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A contrastive analysis study between Arabic and Pashto languages vowels

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Abstract

This brief and intensive study explore the importance of vowels. It is a library research which is conducted to find out what will happen if we violet the vowels during speaking and writing. So we could not communicate the message accurately and we also cannot convey the sense of a source text to target text properly.

This is a phonological study of Arabic and Pashto. The author has compared an Indo Iranian language with a Semitic language. The Pashto being spoken by the Pashtun tribe of Afghanistan and North West frontier and Baluchistan provinces of Pakhtonkhowa.

The study however is limited to the standard variety of Arabic and Pashto.

The study being with an introduction to the cardinal vowel scale.

Arabic and Pashto vowels have been placed on this scale to prove scientifically their similarities and differences. The place and manner of articulation for each of the Arabic and Pashto vowels has been discussed. These have been placed in differed words initially medially and finally for comparison.

Keywords: Vowels in standard Pushto, characterization of Arabic vowels in standard Arabic, Introduction, and Specific comparison and potential problem

Introductions

Puston are all Muslims and Islam has causted and led the way foreign words to come into Pashto language. As Islam has spread in Afghanistan it has laid its direct and indirect effects on Pashto language. The consequences are still existed in Pashto language and literature. Arabs have tries to imposed Arabic language in Islamic countries, particularly in the ancient khurasan. Such activities have not just done just Arabic but for all language as well and such example have been provided.

Arabic language has not able to besiege Pashto language from its pure structure, because of its firm natural structure, enriched grammatical system, strengthened vocabulary. Pashto language has been by Arabic language words and voices and has imposed its grammatical rules on it.

Pashton are using Arabic words within the rule of Pashto language in their daily life. Arabic language samples are seeing extensively in Pashto language in the religious walk of life like brotherhood, hadith, regulations, Islam, Ummat, Insaf, Iman, tajwed, tafsir, adal, Salam, azab, Masjid, as well in philosophy, theology, logic, art, linguistics and literature parts Arabic words are used. (Malatar Zakaria 2018) ^[1]

In fact, there are similarities and deferent in distribution the vowel sound in both Pashto and Arabic languages. They differ in number, Pashto has more vowel than Arabic.

Arabic has is also the use of glottal can start with before initial vowels. These languages are also different in distribution; Pashto words can start with vowels, whereas Arabic words can only start with consonant. Both languages have several joint vowels, but in the same respect, there as some vowel sounds that are limited to each one of them.

Comparative philology or contrastive analysis is a branch of historical linguistic studies. It deals with the comparison of the Characteristics of different languages or different states of a language through history. It composes the various form of related language from which they were developed (Sphoon Wajihullah 2009) ^[15].

The researcher believes that the importance of Contrastive analysis as a discipline is still great and will continue to be like this as long as foreign language teaching exists. Contrastive analysis of vowels in Pashto and Arabic language is of vital importance to the teachers as well as to the text- book writers since it helps to identify the similarities and differences between the two languages under study.

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In this paper, the researcher will discuss the two sound systems of Arabic and Pashto and then compare the results. Pashto belongs to the eastern Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of language. It is principally spoken in Afghanistan and the North West frontier province of Pakhtonkhwa. Speakers are also found in other neighboring countries, but not many Pashtons live outside these countries (Seddiqullah Reshteen).

There are four main dialect regions relevant to speech data collection, based on phoneme distribution. These broadly correspondent to four geographical regions here denoted south west (Kandahar), north –east (Peshawar, Jalalabad, some of Kabul), South –east (Quetta) and central/ North west (Wardak), and some outlying areas of Kabul. (Ahsan-ur-Rehman 1998) [2].

The Pashto language has considerable phonological and lexical variety, and there are significant issue relating to orthographic standardization.

In 1936 Pashto was designated and of the two official language of Afghanistan, the other designated language is Dari.

Alternative names used for this language are: Pushtu, Afghan, Pushto, Pashtu, and pakto. The variation in spelling of the language's name.

Stems from different pronunciation the various dialects.

In Afghanistan, Pashto dialects are a reflection of the underlying Pashtun tribal structures as the differences between the tribal are considered to be essentially linguistic in nature. Dialectal differences in Pashto are phonological and lexical. It is not possible to clearly divide the dialects only by tribe or by geography. (Malatar Zakaria).

Literature review

As I know and according to my information there is no any contrastive special study between Arabic and Pashto languages vowels.

It starts with the discovery of the similarities and different as well between language or within the same language. However, some linguist and pioneers in the field of "language pedagogy" were well aware of the pull of the mother tongue in leaning a target language, it was Charles price (1945) who firmly established contrastive linguistics analysis as in inter component of the method- dology of target language teaching, (Sridhar, 1987:209). For Carl J. (1988:157) "Modern CA Start with lado's linguistics Across Cultures '1957' so, lado's book has become a classic field manual for practical contrastive studies. "In the heyday of structural linguistics nothing seemed of greater potential value to langue teacher's and learners than a cooperative and contrastive the description of the learner's mother target and the target language.

Except some studies have been mentioned in the references tables and also there is some studies between Arabic and English language vowels like below.

1. Short vowels of English and Pashto contrastive study by Ahsan-ur-Rehman, international Islamic university Islamabad.
2. A contrastive analysis of vowel sounds in English and Arabic languages, by: Sarab Kadir Mugair and tengku sepora tengku Mahdi.
3. College of basic education, diyala un Iraq, L. USM, Malaysia.

The importance of the subject

The thematic importance of the subject in that there are some similarities and differences between the standard Arabic and standard Pashto languages. Hence it is essential for Arabic and Pashto speakers and linguistics learners to have through understanding about these-particular phenomenon which is bearing fundamental changes with wrong use.

Questions

The Pashto language is affected from Arabic so are there similarities or differences between the both language vowels?

What are the causes that languages have similarities in vowels?

How much Pashto language affected from the Arabic in the case of vowels.

Research Methodology

It is a secondary type of research (library research) I have reviewed the recent standard and most updated books, textbooks and research articles related to the phonological studies of Arabic and Pashto languages. I analyzed a case study to identify the similarities and different in distribution the vowels sound in both Arabic and Pashto languages. I try my best to indicate the importance of the vowels. Mainly, I concentrate on their roles speaking. I also found that if we apply or violate the vowels what will happen as a result in speech.

In this article I have dealt specifically with long and short vowels of Arabic and Pashto, the study have been made to consider the difficulties faced by foreign learners of both these languages, with special emphasis on Pashto speaking learners of Arabic.

Vowels

Some Scholars state that sounds are generally classified into consonants and vowels. A consonant is identified as a speech which blocks the air flow through the vocal tract. While a vowel is seen as the class of sound which makes the least blocks to the air flow. Vowels are nearly ever located at the Centre of a syllable, and It uncommon to locate any sound other than a vowel which is able to stand alone as a whole syllable (Roach, 1992) [3].

First of all let us consider the definition of vowels phonetically. The articulation of vowels is not accompanied by many closures or narrowing in the speech tract which would prevent escape of the air stream through the mouth or give rise to audible frictions.

This definition does not leave nay tangible trace for description as there is no contact of any articulatory parts etc. while the learner must have some king of reference system to which be can refer for correction.

The cardinal vowel scale which takes into account vowel sounds has four extremes

1. Open mouth
2. Close mouth
3. Spread lips
4. Round lips.

From these for extremes eight vowels sounds are articulated, they are as following

1. Close mouth: Spread lips- tongue near to plate.

2. Half close mouth: spread lips, tongue a little lower than 10 1.
3. Half open mouth: spread lips tongue low.
4. Open mouth: spread lips, tongue lowest in the mouth.
5. Open mouth, round lips tongue lowest in the mouth.
6. Half open mouth, round lips tongue raised.
7. Nearly closed mouth, round lips tongue raised to maximum.
8. The arrangement of mouth opening tongue raising, can be shown on the following cardinal short. (Ahsan-ur-Rehman 1998)^[2].

Vowels in standard Pashto

The following vowels classification has been used for phonetic representations in constructing the Pashto lexicon. There are 7 shorts vowels/ie @ a u o A/: There are perceived of not contrastive, distinction between the short vowels /iu/ and the long variants /i: ui/, although the shorty vowels /e/; a; dialects have a schwa like vowels as a distinct vowel phoneme which can sustain stress. (Ziar 2005)^[4].

Pashto is written in extended Arabic script. The script consist of 27 standards Arabic script letters. (Plus alef madda). Plus 17 symbols from an extended Arabic set. These additional symbols are needed the so called Persian letter. Including /p/, /ts/, and a dot less /y/. as well as 17 symbols characteristic of the Pashto orthography and phonology. 6 retrofles consonants/ t/, /s/, /z/, /n/ and /r/, 3 affricate and fricatives /ds/, /ts/ and /z/; arranged kaf (pronounced as /g/; and 3 additional /y/ symbols.

Because Pashto had barrowed many Arabic words and often maintains the original Arabic spellings despite pronunciation changes in Pashto several Arabic letters map to single sounds.

Consonant

Pashto has an affinity for initial consonant clusters of two or three consonants. These are many consonant combinations and in some dialects according to the literature. They may undergo Meta Thesis, assimilation and dissimilation.

There are a number of consonants only used in pronouncing loan words or words from Arabic. (Ziar Majwjer 2005)^[4].

Vowels sounds makes an important component.

In fact clusters make intelligible sounds variation in the length of vowels, opening of mouth and rounding of lips makes meaningful difference.

There for imperative upon the foreign language learner to master these along with the consonant sounds at the same time stress and intonation have to be considered in to order to improve the quality of speech. (Ahsan-ur-Rehman 1998)^[2].

Standard Arabic vowels

Each vowel has a number of features that realize it from other vowel sound. These comprise; the shape of the lips, which may be front, middle, neutral, or spread. The second feature is the position of the tongue, which may be front, middle, or back. Finally, the tongue may be raised giving different vowel qualities.

Arabic vowels are voiced and produced with no obstruction or constriction in the mouth. Kara (1976)^[16], Ibn jinni called in the vowels huruf madd wa? istitalah that are served as the sound of lengthening and prolongation and may be short (harakat) or long (huruf madd). This idea of prolongation points to the fact that Arabic vowels being

produced without constriction in the mouth, may further be lengthened i.e. held as long as the breath allows, and, a glottal stop begins wherever the vowels end. Long vowels are also called the sound of softness. (Fagihi, 2012)^[5].

When the point of articulation (makhraj-ul-harf) widens (i.e. the vocal tract is not restriction) so as to keep the sound (i.e. the vowel) constantly enunciated and continued until it can no longer be prolonged, it will end by the articulation of the glottal stop (Hamza). It will necessarily come to an end at this point... the sound (huruf) which are articulation are there; (a, I, and u). However, a is more open (? awsa) and softer (? alyan) than the others and for this reason it is auditory different from both (i and u) and vice versa.

Fagihi (ibid) argues that in Arabic, a long vowel which is function is to slightly lengthen the short vowels, can be heard with further prolongation in three cases; if it is followed by a glottal stop (Hamza). If it followed by a geminate (harff mushaddad), and if it is paused upon for the purpose of recollection. On the other hand, long vowels are given alphabetical names, whereas the corresponding short vowels are actually given names that suggest phonetic distinctive features. They are called case markers.

To Ibn jinni al harakat can be seen as the element which if occurs between two identical consonants it may stop them from being doubled. He also adds that short vowels are in par with consonant in that they are all regarded as elements of speech. To this researcher they are merely oral, and used only in teaching texts for guiding the learner.

The full sound of consonant is done by the application of the vowel, but there are only three vowels in Arabic. One has the value of 'a' in 'bat', or 'u' in 'but' another has the value of 'u' in 'fit', and the third has the value of 'u' in 'put', they are all short. These vowels are not acted by characters following the consonant. (Abdul-Rauf 1977)^[6].

Also one of the major features in Arabic sounds is the use of either short or long vowels that may help the learner (to) differentiate between: singular and plural forms: as in colloquial examples: musa: firun (s) musa: firu: n (pl.) 'traveler'. They also remark that vowels can help to indicate object and absence or katabuhu "he wrote it." lastly, they realize one meaning from another as in; gamal "camel" and gamal "beauty" (Hanna and Geris 1972)^[7].

Similarities between the both languages vowel

Many of the vowel sounds in Pashto and Arabic have similar points of Articulation, but the proper pronunciation of vowel is one of the most difficult aspects of Pashto phonology for the Arabic speakers to learn, this is because Pashto has more vowels, glide, and diphthongs than Arabic, and because the vowels structures of the two language are quite different (Catford, *et al.*, 1974)^[8].

Similarly, some Arabic learners do oddly on a set of experimental of words. All these tasks include the discrimination of words with corresponding consonant patterns, but different in their vowels. Some Arabic learners of speakers, to some extent, are prominently inaccurate in treating vowels in Pashto words, and are much more apt to make errors including vowels than subjects of other L1 settings. (Ayyub Abdul Rehman 1968)^[9].

One potential interpretation for these impacts is that Arabic learners and speakers as well may transmit to Pashto a range of psycholinguistic strategies that are more suitably suffused in handling Arabic words. In Arabic vowels are of secondary significance both in written and in word building,

and the word discrimination system release clearly on the tri-consonant roots which are mostly the principle of the words in Arabic. In Arabic, words groups are made up of sets of words which all partake a common set of three consonant, but differ in the way vowels are occurred within this consonantal scope. Thus, *darasa* he studies, *yidrus* he studies, *mudaris* teacher, *tradrits* teaching, *dur us* classes, *mudrasa* school, etc., are all R-S (Mitchell 1962) ^[10]. To Mitchell (ibid) such a writing system goes quit with semitic languages, but makes problems for readers when they being learning a language which follows different structural rules. A system which promotes the readers to concentrate on the consonantal scope of a words does not permit adequate recognition between words when it is transmitted to the lexical system of Pashto where consonant are not just the major signs for a reader. Thus r-d-r is an unsuitable representation for 'Readers', since this consonantal code is parted with several other unrelated words (*raider*, *rider*, *rudder*, *ardour*, *ordure*, *order*, *redraw*, etc...). (Mitchell 1962) ^[10].

Some Scholars state that a large number of Arabic speaking learners of Pashto may be utilizing wrong word discrimination strategies of this type. Most Arabic learners will employ a system of this type in the early stages of learning Pashto. Although there is no enough proof to support this claim. It seems that most learners managed in improving a word – handling system that is suitable to Pashto for long time. But, many learners seem to have difficulties with Pashto words, and continue to make confusion like “” *dismal number*”” for “” *decimal number*””. Fact some learners may never get ride of this problem (Ryan and Mear 1996) ^[11].

In fact, a difference may arise in comparative force of pronunciation of stressed and unstressed syllable in Pashto and Arabic as one may teach pronunciation to Arabic – speaking students. In Pashto there is a big difference in force: Un stressed syllable can be enunciation very weakly; stressed syllable can be quite enunciated. In Arabic this difference is not nearly so extreme; unstressed syllable can here full vowels and be pronounced fairly clearly. Sentence stress in Arabic is the same to that in Pashto. Content words are usually unstressed. However, function words in Arabic do not have two forms. Vowels in words in an unstressed position keep their “full” value, unlike vowels in unstressed words in Pashto which are reduced to “schwa” (Wahba (1998) ^[12].

Conclusion

In Pashto vowels are different according to: 1) How high is the tongue? 2) What part of the tongue is involved? 3) What is the shape of the lips? 4) How tense are the muscles of the vocal tract?

Vowels can be explained in terms of three elements, the height of the body of the tongue, the front – back position of the tongue and the degree of lip rounding. It is very hard to be percipient of the position of the tongue in vowels, but it is probable to have an idea of the tongue height by watching the position of the jaw while pronouncing the words. (Ladefoged 1975) ^[13].

While the Pashto vowel have their entire place and autonomous presence in the Pashto alphabet and shape whole parts of Pashto words. The short vowels in Arabic are just oral. It seems that signs pointing these vowels on top of or below the consonant are found only in teaching texts

leading learners and in major religious texts. (Ayyub Abdul Rehman 1968) ^[9].

In other words, the result of this pedagogical research, and the information presented in the body of language gathered via the study can help text-book authors, language researchers, educational policy makers, teachers and students as well in their investigation for better understanding and comprehension the method of teaching and learning Arabic and Pashto as foreign Languages.

Suggestions

1. Official and responsible institutions should develop certain mechanism for such contrastive analysis research.
2. This mechanism must consist of university lecturers, members of academy, to know that how much is languages loaned vowels or words.
3. Society needs development for this purpose.

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