



University of Athens

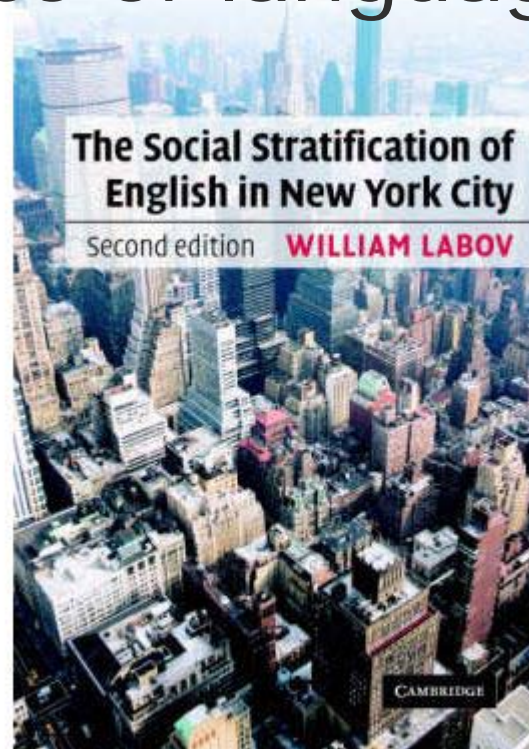
Dpt. of Communication and Media

Spiros A. Moschonas

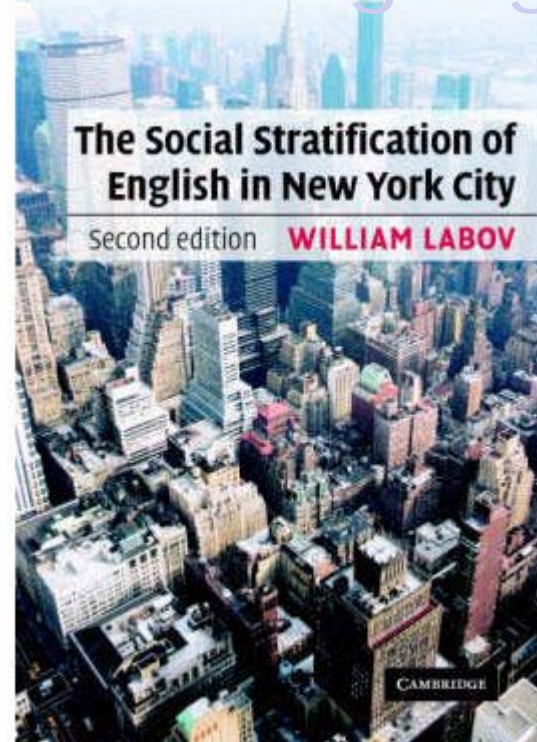
Variationist Sociolinguistics

8/3/2017

1. What is a linguistic variable (γλωσσική μεταβλητή)?
2. Representative studies of language variation (γλωσσική μεταβλητότητα):
Labov, Trudgill, Cheshire
3. Writing a variation report the easy way



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Linguistic variable

A *linguistic variable* (γλωσσική μεταβλητή) is a linguistic unit that can be realized in more than one way = a unit with different *variants*

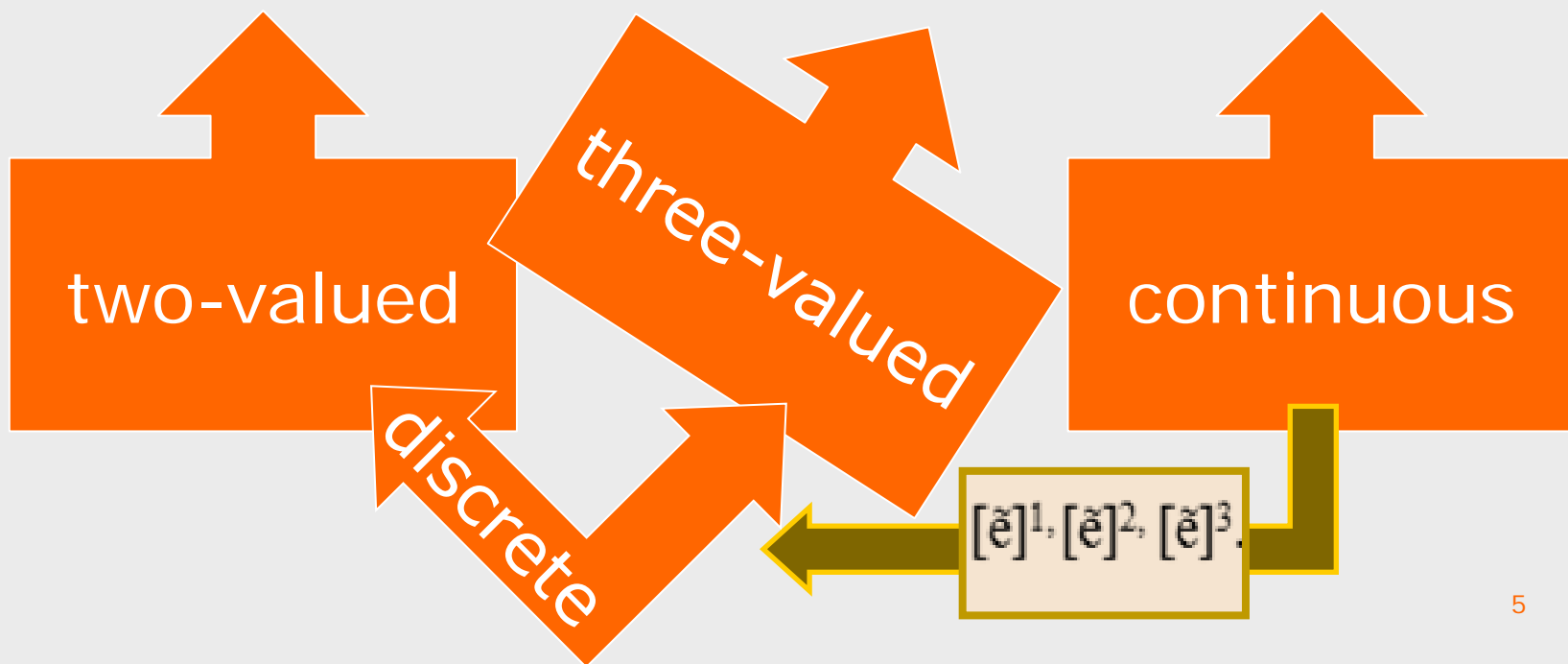
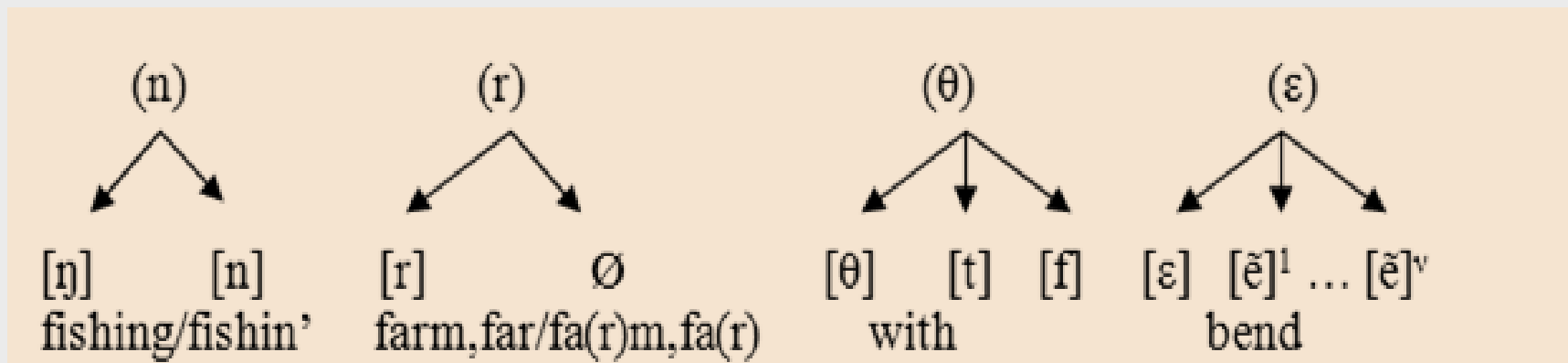
free variation («ελεύθερα εναλλασσόμενοι τύποι») /SL

→ conditioned variation /SS

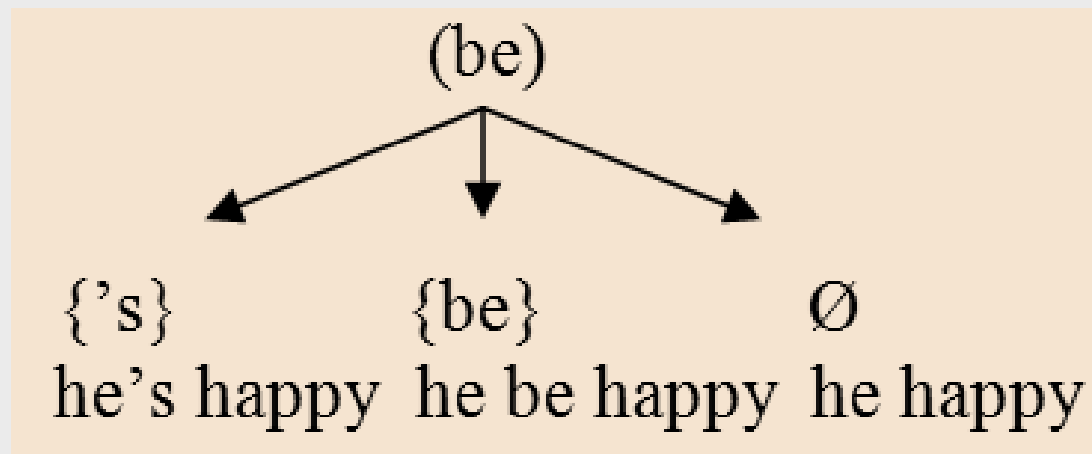
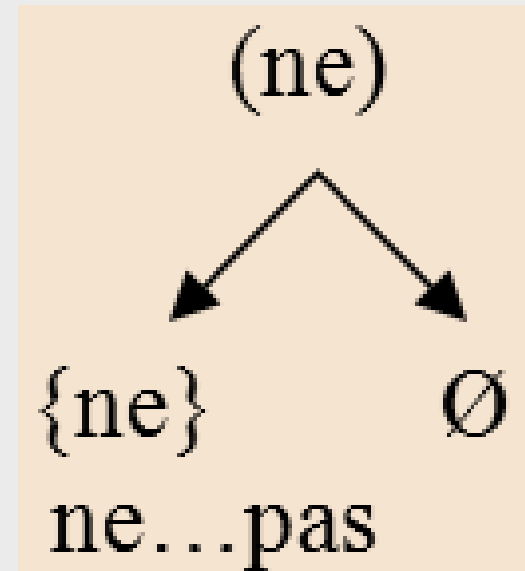
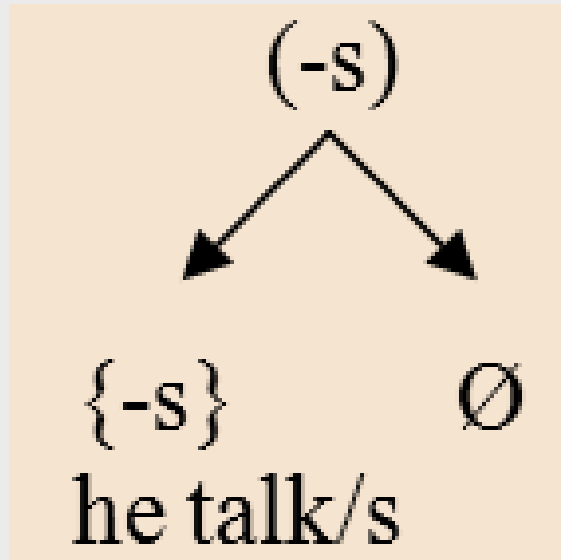
Associated through linguistic variables:

linguistic variation (dependent variable) and
social variation / language ideology/attitude
(independent variable)

Examples of linguistic variables

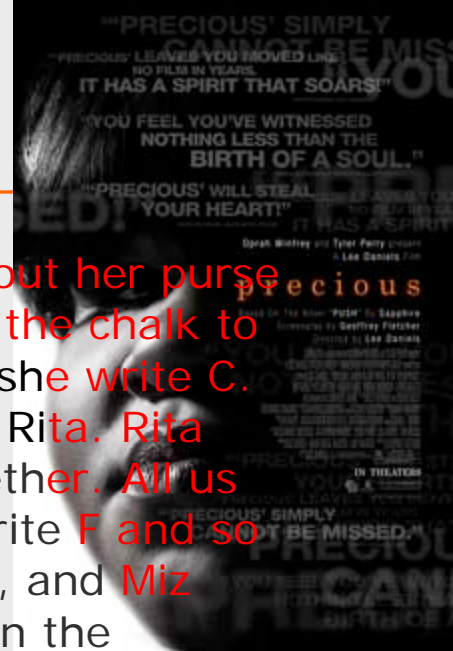


Non-phonological

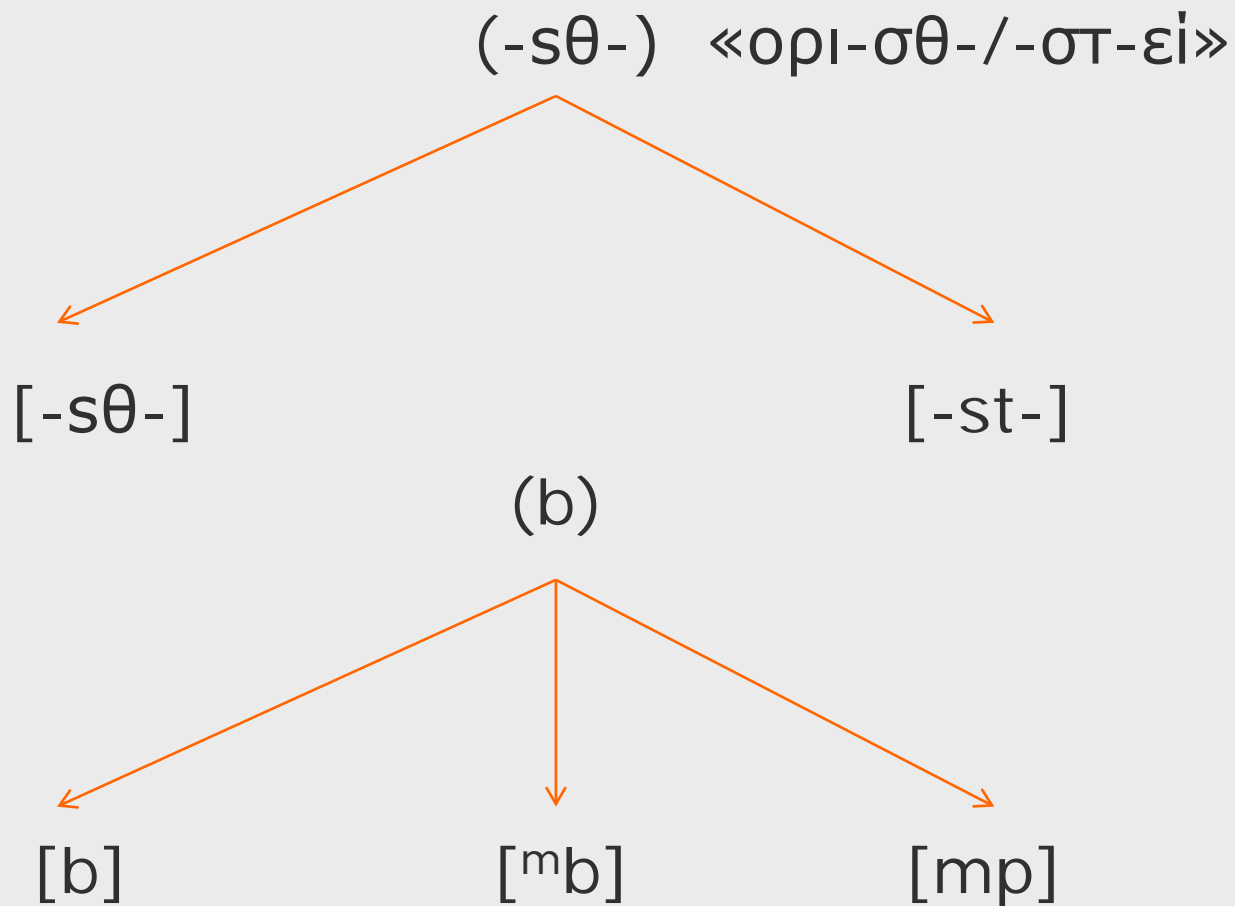


Identify the variants: *Sapphire, Push* (1996)

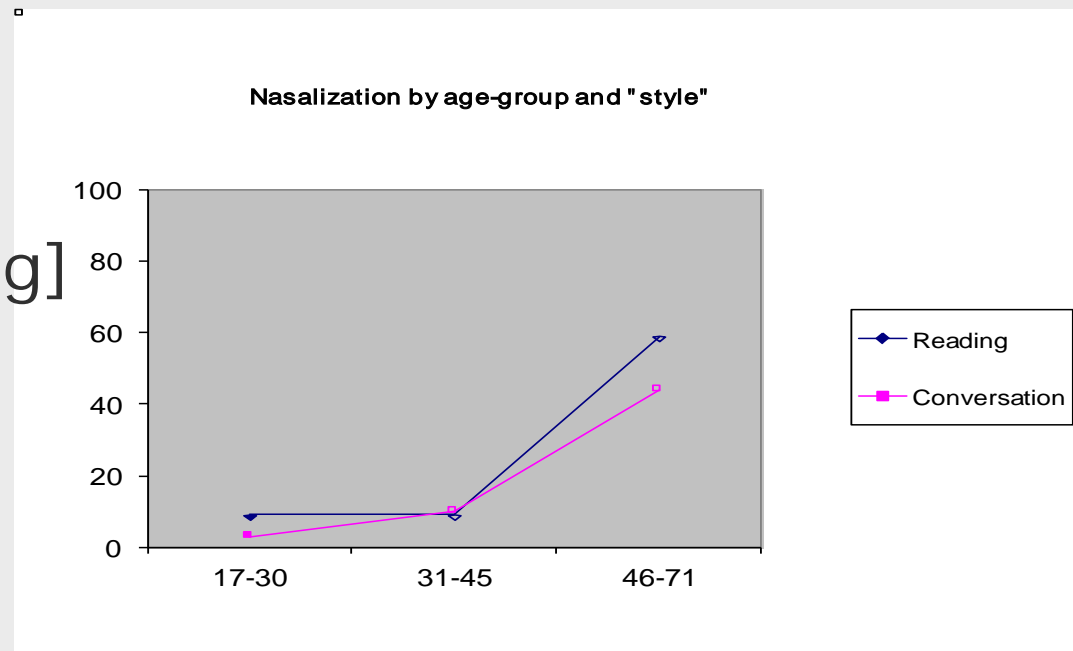
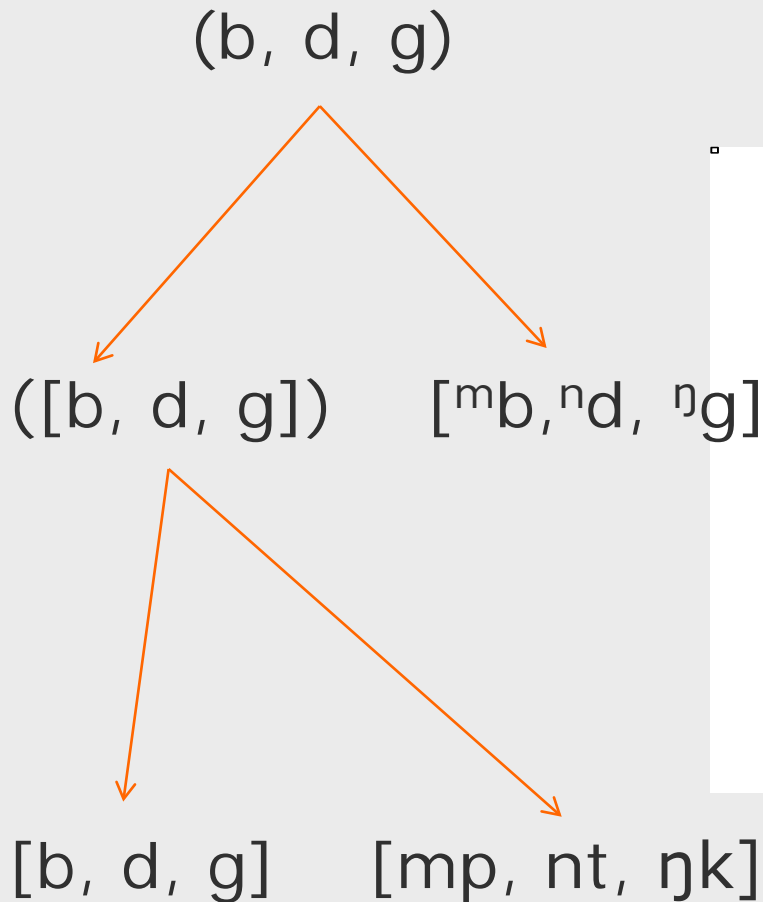
Miz Rain say, "At the beginning," and pick a piece of chalk out her purse and walk to the board. She write A on the board, she hand the chalk to Jermaine. Jermaine write B. Jermaine hand it to Consuelo, she write C. Consuelo hand it to Rhonda she write D. Rhonda hand it to Rita. Rita take a step and start to cry. Miz Rain say we all in this together. All us say E real loud, Rita go up 'n write E, hand me chalk 'n I write F and so it go. Then we sits back down all at once, that make us laff, and Miz Rain say this is the beginning, there are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, they all have a sound. These letters make up all the words in our language. Please open your notebook, write the date, October 19, 1987, then write the alphabet in your notebook. After we write the alphabet in our notebook we recite it out loud together. Miz Rain say go home and practice saying it 'n saying it. On Wednesday she gonna ask each one to stand up and deliver. Jermaine say, "Spoze I know it already?" Miz Rain say, "Then it should be no problem for you." But I remember Jermaine write Q after O instead of P. I remember that. I gonna practice. I sure am. Miz Rain say on Wednesday she gonna talk to us about keeping a journal. Tell us again we gotta bring in another notebook for to be our journal. How is a journal different from a notebook I wanna ask but I never asked a question before in school.



Examples of linguistic variables in (Modern) Greek



A complex pattern: MG nasalization (ερρινοποίηση) (→ 15/3/17)



Other examples from MG

*αγαπάω / ώ, αγαπούνε / άνε, αγαπούσα /
αγάπαγα, αγαπιόσαντε / αγαπιούνταν /
αγαπιόνταν(ε), κτήμα / χτήμα, κτυπώ / χτυπώ,
οίνος / κρασί, εφτά / επτά [diglossia
variants], γλήγορα / γρήγορα, δανεική /
δανεικιά, πατέρες / πατεράδες, έφυγαν /
φύγανε, βγέστε / βγείτε, άφησέ τον / άσ'τον,
του δεκαπενταμελής / του δεκαπενταμελούς
[«mistakes»], ...· τα πήρα στο κρανίο, δίνε
του, ελλογιμότατε, ρε ...[stylistic variants /
registers]· monotonic / polytonic, MG
orthography / greeklisch, ... [orthography]*

Variation in the written speech (Greek)

BREAKING NOOZ:

Joy • 02/03/2016 • 08:49 •

Efoso na iparhoun aftoi oi ellines protimo na apelathoun aftoi kai na kratisoume tous syrious anti afton...toulahiston...
του miden na diekdikisoun karekles me tis evlogies του sofου laou. I exipnada metanastefse kai afti se alli hora....ed

↪ Απάντηση

Διάλυση • 02/03/2016 • 08:47 •

Άμα θέλετε να μάθετε μερικοί που σχολιάζετε τα γκαρσόνια όπως λέτε μερικές κοινωνίες τα γκαρσόνια της στηρίζουν
γκαρσόνια και όποιος αντέξει. Κοτούλες

↪ Απάντηση

ZQA • 02/03/2016 • 08:39 •

ΝΑ ΤΙ ΨΗΦΙΣΑΤΕ !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

↪ Απάντηση

ST • 02/03/2016 • 08:39 •

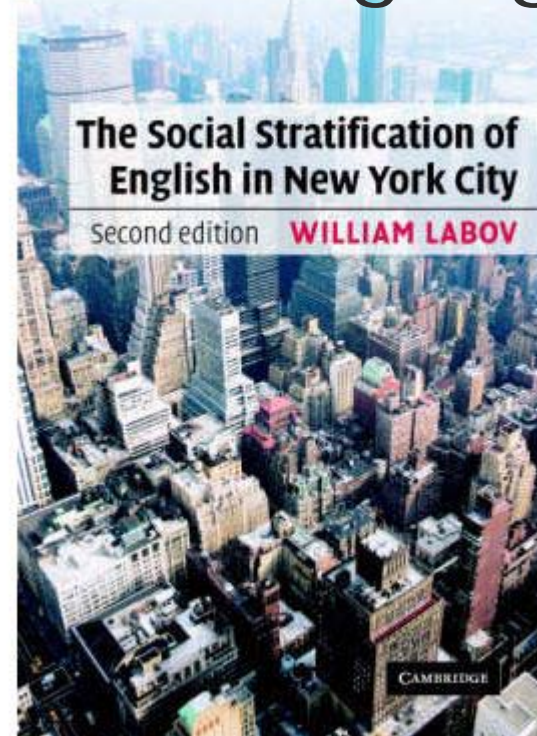
Δείξε μου τον φίλο σου να σου πω τι είσαι. Έχετε δει κανένα καλύτερο απο αυτές τις χολέρες του ΣΥΡΙΖΑ?Ολο σ αυτ

↪ Απάντηση

**Κοντά σε συμφωνία στο Brussels
Group**



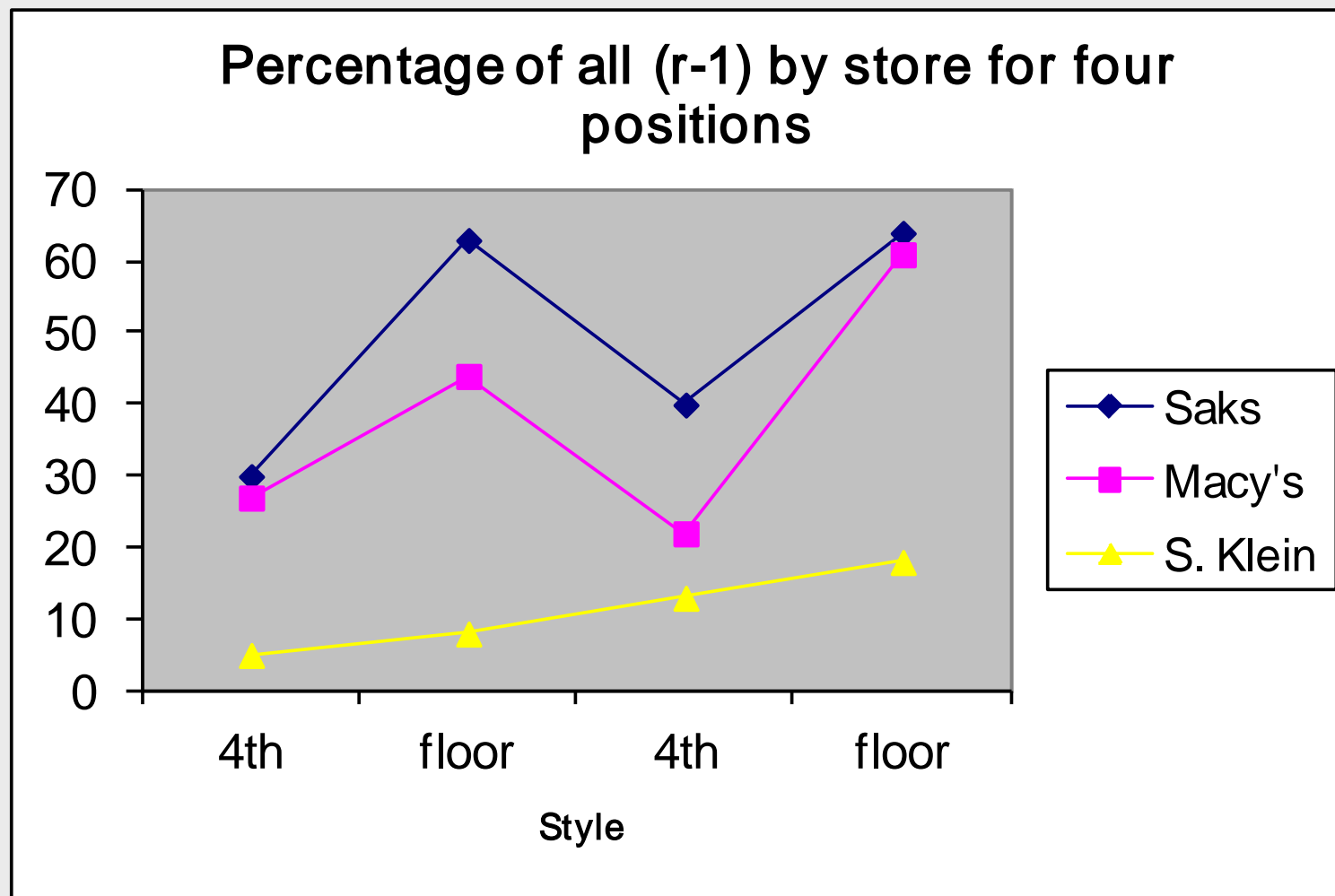
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(r): Wikipedia

Rhoticity in English refers to the situations in which English speakers pronounce the historical **rhotic consonant** /r/, and is one of the most prominent distinctions by which varieties of English can be classified. The **English dialects of Scotland, Ireland, and most of the United States and Canada** preserve historical /r/, and are thus termed the **rhotic varieties**. The **non-rhotic varieties**, in which historical /r/ has been lost except before vowels, include all the dialects of **England**—except the **South West**, the southern **West Midlands**, and parts of **West Lancashire**—as well as the **English dialects of**

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» **Development of Broadcast Standard US English**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W68VaOuY6ew>

» **Why Bernie Sanders tuawks that way**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waeXBCUKuL8>

» **The WORST Thing About Bernie Sanders**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqOuy1ECrBw>

(r): The British Standard

A most British English pronunciation rule.

One of the easiest rules to learn when studying British English pronunciation is that of the silent < r >. It really is very simple:

RULE

Only say an < r > when it appears before a vowel sound.

Never say an < r > when it appears before a consonant or at the end of a word.

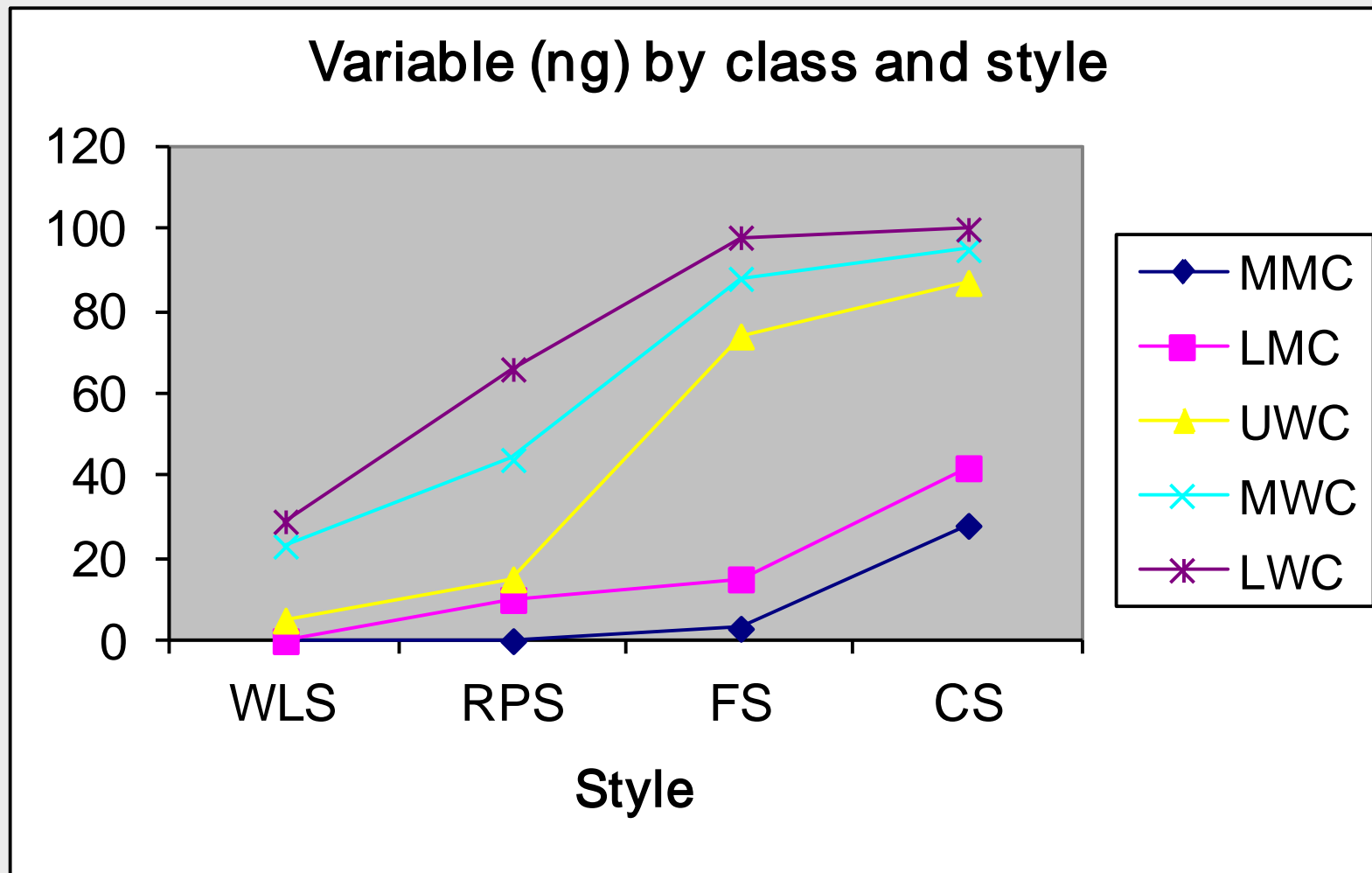
So in the word 'fork', you don't say the < r > because there is a consonant after it. In the name 'Charlie' you don't say the < r > for the same reason. However in the word 'grass' we do say the < r > because there is a vowel sound after it.

Linking /r/

The rule also works to join words together. For example, consider the word 'mother'. We normally would not say the < r > because it is at the end of the word, however, if a vowel sound begins the next word, we do pronounce it to join the words:

mother_and daughter

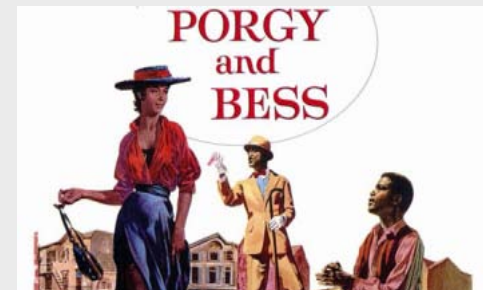
the < r > effectively moves on to the beginning of the word 'and'.



Identify the variants: (ng) in (representations of) Afroamerican

Oh, I got plenty o' nuttin'
And nuttin's plenty for me
I got no car, got no mule
I got no misery

De folks wid plenty o' plenty
Got a lock on de door
'Fraid somebody's a-goin' to rob
'em
While dey's out a-makin' more
What for?



- » She studies several variables in «youth language», which she correlates with cultural characteristics. Variables:
- ▶ present tense suffix with non-third-person singular subjects, e.g. we goes shopping on Saturdays
 - ▶ *has* with non-third-person singular subjects, e.g. we has a little fire, keeps us warm
 - ▶ *was* with plural subjects (and singular *you*), e.g. you was outside
 - ▶ multiple negation, e.g. *I'm not going nowhere*
 - ▶ *ain't*, used for negative present tense forms of *be* and *have*, with all subjects, e.g. *I ain't going, I ain't got any*

Jenny Cheshire, "Linguistic Variation and Social Function"

- ▶ auxiliary *do* with third person singular subjects, e.g. *how much do he want for it?*
- ▶ past tense *come*, e.g. I come down here yesterday
negative past tense *never*, used for SE *didn't*, e.g. I never done it, it was him
- ▶ *what* used for SE *who*, *whom*, *which*, and *that*, e.g. *there's a knob what you turn, are you the boy what's just come?*

Vernacular

Mainstream

1

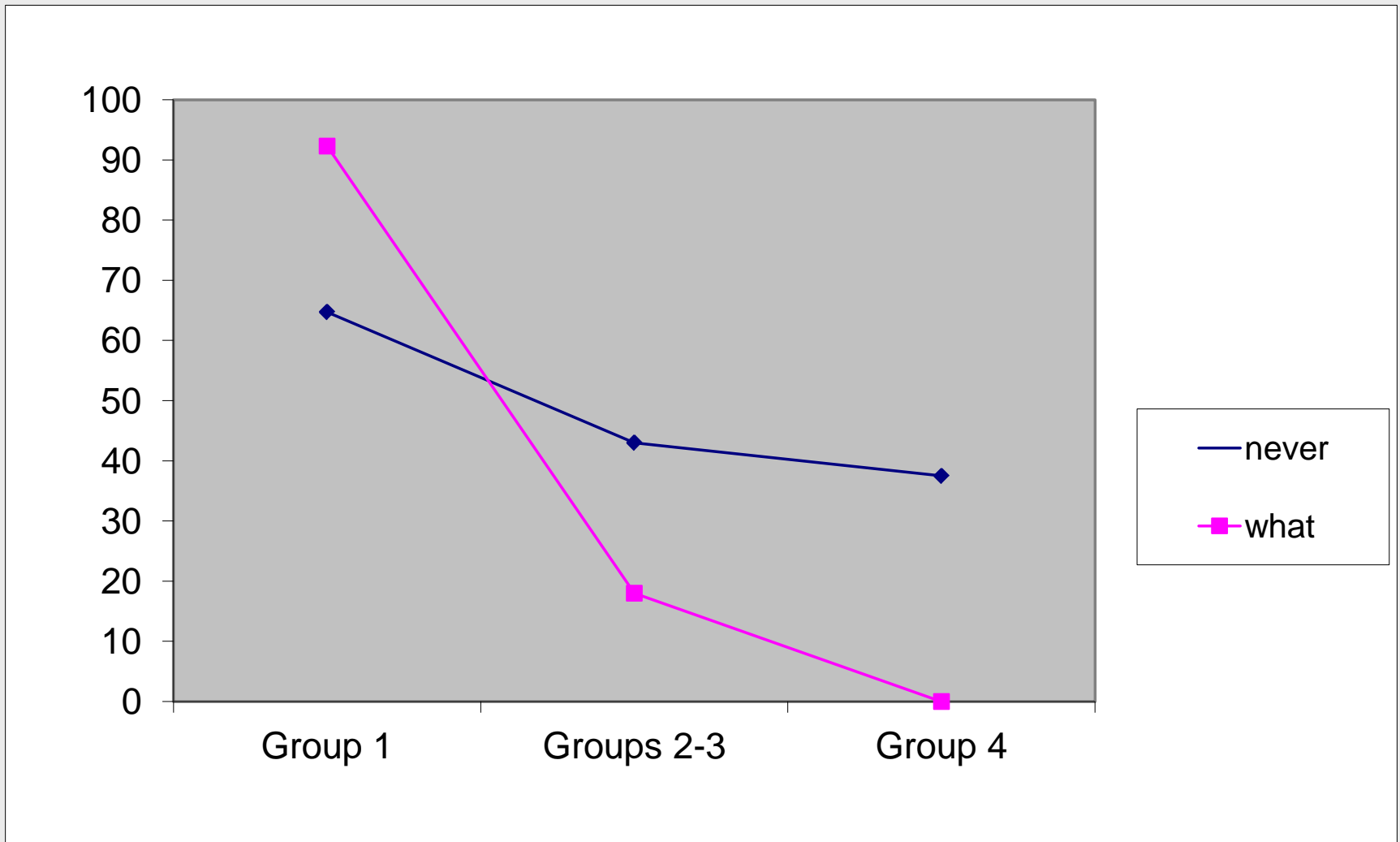
2

3

4

Student Groups

Jenny Cheshire, "Linguistic Variation and Social Function"



Read: papers by
Labov,
Trudgill,
Cheshire
(in the Readings
/Αναγνώσματα,
e-class)

