

On the *ejke Madrileño* and discrete and scalar approaches to /s/ analysis: One variable, two different stories

This paper examines the nonstandard coda /s/ in the Spanish of Madrid. Although aspiration of nonstandard /s/ is arguably the most studied variable in Spanish (File-Muriel & Brown, 2011), the Madrid dialect has been understudied, as it is not among those dialects considered to aspirate (Rodríguez-Pineda, 1994; Schwegler & Kempff, 2007); indeed, the case of nonstandard coda /s/ in Madrid has been considered a case of velarization, rather than aspiration (Turnham & Lafford, 1995). Among the /s/ variation literature in Spanish, to the best of my knowledge there are only two studies specific to Madrid (Momcilovic, 2005; Turnham & Lafford, 1995), both finding that nonstandard /s/ is used most in a casual style and by male speakers of lower class/lower education. Momcilovic also shows that the phonetic environment plays an important role, nonstandard /s/ appearing most before a consonant. The current study seeks to add to what is known regarding nonstandard /s/ in the Madrid dialect by examining more factors, both linguistic and extralinguistic, that may influence the variable. Furthermore, following recent trends in the field advocating for a subsegmental approach to the analysis of /s/ variation (Erker, 2010; File-Muriel & Brown, 2011; Henriksen & Harper, forthcoming), this paper contributes both a subsegmental as well as a segmental analysis, taking a comparative approach between the two analyses.

The data for this study was collected from 50 Madrileño participants, 27 women and 23 men, by means of two reading tasks. Preliminary analysis shows differing results when comparing the scalar versus discrete variable analyses. The subsegmental analysis examined the variables of *duration* and *center of gravity*, finding that these were most strongly conditioned by the following phonological segment ( $p \leq 0.001$ ). In addition, the reading time, that is, whether the task was completed before or after the interview, and style, that is, whether the speaker was reading a wordlist or short colloquial phrases, were also found to have a highly significant effect. Significant social factors include speaker age and number of parents from Madrid.

Unlike the subsegmental study, the analysis carried out on the variants of /s/ impressionistically categorized as either [s], [x], [h] or [ø] did not find the following phonological segment to have a significant effect on /s/ realization. Significant factors conditioning the use of standard /s/ when compared to a nonstandard /s/ variant (either velarized, aspirated or elided) include reading time, word position, style and speaker education level. When examining the velarized variant alone, the significant factors conditioning the use of standard /s/ versus velarized /s/ include only reading time and speaker education level.

The results from this study provide a more detailed account of the factors conditioning nonstandard /s/ in the Spanish of Madrid. Furthermore, the differing results between the two analyses, scalar and discrete, raise important questions within the current debate regarding the best approach to analyzing /s/ variation in Spanish.