical frequency on /r/ deletion in both dialects. Similarly to /r/ deletion in Caracas Spanish by Díaz - Campos (2005), this study investigated three dependent variables: /r/ deletion, retention and lateralization. Six independent variables were investigated:

1- Phonetic Context (following sonorant, vowel, pause, obstruent),

2- Grammatical Category (infinitive, conjunction, noun, adverb, adjective, preposition)

3- Following Morphemic Unit (three factors were analyzed: infinitive + clitic, infinitive, and other.)

4- Age (young, adult, and old)

5- Gender

6- Socio-economic Class (lower, middle, upper) in Caracas Spanish vs. Education (lower, middle, higher) in Andalusian Spanish

Similar to findings from Díaz - Campos (2005), high frequency words favored /r/ deletion in both dialects. All following sounds, except for following obstruent, triggered /r/ deletion in Caracas and Andalusian Spanish. Figure 1.6 presents the probability of /r/ deletion according to following sound.

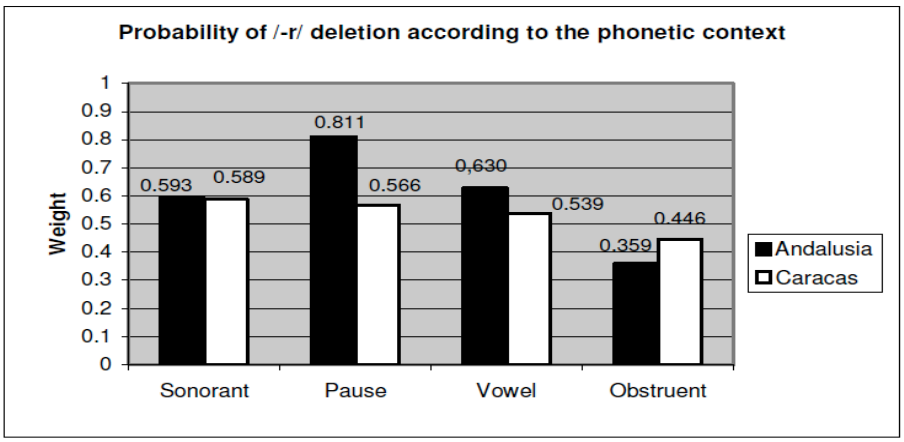

Figure 1.6 Probability of /r/ deletion according to Following Context by Díaz - Campos and Sánchez (2008)

In accordance with results from Diaz - Campos (2005), Caracas Spanish speakers had a high incidence of /r/ deletion both in infinitives and in conjunctions. The other Grammatical Categories did

not significantly influence the occurrence of /r/ deletion in Caracas Spanish. Infinitive was the only Grammatical Category favoring /r/ deletion in Andalusian Spanish. Figure 1.7 represents the distribution of /r/ deletion in both dialects by Grammatical Category.

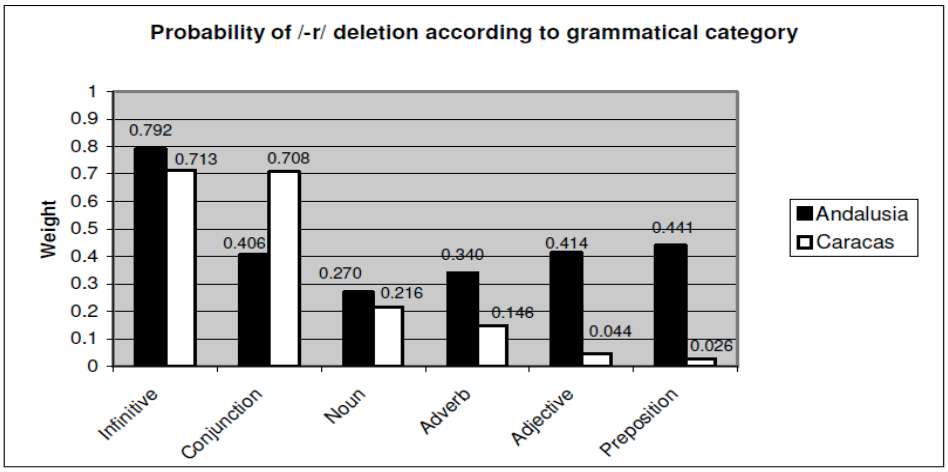

Figure 1.7 Probability of /r/ deletion by Grammatical Category in Andalusian and Caracas Spanish by Díaz - Campos and Sánchez (2008)

In terms of Following Morpheme Unit, infinitives with no clitics showed a highest factor weight (0.821) for /r/ deletion in Andalusian Spanish.

Regarding Age and Gender, all the speakers except middle-aged men and older women favored /r/ deletion in Caracas Spanish. In Andalusian Spanish, it was the oldest generation and young males who favored the occurrence of /r/ deletion.

The authors investigated Social-Class in Caracas Spanish and Education in Andalusian Spanish as a third social factor for each dialect. Regarding social class, lower class showed a higher tendency to delete /r/ in Caracas Spanish. In Andalusian Spanish, people with lower education showed a higher tendency to delete /r/ than those with higher education.

1.3.4 /r/ Deletion in Turkish

There is very scarce literature on /r/ deletion in Turkish. Similarly to /r/ deletion in English and Spanish, Sezer (1986) stated that /r/ deletion in Turkish was variable; and that it occurred in informal speech. Even though he did not say that /r/ deletion was non-standard, the fact that /r/ deletion appeared

more frequently in informal speech may suggest that it was a non-standard variable. Unfortunately, Sezer (1986) did not study the influence of social or linguistic factors on the occurrence of /r/ deletion. Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript) performed a study on /r/deletion in Turkish, where social and linguistic factors were analyzed. Similarly to the present study, the specific context under study by Rahymov and Sezer was /r/ in final position in the affix of the verbs in the progressive form. Their results showed that Following Sound was the strongest factor on the occurrence of /r/ deletion. There was a considerable tendency to delete /r/ before a consonant (91.7%) while vowels tended to be more neutral (55%). Following pause showed a high percentage of /r/ deletion (76.9%). Figure 1.8 presents the distribution of /r/ by following consonant/pause/vowel from this previous study.

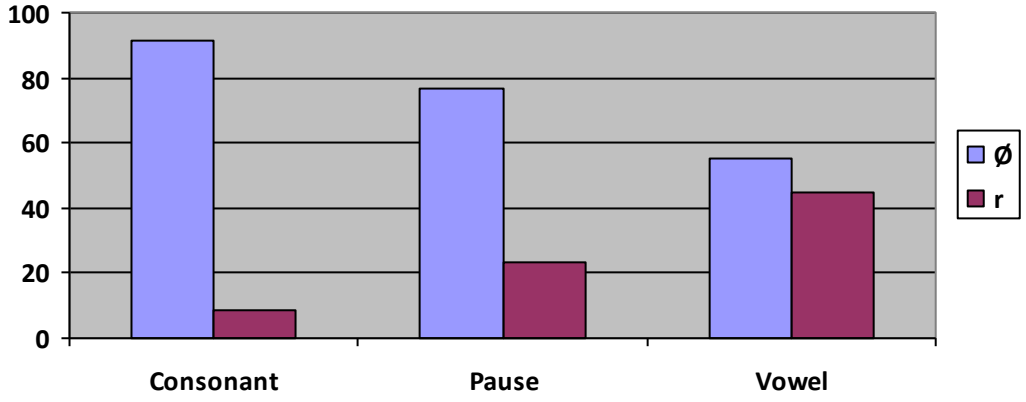

Figure 2.8 Effect of following sound on /r/ deletion by Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript)

In terms of Tense, the past progressive almost always triggered /r/ deletion; it had 97% incidence of /r/ deletion while the present progressive had 72.4%. This could be due to an interaction between Tense & Following Context. That is, in the past progressive tense, /-yor-/ is always followed by a consonant which, as stated earlier, triggers deletion. In contrast, in the present progressive, /-yor-/ is also followed by a vowel /u/ and a pause, which does not have such high percentages of deletion. Figure 1.9 presents the percentages of /r/ deletion and retention by Tense.

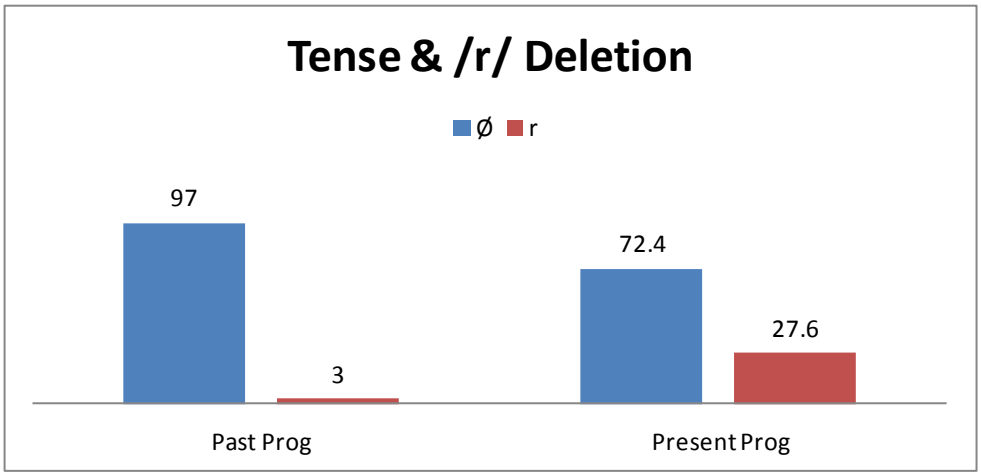

Figure 1.9 Distribution of /r/ deletion according to tense by Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript)

The data from Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript) suggested that Following Context, specifically following consonant, was the factor that triggered /r/ deletion the most. Although this study was a good first approximation to the topic, we had few speakers and could not run a multivariate analysis. This limitation will be overcome in the present study, which involves 8 speakers, as explained in more detail in the next chapter.

Chapter 2: Methodology and Data Collection

In this chapter, I will discuss the data collection procedure and the subjects who participated in the study, the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors analyzed and the how the results were calculated using Goldvarb.

2.0 Methodology

Finding participants for this study was a challenge because there is a small group of native Turkish speakers in El Paso, Texas. Moreover, it was difficult to find enough speakers who all came from the same region. Therefore, to collect the data for this study I decided to use speech samples from online Istanbul radio stations.

2.1 Data Collection and Design

Data were collected by recording speech from four DJs and four newscasters from online Istanbul radio stations. Freecorder 8, an application that offers tools for capturing all kinds of web video, music and audio, was used to record speech from online radio stations. For inter-speaker analysis, 100 tokens from each speaker containing /r/ in the affix of the verbs in the progressive form were extracted; 800 tokens were obtained in total. Data were evenly distributed in terms of gender; 400 tokens from male speakers vs. 400 tokens from female speakers. In a like manner, data were evenly distributed in terms of style; 400 tokens from formal vs. 400 tokens from informal radio programs (i.e. newscast presenters vs. DJs, respectively). For intra-speaker analysis, I compared the speech of two of the same newscast presenters in formal speech, when they were presenting the news, with their data in less formal speech, when they were conversing with guest speakers. 100 tokens were extracted from one male (MP) and 100 tokens from a female (FP) newscasters. As I explain in section 2.2.2.2, I hypothesize that the speech of DJs will be more informal than the speech of newscast presenters who were reading the news.

Although it was the best option for me, this method of data collection was harder to use in comparison with traditional sociolinguistic interviews. Unlike interviewing, I did not have direct access to DJs to ask them questions about their backgrounds. However, some information was available from the websites of the radio stations, and some other websites. This information will be offered in § 2.3.

§ 2.1 presents the method of data collection and design of the study. Both linguistic and external factors triggering /r/ deletion were investigated. Those factors are explained below.

2.2 Linguistic and External Factors Considered in the Study

This study will investigate several linguistic (internal) factors: Phonetic Context, Tense, Person, and Number that are hypothesized to influence the occurrence of /r/ deletion in the progressive affix, /-yor-/. Moreover, external factors, Gender and Style, will be studied to reveal whether they are relevant to the occurrence of /r/ deletion. Linguistic and social factors that are hypothesized to influence /r/ deletion in Istanbul Turkish will be presented in § 2.2.1 and § 2.2.2, respectively.

2.2.1 Linguistic (Internal) Factors

Linguistic factors include Phonetic Context (following vowel, consonant, pause), Tense (past progressive tense vs. present progressive tense), Person (1^{st}, 2^{nd}, 3^{rd} person), and Number (singular vs. plural). Since Turkish is an agglutinative language**,** Tense, Person, and Number affixes are all attached to the progressive affix, /-yor/. As stated earlier, the sound following the progressive affix varies depending on the person and tense of the verb. All possible adjacent affixes to /-yor-/ will be examined below.

2.2.1.1 Phonetic Context

Does the following context, specifically following consonant, affect the realization of /r/? Previous studies, on two dialects of Spanish, Andalusian and Caracas Spanish, from Díaz-Campos and Sánchez (2008) and on Turkish (Rahymov and Sezer, unpublished manuscript) suggested that following context influenced the occurrence of /r/ deletion. Specifically, the results from Rahymov and Sezer

showed that following consonant had a relatively higher incidence of /r/ deletion than following vowel. Based on these findings (§ 1.3.4), I hypothesize that following consonant will show a higher percentage of /r/ deletion in the progressive affix in Istanbul Turkish. The possible following sounds of the progressive affix were presented via conjugation examples in table 1.2 and table 1.3 for present progressive tense and past progressive tense, respectively. Also, if the progressive affix is in word final position and if the first sound of the following word within the same sentence is a consonant, I still treat it as following consonant. In other words, following contexts will be considered within and across words.

Since the following context of the progressive affix varies across the present and past tenses, Tense was considered as another linguistic factor that can influence the occurrence of /r/ deletion.

2.2.1.2 Tense

Is Tense relevant to the occurrence of /r/ deletion? Does the present progressive tense favor /r/ deletion more than the past progressive tense or vice versa? The results from Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript), showed a strong interaction between Tense and Following Sound, since the following sound of the progressive affix varied according to the tense. The tense affix for the present progressive is null (Ø). In contrast, in past progressive, the tense affix is attached to the right of the progressive affix, and person/number follows the tense affix. Specifically, in present progressive tense, the progressive affix is followed by consonants three out of six times (table 1.2). In contrast, in the past progressive tense, the progressive affix is always followed by a consonant (table 1.3). Given that following consonants trigger /r/ deletion, I hypothesize that /r/ deletion will be more frequent in the past progressive tense than in present progressive tense.

2.2.1.3 Person/Number

Person/Number affix is another one of the possible affixes that maybe attached to /-yor-/. Therefore, it is considered as another linguistic factor that may influence /r/ deletion. Does a particular

Person/Number trigger the occurrence of /r/ deletion over the others? There are three forms of Person as independent variables: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd person; and there are two forms of Number: singular vs. plural. As mentioned in § 2.3.1, there seems to be interaction between Following Sound, and Tense and Person/Number. In the present progressive tense, the progressive affix is followed by person/number affix immediately after. Therefore, the person/number affixes need to be examined further. Based on previous analyzes of Following Sound and Person/Number (Rahymov and Sezer, unpublished manuscript), lower incidence of /r/ deletion with 1st person singular and 3rd person singular in the present progressive is expected to occur . However, Person/Number in the past progressive tense is not expected to exert any influence on /r/ deletion, since the progressive affix in the past tense is always followed by the Tense affix –d-, not by the Person/Number affix (table 1.3).

The following section discusses the external factors that are hypothesized to influence the occurrence of /r/ deletion, these are Gender and Style.

2.2.2 External Factors

External factors investigated include Gender and Style (formal vs. informal). Although there was no evidence for the significance of Gender in the data from Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript), previous studies on /r/ deletion in different dialects of Spanish (Díaz - Campos and Sánchez 2008) suggested Gender to be significant. Thus, the influence of Gender will be evaluated in this study. Regarding Style, Sezer (1986) stated that informal context triggered /r/ deletion, but he did not make any investigation to confirm that hypothesis. Rahymov and Sezer (unpublished manuscript) did not study Style; the only social factor that they explored was Gender. Thus, this study will investigate the influence of Style on /r/ deletion. Further explanation of the factors Gender and Style is offered below.

2.2.2.1 Gender

Is Gender relevant to the occurrence of /r/ deletion? Do male speakers delete /r/ more often than females? According to Labov (1990:205), “men use a higher frequency of non-standard forms than

women in stable situations, whereas women are generally the innovators in linguistic change". Labov (1972:243) says that "in careful speech women use fewer stigmatized forms than men, and are more sensitive than men to the prestige pattern". Based on Labov's statements, I expect women to have a higher frequency of /r/ occurrence in careful speech. In our previous work (Rahymov and Sezer, unpublished manuscript), we did not find Gender differences, but given that we had few speakers, results were not so reliable. Thus, this time I will test the Gender difference hypothesis with more speakers.

The studies on /r/ deletion in Spanish also suggest that Gender is a relevant factor. The results from Díaz - Campos and Sánchez (2008) showed that all age groups for both genders favored /r/ deletion, except middle-age men and older women in Caracas Spanish, while young males showed the highest incidence of /r/ deletion in Andalusian Spanish.

2.2.2.2 Style

Is formality/informality of the context relevant to the occurrence of /r/ deletion? Do the speakers delete /r/ more often in formal contexts than in informal contexts? To explore this, inter-speaker variation (variation that occurs among people) will be investigated first. I expect the newscast speech to be more formal than the speech of music program presenters.Therefore, the speech of four newscast presenters will be compared to the speech of four music (pop music and Arabesque) programs presenters.

Heffernan (2007) argued that the stereotypical roles attributed to DJs and newscast presenters from the audience may influence the way they speak. He further stated that anthropological linguistic studies that explored variation in the voices and speech of radio DJs and newscasters found that they "alter their style of speech depending upon who they think is listening" (Heffernan 2007:132). Therefore, newscasters and radio DJs may have a tendency to use more or less careful style of speech depending on the potential audience who listens to them. In the cases where they are most likely to

appeal to an audience who prefers standard over non-standard language such as adult people, or where they talk about serious issues such as politics, radio presenters may have a tendency to use more careful style of speech. In contrast, when radio presenters talk about spontaneous topics such as music and singers, their memories with a friend, the charity campaigns that they volunteer for, non-profit organizations working for certain groups people, etc., they may produce a less careful style of speech.

Even within music styles, there are some types of music that are more related to some groups of people and styles of speech than others. Turkish Pop music, which appeals to adolescents mostly, started being popular in the 1990s. This type of music was inspired by Western Pop music. According to Eckert (2005) adolescents prefer the use of non- standard variants in their speech (non-standard variants here are in the sense that they are not standard because they are new, not because they are well-established markers of lower-class or rural speech such as double negatives in English). Eckert (2005:4) stated that: "The idea that age represents the smooth passage of linguistic time has been interrupted by evidence of change across the life span, and most dramatically, by the fact that in the US at least, adolescents lead other age groups in sound change and in the use of vernacular variants more generally". Barbieri (2008:59) agreed with Eckert by noting that "Adolescence is appealing to sociolinguists as it is regarded as a life stage when change from below is advanced and, as such, as a good place to tap into linguistic change and innovation (Eckert 2003)". Thus, the DJs who present Turkish Pop music, which is most likely popular amongst adolescents, are expected to have higher percentages of /r/ deletion which, as suggested in § 1.3.4, is a vernacular (informal) variant. On the contrary, Arabesque music which was popular in Turkey from 1930s to 1980s, tends to appeal to adults and the elderly. Hence, compared to Turkish Pop music presenters, I expect Arabesque music presenters to have a lower rate of /r/ deletion. Yet, the percentage of /r/ deletion in Arabesque music presenters is not expected to be as low as that of newscasters'. The reason for this is that newscast programs are usually of interest to adults and the elderly, and off-interest to adolescents. But the topics discussed in the newscast programs are generally

more serious than those discussed in the music program. Therefore, assuming that newscast presenters have a more formal style of speech than music presenters, I hypothesize that the realization of /r/ deletion will be lower in the speech of newscast presenters. If this is confirmed, it will show that /r/ deletion is a stigmatized variable in Istanbul Turkish and, therefore, that there is social awareness of this linguistic feature. If the hypotheses are disconfirmed, it will suggest that the formality/informality of the context is irrelevant to the occurrence of /r/ deletion in Istanbul Turkish, and that there is no stigma attached to this form.

In addition to inter-speaker variation, there is another dimension of linguistic variation, which is intra-speaker variation. This variation occurs within the same speaker. It is also called 'style-shifting'; automatically adjusting from one speech style to another (Language Files, 2011: 411). This study will investigate if there is intra-speaker variation in addition to inter-speaker variation. I will observe if a newscast presenter, who typically uses formal speech to present the news, uses a more informal style of speech when s/he talks about topics such as music, their memories with friends, etc. To test intra-speaker variation, two of the newscast presenters studied before, one female (FP) and one male (MP), were recorded while they were presenting informal radio programs. I hypothesize that the frequency of /r/ deletion will shift as a function of the style used. That is, I expect newscasters to have a lower percentage of /r/ deletion when presenting the news and, the opposite, a higher percentage of /r/ deletion when they present an informal program. Even though some of the topics that these newscasters included in their informal programs were not totally informal, such as charity campaigns and the weather, the fact that these were presented as conversation with a guest speaker, rather than read, may make the speech more informal. Therefore, if MP and FP delete /r/ at a significantly higher rate in the informal program, it will confirm that /r/ deletion is subject to intra-speaker variation. That is, radio presenters are aware of and avoid the use of non-prestigious /r/ deletion in formal settings.

2.3 Subjects

To investigate inter-speaker variation, the speech of eight radio presenters, four males and four females, from four online Istanbul radio stations (Kral FM, Alem FM, Best FM, and Radyo 7) will be contrasted. Assuming that these participants from radio stations present their on air personas shaped by the potential audience, not necessarily their real personalities, the speakers were classified into two subcategories according to the radio programs they were presenting: formal presenters vs. informal presenters. As explained earlier, newscast was considered to be more formal than Turkish pop and Arabesque music programs. Thus, the speech from newscast presenters was classified as formal, while the speech from music program presenters was classified as informal[1].

Based on the information retrieved from the websites of the radio stations and some other online sources, all participants have at least high school diploma, they all were born and raised in Istanbul and they have all worked as radio presenters for at least 10 years. Their age ranges between 37 to 51 years old. Further information about each of the speakers is presented in § 2.3.1 and § 2.3.2.

2.3.1 Formal Program Presenters

Four newscast presenters were investigated in this category; two females and two males. Their artistic names are Selda Atalay, Seçil Gören, Mehmet Can, and Ahmet Soyöz. . The newscast programs presented by them are broadcasted by single presenter at a time. Additional materials presented, usually at the end of the newscast, are the weather forecast and traffic reports. Below, I will briefly describe the formal radio program presenters.

Selda Atalay is a 44-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul. She holds a Bachelor's degree. Currently, she works for Radyo 7 as a newscaster.

Mehmet Can is a 41-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul in 1972. He holds a Bachelor's degree. He also works at Radyo 7 as a newscaster.

[1] While I understand that the speech from music program presenters is not completely informal or casual, I will contrast their speech to the speech of newscast presenters who generally read the news.

Ahmet Soyöz is a 51-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul. He works at Kral FM as a newscaster.

Seçil Gören is a 39-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul. She holds a Bachelor's degree. She works at Kral fm as a newscaster.

2.3.2 Informal Program Presenters

Four DJs were recorded in this category; two females and two males: Harbi Kız, Arzu Çağlan, Nihat Sırdar, and Mansur El Sabah. They all present music shows. The format of the radio programs they presented is 'talk radio'. Their shows are regularly hosted by a single individual, and guests participate through email or social media. The audience is able to participate by sending messages via cell phones and emails to express their appreciation for the program and their opinions on the different topics discussed. Moreover, they are able to ask for their favorite songs or to dedicate them to a particular person. Arzu Çağlan's show includes interviews with a guest singer as well. Below, I will briefly describe the informal radio program presenters.

Harbi Kız was born and raised in Istanbul. She holds a high school diploma. She has been working as a DJ for over ten years now. Unfortunately, I could not find information about her age. However, the fact that she started working as a DJ when she finished high school and that she has been working at the radio for 10 years suggests that she may be in her 30s or early 40s.The genre of the music program that she presents is Arabesque.

Arzu Caglan is a 47-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul. She holds a Bachelor's degree. She has been working as a DJ for twenty years now. Currently, she works for Best FM. The genre of the music program that she presents is 'Turkish pop'.

Nihat Sırdar is a 37-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul. He has been working as a DJ since 1992. He works for Alem FM, and presents 'Turkish Pop' music.

Mansur El Sabah is a 46-year-old journalist who was born and raised in Istanbul. He currently works for Alem FM. The genre of the music program that he presents is 'Turkish Pop'.

2.4 Analysis

Data collected were transcribed and coded in Excel. A multivariate analysis application for variationist sociolinguistics studies, Goldvarb X, was used to conduct the variationist sociolinguistic analysis of the data. Goldvarb X weights range between 0 and 1, thus a factor weight of 0.5 is neutral. The range of the factor group is calculated by subtracting the maximum factor weigh of the factor group from the minimum factor weigh.

Two forms of the variant were explored within the data; /r/ deletion, assumed to be the non-standard form vs. /r/ retention, which is the standard form. Informal context is hypothesized to trigger /r/ deletion, so the frequency of /r/ deletion is expected to be higher with informal radio program presenters. Specifically, if the percentages and probabilities of the occurrence of /r/ deletion are higher for the music program presenters, it will confirm the hypothesis that informality of the context favors the occurrence of /r/ deletion in Turkish. However, if the newscasters delete /r/ in a higher or similar frequency than the music program presenters, then this would indicate that /r/ deletion has nothing to do with the formality/informality of the context and that there is no social awareness of it.

Besides inter-speaker variation, intra-speaker variation will be investigated. For this, two of the newscast presenters, one male and one female, were recorded while they were presenting informal radio programs: Instead of a newscast hosted by a single presenter, they were recorded when they had a guest speaker and talked about topics such as a particular charity campaign, and the improvement of a music genre in Turkish. Even though these are still not very informal topics, their speech is probably less formal than presenting the newscast from a written text. One hundred tokens were extracted from each speaker in these informal settings. Data collected were transcribed in Excel and run with Goldvarb X for a multivariate analysis of the factors considered. When conducting intra-speaker analysis, the same

linguistic and external factors that were considered for inter-speaker analysis were included for intra-speaker analysis except for Style, which in this case is not necessary since they both are newscasters in a less formal setting.

Chapter 3: Analysis and Results

In this chapter, I will present the analysis of the data and the results from Goldvarb X.

3.0 Results

This section presents the analysis of the effect of linguistic and external factor groups on the occurrence of /r/ deletion. Table 1.4 presents the overall distribution of /r/ deletion and /r/ retention for all speakers.

Table 1.4 Overall distributions of /r/ deletion and retention.

	/r/	**ø**	TOTAL N
N	596	204	800
%	74.5	25.5	

The overall distribution of /r/ (aka 'retention') is 74.5 % while the overall distribution of Ø (deletion) is 25.5 %.

As stated earlier, the influence of six factor groups on /r/ deletion and retention was investigated:

1. Following Sound,
2. Tense,
3. Person,
4. Number,
5. Gender, and
6. Style

Even though all these factors were included in the analysis, some of them had to be removed before running the multivariate analysis because there was interaction between factor groups. Specifically, Tense (present progressive vs. past progressive) was removed from the binomial up and down because there was interaction between Tense and Following Sound. In a like manner, Person was

removed because it interacted with Following Sound. Amongst the four factors left; Following Sound, Number, Gender and Style, all of them except for Number were selected as significant. Table 1.5 presents the percentages and probabilities of /r/ deletion across the different linguistic and extra-linguistic factor groups considered in the analysis.

Table 1.5 Logistic regression analysis of the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors influencing /r/ deletion in Istanbul Turkish.

Input 0.084 Tokens 800			
Style (Genre)	FW (Factor Weight)	%	N
P (Turkish pop)	.950	56.7	170
A (arabesque)	.791	28.0	28
N (newscast)	.074	1.5	6
Range	87		
Following Context			
Consonant	.839	61.6	141
Pause	.614	12.7	42
Vowel	.100	8.7	21
Range	73		
Gender			
Female	.606	26.9	96
Male	.394	24	107
Range	21		
Number			
Singular	[ ]	27.5	154
Plural	[ ]	20.7	50
Total N=800			

The results for Style across speakers are consistent with the predictions and so, confirm the hypothesis that /r/ deletion is more frequent in the speech of music presenters. As stated earlier, the speech of music presenters is considered to be less formal than the speech of newscasters. As predicted, Turkish Pop had the highest incidence of /r/ deletion (170/300 and 56.7 %), followed by Arabesque (28/100 and 28 %) and Newscast (6/400 and 1.5 %).

Consistent with the hypothesis, the probabilities of /r/ deletion in Turkish Pop music and Arabesque music show that /r/ deletion is favored in these genres, and disfavored in the newscast. The

highest range shows that Style is the most significant factor affecting /r/ deletion at 87. These results seem to indicate that /r/ deletion is a non-standard feature of Turkish and that there may be social awareness attached to it.

Concerning Following Context, the multivariate analysis shows that following consonants and pause favor /r/ deletion (0.83 and 0.61), while following vowels disfavor it (0.10). With respect to Gender, /r/ deletion is disfavored by males and favored by females (0.39 and 0.60, respectively). These results do not seem to confirm the Gender difference hypothesis proposed by Labov (1990:205); "men use a higher frequency of non-standard forms than women in stable situations, whereas women are generally the innovators in linguistic change". This will be further discussed in chapter 4.

Although I initially included grammatical features (tense, person, number) as factors that might possibly affect /r/-deletion, my analysis ultimately showed that these were irrelevant; all the variation can be accounted for by phonological conditioning (the effect of the following context). It just happens that tense, person and number are distinguished by the phonological features that proved to be determinant of /r/-deletion. Still, considering the percentages of occurrence of /r/ deletion for singular and plural, they were unexpected. The proportion of /r/ deletion with plural number was lower than with singular (20.7% 50/240 and 27.5% 154/560, respectively). This result is unexpected, since the plural affix that follows /-yor-/ begins with a consonant 5 out of 6 times, while the singular affix that follows /-yor-/ begins with a consonant 4 out of 6 times for both tenses studied (table 1.6). Thus, considering the high occurrence of /r/ deletion with a following consonant, these results were unexpected. However, the fact that singular is more frequent in the data (singular 154/560 vs. plural 50/240) might partially explain these unexpected results.

Table 1.6 Distribution of following vowel, following pause and following consonant for all persons in the present progressive and past progressive tense.

		Following Sound for each Person	Vowel	Consonant	Pause
Present Progressive Tense	Singular	1. 1st singular /-um/	*		
		2. 2nd singular /-sun/		*	
		3. 3rd singular Ø			*
	Plural	4. 1st plural /-uz/	*		
		5. 2nd plural /-sunuz/		*	
		6. 3rd plural /-lar/		*	
Past Progressive Tense	Singular	1. 1st singular /-dum/		*	
		2. 2nd singular /-dun/		*	
		3. 3rd singular /–du/		*	
	Plural	4. 1st plural /-duk/		*	
		5. 2nd plural /-dunuz/		*	
		6. 3rd plural /-lardı/ or /-dular/		*	

On the whole, Style is the strongest factor that constrains /r/ deletion with Turkish Pop as the highest ranked factor (0.950). Following sound is the second highest ranked factor group with following consonant and pause favoring the occurrence of /r/ deletion (0.83 and 0.61). Finally, regarding Gender, females favor /r/ deletion. After discussing all the factors selected as significant by Goldvarb X, § 3.1 will present the analysis of intra-speaker variation.

3.1 Analysis of Intra-Speaker Variation

Style was investigated in two dimensions: formal vs. informal; inter-speaker vs. intra-speaker. So far, I presented the results for inter-speaker variation. Now I will present the results for intra-speaker variation. According to analysis based on 100 tokens/per speaker, when Style is informal, the proportion of /r/ deletion for FP increases to 44% (44/100), in comparison with formal context where she categorically pronounced /r/. Consistent with the results for FP, when the style is informal, the proportion of /r/ deletion for MP is also relatively high, (63%, 63/100); when the style is formal, MP deletes /r/ only 6% of the time. Table 1.7 illustrates the distribution of /r/ in an informal environment by the two newscasters.

Table 1.7 Overall distribution of /r/ deletion within newscasters presenting informal programs

		/r/ deletion in informal context	/r/ deletion in formal context
FP	N	44	0
	%	44	0
TOTAL N=100			
MP	N	63	6
	%	63	6
TOTAL N=100			

This result shows that the rates of /r/ retention are drastically dropped for both newscast presenters when the style is informal. This is in line with the inter-speaker analysis showing that informal style favors /r/ deletion. This also reinforces the claim that there is social awareness of this feature and that it is probably stigmatized. Figure 2.0 and 2.1 present the intra-speaker analysis of /r/ in formal vs. informal settings for FP and MP respectively.

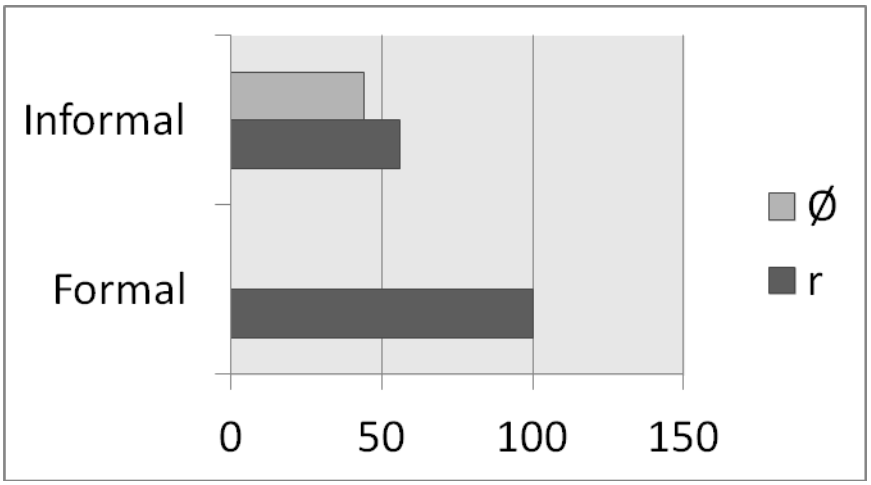

Figure 2.0 Percentages of /r/ for FP in formal vs. informal settings

FP categorically pronounced /r/ when presenting newscast while she had a 44% /r/ deletion when presenting an informal program.

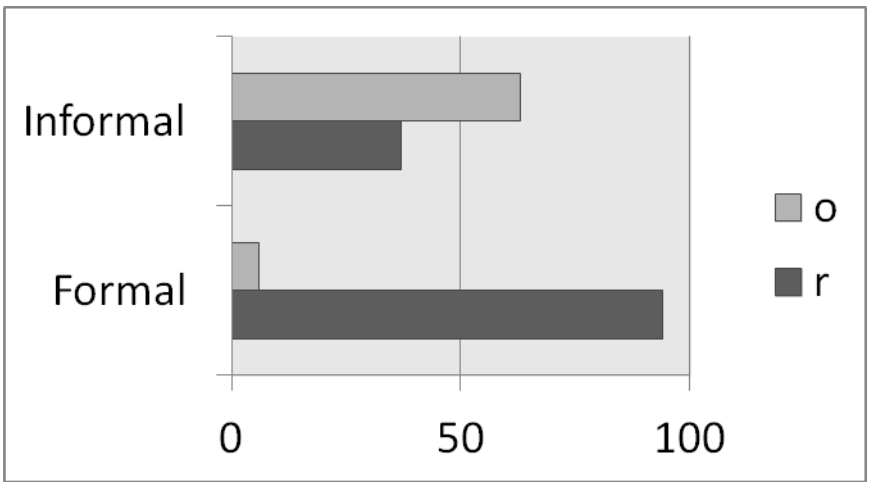

Figure 2.1 Percentages of /r/ for MP in formal vs. informal settings

MP has a deletion rate of only 1.5% in formal context while the percentage increases drastically in informal context, 63%. These results provide robust evidence of the strength of Style in affecting the occurrence of /r/ deletion in Turkish.

In chapter 4, I will summarize these results and discuss their implications for what we know about Turkish linguistics and for the field of variationist sociolinguistics.

Chapter 4: Discussion and Conclusion

This chapter presents the discussion of the results and an overall conclusion along with the future work.

4.1 Discussion

The findings of this investigation confirm that Style is the strongest factor influencing /r/ deletion; informal context favors /r/ deletion, and formal context disfavors it (§ 3.1). In addition, this study offers evidence of intra-speaker variation; where the same speakers tend to avoid /r/ deletion in formal settings even though they use it in informal settings. Besides, there is the possibility that in informal contexts where the subjects are interacting with other speakers, some of their /r/-deletion may be due to speaker accommodation (mirroring the pronunciation of the other person, as a subtle way of showing solidarity). To be able to investigate this, a future study should examine the tokens from guest speakers as well. Finally, regarding Following Sound, following consonant and pause favor /r/ deletion.

Considering Gender, I began with a very simple hypothesis based on Labov's (1990:205) statement; "men use a higher frequency of non-standard forms than women in stable situations, whereas women are generally the innovators in linguistic change". However, the evidence presented shows that women delete /r/ more often than men. There may be several factors that have an effect in this unexpected result. One of them is Age, which I have not analyzed in this study. The high rate of /r/ deletion in presenters of Turkish pop music whom, as I mentioned before, may have adolescents as audience, may be related to the fact that /r/ deletion is an innovative form. As Labov (1990:215) stated, "In the change from the below (below the level of social awareness), women are most often the innovators". This may suggest that /r/ deletion is a change in progress and the Gender results obtained in this study might be the indicator of that innovation.

4.2 Future work

The most important question that should be addressed in a future study is whether /r/ deletion is a case of stable variation or linguistic change. The data I have collected are not suitable to answer this question, since all my speakers are around the same age. To be able to conduct this research, I will need to study speakers from different age groups. Moreover, instead of basing my study on recorded speech from radio announcers, I will use sociolinguistic interviews to obtain closer to vernacular speech. This will allow me to obtain a more balanced distribution of speakers across social factors such as Age, Education and Social Class.

In addition, I would like to investigate whether the marked differences between men and women's speech are lessening as gender roles change in Turkey. For instance, it might be the case that women obtaining higher levels of education and reaching higher positions in the labor market might affect their linguistic behavior . To investigate this, I will need to study males and females from various educational and professional backgrounds, and social classes.

Finally, I would like to incorporate a subjective reaction test in my future research on /r/ deletion. The addition of this task will allow me to obtain subjects' reactions to the phenomenon under study. For instance, subjects can listen to recordings of a speaker who contains a high frequency of /r/ deletion and another one with no /r/ deletion in his/her speech. I will then elicit subjects' opinions about these speakers. With this test I will be able to confirm whether there is social awareness and stigma attached to /r/ deletion in Turkish .

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Vita

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