



RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Dialect of (fleas ate me) "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" and Its Impact on the Arabic LanguageAli Khalifa A. Abdullatif¹, Osman M. Osman ElhajKona²

Department of Arabic Language, College of Arts, King Faisal University, Al Ahsa, Saudi Arabia

ARTICLE INFO**ABSTRACT**

Received: Aug 24, 2024

Accepted: Oct 14, 2024

KeywordsArabic syntax
Generative grammar
Language education
Linguistic differences
Linguistic diglossia
Pragmatics***Corresponding Author:**

aabdulatif@kfu.edu.sa

This study contributes to shedding light on the interplay between Modern Standard Arabic and dialects in areas such as education and daily communication. The research addresses the importance of the phenomenon known as (fleas ate me) "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" (a grammatical structure found in some Arabic dialects) in understanding the development of Arabic dialects and its influence on Standard Arabic, thereby broadening our understanding of the Arabic language's adaptability to temporal and social transformations. The study aimed to analyze this phenomenon in terms of its origins and development in Arabic dialects, relying on a syntactic analysis of spoken dialects through multiple linguistic approaches. The research included defining the phenomenon and analyzing it in its linguistic context, exploring different types of the phenomenon across various Arabic dialects, examining the interaction between Standard Arabic and spoken dialects, linguistic methodologies that explain the phenomenon, and its impact on education and learning. The study revealed that the dialect of (fleas ate me) "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" is not recent but has historical roots, emerging from social and geographical changes. It highlighted how this phenomenon presents challenges in teaching Arabic due to the gap between Standard Arabic and dialects. The study concluded that the development of spoken dialects reflects societies' need for effective and flexible communication. The study recommended developing educational curricula that consider the differences between Standard Arabic and dialects, promoting academic research on dialects from syntactic and historical perspectives, and documenting dialects to preserve linguistic and cultural heritage.

INTRODUCTION

The term "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" is used in linguistic studies to describe a syntactic phenomenon found in some Arabic dialects, where the verb is conjugated in the plural form alongside a plural subject, despite the grammatical rule in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) requiring the verb to be in the singular form when it precedes a plural subject. In MSA, the common rule is that if the verb precedes the subject, it should remain in the singular form, even if the subject is plural. For example, we say: "Akala al-baragheethu al-ta'aam" (The fleas ate the food), where the verb "Akala" (ate) remains in the singular form, even though the subject "al-baragheethu" (fleas) is plural. However, in some Arabic dialects, this rule is violated, and the verb is used in the plural form to match the plural subject. Instead of saying "Akala al-baragheethu al-ta'aam" according to the MSA rule, in some dialects, it becomes "Akaloo al-baragheethu al-ta'aam". (Ibn Faris, 1997).

This phenomenon is named "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" after a common example in traditional grammar books: "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" (The fleas ate me). In this example, the verb "Aklooni" is conjugated in the plural form, although the grammatical rule would dictate that the verb "Akala" should be in the singular form, as it precedes the plural subject "al-baragheeth" (fleas). This example reflects a syntactical structure that diverges from MSA and appears in some dialects. (Ibn Jinni, 1952).

This phenomenon is widespread in several contemporary Arabic dialects, especially in Levantine, Bedouin, and some dialects in the Gulf region. In these dialects, using the plural verb with a plural subject is considered natural and acceptable. (Rabin, 2002).

A dialect is defined as a set of specific phonetic constraints observed when pronouncing words within a particular environment, which forms part of a broader environment that encompasses several dialects sharing a set of linguistic features. (Nasser, n.d.).

Studying this phenomenon is crucial for understanding how Arabic dialects have developed and their influence on MSA. Highlighting the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon helps clarify the differences between MSA and dialects, contributing to a broader understanding of the Arabic language's nature and its ability to adapt to temporal and social changes.

Importance of the Topic:

Studying the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is of great significance in the field of Arabic linguistics, both at the theoretical and practical levels. The importance of this topic lies in the fact that the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon highlights the historical development of the Arabic language and its various dialects. Through studying this phenomenon, researchers can trace linguistic changes over the centuries and identify the reasons why certain dialects have diverged from Standard Arabic grammar rules. (Anis, 2003a).

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is part of the rich diversity of Arabic dialects. This diversity reflects the richness of the Arabic language and its ability to adapt to various cultural, social, and geographical environments. Studying this phenomenon helps in understanding the linguistic dynamics that distinguish different dialects, allowing researchers to compare dialects and analyze how each dialect interacts with grammatical rules.

Through examining "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*," we can explore the extent to which local dialects influence Standard Arabic. Although Standard Arabic remains the standard reference in writing and education, spoken dialects exhibit different grammatical patterns. This study opens the door to analyzing the interaction between Standard Arabic and dialects. Understanding this phenomenon has a direct impact on how Arabic is taught, especially to speakers of different dialects or non-native speakers. A deep understanding of the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon can help educators identify the challenges students may face when learning Standard Arabic and develop educational curricula that consider the differences between Standard Arabic and local dialects.

The study of this phenomenon raises questions about the prescriptive versus descriptive nature of language. "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" reflects the natural usage of language in spoken dialects, prompting a reconsideration of the strict division between what is considered "correct" according to Standard Arabic rules and what is actually used in daily life. This study can enhance the descriptive understanding of language, which focuses on how language is used in practice as opposed to prescriptive rules. By analyzing this phenomenon, it is also possible to compare Arabic with other languages that may exhibit similar patterns. Such studies could reveal common linguistic patterns or similar grammatical phenomena in other languages, thereby enriching our understanding of language evolution in general and supporting research in the field of comparative linguistics. (Nasser, n.d.).

Language evolves and changes under the influence of surrounding social and cultural conditions, and the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon provides a living example of how language adapts to the daily needs of its speakers and to the complexity of social interaction. Studying this phenomenon can offer insights into how linguistic rules are affected by social changes, such as demographic shifts or changes in education and technology. (Anis, 2003b).

With the rapid development of linguistic technologies such as machine translation and text analysis, understanding the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon can be valuable in improving the performance of these systems. Studying this phenomenon can aid in the development of better speech recognition and

translation programs, allowing linguistic systems to handle different dialectal patterns alongside Standard Arabic. Additionally, dialects are an essential part of community identity, and studying this phenomenon can contribute to the documentation and preservation of local dialects with their unique characteristics, which reflect the identities of these communities. Preserving such linguistic phenomena from extinction contributes to safeguarding the cultural and linguistic heritage for future generations.

Definition of the Linguistic Phenomenon "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth":

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is one of the common syntactic phenomena in some Arabic dialects, characterized by a discrepancy between the well-established grammatical rules of Standard Arabic and the linguistic patterns observed in local dialects. This phenomenon concerns the relationship between the verb and the subject, particularly how this relationship is affected when the subject is plural, leading to what is known as the violation of the subject-verb agreement rule in Standard Arabic.

In Standard Arabic, strict adherence to grammatical rules reflects the formal and written nature of the language. The verb is used in the singular form when it precedes a plural subject, due to traditional grammatical considerations related to verb-subject agreement. However, in local dialects, this phenomenon reflects the natural and spoken use of the language, where speakers adapt to what fits their understanding and conversational context. These differences highlight the tension between the written and spoken forms of the language, demonstrating how spoken language often follows more flexible linguistic models that respond to daily communication needs. (Fek, 1980).

To understand this phenomenon more deeply, it can be broken down into several aspects:

Grammatical Definition of the Phenomenon:

In the grammatical rules of Standard Arabic, if the subject follows the verb and is plural, the rule requires that the verb remain in the singular form, regardless of the number of subjects. This agreement is known as formal agreement, meaning that the verb does not reflect the plurality of the subject. For example, we say, "*Akala al-baragheethu al-ta'aam*" (The fleas ate the food), where the verb "*Akala*" (ate) remains in the singular form even though the subject "*Al-baragheethu*" (fleas) is plural.

However, in some Arabic dialects, the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon emerges when the verb matches the subject in number, even if the subject comes after the verb. In this case, one would say "*Akaloo al-baragheethu al-ta'aam*" (The fleas ate the food), where the verb "*Akaloo*" (ate) matches the subject "*Al-baragheethu*" (fleas) in number. In this example, the verb behaves as though the subject preceded it or, at the very least, matches it in number, leading to a violation of the traditional grammatical rule of Standard Arabic. (Al-Daqr, 1986).

Explanation of the Phenomenon in a Linguistic Context:

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon represents one form of what is known as "subject-verb agreement," a phenomenon found in many other languages as well. However, in Arabic, particularly in Standard Arabic, it is considered a deviation from the rules. This phenomenon suggests that local dialects exhibit greater flexibility in applying grammatical rules, possibly reflecting the influence of daily linguistic interaction and the need to adapt to the practical demands of communication between speakers. It can be said that this phenomenon reflects the dialects' liberation from the strict rules of Standard Arabic, leading to the emergence of linguistic patterns that adapt to the social and practical contexts of local communities. (Al-Jundi, 1983).

Variations of the Phenomenon in Dialects:

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon varies in its application from one dialect to another. For example, in Levantine and Bedouin dialects, this phenomenon is frequently used, where the verb aligns with the plural subject even if the subject follows the verb. For instance, one would say "*Shariboo al-atfaal al-haleeb*" (The children drank the milk) instead of the Standard Arabic form "*Shariba al-atfaal al-haleeb*" (The children drank the milk). In Gulf and Egyptian dialects, the phenomenon appears less frequently but still

exists in some regions. In some cases, the form of the verb changes to match the subject, whether plural or dual.

This variation across dialects reflects differing degrees of adherence to Standard Arabic rules within these communities, as well as the influence of historical and cultural factors in each region. The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon has deep roots in various Arabic dialects, and it seems to have evolved because of the interaction between classical Arabic grammatical rules and the linguistic needs of local communities. To fully understand the origins of this phenomenon, it is essential to study the historical, social, and cultural factors that contributed to its emergence and spread in Arabic dialects.

During the pre-Islamic era and the early Islamic period, Standard Arabic dominated literary and religious texts. However, local dialects were widely used in daily life. Following the Islamic conquests, Arabic mixed with local languages in the newly conquered regions. This linguistic interaction introduced changes to the classical grammatical rules in emerging dialects. As a result, new linguistic structures like "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" emerged, reflecting the communicative needs of multilingual societies. (Hilal, 1998).

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon may have arisen from internal evolution within Arabic dialects, without external influence. Languages naturally change over time due to frequent use and social transformations. This phenomenon could have developed as part of this natural evolution, as the language shifted towards a simpler and clearer system to facilitate oral communication. It is also important to consider that urban societies were more exposed to formal education and interaction with Standard Arabic texts, which might have limited the spread of this phenomenon in cities compared to Bedouin areas. Bedouin tribes, which relied more heavily on spoken language, may have been the earliest incubators for linguistic phenomena like "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*". (Nasser, n.d.).

Interaction with Other Linguistic Systems:

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon may be a result of external influences on Arabic dialects. Other languages spoken in regions where Arabic dialects are prevalent, such as Amazigh, Kurdish, and Persian, also exhibit subject-verb agreement in number and gender, suggesting possible linguistic interference. This linguistic interaction may have contributed to the evolution of this grammatical pattern in Arabic dialects, leading to the natural emergence of this phenomenon as part of the broader linguistic development.

It is also important to note that this phenomenon is not unique to Arabic. In many other languages, subject-verb agreement occurs in both number and gender. For example, in French and Spanish, the verb consistently agrees with the subject in number and gender. Studying the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon within the context of other languages can provide researchers with insights into whether this pattern in Arabic dialects represents a natural linguistic evolution or is a response to external influences. (Al-Shamsan, n.d.).

The influence of foreign languages on Arabic and local dialects has been a pivotal factor in the development of the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon. In some regions, Arabic dialects were influenced by other languages that feature subject-verb agreement in number, which may have impacted the syntactic patterns in those areas.

There may also be similarities between the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon and certain grammatical features in other Semitic languages. Since Arabic is part of the Semitic language family, it is natural for there to be linguistic overlap and exchange between Arabic and other Semitic languages such as Aramaic, Hebrew, and Akkadian. These languages, once widespread across the ancient world, may share certain grammatical traits that influenced local Arabic dialects.

In regions like Iran, Turkey, and the Maghreb, Arabic dialects have been influenced by local languages. These languages often possess grammatical structures different from Standard Arabic, which may have contributed to the emergence of subject-verb agreement in Arabic dialects. This highlights the role of linguistic and cultural exchange in shaping the development of regional linguistic phenomena like "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*". (Al-Saleh, 2004).

Grammatical Methodologies Explaining the Phenomenon:

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is not merely a violation of Standard Arabic rules, but it can be understood more deeply through both modern and traditional grammatical methodologies that address subject-verb agreement. Several grammatical approaches aim to explain this phenomenon, each offering a different perspective on why this agreement between the verb and subject occurs in Arabic dialects. In this section, we will discuss the main methodologies that interpret this phenomenon: (Fek, 1980)

Traditional Grammar (Kufans and Basrans):

In the context of traditional Arabic grammar, there are two main grammatical schools that approach this phenomenon from different perspectives: the Basran school and the Kufan school.

- **The Basran School:** According to Basran grammarians, the verb should remain in the singular form if it precedes the subject, even if the subject is plural. This rule is based on the concept of "tafrud" (singularity) in a pre-verbal position. The reasoning behind this is that the verb in such a case is considered neutral regarding the subject's plurality and is not influenced by its number. Therefore, the correct sentence according to this view is "Akala al-baragheethu al-ta'aam" (The fleas ate the food), not "Akaloo al-baragheethu al-ta'aam."

- **The Kufan School:** On the other hand, Kufan grammarians were more lenient in accepting the use of plural verb forms with a plural subject, even when the verb precedes the subject. They believed that the verb could agree with the subject in number, even if it comes before the subject. From this perspective, a sentence like "Akaloo al-baragheethu al-ta'aam" (The fleas ate the food) could be considered acceptable within certain dialects or linguistic contexts.

These differences between the two schools reflect two distinct interpretations of the phenomenon, highlighting the flexibility of grammatical rules when applied to everyday spoken language compared to formal, written norms.

Generative Grammar Approach:

The generative grammar methodology, developed by Noam Chomsky, is one of the most influential approaches in modern linguistics. According to this methodology, human linguistic ability is based on the existence of fundamental, deep structures common to all languages. These structures can generate different linguistic forms through transformational rules. The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" dialect can be understood through this approach as a transformation from a deep grammatical rule into a distinct surface structure in the dialects.

In Standard Arabic, the deep structure rule dictates that the verb does not agree with the subject when the subject follows the verb. However, in dialects displaying the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon, this deep rule is transformed to generate a different surface structure, where the verb agrees with the subject even if the subject comes later in the sentence.

Chomsky proposes that humans are born with an innate ability to acquire language, and that universal patterns govern grammatical rules. However, these patterns can develop differently in each language or dialect based on social and cultural experiences. The dialects where the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon occurs may have developed their transformational rules in response to the need for direct agreement between the verb and the subject. This reflects the adaptability of linguistic structures in different contexts, influenced by communicative needs. (Bouglija, 2024).

Pragmatic Approach:

Pragmatics is concerned with how language is used in different contexts and how context influences the meaning of speech. From a pragmatic perspective, the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon can be interpreted as an attempt to simplify communication and enhance clarity in everyday conversations. In spoken contexts, speakers need quick and efficient communication, and this phenomenon helps facilitate that process. When the verb matches the subject in number, it becomes easier for listeners to immediately

identify the relationship between the verb and the subject without having to reconsider the structure of the sentence. (Kazem, 2006).

This explanation is closely linked to the sociolinguistic approach, as the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is part of the dialectal evolution influenced by social and cultural changes. Sociolinguistics explains how a society's social environment can affect the structure of language. Local dialects that exhibit this phenomenon may have evolved to meet the specific communicative needs of each community, reflecting the interaction between linguistic structure and social circumstances. (Blanchet & Philippe, 2021).

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon also mirrors the oral nature of local dialects, which develop in social environments that prioritize effective and rapid communication. This phenomenon may also be linked to varying levels of education and interaction with Standard Arabic in different communities, where strict adherence to formal grammar rules is less prevalent in everyday speech.

Psycholinguistics:

Psycholinguistics studies how the brain processes language and how humans handle grammatical rules and linguistic structures during speaking and comprehension. This field can help explain how and why a phenomenon like "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" develops in language. In psycholinguistics, cognitive simplicity is considered a key factor in the development of linguistic systems. Grammatical rules that are simpler and easier to process are favored in spoken communication.

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon might be a result of speakers' desire to use linguistic structures that are easier to mentally process, thereby increasing the speed of communication and reducing the cognitive effort required to understand a sentence. The human brain exhibits significant flexibility in dealing with grammatical rules, which may explain why spoken dialects naturally feature constructions like "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*." The linguistic system in the brain allows for enough adaptability to accommodate different grammatical patterns that facilitate effective communication. In this sense, the phenomenon reflects an innate cognitive preference for efficiency, allowing speakers to maintain rapid and clear communication in everyday contexts. (El Thaqefi, 2018).

Agreement Approach:

In modern linguistics, the Agreement methodology is one of the core approaches used to explain the relationship between the verb and the subject in a sentence. This methodology posits that the verb should agree with the subject in its grammatical features, such as number, gender, and person. In the case of "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*," the use of the plural form for the verb ("*Aklooni*") is understood as a type of full agreement between the verb and the subject. In this context, the subject in local dialects is seen as exerting control over the form of the verb.

The Agreement approach suggests that spoken dialects rely on full agreement between the verb and the subject because speakers in these dialects require greater clarity in oral communication. This means that aligning the verb with the subject in terms of number and gender helps listeners quickly and easily understand the relationship between the two, without needing to adhere to more abstract and complex grammatical rules found in Standard Arabic. This alignment enhances the efficiency of spoken communication, providing a clearer, more direct relationship between the verb and the subject. (Baroud, 2021).

Pro-Drop Methodology:

The Pro-Drop methodology offers another interpretation of the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon. According to this approach, the subject can be omitted or made implicit in a sentence when it is clear from the context or sentence structure. In the case of "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*", the subject in local dialects might be considered dropped or hidden initially, leading to the use of the verb in the plural form to match the later-appearing subject.

Under this methodology, the subject "al-baragheeth" (the fleas) appears later in the sentence, which causes the verb "Aklooni" (they ate me) to be expressed in the plural form in advance. Essentially, the true subject may be implicit or delayed, and the verb reflects its number accordingly. Therefore, this is not so much a violation of subject-verb agreement as it is a restructuring of the sentence in response to the grammatical rules of local dialects, where the subject is inferred and aligned with the verb. (Sibawayh, 1988).

Grammatical Hierarchy Methodology:

The Grammatical Hierarchy methodology offers another explanation that focuses on the relationship between the elements of a sentence (verb, subject, object) and their order. According to this approach, changes in the order of these elements can lead to structural shifts in the sentence. In dialects where the "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" phenomenon is observed, these dialects may prioritize the subject over the verb, even when the subject appears later in the sentence.

According to this methodology, the sentence is structured so that the subject remains the dominant element, even if it comes after the verb. This means that dialects using "Akalo al-baragheeth" (the fleas ate) treat the plural subject as the primary element, requiring a plural verb to follow. This idea supports the view that dialects rely more heavily on direct, oral communication, where sentences are constructed with an emphasis on clarity regarding who the subjects and objects are. In this way, the grammatical hierarchy in these dialects adjusts to prioritize the subject as the controlling factor, which influences the form of the verb, reinforcing the idea that these rules are shaped by the need for effective and clear spoken communication. (Ibn Hisham, 1979).

Natural Language Methodology:

The Natural Language methodology emphasizes that linguistic systems evolve in ways that make language easier and more efficient for communication. In the case of "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth," local dialects may have developed this structure because it aligns better with the need for clear and direct communication. Using the plural form of the verb enhances clarity when the subject is plural, eliminating any potential ambiguity that might arise from using the singular verb form.

Dialects that exhibit this phenomenon may have developed this grammatical structure because it makes sentences easier to understand in everyday speech. This aligns with the principle of linguistic economy, where linguistic patterns that simplify and speed up communication are preferred. The plural verb form in this context supports more effective communication by providing an immediate and clear indication of the subject's plurality, making interactions smoother and reducing the cognitive load on listeners. (Saleem, 2023).

Real-Life Examples from Different Dialects: (Nabhan, 2015)

The "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" phenomenon is prominently displayed in many Arabic dialects and serves as an example of how language evolves in oral environments to accommodate everyday usage. While the specifics of this phenomenon may vary from one dialect to another, the general concept of subject-verb agreement in number remains a common feature. In this section, we will explore real-life examples from various Arabic dialects that demonstrate the "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" phenomenon.

These examples will illustrate how dialects adapt to create efficient and clear communication through subject-verb agreement, even when this deviates from the standard grammatical rules of Classical Arabic. Each dialect shows how the verb changes to match the plural subject, reinforcing how spoken language prioritizes ease of understanding over strict adherence to formal rules.

Levantine Dialects:

The Levantine dialects encompass the regions of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. In these dialects, the "Aklooni Al-Baragheeth" phenomenon is common, where the verb agrees with the subject in number even when the subject comes after the verb. Below are some examples from the Levantine dialects: (Nasser, n.d.)

Jordan:

In the Jordanian dialect, a sentence like "Raaḥoo al-awlaad 'ala al-souq" (The boys went to the market) can be heard. In this sentence, the verb "Raaḥoo" (went) agrees with the plural subject "al-awlaad" (the boys). According to Standard Arabic rules, the verb should be in the singular form "Raaḥ" (went).

Palestine:

In the Palestinian dialect, one might say: "Akhadoo al-jeeran al-gharaḍ" (The neighbors took the item). Here, the verb "Akhadoo" (took) agrees with the subject "al-jeeran" (the neighbors), reflecting the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon. In Standard Arabic, the verb should be "Akhadha" if it precedes the subject.

Syria:

An example from the Syrian dialect: "Dakhloo al-zuwaar al-bayt" (The visitors entered the house). Again, the verb "Dakhloo" (entered) is in the plural to match the subject "al-zuwaar" (the visitors), even though the grammatical rule in Standard Arabic calls for the verb to be singular.

Lebanon:

In the Lebanese dialect, a sentence like "Saafaroo al-ṭullaab 'al-jaami'a" (The students traveled to the university) is used. Here, the verb "Saafaroo" (traveled) agrees with the subject "al-ṭullaab" (the students), even though the subject follows the verb.

Gulf Dialects:

The Gulf dialects include those spoken in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman. In Gulf dialects, the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon appears more frequently in Bedouin and rural areas but is still present in urban dialects. Some examples from Gulf dialects include: (Al-Shamsan, n.d.)

Saudi Arabia (Najdi Dialect):

In the Najdi regions, one might hear a sentence like: "Jā'oo al-ṭullāb" (The students came). Here, the verb "Jā'oo" (came) agrees with the subject "al-ṭullāb" (the students), even though the subject follows the verb. (Al-Saeb, n.d.).

Kuwait:

In the Kuwaiti dialect, a similar phenomenon can be observed, such as: "Sāfaroo al-rijāl" (The men traveled). The verb "Sāfaroo" (traveled) matches the plural subject "al-rijāl" (the men), although Standard Arabic would require the verb "Sāfar" (traveled) to be in the singular.

Oman:

In the Omani dialect, one might hear a sentence like: "Jāboo al-awlaad al-akl" (The boys brought the food). Again, the verb "Jāboo" (brought) is in the plural to agree with the subject "al-awlaad" (the boys), illustrating the same linguistic pattern.

UAE:

An example from the Emirati dialect: "Mashoo al-awlaad 'ala al-souq" (The boys walked to the market). The verb "Mashoo" (walked) agrees with the subject "al-awlaad" (the boys), reflecting the same phenomenon.

Egyptian Dialects: (Nasser, n.d.)

In the Egyptian dialect, despite the continued popularity of Standard Arabic in media, the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon appears in spoken language in many instances, especially in rural areas and Upper Egypt. You might hear sentences like: "'Amaloo al-ṭullāb al-wāgib" (The students did the homework). The verb "'Amaloo" (did) matches the subject "al-ṭullāb" (the students), reflecting the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon. Another example could be: "Rāḥoo al-nās al-souq" (The people went to the market). In this sentence, the verb "Rāḥoo" (went) agrees with the plural subject "al-nās" (the people), even though Standard Arabic rules would require the singular form "Rāḥ".

Maghrebi Dialects:

The Maghrebi dialects, which include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya, are a blend of Arabic and Berber (Amazigh) influences, leading to a significant diversity in language usage. The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is clearly present in these dialects. Below are some examples from Maghrebi dialects: (Ramadan, n.d.)

Morocco:

In the Moroccan dialect, one might hear a sentence like: "Jābū r-rijāl l-mākla" (The men brought the food). Here, the verb "Jābū" (brought) agrees with the subject "r-rijāl" (the men) in number, which is similar to the phenomenon found in other Arabic dialects.

Algeria:

In Algeria, one might hear sentences like: "Khrajū l-aṭfāl yla'bū" (The children went out to play). The verb "Khrajū" (went out) agrees with the subject "l-aṭfāl" (the children), reflecting the same phenomenon.

Tunisia:

In the Tunisian dialect, a sentence like: "Mshāw r-rijāl l-sūq" (The men went to the market) can be heard. The verb "Mshāw" (went) matches the subject "r-rijāl" (the men), showcasing the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon in Maghrebi dialects.

Libya:

In the Libyan dialect, one might hear a sentence like: "Sma'ū r-rijāl 'annak" (The men heard about you). The verb "Sma'ū" (heard) agrees with the subject "r-rijāl" (the men), reflecting the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon in the Libyan dialect.

Iraqi Dialects: (Al-Shamsan, n.d.)

Iraq has multiple dialects that vary across regions, yet the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is present in many local dialects. In Baghdad, one might hear a sentence like: "Tala'ū al-nās min al-buyūt" (The people left the houses). Here, the verb "Tala'ū" (left) agrees with the plural subject "al-nās" (the people), demonstrating the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon. In southern Iraq, a sentence like: "Rikbū al-awlād al-ḥimār" (The boys rode the donkey) can be heard, where the verb "Rikbū" (rode) agrees with the subject "al-awlād" (the boys), although Standard Arabic would require the singular "Rakib".

Sudanese Dialects: (Anis, 2003a)

In the Sudanese dialect, despite being heavily influenced by Standard Arabic due to Sudan's historical and cultural position, the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon still appears in everyday speech. For example, one might hear: "Mashū al-awlād ila al-madrasa" (The boys went to school). The verb "Mashū" (went) agrees with the subject "al-awlād" (the boys), reflecting the same subject-verb agreement pattern as seen in other dialects exhibiting the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon.

Comparison with Standard Arabic:

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon found in Arabic dialects differs from the grammatical conventions of Standard Arabic. In Standard Arabic, there is a clear grammatical rule regarding subject-verb agreement, which states that the verb must be in the singular form if it precedes the subject, regardless of whether the subject is singular or plural. This rule means that even if the subject is plural, the verb does not change to match the subject in number if it comes before the subject. For example, in Standard Arabic, one would say: "Dakhala al-ṭullāb al-faṣl" (The students entered the classroom), not "Dakhalū al-ṭullāb al-faṣl". Here, the verb "Dakhala" (entered) remains in the singular form despite the plural subject "al-ṭullāb" (the students).

This rule in Standard Arabic is justified by the idea that the verb, when it precedes the subject, is somewhat independent of the subject in terms of grammatical form. The verb precedes the subject and is later defined by the subject, whether it is singular or plural. (Fek, 1980).

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" dialect diverges from this well-known rule in Standard Arabic by creating direct agreement between the verb and the subject. This is seen in examples such as: "Akaloo al-barāgheeth al-ṭa'ām" (The fleas ate the food) instead of "Akal al-barāgheeth al-ṭa'ām" (The fleas ate the food). The verb "Akaloo" (ate) agrees with the plural subject "al-barāgheeth" (the fleas). Similarly, "Rāḥoo al-awlād ila al-madrasa" (The boys went to school) instead of "Rāḥ al-awlād ila al-madrasa" (The boys went to school). The verb "Rāḥoo" (went) matches the plural subject "al-awlād" (the boys).

The justification for this subject-verb agreement in the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" dialects is that it reflects a need for greater clarity in oral communication. When the verb matches the subject in number, there is more clarity regarding who performed the action, making the sentence easier to understand quickly in everyday conversation. This agreement ensures that listeners can easily and immediately identify the actor in the sentence, which is crucial for effective spoken communication. (Nasser, n.d.).

Impact on Learning and Teaching:

The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" dialect has a significant impact on how Arabic is learned and taught. The differences between Standard Arabic grammar and spoken dialects create challenges for learners, especially non-native speakers. In teaching Arabic, learners are required to distinguish between the strict rules of Standard Arabic, which are used in writing and formal settings, and the spoken dialects that differ considerably in terms of grammar and morphology. The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is one prominent example of this difficulty, where students need to adapt to Standard Arabic rules that conflict with what they hear or use in everyday dialects. For instance, a teacher may struggle to convince students that the correct sentence is "Dhahaba al-awlād ila al-madrasa" (The boys went to school) instead of "Dhahaboo al-awlād ila al-madrasa" because the latter form is commonly used in spoken dialects. (El Thaqefi, 2018).

For native Arabic speakers, there is generally an ability to separate dialects from Standard Arabic when writing. Although speakers may use the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon in daily speech, they are capable of distinguishing between what is acceptable in written form and what is acceptable in spoken conversation. Formal education reinforces this separation between spoken and written language, as students are taught the grammatical rules of Standard Arabic, which require that the verb not agree with the subject in certain cases, unlike in spoken dialects.

However, the ability of native learners to make this distinction does not negate the fact that they also struggle to adapt to Standard Arabic rules, which differ from the grammar they use daily in dialects. This can present a significant challenge, as students rely more on what they hear in everyday life. This phenomenon is part of a broader issue known as **diglossia**, where two different forms of a language exist: the formal language used in writing and education, and the spoken language used in daily life. This diglossia creates a large gap between oral and written usage, making it difficult for some speakers to express themselves fluently in written Standard Arabic due to the grammatical inconsistencies between the two systems. This linguistic duality presents challenges for educators and students alike, requiring both to navigate the complex dynamics between spoken and formal language in educational contexts. (Baroud, 2021).

CONCLUSION:

RESULTS:

The findings of this study cover a wide range of aspects, summarized as follows:

- There is a fundamental difference between Standard Arabic and spoken dialects in how they handle the relationship between verbs and subjects.

- The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon is not new or recent; its roots extend to earlier historical periods.
- The historical development of the "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" dialect reflects the response of dialects to social, geographical, and linguistic changes.
- Other Semitic languages, as well as Persian, Berber, and Turkish, may have contributed to the emergence or reinforcement of this phenomenon in some regions, reflecting the impact of cultural and linguistic contact on the structure of Arabic dialects.
- Bedouin dialects were more prone to developing this phenomenon due to their heavy reliance on oral communication in daily life.
- The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" dialect has a direct impact on the grammar and morphology of spoken dialects.
- This phenomenon presents a significant challenge in the field of Arabic language education, as students who speak dialects face difficulty adapting to Standard Arabic grammar rules.
- The phenomenon can be clearly explained through various modern linguistic methodologies, such as the agreement methodology and the generative-transformational approach.
- Spoken dialects tend to achieve greater agreement between verbs and subjects by matching them in number and gender, which enhances sentence clarity and facilitates oral communication.
- The generative-transformational approach explains how deep linguistic structures are transformed into different surface structures in dialects, allowing speakers to use flexible rules that differ from Standard Arabic in handling subject-verb agreement.
- The "*Aklooni Al-Baragheeth*" phenomenon reflects the great linguistic diversity within the Arab world, serving as evidence of the flexibility of the Arabic language and its ability to adapt to various social and cultural contexts.
- Despite the gaps between Standard Arabic and dialects, they continue to coexist side by side in the Arab world, each playing a unique role in different contexts, thereby enhancing the diversity and continuity of the Arabic language.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made:

- Develop new teaching methods that consider the differences between dialects and Standard Arabic, helping students transition smoothly between the two.
- Provide training programs for teachers on how to address the differences between Standard Arabic and dialects, enabling them to better support students' language learning.
- Utilize modern technology to document dialects through audio and video recordings that capture how dialects are used in daily conversations.
- Enhance academic research on spoken Arabic dialects to analyze the grammatical, historical, and social aspects of various dialects in Arab countries.
- Conduct comparative studies between Arabic dialects and other Semitic languages, as well as with languages like Persian or Berber, to understand the linguistic exchange and mutual influence between them.
- Promote awareness of the importance of preserving and understanding the different Arabic dialects as part of the region's cultural diversity.

Acknowledgment

This work was supported by the Deanship of Scientific Research, Vice Presidency for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia [Grant No. KFU242008].

REFERENCES:

- Al-Daqr, Abdul-Ghani. (1986). Dictionary of Arabic Grammar and Morphology. Damascus: Dar Al-Qalam. [in Arabic]
- Al-Jundi, Ahmad Alam Al-Din. (1983). Arabic Dialects in Heritage. Cairo, Egypt: Arab House for Books. [in Arabic]
- Al-Saeb, Saleh Mohammed. (n.d.). The relationship between Najdi colloquial and classical Arabic. https://darahjournal.org.sa/site/pictures/MAG_PDF_204_462 (Retrieved: 06/03/2024) [in Arabic]
- Al-Saleh, Subhi. (2004). Studies in Linguistics. 16th edition, Beirut, Lebanon: Dar Al-Ilm Lil-Malayin. [in Arabic]
- Al-Shamsan, Ibrahim Suleiman Rashid. (n.d.). Classical Origins of the Phenomena of the Dialects of the Arabian Peninsula. <http://www.mohamedrabeea.net/library/pdf/26448de3-1c51-4f41-83ea-88ecec0f2172.pdf> (Retrieved: 05/07/2024) [in Arabic]
- Anis, Ibrahim. (2003a). In Arabic Dialects. Cairo, Egypt: Anglo-Egyptian Library. [in Arabic]
- Anis, Ibrahim. (2003b). Secrets of Language. 3rd edition, Cairo, Egypt: Anglo-Egyptian Library. [in Arabic]
- Baroud, Miftah Ali Abdullah. (2021). The Use of Subject-Verb Agreement in the Present and Simple Past in English by Preparatory School Students in Al-Zawiya Region. *Al-Qurtas Journal of Humanities and Applied Sciences*, 12, 35-57 [in Arabic]
- Blanchet & Philippe. (2021). The impact of sociolinguistic contexts on family multilingual practices and transmission. *Humanities: Algerian Review of Anthropology and Social Sciences*, (94), 43-62 [in Arabic]
- Bouglia, Salah Abdullah. (2024). Chomsky's linguistic theory: Its reality and its connection to Arabic grammar. *Scientific Journal of King Faisal University: Humanities and Management Sciences*, 25(1), 28-35. DOI: 10.37575/h/lng/231655 [in Arabic]
- El Thaqefi, Mohammed Muhsin. (2018). The Role of Psycholinguistics in Teaching Arabic. *Journal of Language and Literature*, 2(2), 88-98. DOI: 10.29300/im.v2i2.1760 [in Arabic]
- Fek, Johann. Commentary: Spitaler. Translation: Abdel Tawab, Ramadan. (1980). Arabic Studies in Language, Dialects and Styles. Cairo, Egypt: Al-Khanji Library. [in Arabic]
- Hilal, Abdel Ghaffar Hamed. (1998). Arabic Dialects: Origin and Development. Cairo, Egypt: Dar Al Fikr Al Arabi. [in Arabic]
- Ibn Faris, Abu al-Husayn Ahmad. (1997). Al-Sahibi in the jurisprudence of the Arabic language, its issues, and the traditions of the Arabs in their speech. Beirut, Lebanon: Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah [in Arabic]
- Ibn Hisham, Abdullah Youssef Al-Ansari. Investigation: Abdul Hamid, Muhammad Muhyi Al-Din. (1979). The Clearest Paths to Ibn Malik's Thousand-Line Poem. 5th edition. Beirut, Lebanon: Dar Al-Jeel [in Arabic]
- Ibn Jinni, Othman. Investigation: Al-Najjar, Muhammad. (1952). Characteristics. Beirut, Lebanon: Dar Al-Kitab Al-Arabi [in Arabic]
- Kazem, Faisal Muftin. (2006). Pragmatics in Arabic Grammar. *Journal of Misan Researches*, 2(4), 35-56 [in Arabic]
- Nabhan, Abdul-Ilah. (2015). Dialectal Phenomena, Not Dialects. https://lahajat.blogspot.com/2015/01/blog-post_879.html (Retrieved: 06/09/2024) [in Arabic]
- Nasser, Saad El-Din. (n.d.). Arabic dialects: philology. <https://montada.aklaam.net/showthread.php?t=9870> (Retrieved: 01/08/2024) [in Arabic]
- Rabin, Chem. Translated by: Mujahid, Abdul Karim. (2002). Old Arabic Dialects in Western Arabia. Beirut, Lebanon: Arab Foundation for Studies and Publishing [in Arabic]
- Ramadan, Masoud Abdullah Fathallah. (n.d.). Languages condemned by linguists and grammarians in the Libyan dialect (the 'ana'ah) as a model.

- <https://journals.asmarya.edu.ly/jau/index.php/jau/article/view/339/272> (Retrieved: 01/05/2024) [in Arabic]
- Saleem, Mazhoud. (2023). Natural Language Processing in the Light of Neuro-Linguistic Programming; Challenges and Solutions. Arabic Language Solutions as a Model. Numerus Academic Journal, Algeria, 4(1), 31-45 [in Arabic]
- Sibawayh, Abu Bishr Amr. Investigation: Haroun, Abdul Salam Muhammad. (1988). The Book. 3rd edition, Cairo, Egypt: Al-Khanji Library [in Arabic]
- Yolla Margaretha, Popo Suryana, (2023). The Effect of Market Orientation, Entrepreneurial Orientation, and Learning Orientation on Marketing Innovations and their Implications on the Marketing Performance of Micro Actors in Bandung Metropolitan Area. *Pakistan Journal of Life and Social Sciences*. E-ISSN: 2221-7630; P-ISSN: 1727-4915, Pak. j. life soc. Sci. (2023), 21(1): 478-498. https://www.pjlss.edu.pk/pdf_files/2023_1/478-498.pdf