

# Phonetic realization of the sequence of “and” and a word beginning with a vowel: Comparison between a speech and a debate by Donald Trump

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## Abstract

It is considered common to link the /d/ in “and” with a subsequent vowel, and this pronunciation has been taught to many English as a foreign language (EFL) learners. However, in the movie *Hairspray*, more sequences of “and” plus a word beginning with a vowel were pronounced as [n] plus a vowel than [nd] plus a vowel, evidencing a different prevailing pronunciation in informal speech. Therefore, we aimed to examine how this sequence is pronounced in formal speech. Comparing Donald Trump’s nomination acceptance speech with the first Trump-Clinton presidential debate, we found that more than half of the target sequences were realized with the /d/ dropping and the /n/ being linked to the following vowel both in the speech and in the debate, and the difference between the two was not large. Therefore, we concluded that the sequence tends to be pronounced with the /d/ dropping and the /n/ linking to the following vowel even in formal speech.

Keywords: linking, elision, formal speech, informal speech

## “and” と母音で始まる単語の連続における音声実現： ドナルド・トランプ氏によるスピーチと討論における比較

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## 要旨

and の後に母音で始まる単語が続くとき、and の /d/ と後続母音をつなげて発音することが一般的であるとされ、学習者にはそのように指導してきた。しかしながら、and の /d/ が発音されずに、その前の /n/ が後ろの母音とつながる例が映画 *Hairspray* においてかなり多く見られた。そこで and の /n/ と後続母音の連続がフォーマルな発話においても現れるのかを、トランプ氏の就任受諾演説と、トランプ氏とクリントン氏の討論会を比較して調査した。その結果、/d/ と母音の連続よりも、/d/ が脱落して /n/ と後続母音が連続する例のほうが演説、討論会の両方において多く見られ、フォーマルな発話である演説のほうではこの数がやや少なかった。しかし、この差はさほど大きくはなく、今回の調査からはフォーマルな発話においても and の /d/ が脱落し、/n/ と後続母音が連続する発音が一般的であると考えられる。

キーワード：音連続、脱落、フォーマルな発話、インフォーマルな発話

## I. Introduction

When a word beginning with a vowel follows the word “and,” English as a foreign language (EFL) learners are generally told to link the /d/ in “and” to the following vowel and pronounce it as a single word. However, there are many cases in which the /d/ in “and” is lost and the /n/ preceding it is linked to the subsequent vowel. For example, when “aim” follows “and,” the sequence of “and” and “aim” may be pronounced as [əneɪm], which can be the same pronunciation as a sequence “a name,” with the /d/ in “and” being lost.

Hayashi showed that, in the movie *Hairspray*, more sequences of “and” plus a word beginning with a vowel were pronounced as [n] plus a vowel than [nd] plus a vowel (150). The conversations in this movie are quite natural and similar to ones in real life. The conclusion may follow that it is natural that the /d/ in “and” is lost and the /n/ preceding it is linked to a subsequent vowel in daily conversation, and that students should be taught about this phenomenon.

However, does this hold true in any type of speech? For example, does a key government official drop the /d/ in “and” and link the /n/ to a subsequent vowel in her/his formal speech? After all, sounds that are pronounced in formal speech sometimes drop in informal speech. Therefore, it is not certain that the sequence of /n/ plus a vowel, the /d/ being lost, would also be heard in formal speech.

In order to determine how sequences of “and” and a word beginning with a vowel are pronounced in formal speech, we examined the nomination acceptance speech of Donald Trump, the present President of the United States of America, and compared the target sequences with ones in his speech in the first presidential debate with Hillary Clinton, the former Secretary of State.

## II. Methods

### 1. Materials

The purpose of this study is to determine whether the /d/ in “and” is lost and the /n/ preceding it is linked to a subsequent vowel in formal speech. We decided to use Donald Trump’s nomination acceptance speech as an example of formal speech because it can be recorded on a CD as teaching material and it has been uploaded to online streaming services, so we can listen to it repeatedly at any time. In addition, the nomination acceptance speech is long enough<sup>1</sup> to identify many sequences of “and” plus a vowel, and the script is available for checking the sequences. Moreover, Donald Trump is known to people all over the world as the President of the United States and his speech is familiar to most. For these reasons, it is appropriate to use this nomination acceptance speech as study material.

Furthermore, we analyzed target sequences uttered by Donald Trump in the first Trump-Clinton presidential debate to determine whether they are pronounced in the same manner in a debate as in formal speech. Words in formal speech are usually pronounced carefully, whereas pronunciation in daily conversation tends to be less rigorous. Therefore, we need to compare pronunciation in formal speech with that in daily conversation. However, it is almost impossible to empirically examine Donald Trump’s everyday speech because the majority of his available speeches are formal. For this reason, we chose the presidential debate as a proxy for daily conversation because speakers in a debate, which is unscripted, tend to be less careful about their pronunciation, especially during heated arguments, and such speech is also available in teaching materials and on websites.

## 2. Procedure

To examine the nomination acceptance speech, we used a script from NHK NEWS WEB to pick out all the “and” plus V<sup>ii</sup> sequences. Even though we hoped to analyze more than 50 sequences, there were only 48 in the speech. However, some tendencies in the pronunciation could nevertheless be identified. After this, we picked out all the “and” plus V sequences in Trump’s product from the first Trump-Clinton presidential debate using a transcript from the Washington Post’s website. Although more than 48 “and” plus V sequences featured in the debate, we only selected the first 48 to compare with those from the nomination acceptance speech.

In addition to “and” plus V sequences, we examined other /nd/ plus V sequences for comparison, such as “concerned and” (/kənsənd ənd/), “signed in” (/saɪnd ɪn/), and “find out” (/faɪnd aʊt/), as the purpose of this examination is to confirm whether the phenomenon of the /d/ dropping and the /n/ being linked to the following vowel in /nd/ plus V sequences is unique to “and” plus V sequences.

## 3. Four patterns of the sounds in “and” plus V sequences

Hayashi derived the following four patterns of pronunciation for the sequence of “and” plus V (149):

- (1) The /d/ in “and” is pronounced and linked to the vowel in the following word.
- (2) The /d/ in “and” is realized as [d̥], which means that the release of the tip of the tongue from the alveolar ridge is not followed through.
- (3) The /d/ in “and” is lost and the /n/ in “and” is joined to the following vowel.
- (4) The /d/ in “and” is pronounced, but there is a pause between the /d/ and the following vowel. Therefore, the /d/ is not joined to the following vowel.

We followed this categorization in the study and carefully listened to the sounds of the sequences to properly identify the patterns they exhibited, and then analyzed the proportion of each pattern’s occurrence.

## III. Results

### 1. Realization of “and” plus V sequences in each pattern

As Table 1 below shows, most sequences both in the speech and in the debate were categorized as Pattern (3), in which the /d/ in “and” is lost and the preceding /n/ is linked to the initial vowel of the following word. More sequences in the debate than in the speech were realized as Pattern (3), and more sequences in the speech than in the debate were categorized as Pattern (2), where the /d/ in “and” is realized as [d̥] and not joined to the following vowel. Pattern (1) was represented by the same number of sequences in both the speech and the debate, and the number of Pattern (4) sequences only differed by two.

Table 1: The number and percentage of the realization of “and” plus V  
in each pattern

	Speech	Debate
Pattern	Number (Percentage)	Number (Percentage)
(1)	4 (8.3%)	4 (8.3%)
(2)	8 (16.7%)	2 (4.2%)
(3)	32 (66.7%)	40 (83.3%)
(4)	4 (8.3%)	2 (4.2%)
Total	48 (100%)	48 (100%)

## 2. Realization of other /nd/ plus V sequences in each pattern

In examining other sequences of /nd/ plus V, we found 8 in the speech and 14 in the debate, which is too small a number to compare with the “and” plus V sequences. However, the tendency of the pronunciation seemed to be significantly different from the pronunciation of “and” plus V sequences. Following the categorization of “and” plus V sequences, we used the categorization below for /nd/ plus V sequences.

- (1)' The /d/ in the /nd/ cluster is pronounced and linked to the vowel in the following word.
- (2)' The /d/ in the /nd/ cluster is realized as [d̥], which means that the release of the tip of the tongue from the alveolar ridge is not followed through.
- (3)' The /d/ in the /nd/ cluster is lost and the /n/ in the cluster is joined to the following vowel.
- (4)' The /d/ in the /nd/ cluster is pronounced, but there is a pause between the /d/ and the following vowel.

Therefore, the /d/ is not joined to the following vowel.

As Table 2 below shows, the sequences in the speech were either Pattern (1)' or Pattern (4)', while those in the debate were Pattern (1)', (3)', or (4)'. Pattern (1)', in which the /d/ at the end of a word was pronounced and linked to the vowel in the following word, was represented by half the sequences in the speech and nearly 80% of the sequences in the debate. No Pattern (2)' sequences were found in either the speech or the debate. Surprisingly, there were no sequences categorized as Pattern (3)' in the speech, and only two in the debate, which is significantly different from the prevalent pronunciation of “and” plus V sequences. As for Pattern (4)', half of the sequences were realized in this way in the speech, and only one was in the debate.

Table 2: The number and percentage of the realization of other /nd/ plus V sequences in each pattern

	Speech	Debate
Pattern	Number (Percentage)	Number (Percentage)
(1)'	4 (50%)	11 (78.6%)
(2)'	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
(3)'	0 (0%)	2 (14.3%)
(4)'	4 (50%)	1 (7.1%)
Total	8 (100%)	14 (100%)

#### IV. Discussion

##### 1. “And” plus V sequences

It was observed in the previous chapter that two thirds of “and” plus V sequences were pronounced with the /d/ dropping and the /n/ being linked to the following vowel in the speech. More than 80% of the sequences in the debate were pronounced in the same way. Although this pronunciation was the most frequent in both styles, it was less common in the speech than in the debate. Moreover, 16.7% of the sequences were pronounced as [d̥] plus V in the speech, while only 4.2% of them were in the debate. This difference is understandable considering that pronouncing /d/ as [d̥] is more careful than outright dropping it.

Furthermore, Mr. Trump produced 108 words per minute in the speech and 222 words per minute in the debate. Taking this into account, it is reasonable that the prevalence of Pattern (3) was high in the speech because the faster we speak, the careless we are about our pronunciation, and this can lead to dropping sounds in our speech production.

##### 2. Other /nd/ plus V sequences

Although the number of other sequences of /nd/ plus V in the speech and the debate was quite small, the realization tendency was quite different from that of “and” plus V sequences. No sequence was pronounced with the /d/ dropping and the /n/ being linked to the following vowel in the speech, and only two were pronounced in this way in the debate, quite unlike the trend in “and” plus V sequence pronunciation. Considering that the words with /nd/ sequences were all content words, it would be natural for them to be pronounced more clearly than “and,” which explains why the /d/ in /nd/ words seldom dropped in the debate and did not drop at all in the speech. Therefore, when we teach linking to our students, we should tell them that it is not always the case that the /d/ drops and the /n/ is linked to the following vowel in /nd/ plus V sequences.

#### V. Conclusion

Generally, we are more careful about the way we speak in formal speech than in informal everyday speech. As we pronounce each word with care in formal speech, the sounds do not tend to drop or change<sup>iii</sup>. This explains why more “and” plus V sequences were pronounced without the /d/ dropping in Mr. Trump’s nomination acceptance speech than in the first Trump-Clinton debate. While the /d/ in “and” dropped more frequently in the debate than in

the speech, the difference between the two was not large, with two thirds of sequences being realized with the /d/ dropping and the /n/ being linked to the following vowel in the speech. Therefore, the pronunciation of the sequence of “and” plus V does not seem to remarkably differ between daily conversation and formal speech. However, as we only examined the realization of the sequences produced by Donald Trump, the results may be different if we analyze utterances by another American speaker or a speaker of another variety of English such as British English, Australian English and so on. Whether the tendency of the realization of “and” plus V sequences differs when analyzing an American English speaker’s production or that of a speaker of another variety of English remains to be seen.

As for other /nd/ plus V sequences, only 22 target ones were found and they were not adequate to determine their realization. Therefore, more target sequences should be examined and their realization needs to be compared with that of “and” plus V sequences.

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## Notes

- i This speech is about one hour and twenty minutes long.
- ii Hereafter, we write “a vowel” as “V.”
- iii For example, native speakers often pronounce “going to” as “gonna” in relaxed, friendly conversation. In the first Trump-Clinton presidential debate, Mr. Trump produced “gonna” instead of “going to” in 14 sequences out of 23, while he uttered “gonna” in only 4 out of 27 sequences in the nomination acceptance speech.

## References

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(References are given according to the Modern Language Association style.)

## Materials

### Video

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## Transcripts

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- 2) "The First Trump-Clinton Debate." *Washington Post*. uploaded by Aaron Blake, 26 Sep. 2016, [www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/09/26/the-first-trump-clinton-presidential-debate-transcript-annotated/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.944a888c3ddf](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/09/26/the-first-trump-clinton-presidential-debate-transcript-annotated/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.944a888c3ddf). Accessed 17 Oct. 2018

## Appendix

The utterances including a sequence of “and” plus V in Donald Trump’s nomination acceptance speech:

No.		Pattern
1	... <u>and I</u> say we because we are a team...	(1)
2	But we will also be a country of law <u>and order</u> .	(4)
3	... <u>and I</u> mean very soon, come to an end.	(3)
4	<u>And almost</u> 4,000 have been killed in the Chicago area since he took office.	(3)
5	... <u>and our</u> Ambassador and his staff were left helpless to die...	(1)
6	... in a civil war <u>and a</u> refugee crisis now threatens the West.	(3)
7	There can be no prosperity without law <u>and order</u> .	(4)
8	... because these interests have rigged our political <u>and economic</u> system...	(3)
9	... that have been ignored, neglected <u>and abandoned</u> .	(3)
10	... and the communities crushed by our horrible <u>and unfair</u> trade deals.	(2)
11	<u>And I</u> won’t look the other way.	(3)
12	... so it works fairly, and justly, for each <u>and every</u> American.	(2)
13	He is a man of character <u>and accomplishment</u> .	(3)
14	... I will restore law <u>and order</u> to our country.	(3)
15	I will work with, <u>and appoint</u> , the best and brightest prosecutors...	(3)
16	In this race for the White House, I am the Law <u>And Order</u> candidate.	(2)
17	I have ever seen <u>and anybody</u> in this room has ever watched or seen.	(2)
18	It’s failed them in every way <u>and on</u> every single level.	(3)
19	... by Islamic radicals has been proven over <u>and over</u> ...	(3)
20	...from the violence <u>and oppression</u> of a hateful foreign ideology.	(1)
21	<u>And I</u> have to say as a republican...	(3)
22	... Hillary Clinton pushed in Iraq, in Libya, in Egypt <u>and in</u> Syria.	(3)
23	... because it did not properly cover terror, <u>and also</u> , ...	(3)
24	... <u>and every</u> politician who has denied them...	(2)
25	... <u>and it</u> will be a signature feature of my presidency...	(3)
26	... <u>and I</u> am not going to let companies move to other countries, ...	(4)
27	<u>And it’s</u> not going to happen.	(3)
28	... or that diminishes our freedom <u>and our</u> independence.	(3)
29	Next comes the reform of our tax laws, regulations <u>and energy</u> rules.	(3)
30	... <u>and I</u> mean massive tax increase, ...	(3)
31	It will happen <u>and it</u> will happen fast.	(3)
32	... and the great steel workers of our country out of work <u>and out</u> of business.	(2)
33	Our steel workers <u>and our</u> miners are going back to work again.	(3)
34	... will uphold our laws <u>and our</u> Constitution.	(4)
35	... <u>and I’m</u> not sure I totally deserve it...	(3)
36	... all we need to do is start believing in ourselves <u>and in</u> our country again.	(3)
37	And by the way, Melania <u>and Ivanka</u> , did they do a job?	(1)



38	... in the company of bricklayers, and carpenters, <u>and</u> electricians ...	(3)
39	... <u>and I</u> have a lot of that in me also.	(3)
40	... <u>and a</u> great, great judge of character.	(3)
41	To my sisters Mary Anne <u>and</u> Elizabeth, ...	(3)
42	But now, my sole <u>and</u> exclusive mission is to go to work for our country...	(3)
43	... <u>and if</u> we will show the whole world...	(3)
44	... that America is still free <u>and</u> independent and strong.	(2)
45	<u>And I</u> will be your champion.	(3)
46	... <u>and</u> every child who dreams for their future, ...	(3)
47	I am with you, I will fight for you, <u>and I</u> will win for you.	(2)
48	To all Americans tonight, in all of our cities <u>and</u> in all of our towns, ...	(3)

The utterances including a sequence of “and” plus V in the first presidential debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump:

No.		Pattern
1	... I think Hillary <u>and I</u> agree on that.	(3)
2	We probably disagree a little bit as to numbers <u>and amounts</u> ...	(3)
3	<u>And I</u> look very, very much forward to doing it.	(3)
4	... from stealing our companies <u>and our</u> jobs.	(3)
5	... <u>and I</u> built it into a company that's worth many, many billions of dollars, ...	(3)
6	... <u>and I</u> say that only because that's the kind of thinking...	(3)
7	<u>and all</u> of these countries all over the world, especially China.	(3)
8	Secretary Clinton <u>and others</u> , politicians should have been doing this...	(4)
9	What's happened to our jobs <u>and our</u> country...	(3)
10	... <u>and our</u> economy, generally, is – look, we owe \$20 trillion.	(3)
11	... <u>and our</u> politicians never do this, ...	(3)
12	... seven- <u>and-a-half</u> years, ...	(3)
13	<u>And all</u> you have to do is look at Michigan...	(3)
14	... <u>and all</u> of a sudden you were against it.	(3)
15	... <u>and old</u> companies are going out of business.	(2)
16	<u>And if</u> you really look, it's not a tax...	(1)
17	<u>And instead</u> of bringing it back and putting the money to work, ...	(3)
18	... <u>and everybody</u> agrees it should be brought back.	(2)
19	... <u>and it</u> could be put to use on the inner cities...	(3)
20	... <u>and it</u> would be beautiful.	(3)
21	... in terms of our jobs <u>and in</u> terms of what's going on.	(3)
22	<u>And it'll</u> be released.	(3)
23	<u>And – as</u> soon as the audit's finished, it will be released.	(4)
24	<u>And in</u> a way, I should be complaining.	(3)
25	... <u>and our</u> country's a mess, you know, ...	(3)
26	... <u>and our</u> roads are good...	(3)
27	... <u>and our</u> bridges are good...	(3)
28	... <u>and everything's</u> in great shape, our airports.	(3)
29	<u>And it's</u> really a shame.	(3)
30	<u>And it's</u> politicians like Secretary Clinton that have caused this problem.	(3)
31	Maybe he didn't do a good job <u>and I</u> was unsatisfied with his work...	(1)
32	... and that's law <u>and order</u> .	(3)
33	And we need law <u>and order</u> .	(3)
34	...we need law <u>and order</u> in our country.	(3)
35	<u>And I</u> just got today the, as you know, ...	(1)
36	<u>And I'm</u> saying, where is this?	(1)
37	We have to bring back law <u>and order</u> .	(3)

38	We have to bring back law <u>and order</u> .	(3)
39	<u>And in</u> many cases, they're illegally here, illegal immigrants.	(3)
40	But we need – Lester, we need law <u>and order</u> .	(3)
41	And we need law <u>and order</u> in the inner cities, …	(3)
42	<u>And it's</u> very unfair to them what our politicians are allowing to happen.	(3)
43	First of all, I agree, <u>and a</u> lot of people even within my own party…	(3)
44	… <u>and I</u> have the endorsement of the NRA, which I'm very proud of.	(3)
45	<u>And I</u> don't think – I really don't think you disagree with me on this, …	(3)
46	<u>And it</u> was continued on by Mayor Bloomberg.	(3)
47	<u>And it</u> was terminated by current mayor.	(3)
48	… <u>and after</u> the election, they said, see ya later, I'll see you in four years.	(3)

