



*Faculty of women
For arts, sciences and education
Department of English and Literature*

EgyptianCaireneArabic:

A Study in the Theory of Lexical Phonology

An M.A.Thesis

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
|--------------------------|----------|

Chapter one:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| The Theory of Lexical Phonology..... | 10 |
|--------------------------------------|----|

1.1 Theoretical Framework: Theory of Lexical Phonology

1.1.1 Review of Literature

1.1.2 Lexical Phonology and the Concept of Modularity

1.1.3 Lexical Morphology

1.1.4 The Cycle

1.1.5 Bracket Erasure or Opacity in Lexical Phonology

1.1.6 The Difference between Lexical Rule and Post-lexical Rule

1.1.7 Conclusion

Chapter Two:

| | |
|--|----|
| The Phonological and Morphological Features of Cairene Egyptian Arabic | 28 |
|--|----|

2.1 The Phonological Features of Cairene Egyptian Arabic

2.1.1 Introduction

2.1.2 The Consonantal System of Cairene Egyptian Arabic

2.1.3 The vocalic system of Cairene Egyptian Arabic

2.1.4 The syllable structure of Cairene Egyptian Arabic

2.1.5 Word stress patterns in Cairene Egyptian Arabic

2.1.6 Conclusion

2.2 The Morphological Features of Cairene Egyptian Arabic

2.2.1 Introduction

2.2.2 Level-One Morphology

2.2.2.1 Level-One Verbal Morphology

2.2.2.1.1 Sound trilateral Verbs

2.2.2.1.2 Geminate trilateral Verbs

2.2.2.1.3 Glottalized trilateral Verbs

2.2.2.1.4 Weak trilateral Verbs

2.2.2.1.5 Quadriradical verbs:

2.2.2.2 Level-One Nominal Morphology

2.2.3 Level-Two Morphology

2.2.3.1 Level-two Verbal Morphology

2.2.3.2 Level-two Nominal and Adjectival Morphology

2.2.4 Conclusion

Chapter Three:

Lexical Phonological Rules in Jahin's 'Ar-Rubaa'iyyaat': A Case Study in Cairene Egyptian..... 87

3. Lexical Phonological Rules in Jahin's "Ar-Rubaa'iyyaat"

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Pre-suffix Vowel Lengthening

3.2.1 Pre-suffix Vowel Lengthening before an Initial Consonant

Pronominal Suffix added to a Stem Final Vowel Verb

3.2.1.1 Analysis

3.2.2 Pre-suffix Vowel Lengthening before a Pre-consonantal

Pronominal Suffix added to a Stem Final Vowel Preposition:

3.2.2.1 Analysis

3.2.3 Pre-suffix Vowel Lengthening before a Pre-consonantal

Pronominal Suffix added to a Stem Final Vowel Noun or Adjective

3.2.3.1 Analysis

3.2.4 Pre-suffix Vowel Lengthening before the Negative Particle /ʃ/

added to a Final Vowel Stem

3.2.4.1 Analysis

3.2.5 Pre-suffix Vowel Lengthening before the Demonstrative

Particle Attached to Stem Final Vowel Noun or Preposition

3.2.5.1 Analysis

3.3 Glide Formation Rule

3.3.1 Analysis

3.4 Vowel Shortening Process

3.4.1 Analysis

3.4.2 Analysis

3.4.3 Analysis

3.4.4 Analysis

3.5 /n-/ Strengthening

3.5.1 Analysis

3.5.2 Analysis

| | |
|---|--|
| 3.5.3 Analysis | |
| 3.5.4 Analysis | |
| 3.6 Elision | |
| 3.6.1 V-V resolution | |
| 3.6.1.1 Analysis | |
| 3.6.2 High Vowel Deletion (Syncope) | |
| 3.6.2.1 Analysis | |
| 3.6.3 Glottal Stop Deletion | |
| 3.6.3.1 Analysis | |
| 3.7 Assimilation | |
| 3.7.1 Assimilation of /-l/ of the Definite Article | |
| 3.7.1.1 Assimilation of /-l/ to a Coronal | |
| 3.7.1.1.1 Analysis | |
| 3.7.1.2 Assimilation of /-l/ to a Velar Plosive in Cairene Arabic | |
| 3.7.1.2.1 Analysis | |
| 3.7.1.3 Assimilation Process is Prohibited before Lunar Sounds | |
| 3.7.1.3.1 Analysis | |
| 3.8 [i] Epenthesis | |
| 3.8.1 Analysis | |
| 3.9 Conclusion | |

Chapter Four:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Post-Lexical Phonological Rules in Jahin's 'Ar-Rubaa'iyaaat': A Case Study in Cairene Egyptian..... | 189 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|--|--|
| 4.1 Introduction | |
| 4.2 Vowel Deletion within Phonological Utterances | |
| 4.2.1. Analysis | |
| 4.3 Vowel Shortening and Elision of /?a/ | |
| 4.3.1 Analysis | |
| 4.4 [i] Epenthesis within phonological Phrase | |
| 4.4.1 Analysis | |
| 4.5 Glottal Stop Epenthesis (Insertion) | |
| 4.5.1 Analysis | |
| 4.6 Deletion of /-n/ of Preposition /min/ 'from' across Phonological Phrases | |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 4.6.1 Analysis | |
| 4.7 Ellison of /h/ | |
| 4.7.1 Analysis | |
| 4.8 Consonantal Addition of /-t/ | |
| 4.8.1 Analysis | |
| 4.9 Conclusion | |
| Results and Discussion | 220 |
| Conclusion | 231 |
| Notes | 239 |
| References | 241 |

Results and Discussion:

The following table sums up the lexical and the post-lexical phonological rules in Cairene Egyptian Arabic, which are explained throughout the study:

| Rule | Arabic | English | Transcription | Lexical rule or post-lexical rule |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1- Pre-suffix vowel lengthening | (1) ملأه | 'he filled it' | /malaah/ | Is a lexical rule as it: (a) has a cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| | (6) يئذيه | 'he harms him' | /yi?ziih/ | |
| | (7) فيها | 'in it' | /fiiha/ | |
| | (11) أخوه | 'his brother' | /?axuuh/ | |
| | (13) وحدينا | 'we are alone' | /wafjdiina/ | |
| | (17) ما يبصوليش | 'they do not look at me' | /maybuSSulij/ | |
| | (28) علا دي | 'on this' | /calaadi/ | |

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|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2-Glide Formation and Syncope | (29) معنيين | 'two meanings' | /ma ^o nayeen/ | Is a lexical rule as it: (a) has a cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| | (30) صحوا | 'they wake up' | /Sifhiyu/ | |
| 3- a- Vowel Shortening | (39) خالقنى | 'god created me' | /xali ^o ni/ | Is a lexical rule as it: (a) has a cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has two exception cases; it is prohibited when the attached pronominal suffix to the verb is a subject as: (37) شالوا /faalu/ 'They carried' and noun followed by vowel initial possessive pronoun |
| | (43) قال لهم | 'he said to them' | /ʔalluhum/ | |

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|---|---|---|--|---|
| 3-b-Vowel Shortening or Deletion and Elision of /?i/ if it is found in unstressed positions | <p>(120) ف قلبى</p> <p>(123) فى الغابات</p> <p>(125) ع الحصان</p> | <p>'in my heart'</p> <p>'in the jungle'</p> <p>'on the horse'</p> | <p>/fi ?albi/</p> <p>/fi lyabaat/</p> <p>/^ealfjuSaan/</p> | <p>Is a post-lexical rule as it:</p> <p>(a) has a non-cyclic nature;</p> <p>(b) follows structure preservation constraint,</p> <p>(c) is applied within the post-lexical domain, and</p> <p>(d) has no exceptions.</p> |
| 4- /n-/ Strengthen -ing | (51) منى | 'from me' | /minni/ | <p>Is a lexical rule as it:</p> <p>(a) has a cyclic nature;</p> <p>(b) follows structure preservation constraint,</p> <p>(c) is applied within the lexical domain, and</p> <p>(d) has exceptions; it is prohibited before adjectives, e.g., (55) /farʃaniin/ 'they are happy', nouns, e.g., (58) /finuuni/ 'my arts', and incomplete verbs, e.g., (62) /kaanli/ 'it was'.</p> |

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|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------|---|
| 5-a- V-V Resolution | (63) لقيت | 'i found' | /laʔeet/ | Is a lexical rule as it: (a) has cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| 5-b-V-V Resolution | (113) أنا اللي | ' i am the one who' | /ʔanalli/ | Is a post-lexical rule as it: (a) has a non-cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the post-lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| 6- High Vowel Deletion | (67) ولدتني | 'she gave birth to me' | /wilditni/ | Is a lexical rule as it: a) has a cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, |

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|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| 7- Glottal Stop Deletion | <p>(75) مسا</p> <p>(80) راسي</p> <p>(84) يابتعد</p> <p>(84) ما اعرفش</p> | <p>'night'</p> <p>'my head'</p> <p>'I am going away'</p> <p>'I do not know'</p> | <p>/misa/</p> <p>/raasi/</p> <p>/babtʕid/</p> <p>/maʕrafʃ/</p> | <p>Is a lexical rule as it:</p> <p>a) has a cyclic nature;</p> <p>(b) follows structure preservation constraint,</p> <p>(c) is applied within the lexical domain, and</p> <p>(d) has lexical exceptions; in which some words are pronounced in Cairene Arabic as in Standard Arabic, (85) /tawʕameen/ 'twins.</p> |
| 8- Assimilation of /-l/ of the Definite Article before solar sounds | (92) الصبر | 'patience' | /iS-Sabr/ | <p>is a lexical rule as it:</p> <p>a) has cyclic nature;</p> <p>(b) follows structure preservation constraint,</p> |

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|--|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| 9- Assimilation of /-l/ of the Definite Article before lunar sounds is prohibited | (100) الأرض | 'the earth' | /ʔil-ʔarD/ | (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. is a lexical rule as it: has a cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has exceptions; assimilation of /-l/ to a velar plosive is optional (97) /ilkanabaat/ or /ikkanabaat/ |
| 10- a- [i] Epenthesis | (105) ما يهيمينيش | 'I do not care' | /mayhimmi-niif/ | Is a lexical rule as it: a) has a cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the lexical domain, and (d) has no |

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| 10- b- [i] Epenthesis within phonologi- cal phrase | (128) ما دفعش ليه | 'why he did not defeat' | /madafiʕ i- leeh | exceptions. Is a post-lexical rule as it: (a) has a non- cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the post- lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| 11- Glottal Stop Epenthesis | (132) الطوفان استمر | ' the flood is running' | /ʔiTtufaan (ʔ)istamarr/ | Is a post-lexical rule as it: (a) has a non- cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the post- lexical domain or the lexical domain. (d) It has no exceptions. |
| | (134) أنا أختار | 'I choose' | /ʔ(ʔ)ana (ʔ)axtaar/ | |
| | (137) أنا شاب | 'iam a young man' | /ʔ(ʔ)ana ʃaab/ | |

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| 12- Deletion of /-n/of Prepositio n /min/ 'from' and /?i/ across Phonologi cal Phrases: | (140) م الغرق | 'from the drowning' | /milyara?/ | Is a post-lexical rule as it: (a) has a non- cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the post- lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| 13- Ellison of /h/ | (143) واحدة خدتني | 'someone (feminine) takes me' | /wafjda xaditni/ | Is a post-lexical rule as it: (a) has a non- cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation constraint, (c) is applied within the post- lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
| 14- Consonant -al Addition of /-t/ | (145) ساعة زمان | 'an hour later' | /saa° it zamaan/ | Is a post-lexical rule as it: (a) has a non- cyclic nature; (b) follows structure preservation |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | constraint, (c) is applied within the post- lexical domain, and (d) has no exceptions. |
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The previous table summarizes the lexical and the post-lexical rules in Cairene Egyptian Arabic, it attempts to prove that the theory of lexical phonology is an applicable theory that is applied easily to Cairene Arabic. It also proves that most of the principles of the theory of lexical phonology are found in Cairene Arabic, for example: the above table illustrates that rules are applied both lexically and post-lexically. That is why, the theory deals with the domain on which the rule applied not the rule itself, for examples: vowel shortening, V-V resolution, and /i/ epenthesis are rules that are lexical and post-lexical according to the domain on which they are applied. If they are applied within words, they are lexical rules, and if they are applied within the syntactic level, they are post-lexical rules.

In addition, it determines certain properties for the rule when it is applied lexically, and others when it is applied post-lexically, for instance, on the one hand, the lexical rules are cyclic rules, in which the outcome of the rule is an input to other rules, whether it is of the same type or not as in /maybuSSuliif/ 'they do not look at me', here the verb undergoes pre-suffix vowel lengthening in two cycles. On the other hand, the post-lexical rules are non-cyclic, as the output cannot go further process, for instance: /saa^eit zamaan/ 'an hour later',