CHAPTER 8

SOCIAL AND STYLISTIC VARIATIONS OF VARIABLE (o)

8.1 INTRODUCTION

In most dialects of Malay, the phoneme /o/ is not a variable, as it is always realised as tense-mid back rounded vowel [o] whether it is in word-initial, word-medial or word-final positions. This including the standard Malay, where the phoneme /o/ has only one allophone, tense-mid back rounded vowel [o] with the phonemic realisations as follows:

/o/ **:** → [o] /___ all environments

e.g.

orang	'people'	:	[οραN]
otak	'brain'	:	[οτα?]
oleh	'by'	:	[ολ↔η]
esok	'tomorrow'	:	[εσο?]
pokok	'tree'	:	[ποκο?]
kosong	'zero/empty'	:	[κοσοN]
ραδιο	'radio'	:	[ραδιο]
toto	'lottery'	:	[τοτο]
soto	'noodle soup'	:	[σοτο]

In this study, the researcher only investigates the phoneme /o/ in only two environments, namely in the word-initial and word-medial positions. Hence the sounds of phoneme /o/ of the two word positions will be enclosed in parentheses and named as 'variable (o)' instead of using the term 'phoneme / o/'. This is mainly because the variable (o) is not equivalent to the phoneme /o/ since it represents only

the /o/ in the word-initial position *orang*, *otak* and *oleh*; and word-medial position such as *esok, pokok* and *kosong*. Variable (o) does not represent the /o/ in the word-final position, because /o/ seldom appeals in this position except for loan words such as *radio, toto* and *soto*. Hence, the discussion of this chapter is focused on the variable (o), which represents the word-initial /o/ and the word-medial /o/. If references need to be made specified on either one, the term 'variable (o) word-initial' and 'variable (o) word- medial' will be used explicitly.

In SMD, however, the (o) is variable in the sense that most speakers sometimes pronounced /o/ as tense-mid back rounded vowel [o] and other times as high back rounded vowel [ʊ] in the word-initial and word-medial positions. In other words, variable (o) is often alternating between [o] and [u]. Thus, the variable (o) has two variants, namely the tense-mid back rounded vowel [o] and the high back rounded vowel [ʊ]. Here, the Variable (o) and its variants are usually written as follow:

$$(o) = \begin{matrix}\text{word-initial / o/} \\ \text{word-medial /o/}\end{matrix} : \rightarrow \begin{cases} (o)\text{-}_1 = [o] \\ (o)\text{-}_2 = [ʊ] \end{cases}$$

These symbols representing the first variant of the variable (o) is tense-mid back rounded vowel [o] and the second variant of the variable (o) is the high back rounded vowel [ʊ]. The standard variant is the [o] variant and the [ʊ] variant is the non-standard. The variable (o) in word-initial and word-medial positions are alternating in SMD as follows:

Examples:

orang	'people'	:	[oraN] ~ [ʊraN]
otak	'brain'	:	[ota?] ~ [ʊta?]

oleh	'by'	:	[oλ↔η] ~ [υλ↔η]
esok	'tomorrow'	:	[εσo?] ~ [εσυ?]
pokok	'tree'	:	[πoκo?] ~ [πoκo?]
kosong	'zero/empty'	:	[κoσoN] ~ [κoσoN]

Although the variable (o) is very common feature in SMD, it is not found in some of the speech of the informants involved. In word-initial position, variable (o) is found in the speeches of all the 90 participants who were involved in WLS and RPS. This variable is absent in the speech of 14 informants involved in FS and 9 informants involved in CS. Thus, this variable is only presented in the speech of 94 informants in FS and 99 informants in CS. For word-medial position, variable (o) is found in the speech of all the 90 participants who were involved in WLS and RPS. It is also found in the speech of all the 108 informants involved in CS. However, this variable is absent in the speech of 3 informants and only presented in the speech of 105 informants involved in FS.

Based Table 8.1, shows that variable (o) is variably realised either as [o] or [υ] in the word-initial position, with the respective percentage mean of 98.15 and 1.85% in WLS; 95.28 and 4.72% in RPS; 88.90 and 11.10% in FS; and 83.26 and 16.74% in CS. This shows that the word-initial /o/ is realised high as [o] (83.26-98.15%) and low as [u] (1.85-16.74%).

Table 8.1: Descriptive Statistics of Variable (o) Word-Initial

Stylistic Variation	Variant	N	Min	Max	Mean	Standard deviation
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	90	0	100	98.15	11.57
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	90	0	100	1.85	11.57
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	90	25	100	95.28	14.46
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	90	0	75	4.72	14.46

FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	94	0	100	88.90	21.89
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	94	0	100	11.10	21.89
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	99	0	100	83.26	27.32
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	99	0	100	16.74	27.32

Similarly, Table 8.2 shows that variable (o) is variable realised as either [o] or [ʊ] in word-medial position. The respective percentage mean of Variable (o) realised as [o] and [u] are 98.64 and 1.36% in WLS; 98.11 and 1.89% in RPS; 87.26 and 12.74% in FS; and 82.53 and 17.47% in CS. This shows that the word-medial /o/ is realised more as [o] (82.53-98.64%) and less as [u] (1.36-17.47%).

Table 8.2: Descriptive Statistics of Variable (o) Word-Medial

Stylistic Variation	**Variant**	**N**	**Min**	**Max**	**Mean**	**A standard deviation**
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	90	27.78	100	98.64	7.91
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	90	0	72.22	1.36	7.91
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	90	44.68	100	98.11	6.97
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	90	0	55.32	1.89	6.97
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	105	0	100	87.26	21.41
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	105	0	100	12.74	21.41
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	108	0	100	82.53	25.14
	(o)-$_2$ = [u]	108	0	100	17.47	25.14

8.2 VARIABLE (o) AND GENDER

(a) WORD-INITIAL /o/

The study shows that in word-initial position, variable (o) is realised more as the [o] variant than the [u] variant by both gender groups in all four different stylistic variations.

Table 8.3: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Initial by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	**Variant**	**Male**	**Female**
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	96.67	99.33
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	3.33	0.67
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	92.50	97.50
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	7.50	2.50

FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	90.47	87.73
	(o)-$_2$ = [υ]	9.53	12.27
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	84.90	82.06
	(o)-$_2$ = [υ]	15.10	17.94

Males on average use [o] between 84.9 and 96.67%, and [υ] between 3.33 and 15.1% of the time, in different stylistic variations. Females use [o] βετωεεν 82.06 and 99.33%, and [υ] between 0.67 and 17.94% of the time, in four different stylistic variations.

Between the two genders, males use a higher percentage of [o] and lower percentage οφ [υ] in FS and CS. Females use a higher percentage of [υ] and lower percentage οφ [o] than males in WLS and RPS.

The indices for variable (o) by gender and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100.67 and 117.94 as shown in Figure 8.1. These index scores of variable (o) in word-initial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o] variant.

The variable (o) is not subject to gender differentiation, as shown by the space separating the gender lines is narrow and cross each other. This is proven by the insignificant percentage difference at 5% level (p>0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [u] between two genders in different stylistic variations as tested by the Independent-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fi).

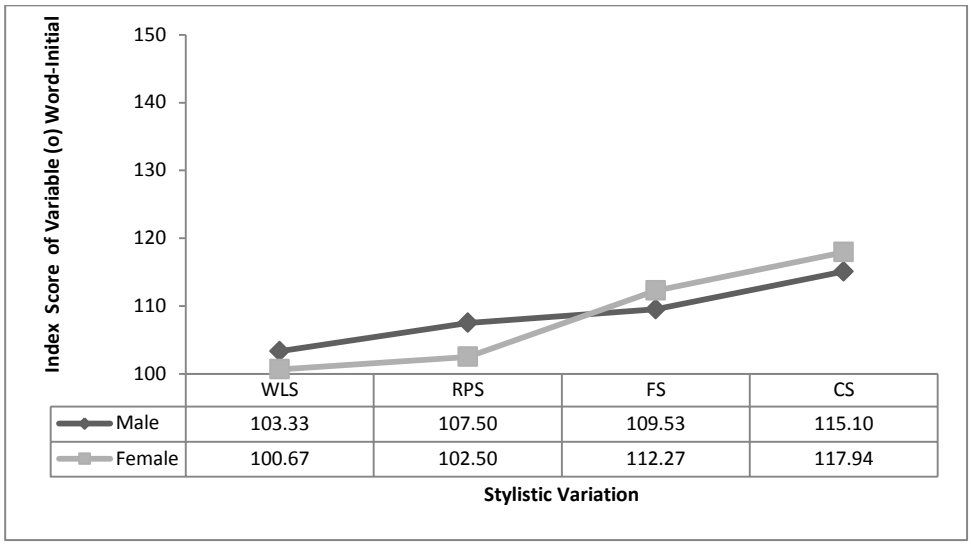


Figure 8.1: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Initial by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Although the gender lines seem to rise in the less formal styles especially for both genders, they are actually quite level. This is supported by the percentage differences of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] in word-initial position by genders between one stylistic variation and another which are too small and insignificant at 5% level (p>0.05) as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test. Thus, variable (o) is not subject to stylistic differentiation (Appendix Fii).

As the variable (o) does not correlate with both gender variation and stylistic variation in word-initial position, thus the variable (o) is neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has no consequential role in the marking of gender differences as males and females do not make any significant difference when came to the use of variable (o) in word-initial position in SMD.

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /o/

Similarly, the study shows that in word-medial position, variable (o) is realised more as the [o] variant than the [u] variant by both gender groups in all four different stylistic variations.

Males on average use [o] between 86.06 and 97.36%, and [ʊ] between 2.64 and 13.94% of the time in different stylistic variation. Females use [o] at 79.81% at the least and [ʊ] at 20.19% at the most in different stylistic variations.

Table 8.4: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Medial by Gender and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	Male	Female
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	97.36	99.67
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	2.64	0.33
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	96.81	99.15
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	3.19	0.85
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	87.60	86.98
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	12.40	13.02
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	86.06	79.81
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	13.94	20.19

Between both genders, males use a higher percentage of [o] and lower percentage oϕ [ʊ] word-medially in FS and CS. While, females use a higher percentage of [ʊ] and lower percentage oϕ [o] than males in WLS and RPS.

The indices for variable (o) by gender and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100.33 and 120.19 as shown in Figure 8.2. These index scores of variable (o) in word-medial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o] variant.

The variable (o) is not subject to gender differentiation, as shown by the space separating the gender lines is too narrow and the lines are over lapping at some point.

This is line with the Independent-Samples T-Test with shows the percentage differences of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially between one gender group and another are insignificant at 5% level (p>0.05) in all stylistic variations (Appendix Fiii).

However, the variable (o) is minimally subject to stylistic differentiation as the gender lines consistently rise in the less formal styles for both males and females. The less formal is the stylistic variation, the less percentage of standard variant [o] is used. This is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially by genders between one stylistic variation and another as indicated in the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fiv).

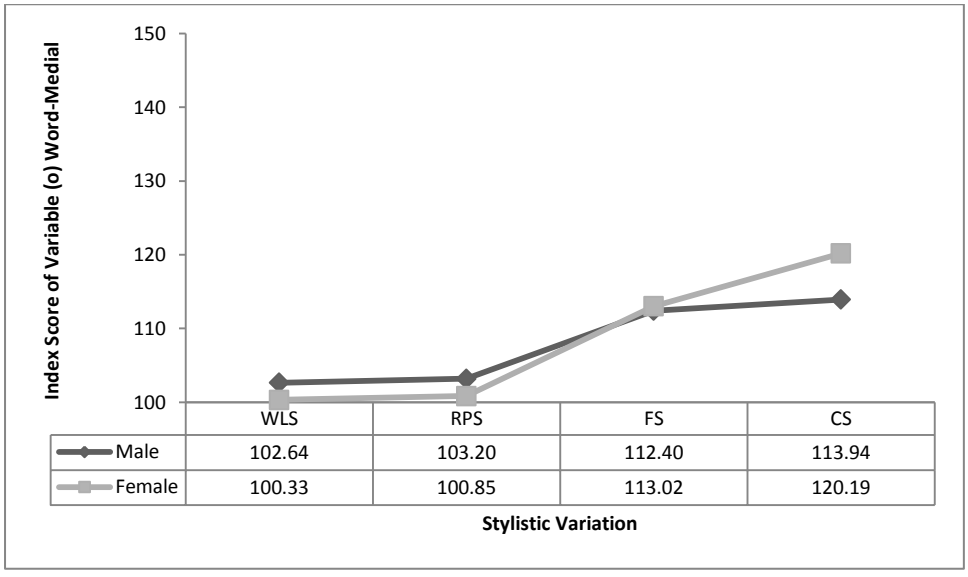


Figure 8.2: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Medial by Gender and Stylistic Variation

As the variable (o) does not correlate with gender variation but stylistic variation in word-medial position, thus the variable (o) is neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has no consequential role in the marking of gender differences as males and females do not make any significant difference when came to the use of variable (o) word-medially in SMD.

8.3 VARIABLE (o) AND AGE

(a) WORD-INITIAL /o/

The study shows that in word-initial position, variable (o) is realised more as the [o] variant than the [u] variant by all age groups in all four different stylistic variations. All age groups use [o] between 50.66 and 100%, followed by [u] between zero and 49.34% in different stylistic variations.

The age group of 45-54 year olds uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all the age groups in the case of WLS and RPS. The oldest age group of 55-64 year olds use the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all the age groups in the case of FS and CS.

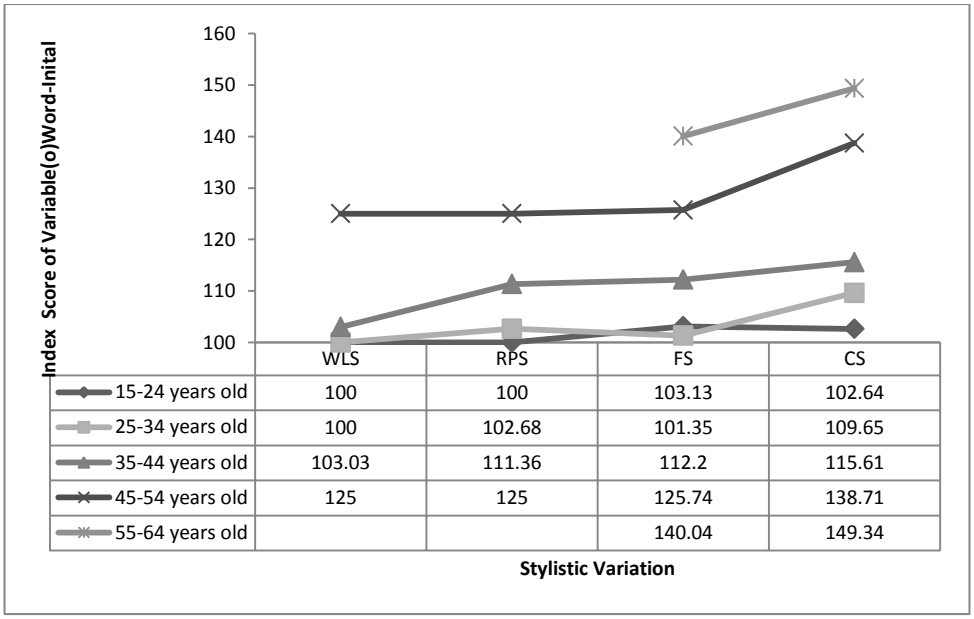
Table 8.5: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Initial
by Age and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	100.00	100.00	96.97	75.00	.
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.00	0.00	3.03	25.00	.
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	100.00	97.32	88.64	75.00	.
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.00	2.68	11.36	25.00	.
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	96.87	98.65	87.80	74.26	59.96
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	3.13	1.35	12.20	25.74	40.04
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	97.36	90.36	84.39	61.29	50.66
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	2.64	9.65	15.61	38.71	49.34

The indices for variable (o) by age and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100.00 and 149.34 as shown in Figure 8.3. These index scores of variable (o) in word-initial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o]

variant for the younger age groups, and moving towards the use of the (o)-$_2$, which is the [u] variants for the older age groups.

The variable (o) is subject to age differentiation, as shown by the broad space separating the age lines especially between the older (45-54 and 55-64) and the younger age groups (15-24, 25-34, 35-44). In addition, this is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [u] between younger and older age groups in all stylistic variations of WLS, RPS, FS and CS as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Fv).



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
15-24 years old	100	100	103.13	102.64
25-34 years old	100	102.68	101.35	109.65
35-44 years old	103.03	111.36	112.2	115.61
45-54 years old	125	125	125.74	138.71
55-64 years old			140.04	149.34

Figure 8.3: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Initial by Age and Stylistic Variation

The variable (o) is also subject little to stylistic variation, as most lines rise in the less formal styles. The less formal the stylistic variation, the less the standard variant [o] is used. This is also supported by the significant percentage differences at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] in word-initial position by genders especially between WLS-RPS as indicated in the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fii).

Hence, it can be concluded that the variable (o) is correlated with both age variation and stylistic variation in word-initial position. Thus the variable (o) in word-initial position is a marker in the speech community of SMD. Variable (o) has strong consequential role in the marking of age differences between the younger (15-24, 25-34 and 35-44 year olds) and the older (45-54 and 55-64 year olds) age groups.

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /o/

This study finds that in variable (o) in word-medial position, all most age groups use more of the [o] variant than the [u] variant in all four different stylistic variations except of the oldest age group who use a higher percentage of the [u] variant as compared to the [o] variant. All age groups use [o] between 32.80 and 100%, followed by [u] between zero and 67.20% in different stylistic variations.

Table 8.6: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Medial
by Age and Stylistic Variation

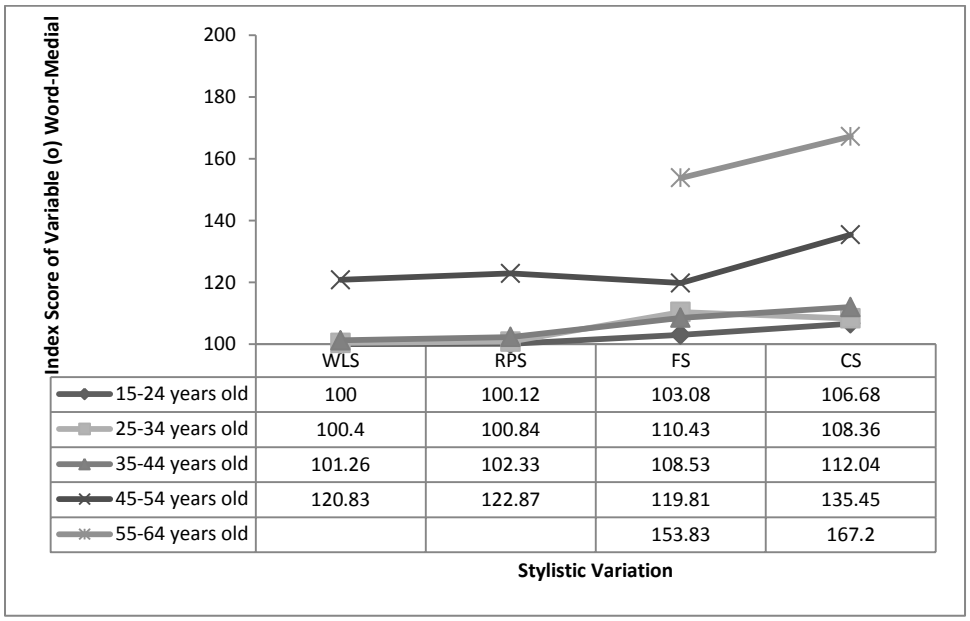
Stylistic Variation	Variant	15-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-54 yrs	55-64 yrs
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	100.00	99.60	98.74	79.17	.
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.00	0.40	1.26	20.83	.
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	99.88	99.16	97.67	77.13	.
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.12	0.84	2.33	22.87	.
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	96.92	89.57	91.47	80.19	46.17
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	3.08	10.43	8.53	19.81	53.83
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	93.32	91.64	87.96	64.55	32.80
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	6.68	8.36	12.04	35.45	67.20

The age group of 45- 54 years of age uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all the age groups in the case of WLS and RPS. The

oldest age group of 55- 64 year olds uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all the age groups in the case of FS and CS.

The indices for variable (o) by age and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100.00 and 167.2 as shown in Figure 8.4. These index scores of variable (o) in word-medial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o] variant for the younger age groups, and moving towards the use of the (o)-$_{2}$, which is the [u] variant for the older age group.

The variable (o) is subject to age differentiation, as shown by the space separating the age lines especially between the older (45-64 year olds) and the younger (15- 44 year olds) age groups, as well as between the two older (45-54 and 55-64 year olds) age groups. In addition this is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [u] between age groups in different stylistic variations as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Fvii).



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
15-24 years old	100	100.12	103.08	106.68
25-34 years old	100.4	100.84	110.43	108.36
35-44 years old	101.26	102.33	108.53	112.04
45-54 years old	120.83	122.87	119.81	135.45
55-64 years old			153.83	167.2

Figure 8.4: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Medial by Age and Stylistic Variation

The variable (o) is also subject little to stylistic differentiation, as most lines rise in the less formal styles. The less formal is the stylistic variation, the more non-standard variant [u] is used. This is also supported by the significant percentage differences at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially by genders between WLS-RPS, and FS-CS as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fviii).

As the variable (o) is correlated with age variation and stylistic variation in word-medial position, it is a marker in the speech community of SMD. Variable (o) has some consequential role in the marking of age differences between the younger age groups (15-44 year olds) and the older (45-64 year olds), and also between the two older groups of 45-54 and 55-64 year olds.

8.4 VARIABLE (o) AND ETHNIC MEMBERSHIP

(a) WORD-INITIAL /o/

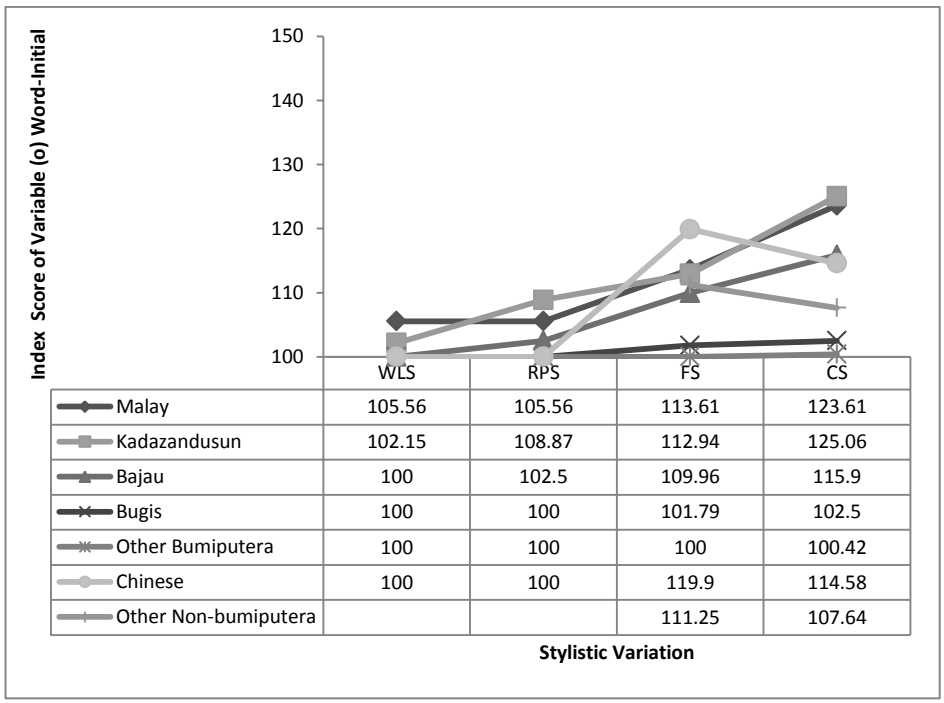
The study shows that in word-initial position, variable (o) is realised more as the [o] variant than the [u] variant by all ethnic groups in all four different stylistic variations. All age ethnic groups use [o] between 74.94 and 100%, followed by [u] between zero and 25.06% in different stylistic variations.

Table 8.7: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Initial
by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHI	ONB
WLS	$(o)_{-1}$ = [o]	94.44	97.85	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	.
	$(o)_{-2}$ = [ʊ]	5.56	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
RPS	$(o)_{-1}$ = [o]	94.44	91.13	97.50	100.00	100.00	100.00	.
	$(o)_{-2}$ = [ʊ]	5.56	8.87	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
FS	$(o)_{-1}$ = [o]	86.40	87.06	90.04	98.21	100.00	80.10	88.75
	$(o)_{-2}$ = [ʊ]	13.61	12.94	9.96	1.79	0.00	19.90	11.25
CS	$(o)_{-1}$ = [o]	76.39	74.94	84.10	97.50	99.58	85.42	92.36
	$(o)_{-2}$ = [ʊ]	23.61	25.06	15.90	2.50	0.42	14.58	7.64

Among all ethnic groups, MLY uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] in the case of WLS. KDZ uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all ethnic groups in the cases of RPS and CS. CHN uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all ethnic groups in the case of FS.

The indices for variable (o) by ethnic membership and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 125.06 as shown in Figure 8.5. These index scores of variable (o) in word-initial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o] variant.



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Malay	105.56	105.56	113.61	123.61
Kadazandusun	102.15	108.87	112.94	125.06
Bajau	100	102.5	109.96	115.9
Bugis	100	100	101.79	102.5
Other Bumiputera	100	100	100	100.42
Chinese	100	100	119.9	114.58
Other Non-bumiputera			111.25	107.64

Figure 8.5: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Initial by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

The variable (o) is not subject to ethnic group differentiation, as shown by the over lapping line and the narrow space separating the ethnic lines. This is proven by the insignificant percentage difference at 5% level (p>0.05) of variable (o) realised as

[o] and [u] between the ethnic groups in different stylistic variations as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Fix).

However, the variable (o) is subject to stylistic differentiation, as most lines generally rise in the less formal styles especial by ethnic membership between one stylistic variation and another. The less formal is the stylistic variation, the less standard variant of [o] is used. This is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-initially, particularly between WLS-RPS and FS-CS for KDZ as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fx).

As the variable (o) does not correlate with ethnic group variation but stylistic variation in word-initial position, thus it is neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has no consequential role in the marking of ethnic differences, whereby all ethnic groups do not make significant difference when they use variable (o) in word-initial position in SMD.

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /o/

Table 8.16 shows that, variable (o) is realised more as [o] than [u] word-medially by all ethnic groups in all four different stylistic variations. All ethnic groups use [o] between 73.04 and 100%, followed by [u] between zero and 26.96% in different stylistic variations.

Table 8.8: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Medial
by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

Stylistic Variation	Variant	MLY	KDZ	BJU	BGS	BMP	CHI	ONB

WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	95.37	98.75	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	.
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	4.63	1.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	96.34	96.77	99.89	100.00	100.00	99.70	.
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	3.67	3.23	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.30	.
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	84.93	80.16	84.80	99.17	95.51	94.21	93.38
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	15.07	19.84	15.20	0.83	4.49	5.79	6.62
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	84.96	73.04	79.38	98.10	89.08	86.49	91.91
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	15.04	26.96	20.62	1.90	10.92	13.51	8.09

Among all the ethnic membership, the MLY uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all ethnic groups in the cases of WLS and RPS. KDZ uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all ethnic groups in the case of FS and CS.

In word-medial position, the variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] by ethnic membership has minimal correlation with stylistic variation. The percentages use of [o] generally drop in the less formal style, while the percentages use of [ʊ] are generally rise in the less formal style especially KDZ, BJU, CHN and ONB.

The indices for variable (o) by ethnic membership and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 126.96 as shown in Figure 8.6. These index scores of variable (o) in word-medial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o] variant.

The variable (o) is not subject to ethnic group differentiation, as shown by the over lapping lines and narrow space separating between WLS-RPS. This also supported by percentage differences of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially between one ethnic group and another which are insignificant at 5% level (p>0.05) in all stylistic variations as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Fxi).

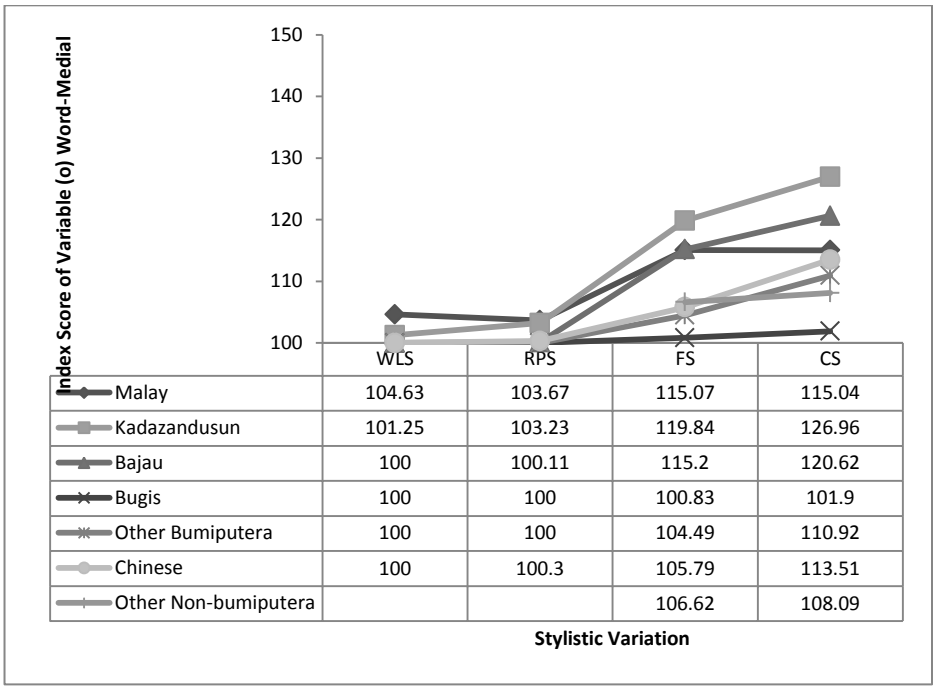


Figure 8.6: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Medial by Ethnic Membership and Stylistic Variation

However, the variable (o) is subject to stylistic differentiation as most the ethnic membership lines are generally rise in the less formal styles especial between WLS-RPS, and FC-CS for KDZ; and between RPS-FS for BJU. The less formal is the stylistic variation, the less percentage of standard variant [o] is used. This is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially by genders between one stylistic variation and another as indicated in the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fxii).

As the variable (o) does not correlate with ethnic group variation but stylistic variation in word-medial position, thus it is neither a marker nor an indicator in the speech community of SMD. Variable (o) has no consequential role in the marking of ethnic differences, whereby all the ethnic groups do not make significant different in using variable (o) in word-medial position in SMD.

8.5 VARIABLE (o) AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

(a) WORD-INITIAL /o/

The study shows that in word-initial position, variable (o) is realised more as the [o] variant than the [u] variant by all social strata in all four different stylistic variations as shown in Table 8.21. All social strata use [o] between 67.96 and 100%, followed by [u] between zero and 32.04% in different stylistic variations.

Table 8.9: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Initial
by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

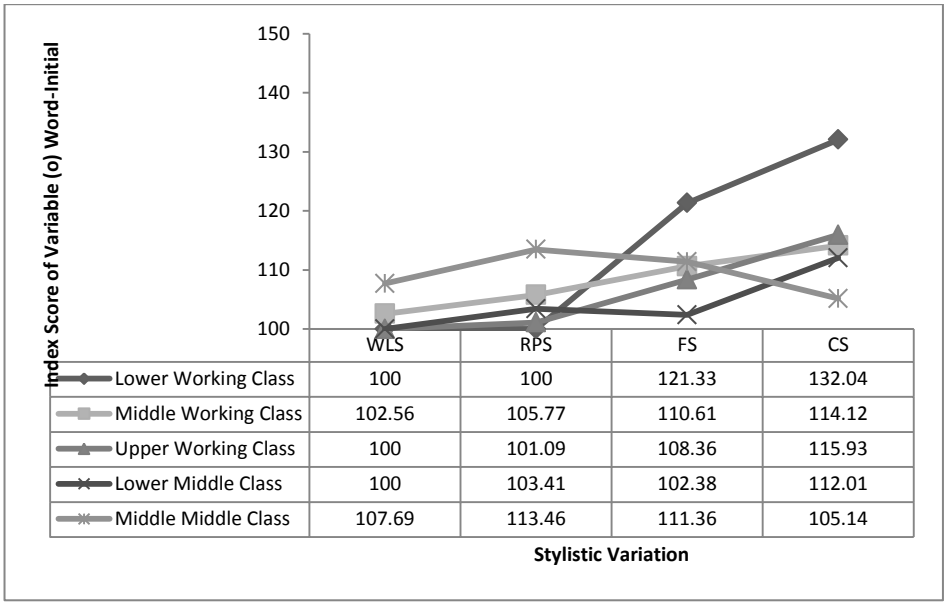
Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	100.00	97.44	100.00	100.00	92.31
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.00	2.56	0.00	0.00	7.69
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	100.00	94.23	98.91	96.59	86.54
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.00	5.77	1.09	3.41	13.46
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	78.67	89.39	91.64	97.62	88.64
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	21.33	10.61	8.36	2.38	11.36
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	67.96	85.88	84.07	87.99	94.86
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	32.04	14.12	15.93	12.01	5.14

Among all the social strata, the LWC uses the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] in FS and CS. While, MMC uses the lowest percentage of [o] and [u] at the most, in WLS and RPS.

The indices for variable (o) by social stratification and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 132.04 as shown in Figure 8.7. These index scores of variable (o) in word-initial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_{1,}$ which is the [o] variant.

The variable (o) is subject to social strata differentiation, as shown by the space separating the social strata lines especially between the lowest social stratum of LWC and the highest social stratum of MMC. In addition this is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [u]

between these two groups in the stylistic variations of CS as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Fxiii).



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Lower Working Class	100	100	121.33	132.04
Middle Working Class	102.56	105.77	110.61	114.12
Upper Working Class	100	101.09	108.36	115.93
Lower Middle Class	100	103.41	102.38	112.01
Middle Middle Class	107.69	113.46	111.36	105.14

Figure 8.7 Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Initial by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

The variable (o) is not subject to stylistic differentiation, as lines are not consistently rise in the less formal styles. This is also supported by the insignificant percentage differences at 5% level (p>0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially by social stratification as tested by the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fxiv).

As the variable (o) is correlated with social strata variation but not stylistic variation in word-initial position. Thus the variable (o) is an indicator in the speech community of SMD. It has some consequential role in the marking of social strata differences between the lower social stratum (LWC) and the higher social stratum (MMC). However, the other social strata do not make any significant differences in the use variable (o) in word-initial position in SMD.

(b) WORD-MEDIAL /o/

Similarly, Table 8.22 shows that variable (o) is realised more as [o] than [u] word-medially by all social stratifications in all four different stylistic variations. All social strata use [o] between 63.69 and 100%, followed by [u] between zero and 36.31% in different stylistic variations.

Table 8.10: Percentage Means of Variable (o) Word-Medial
by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

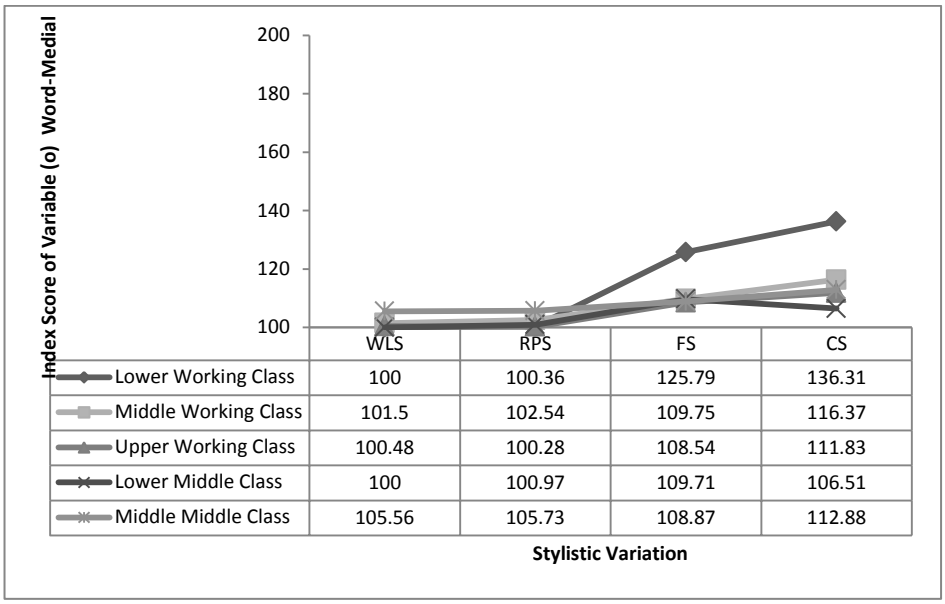
Stylistic Variation	Variant	LWC	MWC	UWC	LMC	MMC
WLS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	100.00	98.50	99.52	100.00	94.44
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.00	1.50	0.48	0.00	5.56
RPS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	99.65	97.46	99.72	99.03	94.27
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	0.36	2.54	0.28	0.97	5.73
FS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	74.21	90.25	91.46	90.29	91.13
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	25.79	9.75	8.54	9.71	8.87
CS	(o)-$_1$ = [o]	63.69	83.63	88.17	93.49	87.12
	(o)-$_2$ = [ʊ]	36.31	16.37	11.83	6.51	12.88

The LWC use the highest percentage of [ʊ] and the lowest percentage of [o] among all social strata in FS and CS. MMC uses [o] the least in all stylistic variations, which is the lowest amongst all the social strata in WLS and RPS. In contrast, they use [u] the most, which is the highest among all the social strata in WLS and RPS.

The indices for variable (o) by social stratification and stylistic variation lie between the scores of 100 and 136.31 as shown in Figure 8.8. These index scores of variable (o) in word-initial position are almost consistent with the use of the (o)-$_1$, which is the [o] variant.

The variable (o) is subject to social strata differentiation, as shown by the space separating the social strata lines especially between the lowest social stratum of LWC

and other social strata. In addition this is supported by the significant percentage difference at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [u] between these social groups in the stylistic variations of FS and CS as tested by One-Way ANOVA Test (Appendix Fxv).



	WLS	RPS	FS	CS
Lower Working Class	100	100.36	125.79	136.31
Middle Working Class	101.5	102.54	109.75	116.37
Upper Working Class	100.48	100.28	108.54	111.83
Lower Middle Class	100	100.97	109.71	106.51
Middle Middle Class	105.56	105.73	108.87	112.88

Figure 8.8: Index Score of Variable (o) Word-Medial by Social Stratification and Stylistic Variation

The variable (o) is also subject little to stylistic differentiation, as most lines rise in the less formal styles. The less formal is the stylistic variation, the less percentage of standard variant [o] is used. This is also supported by the significant percentage differences at 5% level (p<0.05) of variable (o) realised as [o] and [ʊ] word-medially by social stratification between WLS-RPS for LMC, and FS-CS for MWC, UWC and LMC as indicated by the Paired-Samples T-Test (Appendix Fxvi).

As the variable (o) is correlated with both social strata and stylistic variation in word-medial position, it is a marker in the speech community of SMD. The variable (o) has some consequential role in the marking social strata differences especially between the lowest social stratum of LWC and the other social strata in word-medial position.

8.6 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all the informants use more of the [ɔ] variant and less of the [ʊ] variant in SMD. The variable (ɔ) is realised as the [ɔ] variant ranging from zero to 100% and the [ʊ] variant ranging from zero to 75% in word-initial position; and the [ɔ] variant ranging from zero to 100% and the [ʊ] variant ranging from zero to 72.22% word-medially. The indices for the variable (ɔ) are ranging between the score of 100 to 149.34 in word-initial position, and between the score of 100 and 167.2 in word-medial position, which are leaning towards the [ɔ] variant.

In most cases, the phoneme /ɔ/ is realised as [ɔ] as in [ɔɾɑN] 'people' and [kɔsɔN] 'ζερο/εμπτψə βψ μοστ οϕ the speech community of SMD. As the variable (ɔ) is correlated with the social variations of age and social stratification only, the older age groups of 45-54 and 55-64; and the social stratum of LWC have the tendency to pronounce these words as [ʊɾɑN] and [kʊsʊN] instead, as compared to other social strata.

There is strong correlation between stylistic variations and social variations of age and ethnic membership in the variable (ɔ) in word-initial position; and gender, age, ethnic membership and social strata variations in the variable (ɔ) in word-medial position. The more formal the speech style, the more the standard [ɔ] variant is used, conversely, the less formal the speech style, the more the sub-standard [u] variant is used.