CHAPTER V

THE CORRELATION OF PHONOLOGICAL VARIABLES WITH SOCIAL VARIABLES
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WITH SOCIAL VARIABLES

5.0. General

The aim of this chapter is to study the mutual relationship between the phonological variables and social variables. This chapter discusses clearly the significant impact of social variables on speech, that is, the effect of social factors, particularly the factors selected for the study, based on the social aspect of the universe that was under observation.

5.1. Background

Generally, correlation denotes the study of relationship between two factors and here the correlation is between language and society which are mutually dependent. In the present study, the phonological variations found through the analyses of the data were compared with the social units established on the basis of the social background of the informants. The social variables were identified from the social factors selected for the study and they were found to be significant for the explanation of phonological variations. The correlation between the phonological variables and the social variables was made
giving importance to two notions in the present research. They are,

1. The social position of the informants,
2. The specific context of the phonological variables.

The phonological elements concentrated for the current research were studied with reference to different contextual speech styles. A comparative study of these contextual stages of a particular phonological element, in the name of 'stylistic variation' has been established. The stylistic variation of the phonological elements has been discussed in the following chapter whereas the other type of correlation is presented in this section, under the title 'sociophonological variation'. There were also some other variations that could be correlated with the contextual and psychological factors that did not attract the theme of the subject. The two types of variables made use of in the study are confirmed through statistical procedures and measures and are described along with relevant illustrations. The phonological variables were explained with due illustrations in the previous chapter and the same have been presented here, by way of correlating them with the social background of the informants. So, this chapter mainly focuses on the sociolinguistic description of the phonological variables arrived at in this study.
5.2. Phonological variation
5.2.1. Vowels
5.2.1.1. Casual speech
5.2.1.1.1. Initial position
5.2.1.1.1.1. Deletion

In the initial position, deleting the vowels especially the low central vowel /a/ was found in the speech of tribal informants. The tribal informants were found to be deleting only the length of the vowels in their casual speech. The other informants also delete the length of the vowels, not in their casual or careful speech behaviour but in their reading style. The reason for this kind of deletion in the speech of the tribal informants, might be the gap between their mother tongue and the Tamil language. The tribal informants who were observed in the present study, were staying in GTR (Government Tribal Residential) schools. The informants observed were from two GTR schools. One school is situated in Manar which has frequent transportation facility. This helps the tribal informants to develop their Tamil and they are also using it in their day-to-day life. But the other school situated in Melbavi, a locale that prevents the public to have contact with tribal population. The people have to walk 3 to 6 kilometers to reach the school. So the tribal informants of this school have a chance of using Tamil with their teacher only and
that too at the time of learning the language in school environment. The tribal subjects use their native language among themselves. These reasons might have caused the informants to delete the length of the vowels. The word /aappil/ 'apple' was pronounced as /appil/ by 36.11 % of tribal informants and 16.66 % of informants have pronounced the word /aarumukam/ as /arumukam/. Words like the following reflecting the vowel length deletion were found through the present study, but they are not abundant.

/uunical/ ------> /iHcal/
/swing' (uu--->i)
/pookkiri/ ------> /p[o]kkiri/
'naughty (adj)' (oo--->o)
/koo[tumai]/ ------> /k[o]tumpi/
'wheat' (oo--->o)

5.2.1.1.1.2. Change

Systematic sound changes could not be identified, that is, a sound changing regularly into another sound in the speech of the informants. Instead, the common words which occurred in casual speech data were analysed and the changes were identified. The reasons for changing the sounds were interpreted on the basis of social identity of the informants. Four words were identified, where one vowel
changes into another, with enough statistical support and sociolinguistic correlation.

Illustration No.1

/lakṣmi/ ----> /l[ə]ccumi/ - 1
'a personal name/' /l[E]ccumi/ - 2

For the word /lakṣmi/, two variant forms were used by the informants in general. The first kind of pronunciation was seen in the speech of both urban and rural informants particularly among the forward and backward class informants. The second speech form was found to be used only by scheduled class informants, irrespective of areal difference. This form was used by all the scheduled class informants, that is, 13 which is 10.56% of the total informants.

Illustration No.3

/illai/ ----> /[I]lla/ - 1
'no' /[a]lla/ - 2
(I---->a)

For the word /illai/, /[I]lla/ was the common form used by most of the informants representing all the social groups except one. Informants from the Kounder class (backward class) show variation in the use of the above word. Among the Kounder informants, 25.49% of them from the
urban area and 25% of Koundert informants from the rural area
have followed this style of pronunciation.

Illustration No.3

\[\text{/puttakam/} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{/p[i]stakō/} \quad - 1\]

'book'

\[\text{/b[o]stako/} \quad - 2\]

(i-->o)

It is common in Tamil that both voiced and
voiceless plosives occur in the initial position of a word.
This kind of difference is discussed in the other section of
this chapter. But the initial syllable of the same word
appears to have undergone changes. The first speech form was
identified among 6.5% forward class informants and the
second speech form was found to be used among the rest of
the informants belonging to urban, rural and tribal areas.

Illustration No.4

\[\text{/sваами/} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{/sv[ə]mi/} \quad - 1\]

'god'

\[\text{/s[ə]mi/} \quad - 2\]

əə --> cc

This kind of change was found among the Brahmin,
that is, the forward class informants and Non-Brahmin
informants. The Brahmin informants have used the first form
of speech. The rest of the informants have used the second
form of speech. In the second form, he deletion of /-v-/ has
changed the following long vowel. The first kind of pronunciation was found among 4.87% of Brahmin informants.

The following illustrations were identified among the forward class informants which were different from the rest of the informants.

/some/ -------> /s[o]me/ - 1

'weight'

/s[E]me/ - 2

(o ---> E)

/sumanțu koņtu/ -------> /s[o]manțutțu/ - 1

'having carried'

/s[E]manțutțu/ - 2

(o ---> E)

/pullu/ -------> /p[U]llu/ - 1

'grass'

/p[I]llu/ - 2

(U ---> I)

/puțunkitțu/ -------> /p[U]țunkitțu/ - 1

'having plucked'

/p[I]țunkitțu/ - 2

(U ---> I)

In all these illustrations, the first kind of variant was identified among 4.87% of Brahmin informants and the second kind of variant was identified among the rest of the informants. There is another change introduced by the informants studying in first standard. This change was due to the deletion of a particular vowel in the medial position
that is, in the following syllable. This was commonly found in the speech of the informants belonging to both urban and rural areas. 18.69% of informants have reflected this change in their speech.

/javuli/ ----> /j [ʌ] vuli/  - 1
'cloth' /j [ə] vli/  - 2
(ʌ --> ə)

The deletion of the vowel /u/ in the second syllable reallocates the labio-dental fricative consonant in the first syllable as the coda of the first syllable in the cited word. This has caused the vowel variation.

5.2.1.1.2. Medial position
5.2.1.1.2.1. Insertion

Four words are selected here for illustrating sound variation in medial position and they are explained under three types of description.

/im sai/ ----> /im[œ]sa/  - 1
'disturbance' /im[ɪ]sa/  - 2
(œ --> ɪ)

In this the variant of the second speech form was used by 18.69% of Kanounder informants irrespective of the area of the informants and the variant of the first speech was used by rest of the informants.
The vowel insertion reflected by the second number of the above example was found only in the speech of scheduled class informants. The kind of variation was supported by 10.56% of scheduled class informants. The first type of speech form was used by the rest of the informants. These two illustrations fall under sociolinguistic variation whereas the following illustrations fall under stylistic variation.

The lengthening of the vowel sounds in the middle of the words is peculiarly found as a stylistic feature in the speech of the tribal informants. The illustrations are the following:

/ennati/    -----> /enn[aa]ti/
'what-she'    (a-->aa)
/vilaiaatuveen/    -----> /vel[aa]tuvee/
'will play -I'    (a-->aa)
/krisnan/    -----> /kr[ii]snan/
'a personal name'    (i-->ii)
5.2.1.1.2.2. Deletion

Eight words were identified as examples showing deletion of vowels in the medial position. Vowel deletion could be correlated with the class in which the informant studies. Vowel deletion phenomena has some bearing over language acquisition. It was found in the data at hand that the first standard informants figuring in the present study delete the vowels in the medial position as the normal children at language acquisition stage delete the vowels before they fully master the language. The illustrations are:

/varisaiyaaka/ ----> /var[φ]sayaa/
'in a queue' (i-->φ)

/javulī/ ----> /jav[φ]li/
'cloth' (u-->φ)

/ेnkeeyoo/ ----> /ेnk[φ]yoo/
'somewhere' (ee-->φ)

/vaaayilee/ ----> /vaay[φ]la/
'in the mouth' (i-->φ)

/elūtī/ ----> /el[φ]ti/
'having written' (u-->φ)

/oru uurla/ ----> /or[φ]uur[φ]la/
'in a town' (u, u-->φ)

/vilaiyaatuveen/ ----> /veḷa[φ]tuvē/'
'will play-I' (yaa-->φ)
5.2.1.1.2.3. Change

On evaluating the influence of the social factors upon the speech behaviour of the observed informants, significant points emerged out. Word medial vowels figuring in casual speech style were found to be changing. Examples showing such changes were brought about by people belonging to two different social classes, namely, tribal and non-tribal informants. Tribal informants change medial vowels even in the common words they use. This confirms another fact that tribals have a peculiar way of using the language. The words reflecting the occurrence of such changes are the following:

/puupparittu/ ——> /p[A]riccu/ - 1
'having plucked the flowers' /p[o]riccu/ - 2

/veṭṭukkaṭṭi/ ——> /k[ɔ]tti/ - 1
'knife' /k[e]tti/ - 2

/pootum poluṭu/ ——> /poot[i]mpootu/ - 1
'at the time of dropping' /poot[ə]mpootu/ - 2

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{/saayantiram/} & \quad \text{———> /saay[ϕ]nt[ϕ]ram/} \\
\text{'evening'} & \quad \text{(a ——> ϕ)} \\
& \quad \text{i ——> ϕ)} \\
\end{align*}
\]
The word /aippasi/ alone has taken a different dimension of being pronounced by the 8.13% of Koundar informants as shown by the second speech form. In all the above illustrations, the first kind of pronunciation was made by the non-tribal informants and the second speech form was made by the tribal informants.

The forward class particularly those of the Brahmin informants in this study and the rest of the informants have established two types of changes in the case of vowels. One is a case where a vowel changes into another vowel and the other one is a case where a syllable changes into a consonant.

Illustration No.1

/saayañtiram/ ------> /saayan[t]ram/ - 1
'evening'

/saayan[t][φ]ram/ - 2
/saayan[t][^]ram/ - 3

The first two types of pronunciation were commonly found among the informants. The variant of the third type of speech form was used by 5.69% of Brahmin subjects.
Illustration No.2
/nammai/ -----> /nam[mA]le/ - 1
'us' /nam[b]le/ - 2

In this, the syllable was maintained by 4.87% of Brahmin informants and the consonant, a changed form, was found among the rest of the informants.

5.2.1.1.3. Final position
5.2.1.1.3.1. Deletion

In the final position, the deletion of the vowel /u/ was commonly found. The words like,

/e\u00fctut\u00fctu/ -----> /e\u00fctuttu[\phi]/
'having carried' (tu-->\phi)
/van\u00fctu\u00fctu/ -----> /van\u00fctu[\phi]/
'having come' (tu-->\phi)
/innoru/ -----> /innor[\phi]/
'another' (u-->\phi)
/erumpu/ -----> /erump[\phi]/
'ant' (u-->\phi)
/pooyit\u00fctu/ -----> /pooyit[\phi]/
'having gone' (tu-->\phi)
/paat\u00fctu\u00fctu/ -----> /paat\u00fctut[\phi]/
'having seen' (tu-->\phi)

were commonly found in the speech of the informants studying in standard one.
5.2.1.3.2. Change

/niinti/ ----> /niint[i]/ - 1
'having swam' /niinj[I]/ - 2
(i---->I)

The change of [i] into [I] in the word /niinti/ is decided by the peculiar use of the cluster [nj] instead of [nd] in that context.

5.2.1.2. Careful speech

5.2.1.2.1. Initial position

5.2.1.2.1.1. Deletion

Deleting the vowel in the monosyllabic word, appears in the careful speech style. /puu/ pronounced as /pu/ was found to be in the speech of the tribal informants. 21.95% of informants have shown this kind of deletion in their speech.

/puu/ ----> /p[i]/
'flower' (uu---->i)

5.2.1.2.1.2. Change

Careful speech style was obtained from the informants by way of asking them to explain the pictures given to them. Moreover they were not allowed free to speak about something else. The selection of words were limited and at the same time this mode of elicitation caused a sense
of consciousness about the formal speech behaviour. Due to this, the researcher could not find much changes except two. The two changes observed were socially significant and reflect the social class influence.

/alukiraan/ ----> /[ə]lʊ[ŋ]araa/ - 1
/[ə]luvaaraa/ - 2
/[ʌ]laaraa/ - 3

The above three types of pronunciation show variation among the informants for one and the same word. The backward class informants have the first type of pronunciation. The scheduled class informants have the second one, which does not show any vowel change but a consonant change in the medial position and the third variant was used by the forward class informants. The statistical count of the percentage of informants making use of the above three types of variants is 30.08 : 13 : 6.50 respectively.

/naŋtu/ ----> /ŋ[ə]ŋtu/ - 1
'crab' /ŋ[e]ŋtu/ - 2
(ə --> e)

With reference to the pronunciation of the above word, irrespective of the areas of study, the first type of pronunciation was found commonly whereas the second type was found only among the tribal informants. Of the 36 tribal informants 24 (66.66%) have this second type of variant.
This change was found in the careful speech style also where the first kind of variant was seen among the forward class informants and the second variant was used by the rest of the informants.

5.2.1.2.2. Medial position

5.2.1.2.2.1. Deletion

The process of deleting the vowels in the medial position was identified among the informants studying in first standard mostly. There were 21.95% of informants who deleted the medial vowels. The informants who belong to the primary level of education did not acquire fully the language. This has resulted in deleting the vowels. In the words given below the first type of speech form was followed by most of the students whereas the second type was used by the 6 years old informants, that is, the informants studying in the first standard.

/əaːtึกิɾalar]/ ----> /aat[̩ɾaːl]/ - 1
'dances-she'

/ouɾṅukиɾаan]/ ----> /oɔɾ[φ]ɾаː/ - 1
'runs-he'
| /kumputukiraan/ | -----> | /kum[ɓø]traa/ | - 1 |
| 'prays-he' | | /kum[φ]traa/ | - 2 |
| (ɓø--->ɓø) |

5.2.1.2.2. Change

| /paţineţtu/ | -----> | /paţ[i]neţtu/ | - 1 |
| 'eighteen' | | /paţ[ʌ]neţtu/ | - 2 |
| (i--->ʌ) |

| /uţaikkiraan/ | -----> | /uţ[ə]kkiräā/ | - 1 |
| 'breaks-he' | | /uţ[I]kkiräā/ | - 2 |
| (ə--->I) |

| /kumputukiraan/ | -----> | /kump[i]ţ[i]raā/ | - 1 |
| 'prays-he' | | /kump[ə]ţ[ʌ]raā/ | - 2 |
| (i--->ə,ʌ) |

The above illustrated changes were found among the backward classes only. On the basis of area, any difference among the informants could not be established. Out of 56 backward class informants, the speech of 34.95% informants has reflected these changes, but in the speech of 30.08% informants only these changes were maintained through out.

5.2.1.2.3. Final position

5.2.1.2.3.1. Insertion

| /kappal/ | -----> | /kappal[i]/ |
| 'ship' | (φ--->i) |
Though adding a vowel in the word final position is common, this has become significant with reference to sociolinguistic process, because it functions as a specific feature of a specific group. Normally when a picture, for example, the picture of a ship was shown to the informants, they simply explained it as /kappal/ but at the same time the tribal informants added some vowels at end of such words. This state was not found among the rest of the informants in the context of careful speech particularly. The word/puu/ manifests two kinds of change.

1. When the length of the vowel /u/ is maintained, [vi] is found to be added.

2. When the length of the vowel /u/ is deleted [vvi] is found to be added.
It was found that this type of change has no sociophonological correlational significance.

5.2.1.2.3.2. Deletion

/roojappuu/ -----> /roojapp[i]/
'rose' (uu-->i)

It is already discussed that the tribal informants have deleted the length of vowel in the word/puu/. This aspect is further supported by the pronunciation of the above illustrated word with the same statistical count 75%.

5.2.1.2.3.3. Change

The researcher could not find changes in the case of word final vowels, but 'nasalization' of the vowel of word final syllable was noticed. Nasalization is a characteristic feature of the casual speech, but in the present study even in the careful speech style also it was found. The informants related to the present research have maintained nasalization feature irrespective of the various social background to which they belong and hence this feature naturally comes under the contextual styles.

5.2.1.3. Word list

While observing the children reading the given reading material, mistakes committed by the children only were identified. These mistakes were later found to be
correlated with the acquisitional aspect of the children and not associated with the sociophonology of the language. In the beginning phase of education, inability of children in reading is common and accepted. This kind of speech behaviour also manifests some variations in spite of the above discussed views.

5.2.1.3.1. Initial position

5.2.1.3.1.1. Deletion

\[
\text{/ii}t\text{t}i/ \rightarrow /Iit\text{t}i/ \\
'\text{spear}' \rightarrow (ii\rightarrow I)
\]

25% of informants belonging to the second standard class of the rural area and 44.44% of informants belonging to the second and third classes of tribal area have deleted the length of the vowel.

5.2.1.3.1.2. Change

\[
\text{/am}m\text{aa}/ \rightarrow /\text{a}m\text{maa}/ - 1 \\
'mother' /\text{a}m\text{maa}/ - 2 \\
(\ v\rightarrow ^a )
\]

\[
\text{/ap}p\text{aa}/ \rightarrow /\text{a}pp\text{aa}/ - 1 \\
'father' /\text{a}pp\text{aa}/ - 2 \\
(\ v\rightarrow ^a )
\]

The only change identified (that is given above) was a peculiar feature of tribal students, who differed from
the other informants. In this, the vowel phoneme \[\text{[]}\] has changed into \[\text{[]}\]. The variant \[\text{[]}\] was found commonly, and \[\text{[]}\] was found only among the tribal subjects due to the difference in the intonation pattern. The second variant was found in the speech of 38.88% tribal informants.

5.2.1.3.2. Medial position

5.2.1.3.2.1. Deletion

In the medial position with reference to deletion of vowels only the shortening of the length of the vowels was found to be common in the speech of two types of social groups. One is the group of informants belonging to the second standard and the other one is the group of tribal informants. The statistical count of both the groups is 25.28% and 52.77% respectively.

\[
\begin{align*}
/\text{vaanavuurti}/ & \quad \longrightarrow \quad /\text{v[[]]}\text{na[\i\i]}\text{rti}/ \\
'\text{aeroplane}' & \quad (\text{uu}--\rightarrow \text{\i}) \\
/\text{annaasippalam}/ & \quad \longrightarrow \quad /\text{ann[a]}\text{sippal}{\text{am}}/ \\
'\text{pineapple}' & \quad (\text{aa}--\rightarrow \text{\a}) \\
/\text{takkaalippalam}/ & \quad \longrightarrow \quad /\text{takk[\c]}\text{lippalam}/ \\
'\text{tomato}' & \quad (\text{\c}--\rightarrow \text{\c})
\end{align*}
\]

5.2.1.3.2.2. Change

The change noticed was at phonemic level and that too from the informants of scheduled class of both the urban
and rural areas. This change was identified among 19.54% of informants.

\[
\text{/kaṭṭariṇṇu} \longrightarrow \text{/kaṭṭ[^]{\uparrow}riṇṇu/} \quad 1
\]

'flower of brinjal'

\[
\text{/kaṭṭ[i]riṇṇu/} \quad 2
\]

[^]{\uparrow} \longrightarrow \text{i}

5.2.1.3.3. Final position

5.2.1.3.3.1. Deletion

Deletion of the length of the vowel at the final position was found in the speech of 25.28% second standard informants belonging to urban and rural areas and also 52.77% of tribal informants have deleted the length of the vowel.

\[
\text{/kaṭṭariṇṇu} \longrightarrow \text{/kaṭṭariṇ[i]/}
\]

'flower of brinjal'

\[
\text{(uu} \longrightarrow \text{i)}
\]

5.2.1.4. Passage reading

5.2.1.4.1. Initial position

5.2.1.4.1.1. Deletion

In the style of passage reading also, the length of the vowel has been found to be deleted. 27.58% of the informants studying in second standard belonging to the urban and rural areas and 58.33% of second and third class informants belonging to the tribal area have deleted the length of vowel.
5.2.1.4.2. Medial position

5.2.1.4.2. Deletion

Though the deletion of length of the vowels is common among the speech of informants who are not able to read fluently, they delete the final syllable of the word that contains four syllables, due to the problem in reading.

*/tɔntaiyaaavaar/* ----> */tɔntaiyaa[ϕ]r/*
'father (that-he)' (vaa-->ϕ)

5.2.1.4.2.2. Change

*/sʊtɔntira/* ----> */sʊ[ə]ntira/* - 1
'freedom' (ə-->C)
This change of vowel in the medial position was noticed perhaps due to the change of preceding consonant. 13% of scheduled class informants were found to be using this pronunciation.

5.2.1.5. Minimal pairs

5.2.1.5.1. Initial position

5.2.1.5.1.1. Deletion

/uural/ \(\rightarrow\) /ɪral/  
'fermented liquid' (uu\(\rightarrow\)i)

/aappam/ \(\rightarrow\) /ʌpam/  
'an edible item' (aa\(\rightarrow\)ʌ)

/iitu/ \(\rightarrow\) /ɪtu/  
'indemnity' (ii\(\rightarrow\)I)

/eetu/ \(\rightarrow\) /ɛtu/  
'leaf' (ee\(\rightarrow\)e)

/oottu/ \(\rightarrow\) /ʊttu/  
'drive' (oo\(\rightarrow\)o)

The above words reflect the deletion of initial length of the vowels in the speech of the second standard informants of urban and rural areas and scheduled tribe informants which counts 27.58% and 58.33% respectively.
5.2.2. Diphthongs

With reference to the diphthongs, not much variations were found which could be correlated with the social structure. Nevertheless some significant phonological variations were identified in the social context.

5.2.2.1. Casual speech

5.2.2.1.1. Initial position

5.2.2.1.1.1. Deletion

Variation in the pronunciation of diphthong /ai/ was noticed between the tribal and non-tribal informants.

/payyan/ ----> /p[əy]yan/ - 1

'boy'

/p[ʌ]yan/ - 2

(əy—→ʌ)

The word /payyan/ 'boy' was pronounced as shown in the first type of speech form by the non-tribal informants. The same was pronounced without a stress as shown in the second type of speech form by 72.22% of tribal informants in whose speech it has changed into a monophthong.

5.2.2.1.1.2. Change

/aiyan/ ----> /[ɔi]yanaar/ - 1

'father/god'

/[ɔy]yë/ - 2

(ɔi—→ɔy)
The pronunciation of the above word shows variation in the speech of the Kounder informants. The same word has been used in two different contexts where the first one denotes 'God' and the second one denotes 'father'. The Kounder informants when they refer to their father, they pronounce it as /[ay] yan/, but the rest of the informants, when they refer to the God they follow the second pattern. 14.63% of Kounder informants have manifested the above variation.

/saayantiram/ ----> /s[ɔy]antiram/ - 1
 'evening' /s[ɔy]ntram/ - 2

While pronouncing the above word, 11.76% of forward class informants, the Brahmin informants, belonging to the urban area have used the pronunciation given in the first pattern and the rest of the informants belonging to urban, rural and tribal areas showed the other one.

5.2.2.2. Word list
5.2.2.2.1. Initial position
5.2.2.2.1.1. Change
/auvaiyaar/ ----> /[av]vaiyaar/
 'a poetess' (au--> ɔv)
The change of the diphthong /au/ in the above word does not receive any sociophonological significance.

\[
\text{/ai\text{ppasi}/} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{/ai\text{ppasi}/} \quad - \quad 1
\]

'a Tamil month' \quad \text{/\text{\text{\text{\text{"\text{\text{\text{}}}ppusi}/}}}\text{/} \quad - \quad 2

\begin{align*}
\text{(ai} & \Rightarrow \varepsilon )
\end{align*}

The informants were expected to pronounce a given word as it is found in the material given for reading, but Kounder informants (10.56%) read it as shown in the second type of speech form as they use it in their day-to-day speech behaviour.

5.2.2.2.2. Medial position

5.2.2.2.2.1. Change

\[
\text{/ai\text{ppasi}/} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{/ai\text{pp}[\text{\text{\text{\text{}}}s\text{i}/}]} \quad - \quad 1
\]

'a Tamil month' \quad \text{/\text{\text{\text{\text{}}}pp[\text{i}/]si/}\text{/} \quad - \quad 2

\begin{align*}
\text{(} & \Rightarrow \text{i)}
\end{align*}

10.56% of Kounder informants, following the casual speech style, have changed the sound [\text{\text{\text{\text{}}}A\text{/}] into [\text{i}], which is a characteristic feature of their language variety.

5.2.2.2.3. Final position

5.2.2.2.3.1. Change

\[
\text{/koo\text{\text{\text{\text{}}}tumai/}} \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{/koo\text{\text{\text{\text{}}}tum[bI]/} \quad - \quad 1
\]

'wheat' \quad \text{(ai} \Rightarrow \text{bI)}
The above change was found among the 27.77% of rural informants. Such a change is commonly found in the casual speech behaviour of the rural people.

5.2.3. Laterals

The social aspect on the speech behaviour of the informants is the focus of the present research. The influence of all the social factors selected for the study over the pronunciation of laterals could not be found, but the influence of area of the informants was found to be a major factor. The area where the informants live has a role to play with the pronunciation of Tamil laterals. This part of the chapter presents the impact of areal difference over the three laterals and the variation in particular in the pronunciation of the continuant lateral based on the class of the students studying. The table with the description given shows the statistics of the areas and the variations observed in the pronunciation of the laterals.

5.2.3.1. Maintenance of the laterals

5.2.3.1.1. The urban area

As far as the urban area is concerned the retroflex lateral was maintained better than the other two laterals. The alveolar lateral was maintained in the urban area by less number of informants. The retroflex continuant lateral was pronounced somewhat in a better way than the
other areas. A statistical picture of the use of laterals in the urban area is given below. The change of the laterals is also given.

**TABLE 1**

Maintenance of laterals : urban area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Retroflex</th>
<th>Continuant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>92.15</td>
<td>80.39</td>
<td>20.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>68.23</td>
<td>85.88</td>
<td>23.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>67.64</td>
<td>73.72</td>
<td>22.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>78.43</td>
<td>78.43</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>58.09</td>
<td>66.29</td>
<td>28.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 1 Maintenance of laterals:
Urban area
TABLE 2
Maintenance and change of alveolar lateral by the urban informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Urban/Alveolar</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Change to 1</th>
<th>Not able to read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td></td>
<td>92.15</td>
<td>7.84</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td></td>
<td>68.23</td>
<td>31.76</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td></td>
<td>67.64</td>
<td>22.21</td>
<td>10.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td></td>
<td>78.43</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td></td>
<td>58.09</td>
<td>18.19</td>
<td>23.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 3
Maintenance and change of retroflex lateral by the urban informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Urban/Retroflex</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Change to 1</th>
<th>Not able to read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td></td>
<td>80.39</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td></td>
<td>85.88</td>
<td>11.76</td>
<td>2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td></td>
<td>73.72</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>23.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td></td>
<td>78.43</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td></td>
<td>66.29</td>
<td>10.33</td>
<td>23.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 2 Maintenance and change of Alveolar lateral: Urban

Urban/Alveolar

![Bar chart showing maintenance and change in Urban/Alveolar contexts.]

- **Casual**
  - Maintenance
  - Change to l
  - Not able to read

- **Careful**
  - Maintenance
  - Change to l
  - Not able to read

- **Word list**
  - Maintenance
  - Change to l
  - Not able to read

- **Passage**
  - Maintenance
  - Change to l
  - Not able to read

- **Min.pairs**
  - Maintenance
  - Change to l
  - Not able to read
Fig. 3 Maintenance and change of Retroflex lateral: Urban
TABLE 4
Maintenance and change of retroflex continuant lateral by the urban informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>URBAN/RETROFLEX</th>
<th>CONTINUANT LATERAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Change to ( \hat{1} )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>20.25</td>
<td>7.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>23.03</td>
<td>3.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>22.35</td>
<td>10.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>17.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>28.82</td>
<td>11.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 4 Maintenance and change of Retroflex continuant lateral: Urban

Urban/Retroflex continuant lateral

Casual  Careful  Word list  Passage  Min.pairs

- Maintenance
- Change to I
- Change to l
- Not able to read
5.2.3.1.2. The Rural Area

In the rural area, the alveolar lateral was found to be maintained better than the retroflex and retroflex continuant laterals. The quality of the retroflex and retroflex continuant lateral was not maintained as they were maintained in the urban area. Tables indicating the maintenance and changes of the three laterals are given.

**TABLE 5**

Maintenance of laterals : Rural area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Retroflex</th>
<th>Continuant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>81.66</td>
<td>4.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>90.27</td>
<td>79.16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>62.02</td>
<td>48.33</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>69.44</td>
<td>61.80</td>
<td>7.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>58.09</td>
<td>48.61</td>
<td>10.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 5 Maintenance of laterals:
Rural area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Casual</th>
<th>Careful</th>
<th>Word list</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Min.pairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alveolar</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retroflex</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuant</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laterals

0 20 40 60 80 100 120
**TABLE 6**

Maintenance and change of alveolar lateral by the rural informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>RURAL/ALVEOLAR</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Not able to read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Change to 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>90.27</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>62.02</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td></td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>69.44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>58.05</td>
<td>8.83</td>
<td></td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 7**

Maintenance and change of retroflex lateral by the rural informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>URBAN/RETROFLEX</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Not able to read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Change to 1</td>
<td>Change to 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>81.66</td>
<td>18.33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>79.16</td>
<td>20.83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>48.33</td>
<td>7.77</td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td>32.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>61.80</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td></td>
<td>35.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>48.61</td>
<td>16.94</td>
<td></td>
<td>34.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 6 Maintenance and change of Alveolar lateral: Rural

Rural/Alveolar

Casual Carsful Word list Passage Mln.pairs

Context

Maintenace EMU Change to I L Not able to read
Fig. 7 Maintenance and change of Retroflex lateral: Rural

Rural/Retroflex

Casual Careful Word list Context Passage Min.pairs

- Maintenance
- Change to l
- Change to l
- Not able to read
TABLE 8

Maintenance and change of retroflex continuant lateral by
the rural informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>RURAL/RETROFLEX CONTINUANT</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Change to</td>
<td>Change to</td>
<td>Not able to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>l</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>read</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>4.72</td>
<td>31.66</td>
<td>63.61</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>80.55</td>
<td>6.94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>54.16</td>
<td>34.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>7.38</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>54.66</td>
<td>34.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>24.05</td>
<td>24.05</td>
<td>33.94</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.3.1.3. The Tribal Area

The percentage with regards to the maintenance of alveolar lateral in the tribal area is less when compared to the maintenance of alveolar lateral in the urban and rural areas. The tribal subjects have tried to maintain the quality of the retroflex lateral, but the quality of the retroflex continuant lateral in the speech of tribal subjects is poor when compared to the rest of the informants.
Fig. 8 Maintenance and change of Retroflex continuant lateral: Rural

Rural/Retroflex continuant lateral

![Graph showing maintenance and change of Retroflex continuant lateral for different contexts.]

- Casual
- Careful
- Word list
- Passage
- Min. pairs

Legend:
- Dark bar: Maintenance
- Light bar: Change to l
- Medium bar: Change to l
- Stripe bar: Not able to read
### TABLE 9
Maintenance of laterals: Tribal area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laterals</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Retroflex</th>
<th>Continuant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>82.08</td>
<td>80.55</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>85.55</td>
<td>77.22</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>57.22</td>
<td>55.55</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>62.94</td>
<td>52.77</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>35.41</td>
<td>45.13</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 10
Maintenance and change of alveolar lateral by the tribal informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>TRIBAL/ALVEOLAR</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Change to</th>
<th>Change to</th>
<th>Not able to read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>82.08</td>
<td>17.91</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>85.55</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>57.22</td>
<td>16.11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26.66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>62.94</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31.47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>35.41</td>
<td>31.94</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>29.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 9 Maintenance of laterals:
Tribal area

![Bar chart showing maintenance of laterals in different contexts: Casual, Careful, Word list, Passage, Min.pairs. The bars are color-coded for Alveolar, Retracted, and Continuant.](image-url)
Fig. 10 Maintenance and change of Alveolar lateral: Tribal

![Graph showing maintenance and change of Alveolar lateral]
### TABLE 11
Maintenance and change of retroflex lateral by the tribal informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>TRIBAL/RETROFLEX</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Change to 1</td>
<td>Not able to read</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>80.55</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>77.22</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>55.55</td>
<td>15.55</td>
<td>23.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>52.77</td>
<td>23.88</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>45.13</td>
<td>20.13</td>
<td>30.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 12
Maintenance and change of retroflex continuant lateral by the tribal informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>TRIBAL/RETROFLEXCONTINUANT</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Change to 1</td>
<td>Change to 1</td>
<td>Not able to read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>7.22</td>
<td>43.33</td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>9.02</td>
<td>60.41</td>
<td>28.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>63.88</td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>14.58</td>
<td>50.69</td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 11 Maintenance and change of Retroflex lateral: Tribal

Tribal/Retroflex

Casual | Careful | Word list | Passage | Min.pairs
Context

- Maintenance
- Change to l
- Not able to read
Fig. 12 Maintenance and change of Retroflex continuant lateral: Tribal

Tribal/Retroflex continuant lateral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>80</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change to l</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not able to read</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Casual | Careful | Word list | Passage | Min.pairs
5.2.3.2. The areal difference of the laterals

5.2.3.2.1. Alveolar lateral

The rural area has very well maintained the alveolar lateral than the other areas. The urban area receives a higher percentage in producing the alveolar lateral correctly than the tribal area. A comparative picture of the maintenance of the alveolar lateral is given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Tribal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>92.15</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>82.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>68.23</td>
<td>90.27</td>
<td>85.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>67.64</td>
<td>62.02</td>
<td>57.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>78.43</td>
<td>69.44</td>
<td>62.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>58.09</td>
<td>58.05</td>
<td>35.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 13 The areal difference of the Alveolar lateral

![Bar chart showing the areal difference of the Alveolar lateral area for different contexts and regions.](chart.png)

- Casual
- Careful
- Word list
- Context
- Passage
- Min. pairs

Legend:
- Urban
- Rural
- Tribal
5.2.3.2.2. Retroflex Lateral

The retroflex lateral does not show significant areal differentiation among the three areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Tribal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>80.39</td>
<td>81.66</td>
<td>80.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>85.88</td>
<td>79.16</td>
<td>77.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>73.72</td>
<td>48.33</td>
<td>55.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>78.43</td>
<td>61.80</td>
<td>52.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>66.29</td>
<td>48.61</td>
<td>45.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 14 The areal difference of the Retroflex lateral

Area

100

80

60

40

20

0

Casual  Careful  Word list Context  Passage  Min.paires

- Urban  - Rural  - Tribal
5.2.3.2.3. Retroflex continuant lateral

The percentage of use of the retroflex continuant lateral shows a significant difference. The urban area has received a higher percentage than the other areas. Next in percentage comes the rural area and last in percentage comes the tribal area.

TABLE 15

The areal difference of the retroflex continuant lateral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Tribal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>20.25</td>
<td>4.72</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>23.03</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>22.35</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>7.38</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>28.82</td>
<td>10.16</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The influence of area factor alone could be affiliated with the pronunciation of laterals. The use of retroflex continuant lateral could also be correlated with the age factor. Naturally in the beginning of the education, it is difficult to pronounce the retroflex continuant lateral accurately and to maintain the quality of the sound. The pronunciation has been improved in the later stages. The pronunciation of the retroflex continuant lateral improves,
Fig. 15 The areal difference of the Retroflex continuant lateral

Area

35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0

Casual | Careful | Word list Context | Passage | Min. pairs

Urban | Rural | Tribal
as the informants go further higher in the educational level. The table correlating the age factor with the pronunciation of continuant lateral is as follows:

**TABLE 16**

The pronunciation of retroflex continuant lateral according to the class of the informant study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Urban I</th>
<th>Urban II</th>
<th>Urban III</th>
<th>Rural I</th>
<th>Rural II</th>
<th>Rural III</th>
<th>Tribal I</th>
<th>Tribal II</th>
<th>Tribal III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>5.88</td>
<td>12.41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>7.68</td>
<td>12.01</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.23</td>
<td>14.11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.82</td>
<td>24.50</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>4.61</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal pairs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>2.66</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another view regarding the laterals is that they show positional variation. Though positional variations were found they were not correlatable with social factors.

5.2.4. Nasalization

It has been discussed already that the feature nasalization was possible in two contexts only, that is in casual and careful speech contexts. In this research,
Fig. 16 Pronunciation of Retroflex continuant lateral: Age/Class difference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Tribal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- ■ Casual
- # Careful
- □ Word list
- ▼ Passage
- ▲ Min. pairs
nasalization aspect is studied completely under the contextual styles and it will be discussed in detail in the following chapter.

5.2.5. Voice

The sociolinguistic study of voice of the plosives, in the selected three aspects, could be associated with areal difference and the sex difference. Of the three aspects related to the voice of the plosives, voicing of the initial and the intervocalic plosives was significant with sociophonological process.

5.2.5.1. The areal difference

5.2.5.1.1. Urban

5.2.5.1.1.1. Casual speech

5.2.5.1.1.1.1. Initial voice

While studying the pronunciation of the initial plosives in the casual speech it was found that 72.54% of urban informants have used voiced plosives and 27.45% of informants have used voiceless plosives. Among these, in using voiced plosives in the initial position, 41.17% of informants were male speakers and 31.37% were female speakers. In using the voiceless plosives, 9.8% of informants were found to be male speakers and 17.64% of informants were found to be female speakers.
5.2.5.1.1.2. Intervocalic voice

A study of pronunciation of the plosives in the intervocalic position shows that fricativization takes place among 29.01% of informants and voicing of the plosive among 70.98%. As far as the maintenance of voiceless velar fricative is concerned, 16.47% of female informants, and 12.54% of male informants were found to be using fricativized velar plosive. The female informants were less in number in the context of voicing the velar plosive in the intervocalic position. As against the use of voiceless velar fricative, 33.72% of female informants and 37.25% of male informants were found to be voicing the plosives in the intervocalic position.

5.2.5.1.1.2. Careful speech

5.2.5.1.1.2.1. Initial position

In the urban area, 64.70% of informants have shown voicing of the initial plosives whereas 27.45% of informants have maintained the voiceless plosives. Of these, 35.29% of male informants and 29.41% of female informants were found to be using initially voiced plosives. The voiceless plosives on the other hand were used by 14.21% of male informants and 21.07% of female informants in the initial position.
5.2.5.1.1.2.2. Intervocalic voice

In the intervocalic position 27.45% of informants have fricativized the quality of the velar plosive while 49.01% of informants have voiced the quality of the velar plosive. As a reflection of sex difference in pronunciation, it could be pointed out that 10.19% of male informants and 17.25% of female informants have adopted fricativized velar plosive, whereas, 27.45% of male informants and 21.56% of female informants have adopted voiced velar plosive in the intervocalic position.

5.2.5.1.1.3. Word list

5.2.5.1.1.3.1. Initial voice

In the reading style especially in the pronunciation of the initial plosives, 40.39% of informants have used plosives with voice and 34.5% of informants have used plosives without voice, 21.56% of informants were unable to read the list of words given to them. With reference to the pronunciation of voiceless plosives there were 11.76% of male informants and 22.74% of female informants. In using voiced plosives 22.74% of male informants and 17.64% of female informants were found.

5.2.5.1.1.3.2. Intervocalic voice

In this, 23.52% of informants were not able to read the words list given. Among the rest of the informants,
43.13% of informants were observed to be using voiced plosive while 33.33% of informants were using corresponding fricative sound. In using voiceless velar fricative, 15.68% of male informants and 17.64% of female informants were found, whereas, 26.27% of male informants and 16.86% of female informants were found to be using voiced velar plosive.

5.2.5.1.1.4. Passage reading

5.2.5.1.1.4.1. Initial voice

21.56% of urban informants could not read the passage given to check the voice of the initial plosives, 38.23% of informants have used voiceless plosives and 40.19% of informants have used voiced plosives. Among the male informants of the urban area, 15.68% of them have selected voiceless plosives whereas 22.54% of them have selected voiced plosives. Among the female informants 22.54% of them have used the voiceless plosives and 17.64% of them have used the voiced plosives.

5.2.5.1.1.4.2. Intervocalic voice

Out of 51 informants in the urban area, 29.41% of them were found to be using voiceless velar fricative and 47.05% of them were found to be using voiced velar plosive. The rest of the informants, that is, 23.52% of students could not read the passage given. Among the male informants
12.74% have used voiceless velar fricative and 27.45% have used the voiced velar plosive. 16.66% of female informants were using voiceless velar fricative and 19.60% of female informants were using voiced velar plosive.

**TABLE 17**

The quality of voice of the initial and intervocalic plosives among the urban informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound quality</th>
<th>INITIAL VOICE</th>
<th>INTERVOCALIC VOICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td>Voiceless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>72.54</td>
<td>27.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>64.70</td>
<td>35.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>40.39</td>
<td>34.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>40.19</td>
<td>38.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Fig. 17 Voice of the initial and intervocalic plosives: Urban sound quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Voiced</th>
<th>Voiceless</th>
<th>Fricative</th>
<th>Rest Initial voice</th>
<th>Rest Intervocalic voice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 18
Sex difference in the use of voice of the initial plosives among the urban informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>VOICED</th>
<th>VOICELESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>41.17</td>
<td>31.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>35.29</td>
<td>29.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>22.74</td>
<td>17.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>22.54</td>
<td>17.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 19
Sex difference in the use of voice of the intervocalic plosives among the urban informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>VOICED</th>
<th>VOICELESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>37.25</td>
<td>33.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>27.45</td>
<td>21.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>26.27</td>
<td>16.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>27.45</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.5.1.2. Rural
5.2.5.1.2.1. Casual speech
5.2.5.1.2.1.1. Initial voice

The evaluation of the initial voice of plosives in the rural area has shown that both voiced and voiceless plosives were used by 56.66%, 36.66% of informants respectively. Among them those who were using voiced plosives initially were 37.22% of female speakers and 19.44% of male speakers. The speakers who use voiceless plosives were 14.44% of male speakers and 22.22% of female speakers.

5.2.5.1.2.1.2. Intervocalic voice

41.66% of informants were using voiced velar plosive and 52.77% of informants were using voiceless velar fricative, a counterpart of the velar plosive. Among the rest of the informants (5.55%) different sound other than the velar one was found. In the use of intervocalic voice, 23.77% male speakers and 17.77% female speakers were using voiced velar plosive whereas 15.16% male speakers and 37.61% female speakers were using voiceless velar fricative.

5.2.5.1.2.2. Careful speech
5.2.5.1.2.2.1. Initial voice

With reference to the careful speech, 52.77% of informants were found to be using voiced plosives while 38.33% of informants were using voiceless plosives. 8.88% of
informants were not able to describe the pictures given to check the voice quality of the initial plosives. It was observed that voiced plosives were used by 36.11% of male speakers and 16.66% of female speakers. The use of voiceless plosives was found among 14.72% of male informants and 23.61% of female informants.

5.2.5.1.2.2.2. Intervocalic voice

In this, 36.11% of informants and 58.33% of informants have used voiced plosive and voiceless velar fricative respectively. 5.55% of informants could not describe the pictures clearly. In using the voiced plosive in the intervocalic position, 19.44% were male speakers and 16.66% were female speakers. The voiceless velar fricative was used by 22.22% of male speakers and 36.11% of female speakers.

5.2.5.1.2.3. Word list

5.2.5.1.2.3.1. Initial voice

While reading the list of words given, 19.44% of informants have pronounced the initial plosives with voice and 50% of informants have pronounced without voice. 30.55% of informants could not read the material given for reading. In the word initial position, 11.66% of male speakers and 7.7% of female speakers have used voiced plosives, whereas
21.66% of male speakers and 28.33% of female speakers have used voiceless plosives.

5.2.5.1.2.3.2. Intervocalic voice

In the context of reading the words, 33.33% of informants have voiced the intervocalic plosive while 36.11% of informants have maintained the quality of fricativization in the intervocalic position. 30.55% of informants were not able to read the list of words given to check the maintenance of voice in the intervocalic plosives. Voiced velar plosive was used by 20% of male speakers and 13.33% of female speakers. 15.08% of male speakers and 21.02% of female speakers were identified as pronouncing the voiceless velar fricative.

5.2.5.1.2.4. Passage reading

5.2.5.1.2.4.1. Initial voice

19.44% of informants were found to be using voiced plosives while 50% of informants were using voiceless plosives initially in the style of passage reading. 30.55% of informants could not read the passage given. In describing the sex difference in the pronunciation of initial voice, it may be pointed out that 11.11% of male informants and 8.33% of female informants were using the voiced plosives and 20.83% of male informants and 29.16% of female informants were using voiceless plosives.
5.2.5.1.2.4.2. Intervocalic voice

The study of intervocalic voice shows that 33.33% of informants were interested in using voiced plosive and 36.11% of informants in using voiceless velar fricative while reading the passage. The percentage of informants who were not able to read is 30.55%. 19.44% of male speakers and 16.66% of female speakers were identified with voiced plosive pronunciation. The voiceless velar fricative was maintained by 15.27% of male speakers and 20.83% of female speakers.

TABLE 20

The quality of voice of the initial and intervocalic plosives among the rural informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound quality</th>
<th>INITIAL VOICE</th>
<th>INTERVOCALIC VOICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td>Voiceless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>54.66</td>
<td>36.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>52.77</td>
<td>38.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 18 Voice of the initial and intervocalic plosives: Rural Sound quality

Casual Careful Word list Passage

Context

- Voiced
- Voiceless
- Fricative
- Rest
- Initial voice
- Rest
- Intervocalic voice
TABLE 21
Sex difference in the use of voice of the initial plosives among the rural informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>VOICED</th>
<th>VOICELESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>37.22</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>14.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>36.11</td>
<td>16.66</td>
<td>14.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>21.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>11.11</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>20.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 22
Sex difference in the use of voice of the intervocalic plosives among the rural informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>VOICED</th>
<th>VOICELESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Females</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>23.77</td>
<td>17.77</td>
<td>15.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>16.66</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>13.33</td>
<td>15.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>19.44</td>
<td>16.66</td>
<td>15.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.5.1.3. Tribal

5.2.1.3.1. Casual speech

5.2.5.1.3.1.1. Initial voice

In the casual speech style of the tribal informants area, 69.44% of informants have used voiced plosives and 30.55% of informants have used voiceless plosives. In this, voiced plosives were found in the pronunciation of 36.11% of male speakers and 33.33% of female speakers. The initial plosives were pronounced without voice by 13.88% of male speakers and 16.66% of female speakers in the casual speech.

5.2.5.1.3.1.2. Intervocalic voice

With reference to the use of velar plosive in the intervocalic position, 27.77% of informants have pronounced with voice and 63.88% of informants have pronounced with fricativization. 8.33% of informants have used different consonant /v/, instead of the velar plosive. Voiced velar plosive was used by 16.11% of male speakers and 11.66% of female speakers, whereas, voiceless velar fricative was used by 30.55% of male speakers and 33.33% of female speakers.

5.2.5.1.3.2. Careful speech

5.2.5.1.3.2.1. Initial voice

In this context, 11.94% of informants could not describe the pictures given to check the pronunciation of
initial plosives. Among the rest of the informants, 52.77% have used voiced plosives while 35.27% of informants have used voiceless plosives. There were 26.83% of male informants and 25.94% of female informants using voiced plosives and 17.22% of male informants and 18.05% of female informants were using voiceless plosives.

5.2.5.1.3.2.1. Intervocalic voice

9.16% of informants were unable to describe the pictures, which were given to evaluate the quality of intervocalic plosive. 30.55% and 60.27% of informants were found to be using voiced velar plosive and voiceless velar fricative respectively. While observing the sex difference in the pronunciation of intervocalic velar plosive, 16.66% of male speakers and 13.88% of female speakers were found to be using voiced plosive. The voiceless velar fricative was maintained by 25% of male speakers and 35.27% of female speakers in the careful speech style.

5.2.5.1.3.3. Word list

5.2.5.1.3.3.1. Initial voice

21.11% of informants adopted voiced plosives and 65.55% of informants adopted voiceless plosives whereas 13.33% of informants could not read the list of words given to them. The use of voiced plosives was found among 12.22% of male speakers and 8.88% of female speakers. Voiceless
plosives were found among 30.22% of male speakers and 35.33% of female speakers.

5.2.5.1.3.3.2. Intervocalic voice

Out of 36 informants, 11.11% of informants could not read the words given. Among the rest of the informants 24.16% of students were identified with the use of voiced velar plosive and 63.61% of students were identified with voiceless velar fricative. Voiced velar plosive in the intervocalic position was used by 12.5% of male speakers and 11.55% of female speakers. The voiceless velar fricative was maintained by 31.47% of male speakers and 32.22% of female speakers.

5.2.5.1.3.4. Passage reading

5.2.5.1.3.4.1. Initial voice

In the style of reading a passage that included the sounds under observation, 8.33% of informants have made use of voiced plosives and 77.77% of informants have made use of the voiceless plosives. There were 8.33% of informants, who were not able to read the passage. 4.16% of male speakers and 4.16% of female speakers were found to be using voiced plosives and 31.94% of male speakers and 45.83% of female speakers were found to be using voiceless plosives.
5.2.5.1.3.4.2. Intervocalic voice

In this, 15% of informants were not able to read the passage given. 22.22% of informants have used voiced plosives and 61.66% of informants have used voiceless velar fricative. The voiced velar plosive was found among 12.22% of male speakers and 10% of female speakers, whereas the voiceless velar fricative was identified among 29.44% of male speakers and 32.22% of female speakers in the intervocalic position.

TABLE 23

The quality of voice of the initial and intervocalic plosives among the tribal informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound quality</th>
<th>INITIAL VOICE</th>
<th>INTERVOCALIC VOICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Voiced</td>
<td>Voiceless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>69.44</td>
<td>30.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>52.77</td>
<td>35.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>21.11</td>
<td>65.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>77.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 19 Voice of the initial and Intervocalic plosives: Tribal Sound quality

![Bar chart showing sound quality for different contexts (Casual, Careful, Word list, Passage) and types of voice (Voiced, Voiceless, Fricative)]

- Voiced
- Voiceless
- Fricative
- Rest initial voice
- Rest intervocalic voice

Sound quality
TABLE 24
Sex difference in the use of voice of the initial plosives among the tribal informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>VOICED Males</th>
<th>VOICED Females</th>
<th>VOICELESS Males</th>
<th>VOICELESS Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>36.11</td>
<td>33.33</td>
<td>13.88</td>
<td>16.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>26.83</td>
<td>25.94</td>
<td>17.22</td>
<td>18.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>12.22</td>
<td>8.88</td>
<td>30.22</td>
<td>35.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>31.94</td>
<td>45.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 25
Sex difference in the use of voice of the intervocalic plosives among the tribal informants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>VOICED Males</th>
<th>VOICED Females</th>
<th>VOICELESS Males</th>
<th>VOICELESS Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casual speech</td>
<td>16.11</td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td>30.55</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careful speech</td>
<td>16.66</td>
<td>13.88</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>35.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word list</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>11.55</td>
<td>31.47</td>
<td>32.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage reading</td>
<td>12.22</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>29.44</td>
<td>32.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2.5.2. Conclusion

The sociophonological variations discussed so far in this chapter can be summarised as follows:

1. Vowels have shown variations in relation to the following social factors.
   1. Class/age
   2. Social class/caste
   3. Domicile

2. Though the complete system of vowels was not affected or changed into another, some variations were attested from the recorded speech of the informants.

3. Variations were found in all the contextual speech styles selected.

4. The study of diphthongs has shown only a few sociophonological variations in the following social contexts.
   1. Social/caste
   2. Domicile

5. Variations with reference to diphthongs were found in the casual speech context and in reading the list of words only.

6. The pronunciation of laterals was identified in association with the sex of informants and the domicile to which informants belong to.
7. The variations were found in all the contexts of speech styles.

8. The changes in laterals could be concluded as follows.
   \[ /l/ \rightarrow /l/ \]
   \[ /l/ \rightarrow /l/, /l/ \]
   \[ /l/ \rightarrow /l/, /l/ \]

9. The voice quality of the plosives in the selected aspects was changed in some situations in accordance with the
   1. Sex of the informants
   2. Domicile to which informants belong to

10. Variations of the voice of the plosives were identified in all the contexts of speech styles

11. The after nasal plosives could not exhibit sociophonological variations except the reading inability.

This chapter has tried to expose the sociophonological description of vowels, diphthongs, laterals and voice of the plosives. The following chapter will highlight the observations, results, stylistic variations and the remedial measures related to the learning problems identified through this study.