UNIVERSITÉ FÉLIX HOUPHOUËT-BOIGNY

Revue du LTML

Nº 17
Décembre 2020

LtmL

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Présentation de la Revue LTML

La Revue du LTML est l'organe de diffusion du résultat des travaux réalisés dans le cadre des activités du LTML. La revue se fixe pour objectif de faire la promotion académique des enseignants-chercheurs et de soutenir et former faire acquérir de l'expérience aux doctorants en linguistique.

Les travaux du LTML sont de plusieurs ordres : il peut s'agir de communications présentées lors des colloques ordinaires du LTML puis retravaillées sous forme d'articles ; les articles provenant d'une telle activité sont publiés sous la forme de parution thématique. Il peut également s'agir d'articles « libres », soumis pour publication au Comité scientifique du LTML ; ce type de parution constitue des numéros à varia.

Le présent N° 17 de la Revue LTML est la compilation de productions provenant de deux sources : une bonne partie des articles provient du lot de communications reçues par le Comité scientifique du Colloque de novembre 2019. Ces communications éditées en articles ont été, comme les textes issus des productions à thématiques ouvertes, instruites par le Comité de lecture. Le tout est « un mélange » pluridisciplinaire avec des travaux en linguistique pure, en didactique des langues et en littérature.

Le Directeur de Publication

Pr SILUE S. Jacques

Le contenu de la Revue n° 17 du LTML

Le présent numéro comporte dix (10) articles qui couvrent, comme indiqué, des thématiques fort variées.

Kpli Yao Kouadio J-F et Gogbeu, ouvrent la série avec l'étude des « Valeurs systémiques différentielles de "*sometimes*" et "*occasionally* » dans la pure tradition méta-opérationnelle. Les auteurs montrent que l'apparente proximité sémantique de ces deux opérateurs égare souvent certains chercheurs et pédagogues et les amène à présenter les opérateurs à l'étude comme interchangeables, ce qui n'est pas le cas

Quant à **Amenan M. N'Guessan Adou**, elle nous ramène sur la question de l'acquisition de la langue maternelle. Selon la chercheure, l'exposition linguistique précoce représente un atout pour l'enfant dans le processus d'acquisition du langage. Celle-ci accélère le modelage linguistique par le biais des aspects formels de la langue comme la phonologie, la morphologie, la syntaxe et les tons, etc. Le travail se focalise plus spécifiquement sur le cas des enfants baoulés âgés de 6 mois à 7 ans.

Aminata Sessouma, nous présente le système éducatif burkinabé et sa gestion dans un contexte multilingue et pluriculturel. Sur la base d'enquêtes conduites auprès des acteurs principaux du système scolaire (enseignants, encadreurs et parents d'élèves, l'auteure rappelle que les langues maternelles influent sur les résultats scolaires et fait des suggestions à même d'optimiser le recours aux langues maternelles.

Kpli Yao Kouadio J-F revient cette fois avec **Kondro Kouakou Yannick** sur le fonctionnement d'un autre microsystème de la langue anglaise « *that is »* et « *that is to say »*. Ce sont également des opérateurs que les raccourcis théoriques finissent par poser comme identiques. Pourtant, à l'aide des outils d'analyse « chirurgicales » qu'offre la grammaire méta-opérationnelle de H. Adamczewski les deux chercheurs parviennent à montrer comment ces deux suites codent différents types de fonctionnement qui relèvent du statut posé et du statut repris.

Silué N. Djibril remet au goût du jour la question de l'aménagement linguistique, une thématique qui peut sembler récente alors que les réflexions sur la gestion sociopolitique des langues est une question séculaire, en tout cas en ce qui concerne la langue anglaise. L'auteur suggère que les anciennes colonies africaines s'inspirent de l'expérience de l'Angleterre pour asseoir des politiques linguistiques solides.

Bony Yao Charles nous ramène dans un paradigme complètement différent à travers une réflexion à la fois linguistique et littéraire sur l'ordre des mots dans le texte littéraire. Selon lui, dans les langues où cet ordre n'est pas rigide, les écrivains se voient offrir de nombreuses possibilités énonciatives surtout en ce qui concerne l'organisation générale de l'information, de la phrase au discours. Dans les créations littéraires, la manipulation ou l'agencement des mots permet

l'inversion syntaxique à l'aide des constructions participiales, comme on peut en noter la récurrence chez Aimé Césaire dans *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal.*

Koné Kiyofon Antoine ouvre un paradigme nouveau avec son étude exploitant la théorie grammaticale conceptuelle. Selon cette approche, les structures conceptuelles ne sont pas déterminées par des structures et règles de syntaxiques. Partageant le point de vue de W. Croft et de A. Cruse (2004), l'auteur estime que l'appréhension des faits linguistiques est principalement d'essence conceptuelle. L'auteur soutient ses thèses à partir de l'analyse des morphèmes -s et du - ø du système nominal de l'anglais et morphème de la classe des noms -m en Tagbana

Avec « La transversalidad del personaje Preciosa : de *La gitanilla* de Miguel de Cervantes a *Preciosa y el aire* de Federico García Lorca », **Ehou Sicko Martinien** nous transporte dans la littérature espagnole du XVIème siècle. Il rappelle d'abord qu'à chaque époque correspond une réalité sociale déterminée et propose ensuite une étude comparative des relations antagoniques entre un personnage dédoublé dans les deux œuvres - *La gitanilla* de Miguel De Cervantes Saavedra et *Preciosa y el aire* de Federico García Lorca.

Koua Kouamenan Ernest, dans le cadre de la pédagogie des langues, une « Analyse des interactions verbales enseignants/stagiaires lors des cours de français dans l'enseignement professionnel ivoirien ». On retient que les variétés locales du français comme le nouchi sont bien présentes dans l'expression orale des stagiaires, langage jugé peu académique qui réapparait dans les messages pédagogiques de ces stagiaires dans la salle de classe, en présence des apprenants.

Dans leur article, **Krouwa Stéphanie Tanoa** et **Kouakou N'guessan Gwladys** proposent une approche typologique du Progressif dans les langues Kwa à travers une « étude transversale » en Baoulé, Mɔʤúkrù, Akyé, Ewegbé et Bɛ̀rɛ̀. En inscrivant cette étude dans le Programme Minimaliste, elles analysent les différentes constructions du Progressif et proposent une structure sous-jacente, minimale susceptible d'en rendre compte. Elles concluent ainsi que les variations du Progressif observables dans les langues Kwa dérivent de la structure SOV.

Enfin, **Adama Bamba** envisage étudier les six types de variation langagière dans *Their Eyes were watching God* par Z. Hurston (1937) et *Of Mice and Men* par J. Steinbeck (1937). Partant du principe que la langue est une représentation de la réalité, il s'interroge sur le degré d'iconicité entre la variation linguistique observable dans la réalité et celle observée dans ces œuvres de fiction. A cet effet, il s'inscrit dans le cadre de la théorie variationniste sous-tendue par des principes sociolinguistiques articulés autour des termes pouvoir/ solidarité et politesse.

Le Comité de lecture

SOMMAIRE

Language Variation in Contemporary American Literary Production: Case Study of *Their Eyes were Watching God* by Zora N. Hurston, and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

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ABSTRACT:

This paper shows whether or not representation of language variation in some American literary productions reflect what is observable in real life. In effect, the use and the quality of language variation in literary productions have raised bitter controversies. Representation of language variation in novels is negatively considered. Language variation in literary works is perceived as unrelated to real life. However, focus is not sufficiently given to the different types of language variation. Then, based on six types of language variation, the purpose of this paper is to show whether or not representation of language variation in *Their Eyes were watching God* (*TEWG)* by Z. Hurston (1937) and *Of Mice and Men* (*OMM)* by J. Steinbeck (1937) reflects what is observable in real life.

KEY WORDS: *diachrony, diageny, diamesy, diastraty, diatopy, literature, realism, variation*

RÉSUMÉ:

Cet article montre si oui ou non la variation langagière dans les œuvres littéraires américains reflète celle observable dans la réalité. En effet, l'usage et la qualité de la variation langagière dans les œuvres littéraires suscitent des controverses. La représentation de la variation linguistique dans les romans est négativement perçue. Cette représentation est considérée comme détachée de la réalité. Cependant, l'attention n'est pas assez portée sur les différents types de variation linguistique. De ce fait, partant de six types de variation langagière, l'objectif de cet article est de montrer si oui ou non la variation langagière dans *Their Eyes were watching God* (*TEWG)* par Z. Hurston (1937) et *Of Mice and Men* (*OMM)* par J. Steinbeck (1937) reflète celle observable dans la réalité.

MOTS-CLÉS : *diachronie, diagenie, diamésie, diastratie, diatopie, literature, réalisme, variation*

INTRODUCTION

Sociolinguistics takes for granted that all human languages are bound to vary, and that any part of language is potentially variable. Following M.A.K. Halliday (2007), language variation does not affect the meaning between alternative soundings and wordings. In general, regarding factors like people's regional origin, social class, gender, channel of communication, situation of communication and time evolution, six subtypes of language variation are found. Those six subtypes of language variation are described by T. Lebray (2013), as the diatopic, diastratic, diagenic, diamesic, and diaphasic variation as well as diachronic change. Basically, regarding the correlation between the above external factors and language patterning, it is worth noting that language variation points out two combined things. The correlation points out the flexibility and diversity in the speech repertoire of a single speaker and the diversity among people. Then, the main task of Sociolinguistics is to study how, when, where, or why language variation takes place.

The issue of language variation becomes critical, for sociolinguists, as far as discussions of representation of language varieties in literary works are concerned. In fact, language variation is observable in various social contexts. But people often hardly tolerate the representation of non-standard varieties in literary works. The intriguing thing is the negative attitude of some intellectuals about the use and quality of representation of language variation in literary productions. It is as if, literature has to represent only standard forms of language. Such a perception also means that fictitious society has nothing to do with the protagonists' speech behavior. Accordingly, reproduction of language variation in literature raises controversial reactions. In short, disagreements focus on the degree of effectiveness of language variation in fictions relatively to what readers observe in real life.

The importance of the issue is perceptible through the extensive reflections and researches on the issue like those of (R. Fowler, 1983; L. A. Hewitt, 1992 and L. C. Minnick, 2004). However, the different subtypes of language variation are not specifically explored. I refer to the diatopic, diamesic, diastratic, diagenic, diaphasic variation as well as diachronic change. Most often, focus is on one or two types of language variation. Whereas, a broad scope of investigation is promising. For example, L. A. Hewitt (1992) and L. C. Minnick (2004) do not tackle each of those aspects. In addition, as far as the linguistic variables are concerned in *TEWG*, L. C. Minnick (2004) draws only on phonological variables.

Based on each type of the language variation, the purpose of this research is to show whether or not representation of language variation in *Their Eyes were watching God* (*TEWG)*

by Z. N. Hurston (1937) and *Of Mice and Men* (*OMM)*[75] by J. Steinbeck (1937) reflect what is observable in real life. In other words, do the literary productions *TEWG* by Z. N. Hurston (1937) and *OMM* by J. Steinbeck (1937) faithfully reduplicate language variation as it can be observed in real life? The answer to this question imposes me to focus on the six types of language variation. Variationist theory, Power/solidarity theory and Politeness theory are what enable me to conduct my analysis.

The data are made up from three sources. I focus on real life secondary findings, the observation of some Floridians and Californian participants in the International Dialects English Archives (IDEA) and the two novels. Moreover, contrarily to L. C. Minnick (2004), I examine the phonology, morphology, syntax, address forms and modal verbs in the corpuses.

The current work is divided into three sections. The first section deals with the other researchers' works on language variation in literature. The second section tackles the description of language variation in American real life. Section three is about the way the corpuses reflect language variation as observed in American real life.

1. STUDIES ON REPRESENTATION OF LANGUAGE VARIATION IN LITERATURE

Representation of language variation has developed over time. It might start from a deliberate humorous and stereotypical depiction to an attempt at more realism. The case studies by L. A. Hewitt (1992) and L. C. Minnick (2004) focus on the techniques and communicative functions in their selected novels. Their investigations give me hints and directions to how I can manage my own investigation.

In British contexts, L. A. Hewitt (1992) worked on *The Entail* (TE), *The Provost* (TP) and *West County Exclusive* (WCE). Her analysis of the metavariables[76] reveals interesting findings. Roughly speaking, she found that *TE, TP* and *WCE* are convincing depiction in sociolinguistic terms. For example, Mr. Eadie, Walky, Charles and Dr. Denholm use less Scots in *The Entail*. Then, she found that the educational background and the Middle Class Status of the above protagonists appropriately affect their speech style.

In the American context, L. C. Minnick (2004) was also interested in determining the degree of realism in four novels. Focusing on the phonological and grammatical features, firstly she found that there are minimal stereotypes in *AHF*. In addition, L. C. Minnick (2004)

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[75] For convenience, the titles of the novels are respectively abbreviated as *TEWG* for Their Eyes were Watching God and *OMM* for Of Mice and Men and these abbreviations will be used from now on.

[76] According to L A. Hewitt (1992), metavariables are constructed categories like orthography, phonology, morphology, lexis, syntax, idioms and idiosyncratic usage in order to gather all the features of Scot.

found that many features of African American English (AAE) like vocalization of postvocalic /r/, merger of /ɛ/ and /i/ are represented in *DN*. Accordingly, L. C. Minnick (2004: 98) concludes that C. Chesnutt (1889) "uses AAE brilliantly and authentically." Thirdly, her analysis of *SF*, reveals that many features of AAE are realistically portrayed in the speech of the Black characters. However, eye-dialects militate against the realism in the speech of the characters like that of Louis. Fourthly, LCM explored *TEWG*[77]. According to L. C. Minnick (2004: 127), "Hurston's [consistency in] phonological features analyzed here is acutely perceptive and accurate when compared to linguistic data gathered for LAGS and LAMSAS from African American speakers." However, L. C. Minnick (2004) indicates that there is no strong difference between the speech patterns of the characters on the basis of their education, social status or situational factors. For example, Simon's pronunciation of words is like that of whatever Eatonville men like Joe's shop keeper Hezekiah.

L. A. Hewitt (1992) and L. C. Minnick (2004) are my referential sources. However, as I have said, like many scholars both L. A. Hewitt (1992) and L. C. Minnick (2004) do not give particular attention to each of the following types of language variation: diatopic, diastratic, diagenic, diaphasic variation and diachronic change. Furthermore, contrarily to L. C. Minnick (2004), my investigation goes above phonological aspect to include morphosyntax, address forms and modal verbs. This methodological approach deepens insights about the similarities and differences between real life language variation and that of literary productions.

2. LANGUAGE VARIATION OF ENGLISH IN REAL LIFE

The investigation of language variation in real life draws on anecdotal findings and 8 interview speeches of some Floridians and Californians form the IDEA records[78]. However, all the list of California records do not offer salient variables. Accordingly, I worked only with Floridian data. This step of the research draws on what is commonly found by scholars and how my personal examination of some Floridians' and Californians' consistently confirms anecdotal findings. It allows me to better size what takes place as language variation in *TEWG* and *OMM*.

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[77] These novels are four novels studied by L. C. Minnick (2004): *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (AHF)* (1884), *Dave's Neckliss (DN)* (1889), *The Sound and the Fury (SF)* (1929), and *Their Eyes were Watching God (TEWG)* (1937).

[78] Florida 1, Florida 5, Florida 10, Florida 15, Florida 20, California 6, California 9, California 12. However, California 1 and California 3 have been excluded. The main reason is that not only they do not contain salient linguistic variables, but also they do not have any date of record.

2.1 Diatopic[79] variation

The documentary investigation reveals the following phonological and morphosyntactic items commonly found in the Southern areas (e.g. Florida) and Western parts (e.g. California) of the USA. Moreover, the different records of IDEA, especially those of the Floridians' are full of the following varieties.

Firstly, some examples illustrate linguistic features of the southern phonology. For example, there are

1-G-dropping (e.g. *He's runnin' fast*),

2-consonant cluster reduction, especially word final (e.g. *hand* as *han*) and

3-glide reduction of /ai/ to /a/ (e.g. *Wife* as [waf]).

Furthermore, other features consist of

4-initial /th/as /d/ (e.g. *They* as *day*),

5-merger of / ε/and /i / before nasals (e.g. *Ten* as *tin*) and

6-Hongry = hungry (e.g. *You'd be hungry*).

In western areas like California, the phonological features encompass various items. There are for example, features like

7-G dropping (e.g. *It's soooooo freakin' ugly*),

8-consonant cluster reduction,

9-merger of / ε/ and /i / before nasals (e.g. *Pin* as *Pen*)

Secondly, at the morphosyntactic level, some southern varieties consist of the following elements. There are for example,

10-contraction of *Y'all = you + all* (e.g. *Y´all have to leave now*),

11-use of objective forms for subject, e.g.   *us* for   *we*,

12-Completive.

13-multiple negatives (e.g. *He don't see nothing*), or

14-copula ellipsis (e.g. *This my mother*)

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[79] Diatopic variation refers to the impact of regions' differences on language variation.

The above features characterize Southern area. As far as the western areas are concerned, various features determine them. For instance, there are

15-Ya/you (e.g. *Ya know…*),

16-multiple negative (e.g. *I don't know no stories*),

17-copula ellipsis (e.g. *She carrying*).

18-subject-verb non-concord *is,*

In short, in terms of linguistic properties, I have seen that western areas have various features that distinguish it from other parts of the USA like the southern regions. In addition, I found that non-standard varieties like African American English (AAE) is not linguistically inferior to other English varieties in the US. It is well structured and rule governed.

2.2 Diamesic[80] variation

The influence of channel of communication on language has been explored through two samples. One sample comes from the audio version of the Floridians' interviews. The second sample consists of written excerpt from M. Meyerhoff et al. (2015). The investigation points out that the channel of communication affects the language patterning. For example, repetitions (e.g. '*I, uh, I'd use*'), expletives ('*Oh, man*'), G-dropping, contractions like in (e.g. *he's really TRYING/tryin' to say)*, discourse markers (e.g. '*You know*') and quotatives (e.g. *be like, to go*) occurred in the oral sample. Moreover, monosyllabic features occurred by 84.53 % in the oral samples against 15.47% in written ones. The features occurred in oral sample highlight constrains of face-to-face interaction on language. Unlike the oral sample, fewer contractions exist in the written sample. In addition, the lack of direct interlocutor, free-context bond and public orientation of the text possibly led the authors to use particular linguistic items. Roughly speaking, they use more polysyllabic words, avoid G-dropping and use few contractions. Perhaps, the authors use some few contractions to make their explanation easier. The following passage illustrates how things happened.

Oral Sample 1

And, you know, instead o' SAYING/sayin' "Ey, boy, hey boy, what's
GOING/goin' on?" "Hey, bo'! Hey, bo', c'm'ere, bo'." You know, stuff

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[80] Diamesic variation stands for the correlation between channel of communication and language variation.

like that. Y'know, um, there's this there, the quarterback, on the football team from, uh, uh, Mississipi.

Written Sample 2

In this chapter, we'll walk you through the best practices for presenting that summarized data. We're assuming here that the end goal of your data analysis is going to be the presentation of your findings in a paper for a reader who is unfamiliar with your work. (DSPGDCA: 134)[81]

In short, it is possible to argue that oral channel and written channel condition language structures used in each channel of communication. Oral and written samples are major evidence that illustrate the correlation between channel of communication and language patterning.

2.3 Diastratic[82] Variation

The roundup of the anecdotal findings has firstly indicated that non-standard phonological variables like alternation of /th/ and /d/, alternation of /ing/ and /in/, absence of /r/ are commonly used more by Working Class people (WC) and Low Class people (LC). In addition, morphosyntactic variables like copula deletion, subject-verb agreement, *ain't*, perfect *done*, *Been* and *y'all* are used more by WC and LC than the Upper Class (UP) and Middle Class (MC) speakers.

Interestingly, this general pattern of diastratic variation is confirmed by the observation of some Floridians interviewees. For example, the investigation of (ŋ) has indicated that MC interviewees used the non-standard variant of the variable (ŋ/n): [n] by 14.28% less than 39.13% by the WC. The table and the graph below better illustrate this pattern.

	Total Types	Token	Percentage
Middle Class	**21**	**3**	**14.28**
Working Class	**23**	**9**	**39.13**

Table 1: *Frequencies of (ŋ) distribution by American social status in FLORIDA*

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[81] *DSPGDCA* stands for *Doing Sociolinguistics: A practical guide to data collection and analysis.*

[82] Diastratic variation refers to the impact of social classes on language variation.
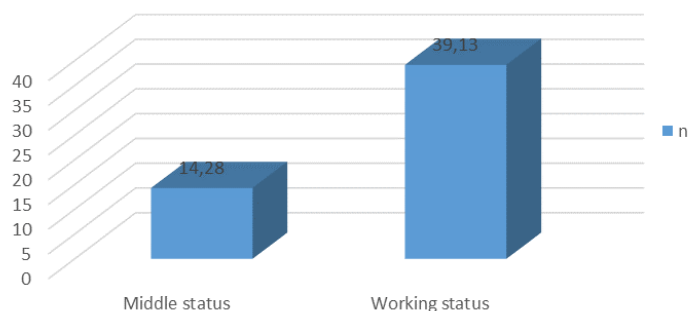
Figure 2.1 **Graph of overall (ŋ) distribution by American social status in Florida**

I observe a possible correlation in the graph. There is an increase in the use of the non-standard /n/ from MC to WC speakers. However, beside the socioeconomic impact, intermediary factors like education, topic of the interview and gender of the WC somewhat explain why WC interviewees sound standard. This is an expression of social distance and negative politeness relatively to the interviewer's face-need.

2.4 Diagenic[83] Variation

The exploration of the Floridians' speech possibly confirms the general reality that unlike men, females use less non-standard variants. The table and graph below indicate that the female-interviewees almost never used the non-standard forms of (ŋ/n): [n]. By contrast, males used more non-standard variants than the females at 37.53%.

	Total Types	Token	Percentage
Women	15	0	0
Men	29	11	37.93

Table 2.: *Frequencies of (ŋ) distribution by American gender difference in FLORIDA*
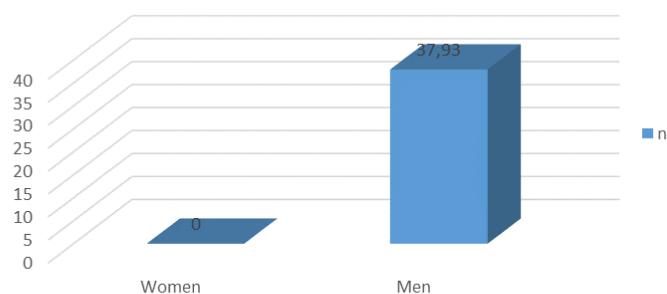

Figure 2.2 **Graph of overall (ŋ) distribution by American gender differences in Florida**

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[83] Diagenic variation stands for influence of gender on language variation.

There is an increase in the above table from women side to men side. So, gender probably had an impact on the speech style of the Floridian interviewees. The predominant use of the prestigious forms illustrates that female Floridians' verbal interactions are power-oriented, therefore they are characterized by negative politeness.

2.5 Diachronic[84] change

Language change is perceptible when it is analyzed over time. As it has already been said, (ŋ) is the only salient variable in the corpus of IDEA. Then, the period covered by the investigation includes dates from 1999 to 2018. I observe that there is a decrease in the use of the non-standard variant (ŋ/n): [n]. By contrast, the standard form (ŋ/n): [ŋ] increases from 0% to 100%. The graph below shows the direction of this change.
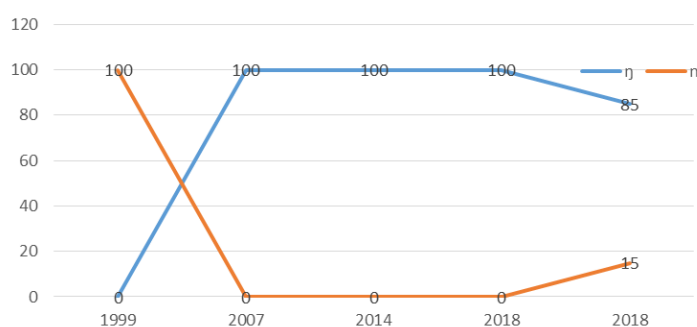

Figure 2.3 **Graph of (ŋ) evolution overtime in Florida**

There is a difference in the use of the variants of (ŋ/n) evolution over time. Perhaps, the shortage of time and the interviewees' age are responsible of the increase of the standard form (ŋ/n): [ŋ] over time.

2.6 Diaphasic [85] Variation

The documentary investigation has shown that social relationship and topic of discussion play influential role on the speech style of speakers. When the social relation and the risk of face threatening is minimal, speakers reciprocate more T like *FN*. In the contrary situation, they favor social distance and deferential markers; that are the V forms. Furthermore, the analysis of Floridians confirms that the interviewees vary their speech style according to their interviewers. This is observable in the following table.

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[84] Diachronic change refers to the correlation between time evolution and language variation.

[85] Diaphasic variation stands for the impact of social interaction on language variation.

	To interviewer			
	To interviewer male		To interviewer female	
Interviewee	(n)	Colloquialism contraction (I'm)	(n)	Colloquialism contraction (I'm)
Floridian male (F1)	100%	100%		
Floridian male (F20)			15%	100%
Floridian female (F5), (F10)	0%,	60%		
Floridian female (F15)			0%	100%

Table 3: Frequencies of Americans' phonological (ŋ) and contraction (I am) by gender of interviewers in FLORIDA. Adapted from J. Rickford (2014: 595)

In single-male gender interview, males used non-standard variants and colloquial features. In mixed-gender interaction, males favored predominantly the standard forms albeit they sounded colloquial. As far as females are concerned, their speech style is totally contrary to that of the men. I observe that whatever the gender of their interviewers, females favor more prestigious forms of English. However, both males and females are roughly similar in terms of sounding colloquial. Some of the explanations is that masculinity and solidarity seem the principal factors to the males' use of non-standard forms. However, topic of Danger of Death might have led men to sound more standard. But females' use of prestigious forms of English might be due to talking about their family, schooling and caring of their own positive face.
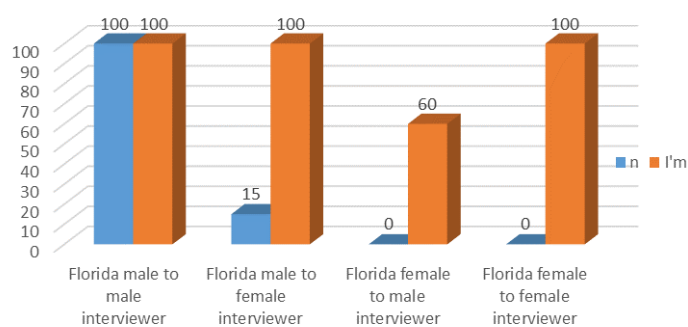

Figure 2.4 **Graph of (ŋ) and (I am) in Florida**

In a nutshell, the investigation of the diatopic, diamesic, diastratic, diagenic, diaphasic variation in the speech of some Floridians roughly confirms secondary findings. However, diachronic change necessitates other deep investigation.

3. LANGUAGE VARIATION OF ENGLISH IN *TEWG* (1937) *AND OMM* (1937)

The data from the novels draws on each 5th page. I firstly typed the pages into electronic form. The reason for this technique is that I did not find a suitable electronic version of *TEWG* (1937) and *OMM* (1937). The focus of analysis is on all the different types of language variation. The previous section 2 dealt with language variation of English in real life. Now, I observe the different types of variation in literature. This enables me to understand the frontiers between real life language variation and its depiction in literature.

3.1. Diatopic Variation

It is impossible to examine diatopic variation in the novels. The characters are roughly from the same regions. However, I explore how the corpuses represent some linguistic varieties of the Southern and Western areas in the USA. I focus particularly on Florida and California. The examination of the formal features in the corpuses indicates some similarities and differences. Phonological as well as morphosyntactic features have been investigated.

At the phonological aspects, some similarities between reality and *TEWG* include various items. There are, for example,

19-Glide reduction of /aI/ to /a/ (e.g. P30 : "***Lak*** *you oughta*"),

20-Initial /th/as /d/ (e.g. P05: "*Mah mulatto rice ain't so good **dis** time.*"),

21-Merger of / ɛ/ and /I / before nasals (e.g. P05 : "*Mah husband **git** so sick of'em sometime he makes'em all **git** for home.*")

22-Hongry = hungry (e.g. P05 : "*Ah knowed you'd be **hongry**.*")

As far as OMM is concerned, there are some phonological similarities between it and real life. For instance, there are:

23-G dropping (e.g. P05: "*I ain't got **nothin'**, George. Honest.*"), or

24-Consonant cluster reduction (e.g. P15: " *We don't have to sit in no bar room blowin' our jack **jus'** because we got no place else to go.*")

Morphosyntaxic varieties that link reality to *TEWG* are made up various items. I found, for example,

25-contraction of *Y'all for you + all* (e.g. P35: "*Ain't got no Mayor! Well, who tells **y'all** what to do?*"),

26-Completive and Simple past done (P10 "*whut he **done** tuh mah mama* "),

27-Multiple negatives (P05 "*Good Lawd, Pheoby!* **Ain't you never** *goin' tuh gimme dat lil rations you brought me?*") or

28-Use of objective forms for subject, e.g. *us* for *we* (P10: "*she figgered it would be mo' better fuh me if **us** had uh house*")

In addition, the similarities that exist between reality and *OMM* are made up features like

29-Ya/you (e.g. P10: "*Ain't she stopped givin' 'em to **ya**.*"),

30-Multiple negative (e.g. *I **don't know no** stories*),

31-copula ellipsis (e.g. P25 "*You **takin'** his pay away from him ?*"), or

32-Subject-verb nonconcord (e.g., P05 "*The hell with what I says.*")

However, apart from the similarities, other items illustrate linguistic differences between reality and features found in the novels. Some of those features are typical to reality, while other are typical to the novels. By typical, I mean varieties that are whether found only in reality or in the corpora. The following varieties are illustrative.

The various varieties that occur only in *TEWG* include the following:

33-Object pronoun *them* for subject pronoun *those* (e.g. P140: "*Ah don't see how uh lady like Mis'Woods can stand all **them** common nigers round her place all de time.*").

As far as *OMM* is concerned, some features occur only in the corpus. There are

34-Completive and Simple past done (e.g. *P7: "An' you ain't gonna do no bad things like you **done** in Weed, neither"*),

35-Existential it/they with indefinite subject (e.g. P40: "You guys better come on while ***they's*** still something to eat.").

As it is said, some features are found only in the Southern areas. Those varieties are not portrayed in *TEWG*. For instance, there are

36-the copula *BE*. (e.g. *The coffee **be** cold*),

37-Future tense I'mo/a = I will (e.g. I'mo leave you alone, girl),

39-Vowel + /ŋ/ become /ang/ (e.g. *Thing, ring, sing as thang, rang, sang*).

40-Wash as *Warsh*,

41-Greasy as *Greezy* and

42-Merger of / ɛ/and /I / before nasals (e.g. *Pin as Pen*)

These linguistic items are some of what I did not come discover in the corpus. These varieties seem typical to Western areas, especially in California.

In short, it is possible to say that the similarity is that some regional features of Southern (Florida) and Western areas (California) are accurately and realistically depicted in both novels. The difference is that some features occur in the novels but do not occur in real life's findings and this is reciprocal.

3.2 Diastratic Variation

The examination of the data shows the weakness of *TEWG* to appropriately reflect diastratic variation. On the contrary, data analysis reveals that *OMM* effectively reflect diastratic variation as observed in real life.
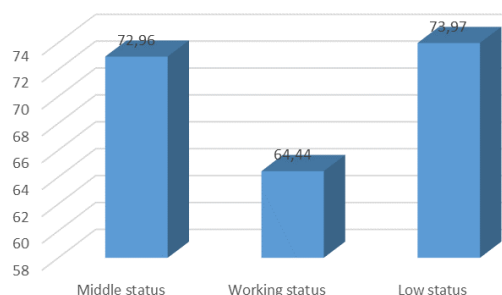

Figure 3.1 Graph of overall non-standard distribution by social classes in *TEWG* (1937)
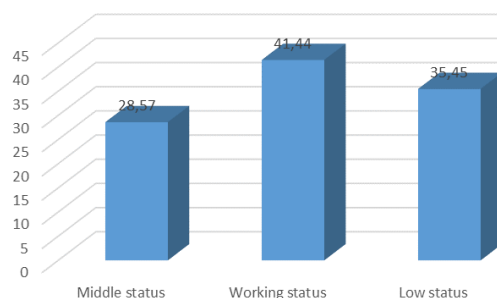
Figure 3.2 Graph of overall non-standard distribution by social classes in *OMM* (1937)

The graphs 3.1 shows that there is a fall and rise in the heights of the histograms. As far as the graph 3.2 is concerned, there is an increase in the height of the columns as we move from MC to the LC speakers. The results linked to *TEWG's* diastratic analysis is contrary to common findings and Floridians' speech. But, it is possible to say that the graph 3.2 confirms what is generally predicted in real life. Therefore, socioeconomic status of all the protagonists in *TEWG* do have clear impact on language patterning. As far as *OMM* is concerned, higher status group favor more socially standard forms of English. Roughly speaking, the predominant use of non-standard forms in *TEWG* points out the proximity and positive politeness strategies used by the protagonists. As far as *OMM* is concerned, asymmetry seems the main features of the verbal interactions. In fact, not only characters mostly engage in conflicting issues, but also they are trying to combat loneliness.

3.3 Diagenic Variation

I found significant results about diagenic variation in the *TEWG* and *OMM*. The following tables and graphs show the variation pattern and directions.

	TEWG						**OMM**					
	TT	**T**	**%**	**P**	**M**	**S**		**TT**	**T**	**%**	**P**	**M**	**S**
Women	284	187	65.85	138/166 (83.13)	18/27 (66.67)	31/91 (34.07)	**Women**	48	15	31.25	9/15 (60)	3/15 (20)	3/18 (16.67)
Men	298	236	79.19	192/222 (86.49)	10/16 (62.5)	34/60 (56.67)	**Men**	597	233	39.03	105/188 (55.85)	57/208 (28.08)	72/206 (34.47)

TT= Total Types, T=Token,   P= Phonology, M=Morphology, S=Syntax

***Table 4**: Frequencies of overall non-standard distribution by gender in TEWG and OMM*
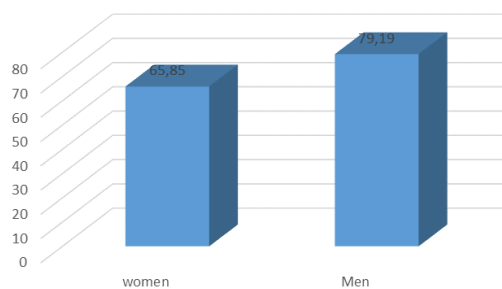

Figure 3.3 Graph of overall non-standard distribution by gender in *TEWG* (1937)
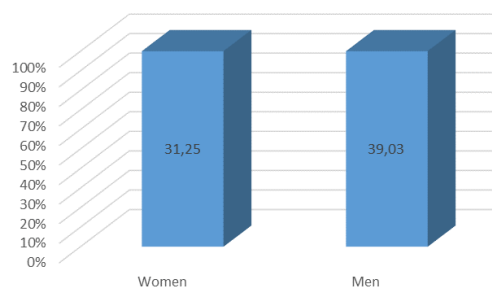

Figure 3.4: Graph of overall non-standard distribution by gender in *OMM* (1937)

Like in findings of real and Floridian investigations, I observe from the tables and graphs that diagenic variation in *TEWG* and *OMM* confirm the assumption that females favor more standard forms than males. Firstly, the table and graphs indicate an increase in the use of the non-standard forms as we move from females to males. This means that women favor more standard variants than men in *TEWG* and *OMM*. There is difference between the two genders relatively to their use of non-standard forms. Similar to real life, females in the two novels seem to stress social distance and negative politeness.

3.4. Diachronic change

Contrary to real life and the case study of Floridians interview speech, it is impossible to investigate diachronic change in *TEWG* and *OMM*. For instance, in *TEWG*, there is no temporal indications about the different times when the events take place. Although, Janie makes a recollection of her memories, she does not indicate, for example, the date when she did some actions during her childhood, the date when she got married or when her first

husband Joe Starks died. As far as *OMM* is concerned, just some indications are given about months when some of the protagonists displaced for looking job.

3.5. Diaphasic Variation

The examination of diaphasic variation in *TEWG* and *OMM* shows similarity with real findings and Floridians' speech. There is a strong correlation between the nature of social relationship and use of both address forms and modal verbs. For example, the protagonists used or reciprocated the *T* forms like *FN,* pet name, *CAN* and *WILL* when distance and the risk of threatening one's face are minimal. On the contrary, they focus on *KT+LN, TLN* and *no-naming* when distanced and deference increase. Therefore, social distance, topic of anger, conflict, development, job interview, gender seem the major factors influencing the speech style of the protagonists. Accordingly, bald-on–record without redress, showing interest, avoiding disagreement, giving deference are the significant politeness strategies used.

		To hearer male	
Speaker		Address form	Colloquialism modal verb
1-Equal intimate	Male	FN (11)	CAN
	Female	FN, Pet name (9)	CAN
2-Equal non-intimate	Male	No naming	CAN (3)
3-Unequal intimate (subordinate to superordinate)	Male	TLN	
4-Unequal intimate (superordinate to subordinate)	Male	FN (2)	WILL
5-Unequal non-intimate (subordinate to superordinate)	Male	Kinship Term+ LN	
6-Unequal non-intimate (superordinate to subordinate)	Male	No naming	CAN, WILL

Table 5: *Overall distribution of modal verbs and address forms by gender of protagonist speakers and Hearers in the corpuses. Adapted from X. Qin (2008: 413-419)*

3.6. Diamesic Variation

There are no contexts where the protagonists used language in other channel, except their face-to-face dialogues. Nowhere on the 5th pages they communicate for instance via telephone, letter, or book writing. Then, it is impossible to assess this type of language variation in *TEWG* and *OMM.*

In sum, out of six types of language variation, only three have been investigated. In terms of sociolinguistic effectiveness, there is no strong efficiency in the representation of language variation in *TEWG* and *OMM* regarding what takes place in real life. Unlike the

diastratic and the diagenic variation, its diaphasic variation is probably the only one type to be realistic. In terms of linguistic accuracy, both novels portray representative linguistic properties found in Florida and California. In other words, the difference between reality and the fictions is situated at the level the diastratic and the diagenic variation. The similarities stem from the appropriate depiction of diaphasic variation and the linguistic properties.

CONCLUSION

Based on six types of language variation, the objective in the current research was to show whether or not representation of language variation in *Their Eyes were watching God* (*TEWG)* by Z. N. Hurston (1937) et *Of Mice and Men* (*OMM)* by J. Steinbeck (1937) reflect what is observable in real life. The result is that diatopic, diastratic, diagenic, diaphasic, diamesic variation and diachronic change exist in real life. Some Floridians' interview speeches have confirmed their existence. Contrarily to real life, it has been impossible to examine diatopic and the diamesic variation as well as the diachronic change in the two novels. Then, the analysis of diastratic variation, diagenic variation and diaphasic variation reveal some results. Firstly, the observation of the linguistic features indicates that the consistency in the use of varieties found in Florida and California makes both *TEWG* and *OMM* realistic. Secondly, the analysis of the diastratic variation in *TEWG* reveals that this novel is not realistic. However, this type of language variation is realistic in *OMM*. Thirdly, the analysis of diagenic variation shows that both novels reflect what is observed in real life. Fourthly, diaphasic variation is one of the subtypes of language variation that is realistic in *TEWG* and *OMM*. So, *TEWG* is partially realistic in terms of representing language variation observed in real life. On the contrary, *OMM* remains the only novel that effectively depicts diastratic variation, diagenic variation and diaphasic variation. One of the main objectives of Z. Hurston (1937) and J. Steinbeck might be to promote minorities' language varieties in every social class. This paper points out the utility of exploring different subtypes of language variation both in real life and fictions. Therefore, this study recommends that unlike the other types of language variation, focus could be on the linguistic properties, diastratic variation, diagenic variation and the diaphasic variation. It has pointed out some differences with L. C. Minnick (2004). One of the differences is that gender origin differentiates protagonists' speech behaviour. In other words, social identity and social contexts provide relevant clues and linguistic tools to readers. Accordingly, this research illustrates how language variation and varieties in literature may contribute to the understanding of the social meaning of protagonists' speech patterns in a literary work. Furthermore, in addition to phonology, morphology, syntax, address forms and modal verbs are significant items for investigation on the effectiveness of language variation in literature. Writers could find here how to realistically

incorporate language variation and varieties in their productions. At last, my research highlights how people, especially students, could be efficient in their variation of language regarding what characters do in some literary works. As such, it offers opportunities for writers and educational practitioners to develop dialect awareness, language varieties tolerance, literacy and culture through appropriate use of language variation.

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