English Resume

Title	French liaison in the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century – Analysis based on the texts of Milleran (1694) and Vaudelin (1713, 1715)
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The purpose of this study is to investigate the linking phenomenon in the French language at the end of the 17th century and the beginning of the 18th century. Previous studies have not enough clarified this phenomenon in this period, it might be difficult to study such phonetic phenomenon like a liaison without any recorded sources. We tried to solve this problem with using two corpora written by two grammarians of this period, in which some special methods to note the pronunciation of word-final consonants were employed. We also effectuated a philological research for the purpose of investigating the norm of the liaison in grammar books published from the 16th century to the 18th century.

One of our corpora is René Milleran (1694)'s grammar book (*La nouvelle gra m̃aire françoise*) which represents the pronunciation of the end of the 17th century, and another corpora is Gile Vaudelin (1713, 1715)'s two texts of new alphabet (*Nouvelle manière d'écrire comme on parle en France* and *Instructions crétiennes, mises en ortografe naturelle, pour faciliter au people la lecture de la sience du salut*) which represent the pronunciation of the beginning of the 18th century. We were based on these corpora, we observed and described the liaison realizations at first. Then, we compared the results obtained from these corpora to consider what kind of intra-linguistic factors affect the realization of liaison. We observed if there is a stylistic difference (literary style vs colloquial style), and also conditions of two morphological markers of liaison consonants [z] and [t]. Although we took into account the synchronic viewpoint, we also tried to observe diachronic change, which is a specificity of our study.

This thesis is composed of nine chapters.

In the **introductory chapter**, the purpose and the structure of this study are indicated.

In **Chapter 2**, we provided some general information about the external sandhi phenomenon

of the French language (i.e. *liaison, élision, enchaînement*). It is important to define "*word*" for the French language which contains various kinds of sandhi reflecting the relation between sound change and orthographic conservatisme. For this reason, it is necessary to define the relationship between orthography and word. We also introduced some characteristics of the liaison consonants. And it was also important to explain two other marginal types of the liaison: liaison without enchaînement (*liaison sans enchaînement*) and liaison error (*fausse liaison*). For the last part of this chapter, we showed three descriptive kinds of liaison contexts (obligatory, optional, impossible).

Chapter 3 is an overview of the various approaches involved in the studies of the liaison: normative approach, descriptive approach based on corpora, sociolinguistic approach and theoretical approach. The goal of this overview is to show that the multidimensionality is proper to this phenomenon, and our research should not be reduced to a specific dimension.

In **Chapter 4**, entitled "Evidences on the word-final consonants and the liaison in grammar books between the 16th century and the 18th century". At first, we gave a brief résumé about the omission of word-final consonants and also the development of the liaison phenomenon. We also surveyed history of concept of the norm for the French language. In our philological research, we investigated French grammar books from the 16th century to the18th century with the aim of clarifying what kinds of explanations were provided for the French liaison.

In **Chapter 5**, entitled "Corpora and methodology", we gave an explanation of the research methods, including the characteristics of our corpora, the difference between our research and the previous studies, and our hypothesis on the stylistic difference in our corpora. Especially, we emphasized that the stylistic difference between Milleran's corpus and Vaudelin's corpus, with comparing each characteristic of these corpora: thus, the literary style is employed in Milleran's corpus, and the colloquial style used in Vaudelin's corpus.

For **Chapter 6**, in the first part of our analysis, pronunciation of word-final consonants and liaison realizations in Milleran's Corpus are precisely described. The second part of our analysis based on Vaudelin's Corpus is given in **Chapter 7**.

Chapter 8 carries out comparison of results obtained in two corpora which, standing on a solid empirical research from Milleran's Corpus and Vaudelin's Corpus, takes into account intra-linguistic factors and extra-linguistic factors. As one of intra-linguistic factors, we found the length of the word containing the liaison consonant (i.e. length of the left word), liaison is realized more frequently in monosyllabic words than polysyllabic ones. The syllabic structure of left word also affect the realization of liaison, it means that liaison is realized more frequently in words with open final syllable than in ones with closed final syllable. We also examined if the liaison consonants [z] and [t] function as morphological markers. At first, the function of plurality, that the liaison consonant [z] seems to have in the modern French, was not enough developed in the days of Milleran and Vaudelin. Secondly, the liaison consonant [t] as the third person marker seems to be

already established in this period, as we observed the high frequency of liaison realization especially after third singular person verbs (almost obligatory). As concerns the stylistic difference, we found an apparent difference between our two corpora, for example, in the contexts « Conjonction *et*, *ou* + » and « Noun + Verb », liaison is realized with higher frequency in Milleran's Corpus compared to Vaudelin's corpus. And for these contexts, liaison is highly recommended in recitation of verses or public speech.

The concluding chapter overviews the analyses, findings and discussions of this study. Some perspectives for future studies are also suggested.