CHAPTER 6

SOCIAL AND STYLISTIC VARIATIONS OF VARIABLE (↔)

6.1   INTRODUCTION

The phoneme /↔/ in most varieties of the Malay language is not a common variable. In most dialects of Malay, the phoneme /↔/ is always realised as mid central unrounded vowel [↔], whether it is in word-initial, word-medial or word-final positions. In Standard Malay, the phoneme /↔/ is often realised as [↔], however, it is sometimes deleted in some environments, such as between a consonant (other than /l, r), n, s/) and /l, r), n, s/ followed by a vowel, and especially when words are uttered in fast speech (Farid M. Onn, 1980). Thus, the phoneme /↔/ has two allophones, mid central unrounded vowel [↔] or ↔-deletion or ↔-dropping [O] with the phonemic realisation as follows:

$$
/\leftrightarrow/:\ \rightarrow\ \begin{cases} [\text{O}] \quad / \quad C_i \underline{\quad} \begin{Bmatrix} l \\ r) \\ n \\ s \end{Bmatrix}_j V \\\\ [\leftrightarrow] \quad / \quad \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}
$$

*condition $_{i \neq j}$

Examples:

emak	'mother'	:	[↔μα?]
empat	'four'	:	[↔μπατ]
entah	'don't know'	:	[↔νταη]
βεσαρ	'big'	:	[β↔σα]
κεχιλ	'small'	:	[κ↔τΣιλ]
πεηα	'thigh'	:	[π↔η↔]
κε	'preposition to'	:	[κ↔]

selesema	'flu'	:	[σ↔λ↔σ↔μ↔]	~

[σ↔λ↔σμ↔]

cerah	'bright'	:	[τΣ↔ραη] ~ [τΣραη]
majenun	'magnum'	:	[μαδΖ↔νυν] ~ [μαδΖνυν]

In this study, only the phoneme /↔/ in two environments, namely in the word-initial position and word-medial position will be investigated. Hence the sounds of phoneme /↔/ in both positions will be enclosed in parentheses and named as 'variable (↔)'. This is mainly because the variable (↔) is not equivalent to the phoneme /↔/ since it represents only the /↔/ word-initial such as *emak, empat* and *entah;* and word-medial positions such as *kepala, telinga, peha* and *tengok*. Variable (↔) does not represent the word-final /↔/ as /↔/ which rarely occurs in this position except, for the preposition *ke* and *me*. Hence, the discussion of this chapter is focused on the variable (↔), which represents the word-initial /↔/ and the word-medial /↔/. If references need to be made specified on either one, the term 'variable (↔) word-initial' and 'variable (↔) word-medial' will be used explicitly.

In SMD, however, the (↔) is a variable in the sense that most speakers sometimes pronounce /↔/ as mid central unrounded vowel [↔] and other times as low back unrounded vowel [α], high front unrounded vowel [i], tense-mid front unrounded vowel [ε], tense-mid back rounded vowel [o] or high back rounded vowel [υ] in the word-initial and word-medial positions. It is also sometimes deleted in word-medial position. Thus, the variable (↔) has five variants: [↔], [ε], [o], [ι] and [α] for word-initial; and seven variants: [↔], [O], [ε], [o], [υ], [ι] and [α] for word-medial. Variable (↔) and its variants can be written as follows:

$$(\leftrightarrow) = \text{word-initial } /\!\leftrightarrow\!/ \; : \; \rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [\varepsilon] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [i] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [\alpha] \end{cases}$$

$$(\leftrightarrow) = \text{word-medial } /\!\leftrightarrow\!/ \; : \; \rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [\varepsilon] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [o] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [\upsilon] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}6 = [\iota] \\ (\leftrightarrow)\text{-}7 = [\alpha] \end{cases}$$

These symbols representing the first variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is the mid-central unrounded vowel $[\leftrightarrow]$ and the second variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is $\leftrightarrow$-deletion or $\leftrightarrow$-dropping $[O]$, the third variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is tense-mid front unrounded vowel $[\varepsilon]$, the fourth variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is tense-mid back rounded vowel $[o]$, the fifth variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is high back rounded vowel $[\upsilon]$, the sixth variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is high close front unrounded vowel $[i]$, and the seventh variant of the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is mid central unrounded vowel $[\alpha]$. The standard variant is the $[\leftrightarrow]$ variant and the rest of the variants are the non-standard.

As the variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ is not a common feature in SMD, it is found presented in some of the speeches of most informants involved. In word-initial position variable

(↔) is found in the speeches of all the 90 participants who were involved in WLS and RPS. It is absent in the speech of 50 informants involved in FS and 42 informants involved in CS. Hence, this variable is only presented in the speech of 58 informants in FS and 66 informants in CS. However, for word-medial position, variable (↔) is found in the speech of all the 90 participants who were involved in WLS and RPS and all the 108 participants involved in FS and CS.

Variable (↔) is variably realised either as [↔], [ε], [ι], [α] or ↔-deletion [O] word-initially. Based on Table 6.1, the percentage mean of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [O], [ε] and [α] word-initially are 95.19, 0.37, 0.37 and 4.07% respectively in WLS. The variable (↔) does not realise as [ι] in WLS. In RPS, the percentage mean of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [ι] and [α] are 97.22, 0.56 and 1.67% respectively. The variable (↔) does not realise as [ε] and [O] in RPS. In FS, the percentage mean of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [O], [ι] and [α] are 65.80, 1.75, 0.84 and 31.64%. The variable (↔) does not realise as [ε] in FS. In CS, the percentage mean of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [ι] and [α] are 73.80, 3.52 and 22.68% respectively. The variable (↔) does not realise as [ε] and ↔-deletion [O] in CS. This shows that the word-initial /↔/ is realised the highest as [↔] (65.80-97.22%); less as [a] (1.67-31.64%); and the least as [ε], [ι] and ↔-deletion [O] (zero-3.52%)

Table 6.1: Descriptive Statistics of Variable (↔) Word-Initial

Stylistic Variation	Variant	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
WLS	(↔)-$_1$ = [↔]	90	33.33	100	95.19	14.62
	(↔)-$_2$ = [O]	90	0	33.33	0.37	3.51
	(↔)-$_3$ = [e]	90	0	33.33	0.37	3.51
	(↔)-$_4$ = [ι]	90	0	0	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-$_5$ = [a]	90	0	66.67	4.07	13.98
RPS	(↔)-$_1$ = [↔]	90	50	100	97.22	11.52
	(↔)-$_2$ = [O]	90	0	0	0.00	0.00

	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [e]$	90	0	50	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [\iota]$	90	0	50	0.56	5.27
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [a]$	90	0	50	1.67	9.03
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow]$	58	0	100	65.80	43.68
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O]$	58	0	100	1.75	13.25
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [e]$	58	0	0	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [\iota]$	58	0	28.57	0.84	4.54
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [a]$	58	0	100	31.64	42.73
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow]$	66	0	100	73.80	39.34
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O]$	66	0	0	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [e]$	66	0	0	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [\iota]$	66	0	100	3.52	15.48
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [a]$	66	0	100	22.68	36.56

However, variable ($\leftrightarrow$) is variably realised as [$\leftrightarrow$], [ɛ], [o], [ʊ], [ɪ], [α] and $\leftrightarrow$-deletion [O] word-medially as shown in Table 6.2. The percentage mean of variable ($\leftrightarrow$) realised as [$\leftrightarrow$], [ɛ], [o], [ʊ], [ɪ] and [α] are 99.35, 0.6, 0.03, 0.15, 0.03 and 0.37% respectively in WLS. The variable ($\leftrightarrow$) is not realised as $\leftrightarrow$-deletion [O]. In RPS, the percentage mean of variable ($\leftrightarrow$) realised as [$\leftrightarrow$], [O], [ɛ], [o], [ʊ], [ɪ] and [α] are 98.60, 0.34, 0.05, 0.05, 0.05 0.06 and 0.84% respectively. In FS, the percentage mean of variable ($\leftrightarrow$) realised as [$\leftrightarrow$], [O], [ɛ], [o], [ʊ], [ɪ] and [α] word-medially are 88.96, 0.46, 0.09, 0.06, 1.50, 4.07 and 4.87% respectively. On the other hand, in CS, the percentage mean of variable ($\leftrightarrow$) realised as [$\leftrightarrow$], [O], [ɛ], [o], [ʊ], [ɪ] and [α] are 89.07, 0.48, 0.13, 0.05, 1.31, 4.35 and 4.62% respectively. This shows that the word-medial /$\leftrightarrow$/ is realised the highest as [$\leftrightarrow$] (88.96-99.35%); less as [a] (0.37-4.87%) and [i] (0.03-4.35); and the least as [ɛ], [ɪ], [u], [o] and $\leftrightarrow$-deletion [O] (zero-1.5%).

Table 6.2: Descriptive Statistics of Variable ($\leftrightarrow$) Word-Medial

Stylistic Variation	Variant	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
WLS	$(\leftrightarrow)_1$ = [↔]	90	83.33	100	99.35	2.36
	$(\leftrightarrow)_2$ = [O]	90	0	0	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_3$ = [e]	90	0	2.78	0.06	0.41
	$(\leftrightarrow)_4$ = [o]	90	0	2.78	0.03	0.29
	$(\leftrightarrow)_5$ = [u]	90	0	5.56	0.15	0.87
	$(\leftrightarrow)_6$ = [ɪ]	90	0	2.78	0.03	0.29
	$(\leftrightarrow)_7$ = [a]	90	0	11.11	0.37	1.62
RPS	$(\leftrightarrow)_1$ = [↔]	90	81.53	100	98.60	2.98
	$(\leftrightarrow)_2$ = [O]	90	0	2.12	0.34	0.53
	$(\leftrightarrow)_3$ = [e]	90	0	2.12	0.05	0.27
	$(\leftrightarrow)_4$ = [o]	90	0	1.61	0.05	0.25
	$(\leftrightarrow)_5$ = [u]	89	0	0.8	0.05	0.15
	$(\leftrightarrow)_6$ = [ɪ]	90	0	1.61	0.06	0.22
	$(\leftrightarrow)_7$ = [a]	90	0	18.07	0.84	2.57
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)_1$ = [↔]	108	0	100	88.96	17.26
	$(\leftrightarrow)_2$ = [O]	108	0	11.11	0.46	1.46
	$(\leftrightarrow)_3$ = [e]	108	0	8	0.09	0.78
	$(\leftrightarrow)_4$ = [o]	108	0	2.02	0.06	0.31
	$(\leftrightarrow)_5$ = [u]	108	0	18.37	1.50	3.15
	$(\leftrightarrow)_6$ = [ɪ]	108	0	33.33	4.07	6.27
	$(\leftrightarrow)_7$ = [a]	108	0	94.32	4.87	12.81
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)_1$ = [↔]	108	24.19	100	89.07	15.10
	$(\leftrightarrow)_2$ = [O]	108	0	11.45	0.48	1.42
	$(\leftrightarrow)_3$ = [e]	108	0	3.13	0.13	0.48
	$(\leftrightarrow)_4$ = [o]	108	0	1.8	0.05	0.25
	$(\leftrightarrow)_5$ = [u]	108	0	13.21	1.31	2.29
	$(\leftrightarrow)_6$ = [ɪ]	108	0	37.04	4.35	6.59
	$(\leftrightarrow)_7$ = [a]	108	0	54.84	4.62	9.69

6.2   VARIABLE (↔) AND GENDER

(a)   WORD-INITIAL /↔/

This study finds that, variable (↔) is realised the most as [↔] followed by the [a] and [ɪ] in word-initial /↔/ by both genders. Males use 62.87% of [↔] at the least, and 32.19% of [α], 1.52% of [ɪ], 0.83% [e] and 3.85% [O] at the most, while females use 68.18% of [↔] at the least, and 31.2% of [α] , 0.67% of [O] and 1% of [ɪ] at the most, in different stylistic variations.

Table 6.3: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Initial
by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	Male	Female

WLS	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-1} = [\leftrightarrow]$	93.33	96.67
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-2} = [O]$	0.00	0.67
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-3} = [\varepsilon]$	0.83	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-4} = [\iota]$	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-5} = [\alpha]$	5.82	2.67
RPS	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-1} = [\leftrightarrow]$	97.50	97.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-2} = [O]$	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-3} = [\varepsilon]$	0.00	1.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-4} = [\iota]$	0.00	1.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-5} = [\alpha]$	2.50	1.00
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-1} = [\leftrightarrow]$	62.87	68.18
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-2} = [O]$	3.85	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-3} = [\varepsilon]$	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-4} = [\iota]$	1.10	0.63
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-5} = [\alpha]$	32.19	31.20
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-1} = [\leftrightarrow]$	73.97	73.63
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-2} = [O]$	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-3} = [\varepsilon]$	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-4} = [\iota]$	5.52	1.52
	$(\leftrightarrow)_{-5} = [\alpha]$	20.51	24.85

Between the two genders, males use a higher percentage of [↔] in RPS and CS. Males also use higher percentage of [ι] in FS and CS, [a] in WLS, RPS and FS, and [e] in WLS word-initial. On the other hand, females use higher percentage of [↔] variant in WLS and FS, [i] in WLS and RPS, [a] in CS and [e] in RPS, FS and CS in word-initial position.

The indices for variable (↔) by gender and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 109 and 235.92 as shown in Figure 6.1. These index scores of variable (↔) correspond to the use between (↔)-1 and (↔)-3, which are the [↔] and [e] variant.

The variable (↔) is not subject to gender differentiation, as both the gender lines are almost overlapping each other and the space separating them is almost invisible in all four stylistic variations. Furthermore, the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ι], [ε] and [O] word-initially between one gender and another in different stylistic variation are insignificant at the 5% level ($p>0.05$) as testified by the Independent-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Di).

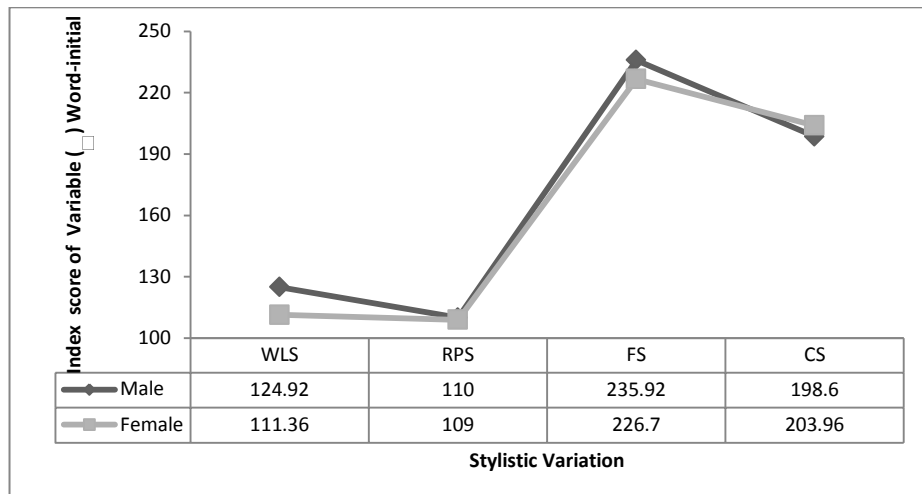| Stylistic Variation	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Male	124.92	110	235.92	198.6
Female	111.36	109	226.7	203.96

Figure 6.1: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Initial by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Variable (↔) is also not subject to the stylistic differentiation as the gender lines are moving up and down instead of consistently rising or dropping in the less formal style. This is supported by the insignificant percentage differences at the 5% level ($p > 0.05$) of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ɪ], [ɛ] and [O] word-initially, by gender from one stylistic variation to another as confirmed by the Paired-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Dii).

Thus, the variable (↔) in word-initial position does not correlate with gender variation or stylistic variation. It is neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD as it has no consequential role in the marking of gender differences. There is no significant linguistic differences in the speech between males and females in relation to variable (↔) in word-initial position.

(b)   WORD-MEDIAL /↔/

Similarly in word-medial position, variable (↔) is realised the most as [↔], medium amount of [a] and followed by little or none of [ɪ], [u], [e], [o] and [O] by both genders in all the stylistic variation.

Table 6.4: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Medial
by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	Male	Female
WLS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	99.24	99.44
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.11
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.07	0.00
	(↔)-5 = [u]	0.21	0.11
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	0.00	0.06
	(↔)-7 = [α]	0.49	0.28
RPS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	98.03	99.06
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.43	0.27
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.07	0.04
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.04	0.06
	(↔)-5 = [u]	0.08	0.02
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	0.10	0.02
	(↔)-7 = [α]	1.24	0.52
FS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	90.67	87.64
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.62	0.34
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.03	0.13
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.09	0.05
	(↔)-5 = [u]	1.10	1.80
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	2.60	5.20
	(↔)-7 = [α]	4.90	4.84
CS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	91.14	87.48
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.64	0.36
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.17	0.09
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.10	0.00
	(↔)-5 = [u]	1.41	1.23
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	2.81	5.53
	(↔)-7 = [α]	3.73	5.31

Males use a maximum of 90.67% of [↔], α minimum oφ 4.9% of [α], 2.81% of [ɪ], 1.41% of [u], 0.1% of [o], 0.17% of [e] and 0.64% of [O] in /↔/ word-medial, while females use a maximum of 87.48% of [↔], α minimum oφ 5.31% of [α], 5.53% of [ɪ], 1.8% of [u], 0.06% of [o], 0.13% of [e] and 0.36% of [O], in different stylistic variations. Between the two genders, males use higher percentage of [ɛ] in FS and CS, but females use higher percentage of [ɛ] variant in WLS and RPS.

The indices for variable (↔) by gender and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 102.64 and 164.97 as shown in Figure 6.2. These index scores of variable

(↔) correspond to the use between (↔)-1 and (↔)-2, which are the [↔] and [O] variant.

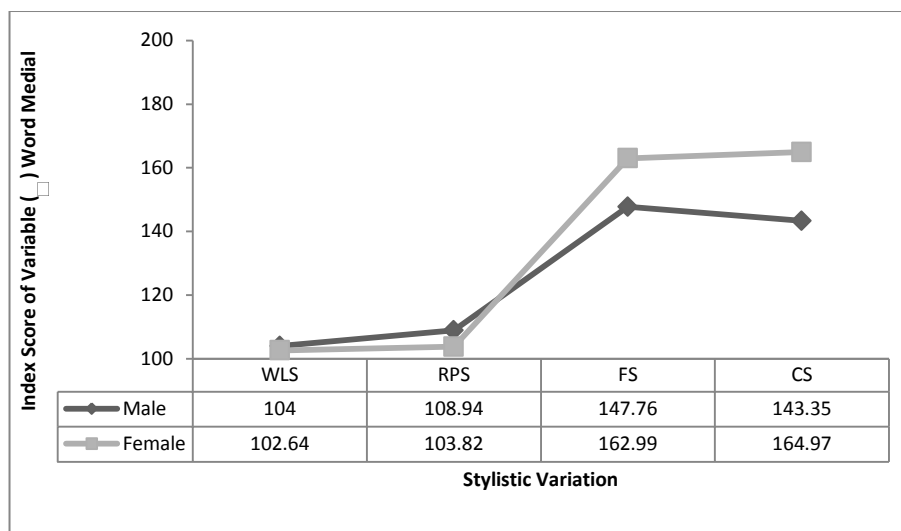| Stylistic Variation	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Male	104	108.94	147.76	143.35
Female	102.64	103.82	162.99	164.97

Figure 6.2: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Medial by Gender and Stylistic Variation

The variable (↔) in word-medial position is subject to gender differentiation as both gender lines are more spread out as compared to word-initial. This is in line with the significant percentage differences at the 5 % level ($p<0.05$) of variable (↔) realised as [i] and [o] word-medially between males and females in stylistic variations of FS and CS as tested in the Independent-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Diii).

The variable (↔) is also subject to the stylistic differentiation as the gender lines consistently rise in the less formal style especially for males. The less formal the speech context, the more the non-standard variants are used. This is further proven by the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ɪ], [ʊ], [o], [ɛ] and [O] word-medially, for both genders from one stylistic variation to another especially between WLS-RPS and RPS-FS are significant at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) tested in the Paired-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Div).

Thus, the variable (↔) in word-medial position is correlated with both gender and stylistic variations, it is a marker in the speech community of SMD as it has strong significant role in the marking of gender differences especially in less formal stylistic variation of FS and CS. In both FS and CS, females use more [i] than males. However, males use more [o] in CS as compared to females.

6.3 VARIABLE (↔) AND AGE

(a) WORD-INITIAL /↔/

The study shows that variable (↔) is realised the most as [↔] followed by less or none of [a], [ɪ], [e] and [O] by all age groups in different stylistic variation. All age groups use [↔] between 22.92 and 98.61%, [a] between zero and 66.82%, [ɪ] between zero and 10.27%, [e] between zero and 1.79 and [O] between zero and 11.11% in word-initial /↔/ as shown in Table 6.5.

Table 6.5: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Initial
by Age and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
WLS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	96.30	98.81	89.39	91.67	.
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-3 = [ε]	0.00	0.00	1.52	0.00	.
	(↔)-4 = [ɪ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-5 = [α]	2.78	1.19	9.09	8.33	.
RPS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	98.61	98.21	97.73	75.00	.
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-3 = [ε]	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-4 = [ɪ]	1.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-5 = [α]	0.00	0.00	2.27	25.00	.
FS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	85.19	87.50	61.51	46.43	42.54
	(↔)-2 = [O]	11.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-3 = [ε]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-4 =	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.40

	[ɪ]					
	(↔)-5 = [α]	3.70	12.50	38.49	53.57	52.06
CS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	90.91	93.75	79.00	41.67	22.92
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-4 = [ɪ]	0.00	0.00	4.17	7.14	10.27
	(↔)-5 = [α]	9.09	6.25	16.84	51.19	66.82

Among all the age groups, the youngest age group of 15-24 year olds uses higher percentage of [↔] in RPS. The age group of 25-34 year olds uses highest percentage of [↔] in almost all stylistic variations except RPS. The age group of 35-44 year olds uses lowest percentage of [↔], thus the highest percentage of [a] in WLS. The age group of 45-54 year olds uses the lowest percentage of [↔], and therefore they use the highest percentage of [a] in RPS as compared to other age groups. The oldest age group of 55-64 year olds uses the lowest percentage of [↔] in both FS and CS, and the highest percentage of [a] and [i] in CS.

The indices for variable (↔) by age and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 103.58 and 398.10 as shown in Figure 6.3. These index scores correspond to the use between (↔)-1 and (↔)-3, which are the [↔] and [e] variants for the younger age groups; and between (↔)-1 and (↔)-4, which are the [↔] and [i] variants for the two older age groups.
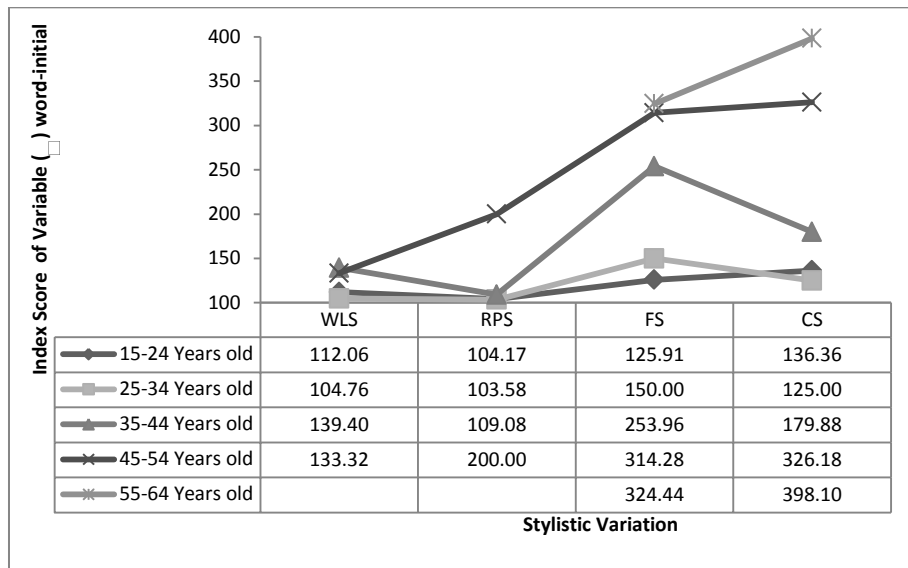
	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
15-24 Years old	112.06	104.17	125.91	136.36
25-34 Years old	104.76	103.58	150.00	125.00
35-44 Years old	139.40	109.08	253.96	179.88
45-54 Years old	133.32	200.00	314.28	326.18
55-64 Years old			324.44	398.10

Stylistic Variation

Figure 6.3: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Initial by Age and Stylistic Variation

Although the younger age group lines are quite close to each other, the two older age group lines are well spaced out from the younger ones. The older the age group, the lesser the standard variant [↔] is used. Therefore, these index scores show that the variable (↔) is subject to age differentiation. Furthermore, the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ι], [ε] and [O] word-initially between one age group and another in different stylistic variation are significant at the 5% level ($p<0.05$), especially [ι] and [α] between the older (45-64 year olds) and younger (15-44 year olds) age groups in RPS, FS and CS, as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (see Appendix Dv).

Similarly, although not all the age lines are generally rising in the less formal style, there is a consistent rise for all age groups between formal and less formal speeches. These index scores show that the variable (↔) is subject to stylistic differentiation. The less formal the speech style, the less the standard variant [↔] is used. This is supported by the significant percentage differences at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ι], [ε] and [O] word-initially, by age

from one stylistic variation to another as clarified in Paired-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Dvi).

Therefore, the variable (↔) is correlated with both age and stylistic variations in word-initial position. Thus, the variable (↔) is a marker in the speech community of SMD. It has some consequential role in the marking of age differences especially the younger age groups (15-44 year olds) from the older ones (45-64 year olds).

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /↔/

This study shows that in word-medial position, variable (↔) is realised the most as the [↔] variant and followed by little or none of the [a], [ɪ], [u], [e], [o] and [O] variants by all the age groups in different stylistic variations. All the age groups use not less than 60.42% of [↔], but not more than 20.86% of [a], 15.16% of [ɪ], 7.72% of [u], 0.5% of [o], 0.63% of [e], and 0.78% of [O] in word-medial /↔/ as shown in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Medial
by Age and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
WLS	$(↔)-_1 =$ [↔]	99.92	99.40	99.12	95.14	.
	$(↔)-_2 =$ [O]	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	.
	$(↔)-_3 =$ [ɛ]	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	$(↔)-_4 =$ [o]	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	.
	$(↔)-_5 =$ [u]	0.00	0.20	0.00	2.09	.
	$(↔)-_6 =$ [ɪ]	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	.
	$(↔)-_7 =$ [α]	0.00	0.20	0.76	2.78	.

Table 6.6, continued

Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
RPS	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_1$ = [$\leftrightarrow$]	99.68	99.02	98.34	87.39	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_2$ = [O]	0.23	0.32	0.53	0.53	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_3$ = [ɛ]	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.63	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_4$ = [o]	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.50	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_5$ = [u]	0.00	0.06	0.07	0.30	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_6$ = [ɩ]	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.62	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_7$ = [α]	0.06	0.44	0.97	10.03	.
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_1$ = [$\leftrightarrow$]	95.88	96.73	90.18	76.34	60.42
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_2$ = [O]	0.78	0.50	0.39	0.11	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_3$ = [ɛ]	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.14	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_4$ = [o]	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.29	0.18
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_5$ = [u]	0.19	0.52	1.51	0.99	7.72
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_6$ = [ɩ]	3.05	1.89	4.27	4.39	10.81
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_7$ = [α]	0.11	0.33	3.36	17.74	20.86
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_1$ = [$\leftrightarrow$]	95.73	96.34	90.99	75.35	61.37
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_2$ = [O]	0.49	0.33	0.64	0.20	0.56
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_3$ = [ɛ]	0.03	0.08	0.22	0.32	0.05
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_4$ = [o]	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.34	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_5$ = [u]	0.72	0.65	1.11	1.98	4.34
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_6$ = [ɩ]	2.42	1.90	3.59	6.75	15.16
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_7$ = [α]	0.59	0.71	3.42	15.07	18.52

Among all the age groups, the age group of 15-24 year olds uses [$\leftrightarrow$] the most in FS. The age group of 25-34 year olds deletes variable ($\leftrightarrow$) the most in WLS. The age group of 35-44 year olds deletes variable ($\leftrightarrow$) the most in RPS and CS. They also use the highest percentage of [e] in FS. The age group of 45-54 year olds uses the lowest percentage of [$\leftrightarrow$], thus they use the highest percentage of [u] and [a] in WLS and RPS; $\leftrightarrow$-deletion and [i] in RPS; [e] in RPS and CS; and [o] in RPS, FS and CS.

The age group of 55-64 year olds uses the lowest percentage of [↔]; and the highest percentage of [a], [i] and [u] in FS and CS.

The indices for variable (↔) by age and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100.16 and 310.62 as shown in Figure 6.4. These index scores are almost with the use of the (↔)-$_1$ which are the [↔] variants for the younger age groups; and between the use of the (↔)-$_1$ and (↔)-$_3$, which are the [↔] and [e] variants for the two older age groups.

Although the younger age group lines are quite close to each other, the two older age group lines are well spaced out from the younger ones. Therefore, these index scores show that the variable (↔) is subject to age differentiation. The older the age group, the more the variant choice is moving away from the standard variant [↔] in word-medial /↔/. This is supported by the significant percentage differences at the 5% level ($p < 0.05$) especially between the older (45-64 year olds) and the younger (15-44 year olds) age groups in all stylistic variations of WLS, RPS, FS and CS, which is tested in One-Way ANOVA Test (see Appendix Dvii).
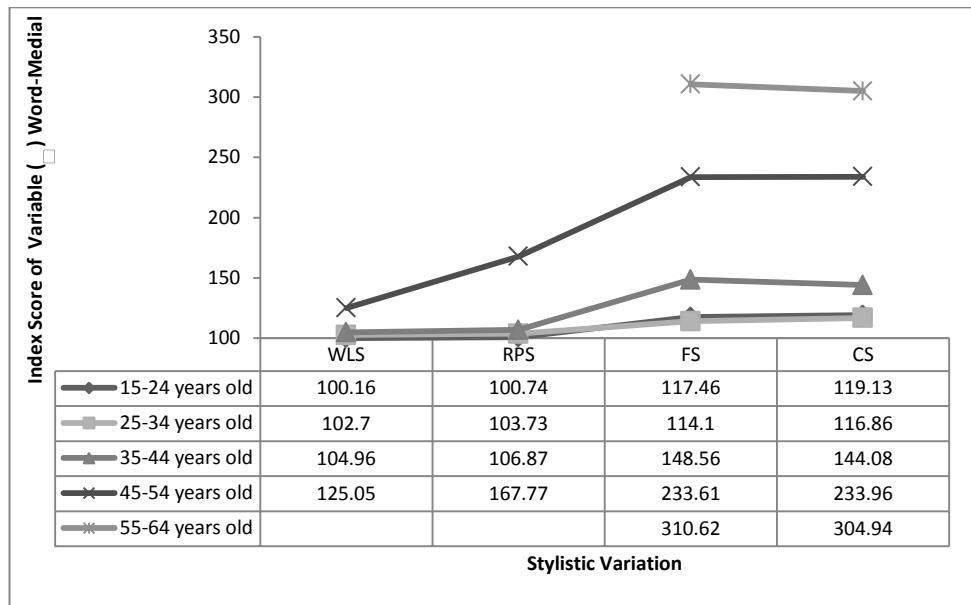
Figure 6.4: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Medial by Age and Stylistic Variation

The movements of the age lines are generally rising in the less formal style especially between RPS-FS. The less formal the stylistic variation, the less the formal variant is used. These index scores show that the variable (↔) is subject to the stylistic differentiation. Furthermore, the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ɪ], [ʊ], [o], [ɛ] and [O] word-medially by age from one stylistic variation to another especially between WLS-RPS and RPS-FS are also significant at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) as tested by Paired-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Dviii).

Therefore, the variable (↔) is correlated with both age and stylistic variations in word-initial position. Thus the variable (↔) is a marker in the speech community of SMD. It has some consequential role in the marking of age differences especially the younger age groups (15-44 year olds) from the older ones (45-64 year olds).

6.4   VARIABLE (↔) AND ETHNIC MEMBERSHIP

(a)   WORD-INITIAL /↔/

The study shows that in word-initial position, variable (↔) is realised the most as the [↔] variant followed by little or none of the [a], [ι], [e] and [O] variants by all the ethnic groups in different stylistic variations. All ethnic groups use [↔] between 32.41 and 100%, followed by [a] between zero and 37.50%, [ι] between zero and 9.86%, [e] between zero and 7.14 and [O] between zero and 9.09%.

Table 6.7: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Initial
by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
WLS	(↔)-$_1$ = [↔]	96.30	91.40	98.33	100.00	100.00	90.48	.
	(↔)-$_2$ = [O]	0.00	0.00	1.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-$_3$ = [ε]	0.00	1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-$_4$ = [ι]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	(↔)-$_5$ = [α]	3.70	7.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.52	.

Table 6.7, continued

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
RPS	$(\leftrightarrow)$-1 = [↔]	97.22	95.16	100.00	100.00	100.00	92.86	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.14	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-4 = [ɪ]	0.00	1.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-5 = [α]	2.78	3.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)$-1 = [↔]	74.11	68.43	84.09	79.17	50.00	50.00	32.41
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	9.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-4 = [ɪ]	3.57	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-5 = [α]	22.32	30.46	6.82	20.83	50.00	50.00	67.59
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)$-1 = [↔]	77.27	64.36	100.00	72.62	100.00	62.50	63.83
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-4 = [ɪ]	2.27	9.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)$-5 = [α]	20.45	25.77	0.00	27.38	0.00	37.50	36.17

Among all ethnic groups, KDZ uses the highest percentage of [a] in RPS. CHN uses the lowest percentage of [↔] in WLS, RPS and CS, thus they also use the highest percentage of [a] in WLS and FS as compared to the other ethnic groups. ONB uses the lowest percentage of [↔] in FS, thus, they use the highest percentage of [a] in FS.

The indices for variable $(\leftrightarrow)$ by ethnic membership and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 370.36 as shown in Figure 6.5. These index scores of variable (ε) in word-initial position correspond to the use between $(\leftrightarrow)$-1 and $(\leftrightarrow)$-4, which are the [↔] and [i] variants.

The variable (↔) is subject little to ethnic group differentiation, as shown by distinctive the ethnic lines especially between CHN and other ethnic groups. This is also confirmed by One-Way ANOVA Test, where the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [a] word-initially, between one ethnic group and another especially between CHN and KDZ, BJU, BGS and BMP in FC are significant at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) (see Appendix Dix).

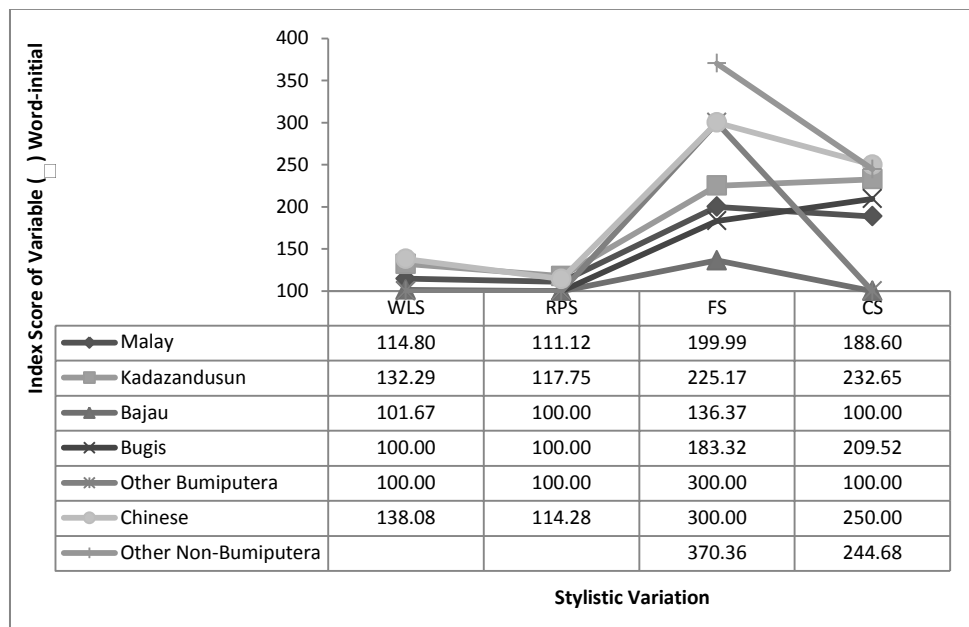|	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Malay	114.80	111.12	199.99	188.60
Kadazandusun	132.29	117.75	225.17	232.65
Bajau	101.67	100.00	136.37	100.00
Bugis	100.00	100.00	183.32	209.52
Other Bumiputera	100.00	100.00	300.00	100.00
Chinese	138.08	114.28	300.00	250.00
Other Non-Bumiputera			370.36	244.68

Figure 6.5: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Initial by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

However, all of the ethnic lines are inconsistently rising in the less formal styles. Thus, these index scores show that the variable (↔) is not subject to the stylistic differentiation. Moreover, the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [O], [e], [i] or [α] word-initially by ethnic group between one stylistic variation and another is insignificant at the 5% level ($p>0.05$) as revealed in Paired-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Dx).

As the variable (↔) is correlated with ethnic group variation but not stylistic variation in word-initial position, thus the variable (↔) is an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has some consequential role in the marking of ethnic membership differences especially in distinguishing the CHN from the KDZ, BJU, BGS and BMP in less formal style. However, other ethnic groups do not make any significant difference in the use of variable (↔) in word-initial position in SMD.

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /↔/

In word-medial position, variable (↔) is realised more as [↔] and less or none of the [a], [ɪ], [u], [o], [e] and [O] by all ethnic groups in different stylistic variation. All ethnic groups use [↔] between 79.89 and 100%, followed by [a] between zero and 8.41%, [ɪ] between zero and 10.81%, [u] between zero and 3.10%, [O] between zero and 1.39%, [e] between zero and 0.62%, and [o] between zero and 0.15%,

Table 6.8: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Medial
by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
WLS	$(↔)_1 = [↔]$	98.92	98.92	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.21	.
	$(↔)_2 = [O]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	$(↔)_3 = [ɛ]$	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	.
	$(↔)_4 = [o]$	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	$(↔)_5 = [u]$	0.31	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
	$(↔)_6 = [ɪ]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	.
	$(↔)_7 = [α]$	0.62	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
RPS	$(↔)_1 = [↔]$	97.49	98.26	99.18	99.40	99.93	99.26	.
	$(↔)_2 = [O]$	0.34	0.38	0.38	0.45	0.00	0.29	.
	$(↔)_3 = [ɛ]$	0.14	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.06	.
	$(↔)_4 =$	0.13	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.

	[o]							
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_5$ = [u]	0.07	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.06	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_6$ = [ɪ]	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.07	0.00	.
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_7$ = [ɑ]	1.78	1.14	0.28	0.05	0.00	0.34	.
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_1$ = [↔]	86.05	87.56	95.34	95.95	92.15	87.42	79.89
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_2$ = [O]	1.39	0.26	0.45	0.67	0.29	0.00	0.17
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_3$ = [ɛ]	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_4$ = [o]	0.13	0.12	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_5$ = [u]	1.06	1.86	0.94	0.43	0.06	1.98	3.10
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_6$ = [ɪ]	3.42	3.08	2.52	1.88	3.26	5.75	10.81
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_7$ = [ɑ]	7.85	7.12	0.73	1.08	4.24	4.86	5.42

Table 6.8, continued

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHN	ONB
CS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	92.64	85.10	92.68	95.52	89.95	88.92	84.29
	(↔)-2 = [O]	1.13	0.24	0.51	0.73	0.00	0.83	0.09
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.12	0.08	0.01	0.19	0.00	0.07	0.49
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.12	0.05	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-5 = [u]	0.66	1.84	0.85	0.63	0.00	1.08	2.66
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	2.77	4.75	4.45	1.22	1.64	7.22	6.63
	(↔)-7 = [ɑ]	2.57	7.94	1.51	1.56	8.41	1.88	5.85

Among all the ethnic groups, MLY uses the lowest percentage of [↔] in WLS and RPS. On the other hand, they use the highest percentage of [O] in FS and CS, [e] in RPS, [o] in RPS and FS, and [a] in RPS. KDZ uses the lowest percentage of [↔] in WLS along with MLY. On the other hand, they use the highest percentage of [u] in WLS and RPS, and [a] in RPS. BGS uses the highest percentage of [O] in RPS, as compared to other ethnic groups. BMP uses the highest percentage of [ɪ] in RPS, and [a] in CS. CHN uses the highest percentage of [ɛ] in WLS and [i] in CS. And among all the ethnic groups, ONB uses the lowest percentage of [↔] in FS and CS, thus they also use the highest percentage of [e] and [u] in both stylistic variation and [i] in FS.

The indices for variable (↔) by ethnic membership and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 200.39 as shown in Figure 6.6. These index scores of variable (ɛ) in word-medial position correspond to the use between (↔)-1 and (↔)-2, which are the [↔] and [O] variants.

The variable (↔) in word-medial position is subject to ethnic group differentiation as shown by the distinctive lines although there are overlapping especially between FS and CS. These index scores show that the variable (↔) is subject to ethnic group differentiation especially between CHN and the other ethnic, such as, MLY, KDZ, BGS, BJU and BMP, and ONB from BGS, BJU and KDZ. In addition to that, the One-Way ANOVA Test also shows that the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ɪ], [ʊ], [o], [ɛ] and [O] word-medially between one ethnic group and another especially the [i] variant between the CHN and other ethnic groups; and between ONB and other ethnic groups are significant at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) (see Appendix Dxi).

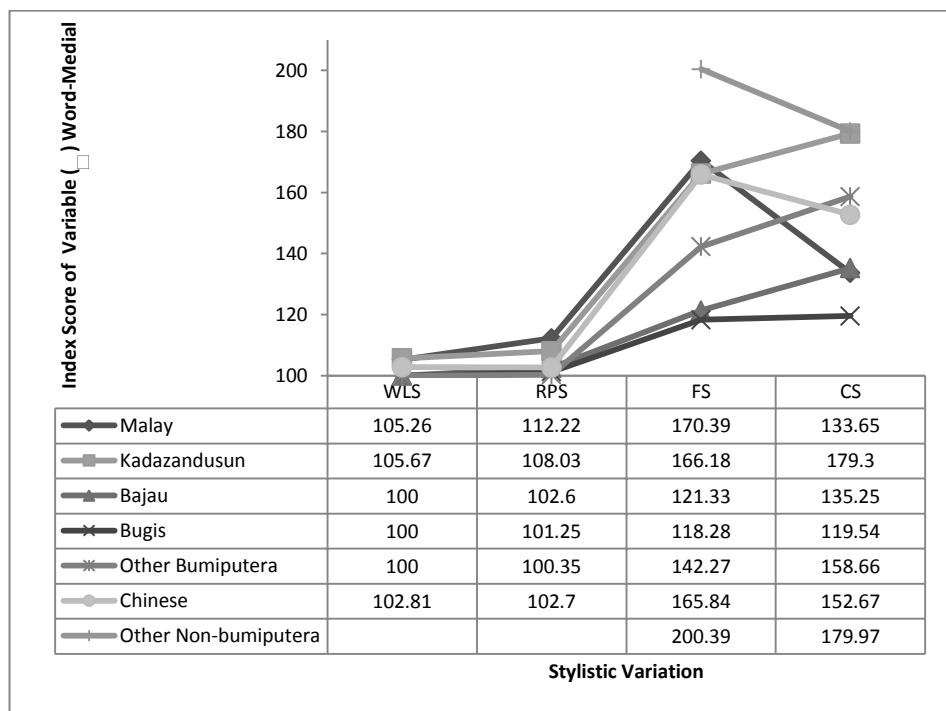|	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Malay	105.26	112.22	170.39	133.65
Kadazandusun	105.67	108.03	166.18	179.3
Bajau	100	102.6	121.33	135.25
Bugis	100	101.25	118.28	119.54
Other Bumiputera	100	100.35	142.27	158.66
Chinese	102.81	102.7	165.84	152.67
Other Non-bumiputera			200.39	179.97

Stylistic Variation

Figure 6.6: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Medial by Ethnic Membership
and Stylistic Variation

The movement of most of the ethnic lines is generally rising in the less formal styles. Thus, these index scores show that the variable (↔) is subject to the stylistic differentiation. This is supported by the significant percentage differences at the 5%

level ($p<0.05$) of variable ($\leftrightarrow$) realised as [$\leftrightarrow$], [a], [ɪ], [ʊ], [ɛ] and [O] word-medially by ethnic membership between one stylistic variation and another particularly between WLS-RPS for MLY, KDZ, BJU and BGS, between RPS-FS for MLY, KDZ, BJU, BGS and BMP, and between FS-CS for BJU and ONB as tested in Paired-Samples T-Test (see Appendix Dxii).

As the variable ($\leftrightarrow$) is with both ethnic group and stylistic variation in word-initial position, thus, the variable ($\leftrightarrow$) is a marker in the speech community of SMD. It has some consequential role in the marking of ethnic group differences especially the CHN and ONB from the other ethnic groups. However, other ethnic groups do not make any significant difference in the use of variable ($\leftrightarrow$) in word-medial position.

6.5   VARIABLE ($\leftrightarrow$) AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

(a)   WORD-INITIAL /$\leftrightarrow$/

This study shows that in word-initial position, variable ($\leftrightarrow$) is realised the most as the [$\leftrightarrow$] variant followed by lesser or none of the [a], [ɪ], [e] and [O] variants in different stylistic variations by all social stratifications. All social strata use [$\leftrightarrow$] between 42.11 and 100%, followed by [a] between zero and 56.56%, [ɪ] between zero and 7.14%, [O] between zero and 5.56%, and [e] between zero and 2.27%.

Table 6.9: Percentage Means of Variable ($\leftrightarrow$) Word-Initial
by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
WLS	($\leftrightarrow$)-1 = [$\leftrightarrow$]	100.00	92.31	97.10	95.45	94.87
	($\leftrightarrow$)-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	1.45	0.00	0.00
	($\leftrightarrow$)-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	1.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
	($\leftrightarrow$)-4 = [ɪ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

$(\leftrightarrow)$-$_5$ = $[\alpha]$	0.00	6.41	1.45	4.55	5.13

Table 6.9, continued

Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
RPS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow]$	100.00	94.23	100.00	97.73	96.15
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [\varepsilon]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.27	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [\iota]$	0.00	1.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [\alpha]$	0.00	3.85	0.00	0.00	3.85
FS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow]$	42.11	67.59	77.55	75.00	85.71
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O]$	0.00	5.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [\varepsilon]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [\iota]$	1.33	0.00	4.08	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [\alpha]$	56.56	26.85	18.37	25.00	14.29
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1 = [\leftrightarrow]$	53.67	65.95	81.82	81.78	95.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}2 = [O]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}3 = [\varepsilon]$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}4 = [\iota]$	7.14	6.67	2.27	0.00	0.00
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}5 = [\alpha]$	39.19	27.38	15.91	18.22	5.00

Among all strata groups, LWC uses the lowest percentage of [↔], thus they use the highest percentage of [a] in FS and CS. They also use the most [i] in CS as compared to other social groups. MWC uses the lowest percentage of [↔], thus, they use the highest percentage of [a] in WLS and RPS. UWC uses the highest percentage of [ɪ] in FS as compared to other social strata.

The indices for variable (↔) by social stratification and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 330.23 as shown in Figure 6.7. These index scores of variable (↔) in word-initial position correspond to the use between $(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}1$ and $(\varepsilon)\text{-}4,$

which are the [↔] ανδ [ι] variants, except for LWC which incline towards the [i] and [a] variant.

The variable (↔) is not subject to social strata differentiation, as shown by the narrow space separating these lines especially in WLS and RPS. This is proven by the insignificant percentage differences at the 5% level (*p*>0.05) of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ι], [ε] and [O] word-initially between one stratum and another in all stylistic variations in One-Way ANOVA Test (see Appendix Dxiii).
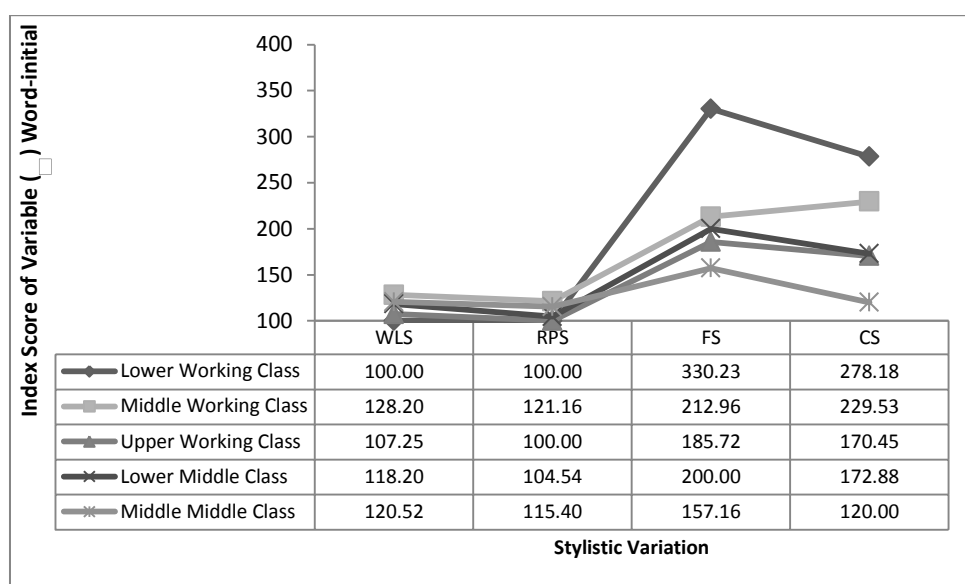

	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Lower Working Class	100.00	100.00	330.23	278.18
Middle Working Class	128.20	121.16	212.96	229.53
Upper Working Class	107.25	100.00	185.72	170.45
Lower Middle Class	118.20	104.54	200.00	172.88
Middle Middle Class	120.52	115.40	157.16	120.00

Figure 6.7: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Initial by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

The variable (↔) is also not subject to stylistic differentiation as most of the social stratification lines are going up and down instead of rising in the less formal style. This is verified by Paired-Samples T-Test where most of the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ι], [ε] and [O] word-initially by social stratifications between one stylistic variation and another are insignificant at the 5% level (*p*>0.05) (see Appendix Dxiv).

As the variable (↔) does not correlate with social strata variation or stylistic variation in word-initial position, it is neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has no consequential role in the marking of social strata differences, as all social strata do not make any significant difference in the use of variable (↔) in word-initial position in SMD.

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /↔/

In word-medial position, variable (↔) is realised the most as [↔] and less or none of the [a], [ɪ], [u], [o], [e] and [O] in different stylistic variation by all social stratifications. All social strata use [↔] between 75.29 and 100%, [a] between zero and 13.37%, [ɪ] between zero and 8.29%, [u] between zero and 3.14, [o] between zero and 2.62, [O] between zero and 1.04 %, and [e] between zero and 0.36%.

Table 6.10: Percentage Means of Variable (↔) Word-Medial
by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
WLS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	100.00	99.36	100.00	98.86	98.72
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(↔)-5 = [u]	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.25	0.43
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00
	(↔)-7 = [α]	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.51	0.85
RPS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	99.53	97.47	99.62	99.32	97.41
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.33	0.53	0.14	0.27	0.46
	(↔)-3 = [ɛ]	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.04	0.06
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.00	0.06	0.10	0.00	0.03
	(↔)-5 =	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.06

	[u]					
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	0.00	0.16	0.04	0.02	0.00
	(↔)-7 = [α]	0.13	1.57	0.10	0.27	1.98
FS	(↔)-1 = [↔]	77.99	88.70	93.42	92.88	95.27
	(↔)-2 = [O]	0.32	0.76	0.42	0.51	0.12
	(↔)-3 = [ε]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.09
	(↔)-4 = [o]	0.07	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.16
	(↔)-5 = [u]	3.14	1.15	1.10	1.14	0.55
	(↔)-6 = [ɪ]	7.74	3.65	2.65	3.06	2.32
	(↔)-7 = [α]	10.74	5.74	2.31	2.02	1.49

Table 6.10, cont

Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
CS	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_1 = [\leftrightarrow]$	75.29	92.46	92.53	93.50	93.96
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_2 = [O]$	0.24	0.33	0.87	0.18	1.04
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_3 = [\varepsilon]$	0.19	0.04	0.03	0.23	0.16
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_4 = [o]$	0.00	0.09	0.03	0.00	0.12
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_5 = [u]$	2.62	1.38	1.16	0.56	0.34
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_6 = [\iota]$	8.29	3.27	3.72	3.51	2.04
	$(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_7 = [\alpha]$	13.37	2.43	1.65	2.02	2.35

Among all the social groups, LWC uses the lowest percentage of [↔], thus, they use the highest percentage of [a], [i] and [u] in FS and CS. MWC uses the highest percentage of [i], [u] and [e] in RPS; and [O] in RPS and FS. UWC uses the highest percentage of in RPS as compared to other social strata. LMC uses the highest percentage of [e] in FS and CS; and [u] in RPS alongside with MWC. MMC uses the lowest percentage of [↔], therefore, they use the highest percentage of [a] in WLS and RPS. They also use the most of [O] in CS, [u] in WLS, and [o] in FS and CS.

The indices for variable (↔) by social stratification and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 232.77 as shown in Figure 6.8. These index scores of variable (↔) in word-medial position correspond to the use between $(\leftrightarrow)\text{-}_1$ and $(\varepsilon)\text{-}_3$, which are the [↔] ανδ [ε] variants.

The variable (↔) is subject to social strata differentiation, as shown by the distinctive lines between social strata in less formal stylistic variation. The higher the social strata, the more the standard variant [↔] is used word-medially. This is supported by the significant percentage differences at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) of variable

(↔) realised as [↔], [u], [a] and [ɪ] word-medially between LWC and other social strata in FS and CS; and between MMC and UMC in RPS as tested in the One-Way ANOVA Test (see Appendix Dxv).
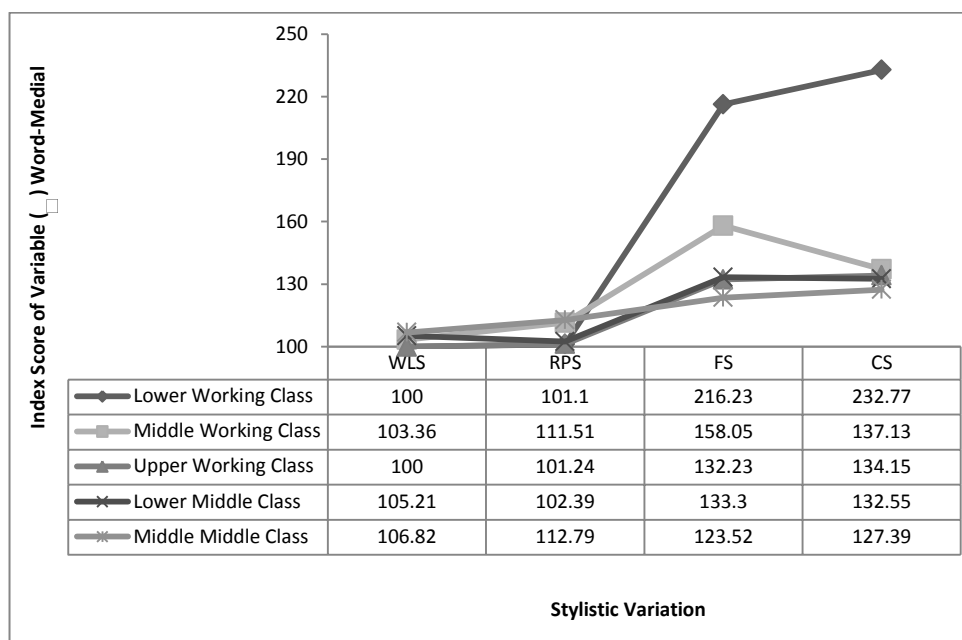

	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Lower Working Class	100	101.1	216.23	232.77
Middle Working Class	103.36	111.51	158.05	137.13
Upper Working Class	100	101.24	132.23	134.15
Lower Middle Class	105.21	102.39	133.3	132.55
Middle Middle Class	106.82	112.79	123.52	127.39

Stylistic Variation

Figure 6.8: Index Score of Variable (↔) Word-Medial by Social Stratification
and Stylistic Variation

Similarly, most of the social stratification is subject to stylistic differentiation. The social strata lines are generally rising in the less formal style. The less formal the stylistic variation, the less the standard variant [↔] is used. Furthermore, the Paired-Samples T-Test shows that the percentage differences of variable (↔) realised as [↔], [a], [ɪ], [ʊ], [o] and [O] word-medially by most strata between WLS-RPS for MWC, UWC, LMC and MMC and between RPS-FS for LWC, MWC, UWC and MMC are significant at the 5% level ($p<0.05$) (see Appendix Dxvi).

As the variable (↔) is correlated with both social strata and stylistic variations in word-medial position, it is a marker in the speech community of SMD. It has some consequential role in the marking of social strata differences especially the lowest

social stratum (LWC) from the other higher social strata. However, other social strata do not make any significant difference in the use of variable (↔) in word-medial position.

6.5   CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the variable (↔) is realised the most as the [↔] variant, less amount as the [a] variant and the least amount as the [ı], [u], [o], [e] and [O] variants by the informants of SMD in the city of Kota Kinabalu. The word-initial /↔/ is realised as [↔] variant ranging from zero to 100%, [α] variant ranging from zero to 100, [i] variant ranging from zero to 100%, [ε] variant ranging from zero to 33.33%, and [O] variant ranging from zero to 100%. While the /↔/ word-medial is realised as [↔] variant ranging from zero to 100%, [α] variant ranging from zero to 54.84, [i] variant ranging from zero to 37.04%, and [υ] variant ranging from zero to 18.37%, [o] variant ranging from zero to 2.78%, [ε] variant ranging from zero to 8%, and [O] variant ranging from zero to 11.45%. The indices for the variable (↔) range between the score of 100 and 552.28 in word-initial position, and between the score of 100 and 310.62 in word-medial position.

In most word-initial positions, the phoneme /e/ such as in /εμακ/ 'mother', /empat/ 'four' and /endah/ 'don't know' would be realised as [↔μα?], [↔μπατ] and [↔νδαη] by most of the speech community of SMD. However, the age group of 45-54 and 55-64 year olds, the ethnic groups of ONB, CHN, BMP and KDZ would significantly pronounce these words such as /emak/ and /empat/ as [αμακ] and [αμπατ]; the oldest age group of 55-64 year olds would most likely to pronounce the words such as /endah/ as [indah] word-initial /↔/.

For word-medial /↔/, such as in /κεπαλα/ 'head', /peha/ 'thigh' and /semua/ 'all', it is most likely to be realised as [κ↔παλα], [p↔ηα], [k↔τΣιλ], [τ↔μυ] and [s↔mua] by the speech community of SMD. However, due to the fact that the variable (↔) is correlated with the social variations of gender, age, ethnic group and social stratification in SMD, variable (↔) is realised as [↔], [a], [ι], [u] and [o] significantly. The age group of 45-54 and 55-64 year olds, and the social stratum of LWC would most likely to pronounce these words with [a] such as [καπαλα], [tamu] and [paηα]. The females, the age group of 55-64 year olds, the ethnic groups of CHN and ONB, and the social stratum of LWC have tendency to use [i] example in /tengok/, /kecil/ and /beli/ as [tiNυκ], [kisil] and [bili]. The age group of 55-64 year olds and the social stratum of LWC have tendency to use [u] such as in /semua/ and /belum/ as [sumua] and [bulum]. Males and the age group of 45-54 year olds used more of [o] instead such /kelombong / as [kolombong].

There is strong correlation between stylistic variation, and age and ethnic group variations for variable (↔) in word-initial position; and all four gender, age, ethnic group and social strata variations for variable (↔) in word-medial positions. The more formal the speech style, the more the standard variant [↔] is used. Conversely, the less formal the speech style, the more non-standard variants [a] or [i] are used in word-initial /↔/, and [a], [i], [u] or [o] are used in word-medial /↔/.