A Comparative Phonological Study of Elision in Standard British English and Central Kurdish

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Abstract
This study investigates speech sound omission by native speakers of Standard British English and Central Kurdish. It aims to explore how a sound or sounds can be dropped in a spoken language to simplify it. The study compares English and Kurdish to determine similar and dissimilar features related to the elision of sounds. Additionally, the study attempts to ascertain the reasons for omitting of a sound or sounds in each language.

Keywords: elision, consonants, vowels, English, Kurdish

1. Introduction
Elision is a common speech simplification process and can occur either in single words or in connections between two words. Finch (2000, p. 46) states that elision is common in casual speech styles, mostly at word boundaries. To Clark and Yallop (1990, p. 90), elision refers to a special case in which certain segments or syllables are lost or omitted. If the articulation of a sound in normal speech is weakened too much, the sound may disappear in running speech. Thus, elision is regarded as a type of economy of articulation that consists of omitting either a vowel or a consonant. This phenomenon is common in all languages. Elision occurs mostly in rapid colloquial speech, especially by native speakers for the purpose of language economy (i.e., to speak more fluently and easily). To Collins and Mees (2013, p. 125), elision tends to be more frequent in (a) unstressed rather than stressed syllables, (b) rapid rather than slow tempo and (c) informal rather than formal registers.

2. Types of Elision in English
Elision is classified into two types: contemporary elision and historical elision.

2.1 Contemporary Elision
Contemporary elision refers to the present-day elision which includes the elision of consonants, vowels, and a whole syllable.

2.1.1 Elision of Consonants
Consonant sounds refer to the sounds articulated as the airflow is obstructed at some point in the mouth, throat, or larynx (Matthews, 2007, p. 74). The consonant sounds cluster in the margins of syllables (onset and coda). Carr (2013, p. 60) states that in the historical development of languages, consonants in coda undergo the loss of articulation than onset consonants. To Roach (2000, pp. 142–143), the elision of consonants in English happens most commonly when a speaker wants to simplify a complex consonant cluster. For example, ‘acts’ becomes /ækst/ rather than /æksts/, ‘scripts’ becomes /skrɪpts/ rather than /skrɪpts/.

2.1.1.1 Elision of Alveolar Plosives /t/ and /d/
The phonemes /t/ and /d/ are alveolar plosive sounds. /t/ is voiceless but /d/ is voiced. Roach (2000, pp. 32–33) states these two phonemes can be found at the beginning of a word (initial positions), between other sounds (medial positions), and at the end of a word (final positions). In English, the phonemes /t/ and /d/ are concerned as the most elided consonants (Finch, 2000, p. 46). The following situations are the most common ones in which the phonemes /t/ and /d/ are elided:

When /t/ or /d/ is found between two consonants (in the central of two consonants), elision occurs (Gimson, 1970, p. 238). To Yule (2006, p. 49), /t/ in consonant clusters, in coda position, is elided.
- Aspects /æspektz/ → /æspeks/
- He must be /hɪmstb/ → /hɪmstb/
- The next day /ðe ˈnekst ˈdeɪ/ → /ðe ˈneks ˈdeɪ/
- The last car /ðe ˈlaːst ˈkɑːr/ → /ðe ˈlaːs ˈkɑːr/
- Past tens /pɑːst ˈtɛnz/ → /pɑːst ˈtɛnz/
- Left luggage /lɛft ˈlʌgdʒ/ → /lɛf ˈlʌgdʒ/
- Tasteless /ˈteɪstləs/ → /ˈteɪstləs/

When /t/ in the final position of a word is clustered with /t/ or /d/ in initial position of another word, the sequence of /tt/ or /td/ is shortened to /t/:  
- We ought to visit him. /ˈwɪ əʊt əʊ ˈvɪzɪt əm/ → /ˈwɪ ət əʊ ˈvɪzɪt əm/
- We want to leave. /wi ˈwɒnt əʊ ˈliːv/ → /wi ˈwɒnt əʊ ˈliːv/
- They’ve got to go now. /ðeɪv ˈɡɔt əʊ ˈgəʊ nɔʊ/ → /ðeɪv ˈɡɔta ˈgəʊ nɔʊ/

If a word has final clusters of affricate (e.g., /ʃt/ and /dʒt/) or plosive (e.g., /b/, /g/, /p/ and /k/) + /d/ or /t/, the word will lose the final alveolar stop when the following word has an initial consonant.

- *Fetched* me /fɛtʃ mi/ → /fɛtʃ mi/
- *Changed* colour /ʃɛindʒd klaʊr/ → /ʃɛindʒ klaʊr/
- *Helped* me /həlpd mi/ → /həlp mi/
- *Liked* jam /laɪkt dʒæm/ → /laɪk dʒæm/
- *Robbed* both /rəʊbd bəʊθ/ → /rəʊb bəʊθ/
- *Begged* one /bəɡd wən/ → /bəɡ wən/ (Gimson, 1970, p. 298)

The elision of /t/ and /d/ can result in the neutralisation of the distinction between past tense and present tense. For example, in *looked back* /ˈlʊkt bæk/ as it is pronounced /ˈlʊkt bæk/ (Skandera & Burleigh, 2005, p. 95).

Gimson (1970, p. 298) and Collins and Mees (2013, p. 127) claim that /t/ or /d/ is not elided before initial /h/:

- Smoked herring /ˈsmɔkt herɪŋ/
- Kept hold /kɛpt həʊld/
- Worked hard /ˈwɜːkt hɑːd/
- Reached home /rɪˈʃt həʊm/
- Gift horse /ɡɪft hɔːz/
- Rushed home /ˈrʌʃt həʊm/
- Bald head /bɔːld hed/

Moreover, there is no elision of /t/, when final /nt/ or /lt/ is followed by a consonant. For example:

- *Spent* time /ˈspɛnt tɛɪm/
- *Walt* Disney /wɔːlt dɪznı/  

The sequence of consonant+/t+j/ and consonant+/d+j/ often keep /t/ and /d/, but sometimes have reciprocal assimilation to /ʃ/ and /dʒ/.

- I’ve booked your flight /aɪv bɒkt fliːt/ → /aɪv bɒktʃ ʃt fliːt/  
- I told your husband /aɪ tɔːld dʒ ˈhæzbɔːnd/ → /aɪ tɔːldʃ ʃt hæzbɔːnd/ (ibid)

There is elision of /t/ in negative /-nt/, especially in disyllables, before a following consonant and sometimes before a vowel:

- You mustn’t lose it. /juː mʌstnt lʊz nt/ → /juː mʌstn ʃt lʊz nt/  
- Doesn’t she know? /dɛzn tʃi nʊʊ/? → /dəznʃi nʊʊ/?  
- Wouldn’t he come? /wʊdənt hi kəm/ → /wʊdənt hɪ kəm/? (Gimson, 1970, p. 298)
In the phrase ‘you and me’, the phoneme /d/ is elided in ‘and’. To Yule (2006, p. 49), when /d/ is preceded by nasal /n/ and followed by nasal /m/, /d/ is elided:
- you and me /ju: ʌnd mi/ → /ju: ʌn mi/

Some common examples for the elision of /d/:
- friendship /ˈfrendʃɪp/ → /ˈfrenʃɪp/
- Hold the dog! /ˈhɔld θəˈdɒg/ → /ˈhɔld θəˈdɒg/
- Send Frank a card /sɛnd ˈfræŋk ə ˈkɑːd/ → /sɛn ˈfræŋk ə ˈkɑːd/
- Old man /ˈɔld ˈmæn/ → /ˈɔld ˈmæn /

When /d/ in the final position of a word is clustered with /t/ or /d/ in initial position of another word, /t/ is elided:
- We could try. /wi ˈkɔd ˈtɛri/ → /wi ˈkɔ ˈtɛri/.
- Should do it. /ʃʊd dəˈdɪt/ → /ʃʊd ˈdɪt/. (Gimson, 1970, p. 299)

2.1.1.2 Elision of Dental Fricatives /θ/ and /ð/

The phonemes /θ/ and /ð/ are dental fricative sounds. /θ/ is voiceless, but /ð/ is voiced. The elision of /ð/ and /θ/ are common in the following examples:
- Months /mʌnθz/ → /mʌnθs/
- Clothes /ˈkləʊdz/ → /ˈkləʊz/
- Sixth /sɪksθ/ → /sɪks/ (Skandera & Burleigh, 2005, p. 95)

In some ordinal numbers, /θ/ is not elided, but instead, there is a possibility to elide the preceding consonant as in the following examples:
- Fifth /fɪfθ/ → /fɪθ/
- Twelfth /twelθθ/ → /twelθ/ (Collins & Mees, 2013, p. 127)

Denham and Lobeck (2013, p. 117) argue that in the case of having two or three fricative sounds in a coda, one or two of them frequently are elided. For example, in the word ‘sixths’ /sɪksθz/, the phonemes /s/, /θ/ and /s/ are fricative sounds in coda. The phonemes /s/ and /θ/ both can be elided together and the word can be pronounced as /sɪks/. Also, in the word ‘fifths’ /fɪfθz/, the phonemes /f/, /θ/ and /s/ are fricative sounds in coda. The phoneme /θ/ can be elided and the word is pronounced as /fɪfs/ or the phoneme /θ/ can be elided and the word becomes /fɪs/ in rapid speech. Even it is possible to elide the two fricative sounds /θ/ and /θ/ together and the word is presented as /fɪs/.

2.1.1.3 Elision of Labiodental Fricative /v/

The phonemes /θ/ and /v/ are labiodental fricatives. /θ/ is voiceless but /v/ is voiced. To Roach (2000, p. 143), the final /v/ is omitted when it is followed by a consonant. For example:
- Lots of them /lɔts ɔ vðəm/ → /lɔts ɔ dəm/
- Waste of money /weist ʌv ˈmænɪ/ → /weist ə ˈmænɪ/

Collins and Mees (2013, pp. 127–128) and Crystal (2008, p. 247) state /v/ in ‘of’ is omitted as it is followed by /θ/. For example:
- Three of the websites /ðriː ɔv də weɪbseits/ → /ðriː ə də weɪbseits/
- One of the lads /wʌn ɔv də ˈlædz/ → /wʌn ə də ˈlædz/

Also, according to them (ibid), the elision of /v/ in ‘of’ is common whenever it is followed by the consonant /p/ or /θ/:
- A piece of paper /ə piːs ɔv piːpə/ → /ə piːs ə peɪpə/
- As a matter of fact /əz ə ˈmeɪtʃə ə fækt/ → /əz ə ˈmeɪtʃə fækt/

Moreover, in rapid speech /v/ is sometimes elided before /m/ in the verb ‘give’, ‘have’ and ‘leave’:
- Give me a chance. /ɡɪv mi ə ɡəns/ → /ɡɪ mi ə ɡəns/.
- Do you have my number? /djuː hæv mi ˈmʌnbər/ → /djuː hæ mi ˈmʌnbə/?
- Leave me alone. /liː mi ə ˈlɔn/ → /liː mi ə ˈlɔn/ (ibid)
2.1.1.4 Elision of Glottal Fricative /h/

/h/ is a voiceless glottal fricative sound. In the weak forms of function words /h/ is elided.

- I think he will have told her. /ai θɪŋ i wɪl əv təʊld ə:/ (Collins & Mees, 2013, p. 22, 127; Gimson, 1970, p. 297)

2.1.1.5 Elision of Velar Plosive /k/

/k/ is a voiceless velar plosive sound. To Collins and Mees (2013, p. 127) and Gimson (1970, p. 298), /k/ is elided in the middle of a cluster of three consonant sounds when it is preceded by /s/ and followed by /t/.

- Masked gunman /ma:skt ɡʌnmən/ → /ma:st ɡʌnmən/
- They asked us /ðei ə:st as/ → /ðei ə:st as/
- Risked prison /riskt prɪzn/ → /rɪst prɪzn/

Moreover, according to them (ibid), in ‘masked gunman’ in addition to the elision of /k/, there is an elision of /t/, too.

- Masked gunman /ma:s ɡʌnmən/

2.1.1.6 Elision of Velar /ɫ/

To Gimson (1970, p. 238), it is possible to elide /ɫ/ when it is preceded by /ɔ:/ which has a resonance similar to that of /ɫ/.

- Always /ɔːlweiz/ → /ɔːweiz/
- Alright /ɔːrait/ → /ɔːrait/
- Although /ɔːlðəʊ/ → /ɔːðəʊ/
- Already /ɔːredi/ → /ɔːredi/

2.1.2 Elision of Vowels

Vowels refer to those sounds which are produced without any air restriction of the airflow (Finch, 2000, p. 73). In English, schwa /ə/ is the most frequent vowel sound. It occurs in weak and unstressed syllables (Roach, 2000, p. 82). The elision of a vowel is associated with a weak and unstressed syllable. According to Roach (2000, p. 142) and Skandera and Burleigh (2005, pp. 95–96), the elision of /ə/ occurs in unstressed syllables of polysyllabic words, particularly before or after a stressed syllable, and after one of the plosives, /p, t, k/. In the following words /ə/ is elided, and there will be an aspiration of the release of air in the articulation of the preceding plosive.

- Today /təˈdeɪ/ → /tʰ deɪ/
- Potato /pəˈtɛtəʊ/ → /pʰ tɛtəʊ/
- Tomato /təˈmaːtəʊ/ → /tʰ maːtəʊ/

In disyllabic words, elision of /ə/ is common whenever it is followed by /l/, /n/ or /r/. When the phoneme /ə/ is elided, /l/, /n/ or /r/ becomes syllabic. The number of syllables will remain the same, but the syllable boundary moves (Roach, 2000, pp. 86–90, 142; Skandera & Burleigh, 2005, pp. 95–96).

- Cattle /kæ.t.əl/ → /kæ.t.l/.
- Bottle /bɒ.t.əl/ → /bɒt.əl/.
- Trouble /trə.b.əl/ → /trəb.əl/.
- Tunnel /tʌn.əl/ → /tʌn.l/.
- Pedal /pəd.əl/ → /ped.l/.
- Tonight /tə.naɪt/ → /tɜː.əɪt/.
- Threaten /θre.t.ən/ → /θre.t.ən/.
- Seven /səv.ən/ → /səv.ən/.
- Correct /krɛk.t/ → /krɛk.t/.
- Hungary /ˈhaŋɡ.ər.i/ → /ˈhaŋɡ.ɾ.i/.

Gimson (1970, p. 238) points out that elision of /i/ can be found in English, but it is less common than /ə/.
2.1.3 Elision of a Whole Syllable

When there is a separated consonant, a whole syllable may be dropped (Gimson, 19970, p. 238; Crystal, 2008, p. 247). To Skandera and Burleigh (2005, p. 96), when a syllable is unstressed, the whole syllable can be elided, especially before or after a stressed syllable, particularly when the elided syllable contains a consonant that is repeated in the following syllable.

- Particularly /pə.tik.ju.lə.li/ → /pə.tik.ju.l/. In this word the syllable /lə/ is elided.
- Probably /prə.bə.blə/ → /prə.blə/. In this word the syllable /bə/ is elided.
- February /fə.bə.ru.ə.rə.i/ → /fə.ru.ə.rə.i/. In this word the syllable /ru/ is elided
- Literary /lə.tə.rə.ru.ə.rə/ → /lə.ru.ə.rə/. In this word the syllable /ə.rə/ is elided.
- Library /lə.i.brə.ru.ə.ri/ → /lə.i.ri/. In this word the syllable /ru/ is elided and the number of syllables is reduced from three to two.

2.2 Historical Elision

Historical elision refers to the omission of consonants in some words from clusters forever in speech though the matching letters still occur in the spelling (Skandera & Burleigh, 2005, p. 95; Collins & Mees, 2013, p. 123):

- Now /nəʊ/  
- Comb /kəʊm/  
- Whistle /wɪs.əl/  
- Wrong /rɒŋ/  
- Knight /nəɪt/  
- Listen /lɪs.ən/  

3. Elision in Kurdish

There are 37 letters in Kurdish which are classified into 29 consonants and 8 vowels. Each letter, in Kurdish, represents the same phoneme as everywhere else. For instance, the phoneme /ʃ/ is only represented by the letter ‘ş’. In contrast, in English, the same phoneme may be represented by different letters or by the combination of different letters. For instance, phoneme /ʃ/ can be represented by ‘s+h’ as in ‘she’, ‘-tion’ as in ‘nation’, ‘s+u’ as in ‘sugar’, ‘c+h’ as in ‘machine’. There are two types of elision in Kurdish: consonants and vowels.

3.1 Elision of Consonants

The elision of consonants is very common in Kurdish. The following types of elision are the most common ones:

3.1.1 Elision of Glottal Plosive /Ɂ/

The elision of /Ɂ/ is found in Kurdish. In contrast, the elision of /Ɂ/ does not exist in English. To Xoşnaw (2013, p. 83), /Ɂ/ is elided in the initial position of the second element of a compound word:

- Mast /məst/ + ñaw /nəʊw/ → /məstəw̚/ ‘yogurt water’
- Guł /gul/ + ñaw /nəʊw/ → /guləw̚/ ‘rosewater’

Ali (2015, p. 126) claims that /Ɂ/ is elided in initial position of a word, if the prefix ‘-le’ or ‘-be’ is added to the word:

- -le /lə/ + ñewè /nəwə/ → /ləwe/ ‘over there’
- -be /bə/ + ñew /nəw/ → /bəw̚/ ‘to him/her’

3.1.2 Elision of Bilabial Plosive /b/

/b/ can be elided, in a complex verb, which indicates commanding.

- Rabke /ræbka/ → /ræka/ ‘run’
- Helbgré /həlbgré/ → /həlgré/ ‘carry’
- dabnîʃe /daenîʃə/ → /daenîʃə/ ‘sit’ (Ali, 2015, p. 119)

Moreover, according to him (ibid), /b/ can be elided from transitive verbs in conditional present perfect tense and
past perfect tense:
- Bimkirdbâyê /bm.kîrd.bâj/ → /bm.kîrd.bâj/ ‘If I have done,’
- Bimkirdbûbâyê /bm.kîrd.bû:bj/ → /bm.kîrd.bû:bj/ ‘If I had done,’
- Bimxwardbâyê /bm.xward.bâj/ → /bm.xward.bâj/ ‘If I have eaten,’
- Bimxwardbûbâyê /bm.xward.bû:bj/ → /bm.xward.bû:bj/ ‘If I had eaten,’
- Bimgutbâyê /bm.got.bâj/ → /bm.got.bâj/ ‘If I have said’
- Bimgutbûbâyê /bm.got.bû:bj/ → /bm.got.bû:bj/ ‘If I had said’

3.1.3 Elision of Alveolar Plosive /t/
/t/ is usually elided in the final position of a word which is preceded by /s/, /w/ or /j/.
- Dest /dast/ → /dast/ ‘hand’
- Mebest /mabst/ → /mabst/ ‘purpose’
- Padast /pa:væst/ → /pa:væst/ ‘present (n)’
- Iyadast /jæedast/ → /jæedast/ ‘recommendation’ (Salih, 2012, p. 74)

Whenever a word of final position /t/ is combined with another word, /t/ can be elided in the first word.
- Dest /dast/+kewt /kæt/ → /dæstkwæt/ ‘achievement’
- Set /sat/+hezar /hæzær/ → /sæsæzær/ ‘One hundred thousand’ (Salih, 2012, p. 75)

Moreover, according to Ali (2015, pp. 127–129), in the inflectional morphemes ‘-at’ or ‘-êt’ (for third singular person) and ‘-it’ or ‘-t’ (for second singular person), /-t/ can be elided, too.
- Dæxwat /dæxwæt/ → /dæxwæt/ ‘He/she/it eats’
- Deçæt /de:sæt/ → /de:sæt/ ‘He/she goes’
- Deçæt /de:sæt/ → /de:sæt/ ‘You go’

3.1.4 Elision of Alveolar Plosive /d/

In Central Kurdish, /d/ is the most elided phoneme, especially in Sulaymaniyah (it is a major city located in the South of Kurdistan). Elision of /d/ is found in initial positions of words, medial positions, and in the final positions of words.

Initial position:
- Ddan /d(ː)dan/ → /dæn/ ‘teeth’

Medial position:
- Padæ /pa:dæ/ → /pa:dæ/ ‘king’
- Mîndæ /mîndæ/ → /mîndæ/ ‘child’
- Xudæ /xudæ/ → /xudæ/ ‘God’
- Mândæ /mændæ/ → /mændæ/ ‘substance’

Final position:
- Dofêmed /dɔfêmed/ → /dɔfêmed/ ‘rich’
- Çend /çænd/ → /çænd/ ‘how many/ how much’
- Pêsand /pàsænd/ → /pàsænd/ ‘acceptance’

To Ali (2015, pp. 122–123), in the consonant cluster /n/+ /d/, /d/ is elided.
- Çewendæ /çewendæ/ → /çewendæ/ ‘beet’
- Çênæ /çenæ/ → /çenæ/ ‘sir’

Moreover, to him (2015, pp. 123–124), a word of initial position of /bɔ/ or /la/ and final position of /da/, /d/ is elided in the cluster /da/ whenever /d/ is preceded by a consonant sound.
- Lehâwingoa /læhwâwingoa/ → /læhwâwingoa/ ‘in Summer’
When /h/ in initial position of a verb is attached by a prefix or combined with another word, /h/ can be elided:

3.1.6 Elision of Glottal Fricative /h/

- Xo /xəɾd/ → /xəɾ/ ‘myself’
- baserijendə /baɾəɾijɛnɛd/ → /baɾəɾijɛnɛ/ ‘over them’

Salih (2012, p. 74) states that /d/ can be elided from numbers having final position of /d/ except in ‘de’ /dɛ/ (ten), ‘çwarde’ /ʃəɾdə/ ‘fourteen’ and ‘hejde’ /həɾdə/ ‘eighteen’:

- Yazde /jaɾdzə/ → /jaɾza/ ‘eleven’
- Dwazde /dwaɾdzə/ → /dwaɾza/ ‘twelve’
- Sêzde /sɛɾdzə/ → /sɛɾza/ ‘thirteen’
- Pażde /paɾzəɾdə/ → /paɾzəɾ/ ‘fifteen’
- Şazde /ʃaɾzəɾdə/ → /ʃaɾzəɾ/ ‘sixteen’

3.1.5 Elision of Velar Plosive /k/

Xoşnaw (2013, p. 88) claims that /k/ can be omitted in the following situations:

1) /k/, in the inflectional indefinite article ‘-ek’, ‘-êč’ or ‘-jek’, is omitted:
   - Kiç /kɪɾʃ/ + -êk /ek/ → /kɪɾʃ/ ‘a girl’
   - Goze /goɾzə/ + -jek /jək/ → /goɾzəɾ/ ‘a clay jar’

2) When a word of final position /k/ is combined with another word having /k/ or /h/ as initial position, /k/ is omitted in the first word and a compound word is formed:
   - Pak /paɾk/ + krdin /krdʃ/ → /paɾk/ ‘to clean’
   - Çak /ɾaɾʃ/ + krdin /krdʃ/ → /ɾaɾʃ/ ‘to mend’
   - Çak /ɾaɾʃ/ + bʊn /bʊɾʃ/ → /ɾaɾʃbʊɾʃ/ ‘to be on the mend’

3) /k/ in final position of ‘kak’ ‘(Mr’ can be elided whenever it is combined with a name of a person to form a compound word:
   - Kâk /kɑɾk/ + Ali /ʃli/ → /kɑɾʃli/ ‘Mr Ali’
   - Kâk /kɑɾk/ + Hassan /hɔɾʃəɾ/ → /kɑɾʃəɾ/ ‘Mr Hassan’

3.1.6 Elision of Glottal Fricative /h/

When /h/ in initial position of a verb is attached by a prefix or combined with another word, /h/ can be elided:

- Heɾ- /hæɾ/ + hæt /hæɾ/ → /hæɾ/ ‘he/she escaped’
- b- /b/ + hæt /hæɾ/ → /bæɾ/ ‘bring’
- Rɔj /ɾɔɾʃ/ + hæt /hæɾ/ → /ɾɔɾʃhæɾ/ ‘East (n.)’ ‘sun rose’ (Ali, 2015, p. 125)

To Xoşnaw (2013, p. 86), /h/ can be elided in the initial position of words whenever it is followed by /o/ or /ɔ/:

- Huɾ /hɾ/ → /ɾ/ ‘tiny’
- Huɾ /hɾ/ → /ɾ/ ‘slow-witted’
- Hoʃiɾ/var /hoɾʃiɾ/ → /ɾʃiɾ/ ‘cautious (adj)/ Hoshiar (n)’ (/h/ is elided and /o/ is changed to /ɔ/)

3.1.7 Elision of Velar Fricative /x/

/x/ is a velar fricative sound that is voiceless. This phoneme is found in Kurdish but not in English. /x/ in the final position of the word ‘Şex’ ‘Sheikh’ is elided whenever the following word has initial /m/, /ʃ/, /h/ or /q/. The word ‘Şex’ is used as a nickname with the name of persons.

- Şex /ʃɛx/ + Mahmud /ʃæɾmud/ → /ʃemɾəɾʃæɾmud/ ‘Sheikh Mahmud’

3.1.8 Miscellaneous Types of Elision

Dizey, Mahammad and Salih (2013, pp. 126–134) identify different types of elision of consonant sounds. According to them, the following types of elisions are found in Kurdish but they are less common than the other types mentioned above. Furthermore, they are not governed by any rules and they are only found with some specific examples:

1) Elision of post-alveolar fricative /ʃ/
1) Elision of /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ and (2), or in a verb stem as in (3) when:

- /kɪɨ/ + /j/ = /kɪɨʃ/ ‘he/she bought’
- /fiʃ/ + /j/ = /fiʃʃ/ ‘he/she/it flew’

3.2 Elision of a Whole Syllable

The sequence of /nn/ at the boundaries of words is reduced to /n/:

- /bɒlɛn/ ‘name’ /nɛmə/ = /bɒlɛn/ ‘bond’

This identifies three types of elisions of a whole syllable:

1) Elision of /\(\text{ʃ}\)/:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ can be elided from the pronouns which are concerned as a part of the whole word:
  
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
  
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/

Also, /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ can be elided from the initial words which are borrowed from Arabic:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/

2) Elision of /\(\text{ʃ}\)/:

/\(\text{ʃ}\)/ is elided at the boundaries of compound words:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/

3) Elision of /\(\text{ʃ}\)/:

/\(\text{ʃ}\)/ is elided in conditional perfect tense with intransitive verbs:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/

To Ali (2015, pp. 119–120), /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ can be omitted in conditional present perfect tense from intransitive verbs:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/

3.3 Elision of Vowels

Elision of /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ in Kurdish, like in English, is very common. It is most elided vowel sound. When the definite inflectional morpheme ‘-eke’/\(\text{ʃ}\)ka/ ‘the’ is attached to a noun having an initial position of /\(\text{ʃ}\)/, /\(\text{ʃ}\)/, /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ or /\(\text{ʃ}\)/, the initial /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ is elided from ‘-eke’:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/

Xoşnaw (2013, p. 81) explains three common situations in which /\(\text{ʃ}\)/ is elided in the final position of a noun as in (1) and (2), or in a verb stem as in (3) when:

- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
- /\(\text{ʃ}\)/
1) Indefinite inflectional morpheme ‘-ek’ /ək/ ‘a/an’ is attached to the noun:
- Namə /næmə/ + -ek /ək/= nameke /næmekə/ ‘A letter’

2) Plural inflectional morpheme ‘-an’ /ən/ (pluras -s) is attached to the noun:
- Xendə /xandə/ + -ən /ən/= xendən /xandən/ ‘smiles’

3) The suffix ‘-ândın’ is attached to an intransitive verb stem and it changes it to infinitive:
- Naľə (groan (n.)) /nælə/+ -andín /ændın/= naľəndín /næləndın/ ‘to groan’

**4. Conclusion**

The following conclusions have been made from the study related to different types of elision in English and Kurdish:

1) Elision is useful for simplifying complex cluster of consonant sounds in both onset and coda.
2) Elision is useful and helpful for both native and non-native speakers for speaking more fluently and easily.
3) Elision is found in both onset and coda, but it is more common in the coda.
4) Elision is found in both English and Kurdish, but it is more pervasive in English.
5) Elision occurs in rapid speech.
6) Elision occurs within single words and at the boundaries of words, but it is more common at the boundaries of words.
7) Elision can be found at the beginning of words, in the middle of words, and at the end of words.
8) Elision in consonant sounds is more common than vowel sounds.
9) Plosive and fricative sounds are the most elided consonant sounds in English.
10) In English and Kurdish, the consonant sounds /t/ and /d/ are the most elided sounds, but in vowels /ə/ is the most elided sound.
11) Historically elision is more common in onset than in coda, but in the present-day elision is more common in the coda.

**References**


### Appendix A

**Kurdish phonemic symbols for consonants sounds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Example Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/p/</td>
<td>peɾ /parR/</td>
<td>'paper'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>bon /bon/</td>
<td>'smell'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>tak /taʔ/</td>
<td>'odd'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>dar /dar/</td>
<td>'tree'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>ker /kor/</td>
<td>'donkey'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>geriz /goriz/</td>
<td>'hot'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/q/</td>
<td>quɾ /qol/</td>
<td>'deep'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ɾ/</td>
<td>ɾem /ɾem/</td>
<td>'this'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/f/</td>
<td>feɾʃ /faɾʃ/</td>
<td>'carpet'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>vела /velә/</td>
<td>'villa'</td>
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<td>ser /sәr/</td>
<td>'head'</td>
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<td>zəɾ /zәɾ/</td>
<td>'mouth'</td>
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<tr>
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<td>şar /ʃәɾ/</td>
<td>'city'</td>
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<td>ʒiyan /ʒiyan/</td>
<td>'life'</td>
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<td>xew /xәɾ/</td>
<td>'sleep'</td>
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<tr>
<td>/ɣ/</td>
<td>ɣaz /ɣәɾ/</td>
<td>'gas'</td>
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<td>hekem /hekeɾm/</td>
<td>'judge'</td>
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<td>ɛlaq /ɛlaq/</td>
<td>'barber'</td>
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<td>hêz /hez/</td>
<td>'power'</td>
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<td>Çiwar /Çiwar/</td>
<td>'four'</td>
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<td>lar /lar/</td>
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<td>ci:l /ci:l/</td>
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<td>Rubar /Robәɾ/</td>
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<td>wise /wiʃәɾ/</td>
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<tr>
<td>/j/</td>
<td>yәɾ /jәɾ/</td>
<td>'lover'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Appendix B

**Kurdish phonemic symbols for vowel sounds**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Example Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/iː/</td>
<td>ʃiɾ /ʃiɾ/</td>
<td>'milk'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/i/</td>
<td>birdi /birdi/</td>
<td>'he took'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/u/</td>
<td>xиwardin /xиwardin/</td>
<td>'eating'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/e/</td>
<td>xөɾ /xәɾ/</td>
<td>'charity'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/o/</td>
<td>derga /dәɾгәɾ/</td>
<td>'door'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


/ɑː/   kar /kɑːr/ ‘job’
/ʊ/     kun /kʊn/ ‘hole’
/ʌ:/    nûsîn /nuːsiːn/ ‘writing’
/ɒ/     kon /kɒn/ ‘old’

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