A Comparative Analysis of Stress in English and Arabic

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to explore stress in English and Arabic. In English, It refers to the degree of force used in producing a syllable. The auditory dimensions of a stressed syllable are perceived by loudness and a higher pitch than its adjacent syllables. These dimensions are correlated by a greater muscular activity of the organs of articulation. On the other hand, in Arabic, stress shows some point of difference in that it is a result of reducing two neighboring letters.

This paper falls into three sections. The first section deals with stress in English in terms of nature of stress, types and functions. Following the same way, the second section is concerned with stress in Arabic. The last section concentrates on the similarities and differences in both languages. Finally, the conclusions sum up the findings of the study.

1. Stress in English

1.1. The Nature of Stress

One of the important features of the suprasegmental phonology is stress. Crystal (2003:454) States that the usual distinction lies between stressed and unstressed syllables, the former being more prominent than the latter when produced by the speaker and perceived by the hearer.

McMahon (2002:118) mentions three important factors which combine to signal stress. First, the vowels of stressed syllables are produced with higher fundamental frequency; that is, the vocal folds vibrate more quickly, and this is heard as higher pitch. Secondly, the duration of stressed syllables is greater, and they are perceived as longer. Thirdly, stressed syllables are produced with greater intensity, and are thus heard as louder than adjacent unstressed syllables.

Carr (2008: 174) shows that stress is often used to refer to word stress, synonymous with one of the senses of accent. However, phonologists also use the term when referring to phrasal stress and sentence stress.

It is a large topic and despite the fact that it has been extensively studied for a very long time there remain many areas of disagreement or lack of understanding. To begin with a basic point, it is almost certainly true that in all languages some syllables are in some sense stronger than other syllables; these are syllables that have the potential to be described as stressed. It is also probably true that the difference between strong and

weak syllables is of some linguistic importance in every language, strong and weak syllables do not occur at random.

However, McMahon (2002:118) argues that languages differ in the linguistic function of such differences: in English, for example, the position of stress can change the meaning of a word, as in the case of;

- **'export '** **/ 'ekspɔ :t/ (N),** **/ Ik'spɔ :t/ (V)**
- **'import'** **/ 'Impɔ :t / (N),** **/ Im'pɔ :t/ (V)**
- **'present'** **/ 'preznt/ (N,A),** **/ prI'zent/ (V)**
- **'protest'** **/ 'prə test/ (N),** **/ prə 'test / (V)**
- **'subject'** **/ 'sʌbd3Ikt / (N),** **/ sə b'd3ekt/ (V)**

It is necessary to consider what factors make a syllable count as stressed. It seems likely that stressed syllables are produced with greater effort than unstressed, and that this effort is manifested in the air pressure generated in the lungs for producing the syllable and in the articulatory movements in the vocal tract. These effects of stress produce in turn various audible results: one is pitch prominence, in which the stressed syllable stands out from its context (for example, being higher if its unstressed neighbours are low in pitch, or lower if those neighbuors are high; often a pitch glide such as a fall or rise is used to give greater pitch prominence).

Skandra and Burleigh (2005) state that pitch is an important phonetic characteristic and is related to the frequency of the vibration of the vocal folds: The faster the vocal folds vibrate, the higher the pitch. It can distinguish meaning at a suprasegmental level: It is a component of stress, and it shapes the intonation of connected speech. Stress and pitch movement tell us, for example, whether a sentence like "**She speaks English**" is meant to be a statement or a question. Another effect of stress is that stressed syllables tend to be longer - this is very noticeable in English, less so in some other languages; also, stressed syllables tend to be louder than unstressed. Loudness is one of the main phonetic properties of spoken language and of individual sounds. It is related to the breadth, or amplitude, of the vibration of the vocal folds.

1.2 Types of Stress

1.2.1 Primary Stress and Secondary Stress

Many varieties of English are said to have both primary stress and secondary stress, If a word has two or more stressed syllables, the strongest stress is referred to as primary stress as in the words:

preconception /ˌ priː kə nˈ sepʃ n /
photographic /fauto'graefik /
vaccination / vaeksi'neijn/

All of them contain both a secondary stress and a primary stress where the diacritic [,] marks secondary stress, and the diacritic [`] marks primary stress. The idea is that the syllables between the stressed syllables

are unstressed, and thus less prominent than the stressed syllables, but that the syllable with primary stress is more prominent than the syllable with secondary stress.

English stress is gradient. In that view, it makes sense to say that, just as tone is realized by pitch, stress is realized by a number of phonetic features, like duration and vowel quality, which are partly in a trading relationship. In its most extreme form, this conception implies that stress is infinite, in the sense that there is no principled limit to the degree of stress a syllable can have.

To get the right amount of stress, there should be an appropriate admixture of phonetic attributes. It has understandably been hard to demonstrate the existence of any such orderly sequence of stress degrees in the phonetic signal. One response to this problem has been to say that stress is 'relative' that you cannot establish its degree, or presence, unless there are other syllables with different degrees of stress to measure it by.

Another, perhaps more useful view by Bolinger (1975:451) who suggests that stress is ultimately a location in phonological structure, the left or right edge of a foot, and that the way that position reveals itself in the pronunciation of any language depends on the ways in which that language refers to these locations . The view of stress as a bulk commodity, sketched in the preceding paragraph, contrasts with a compositional view, in which 'degrees of stress' are discretely different, expressed by different phonological entities, and possibly realized by different phonetic features. Here, the first cut is between unstressed and stressed syllables, or, for Bolinger, syllables that will never be pitch-accented and those that may be. Stressed syllables then divide into accented (i.e. pitch-accented) syllables, given in capitals, and unaccented syllables.

(4)	'Degree of stress'	Position in structure	Phonetic correlates, and example
	Unstressed	Weak syllable in a foot	Qualitative and durational reduction, steep spectral tilt e.g. *po-* and *-to* in *potato*.
	Stressed unaccented	Strong syllable in a foot	Vowels without qualitative and durational reduction. Less-steep spectral tilt e.g. *caul-* and *flow-* in *cauliflower*, in the utterance *I LIKE cauliflower*.
	Accented	Stressed syllable with an intonational pitch accent	Strong syllable in foot, and so like stressed, but additionally with pitch configuration heard as 'sentence accent'. e.g. *caul-* in the utterance *I like CAULiflower*.

1.3 Functions of Stress

1. Culminative Function

Gussenhoven (1983:3) states that culminativity means that there is one and only one maximally prominent peak within a stress domain. It is characteristic of stress languages for grammatical units (stems, words, or phrases) to have minimally one stressed syllable. This stress peak, the most prominent syllable in its grammatical domain, typically serves as the anchoring point for intonational contours. At the word level, culminativity amounts to a stressability requirement, which many languages impose on content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs) while relaxing it for function words (articles, pronouns, prepositions, etc.), which are prosodically dependent on content words as in the following function words:

- bottle /ˈbɒt̬l/ (N)
- skiing /ˈskiː.ɪŋ/ (V)
- incautious /ɪnˈkɔː.ʃəs/ (Adj)
- yesterday / ˈjestədeɪ / (Adv.)
- I **bought** a **bottle** of **wine yesterday**.

2. Demarcative Function

Ladefoged (2001:110) mentions that stress can have a demarcative function: it signals the beginning and/or end of morphological boundaries. Cross-linguistically, stress tends to be attracted to syllables located near the edges of grammatical units, especially the initial syllable. Since final syllables are exempted from stress in many languages, initial and prefinal syllables are, by far, the most favored locations of stress, followed by stress on the second and final syllable as in :

1. You `**and** me should do this job.
2. I can eat `**Tom** is sleeping.

3. Thematic Function

Ladefoged (2001:111) mentions that stress can be placed on items that represent new information regardless of their position within the sentence. For example:

3. It is `**me** not him.
4. She bought a `**car**.

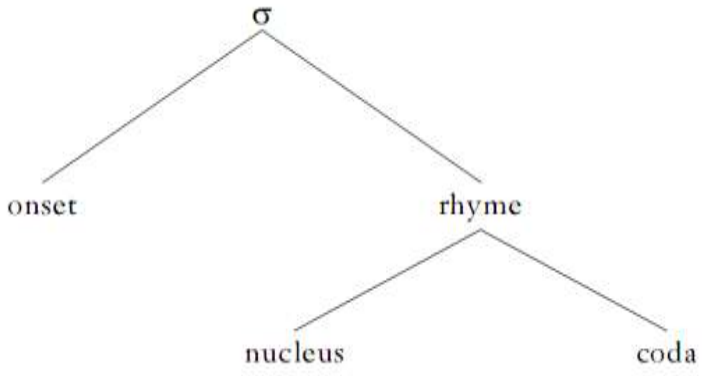
1.4 Syllabification

1.4.1 Stress in Monosyllable and Disyllable Words

McMahon (2008:118) shows that syllable is a fundamentally important unit both in phonetics and in phonology. It is a good idea to keep phonetic notions of the syllable separate from phonological ones. Phonetically we can observe that the flow of speech typically consists of an alternation between vowel-like states (where the vocal tract is comparatively open and unobstructed) and consonant-like states where some obstruction to the airflow is made. Silence and pause are to be regarded as being of consonantal type in this case. So from the speech production point of view a syllable consists of a movement from a constricted or silent state to a vowel-like state and then back to constricted or silent. From the acoustic point of view, this means that the speech signal shows a series of peaks of energy. For monosyllable words which consist of one syllable there would be no problem in carrying stress. The stress is place initially in the word as in:

great /'greit/
block /'blok/
seen /'si:n/

But for words of more than one syllable the problem of stress placement arises. The structure of these multisyllable words would be:



Odden (2005:249) clarifies that each part of the syllable may consist of more than one phoneme the study of sequences of phonemes is called phonotactics, and it seems that the phonotactic possibilities of a

language are determined by syllabic structure; this means that any sequence of sounds that a native speaker produces can be broken down into syllables without any segments being left over. For example, in "**strengths**" and "**triumphed**", we find the rather daunting sequences of consonant phonemes /**streŋθs** / and / **ˈtraɪ ʌ mft** /, but using what we know of English phonotactics we can split these clusters into one part that belongs to the end of one syllable and another part that belongs to the beginning of another. Thus the first one can only be divided /str/ŋθ/ or / ŋθs/ and the second can only be / fr | mft /. The placement of stress on these syllables varies according to whether the syllable is weak or strong, and this would be clarified below.

1.4.2 Stress of Weak and Strong Syllables

strong syllables	weak syllables
The peak that is either a tense vowel, a diphthong or with long consonant cluster. e.g. indeed /,in`di:d/ crazy /`krei,zi/	The peak is either are schwa, [i] , [u], or syllabic consonant. /,lə `top/ [`im,pʊt] /tnait/

We should acknowledge the presence of the two variants in English speech, [i] or [u], occurring syllable word final, which it is possible to use in transcription for purely pragmatic purposes, for example in teaching, to reflect native intuitions. Clearly, in this position, English speakers do not use either a fully close front tense or lax vowel, but a vowel that is somewhat tense and rather more front and close than / I /. In particular, [i] may be useful in explaining how English speakers handle adjacent vowels, word final and word initial.

Two-syllable words

- strong second syllable :**apply** /ə ˈ plaɪ d **/, in`vest /**ɪ nˈvest**/, collide/** kəˈlaɪ d **/**
- first syllable if final is weak **enter /** ˈentə **/ , hurry/** ˈhʌ ri **/**

Three-syllable words

- a strong final syllable entertain/ˌ entəˈ teɪ n / . In other words, if the final syllable is a strong syllable, it will be stressed. Notice that here the first syllable has secondary stress.
- a strong penultimate syllable where the final is weak gives the example **determine**/ dɪ ˈ tɜ ː mɪ n /
- an initial syllable where the second and third are weak **parody**/ pærə di **/**

2. Stress in Arabic

2.1 The Syllable and Stress Patterns

Halpern (2005:2) lists the syllabic structures that are possible within Classical Arabic; they are CV, CVC, CVCC. These syllable types can be categorized as light, heavy, and superheavy:

Syllable Type	Structure			
light	= CV	e.g.	**wa**	'and'
heavy	= CVV	e.g.	**sa.fara**	'he travelled"
	or CVC ,	e.g.	**min**	'from'
superheavy	= CVCC	e.g.	**bint#**	'girl'
	or CVVC	e.g.	**bab#**	'door'

According to Kharama and Hajjaj (1989:27), the placement of Arabic stress can be classified as follows:

1. Words of one syllable have primary stress whether it is long or short. For example:

/'bard/	**(cold)**	**برد**
/'tar/	**(flew)**	**طار**
/'fi/	**(in)**	**في**

2. Words of two or three syllables take a primary stress on **the** first syllable. For example:

/'?na /	**(I)**	**أنا**
/'?abadan/	**(never)**	**أبداً**
/'kataba/	**(he wrote)**	**كتب**

Buell (1996:6) mentions that both the colloquial and Classical varieties of the language use a complex system of morphological templates, from which words are generated from root consonants, known to Arabists as "radicals". However, in contrast with Classical Arabic, a systematic deletion of high vowels in certain positions and an absence of case and mood markers conspire to limit the word shapes available in Arabic forms. For example, when a sufficient number of morphemes are concatenated into a single word in Classical Arabic, it is quite possible to obtain a string of five light syllableas in :

/ʃaga.ra.tu.hu.ma+/ شجرتهما

[ʃagarat+u+hum+a+] "their (dual) tree

We may stress the ultima if it is superheavy or a colloquial /CV+/

ka.tábt	**"I wrote"**	**كتبت**
ki.tá+b	**"a book"**	**كتاب**

a heavy penult.

ka.táb.ti "you (feminine-f.) wrote"

كتبت

is.taf.ham.tu "you (plural-pl) enquired" **استفهمت**

ki.ta+.ba "writing" **كتابه**

Otherwise, if the antepenult is heavy, stress the penult.

in.ká.tab "it (masculine-m) was written"

انكتبت

or (if the antepenult is light), stress the antepenult.

ká.ta.bu "they wrote"

كتبوا

in.ká.ta.bat "it (f.) was written" **انكتبت**

It is important to note here that to predict the stress of these forms in this descriptive manner, no reference need ever be made to any syllable left of the antepenult, nor need any reference be made to secondary stresses. However, to correctly predict the reported stress of Classical forms, steps 3 and 4 must be rewritten as a single rule which makes uncomfortable reference to whether a string of syllables is of an odd or even number: 3&4. Otherwise stress the penult or the antepenult, whichever is separated by an even number of syllables from the closest preceding heavy syllable (a), or (if there is no such syllable) from the beginning of the word (b):

a. Penultimate Stress

i. qat.tá.la "he killed" **قتل**

mu.dar.rí.sa "teacher (f.)" **مدرسه**

§ad.wi.ya.tú.hu "his medicines **ادويته**

ii. ʃa.ga.rá.tun "tree **شجرة**

a.ga.ra.tu.hú.ma+ "their (dual) tree **شجرتهما**

b. Antepenultimate stress

i. §in.ká.sa.ru "they got broken" **انكسروا**

§ad.wi.ya.tú.hu.ma+ "their (dual) medicines **ادويتهما**

ii. ʃa.ga.rá.tu.hu "his tree (nom.) **شجرته**

On the other hand, Guella (2005:6) summarizes rules of Arabic stress:

1. Stress always falls on the ultimate syllable if that syllable is superheavy. This rule takes precedence over all others.

   Men /ri **jaal**/ رجال

   New /ja **diid**/ جديد

   Japan /ya **baan**/ يابان

2. In monosyllabic words, stress falls on the ultimate syllable.

   What /**ma**/ ما

   Already /la **qad**/ لقد

   How much /bi **kam**/ بكم

Though it is self-evident that monosyllabic words can only be stressed on the single syllable, it is necessary to keep in mind that proclitics are ignored in counting syllables, so that disyllabic words, like لقد are considered monosyllabic for stress purposes.

3. In disyllabic words, stress falls on the penultimate syllable

She /**hi** ya/ هي
Boy /**wa** lad/ ولد
He built /**ba** na/ بنى

Every possible structure of disyllabic words, including those with short vowels, long vowels, diphthongs and clitics, is shown above. In principle, stress is always on the first syllable of disyllabic words. However, some words that seem disyllabic, like بكم, are actually monosyllabic with a proclitic attached. Since proclitics are not stressed, this must be pronounced /bi-**kam**, not **bi**-kam. On the other hand, though /'al-**wa**-lad/ and /wal-**wa**-lad/ are obviously polysyllabic, they are stressed like disyllabic words because the proclitics /wa/ and /'al/ are ignored in counting syllables.

4. In polysyllabic words, stress falls on the penultimate if that syllable is heavy.

New /ja **dii** dun/ جديد
You wrote /ka **tab** tum/ كتبتم
My words /ka li **ma** ti/ كلماتي

In polysyllabic words, stress falls on the antepenultimate if the penultimate is light.

word /**ka** li ma/ كلمة
one word /ka **li** ma tun/ كلمة
capital /**aa** si ma/ عاصمة
capital /aa **si** ma tun/ عاصمةً

The number of syllables is determined by how the word is actually pronounced, not by how it "should" be pronounced. Even in highly formal spoken modern standard Arabic (MSA) case endings and some final vowels are often omitted, which cause the syllable count to decrease and the stress to shift backwards. For example, if the case ending ةٌ /tun/ of **"مكتبة** 'library', pronounced /mak-**ta**-ba-tun/ according to Rule 5, is omitted, the syllable count decreases from four to three. This causes the stress to shift backwards from /ta/ to /**mak**/ according to Rule 5 so that the word is pronounced /mak-ta-ba/. On the other hand, when a word like **كتاب'** book', pronounced /ki-**taa**-bun/ according to Rule 4, is shortened to **كتاب** /ki-**taab**/, the stress shifts forward by one syllable according to Rule (1) (stress on superheavy). Though the stress shifts from the penultimate /taa/ to the ultimate syllable /taab/, the stress is still on the same long vowel /aa/.

McLoughlin (1982:6) says that Arabic stress rules are quite different from English, and failure to observe this is one of the principal features of a foreign accent.

1. Some disyllabic words formed by the suffixation of a pronominal enclitic directly to the proclitics لَ /la/ or بِ /bi/ do not follow the normal rules of ignoring proclitics when counting syllables. For

example, لكم (for you) consists of the enclitic كم /kum/ suffixed to the proclitic ل /la/. Normally Rule (2) would apply, the proclitic would be ignored, and the word would be pronounced as /la-**kum**/ with stress on the ultimate, just like بكم is pronounced /bi-**kam**/. In fact لكم is pronounced /**la**-kum/, just like any normal disyllabic word. What is exceptional here is that the proclitic is not being ignored and Rule (3), rather the Rule (2), is applied. Below are some more examples:

for you /la-kum / لكم
for her /la-ha / لها
for him /la-hu/ له

2. The word اجل in the sense of 'indeed' is normally stressed as /'**a**-jal/ according to Rule (2), but in the sense of 'more sublime', a shortened form of اجل /a-**jal**-lu/, it is stressed on the ultimate syllable since /jal/ is the originally stressed syllable. This is a minor phenomenon and can be safely ignored.
3. Many dual forms end in long /aa/, such as هما كتبا/**hu**-ma(a) **ka**-ta-ba(a)/ 'they two wrote'. According to Rule 3, these should be pronounced /hu-**ma(a)** ka-ta-**ba(a)/.** However, some speakers pronounce these words with a final half-long /a(a)/ that sounds as if there is weak stress on the ultimate syllables, i.e., /hu-ma(a) ka-ta-ba(a)/, contradicting Rule (3). Other speakers sound as if they pronounce both syllables with more or less equal stress. The most common pronunciation probably follows rules (2) and (3), with primary stress on the /hu/ and /ka/ and the final half long final vowel carrying secondary stress. The stress of dual forms is a borderline case that requires further research.

2.2 Vowel Stress : Final long Vowel

Final long vowels are not stressed. Thus هما they (two) is pronounced /**hu**-ma(a)/, not /hu-**maa**/. This is neither a rule nor an exception, but a logical corollary derived from the rules. For /**hu**-ma(a)/, applying Rule (3) yields the correct stress.

they /hu-ma/ هما
my house /bay-ti/ بيتي
Japanese /ya(a)-baa-ni/ ياباني

Seeming exceptions to this corollary include words ending in a (ء) hamza-on-the line. For example,الى اللقاء (goodbye) sounds like it is pronounced /'i-lal-li-**qaa**/, with the last long /aa/stressed, but in fact its precise pronunciation is /'i-lal-li-**qaa'**/ (Rule 1), with the final unvoweled hamza inaudible or hardly audible. The reason that this word does not contradict the rules or the corollary becomes clear if we look at how the word is formally pronounced with the case ending, i.e.الى اللقاء /'i-lal-li-**qaa**-'i/.

2.3 Syllabification

To understand stress rules properly, it is necessary to understand how words are divided into syllables (syllabic structure). Arabic syllables are of six structural types that can be classified into the three categories defined below: light, heavy and superheavy. It is formed by a succession of stricture and aperture (and eventually another stricture). Stricture is formed by consonants (C) and aperture by vowels (V).(Guella, 2005: 2).

1. A light syllable consists of a consonant followed by a short vowel (CV).
   CV كَ /ka/ consonant followed by a short vowel.
   CV بِ /bi/ consonant followed by a short vowel.
2. A heavy syllable consists of either a consonant followed by two vowels (CVV), or of a consonant followed by a short vowel and a consonant (CVC).
   CVV با /baa/ consonant followed by a long vowel
   CVV كي /kay/ consonant followed by a diphthong
   CVC بـب/bab/ consonant followed by a short vowel and a consonant
3. A superheavy syllable consists of a consonant followed by one or two vowels followed by one or two consonants:

CVVC نون /nuun/ consonant + long vowel + consonant
CVVC يوم /yawm/consonant + diphthong + consonant
CVCC كبّ /kabb/ consonant + short vowel + double consonant
CVCC برق /barq/consonant + short vowel + consonant + consonant
CVVCC شابّ /shaabb/ consonant +long vowel+ double consonant

Only one superheavy syllable can appear in a word, which almost always occurs at word end. But occasionally superheavy syllables can occur in other positions, as in شادّ /shaad-da/ 'he argued'.

3. Comparison of Stress in English and Arabic

3.1 Stress Rules and Functions

Arabic lexical stress is more predictable than English stress. Arabic has stress placement rules that operate at the word level. The number and length of the syllables in the word determine the placement of stress. In brief the system, degree, placement types, and location of stress in Arabic differ completely from English stress. The rules of placing stress in Arabic can be summarized as:

(a) short syllables have short vowels;
(b) long syllables have either long vowels or a diphthong; or a short vowel followed by two consonants;
(c) in words with long and short syllables the stress falls on the nearest long syllable to the end of the word.
(d) otherwise the stress is on the first syllable.

In English stress rules are different in that the placement of stress depends on the type of vowel a syllable has. These rules can be summarized as:

1. Those syllables that contain schwa are always unstressed unless emphases or new information would be delivered
2. Words with two or more than one syllable take the stress on the syllable that:
   a-has not schwa.
   b-has long vowel.
   c-has longer consonant cluster.
   d-has diphthong or triphthong vowels.
   e-has different quality.

The function of stress in Arabic is to reduce two letters into one. All Arabic letters can be stressed except (أ) and (و), while in English; there are more than one function:

1. Demarcation (to demarcate the linguistic item from the rest of items)
2. Thematization (to give new information)
3. Culmination (to suggest the content of the linguistic unity)

3.2 Types of Stress

Types of stress in Arabic are different from English in the following ways:

1. Stress always falls on the ultimate syllable if that syllable is superheavy. This rule takes precedence over all others.
2. In monosyllabic words, stress falls on the ultimate syllable.
3. In disyllabic words, stress falls on the penultimate syllable
4. In polysyllabic words, stress falls on the penultimate if that syllable is heavy
5. In polysyllabic words, stress falls on the antepenultimate if the penultimate is light.

While in English, stress is dependent on the origin of words and the rhythmic factors (heavy-light syllables). Words borrowed from Latin and other languages are stressed differently. For example, the first syllable of the root is stressed in the following words:

blossom /' blɒ sə m / **holy /' hə ʊ li/**

body / ' bɒ di / **never / ' nevə (r)/**

Also, English word stress is not always on the first syllable. Here are some examples of stress in different syllables of the word:

computer /kə m' pjuː tə (r) /
language /' læŋg wɪ dʒ /
pronunciation /prə ˌ nʌ nsi' eɪ ʃ n /.

Sometimes stress placement can be predicted because of the type of the word or the endings they have. In brief, in order to decide on stress placement, it is necessary to mark some or all of the following information. First, whether the word is morphologically simple or complex. Second, the grammatical category to which the word belongs (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc). Third, the number of syllables in the word and the phonological structure they have.

Many varieties of English are said to have both primary stress and secondary stress, as in the word preconception, which contains both a secondary stress and a primary stress: [,precon`ception], where the diacritic [,] marks secondary stress, and the diacritic [`] marks primary stress. The idea is that the syllables between the stressed syllables are unstressed, and thus less prominent than the stressed syllables, but that the syllable with primary stress is more prominent than the syllable with secondary stress.

Conclusion

The Arabic and English phonological system vary extensively, not only in the range of the sounds each language has, but also in the relative importance of vowels, consonant, syllables, and these supra-segmental phonemes. Therefore, learners of English face problems when they use stress. In considering the nature of stress in English and Arabic it seems that both their function and structure are different. Arabic stress rules are quite different from English, and failure to observe this is one of the principal features of a foreign accent. The Arabic stress rules described in this paper may seem more complicated than they actually are. It shows some point of difference in that it is a result of reducing two neighboring letters. It does bear a strong relationship to vowel length and syllable shape, and correct word stress aids intelligibility. In general, "heavy" syllables attract stress.

While in English, the strong syllables have a peak that is either a tense vowel or a diphthong, not schwa, [i] , [u], or long consonant cluster. The weak syllables have schwa [ə], [i] , [u], or syllabic consonant.

Both English and Arabic have two different functions of stress. In Arabic, stress reduces double neighboring letters thus it is a non-phonemic phenomena. It means that stress can not be used to distinguish meanings in Arabic, whereas in English words like nouns are distinguished from verbs by stress alone and it shows grammatical and semantic functions like demarcation, thematization and culmination.

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تحليل مقارن للتشديد الصوتي في اللغتين الانكليزية والعربية

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المديرية العامة للتربية في القادسية

الملخص:

ان الدراسة الحالية هي محاولة لاكتشاف التشديد باللغتين العربية والإنكليزية. ففي اللغة الإنكليزية ، التشديد الصوتي يشير إلى درجة القوة المستخدمة في نطق المجاميع الصوتية.وان ابعاد تلك المقاطع الصوتية المشددة يمكن ادراكها بعلو ودرجة صوتها اكثر من تلك الموجودة في المقاطع المجاورة لها.وان تلك الأبعاد لها ارتباط بالنشاط العضلي الكبير لأجهزة النطق .ومن جانب أخر, في اللغة العربية، ان التشديد الصوتي يظهر نقاط اختلاف معينة حيث أنه ينتج لغرض اختزال حرفين متجاورين الى حرف واحد.

تقع هذه الدراسة في ثلاثة أقسام. يعني القسم الأول منه بالتشديد الصوتي في اللغة الإنكليزية من حيث الطبيعة ، والأنواع والوظائف . باتباع الطريقة نفسها ، يختص القسم الثاني بالتشديد الصوتي في اللغة العربية.في حين ويركز القسم الأخير على أوجه التشابه والاختلاف في اللغتين الانكليزية والعربية.أخيرا، تلخص الاستنتاجات موجودات البحث.