Subject clitics in French have long been an interesting topic for researchers. Linguists have studied the nature of subject clitics in French, especially with regards to whether these grammatical units constitute syntactic subjects or preverbal affixes marking agreement (Auger 1993,1994,1995; Harris 1978; Ossipov 1990; Roberge 1990, etc.). A related phenomenon often considered in the aforementioned debate is subject doubling (SD), illustrated in (1a-b), which has been studied in many varieties of colloquial French.

(1)   a. Hier j'regardais un film la dame elle avait sept enfants (7.1.1)  
      b. Mes parents ils se sont séparés quand j'avais trois ou quatre ans (7.3.1)

Numerous quantitative studies demonstrate variable percentages of SD across dialects: 96.4% in the speech of youth from Villejuif, a Paris suburb (Campion 1984: 219); 55% in Montreal (Auger & Villeneuve 2010); 27% in Ontario (Nadasdi 2000), more than 80% in the speech of two speakers from Marseilles (Sankoff 1982: 85) and 24.4% in Picardie (Conveney 2003, 2005), etc. However, few of the previously mentioned studies are variationist in nature, that is, they do not statistically analyze the sociolinguistic factors conditioning the use of SD. Of those that do, the majority examines only a few factors. Auger & Villeneuve 2010 is the only investigation to consider a multiplicity of both social and linguistic factors claimed in previous qualitative studies to affect the use of SD. Furthermore, most of these studies investigate dialects of French outside France or minority dialects within the country. Consequently, the goal of this study is to examine both the social and linguistic factors that condition the use of subject doubling in Parisian colloquial French. All tokens of preverbal 3rd person subjects that could be doubled (full noun phrases, strong pronouns and other types of pronouns such as lui, eux(-autres), personne, etc.) were extracted from the from the Corpus de Français Parlé parisiens des années 2000 (CFPP2000), a French corpus consisting of sociolinguistic interviews from various Parisian suburbs. 17 interviews spanning 14 Parisian suburbs and 25 speakers were used, resulting in 1097 occurrences. These tokens were subsequently coded for the following factors: specificity and definiteness of the subject; grammatical person; type and complexity of subject; presence and type of intervening elements; sentence type; verb type; polarity and use of ne; information status; age; sex; and suburb. The data was then analyzed using GoldvarbX (Sankoff et al., 2005).

Several factors were significant and supported claims made in previous qualitative studies regarding subject doubling, particularly subject complexity, use of ne, intervening elements, sentence type, and specificity and definiteness of the subject. These results are similar to results found for other dialects, suggesting that the same constraints condition the use of SD in the different varieties of French. However, grammatical person, information status, sex and age differed from previously found results, indicating that although there are crossdialectal similarities with regards to SD, there are nevertheless dialect-specific uses of SD, specifically concerning social factors.