

Τα /ρι'αϝα/, /ρι'αΛα/?

Aspects of Yeísmo in Cyprus

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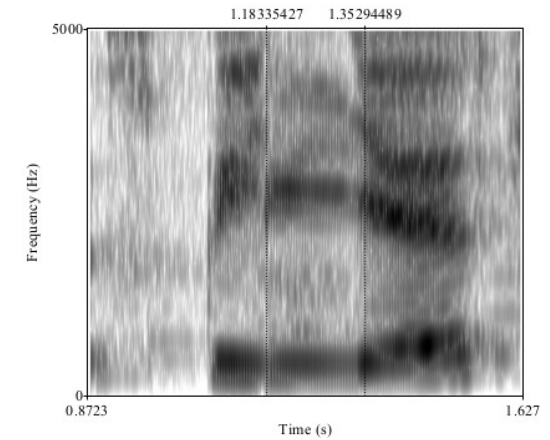
ENG549: Experimental Methodology in Linguistics

Outline

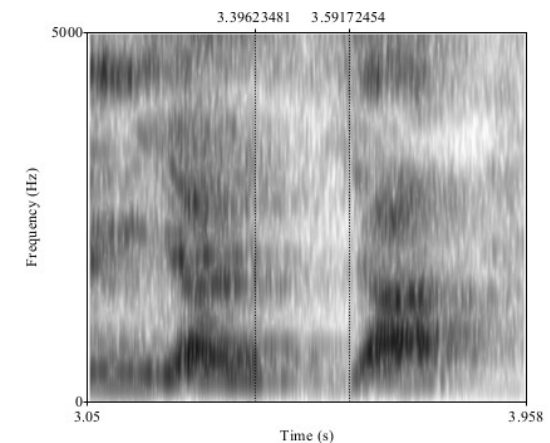
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Results & Interpretation
- Limitations
- Future Prospects

Introduction

- **Allophonic Variation between**
 - voiced palatal fricative /j/
 - palatal lateral approximant /ʎ/
- **No consensus on the kind of distribution**



(b) [spi:ʎɛs]



(b) [jaj:a]

Literature Review

● Arvaniti 2010

- Overview of Cypriot Geminates
- Description of the voiced palatal fricative and palatal lateral approximant

● Pappas 2014

- Use and quality of the voiced palatal fricative
- Most prevalent in younger speakers
- Not attested in Paphos

● Labov 1966

- Sociolinguistic Interview Methodology
- Attention payed correlated with use of prestigious variant.

Initial Hypotheses

- Age Distribution (insignificant)
- Variation among task ('attention' in single-word tasks as per Labov)
- **j**-variant more prevalent in Nicosia (vs Paphos)

Methodology: Experiment Design

● **Modified Labov Experiment**

- Recital, Narrative
- Recital, Dialectal Poetry
- Recital, Word list
- Elicitation, missing-word phrases
- Unstructured discussion (qualitative data collection)

● **Equipment**

- Trust Mico USB Cardioid Microphone
- Stimuli presented through OpenSesame Experiment Creator

Methodology:

Participants/Interviewer Profiles

- **Participants**

- 23 CyG Native Speakers
- Nicosia; Paphos
- Age Groups: 18-34; 35-50; 51+ (Nicosia) / 18-34; 51+ (Paphos)
- Mixed-gender

- **Interviewers**

- 2 CyG Native Speakers
- Nicosia; Ammochostos
- 21;24
- Male

Methodology: Recital, Narrative

Πολλά πολλά παλιά, σε έναν μακρυνόν βασίλειον εζούσεν ένας βασιλιάς τζιαι μια βασίλισσα που εν εμπορούσαν να κάμουν μωρά, ώσπου τελικά εκαταφέραν να κάμουν μιάν κόρη. Στα βαφτίσια εκαλέσαν τες εφτά μοίρες. Στο βασίλειον του όμως εζούσεν τζιαι μιά μάγισσα που ήταν πολλά αζουλιάρα τζιαι παλιάθρωπος, τζι ενευρίασεν που εν την εκαλέσαν, τζι έτσι αποφάσισεν να πάει που μόνη της. Ήρτεν η ώρα να δώκουν οι καλεσμένοι τις ευτζιές τους στην πριγκίπισσα. Εδώκαν τες οι πρώτες έξι μοίρες, τζιαι η έβδομη είπεν να καρτερά την μάγισσαν. Η μάγισσα όμως, παλιάθρωπος που ήταν, έδωκεν κατάραν στο μωρόν: στα 16 της εννα τρυπίσει τα δαχτύλια της με έναν αδράχτην τζιαι να πεθάνει. Η έβδομη μοίρα μόλις το άκουσεν τούτον επιαεν την πριγκίπισσαν στ' αγκάλια της τζιαι είπεν να απαλύνει την κατάραν: “Στα δεκαέξι της χρόνια,” είπτε “αντί να πεθάνει εννα ππέσει σε ύπνο βαθήν, τζι έννα ξυπνήσει που ‘ννα ανατείλει ο ήλιος σίλλιες τζιαι μιάν φορές, τζιαι που’ννα ξιάσουν οι γονιοί της την μιλιάν της, τότε εννά ‘ρτει ένας πρίγκιπας που μακριά να την ξυπνήσει με θκιό φιλιά.

Methodology: Recital, Poetry

**Η Ρωμιοσύνη εν φυλή συνότζιαιρη του κόσμου,
κανένας δεν εβρέθηκεν για να την ιξηλείψη, κανένας,
γιατί σιέπει την που τα 'ψη ο Θεός μου.**

**Η Ρωμιοσύνη εν να χαθή, όντας ο κόσμος λείψει!
Σφάξε μας ούλους κι ας γενεί το γαίμαν μας αυλάτζιν,
κάμε τον κόσμον ματζιελλειόν τζιαι τους Ρωμιούς
τραούλλια, αμμά ξερε πως ίλαντρον όντας κοπέι
καβάτζιν τριγύρου του πετάσσουνται τρακόσια
παραπούλια.**

**Το 'νιν αντάν να τρώ' την γην, τρώει την γην θαρκέται,
μα πάντα τζιείνον τρώεται τζιαι τζιείνον καταλυέται.**

(Η 9η Ιουλίου του 1821 εν Λευκωσία Κύπρου, V. Michaelides)

Methodology: Recital, Word List

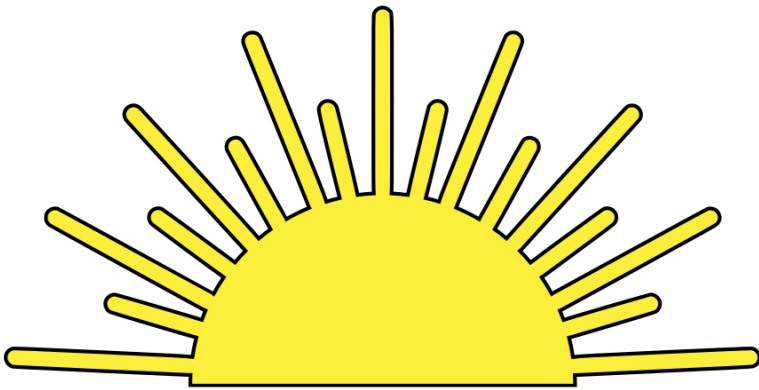
- The word list contained 42 types, 7 of which contained the variable

Summary: **worddisp** will be called **42 times** in **sequential** order

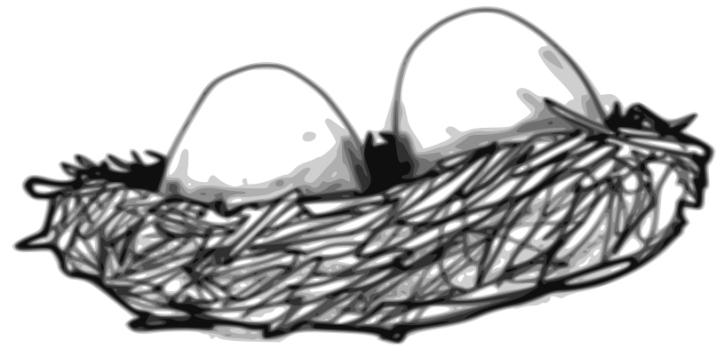
28	κουπέπια			
29	μούττη			
30	τρίφκω			
31	πιττώνω			
32	κουλιαντηρίζω			
33	σύφκω			
34	λιώνω			
35	λειφκω			
◀				
			

Methodology: Elicitation

- Participants were asked to complete a phrase by consulting an image
- 16 images, 7 containing the variable



Αχτίνες του _____



Αφκά μες την _____

Methodology: Analysis

- Intra-speaker analysis (per task) (1W ANOVA)
- Age Distribution across all participants (1W ANOVA)
- Nicosia vs Paphos across all age groups (2T T-Test)
- Nicosia vs. Paphos in the 18-35 age range (2T T-Test)
- Paphos 18-35 vs 51+ (2T T-Test)

Results

- No significant variation between tasks ($F(3,88)=.035, p=.99$)
- Nicosia Age factor *significant* ($F(2,41)=6.81, p=.003$)
 - 18-35 ($M=0, SD=0$), 36-50 ($M=.27, SD=.42$) 51+ ($M=.0, SD=.0$)
- Within Paphos, Age is *significant*:
 - Youth ($M=.25, SD=.43$) vs 51+ ($M=0, SD=0$), $t(46)=3.19, p=.003$
- No significant variation Nicosia ($M=.74, SD=0.25$) vs. Paphos ($M=0.83, SD=.28$); $t(21)=-.07, p=.94$
 - Still, *significant* when comparing Youth only: Nicosia ($M=0, SD=0$) and Paphos ($M=.26, D=.43$); $t(34)=-2.58, p=.014$

Statements from participants (Nicosia)

- Participants report familiarity with the allophone
- In the 36-50 group (the only group to use the fricative) generally report that the fricative was more widespread when they were growing up “but we don’t hear it anymore”
 - Some participants in this group report discouragement of the fricative by the educational system specifically
- In the 18-35 group instead report a geographical distribution (south-eastern Cyprus; Larnaca and Famagusta)

Statements from participants (Paphos)

- Contradictory reports from participants regarding familiarity with the allophone
- Youth in general consider it a marker of their generation's speech patterns
- Older participants generally unfamiliar with the fricative
 - Those of them who report familiarity, generally attribute it to the youth group.

Interpretations

- Age distribution significant in both regions
 - Nicosia: Only used by the 36-50 age group
 - Paphos: Only used by the 18-35 age group
- Nicosia's youth possibly influenced heavily by Koineization
- 51+ Nicosians more likely to participated in stigmatizing the fricative (cf Qualitative)
- Paphos group seems to invalidate Koineization hypothesis, but the N might have been skewed.

Interpretations

- Variation among tasks
 - Not significant
 - Cyprus stable diglossic environment might violate the expectations of attention to speech
 - The lateral variant possibly no longer marked as formal

Interpretations

- Variation between regions
 - Not significant
 - Contradicts Pappas 2014 regarding Paphos
 - At first glance Koineization seems an adequate explanation, yet the age distribution between the two regions differs.
 - Fricative-variant might be picked up by Paphos youth as part of identity formation
 - Again, we are not confident about our Paphos sample

Limitations & Problems

- No pilot phase (elicitation task suffered – confusing images)
- The poem is controversial, possible influence
- Sociolinguistic pressure to ‘perform’ when reading (diglossia), as well as increased meta-linguistic awareness
- *N* maybe too small
- Ideally, we would like to run the experiment in all districts (esp. considering comments from the Nicosia Youth group)

Future Prospects

- Research on Cypriot Greek geographical isoglosses is necessary (last comprehensive study predates the massive population displacement)
- Our experiment could be tweaked and be re-run island-wide
- Causes of shift towards the Λ -variant?

References

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