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Gender-Related Phonetic Variation of Vowels in Prishtina

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Abstract—**This study investigates how gender, as a sociolinguistic factor, affects the phonetic variation of low and mid vowels in the Albanian language. 156 Prishtina citizens (78 women and 78 men, mean age: 39) took part in an interview in which they answered questions about their daily and professional lives. They used vernacular style in their answers, which revealed information regarding the density of vowel usage in their native dialect. These vowels were numbered in each informant's discourse and measured based on their gender. They were classified as "prestigious" or "inferior", depending on their relation to the standard variety. Results proved that men use more locally colored and nasalized variants, which shows that they are less sensitive to potential negative social perceptions. On the other hand, women preferred to stay away from stigmatized speech, particularly when it came to low vowels. Furthermore, women played a leading role in creating innovative variants.**

Index Terms—**gender, phonetic variants, stigmatized pronunciation, innovative variants**

I. Introduction

Havelock Ellis (1929) first discovered that men's vocal cords are longer compared to women, while the larynx is positioned lower in women. Although culture and practices can influence the general innate voice quality (Yuasa, 2008), physical differences exert their effect. The vocal tract is the area where air moves, produces vibrations, and where the frequency and resonances change. The vowel's formant is determined by its length (Reetz & Jongman, 2020). Women's formant values are higher than men's because their vocal tract is typically 10–15 percent smaller. However, as Lieberman (1986, p. 359) points out, "people are not limited to their anatomy, but certain traits are culturally transmitted". This indicates that many of these differences cannot be entirely attributed to physiological developments and are partially explained by traditional social norms.

Phonetic attributes play a significant role in social perception, gender, and linguistic convergence (Stuart-Smith, 2020; Wang & Gu, 2022; Rustamov et al., 2021; Brown, 2015). Certain pronunciations show that "phonetic trajectory is influenced by external factors" (Riverin-Coutlée & Harrington, 2022, p. 42). It is therefore demonstrated that phonological characteristics, historical and social context, and other linguistic elements influence phonetic repertoire (Turton & Lennon, 2023; Holmes, 2020; Mahzari, 2023; Celata & Calamai, 2014; Bulgantamir, 2015; Zheng & Samuel, 2023; Riverin-Coutlée & Harrington, 2022). Geographical factors are also taken into account, as "such differences may occur at the level of dialects pertaining to the same language" (Al-Omari & Singh, 2023, p. 3299).

The purpose of this research is to explain vowel characteristics based on the gender of the participants in the capital city of Kosova, Prishtina, which is geographically associated with the Gheg Albanian dialect. Regarding this variable, Labov (2001) has pointed out that women's careful speech, the propensity to create new forms, and their preference for standard variants are among the most consistent results worldwide. Chappell (2016) found that women are perceived negatively for their use of the non-standard variant, while men receive positive evaluations about the same variant. Based on the above finding, we argue that women are criticized enough for other strikingly gendered behaviors that it would be excessive to add "lower class speech" to their repertoire. In the Albanian language, this was demonstrated to be the case (Osmani, 2016, 2020). Therefore, "gender identity is partly encoded by prosodic patterns and suprasegmental cues" (Dashdorj et al., 2023, p. 847).

Based on the findings from numerous countries worldwide (Regan, 2019; Kettig & Winter, 2017; Van Heuven et al., 2002; Holmes, 1992; Labov, 2006), one goal of the analysis will be to determine how consistently women use low and middle vowels and whether they correspond to lower status or 'privileged pronunciation'.

When it comes to phonetic differences in Albanian, vowels with low nasality, short vowels, and stressed shwa [ə] will be considered closer to the standard pronunciation because nasality and vowel length are generally absent in Tosk Albanian, which is the basic dialect of the standard variety of Albanian language (Munishi, 2013; Ismajli, 1998). On the other side, Gheg Albanian, the main dialect of Prishtina, has much more dialectical, low-prestige features (Munishi, 2013). Furthermore, "the northern Albanian macrosystem, or Gheg, is characterized by length and nasalization" (Myrtaj,

2015, p. 303). Because of this, the vowel system in Gheg is both richer and more distinct from that of Tosk Albanian, which is characterized by oral vowels (Gjinari & Shkurtaj, 2003).

There has been early and more contemporary research about the vowel system of Albanian within linguistic, lexical, historical, and dialectical aspects (Ismajli, 2021, 1987, 1998; Myrtaj, 2015; Topalli, 2005, 2007; Rugova, 2019; Gjinari, 1968; Çabej, 1976; Dodi, 2004). To the best of our knowledge, except for social influences on women's language generally (Osmani, 2016, 2019, 2020; Jahiu, 2023, 2020), no research has been carried out on the phonetic variations of Albanian vowels in the social dimension thus far. This study brings to light a fresh perspective on Albanian studies.

This paper seeks to find out the responses to three main questions:

1. What is the frequency of low and mid vowels (a, e, o) and their allophones in females?
2. What is the frequency of low and mid vowels (a, e, o) and their allophones in males?
3. Is there any tendency for innovative accents?
4. How does their distribution relate to the standard variety of the Albanian language?

A. Related Studies

As was briefly indicated, it is important to recognize that the Gheg dialect is underrepresented in the sociolinguistic framework. This underrepresentation highlights the difficulties faced in conducting a comprehensive comparison of data. Nonetheless, a large number of independent studies—particularly concerning the standard variety's phonetic characteristics, the phonetic structure of vowels, and the dialectology of Albanian—were very helpful in determining which vowels are (non-)prestigious. We shall quickly review the works that were relevant and helpful for our results.

Gjinari and Shkurtaj (2003) described the vowel inventory of Albanian cities and villages and identified those closest to Tosk and Gheg. They provided extensive data regarding the dialectical aspects of the Albanian language. Additionally, they emphasized some linguistic traits and how they relate to the standard variety, as well as unique qualities that "separate" the two main dialects. In-depth research on Albanian phonetics from a diachronic standpoint has been provided by Topalli (2007), who has also included some samples of common allophones in the Tosk and Gheg dialects. He discussed the evolution of unstressed vowels (p. 136) as well as the historical shifts that have brought the allophones of the existing vowels. Ismajli (2021) has recently conducted a thorough analysis of the phonetic inventory of Gheg Albanian and explained the relationship between nasality and Gheg dialect. Ismajli (2021, p. 144) claims that the absence of nasality in Tosk distinguishes the two dialects and is a result of internal linguistic developments. "Nasal pronunciation occurs when the voice doesn't flow towards the mouth, but it goes down to the palate, and then it transpires through the nose" (Çabej, 1976, p. 119).

Demiraj (2015) on the other hand, has contributed to the comparative method by emphasizing phonemes and morphemes that are comparable to those found in other Balkan languages and the Indo-European family. Regarding the Albanian language's vowels, Çabej (1976) provided broad and comparative data about several phonetic alternations and historical processes like metaphony and apophony. Munishi (2013) has strongly proven that the basic dialect of the standard variety of Albanian is Tosk Albanian, which contributed to growing awareness about the misbalance of the standard variety in relation to Gheg Albanian.

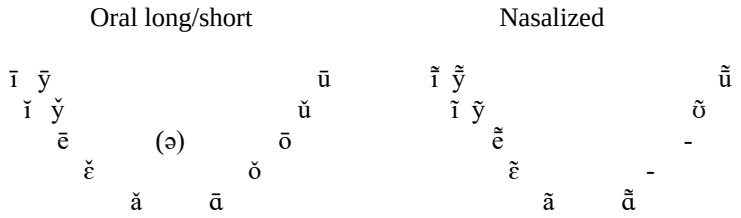
Osmani (2016, 2019, 2020) conducted detailed research on prevalent perceptions about women's language in Albanian, how they establish an image through it, tactics for speaking "correctly", the use of euphemisms, and so on. These findings familiarize us with gender inequalities in the Albanian language, which we intend to demonstrate at the phonetic level.

All of these findings are strongly related to our research because they lay the framework for us to provide sociolinguistic explanations for certain allophone usages. Furthermore, in light of these and other valuable studies, this may be a starting point for future research on this topic. This would conduct a broader understanding of dynamics concerning the Albanian language's vowel system, i.e., to bring about the possibility of exploring and shedding light on vowels' variation depending on other sociolinguistic variables.

B. Vowels Regarded as More or Less Standardized in the Albanian Language

Standard Albanian comprises 36 phonemes, including 7 vowels (a, e, ë, o, i, u, y) and 29 consonants. Though the Albanian orthography was formally decided in Tirana in 1972 for both Albania and Kosova, two states that belong to the same nation, no officially written orthoepy describes a speech "according to the norms" in Albanian (Dodi, 2004). It is crucial to note that standard Albanian pronunciation differs noticeably from the Gheg dialect in terms of nasality and vowel length. Albanian vowels (except o) have nasalized counterparts that are largely part of the Gheg dialect's vowel system (Çabej, 1976, p. 120; Topalli, 2007, pp. 115-125; Gjinari & Shkurtaj, 2003). More prestigious varieties avoid these two characteristics. "The Gheg phoneme inventory of stressed vowel macrosystem consists of 23 phonemes; the phoneme inventory of unstressed vowel phonemes consists of 7 vowel phonemes" (Beci, 2002, p. 110; cited by Myrta, 2015, p. 303).

Ismajli (2021, p. 143) depicts the vowel system of the Gheg dialect with nasalized and long equivalents (as shown below):



On the other hand, oral vowels dominate Tosk Albanian (Gjinari & Shkurtaj, 2003). Based on the basic dialect of the standard variety, which is Tosk Albanian (Munishi, 2013; Ismajli, 1998), we may discern specific vowels that are often regarded as "standardized":

- Low central unrounded vowel [ä]
- Mid-front unrounded vowel [e]
- Mid central vowel [ə] in a stressed position
- High-mid front unrounded vowel [e]

The vowels that are considered less prestigious, according to the systems of both dialects (Gjinari & Shkurtaj, 2003; Topalli, 2007) are:

- The mid-front rounded vowel [ø]
- Nasalized open-mid back rounded vowel [ɔ̃]
- Near-open front unrounded vowel [æ]
- Low-mid front unrounded vowel [ɛ]

As the Republic of Kosova is part of the Northern Dialect (Gheg), Kosovar speakers have acquired this dialect since childhood, and the standard variation appears to be novel to them (Pa çarizi, 2011). This implies that Kosovar citizens must acquire certain standardized forms and articulations purposefully. This has made it difficult for them to talk publicly without fear of being judged.

C. Methods and Participants

The dataset of the study is compiled from 156 fifteen-minute interviews with informants who used the vernacular variety while answering the questions. The interviews were carried out by the authors. The participants were chosen at random from the authors' workplaces (a television in Kosova and the personnel and students of the University of Prishtina). They were evenly divided into 78 men and 78 women. All respondents were Prishtina citizens. Interviews were conducted in quiet settings (classrooms, offices) in Prishtina to accurately identify the impressionistically coded vowel quality and then demonstrate acoustic variations according to gender as a social factor.

Interviews recorded via Sony ICDUX570 aim to elicit vernacular speech and highlight the most commonly used allophones of mid- and low-vowels. Dictaphone's capability to reduce outside noises enabled high-quality recordings that are appropriate for accurate and in-depth analysis (Broś, 2024).

As an urban center, Prishtina, the capital of Kosova, welcomes citizens from many towns and cities within Kosova. Their accent changes noticeably as a result. We'll look at which gender adopts "more educated speech norms" or avoids more regional vowels. The pronunciation of words is transcripted according to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Transcripted words and phrases are put in brackets [], while for the English translation, we used single quotation marks: ' '.

D. Procedure and Materials

The research was carried out using the following procedure: After their acceptance to participate in the study, participants (n = 156, mean age: 39) were invited to an office or classroom where one of the authors conducted a 15-minute interview. Questions were made known to them in advance. Participants were recruited from the University of Prishtina and Kohavision, a Kosovar television network. All they had to do was talk in the dialect that they primarily use with their friends and family. The request to employ the vernacular draws attention to our propensity for illustrating native varieties. All interviews were transcripted, and allophones under investigation were written and numbered separately. If the most used ones matched the standard variety and reflected one gender's tendencies, then they were given the proper interpretation.

II. Vowel Variations in Females

Linguistic stereotypes of women are associated with inferiority, ridicule, and sometimes generosity (Osmani, 2019). Gender is to some degree a predictor of sociophonetic production, and women make the changes more self-consciously (Labov, 2001, p. 501; Dashdorj et al., 2023).

Adult women and girls are more cautious when speaking in public, so in this study, women aged 35–40 with higher education found it difficult to entirely switch to the vernacular style.

Distribution

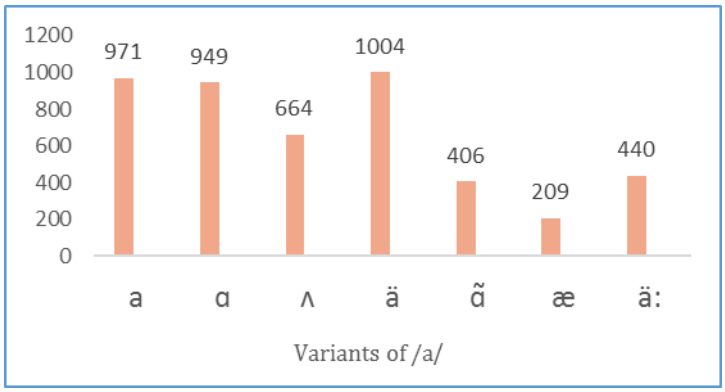


Figure 1. Quantitative Usage of Low Vowels in Females

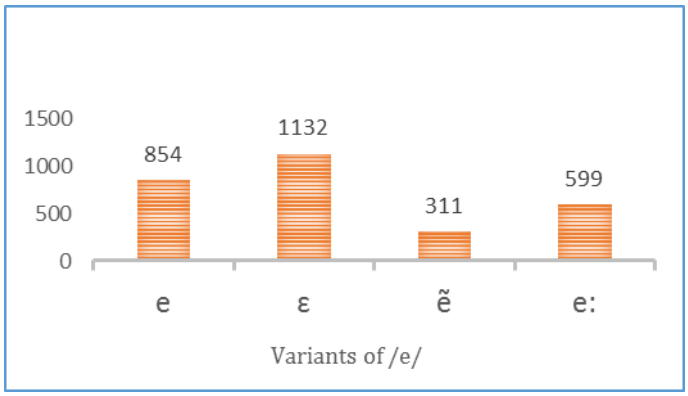


Figure 2. Quantitative Usage of Unrounded Mid-Vowels

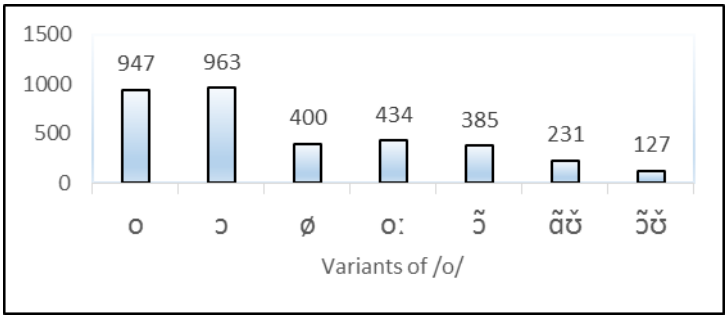


Figure 3. Quantitative Distribution of Rounded Mid-Vowels in Females

In Figure 1, the low central vowel [ä] along with the low front variant [a] have a higher distribution in the female gender, indicating a higher density of allophones that are often regarded as standard vowels in Albanian, as they are similar to the Tosk dialect (Topalli, 2007). The low-back variant [ɑ] is also quite present. The less widely distributed vowel turns out to be the near-front vowel [æ]. The dialectical nasal variant [ã] didn't display dense usage, along with [a:], which is in higher number compared to the nasalized one.

In Figure 2, the open variant of unrounded middle vowels [ɛ], as an innovative variant, is the most prevalent among women, while the second is the front variant [e], which is also the basic variant of this group of vowels in Albanian. The middle nasal vowel is less commonly noticed. Just like in low vowels, nasality among women, as a non-prestigious phenomenon, is also avoided.

In Figure 3, the open-mid back rounded vowel [ɔ] is the most common in women, followed by the close-mid back rounded vowel [o], which is known as the basic variant of these vowels in Albanian. Other allophones have a noticeable decline in usage compared to others.

The diphthongs [ãŭ] and [ɔ̃ŭ] were less commonly used. Also, "the consonants affect the vowels in terms of frequency and duration" (Mahzari, 2023, p. 805). This means that in many occurrences, such as [qe:nɪ qɪɛɬɪ] (dog, sky), the consonant 'q' has exerted its effect on the pronunciation, and vowel quality finds interpretation on phonemes that are near vowels (Bulgantamir, 2015).

Social characteristics of [ɛ] in women

The vowel [ɛ], though not highly present in standard variety, is esteemed with a dose of prestige and may have played a role in the high prevalence among women. E.g.

(1) *ideja, vjeshta, reja* [idɛja] [vjɛʃta] [rɛja] 'idea, autumn, daughter-in-law'

These examples constitute innovative articulations, especially noticed among young women seeking to "differentiate themselves" as most youngsters do (Koreinik et al., 2024; Trudgill, 1972).

Consistent with our result, Kettig and Winter (2017) conducted a study on inter-speaker variation (production and perception) of mid and low vowels in Montreal, Canada [ɛ æ]. Although they are not active in the standard variety, the findings of their investigation revealed that girls develop their own varieties (which are innovative), despite being regularly exposed to the conservative ones. Below are some words which female respondents mostly pronounced:

TABLE 1
VOWEL REALIZATIONS OF /E/ IN DENSELY USED WORDS

WORD IN STANDARD VARIETY	INNOVATIVE REALIZATION	NUMBER OF TIMES	PERCENTAGE	COMMON VARIANT	NUMBER OF TIMES
vendi 'place'	[vɛndɪ]	63	80.7%	[vɛ̃:ndɪ]	15
sendi 'thing'	[sɛndɪ]	60	76.9%	[se:nd]	18
shpendi 'poultry'	[ʃpɛnd]	70	89.7%	[ʃpe:nd]	8
elementi 'element'	[ɛlɛme:ntɪ]	34	43.5%	[eleme:ntɪ]	43
treni 'train'	[trɛnɪ]	51	65.3%	[trɛnɪ]	26
veshi 'ear'	[vɛʃɪ]	73	93.5%	[veʃɪ]	4
këndej 'right here'	[knɛj]	58	74.3%	[kne:j]	20
enë 'dish'	[ɛ:n]	43	55.1%	[e:n]	34
ndejë 'party'	[nɛj]	66	84.6%	[ne:j]	12

It is clear that the variants encountered in these words are with the two most used vowels of this group, but the open variant [ɛ] predominates. There are words like *kerr, vesh* [kɛr] [vɛʃ] 'car, ear', which all respondents generally articulated with the open variant, except in cases where the reference was made in the definite form with the suffix -i. In this case, the vowel moves to a more front variant: [ke:rɪ] [ve:ʃɪ], usually accompanied by vowel length.

Adding prestige to the vowel [ɛ] indicates a trend toward phonetic innovation since the vowel [e] is the typical standard variant in the above-mentioned words.

Factors affecting change in vowel quality in women

The phonetic variation within a single response is a common and interesting aspect of female speech. The reasons for the inconsistency in phonetic features throughout the interviews were found to be related to the topic of the conversation, the emotional content of the story being told, or the tendency to be more careful with the vocabulary. In this perspective, the following factors have been detected:

Topic change. The use of more "traditional" variants is related to the topic of conversation (Drager et al., 2010). As the topic shifts from work life to personal life, there is a slight change in phonetic variants. For instance, between the ages of 17 and 25, the vowel /e/ predominates. In informal questions, it switches to [ɛ], although in most words, both variants are potential.

Expression of emotions. Intonation has an important role in the expression of emotions (Scherer et al., 2001; Yuasa, 2008; Bachorowski et al., 1995). After emotional questions, e.g., *what is your weakness? Have you ever been betrayed in your life?*, the words were uttered carelessly and the vowels were longer.

Tendency to sound more educated. This was noted, particularly in questions concerning professional life. They considered the typical variants of the Tosk Albanian as a 'décor' to their discourse. E.g., the standardized stressed [ə] is the main feature that makes the difference between Tosk and Gheg Albanian (Munishi, 2013). When females inserted it in their speech, they claimed themselves to be more educated:

(2) *ësht ë profesion i lodhsh ën* **[ə̲ʃt** prɔfɛsɪɔn ɪ lɔ ðʃəm] 'it is a difficult job';
kom prit me or ë t ë t ë ra **[**kɔm prɪ:t mɛ ɔ:ɾ tə **tə̲ɾä] '**I have waited for hours';
ëmb ë sira e pite [**ə̲mbəlsirä** pitɛ] 'desserts and pie';
ndodhin gj ë ra t ë ndryshme [ndo ðɪn **ʤərä** tə ndɾʏʃmɛ] 'different things happen';
e kom vra k ë mb ë n [ɛ kɔm vrɑɾ **kəmbən**] 'I hurt my leg'

TABLE 2
STATISTICAL DATA OF FACTORS INFLUENCING VOWEL QUALITY CHANGE IN WOMEN

The factor that changes vowel quality	Number of times	Percentage
Topic change	49	36.5%
Expression of emotions	52	38.8%
Tendency to sound more educated	33	24.6%

Additionally, we noticed numerous phonemic changes that altered the word's basic vowel quality:

(3) *the mka marr* [ɛ ðæ mkɑ **mɔr]** 'he took me' **;** *secili* [**sıciılı]** 'each of them' ; *ashtu* [**aʃt ø]** 'in that way' ; *nuk muj* [nɔk **mɔj]** 'I can't' **;** *i maj nmen* [ı mɒj **nmɑ̃n**] 'I remember them'

Or reduce their sound quality to [ə]:

(4) *nuk osht q ë ia kom vnu men ën* [nʊk ɔʃt t͡ʃə j äkʊm vnu ʃʊm **mɛnən]** 'I didn't pay attention';

Pi njerzve q ë sdin ça dojn n ështa npun njet [pı ɳɛrzvɛ ʧə sdin ʧka dojn **nəʃta** npun njet] 'from people who don't know what to do in life';

mun ën me vazhdu **[munəm** mɛ vaʒdu] 'we can continue';

vet ën **[vetən]** 'myself';

kur kejt merret dikush tjet ër **[**kʊr kejt **mirət** dıkʊʃ tjetər] 'when somebody else deals with it';

n ështa me qit pun ë[**nəʃta** mɛ ʧıt pun] 'maybe with this affair'

This indicates that their linguistic behavior is a natural reaction to the nature of the questions but they also adjust their speech to fit the interviewer's informal variety.

III. VOWEL VARIATIONS IN MALES

Encouraging men to speak in their vernacular has not been difficult, even for those who claimed to be economically well-off or highly educated. This higher independence is not related to any special biological organ or innate ability, but stems mainly from social conventions (Holmes, 1992).

Studies conducted worldwide on men's language reveal a consistent use of native varieties devoid of complexity that may indicate a low social status. Hay et al. (2010) note that /r/ in New Zealand English is related to gender. In their study, unlike women, boys insert it after the diphthong [ɑʊ], and upper-class individuals do not use it in this position, which is characteristic of the lower class. This result also connects women with the upper class. Dubois and Horvath (1998) conducted a study in the Cajun community, Louisana, to see the effect of gender and age on the use of /ș/ /ð/, and generally boys, as an alternative to these phonemes, used /t/ /d/ much more than girls, which is a more stigmatized variant.

Distribution

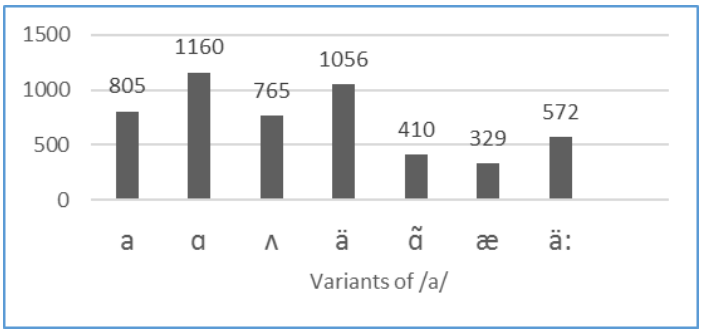


Figure 4. Quantitative Distribution of Low Vowels in Males

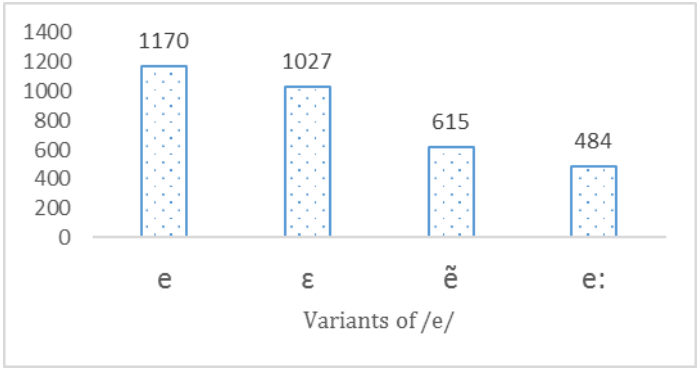


Figure 5. Quantitative Distribution of Unrounded Mid-Vowels in Males

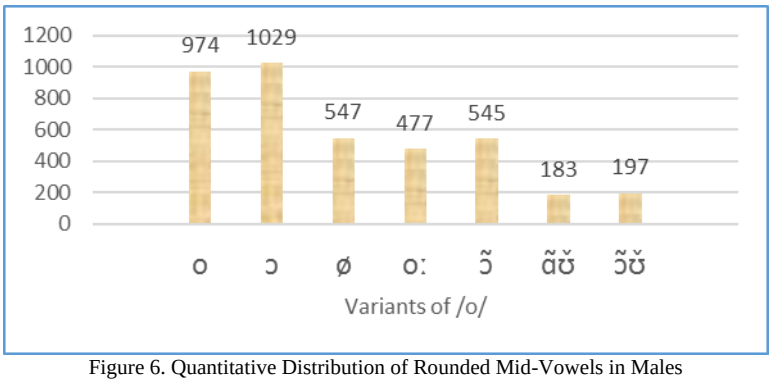


Figure 6. Quantitative Distribution of Rounded Mid-Vowels in Males

In Figure 4, the low back variant [ɑ] is the prevailing vowel, followed by the socially superior, low central [äɭ, which was the most used in the feminine gender. The variant [æ] has the lowest degree of distribution, preceded by the nasal-back low vowel, which appeared 410 times.

In Figure 5, the results are different for the unrounded middle vowels compared to the feminine gender. The most widespread variant turns out to be the front middle unrounded vowel [e], followed by the more open variant [ɛ]. Additionally, in contrast to the feminine gender, the non-prestige nasal vowel of this group occurs more frequently than [eː].

In Figure 6, in the distribution of rounded mid-vowels, by a narrow margin, the variant [ɔ] is denser. Differences are seen in the nasal variant of the nasalized semi-open labial vowel [ɔ̃], which also prevails in men. This shows that this dialectal phenomenon is, to a certain extent, indicative of this gender.

IV. Quantitative Data Analysis

Considering the usage scale of analyzed vowels and their respective allophones, the general results of their spread and standard deviation in each gender are given below:

TABLE 3
MEANS AND STANDARD DEVIATION IN OVERALL USAGE OF VOWELS AND THEIR ALLOPHONES IN BOTH GENDERS

Gender		Variants of /a/	Variants of /e/	Variants of /o/
F	Mean	663.2	413.7	498.1
	St.dv	320.1	459.7	329.9
M	Mean	618.8	470.8	564.5
	St.dv	414.6	497.3	334.7

Pearson correlation shows a significant positive relationship between the standard variants of /a/ and /e/: r = .79, p=0.01; /a/ and /o/: r = .73, p = 0.03; /e/ and /o/: r = .91, p = 0.001.

With gender as a fixed factor, MANOVA shows significant differences at low vowels: F(6,149) = 2.65, p=0.01, unrounded mid-vowels F(4,151) = 3.05, p=0.01. However, there wasn't a significant difference in rounded mid-vowels F(7, 140) = 1.55.

V. Conclusions

The results show that there are gender differences in the frequency of low and mid vowels, although not to a drastic degree. Standard variants were rated according to Tosk Albanian's typical vowel system. Men lean more towards the back variant of the low vowels, [ɑ], while among middle vowels, more common are the close-mid front unrounded vowel [e] and the open-mid back rounded vowel [ɔ]. On the other side, women preferred the standard pronunciation of low vowels, since the most frequent realization is the central variant [äɭ, which is active mostly in formal language.

As for middle unrounded vowels, the predominance of the open variant [ɛ] is more related to innovative pronunciations and was more widespread among women. In the group of rounded mid-vowels, there is a similarity in the higher prevalence of [ɔ], but nasality as a dialectal phenomenon, also in this group of vowels, was more commonly encountered in men. The slight change in vowel quality after changing the topic or nature of questions seems to be a direct result of gender because it is characteristic of each girl to varying degrees but wasn't consistently noticed in men.

In summary, younger women are more attentive to their speech to be perceived and sound more educated, but they are also more innovative, which helps them reveal their identity as leaders in this respect. The phenomenon of nasality, characteristic of Gheg Albanian, is proven to be characteristic of the male gender, as there is a greater distribution in two of the three groups of analyzed vowels. Except for the low vowels, in the other two groups of middle vowels, the corresponding nasal variants are dominant compared to the female gender. The analysis of 156 interviews revealed that females have mastered the skill of turning some words into 'innovative' pronunciation and standardized or put into their

vernacular uncommon vowel variants in Kosova's dialect, such as the overuse of [ɛ]. Innovative approaches lead to creativity and are strongly linked to daily topics of language practice.

APPENDIXES

A. Vowels Under Investigation (IPA Symbols)

Variants of /a/

[a] - low front unrounded vowel
[ɑ] - low central unrounded vowel
[ʌ] - low-mid back unrounded vowel
[ä] - low central unrounded vowel
[ã] - nasalized low back unrounded vowel
[æ] - near-low front unrounded vowel
[ä:] long low central unrounded vowel

Variants of /e/

[e] - high-mid front unrounded vowel
[ɛ] - low-mid front unrounded vowel
[ẽ] - nasalized high-mid front unrounded vowel
[e:] - long high-mid front unrounded vowel

Variants of /o/

[o] - high-mid back rounded vowel
[ɔ] - low-mid back rounded vowel
[ø] - high-mid front rounded vowel,
[o:] - long high-mid back rounded vowel
[ɔ̃] - nasalized low-mid back rounded vowel
[ãŏ] - nasalized diphthong used mainly by elders
[ɔ̃ŏ] - nasalized diphthong used mainly by elders

B. Pieces of Conversations

(a). Innovative Pronunciations With Variant [ɛ]

[ngä äspe:ktɪ **intɛlɛktuäl** bɛsəj kä ʃənu: **prəgrɛs** pər fɑktɪn t͡ʃə t͡ʃɒsjʌ nɪnfɔrmacɪən səd əʃt ʃʊ mʌ ɛ lẹ:t nəsɛ jo **fɪzɪkɛʃt** lɪbrɨt mujm **mɛ** ɪʊ t͡ʃɑs mɛ nɪ kərkɪm dɪsäsɛkənʃ ngu:gəɬ ɛ nɪ fäktor tjetər əʃt ʃkəɬimɪ krahasu: dɤ **dɛkɑda** mʌ pɒ:ɾ kʌ t͡ʃe:n fäkʊltatɪv mʌ he:ɾət kʌ t͡ʃe:n t͡ʃudi: mɛ kry studimɛ täʃ ɔ t͡ʃudi fɒktɪ tjetər t͡ʃə dɪkʊʃ nʊk krɣn studimɛ kʃtʊ əʃt ʃənu **prəgrɛs** ɛðɛ **ɛmäcɪpɛm** po: tʌʃ **pɛ** kujtəj nɪ ɾʌst nə kəmu:n kəm ʃku: mɛ mɑɾ nɪ **ɛksträkt tlindjɛs** əsɛ dɪt͡ʃkʌ tjetəɾ kă **qɛn** duft mɛ fol mɛ zɤɾtɑɾt atɤ ɛ nɪfär arəgɑncɛ ɛ jäʃtzäkənʃmɛ prɪtjɛ **nrɛ̃:ñ** dɪt͡ʃkä mä tmɑðɛ jo: jo: aspäk di ʃʊmt͡ʃkä **mɛ** bo: pɔ ɪ bəj tkt͡ʃijä əʃt nɪ nd͡ʒɑrjɛ t͡ʃə ɛ kəm pəɾjetsu: ɛðɛ **ntrɛgɛ̆m** sɛ ɪ kəm də tentativä mɛ ʃkru pɔ tko:tä mɑmɪ mθət mɛ ɪ ke:p ŋä dɤ t͡ʃʌɾt͡ʃʌfa sɛ ʃtrɑtɪ ɪ səj ʃʊm ɪ mäð ʃkəj tɛ rəbʌt͡ʃepsjä ɛðɛ ɪ **θɛm** ʃtrɑtɪn **spɛ** mbulən **vɛt͡ʃ** ŋɑ:nɪ mθət sʌho:ɾä ɪä bɑjm nɪ **tɛgɛt** ɪ θəm sʌ duhət tezjä **sɛlvijɛ** θət sʌ tɪ kiʃ ɛðɛ ɛ kt͡ʃyrɪ ɛðɛ mðɨmət psɛ pɔ lyp kat͡ʃ pʌk sɛ ɛðɛ nɪ rəbät͡ʃeps ɛ **mɛnɔn** sɪ hɛɾo: ɪ θəm jo: sɛ ʃʊm pʌk ɛ t͡ʃe:lɪ gɾuʃtɪn nɪ **ɛʊɾɔ** ɛ d͡ʒys]

(b). Long Vowels at Males

[dʒɛndja ɛ trɪ:vɛ ɔ̃ʃt **ala:ɾmusɛ̃** prəbleme mɛ ʃkoɬ papʊnsia ɛ **dʒɑ̃:na** tjeɾa kto ɛ bɔ̃jn sɪtʊɑtən alaɾmusɛ **bɛso:j** ɣə nktə aspe:kt ʃte:tɪ dʊhət mɛ kon sa ma strɪ:kt mɛ ɪɑ sɪgʊɾu nɪ tɑɾðmɛ dʒɪθ trɪvɛ **tvɛ:nɪt** tən **po**: ka **ndɔ: ð**mɛ nɪ ɣəndəɾ tmjeksis nʊk ɛ ka kry əblɪgɪmɪn ɣə ɛ kɑ əbligim mɛ krɣ jəm **dɛ:tɤru** mɛ lajmɾu **pəlɪtci:n** nɪ puntoɾɛ **nu:k** ɛ kɑ krɣ ʃəɾbimɪn ɣə ɛ kɑ **obligi:m** mɛ krɣ skam dit asnɪhɛɾ taʃ pej ɣə **jeto:j** nPrɪʃtin jɑm msũ ngɑ pɑk mɛ bɔ̃ ʊʃɣimɛ tleta ma smiɾɪ di mɛ **bɔ̃**: makaɾonã ɣaɣ sa di **u:n** nʊk mka tɾa ðtu **kərku:ʃ** kohən ɛ liɾ ɛ kaloj tʊ kɣyɾ **spo:ɾt dɑ:l** mɛ lujt nɪ ndʒɑrjɛ ɣə sdɔ tɑ **haɾo:j** kuɾ əʃt nʃkoɬ **tme:sme** bɑʃk mɛ ʃokt **ɛ mi**: ɛ kemɪ vɛnɔ:s nʃitjɛ vɛturən ɛ **kujdɛstɑ:rəs** tklɑsəs nɪ ʃo:k tmiɾ **ku:ɾ** unɛ jɑm nmɔmentɛ mɑ tkɣija nɣo koh nəsɛ ɔ̃ʃt aɪ ʃokʊ ɣatɔ̃ ɛ θiɾɪ ʃok tmiɾ **nɛrvo:z** mbon mɛm **rɛ:jt**]

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