

Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate /dʒ/: Oman as a Sample

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Abstract

This study investigates phonological variation of the affricate /dʒ/ as pronounced by Omani speakers when they approach a formal style in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), namely, word list style. This work aims to identify the rate of adherence to the standard form when the subjects pronounce this phoneme in different word-positions. Thirty Omani participants were chosen randomly to represent speakers of two different Omani regions, Al-Dakhiliyya and Al-Batina.

The subjects read sixty tokens, distributed over three columns, where the occurrence of the variants of the affricate /dʒ/ is identified. Subjects' responses are recorded on a mobile phone and they are later downloaded on a laptop. The total number and percentage analysis of the variants in different word-positions are calculated.

The prominent findings of the study are: (i) native dialect habits are deeply rooted and have their great influence on the speakers' performance regardless of the formality of the context under which the speech takes place, (ii) formal style has scored a slight impact in coda position only, (iii) the distribution of the standard variant shows great predictability of the occurrence of the standard form, (iv) the non-standard variants /g/ and /ʒ/ have registered free distribution in both dialects with different rates, (v) the rates of the variant distribution is relative and dialect-bound, and (vi) there was a great linguistic evidence of dialect continuum within one and the same dialect and within two neighbouring dialects.

1- Introduction

One of the common phonological features of Arabic dialects is the obvious variation in the pronunciation of the affricate /dʒ/ (cf. Johnstone, 1965).¹ In various Arabic dialects, its pronunciation ranges between /dʒ/, /g / , /ʒ/, and /j/. In Iraqi Arabic, for example, it is pronounced as /dʒ/, /ʒ /, or /j/. In the centre of Basrah (the main southern city in Iraq), it is uttered /dʒ/; as /j / in places like Abi Al-Khaseeb, Al-Fao, and Shatt Al-Arab (Tannuma) (east, south, and north- east of Basrah); and /ʒ/ in Al-Mudainah and its outskirts (including the

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marsh area). Hence, a word like /daʒʒaadʒa/ "hen" is pronounced /didʒaadʒa/, /dijaaja/, and /djaaʒa/, in the order mentioned.

A similar situation exists in the Sultanate of Oman where the affricate /dʒ/ has three variants; /g/, /ʒ/, and /j/. In addition, these variants are also elicited in students' accent when they either approach MSA or deal with English words. A word like "language", for example, is heard as /læŋgwidʒ/, /læŋgwig/, /læŋgwiʒ/, and /læŋg-wij/. This indicates that Arabic speakers, like all other speakers, pertain their non-standard pronunciation when they speak a foreign language or standard Arabic. Accordingly, this deviation to the standard forms make such pronunciation sound vulgar or local.

The aim of this study is to investigate how Omani speakers pertain these variants when using MSA. A new approach and method of research is adopted in this study, namely, the Labovian highest formal style (word list style)² where the attention of the informant is concentrated on a single word at a time to achieve a more controlled pronunciation (cf. Trudgill, 2000, 86). The subjects involved in the work are thirty educated Omani speakers. They are Diploma and Bachelor college students. These informants have been selected deliberately to represent the speakers of the two Omani regions under investigation, Al-Dakhiliyya (110 km north west of Muscat) and Al-Batinah (70 km north of Muscat) (Appendix 2). The tokens selected are sixty representing words said in MSA. They include the variable being examined, distributed word initially, medially, and finally. To show the frequency of the occurrence of the variants intended, the informants' responses were subjected to percentage analysis.

The work is designed to test two hypotheses; (i) the subjects will stick to the standard pronunciation due to their consciousness while reading the word list and due to the higher level of formality of the context under which they were tested, and (ii) the phonemic substitution will be the highest in word-initial position, even when the informants pertain their regional forms.

It is hoped that the findings of this study will contribute to shedding more light on the phonological variation in the Gulf Arabic in general and the Omani Arabic in particular. The findings will be also of value to those interested in Arabic philology and dialectology as well. Some results of this work might bear pedagogic implications.

2- Historical Background of Sound Change in Arabic Dialects

The study of phonological processes including sound change is an old phenomenon in Arabic. Classical Arabic grammar texts disclose sufficient literature on this topic (cf. Sibawayhi , Ibn Jinni, Ibn il Sukait, Ibn Duraid, Al-lugawi). Broadly speaking, traditional Arab scholars have investigated the phenomenon of sound change in Arabic thoroughly giving different interpretations to its occurrence.³ Ibn il Sukait (1978), for example, admits that the phonemic substitution is usually found in one tribe where the same word is pronounced differently by different speakers. Other scholars (e.g. Ibn Duraid, 1930 ; Al-lugawi, 1960) advocate an extreme point of view stating that phonemic substitution is found in two different regions and not in the same region. They claim that the same tribe does not pronounce a word with glottal stop, for instance, in two different variants, with and without the glottal stop. Like other scholars, they have introduced evidence for this phenomenon by

checking the two different forms of the same word in two different areas. This is commonly carried out via eliciting the intuitions of native speakers. For instance, Ibn Duraid (op.cit) has asked two different speakers to pronounce the word /Ḥalak / "dark blackness" as in /Ḥalak il Guraab/ "the dark blackness of the crow". He has found that it is pronounced with | l | in one tribe and with | n | in the other.

Ibn Jinni (1955) wrote a chapter on sound change in Arabic entitled " Phonemic Substitution of Two Identical Sounds". He believes that when two forms of a word occur very frequently, they are considered to be synonyms and show that each form is original. However, when one form becomes very common and the other very rare, the former is the original pronunciation while the latter is the deviant form. This context, he points out, represents a case of phonemic change in language. The examples he gave are / haTanat il Samaaʔ/ " The sky rained" for /haTalat il samaaʔ/ and /fumma/ " then, after that" for /θumma/. He assumes that only the second example represents the phonemic substitution due to the facts mentioned so far.

Sibawayhi (1977) studies phonemic substitution in relation to morphology, assimilation and ease of articulation. He offers many examples of changing a consonant into another for morphological processes particularly verb and noun derivation. He states that old Arabs who speak purely classical Arabic tend to change certain consonants to make them similar to juxtaposed consonants for economy of effort and ease of articulation. This is elicited in examples like /tazdiir/ "export" for /taSdiir/ , and /ʔazdartu/ " I issued" for /ʔaSdartu/. In these examples, the voiceless denti-alveolar emphatic /S/ has become voiced denti-alveolar /z / . Other examples found are /ʔaʃdar/ " proper for " for /ʔadʒdar/ (where the voiced palato-alveolar affricate /dʒ/ has turned into the voiceless palato-alveolar /ʃ/), /ʔidʒdama9u/ " they assembled" for /ʔidʒtama9u/ (in which the voiceless denti-alveolar /t/ shifts into the voiced denti-alveolar /d/). For Sibawayhi (ibid.), this change represents a type of assimilation of voicing where the voiceless /t/ has been assimilated into the voiced /d/under the effect of the following voiced bilabial /m/. Sibawayhi (ibid.) states that

many consonants in Arabic change into other consonants due to the effect of adjacent consonants. The examples quoted are the change of the voiceless palato-alveolar /s/ into the voiceless palato- alveolar emphatic /S/ when it is followed by the voiceless uvular /q/ as in /Suqtu/ " I drove" for /suqtu/, /Salaxa/ " he skinned" " for /salaxa/, /Saati9/ " shining" for /saaTi9/. Other types of phonemic substitution, he elaborates, results either from avoiding gemination as in /ʔistaxaḏa/ " he owned, he took" for / ʔittaxaḏa/ , or from avoiding pronouncing two successive emphatic consonants as in /ʔilTad3a9a/ " he slept" | for /ʔiDTad3a9a/. He concludes that consonantal change is very common in many old Arab Dialects because Arabs, like speakers of other languages, seek ease of articulation and expenditure of energy. However, all the examples elicited are systematic in the sense that they occur in terms of assimilation and avoidance of the juxtaposition of certain identical segments like geminates.

Ibn il Sukait (op.cit.) dedicates a whole book to phonemic substitution in Arabic, where he thoroughly surveys consonantal replacement in Arabic. He quotes pre-Islamic Arabic, particularly its poetry. With reference to the affricate /dʒ/ , he indicates that some Arabs

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exchange the /j/ by /dʒ/, e.g. /ʔafidʒi/ "dinner" for /ʔafijij/, /fuqajmidʒ/ " a person from Fuqaym" for /fuqajmij/, /ʔal SiiSidʒ/ " the cow's horn" for /ʔalSiiSij/. He contends that when some Arabs double the /j/, they make it /dʒ/. He has devoted a separate section to the replacement of /H/ by /dʒ/. This is elicited in examples like /ʔadʒamma l ʔamr/ "it is time to do something" for /ʔaHamma l ʔamr/, /radʒulun mudʒaaraf/ "a deprived person" instead of /radʒulun muHaaraf/.

Modern Arab philologists (e.g. Muhsin, 1978; Abdul Tawwab, 1987; Anis, 1990) have studied and reviewed (among other things) phonemic substitution in Arabic with more depth.. For example, Muhsin (1978) outlines phonemic substitution in some Arabic dialects illustrating his argument via phonetic justification. He states that Bani Sa'ad tribe substitutes the palatal /j/ by the affricate /dʒ/ in the pausal form of a surname word structure⁴, e.g. /tamimidʒ/ instead of /tamimj/ " a person from Tamim", and /ʔalidʒ/ for /ʔalij/ " Ali, a person's name ". The same sound change, he admits, is elicited in two other Arab tribes, Tamim and Qudha'a, and shows that the latter is very famous for this phenomenon which is called " Aj'ajat Qudha'a" " the substitution of /j/ by /dʒ/ by Qudha'a". Phonetically speaking, he justifies this occurrence by stating that both /dʒ/ and /j/ have the same point of articulation (middle of the tongue and hard palate).

Muhsin (ibid.) contends that Fazara and Qays Arab tribes change Al Alif (long a:) into /j/ in the pausal form as in /ʔaf9j/ for /ʔf9aa/ " snake ", and /fatj/ instead of /fataa/ " boy ". The reason, he believes, is purely an acoustic one; although both " Alif" and " yaa?" are vowels, the latter is more prominent than the first.

The same type of substitution, he claims, is echoed by "Tamim Tribe". This is embodied by pronouncing the proper noun terminating with "Alif Al-Maqsurah" (long Alif) with "Hamza" (glottal stop) as in /ʔaf9aʔ/ for /ʔaf9aa/ "snake", proposing that both Alif and Hamza have the same point of articulation.

Abdul Tawwab (1987) surveys, among other topics, phonemic substitution in various old Arabic dialects. He concludes that classical Arabic does not belong to any particular Arab tribe, but the product of various Arabic dialects. It has come into use as a result of communication among different Arab tribes during pilgrimage, trading, and many accompanying literary gatherings. However, he stresses that the dialect of Quraysh has its own distinctive influence on classical Arabic due to its purity and standardization. He mentions that old Arab grammarians give certain names to old Arab dialects depending on the predominant phonological feature with which they are characterized; most of these names are associated with phonemic substitution.

Phonemic substitution processes listed by Abdul Tawwab (ibid) are: (i) Al-Istinta' " changing | 9 | into | n | when it comes in juxtaposition to | T |" in the dialects of Sa'ad Bin Bakr, Hadeel, Azd, Qays, Al- Ansar, and the dialect of Yeman. He claims this change is still echoed in Iraqi Arabic, and Beduin Egyptian Arabic,⁵ e.g. /ʔanTa/ " he gave" for /ʔa9Ta/, and /ʔanTayt/ " I gave" for /ʔa9Tayt/, (ii) Al-Shanshana " changing the /k/ into /ʃ/" in the dialect of Yeman and Taglib tribe. He states that this change still characterizes the dialect of

Hadramout, e.g. /labbajf/ "at your obedience" for /labbajk/, /9aleef/ for /9alayk/ "you have to", (iii) Al-fahfaha (changing the /H/ into /9/). This is a common phenomenon in Hadeel tribe where a word like /Hattaa/ "till" is pronounced /9attaa/. He indicates that this type of substitution is elicited in some recitations of the Holy Qur'an, (iv) "Al-kaskasa" (the change of /k/ into /s/ or the addition of final /s/ to the feminine addressee suffix /k/ in the pausal form). This is common in the speech of the tribes of Bakr, Hawazin, Rabi'a and Mudhar, for instance /ʔa9Tiis/ "I gave you" for /ʔa9Tiik/, /ʔukrimukis/ "I reward you (feminine addressee)" for /ʔukrimuk/, (v) "Al-Kashkasha" (changing the /k/ into /ʃ/ in the dialects of Bakr, Bani Amr bin Tamim, and by some speakers of Asad, e.g. /ʔinniʃ ʔaahiba/ "you are leaving" instead of /ʔinnik ʔaahiba/, /maalif ʔaahiba/ "why do you want to leave?" for /maalik ʔaahiba/, /dʒa9ala llaahu il baraka fii daarif/ "God blesses your house" for /dʒa9ala llaahu il baraka fii daarik/, (vi) Al-Watm (substituting /s/ by /t/) in Yamani dialect, e.g. /ʔalnaat/ for /ʔalnaas/ "people", /ʔakyaat/ for /ʔakyaas/ "plural of Kayyis, gentlemen".

Anis (1990) investigates sound change, among other things, in MSA and other Arabic dialects, regarding it as a phenomenon of sound modification, where Arabic speakers usually substitute one consonant for another for assimilation and ease of articulation. He points out that classical Arabic consonants /ð, q, T/ have been changed nowadays to comply with the way they are used in different Arabic dialects.

He adds that it is difficult now to distinguish between /ð/ and /d/. Another type of change, referred to, is the devoicing of classical Arabic /q/ and /T/. He considers these types of change forms of historical development undergoing these sounds. Anis (ibid) explains consonantal change of colloquial Arabic (e.g. Egyptian Arabic and Syrian Arabic) offering articulatory and acoustic interpretations: classical /dʒ/ into Cairo /g/ or into the Syrian /ʒ/, classical /ð/ into /d/ and sometimes into /z/ in Egyptian Arabic, classical /θ/ into /t/ or into /s/ in Egyptian Arabic, classical /q/ into /ʔ/ or into /g/ in Egyptian Arabic. The change, he assumes, affects both the place of articulation and tenseness of these consonants.⁶

3- Literature on Omani Arabic

A literature survey on Omani Arabic reveals that studies in this area are very limited. Holes (1989) describes some features of the phonology and morphology of Omani Arabic dialects. This study is based on the results of conversational tape-recorded material in rural areas in Oman (1985-1987). Holes (ibid.) justifies the rarity of studies on Omani Arabic to the inaccessibility of the country to outsiders until recently. He refers to old works done at the turn of this century (e.g. Jayakar, 1889, "On the Settled Speech of the Muscat Area"; Rhodokanakis, 1908-1911, "On Dhufar Arabic"; Reinhardt's, 1894, "Detailed Study of the Phonology, Morphology, and Grammar of the Dialect of the Settled Bani Kharus). Works quoted in this paper are Galloway (1977), and Brockett (1985). The former is a general survey of the structural characteristics of Omani dialects which includes a lexicon of Omani vocabulary in addition to some texts. The latter represents a detailed glossary of agricultural and other technical terms in Batina Coastal town of Khabura, in the form of short notes on the phonology, morphology, and grammar of Khabura Omani Arabic.

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Holes's paper amounts to some sort of a geographical survey of Omani dialects. Two areas were excluded from that survey, namely, Muscat (the capital), and Salala (the main southern city).

Recently, Al-Khayyari (2008) has studied a number of phonological features in Omani Arabic. She investigates such cases as Al-Ananah (changing the glottal stop (Al-Hamza) into /ʁ/ as in /ʁarnab/ "rabbit" for /ʔarnab/, Al-Kashkasha (adding the voiceless fricative /ʃ/ to the end of the word or changing the final velar plosive /k/ into the fricative /ʃ/ as in /ʔaʁTeetkiʃ/ "I gave you, feminine addressee" and /beetiʃ/ "your house, feminine addressee" for /beetik/, and Al-Ajajah (changing the geminate /j/ into the voiced post-alveolar /dʒ/) as in /maʁidʒ/ "with me" for /maʁij/. In addition, she has referred to the change of the voiced post-alveolar affricate /dʒ/ into the voiced palatal approximant /j/ as in /jabal/ "mountain" for /dʒabal/, claiming that this phonemic substitution is elicited in Al-Batina region (Nakhla area). She has also investigated other cases of phonemic substitution such as: the change of the voiced

post-alveolar affricate /dʒ/ into the voiced velar plosive /g/ with no reference to

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a specific area in Oman, e.g. /gamal/ "camel" for /dʒamal/, /ʃagarah/ "tree" for /ʃadʒrah/, the change of the voiceless velar plosive /k/ into the voiceless uvular plosive /q/ (Al-Hamra and Al-Rustaq areas) as in /quub/ "cup" for /kuub/, the change of the voiceless uvular plosive /q/ into the voiced post-alveolar affricate /dʒ/ (Al-Dakhiliyya, Al-Sharqiyya, Al-Batina regions) as in /ʔal dʒabiilah/ "the tribe" for /ʔal qabiilah/, and the change of the voiceless denti-alveolar emphatic plosive /T/ into the voiceless denti-alveolar plosive /t/ (Bahla and Ibra areas) as in /taabuuq/ "bricks" for /Taabuuq/.

Al-Khayyari (op.cit.) attributes all these forms of phonological variation to geographical distance and geographical barriers, and concludes that Omani dialects show a great lexical and phonological variation. The closest Omani dialect to standard Arabic, she claims, is the dialect spoken in Al-Dakhiliyya region. She calls for further studies in this area, and recommends focus on a specific area and use of different survey methodology such as tape recording, questionnaires or interviews.

4- Procedure

4.1 Methodology

The present work is experimental, utilizing a recorded material of thirty informants. Sixty tokens have been selected randomly to present the free distribution of the affricate /dʒ/ in MSA, to check whether the participants adhere to the standard pronunciation of this variable or not. Subjects' responses are recorded and then tabulated. Percentage analysis of each token in different word-positions is calculated. The total number of responses is also recorded in order to find the total percentages.

The participants involved in the experiment are thirty Omani speakers, selected randomly as samples of the population of two different areas in Oman, Al-Dakhiliyya and Al-Batina. To minimize the impact of the variables that might undermine the results of the experiment, the fluency of the informants is checked through friendly talk to ensure that they

do not suffer from any speech or hearing defects. They have also been told in advance about the purpose of the experiment.⁷

4.2 Material and Design

The experiment material of sixty tokens with the affricate /dʒ/ have been distributed over three columns. Each twenty tokens are listed in one column(Appendix 3). The token lists are distributed according to the position of /dʒ/ in the word, initial, medial, and final. These words are monosyllabic and polysyllabic. The main criterion of word selection is distributional.

4.3 Recording Sessions

Mobile phone, recording facility, and computer tools are used to decrease hesitation, tension and artificiality that might happen during recording sessions (as compared with traditional tape-recording). The recording is administered in two

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sessions. Before starting the recording, a pre-elicitation session is carried out to reduce strain. The participants are instructed to read the tokens list by list, first, second and third. The time taken to record each subject ranges between (40 seconds – one minute).⁸ The recorded material is later downloaded to a laptop (model Compaq) and copied to a multi - speed compatible CD-R (Model 700 MB).⁹

4.4 Data Analysis

The responses of the subjects are analyzed by listening to the register saved on the laptop. To achieve accuracy, the informants are given numbers (1-15) for each group. Responses of the first group (Al- Batina region) are first analyzed followed by those of the second group (Al-Dakhiliyya region). The number of responses of each token is calculated followed by a percentage. The total number of responses and percentages for each token is also obtained (Appendix 4)

4.5.Discussion

Table 1

Results Analysis of the / dʒ/ Variants in Al-Batina and Al-Dakhiliyya Dialects

Variant	Al-Batina Region			Al-Dakhiliyya Region		
	Word initial	Word medial	Word final	Word initial	Word medial	Word final
dʒ	0%	0%	5.6%	0%	0%	5.3%
j	7.3%	10%	1.6%	0%	0%	0%
g	45%	39.3%	38.3%	86.6%	88.6%	88.3%
ʒ	47,6%	50,6%	54.3%	13.3%	11.3%	6.3%

Table (1) clearly shows that the variant /dʒ/, which represents the standard pronunciation, registers 0% word-initially and word-medially in both regions. It is elicited in word-final position in both areas where it registers 5.6% and 5.3%, respectively. This falsifies our first hypothesis that subjects adhere to the standard pronunciation unconsciously in formal settings. The results show that this variant is elicited only in final position in both areas,

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although rarely. The occurrence of this variant in this position is interpreted in terms of distribution, i.e. due to the context where it occurs. Specifically, when it comes as a coda and not followed by any other sound, it is uttered as /dʒ/.

As expected, phonemic substitution occurs in both dialects when the subjects deviate from the standard pronunciation. The variant /j/ is found in different word-positions in the first region and registers no occurrence in the second one. This is the first evidence of phonological variation and sound change in the two varieties under investigation. This variant scores the highest percentage in medial position (10 %), followed by initial position (7.3%), and final position (1.6%), respectively . This contradicts our second hypothesis which implies that phonemic substitution is highly predicted in initial position. The pronunciation of /dʒ/ as /j/ indicates that it is a characteristic of some Omani dialects, viz, it is one of the phonological features of

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these dialects. Another important result is that the occurrence of this variant is non-conditioned. These two results support the findings of earlier studies of Arabic dialects in the Peninsular Arabia (cf. Johnstone,1965).

The variants /g/ and /ʒ/ show the highest percentages as compared with the variants /dʒ/ and /j /. They are found in the pronunciation of the subjects of both regions with different rates. The variant /g/ scores a higher occurrence in Al-Dakhiliyya region in comparison with Al-Batina. The percentages in the former read 86.6%, 88.6%, and 88.3%, respectively. Once again, the occurrence of the variant was higher in final position as compared with the initial one. In comparison, the percentages of the same variant in Al-Batina region are 45%, 39,3%, and 38,3, in the order mentioned. These findings support our second hypothesis, where the rating of the substituted variants is relative and dialect- specific. In phonetic terms, this is very much affected by the speaker's articulatory habits.

On the other hand, the variant /ʒ/ is also elicited in both areas with different rates. The highest percentages are found in Al-Batina region. It scores 47.6%, 50.6%, and 54,3% as compared to 13.3%, 11.3, and 6.3%, respectively. However, the highest percentage was scored in word- final position in the first area, whereas initial position registers the highest percentage in the second one.

5- Conclusions

Based on the analysis of results, this study ends up with these conclusions:

- 1- Non-standard dialect has its great impact on its users' pronunciation when they approach the standard dialect. This contradicts our first hypothesis of speakers' adherence to the standard pronunciation under formal setting and consciousness. The results obtained here disfavour Labovian's assumption regarding the correlation between the formal style and the artificiality of the situation (cf.Trudgill, op.cit., pp. 85-86).
- 2- The formal style and the social context under which the performance takes place register only a slight impact on the speakers' performance in coda position.

- 3- Speakers of both dialects adhere in a very limited way to the standard pronunciation.
- 4- Adherence to the standard form of language is distributionally- bound. It occurs only in word- final position (in coda position) with a very low rating. This gives a phonetic interpretation of phones occurring as coda. That is, when they are not followed by other phones.
- 5- The position of the standard variant has its great role in predicting the occurrence of the standard pronunciation.
- 6- The rating of the variant distribution is relative and inconsistent. It is dialect-specific, i.e. it varies from one dialect into another.
- 7- Using certain variants of the same variable is the distinctive phonological feature of a certain dialect or subdialect that is used as regional clue-bearer. That is, as an indicative of regional belongingness.
- 8- The variant /g/ has shown free distribution in both dialects with a higher rating in Al-Dakhilyya region. In consequence, we conclude that this variant is the most predominant one in the second dialect.
- 9- In contrast to the variant /g/, the /ʒ/ variant reads higher rating in the first region (Al- Batina). However it occurs freely in both dialects. The rates scored reveal that Al-Batina area is phonologically characterized by the use of /ʒ/ rather than /g/.
- 10- Percentages registered support the fact of dialect continuum within one and the same dialect and within two neighbouring dialects. To put it differently, there is no clear-cut linguistic boundaries among regional varieties. This is attributed to the great mobility of individuals in the neighbouring areas, due to the availability of the means of transportation and ease of communication offered by modern technology, particularly mobile phone and internet..

6- Suggestion for further Studies

Findings of the above work seem to point in the direction of having native language phonological distinctiveness on foreign language learning. This, however, needs to be investigated and verified empirically. Phonological variation elicited in other consonants of Omani Arabic, particularly the velar /g/ into the uvular /q/, and the velar /k/ into the fricative /ʃ/, is worth examining.¹⁰ A survey of phonological variation in other Omani regional dialects seems to be reasonable. The results that will be obtained in this area might channel toward a dialect geography of the whole country. Other phonetic and phonological aspects of Omani Arabic need to be approached due to the rarity of such types of works.

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Notes

- 1- In a similar way, Arabic dialects are characterized by a distinct variation in the pronunciation of the uvular /q/. It has the four variants /q/, /g/, /ʔ/, and /k/ (cf. Sallum, 1980).
- 2- Most studies in dialectology, particularly those confined to phonological variation, depend on data obtained from the typical rural pronunciation since it represents the pure accent. However, in this study we adopt a more formal style to elicit the degree of adhering to the non-standard form even when we face a more formal context as it is the case in the word list style. In this regard, we might sacrifice the naturalness and purity of the accents being investigated due to the justifications mentioned so far.
- 3- Generally speaking, phonemic substitution in Arabic has been studied within two separate areas; morphology and dialectal variation. Our current study is confined to the second type due to the limit of the study.
- 4- This is one of the Arab tribes living in the Arab Peninsula. Other tribes referred to in this section (as they occur) live in different Arab regions as stated below:

<u>Tribe</u>	<u>Area (s) of Residence</u>
Qudha'a	Hijaz
Fazara	Yemen
Qays	Saudi Arabia (<i>Manfuha, part of Riyadh</i>)
Tamim	Nejd (Sadeer), Iraq (Basrah semi desert)
Hawazin	Mecca (Taif)
Quraysh	Mecca (Mina and Taif)
Hadeel	Hijaz (Mecca outskirts)
Mudhar	Hijaz
Sa'ad Bin Bakr	Nejd (Al-jazirah)
Asad	Iraq and Iran
Azd	Yemen
Taglib	Hijaz
Rabi'a	Hijaz and Iraq
Al-Ansar	Arab Peninsula

(After BAWAZIR Web Site, 2009)

- 5- This type of sound change is very common in Iraqi Arabic as in /ʔinTeetah/ "I gave him " for MSA counterpart /ʔa9Taytahu/.
- 6- For example, classical Arabic /dʒ/ changed its place of articulation in Egyptian Arabic to the same place of the velar /g/ where it has become tense voiced consonant and its voiceless counterpart is the voiceless /k/. Other consonants

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like /q/ have retained their tenseness. What has been changed is their place of articulation only.

- 7- My deep gratitude is due to the informants who took part in this study. The same gratitude is also given to my student ,Sheikha bint Muhsin bin Salim Al- Shuraiqi, for her great effort in preparing these informants and for recording the material. A word of appreciation is registered for my student, Zainab bint Mohammed bin Humoud Al-Hashmi and her husband, for their generosity to provide me Holes's(1989) article. My heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation go to Dr. Adil Hassoun Al- Khafaji, Chairman of the English Department, Al-Zahra College for Women, Oman, for his valuable comments on the outline of this paper , and for his proof reading of the first and the last drafts. Great appreciation extends to Professor Dr. Ali H. Fayyadh, Board of Directors' Advisor, Al-Zahra College for Women, for his constructive notes on the final draft of this work. These notes have put this work in its current format. The faults of this paper are mine.
- 8- This average has been recorded by the mobile used (Sony Ericson K800).
- 9- Recordings are available on request via e-mail.
- 10- Phonemic substitution of the velar| g | into the uvular | q |, and the velar | k | into the fricative /ʃ/ is very common in Omani Arabic. Accordingly, a word like /ʔaguul/ " I say" which is found in many Gulf dialects, is pronounced as /ʔaquul/, and a word like /Haalik/ " your condition" (feminine addressee) is heard /Haaliʃ/ , found particularly in Sohar Omani Arabic. This again represents the phonological phenomenon of " Kashkasha" already reported in sections 2 and 3.

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/ dʒ /: Oman as a Sample**

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**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
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**Appendix 1
Key to the Arabic Segmental Symbols Used in
Transcription**

1- The Vowels*

<u>The symbol</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
i	ʔibn	" son "
ii	tiin	"fig"
a	mann	" who"
aa	dʒaar	" neighbour"
u	muflis	" penniless"
uu	ʔuyyuun	" eyes"

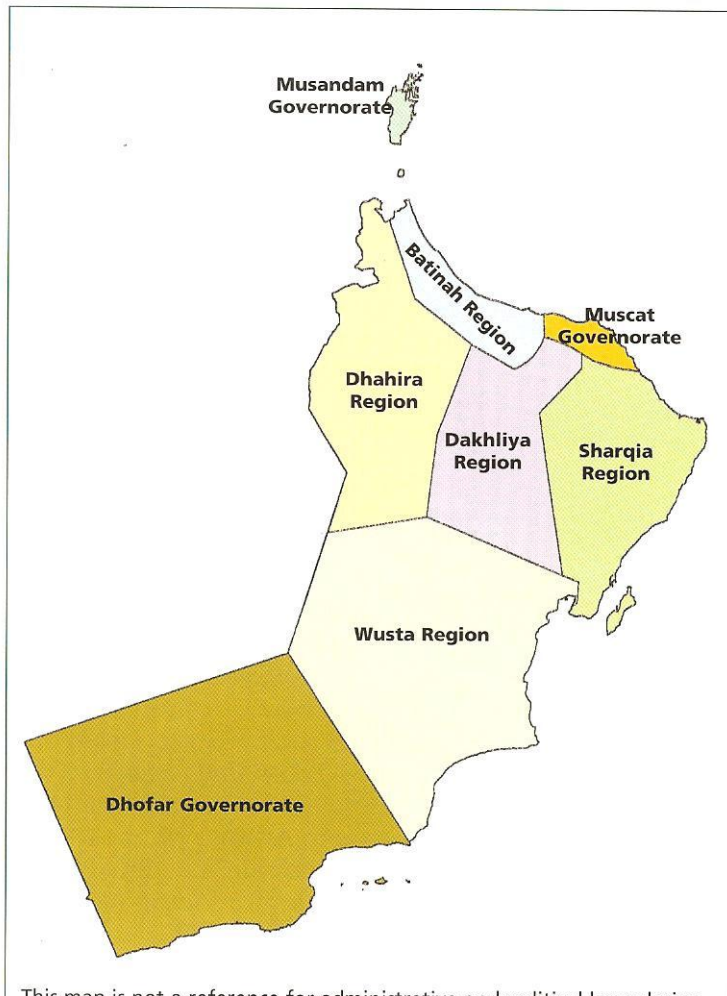
2- The Consonants**

b	baab	" door"
t	tamrr	" dates"
T	Tayr	" bird"
t	tiin	" fig "
D	DaabuT	" officer"
k	kawn	" universe"
q	qamar	" moon"
ʔ	ʔamr	" order"
f	fadʒr	" dawn "
θ	θawb	" dress"
ð	ðiʔb	" wolf"
Ð	Ðahara	" he appeared"
s	samaaʔ	" sky "
S	Sabrr	" patience"
z	zayt	" oil "
ʃ	ʃariba	" he drank"
x	xubz	" bread"
G	Gadaaʔ	" lunch "
H	Hayaat	"life "
ʔ	ʔayn	"eye "
h	hawaaʔ	"air "
dʒ**	dʒibn	"cheese"
m	Maddada	" he extended"
	14	
n	nimr	" tiger"
l	lawn	" colour"
r	radʒiʔa	" he returned"
w	waqt	"time"
y	yaktub	" he writes"

* The segmental symbols used to represent vowels in Arabic have been selected for simplicity and economy of typography

**Other Symbols used in the transcription of examples relevant to colloquial Arabic are |g|, |ʒ|, |tʃ| which are those of RP English.

**Appendix (2)
Map of Oman***



This map is not a reference for administrative and political boundaries

* Adapted from Oman Human Development Report (2003)

**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
/ dʒ /: Oman as a Sample**

**Appendix 3
Tokens Used in the Experiment**

	Initial		Medial		Final	
1	/dʒamal/	"camel"	/madʒallah/	"magazine"	/burdʒ/	"tower"
2	/dʒabal/	"mountain"	/masdʒid	"mosque"	/taadʒ/	"crown"
3	/dʒarraar/	"plough"	/sadʒdʒaadah/	"carpet"	/nasiidʒ/	"fabric"
4	/dʒazar/	'carrot	/nudʒuum/	"stars"	/muruudʒ/	"green land"
5	/dʒibn/	"cheese"	/dadʒaadʒah/	"hen"	/xuruudʒ/	"exit"
6	/dʒaasim/	"Jasim , a proper noun"	/radʒul/	"man"	/Hadʒdʒ/	"pilgrim"
7	/dʒisr/	"bridge"	/fadʒarah/	"tree"	/Dadʒiidʒ/	"noise"
8	/dʒarah	"pot"	/sadʒadah/	"He bowed"	/naadidʒ/	"ripe"
9	/dʒameelah/	"Jameelah, a proper name"	/tidʒarah/	"trade"	/durdʒ/	"drawer"
10	/dʒabaan/	"coward"	/hidʒaab/	"scarf"	/siyaadʒ/	"fence"
11	/dʒaaʔi9/	"hungry"	/Hadʒarr/	"stone"	/zudʒaadʒ/	"glass"
12	/dʒadiid/	"new"	/Hadʒim/	"size"	/sarʒdʒ/	"saddle"
13	/dʒawwaafa/	'guava"	/madʒruuH/	"wounded"	/masaadʒ/	"message"
14	/dʒaami9a/	"university"	/jadʒlis/	"to sit"	/ʔintaadʒ/	"production"
15	/dʒasad/	"body"	/maadʒid/	"Majid proper noun"	/siraadʒ/	"light"
16	dʒawaab	"answer"	/xadiidʒah/	"Khadejah, a proper noun"	/xuruudʒ/	"exit"
17	/dʒundi/	"solder"	/madʒlis/	"council"	/muHtaadʒ/	"needy person"
18	/dʒariidah/	"newspaper"	/ʔidʒaazah/	"leave"	/daHradʒ/	"he rolled"
19	/dʒaabir/	Jabir " proper noun"	/madʒd/	"glory"	/muta9arriidʒ/	"curved"
20	/dʒaziirah/	"desert"	/yadʒni/	"to harvest"	/ʔifraadʒ/	"release"

Appendix (4)

1- Percentage Analysis of Subjects' Responses in Different Word-Position
(Al-Batina Region)

Table (1)

Percentage Analysis of | dʒ | variants in Word- initial position

Token	/dʒ/	Percent.	/j/	Percent.	/g/	Percent.	/ʒ/	Percent.
1	0	0%	3	20%	6	40%	6	40%
2	0	0%	3	20%	7	46.6%	5	33.3%
3	0	0%	1	6.6%	8	53.3%	6	40%
4	0	0%	2	13.3%	6	40%	7	46.6%
5	0	0%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
6	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
7	0	0%	1	6.6%	6	40%	8	53.3%
8	0	0%	1	6.6%	6	40%	8	53.3%
9	0	0%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
10	0	0%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
11	0	0%	1	6.6%	8	53.3%	6	40%
12	0	0%	3	20%	5	33.3%	7	46.6%
13	0	0%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
14	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
15	0	0%	1	6.6%	6	40%	8	53.3%
16	0	0%	1	6.6%	6	40%	8	53.3%
17	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
18	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
19	0	0%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
20	0	0%	0	0%	8	53.3%	7	46.6%
Total	0	0%	22	7.3%	135	45%	143	47.6%

Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate

/dʒ/: Oman as a Sample

(Table 2)

Percentage Analysis of | dʒ | Variants in Word -Medial Position

Tokens	/dʒ/	Percent.	/j/	Percent.	/g/	Percent.	/ʒ/	Percent.
1	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
2	0	0%	3	20%	6	40%	6	40%
3	0	0%	3	20%	6	40%	6	40%
4	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
5	0	0%	7	46.6%	4	26.6%	4	26%
6	0	0%	1	6.6%	5	33.3%	9	60%
7	0	0%	2	13.3%	6	40%	7	46.6%
8	0	0%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
9	0	0%	0	0%	5	33.3%	10	66.6%
10	0	0%	1	6.6%	4	26.6%	10	66.6%
11	0	0%	1	6.6%	4	26.6%	10	66.6%
12	0	0%	0	0%	6	40%	9	60%
13	0	0%	2	13.3%	5	33.3%	8	53.3%
14	0	0%	3	20%	6	40%	6	40%
15	0	0%	3	20%	7	46.6%	5	33.3%
16	0	0%	0	0%	6	40%	9	60%
17	0	0%	3	20%	7	46.6%	5	33.3%
18	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
19	0	0%	0	0%	7	46.6%	8	53.3%
20	0	0%	0	0%	6	40%	9	60%
Total	0	0%	30	10%	118	39.3	152	50.6

Table (3)

Percentage Analysis of | **dʒ** | variants in Word - final position

Tokens	/dʒ/	Percent.	/j/	Percent.	/g/	Percent.	/ʒ/	Percent.
1	2	13.3%	0	0%	8	53.3%	5	33.3%
2	1	6.6%	1	6.6%	7	46.6%	6	40%
3	1	6.6%	0	0%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
4	1	6.6%	0	0%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
5	1	6.6%	0	0%	6	40%	8	53.3%
6	1	6.6%	1	6.6%	5	33.3%	8	53.3%
7	1	6.6%	0	0%	5	33.3%	9	60%
8	1	6.6%	0	0%	4	26%	10	66.6%
9	0	0%	2	13.3%	4	26%	9	60%
10	1	6.6%	0	0%	8	53.3%	6	40%
11	1	6.6%	0	0%	6	40%	8	53.3%
12	1	6.6%	0	0%	6	40%	8	53.3%
13	1	6.6%	0	0%	7	46.6%	7	46.6%
14	1	6.6%	0	0%	6	40%	8	53.3%
15	1	6.6%	0	0%	5	33.3%	9	60%
16	1	6.6%	0	0%	6	40%	8	53.3%
17	1	6.6%	1	6.6%	6	40%	7	46.6%
18	0	0%	0	0%	5	33.3%	10	66.6%
19	0	0%	0	0%	3	20%	12	80%
20	0	0%	0	0%	4	26%	11	73.3%
Total	17	5.6%	5	1.6%	115	38.3%	163	54.3%

**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
/ dʒ /: Oman as a Sample**

**2- Percentage Analysis of the Subjects' Responses in Different Word- Position
(Al-Dakhiliyya Region)**

**Table (1)
Percentage Analysis of the / dʒ / Variants in Word-Initial Position**

Tokens	/dʒ/		/j/		/g/		/ʒ/	
1	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
2	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
3	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
4	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
5	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
6	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
7	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
8	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
9	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
10	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
11	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
12	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
13	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
14	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
15	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
16	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
17	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
18	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
19	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
20	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
Total	0	0%	0	0%	260	86.6	40	13.3%

Table 2
Percentage Analysis of the |dʒ| Variants in Medial Word-Position

Tokens	/dʒ/	Percent.	/j/	Percent.	/g/	Percent.	/ʒ/	Percent.
1	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
2	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
3	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
4	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
5	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
6	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
7	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
8	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
9	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
10	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
11	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
12	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
13	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
14	0	0%	0	0%	15	100%	0	0%
15	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
16	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
17	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
18	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
19	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
20	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
Total	0	0%	0	0%	266	88.6%	34	11.3%

**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
/ dʒ /: Oman as a Sample**

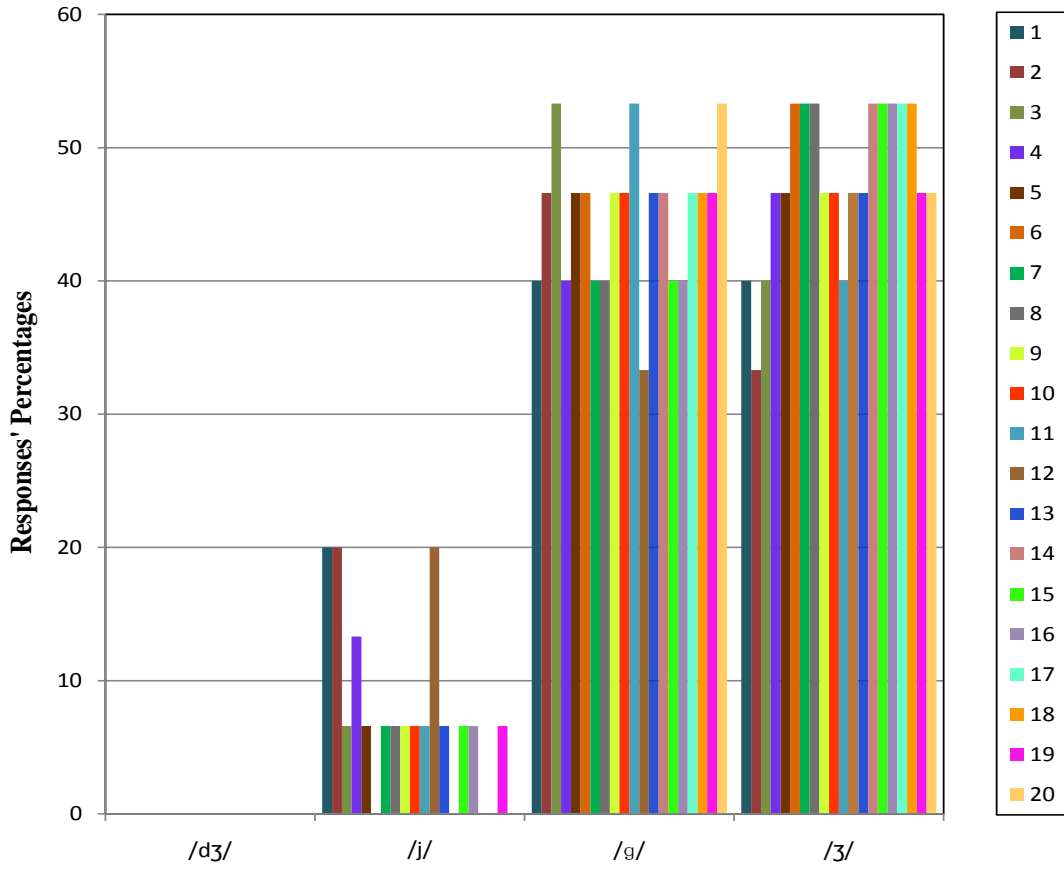
**Table (3)
Percentage Analysis of the | dʒ | Variants in Word-Final Position**

Tokens	/dʒ/	Percent.	/j/	Percent.	/g/	Percent.	/ʒ/	Percent.
1	2	13.3%	0	0%	13	86.6%	0	0%
2	2	13.3%	0	0%	13	86.6%	0	0%
3	2	13.3%	0	0%	13	86.6%	0	0%
4	2	13.3%	0	0%	13	86.6%	0	0%
5	2	13.3%	0	0%	12	80%	1	6.6%
6	1	6.6%	0	0%	12	80%	2	13.3%
7	2	13.3%	0	0%	13	86.6%	0	0%
8	1	6.6%	0	0%	13	86.6%	1	6.6%
9	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
10	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
11	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
12	0	0%	0	0%	15	100%	0	0%
13	0	0%	0	0%	14	93.3%	1	6.6%
14	0	0%	0	0%	15	100%	0	0%
15	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
16	1	6.6%	0	0%	13	86.6%	1	6.6%
17	1	6.6%	0	0%	13	86.6%	1	6.6%
18	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
19	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
20	0	0%	0	0%	13	86.6%	2	13.3%
Total	16	5.3%	0	0%	265	88.3%	19	6.3%

Appendix (5)

(Figure 1)

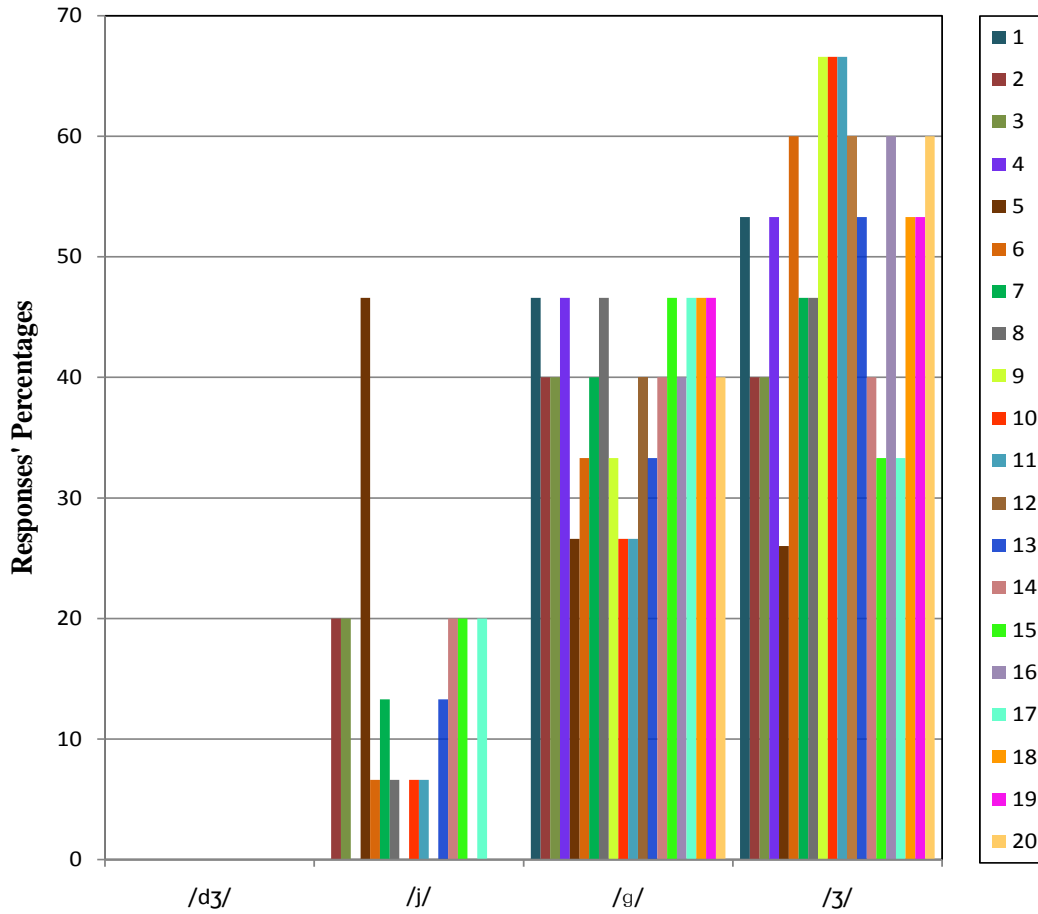
Linear Analysis of the /dʒ/ Variants in Word- initial Position
(Al-Batina Region)



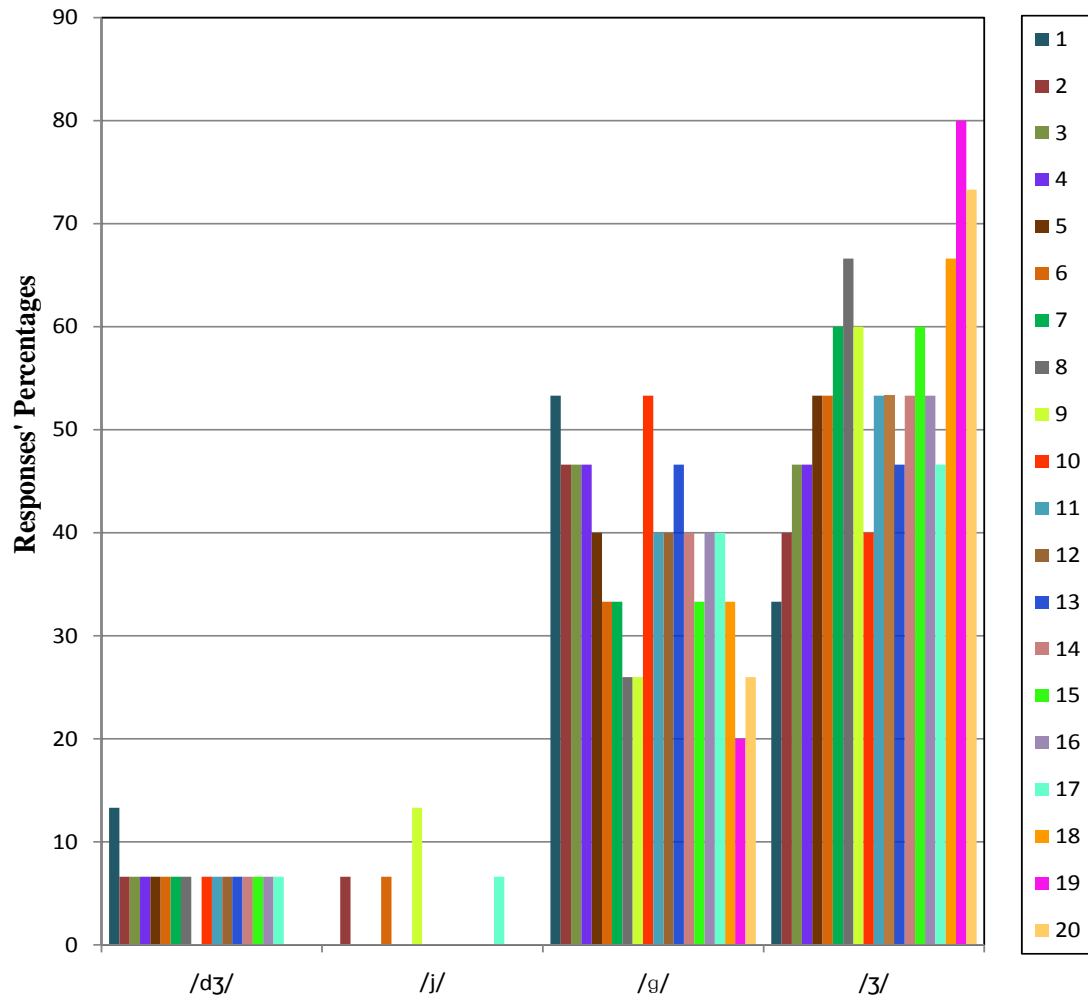
**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
/dʒ/ : Oman as a Sample**

(Figure 2)

**Linear Analysis of the Variants of the Affricate /dʒ/ in Word-Medial Position
(Al-Batina Region)**

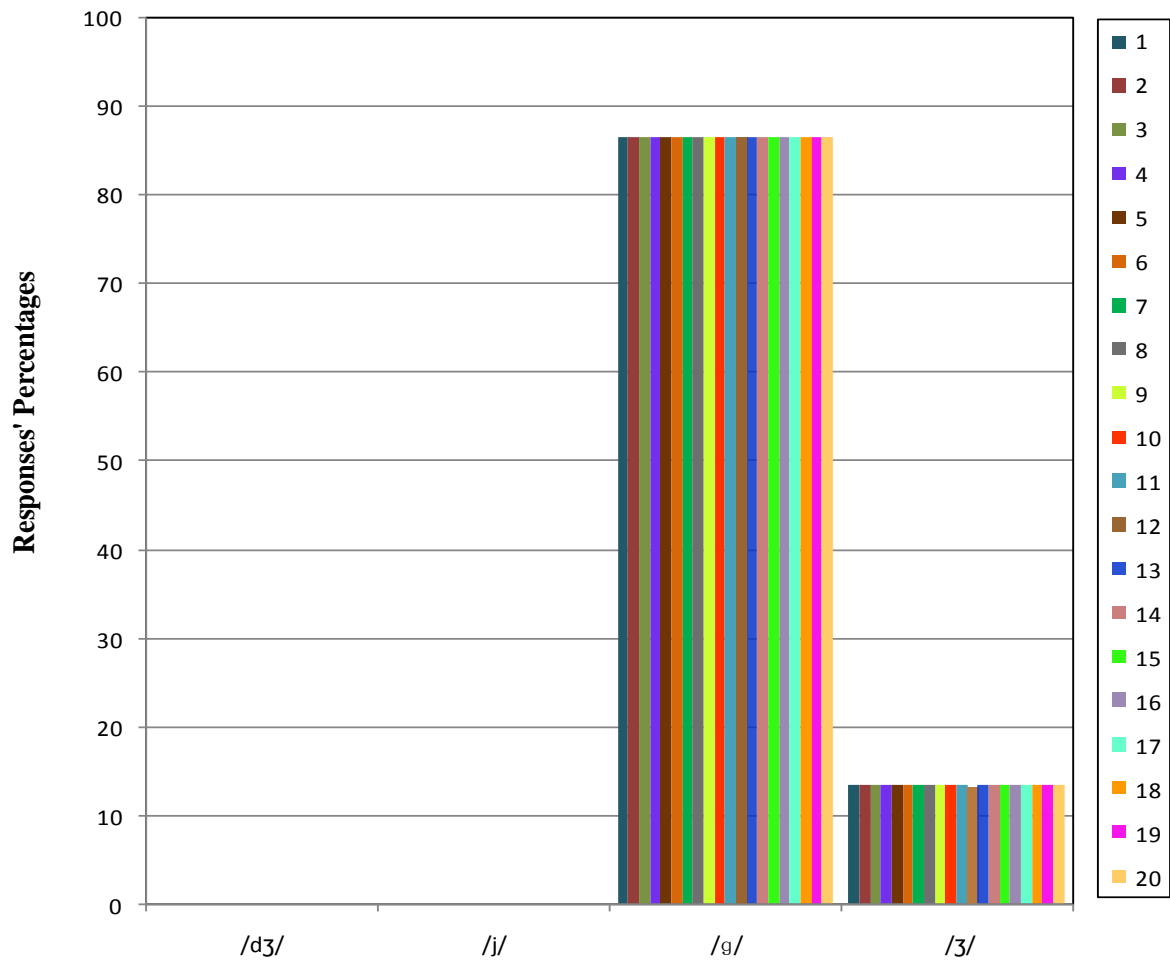


(Figure 3)
Linear Analysis of the Variants of the Affricate /dʒ/ in Word-Final Position
(Al-Batina Region)

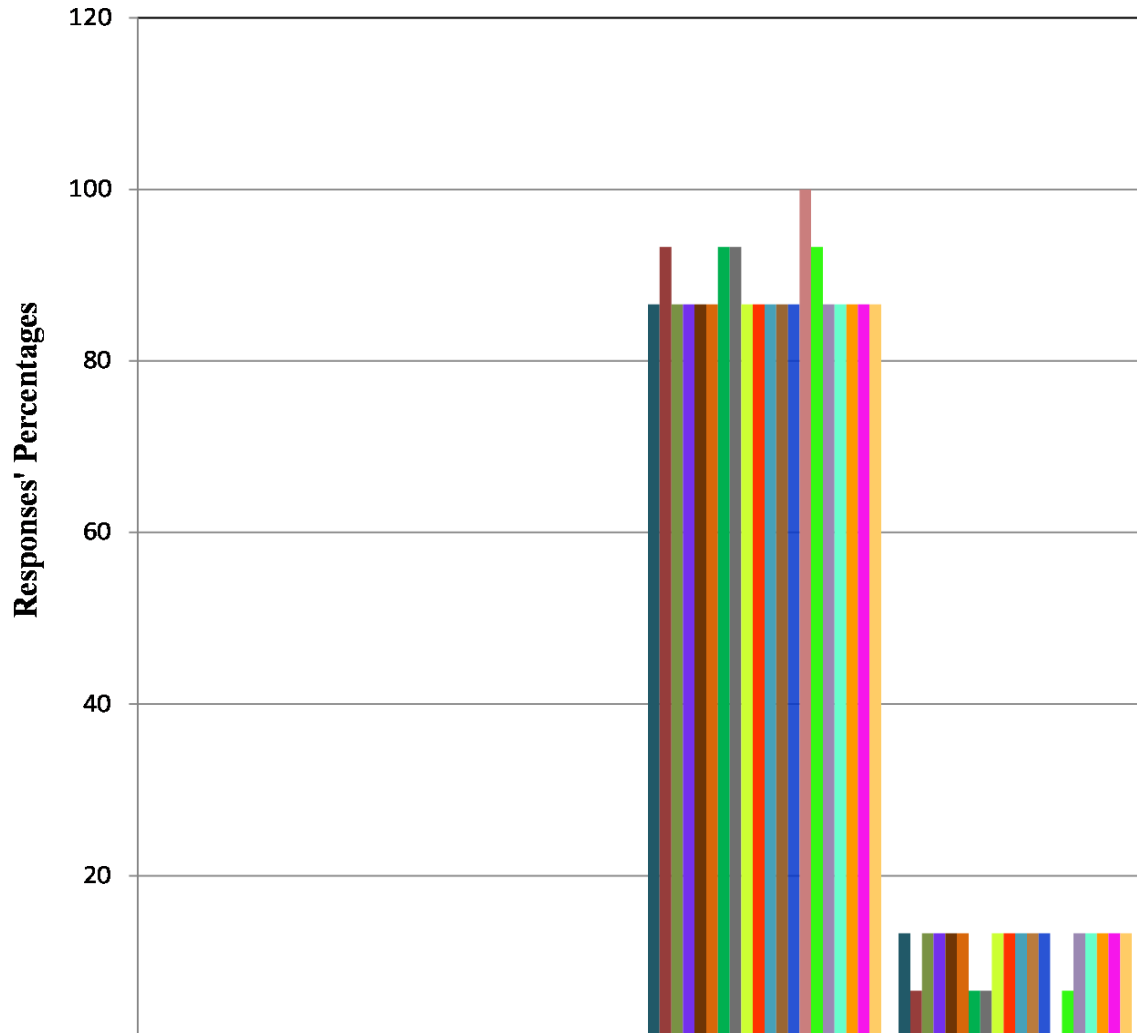


**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
/ dʒ /: Oman as a Sample**

**(Figure 4)
Linear Analysis of the / dʒ / Variants in Word-Initial Position
(AL-Dakhiliyya Region)**

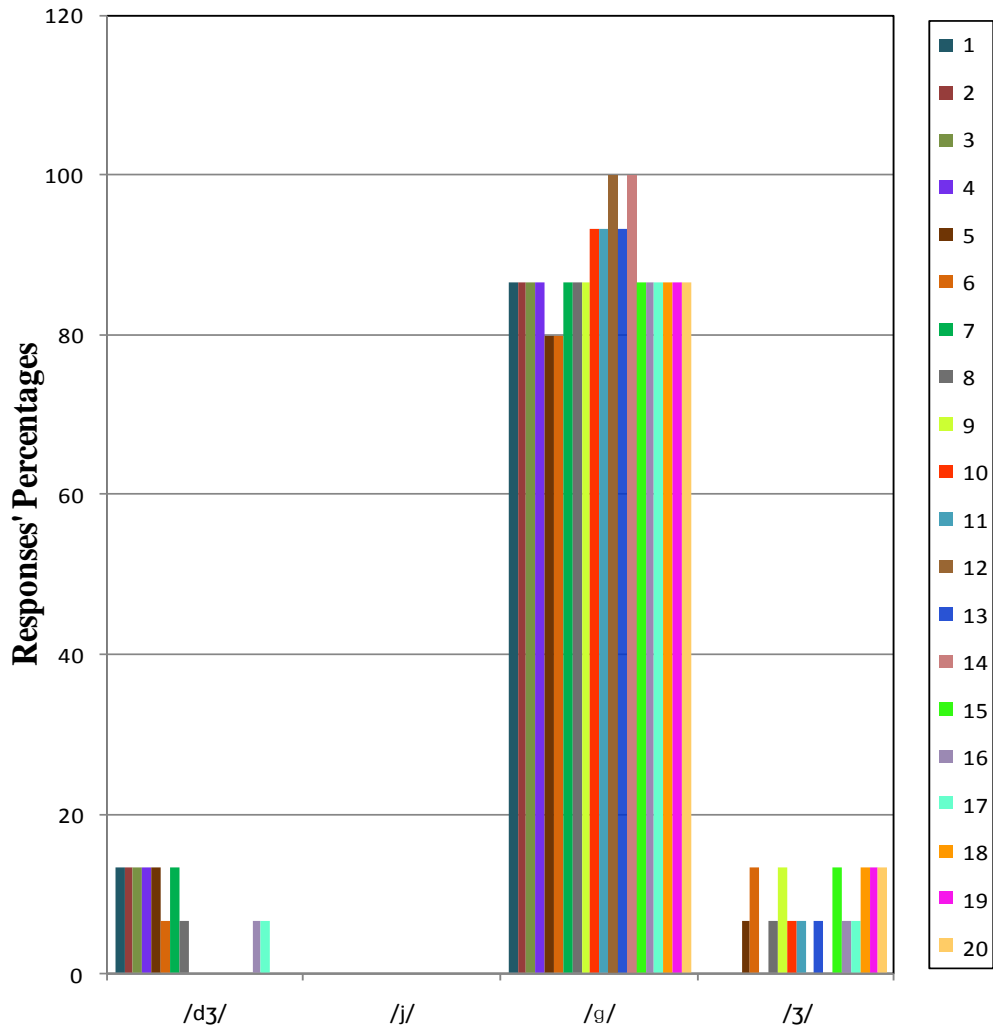


(Figure 5)
Linear Analysis of the / dʒ/ Variants in Word-Medial Position
(Al-Dakhiliyyah Region)



**Phonological Variation in Modern Standard Arabic : The Case of the Affricate
/dʒ/: Oman as a Sample**

**(Figure 6)
Linear Analysis of the /dʒ/ Variants in Word-Final Position
(Al-Dakhiliyya Region)**



التنوع الصوتي في اللغة العربية الفصحى - حالة الصوت المزدوج (ج) - عمان أنموذجاً

الخلاصة

تبحث هذه الدراسة التنوع الصوتي لصوت الجيم كما ينطقه المتكلمون العمانيون عند استخدامهم أسلوب الكلام الرسمي في اللغة العربية الفصحى، وتحديد أسلوب قائمة الكلمات. يتجسد الهدف الأساس لهذه الورقة في تحديد درجة التزام المتحدثين بالنطق الفصيح عند ظهور هذا الصوت في مواقع مختلفة من الكلمة (بدايتها، وسطها وأخرها).

من النتائج الرئيسة لهذه الدراسة ما يلي : (١) إن العادات اللغوية للغة الأم متجذرة لدى مستخدميها ولها التأثير الكبير في أداء المتكلم بغض النظر عن كون سياق الكلام رسمياً. (٢) هناك تأثير بسيط للأسلوب الرسمي على نطق صوت الجيم في تقفيلة المقطع فقط . (٣) أوضح توزيع المتغير الفصيح (جيم) درجة عالية من التنبؤ في استخدام النطق الفصيح. (٤) سجل المتغيران الغير الفصيحين (ج ، ج) توزيعاً حرراً (في مختلف مواقع الكلمة). (٥) أن معدل توزيع المتغير نسبياً ومرتبطة باللهجة . (٦) فضلاً عن ذلك، فقد أثبتت الدراسة أن هناك تداخلاً لغوياً على مستوى اللهجة الواحدة وبين اللهجتين المتجاورتين .