

CONSONANT CLUSTR IN SPOKEN IRAQI ARABIC

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ABSTRACT

This paper tackles consonant cluster in Spoken Iraqi Arabic. Consonant cluster refers to a sequence of two or three consonant sounds in a single word. Spoken Iraqi Arabic shows such sequence, particularly that of two consonant sounds. Consonant clusters in Iraqi Arabic are either initial or medial. Most consonant sounds in Iraqi Arabic are likely to occur as initial clusters, except for a few sounds. First ,an introduction is given regarding the subject, followed by a background and a snap overview. Then ,consonant

cluster is elaborated on at the word-level in which consonant cluster is surveyed according to phonemes or initial sequences. Next, consonant cluster is discussed at other levels; grammatical, such as number and prefixes, and non-grammatical, such as borrowing , ellipsis , diminutive and so on. Finally, the paper reaches certain findings and conclusions.

KEY WORDS : Consonant Cluster , Iraqi Arabic , Standard Arabic , Language Sounds , Syllables , Sound Sequence , Affixation.

خلاصة

يتناول هذا البحث تعانق الأصوات الساكنة في اللهجة العراقية العامية. و تعانق الأصوات الساكنة هو تتابع صوتين أو ثلاثة أصوات ساكنة في نفس الكلمة، إن هذه الظاهرة وخاصة تتابع صوتين ساكنين موجودة في اللهجة العراقية. فتعانق الأصوات الساكنة في اللهجة العراقية العامية هو أما من النوع الذي يقع في بداية الكلمة أو من النوع الذي يقع في وسط الكلمة. إن اغلب حالات تعانق الأصوات الساكنة في اللهجة العراقية العامية هي من النوع الذي يقع في بداية الكلمة باستثناء بعض الأصوات الساكنة. في بداية البحث ،

هنالك مقدمة حول الموضوع ثم تليها خلفية و استعراض سريع.بعد ذلك يتم مناقشة تعانق الأصوات الساكنة على مستوى الكلمة حيث يتم بيان ذلك حسب القاطع أو الأصوات و كذلك حسب الأصوات الساكنة الواقعة في بداية الكلمة ، ثم يلي ذلك شرح تعانق الأصوات الساكنة في مستويات أخرى ، و تشمل تلك مستويات نحوية كحالة الإفراد و المقاطع البائدة ، ومستويات لا نحوية كالكلمات المأخوذة من لغات أخرى،الحذف،التصغير غيرها. وفي نهاية البحث تطرح أهم نتائج البحث و الاستنتاجات .

الكلمات الرئيسية : تعانق الأصوات الساكنة ، اللهجة العراقية ، العربية الفصحى، الأصوات اللغوية، المقاطع ، تتابع الأصوات، الإضافات.

1. INTRODUCTION

Consonant cluster, hence CC , is any sequence of adjacent consonants occurring initially or finally in a syllable, such as *br-* in *bread* and *-st* in *best* '(Crystal,1992:66) and (Wikipedia,2009:2). Spoken Iraqi Arabic, SIA, in general exhibits a CC. The current paper investigates this area in SIA as it is used in urban dialects. The CC in SIA discussed here is initial and medial ; two consonants *pre-medial* + *initial* in initial position and two consonants *pre-medial* + *medial* in medial position.

2. SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

Standard Arabic ,SA, does not show initial or medial CC's. It shows final CC's ,particularly in monosyllabic words such as *rəsm* (drawing),*ism* (name),*ḥərb*(war),...etc. This is because SA is VCV or CVC (Rahim,1980: 12., Rose, 2000:15, Kiparsky ,2005:32 ,and Erwin, 2004:21). However, medial CC's are likely to occur in words which are not monosyllabic .i.e. when there is more than one syllable in the word,as in words like *khəmsə* (five), and *məsrəḥiyə* (play; drama).Unlike SA ,SIA shows occurrence of CC's, especially in initial and medial positions.Apart from the medial CC's which are already present in words in SA as they exist post-lexically in words whether they are in SA or SIA, initial CC's are triggered by such factors as the rapid speech,the lexical form of the word,and to less extent the syllabicity of that word. Hence, for example , the word *huna* (here) in SA, is pronounced in most of the times as *hna* in SIA.

3. CLUSTER DESTRIIBUTION AT THE WORD-LEVEL

Due to the significance of CC's, particularly initial CC's, CC's will be considered first at individual words rather at the grammatical behaviours in which these

words are used. CC's are discussed according to their positions in the word. Phonemes are co-grouped on the basis of their similarity as to both manner and place of articulation.⁽¹⁾

3.1. The Phonemes /s/ ,/ś/ and /z/

These phonemes are alveolar in place of articulation and fricative in manner of articulation; both /z/ and /ś/ are voiced v+, while /s/ is voiceless v-. /ś/ differs from the other two phonemes in that it is velarized.⁽²⁾ /s/ is followed by the following sounds in initial position : /n/, /f/, /y/, /b/, /l/, /k/, /p/, /m/, and /h/; *snoon* (teeth), *sneen* (years), *sfənij* (sponge), *syooʃ*(swords), *sbēnağ*(spinach), *slaħ* (weapon), *skafee*(shoe-maker; shoe-repairer), *sbanə* (spanner), *sbuâtēâēš*(seventeen), *spagit-tee* (spaghetti), *sloogee*(saluki), *slab*(dead body cloth; worthless cloth), *sminit*(cement)⁽³⁾ and *shal*(diarrhea)(Al-Khalesi, 2004:96).

In medial position, the phoneme /s/ is followed by /m/, /b/, /w/, /k/, /h/, /t/ and /j/ ; hence *bismar* (nail), *məsbəħ* (swimming pool), *əswəd* (black), *əsmər* (brown-faced), *yiskit*(to be silent), *yishər*(to stay late), *yistiħee*(to be

shy), *yisjid* (to prostrate(in prayer) , *yismən* (to be fat), (Woodhead and Beene,1967:123).

The phoneme /s/ is followed by /b/,/kh/,/m/,/y/,/t/,/ħ/ and /ğ/ in initial position ; *śboor* (pl.little fish), *śkhoonə* (fever), *śkham* (soot),*śmaṭ* (eating-carpet) ,*śmakh* (big head,brain),*śyakh* (skewers),*śtootə* (buckets), *śħoon* (dishes),and *śğar* (pl. little; small),(Erwin,2004:77).

In medial position,/s/ is followed by /m/,/n/,/f/,/ t /,/â /,/b/,/l/ and /r/;as in *məśmootə* (dried little fish as a food), *əśnam* (pagans, statues), *əśfər* (yellow), *bəśtiyə* (small roofless kiosk-like trading table) , *iśtə* (master, foreman), *yisâəd* (to go up), *iśbiâ* (finger), *əślee* (original), *yisbur* (to be patient) and *məśrəf* (bank), (Al-Khalesi,2001:119).

/z/ is followed by /n/ ,/b/ ,/l/ ,/w/, /y/, /ğ/ and /r/ in initial position; *znad* (trigger ;personal name), *zbalə* (trash) , *zlimə* (man) , *zlabyə* (pancakes) , *zwən* (diminutively good) , *zyan* (haircut), *zğeiroom* (little ; small), *zwaâ* (vomiting) , *zroof* (holes), *zrišk* (currant { in Baghdad dialect}), (Van Ess, 1961:74). In medial position , /z/ is

followed by /r/ as in *əzrəg* (blue) , (Woodhead and Beene,1967:18)

3.2. The Phonemes /θ/ ,/ð/ and /ḏ/

These phonemes are fricative in manner of articulation, and interdental in place of articulation. /ð/ and /ḏ/ are v+, whereas /θ/ is v-. Like /s/, /ḏ/ is a velarized phoneme.

In initial position, /θ/ is followed by /m/, /n/, /l/, /g/ , /kh/ and /w/ as in *θmanyə* (eight), *θnēn* (two), *θlēθiyə* (three-quarter of brick), *θmuntəâəš* (eighteen), *θgaʔ* (pl.heavy), *θkhan* (pl.thick) , *θwēnee* (personal name) , (Woodhead and Beene,1967:88).

In medial position, /θ/ is followed by /l/, /q/ and /r/ as in *məθloom*(cleft), *miθqal* (weight(of gold) and *yiθrim* (to mince), (Van Ess, 1961:110).

In initial position, /ð/ is followed by /y/ ; *ðyabə*(wolves), *ðyool* (tails), (Clarity et al.,2003:107). In medial position, /ð/ is followed by /b/ and /k/ as in

yiðbæħ (to slaughter), *yiðbæl* (to wither), and *yiðkir* (to remember), (Rahim and Farjo,1985:280).

In initial position, /ð/ is followed by /l/,/b/,/kh/ , as in *ðlooâ* (ribs),*ðbaâ* (hyenas), *ðkhan*(pl. thick),(Al-Khalesi,2001:44). In medial position, /ð/ is followed by /l/ as in *meðtoom* (oppressed), (ibid.).

3.3. The Phonemes /â/ and /ħ/

Both /â/ and /ħ/ are pharyngeal fricatives; the first is v+ and the second is v-.

In initial position, /â/ is followed by /n/ ,/z/,/l/,/y/, /r/,/ð/, and/d/. Hence , *ânad* (persistence; personal name),*âzaz*(pl.dear), *âlooč* (chewing gums), *âyoon*(eyes),*âyar* (measure;weight),*ârad* (pl.wide), *âdam* (bones), *âdam* (death punishment),*âroog* (wood grain; fried meat) and *âgał* (headband), (Hassan ,1981:44).

In medial position ,/â/ is followed by /d/,/j/, /z/,/q/, /ś/,/r/, /w/ and /g/ , as in *mêâdæn*(mineral),*mêâjoon* (paste),*yiâzil*(to depose ;to remove) , *yiâqid* (to tie; to knot),*yiâśir* (to squeeze),*yiâruf* (to know), *yiâwee*(to bark

{dog}), *yiâgid* (to knit), *yiâjin*(to paste; to kneed),(Jastrow, 1978:85).

In initial position, /ħ/ is followed by /ś/ ,/s/, /l/, /đ/,/č/, /z/,/r/ and /θ/, as in *ħśan* (horse), *ħsan* (generosity ; personal name),*ħsēn* (personal name), *ħloog* (mouths) , *ħđēree* (sort of waterbird), *ħčayə* (word; talk) , *ħzam* (belt), *ħroorə* (heat) and *ħθalə* (food leftovers: nobody),(Van Ess, 1961: 44).

In medial position,/ħ/ is followed by /l/ ,/b/,/f/,/s/,/ś/,/r/,/m/,/č/ and /đ/ as in *yiħlib*(to milk),*yiħbis*(to imprison),*yiħfur*(to dig),*yiħsib*(to count) , *yiħśid* (to envy),*yiħrig* (to burn), *yiħčee* (to talk),*yiħmee*(to protect) , *əħmər* (red), *yiħđər* (to be present;to attend),(Woodhead and Beene, 1967:60).

3.4. The Phonemes /ğ/ and /kh/

The phonemes /ğ/ and /kh/ are velar fricatives;/ğ/ is v+ and /kh/ is v-. In initial position, /ğ/ is followed by /r/ and /l/ as in *ğrab* (crow) , and *ğlaf* (cover) , (Al-Khalesi,2001:32). In medial position, /ğ/ is followed by /n/ as in *miğnəteeś* (magnate),(Van Ess,1961:37).

In initial position, /kh/ is followed by /y/,/d/,/w/,/m/ and /t/ , as in *khyar* (cucumber) , *khlood*(cheeks),*khwan*(brothers),*kmus̄təâš*(fifteen), *khtiyar* (choice; selection)and *khyat̄* (sewing)(Clarity et. al.2003:186).

In medial position, /kh/ is followed by /ḏ/, /s/,/j/,/b/,/t/,/l/, as in *əkhḏər* (green) , *yikhsər* (to lose), *yikhjəl* (to be shy), *yikhbus* (to make chaos), *yikhbuz*(to bake),*yikhtimir*(to be leavened) and *yikhliṭ* (to mix),(Erwin, 2004: 107).

3.5. The Phonemes /b/ , /t/ , /d/ , /ṭ/ and /q/

The phonemes /b/,/t/, /d/, /ṭ/ and /q/ are called plosives. /t/ and /d/ are

alveolar sounds;/b/ bilabial;/q/ uvular,and /ṭ/ interdental.In initial position

/b/ is followed by /ṭ /,/z/,/t/, /l/,/š/, /h/,/r/ and /ś/ , as in *bṭoon* (stomachs; abdomens),*bzeem* (buckle), *bladee* (native ; original), *bšarə*(good news), *btisamə* (smile), *bhar* (spice), *breesəm* (silk) ,*ibu brēs* (wall gecko) and *bśat̄* (rug) ,(Abu-Haidar,1991:75).

In medial position, /b/ is followed by /l/,/y/,/r/,/n/,/t/and /s/. Thus, *yiblêâ* (to swallow), *əbyəd* (white), *məbroosh* (mashed), *yibnee* (to build), *mubred* (fine), *yibtir* (to dislocate), *bibsee* (pepsi) and *bsirêâ* (quickly), (Al-Khalesi, 2001:57).

In initial position ,/t/ is followed by /r/,/l/ and /f/, as in *trab* (dust ; sand), *tlaθə*(three), *trak*(sportive shirt), *tlool*(hills), *tłəttəâš*(thirteen), *tfal*(spitting), (Al-Khalesi,2004:28).

And in medial position, /t/is followed by /r/ as in *yitrik* (to leave; to let) , (Mansour,1991:26).

In initial position , /d/ , is followed by /r/ , /m/ , /h/ and /n/ .Thus , *drēčil* (tractor), *dmooâ* (tears), *dhok* (place name), *dnan* (dirty stains) , *dnaneer* (Dinars) , (Clarity et al.,2003:46).

In medial position,/d/ is followed by /r/,/f/ and /w/, as in *yidris* (to study), *yidree* (to know), *yidfêâ* (to push; to pay), *yidwee* (to be ignited) , *yidfur* (to hit), *mədrəsə* (school) , (Aziz,1974:166-167).

In initial position , /q/ is followed by /m/, /l/ , /r/ and /š/. Henceforth ,
qmaš (fabric), *qlamə* (pens; pencils), *qrood* (monkeys),
qsoor (palaces) , (Mansour,1991:68).

In medial position,/q/ is followed by /f/,/š/,/r/,/l/,/n/,/b/
and /č/ as in *yiqlful* (to lock), *yiqlšuf* (to strike(in battle) ,
təqreer (report), *təqleem* (cutting; clipping), *yiqlnus* (to
target) , *yiqlbəđ* (to receive), *yiqlbəl* (to accept) and
əqčəm (a small lorry)(Clarity et al., 2003:84).

In initial position , /t/ is followed by /w/ ,/r/,/n/ and /b/.
Hence, *twəreej* (place name), *trag*(slap), *twaf*
(pl.tall;high), *tnəâəš* (twelve), *tbarə* (axes), *tnoon*
(tons),(Erwin, 2004b:28).

In medial position, /t/ is followed by /r/,/l/,/b/ ,/w/ ,/f/ and
/m/, as in *yitrid* (to fire,dismiss), *yitrib*(to seek), *yitbəkh*(to
cook), *yitwee* (to roll), *yitləâ*(to go out) , *yitfir*(to jump),
yitməs (to stick),(Rahim and Farjo,1985:270).

3.6. The Phonemes /k/ and /g/

The Phonemes /k/ and /g/ are velar plosives; /k/ is v- and /g/ is v+. In initial position, /g/ is followed by /m/, /r/, /l/, /r/ and /d/, as in *gmaṭ* (swaddle), *grab* (sheath), *gṭadə* (necklace), *groom* (horns), *gṭob* (lamp), *gwamə* (tribal retribution), *gdoor = jdoor* (cooking pots) (Woodhead and Beene, 1967:64).

In medial position, /g/ is followed by /â/, /d/ and /r/. Thus, *yigâid* (to sit), *yigdər* (to be able), *yigṭim* (to clip), *âəgroog* (frog), *nigrə* (hole), (Jastrow, 1978:33).

In initial position, /k/ is followed by /r/, /š/, /w/, /b/, /l/, /r/ and /m/, as in *krəfus* (celery), *kšaš* (hay), *kwēt* (kuwait), *kbar* (pl. big; large), *klēčə* (cookie), *klētə* (headwear), *kramiyə* (tip; bonus), *kraâ* (feet/ legs of cow or sheep as food), *kmēt* (place name), (Al-Khalesi, 2004 : 97). In medial position, /k/ is followed by /s/, /r/ and /w/; thus, *miksarə* (can opener), *šukrən* (thank you), and *yikwee* (to iron) (Hassan, 1981:30).

3.7. The Phonemes /f/ ,/š/ and /h/

The Phonemes /f/ ,/š/ and /h/ are v- fricatives ; /f/ is labio-dental, /š/ is palato-alveolar and /h/ is glottal. In initial position, /f/ is followed by /l/ ,/r/ , /s/ ,/y/ and /t/ , as in *floos* (money) , *fsooś* (little pieces), *flan* (somebody; someone), *fleet* (insecticidal sprayer), *frag* (missing) , *fraš*(bed), *frookh* (male offspring(human and non-human) , *fsēfis* (turkey) , *ftir* (mushroom), *fyooee* (pl. shades) and *fyale* (elephants), (Van Ess,1961:74).

In medial position, /f/ is followed by /y/ , /l/ and /r/. Henceforth, *bofyə* (buffet) , *həflə*(party) , *mufɾəd* (retail sale),(Rahim and Farjo , 1985:267).

In initial position /š/ is followed by /â/ ,/m/ ,/w/ ,/r/ ,/k/ ,/kh/ ,/l/ and /n/ ,as in *šâeer* (barley) , *šmooâ* (candles), *šwei-yə* (little) , *šraâ*(sail), *škool*(different people) , *škheer* (snort), *šwəkit* (when), *šlon* (how), *šnaw* (ups-and-downs), (Al-Khalesi,2001:81).

In medial position ,/š/ is followed by /l/ ,/w/ ,/r/ ,/b/ ,/kh/ ,/k/ ,/h/ , /ħ/ , /t/ and /t/. Hence , *nəšlə* (flu), *sišwar* (hair-dryer), *âišreen* (twenty), *yišbəâ*(to be sufficient (of food), *yiškir* (to thank), *yišhəd* (to witness; to testify), *yišhəṭ* (to while eating) , *yištibih* (to suspect), *yišrəb* (to

drink), *yišwee* (to grill), and *yištīb*(to delete),(Abu-Haidar , 1991:55).

In initial position, /h/ is followed by /n/,/w/,/d/ and /l/, as in *hnak* (there), *hwayə* (more), *hna* (here), *hdəâəš* (eleven), *hdoom* (clothes), and *hlal* (crescent ; personal name) ,(Erwin,2004:69). In medial position, /h/ is followed by /w/,/ð/,/d/,/t/ and /č/. Hence, *gəhwə*(coffee;coffee shop)*yihðee* (to hallucinate), *yihdim* (to destroy),*yihtəm*(to care),and *yihčee*(to speak), (Hassan, 2002:82).

3.8.The Phonemes /j/ and /č/

/j/ and /č/ are post-alveolar affricates; the first is v+ and the second is v-. In initial position, /j/ is followed by /l/,/ w/,/n/,/y/, /n/ and /r/ , as in *jilad* (book cover) , *jwareeb* (socks) , *jwareen* (neighbours) , *jnood* (troops), *jyoob* (pockets), *jdoor* (cooking pots),*jnazə*(funeral), *jrood* (worn clothes), *jrooñ* (wounds), (Woodhead and Beene,1967:86).

In medial position,/j/ is followed by /r/, /m/ and /b/,thus ,*yijrəñ* (to wound), *yijməd* (to be frozen), *yijbur* (to reconcile: to plaster: to oblige), (Jastrow , 1978:82).

In initial position ,/č/ is followed by /m/,/l/,/f/ and /y/,as in *čmağ*(yashmak (headcover), *člab* (dogs), *foof* (gloves), *čwalat* (personal belongings), *čyoos* (bags),*čmalə* (in addition; moreover) , (Clarity et al. ,2003:43).

In medial position, /č/ is followed by /f/ and /w/, hence, *yičfee*(to spill (a liquid or food), and *yičwee* (to cauterize), (Al-Khalesi ,2004:55).

3.9. The Phonemes /m/ and /n/

Both /m/ and /n/ are v+ nasals, /m/ is bilabial , while /n/ is alveolar.

In initial position, /m/ is followed by /r/,/g/,/kh/,/â/,/ś/,/k/,/l/,/b/,/n/,/t/,/č/ and /ğ/,as in *mrad* (wish,desire), *mgəd-dee= mjəd-dee* (beggar), *mkhad* (pillows) ,*mâanid* (persistent),*mśētir* (well-positioned) *mkəs-sib* (crusty), *mlooñə* (salinity), *mrayə* (mirror), *mbarək* (congratulation), *mnawəščee* (builder's helper) , *mtiñan* (exam), *mtiyaz* (previlige), *mčaree* (muleteer; donkey-driver), *mbel-lel* (wet), and *mğərbəf* (mixed), (Aziz,1974:167).

In medial position, /m/ is followed by /l/,/s/ and /š/. Thus, *əmləħ* (gray), *yimsəħ* (to wipe), *təmlēek* (possession), *yimšee* (to walk) ,(Mansour, 1991:52).

In initial position ,/n/ is followed by /s/, /kh/,/d/,/š/,/z/ and /j/, as in *nsabə* (relatives), *nkhaṭə* (bran), *ndərdisħ*(we chat), *nšaṭ-ṭə*(God willing), *nzool* (damn), *njawub* (we answer) (Woodhead and Beene, 1967:103).

In medial position, /n/ is followed by /t/,/b/,/z/,/j/ and /š/. Hence , *yintee* (to give) , *yinbiš* (to exhume) ,*yintəħ* (to hit(by head)), *yinzil* (to go down), *yinsəħ* (to advise),*sinjab* (squirrel),(Woodhead and Beene, 1967:97).

3.10. The Phonemes /r/ and /w/

The phonemes /r/ and /w/ are approximants;/r/ is v+ post-alveolar and /w/ is v- bilabial.In initial position,/r/ is followed by /g/,/b/,/f/,/m/, /k/ and /y/, as in *rgab* (necks), *rbaṭ* (necktie), *rfoof*(shelves),*rmooš* (eyelashes), *rkab* (stirrup), *ryajeel* (men),(Hassan ,1981:72).

In medial position, /r/ is followed by /m/,/g/,/s/,/j/,/f/ ,/s/,/b/,/k/,/h/ and /ğ/. Hence, *tirmiz* (thermos:air-tight

container), *hirmis* (little bugs), *sirgee* (door hinge), *khirde* (money change), *kursee* (chair), *yirjêâ* (to return), *yirmee* (to shoot), *yirfêâ* (to lift), *yirsim* (to draw {a picture}), *yirbêh* (to win; to gain), *yirkêb* (to ride), *mêrhêm* (ointment) and *burġuĥ* (bulgur), Mansour, 1991:130)

The phoneme /w/ has no medial position. It has initial position only, as it is followed by /ħ/, /d/, /l/, /š/, as in *wĥeidê* (woman), *wdaâtêk* (by your life {swearing}), *wlêd* (little boy), *wšeeêâ* (skein; of string) and *wšalê* (trivial amount of juice or water) (Abu-Haidar, 1991:62).

3.11. The Phoneme /l/

The phoneme /l/ is v+ alveolar lateral. It has two realizations; light /l/ and dark /ɫ/. In initial position, /l/ is followed /s/ and /ħ/, as in *lsan* (tongue) and *lĥaf* (blanket), (Al-Khalesi, 2004:64).

In medial position, /l/ is followed by /w/, /z/, /â/, /b/, /g/, /č/, /d/, /s/, /m/, /w/ and /h/. Thus, *yilwee* (to twist), *yilzê* (to hold), *yilâêb* (to play), *yilbês* (to wear), *yilguf* (to catch), *yilčim* (to scratch), *yildêġ* (to bite), *yilsêâ* (to bite), *yilmêâ* (to shine), *elwan* (colours), *yilhê* (to

pant), *yilgə* (to find), *məlčoom* (cauterized), (Erwin, 2004:55).

4. OTHER AREAS OF CC's FORMATION

There are other areas in which CC's are formed. Some of these areas are lexical .i.e., a given CC is formed in the word related, and others are not lexical , in which case CC's are triggered by other aspects such grammar and the like .

4.1. Plurals

Most words in SIA are characterized by an initial CC when these words are in plural. No such CC is formed when these words in are used singular. Many plurals in SIA have shown to have an initial CC's.

The sound sequence of these words ranges from CCVC and CCVCV to CCVCVC , hence *rdan* (sleeves), *blam* (boats) , *đyabə* (wolves), *gfoob* (hearts) , *âyal* (family members), *gboor* (tombs) , *črookh* (wheels), *ğyoom* (clouds), *gšoor* (fruit skin), *tyoor*(birds), *qfałə* (locks), *šwarib* (moustaches),
sneen(years), *jbal*(mountains), *jfoon*(eyelids), *zrar*

(buttons), *mšaʔ* (combs), *âʕooġ* (branches), *zloof* (sideburns), *syooʔ* (swords), *mtoon* (shoilders), *dmooâ* (tears), *krakə* (shovels), *mšaʔə* (combs) , *btoon* (stomachs; abdomens), *khšoom* (noses) , *bšooš* (geese), *dboobə* (bears), *khwan* (brothers), *ryajeel* (men), *blamə*(boats), *snoon*(teeth), *šhoor*(months), *qsoor* (palaces), *bʔaʔə*(bottles), *kwabə*(cups)(Woodhead and Beene,1967:88-89)

Some plurals, which are adjectival in form ,show initial CC's, and these are also used as nouns , since there is no differentiation between adjectives and nouns in Arabic , particularly at the sentence level. These include *ʔwaʔ*(long;tall), *gśar*(short), *ârađ* (wide), *mtan* (thick; coarse), *sman* (fat) , *śġar* (small ; young) , *kbar*(big ; old), *khfaf* (light) , *ʕgaʔ* (heavy), (Al-Khalesi,2004:33).

4.2.Borrowings

Some words that are borrowed from other languages carry CC's.These words generally retain the same pronunciation when they are used in SIA.

Most borrowings from English contain initial CC's and they carry one of these phonemes as the pre-initial consonant ; /b/,/p/,/f/,/s/,/t/, /k/,/g/, and /š/, whereas the initial consonant is often /r/,/l/,/b/, /t/ or /l/.b/ as in *bloz* (blouse) , *blok* (block), *blayis* (pliers), *bronz*(bronze) and *brēk* (brake) (Woodhead and Beene , 1967:26). /p/ as in *prēmiz* (primus stove), (Al-Khalesi, 2004:43). /s/ as in *srinjə* (syringe), *sbortee* (sportive ; lively) , *stad* (stadium), *sbanə* (spanner) and *stəndər* (standard) , (Clarity et al, 2003 : 45). /k/ as in *krēn* (crane),*kreem* (cream), *klinis* (kleenex), *klibis* (staples;clips), *klēčə* (stuffed cake)⁽⁴⁾ and *kləč* (clutch),(Erwin,2004: 66). /t/ as in *trēlə* (trailor), *triktər* (tractor), and *tray*(trial; attempt),(Van Ess, 1961:46). /g/ as in *gʻaś* (glass) and *greez*(grease).(ibid.). /f/ as in *frēzər* (freezer) , *flawənzə* (flu) , *flaween* (flying wheel), and *flənjə* (flange), (Abu-Haidar ,1991:85). /š/ as in *štaygər* (sticking tiles) (Woodhead and Beene,1967:75).

There are certain few words which originally carry no initial CC and they are pronounced with initial CC in SIA,as in *gzoz* (exhaust pipe).There are other words in SIA of initial and medial CC's which are borrowed from

other languages. These include Persian *stikan* (teacup), French *sechoir* (hair-dryer), and Turkish *klaw* (sort of head cover),(Mansour,1991:144).

4.3. Personal Names

Many personal names in SIA begin with initial CC's. Such CC is formed due to the elision of the medial vowel in these names, that is known as *syncope*, as in *ânad*, *gzar*, *jwad*, *swadee*, *âlēwee*, *sbahee*, *šhab*, *znad*, *mzañim*, *sâood*, *trad*, *ñsan* and *ñsēn* (Al-Khalesi,2004:112-113).

4.4. Diminutives

Diminutives are another area in which CC's are formed. Some words in SA are made diminutive in SIA and this results in initial CC's, as for example in *msēčeen* SA : *miskeen* (poor, unlucky), *bnei-yə* SA : *bint* (girl, maiden), *skootee* SA: *sakit* (silent ; secretive), *ñsēnee* SA: *ñsan* (fox) { lit. little horse}, *mrei-yə* and SA: *imrəʔə* (woman),(Al-Khalesi,2001:78). There are diminutives in SIA which are not based on SA and yet begin with initial CC, such as *bzēzeen* (kitten), and

mñēbis (ringlet : a sort of folk game), (Clarity et al.,2003:33-34).

4.5.Ellipsis

Sometimes CC's are formed due to the deletion of a sound in a word. The sounds deleted are either the initial or the medial ones and therefore an initial CC is likely to occur.

The first type is the deletion of initial sound,short vowel /i/.Such deletion is motivated by rapid speech in words with lexically medial CC's ,which thus results in initial CC's. Hence , *braheem*, *smaâeel*, *štinaâee* (artificial; industrial),*sbooâ*(week), *htizaz*(vibration), *stiqbal* (reception: living room), *zdiñam*(crowd), *stiâlamat*(information office), *stinsakh* (copying), *stiâdad* (readiness),*rtibať* (link) , *rtifaâ* (height), *nkisar* (regression),*ntiha?* (finish; expiration) ,*ltiwa?* (twisting), *nñibas* (locking; retention), *ndilaâ* (outbreak), *ntišar* (spread).(Al-Khalesi, 2001:67).

The second type is the deletion of the medial vowel in words from SA. The medial sound is often the vowel /u/.Therefore,words like *tureed* (you/ she wants), *tusafir*

(you/she travels) and *tuqabil* (you/ she meets) in SA become *treed,tsafir* and *tqabil* in SIA (Woodhead and Beene,1967:34).

There is a minor type of sound ellipsis,that is of / / of the article *il* (the) in words to which this article is prefixed. Thus, words like *sei-yarə* (car) will be pronounced as *is-sei-yarə* (the car) ; a medial germination of /s/ is formed and / / of *il* is deleted due to a regressive assimilation. However , there is another pronunciation in which the definite article is used. Here, no germination is produced. Instead , a medial CC is formed , hence *ilsei-yarə*. The same thing applies to words begin with /s/, /d/, /t/, /z/, /š/, /ś/, /θ/ /ʔ/, /ð/, /č/, /j/, /r/ and /n/ when the definite article is used at the beginning of these words.

4.6.Grammatical Aspects

There are a few grammatical aspects which are significant as CC's are formed therein.

4.6.1. The Prepositional Prefix b-

When the prefix *b* -(in/at) is added to words, initial CC's are formed as in *bhay* (in/at this) , *bđolə* (in/at those), *bkēfək* (at your ease) , *brañtək* (take it easy) , *bdaâət* (by...life{swearing})(Jastrow,1978:107).

4.6.2. The Prefix n-

A prefix that is used to mark first person pl. in verbs, as in *njawib* (we answer) , *nñawil* (we try) , *ndawim* (we keep on something) , *nñačae* (we talk to) and *nbawiâ* (we look at),(Clarity et al.2003:76).

4.6.3. The Interrogative Prefix š-

This prefix is added to words to produce questions, and therefore initial CC's are formed, as in *šgəd*(how much?), *šwakit* (when?/ at what time?), *šlon* (how?), *šmalək* (what is wrong with you?), *šâindək* (what do you have?/ what have you got?), *šrayid* (what do you want?), *šdêâwə* (why is it such?/ how come it is so and so ?) , *ššayir* (what is going on ? / what happens?) , *šâindək* (what(do you have)?), *šbeek* (what is wrong with you?), *šsəw-wə*(what did he do?) and *šmədreek*(how could you know?), (Al-Khalesi,2004:77).

4.6.4. Participle Adjectives

There are participle adjectives begin or formed with *m* -,denoting a reception of an activity or action , or a certain quality.The CC's formed in these words are initial and they consist of /m/ as the pre-initial consonant followed by another sound. Of these adjectives are *mdəl-ləl* (spoilt), *mdomin* (dominating) , *msəlfən* (wrapped with a fine metal) , *mdəâbəl* (spheroid : ball-shaped), *mzənjir* (rusty) , *mdəh-hən* (covered with oil), *mšək-kəl*(assorted),*mkherbət* (missed up; untidy),*mâəf-fin*(rotten; mould), *mkhət-tiś*(finished;none),*mğəl-lis*(inattentive),*msəlhim*(sleepy) , *mbəsmər* (nailed ; stuck), *mjər-riš* (chilled) , *mkei-yif* (glad; delighted), *mñei-yər* (puzzling;confused),*mâəl-ləm*(learned),*mdənfəš* (jocular;funny), *mzərgəš* (ornamented),*mləñ-ñig*(catching up with),*mrəâbət*(ill-mannered)*mfər-rəč* (brushed: rubbed) , *mnəâ-âis* (drowsy), *mčəknəm* (cozy ; comfortable), *msəkrəb* (worn out) (car)),*mfəl-lis* (bankrupt; broke), *mkəhrəb*(electrified), *mkəs-sib* = *mjəs-sib*(crusty), (Woodhead and Beene,1967:94).

5. FINDINGS

1. The study finds that the pronunciation of most words, with CC's initial or medial, proceed through three main forms, according to which an initial or medial CC's are identified or not, when these words are pronounced in both SA and SIA.

Table (1) below shows how this happens in four words from SA ; *kitab* (book), *huna* (here), *ṪḷaṪḷ* (three), and *ḥiṣan* (horse).⁽⁵⁾

Table (1)

Main Forms of Pronunciation in some words in SIA

SA	SIA	SIA
1.CVCV	1.CCV	1.VCCV
2. Zero CC's	2.Initial CC	2.Medial CC
3.No vowel elision or Intrusion	3.Elision of medial vowel (syncope)	3.Intrusion of initial vowel (prothesis)
<i>huna</i>	<i>hna</i>	<i>ihna</i>
<i>kitab</i>	<i>ktab</i>	<i>iktab</i>
<i>ṪḷaṪḷ</i>	<i>tlaṪḷ</i>	<i>itlaṪḷ</i>
<i>ḥiṣan</i>	<i>ḥiṣan</i>	<i>iḥiṣan</i>

2. SIA speakers break up final and medial CC's when pronouncing words from SA by inserting a vowel (epenthesis) usually a short one at the end of these words ; *ism* → *isim* (name); *qəbl* → *qəbil* (before); *šəâb* → *šəâub* (difficult).

3. Because three-consonant cluster does not exist in SIA ,Iraqi EFL learners break up this cluster in English words beginning with three consonants. The said learners insert a vowel (epenthesis) separating the first consonant from the other two ones. Therefore , words like *street*, *spring* and *student* are pronounced as *sitreet* , *sipring* and *situdent*.

4. Moreover, some EFL learners encounter difficulty in producing CC's correctly as they insert an initial vowel (prothesis) at the beginning of words with two consonants in the pronunciation of these words, hence, words such as *sky*, *special* and *smart* are pronounced as *isky* , *ispecial* and *ismart*.

6. PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

1.The study indicates that Iraqi EFL Learners generally face a difficulty in producing CC's in the pronunciation of

English words , especially those words which begin with initial CC's.

2. This difficulty in producing initial CC's in English need to be observed and taken care of when teaching phonology for Iraqi EFL Learners.

7. CONCLUSIONS

1. CC's occur only in initial and medial position(s) of the word.

2. CC's in SIA consists of two consonant sounds. There is no three consonant cluster at the lexical form of the single word. Three consonant cluster is sometimes formed through the grammatical behaviour of the word,as with words with lexically initial CC when the definite article *il*(the) is prefixed to these words, hence *ħzam*(belt)→ *ilħzam* (the belt),and *qlam* (pencils) → *ilqlam* (the pencils).

3. Initial CC's , with regard to lexical form of words can be summed up as follows :

1. CCVC → *floos* (money)

2.CCVCV→ *ħjarə* (stone)

3.CCVVCV → *jwareen* (neighbours)

4.CCVVCV → *stiraḥə* (rest)

4. Medial CC's, with regard to lexical form of words can be summed up as follows :

1.CVCCVC → *məsreḥ* (theatre)

2.CVCCV → *khəmsə* (five)

3.CVCVCCVC → *musəlsəl* (series; drama)

5. Initial CC's are possible with all consonant sounds in SIA, except for the sounds /p/ , /ʔ/ and /y/.

6. CC in SIA is either initial or medial. Final CC does not exist in SIA and it is confined to few words, all of which are borrowings from English such as *šort* (shorts), *sink* (sink), *bənk* (bank), *sənt* (cent) and *kart* (cart).

7. Words in SIA often consist of single CC and a simultaneous (initial and medial) CC is a rarity. Initial and medial CC are found in words like *skəmlee* (chair), *zrišk* (currant), *zlabyə* (pancakes), *brēāsee* (wall gecko)

and *msəlfən* (covered). Such words are CCVCC, CCVCCV or CCVCCVC as far as sound sequence is concerned.

8. Initial and medial CC's does not exist in SA. In SA , there is final CC's only, particularly in monosyllabic words. e.g. *jism*(body), *qəlb* (heart), and *ħərf* (letter).

9. In borrowings, SIA speakers either retain the same native pronunciation or they insert an epenthetic vowel ; *stikan* = *istikan* /stika:n/ (teacup), *stērin* = *stērin* /stl:riŋ/ (steering).

8. TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PHONEMES MENTIONED IN THIS PAPER⁽⁶⁾

8.1. CONSONANTS

- 1./b/ v- bilabial plosive as in Eng. bank
- 2./d/ v+ alveolar plosive as in Eng. date
- 3./t/ v- alveolar plosive as in Eng. tent
- 4./k/ v- velar plosive as in Eng. crane
- 5./j/ v+ post-alveolar affricate as in Eng. just
- 6./l/ v+ alveolar lateral as in Eng. late
- 7./m/ v+ bilabial nasal as in Eng. film
- 8./n/ v+ alveolar nasal as in Eng. night
- 9./g/ v+ velar plosive as in Eng. globe
- 10./s/ v- alveolar fricative as in Eng. mass
- 11./h/ v- glottal fricative as in Eng. height

- 12./č/ v- post-alveolar affricate as in Eng. chase
- 13./w/ v- bilabial approximant as in Eng. wind
- 14./z/ v+ alveolar fricative as in Eng. busy
- 15./θ/ v+ interdental fricative as in Eng. three
- 16./ð/ v- interdental fricative as in Eng. this
- 17./r/ v+ post-alveolar approximant as in Eng. rest
- 18./f/ v- labio-dental fricative as in Eng. fine
- 19./y/ v+ palatal semivowel as in Eng. year
- 20./š/ v- palato-alveolar fricative as in Eng. mission
- 21./ğ/ v+ velar fricative as in SA ġabə (forest)
- 22./p/ v- bilabial plosive as in Eng. pilot
- 23./kh/ v- velar fricative as in Scottish loch
- 24./q/ v- uvular plosive as in SA qəleel (little)
- 25./â/ v+ pharyngeal fricative as in SA âəsəl (honey)
- 26./ś/ v+ alveolar velarized fricative as in SIA śēf (summer)
- 27./t̤/ v- interdental velarized plosive as in SIA t̤əreeq (road)
- 28./ħ/ v- pharyngeal fricative as in SA ħəyat (life)
- 29./ḏ/ v+ interdental velarized fricative as in SIA ḏil(shade); ḏubab (fog)
- 30./ʔ/ v- glottal plosive as in SA maʔ (water)

8.2. VOWELS

- 1./a/ long open unrounded as in Eng. car
- 2./ee/ long close front spread as in Eng. wheat
- 3./ē/ long mid-front spread as in SIA lēl (night)
- 4./ou/ long mid-back rounded as in Eng. coal
- 5./u/ as in short half-open front unrounded as in Eng. cut
- 6./oo/ long close back rounded as in Eng. school
- 7./i/ short half-close front spread as in Eng. sit
- 8./u/ short half-close back rounded as in eng. good
- 9./ə/ short half-open front unrounded as in Eng. ago
- 10./ay/ close diphthong as in Eng. my
- 11./ei/ close diphthong as in Eng. way
- 12./au/ close diphthong as in Eng. cow

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10. CONVENTIONS USED

1. SIA Spoken Iraqi Arabic
2. SA Standard Arabic
3. Eng. English
4. v- voiceless
5. v+ voiced
6. pl. plural
7. - gemination
8. ; similar or related meanings
9. : different meanings
10. lit. literally
11. / / transcription
12. = alternative pronunciations
13. { } explanation

11. NOTES

(1) The IPA symbols of Arabic sounds , especially consonants are not used here , and letters and letter-based symbols are used instead. The sporadic use of IPA symbols throughout the paper is only to show the wrong pronunciation of some words in English.

(2) It means a movement of the back part of the tongue towards the lips. Thus, the sound is given a distinctive back resonance. (Crystal, 1992:371).

(3) This word has several other variations , most of which are of initial CC's ; *sminit* , *smint* , *smeed* , *šbintoo* and *simeed*.

(4) Both *klēčə* (stuffed cookie) and *kəleešə* (cliché) though refer to two different things in SIA, are in fact taken from one word in English, that is *cliché* and the meanings of the two former words are modeled according to the word which means *stereotype* or *platitute*. (Wikipedia,2010:2).

(5) This applies almost to all words which are both monosyllabic and CVCVC in sequence.

(6) The transcription of the sounds of SIA is based on that given in Nasr (1979:22), Al-Khalesi (2001:8) and Clarity et al.(2003:12) .