

CROSS-CULTURAL LINK IN TRANSLATION

(ENGLISH-ARABIC)

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Abstract

Usually cultural terms are thought to pose the most difficult problem in translation. Although there is always a truth in that, the problem has equally been overstated by many, if not all, translators and writers about translation. This can be confirmed by exploring a strong cultural link between English and Arabic, seemingly two sharply different cultures.

This paper Lends to trace the cultural correspondence at translating from English into Arabic, or from Arabic into English, with the aim of demonstrating that there is more to the similarities than to the differences among different cultures in translation. This in turn strengthens the cultural ties among translators and, hence, among peoples belonging to a kaleidoscope of cultures, and at the some time can make the daunting task of translating culture less challenging than usually supposed -at least in some respects.

The article covers, among other things, cultural equivalence and correspondence, cultural aspects of metaphors, collocations, proverbs, calques, religious terms and technological terms, social/administrative/political terms.

Introduction

It might be redundant to redefine culture here, since it is an intuitive, well-known and widely comprehensible and acceptable term. What is rather more urgent for the purposes of this paper is to point out that the forthcoming discussion is limited to aspects of culture which can be described as rather common, general, more popular and frequent in language than others.

But prior to the discussion of cross-cultural terms in English-Arabic translation, the main line of argument in this article, we may need to draw a distinction between "cultural equivalence" and "cultural correspondence". The first means the translation of a cultural term in the SL into an another similar one in the TL, which performs the same function of that of the SL. In other words, the cultural equivalence is the translation of the function of the cultural term like, for instance, the translation of "Electricity Board" into: "Al-muassasa al-amna lil-kahrubaa"; or "majlis ash-shab" into: "Parliament/House of Commons"; or "good afternoon" into: "masaul-khayri"; or- as-salamu alaykum" into: "hello"; etc.

Cultural correspondence, on the other hand, is the absolute identification of an SL cultural term with another in the TL, both in function and description, such as translating "ministry" into: "wizara"; "prime minister" into: "raees wuzaraa or, more literally-as in Maghreb Countries, -"al wazeer al-awwal"; khawiyal-yadayn" into: "empty-handed"; etc. (a plenty of examples will be discussed below.

It is possible, however, that the two translations, the equivalent and the correspondent, are available in the TL. For instance, "majlis ashshab" is sometimes translated into: « the People's Assembly" and is as perfectly and equally comprehensible as "Parliament". Likewise, if "ministry" is translated into: "amana" in one or two Arab Countries, and is understandable, yet less popular than "wizara".

The concentration of this paper will be largely on the search for a possible cultural correspondence, absolute, or at least, close. And this can be explored through the following Major points.

With reference to certain secondary features of articulation, some have commented on the four sounds as:

- "muraqqaqah", 'lightened' (bright, clear, light) : /m/ and /n/
- "mufaxxamah", 'thickened; emphatic' (dark, heavy) : /l/ and /r/

2. Articulatory Features

Before proceeding with further analysis, it may be appropriate to examine the nature of the production of these four sounds. To begin with, the four phonetic segments are presented in minimal pairs from the dialect of Rufaydah (henceforth D), a tribe in the southern region of Saudi Arabia:

Initially /m/	māš	'not well'
/n/	nāš	'(he) mentioned'
/l/	lāš	'nothing'
/r/	rāš	'he saw you (sg. fm.)'
Medially/m/	šamç	'wax'
/n/	šanç	'horrible'
/l/	šalç	'tear, rip'
/r/	šarç	'legislation'
Finally /m/	šam	'north'
/n/	šan	'(he) turned bad'
/l/	šäl	'(he) picked up (s.th.)'
/r/	šär	'(he) gave consultation, advice'

Minimal pairs were chosen from D over Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Classical Arabic (CA) because it has been postulated that "the L [D] phonology is the basic system and the divergent features of H [MSA and CA] phonology are either a subsystem or a parasystem" (Ferguson, 1959:335). Dialects often have sounds that do not occur in MSA such as /g/; and they often lack sounds that occur in MSA. This is especially true in cases such as using /z/ in D for /ð/ of MSA, as in Hijāzi and Egyptian dialects. In this regard, Ingham alludes to the non-occurrence of /θ/ and /ð/ in the Makkan dialect (Ingham, 1971). Therefore, speakers of that dialect say "laziz" for the MSA form "laḏiḏ" 'delicious, delectable'. Moreover, MSA and CA both have the four sonorant consonants in their phonetic systems.

Each of the four consonants is a well defined sound in the inventory of segmental phonemes in D as well as in the standard variety of Arabic.

By contrasting the four sonorants in the above list of minimal pairs, in terms of voice, place of articulation, and manner of articulation, the sounds can be identified as:

- /m/ a voiced bilabial nasal
- /n/ a voiced apico-alveolar nasal
- /l/ a voiced apico-alveolar lateral
- /r/ a voiced apico-alveolar trill

In the case of the two nasals, the mouth is closed at some point so the air is ejected through the nasal cavity with the soft palate lowered. The tip of the tongue (the apex) makes a trill of at least two taps with the pressure of air producing the Arabic /r/.

3. Binary Features

The phonetic classification matrix in (table 1) is built according to the theory developed by Chomsky and Halle (1968). The plus sign indicates that the sound in the vertical column has the feature in the horizontal row category (Al-Qaḥṭani, 1982:39).

Binary Features of Sonorant Consonants

	m	N	l	r
Consonantal	+	+	+	+
Sonorant	+	+	+	+
Anterior	+	+	+	+
Coronal		+	+	+
High				+
Continuant	+	+		
Voice	+	+	+	+
Strident				
Nasal	+	+		

Table 1

An examination of the features in table 1 indicates that the four sounds share five common features as summarized in table 2 below.

Common Features of Sonorant Consonants

m	n	l	r
+ cons			
+ son			
+ ant			
+ voi			
- str			

Table 2

It even suffices to say that they form a natural class in the sense that they are the only sounds in Arabic bearing the features $\begin{bmatrix} + \text{cons} \\ + \text{son} \end{bmatrix}$.

The sonorant sound, with resonance, produced with a configuration of the vocal tract cavity that allows spontaneous voicing. This resonant quality of the sonorant feature includes nasals, liquids, semivowels, and vowels. As can be inferred from the nature of these sounds, the feature of sonority is musical.

4. Variations of Sounds

The lateral /l/ and the trill /r/ are produced in two varieties or allophones for each. The two phones of /l/ are not contrastive, and the same holds for the two phones of /r/. In other words, this variation does not change meaning. Since each variant of /l/ is found in mutually exclusive environments, it can be demonstrated that they are in **complementary distribution**. The same applies for /r/. This is acceptable as long as there are no minimal pairs found in the language to demonstrate a separate phonemic status for the variants. The contexts for each variant are listed below. Examples are given from D.

4.1 The Lateral /l/

Arabic has **light**, 'bright', or 'clear' [l] "muraqqaqah", and **dark** or 'heavy' [ɭ] "mufaxxamah". As far as the point of articulation is concerned, the light or clear [l] is interdental, whereas the dark [ɭ] is alveolar. The light [l] is produced with the tongue tip or blade touching the alveolar ridge with the air escaping over the sides of the tongue. The front of the tongue is relatively high and the back somewhat

lowered. The dark variety is a velarized alveolar lateral; it is produced with a concave slope in the middle of the tongue. In American English, an approximation of the dark allophone occurs in "golf", "ball", "hulk", and "pull".

The two allophones occur not only in the standard variety of Arabic but in dialects as well. By regressive assimilation the light [l] becomes dark [ɭ] before emphatic consonants and after short vowels as in rule [1] below. Emphatic consonants, "mufaxxamah" 'thickened', are /t/, /ð/, /d/, and /s/. They are the 'thick' forms of the 'lightened' "muraqqaqah", /t/, /ð/, /d/, and /s/ respectively.

$$[1] \begin{bmatrix} + \text{vocalic} \\ - \text{tense} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} + \text{emphatic} \end{bmatrix}$$

Examples are given in (1.1 - 9) from D.

- | | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| (1.1) | t | gaɭt | 'he made a mistake' |
| 2) | | muɭt | 'naked' |
| 3) | | qaɭat | 'he came in (as a quest)' |
| 4) | ð | gaɭð | 'to become thick' |
| 5) | | gaɭið | 'it thickened' |
| 6) | s | qaɭs | 'dragging along, trailing on the ground' |
| 7) | | maɭas | 'slipped away, escaped' |
| 8) | d | *qaɭd | |

Due to the lack of examples with /d/ two hypothetical words [labelled with asterisks] are given in (1.8 & 9). In other instances, almost all speakers pronounce "?aɭlah" 'God' with dark [ɭ], while some pronounce "qaɭb" 'heart' with dark [ɭ] as commonly used in the Gulf area.

4.2 The Trill /r/

In most occurrences of the /r/ sound in Arabic it is a trill, and in few others a flap. Unlike the rolled or flapped sounds of /r/ as in many languages, the Arabic /r/ is of a more trilling nature in most of its occurrences in dialects, MSA, and CA. The Spanish "pero" 'but' and "perro" 'dog' show the difference between the alveolar flap and alveolar trill. In short, whereas the flaps have only one tap of the active articulator, trills have two or more. Italian and some dialects of French and German also have the trill.

Probably the rolled [r] in Scottish English is the nearest of all.

However, the trilling of /r/ is clear in the following conditioned environments. The first seven rules are from Daçças (1982:84). The translation, statement of rules, and examples are those of the present author.

1. If it is followed by a back rounded vowel (/u/ and /ü/).

[2] — [+ vocalic
+ round]

- (2.1) tašrün 'will you (2PPM/F) buy?'
2) qrün 'horns'
3) rumçah 'alms, charitable gift'
4) ruxşah 'permit'

2. If it is followed by a low vowel (/a/ and /ä/).

- [3] — [+ vocalic
- high]
- (3.1) ħarām 'forbidden, prohibited'
2) ?aqräs 'weddings'
3) karam 'hospitality'
4) çarab 'Arabs, strangers' D

3. If it is preceded by the short back vowel (/u/) and followed by a consonant.

[4] [+ vocalic
+ round
- tense] — C

- (4.1) murhaq 'exhausted'
2) murgam 'to be forced, compelled (to do s.th.)'

4. If it is preceded by the short low vowel (/a/) and followed by a consonant.

[5] [+ vocalic
- high
- tense] — C

- (5.1) xarç 'nonsense'
2) zarç 'agricultural field'

5. If it is preceded by the short vowels (/i/ and /a/) and followed by a consonant.

[6] [+ vocalic
- tense
- round] — C

- (6.1) ?arhab '(he) frightened, terrorized (s.o.)'
2) ?arhib '(2PSM) are welcome'
3) ?irxiş '(imp. 2PSM) knock down the price'
4) ?irfaç '(imp. 2PSM) lift up (s.th.)'

6. If it is preceded by a short vowel and followed by one of the consonants /x/, /ş/, /d/, /ğ/, /t/, /q/, and /ğ/. Only four of these seven sounds form a natural class, namely emphatic. Therefore, the rule appears a bit loose.

[7] [+ vocalic
- tense] — { x
ş
d
ğ
t
q
ğ }

- (7.1) qirtäs 'paper' CA, MSA
2) qurtäş 'paper' D
3) tarxiş 'permission; license'
4) xurşän 'ear rings'
5) marđä 'patients'
6) maraqah 'meat soup'
7) yirqä '(he) goes up'
8) ?irğif '(imp.2PSM) make "riğif", a kind of food'

7. In final position when preceded by a consonant coming after a short vowel.

[8] [- tense
- round] — C — #

- (8.1) qabr 'grave'
2) qidr 'cooking pot'
3) ħijr 'lap'
4) muhr 'foal, colt'

- 5) mahr 'dower, bridal money'

8. And above all, when /r/ is geminated, the trilling becomes prominent with the articulator making lengthy trills. The examples in (9.1 & 2) are from the Hijāzi dialect, (9.3 & 4) from the Southern dialect of Saudi Arabia, and (9.5 & 4) in MSA.

- (9.1) barrā 'outside'
 2) ?arrākib 'the passenger'
 3) barrād 'tea pot'
 4) xarrāt '(adj.) not telling the truth'
 5) farrat 'to give up, abandon (s.th.)'
 6) ?arrax 'to date (a letter), write the history of (s.th.)'

Because the structural description (SD), in the left side, and structural change (SC), in the right side, of the domain of the above seven rules are different, it was not possible to collapse all the rules into one.

However, rules [2] and [3] alone are collapsed in rule [9], and rules [4], [5], and [6] are collapsed in rule [10] below.

[9] ——— $\left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{vocalic} \\ - \text{front} \end{array} \right]$

[10] $\left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{vocalic} \\ - \text{tense} \end{array} \right]$ ——— C

In the following three environments, however, /r/ tends to be of a flap nature /r/.

1- If it is followed by the short high vowel /i/.

[11] ——— $\left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{vocalic} \\ + \text{high} \\ - \text{tense} \end{array} \right]$

- (10.1) marin 'flexible'
 2) rimθ 'log raft'

2- If it is preceded by the short high vowel /i/ and followed by a consonant.

[12] $\left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{vocalic} \\ + \text{high} \\ - \text{tense} \end{array} \right]$ ——— C

- (11.1) mirzāb 'water-spout, (roof) gutter'
 2) mirtāh '(he) be relaxed, under no pressure'
 3) mirhād 'path tub, wash basin'

3- If it comes in final position or is followed by a consonant and preceded by a long high vowel (/i/ and /ü/).

[13] $\left[\begin{array}{l} + \text{vocalic} \\ + \text{high} \\ + \text{tense} \end{array} \right]$ ——— $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \# \\ C \end{array} \right\}$

- (12.1) ḥamīr 'donkeys'
 2) çayr 'wild ass, onager'
 3) çir 'caravan'
 4) bīrhum 'their well'
 5) çaşfür 'bird'

5. Metathesis

The four sonorants undergo many sound changes in a number of phonological processes. Metathesis is chosen as an example of these phonological processes. This process refers to the alternation in the sequence of sounds within a word. It is generally known in Arabic as "qalb", or "?iqlāb", and precisely "?al-qalb ?al-makāni", changing places. This involves redistribution of consonants. In other words, it is a change of the linear order of segments by permutations of one type or another. Below, in (13.1 - 5), two segments reverse positions. In (13.6 - 27) one of the sonorant consonants changes positions.

In certain cases, the metathesis is apparent only by reference to cognates in other languages. Abdu t-Tawwāb (1983:58) says that the Proto-Semitic form in (13.7) has similar cognates in Hebrew and Aramaic. Moreover, he (ibid) explains that the reconstructed form in (13.18) has the cognates from Hebrew 'bēreh', Aramaic 'burkā', and Ethiopic 'bērk'.

- nl ~ ln
 (13.1) banalti → balanti 'penalty'
 1 ~ n
 2) finīlah → filīnah 'underwear "T shirt"'

- 3) fanäyil → faläyin 'underwear "T shirts"'
- 4) laḥnah → naḥlah 'curse'
- r ~ l**
- 5) silindir → sirindil 'cylinder'
- m**
- 6) ?anīmya → ?amīnya 'anemia'
- 7) *ḥim → maḥ 'with'
- 8) ydassim → ydammis 'enrich (s.th.) with fat'
- n**
- 9) zanjabīl → janzabīl 'ginger'
- 10) tanaḥnah → taḥanḥan 'to hem, say "ahem" ' II
- 11) naḥjah → ḥanjah 'female sheep, ewe' Syrian
- l**
- 12) taxallaḥ → talaxxabaḥ ~ taxallbaḥ 'to mix things up' V
- 13) xallaḥ ~ laxbaḥ ~ xalbaḥ II
- 14) talawwā → ?altawā 'to twist (o.s.)' V → VII
- 15) ?ahbal → ?ablah 'dim-witted, weak-minded'
- 16) ?iltahaf → talahḥaf 'to wrap o.s. (in)' VII → V
- 17) fahlawi → falhawī 'skillful; well-versed' Syria
- r**
- 18) *burkah → rukbah 'knee'
- 19) rāyid → dāyir 'wanting' Sudanese
- 20) ?arānib → ?anārib 'rabbits' Egyptian
- 21) kabrit → karbit 'box of matches'
- 22) xayzarān → xayrazān 'cane, reed; rattan'
- 23) narfaz → nafraz 'got nervous'
- 24) kahrab → karhab 'electricity'
- 25) ḥawāri → ḥawāyir 'quarters, parts (of a city)'
- 26) ḥaqrab → ḥarqab 'scorpion'
- 27) mizrāb → mirzāb 'spout'
- 28) ḥawāri → ḥawāyir 'districts' Hijāz
- 29) ḡurl → ruḡl 'foreskin, prepuce'

In CA, the two forms in each pair in (13.30 - 32) have closely related meanings.

- 30) ḥawl ḥalw 'high'
- 31) waql walq 'climbing, mounting'
- 32) laqw lawq 'treatment'

Metathesis not only takes place within words but extends over word boundary in a form of consonant transposition.

- 33) ḥuqbā li n-najāḥ → ḥuqbāl in-najāḥ; 'outcome is success!'
- 34) waylun li ?ummih → wayl ummah 'woe unto his mother!'

(13.33) is in MSA, while (13.34) is in D. The same thing took place in English (Abdu t-Tawwāb 1983:105) as in (13.35 & 36) with the

suprasegmental phoneme 'open (plus) juncture' as part of the metathesis.

- 35) a napron → an apron
- 36) an ekename → a nick name

The same thing applies to the French "la licorne" 'unicorn' (H. Bell: personal communication), and the Arabic "?iskandariyyah" 'Alexandria'.

6. Acquisition of Sounds

In regard to the four sonorant consonants, children acquire sounds, at the early stages, then the sound system and phonological patterns of the language at later stages. These stages exhibit the following six phonological processes (6.1 - 6) in D.

6.1 Gliding

In the acquisition of sounds children tend to glide /r/ and /l/ to /y/ and /w/ during the early stages of acquisition as in (14.1 - 6).

- (14.1) r → y rabbi yabbi 'my God'
- 2) l → y ḥalīb ḥayīb 'milk'
- 3) r → w kabrit kabwit 'box of matches'
- 4) l → w walad wawad 'boy'

The same gliding occurs in English in (14.5 & 6).

- 5) r → w bread bwid
- 6) ring wing

6.2 Transposition

Once they acquire these sounds they start interchanging them as in (15.1 - 11).

- (15.1) n → l naml laml 'ant'
- 2) nḥāl lḥāl 'shoe'
- 3) māzin mazīl 'Mazen (man's name)'
- 4) l → n tilifūn tinifūn 'telephone'
- 5) r → l sayyārah sayyālah 'car'
- 6) kawrah kawlah 'ball'
- 7) kabir kabil 'big'
- 8) marīd malīd 'sick'
- 9) daktūr daktūl 'doctor, physician'
- 10) nūr nūl 'light'
- 11) rabbi labbi 'my God'

Those in (15.1, 2 & 4) are examples of consonant harmony such as that in (15.12).

- 12) dug → gug 'knock'

In the first stage of acquisition, /r/ was glided to /y/ in (14.1), then changed to /l/ in a later stage in (15.11).

6.3 Deletion

- (16.1) m → ø kambyūtar → kabyūtar 'computer'
 2) n → ø yijannin → yjinna 'it dazzles'
 3) manšafah → maššafah 'towel'
 4) l → ø ḥulwah → ḥuwwah '(3PS) pretty'
 5) jīb la nā → jībna 'bring for us'
 6) r → ø ʔirkab → ʔikkab 'ride, get on'
 7) ʕašīr → ʕašī 'juice'

The change in (16.1) is perhaps a reduction of an unacceptable consonant cluster.

6.4 Metathesis

- (17.1) maknasah → mankasah 'sweeper'
 2) laban → balan 'buttermilk'

6.5 Epenthesis

- (18.1) ø → n qul li → qūlli → qūlni 'say to me'
 This change, (18.1), is probably on the analogy of forms like those in (18.2 - 4) below, where "-ni" is the first person singular object suffix.

- 2) šīlni 'carry me, pick me up'
 3) ʕaḥni 'give me'
 4) ḥibbni 'kiss me, love me' (D, MSA)

This process is a form of neutralization.

6.6 Assimilation

In a later stage of acquisition, children move from addition and deletion of sounds to more complicated sound change processes (e.g. assimilation). The change in (19.1 & 2) exemplifies this. That change continues to the adult language in the Hijāzi and Sudanese dialects.

- (19.1) ʔal-jannah → ʔajjannah 'Paradise'
 2) ʔal-jāmiʕah → ʔajjamʕah 'the university'

The /j/ sound is the only "šamsi" 'sun' letter (+ coronal), before which /l/ of the definite article "ʔal-" does not assimilate. However, it does in (19.1 & 2) in some dialects and in the acquisition of Arabic by children. According to the pattern congruity criterion, speakers perhaps

try to fill holes or vacancies in the sound patterns of Arabic by this change. This illustrates the principle of Martinet that sound systems change in the direction of regularity.

7. Frequency of Sounds

For the etymologies of Arabic verbs and other subsequent derivations, the author has relied on the following sources: Al-Ashbīlī (1979), Ibn Jinnī (1952), and Al-Mousa (1984).

The term 'etymology', in Arabic "ʔal-ʔištiqāq", is synonymous with 'derivation', the formation of a new word from an existing word, root or stem, by the addition of an affix (prefix, infix, or suffix) or by other means. In the West, 'etymology' is traditionally used for the study of origins and history of the form and meaning of words. In this study, it will be used with the Arabic connotation. This includes processes of lexical constructions, in Arabic "ʔan-naḥt", such as 'blending' and 'coinage'.

The Arabic phrase says it all: "ziyādatu l-mabnā ziyādatun fi l-maḥnā". This is roughly rendered as 'structure extension is meaning extension'. In (20.1), repeating the syllable in the structure of (b) is employed to mean repeating the action of 'pulling'.

- (20.1a) jarr 'to drag, pull (s.th.)'
 b) jarjar 'to pull (s.th.) back and forth'

Many verbs, mostly infinitives, in the language form sets of minimal pairs with a difference in one sound. That sound is commonly one of the so-called in Arabic "ḥurūf ʔaḥ-ḍalāqah", roughly 'liquids' (sonorants + bilabials), (/b/, /f/, /m/, /n/, /l/, and /r/). These sets (20.2 - 8) often share one common meaning. The verbs in (20.2) share the general meaning of 'companionship, friendliness'.

- 2) lasam lamas malas masal salam samal
 Those in (20.3) also share the common meaning of 'hit'.

- 3) lamak lakam malak makal kamal kalam
 The ones in (20.4) mean "deviation from a particular position".

- 4) jaraf jalaf janaf
 The ones in (20.5) mean 'holding together'.

- 5) jabal jaban jabar

Similarly, the four sounds are added in the derivation process to bilateral verbs having one

meaning in common to make trilateral verbs as in (20.6 - 8).

Initially, /n/, /l/, and /r/ are prefixed to give the same meaning as the root verb (20.6)

- 6) *ḥall* & *naḥul* 'to be low, base'
farr & *nafar* 'to flee'
ṭall & *naṭal* 'to bespray; squeeze out'
ḥall & *naḥal* 'to tear down, overthrow'
šarr & *našar* 'to spread out (s.th.)'
jarr & *najar* 'to drag; hew'
habb & *lahib* 'to start, rush; catch fire'
mass & *lamas* 'to touch'
fatt & *rafat* 'to break (s.th.)'
faḍḍ & *rafaḍ* 'to support, aid (s.o.)'

Medially, /l/ and /r/ are infixes to give the same meaning as the root verb (20.7).

- 7) *šaqq* & *šalaq* 'to split lengthwise (s.th.)'
faqq & *faraq* 'to separate, divide (s.th.)'
qaṭṭ & *qaraṭ* 'to cut (s.th.) into small pieces'
qaṣṣ & *qaraṣ* 'to pinch, nip (s.th.)'
šaqq & *šariq* 'to choke'

Finally, /m/ and /l/ are suffixed to the root verb in (20.8) to give the same common meaning, 'cut'.

- 8) *qaṭṭ* , *qaṭam* & *qaṭal*
qaṣṣ , *qaṣam* , *qaṣal* & *qaṣar*
kass , *kasam* & *kasar*
jaḍḍ , *jaḍam* & *jaḍar*
jazz , *jazam* , *jazal* & *jazar*

A quadriliteral and quintiliteral verb must have at least one of the "ḥurūf ?aḍ-ḍalāqah" in its composition or structure.

To make different meanings, different sounds are added in fixed positions to stems formed of /m/ and /r/ as in (20.9 - 11).

Initially, to "-aram" (for the general meaning 'cut'):

- 9) *ḥaram* *jaram* *ḥaram* *xaram*
šaram *šaḍam* *čaram* *ğaram*

Medially, to "ra-am" (for the general meaning 'cut'):

- 10) *ratam* *raḥam* *rajam* *radam*
rasam *rašam* *raḍam* *raḍam*
rağam *raqam* *rakam*

Finally, to "rama-" (with different meanings):

- 11) *ramah* *ramid* *ramaz* *ramaš*
ramad *ramaq* *ramal*

The sounds that are added to words in the process of affixation are ten:

- three sonorant consonants: /m/, /n/, and /l/,
- four other consonants: /ʔ/, /t/, /s/, and /h/, and
- the three long vowels: /i/, /u/, and /ā/.

In the process of conjugation and affixation of morphemes both derivational and inflectional /m/ and /n/ are very often used as in the following cases (20.12 & 13).

- 12) *katab* 'write'
naktub '(1PP) imperfect indicative'
taktubāni '(2PD) " " '
yaktubna '(3PPM) " subjunctive'
istaktabtuma '(2PD) perfective'
maktūbun 'past participle'
maktab 'office'
- 13) *kān* '(past) to be'
kuntum '2PPM'
kuntunna '2PPF'
kunnā '1PP'

In verbs forms:

- 14) VII ?inFaČaL
XIV ?iFČanLaL
XV ?iFČanLā

Moreover, it was found that most, if not all, particles in Arabic are formed with one or more of the sonorant or bilabial consonants. For limitations of space they will be listed without their meanings in English. The following in (20.15) are simple prepositions, adverbs and nouns.

- 15) *min* *čan* *?ilā* *li* *bi* *mača* *lada*
čala *muḍḍ* *nahu* *čind* *qibāl* *qabl* *bayn* *dün*
?amām *quddām* *warā?* *xalf* *ḥawl*

The letter "l-" is prefixed to words to give ten different meanings (e.g. reason, possession, exclamation, etc.). The definite article "?al" 'the' is an extremely frequent particle with a sonorant consonant.

Other particles, some of which co-occur with nouns and verbs, are such as those in (20.16).

16) ma ?in man lammä lann
 ?an ?allä laisa lä ?am hall ?ammä
 ?alä lawmä lawlä hallä ?allä
 ball ?innamä ?illä ġayr mä çadä
 mä xalä law lä siyyamä

In addition, /m/ is prefixed to some verbs
 (a) to derive names of instruments (b) in
 (20.17).

- | | | |
|------|--------|---------------|
| 17a) | fataḥ | 'to open' |
| b) | miftāḥ | 'key' |
| a) | naḥḥ | 'to blow' |
| b) | minḥāḥ | 'wind pump' |
| a) | naḥḥ | 'to extract' |
| b) | minḥāḥ | 'chisel' |
| a) | qaraḥ | 'to cut' |
| b) | miqrāḥ | 'nail cutter' |

The object pronoun "-nā" 'us' is suffixed to verbs as in
 (20.18 & 19).

- 18) raʔatnā 'she saw us'
 19) ʔastaqbalnā 'he received us, we
 received s.o.'

The suffix "-ān" is added to nouns to make
 proper names as in (20.20).

- 20) ʕuḥmān - nuḥmān - salmān -
 ġadbān - jimḥān - fihrān flayḥān

In order to make antonyms, sonorant consonants
 are used as in (20.21) in MSA.

21a) namaq 'to embellish, adorn (s.th.)'

b) lamaq 'to rub, erase (s.th.)'

Moreover, blending and coinage as processes of
 lexical constructions, include the four sounds as in
 (20.22) in CA.

22) ṣalid+ ṣadam → ṣaldam 'lion; hard; tough'

8. Sonorant Clusters

There seems to be no restriction on the occurrence
 of certain combinations and clusters of sonorant
 consonants, along with vowels necessary to make up
 syllables, except for one case. In the structure of
 words of Arabic origin (i.e. infinitives of CA), the
 syllable /na/ followed by a cluster of /rC/ is hardly
 found in Arabic. Those in (21. 1 - 9) are loan-words.

17.1) Narjis 'narcissus'

Persian

- | | | |
|----|----------|------------------------------------|
| 2) | nawraj | 'threshing machine, thresher' |
| 3) | narjīl | 'coconut oil' Persian (Sanskrit) |
| 4) | narjīlah | 'hookah' Persian (Sanskrit) |
| 5) | narbīj | 'mouth piece of a nargile' |
| 6) | nard | 'backgammon, tricktrack' |
| 7) | nardīn | 'nard, spikenard' |
| 8) | narfazah | 'nervousness' |
| 9) | naranj | 'bitter orange' Persian (Sanskrit) |

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The phonetic transcription system:

Arabic Consonants

Place of Articulation

Manner of Articulation		Place of Articulation								
		Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Stops	VL				t ṭ		k	q		ʔ
	VD	b			d ḍ					
Fricatives	VL		f	θ	s ṣ	ʃ		x	ħ	h
	VD			ð ḏ	z			ġ	ʕ	
Affricate						j				
Nasals		m			n					
Lateral					l					
Trill					r					
Semivowels		w				y				

VL : Voiceless VD : Voiced * : Emphatic

Arabic Vowels

		Front	Central	Back
High	Short	i		u
	Long	ī		ū
Low	Short		a	
	Long		ā	

*	Unacceptable, ungrammatical; historical reconstructed form, protoform
#	Word boundary
I-XV	Arabic verb forms, patterns (I-X, and XI-XV)
1PPM/F	First person, plural, male/female
2PDF	Second person, dual, female
3PSM	Third person, singular, male
± ant	Anterior
C	Consonant
CA	Classical Arabic
± cont	Continuat
± cons	Consonantal
D	Dialect
fm.	Female
H	High 'Standard' (Ferguson)
imp.	Imperative
L	Low 'Dialect' (Ferguson)
ml.	Male
MSA	Modern Standard Arabic
o.s.	Oneself
s.th.	Something
sg.	Singular
± son	Sonorant
± str	Strident
± voi	Voice