

A Linguistic Study of Gemination of Arabic Languages

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Abstract

This paper tries to explain and identify Arabic emphatic gemination particularly in two classes: nouns and verbs. The study regards the basic linguistic resources for explaining intensity in the syntax and lexicon and the importance of gemination in nouns and verbs as one of these resources. The last section of this study will show how these sources are taken part in interaction and what other kinds of emphatic gemination take place. The present study also tries to allow for a nuanced interpretation of the salience of emphatic gemination in the spoken Arabic genre, i.g., there are other types of gemination, never heard before, may also take place. In this paper, the study exposes the results of an experimental study of linguistic properties of geminated nouns and verbs in Arabic languages and Iraqi as well. The study aims to determinate the temporal relationship of doubled consonant and somehow the length of the vowel gemination in some Arabic languages and Iraqi language to refute the scholar's views like Patai(1973) and Shouby (1970b) who regarding gemination in Arabic languages as an exaggeration process and can not be a productive one which in turn can not enrich Arabic languages in general and Iraqi language in particular. The debate of the study shows the general understanding of the necessity of gemination that allows to be utilized as a productive interactive resource. Just to reminder, the data of the present study are taken from Arabic speakers like Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese as well as from Iraqi speakers, i.e., they are neighbor languages.

Keywords: Introduction, Gemination, Intensity, Gemination of semantic components, Yes/ No Formation.

1.Introduction

This paper deals with a linguistic analysis of gemination specifically in two classes: nouns and verbs. It also deals with emphasis which was noticed by presenting patterns of Arabic gemination that contrasted with views reported originally in scholars' works like Patai (1973:44) and Shouby (1970b:3). These scholars state that Arabic speakers and writers use a lot of gemination which is mainly explained as being emphatic exaggeration that's all, i.e., gemination in Arabic language cannot be productive process and cannot enrich the language as well. They add another comment on Arabic rhetorical practice saying that there is a limited explanation of the formal and functional features of this linguistic resource, i.e., gemination. However, the

present study tries to prove the opposite views of Patai (1973) and Shouby (1970b) regarding gemination in Arabic language as productive process and can enrich Arabic language as well. This can be done by explaining the need to account for emphatic gemination of different formal kinds (sound, syllable, words, phrases and clauses) and also the more skillful gemination of semantic components in lexical couplets and gemination by code switching. Hence, the present study argues that some emphatic gemination is part of the grammar and lexicon of the language and the other is part of the bilingual capacity (Cowell, 1964).

The researcher points out that in terms of interactional strategies, there are some emphatic gemination roles can be part of the preferences of that language, that are themselves hindered by the grammatical and lexical possibilities of that language.

In fact, the historical background of Arabic nouns and verbs is out of the scope of the study, i.e., the study will just deal with data includes nouns and verbs augmented by gemination taken from Arabic speakers and Iraqi speakers as well.

2. Linguistic Level: Gemination and Intensity in the Lexicon

As we have mentioned earlier that there is doubling in Arabic at the sound, syllable and fixed collocation levels and most of these doubling are emphatic. Nouns and adjectives also augmented by gemination for what's called contrastive emphasis, some of these words having intensity as a part of their meaning. Hence, the incremental emphasis is presented by idiomatic and fresh lexical couplets (Lodhi, 2004). Thus, the researcher is going to present how these relations are done in the following sections.

2.1 Gemination: *tashdiid*

Kaye (2016) defines gemination in English as consonantal twinning, i.e., to articulate or repeat the consonant letter twice or phonetic doubling. While gemination in Arabic known as stretching a sound rather than articulate it twice, i.e., no need to write or articulate the sound twice (Lodhi, 2004:6), i.e., it is called *tashdiid* in Arabic, e.g., *Hurriyya* 'freedom'; *Hajj* 'pilgrimage'; *rummaan* 'pomegranate'; *Hubb* 'love'; *jarrah* 'surgeon'; *ghannaa* 'to sing'; *shakk* 'doubt'; etc.,. To Ryding (ibid:25) in stead of writing the letters twice, Arabic has a diacritic symbol called *shadda* ('intensification') and it looks like this: ' '. This symbol likes the short vowels not normally appear in written text, but it is necessary to know that it is there (see the examples below).

Similarly, in Classical and Modern Standard Arabic one can say other examples of gemination such as *kasara* ('he broke') and *kassara* ('he smashed') or *darasa* ('he studied') and *darrasa* ('he taught'), here the meanings are related, but not the same as reported by Matthews (1997:141) and Ryding (2016). Thus, germination can be a productive morphological process in

Arabic which carries emphasis. Lodhi (ibid) regards emphasis as a term referring to different types of prominence and focus. He continues to speak of emphasis as intensity marking inter alia increase, diversity and abundance.

To Lodhi (ibid: 7) Arabic gemination carries emphatic function, such as intensity, iterativeness, i.e., words for professions or occupations, increment, and plurality; and non emphatic function, such as the causative. Likewise, Holes (1995a: 113-128) states that verb augmentation, as in Arabic verbal pattern II consists of doubling the medial radical to mark causative, like *daras* 'lesson' (*darras* 'learn'), and intensity or iteration, as in *kassir* 'smash' (*kasir* 'break'), *saffaq* 'applauded' (*safaq* 'clap'). Similarly, Matthews (1997) mentions that nouns and adjectives can also be augmented by gemination for iterative behavior (occupations and dispositions), e.g., *rabbi* 'my Lord', *hamma:m* 'bathroom', *nazzar* 'chairman', *thehhab\ zzahab* 'gold', *yyuom* 'mother', *yuom* 'today' *layyin* 'flexible', *marrin* 'pliant', *halwwah* 'beautiful' ; and for the diminutive such as *shwayyi\ shwayyiah* 'a little\ abit (*shi:* 'thing'). Likewise, many Arabic words show gemination of consonant letters for their contrastive or equational nature rather than being emphatic. For examples:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| A[<i>kásar</i>] 'he broke' | b. [<i>kássar</i>] 'he smashed' |
| c. [<i>bát!al</i>] 'hero' | d. [<i>bát!t!al</i>] 'he quit' (something) |
| e. [" <i>hamá:m</i>] 'pigeons' | f. [" <i>hammá:m</i>] 'bathroom |
| g. [<i>#ámal</i>] 'hope' | h. [<i>#amáll</i>] 'more/most boring' |

(Davis and Ragheb, 2016:2)

In fact, this process is called phonemic gemination, here are other examples from Jordanian Arabic.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. <i>barad</i> 'he got cold' | b. <i>barrad</i> 'refrigerated' |
| c. <i>walad</i> 'a boy' | d. <i>wallad</i> 'gave birth to' |
| e. <i>salam</i> 'a flag' | f. <i>ŕallam</i> 'he taught' |

(Abu-Abbas, 2011:44).

To Rydin (2005:24-25) an assimilation, i.e., the absorption of one sound into another, in this case it is phonetic not phonemic process. This process is a rule of pronunciation and does not affect the meaning of a word. For instance, the /l/ of the definite article /al/ is assimilated to certain consonant when they begin words, e.g., *al-daftar*, 'the notebook,' is pronounced *ad-daftar*. However, the above example is out of the scope of the present study.

2.2 Intensity as a Semantic component of a word/ phrase

Lodhl (2004) states that the unmarked grammatical intensifiers of Arabic adjectives are *kathi:r* 'very' or *jiddan* which is the modern Standard Arabic form of 'very'. He also adds that verbs may also be intensified with, for instance, *qawi:* 'strong' as in *ani saffaq-t qawi:* 'I applauded strongly'.

Similarly, Kaye (2016) pins out that other intensifying elements concentrate on a particular dimension. For example, 'Reality' is focused in *bi-l-Haqi:qa* (in truth) 'really/truly', *aki:d* 'for sure' and *bidu:n shakk* (without doubt) 'surely' in Arabic. Kaye (ibid) also adds the word "Totally" interpreted as *Hatman*; both *bi-l-shakil akba:r* [in way big] and *tama:m* 'completely', *kama:l* 'total', *bil-kull* 'very' e.g., *bi-kull sahil* [with all ease] 'very easily'.

Norrick (1988:70-73) states that the meaning and scope of the Arabic term and its gloss are not always indeed coextensive. He gives an example the English 'very' intensifies or specifies while Arabic *kathi:r* intensifies but does not specify. Cowell(1964:58) says that Arab has other ways of specifying, for example *bi-nafs ash-shughul nafs-a* [at same/ self the work same/ self] 'at the very same job'. 'Very' and *kathi:r* both intensify gradable adjectives, nevertheless, English prefers to use 'really' when the adjectives is itself intensified and participial, hence the preference for 'really overworked' rather than 'very overworked', while Arabic *kathi:r* is good with all gradeable adjectives, participial or not. To Cowell (ibid) *kathi:r* augments the nominal (adjective or noun) or the verb to a degree constrained by the possible meanings of the verbs, adjectives or nouns. In fact, the English 'very' is unambiguously that makes the speaker indexing a large degree of intensity where as the Arabic practice for intensifying is for the hearer to express the degree of intensity according to linguistic and real life context. Cowell (ibid:62) gives us an example stating that weather temperature words show a great deal of how the meaning of Arabic *kathi:r* is predictable form the semantics of the word, it is qualifying and on the context, so that *I-yaum shauh(kathi:r)/ ha:rr* could mean 'it's quite hot/ warm/ cool/ cold today'.

2.3 Binominal/ lexical couplets: gemination of semantic components

Scholars like Kaye (2016) and Maikiel (1959) argue that a lexical couplet or binominal or *dvandva*, [*dvandva* is a term used to refer to Sanskrit compounding (Johnstone,1991:39)], is a phrase or sentence coordinating two or more words with shared semantic components and 'a single reference' as reported by Johnstone(ibid). These lexical couplets are similar to idiomatic English 'bits and pieces'. In Arabic grammar this is *al-tawki:d al-lafdhi* 'emphasis by words'. For Modern Standard Arabic examples of *al-tawki:d al-lafdhi* one can see Ja:ber Abu: Husayn's narrative poetry. Thus the present data are extract from the mentioned source.

However, synonymous gemination may extend to adjacent clauses, i.e., coordinated phrase with a cognate verb and noun, lexical couplets may include rhyme (phonetic gemination) further intensifying utterance. To illustrate the above argument; see the following examples:

- a. *Hwwa darras al daras maratain*
'He studied the lesson twice.'
- b. *Hayyih mudarrisa tudarris fi madrasa*
'She is [female] teacher teaching in school.'
- c. *Hwwa ammala al amal bijjd*
'He worked the work hard.'

'He worked hard'
- d. *Hwwa astahamma fi l hamma:m*
'He took a shower in the bathroom'.

(Johnstone(1991:44), Davis and Ragheb(2016:3))

2.4 Yes/ No Formation

To Kaye (2016) and Johnstone (1991) yes/ no questions are answered with a partial gemination of the proposition, rather than only with a substitution word like *naam* or *ei*: 'yes' or *la*' 'no' and first person pronoun could be unmarkedly expressed.

(1) *Q: Sallamit-i aliyy-ah (initi)*
'did you greet on him (you)?'

'did you greet him?'

A: (*naam*) (*ani*) *Sallamit aliyy-ah*
(yes) (I) greeted him [**naam / ei*: 'yes', *la*' 'no']

(2) *Q: ?u:ju:d ma:i*
'Is there (any) water?'

A: '(yes) there is' [**naam/ ei*: 'yes' or *la*' 'no']

2.5 Emphatic Geminatio: Lexical Echo

Scholars such as Johnstone(1991:66) and Holes(1995b:62) argue that lexical echo can be referred to as the cognate accusative as a more accurate depiction of the informal version of classical Arabic *al-mafu:l l-mutlaq* 'the absolute object'. Cowell(1964:423) and Johnstone(ibid) state the co-occurrence of cognate noun and verb as supplying a vehicle for qualification of the action referred to by the verb. They insist that this gemination of semantic component is incidentally rather than strategically emphatic. In fact, in the following examples we can see how English avoids such gemination.

- a. *Ha:dith illi Haddath mai*
Happening which happened it with me

'the incident that happened to me.'

Through the use of cognates is particularly clear in adverbial noun complements, this is because of the lack of adverbs in Arabic. For examples:

- b. *muHtamal ikffur ikffur kufra:n adhi:m*
sometimes I blaspheme I blaspheme blaspheming great

- c. *kun-t A hiss 'atakka:fa' al-mukka:fa'a*
was-I feel rewarded the-reward

'I felt so rewarded.'

- d. *Lemma al-waHada bi-t-habb t-habb min kull qalb-aha*
When the-one-she IND-she- love loving from all heart-her

'when a woman loves with all her heart.'

2.6 Emphatic Geminatio: Pronouns

Holes (1995a: 160-166) as the Arabic subject is usually suppressed, the co-occurrence of the independent pronoun and affixed form is noticeable. To him doubling the semantic components by using the same referent bound and free pronominal forms in an utterance is a significant way to show emphasis, and was frequent in this data. To Holes(ibid) the free and bound demonstrative pronouns co-occur from emphatic specification. For examples:

- a. *? antu:nna katabtunna al-dars*
did you-pl. fe. write-you-pl.fe. the lesson

'did you write the lesson?'

a. *bi: ha-l iyyam hayya*
in- this the-days this

'One of these days.'

b. *hathula ham ei:jjawi*
those-they themselves/ also coming

'They themselves are coming'/'Those themselves are coming.'/'They are also coming.'/'Those are also coming.'

3. Conclusions

As a result of the previous explanation, this paper finds that the findings expressed above present an explanation of the necessity of emphatic gemination as a linguistic resource. The present study will also explain the link between the nature of gemination and preference for its use as a conversational or textual treasures for emphasis. Thus, it will discuss some of the relevant aspects of gemination as role of the communication norms of a group to engage in an especial speech situation.

The important meaning of gemination can be recognized by presenting what it can give at all linguistic levels.

As a result of s sematic point of view, emphatic gemination is perspective-free. It is obvious that the previous explanation of lexical intensity in both languages, that Arabic speakers and English speakers can emphasize by selecting one of a number of words with: intensity: as one of its components. Some are neutral (*kathi:r* or *jiddan* 'very') but other intensifier have extra semantic components, e.g., *bi-lHaqi:qa* 'really') is linked to the concept of 'truth' and *tamaam* completely is linked to the concept of 'whole'.

As a result of a syntactic point view, parataxis is salient for Arabic, whereas subordination is more salient for English- which is reported by Johnstone's (1994:13) proof for Arabic speakers using more gemination and having a greater tendency of gemination in interaction than do speakers of other language.

It is also useful to consider the possible interactional influence of using gemination. The main note the researchers wish to make is that because gemination has so many possible functions, a moment of gemination shows a moment of ambiguity and evokes increased inferencing from the hearer. That is, on hearing a gemination, the hearer needs to recognize which of many possible functions the gemination interprets. To Hall and Hall(2005:75) increased depended on contextual or extra-lexical meaning is marker of a high-context communication preference and it is

reasonable to accept that using a potentially multi-functional resource such as gemination is a high- context communication on resources. Having to disambiguate and use contextual cues in order to do this can also be expressed as also related to indirection.

Moreover, to these researchers Holes (1995b:65) is right in his call that gemination is one notion of contemporary spoken Arabic that progressively itemize the speaker as uneducated or rural. These notes indicate that image production is an essential point that effects whether or not a speaker emphasize which highlights the possibility of culture-specific connotations associated with emphasizing.

The findings suggest that huge a mount of Arabic gemination is not pragmatically motivated, and that there is a rate of kinds of emphatic gemination used to make influence in Arabic speech. This includes lexical couplets which are often restricted to more literary geners in other languages and emphatic gemination of semantic components via codeswitches for bilingual speakers.

The findings also indicate that gemination aspect is a productive process in Arabic language opposite to English and this refutes what Patai (1973:44) and Shouby (1970:3) who say that gemination in Arabic is just emphatic exaggeration not productive one.

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