



Journal of Education for Humanities

A peer-reviewed quarterly scientific journal issued by College of Education for Humanities / University of Mosul



A Phonological Study of the Patterns of Nicknames in Mosuli Arabic with Reference to Meaning

Zahraa Mohammed Saleh Ahmed ¹

Anmar Hammoodi Saeed ²

College of Basic Education / University of Mosul / Mosul - Iraq ¹

College of Arts / University of Mosul / Mosul - Iraq ²

Article information

Received : 22/10/2025

Revised 21/12/2025

Accepted : 31/12/2025

Published 1/3/2026

Keywords:

Nicknames, Mosuli Arabic, phonological patterns, syllable structure, and stress

Correspondence:

Zahraa Mohammed Saleh
zahraa.mohammed@uomosul.edu.iq

Abstract

Nicknaming is a widespread linguistic phenomenon, often used to express affection or familiarity. In many languages, including Mosuli Arabic, a single proper name can yield multiple nicknames depending on social and linguistic factors. This study investigates the phonological processes involved in the formation of nicknames in Mosuli Arabic, aiming to identify the rules and patterns that govern this transformation. Names are categorized according to syllable structure, vowel–consonant combinations, and stress patterns to uncover general tendencies in nickname formation. The analysis reveals that, while nickname creation often involves creative manipulation, it also reflects consistent underlying phonological structures. These findings highlight the intuitive linguistic knowledge speakers use in adapting proper names into more familiar forms

DOI: *****,, ©Authors, 2025, College of Education for Humanities University of Mosul.

This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).



مجلة التربية للعلوم الإنسانية

مجلة علمية فصلية محكمة، تصدر عن كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية / جامعة الموصل



دراسة صوتية لأنماط ألقاب الأسماء في اللهجة الموصلية مع الإشارة الى المعنى

انمار حمودي سعيد²

زهراء محمد صالح احمد¹

كلية التربية الأساسية/ جامعة الموصل / الموصل - العراق¹

كلية الآداب/ جامعة الموصل / الموصل - العراق²

الملخص

معلومات الارشفة

يُعد إطلاق أسماء الدلع أو الألقاب ظاهرة لغوية شائعة تُستخدم غالبًا للتعبير عن المودة أو الألفة. وفي العديد من اللغات، بما في ذلك العربية الموصلية، يمكن أن يُشتق من الاسم الواحد عدة ألقاب بحسب العوامل الاجتماعية واللغوية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف العمليات الصوتية التي تدخل في تشكيل أسماء الدلع في العربية الموصلية، من خلال تحديد القواعد والأنماط التي تحكم هذا التغيير. تُصنّف الأسماء وفقًا لبنيتها المقطعية، وتركيبية الاصوات الصائتة والصامتة، بالإضافة إلى أنماط النبر، للكشف عن التوجهات العامة في تشكيل الألقاب. وقد أظهرت التحليلات أن عملية تشكيل الألقاب، رغم ما تتطوي عليه من إبداع من قبل المتحدثين، تعكس في الوقت ذاته أنظمة صوتية متسقة، ما يُبرز المعرفة اللغوية الحدسية التي يمتلكها المتحدثون عند تكييف الأسماء لتصبح أكثر ألفة

تاريخ الاستلام : 22/10/2025

تاريخ المراجعة : 21/12/2025

تاريخ القبول : 31/12/2025

تاريخ النشر : 1/3/2026

الكلمات المفتاحية :

أسماء الدلع , الأنماط الصوتية ,
بنية المقطع , نبر الكلمة , اللهجة
الموصلية

معلومات الاتصال

زهراء محمد صالح

zahraa.mohammed@uomosul.edu.iq

DOI: *****, ©Authors, 2025, College of Education for Humanities University of Mosul.

This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

1. Introduction

Nicknaming is a very common used phenomenon all over the world. All given names can have more than one nickname depending on who is giving the nickname and to whom. In contrast to one's real name, which is something that is known only from the start, a nickname is a proper name that is given later in life (Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh, 2016, p. 2). "One's real name" here is used to mean the child's first or given name which is usually assigned around the time of birth. The word 'nickname' has many definitions. Among these is that "a nickname is an informal name for someone or something especially a name which you are called by your friends or family, usually based on your proper name or your character" (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary). A nickname is a well-known or abbreviated form of a proper name, although it can also have negative and descriptive connotations (Abid et al., 2016, p. 37). It is regarded as a quite informal and transient name. In other words, a nickname is created for a specific reason and indicates the degree of formality that both the speaker and the hearer share (de Klerk and Bosch, 1997: as cited in Sobane, 2008, p. 12). For Starks and Taylor-Leech (2011, p. 87) nicknames are assigned throughout life, giving users a strong means of identifying themselves and others. The majority of nicknames relate to the user's personal characteristics and, as a result, set expectations for them. Such nicknames often emerge spontaneously within small, close-knit social groups and typically reflect an underlying need to convey specific attitudes and emotions, such as warmth, affection, solidarity, friendship, and playfulness—meanings that are generally not expressed through the use of the bearer's full given name. In early childhood, these nicknames usually function as terms of endearment, frequently carrying a humorous connotation. However, nicknames assigned at later stages of life tend to offer deeper insight into cultural practices, social dynamics, and interpersonal relationships (de Klerk & Bosch, 1997, p. 4f). These names are semantically transparent and their usage reveals insights into the characteristics (personal and physical) of their bearers, as well as into their role in society (Leslie and Skipper, 1990: as cited in de Klerk and Bosch, 1997, p. 4) and in the subculture which has advised and used them (Raper, 1987: as cited in de Klerk and Bosch, 1997, p. 4). Nicknames are abbreviated names to serve as substitutes for our official first or last names. They are familiar because their usage suggests casual, private, and occasionally intimate social ties. Their distinctive manner of development is via alternation, or variation, at any one of the four linguistic levels: phonological, morphological, lexical, and semantic. This makes them alternatives not just socially (being used in place of

other names for the same person), but also linguistically (McClure, 1981, p. 65). A nickname such as “Debbie” appears to capture the true self, the casual, likeable, and friendly version of herself that she wants to present to the outside world. Deborah in its full form appears to be the name-form by which she is held firmly accountable by her parents, teachers, and other adults in positions of authority (McClure, 1981, p. 64).

Mosuli Arabic (henceforth MA) is a variety of Arabic spoken in Northern Iraq. There are various kinds of nicknames in MA and among the Mosuli society. Sometimes, more than one nickname is used for the same given name. Some are externally motivated, resting on perceptions of the bearer’s personality, behavior, origin, appearance, etc. like: “Qazzuymy” /qaz'zu:mi/ is a nickname given to a person who is dwarf or short and “Al-Baghdady” /ʔalbay'da:di/, for an individual who was born and currently resides in Baghdad. Others are derived from the original name and have been formed through morphological and phonological processes like: “Allaawy” /ʕal'la:wi:/ for Ali, “Fuufuu” /fu:fu:/ from “Farah” and “Ayyuush” /ʕaj'ju:f/ from “Aa’isha”.

2. The Problem

Although previous research has examined nicknames from semantic, pragmatic, and, in some cases, phonological perspectives across a range of languages (e.g., Newman and Ahmad 1992; Sobane, 2008; Starks & Taylor-Leech, 2011; Zwebner et al., 2017; Idika et al., 2019; Wijana, 2021), including studies situated in Arabic-speaking contexts (e.g., Haggan, 2008; Al-Sa’ati, 2012; Al-Ajlouny & Ababneh, 2016), the *phonological structure* of nicknames has received relatively limited systematic attention. In particular, detailed phonological analyses focusing on specific Arabic dialects—such as Mosuli Arabic—remain scarce. To the best of our knowledge, no study has yet offered a comprehensive account of nickname formation in Mosuli Arabic from a phonological perspective. The present study addresses this gap by providing a detailed analysis of nickname formation, incorporating both segmental and suprasegmental features.

3. Aims of the Study

This study seeks to:

1. Analyze the phonological patterns found in MA nicknames that are derived directly from given names through specific phonological processes. This includes an examination of consonants, vowels, syllable structure, and stress patterns in the resulting nicknames.

2. Investigate the mechanisms and phonological processes that facilitate the transformation of given names into nicknames.
3. Explore the semantic implications of nickname endings, with particular attention to those that indicate gender distinctions and the underlying motivations for using certain nicknames.

4. Research Questions

In light of the aims outlined in Section 3, the study seeks to address the following research questions:

1. What phonological patterns characterize MA nicknames that are directly derived from given names?
2. Which phonological processes (e.g., deletion, epenthesis, assimilation, reduplication, stress shift) are most frequently involved in the derivation of MA nicknames from given names?
3. To what extent do the resulting nicknames conform to preferred phonotactic patterns in MA, and how do these constraints shape nickname formation?
4. What types of nickname endings are used in MA, and what phonological and semantic functions do these endings serve?

5. Hypotheses

Based on the aims and research questions presented above, the following hypotheses are proposed for examination:

1. MA nicknames derived from given names exhibit systematic phonological simplification, favoring shorter syllable structures and reduced segmental complexity compared to their source forms.
2. Deletion is the most frequent phonological process used in the formation of MA nicknames, followed by assimilation, germination, reduplication, and epenthesis.
3. MA nickname formation tends to favor consonants and vowels that are more frequent and less marked in the phonological system of MA, resulting in phonotactically well-formed outputs.
4. Gender distinctions in MA nicknames are systematically reflected in the choice of nickname endings, with specific phonological forms being preferentially associated with male or female referents.

6. The Scope of the Study

The current study is concerned only with nicknames which are derived primarily from one's real name, some by adding, deleting, or moving syllable(s) in the name. Nicknames that originate from the bearer's characteristics or those related to the origin or place of the bearer are not included in our study. The study includes diminutives which are affectionate nicknames based on the root of the individual's name. This process involves modifying the root of the name and using the possessive form, viz. فَعُول 'fa'uul' for the name and adding the suffix "i", or "y", to the name, e.g. Hammoodi /ham'mu:di/, for Ahmad or Muhammad, Fahhuudy /fah'hu:di/ for Fahed (Zawaydeh, 2008, p. 7; as cited in Al-Sa'ati, 2012, p. 104).

7. The Semantics of Nicknames

Generally speaking, and regardless of language, our given name is our very first social tagging. Each name has associated with characteristics, behavior and a look, and as such, it has a meaning, a shared schema within a society (Zwebner et al., 2017, p. 528). We can learn about a community's cultural values, language usage, social structures, and familial relationships by examining its naming customs (Day and Sutton-Spence, 2012, p. 23; as cited in Topraksoy, 2015, p. 43). Furthermore, understanding the cultural origins of naming helps us contextualize contemporary naming customs and recognize the diverse variety of meanings underlying personal name selection (Topraksoy, 2011, p. 43).

As optional and transmitting forms of address, nicknames can provide insights into language, culture, and social relationships (de Klerk & Bosch, 1997, p. 10). Using a nickname instead of the person's formal name carries some meaning and an expressive value (Gladkova, 1999, p. 2). It illustrates the social impact that names have over the named (McClure, 1981, p. 65). Every community makes this clear. In his study of presidents' nicknames, Gladkova (1999, p. 4) argues that nicknames evoke a network of associations related to a president's personality or behavior, reflecting the speaker's attitude toward, and degree of familiarity with, the individual in question. Once the semantic elements of nicknames are understood, it is feasible to talk about the cultural meaning concealed within the nickname. For example, when Americans refer to the president by their initials, it indicates that the president is highly popular, e.g., LBJ was used for Lyndon Baines Johnson. In agreement with Gladkova (1999), Starks and Taylor-Leech (2011, p. 87f) also regard that nicknaming is frequently linked to the areas of language use, and their use conveys something about the traits of the bearer and their place in society.

Nicknames are frequently associated with a user's physical attributes, such as height, weight, or hair color, or with their personal habits and qualities, frequently their ability or lack thereof. Others include rhymes or hypocoristic versions of personal or family names (e.g., Smithy), while others are related to personal history, such as cultural or racial origin.

There are various reasons for using nicknames, among of which are the physical appearance of the named person, their psychological or behavioural habits, their occupation, place of origin, or specific events associated with the named-person's life (Darabseh, 2016, p. 28; as cited in Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh, 2016, p. 5). The following example depicts this clearly: adjective-like nicknames can sometimes be modified by using the definite article: 'il' to mean the X-one, where "X" stands for the characteristics or prediction signified by the given nickname, mainly enforcing or singling out the characteristics of that person e.g., "Attawil" /ʔit'tawi:l/ (the tall one), "Attayyaar" /ʔittaj'ja:r/ (the pilot) (Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh, 2016, p. 5). The expression "Abo" is also used in a similar sense to specify the reference to the named person, e.g., "Abu Shamah" /ʔabu:'ʃa:ma/, where "abu" means (the one with) and the nickname above means (the one with a mole).

There is a type of nicknames that are used to indicate the meaning of diminutive for the purpose of endearment. They are based on the source names but are derived using uncommon patterns, e.g., /san'nu:ʔah/ for "Sanaa" which is derived from the pattern (C1aC2C3uuC4ah) or (C1aC2C2uuC3ah), /ʃab'bu:di/ for compound nouns starting with "Abid", as in "Abdullah" and "Abdul-Karim", which is derived from the pattern (C1aC2C3uuC4ih) or (C1aC2C2uuC3ih). This same pattern is used widely to denote the physical properties of a person, e.g., "Shacquurah" /ʃaq'qu:rah/, a girl with white complexion or blond (Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh, 2016, p. 5).

In addition, there are other reasons for the use of nicknames that do not exhibit a direct formal or semantic relationship with their corresponding source names. These include cases in which the chosen nickname resembles that of another individual, situations where the name-giver is unable to identify a more suitable alternative, or instances in which the name-giver deliberately selects a nickname that aligns with one they particularly favor. For example, the personal name "Ada" may receive the nickname "Dunna" (Abid et al., 2016, p. 41). Such instances cannot be adequately explained solely on the basis of phonological or morphological derivation.

Al-Sa'ati (2012) in his discursual study of nicknames in Arabic, exposes more types of nicknames. Among these nicknames are ones referring to a specific action or behavior, e.g. "nazaka"/na'za:ka/ 'a person who is very soft', nicknames comparing a person with a famous character, e.g. "Sibawayh" referring to a famous Arabic grammarian, to show that the named person is good at grammar like him, also "mufrad" /'mufrad/ is used to refer to a person whose name is "Muthanna", which has a unique reference that signals duality. These names are given with a negative connotation. Some of these nicknames are names derived from the given name, the first part like "Shyma" /'fajma/ from "Shayma" /faj'ma:ʔ/ or last part like "neema" from "Tasneem" /tasni:m/, or sometimes with a change in syllable structure of the word and morphemes, e.g. "Saddo" /saddo/ from "Sidra" /sidra/. All these names are given as a mark of affection, and used for endearment or respect. According to a recent study by Wijiana on nicknames in Japanese, a close connection has been found between the semantics of one's name and the nickname given to him/her. In the Javanese community, the girl whose real name is Dian 'lamp', is often given nick name "Senthir" or "Teplok" which both have the same meaning with the real name (Wijiana, 2021, p. 38).

Nicknames determine power relations in any community; they are a reflection of the formality of relationships and indicative of the attitudes a speaker has towards the nickname-bearer (see de Klerk & Bosch, 1997, p. 7 and Sobane, 2008, p.12, among others). For these reasons, numerous studies of nicknames split them into two groups depending on their communication goals and the participants' power relationship they represent:

1. Nicknames with a positive communicative intent: These are used among people who know each other such as close friends, relatives and even close colleagues. These evolve spontaneously among small groups of people who know each other intimately and are frequently indicative of a need to express particular attitudes and feelings such as warmth, affection (e.g., Ingrid becomes Ingipoo), solidarity (e.g. Dude), friendship and playfulness (e.g., Bugs, Ginga Ninga) which would not be expressed in the use of full first name (de Klerk and Bosch, 1997, p.p. 4, 5, and 7).

All the nicknames of young children as reported by parents are typically affectionate names with positive communications used in family contexts (de Klerk and Bosch, 1997, p.7). These nicknames are usually used vocatively because they are not meant to offend the bearer. They are also used referentially in the third person where there will be a reference to the bearer (Sobane, 2008, p. 13). Among these

names are diminutive nicknames which are derived from the given name (the root of the name in Arabic) such as Hammoody from Ahmad (see Al- Sa'ati, 2012, p.105 and Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh, 2016, p. 5). Haggan (2008) also considers that nicks with positive communicative intent are more likely to target positive aspects of personality and character.

2. Nicknames with a negative communicative intent: These are hurtful, mocking and sarcastic (de Klerk and Bosch, 1997, p. 7). They are used to show a negative attitude or lack of appreciation towards the bearer. Their use is mainly limited to referential use among special groups and they become widely spread as common currency within group's community (Crozier, 2004). They are called in the third person (McClure, 1981, p. 70). Sometimes, they are used vocatively when the speaker consciously intends to offend the bearer (Crozier, 2004, p. 136; Crozier and Skliopidou, 2002). It is found that students coin nicknames for lecturers in order to express contempt or hatred, especially those who demand them to concentrate on their work and to perfect their skills. These nicknames are more likely target appearance (Haggan, 2008, p. 90 and Sobane, 2008, p.15). Nicknames used in on-line communications are also grouped within this type (see Lakaw, 2006, p.3).

There is a third group of nicknames, rather a minor one, where nicknames are considered as neutral. There are also names attracting almost equal numbers of votes for two or more categories, e.g. the nickname "Alluty" /al'lu:ti/ can have both positive and negative connotations in the sense that the carrier is deliberately trying to be evasive. Nicknames derived from the person's given name are either affectionate or neutral like "Annu" /ʔannu:/ for /ʔanwa:r/ (Haggan, 2008, p. 85). Affectionate nicknames are more likely to be based on personality or character than on appearance (Haggan, 2008, p. 87).

Haggan (2008, p. 81) also makes a distinction between female and male names. Philip's (1990) analysis of Pennsylvania names reveal that teenagers' nicknames were more commonly assigned to males where they connoted strength, largeness, hardness and maturity, female nicknames related to beauty, pleasantness, kindness and goodness (Philip, 1990: as cited in Haggan, 2008, p. 81). Clear gender differences also emerged in nickname use among South African adolescents, more males had nicknames than females. While male nicknames relating more to appearance, behavior, personal characteristics or background history, female nicknames are more likely derived from the original name (de Klerk and Bosch, 1997; as cited in Haggan, 2008, p. 82). Female names show a stronger local influence, whereas male nicknames show a stronger foreign influence.

For instance, female nicknames are based on the girl's similarity to cartoon characters, e.g., Barbie is given to a girl similar to a doll. Male nicknames may be those of pop stars, or sports personalities like Zidane and Pele (Haggan, 2008, p. 90).

8. The Phonology of Nicknames

This section presents a review of the literature on the phonology of nicknames. It examines the phonological patterns and formation processes observed in Arabic, English, and other languages in order to identify and evaluate phonological preferences in naming and nicknaming across different linguistic systems.

Kenstowics (1994; as cited in Smith, 2002, p. 4f), in his study of deriving English name clipping/ suffixation combinations, explains that English nicknames are formed by selecting a prominent nucleus (initial or stressed), extracting its full syllable (sometimes) plus the following onset, then adding the suffix [-i], examples are: *Abbie* from *Abigail* and *Maddie* from *Madline* and *Pattie* (not *Patrie*) from *Patricia*. In some cases, as in the last example, the onset of the following syllable does not show up in the output, instead, the consonant in the truncation (root) coda, is resyllabified in the second syllable as onset. **patrie* is not possible monosyllable in English due to phonotactic constraints on coda content. This process of clipping before suffixation ensures the presence of an onset in the final syllable of the nickname (Kenstowics, 1994; as cited in Smith, 2002, p. 4f).

De Klerk and Bosch (1997) argue that segment, stress and syllable structure preferences in English names are influenced by nickname subject's gender and the social function of nicknames (including the intent of the nickname user). They attribute these correspondences to phonaesthetics which is used in semiotics to refer to a direct association between form and meaning in language and sound symbolism. They consider that the choices of nicknames which symbolize affection and positive feelings should therefore reflect most strongly the very patterns which are genuinely preferred in English and nicknames show predilections for specific sound patterns. Their study found a markedly strong preference for bisyllabic (nick) names carrying stress on the first syllable. Male and female nicknames differ phonologically in interesting ways. Nasals, voiceless stops, and liquids occurred with higher frequency in female names, voiced stops showing up in male nicknames. It is shown that there is a greater frequency of /i:/ and /u/ in female nicknames and female nicknames ended in /i:/. However, /i/ was expressly avoided in a number of nicknames whose names already ended in /i/, e.g., "Natalie" /'nætəli/ becomes "Nats" /næts/.

Van Dam (2003), in his study of the phonological structure of /i/-suffixed English nicknames, explores the forms of the truncatum when the relevant hypocristic suffix is added (for nicknaming). By truncatum, he means the largest possible part from the left of the base word. A suffix such as /i/, /o/, or /ers/ is added to the truncatum. The data concern only hypocristic processes of apocopy (the elimination of final elements), (e.g., Abb-i from Abigail. The actual hypocristic is the truncatum plus the relevant hypocristic suffix. He claims that bare truncatums respect well-formedness, phonotactic and prosodic requirements of English. They are all monosyllabic. In the base, post-vocalic consonants can be elements of the coda of the first syllable, elements of the onset of the second syllable or some combination of these, i.e., it sometimes requires clipping or resyllabification, e.g., Black-i from Blackburn, and Bron-o from Bronwyn.

Al-Sa'ati (2012), in his discursal study of nicknames in Arabic, also gives a special attention to nicknames derived from proper names. These nicknames shorten or modify a person's long real name, e.g., "Toffy" from *Mustafa*. He discusses the formation of diminutives as they are formed from the root (consonants) of the real name, and adding the suffix '-i' or '-y'. These may be shorter or longer than the name, e.g., "Allawy" from "*Ali*". A change in the phonemic structure of the word either initially or finally is shown in some nicknames like "Neema" from "*Tasneem*". Some involve a use of a different form (pattern), e.g., "Birro" from "*Ibrahim*". There is a change in all vowel sounds (syllables). Some require only a syllable or sound(s) deletion, e.g., "Shayma" from *Shaymaa*'.

Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh (2016), in their study of Jordanian Arabic, proceed that nicknames involve the use of the pattern C1aC2C3uuC4ih, C1aC2C3uuC4ah, C1aC2C2uuC3ih or C1aC2C2uuC3ah, the last two are used only for roots consist of three phonemes (i.e., consonants). So, anyone called "Mohammed", "Ahmad", "Mahmmud", or any other name involving the root (h-m-d) can be nicknamed /hammu:di/; "*Khalid*": /xallu:di/ and so on (Al-Ajlouny and Ababneh, 2016, p. 5).

According to Abid et al. (2016), when nicknames are formed, some changes are done under certain rules which are: metathesis, assimilation, epenthesis, dissimilation, lengthening and compression. For them, the formation of nicknames differs with respect to the original language. They found that when nicknames start with consonants, they begin with any consonant found in the name and when they start with vowels, it must also be the same found in the name. They may end with /a/, /i/, or /u/, e.g., Tom becomes Tomy. Sometimes, there can be no rule for the formation of nicknames, as in 'Dunno'. Most religious Islamic names have no nicknames.

He (2020), in her long-term sociolinguistic trends and phonological patterns of American names, finds significant differences between male and female names. These names differ in number, type, location of vowels as well as the number of syllables. Female names have more vowels, less consonants and more syllables than male names. They tend mostly to end with vowels, mainly /ʌ/ and /ə/, like “Cinderella” /sɪndə'relə/, while male names tend to end with consonants like “Gerald” /'dʒerəld/. Most female names have three syllables while male names have one. He also finds that names show a markedly strong preference for bisyllabic nicknames carrying stress on the first syllable. The same pattern is found for English first names.

9. Types of Phonological Processes

There are some mechanisms which make the transition from a given name to the nickname. These make a sound change in the word. When a new word is formed, its phonetic content is changed. These sound changes involve employing some phonological processes; among these are:

- 1. Metathesis:** It is the reversal in position of two adjoining or non- adjoining sounds (Yule, 1996, p. 220). There are three possibilities when consonants change their places with the vowels remain intact. One is that two simple sounds change their features. Secondly, words are completely reversed and thirdly, aspirated sounds become unaspirated. The example of this technique is given as that the name /nabi:l/ is changed to /bannu/. In this nickname, metathesis plays a vital role along with deletion and epenthesis (Bukhari, 1985; as cited in Abid et al., 2016, p. 37f).
- 2. Assimilation:** It can be defined as phonemes can be realized differently as a result of being adjacent to some other phoneme belonging to a neighboring morpheme or word. It can be across word boundaries, across morpheme boundaries and also within the morpheme (Roach, 2009, p.10ff). It may be regressive when the sound assimilates to a preceding sound or progressive when the sound changes because of the following sound, e.g., happen [hæpm], and input [ɪmpʊt] (Roach, 2009, p. 111).
- 3. Elision:** It is a term used in phonetics and phonology to refer to the omission of sounds in connected speech. Both consonants and vowels may be affected. Sometimes, a whole syllable may be elided within polysyllabic words, vowels and consonants are regularly elided in conversational speech in normal speed, e.g., camera /kæmrə/ and probably /prɒ bli/ (Crystal, 2003, p.158).

Elision in word-initial position is known as aphaeresis, or prosiopesis, in word-medial position as syncope, and in word-final position as apocope. Examples of aphaeresis are: again [geɪn], *especial* [speʃəl] (Hassan and El-Shayib, 1989, p. 132; as cited in Thabit and Ahmed, 2015, p. 82), of syncope are: *probably* [prɒbəlɪ] and February [febrɪ] (Crystal, 2003, p. 158), and of apocope is *looked back* [lʊk bæk] (Roach, 2009, p. 114).

4. Intrusion: It is the addition of sounds in connected speech which have no basis in the pronunciation of syllables or words heard in isolation. The most common example in English is of intrusive /r/ which is introduced as a linking form after a vowel when a following word begins with a vowel, as in law(r) and order (Crystal, 2003, p. 242). When an extra sound is inserted initially, it is called prosthesis, epenthesis or anaptyxis in word-medial position, and paragoge in word-final position (Crystal, 2003, p. 243). Examples are: *strange* /streɪndʒ/ becomes *estrang* [streɪndʒ], *something* /sʌmθɪŋ/ becomes [sʌmpθɪŋ] (Collins and Mees, 2003, p. 105), and across /əkrɒs/ becomes [əkrɒst] (Stageberg, 1981; as cited in Thabit and Ahmad, 2015: 84).

5. Reduplication: It is a morphological process in which some phonological material is repeated within a single form for lexical or grammatical purposes (Trask, 1996, p. 304). In Malay (the Austronesian language family), for instance, reduplication is used in adverb formation (e.g., baik /baik/ ‘good’ → baik-baik /baik-baik/ ‘well’) as well as to express indefinite plurality (e.g., bunga /buŋa/ ‘flower’ → bunga-bunga /buŋa-buŋa/ ‘flowers’).

Reduplication also plays a role in nickname formation. In Hausa, nicknames are derived through partial reduplication targeting the final syllable of the source name (Newman & Ahmad, 1992). Newman and Ahmad identify seven distinct suffixation patterns used in the derivation of Hausa nicknames, as illustrated by forms such as Audù → Àuduudu and Bellò → Bèlloloo (1992, p. 162). Similarly, Barešová (2020) reports the use of reduplication in nickname formation among Japanese junior high school students.

6. Clipping: According to Yule (1996, p. 66), clipping is a type of lexical reduction that occurs when a word containing more than one syllable is shortened, a process that often takes place in casual speech (e.g., ad from advertisement, bra from brassiere). In personal naming, clipping is commonly used in the formation of nicknames, as illustrated by forms such as “Liz” from “Elizabeth”, “Ed” from “Edward”, “Mike” from “Michael”, “Ron” from “Ronald”, and “Sam” from “Samuel”.

7. Gemination: A geminate or geminate sequence is a sequence of two identical consonant sounds. Examples of such sequences are /kk/ in book case /bʊk keIs /and /dd/ in /bæd dDg/ (Catford, 1994, p. 111). True geminates are found in Arabic when there is no word or morpheme boundary between the two sounds in words like /'kattaba/ (he made him write), /'baṭṭaal/ (workless) (Catford, 1994, p. 112). Ghalib (1984, p. 536) confirms that germination in Arabic does not involve a rearticulation of the same consonant, however, the geminate consonant is produced as one long indivisible consonant.

10. Methodology

This section outlines the procedures followed for data collection and analysis. During the analysis, efforts were directed toward identifying the consonants and vowels present in the nicknames and establishing the relationship between original names and their corresponding nicknames. Particular attention was given to the syllable structure of both names and nicknames, as well as to the phonological processes involved in the formation of nicknames. Additionally, the placement of stress within nicknames was examined to uncover general patterns in stress assignment.

10.1. Data Collection

The data for this study comprise a wide range of nicknames derived from 254 full personal names. The corpus includes proper names of Mosuli individuals of both genders, with 154 female names and 103 male names. A small number of the names are compound nouns, such as Abdullaah and Abdus Sataar, while the majority are simple names of varying syllabic lengths. The dataset includes self-reported names and nicknames, as well as nicknames reported by peers. Additionally, nicknames provided by other informants—such as siblings, parents, relatives, and close friends—were incorporated. Nicknames that are self-reported or reported by parents or other family members are typically affectionate in nature and carry positive connotations, reflecting their use primarily within family or close social contexts. All collected nicknames were subjected to phonological analysis in order to identify recurrent patterns of formation and to examine the relationship between the bearer's gender and the phonological patterns employed.

10.2. Data Analysis

To facilitate the analysis of phonological patterns, all given names and their corresponding nicknames were transcribed phonemically using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The dataset includes a comprehensive representation of syllable structures observed in both names and nicknames. The analysis examines the distribution of consonants and vowels, provides explanations for the various structural patterns identified (including the total number of patterns), and highlights key differences between male and female nickname forms. Stress patterns and syllable structures are also considered. Furthermore, attention is given to the phonological transformations underlying the formation of these nicknames. In the transcription system used, consonants are represented as **C**, geminate consonants as **C:**, consonant clusters as **CC**, long vowels as **V:**, and short vowels as **V**.

10.2.1. Description of the Patterns of Nicknames in Mosuli Arabic

The data analysed in this study included 254 types (proper names) and 407 tokens (nicknames). All these nicknames have been transcribed phonemically using the IPA symbols to get to their phonological make up and to the sequences of consonants and vowels that constitute them. The roots of the original names (or parts of them), i.e., consonants, are retained in most nicknames. For the nicknames in the data, the 407 tokens, 20 patterns have been established.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the phonological patterns used in nickname formation, several analytical criteria were employed. These included: (1) analyzing the frequency of each identified pattern by calculating their percentage of occurrence within the dataset; (2) constructing a table to visually represent the frequency distribution of these patterns; (3) identifying the most commonly used consonants and vowels in the derived forms; (4) examining the syllabic structure characteristic of the various nickname patterns; (5) identifying the processes involved in coining nicknames; and (6) distinguishing between the patterns typically used for male and female nicknames.

The analysis revealed considerable variation in the frequency with which different patterns are employed, indicating that certain structures

are preferred and occur more frequently than others. For a summary of the frequency of these patterns see Table 1.

A general observation regarding the relationship between proper names and their corresponding nicknames can be summarized in the following:

1. A one-to-one relationship between the proper name and the nickname, for “Ibaa” we observe CaC:o: (e.g., /ʕabbo:/)
2. A one to multi relationship between the proper name and the nickname, for “Asmaa” we observe cac:u:c /ʔas’su:m /, CaC:u:Ca /ʔas’su:ma /, CaC:o: /ʔasso:/, CaC:u:C /ʔas’so:ma/, CiCCiC /’simsim/.
3. A multi to one relationship between the proper name and the nickname, for “Suhad” and “Suha” we observe Cu:Cu: (e.g., /su:su:/).

Table 1: A Summary of the Frequency of Nickname Patterns

Patterns		Frequency	Percentages
Pattern 1	CVC:u:Ca	72	17.54%
Pattern 2	CaC:u:C	55	13.53%
Pattern 3	Cu:Cu:	53	13.03%
Pattern 4	CaC:o:Ci:	43	10.53%
Pattern 5	CaC:o:	32	7.77%
Pattern 6	CVC:u:Ci:	27	6.52%
Pattern 7	CVC:a:wi:	27	6.52%
Pattern 8	Cu:Ca	17	4.26%
Pattern 9	Ci:Co:	17	4.26%
Pattern 10	CaC:o:Ca	15	3.76%
Pattern 11	CVCCu:C	10	2.51%
Pattern 12	CaCCu:Ca	9	2.26%
Pattern 13	Cu:Ci:	7	1.75%
Pattern 14	CaCCaC	6	1.50%
Pattern 15	CiCCiC	4	1%
Pattern 16	Ca:Ci:	3	0.75%
Pattern 17	CaCa:Ca	3	0.75%
Pattern 18	CVCCo:Ci:	3	0.75%
Pattern 19	CaCaC	2	0.50%
Pattern 20	CVCu:Ca:t	2	0.50%
		407	100%

Another characteristic of the nicknames’ patterns is the following:

1. 14 patterns out of the 20 established patterns are used to construct nicknames for both males and females.
2. Some patterns are specific to female names, e.g., CaCCu:Ca, CVCu:Ca:t, CVC:u:Ca, and Cu:Ca, whereas the patterns CaCaC and CaCa:Ca are specific to male names only. Table 2 below may demonstrate this tendency.

Table (2): Patterns of Nicknames that are Gender Sensitive

Patterns		Neutral	Females	Males
Pattern 1	CVC:u:Ca		√	
Pattern 2	CaC:u:C	√		
Pattern 3	Cu:Cu:	√		
Pattern 4	CaC:o:Ci:	√		
Pattern 5	CaC:o:	√		
Pattern 6	CVC:u:Ci:	√		
Pattern 7	CVC:a:wi:	√		
Pattern 8	Cu:Ca		√	
Pattern 9	Ci:Co:	√		
Pattern 10	CaC:o:Ca	√		
Pattern 11	CVCCu:C	√		
Pattern 12	CaCCu:Ca		√	
Pattern 13	Cu:Ci:	√		
Pattern 14	CaCCaC	√		
Pattern 15	CiCCiC	√		
Pattern 16	Ca:Ci:	√		
Pattern 17	CaCa:Ca			√
Pattern 18	CVCCo:Ci:	√		
Pattern 19	CaCaC			√
Pattern 20	CVCu:Ca:t		√	

All nicknames are either disyllabic (11 patterns) or trisyllabic (9 patterns); there are no monosyllabic or polysyllabic nicknames. The majority of the nicknames end in open syllables (ending in a vowel). Thus, 14 out of 20 patterns end in open syllables; those ending in consonants are mostly disyllabic (viz. patterns 2, 11, 14, 15, and 19). It is also observed that there is a template from which nicknames are derived. In names with triplet consonants, the second consonant in the source name is geminated, e.g., Sidra /'sidra/→/sad'du:ra/; Haajir /'ha:dʒir/→ /hadʒ'dʒu:ra/, whereas names with four

consonants do not involve geminating the second consonant, e.g., Maryam /'marjam/ → /mar'ju:ma/.

10.2.2. Consonants in Nicknames

In most of the patterns of nicknames the consonants are considered as roots of the name, so they mostly remain in the nickname. However, not all of them turn up in the nickname. The general observation is that the first consonant is always retained in the nickname, e.g., “Sidra” /'sidra/ → /sad'du:ra/, “Noor” /nu:r/ → /'nu:na/. Sometimes, only one consonant is retained, e.g., “Jawaad” /dʒa'wa:d/ → /'dʒu:dʒu:/. Other times, two or more consonants are retained and the other consonants are dropped, e.g., “Wafaa” /wafa:ʔ/ → /waffo:/. In few cases, new consonants are added to the nickname, e.g. /k /as in “Dunia” /dun'ja:ko:/. This depends on the form of the pattern and the nature of the consonants found. If the given name contains three consonants, which matches the pattern that contains three consonants, all of the three consonants appear in the nickname, e.g. “Aniis” becomes /ʔan'nu:s/, “Ni'mat” becomes /naʕ'ʕu:m/. In some instances, one of the consonants used in the name is retained in the nickname, which may be the first or the second consonant found in the name, e.g. “Suha” becomes /su:su:/, while “Haajir” becomes /'dʒu:dʒu:/. In some patterns only two consonants of the source name are used, e.g. “Inaas” /ʔiinaas/ becomes /'nu:sa/, not necessarily that the 1st and 2nd consonant is used in the nickname. If the name consists of 3 consonants, only two are used in the nickname, e.g. “Si:maa” /si:'ma:ʔ/ becomes /'si:mo:/. In some patterns the four consonants of the source name are retained in the nickname, e.g. Ibraahiim becomes /bar'hu:m/.

10.2.3. Vowels in Nicknames

The data indicate that the vowel /a/ is the most frequently occurring vowel in the corpus, with a total of 399 tokens. Of these, 286 occur in female nicknames, 101 in male nicknames, and 12 in nicknames shared by both genders. The long vowel /u:/ also occurs frequently, with 301 tokens in total, appearing predominantly in female nicknames (233 tokens), compared to 65 tokens in male nicknames and 3 in nicknames used by both genders.

The vowel /i:/ accounts for approximately 145 occurrences and is found more often in male nicknames (94 tokens) than in female nicknames (47 tokens). Similarly, /o:/ occurs in 124 nicknames in total, with a higher frequency in male nicknames (69

tokens) than in female nicknames (53 tokens), while only 2 tokens are shared by both genders.

The least frequently occurring vowels in the dataset are /a:/, /i/, /u/, and /ɜ:/. The vowel /a:/ appears in only 33 tokens, the majority of which occur in female nicknames (26 tokens), with 6 tokens found in male nicknames. The short vowel /i/ occurs in approximately 13 tokens, including 5 in female nicknames, 6 in male nicknames, and 2 in nicknames shared by both genders. The vowel /u/ is attested in only two nicknames, while /ɜ:/ occurs in a single instance.

Nicknames were also analyzed with respect to their syllable endings. The results show that a higher proportion of female nicknames terminate in /a/, whereas male nicknames more frequently end in /i:/. The vowel /o:/ occurs as a final vowel in both male and female nicknames. In addition, the endings /wi:/ and /a:/ are particularly common in female nicknames, as illustrated by forms such as Hiba /'hiba/ → /hab'ba:wi:/. The ending /wi:/ is also attested in male nicknames, as shown by 'Alaa /ʕa'la:ʔ/ → /ʕal'la:wi:/ and Yahya /'jahja/ → /haj'ja:wi:/.

10.2.4. Types of Phonological Processes/ Transitions

To find out the structural changes in the syllable of the nickname, firstly all the possible syllable structure that exist in the names and their nicknames are written taking into consideration the number of syllables that a name has to find out the types of transition involved. These processes depend on the number of syllables in the names and their nicknames. The categorization is done based on the structure of the first syllable of the name. Before talking about transitions found in nicknames, it is important to say that most nicknames retain the same roots (consonants) found in the original names. It is a characteristic of Arabic language that the consonants are considered as roots of the word and the vowels are changed. No explicit rule could be found for the transition. A name can be transformed to any form that is totally dependent on the will of the person. The consonant can be picked up from anywhere in the name. The transitions are mostly formed according to the pattern used. In patterns 1, 2, 4, 5, 6,7, and 10, there is gemination, either of the second consonant in the name or any other consonant, e.g. “Shahad becomes /ʃah'hu:d/, “Bushra” becomes /baʃʃ o:ra/ and “Yazin” becomes /zaj'ju:n/, or any other consonant, “Ahlam” becomes /ħal'lu:m/, “Yihya” becomes /haj'ja:wi:/ and “Ihaab” becomes /'habbo:/. Sometimes, vowels like /i:/ and /e:/ are changed into the semivowel /j/ and becomes geminated,

e.g. “Tiiba” becomes /taj’ju:ba/ and “Zeen” becomes /zaj’ju:n/. Assimilation is also observed in all the patterns that have gemination of some of the consonants, e.g., “Hasan” becomes /ħas’su:ni:/.

In most nicknames, there is clipping, addition of syllables and deletion of some other syllables. This depends on the form of the name and the form of the pattern used, e.g. in the nickname /ħan’nu:m/ (cac:u:c) for Hanaan, the first syllable is retained while the second syllable is changed into /nu:n/. /n/ is geminated, and /a:/ is substituted by /u:/. In a nickname like /γad’du:f/, from Ghaydaa’ /γaj’da:ʔ/, the two syllables are close syllables ending in a consonant, /j/ is assimilated into /d/, the second syllable is deleted and a new syllable is added. The process of addition is shown clearly when a short name has a long nickname and when the pattern is long, e.g. /sadʒ’dʒa:wi:/ from /sadʒa/, where a new syllable is added. Deletion is also clearly observed in short names given long nicknames, especially in compound names like Abdul Malik and Abdul Baarii which have short nicknames like /ħab’bu:d/ and /ħab’bo:di/ and nicknames like /‘hu:za/ from Hawaazin and /‘mi:fo:/ from Mashaa’il.

By looking at the phonological forms of patterns, we observe that patterns such as cac:u:ca, cu:ca, cac:o:ca, caccu:ca, caca:ca, which end with /a/ all require an addition of a syllable finally (paragoge). For example: “Noor” /nu:r/ becomes /‘nu:ra/, “Haajir” /‘ha:dʒir/ becomes /hadʒ’dʒu:ra/. In such cases, the second closed syllable is changed into an open syllable and a second or third syllable is added.

Reduplication is found in patterns 3, 14, and 15. In most cases, only one consonant of the root is used in the pattern CV:CV:, like /‘bu:bu:/ for “Buraaq”, and /‘mi:mi:/ for “Aamina”, and two consonants of the root are used in the patterns: CaCCaC and CiCCiC as in /‘safsaf/ for “Safaa” and /‘simsim/ for “Asmaa”. Only in few cases in nicknames, when the pattern cu:cu: is used, the first syllable having a long vowel as its center is repeated, e.g. /‘nu:nu:/ is used for “Noor” and /‘lu:lu:/ for “Luma”. In these patterns, there is a deletion of some syllables in the original name. The second syllable is deleted, and the reduplicated syllable is added. The processes of addition, deletion and other processes depend on the number of syllables of the original names. For instance if a name consists of three syllables and changed into a two-syllable nickname, there will be a deletion and vice versa, e.g. “Zakariyya” becomes /‘zi:ko:/.

The other patterns that require a deletion of syllables are cu:ca, ci:co:, ca:ci:, cu:ci:, cacac, caccac, caccv:, cucca, ca:co:, cu:cic and co:ci:, e.g., /‘barbar/ from “Baraa’a”

/ba'ra:ʔ a/ and /'zu:na/ from “Razaan”. In the latter example, the first syllable is deleted and a different last syllable is added with metathesis. From the examples given above, we observe that there are some rules for the transition from the given name to the nickname, yet these rules are full of exceptions.

10.2.5. Stress in Nicknames

Stress is generally defined as “emphasis on a particular syllable established by loudness, greater duration, and higher pitch.” (Yavas, 2011, p. 260). Arabic, in general, has its rules of word stress which depend on the syllable structure of the words and the length of the vowel, or what is widely referred to as syllable weight. Stress in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is said to be predictable (or automatic), thus it is correlated with heavy syllables (Al-Sulaiman, 1986, pp. 100-136). Generally speaking, stress is located on heavy syllables at the end of words. The rules of stress location in MSA can be summarized as follows:

1. Primary stress is on the final syllable if it is of the types CV:C or CVCC;
2. When the final syllable is not of these two types, then primary stress is on the pre-final syllable, if it is of types: CV:, CVC, CV:C;
3. Otherwise it is on the preceding syllable.

Stress rules in MA do not differ in essence from those in MSA. According to Al-Safi (1997, p. 117), two factors are said to govern stress location in MA: first, the morphological composition of the words (i.e. whether the words are simple or complex) and second, the syllable structure of these words.

Stress in nicknames abides by these rules and since the majority of nicknames in the data are disyllabic or trisyllabic words, therefore stress can be

1. either on the first syllable if the second syllable (and third syllable) is light (i.e. ending in a short vowel followed or not by a consonant)
2. or on the second syllable, if that syllable is heavy (i.e. ending in a long vowel followed or not by a consonant) and the third syllable is light or ending in a long vowel,
3. stress is placed on the third syllable if that syllable is superheavy ending in a long vowel followed by a consonant.

Table 3 provides a summary of stress location on nicknames in the light of the established patterns.

Table 3: Stress Placement in the Patterns of Nicknames

Patterns		Stress on 1 st syllable	Stress on 2 nd syllable	Stress on 3 rd syllable
Pattern 1	CVC:u:Ca		√	
Pattern 2	CaC:u:C			
Pattern 3	Cu:Cu:	√	√	
Pattern 4	CaC:o:Ci:		√	
Pattern 5	CaC:o:	√		
Pattern 6	CVC:u:Ci:		√	
Pattern 7	CVC:a:wi:		√	
Pattern 8	Cu:Ca	√		
Pattern 9	Ci:Co:	√		
Pattern 10	CaC:o:Ca		√	
Pattern 11	CVCCu:C		√	
Pattern 12	CaCCu:Ca		√	
Pattern 13	Cu:Ci:	√		
Pattern 14	CaCCaC	√		
Pattern 15	CiCCiC	√		
Pattern 16	Ca:Ca:	√		
Pattern 17	CaCa:Ca		√	
Pattern 18	CVCCo:Ci:		√	
Pattern 19	CaCaC	√		
Pattern 20	CVCu:Ca:t			√

11. Discussion

The findings of the present study provide substantial support for the research aims and hypotheses outlined earlier, demonstrating that nickname formation in Mosuli Arabic (MA) is governed by systematic and rule-governed phonological patterns rather than by arbitrary modification of given names. The analysis reveals that nicknames derived directly from full personal names exhibit recurring and predictable phonological processes, confirming that nickname formation in MA constitutes a productive and linguistically motivated phenomenon.

In response to the first research question, the study identified clear phonological patterns in MA nicknames involving consonantal and vocalic modification, syllable restructuring, and prosodic adjustment.

These patterns support Hypothesis 1, which predicted a tendency toward phonological simplification. Many nicknames show truncation of the source name, often resulting in shorter syllabic forms with reduced segmental complexity. This simplification aligns with cross-linguistic observations that nicknames favor ease of articulation, perceptual salience, and prosodic well-formedness (e.g., Rose, 2005; Al-Sa'ati, 2012; Samad, 2015; Abid et al., 2016).

With regard to the second research question and Hypothesis 2, the data confirm that specific phonological processes are central to nickname construction in MA. Deletion emerged as the most frequent strategy, followed by vowel modification, assimilation, germination, and reduplication. These processes facilitate the derivation of nicknames that conform to the phonotactic constraints of MA while preserving sufficient phonological material to maintain recognizability. The predominance of these processes underscores the role of the native phonological system in shaping informal name variants.

Hypothesis 3 predicted that MA nicknames would favor unmarked consonants and vowels within the phonological system of the language. This hypothesis is supported by the data, which show a clear preference for frequently occurring segments and simple syllable types, particularly CV and CVC structures. Cross-linguistically, this tendency parallels findings in languages such as Japanese and Turkish, where nicknames similarly favor unmarked segments and canonical syllable shapes (e.g., Barešová, 2020; Hulst and Weijer, 1991). The convergence of these results suggests that nickname formation is influenced by universal markedness considerations filtered through the phonological inventory of the language.

With regard to the analysis of syllable structure and stress patterns, a key finding of the study is that all identified stress patterns in the nicknames conform to the established stress rules of MA. Regardless of the degree of phonological reduction or restructuring, nickname stress assignment remains fully rule-governed. This indicates that nickname formation does not depart from the core prosodic grammar of the language; instead, it operates within it. The regularity of stress placement further strengthens the claim that nicknames, despite their informal and affective function, are fully integrated into the phonological system of MA.

The study also sheds light on the semantic and sociolinguistic dimensions of nickname endings, as stated in hypothesis 4. Certain endings appear to carry

diminutive, affectionate, or familiar meanings and, in some cases, correlate with the gender of the name bearer. These findings suggest that nickname endings are not merely phonological appendices but serve communicative and social functions. The preference for particular endings in male versus female nicknames reflects culturally grounded gender norms and expectations within the MA-speaking community. Overall, the findings confirm that MA nicknames are shaped by a combination of phonological regularities and sociocultural motivations.

12. Conclusions

This study has demonstrated that nicknames in MA follow systematic patterns grounded in the dialect's phonological and morphological rules. These patterns, though varied and often creatively manipulated by speakers, reflect underlying linguistic structures that shed light on native speakers' intuitive processing of language. The analysis revealed significant differences in the formation of male and female nicknames, as well as regularities in syllable structure, stress placement, and phonological transformations.

Beyond their linguistic value, MA nicknames serve as a window into social identity, cultural norms, and interpersonal relationships within the community. As such, they represent an important intersection of language and society.

Future research is encouraged to further examine the interplay between phonological structures and sociolinguistic variables—such as age, gender, social class, and context of use—in the formation and function of nicknames. Comparative studies involving other Arabic dialects could also help identify both shared and dialect-specific naming patterns, contributing to a broader understanding of nickname formation across the Arabic-speaking world.

References

- ❖ Abid, F., Deen, A., Khurshid, F., Ashraf, S., Niazi, A., & Ashfaq, N. (2016). Phonological analysis of nicknames in Punjabi. *Language in India*, 16 (14), 37–48.
- ❖ Al-Ajlouny, M., & Ababneh, S. (2016). Nicknames in Jordanian Arabic. *International Journal of Language, Culture and Society*, 40, 1–9.
- ❖ Al-Sa'ati, N. M. (2012). A discorsal study of nicknames in Arabic with reference to English. *Tikrit University Journal for Humanities*, 19 (5), 96–120.

- ❖ Al-Safi, A. A. (1997). Word stress problems for Mosuli learners of English at the university level (Unpublished master's thesis). University of Mosul.
- ❖ Al-Sulaiman, M. M. D. (1986). A study of stress patterns in English and Modern Standard Arabic (Unpublished master's thesis). University of Mosul.
- ❖ Barešová, I. (2020). Name-based Nickname Formation among Japanese Junior High School Students. *Acta onomastica* 61(2):267-286
- ❖ Catford, J. C. (1994). *A practical introduction to phonetics*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- ❖ Collins, B. and Mees, I. (2003). *Practical phonetics and phonology: A resource book for students*. New York: Routledge.
- ❖ Crozier, W. R. (2004). Recollections of schoolteachers' nicknames. *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*, 52(2):83-99
- ❖ Crozier, W. R. and Skliopidou, E. (2002). Adult Recollections of Name-calling at School. *Educational Psychology; An International Journal of Experimental Educational Psychology*, 22,1.
- ❖ Crystal, D. (2003). *A dictionary of linguistics and phonetics*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- ❖ de Klerk, V. and Bosch, B. (1997). The sound patterns of English nicknames. *Language Sciences*, 19 (4), 289–301.
- ❖ Ghalib, G. M. (1984). An experimental study of consonant gemination in Iraqi Colloquial Arabic (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of Leeds.
- ❖ Gladkova, A. (2002). The semantics of nicknames of the American presidents. In *Proceedings of the 2002 Conference of the Australian Linguistic Society* (Pp. 1–11).
- ❖ Haggan, M. (2008). Nicknames of Kuwaiti teenagers. *Names: A Journal of Onomastics*, 56(2), 81–94.
- ❖ He, K. (2020). Long-term sociolinguistic trends and phonological patterns of American names. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 5(1), Pp.616–622.
- ❖ Hulst, H. G. Van de and Weijer, J. van de (1991). *Topics in Turkish Phonology*. *Turkish Linguistics Today*. Brill. Pp. 11-59.
- ❖ Lawa, A. (2006). Hiding behind nicknames: A linguistic study of anonymity in IRC chatroom (Master's thesis). Växjö University.
- ❖ McClure, P. (1981). Nicknames and Pentanames: Linguistic forms and social contexts. 13th CNS CONFERENCE: McCLURE. Pp. 63-76.

- ❖ Newman, P. and Ahmad, M. (1992). Hypocoristic Names in Hausa. *Anthropological Linguistics*, vol. 34, nos. 1-4, Pp. 159–172
- ❖ Roach, P. (2009). *English phonetics and phonology: A practical course* (4th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ❖ Rose, R. L. (2005). The phonological optimization of Japanese nicknames: Why kids don't sing "Sachi-chan wa ne". *Linguistic Society of Japan, Fall Conference*. Hiroshima, Japan
- Samad, Kh. Sh. (2015). Phonological analysis of nicknaming in Urdu. *Urdu Investigation Center*. Pp. 279-287. Available at: [https://www.yumpu.com > en > document > view > phonological-analysis...](https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/phonological-analysis...)
- ❖ Smith, S. E. (2002). An account of the morphophonology of English personal-initiated nicknames: Orthography enters the constraint hierarchy (Senior thesis: Bryn Mawr College).
- ❖ Sobane, K. C. (2008). The pragmatics of nicknames students use for their lecturers. *Tsebo*, 2, 2: 12-20.
- ❖ Starks, D., & Taylor-Leech, K. (2011). A research project on nicknames and adolescent identities. *New Zealand Studies in Applied Linguistics*, 17(2), 87–97.
- ❖ Thabit, S. Y., & Ahmed, M. S. (2015). A phonological analysis of segmental phonemes in Standard English. *Al-Ustath*, 104, 555–568.
- ❖ Topraksoy, A. (2015). A linguistic study on the system of personal name signs in Turkish Sign Language (RID) (Master's thesis). Hacettepe University.
- ❖ Trask, R. L. (1996). *A Dictionary of Phonetics and Phonology*. Routledge: London and New York.
- ❖ Van Dam, M. (2003). On the phonological structure of /i/-suffixed English nicknames. *Indiana University Linguistics Club Working Papers*, 3(1). (Verify exact title of publication if needed)
- ❖ Wijana, I. D. P. (2021). Javanese Nick Name System. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, volume 623, p.p. 34-43. *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference of Linguistics and Culture (ICLC-2 2021)*.
- ❖ Yule, G. (2014). *The study of language* (5th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ❖ Yavaş, M. (2011). *Applied English Phonology* (2nd ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.
- ❖ Zwebner, Y., Sellier, A.-L., Rosenfeld, N., & Goldenberg, J. (2017). We look like our names: The manifestation of name stereotypes in facial appearance. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 112 (4), 527–554.