CHAPTER 11

SOCIAL AND STYLISTIC VARIATIONS OF VARIABLE (ρ)

11.1 INTRODUCTION

In most varieties of Malay, the phoneme /ρ/ is a prominent variable in the sense that sometimes it is realised as velar fricative [⊗] or uvular fricative [{] in the word-initial and medial positions, and other time as pharyngeal fricative [ℵ], velar fricative [⊗] or ρ-deletion [O] in word-final position (Asmah Haji Omar, 1991). In standard Malay, the phoneme /r/ has two allophones, the alveolar trill [ρ] and the r-deletion [O] with the phonemic realisations as follows:

$$/\rho/: \rightarrow \begin{cases} [O] \quad / \_\_\_ \begin{Bmatrix} C \\ \# \end{Bmatrix} \\ [\rho] \quad / \text{ elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

Examples:

rambut 'hair'	:	[ραμβυτ]
rotan 'rotan'	:	[ροταν]
jari 'fingers'	:	[dZari]
barat 'west'	:	[βαρατ]
besar 'big'	:	[βεσαρ] ~ [βεσαO]
kotor 'dirty'	:	[κοτορ] ~ [κοτοO]
kertas 'paper'	:	[κ↔ρτασ] ~ [κ↔Οτασ]
berkata 'to say'	:	[β↔ρκατα] ~ [β↔Οκατα]

In this study, only the phoneme /ρ/ in one environment, in particular the word-final position will be investigated. Hence the sound of phoneme /r/ in word-final position will be enclosed in parentheses and named as 'variable (r)' instead of using

the term ‘phoneme /r/’. This is mainly because the variable (ρ) is not equivalent to the phoneme /ρ/ since it represents only the /r/ in the word-final position such as *bibir* ‘lip’, *ular* ‘snake’ and *tidur* ‘sleep’. Variable /r/ does not represent the /r/ in the word-initial position such *rambut* ‘hair’ and *ringan* ‘light’ or the /r/ in the word-medial position as *dari* ‘preposition from’ and *burung* ‘bird’, or the /r/ in before a consonant such as *kertas* ‘paper’ and *berkata* ‘to say’. Hence, the discussion of this chapter is focused on the variable (r), which representing only the word-final /r/ in SMD.

This study shows that the variable (ρ) has three variants, namely alveolar trill [ρ], alveolar lateral [λ] and r-deletion or r-dropping [O]. The word-final /ρ/ is often alternates between [ρ] and [λ] and [O] in SMD which can be written as follow:

$$(\rho) = \text{word-final /r/} \quad :\rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} (\rho)_{-1} = [O] \\ (\rho)_{-2} = [\lambda] \\ (\rho)_{-3} = [\rho] \end{cases}$$

The above symbol representing the first variant of the variable (ρ) is the r-deletion, which is represented by [O]; the second variant is the alveolar lateral [l] and the third variant is the alveolar trill [ρ]. The standard variant is the [O] variant while [λ] variants and [ρ] variant are the non-standard variants. The variable (r) in word-final position is alternating in SMD as follows:

Examples:

besar ‘big’	:	[βεσαρ] ~ [βεσαλ] ~ [βεσα]
kotor ‘dirty’	:	[κοτορ] ~ [κοτολ] ~ [κοτο]
sedar ‘realise’	:	[σ↔δαρ] ~ [σ↔δαλ] ~ [σ↔δα]
pasar ‘market	:	[πασαρ] ~ [πασαλ] ~ [πασα]

As the variable (r) 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). However, of the 102 informants who involved in FS, the variable (r) is absent in the speech of 6 informants, while for the 102 informants who involved in CS, the variable (r) is absent in the speech of one informant.

Table 11.1 shows that the variable (ρ) is variably realised either as [O], [λ] or [ρ] based on different stylistic variation. The percentage mean of variable (r) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] are 1.76, 0.37 and 97.87% in WLS; 5.79, 1.17 and 93.04% in RPS; 6.36, 1.53 and 92.10% in FS; and 91.97, 2.75 and 5.28% in CS. This shows that the word-final /r/ is realised the highest as [r] (91.97-97.87%); less as [O] (1.76-6.36%); and the least as [l] (0.37-2.75%).

Table 11.1: Descriptive Statistics of Variable (ρ) Word-Final

Stylistic Variation	Variant	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
WLS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	90	0	91.67	1.76	9.95
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	90	0	33.33	0.37	3.51
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [r]	90	8.33	100.00	97.87	10.49
RPS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	90	0	88.24	5.79	12.86
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	90	0	35.29	1.17	4.24
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [r]	90	5.88	100.00	93.04	14.34
FS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	102	0	71.43	6.36	14.15
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	102	0	50.00	1.53	7.16
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [r]	102	22.22	100.00	92.10	17.40
CS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	107	0	81.82	5.28	11.86
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	107	0	76.19	2.75	11.54
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [r]	107	0	100.00	91.97	19.07

11.2 VARIABLE (ρ) AND GENDER

The study shows that in word-final position, both gender groups use the most amount of the [ρ] variant, a medium amount of the [O] variant and the least amount of the [λ] variant in all stylistic variations as shown in Table 11.2.

Table 11.2: Percentage Means of Variable (ρ) Word-Final
by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	Male	Female
WLS	$(\rho)_{-1}$ = [O]	2.92	0.83
	$(\rho)_{-2}$ = [l]	0.00	0.67
	$(\rho)_{-3}$ = [ρ]	97.08	98.50
RPS	$(\rho)_{-1}$ = [O]	5.78	5.80
	$(\rho)_{-2}$ = [l]	1.18	1.17
	$(\rho)_{-3}$ = [ρ]	93.04	93.03
FS	$(\rho)_{-1}$ = [O]	5.54	6.99
	$(\rho)_{-2}$ = [l]	1.15	1.82
	$(\rho)_{-3}$ = [ρ]	93.31	91.19
CS	$(\rho)_{-1}$ = [O]	5.85	4.84
	$(\rho)_{-2}$ = [l]	2.69	2.80
	$(\rho)_{-3}$ = [ρ]	91.46	92.36

Males use [ρ] between 91.46 and 97.08, [λ] between zero and 2.69%, and word-delete word-final /r/ βετωεεν 2.92 and 5.85% of the time in different stylistic variations. Females use [ρ] βετωεεν 91.19 and 98.5%, [λ] between 0.67 and 2.8%, and [O] between 0.83 and 6.99% of the time in different stylistic variations.

Between the two genders, males use the more percentage of [λ] in FS. On the other hand, females uses the highest percentage of [ρ] ιν WLS and the least in FS. They use [O] or delete word-final /r/ the most in FS and the least in WLS as compared to males. Females also use [λ] more than males in WLS, RPS and CS.

The indices for variable (r) by gender and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 284.2 and 297.67 as shown in Figure 11.1. These index scores of variable (ρ) are consistent with the use of [r] variant.

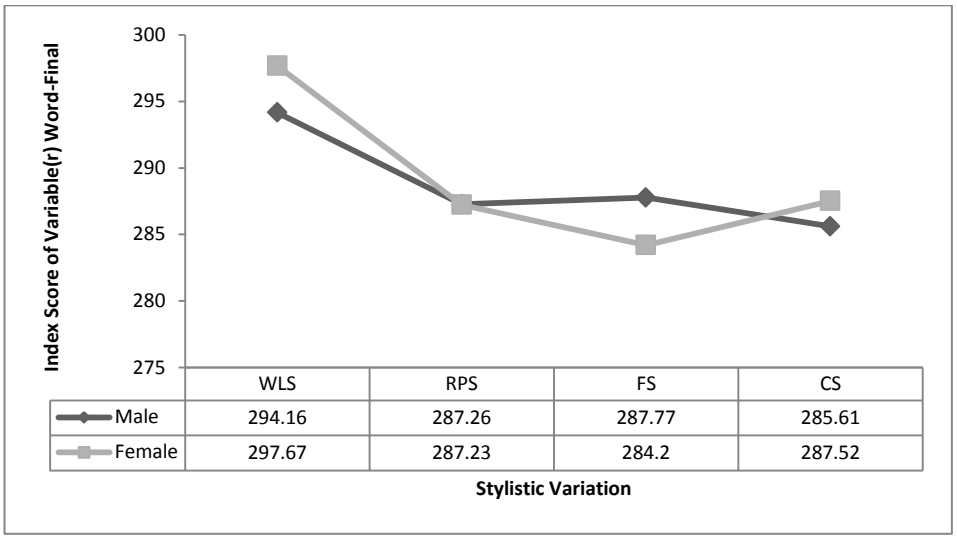


Figure 11.6: Index Score of Variable (ρ) Word-Final by Gender and Stylistic Variation

The variable (ρ) is not subject to gender differentiation as the spaces between the gender lines are narrow and overlapping at some point. This is also proven by the insignificant percentage differences at 5% level (p>0.05) of variable (ρ) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] word-finally between one gender group and another in all stylistic variations of WLS, RPS, FS and CS as tested by the Independent-Samples T-Test (Appendix Ii).

The variable (r) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] word-finally is also not subject to stylistic differentiation, as gender lines inconsistently drop in the less formal style. Both the gender lines drop significantly at 5% level (p<0.05) between WLS-RPS for males and females as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test. Then the gender lines rise and drop inconsistently between RPS-FS and FS-CS for both genders (Appendix Iii).

As the variable (r) does not correlate with gender or stylistic variation, it is also neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD as it has no consequential role in the marking of gender differences. Therefore, there is no

significant difference between the speech of males and females with regard to the use of variable (r) in SMD.

11.3 VARIABLE (ρ) AND AGE

The study shows in word-final position, all age groups use the most amount of the [ρ] variant, a medium amount of the [O] variant and the least amount of the [λ] variant in all stylistic variations as shown in Table 11.3. All age groups use [r] between 81.35 and 100%, followed by [O] between zero and 10.39%, and [l] between zero and 13.45% in different stylistic variations.

Table 11.3: Percentage Means of Variable (ρ) Word-Final
by Age and Stylistic Variation

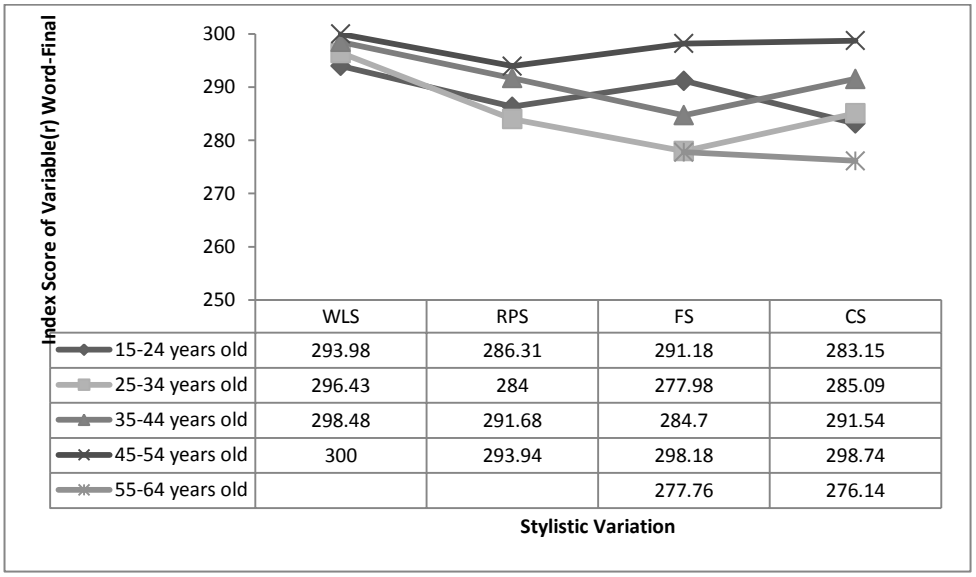
Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
WLS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	3.01	1.19	0.76	0.00	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	1.19	0.00	0.00	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	96.99	97.62	99.24	100.00	.
RPS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	6.60	6.96	3.49	3.03	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.49	2.08	1.34	0.00	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	92.91	90.96	95.17	96.97	.
FS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	3.67	10.39	6.79	0.91	9.44
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	1.48	1.24	1.72	0.00	3.33
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	94.85	88.37	91.49	99.09	87.22
CS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	6.20	7.28	4.23	0.63	5.19
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	4.45	0.35	0.00	0.00	13.45
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	89.35	92.37	95.77	99.37	81.35

Among all the age groups, this youngest age group of 15-24 years uses [O] or deletes word-final /r/ at the highest percentage in WLS. The 25-34 year olds age groups use [O] the most in RPS, FS and CS. They also use the highest percentage of [l] in WLS and RPS. The age group of 45-54 year olds uses the lowest percentage of [λ] and [O]. However, this group uses the highest percentage of [ρ] in all stylistic variations. The age group of 55-64 year olds uses the lowest percentage of [r] and

the most percentage of [l] in both the stylistic variations that they have participated, namely FS and CS.

The indices for variable (r) by age and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 276.14 to 300 as shown in Figure 11.2. These index scores of variable (ρ) are almost consistent with the use of the [r] variant.

The graph shows that the variable (ρ) has little correlation with age groups especially in the less formal styles of CS. Most of the age lines are quite distinctive between one and another. This is in line with as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test which show the percentage differences of variable (ρ) realised as [λ] word-finally especially between the oldest age group with 25-34 and 35-44 year olds one age group are significant at 5% level (p<0.05) (Appendix Iiii).



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
15-24 years old	293.98	286.31	291.18	283.15
25-34 years old	296.43	284	277.98	285.09
35-44 years old	298.48	291.68	284.7	291.54
45-54 years old	300	293.94	298.18	298.74
55-64 years old			277.76	276.14

Figure 11.2: Index Score of Variable (ρ) Word-Final by Age and Stylistic Variation

The variable (r) is subject to stylistic differentiation to some extent. This is due to the age lines inconsistently drop in the less formal style. Index score are only consistently and significantly drop at the 5 % level (p<0.05) between WLS-RPS in three younger age groups such as 15-24 year olds, 25-34 year olds and 35-44 year olds.

The index scores are then rise and drop inconsistently between RPS-FS and FS-CS for all age groups as shown in the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Iiv).

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As the variable (r) is correlated with age variation but not stylistic variation, therefore variable (r) is an indicator in the speech community of SMD as it has some consequential role in the marking of age differences between the younger age groups from the older one especially in more formal stylistic variations.

11.4 VARIABLE (ρ) AND ETHNIC MEMBERSHIP

The study finds that in variable (r) or word-final /r/, most ethnic groups use the highest amount of the [ρ] variant, a medium amount of the [O] variant and the least amount of the [λ] variant in all stylistic variations except for CHN, where they use more [l] than [O] after [r]. All ethnic groups use [r] between 47.79 and 100%, followed by [O] between zero and 31.79%, and [l] between zero and 28.44% in different stylistic variations.

Table 11.4: Percentage Means of Variable (ρ) Word-Final
by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
WLS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	0.46	0.54	0.00	1.04	1.39	16.67	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.76	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	99.54	99.46	100.00	98.96	98.61	78.57	.
RPS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	3.29	3.64	3.23	3.68	5.44	31.79	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	1.63	0.19	0.59	1.47	0.00	6.64	.
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	95.08	96.17	96.18	94.86	94.57	61.56	.

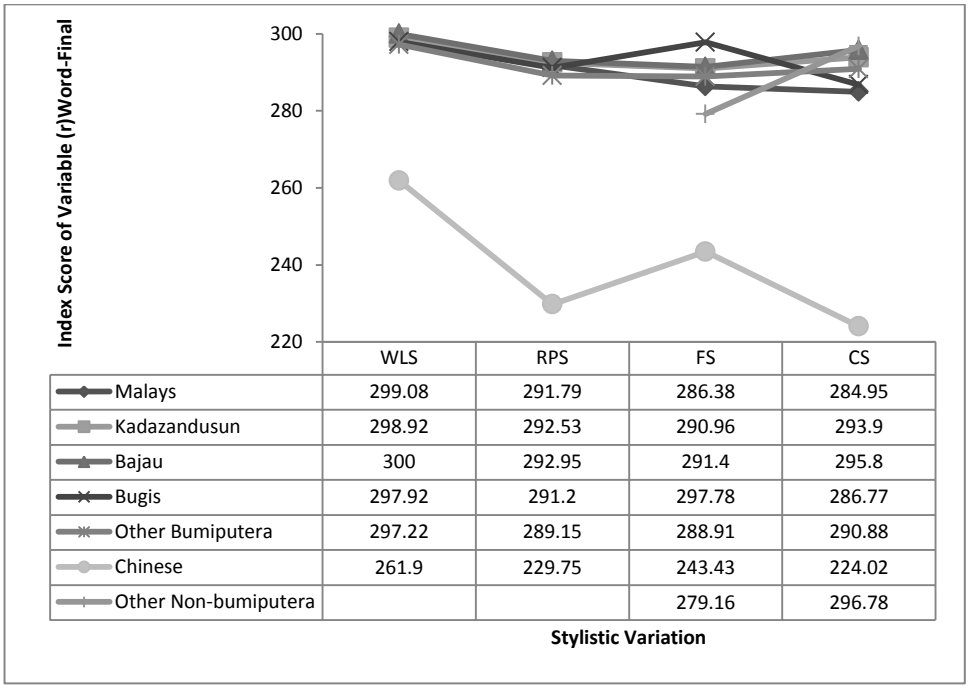
Table 11.4, cont.

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
FS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	6.81	4.16	3.60	1.11	5.56	24.80	8.35
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	0.69	1.43	0.00	0.00	6.94	4.17
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	93.19	95.14	94.98	98.89	94.45	68.25	87.49
CS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	6.23	3.05	2.10	6.63	4.56	23.77	1.61
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.44	0.00
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	91.20	96.95	97.90	93.38	95.44	47.79	98.39

Among all the ethnic groups, BJU uses the highest percentage of [ρ], and the lowest percentage of [O] or word-final /r/ deletion in WLS and RPS. BGS uses the highest percentage of [ρ], and the lowest percentage of [O] in FS. It is interesting to note that CHN uses the most [l] and deleted word-final /r/ the most in all stylistic variations. They also uses [r] the least, among all the ethnic groups. ONB uses the most percentage of [r] and the least percentage of [O] ιν CS.

The indices for variable (r) by ethnic membership and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 224.02 to 300 (see Figure 11.3). These index scores of variable (ρ) for most ethnic groups lean towards the use the [r] variant and the index scores of CHN however lay between the [l] variant and the [r] variant.

The variable (r) is subject a little to ethnic group differentiation. The graph shows that CHN is distinctive from the other ethnic groups. Most of the percentage differences of variable (ρ) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] word-finally between one ethnic group and another particularly between CHN and other ethnic groups are significant at 5% level ($p<0.05$) in all stylistic variations as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Iv).



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Malays	299.08	291.79	286.38	284.95
Kadazandusun	298.92	292.53	290.96	293.9
Bajau	300	292.95	291.4	295.8
Bugis	297.92	291.2	297.78	286.77
Other Bumiputera	297.22	289.15	288.91	290.88
Chinese	261.9	229.75	243.43	224.02
Other Non-bumiputera			279.16	296.78

Figure 11.3: Index Score of Variable (ρ) Word-Final by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

The graph also shows that there is not stylistic variation as the ethnic lines are inconsistently dropped in the less formal style except between WLS-RPS. This is supported by the significance percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (ρ) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] word-finally by ethnic membership between one stylistic variation and another, i.e. WLS-RPS for MLY, KDZ, BJU and BGS as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Ivi).

As the variable (r) is correlated with ethnic group variation but not stylistic variation. Therefore, the variable (r) is an indicator in the speech community of SMD as it has some consequential role in the marking of ethnic differences especially the CHN from the other ethnic groups in more formal styles especially between WLS-RPS. Among other ethnic groups, there is no significant difference in the use variable (r) in SMD.

11.5 VARIABLE (ρ) AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

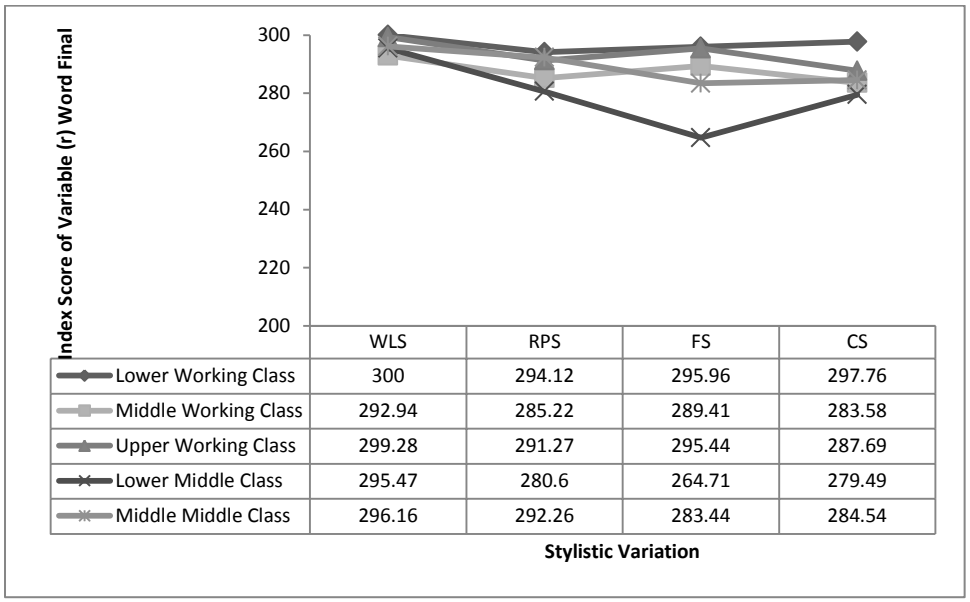
In word-final /r/, all social strata use the highest amount of the [ρ] variant, the medium amount of the [O] variant and the least amount of the [λ] variant in all stylistic variations as shown in Table 11.5. All social strata use [r] between 79.56 and 100%, followed by [O] between zero and 14.85%, and [l] between zero and 5.73% in different stylistic variations.

Table 11.5: Percentage Means of Variable (ρ) Word-Final
by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
WLS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	0.00	3.53	0.36	1.52	1.92
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.52	0.00
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	100.00	96.47	99.64	96.97	98.08
RPS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	2.94	6.81	4.25	8.51	3.19
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	1.13	0.26	2.38	1.36
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	97.06	92.05	95.50	89.11	95.45
FS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	2.02	4.60	2.28	14.85	8.28
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	1.39	0.00	5.59	0.00
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	97.98	94.01	97.72	79.56	91.72
CS	$(\rho)\text{-}_1$ = [O]	1.12	6.68	3.29	8.93	6.46
	$(\rho)\text{-}_2$ = [l]	0.00	3.09	5.73	2.65	2.54
	$(\rho)\text{-}_3$ = [ρ]	98.88	90.24	90.98	88.42	91.00

Among all the social strata, LWC uses the highest percentage of [ρ] in all stylistic variations. On the other hand, this group has the lowest percentage of [O] or word-final /r/ deletion and none of the [λ] in all stylistic variations. MWC uses the highest percentage of [ρ] and the lowest percentage in WLS. The LMC uses the lowest percentage of the [ρ] but the highest percentage of [O] in RPS, FS and CS. At the same time, this social group also uses the highest percentage of [l] in WLS, RPS and FS.

The indices for variable (r) by social stratifications and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 264.71 to 300 as shown in Figure 11.4. These index scores of variable (ρ) are almost consistent with the use the [r] variant.



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Lower Working Class	300	294.12	295.96	297.76
Middle Working Class	292.94	285.22	289.41	283.58
Upper Working Class	299.28	291.27	295.44	287.69
Lower Middle Class	295.47	280.6	264.71	279.49
Middle Middle Class	296.16	292.26	283.44	284.54

Figure 11.4: Index Score of Variable (ρ) Word-Final by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

The graph shows that the variable (ρ) has little correlation with social stratifications especially in FS where social strata lines are well spread out especially between one social strata and another in FS. This is supported by the significant percentage differences at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (ρ) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] word-finally between LMC and LWC, and between LMC and UWC (see 11.4.2) as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Ivii).

Generally, the variable (r) has very little correlation with stylistic variation. The graph also shows only some social strata lines consistently drop in less formal style especially between WLS-RPS and RPS-FS, others are inconsistently rising or dropping. The percentage differences of variable (ρ) realised as [O], [λ] and [ρ] word-finally by social stratification are significant at the 5 % level (p<0.05) between one

stylistic variation and another, particularly between WLS-RPS for MWC, UWC and LMC; and between RPS-FS for MWC as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test. Thus, it can be conclude that variable (r) does not correlate with stylistic variation (Appendix Iviii).

As the variable (r) is correlated with social stratification variation and very little to stylistic variation. Therefore, variable (r) is an indicator in the speech community of SMD as it has some consequential role in the marking of social stratifications differences especially the middle class (LMC) from the working class (LWC and UWC) in more formal stylistic variation of FS and CS. However, other social strata do not make any significant difference in the use of variable (r) in SMD.

11.6 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all the informants use enormous amounts of the [ρ] variant ranging from zero to 100%; the [λ] variant ranging from zero to 76.1%; and the [O] variant ranging from zero to 91.67. The indices for the variable (ρ) are ranging between the score of 224.02 to 300, which is almost consistent with of the [?] variant. This also means that in general the informants use a very high percentage of the [ρ] variant and less percentage of the [λ] variant and the [O] variant in SMD.

In most cases, the speech community of SMD would use [βɛ↔σαρ] 'big' and [κοτορ] 'dirtyə as [βɛ↔σαρ] or [βɛ↔σα]; and [κοτορ] or [κοτο] and seldom as [κοτολ] and [βεσαλ]. However, as the variable (r) is correlated with age, ethnic membership and social strata variations. Most ethnic groups except for CHN, and the social strata of LWC and UWC would tend to utter [kotor] and [besar] with an alveolar trill [ρ]. In contrary, ethnic of CHN and social stratum of LMC would most likely to

use the r-deletion as they most likely to utter [koto] and [besa] as compared to all other social groups. On the other hand, the age group of 55-64 year olds and the ethnic group of CHN would most likely to use [κοτολ] and [βεσαλ].

There is a correlation between with stylistic variation and social variations of gender, age, ethnic membership, and social stratification for the variable (ρ) especially in the more formal stylistic variation. It is interesting to note that the less formal the stylistic variation, the more the standard variant [O] is used. This is particularly true between WLS-RPS for the gender, age, ethnic membership, and social stratification variations; and also between RPS-FS for social stratification variation.