In many varieties of Spanish the phoneme /d/ has been shown to be deleted in intervocalic position. Linguistic variables such as phonetic context, the number of syllables in the word, tonic syllable, grammatical category of the word, position within the word, distance from the end of the word, and word frequency have been shown to impact the deletion of intervocalic /d/ (Bybee, 2002, 2003; Díaz-Campos & Gradoville, 2012). Extralinguistic factors such as age, socioeconomic class, sex, and type of interaction have also been named variables that impact deletion, showing that lower socioeconomic class and men tend to favor deletion. Studies have examined deletion in various dialects of Spanish including Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Samper Padilla, 1996); Murcia (Hernández-Campoy & Jimenez-Cano, 2003); Castellón (Blas Arroyo, 2006); Caracas (Díaz-Campos & Gradoville, 2012; D’Introno & Sosa, 1986); Córdoba (Uruburu Bidaurrezaga, 1994); Granada (Moya Corral & García Wiedemann, 2009); the Dominican Republic (Alba, 1999); and more. The current study seeks to examine the deletion of intervocalic /d/ in the Spanish of Málaga based on a corpus of transcribed interview data. Following Díaz-Campos and Gradoville, the current study is an examination on the effect of type and token word frequency on the deletion of intervocalic /d/ in the Málaga corpus in order to compare the results for a Peninsular dialect with those of Díaz-Campos and Gradoville for a Venezuelan dialect (Caracas). Since it has been noted that the use of the present perfect in Peninsular varieties differs from that of the American varieties and tends to be more frequent, we would like to investigate if intervocalic /d/-deletion is affected by the supposed higher frequency of past participle forms in Peninsular varieties, which could cause higher rates of deletion in these forms. As in Díaz-Campos and Gradoville, word frequency was determined using the CREA corpus of the Real Academia Española, as well as frequency within the Málaga corpus for comparison. We examined the grammatical category of each word (i.e., participles, prepositions, adverbs, etc.) and the phonetic context (previous and following vowels). Using VARBRUL for the analysis, we examined binary variable combinations, comparing the dependent variable (retention or deletion of intervocalic /d/) with the independent variables just mentioned (i.e., grammatical category, phonetic context, frequency).

Preliminary results indicate that the elision rate was higher for the Málaga corpus than in the Caracas corpus (Díaz-Campos and Gradoville, 2012). They also indicate that past participles and adjectives are the categories that favor deletion the most, and that the contexts -ado and -ada also favor deletion. Contrary to what was expected, it was the lower frequency items that favored deletion the most.