



Liaison in French songs: a focus on some constructions implied in language change

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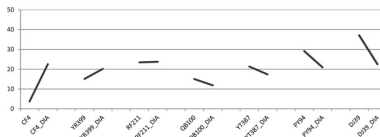
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State of the art

Liaison : “a sandhi phenomenon which involves the presence or absence of a consonant at the boundary between two words (Word-1 and Word-2): more specifically, the consonant may appear when Word-2 is vowel initial, but is absent when Word-1 or Word-2 is uttered in isolation” (Durand and Lyche 2016)

Liaison in diachrony

- Oral corpora:
 - Politicians, 1908-2015 (Laks 2009; Laks and Peuvergne 2017)
 - Tours, 1976 vs 1995 (Ashby 2003); Orléans, 1970s vs 2010s (Dugua and Baude 2017)
- Globally, speakers have maintained the same liaison realisation rate (contrary to popular belief: (Chigarevskaïa 1973; Léon 1992; Thomas 1998))
- Some evolution in specific constructions (eg: *pas*+X) + across lifespan



Evolution across lifespan: variable *liaisons* for 7 speakers (Dugua and Baude 2017: 52)

- Corpus: French number-one songs (1956-2017)

Duration	Songs	Words	Liaison contexts	Liaisons
21:36:01	368	107.550	5.794	3.157



- 1 **Transcripts on CLAN** (MacWhinney 2000): time-aligned
- 2 **Enriched ELAN files** (Badin 2019; Brugman et al. 2004): PoS-tagging, lemmatisation, automatic pre-annotation of *liaisons*, metadata
- 3 **Checking annotations**
- 4 **Data analysis**: export in a spreadsheet

Results & Discussion

- In number-one songs: global liaison realisation rate has decreased cf X+X ↓
- Examples of constructions implied in this language change :

	1956-1966		1967-1976		1977-1986		1987-1996		1997-2006		2007-2017	
	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n
X+X	67	622/923	63	608/958	59	463/789	54	375/696	46	595/1284	43	494/1144
NOUN+X	29	38/129	7	8/117	5	6/114	2	2/106	1	2/204	10	17/170
NOUN.pl+ { ADJ KON PRP PRP:det VER:pper }	43	30/70	12	6/51	7	4/56	5	2/38	3	2/66	8	4/49
NOUN.pl+et	43	18/42	0	0/13	0	0/22	0	0/18	3	1/30	10	1/10

- As hypothesized by Bybee, *liaisons* seems to be preserved inside of constructions which are of high frequency (Bybee 2001: 22)
- A register-specific diachronic change?
The way of singing seems to become gradually more similar to the way people speak.

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