

دراسة صوتية للهجة حجور اليمنية العربية

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ملخص الدراسة

تسهم الدراسات اللغوية في تفسير أصول اللغات، حيث أوضحت العديد من الدراسات اللغوية التي أجريت حول اللهجات اليمنية الكثير عن أصول تلك اللهجات وعلاقتها باللغات اليمنية القديمة وبالعربية الفصحى الحديثة. ولأن لهجة حجور لم تحظ بمثل هذا الاهتمام من قبل الباحثين، فقد هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف بعض الجوانب الصوتية في لهجة حجور، وبيان علاقتها باللهجات اليمنية الأخرى، وباللغات اليمنية القديمة والعربية. وحاول الباحث دراسة التداخل الصرفي الصوتي في هذه اللهجة، واستخدم أدوات الملاحظة والمقابلة والتحليل للهجة الباحث نفسه باعتباره متحدث أصلي. وقد وجد الباحث في نهاية الدراسة أن العديد من العمليات الصوتية شائعة الاستخدام في لهجة حجور مثل "إضافة أصوات" والادغام سواء على المستوى الصرفي للكلمات، أو على المستوى النحوي في الكلام المتصل. ومن الظواهر الصوتية الأخرى التي لوحظت هي التعديل في صوت العلة الأوسط في بعض الأفعال والأسماء والاستخدام الغريب لأدوات التعريف، والتي يعبر عنها في لهجة حجور بثلاثة أشكال، وهي صوت الميم أو صوت الباء أو صوت الواو بدلاً عن "ال" التعريفية. أخيراً، استنتجت الدراسة وجود تشابه بين لهجة حجور واللغات اليمنية القديمة واللهجات اليمنية المعاصرة، وأن كثيراً من الظواهر الصوتية في لهجة حجور، لها ارتباطات باللغات اليمنية القديمة. كما تبين أيضاً وجود تداخلات صرفية-صوتية في لهجة حجور. الكلمات المفتاحية: صوتية للهجة حجور اليمنية العربية.

A Phonological Study of the Yemeni Arabic Dialect of Hajoor

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Abstract

Linguistic studies can contribute in accounting for the etymologies of languages. Many linguistic studies on Yemeni dialects have revealed a lot about their origins and relations to Old Yemeni Languages and to Modern Standard Arabic. Because Hajoor dialect has not received such a concern of researchers, the current paper intended to explore certain phonological aspects of Hajoor dialect and to point out its relation to other Yemeni dialects and to Old Yemeni Languages and Arabic. It also studied the morpho-phonological interface in this Dialect. The methods used in this paper are observation, interviews and analysis of the researcher's dialect since he is a native speaker.

It is found that many phonological processes were very commonly used in Hajoor Dialect such as "addition", and assimilation. They were used either at the level of morphology when words are in isolation, or at the syntactic level in connected speech. Another phonological phenomena observed were the modification in the middle vowel in certain verbs and nouns and the peculiar use of articles of definiteness. The definite article in Hajoor dialect is realized in three ways as /m/ sound, /b/ sound or as /w/ sound. Finally, it can be concluded that there is a similarity between Hajoor dialect and Old Yemeni Languages and other contemporary Yemeni dialects. Many phonological phenomena have their own connections to Old Yemeni Languages. Also, a morpho-phonological interface is also found in Hajoor Dialect.

Keywords: assimilation, dialect, phonological, sound, addition, deletion.

Introduction:

Arabic language is one of the most language spoken in the world. The origin of this language is unanimously believed to be in Yemen particularly the old language of Yemen Himyaritic (Watson 2007, p. 27, Sharaf Addin 1970, p.48, Almatih2009, p. 79, Martine1995a, p. 13, Deab 1988 , p. 46, and Riziq 2011,p. 121).

Many studies have been carried out about the relation between Arabic and Old Yemeni Language. Those studies have found there are many links between Arabic and Old Yemeni Language. They also have pointed out that there are still some Yemeni dialects having similar features to Arabic.

The findings of those studies were based on some Yemeni dialects such as Sanani, (Watson 2007, p. 27-40) Hujarriah, Yafia, Dhalea etc (Martine1995a, p. 25,140-150) Tehamah (Sharaf Addin 1970, p.11-35 , Dammom 2013, p.75-211) ,Mahri (Watson 2007, p. 35) and other dialects (Hamdi 2015, p. 91-94). Those studies have provided a lot of information about the relationship between those dialects and the Yemeni Old Languages and between Arabic and the Yemeni Old Languages. However, many Yemeni dialects were neglected and excluded from those studies such as Hajoor dialect. This dialect is spoken mainly by people living in Kuser District, Hajjah Governorate, Yemen. Therefore the current study focuses only on the Hajoor dialect spoken in Kuser District. It is bound to study only certain phonological aspects excluding other aspects.

The researcher found it interesting to make a research about Hajoor Dialect, and it is a search –worthy topic. Conducting a research about Hajoor Dialect is important since this study can make a good indication about the nature of MSA, and its relation to the Old Yemeni Languages.

It is essential to explore and study the main phonological features of Hajoor Dialect and their etymological aspects. Therefore, this study can make an excess to the nature of the Old Yemeni Languages and their effects on MSA since previous studies did not refer to this Yemeni dialect. Moreover, this study can open new horizons in the cultural and sociological studies for it addresses one form of the society language contact.

It is significant because it deals with an Arabic Yemeni dialect using methods, tools and techniques used in studying languages other than Semitic languages. Therefore, this study presents Eastern literature to the western readers.

Review of Relevant Literature:

The present paper attempts to explore a few aspects of the Hajoor Dialect linguistic system, particularly phonology and morphology. Before setting out the research, a review of the literature related to this topic has to be done. Many studies have been on the dialectology in general and Arabic dialects in particular.

Researches and studies have been conducted on many Yemeni dialects, studying their linguistic levels particularly phonological, morphological, lexical and syntactic levels and comparing them to the MSA. In this regard, Martine 1995a, p. 12-19 drew a typological classification of 15 main types, named after geographical zones namely Tihamah dialects, –k dialects, Hugariyah dialects, Jabal Washah , Al-Mahbishah, Northern high plateau , Marib, Sana'a and central mountains , Southern high plateau , Marib and alBayda' dialects (former south-east dialects) , Northern high plateau , Al-Jawf dialects , Sa'dah, Lahej, Aden, Gayl Habban, Abyan and Hadramawt. He concluded that Yemeni dialects present a lot of peculiarities which can be found in the dictionaries

mentioned in the bibliography. Some of them are traces of Himyaritic or of old South-Arabian languages.

On the other hand, (Watson 2007, p. 27-40) made a study on some Yemeni dialects and compared them to the old Yemeni languages. He compared phonological, morphological, lexical and syntactic data from several contemporary varieties spoken within historical Yemen with data from Ancient South Arabian, Sabaean, and Modern South Arabian, and Mehri. On the basis of these comparisons, he suggested that Arabic may not have replaced all the ancient languages of the Peninsula, and that we may be witnessing the rediscovery of descendants of the ancient languages. Also, he suggested that similarities between language varieties may be due to chance – including similar lifestyle – language contact, or direct or common inheritance. He claimed that the Yemeni varieties discussed in his paper have changed drastically within the lifetime of current speakers.

As the closest one to Hajoor Dialect, Tihamah Dialect has been a target for researchers. In this connection, (Sharaf Addin 1970, p.11- 55) studied this dialect. His study was an attempt to undertake phonological investigation to achieve better understanding of Tihamah Dialect. His findings revealed various phonological phenomena e.g., nasal homorganic assimilation, deletion, diphthongization and alternation. The striking property of Tihamah Dialect phonology is the vowel /u:/ appended commonly to the end of words. As far as the morphological aspects are concerned, he demonstrated that the types of Tihamah Dialect clitics are two in number: proclitics and enclitics.

Another investigation was by Dammom 2013, p.213 who presented an analysis of the phonology and phonetics of the prosody of Tihami Yemeni Arabic comparing all that to

other Arabic varieties and other languages. He found that Tihamah Dialect was shown to have very rich pitch accent distribution, with a pitch accent occurring on every content word proving some similarity with other Arabic varieties. Stress assignment rules in Tihamah Dialect were found not to be far from those in the Modern Standard Arabic or in some other Yemeni dialects.

Interestingly, it was found that stressing in Tihamah Dialect accompanies penult vowel deletion, initial vowel deletion, prestress mora deletion and resyllabification. Clitics (either proclitics or enclitics) were proved to be accentless except place prepositions. Cross-dialectally, although the prosody of focus proved some consistency in our conclusions, there were some differences across Arabic dialects regarding the acoustic attributes of focus.

Another dialect similar to Tihamah and Hajoor Dialects is Jizani Dialect. In this connection, Hamdi 2015, p. 91-94 concluded that there are salient features that distinguish Jizani Arabic such as the deletion and neutralization of particular sounds. The processes of deletion and neutralization of sounds can be explained from morphological and morphosyntactic perspectives whose influence rearranges the pronunciation and effects phonological aspects.

He claimed that these processes are predictable and are thought to be motivated by frequency of usage among speakers. The findings of his study showed that Jizani Arabic is characterized by the deletion of glottal stop, neutralization of /m/ in particular suffixes, and by using /m/ in place of /l/ in the definite article. The sound change patterns show regular sound changes that affect all the words in the phonetic environment that condition the changes. Variation is still present among

speakers, yet the phonological aspects are distinctive.

The above studies may seem to be comprehensive and to include all Yemeni dialects, but in fact they ignored many of them as Hajoor Dialect. Many features discussed provided significant information about the Old Yemeni Languages and MSA but not all . Thus the current paper is an attempt to contribute to the discovery of the Old Yemeni Languages .

On the other hand, Arabic language has been a point of attraction for scholars, and researchers. Hundreds of volumes, books, references , journals, and others have been published about Arabic. The linguistic system of Arabic has also been of great concern. Since this paper is meant for a journal, only very few books are reviewed here.

As a reference in Arabic linguistics, Watson 2007, p. 13-24-122 published his book *The Phonology and Morphology of Arabic*. He elaborately discussed the origin, history, and family of Arabic. He also presents a concise account of the phonology , morphology and syntax of Arabic.

Dendane 2008, p.14-18 concluded that there is a clear mutual influence of phonological and morphological with prosodic elements and even syntax. A computational dictionary would not be able to recognize or to generate morphological alternations of a given word unless it is programmed on the basis of the morphological patterns of a language, as well as its phonological rules in the case of a programme supplied with a speech recognition system. The point is that phonological and morphological processes in Arabic are so intimately intertwined for the generation of the various morphological distinctions and categories.

Alfozan 1989, p.48-123 dealt with the 'phenomenon of assimilation. He discussed Arabic sounds, points of articulation and

manners, the types of assimilation, aspects of assimilation and the directions of assimilation. He provided some examples to support his study about assimilation in Arabic.

It is not only Standard Arabic has been a focus of research and study, but also, Arabic dialects. For example, Al-Deaibes 2016, p.188-199 explored the phonetics and phonology of voicing and emphatic assimilation across morpheme boundaries and investigated gemination word-medially and word-finally in Rural Jordanian Arabic.

The results revealed that assimilation across morpheme boundaries behaves differently from assimilation across word boundaries in Rural Jordanian Arabic. Vowel duration and vowel F1 were found robust parameters to indicate voicing assimilation. Phonologically, assimilation is best accounted for through the Sonority Hierarchy, Notion of Dominance, and Obligatory Contour Principle.

For gemination, consonant as well as vowel durations were found robust acoustic correlates to discriminate geminates from singletons. Phonologically short vowels in the geminate context are significantly shorter than those in singleton context, while phonologically long vowels in geminate context are significantly longer than those in singleton context.

Hypothesis :

There is some interface and overlap between phonology, morphology and syntax in Hajoor dialect, and it is similar to Old Yemeni languages and contemporary Yemeni dialects . Because of many phonological phenomena, Hajoor Dialect is similar to Old Yemeni languages and contemporary Yemeni dialects.

Approach:

The approach applied in this paper is an eclectic one since it is descriptive, analytic, and comparative. It is descriptive in the sense that the researcher describes the dialect of Hajoor in

terms of phonology , morphology and syntax. It is analytic because it analyses the phonology , morphology and syntax of Hajoor Dialect using real examples of data collected for that purpose. The approach is also comparative for it compares between Hajoor Dialect and MSA in terms of phonology , morphology and syntax.

Methods:

The methods used in this research paper are observation, interviewing and analysis of the researcher's own dialect. First of all, Hajoor as an area was divided into three areas according to the tribal division. The dialect of each part was linguistically studied according to the idiosyncrasies occurring in the dialect used in that part in comparison to the norms of MSA.

After collecting the vocabulary items, they were classified according to their parts of speech. They were studied at the morphological and segmental levels in one hand , and at the syntactic and suprasegmental levels in the other. In other words, vocabulary items of Hajoor Dialect were classified first grammatically, i.e. in terms of their parts of speech, and the phonological aspects occurring in such words were studied and accounted for. Grammatical aspects of Hajoor Dialect such as negations, plurality and singularity, and definiteness and indefiniteness were phonologically studied, analyzed and accounted for. Other phonological processes taking place within words uttered in isolation or in connected speech were also, analyzed, discussed and explained. Those aspects including 'assimilation' with its all types, deletion, addition and sound change.

The scientific methods used in this paper are applicable. The main thing is to have a clear idea of what you are doing. Main steps of methods applied in conducting this paper are collecting data i.e. the vocabulary items

through observation of the speakers, interviewing them, using the researcher's own dialect, classification of the data collected linguistically, identification of the phonological aspects occurring, analysis of the phonological aspects, and accounting for them. Collection of data was done by sitting with Hajoor speakers, and observing them. Some interviews were arranged with speakers from parts other than the researcher's. the researcher' own dialect as a Hajori himself formed a major proportion of the data analyzed. The vocabulary items were classified linguistically at the level of morphology, and syntax and they were studied at the level of phonology. The phonological processes occurring at the morphological or and the syntactic levels were compared to the those of MSA. The last step of the methods used in this paper was explanation. Each phonological step was discussed and accounted for with reference to the theoretical and practical contexts.

Results:

The main results can be presented as follows:

The addition of 'h' sound is used with:

- verbs in past tense with 1st or 2nd person pronoun as in /*hal salitah*/ Did you pray? . in MSA, /*hal salit*/.
- verb with 3rd person plural pronoun with female as in /*ðæhæbnðh*/, in MSA, it is /*ðæhæbðn*/ (they went) fem.Plu.
- nouns: as in /*?ms*/ (Yesterday). It is realized as /*msh*/.
- Pronouns: in The male second person singular pronoun in MSA /*?nt*/ is realized as /*th*/.
- The female second person plural pronoun in MSA /*?nton*/ is realized as /*tnh*/
- The female third person plural pronoun in MSA /*hn*/ is realized as /*hnh*/.
- The female third person singular pronoun in MSA /*hwa*/ is realized as /*hoh*/.

- The male third person singular pronoun in MSA /hia/ is realized as /hih/.

Addition of "n" sound as a suffix to:

- Past verb with 3rd person singular pronoun female, the Hajoori says /ðæhæbæn/ 'she went'. In MSA, /ðæhæbθt/, so the /t/ sound is added to indicate gender 'female', but in Hajoor dialect, it is realized as /n/.

nouns:

- /ʔms/ (Yesterday) is realized as /msh/ in Hajoor dialect.

Assimilation

Most phonological processes occur in pronouns pronounced by Hajoor speakers. Here is a table presenting how they are pronounced in Hajoor Dialect, in MSA, and their meaning in English

Pronouns

English	Arabic orthography	Transcription	Hajor dialect	Hajor dialect orthography
I	انا	Ana	=	انا
You (sing)	انت	Ant	#	Θ t h (ته)
We	نحن	Nahn	#	hnΘ (حنا)
They (mal)	هم	Hum	Hum	هم
They (fem)	هن	Hun	Hunnh	هنه
You (Plur mal)	انتم	?ntum	Tu	تو
You (plu fem)	انتن	?ntun	Tnh	تنه
He	هو	Hw?	Hoh	هوه
She	هي	Hi?	Hih	هيه
It	هو / هي	Hw?/ hi?	Hoh/ hih	هوه /هيه
You and me	انا وانت	?n? w?nt	?nawjiak	انا وياك
They and us	نحن وهم	Nhnw?hum	Hnawjiahum	حنا وياهم
You and him	انا وهو	?ntwhw?	Twji?h	توياه
This (male)	هذا	H?ða	Δiah	ذيه
This (fem)	هذه	H?ðihi	Tiah	تيه
That (male)	ذلك	δ?lik	Δak	طاك
That (fem)	تلك	Telk	Tak	طاك
These	هؤلاء	H?ol?	ilij?h	يليه
Those	اولئك	Ol?ek	jl?k	يلاك

Table(1) Pronouns

There are many phonological processes taking place in pronouns at the morphological level and syntactic level.

Assimilation in Personal Pronouns in Isolation:

The male second person singular pronoun in MSA /ʔnt/ is realized as /th/ where the sounds /ʔ/ and /n/ are assimilated and a /h/ sound is added to the word. In the female, /ʔnti/

is realized as /ti/ where the sounds /ʔ/ and /n/ are assimilated and, an /i/ sound is added to the word.

The male second person plural pronoun in MSA /ʔntom/ is realized as /to/ where the sounds /ʔ/, /n/, and /m/ are assimilated. In the female, /ʔnton/ is realized as /tnh/ where the sounds /ʔ/ , /n/, and /o/ are assimilated, and,

instead /h/ sound is added to the end of the word.

The first person plural pronoun in MSA /nhno/ is realized as /hn?/ where the sound /n/ is assimilated and, also an /?/ sound is added to the word, and for singular, in MSA /hwa/ is realized as /hoh/ where the sound /w/ is realized as /o/ and the /h/ sound is added,

The female third person plural pronoun in MSA /hn/ is realized as /hnh/ where the sound /h/ is added to the end of the word and for singular in MSA /hia/ is realized as /hih/.

Assimilation in Pronouns within an Utterance.

Assimilation within a group of words is as:

- in the MSA structure /?n? w?nt/ > /?N?wj?k/ in HD.

- /nhn w?hum/ > /hn?wj?hum/.

- /?ntwhw?/ > /twji?h/ where the sounds /?/ and /n/ are assimilated and deleted from the first word and the sounds /j/ and /i/ are added.

Questions Using Pronouns

English	Arabic orthography	Transcription	similarity	Hajor dialect
How are you(ms)	كيفك	Kif?k	Kif?k	كيفك
How are you(fs)	كيفك	Kif?k	Kif?f	كيفش
How are you(fs)	كيفك	Kif?k	Kif k?h	كيفكه
Where are you(ms)	اين انت	?in ?nt	Fi?n?k	فيانك
Where are you(fs)	اين انتي	?in?nti	Fi?n?f	فيانش
What do you want (ms)	ماذا تريد	M? ?turi:d	mt fh	متشه
What do you want (fs)	ماذا تريدي	M? ?turi:di	mt fi	متشي
What do you want (mp)	ماذا تريدون	M? ?turi:don	mt fho	متشو
What do you want (fp)	ماذا تردن	M? ?turi:dn	mt finh	متشينه
Where are you from (ms)	من اين انت	Men?in ?nt	Mni?nk	منيانك
Where are you from (fs)	من اين انتي	Men?in ?nti	Mni?nf	منيانش
Where are you from (mp)	من اين انتم	Men?in ?ntom	Mni?nkom	منيانكم
Where are you from (fp)	من اين انتن	Men?in ?nton	Mni?nkonh	منيانكنه
What is it (M)	ماهو	M?ho?	Mahoh	ماهو
What is it (f)	ماهي	M?hi?	Mahih	ماهي
Why	لماذا	Lem?d?	Lmh	لمه
When	أي حين/متي	M?t?/?ihin	Jhin	يحين

Assimilation in Pronouns Used in Questions.

Assimilation in Demonstrative Pronouns in Isolation:

In MSA, demonstrative pronouns are gender-sensitive. The male singular near demonstrative pronoun /h?d?/ is realized as /?i?h/ with reversing the order of sounds. In the female, /h?dhi/ is realized as /ti?h/.

The male singular far demonstrative pronoun /d?lik/ is realized as /d?k/ where the /l/ and /i/ sounds are assimilated and deleted. In the female, /telk/ is realized as /t?k/ where the /l/ and /i/ sounds are assimilated and /t/ is realized as /ط/ .

The plural near demonstrative pronoun /H?ol?/ is realized as /ilij?h/ with reversing the order of sounds. The plural far, /Ol?ek/ is realized as /jl?k/ with changing the sound /o/ into /j/ and /e/ into /?/.

Pronouns used in Wh-questions are most of the time assimilated. In asking a female about her health, it is in MSA /KifΘk/ is realized as /KifΘf/ in some parts of Hajoor area, but In other parts, /Kif kΘh/. To ask about your whereabouts, a Hajoori would say /Fi?nΘk/ for a male and /Fi?nΘf/ for a female. Here the speaker prefixes the expression with /f/ sound , reverses the vowels, and adds an /Θ/ sound and /k/ sound instead of /t/.

For asking about your desires and needs, it would be as /mtjh/ for singular male and /mtji/ for singular female. This is an assimilation between two words /m? δ torid/ making one expression /mtjh/. For male plural second person pronoun, it is /mtfo/ and for female /mtfinh/.

When asking about someone's origin, in HD, it is /mni?nk/ instead of /men?in ?nt/ in MSA. For a female singular second person pronoun, it is /mni?nf/ which is realized as /Men?in ?nti/ in MSA. For male plural second person pronoun, in HD, it is /mni?nkonh/, and /mni?nkonh/ for female.

Pronouns used to refer to non-human are also assimilated when used in wh-questions. They are treated as male and female pronouns.

Definite Article

In MSA, the definite article is /?l/ meaning "the" in English. in Hajoor dialect, this definite article is realized in three ways as follows:

- /?l/ is realized as /m/ sound added to the noun as in /?lsi?rh / > /msi?rh/. This is in some parts of the district.
- /?l/ is realized as /b/ sound added to the noun as in /?lsi?rh / > /bsi?rh/. This is in other areas of the district.
- /?l/ is realized as /w/ sound stressed added to the noun as in /?lwadi/> /'w?di/.

Indefinite Articles

Indefinite articles in English are (a,an). In MSA, it is indicated by nunnation added to the

indefinite noun. In some parts of Hajoor, it is realized as /O/ sound added to the end of the noun. E.g, /haδΘ habl/ (this is a rope,). In Hajoor dialect, it is realized as /δih hablu/.

Addition of /h/ Sound with Changing or Deletion of Sounds

A person Calling:

-his father, says in MSA /ji? ?bti/, in Hajoor Dialect, /ji?bh/ or sometimes, /ji?b?iΘh/.

-his mother, in MSA /ji? omi/, > /ji? mh/,or sometimes, /ji? m?iΘh/.

- with the first name, in MSA, it is / ji? h?md/ (O Hamed), in Hajoor, /ji? h?md hu/,or sometimes, the particle of calling in MSA /ji?/ it is realized as /wooo/.

Negation

in MSA, the negative particle is /L?/, meaning "no" as in /la jnf?/ (it doesn't do) . In Hajoor dialect, this particle /la/ is realized as /ma/ and a /ʃ / sound added to the verb as in /majnf? ʃ/. In other parts of Hajoor, it is realized as /majf?/, deleting a the /n/ sound from the word.

In some verbs, another sound /h/ is added to the verb other than /ʃ/ as in /miδorΘh/ (it doesn't hurt).

Modification in the Middle Vowel

Verbs

In the triple verbs which have a vowel in the middle CVC, that vowel is realized differently from that in MSA. E.g. in MSA, /a:d/ (came back). In Hajoor dialect, it is /awΘd/ , changing the middle long vowel /a:/ into /wΘ/. the verb /J?kul/(eat) is realized as /jwkl/.

Nouns

/?/ sound is changed into /o/ as in the word /ʃ?h/ " a she-sheep". It is realized as /ʃΘoh/ and /sl?m?likum/ as /sloom?likum/ .

In other occasions, /?/ sound is changed into /i/ as in the word /dʒ?ʒh/ which is realized as /djijh/ in Hajoor Dialect.

In different situations, /i/ sound is changed into /ʔ/ as in the word /jikh/ (tribal leader) /ʔkh/ in Hajoor Dialect.

Blending of two Words Together (word+N)

In MSA, there is no blending except in pronouns attached to verbs or nouns to show genitive, accusative or cases. However, in Hajoor dialect, some words other than pronouns can be blended making a new expression as the following.

Noun+ Noun:

/lilt ʔms/ (last night) is realized as /ltʔms/, /muntsf llil/ (mid night) /tnosʔfh/ and /fru:q fms/ (sun rise) /bʃrgh/ or /mʃrgh/.

Preposition+ Noun

/fi lmsʔ/ (at night) is realized as /bill/ or /mlil/. /Fi lʔid/ (in the festival) is realized as /fmʔid/. /fi lbit/ (at home) is realized as /fbit/.

Discussion:

The use of assimilation in Hajoor Dialect is a common phonological process. This use proves that there is a link between Hajoor Dialect and Old Yemeni Language, either in mid-Sabaeen and late-Sabaeen, (Stein 2003, p. 19, Beeston 1984, p. 11). This phonological process is also common in contemporary Yemeni dialects other than Hajoor Dialect. It is found in dialects spoken "in the area around Mārib and the central Yemeni highlands" (Stein 2003, p. 20). This indicates the relationship between Hajoor Dialect and other Yemeni dialects, and it proves that these dialects originally came from the same source that is Old Yemeni Language. This is proved by Martine 1995a, p. 15).

Another phonological process is the addition of certain sounds at the end of some words in Hajoor Dialect. This addition "enclitic" of /h/ sound, /n/ sound, is commonly used in pronouns as presented above. This feature is not restricted to Hajoor Dialect only, but used in other dialects as Tihami Dialect, (Abdulghani 2009, p.11-35, Martine1995a, p.

13-14). Old Yemeni Language particularly Sabain is known for /h/ Dialect where /h/ is used in inflecting many verb forms and it is used as a sign of 'Bena'a'. Moreover, /h/ is used in Sabain as 'Nasb' pronoun and used in nouns. (Hijazi 1995, p.187, Deab1988, p. 45, Riziq: 118-120). Therefore, the addition of some sounds in Hajoor Dialect emphasizes the close relationship between Hajoor Dialect and Old Yemeni Languages.

Another phonological process used in Hajoor Dialect is the sound change. The sound change sometimes happens with consonants. For example, /K/ sound is pronounced as /S/ sound. This feature is used in many dialects in Yemen and in the Arab world though it is an old phenomenon used in Old Yemeni Language. (Sharaf Addin:48, Almaitah: 79-81, Martine 1995a, p. 13-14). The change of /k/ sound into /S/ sound can be accounted for their close articulation. Both of them are velar . On the other hand, sound change can also take place with vowels in nouns and in verbs as well. Again, this phonological phenomenon is found in old Yemeni Languages (Deab1988, p. 46, Riziq: 121).

In MSA, the definite article is /ʔl/ meaning "the" in English. in Hajoor dialect, this definite article is realized in three ways as /m/ sound added to the noun some parts of the district, and as /b/ sound added to the noun in other areas of the district. The use of /m/ for /l/ has been widely common among south Arabian dialects including Yemeni (Martine1995a, p. 13-14), Watson 2007, p., Haselwood and Watsons' (2013, p. 34-53). They argue that these dialects replace /l/ with /m/ in the definite article in any position." However, it seems that the use of /b/ instead of /l/ is used only in Hajoor Dialect. This case contradicts Haselwood and Watsons' (2013, p. 34-53) .

Another phonological process related to the definite article is the use of a stressed /w/

sound to the noun instead of /l/. this is used only with definite nouns starting with /w/ sound. Hajoori speakers use it with definite nouns starting with /w/ sound because this sound is not consonant. It is a semi-vowel. Again this use contradicts Haselwood and Watsons' (2013, p. 34-53) .

As for the indefiniteness which corresponds to the use of "a" or "an" in English, it is not marked with a separate word in Arabic. Instead, it is marked with a suffix, an /n/ sound that comes at the end of a word and it is called 'nunation'. Nunation as a marker of indefiniteness may appear on nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. In Hajoor Dialect, particularly in some areas, it is realized as /o/ sound at the end of the indefinite noun.

Conclusions:

This section is intended to summarize the following conclusions as follows:

- Hajoor Dialect is in a close relationship to Yemeni Old Languages.
- The phonological processes analyzed in Hajoor Dialect are etymologically related to similar phonological phenomena used in Yemeni Old Languages such as the assimilation in isolated words or in connected speech, the addition of /h/ sound at the end of words, the sound change, and the use of definite and indefinite articles .
- Many phonological features of Hajoor Dialect are similar to features of many contemporary Yemeni dialects.
- Some phonological features are exclusive to Hajoor as the use of /b/ sound for definiteness and addition of /o/ sound for indefiniteness .
- Certain phonological processes are syntactically used in Hajoor Dialect as the addition of /h/ sound to the end of words to avoid adjoining two 'sukoons'.
- In Hajoor, there is some variation among speakers in terms of dialect as in the use of /o/ sound for indefiniteness .

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