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, 'ac**t**s' becomes /æks/ rather than /ækts/, 'scrip**t**s' becomes /skrɪps/ 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.

- Aspec**t**s /æspekts/ → /æspeks/

- He mus**t** be /himəstbi/ → /himəsbi/

- The nex**t** day /ðə ˈnekst ˈdeɪ/ → /ðə ˈneks ˈdeɪ/

- The las**t** car /ðə ˈlɑːst ˈkɑː/→ /ðə ˈlɑːs ˈkɑː/

- Pas**t** tens /pɑːst ˈtens/→ / pɑːs ˈtens/

- Lef**t** luggage /left ˈlʌgɪʤ/→ / lef ˈlʌgɪʤ/

- Tas**t**eless /teistləs/ → /teisləs/

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 ough**t** **t**o visit him. /ˈwi oːt tə ˈvɪsɪt ˈɪm/ → /ˈwi oːtə ˈvɪsɪt ˈɪm/

- We wan**t** **t**o leave. /wi ˈwɒnt tə ˈliːv/ → /wi ˈwɒntə ˈliːv/

- They've go**t** **t**o go now. /ðeiv ˈgɒt tə ˈgəʊ naʊ/ → /ðeiv ˈgɒtə ˈgəʊ naʊ/

- Wha**t** **d**o you want? /wɒt də ju: wɒnt/? → /wɒdə ju: wɒnt/? (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.

- Fet**ched** **m**e /feʧt mi/ → /feʧ mi/

- Chan**ged** **c**olour /ʧeinʤd kʌlə/ → /ʧeinʤ kʌlə/

- Hel**ped** **m**e /helpt mi/ → /help mi/

- Li**ked** **j**am /laikt ʤæm/ → /laik ʤæm/

- Ro**bbed** **b**oth /rəʊbd bəʊθ/→ /rəʊb bəʊθ/

- Be**gged** **o**ne /begd wʌn/→ /beg wʌn/ (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 'look**ed** 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/:

- Smok**ed** **h**erring /sməʊkt herɪŋ/

- Kep**t** **h**old /kept həʊld/

- Work**ed** **h**ard /wɜːkt haːd/

- Reach**ed** **h**ome /riːʧt həʊm/

- Gif**t** **h**orse /gɪft hɔːs/

- Rush**ed** **h**ome /rʌʃt həʊm/

- Bal**d** **h**ead /bɔːld hed/

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

- Spe**nt** **t**ime /spent taim/

- Wa**lt** **D**isney /wɔːlt dɪzni/

The sequence of **consonant**+ /t+j/ and **consonant**+/d+j/ often keep /t/ and /d/, but sometimes have reciprocal assimilation to / ʧ/ and / ʤ/. For example:

- I've boo**ked** **y**our flight /aiv bʊkt jɔː flait/ → /aiv bʊkʧ ɔː flait/

- I to**ld** **y**our husband /ai təʊld jɔː hʌzbənd / → /ai təʊlʤ ɔː hʌzbənd/ (ibid)

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

- You mus**tn't** **l**ose it. /ju: mʌsənt lu:z ɪt/ → /ju: mʌsən lu:z ɪt/

- Does**n't** **sh**e k**n**ow? /dʌzənt ʃi nəʊ/? → /dʌzən ʃi nəʊ/?

- Would**n't** **h**e come? /wʊdənt hi kʌm/? → /wʊdən 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 a**nd m**e /juː ənd miː/ → /juː ən miː/

Some common examples for the elision of /d/:

- frie**n**ship /frendʃɪp/ → /frenʃɪp/

- Hol**d th**e dog! /ˈhəʊld ðə ˈdɒg/→ /ˈhəʊl ðə ˈdɒg/

- Sen**d F**rank a card /send ˈfræŋk ə ˈkɑːd/→ /sen ˈfræŋk ə ˈkɑːd/

- Ol**d m**an /əʊld mæn/ → /əʊl 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 coul**d t**ry. /wi kəd trai/. → /wi kə trai/.

- They shoul**d d**o it. /ðei ʃəd duː ɪt/. → /ðei ʃə duː ɪt/. (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 / mʌnθs / → /mʌns/

- Clothes / kləʊðz / → /kləʊz/

- Sixths / sɪksθs / → /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:

- Fi**f**th /fɪfθ/ → /fɪθ/

- Twel**f**th /twelfθ/ → /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' /sɪksθs/, 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' / fɪfθs/, 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 /f/ 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 /f/ and /v/ are labiodental fricatives. /f/ 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 o**f th**em /lɒts əv ðəm/ → /lɒts ə ðəm/

- Waste o**f m**oney /weist əv mʌni/ → /weist ə mʌni/

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 th**e websites /θriː əv ðə websaits/ → /θriː ə ðə websaits/

- One **of th**e 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 /f/:

- A piece **of p**aper /ə piːs əv peipə/ → /ə piːs ə peipə/

- As a matter **of f**act /əz ə mætr̩ əv fækt/ → /əz ə mætr̩ə fækt/

Moreover, in rapid speech /v/ is sometimes elided before /m/ in the verb 'give', 'have' and 'leave':

- Gi**v**e **m**e a chance. /gɪv mi ə ʧaːns/. → /gɪ mi ə ʧaːns/.

- Do you ha**v**e **m**y number? /duː ju hæv mai nʌmbə/? → /duː ju hæ mai nʌmbə/?

- Lea**v**e **m**e alone. /liːv 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 **h**e will **h**ave told **h**er. /ai θɪŋk 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/.

- Mas**k**ed gunman /ma:skt gʌnmən/ → /ma:st gʌnmən/
- They as**k**ed us /ðei a:skt əs/ → /ðei a:st əs/
- Ris**k**ed prison /rɪskt prɪsən/ → /rɪst prɪsən/

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

- Mas**ked** gunman /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 /ɔ:/ which has a resonance similar to that of /ɫ/

- Always /ɔ:ɫweiz/ → /ɔ:weiz/
- Alright /ɔ:ɫrait/ → /ɔ:rait/
- Although /ɔ:ɫðəʊ/ → /ɔ:ðəʊ/
- Already /ɔ:ɫredi / → /ɔ:redi/

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.

- T**o**day /təˈdeɪ/ → /tʰˈdeɪ/
- P**o**tato /pəˈteɪtəʊ/ → /pʰˈteɪtəʊ/
- T**o**mato /təˈma:təʊ/ → /tʰˈma:təʊ/

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.l̩/
- Bottle /bɒt.əl/ → /bɒt.l̩/
- Trouble /trʌb.əl/ → /trʌb.l̩/
- Tunnel /tʌn.əl/ → /tʌn.l̩/
- Pedal /ped.əl/ → /ped.l̩/
- Tonight /tə.nait/ → /tn̩.ait/
- Threaten /θret.ən/ → /θret.n̩/
- Seven /sev.ən/ → /sev.n̩/
- Correct /kə.rekt/ → /kr̩.ekt/
- Hungary /hʌŋg.ər.i/ → /hʌŋg.r̩.i/

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

- Geography /dʒi.ɒg.rə.fi/ → /dʒɒ.grə.fi/
- Geometry /dʒi.ɒm.ə.tri/ → /dʒɒ.mə.tri/

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 /prɒ.bə.bli/ → /prɒ.bli/. In this word the syllable /bə/ is elided.
- February /feb.ru.ər.i/ → /feb.ər.i/. In this word the syllable /ru/ is elided
- Literary /lɪt.ər.ər.i/ → /lɪt.ər.i/. In this word the syllable /ər/ is elided.
- Library /lai.brər.i/ → /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):

- **K**now /nəʊ/
- Com**b** /kəʊm/
- Whis**t**le /wɪs.l̩ /
- **W**rong /rɒŋ/
- **K**night /nait/
- Lis**t**en /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 /ʔ/

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

- Mast /mæst/ + ʼaw /ʔæw / → /mæstæw/ 'yogurt water'
- Gulʼ /gul̵/ + ʼaw /ʔæw/ → /gul̵æw/ 'rosewater'

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

- -le /lə/ +ʼewê /ʔwe/ → /ləwe/ 'over there'
- -be /bə/ + ʼew /ʔw/ → /bəw/ 'to him/her'

3.1.2 Elision of Bilabial Plosive /b/

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

- Ra**b**ke /Ræbkə/ → /Rækə/ 'run'
- Helʼ**b**gre /həl̵bgrə/ → /həl̵grə / 'carry'
- da**b**nîşe /dæbniʃə/ → /dæniʃə/ '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:

- Bimkird**b**aye /bɪm.kɪrd.bæ.jə/ → /bɪm.kɪr.dæ.jə/ 'If I have done,'
- Bimkirdbû**b**aye /bɪm.kɪrd.bu:.bæ.jə/ → /bɪm.kɪrd.bu:.æj.ə/ 'If I had done,'
- Bimxward**b**aye /bɪm.xwærd.bæ.jə/ → /bɪm.xwær.dæ.jə/ 'If I have eaten,'
- Bimxwardbû**b**aye /bɪm.xwærd.bu:.bæ.jə/ → /bɪm.xwærd.bu:.æj.ə/ 'If I had eaten,'
- Bimgut**b**aye /bɪm.gʊt.bæ.jə/ → /bɪm.gʊ.tæ.jə/ 'If I have said'
- Bimgutbû**b**aye /bɪm.gʊt.bu:.bæ.jə/ → /bɪm.gʊt.bu:.æj.ə/ '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/.

- Des**t** /dəst/ → /dəs/ 'hand'
- Mebe**st** /məbəst/ → /məbəs/ 'purpose'
- Pada**st** /pædæʃt/ → /pædæʃ/ 'present (n)'
- îyada**st** /jædæʃt/ → /jædæʃ/ '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.

- Des**t** /dəst/+kewt /kəwt/ → /dəskəwt/ 'achievement'
- Se**t** /sət/+hezar /həzær/ → /səhəzær/ '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 '-ît' or '-t' (for second singular person), /-t/ can be elided, too.

- Dexw**at** /dəxwæt/ → /dəxwæ/ 'He/she/it eats'
- Deç**êt** /dətʃet/ → /dətʃe/ 'He/she goes'
- Deç**ît** /dətʃit/ → /dətʃi/ '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:

- **D**dan /d(ɪ)dæn/ → /dæn/ 'teeth'

Medial position:

- Pad**d**şa /pæd.ʃæ/ → /pæ.ʃæ/ 'king'
- Min**d**aľ /mɪn.dæł/ → /mɪ.næł/ 'child'
- Xu**d**a /xʊdæ/ → /xwæ/ 'God'
- Ma**d**de /mæd.də/ → /mæ.də/ 'substance'

Final position:

- Doľemen**d** /dɒ.łə.mənd/ → /dɒ.łə.mən/ 'rich'
- Çen**d** /tʃənd/ → /tʃən/ 'how many/ how much'
- Pesen**d** /pəsənd/ → /pəsən/ 'acceptance'
- Beẍda**d** /bəɣ.dæd/ → /bəɣ.dæ/ 'Baghdad' (Salih, 2012, pp. 71−72)

To Ali (2015, pp. 122−123), in the consonant cluster /n/+ /d/, /d/ is elided.

- Çewe**nd**er /tʃəwəndər/ → /tʃəwənər/ 'beet'
- ‚efe**nd**î /əfəndi/ → /əfəni/ 'sir'

Moreover, to him (2015, pp. 123−124), a word of initial position of /bə/ or /lə/ and final position of /dæ/, /d/ is elided in the cluster /dæ/ whenever /d/ is preceded by a consonant sound.

- **Le**hawî**nd**a /ləhæwindæ/ → /ləhæwinæ/ 'in Summer'

- **Le**xo**mda** /ləxɒmdæ/ → /ləxɒmæ/ 'to myself'

- **be**serîya**nda** /bəserijændæ/ → /bəserijænæ/ 'over them'

Salih (2012, p. 74) states that /d/ can be elided from numbers having finial position of /də/ except in 'de' /də/ (ten), 'çwarde' /ʧwærdə/ 'fourteen' and 'hejde' /həʒdə/ 'eighteen':

- Yaz**de** /jæzdə/ → /jæzə/ 'eleven'

- Dwaz**de** /dwæzdə/ → /dwæzə/ 'twelve'

- Sêz**de** /sezdə/ → /sezə/ 'thirteen'

- Paz**de** /pæzdə/ → /pæzə/ 'fifteen'

- Șaz**de** /ʃæzdə/ → /ʃæzə/ 'sixteen'

3.1.5 Elision of Velar Plosive /k/

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

1) /k/, in the inflectional indefinite article '-ek', '-êk' or '-jek', is omitted:

- Kiç /kɪʧ/ + -**êk** /ek/ → /kɪʧe/ 'a girl'

- Goze /gɒzə/ + -**jek** /jək/ → /gɒzəjə/ '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:

- Pa**k** /pæk/+ **k**rdin /k(ɪ)rdɪn/ → /pæk(ɪ)rdɪn/ 'to clean'

- Ça**k** /ʧæk/+ **k**rdin /k(ɪ)rdɪn/ → /ʧæk(ɪ)rdɪn/ 'to mend'

- Ça**k** /ʧæk/+**b**ûn /bu:n/ → /ʧæbu:n/ '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:

- Ka**k** /kæk/ + Ali /ʕli/ → /kæʕli/ 'Mr Ali'

- Kak /kæk/ + Hassan /ħəsən/ → /kæħəsən/ '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- /həɫ/+ **h**at /hæt/ → /həɫæt/ 'he/she escaped'

- b- /b(ɪ)/+ hêne /henə/ → /benə/ 'bring'

- Roj /Rɒʒ/ + heľat /həɫæt/ → /Rɒʒəɫæt/ 'East (n.)/ 'sun rose' (Ali, 2015, p. 125)

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

- **Hu**rd /hʊrd/ → /ʊrd/ 'tiny'

- **Hu**ŕ /hʊR/ → /ʊR/ 'slow-witted'

- **Ho**șîyar /hoʃiar/ → /ʊʃiar/ 'cautious (adj)/ Hoshiar (n)' (/h/ is elided and /o/ is changed to /ʊ/)

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 '***Șêx***' 'Sheikh' is elided whenever the following word has initial /m/, /ʕ/, /ħ/ or /q/. The word 'Șêx' is used as a nickname with the name of persons.

- Șê**x** /ʃex/ + Mahmud /məħmud/ → /ʃeməħmʊd/ 'Sheikh Mahmud'

- Șê**x** /ʃex/ + Ali /ʕli/ → /ʃeʕli/ '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/

- Fro**ş**tin /frɒʃtɪn/ → frotin /frɒtɪn/ 'selling'
- Rê**ş**tin /Reʃtɪn/ → /Retɪn/ 'spilling'

2) Elision of palatal approximant /j/

If a word ends with /i/, /j/ can be elided after the addition of inflection morpheme '-y' (it is used for third singular person).

- Kirî**î** /kɪRi/ + y /j/ = kirîy /kɪRij/→ /kɪRi/ 'he/she bought'
- Fir**î** /fɪRi/ + y /j/ = firîy /fɪRij/→ /fɪRi/ 'he/she/it flew'

3) Elision of post-alveolar approximant /r/

- pi**r**sîyar /pɪrs.jær/ → /pɪs.jær/ 'question'

4) Elision of post-alveolar fricative /ʒ/

- Nîweʀo**j** /niwəʀɒʒ/ → /niwəʀɒ/ 'noon'

5) Elision of alveolar nasal /n/

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

- Baʟ'ê**n** /bəłen/+ **n**ame /næmə/ = baʟ'ê**nn**ame /bə.łen.næ.mə/ → /bə.łe.næ.mə/ 'bond'

3.2 Elision of a Whole Syllable

Xoṣnaw (2013, pp. 89−90) identifies three types of elisions of a whole syllable:

1) Elision of /ʔə/:

/ʔə/ can be elided from the pronouns which are concerned as a part of the whole word:

- **,e**min /**ʔə**.mɪn/ → /mɪn/ 'I'
- **,e**to /**ʔə**.tɒ/ → /tɒ/ 'You'

Also, /ʔə/ can be elided from the initial words which are borrowed from Arabic:

- **,e**mîr /**ʔə**.mir/ → /mir/ 'Prince'

2) Elision of /ʔæ/:

/ʔæ/ is elided at the boundaries of compound words:

- Ga /gæ/+ **,a**sin /ʔæ.sɪn/ = /gæ.**ʔæ.**sɪn/ → /gæsɪn/ 'plough'

3) Elision of /bæ/:

/bæ/ is elided in conditional past perfect tense with intransitive verbs:

- Biʀoştibû**ba**maye /bɪ.ʀɒş.tɪ.bu:.bæ.mæ.jə/ → /bɪ.ʀɒş.tɪ.bu:.mæ.jə/ 'If I had gone,'
- Bihatibû**ba**maye /bɪ.hæ.tɪ.bu:. bæ.mæ.jə/ → /bɪ.hæ.tɪ.bu:.mæ.jə/ 'If I had come,'

To Ali (2015, pp. 119−120), /bæ/ can be omitted in conditional present perfect tense from intransitive verbs:

- Biçu**ba**maye /bɪ.ʧʊ.**bæ**.mæ.jə/ → /bɪ.ʧʊ.mæ.jə/ 'If I have gone,'
- Binust**ba**maye /bɪ.nʊst.bæ.mæ.jə/ → /bɪ.nʊs(t).mæ.jə/ 'If I have slept,'

3.3 Elision of Vowels

Elision of /ə/ in Kurdish, like in English, is very common. It is most elided vowel sound. When the definite inflectional morpheme '-*e*ke'/**ə**kə/ 'the' is attached to a noun having an initial position of /ə/, /æ/, /ɒ/ or /e/, the initial /ə/ is elided from '-eke':

- Hew**a** /həwæ/ + -**e**ke /**ə**kə/= /həwækə/ 'The air'
- Bir**a** /bɪræ/ + -**e**ke /**ə**kə/= /bɪrækə/ 'The brother'
- Ṣuş**e** /ʃʊʃə/ + -**e**ke /**ə**kə/= /ʃʊʃəkə/ 'The glass'
- Çeq**o** /ʧəqɒ/ + -**e**ke /**ə**kə/=/ʧəqɒkə/ 'The knife'
- Tir**ê** /tɪre/ + -**e**ke /**ə**kə/=/tɪrekə/ 'The grape' (Salih, 2012, pp. 75−76; Dizey, Mahammad, & Salih, 2013, p. 131)

Xoṣnaw (2013, p. 81) explains three common situations in which /ə/ 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:

- Nam**e** /næmə/ + -ek /ək/= nameke /næmək/ 'A letter'

2) Plural inflectional morpheme '-an' /æn/ (pluras -s) is attached to the noun:

- Xend**e** /xəndə/ + -an /æn/= xendan /xəndæn/ 'smiles'

3) The suffix '-ændɪn' is attached to an intransitive verb stem and it changes it to infinitive:

- Naľ**e** (groan (n.)) /næłə/+ -andin /ændɪn/= naľandɪn /næłændɪn/ '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

/p/	**p**eȓ	/pərR/	'paper'
/b/	**b**on	/bɒn/	'smell'
/t/	**t**ak	/tæk/	'odd'
/d/	**d**ar	/dar/	'tree'
/k/	**k**er	/kər/	'donkey'
/g/	**g**erim	/gərɪm/	'hot'
/q/	**q**uľ	/qʊɫ/	'deep'
/ʔ/	**,e**me	/ʔmə/	'this'
/f/	**f**eȓiş	/fəRɪʃ/	'carpet'
/v/	**v**êla	/velæ/	'villa'
/s/	**s**er	/sər/	'head'
/z/	**z**ar	/zær/	'mouth'
/ʃ /	**ş**ar	/ʃær/	'city'
/ʒ/	**j**îyan	/ʒîan/	'life'
/x/	**x**ew	/xəw/	'sleep'
/ɣ/	**ẍ**az	/ɣæz/	'gas'
/ħ/	**h**ekem	/ħəkəm/	'judge'
/ʕ/	**'e**laq	/ʕəlaq/	'barber'
/h/	**h**êz	/hez/	'power'
/ʧ/	**Ç**iwar	/Çɪwær/	'four'
/l/	**l**ar	/lær/	'slope'
/ʤ/	**c**îl	/ʤi:l/	'generation'
/ɫ/	**ľ**aľ	/ɫæɫ/	'dumb'
/m/	**m**ar	/mær/	'snake'
/n/	**n**an	/næn/	'bread'
/r/	pa**r**e	/pærə/	'money'
/R/	**ȓ**ubar	/Rʊbær/	'river'
/w/	**wise**	/wɪʃə/	'word'
/j/	**y**ar	/jær/	'lover'

Appendix B

Kurdish phonemic symbols for vowel sounds

/i:/	**ş**îr	/ʃiːr/	'milk'
/i/	bird**î**	/bɪrdi/	'he took'
/ɪ/	**x**iward**i**n	/xɪwærdɪn/	'eating'
/e/	x**ê**r	/xer/	'charity'
/ə/	d**e**rga	/dərgæ/	'door'

/ɑː/   k**a**r /kɑːr/ 'job'

/ʊ/   k**u**n /kʊn/ 'hole'

/uː/   n**û**sîn /nuːsiːn/ 'writing'

/ɒ/   k**o**n /kɒn/ 'old'

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