

CHAPTER 10

SOCIAL AND STYLISTIC VARIATIONS OF VARIABLE (κ)

10.1 INTRODUCTION

Another widespread variable in the Malay language is the phoneme /κ/. In most varieties of dialects of Malay, especially the Standard Malay, the phoneme /κ/ is always realised as glottal stop [ʔ] in the word-final position or before a consonant, and as velar stop [k] in other word-initial and medial-positions, except in the dialect of Sarawak that /κ/ is pronounced as velar stop [k] in all environments (Asmah Haji Omar, 1991). Like other dialects, the phoneme /κ/ in Standard Malay has two allophones velar stop [κ] and glottal stop [ʔ] with the phonemic realisations of /κ/ as follows:

$$/κ/: \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} [ʔ] / \text{---} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{C} \\ \# \end{array} \right\} \\ [κ] / \text{elsewhere} \end{array} \right.$$

Examples:

<i>kasih</i> ‘love’	:	[καστη]
<i>kilat</i> ‘lightning’	:	[kilat]
<i>makan</i> ‘eat’	:	[μακαν]
<i>dekat</i> ‘near’	:	[δ<->κατ]
<i>kaki</i> ‘leg’	:	[κακι]
<i>kuku</i> ‘nail’	:	[κυκυ]
<i>kotak</i> ‘box’	:	[κοταʔ]
<i>datuk</i> ‘grandfather’	:	[δατυʔ]
<i>bakti</i> ‘service’	:	[βαʔτι]
<i>masakkan</i> ‘to cook for’	:	[μασαʔκαν]

In this study, the researcher only investigates the phoneme /k/ in one environment, specifically in the word-final position. Hence the researcher the sound of phoneme /k/ in word final position is enclosed in parentheses and named as ‘variable (k)’ instead of using the term ‘phoneme /k/’. This is mainly because the variable (κ) is not equivalent to the phoneme /k/ since it represents only the /k/ in the word-final position such as *budak* ‘child’, *datuk* ‘grandfather’, *esok* ‘tomorrow’ and *cantik* ‘beautiful’. Variable (k) does not represent the /k/ in the word-initial position such as *kata* ‘say’ and *kasih* ‘love’ or the /k/ in the word-medial position as *muka* ‘face’ and *lelaki* ‘male’. Hence, the discussion of this chapter is focused on the variable (k), which only represents the word-final /k/ in SMD.

This study shows that the variable (κ) has three variants, namely glottal stop [ʔ], velar stop [κ], and k-deletion or k-dropping [O]. The /k/word-final is often alternates between [κ] and [ʔ], and sometimes it is deleted [O] in SMD which are can be written as follows:

$$(\kappa) = \text{word-final /k/} \quad : \rightarrow \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\kappa)_{-1} = [ʔ] \\ (\kappa)_{-2} = [O] \\ (\kappa)_{-3} = [\kappa] \end{array} \right.$$

These symbols representing the first variant of the variable (κ) is the glottal plosive [ʔ]; the second variant is the k-deletion [O] and the third variant of the variable (κ) is the velar plosive [κ]. The standard variant is the [ʔ] variant while the [κ] variants and the [O] variant are the non-standard variants. The variable (k) word-final is alternating in SMD as follows:

Examples:

<i>kotak</i> ‘box’	:	[κοτα?] ~ [κοτα]~ [κοτακ]
<i>datuk</i> ‘grandfather’	:	[δατυ?] ~ [δατυ]~ [δατυκ]
<i>katak</i> ‘frog’	:	[κατα?] ~ [κατα]~ [κατακ]
<i>masak</i> ‘to cook’	:	[μασα?] ~ [μασα]~ [μασακ]

As variable (k) is a common feature in the Malay language, it is presented in the speech or stylistic variations of the 90 informants who involved in Word-List Style (WLS) and Reading Passage Style (RPS), and also the speech or stylistic variations of all 108 informants who were involved in Formal Speech (FS) and Casual Speech (CS).

Table 10.1 shows that the variable (κ) in word-final position is variably realised either as [?], [O] or [κ] based on different stylistic variation. The percentage mean of variable (k) realised as [?], [O] and [κ] are 32.62, 0.22 and 67.16% in WLS; 36.78, 0.86 and 62.36% in RPS; 30.42, 5.62 and 63.96% in FS; and 55.16, 39.62 and 5.22% in CS. This shows that the word-final /k/ is realised the highest as [k] (55.16-67.16%); less as [?] (30.42-39.62%); and the least as [O] (0.22-5.62%).

Table 10.1: Descriptive Statistics of Variable (κ) Word-Final

Stylistic Variation	Variant	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
WLS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	90	0	100	32.62	25.43
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	90	0	4	0.22	0.92
	(κ) ₋₃ = [k]	90	0	100	67.16	25.48
RPS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	90	0	97.37	36.78	25.64
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	90	0	23.68	0.86	3.28
	(κ) ₋₃ = [k]	90	2.63	100	62.36	25.90
FS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	108	0	88.89	30.42	23.88
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	108	0	100	5.62	13.66
	(κ) ₋₃ = [k]	108	0	100	63.96	24.23

Table 10.1, cont.

Stylistic Variation	Variant	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
CS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	108	0	100	39.62	29.05
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	108	0	62.5	5.22	11.61
	(κ) ₋₃ = [k]	108	0	100	55.16	29.45

10.2 VARIABLE (κ) AND GENDER

This study shows that in variable (k) or word-final /k/, both gender groups use the most amount of the [κ] variant, a medium amount of the [ʔ] variant and the least amount of the [O] variant in all stylistic variations.

Table 10.2: Percentage Means of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	Male	Female
WLS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	34.91	30.77
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.20	0.24
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	64.89	68.99
RPS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	40.08	34.15
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.47	1.17
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	59.45	64.68
FS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	32.76	28.61
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	6.38	5.04
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	60.86	66.35
CS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	42.47	37.43
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	5.89	4.70
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	51.65	57.88

Males use [κ] between 51.65 and 64.89%, [ʔ] between 32.76 and 42.47%, and use [O] or delete word-final /k/ between 0.2 and 6.38% of the time in different stylistic variations. Females use [κ] between 57.88 and 68.99%, [ʔ] between 28.61 and 37.43%, [O] only between 0.24 and 5.04% of the time in different stylistic variations.

Between the two genders, males use a higher percentage of [ʔ] than females in all the four stylistic variations. Males delete word-final /k/ more than females in FS and CS. Females use a higher percentage of [κ] than males in all the four stylistic variations. However, females delete word-final /k/ more than males in WLS and RPS.

The indices for variable (k) by gender and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 209.2 and 238.22 as shown in Figure 10.1. These index scores incline towards the use of the [κ] variant.

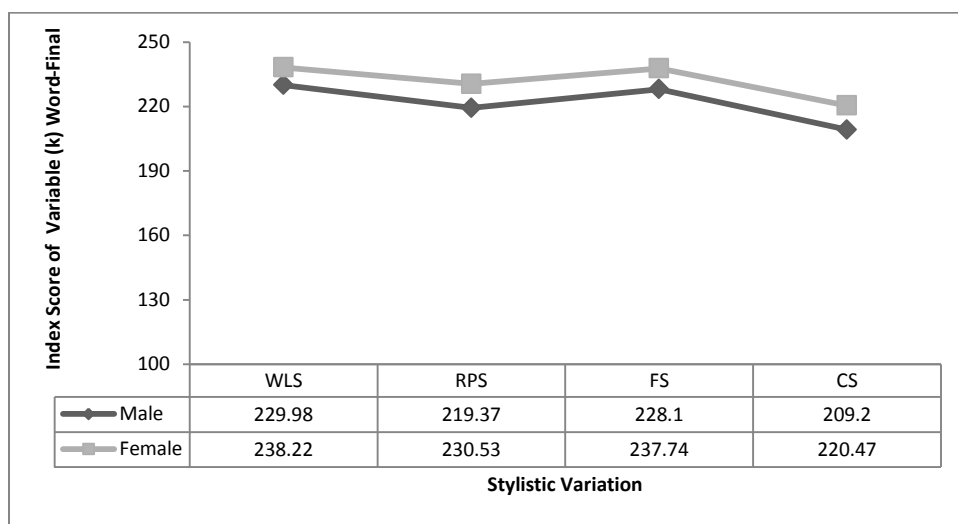


Figure 10.1 Index Score of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Although the variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally seems correlating with gender, as shown by the two distinctive the lines for males and females, the space between these gender lines is not widespread. This is supported by the insignificant percentage differences at 5% level ($p>0.05$) of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally between one gender group in all stylistic variation of WLS, RPS, FS and CS as testified by the Independent-Samples T-Test (Appendix Hi).

The variable (k) realized as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally is also not subject to stylistic variations, as lines inconsistently drop in the less formal style. Both the gender lines drop between WLS-RPS, then have a significance rise at 5% level ($p>0.05$) between RPS-FS for males and females; and again significance drop at 5% level ($p>0.05$) between FS-CS for males and females as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Hii).

As the variable (k) does not correlated with gender variation or stylistic variation, thus it is also neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has no consequential role in the marking of gender differences. There is no significant difference between the speech of males and females with regard to the use of variable (k) in SMD.

10.3 VARIABLE (κ) AND AGE

This study shows that variable (k) or word-final /k/ is realised the most as the [κ] variant, followed by the [?] variant and the least as the [O] variant by all age groups in all stylistic variations. All age groups use [k] between 59.91 and 87.54%, followed by [?] between 15 and 48.40% and [O] between 0.17 and 12.61% in different stylistic variations.

Table 10.3: Percentage Means of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Age and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
WLS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	30.05	31.61	41.30	15.00	.
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.11	0.29	0.18	1.00	.
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	69.84	68.11	58.52	84.00	.
RPS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	33.14	35.92	48.40	11.81	.
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.07	1.24	1.68	0.66	.
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	66.79	62.83	49.91	87.54	.

Table 10.3, cont.

Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
FS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	30.27	29.80	32.88	31.23	24.28
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	5.02	3.84	3.03	12.61	12.39
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	64.71	66.36	64.08	56.16	63.33
CS	(κ) ₋₁ = [?]	40.03	37.92	43.43	35.82	34.57
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	5.49	4.70	3.37	8.11	8.29
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	54.48	57.38	53.20	56.07	57.14

This youngest age group of 15-24 years uses the lowest percentage of [O] or delete word-final /k/ the least among all the age groups in the case of WLS and RPS. The 25-34 year olds age group uses the highest percentage of [κ] among all the age groups in FS and CS. The age group of 35-44 years use the lowest percentage of [O] in FS and CS. The age group of 45-54 year olds deletes word-final /k/ the highest in WLS among all the age groups. It is interesting to note that this age group uses the highest percentage of [κ] and the lowest percentage of [ʔ] in WLS and RPS. This oldest age group of 55-64 year olds deletes word-final /k/ the highest percentage among all age groups. They uses the least of [ʔ] among all the age groups in FS and CS.

The indices for variable (k) by age and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 201.49 to 275.75 as shown in Figure 10.2. These index scores incline towards the use of the [κ] variant.

The graph shows that the variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally has minimal correlation with age groups as each of the age lines are well spread out separating the older old groups from the younger ones, especially between age group of 35-44 and 45-54 in RPS. This is verified by the significant percentage differences at 5% level ($p > 0.05$) of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ] and [κ] word-finally between one age group and another in the stylistic variation of RPS as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Hiii).

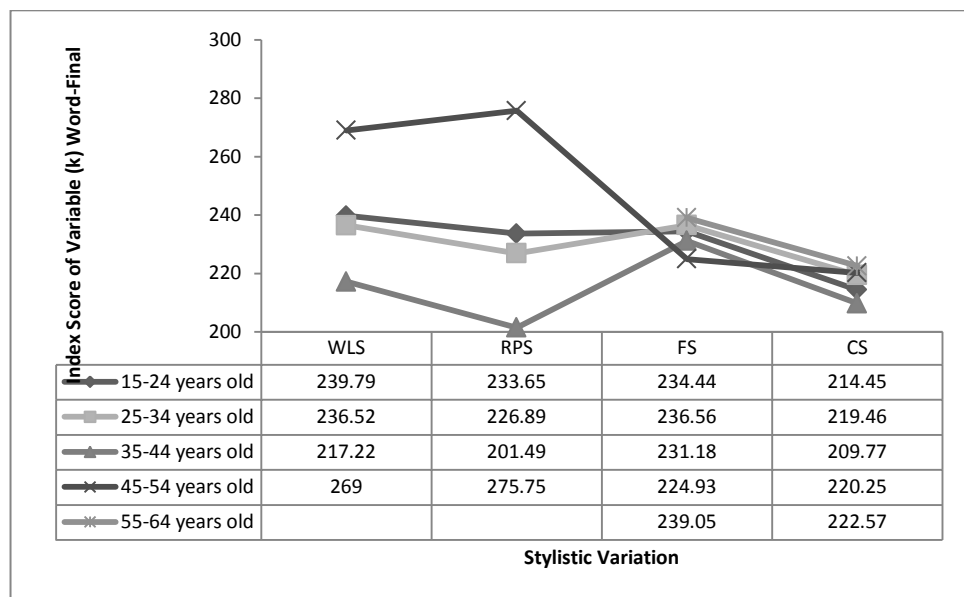


Figure 10.2: Index Score of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Age and Stylistic Variation

On the other hand, the variable (κ) is minimally subject to stylistic variation as most of the age lines generally drop in the less formal style. As tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test, the percentage differences of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally by age are significant at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) between one stylistic variation and another, particularly WLS-RPS for the age group of 35-44 year olds; RPS-FS for the age groups of 15-24 year olds, and 35-44 year olds; and FS-CS for the age groups of 15-24 year olds, and 35-44 year olds (Appendix Hiv).

As the variable (κ) is correlated with age variation and stylistic variation, therefore, variable (κ) is a marker in the speech community of SMD as it has some consequential role in the marking of age differences especially the older age groups from the younger ones in more formal stylistic variations.

10.4 VARIABLE (κ) AND ETHNIC MEMBERSHIP

This study shows that variable (κ) or word-final /k/ is realised the most amount of the [κ] variant, the medium amount of the [ʔ] variant and the least amount of the [O] variant by all ethnic groups in all stylistic variations, except for BGS. Most ethnic

groups use [k] between 24.55 and 74.67%, followed by [ʔ] between 20.03 and 75.04% and [O] between zero and 11.21% in different stylistic variations.

Table 10.4: Percentage Means of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variants	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
WLS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	32.22	25.57	30.53	65.50	25.33	39.43	.
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.22	0.13	0.20	1.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	67.56	74.30	69.27	33.50	74.67	60.57	.
RPS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	38.66	31.80	31.96	59.87	35.80	42.29	.
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.44	1.12	0.00	3.29	0.00	1.18	.
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	60.90	67.08	68.04	36.84	64.20	56.52	.
FS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	30.07	20.03	31.53	52.61	33.01	41.01	30.60
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	4.38	11.21	2.35	0.00	0.00	7.89	3.07
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	65.54	68.76	66.11	47.39	67.00	51.10	66.33
CS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	35.81	36.63	30.61	75.04	45.46	49.45	29.63
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	3.02	9.77	2.15	0.41	0.00	5.79	6.50
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	61.18	53.60	67.24	24.55	54.54	44.76	63.87

Among all the ethnic groups, KDZ uses the highest percentage of [κ] in FS, and [O] in FS and CS. However, this ethnic group uses the lowest percentage of [ʔ] among all ethnicities in RPS and FS. BJU uses the highest percentage of [κ] among all the ethnicities in RPS and CS. Interestingly, BGS uses the highest percentage of [ʔ] and the lowest percentage of [κ] in all the stylistic variations. They also delete word-final /k/ the most, among all the ethnic groups in WLS and RPS. BMP uses the highest percentage of [κ] but the lowest percentage of [ʔ] in WLS. CHN deletes word-final /k/ the least, along with BMP, in WLS. ONB uses the least percentage of [ʔ] among all the ethnic groups in CS.

It was found that the indices of variable (κ) by ethnic membership and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 149.51 and 249.34 as shown in Figure 10.3. These index scores incline towards the use of the (k)-₃ which is the [κ] variant.

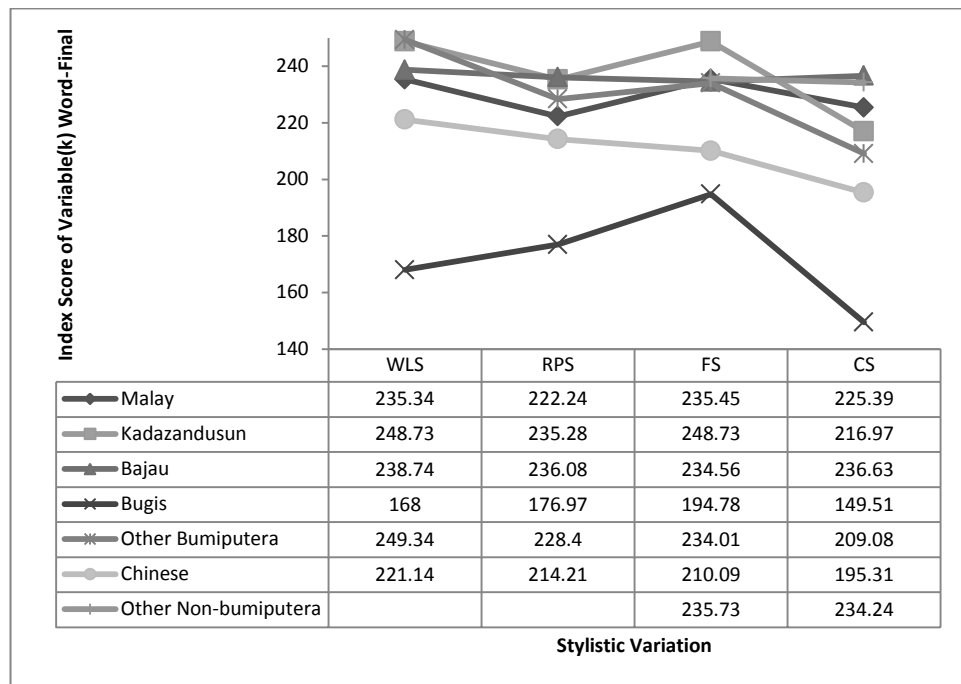


Figure 10.3: Index Score of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

The variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally is minimally subject to ethnic membership where most ethnic lines are quite distinctive for example the BGS line is far separated from MLY, KDZ, BJU and CHN. This is supported by the percentage differences of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ] and [κ] word-finally between BGS and MLY, KDZ, BJU and CHN are significant at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) in three stylistic variations of WLS, FS and CS as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Hv).

The variable (k) is also subject to stylistic variation, as the index graph illustrates that there the percentage use of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally generally drop in the less formal style, indicating the less formal is the

stylistic variation, the more standard variant is used. This is also supported by the Paired-Samples T-Test which show the percentage difference of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally by ethnic membership are significant at the 5% level ($p>0.05$) between one stylistic variation and another, particularly between WLS-RPS for MLY and KDZ; between RPS-FS for MLY, KDZ, BJU and BGS; and between FS-CS for KDZ and BGS (Appendix Hvi).

As the variable (κ) is correlated with ethnic group variation and stylistic variation. Thus, it is a marker in the speech community of SMD as it has some consequential role in the marking of ethnic differences, especially the BGS from the other ethnicities in different stylistic variation.

10.5 VARIABLE (κ) AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

This study shows that in word-final position, variable (k) is realised the highest amount of the [κ] variant, the medium amount of the [ʔ] variant and the lowest amount of the [O] variant or k-deletion by all social strata in all stylistic variations. All social strata use [k] between 42.51 and 76.70%, followed by [ʔ] between 22.19 and 55.06% and [O] between zero and 8.70% in different stylistic variations.

Among all the social strata, LWC uses the highest percentage of [O] or deletes word-final /k/ the most in CS. On the other hand, this group uses the lowest percentage of [κ] in FS, and [O] in RPS. MWC uses the highest percentage of [κ] in RPS, and [O] in FS. In contrast, this group uses the lowest percentage of [ʔ] in WLS and RPS. UWC uses the highest percentage of [κ] in WLS and FS, and [O] in CS. On the other hand, this group uses the lowest percentage of [ʔ] in FS and CS. LMC uses the highest percentage of the [κ] in CS, but the lowest percentage of [O] in FS. MMC

uses the highest percentage of the [ʔ] in all their speech. They use the lowest percentage of [κ] in almost all of their speech except in FS. They delete word-final /k/ the most in WLS and RPS, but the least in CS.

Table 10.5: Percentage Means of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
WLS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	42.00	27.03	23.30	33.66	54.15
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.92
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	58.00	72.67	76.70	66.34	44.92
RPS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	38.30	28.97	35.01	36.67	55.06
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	0.00	0.20	0.47	1.34	2.43
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	61.71	70.83	64.53	61.98	42.51
FS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	36.49	27.09	22.19	30.39	37.73
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	8.70	5.97	6.90	2.41	3.08
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	54.81	66.94	70.91	67.21	59.19
CS	(κ) ₋₁ = [ʔ]	39.25	37.45	35.13	38.46	51.81
	(κ) ₋₂ = [O]	7.08	6.93	7.08	2.31	0.92
	(κ) ₋₃ = [κ]	53.67	55.62	57.79	59.24	47.27

It was found that the indices for variable (κ) by social stratification and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 187.45 to 253.4 as shown in Figure 10.4. These index scores incline towards the use of the [κ] variant.

The variable (κ) has little correlation with social stratification as most of the social strata lines are distinctive especially MMC from MWC and UWC. This is supported by One-Way ANOVA Test which show percentage differences of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally between MMC and MWC; and MMC and UWC in the stylistic variation of WLS and RPS are significant at 5% level ($p < 0.05$) (Appendix Hvii).

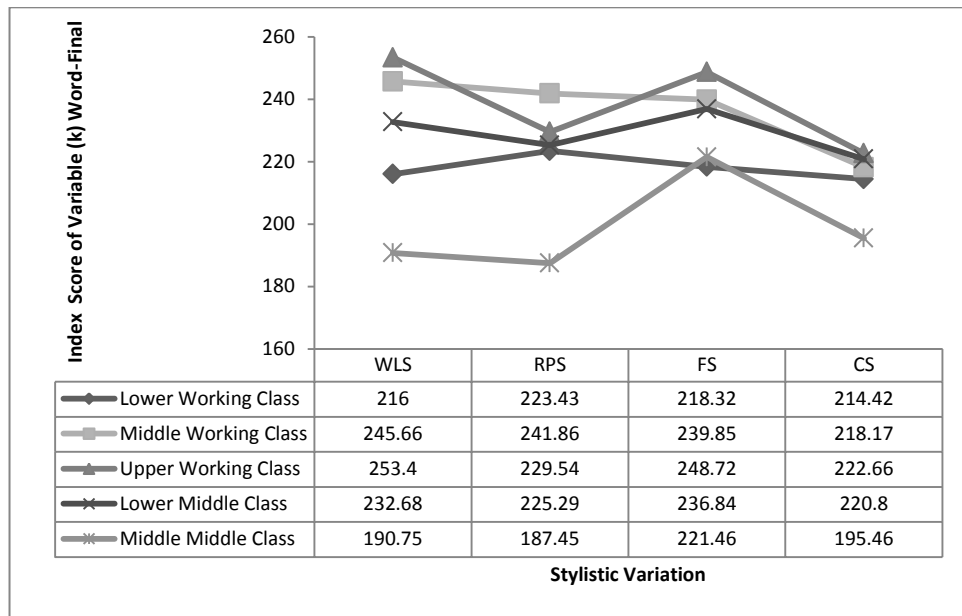


Figure 10.4: Index Score of Variable (κ) Word-Final by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

The variable (k) is also subject to stylistic variation as lines generally drop in the less formal style. This is verified by the percentage differences of variable (κ) realised as [ʔ], [O] and [κ] word-finally by social stratification which are significant at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) between one stylistic variation and another, particularly WLS-RPS for UWC; RPS-FS for LWC, UWC and LMC; and between FS-CS for MWC (Appendix Hviii).

The variable (k) is correlated with social strata variation and stylistic variation, therefore, variable (k) is a maker in the speech community of SMD as it plays some consequential role in the marking of social stratifications differences, especially the middle classes from the working classes in different stylist variations.

10.6 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, for the variable (k), the informants use enormous amounts of the [κ] variant, ranging from zero to 100% and the [ʔ] variant ranging from zero to 100. Conversely, the informants use less of the [O] variant, ranging from zero to 62.5%. The indices for the variable (κ) are ranging between the score of 149.51 to 275.75,

which is corresponding to the use between the [κ] variant and the [ʔ] variant. This also means that the speech community of SMD use a very high percentage of the [κ] variant and medium percentage of the [ʔ] variant and a very low percentage of the [O] variant.

In most cases, the speech community of SMD would use [κατακ] ‘frog’ and [κοτακ] ‘βοξə. However, the variable (k) is correlated with age, ethnic membership and social strata variations. Therefore, the age group of 35-44 year olds, the ethnic group of BGS, and the social stratum of MMC would most likely to use [καταʔ] ‘frog’ and [κοταʔ] ‘βοξə instead. In contrary, the age group of 45-54 year olds, the ethnic groups MLY, KDZ, CHN and ONB, and the social strata of MWC and UWC would be expected to use more of [ʔ] as compared to other social strata.

There is a strong correlation between stylistic variation and social variations of gender, age, ethnic membership and social stratification for the variable (κ). It is interesting to note that the less formal the stylistic variation, the more the standard variant [ʔ] is used.