‘New’ perspectives on T/D deletion

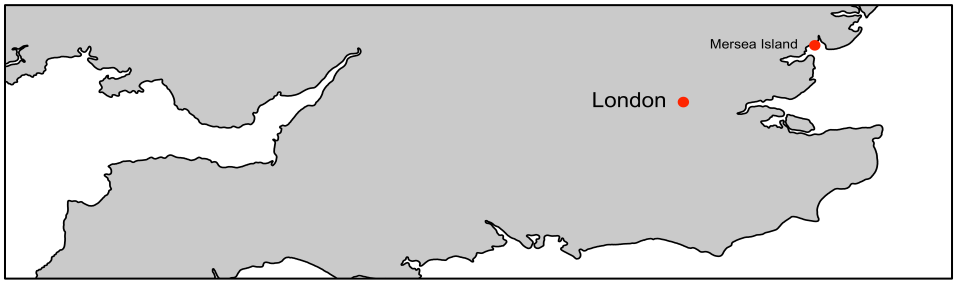
T/D deletion (FCCS, coronal stop deletion, (t,d) etc.) in English involves deletion of /t, d/ in word-final Ct and Cd coda clusters

A classic sociolinguistic variable with higher level linguistic organisation: all varieties should behave in some way according to morpho-phonologically conditioned variability with predictable hierarchies

Study considers the extent to which (t,d)-deletion can be considered two distinct (socio)linguistic variables, given distributional constraints

Data (N=897) come from semi-structured interviews among 8 speakers on island of Mersea (Essex)

The speakers represent mono-lingual native Islanders of both genders and two age groups (young 19-24, and older 60-75)



Mixed-effects logistic regression modeling run for two separate models on /t, d/

Results show different statistically significant factor groups for (t) and (d). While (t)-deletion is more likely to be constrained by the following segment and intonational boundaries, (d)-deletion shows following and preceding segments to be more important

	/t/					/d/			
Input: 0.276	Total N: 491		R^2: 0.572		Input: 0.109	Total N: 406		R^2: 578	
	logodds	*N*	*%*	*Factor weight*		*logodds*	*N*	*%*	*Factor weight*
Following context					*Following context*				
Consonant	*2.589*	*354*	*72*	*0.93*	*Consonant*	*2.347*	*222*	*55*	*0.913*
Pause	*-0.420*	*35*	*7*	*0.397*	*Vowel*	*-0.585*	*120*	*30*	*0.358*
Vowel	*-2.170*	*102*	*21*	*0.102*	*Pause*	*-1.761*	*64*	*15*	*0.147*
p = < 0.001			*Range:*	*82*	*p = < 0.001*			*Range:*	*76.6*
Intonation boundary					*Preceding context*				
Medial	*0.7*	*445*	*91*	*0.668*	*Nasal*	*1.440*	*287*	*71*	*0.809*
Final	*-0.7*	*46*	*9*	*0.332*	*Sibilant*	*0.811*	*53*	*13*	*0.692*
p = 0.02			*Range:*	*36.6*	*Stop*	*-0.328*	*12*	*3*	*0.419*
					Liquid	*-1.923*	*54*	*13*	*0.128*
					p = < 0.001			*Range:*	*68.1*
Best model: SPEAKER as random intercept + Following context (1.21e-60) + Intonation boundary (0.0218).					Best model: SPEAKER as random intercept + Following context (6.36e-37) + Preceding context (2.45e-12).				