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

Khalid Ali Abdullah

1 College of Education-English Department, University of Raparin, Ranya, Iraqi-Kurdistan

Correspondence: Khalid Ali Abdullah, College of Education-English Department, University of Raparin, Ranya, Iraqi-Kurdistan. E-mail: bozhin@uor.edu.krd

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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 /ækts/ rather than /ækts/, ‘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 /æspeks/ → /æspeks/
- He must be /himástb/ → /himásb/
- The next day /ðə `nekst `deɪ/ → /ðə `neks `deɪ/
- The last car /ðə `læst `kær/ → /ðə `læs `kær/
- Past tens /pɑ:st `tens/ → /pɑ: `tens/
- Left luggage /lɛt `lʌgdʒ/ → / lɛf `lʌgdʒ/
- Tasteless /teɪstləs/ → /teɪstləs/

When /t/ in the final position of a word is clustered with /t/ or /d/ in initial position of another word, the sequence of /t/ or /td/ is shortened to /t/:
- We ought to visit him. /ˈwi əʊt tu ˈvɪzɪt ɪm/ → /ˈwi ə:tu ˈvɪzt ɪm/
- We want to leave. /ˈwi wɒnt tu ˈli:v/ → /wi ˈwont to ˈli:v/
- They’ve got to go now. /deɪv ˈɡɒt tu ˈgɔʊ nuː/ → /deɪv ˈgɔtə ˈgɔʊ nuː/
- What do you want? /wɒnt də ju: ˈwɒnt/? → /wɔnt də ju: ˈwɒnt/ (Collins & Mees, 2013, p. 128; Gimson, 1970, p. 299)

If a word has final clusters of affricate (e.g., /ʧ/ and /ʤ/) 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 /ˈfɛʃ mi/ → /fɛʃ mi/
- Changed colour /ˈʃeindʒd kʌlə/ → /ˈʃeindʒ kʌlə/
- Helped me /həlpd mi/ → /hɛlp mi/
- Liked jam /laɪkt dʒæm/ → /laɪk dʒæm/
- Robbed both /rɔbd bɔθ/ → /rəbd bəθ/
- Begged one /bɛgd ən/ → /bègd ən/ (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’ /lʊkt bæk/ as it is pronounced /lʊk 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 /ˈsmaʊkt hɜːrn/ → /ˈsmaʊkt hɜːrn/
- Kept hold /kɛpt hɔld/ → /kɛpt hɔld/
- Worked hard /wɜːkt hɑːd/ → /wɜːkt hɑːd/
- Reached home /rɛʃt həʊm/ → /rɛʃt həʊm/
- Gift horse /ɡɪft hɔs/ → /ɡɪft hɔs/
- Rushed home /rʌʃt həʊm/ → /rʌʃt həʊm/
- Bald head /bɔːld hɛd/ → /bɔːld hɛd/

Moreover, there is no elision of /t/, when final /nt/ or /lt/ is followed by a consonant. For example:
- Spent time /spent tɛim/ → /spent tɛim/
- Walt Disney /wɔlt dɪznɪ/ → /wɔlt dɪznɪ/

The sequence of consonant+/t+/ and consonant+/d+/ often keep /t/ and /d/, but sometimes have reciprocal assimilation to /ʃ/ and /ʤ/. For example:
- I’ve booked your flight /aɪ bʊkt flɪt/ → /aɪ bʊktʃ flɪt/
- I told your husband /aɪ tɔld hʌzbɔnd/ → /aɪ tɔldʃ hʌzbɔnd/ (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. /ju: mʌstn t lʌz ɪt/ → /ju: mʌstn lʌz ɪt/
- Doesn’t she know? /dɪzənt fi nɔʊ/ → /dɪzəntʃ fi nɔʊ?
- Wouldn’t he come? /wʊdənt hi kʌm/ → /wʊdənt hi kʌm/ (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: ænd mi/ → /ju: ɔn mi/

Some common examples for the elision of /d/:
- friendship /frendʃip/ → /frenʃip/
- Hold the dog! /ˈhɔuld ðə ˈdɒg/ → /ˈhɔul ðə ˈdɒg/
- Send Frank a card /sen ˈfræŋk ə ˈkɑ:d/ → /sen ˈfræŋk ə ˈkɑ:d/
- Old man /ɔld mæn/ → /ɔd mæn /

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 kɔd tri/ → /wi kɔ tri/.
- They should do it. /ˈðeɪ fɔd  diːt/ → /ˈðei ʃo duː t/.

(Gimson, 1970, p. 299)

2.1.1 Elision of Labiodental 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 /mʌnθs/ → /mʌns/
- Clothes /kləʊdz/ → /kloʊz/
- Sixth(s) /sixθs/ → /siks/ (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 /twelθf/ → /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 ‘sixth(s)’ /sixθs/, 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 /siks/.

Also, in the word ‘fifth(s)’ /fɪfθs/, the phonemes /f/, /θ/ and /s/ are fricative sounds in coda. The phoneme /θ/ can be elided and the word is pronounced as /fɪfθs/ or the phoneme /θ/ can be elided and the word becomes /fɪθs/ in rapid speech. Even it is possible to elide the two fricative sounds /f/ and /θ/ together and the word is presented as /fɪs/.

2.1.1.3 Elision of Labiodental Fricative /v/

The phonemes /v/ and /v/ are labiodental fricatives. /v/ 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 /lɒts əv dʌm/ → /lɒts ə dʌm/
- Waste of money /weɪst ʌv məni/ → /weɪst ə məni/

Collins and Mees (2013, pp. 127–128) and Crystal (2008, p. 247) state /v/ in ‘of’ is omitted as it is followed by /ð/. For example:
- Three of the websites /θriː əv ðə wɛbseɪts/ → /θriː ə ðə wɛbseɪts/
- One of the lads /wʌn əv ðə lædz/ → /wʌn ə ðə lædz/

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 pi:s əv pipeɪ/ → /ə pi:s ə peɪpaɪ/
- As a matter of fact /əz ə mætər əv fækt/ → /əz ə mætər 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 ʃən/ → /ɡɪ mi ə ʃən/.
- Do you have my number? /duː ju hæv mi ni:mbr/ → /duː ju hæv mi ni:mbr/?
- Leave me alone. /li:v mi ə ləʊn/ → /liː mi ə ləʊn/ (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 tɔld 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 gʌnmən/ → /ma:st gʌnmən/
- They asked us /ðei a:skt əs/ → /ðei a:st əs/
- Risked prison /rɪskt prɪson/ → /rɪst prɪson/

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

- Masked /ma:s gʌnmən/

2.1.1.6 Elision of Velar /ɫ/

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

- Always /ɔːtweiz/ → /ɔːweiz/
- Alright /ɔːrait/ → /ɔːrait/
- Although /ɔːldoʊ/ → /ɔːdɔʊ/
- 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 ˈdeɪ/
- Potato /pəˈteɪtəʊ/ → /pʰˈteɪtəʊ/
- Tomato /təˈmaːtəʊ/ → /tʰ ˈmaːtəʊ/

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 /kæt.əl/ → /kæt.ɪ/
- Bottle /bɒt.əl/ → /bɒt.ɪ/
- Trouble /trʌbl.əl/ → /trʌbl.ɪ/
- Tunnel /tʌn.əl/ → /tʌn.ɪ/
- Pedal /ped.əl/ → /ped.ɪ/
- Tonight /təˈnai.t/ → /tʰ ə ˌnai.t/
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.li/. In this word the syllable /lə/ is elided.
- Probably /prə.bə.blə/ → /prə.blə/. In this word the syllable /bə/ is elided.
- February /febr.u.ar.i/ → /febr.ar.i/. In this word the syllable /ru/ is elided
- Literary /lɪt.ar.i/ → /lɪt.ar.i/. In this word the syllable /ar/ is elided.
- Library /lai.brə.li/ → /lai.bri/. In the second syllable /rə/ 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):

- Know /nəʊ/
- Comb /kəʊm/
- Whistle /wɪs.əl/ 
- Wrong /rəʊŋ/
- Knight /nait/
- 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 /mæst/ + Ɂaw /ʔəw / → /mæstəw/ ‘yogurt water’
- Gul /ɡul/ + Ɂaw /ʔəw/ → /ɡuləw/ ‘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 /la/ + Ɂewə /ʔwe/ → /laəwe/ ‘over there’
- -be /ba/ + Ɂew /ʔwə/ → /baəw/ ‘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’
- Helighbre /hælbgro/ → /hælgro/ ‘carry’
- dənbiste /dænbistə/ → /dænistə/ ‘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:
- Bimkirdbûhaye /bm.krd.buː.e.ʃæ/ → /bm.krd.ə.tʃæ/ ‘If I have done,’
- Bimkirdûhay /bm.krd.buː.e.ʃæ/ → /bm.krd.buː.e.ʃæ/ ‘If I had done,’
- Bimxwardbûhay /bm.xwar.d.buː.e.ʃæ/ → /bm.xwar.d.ə.tʃæ/ ‘If I have eaten,’
- Bimxwardûhay /bm.xward.buː.e.ʃæ/ → /bm.xward.buː.e.ʃæ/ ‘If I had eaten,’
- Bimgutbûhay /bm.ɡut.buː.e.ʃæ/ → /bm.ɡut.ə.tʃæ/ ‘If I have said’
- Bimgutûhay /bm.ɡut.buː.e.ʃæ/ → /bm.ɡut.buː.e.ʃæ/ ‘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 /ʃ/.
- Dest /dʒast/ → /dʒət/ ‘hand’
- Mebest /məʃast/ → /məʃət/ ‘purpose’
- Padast /pəʃəʃt/ → /pəʃəʃt/ ‘present (n)’
- Iyadast /ʃəʃəʃt/ → /ʃəʃəʃt/ ‘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 /dʒast/+kəwt /kəwt/ → /dʃəkəwt/ ‘achievement’
- Seʃ /sət/+hezar /həzər/ → /səʃəzər/ ‘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.
- Dæʃət /dæʃət/ → /dæʃət/ ‘He/she eats’
- Dæʃət /dæʃət/ → /dæʃət/ ‘He/she goes’
- Dæʃət /dæʃət/ → /dæʃət/ ‘You goe’

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:
- Dæn /dæn/ → /dæn/ ‘teeth’

Medial position:
- Pædə /pæd.ə/ → /pæd.ə/ ‘king’
- Mændə /mæn.də/ → /mæn.dət/ ‘child’
- Xæda /xædə/ → /xædə/ ‘God’
- Mædə /mæd.ə/ → /mæd.ə/ ‘substance’

Final position:
- Dæʃəmand /dæʃəm.dənd/ → /dæʃəm.dənd/ ‘rich’
- Çænd /ʃænd/ → /ʃæn/ ‘how many/ how much’
- Pesænd /pæsənd/ → /pæsənd/ ‘acceptance’
- Beʃædæ /bæʃædæ/ → /bæʃædæ/ ‘Baghdad’ (Salih, 2012, pp. 71–72)

To Ali (2015, pp. 122–123), in the consonant cluster /n+/ /d/, /d/ is elided.
- Çænædə /ʃænædə/ → /ʃænædə/ ‘beet’
- Çændə /ʃænædə/ → /ʃænædə/ ‘sir’

Moreover, to him (2015, pp. 123–124), a word of initial position of /bæ/ or /læ/ and final position of /dæ/, /d/ is elided in the cluster /dæ/ whenever /d/ is preceded by a consonant sound.
- Læhæænda /læhæænda/ → /læhæænda/ ‘in Summer’
3.1.6 Elision of Glottal Fricative /h/

Salih (2012, p. 74) states that /d/ can be elided from numbers having final position of /d/ except in ‘de’ /da/ (ten), ‘ćwarde’ /fwareda/ ‘fourteen’ and ‘hejde’ /həzdə/ ‘eighteen’:
- Yazde /jaːzda/ → /jaːza/ ‘eleven’
- Dwazde /dwaːzda/ → /dwaːza/ ‘twelve’
- Sêzde /seːza/ → /seːza/ ‘thirteen’
- Paζde /pæzda/ → /pæza/ ‘fifteen’
- Şazde /ʃæzda/ → /ʃæza/ ‘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’, ‘-eč’ or ‘-jek’, is omitted:
   - Kiç /kʃʃ/ + /k/ ‘ek /kʃʃ/ ‘a girl’
   - Goze /goːzə/ + /ʃək/ /ʃək/ → /goːzəʃək/ ‘a clay jar’
2) When a word of final position /k/ is combined with another word having /k/ or /b/ as initial position, /k/ is omitted in the first word and a compound word is formed:
   - Pak /pæk/ + krdin /k(ı)rdın/ → /pæk(ı)rdın/ ‘to clean’
   - Çak /ʃək/ + krdin /k(ı)rdın/ → /ʃək(ı)rdın/ ‘to mend’
   - Çak /ʃək/ + /bʊn/ /bʊn/ → /ʃəbʊn/ ‘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:
   - Kək /kæk/ + Ali /ʃli/ → /kæʃli/ ‘Mr Ali’
   - Kək /kæk/ + hassan /hɔːsən/ → /kæhɔːsən/ ‘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:
- Heľ- /həl/ + /hæt/ → /həlæt/ ‘he/she escaped’
- b- /b(ı)/ + hênə /hena/ → /bənə/ ‘bring’
- Roj /ɾoʃ/ + heʃat /həʃat/ → /ɾoʃəʃat/ ‘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 /u/ or /o/:
- Hurd /hɔrd/ → /ɔrd/ ‘tiny’
- Hurd /hoːR/ → /oːR/ ‘slow-witted’
- Hoʃiʃar /hoʃiʃar/ → /oʃiʃar/ ‘cautious (adj)’/ Hoshiar (n)’ (/h/ is elided and /o/ is changed to /ə/)

3.1.7 Elision of Velar Fricative /ʃ/

/ʃ/ is a velar fricative sound that is voiceless. This phoneme is found in Kurdish but not in English. /ʃ/ 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 /ʃex/ + Mahmud /məʃmud/ → /ʃəməʃmud/ ‘Sheikh Mahmud’
- Şex /ʃex/ + Ali /šli/ → /ʃeʃli/ ‘Sheikh Ali’ (Ali, 2015, p. 127)

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 / /  
2) Elision of / /  

3.2 Elision of a Whole Syllable  
Xoşnaw (2013, pp. 89–90) identifies three common situations in which / can be elided from the initial words which are borrowed from Arabic:  
- / (Ba /bo/ + name /name/ = ba /name/ /bo.len.nae.ma/ → /bo.len.nae.ma/ ‘bond’  
- / (Ba /bo/ + name /name/ = ba /name/ /bo.len.nae.ma/ → /bo.len.nae.ma/ ‘bond’  

3.3 Elision of Vowels  
Elision of / / in Kurdish, like in English, is very common. It is most elided vowel sound. When the definite inflectional morpheme ‘-eke’ /aka/~the~ is attached to a noun having an initial position of / /, / /, / / or / /, the initial / / is elided from ‘-eke’:  
- Hewa /howe/ + -eke /aka/~the~ /howeaka/~The~air~  
- Birra /bire/ + -eke /aka/~The~brother~  
- Susen /sizin/ + -eke /aka~~The~glass~~  
- Çen /çen/ + -eke /aka~~The~knife~~  
- Tire /tire/ + -eke /aka~~The~grape~~  

Xoşnaw (2013, p. 81) explains three common situations in which / is elided in the final position of a noun as in (1) and (2), or in a verb stem as in (3) when:
1) Indefinite inflectional morpheme ‘-ek’ /ək/ ‘a/an’ is attached to the noun:
- Name /næmə/ + -ek /ək/ = nameke /næmekə/ ‘A letter’

2) Plural inflectional morpheme ‘-an’ /ən/ (plurals -s) is attached to the noun:
- Xende /xændə/ + -an /ən/ = xendan /xændən/ ‘smiles’

3) The suffix ‘-ændɪn’ is attached to an intransitive verb stem and it changes it to infinitive:
- Naˈlɛ (groan (n.)) /nælə/+ -andɪn /ændɪn/ = naˈlændɪn /nælændɪn/ ‘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.

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Appendix A

Kurdish phonemic symbols for consonants sounds

| Sound | Representation | Example |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| /p/   | ᵐpeʳ /pəɾR/ | 'paper' |
| /b/   | bon /bɒn/ | 'smell' |
| /t/   | tak /tæk/ | 'odd' |
| /d/   | dar /dær/ | 'tree' |
| /k/   | ker /kær/ | 'donkey' |
| /g/   | gerim /gəɾim/ | 'hot' |
| /q/   | quль /qʊɮ/ | 'deep' |
| /ɾ/   | ᵈem /ɾəm/ | 'this' |
| /ʃ/   | feɾiʃ /fuɾiʃ/ | 'carpet' |
| /v/   | vëlə /veɾələ/ | 'villa' |
| /s/   | ser /səɾ/ | 'head' |
| /z/   | zar /zaɾ/ | 'mouth' |
| /ʃ/   | şar /ʃəɾ/ | 'city' |
| /ʒ/   | jiyaɾ /ziyaɾ/ | 'life' |
| /ʃ/   | xew /ʃəɾ/ | 'sleep' |
| /g/   | ħax /haɾ/ | 'gas' |
| /h/   | hekem /heɾem/ | 'judge' |
| /ʃ/   | 'elaq /ʃəlaq/ | 'barber' |
| /b/   | hêz /heɾ/ | 'power' |
| /ʧ/   | Ćıwar /ʨıwar/ | 'four' |
| /l/   | lar /laɾ/ | 'slope' |
| /ʤ/   | cil /ʨi:l/ | 'generation' |
| /r/   | 'al' /ɾəl/ | 'dumb' |
| /m/   | mar /maɾ/ | 'snake' |
| /n/   | nan /naɾ/ | 'bread' |
| /ɾ/   | pare /paɾəɾ/ | 'money' |
| /R/   | Robar /ɾoɾaɾ/ | 'river' |
| /w/   | wise /wiʃə/ | 'word' |
| /j/   | yar /jaɾ/ | 'lover' |

Appendix B

Kurdish phonemic symbols for vowel sounds

| Sound | Representation | Example |
|-------|----------------|---------|
| /iː/  | şir /ʃiɾ/ | 'milk' |
| /i/   | birdi /brıɾi/ | 'he took' |
| /u/   | xıwardın /xiwaɾdın/ | 'eating' |
| /e/   | xəɾ /xeɾ/ | 'charity' |
| /o/   | derga /dəɾgaɾ/ | 'door' |
/ɑː/  kar /kɑːr/ ‘job’
/ʊ/  kun /kʊn/ ‘hole’
/uː/  nūsin /nuːsɪn/ ‘writing’
/ʌ/  kon /kɒn/ ‘old’

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