

A Phonological Analysis of Vowel Intrusion, Elision and ?imaala (Deflexion) in HIA with Reference to English

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Abstract

The present study deals with three phonological phenomena in Hit Iraqi Arabic (HIA) with reference to standard English (SE). These phenomena are vowel intrusion, elision, and ?imaala (deflexion). This dialect is one of the 'qeltu-dialects' used in Iraq and spoken by people live in Hit city to the west of Iraq. This study aims at determining the main differences between HIA and SE in the phonological phenomena mentioned above. The study hypothesizes that there is such difference. In this empirical study, the spontaneous speech of the individuals who speak HIA has been recorded in natural setting. The three phonological phenomena that concern this study have been explained briefly before starting the phonological analysis of the data collected about HIA. When analyzing the examples taken from the data to point out the intruded, elided and imalized vowels, the way these examples are written and pronounced in standard Arabic (SA) has also been mentioned to know the extent to which HIA is similar or different from SA. This helps to enrich the analysis of the data and make it more authentic. The analysis of the data comes up with a number of conclusions.

1-Introduction

The present study attempts to investigate certain phonological phenomena in Hit Iraqi Arabic (HIA) with reference to standard English (SE), namely, vowel elision, intrusion and ?imaala (deflexion). To the best of the researcher's knowledge, the phonological analysis of HIA has not been tackled before with the exception of AL- Abdely's work (2002) which dealt with the syllable and syllabification in HIA and SE. Hence, contrasting the phonological phenomena mentioned above will shed more light on this Iraqi Arabic dialect as it is assumed by the researcher.

HIA is spoken by people who live in a small city called Hit situated on the Euphrates to the west of Iraq. According to AL-Ani (1989: 89), Iraqi dialects are divided into two groups: 'qeltu'-dialect' (I said) and 'gelt- dialect' (I said). See also palva (2009: 17-18). Blane (1962) cited in Ali (1977:316) adds that the first dialect is older than the second in Iraq. HIA belongs to 'qeltu – dialect' which is mainly found in Mosul and Tikrit on the Tigris and Ana and Hit on the Euphrates. (Al-Ani, 1989:89). The above classification of Iraqi Arabic dialects is based on a phonological phenomenon. It is worth mentioning that the pronunciation of /q/ and its reflexes, in Iraq, play an important role on the social, geographical, linguistic and communal levels. The pronunciation of /q/ and its distribution in Iraq are the main features that result in the above classification .

This paper investigates various utterances taken from the talks and conversations of native speakers of HIA. It deals with conversations and talks related to social, economic, educational, religious, sport, etc. aspects. The main aim of it is to determine the major differences between HIA and SE in the phonological issues studied . It is hypothesized that there are such differences.

The present study is not concerned with what is so –called Ramadi Arabic which is the dialect spoken by many people who live in the rural areas surrounding Hit city and other parts of Anbar governorate to the west of Iraq . This dialect belongs to another group of Iraqi dialects ,i.e., 'gelt-dialect'. As concerns standard Arabic (SA) ,it will be referred to where necessary to enrich the phonological analyses that concern the utterances spoken by HIA speakers.

2- Population of the Study

This study is limited to people who speak HIA. Their original homeland is Hit city which is situated in the governorate of Anbar to the west of Iraq. It is situated on both sides of the Euphrates. The people involved in this investigation are from different ages and professions. Both males and females are included. Arabic is the native language of those who speak HIA ; moreover, no overt dialectal differences have been detected since they all live in Hit city . However ,even the people who live in this city and speak HIA pronounce a certain number of words differently . This may be related to the differences in their ages and education . It is noted that those who are old,males or females , and have poor education, in general, tend to use the original variety of pronunciation of HIA, which this study adopts, as they have learned from their ancestors. They are conservative people who are characterized of having less contact with other people who do not speak HIA. The young and well-educated people who study SA usually use a variety of pronunciation which is ,to a certain extent , similar to that of SA. For 'وَاقِفٌ' /waaqif/'standing' and 'قَاعِدٌ' /qaa9id instance, in the words' 'sitting' used in SA, the long vowel /aa/ is pronounced /oo/ by HIA speakers of the first group. They usually

say /wooqif/ and /qoo9id/.The people of the second group tend to retain the pronunciation of /aa/ as the case in SA. This study will refer to any difference in the pronunciation of any word in HIA when analysing the data collected.The utterances of HIA speakers who live in any other city or village are not recorded because they may be affected by other dialects.

3-Methodology

In collecting the data in the present study, the technique followed, among others, is the ethnographic approach which refers to the spontaneous speech in natural setting. The pioneering figure in the use of this method is Hymes (1962). It derives from anthropology .This method is adopted by some other researchers in their studies like Manes and Wolfson (1981).They consider it as the only reliable method for collecting data in daily interaction.

The present study is an empirical one which consists of various interviews (conversations, talks) with people speaking HIA on different topics usually used in daily life. A reliable tape recorder was used to record the talks and conversations between the people themselves .The data collected are phonemically transcribed by the researcher who also knows HIA and SA.

The people engaged in the talks and conversations are aged between 10-65 years. They have normal hearing and no known speech defects. The sample selected includes mainly males because the researcher could easily meet them in the streets, shops ,offices, schools and even at homes. In addition, they usually accept to record their talks and conversations .As concerns females, the talks and conversations recorded are limited to the families of relatives and friends due to two reasons .Firstly, they do not interact with

outsiders. Secondly, they do not accept to record their talks and conversations because of religious and /or social factors.

4-The Iraqi Arabic Segmental Symbols Adopted*

The present study adopts the segmental symbols given by Erwin (1963) and Al-Hamash (1969). However, the researcher takes into account that /g/ and /tS/ consonant sounds are not used by HIA speakers except in few words like /ginijja/ 'bag' and /tSima/ 'truffle'. In HIA, /g/, for instance, in /galli/ 'He said to me' is replaced by /q/ to be pronounced /qalli/. The consonant sound /tʃ/ in /tʃibiir/ 'big', for example, is replaced by /k/ to be pronounced /kbiir/. Accordingly, there is no need to be included within the phonetic symbols used in the present work. In addition, the consonant sound /d̥/ as in /d̥ahar/ 'back' is replaced by /ð/ as in /beeð/ 'eggs' when pronounced by HIA speakers. Therefore, only the phonetic symbol /ð/ is considered in this paper. It is relevant to note that the phonemic transcription of the Arabic examples stand for the symbols is according to the pronunciation of HIA speakers.

The following key of phonetic symbols is used throughout this research.

A. The consonants

/b/ ب as in /beet/ 'house'

/d/ د as in /wilid/ 'boys'

* The researcher believes that there is no need to mention the SE segmental phonemes because they are well-known. In this paper, the researcher adopts those of Roach (2009) with some modifications. Their adoption is for simplicity.

as in /tamur/ 'dates' ت /t/

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-
- / t̤ / ط as in /t̤eer/ 'bird'
/ k / ك as in /kariim/ 'generous'
/ q / ق as in /qalam/ 'pencil'
/ ʔ / أ as in /ʔinta/ 'you' (male)
/ f / ف as in /filfil/ 'green pepper'
/ ð / ذ as in /ðiib/ 'wolf'
/ ð̣ / ض as in /beeð̣/ 'eggs'
/ s / س as in /saqif/ 'ceiling'
/ ṣ / ص as in /ṣabur/ 'patience'
/ ʃ / ش as in /ʃakar/ 'sugar'
/ ɣ / غ as in /ʔizɣajjir/ 'small, young'
/ x / خ as in /xatir/ 'dangerous'
/ ʕ / ع as in /ʕeeb/ 'shame'
/ ḥ / ح as in /ḥuut/ 'whale'
/ h / ه as in /hawa/ 'air'
/ dʒ / ج as in /dʒimʕa/ 'Friday'
/ m / م as in /muʕallim/ 'teacher'
/ n / ن as in /namil/ 'ants'
/ l / ل as in /qamla/ 'louse'
/ r / ر as in /aħmar/ 'red'
/ w / و as in /warda/ 'rose'
/ j / ي as in /jiʃtiri/ 'buy'

B- The Vowels

/ii/ as in /tiin/ 'figs'

/i/ as in /zibid/ 'butter'

/ee/ as in /ġeef/ 'guest'

/a/ as in /laham/ 'meat'

/aa/ as in /raasi/ 'my head'

/o/ as in /radjon/ 'radio'

/oo/ as in /noom/ 'sleeping'

/u/ as in /tubba/ 'ball'

/uu/ as in /duuda/ 'worm'

/aw/ as in /awqoof/ 'endowments'

/aaw/ as in /klaaw/ 'head dress'

/ay/ as in /fay/ 'shadow'

/aaj/ as in /hwaajtu/ 'his hobby'

/ooj/ as in /booj/ 'waiter'

5-Certain Phonological Processes

The present study tackles certain phonological processes, namely, intrusion, elision and ?imaala (deflexion) in SE and HIA. The first two processes are found in both languages, whereas the third one is found in HIA.

5.1 Intrusion

As stated by Crystal (2003:242), intrusion means "the addition of sounds in connected speech", in other words the sound added is not found in isolated syllables or words. See also Hartmann and Stork (1976:118). Intrusion refers to the insertion of a sound

which is not represented in the spelling as mentioned by (skandera and Burleigh, 2005: 158) . The cause behind the use of intrusion is for ease of articulation as claimed by Hartmann and Stork (1976:118).

As concerns the sound that can be intruded, /r/ is the most common in English .It is inserted when a word or an utterance ends with / ə , ə: , a: , o: , iə , eə , uə , /and the one that comes after starts with a vowel .Jones (1976:197-198) and Hassan and El-Shayib(1987:134).Let's consider the examples below taken from Jones (ibid:197).

1-China and glass /tʃainər ən gla:s/

2-The sofa over there / ðə soufər ovə ðeə/

3-A diploma of honour /ə diploumər əv onə/

4-The law of England / ðə lo:r əv ɪŋglənd/

5-The Shah of Persia / ðə ʃa:r əv pə:ʃə/

However, the use of intrusive /r/ after / ɔ:/ or /a:/ is less common than its occurrence after / ə/. (Jones, ibid.:197-98)and (Gimson, 1980:208).

Other intrusive sounds in SE are the glides /j/ and /w/ . Both of them are inserted to avoid the use of the glottal stop to pronounce smoothly in connected speech. /j/ is inserted when the first word ends with /i, i:, ei, oi, ai/ and the following word begins with a vowel as noticed in the following examples.

6- To be in a group is nice /tu bi: j in ə gru:p iz nais/

7- Why are you here?/ wai j a:ju hiə/ (Al-Hamash, 1984:72-8)

The glide /w/ is also inserted when the first word ends with /u/, /u:/, /ou/ or /au/ and the word that comes after it begins with a vowel as in the example below.

8-I am going to enter the school. /ai m gouwɪŋ tu w entə ðə sku:l/

More other sounds can be intruded in SE like stop consonants into the middle of the word like 'something' and 'youngster' which are pronounced /sʌmpθɪŋ/ and /jʌŋkstə/. (Ladefoged, 2006:75). He (ibid.) makes a formal statement for this phenomenon when he says "A homorganic voiceless stop may occur after a nasal before a voiceless fricative followed by an unstressed vowel in the same way".

However, the intrusion of vowels in SE seems very rare as compared to the intrusion of consonants clarified above. (Crystal, 2003:293) states that it is possible to introduce an unstressed schwa vowel between consonants in such words as athletics /aθəletiks/.

As shown in the above examples, intrusion phenomenon of sound occurs in different positions of words or utterances, i.e., initial, medial, and final. However, the insertion of sounds in the middle of words is known as epenthesis (ibid.). Hall (2006) cited in Lodge (2009:52) differentiates between intrusion and epenthesis. In the case of vocoid articulation intrusion produces no extra syllable, whereas epenthesis does.

5.2 Elision

Crystal (2003:158) defines elision as "the omission of sounds in connected speech". Roach (2009:113) adds that sounds disappear under certain circumstances, i.e., "a phoneme may be realized as zero.". To Clark and Yallop (1995:90), these circumstances may include the sounds that are "weakly articulated that they no longer

have auditory significance or they may be omitted altogether in the stream of running speech ".This phonological phenomenon is a characteristic of casual rapid speech. Hassan and El-Shayib (1987:131)and Roach (2009:113) . However, many linguists agree among themselves that the cause behind elision is economy of effort. See for instance, Hartmann and Stork (1976:75).

There are two types of elision :historical and contextual . The first type refers to an elided sound which existed in an earlier form of word. Most of these historical elisions have been established in modern English .Historical elision is found in all positions of the word ,i.e., initial, medial, and final as clarified in the examples below.

9-Initial : knowledge /nolidʒ / ; wrong /rɒŋ /

10-Medial: Wednesday /wenzdei/ ; often /o:fn/ ;/ half /ha:f/

11-Final: climb/kləim/; hymn /him/

See Ward (1972:40) and Gimson (1980:236)

As concerns the historical elision of vowels, it means loss of weak vowels occurred at different periods of time and now is established.(Gimson, *ibid.* , :235) . Let's consider the following examples given by him .

12-Initial :state /steit/

13-Medial :forecastle /fəʊksl/

14-Final :time /taim/

The second type is contextual elision in which a certain phoneme sound is elided. Collins and Mees(2008:122) state that /t/ or /d/ is elided when it is central in a three- consonant sequence as in the examples below.

15-past tense /pa:s tens/ (omission of /t/)

16-Left luggage /lef lʌgidʒ/ (omission of /t/)

17-failed test /feil test/ (omission of /d/)

18-handsome /hansʌm/ (omission of /d/)

However, the sound /t/ and /d/ are retained in careful speech as claimed by Gimson (1980:236). The consonant sound /l/ can also be omitted when preceded by /o:/ in words like 'always' /o:wiz/ and 'almanac' /o:mənæk/. /k/ can be elided in the sequence /skt/ as in 'asked' /a:st/ as assured by Collins and Mees (2008:122). Less common cases of elision of the sounds /h/, /θ/, /ð/ and /v/ in certain contexts are also mentioned (ibid. :122-23). There is no need, as the researcher believes, to be explained.

Contextual elision of vowels in English includes /ə/ and /i/ when they occur in a sequence of unstressed syllables. (Hassan and El-Shayib, 1987:131). The examples below clarify this.

19-natural /natʃrl/

20-police /pli:s/

In addition, a weak vowel occurring between a consonant and /l/ is elided as in the words:

21-fatalist /feitlist/

22-easily /i:zli/

23-carefully /keəfli/

24-family /famli/

(Gimson, 1980:235).

5.3 ?Imaala (Deflexion)

This phonological process is a characteristic of SA which is clear in the recitation of the Holy Quran. HIA, as mentioned earlier, is one of 'qeltu dialects' which is characterized by using ?imaala (deflexion) and this makes it a unique variety which expresses the identity of HIA native speakers.

Al- Sammarai' and Shooka (2004: 64) define ?imaala (deflexion) as a phonological process in which /aa/ bends to /ee/ or /ii/ and /a/ to /i/ as in the following words pronounced by HIA native speakers :/ dʒjeriin/(neighbours) as compared to /dʒiraan/ in SA and/ silleet/ (I prayed) as compared to/ sallayt /in SA .As stated by Owens (2006:197) ?imaala (deflexion) which means 'inclining , bending to is Sibawaih's and it essentially "involves the change of a long aa to an ee-like value in the context of an /i/ in a preceding or following syllable" . However, ?imaala (deflexion)can also be applied to short /a/ though this is much more restricted as mentioned by Sibawaih (ibid.). ?imaala of /aa/ and /a/ can be found in medial or final position of words. As regards this study, analysis of the data collected that concerns HIA will decide which type of ?imaala(deflexion) is to be involved.

Al-Antaaki (1972:95-96)states that ?imaala (deflexion) is a kind of assimilation in that when /i/ and /a/ occur together, the first influences the second and changes it to ?imaala (deflexion) .In line with Al-Antaaki ,Owens (2006:197-98) claims that Sibawaih describes ?imaala (deflexion) as a kind of assimilation "comparing it to assimilation of one consonant to another in terms of emphasis or voicing".He (ibid.) adds that ?imaala (deflexion)is "an inclination of the tongue in which the phonetic configuration of /aa/ is made to resemble and approach that of /i/ ".However, Al-Antaaki (1972:96) believes that not all kinds of ?imaala(deflexion) in Arabic submit to the rules of assimilation.

Ali (1977:313)mentions that ?imaala(deflexion) involves, the approaching of /a/ to /i/ and /aa/ to /ii/ .He adds that Sibawaih used the term ?imaala for phonetic reasons to point out that /a/ and /aa/ which are pronounced in the upper part of the mouth cavity are realized to /i/ and /ii/ which are pronounced in the lower part of the

mouth cavity . This happens for the ease of articulation and economy of effort as emphasized by Ali (ibid) and Anees (1973:67).

Regarding the types of ?imaala(deflexion) , Owens (2006:212) states that there are two types of ?maala (deflexion): lexical and allophonic. The first type "often has a phonological origin when examined in a historical perspective, it is irregular in that a comparable context in a paradigmatically related word will not display ?imaala" , whereas, allophonic ?imaala (deflexion) is regular and this can be clarified by giving the plural suffix-**iin** as an example. The word /basa**a**atiin/ in SA is pronounced in HIA as /bsetiin/ (orchards). As emphasized by Anees(1972:66), there are four types of ?imaala (deflexion) . The most common one is imalizing* /a/ to /i/.

Al-Antaaki(1972:99) mentions that ?imaala (deflexion) is stronger if it occurs in the same word than that which occurs between two words . He (ibid) gives the following examples to support his viewpoint, /kitaab/ (book) which is pronounced /kteeb/ is stronger than ?imaala that occurs in /lizajdin maal/ (Zajd has money).

The so-called qeltu dialects are famous of ?imaal(deflexion); however, Khan(1997) cited in Owens(2006:217) claims that HIA does not have ?imaala though it is one of the qeltu- dialects. This paper disagrees with this viewpoint as will be shown in 6.3 below which includes many examples of ?imaala (deflexion) in HIA.

* This study is after Owens (2006) who uses the term '?imaala' (imala) as a noun and uses ' imalize' as a verb to mean ' incline or bend to '.

6. Analysis of the data

6.1 Intrusion

1. مَنْمَنْ مَنِلْ بَرِدْ

/manimna mnil barid / 'We could n't sleep because of the coldness'.

2. كَتَبْتُ دُرُوسِي

/ktabit druusi/ ' I wrote my lessons'.

3. هُوَ عَبْدٌ مُطِيعٌ

/huwwa 9abid mutii9/ ' He is an obedient slave'

In the above sentences, the words' barid', 'ktabit', and 9abid have the intruded vowel /i/ which is inserted to break up a final two consonant cluster in the words' bard', 'katabt 'and' 9abd 'used in SA.

4. بِيَسْتَانَهُ بِي نَخْلٌ كَثِيرٌ

/bistaanna bii naxal kθiir/'Our orchard has many date' palms'.

5. حَيَاةُ كُلِّهِ قَهْرٌ

/hjaatu kulha qahar/ ' His life is full of sadness'

6. لِيَوْمٍ حَسَبْتُ ادَّخَلْتُ

/ljuum h̥sabit ?iddaxal/ ' Today I counted the income '

The vowel sound /a/ is intruded in the words /naxal , qahar , and daxal/ pronounced by HIA native speakers to overcome the difficulty resulting from the pronunciation of consonant clusters in these words found in SA .

7. أَلْفُ شُكْرٍ عَلَّمَسَاغْدَه

/alf sukur 9almusaa9ada/ ' So many thanks for the help'

8. يَوْمِيهِ نَقَعْدُ مِنْصُبُحٌ

/joomiya niggid mnisubuh/ ' We get up early in the morning everyday '

9. شَفْتُ يَلْعَبُ بِدَرْبٍ.

/ʃiftu jil9ab biddarub/ 'I saw him play on the road'

The above sentences articulated by the native speakers of HIA have the words /ʃukur, subuh and darub / in which the vowel sound /u/ is inserted to break up the consonant cluster.

Depending on the analysis of the above examples, one may conclude that vowel intrusion in HIA occurs in final two consonant cluster.

10. إِدْنَنِيرُ كَثِيرٌ.

/ʔidneniiru kθiira/ 'He has much money'

11. إِرْجَعْتُ لِبَيْتِنَ بَوَكِتٍ.

/ʔirdʒa9it lbeetna bwakit/ 'I came back home early'

12. إِجِيرِينَ بَيْتَ عَمِّي زَيْنٌ.

/ʔidʒjeriin beet 9ammi ziniin/ 'MY uncle's neighbours are good people'

The native speakers of HIA usually intrude a glottal stop in addition to the short vowel /i/ at the beginning of words as in /ʔidneniir , ʔirdʒa9it , and ʔidʒjeriin/ though in SA they are pronounced as /danaaniir , radʒa9t and dʒiiraan/ , respectively.

6.2 Elision**13. طُورُ الْعَصْفُورِ-**

(طُورُ ' /toor / is also pronounced طَارُ /taar/)

/toor al9isfuur/ 'The sparrow flew'

In this sentence the word /taara/ in SA is pronounced /toor/ by HIA native speakers.

Here, they elide the short vowel /a/ because it comes in unstressed final syllable. However, the short vowel /a/ existed in

words in SA may be elided because of certain morphological or syntactic processes as in the perfect form of the verb in the sentence below .

رسمت خوش صوره-14

/rismat xooʃ̌ suura/ 'She drew a nice picture'.

بلعروقت جنود سبوع-15

('بلعروقت' /bil9irooq/ and 'سبوع' /sboo9/ are also pronounced 'بلعراق' /bi9iraaq/ and 'سباع' /sbaa9/).

/bil9irooq d3nuud sboo9/ ' There are brave soldiers in Iraq'.

جهولهم كلهم ورود-16

('جهولهم' /d3ihoolhum/ is also pronounced 'جهالهم' /d3ihaalhum/).

/d3ihoolhum kulhum wruud/ ' All their children are nice'.

In the above two examples, the short vowel /u/ is elided in the words / d3nuud/ and /wruud/ in HIA which are pronounced in SA as / d3unuud' / and wuruud/.Elision here occurs due to phonological purposes to reduce the number of syllables. Instead of having bisyllabic words, monosyllabic words are uttered for ease of articulation.

لوزم نحتريم لكبور-17

('لوزم' /loozin/ and 'لكبور' are also pronounced 'لازم' /laazim/and 'لكبار' /likbaar/).

/loozim nihtarim likboor/ ' We should respect the old' .

هي شغلت عنود مو أكثر-18

('عنود' /9nood/ is also pronounced 'غناد' /9naad/).

/hijja ʃaɡlit 9nood mu akθar/ 'It is no more than a matter of obstinacy'.

The words /kibaar/ and /9inaad/in SA are pronounced by the native speakers of HIA as /kboor/ and /9nood/. In this case the short vowel /i/ is omitted.

19- لِيَوْمَ عَلَنُوا نَتَوَجِّحُ لِمَتَحَنُوتِ

('natoo?i dʒ/and 'limtihoonoot/ are also pronounced 'nataa?idʒ/ and 'limtihaanaat/).

/ljoom 9ilnaw natoo?idʒ limtihoonoot/ 'Today they have announced the results of the exams'.

20- لِيَشْ زَعَلَ ؟ سَمِعَ مُخَوِّشَ كُلُّهُمْ

('kaloom/ is also pronounced 'kalam/).

/leeʃ za9al -simma9u muxooʃ kaloom/ 'Why was he angry? He told him a bad talk'

In HIA, the glottal stop plus the short vowel /a/ are usually elided in the words /9ilnaw/ and /simma9u / as compared to SA which retains the glottal stop and /a/ ,i.e., they are pronounced /ʔa9lana/ and /ʔasma9a/.

21- بَرَّهِيْمُ رُوْحُ لِبَغْدَادِ

('rooh/ is also pronounced 'raah/).

/brehiim rooh lba9daad/ 'Ibraheem went to Baghdad'.

22- حَجِّي عَلَي نَسُوْن طَيِّبٍ

('nsoon/ is also pronounced 'nsaan/).

/hadʒdʒi 9ali nsoon tajjib/ 'Hajj Ali is a kind person'.

In the above two examples, the glottal stop plus the short vowel /i/ are omitted in initial position of the words /brehiim/ and /nsoon/ as compared to /ʔibraahiim/ and /ʔinsaan/ in SA. This happens to make their pronunciation easier.

23- قَوْمٌ عَلَيَّ وَقْتِلْ

/quum 9lee wiqtilu/ 'Stand up and hit him'.

24- سَتْرُ عَلَيَّ اللَّهُ يَبُورِكَ بَيْكْ

('يَبُورِكَ' /jboorik/ is also pronounced 'يَبَارِكْ' /jbaarik/).

/stur 9lee a!!a jboorik biikl /'Keep his secret may Allah bless you'.

The glottal stop and /u/ are elided by the native speakers of HIA when they pronounce the words /qtilu/ and /stur/ which stand for the words /?uqtulh/ and /?usturhu/ found in SA.

6.3 ?imaala (Deflexion)

25- شِفَتُ شَخْصَيْنِ بِلْمَحَلْ

/ʃifit ʃixseen bilmahal/ 'I saw two persons in the shop'.

26- صَلَّيْنَا أَرْبَعَ رَكَعَاتْ

/silleena arba9 rik9aat/ 'We prayed four prostrations'.

27- إِبْنُهُمْ كَسَلُونُ بِلْمَدْرَسَهْ

('كَسَلُونُ' /kisloon/ is also pronounced 'كَسَلَانُ' /kislaan/).

/ibinhum kisloon bilmadrassa/ 'Their son is lazy at school'.

28- مَنُ شَقَّ قَمِيصَكَ؟

/minu ʃaq qamiisak/ 'who has torn your shirt?'.

29- تَوَضَّيْتُ قَبْلَ شَوِيَهْ

/twiḏeet qabli ʃwajja/ 'I have just performed the ritual ablution'.

In the above examples, in certain words /a/ is imalized (bent to) /ei/. In the first example, the word / ʃixseen/ has the imalized

vowel /i/ in HIA, whereas this word is pronounced as /ʃaxsajn/ in SA.

The words /silleena/ and /rik9aat/ pronounced by the native speakers of HIA are /sallaynaa/ and /rak9aat/ in SA. This means that the vowel /a/ is bent to /i/ in HIA. The same phenomenon is found in the word /kisloon / in the example (27) since it is uttered /kaslaan/in SA. Again, we have ?imaala(deflexion) of the vowel sound /a/ to /i/in /minu/ in the instance (28) mentioned above. Native speakers of SA pronounce it as /man / instead of /min/. Having a look at the above examples, it is found out that ?imaala (deflexion) occurs in initial position of words .However, the last example has ?imaala (deflexion) in medial position . /twiðeet/ is pronounced / tawaðaʔt/ in SA.

إِشْتَرَيْتُ أَرْبَعَ سِكِّينَ-30

/ʔiʃtareet arba9 skekiin/ ' I bought four knives'.

كُلُّهُمْ شَيْطَانٌ-31

32 قَوْعِدْ أَغْسِلْ مَوْعِينَ.- / kilhum ʃjeṭiin/ 'All of them are devils'.

('قَوْعِدْ' /qoo9id/ is also pronounced ' قَاعِدْ' /qaa9id/).

/qoo9id aḡsil mwe9iin/ ' I am washing dishes'.

نَطَيْتُ عَشْرَ دَنَنْيَرٍ-33

/nteetu 9aʃr dneniir/ ' I gave him ten dinars'.

دَزَيْتُلُ كَثِيرَ مَكْتِيبٍ-34

/dizzeetul kθiir mketiib/ 'I sent him many letters'.

وَاللَّهِ إِمَّاكَ قَلَّتْلِي-35

/wa!!a immak qelatli/ ' By Allah your mother told me'.

All the above examples have i?maala (deflexion)of /aa/ to /e/. The words /skekiin / , / ʃjeṭiin/ and /mwe9iin/ in the examples (30), (31) and (32) found in HIA have ?imaala (deflexion) of /aa/ to

/e/. In SA they are pronounced /sakaakiin/ , /ʃajaatiin/ and /mawaa9iin/ , respectively. It seems that ?imaala in the above examples are because they have the plural suffix /-iin/. However, ?imaala of this type can be found in other contexts as noticed in the examples (33) , (34) and , (35). The words /danaaniir/ , /makaatiib/ and /qaalatli/ found in SA are pronounced /dneniir/ , /mketiib/ and /qelatli/ by HIA speakers. One may deduce that in most cases of this kind of ?imaala, there is elision of the nucleus of the first syllable.

عَدْنُ خُوشْ جَيْرِين-36

/ 9idna xooʃ dʒjeriin/ ' we have good neighbours'.

إِشْتَرَّ بِنِستُونْ مَسُوْحَتْ خَمْسْ فَدَدِيْنْ - 37

('بِنِستُونْ' /bistoon/ and 'مَسُوْحَتْ' /masoohtu/ are also pronounced 'بِستاَنْ' /bistaan/ and 'مَساْحَتْهُ' /masahatuhu/).

/ʔiʃtara bistoon masoohtu xams fdediin/ 'He bought an orchard of five acres area'.

بُوْعْ بِيْتْ بِنْفَلْسِيْنْ-38

('بُوْعْ' /boo9/ is also pronounced 'بَاْعْ' /baa9/).

/boo9 biitu biflesiin/ 'He sold his house with a very low price'.

شِفْنْ قَبْلْ شَوِيَهْ كَثِيْرْ بَعْرِيْنْ-39

/ʃifna qabli ʃwajja kθiir b9eriin/ ' We have seen many camels before a short time'.

لَوَزِمْ مَيْعَشَشُونْ بِلْمَوَزِيْنْ - 40

('لَوَزِمْ' /loozim/ is also pronounced 'لازم' /laazim/).

/loozim majgiʃʃuun bilimwaziin/ 'They should not cheat when they weigh things by the use of balances (scales)'

In the examples (36-40) above, there is ?imaala(deflexion) of /aa/ towards /ii/ in the words / dʒjeriin/ ,/ fdediin/ . /flesiin/ , /b9eriin/ and mweziin/ as compared to /dʒiiraan/, /faddaan/, /filsaan/, /bi9raan/ and /miizaan/found in SA .Having a look upon the words used by HIA speakers, one can find that each consists of two syllables, it happens that the nucleus of the first syllable is the vowel sound /e/, whereas the second syllable contains the imalized sound /ii/ within the plural suffix (-iin).In addition, one also notices that the second imalized syllable in these words affects the vowel sound of the first syllable since it becomes /e/ in all examples regardless of the original vowel before ?imaala (deflexion).

41- بَيْتٌ عَمِّي كَبِيرٌ وَجَدِيدٌ

/beet 9ammi kbiir widʒdiid/ 'My uncle's house is big and new'.

42- غَيْبٌ تَحْكُ عَلَيَّ مُوَخُوشَ حَكِّ

/9eeb tiḥki 9lee muxooʃ ḥaki/ 'It is a shame to talk about him badly.

43- مِنْ مَوْتٍ بَكَيتُ كَثِيرٌ

('مَوْتٌ'/moot/ is also pronounced ' مَاثٌ'/ maat/).

/min moot bkeet kθiir/ 'I cried much when he died'.

44- بَقَيْنَ وَيُيُوهُمْ يُمِينٌ

('وَيُيُوهُمْ' /wijjoohum/ is also pronounced ' وَيَآهُمْ' /wijjahum/).

/bqeena wjjooohum jumeen/ ' We stayed with them two days'.

45- مَشَيْتُ مَسُوفَ طَوِيلَ لَبُورَحَ

'مَسُوفَ' /msoofe/ and 'لَبُورَحَ' /lboorḥa/ are also pronounced 'مَسَافَ' ('/msaafe/ and 'لَبَارَحَ' /lbaarḥa/).

/mʃeet msoofe t̤wiila lboorḥa/ 'I walked a long distance yesterday'.

صَلَّيْتُ لَفَجْرَ بَلْجُومِعْ - 46

('بَلْجُومِعْ' /bildʒoomi9/ is also pronounced 'بَلْجَامِعْ' /bildʒaami9/).

/silleet lfaɖʒir bil dʒoomi9/ 'I performed the dawn prayer at the mosque'.

In the above examples, another type of ?imaala (deflexion) is found in HIA. The vowel sound (diphthong) /ay/ is imalized to /ee/ as seen in the words /beet/, /9eeb/, /9lee/, /bkeet/, /bqeena/, /jumeen/, /mʃeet/ and /silleet/ which are pronounced in SA as /bayt/, /9ayb/, /9alayh/, /bakayt/, /baqaynaa/, /jawmayn/, /maʃayt/ and /sallayt/, respectively. According to the data available, it seems that this kind of ?imaala (deflexion) is very common in HIA. This may be due to the ease of articulation and economy of effort exerted when pronouncing these imalized words.

7. Conclusions

The analysis of the data results in the following conclusions:

1. HIA is rich in vowel intrusion since the vowels /i/, /a/ and /u/ are intruded in many examples to break up the consonant clusters as in /barid/ 'coldness', /naxal/ 'date palms', and /darub/, 'road'. Vowel intrusion in SE is very rare though there are several consonants that can be intruded according to certain contexts. An example of vowel intrusion is the word athletics /aθ^əletiks/.
2. Elision of vowels as a phonological Phenomenon is found in HIA and SE. IN HIA, elision of vowels includes the short vowels /i/, /a/ and /u/ in unstressed syllables as in the words /9nood/, /rismat/, and /dʒnuud/ which are pronounced /9inaad/, /rasamat/ and /dʒunuud/ in SA. Also there is elision of the glottal stop in addition to any of the above short vowels as in /brehiim/, /9ilnaw/ and /qtilu/ which stand for /ʔibraahiim/, /ʔa9lanaw/ and /ʔuqtuilh/ in SA. In SE, it is found that there are less cases of

elision of vowels. / ə/ and / i/ are elided when they occur in a sequence of unstressed syllables as in 'natural' /natʃrl/. Besides, the weak vowel is elided when it occurs between a consonant and /l/ as in easily /i:zli/.

3. ?imaala(Deflexion) is a phonological characteristic of HIA. SE has no such phenomenon.
4. Throughout the analysis of the data, it is found that there are four main types of ?imaala (deflexion) in HIA. They are /a /which bends to /i/ as in /rik9aat/ 'prayers' ; /aa/ which is imalized to /e/ as in /skekiin/ ' knives'; /aa/ which becomes /ii/ as in the word / dʒjeriin/ 'neighbours/ , and /ay/ which bends to /ee/ as in /ʃilleet/ 'I prayed'.
5. HIA does not have examples in which /aa/ bends to/ee/ as the case in some Arabic dialects of qeltu- type which imalize /aa/, for instance, in /kitaab/ to /ee/ to be pronounced /kteeb/. HIA is rich of examples in which /aa/ is imalized to /ii/.
6. The long vowel /aa/ which bends to /e/ is usually accompanied by the elision of the short vowel /a/ in the first syllable of the word as in / ʃjeʔiin/ , ' devils'.
7. It is deduced that imalizing /ay/ to /ee/ is very common in HIA according to the analysis of the data collected.

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المستخلص

تتناول هذه الدراسة ثلاث ظواهر صوتية في لهجة هيت العراقية بالإشارة إلى اللغة الانكليزية وهذه الظواهر هي إقحام وحذف وإمالة أصوات الحركة . ان هذه اللهجة هي إحدى لهجات (قَلت) المستعملة في العراق التي يتكلمها الناس من سكة مدينة هيت غرب العراق . تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تبيان أوجه الاختلاف بينها وبين اللغة الانكليزية الفصحى في الظواهر الصوتية المذكورة . لقد افترضت هذه الدراسة وجود هذا الاختلاف . تم في هذه الدراسة تسجيل كلام لأشخاص يتكلمون لهجة هيت العراقية بشكل تلقائي في مشهد طبيعي . قبل البدء بالتحليل الفونولوجي للجمل والعبارات في هذه الدراسة ، تم شرح هذه الظواهر بشكل مختصر . عند التحليل الفونولوجي للأمثلة المأخوذة من لهجة هيت العراقية لتبيان إقحام وحذف وإمالة أصوات الحركة ولأغناء التحليل وجعله أكثر أصالة ، تم ذكر الكيفية التي تكتب وتلفظ فيها هذه الأمثلة في اللغة العربية الفصحى لمعرفة مدى التشابه والاختلاف بينهما . بعد انجاز هذا التحليل ، توصلت الدراسة إلى عدد من الاستنتاجات .