

A phonological Study of Elision in Standard English and Standard Arabic

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Introduction

Elision can be defined as the "omission of sounds in connected speech " (Crystal, 2003: 158). In this respect , Underhill(1998 :61) indicates that "elision is a natural result of the speech organs cutting corners in connected speech ,mainly to word boundaries" . Thus, elision is the characteristic of rapid connected speech. It is used for the sake of making the pronunciation of sounds easy in connected speech. It is possible to elide a single phoneme or a whole syllable as illustrated in the following instances:

handsome /hands ðm/ / hansðm/ (a single phoneme / d / is elided) .
library / laibr ð ri / /laibri / (a whole syllable / rð / is elided) .

In Arabic , the most commonly elided sounds are [a] , [y] and [w] (Ateeq ,n.d. : 44) . Sometimes, elision in English is similar to that in Arabic as illustrated in the following examples in which / t / is elided in both of them:

mostly / moustli / → /mousli /
استطاع [istataaʔa] → استطاع [istaaʔa]

On the other hand , sounds such as [y] and[w] can be elided in Arabic, whereas in English it is impossible to elide / j / and / w / which are known as gliding English consonants or semi-vowels as shown bellow :

دمي [damyun] → دم [damun]
واعد [waʔada] يواعد [yawʔidu] → يعد [yaʔidu]
(Ibid)

you / ju: /
we /wi: /

It can be hypothesized that differences are more than similarities between English and Arabic types of elision .Accordingly, the present study aims at investigating such points of similarities and differences.

The research under investigation is of considerable value to those interested in the field of contrastive studies. Also it gives an insight about English and Arabic phonology.

2- Elision in English

This section is concerned with the conditions that govern the elision of single phonemes such as consonants and vowels as well as the elision of whole syllables .Historic elision is also taken into consideration.

2.1 Elision of Consonants

This section deals with the phonemes whose elision primarily depends on their environment, i.e. the context in which the words containing such phonemes occur .

2.1.1 Elision of / t / and /d /

Many linguists affirm that /t / and /d / are considered the most commonly elided phonemes in English. In this respect, Finch (2005: 44-45) points out that such a type of elision is due to "casual speech " as illustrated in the following examples:

mostly /moustli / → /mousli /

handsome /hands ə m/ → /hans ə m /

Similarly, Collins and Mees (2008: 118) note that such an elision is involved when changing from "the ideal form in connected speech ". In addition, Underhill (1998: 61) states that / t / and / d / are elided when they occur in a sequence of three consonants in connected speech: *next please* / nekst pli:z / → /neks pli:z /
you and me /ju: and mi: / → /ju: ə n mi: /

In the same way, Roach (2000:143) points out that "in clusters of three plosives or two plosives plus a fricative, the middle plosive may disappear ". Consider the following instances in which the medial plosive /t / is elided:

acts /akts / → /aks /

looked back /lukt bak / → /luk bak /

In addition, Yule (1996: 59 -60) says that /t / and /d / are elided in consonant clusters especially in "coda position ", i. e. after the center of the syllable as the following instances illustrate :

aspects / aspekts / → /aspeks /

friendship /frendʃip / → /frenʃip /

/ t / and /d / are also elided when they occur finally preceded by /n / and followed by a word beginning with a consonant as in :

hand that to tom / hand ðat tɒ tom/ → / han ðat tɒ tom /

(Hudson, 2000:210 -212)

In this respect, Crystal (1989: 164) indicates that /d / is elided when it occurs between / n / and one or two of the following consonants such as / s /, /m /, /z /:

handsome /handsɒm/ → /hansɒm/

grandmother /grandmʌð / → / granmʌð /

hands /handz / → / hanz /

Gimson (1977:297-298) points out that "the alveolar plosives are apt to be elided in rapid speech when they occur in the following sequences followed by a word beginning with a consonant":

/ - st / , / -ft / , / - t / , / -nd / , / - zd / , / - d / - vd / , / -pt / , / -kt / , / -tʃ t / , / -bd / , / -gd / ,

/ -d₃ d/ :

last chance / la:st tʃans/ → /la:s tʃans/

kept quiet /kept kwaiət/ → /kep kwaiət/

Collins and Mees (2008: 121) say that the sequence / tt / is reduced to /t/ in the following forms:

ought to , *want to* , *got to* :

We ought to visit him / wi o:tə vizit im /

I want to leave / ai wontə li:v /

It is worth noting that / t / and / d / are not elided when they are

1- followed by a word beginning with / h / :

smoked hering / smoukt heri / (ibid : 120) .

2- followed by a word beginning with a vowel :

hand it to me / hand it tə mi / (Hudson ,2000 : 210)

Concerning this point, Collins and Mees (2008:120) note that in certain sequences shown in the following example / k / is elided:

They asked us / ð ei a:st əs / .

However, /t /, in addition to / k /, may also be elided when followed by a consonant:

masked gunman / ma:st gʌn mən / → / ma:s gʌn mən /

3-preceded by / nt / or /lt / in which case they may be replaced by a glottal stop [ʔ]:

spent time / spent taim / or / spenʔ taim /

walt Disney / wo:lt dizni/ or / wo:lʔ dizni / (Ibid)

2.1.2 Elision and Assimilation

Heffner (1975: 188) affirms that "when two sounds become contiguous in the speech measure, one or both of them may, in the fusion of the configuration, undergo changes which

tend to make each more like its neighbor". In this case, Gimson (1977: 298) indicates that when

final /t/ or /d/ are followed by /j/, they are kept in a coalesced form with /j/, i.e. /tj/ and /dj/ :

Is that yours? / ɪz ðə tʃo:z /

Would you like this? / wʊdʒ u laɪk ðɪs /

Similarly, Kuiper and Allan (1996: 74) note that elision of a segment may allow an assimilation to occur:

hand bag / hand bag / → / han bag / → / ham bag / .

It can be noted that since /d/ is elided, /n/ and /d/ become adjacent. As a result /nd/ changes into /m/ under the influence of /b/ so that both of them will become bilabial, i. e. having the same place of articulation.

2.1.3 Elision of / t / in Contracted Forms

The phoneme /t/ of the negative form is often elided, particularly in disyllables, before a following consonant:

You mustn't lose it / ju mʌsn lu:zɪt / .

Wouldn't she come? / wʊdn ʃi kʌm / .

(Gimson, 1977:298)

Elision of / t / may sometimes occur before a vowel:

You mustn't over eat it. / ju mʌsn oʊvə rɪt /

(Ibid)

2.1.4. Elision of / h /

In casual speech, the phoneme / h / is elided when it occurs in weak forms of function words as in:

I think he will have told her. / aɪ ɪn kɪ wɪl ðəv təʊld ðə /

(Hudson, 2000: 210)

The example above shows that *he* is pronounced / i /, *have* / ðv / and *her* / ð / .

2.1.5 Elision of Dental Fricatives

Dental fricatives such as / θ / and / ð / are prone to elision when they occur in certain words such as *months* and *clothes*:

months / mʌnθs / → / mʌns /

clothes / klouðiz/ → / klouz /

(Collins and Mees, 2008:121)

However, / θ / is not elided in numerals such as *fifth* and *twelfth*. Instead, the preceding sound may be elided:

fifth / fiθ / → / fi / *twelfth* / twelfθ / → / twelf /

(Ibid)

2.1.6 Elision of / v /

Gimson (1977: 143) indicates that the phoneme /v / in the word *of* is elided when followed by a consonant:

lots of them / lots ð v ð ðm / → / lots ð ð ðm /

In the same respect, Crystal (2003: 247) says that a word such as "*of* is prone to elision before consonants":

lots o' people / lots ð pi:pl / .

In addition, Collins and Mees (2008: 121) note that the elision of / v / in *of* is common when followed by / ð /:

three of the websites / θ ri: ð v ð ð websaits / → / θ ri: ð ð websaits /

2.1.7 Elision of a Whole Syllable

Crystal (203:247) states that "a whole syllable may be elided, especially when there is a separated consonant as in:

library / laibrðri/ → / laibri / (the syllable / rð / is elided .)

particularly / pðtikjulðli/ → / pðtikjuli/ (the syllable / lð / is elided .)

Similarly, Rajimwale (2009: 105 -106) indicates that elision may occur in words such as *because* and *probably* in which case they can be heard as *cause* and *proably*.

2.1.8 Historic Elision

Kuiper and Allan (1996: 75) state certain instances in which there are silent consonants that reflect the earlier pronunciation and they have no longer been pronounced even in careful speech:

Wright, knee, gnaw, thistle, fasten, walk, lamb, etc.

In this respect, Elgin (1979: 95) states a phonological rule that /g/ is elided when it occurs before a word final nasal as in: *sign* / sain / *design* / dizain /. However, / g / is

pronounced when followed by a suffix as in: *signature* /signitʃə/ and *designation* /deziɡneiʃən/.

On the other hand, Fromkin et al (2003: 310) agree with Hudson (2000: 412) to state a rule by means of which /b/ in old spelling is omitted when it occurs finally preceded by a nasal consonant as in:

thumb / ʧʌm / , *limb* / lim / , *climb* / klaim / .

However, Hudson (Ibid) notes that the stop consonant /b/ is retained when a suffix is added as in: *limb* /lim / , *limber* / limbə / .

2.2 Elision of Vowels

This section is primarily concerned with the elision of vowels in contracted forms and weak syllables. Such types of elision can be initial or medial according to the context in which they occur as illustrated in the following points.

2.2.1 Elision of Initial Vowels

Gimson (1977: 297) says that schwa / ə / is elided when followed by a continuant and preceded by a word- final consonant. ("compensation for the loss of / ə / frequently being

made by the syllabicity of the continuant ") . Consider the following examples:

not alone / not əloun / → / notloun /
get another / get ənʌðə / → / get nʌðə /

On the other hand, when a word initial schwa / ə / is preceded by a vowel sound, it may coalesce with the preceding vowel:

try again / traɪ əgen / → / traɪgen /

(Ibid)

Lass (1984:187) states that the process of eliding initial vowels is referred to as aphaeresis. Kuiper and Allan (1996:74) points out that a vowel such as /a/ can be elided in the word

am when it occurs in a contracted form :

I am / ai am / → I'm / aim /

In the same respect, Rajimwale (2009: 105-106) indicates that schwa / ə / in weak syllables is elided as in:

about / əbaut / → bout / baut /
along / əlong / → long / long /

2.2.2 Elision of Medial Vowels

Gimson (1977: 143) indicates that schwa / ə / disappear when it follows aspirated sounds such as / p /, / t / and / k / as the following examples illustrate:

potato /pətəitou/ → [p^hteitou]

today /tədei / → [t^hdei]

canary /kənəɔri / → [k^hneɔri]

On the other hand , Gimson (Ibid :297) states that schwa / ə / "may be elided if it is followed by linking /r / and word initial vowel " :

after awhile /aftr əwail /

father and son /fa: ə r ən sən /

Lass (1984: 187) names such a phonological process of vowel elision as syncope (syncopation):

secretary / sekritəri / → / sekritri /

dictionary /dikʃinəri / → /dikʃnri /

Kuiper and Allan (1996: 74) indicate that a vowel sound can be elided in certain words such as *geography* /dʒi:ɔgrafi / → /dʒɔgrafi /

Hudson (2000: 210) affirms that in English casual speech, the unstressed schwa / ə / or / i / is elided in the middle of words when the preceding vowel is stressed as in:

victory / viktəri / → /viktri /

easily / i:zili / → /i:zli /

finally /fainəli/ → /fainli /

Finally, Roach (2000: 142) notes that "a weak vowel + / n /, / l / or / r / becomes a syllabic

consonant " :

tonight /tnait / , *police* /pli:s / , *correct* / krekt / .

3- Elision in Arabic

In Arabic, there are two types of elision: regular and irregular. The former is associated with the internal structure of words. This means that elision is due to difficulty of pronunciation.

The latter does not follow a morphological rule. It is referred to as arbitrary. (Ateeq, n.d.: 44)

3.1 Regular Elision

This type of elision can be illustrated in the following points:

1- The glottal stop [ʔ] in the present form of the verb , present participle and past participle such as أكرم [uʔkrimu] , مؤكرم [muʔkrimu] and مؤكرم [muʔkramu] is elided . Thus, such forms become أكرم [ukrimu] , مكرم [mukrimu] and مكرم [mukramu] respectively . This type of elision is mentioned to make the articulation of these words easy. (Ibid)

2-The sound[w] is omitted in the present form of the verb derived from the past form of the verb that consists of three consonants beginning with [w] as illustrated in the following examples :

وعد [waʕada]	يُوعِد [yawʕ idu]
وصف [wasafa]	يُوصِف [yawsifu]

The present forms يُوعِد [yawʕ idu] and يُوصِف [yawsifu] become يُعِد [yaʕ idu] and يُصِف [yasifu] respectively . (Ibid)

In the same respect , when المصدر [almasdar] is derived from the past form of such verbs, the first sound is elided as indicated in the following instances :

وعد [waʕada]	عدة [ʕ idatan]
وصف [wasafa]	صفة [sifatan]

(Ibid)

It is worth noting that [w] is not elided when:

a: the present form of the verb begins with[y] followed by[u] as in يُوعِد [yuʕ idu] and يُوعِد [yuʕ adu] .

the second consonant of the present form of the verb is followed by the vowel sound [b: a]

as in يوجل [yawjalu] whose past form is وجل [wajila] , or [u] as in يوضو [yawduʔu] whose past form is وضو [waduʔa] . (Ibid)

Note that [w] in the present form is considered the first sound in the verb.

3- Elision of the second consonant of the verb that consists of three consonants, the second of which is followed by the vowel sound [i] and the third is attached to the pronoun [t] functioning as subject (first person singular) and followed by [u] that indicates the grammatical case as in :

ظلت [ʔ aliltu]	ظلت [ʔ altu]
ظلت [ʔ aliltu]	ظلت [ʔ iltu]

(Ibid: 48) and (Al-Shaafi'i, 2000:405)

Note that if the second consonant of such verbs is followed by the vowel sound [a], these verbs are written in full forms without changing as in:

قاصصت [qasastu] and هززت [hazaztu] and حلت [halaltu]

(Al-Moosili, 2001: 562)

4-Elision of the second consonant of the present or imperative form of the verb which is followed by the vowel sound [i] and whose third consonant is attached to [n] which functions as subject (third person feminine plural as in :

يقرن [yaqrina] يقرن [yaqrina] قر [qarra]

The elision in such an example is due to the meeting of two similar consonants, i. e. the repetition of [r] though there is [i] between them. However, a full form can be written without elision:

اقرن [ʔqirna] يقرن [yaqrina] قر [qarra]

(Ibid)

5- The sound [d] may be assimilated with a following [d] in a verb attached to [t] functioning as subject (first person singular) :

ردت [radtu] ← [radadtu] . This example shows that one of the assimilated sounds disappears . (Hilaal ,2004 :222) and (Al-Isterabaathy ,2004 : 901)

3.2 Irregular Elision

This type of elision is referred to as arbitrary ,i.e. it is not morphologically conditioned as indicated in the following instances :

1-The sound[x]in the بخ [baxxin] is elided and this word becomes بخ[baxin]. word

(Al-Yemeni, 2002:606)

2- The [h]in the word حر [harhun]is elided and this word becomes حر[harun] sound

(Ibid: 571)

3-The [n]in the words منذ [mun u]and إن [inna] is elided so that these words sound

will become مذ [mu] and إن [In]. (Ibid: 572)

4- The [f] in the words سوف أف [sawfa] and سوف أف [uffin] that occurs in سوف أفعل كذا [sawaf alu ka a] is elided.Thus ,such words سوف أف [ʔufin]and سوف أفعل كذا [sawaf alu ka a] become

(Ibid)

5- The [h] in the words شففه [ʃafhah] and سنهه [sanhah] is elided . As a result, sound

these words become شففه [ʃ afah] and سنه [sanah]. (Ibid)

This sound is also elided هذا [haɗa] to become ذا [ɗ aa]as in this verse :

from

من ذا الذي يشفع عنده الا بإذنه...البقرة [man ɗ alla ɗ i ye] fa u indahu illa biʔiɗ nihi]

آية الكرسي

6- [t] or [t] in the word استطاع [istataa a]is elided so that this word

The sounds

will استطاع [istaa' a]or استاع [istaa' a]. (Ateeq, n.d.:48)& (Al-Moosili,2001:562)

become

7-The [b]in the word رب [rubba] is elided so that this word will become رب [ruba].

sound

(Ibn usfoor ,1986: 562)

8- [y] in the word يدي [yadyun]is elided.As a result this word becomes يد [yadun].

The sound

(Ateeq, n.b. :48)

9- The sound [w]in the word غدو [qadwun]is elided.Thus ,this word becomes غد [qadun]

word

(Ibid)

This sound is also elided when followed مقول [maqwuul]and مقود [maqwuud].

by[uu]as in

Thus, such مقول [maquul]and مقود [maquud]respectively .(Al-Yemeni,2002:567).

words become

10-The sound [w] in the words سمو [samwun]and بنو [banwun] is elided and

these words اسم [ʔsmun] and ابن [ʔbnun] respectively. Note that [ʔ]is attached

become

initially to them . (Ibid)

11- [w] in the word شفو [ʃa fawun]is elided and replaced by the feminine mark ت [t]

The sound

so that such a word will become شففة [ʃ afatun]. (Ibid)

12- The glottal stop [ʔ] in الله [ʔilaah] is elided and this word becomes الله [ʔllaah]

the word

because of its frequent use in the holly Qura'n . (Al-Yemeni , 2002 : 572)

13- The [ʔ] in the words الاناس [ʔlunaas], ترى [tarʔa] and اشياء [ʔyiʔaaʔ] is elided.

glottal stop

Thus ,such words become الناس [ʔnnaas], ترى [tara] and اشياء [ʔyaaʔ] respectively.

(Ibid: 570-572)

Similarly ,Ibn Usfoor (1986:559) indicates that the [ʔ] in the imperative verbs

glottal stop

[ʔukul] اومر [ʔumur] is elided and those forms become كل [kul] and مر [mur].

such as اوكل and

14 - Al-Batlloosi (1980 :338) indicates that the glottal stop [ʔ] in the word

ابن [ʔbn] is elided when such a word occurs between :

a- two proper nouns as in هذا زيد بن علي [haa ʔ a zaydu bin a'li] .

b- two surnames as هذا ابو جعفر بن ابي محمد [haa ʔ abu ja' far bin abi muhammad] .

in

c- a proper noun and a surname as in ابو عبدالله بن زيد [abu abdillahi bin zayd] .

3.2.3 Elision of Vowels

This section is concerned with the elision of vowels such as [a] , [aa] , [i] , [ii] , [u] and [uu] as the following points illustrate :

1-The vowel sound [aa] in certain words يخاف [ya xaaf] is elided provided this word is such as

preceded لم [lam] . As a result it becomes لم يخف [lam ya xaf] . (Nahar ,1998 : 273)

by

Note that the long vowel sound [aa] in the example above changes into a short vowel

[a] .

2- The vowel اما [amaa] that occurs in اما والله [amaa wallaah] is elided and replaced

[aa] in

by [a] . Consequently , this structure ام والله [ama wallaah] . (Ibn Usfoor,1986:559)

becomes

3--Mohammad(2006 :80) notes that the vowel [aa] in the ما [maa] is elided

interrogative

and replaced by [a] when such a word is attached to prepositions الى [ilaa] الى [ʔalaa]

such as

[fii] . Thus, this word becomes علام [alaama], الام [ilaama] and فيم [fiima] respectively .
and في

4-The vowel sound[a] and the preceding consonant [y] in the سير [siyar] and ميل words

[miyal]are elided.As a result these words سر [sir] and مل [mil] respectively .(Ibid)
change into

5-The vowel sound [i] is elided when:

a- it is ياء المتكلم [ya?ulmutakallimi](i. e., it expresses the speaker as an object) :
represented by

[?llaahu ?kramani] الله اكرمني (Ibid) [?llaahu ?kraman] الله اكرمن

b-it occurs at the end of adjectives المتعالي [almuta aali] that changes into المتعال
such as

[almuta aal] . (Ibid)

c-it occurs at the end of definite nouns such as الداعي [adda I] or الوادي [alwaadi]
that change الداع [adda'] and الواد [alwaad] as illustrated bellow :
into

[qaala llahu ta aalaa:yawma yed u adda i ilaa]ay?] قال الله تعالى : " يوم يدع الداع الى
شيء" (القمر: الآية ٦)

(Ibid) [qaala llahu ta aalaa innaka bilwaad] قال الله تعالى : " انك بالواد "

d- it occurs at the end of verbs especially in Qura'nic recitation in which the insertion
of a→vowel is not permitted as illustrated in the following verse :

[qaala llahu ta aalaa: wallayli i aa yesr] قال الله تعالى :والليل اذا يسر... (القمر : الآية ٤)

(Ibid)

e- it occurs at the end of the word امس [?msi] . Consider the following example :

جتتك امس [ji?tuka ?msi] جئتتك امس [ji?tuka ?ms] . (Nahar ,1998 :278)

امس

6- The vowel sound [ii] is elided when:

a - it is ياء المخاطبة [yaa?ul muxaataba](the feminine addressee)in a verb

ending with a heavy mark of التوكيد الثقيلة represented by [nuunu ttawkiidi aqiila]
emphasis known as

[laata habiinanna] that chnges into لاتذهبن [lata haninna] . It is worth noting
as in لاتذهبن

that the sounds [n]and[a] after[ii] are also elided due to the succession of
referred to as النون الزائدة [?nnuunuzzaa?ida] . (Al-Hashimi, 2002:270)

b-it expresses a masculine plural preceded by a glottal stop [ʔ] as in :

المستهزئين [almustahziʔiin] that changes into المستهزئ [almustahziʔin]. (Ibid: 605)

Note that the long vowel sound [ii] in the examples (a) and (b) above changes into a short vowel[i].

7- The vowel sound [u] is elided when it occurs at the end of الوطن [ʔlwatanu] and words such as

[qablu] as indicated in these instances عاش الوطن [ʔaʔalwatan] and من قبل [min qabl] . قبل

(Nahar ,1998 : 273)

8- The vowel sound [uu] is elided when:

a- it occurs in a verb preceded by لم [lam] as in يقول [yaquul] that changes into لم يقل [lam yaqul]. (Ibid)

b- it occurs in words such داود [dawuud] and طاووس [tawuus] that change into داود as

[dawud] and طاوس [tawus]. (Al-Yemeni,2002 :567)

c- it is واو الجماعة [waawujjamaa a] that expresses a masculine plural in a verb represented by

ending with a heavy mark of emphasis نون التوكيد الثقيلة [nuunuttawkiidi qila] as in : known as

لا تضر بيونن [laatadribuunanna] لا تضر بئنا [laatadribunna] (Al-Hashimi, 2002:270)

Note that the long vowel [uu] in the points (a), (b) and (c) above changes into a short vowel [u].

4- Contrastive Analysis

This section deals with comparing and contrasting types of elision in English and Arabic in order to arrive at the similarities and differences between them.

4.1 Elision of Consonants

4.1.1 Elision of /t / and /d /

As a matter of fact, the phonemes /t/ and /d/ are considered the most commonly elided consonants in English rapid speech especially when they occur in a sequence of two or three consonants as in

mostly /mousli / and handsome /hans ə m / . (Finch, 2005:44-45) & (CollinsMees, 2008:118)

similarly, in Arabic the [t] in the word استطاع [istataa a] is elided . Thus, sound

this word changes into استطاع [istaa' a] . (Ateeq ,n. d. :48)

It can be noted that the sound [d] is not elided in Arabic. However, it can be assimilated with a

following [d] where one of them disappears as رددت [radadtu] which changes into ردت in the word [radtu] . (Hilaal, 2004:222)

4.1.2 Elision of /t / in Contracted Forms

In English , the consonant /t / is elided when it occurs in negative contracted forms such as *can't* , *don't* , *wouldn't* , *mustn't* and others provided it is followed by a consonant as in :

You can't do it / ju ka:n du it / . (Gimson ,1977 :298)

Such a type of elision has no counterpart in Arabic.

4.1.3 Elision of /h /

In English , this consonant is elided when it occurs in weak forms of function words as in :

I think he will invite him. /ai € ink i: wil invait im / (Hudson, 2000:210).

In Arabic , the [h] in the word هذا [haa aa]is elided .Thus, this word becomes ذا sound

[aa] as illustrated in the following verse :

قال الله تعالى " من ذا الذي [qaala llaahu ta aalaa man Ø a lla Ø i ye] fa u indahu illaa
يشفع عنده الا بآذنه" ...

[bi?iɗnihi]
(البقرة : آية الكرسي ٢٥٥)

On the other hand , [h] in the words شفاه [afhah] , [adhah] and سنه [sanhah] the sound

is elided .As a result, these words شفه [afah] , [adah] and سنه [sanah] . become

(Al-Yemeni, 2002:572)

4.1.4 Elision of / ð / and / € /

In English, the phonemes, dental fricatives, / ð / and / € / can be elided when they occur in certain words such as *months* / m ^ ns / and *clothes* / klouz / respectively. (Collins and Mees, 2008:121)

In Arabic, those phonemes are not elided.

4.1.5 Elision of / f / and / v /

In English, / f / can be elided in words such as *fifth* / fi€ / and *twelfth* / twel€ / .
(Ibid)

In Arabic, the [f] in the word سوف [sawfa] that occurs in the structure سوف افعل كذا sound

[sawfa ?f alu ka ɖ aa] is elided. Consequently, this سوف افعل كذا [saw ?f a l kaɖaa] structure will be (Al-Yemeni, 2002:272)

This sound is also elided when it is represented by a geminated letter in the word اف[uffin]

which changes into اف [ufin] . (Ibid)

On the other hand, / v / in the word *of* is elided provided this word is followed by sound as in : *lots of them* / lots ɒ ɖ ɒm / . (Gimson ,1977 :143) a consonant
It should be noted that this sound has no counterpart in Arabic.

4.1.6 Elision of a Whole Syllable

In English, a whole syllable can be elided especially when there is a separated consonant as in: *library* /laibri / (here the syllable / rɒ / is elided)
probably /probli / (here the syllable / bɒ / is elided)
(Crystal, 2003:247) & (Rajimwale ,2009:105-106)

In Arabic , a whole syllable can be elided as illustrated in the elision of the second sound of the verb that consists of three consonants , the second of which is followed by a vowel sound / i/ and [t] functioning as subject (first person singular) as in :
the third is attached to the pronoun

ظلت [ɖ aliltu] ظلت [ɖ altu] (Al-Moosili, 2001:561)

This example shows that a whole syllable such as [li] is elided .

Another example is the elision of the whole syllable [na] as in :

لا تذهبن [laataɖ habiinanna] لا تذهبن [laataɖ habinna]

لا تضربون [laatadribuunanna] لا تضربون [laatadribunna]

(Al-Hashimi, 2002:270)

4.1.6 Historic Elision

In English, certain words contain consonants that cannot be pronounced. They reflect the earlier pronunciation of these words: *Wright*, *gnaw*, *knee* etc. (Kuiper and Allan ,1996 :75) .

It is worth noting that the elided consonants in those words are /w/ , /g/ and /k/ respectively .

In Arabic, there is no counterpart to such a type of elision.

4.1.7 Elision of [y] and [w]

In English , these sounds are pronounced as /j / and /w / which are referred to as gliding consonants or semi- vowels and they cannot be elided, whereas in Arabic they may be elided as the following points illustrate :

a- The [y] in the word يدي [yedyun] is elided .Thus, it changes into يد [yadun].
sound

(Ateeq, n. d. :48)

b-The [w] in the past form of certain verbs such as وعد [wa' ada]is elided when
sound

changed into present .Thus it becomes يعد [ya' idu] . (Ibid: 44)

4.1.8 Elision of the Glottal Stop [ʔ]

In English, the glottal stop is not elided, whereas in Arabic it can be elided as shown bellow:

The glottal stop [ʔ] in [ʔilaah] , [ʔunaas] , [tarʔaa] and [ʔyiʔaa] is elided and [ʔilaah] , [ʔnaas] , [tara] and [ʔyaa] a- in the words these words become

respectively. (Al-Yemeni, 2002:570-572)

The glottal stop in [ʔbn] is elided when this word occurs between two proper

b- the word

nouns ,two surnames or a proper noun and a surname .As a result this word becomes [bin]

(Al-Batliyoosi ,1980 :338)

4.1.9 Miscellaneous Types of Elision

a- In Arabic, the [b], [x] , [h] and [n] in the words رب [rubba] بخر [baxxin]
sounds

بخر [rubba] and منذ [mun u] are elided. Consequently , these words become رب [ruba] بخر [harh] حرح

[baxin] حر [harin] and منذ [mu] respectively . (Al-Yemeni, 2002:571-572)

Note that such a type of elision does not occur in English.

b- In English, when two similar sounds such as / t /and/ t /come together, they are reduced to one, ie they are pronounced as / t / as in: *ought to*, *got to* and *want to*:

I want to leave /ai won tð li:v / . (Collins and Mees, 2008:121)

In Arabic, there is no counterpart to such a type of reduction.

4.2 Elision of vowels

4.2.1 Elision of Initial Vowels

In English ,a vowel sound can be elided initially as in :

a-the contracted forms of *I am* /ai am / *I'm* /aim / (/a / is elided)

he is /hi: iz / *he's* /hi: z / (/ i / is elided)

(Kupier and Allan ,1996 : 74)

b- *about* / baut / , *try again* / trai gen / , *not alone* / notl loun /

(Rajimwale ,2009 : 105-106) & (Gimson ,1977 : 297)

Note that in Arabic a vowel sound is not initially elided.

4.2.2 Elision of Medial Vowels

In English , weak vowels such as schwa / ə / and / i / that occur in the middle of words can be elided as shown in the examples bellow :

a-*tonight* / tnait / , *police* / pli:s / , *correct* /krekt / (Roach ,2000 :142)

b- *victory* / viktri / , *finally* /fainli / (Hudson ,2000 :210)

c- *secretary* /sekritri / , *dictionary* /dik ʃ nri / (Lass ,1984 : 187)

d- *potato* /p^hteitou / , *today* / t^hdei / , *canary* / k^hneð ri / (Gimson ,1977 : 143)

In Arabic , a vowel sound can be elided in the middle of words as indicated bellow :

a- The vowel sound[aa] in certain verbs يخاف [yexaaf] is elided provided this verb is such as

preceded by لم [lam] .Thus , it becomes لم يخف [lam yexaf] . (Nahar , 1998 :273)

b- The vowel sound[ii] in المستقرئين [ʔlmustaqri?iin] is elided .As a result it becomes words such as

المستقرئين [ʔlmust aqri?in] (Al-Yemeni ,2002 :605)

c-The vowel sound[uu] in يقول [yaquul] is elided provided such a verb is preceded by verbs such as

لم [lam] . Consequently , it becomes لم يقل [lam yaqul] . (Nahar,1998 : 273)

It can be noted that the long vowel sounds[aa] , [ii] and [uu] in the Arabic examples (a) ,(b) and (c) change into short vowels [a] , [i] and [u] respectively .

4.2.3 Elision of Final Vowels

In English, a vowel sound cannot be elided finally, whereas in Arabic it may be elided as illustrated in the following points :

a- The vowel sound [aa] at the end of the اما [amaa] that comes in the structure اما والله word

[amaa wallaah] is elided and this الله [amawallah] . (Al-Yemeni, 2002:568)
structure becomes

b-The vowel sound [aa] in the ما [maa] is elided when this word is attached to
interrogative

[alaa] الى [ilaa] and في [fii] .As a result they become علام [alaama]
prepositions such as على

الام [ilaama] and فيم [fiima] respectively . (Ibid :606)

c-The vowel sound [i] at the end of words المتعالي [?lmuta' aali] is elided and such a
similar to

word changes to المتعال [?lmuta aal] . (Nahar ,1998 : 273)

d-The vowel sound [i] at the end of the word امس [?msi] is elided and this word
becomes امس [?ms] . (Ibid :278)

f- The vowel sound [u] at the end of the word قبل [qablu] in the structure من قبل [min qablu]

is elided and the structure becomes من قبل [min qabl] (Ibid : 273)

It should be noted that the long vowel sound [aa] in (a)and (b) above changes into a
short vowel [a].

5- Conclusions

It can be concluded that there are points of similarities and differences between
English and Arabic types of elision as illustrated bellow:

5.1 Points of Similarities

The following points indicate that the elided phonemes in English are similar to
those in Arabic:

- 1- Elision of / t / .
- 2-Elision of /h / .
- 3- Elision of / f / .
- 4- Elision of a whole syllable.
- 5- Elision of medial vowels.

5.2 Points of Differences

The following points show that patterns of elision in Arabic are different from
those in English as
elaborated below :

a- The following types of elision occur only in English, i.e. they have no counterparts in Arabic:

- 1- Elision of / d /
- 2- Elision of / t / in contracted forms
- 3- Elision of / € / and / ɔ /
- 4- Elision of / v /
- 5- Historic elision
- 6- Reduction of two similar successive consonants into one such as / t / in *want to* and similar structures.
- 7- Elision of initial vowels.

b- The following types of elision occur only in Arabic , i.e. they have no counterparts in English :

- 1- Elision of [y] and [w]
- 2-Elision of the glottal stop [ʔ]
- 3-Elision of ن [n], ح [h], خ [x] and ب [b]
- 4- Elision of final vowels

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