PREFIXES IN VARIOUS ARABIC DIALECTS IN COMPARISON OF STANDARD ARABIC: PROGRESSIVE AND FUTURE TENSES

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Abstract

This study compares the prefixes of present continuous and future tenses used in Standard Arabic with prefixes of progressive and future tenses used in various Arabic dialects that were previously studied by linguists. In other words, this research tries to describe the rules that determine using imperfect verbs to produce continuous and future actions in Arabic dialects and Standard Arabic to show similarities and differences among them. In Arabic dialects, to produce continuous and future tenses, prefixes and aspectual marker system are used, and each dialect has its own prefixes and tense structure. There are numerous studies that studied the prefixes in many Arabic dialects, but no study is devoted yet to compare between these prefixes. The prefixes of progressive and future tenses are chosen to be studied because of their essential role to determine the tense. In other words, they are the indicators for the listener to recognize the present continuous tense, and future tense. Therefore, this study is devoted to cover this field particularly because the teaching of Arabic dialects to non-native speakers of Arabic is spreading nowadays.

Keywords: Arabic Dialects, Morphology, Prefixes, Progressive Tense, Future Tense, Sociolinguistics, Comparative Linguistics

Farklı Arap Lehçeleri'nde Önekler: Fasih Arapça ile Karşılaştırmalı Bir Çalışma: Şimdiki ve Gelecek Zaman

Öz

Bu makalede, daha önceden dilbilimciler tarafından da ele alınan şimdiki devam eden zaman ile gelecek zaman ön eklerinin günümüzde kullanılan çeşitli Arapça lehçeleri ve Fasih Arapçadaki kullanımları karşılaştırmalı olarak incelenmektedir. Bir başka ifadeyle bu çalışmada muzari fiillerin kullanımlarını belirleyen kurallar tespit edilmeye çalışılarak, Arapça lehçelerdeki günlük eylemler için üretilen muzari fiilleri fasih Arapça ile kıyaslanacak, aralarında tespit edilen benzerlik ve farklılıklara işaret edilecektir. Arapça lehçelerde şimdiki ve gelecek zamanı üretmek için ön ekler (prefixes) ve Muzâraat harfleri (aspectual marker) sistemi kullanılır ve her bir lehçe kendi ön ekleri ve zaman yapısına sahiptir. Farklı Arapça diyalektlerdeki ön ekler üzerine pek çok çalışma yapılmışsa da, henüz bu çalışmaları karşılaştıran bir makale yoktur. Şimdiki ve gelecek zamanın ön ekleri zamanı belirlemedeki hayati rolünden dolayı çalışmaya konu olarak seçilmiştir. Bir başka ifadeyle ön ekler, muhatabın şimdiki

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ve gelecek zamanı fark edebilmesi için kullanılan işaretlerdir. Bu yüzden, anadili Arapça olmayanlara Arapça lehçelerin öğretiminin oldukça hızlı bir şekilde artmasından dolayı ortaya çıkan ihtiyaca cevap vermek adına bu konu ele alınıp incelenmeye çalışılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Arap Dili Lehçeleri, Biçimbilim, Önekler, Şimdiki Zaman, Gelecek Zaman, Toplumdilbilim, Karşılaştırmalı Dilbilim

Importance of the study

As Ferguson said "In many speech communities two or more varieties of the same language are used by some speakers under different conditions"[1] This means that an Arabic dialect is not another language of Arabic, but it is another variety of Arabic. Ferguson added that each variety has its own context; Standard Arabic called (High Level) is used in Mosques and Academic institutions etc., while the Arabic dialect (Low level) is used with family and friends and in markets etc.[2] that is why the Arabic dialect is important for non-Arabic speakers to learn. By dialect they would be able to deal with Arabs in streets and markets for daily use conversations.

For teaching the Arabic dialects, there should be studies that describe these dialects. Therefore, this study standardizes the morphological rules -the prefixes specifically- and verbs of Arabic dialects. This study focuses on some Arabic dialects such as many dialects in Levantine Region, Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, morocco, Iraq and Cyprus (Maronite Arabic speakers). A comparison between these dialects and Standard Arabic is presented in this study showing the similarities and differences.

This study tries to answer the following questions:

1.   How are the present continuous tense and future tense produced in the Standard Arabic?

2.   How are the present continuous tense future tense produced in different Arabic dialects?

3.   What are the similarities and differences between these dialects and Standard Arabic in present continuous and future tenses?

Methodology and Data

It is known that the Arabic dialects are not random dialects, but each dialect has its own grammar and rules. Of course dialects have less rules than the standard Arabic; for example, the case ending is not presented in all Arabic dialects. On the other hand, there are many rules control Arabic dialects such as gender agreement, and single-plural rules, and so on. Nowadays, there are many books that are specialized in describing the grammar of different Arabic dialects, in addition to textbooks for teaching Arabic dialects for non-Arabic speakers.

A literature review on the Arabic dialects in Egypt, Levant Rregion, Yemen, Arabic Gulf States, Iraq, Morocco, and Cyprus is presented in this study to survey how the present continuous is produced in spoken Arabic dialects; prefixes from about 10 Arabic dialects were collected. It is noticed that there are some prefixes used for progressive tense (present continuous المضارع المستمر), and some prefixes used for future tense (المستقبل). The progressive tense contains: (1) how it is used in Standard Arabic followed by (2) how it is used in various Arabic dialects as it is mentioned in the surveyed literature. Next, a comparison between the usage of progressive tense in imperfect verbs in various Arabic dialects and Standard Arabic is presented. The same thing for the future tense which contains: (1) how it is used in Standard Arabic followed by (2) how it is used in various Arabic dialects as it is mentioned in the surveyed literature.

At the end, I am presenting analysis of using the varieties of */b-/* prefix, and how the variants of */b-/ are* determined by the pronoun added to the verb, and by the verb pattern.

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[1]   Charles A. Ferguson, "Diglossia", *Word*, vol. 15, no. 2, 1959, p. 325.
[2]   Ferguson, "Diglossia", pp. 328-329.

The data is collected from the literature that studied the morphology in Arabic dialects, particularly the prefixes that is used in imperfect verbs in different Arabic dialects. These prefixes is studied in this study.

Transliteration list

A standardized transliteration list is given below, (see table 7). It is noticed that each one of the surveyed resources that discusses the Arabic prefixes has its own romanization system which is different from the other resources; therefore, I used only one transliteration system to present the data in all resources.

A)   Progressive tense

First: standard Arabic

In modern standard Arabic, imperfect verb is used to bring up incidents that are occurring currently which is called "present progressive." There are many examples for this progressive action, such as

لابد من تفسير منطقي لما يدور الآن

lee budde min tefsiirin manTiqiyyin limee yaduru-lʔeen

"There must be a logical explanation for what is happening".[3]

Second: progressive in Arabic dialects

In the surveyed Arabic dialects, it is found that there are four prefixes that are used to produce present continuous (progressive): /b-/, /k-/, /da-/ and /qa-/. (See table 1); among these prefixes, it is noticed that the most common prefix used for the progressive tense is /b-/. The surveyed literature covers the following arias.

1.   Palmyra in Syria

The city of Palmyra lies in northeast of the Syrian capital, Damascus. The /b-/ prefix is used to produce progressive tense. For instance, /buktub/ بكتب (he is writing)[4]

2.   Levantine dialect

As general Levant region, they also used /b-/ prefix. For instance, /byuktub/ بيكتب (he is writing)[5].

3.   Saudi Arabia, and Arabian Peninsula

The /b-/ prefix also is used for progressive tense, such as /biyHaarbuuha/ بيحاربوها (they are fighting her)[6].

4.   Egypt

It is assured that /bi-/ is used for present continuous.[7] For example

il-weled bi-yakul dilwaʔtii   الولد بياكل دلوقتي   the boy is eating now

   bitiktib   بتكتب   she is writing

5.   Morocco

Moroccan dialect uses /d-/ prefix for progressive tense. For example,

deyudrus ديدرس he is studying[8].

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3   Ron Buckley, *Modern Literary Arabic: a Reference Grammar*, Librairie du Liban Publishers, Beirut, 2004, 1st ed. p. 542.

4   J. Cantineau, *Le Dialecte Arabe de Palmyre*, Institut Français de Damas, Beirut, 1934, v.1, p. 132.

5   Leslie. J. McLoughlin, *Colloquial Arabic (Levantine),* Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1982, p. 34.

6   M. H. Bakalla, *The Morphological and Phonological Components of the Arabic Verb (Meccan Arabic),* Longman, London, 1979, p. 315.

7   Hilmi M. Aboul-Fetouh, *a Morphological Study of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic*, The Hague, Mouton, Paris, 1969, p. 37; see also Ahmad Tahir Hasanayn, Mona Kamel, *Let's chat in Arabic = Yalla-ndardish bi-l'Arabi : a practical introduction to the spoken Arabic of Cairo*, A. Hassanein, M. Kamel, Cairo, 1998, p. 135.

8   W. M. Erwin, *A Basic Course in Iraqi Arabic: With Audio MP3 files*, Georgetown University Press, Washington, D.C., 2004, p. 118.

Moreover, /k-/ and /t-/ in Moroccan dialect are also used to express progressive tense. They are equal to the /bi-/ in the Egyptian dialect and /b-/ in the Syrian dialect that are used for progressive form; i.e. "action-as-state-of being" She emphasized that "stative and progressive readings depend in large part on the lexical aspect of the verb."

6.   Iraq

As same as some Moroccan dialects, some Iraqi dialects uses the same prefix /d-/ to produce progressive tense, such as

/de-yudrus/	هو ديدرس	He is studying
/de-ashrab shaay/	أنا دشرب	I am drinking tea[9].

7.   Iraq, Baghdad

In Baghdad, Iraq there are three dialects; the three dialects belong to three religions Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The three dialects use /qa-/ and /qad/ to produce progressive tense. Jewish speakers use /qad-/ prefix and its variety /qat-/ with some pronouns, while christian speakers use /qa-/ prefix with all pronouns. For example,

Jewish speakers	Example	Christian speakers
قدامشي qadamʃi	I am walking	قأمشي qaʔamʃi
قتامشي qattemʃi	she is walking	قاتمشي qatemʃi
قيمشي qayemʃi	he is walking	قيمشي qayemʃi [10]

8.   Gaza

(4) In the Gazan urban dialect, /b-/ is used to produce progressive tense (present continuous)[11]. For example,

ويجي من برة ويلائيني وائفة أعدة مثلاً بغسل بجلي

wiyiʒi min barra wiyleeʔiini waʔfeh ʔeʕde meselen beɣsil baʒli

Sometimes, he comes back home finding me standing, for example washing clothes or washing dishes.

الآن إحنا بنحاول نجهزه

ilʔaan ʔiH}naa binHaawil nʒahhizu

Now, we are trying to prepare it

At the end, it is noticed that the /b-/ prefix and its varieties are the most common prefix used to produce the progressive tense in the Arabic dialects. (See chart 1)

Table (1)

Progressive Prefixes in various Arabic dialects

Region	Prefixes used	Example	Translation	Pronoun
Iraq	da-	dayudrus	he is studying	
	xal-da-xall(i)-			

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9   Yasin M. AlKhalesi, *Iraqi Phrasebook: The Essential Language Guide for Contemporary Iraq*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 2004, p. 13; see also, R. J. McCarthy and Faraj Raffouli, *Spoken Arabic of Baghdad. Part one: grammar and exercises*, Librairie Orientale, Beirut, 1964, v.1, p. 204; see also, Erwin, *A Basic Course in Iraqi Arabic*, p. 118.

10   Halim Blanc, *Communal dialects in Baghdad*. Center for Middle Eastern Studies of Harvard University, Cambridge, USA, 1964, p. 115.

11   Nedal Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect in Gaza: Morphological Study*, Lambert Academic Publishing, Saarbrücken, Germany, LAP, 2011, p. 45-47.

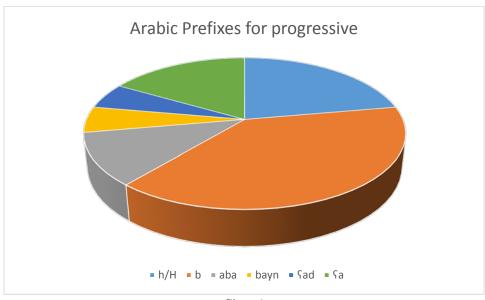|				
Baghdad (Jewish)	qad-	qadamʃii	I am walking	
	qat-	qattemʃii	she is walking	
Baghdad (Christians)	qa-	qaʔamʃii	I am walking	
		qatemʃii	she is walking	
Syria	b- bu-	byuktub buktub	He is writing	
Arabian Peninsula	bi-	biyHaarbuuha	they are fighting her	
Cairo (Egypt)	bi-	bi-yeekul	he is eating now	
Morocco	k-			
	t-			
Gaza	ba-	baɣsil bajli	I am washing clothes I am washing dishes	
	bi-	ʔil ʔeHdees bitHiss ʔil ʃebeeb	Events (she) encourage youth	She
	b-	btiʃmel ʕadad kebiir minil aTfaal wili-kbaar	She is including adults and children	She
	bi-	Binʒeddid ittehiiyah	we are welcoming again	We
	b-	bnitwaaSal meʕeekum	We are contacting you	We
	bi-	beʕtiðir li kul illi bitwaaSaluu	I am apologizing for who can't take their calls	They
	bi-	bidris	He is studying	He
	bi-	Bitbeerkiilii	You congratulate me	You (s.f.)
	b-	btiDHak ʕeleyy	You are laughing at me	You (s.m.)
	bi-	bitdexxin	You are smoking	

Chart 1

Frequency of prefixes used to produce progressive tense

B)   Future tense

First: Future in Standard Arabic

Modern standard Arabic uses imperfect verb to bring up incidents that are going to occur in the future; there are many ways to produce future, some of which are: first, there must be an adverb indicates the future meaning; second, the future is obviously intended; Third, future is obvious in questions; fourth, there is a particle that refers to the future[12]; for example

1.   Adverbs such as ɣeden:

غداً نتقدم إلى مواقع جديدة

ɣeden neteqaddamu ile mewaaqiʕe ʒediide

"Tomorrow we will advance to new positions"

ɣeden: is an adverb refers to the future.

2.   The future is obviously intended

"أنا صاحب الدعوة وأنا الذي أدفع الحساب"

enee SaaHibu'd-deʕweti we enaa ellaði edfeʕu'l-Hisaab

"I am the host, and I am the one who will pay the bill"

3.   Questions:

"متى نصل؟"

mete naSilu?

When will we arrive?

4.   Forbidding particle /laa/ لا الناهية

It gives a command to somebody not to do something in the future. For example,

{لا تحزن إن الله معنا}[13]

Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us."[14]

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12   Buckley, *Modern Literary Arabic*, p. 545.
13   Quran, At-Tawba, verse 40.
14   Saad Kariim el-Fiki, *400 Su'aal fil-Nahw,* Ed-Daar El-ʕAalamiyye lil-Nashr wet-Tawzii', Al-İskanderiyye, (s. n.), p. 96.

5.   Particles /sa-/ /س/ and /sawfa/ /سوف/

Regarding the particles, to produce future, standard Arabic use the particles /sawfa/ (سوف) and /sa/ (س) before the imperfective verb in affirmative sentences, and uses /lan/ (لن) to negate the future[15]; for example,

"أنا سأبقى هنا بعض الوقت، سأزور قبر أمي"

enee seʔabqa hune baʕda'l-waqti, seʔezuuru qabra ʔummi

"I will stay here for a while, I will visit my mother's grave" /sa/ (س)

"لم تتزوج بعد، قريباً سوف تتزوج"

lem tetezewweʒ beʕd, qariiban sewfe tetezewweʒ

"She is not married yet; she will get married soon" /sawfa/ (سوف)

"لن أنسى"

len ense

"I will not forget"

/lan/ (لن) refers to the future.

Second: Future in Arabic Dialects

Arabic dialects also use imperfect verb to express future tenses, and also there is a prefix added to the imperfect verb to give the implication of future tense. In the surveyed literature, I found that the prefixes /h-/ (هـ) and /b-/ (بـ) are used for future purposes in many Arabic dialects. See table (5).

1.   /h-/

The prefix /h-/ has two varieties; it is pronounced /h/ (هـ), or /H/ (ح). It is used in some dialects, such as Iraqi, Yemeni, Egyptian, and some Arabian Gulf dialects as Najdi dialect.

/h-/ and its varieties are restricted to the future purposes; for example, Hadrus (I'll study), Hansaafir (we will travel) in the Iraqi dialect[16]. In addition to (h-) the Iraqi dialect uses the prefix (raH) alternatively to the prefix (H); raHadrus (I'll study), raHnsaafir (we will travel)[17]. Furthermore, Yemeni dialect uses (H)[18]; for example,

حاتدرسوا

Hatidrusuu

You will learn it.

مش هاتدرسوا

/miʃ hatidrusuu/

You will not learn it.

The Egyptian dialect in Cairo uses /H-/ /ح/ for future; for example, /Hatiktib/ (she will write)[19]. (H-) only is used for the future tense[20]; for instance,

المدير حايسافر بكرة

il- mudiir Haysaafir bukra

The director will travel tomorrow

أنا حاشرب الشاي بعد ساعة

ʔenee Haʃrab ʔil sheey baʕd seeʕe

I will drink tea in an hour

15   Buckley, *Modern Literary Arabic*, 548.

16   AlKhalesi, *Iraqi Phrasebook,* p. 13; see also, McCarthy and Raffouli, *Spoken Arabic of Baghdad*, p. 204; see also, Erwin, *A Basic Course in Iraqi Arabic*, p. 118.

17   Blanc, *Communal dialects in Baghdad*, p. 116.

18   Janet C.E. Watson, *the Phonology and Morphology of Arabic*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002, p. 176.

19   Aboul-Fetouh, *A Morphological Study of Egyptian Colloquial Arabic*, p. 37.

20   Hasanayn and Kamel, *Let's chat in Arabic = Yalla-ndardish bi-l'Arabi,* p. 141.

حاخلي منال تجيبه لما تيجي

Hexelli meneel tigibuh lemmee tiigi

"I'll have Manal get it when she comes"[21]

Some researchers differentiate between /ha-/ and /Ha-/; /Ha-/ is used by Egyptian educated speakers[22], or it is used in "precise speech"[23], while /ha-/ appears in "relaxed pronunciation." E.g. /haynaam/ (هينام) (He will sleep).

On the other hand, some Arabic speakers in Northern Sinai uses the both prefixes /Ha-/ and /ha-/ for future; e.g.

حيسيطروا على غزة

HaysayTru ʕele ɣezzih

"They are going to seize control of Gaza"[24]

هاياخد

hayaaxid

It will take

Moreover, Arabic Bedouin speakers in northern Sinai may use the particles /raH/, /widd/ and /bidd/ instead of the prefix /H-/ and /h-/. For example,

raH aHkiilek

"I shall tell you"[25]

It is noticed that there is a similarity between the Sinai and Iraqi particles; the Iraqi (raH) and the Northern Sinai (raH)

2.   /b-/

On the other hand, /b-/ and its varieties are also used for future in some Arabic dialects, such as Syria, Lebanon, many Arabic gulf regions, for instance Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. This prefix is used in the Arabic dialects as the following:

1.   Greater Syria:

/b-/ and its varieties are used to produce future in Greater Syria[26]. For example, see table (2 and 3)

Table (2)

Varieties of /b/ in some Syrian dialect

example	Translation	Pronoun
byektob	he will write	3 m.s.
btektob	she will write	3.f.s.
btektob	you will write	2.m.s.
btiktbi	you (f) will write	2.f.s.
baktob	I will write	1.s.

21   Kristen Brustad, *the Syntax of Spoken Arabic: A Comparative Study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti Dialects*, Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC, 2000, p. 234.

22   Liljana Elverskog, *Verb Morphology in Educated Spoken Arabic*, UMI Dissertation Services, Ann Arbor, 1999, p. 166.

23   Zaki N. Abdel-Malek, *the Closed List Classes of Colloquial Egyptian Arabic*, Hague, Mouton, 1990, p. 217.

24   Rudolf de Jong, *A Grammar of the Bedouin Dialects of Central and Southern Sinai*, brill, Leiden – Boston, 1999, p. 232.

25   De Jong, *a Grammar of the Bedouin Dialects*, p. 233, 316.

26   Jean Cantineau, *Les parlers arabes du Hōrân. [1], Notions générales, grammaire,* Librairie C. Klincksieck, Paris, 1946, p. 219; Jean Cantineau, Youssef Helbaoui, *Manuel élémentaire d'Arabe Oriental (parler de Damas)*, Klincksieck, Paris, 1953, p. 26; see also, Hassan El-Hajjé, Jean Cantineau, *Le parler arabe de Tripoli (Liban)*, Klincksieck, Paris, 1954, 47.

byektbu	they will write	3.p.
btaktbu	you will write	2.p.
mnektob	we will write	1.p.

Table (3)

Varieties of /b-/ in some Syrian dialects

example	Translation	Pronoun
ptuktub; ptelbas	she will write; wear	3.f.s.
ptuktub; ptelbas	you will write; wear	2.m.s.
ptukutbi; ptelbasi	you will write; wear	2.f.s.
baktub; balbas	I will write; wear	1.s.
bukutbu; belbasu	they will write; wear	3.m.p.
bukutben; belbasen	they will write; wear	3.f.p.
ptukutbu; ptelbasu	you will write; wear	2.m.p.
ptukutben; ptelbasen	you will write; wear	2.f.p.
mnuktub; mnelbas	we will write; wear	1.p.

It is noticeable that the prefix /b-/ is changed into /m-/ when it is added to the plural pronoun (we) نحن , and sometimes it is changed into voiceless /p-/ when it is followed by voiceless sound, such as /t/.

2.   Gaza (urban dialect)

It is observed that the urban dialect in **Gaza Strip** uses both prefixes /b-/ and /h-/ to produce the future tense.

First, the prefix /b-/ appears in many examples, such as

بكرة بتتزوج وبتحلق دقنك

bukra btitzewweʒ wibtiHlig degnek

"One day you will marry some woman and you would shave your beard"

إن شاء الله بكتبلك إياها المرة الجاية

ʔin ʃaaʔ Allaah bektiblak ʔiyyaahaa

Hopefully, I'll write it for you next time.[27]

Second, the prefix /h-/ appears in many examples, such as

واللاجئين هايعودا

willeeʒiʔiin heʕuuduu

The refugees will return back

هاقترح عليكم صنف من اللحم

haqtiriH ʕeliikum Sinif min ʔilleHim

I will suggest you a type of meat.[28]

3.   Arabic Gulf Region:

Arabic Gulf countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Emirates and Southern Iraq) use /b-/ prefix and /raH/ alternatively to determine future tense[29]; for example,

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27   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect in Gaza*, p. 60-63.

28   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect in Gaza*, p. 63-68

29   Maria Persson, "The Role of the B- Prefix in Gulf Arabic Dialects as a Marker of Future, Intent and/or Irrealis", *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies*, vol. 8, 2008, p. 31; see also, H. A. Qafisheh, *a Basic Course in Gulf Arabic*,

هي بتشرب هناك

hiyya bti∫rab hnaak

She will drink there

بتدرس في بريطانيا هالسنة؟

btidris fiı BriiTaanyaa hesseneh?

"Will you be studying in Britain this year?"

In **Saudi Arabia**, the following examples were found

بروح لندن وبدرس أول سنة على حسابي

"baruuH landan w bedris ewwel sene ʕele Hisaabii"[30]

"I'll go to London and study for the first year at my own expense"

بقول ليك شي واحد

"beguul liik ∫ey waaHid"

"I'll tell you one thing"

قبل لنروح بنعطيكم عنوانا الجديد

"gabil la nruuH binaʕTiikum ʕunwaanna liʒdiid"

"Before we go, we'll give you our new address."

Concerning **Najdi (Central Arabian) Shammari** dialect; it uses /b-/ for the direct future or "future of intent."[31] According to a study, the prefix /b-/ is derived from the modal /begha/ بغى / yebi يبي (to want). [32] This verb appears in many forms, such as /abi-/, /aba-/ and /b-/.[33] See table (4)

Table (4)
Prefixes used in Najdi dialect

1st variety Example	2nd variety example	Translation	pronoun
"abi aruuH"	abaruuH	I'll go	1.s.
nabi nruuH	nabaruuH	we'll go	1.p.
tabi truuH	bitruuH	she'll go	3.f.s.
tabi truuH	bitruuH	you'll go	2.m.s.
yabi yruuH	biyruuH	he'll go	3.m.s
yabi yruuHuun	biyruuHuun	they'll go	3.p.
tabi truuHiin	bitruuHiin	you'll go	2.m.s.

University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1975, p. 215); see also, Clive Holes, *Gulf Arabic*, Routledge, London, New York, 1990, 274-275.

30   Clive Holes, *Colloquial Arabic of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1984, p. 139.

31   Bruce Ingham, *Najdi Arabic: Central Arabian*, John Benjamins Publishing, Amsterdam, 1994, p. 119.

32   Ingham, *Najdi Arabic*, p. 119.

33   Saad A. Sowayan, *the Arabian Oral Historical Narrative: An Ethnographic and Linguistic Analysis*, Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden, 1992, p. 500.

Bahrain

I found the following examples in Bahraini dialect[34]

بسافر الهند يوم الجمعة

beseefir il-hind yuum il-ʒumʕah.

I will travel to India next Friday.

بصيد (أو) أبي أصيد

baSiiD (or) ʔabi aSiiD

I am going to catch

بروح (أو) أبي أروح

baruuH (or) ʔabaruuH

I shall go.

4.   Yemen:

The Arabic dialect in Sana'a in Yemen uses /bi-/ as a prefix for all pronouns except for the 1st person which uses the prefix /bayn-/.[35] No example found in the surveyed literature for the Yemeni dialect.

Finally, it is noticed that the /b-/ prefix and its varieties are the most common prefix used to produce the future tense in the Arabic dialects, followed by the /h-/ prefix and its varieties. (See chart 2)

The summary of the used prefixes in various Arabic dialects are in table (5)

Table 5
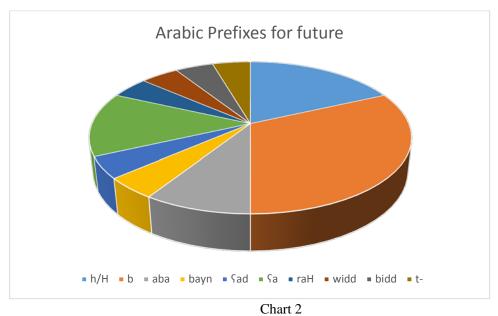
Future Prefixes in Arabic dialects

Region	Prefixes used	Example	Translation
Iraq	H	Hadrus	I will study
	raH	raHadrus	I will study
Syria (Hawran and Damascus)	be-	belbes	He will wear
	bu-	buktubu	They will write
	p-	ptukutbu	You will write
	m-	mnuktub	We will write
Lebanon (Tripoli)	b-	btektob	She will write
	ba-	baktob	I will write
	m-	mnektob	We will write
Arabic Gulf	b-	hiya btishrab biirah	She will drink beer
Saudi Arabia	ba-	baruuH Landan	I will go to London
	bi-	binaʕtiikum	We will give you
Najdi (Central Arabian)	aba-	abaruuH	I will go
	naba-	nabaruuH	We will go
	bi-	bitruuH	She will go
Bahrain	ba-	baSiid	I am going to
	ʔaba	ʔbaʕaSiid	catch

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34   Saad Saud Mebkhut, *Usuul Lehjet el-Bahrayn: Diraasa Lughawiyyeh Teerikhiyyeh Sarfiyyeh Nehwiyyeh*, S. S. Mebkhut, Bahrain, 1993, p. 166.

35   Watson, *the Phonology and Morphology of Arabic*, p. 177.

Region	Prefixes used	Example	Translation
Yemen	ʕad (1st person) ʕa (other pronouns)	ʕatijirrahaa	You will take her
Egypt	H- ha-	Hetiktkib heyneem	She will write He will sleep
Rural Egypt	"ʕa-"		
Northern Sinai	H-	Heyjiib	He will bring
	h-	Hayaaxid	He will take
	raaH widd bidd	raaH aHkiilak	I will tell you
Morocco (Larache)	ʕa-		
Cyprus	t-eyi- t-ati- t-ati- t-ati—i t-a- t-eyi—u t-ati—u t-anni-	teyifroʃ tatifroʃ tatifroʃ tatifroʃi tafroʃ teyifroʃu tatifroʃu tannifroʃ	He will make the bed She will make the bed You will make the bed You will make the bed I will make the bed They will make the bed You will make the bed We will make the bed
Urban cities in Gaza	b- ba- bi-	bukra btitzawwaj webtiHlig biʕiin Allah bitkuun daliil Halaqaatkuu il-mutataalyah bnitgaabal fil-daar baTTamman ʕele siidii	You (s.m.) will marry and shave off your beard God will help us They (p.f.) will be the guide for your next programs We will meet at your home I will ask after my grandfather
	Ha-	humma miʃ hayittifguu	They will not agree

Region	Prefixes used	Example	Translation
		haniqtiriH ʕaliikuu nuuʕ min issalataat	We will suggest a kind of salads for you
		haniqtiriH ʕaliikuu sinif min il-laHim	I will suggest a meet dish for you
		heyjiinaa	He will come for us
		hatiijii	She will come

Chart 2
Frequency of prefixes used to produce future tense

Results

It is noticed that in the collected data, all dialects do not accept three consonants cluster (CCC), so the insertion of a vowel occurs to prevent the three consecutive consonants. On the other hand, some dialects accept two consonant cluster (cc) and some dialects do not. Therefore, all prefixes use a vowel to prevent (cc) cluster except the /b-/ prefix which dispenses the vowel in some dialects. In other words, the /b-/ prefix, in some dialects, varies according to the pronoun that is attached to the verb and to the verb pattern; /b-/ prefix may be /b-/, /ba-/ and /bi-/. For that reason, I collected the verbs that are preceded by the /b-/ prefix, then I classified them according to the 10 patterns of the Arabic verbs. The 10 patterns are:

    1.   Faʕala: it has many forms:

    a.   Strong (SaHiiH صحيح); it has three forms:

  i.saalim (سالم)

  ii.Doubled (muDaʕʕaf مضعف)

  iii.Hamzated (mehmuuz مهموز)

    b.   muʕtell (معتلّ); it has four patterns:

    i. Weak 1st, (miθeel مثال)

  ii. Weak 2nd (eʒwaf أجوف)

 iii. Weak 3rd (NaaqiS ناقص)

 iv. Doubly weak (lefiif لفيف)

     1.   mafruuq (مفروق) 1st and 3rd

     2.   maqruun (مقرون) 2nd and 3rd

     2.   Feʕʕeleَ فعَّل

     3.   Feeʕele فاعَل

     4.   Ɂfʕele أفْعَلَ

     5.   Tefeʕʕele تَفَعَّل

     6.   Tefeeʕele تفاعَل

     7.   Ɂinfeʕele إنْفَعَلَ

     8.   Ɂifteʕele إفْتَعَلَ

     9.   Ɂifʕelle افْعَلَّ

   10.   Ɂistefʕele إسْتَفْعَلَ

There are varieties of the Arabic dialects used in the Arabic-spoken region;[36] therefore, Arabic-speaking zones are classified into two groups: first, "Eastern (maŝriqī)", and second, "Western (maġribī)"[37]; each group has its own characteristics. Some of the Western dialects features are the existence of "the syllable patterns CVCV (katab and ccvc ktəb)." [38] Furthermore, "Linguistic features reflect relationships among different groups of dialects and their atmospheres; various dialects and their borders are classified by isoglosses. The isogloss as the boundary contour that includes the dialectical characteristic; closed isoglosses comprise packages of isoglosses determining borders between various dialect zones."[39]

To come to the point, the pronoun (Ɂenee أنا, I) always uses the variety /ba-/, while the pronouns (huwwa,هو he) and (humma , they m.) usually use the variety /bi-/. On the other hand, other pronouns (we ɁiHnaa إحنا), you s.m., Ɂinte إنتَ, you s.f. Ɂintii إنتِ, you p. Ɂintuu إنتو, she hiyya,هي they f. هن) use both varieties: /b-/ (without a vowel) and /bi-/ (with a vowel) according to the verb pattern in some dialects, such as Levantine dialects which belong to the same group. On the other hand, some other dialects must use the vowel (i) after the /b-/ prefix, such as the Egyptian dialect. The Egyptian dialect does not accept two consonants cluster (cc).

In the Levantine dialects, Patterns: I (saalim, mahmuuz, miθaal and naaqiS), II (except when the root is Ɂeʒwef), V, VI, VII, VIII and X) all these patterns use the variety /b-/ without the vowel (i). In contrast, patterns I (muDaʕʕaf and Ɂeʒwef), II, III and IV (when the root is Ɂeʒwef) use the variety /bi-/ with the vowel (i). In other words, when one of these pronouns (we, you m.s., you f.s., you p., she and they f.) is used, the verb pattern determines the variety its prefix /b-/; it can be /b-/ or /bi-/ as the following:

It is known that form 1 is divided into two categories: (1) SaHiiH and (2) Muʕtell معتّل; each category is divided into sub-categories. In the collected data from Arabic dialect, it is noticed that some pronouns always use one variety of the /b-/ prefix and never change it; the vowel inserted after the prefix

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[36]   Rafael Talmon, "Preparation of the Northern Israeli Arabic Sprachatlas", *Encyclopedia of Arabic language and linguistics*, I-V, Brill, Leiden, Boston, 2006: I, p. 583.

[37]   Phillipe Marcais, *Esquisse grammaticale de l"Arabe Maghrebin*, Librairie D'Amerique et D'Orient, 1977, p. I-II.

[38]   Peter Behnstedt, "Sprachatlas von Syrien", *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics*, I-V, Brill, Leiden, 2006, I, p. 605.

[39]   Heikki Palva, "Dialects: classification", *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics*, I-V, Brill, Leiden, 2006, I, p. 604.

is not changed regardless of the verb pattern attached with. These pronouns are Ɂenee (أنا I), huwwa (هوhe) and humma (they m.). For example,

1.   The pronoun Ɂenee أنا

The pronoun (I أنا) always uses the verity /ba-/; this /ba-/ variety is not changed according to the verb pattern. Examples

<div dir="rtl">وأنا بنصح كل إنسان إنه يودي ابنه للمسجد[40] (Gaza)</div>

wenee banSaH kull Ɂinseen Ɂinnu ywaddi Ɂibnu lilmasʒid

I am advising everyone to take his son regularly to the mosque

bansaH (cvc)

<div dir="rtl">بروح لندن[41] (Saudi Arabic)</div>

baruuH landan

I will go to London

baruuH (cvc)

<div dir="rtl">بكتُب[42] (Syria)</div>

bektub (cvc)

I will write

2.   The pronoun huwwe (he هو) and The pronoun they (humme هُمَّ)

Both pronouns always insert a vowel after the prefix /b/, but the vowels varies according to the dialect; some dialects use the /bi-/ variety, such as in Gaza[43]

biHubb (cvc)   he loves   بحب

biʕrafuu (cvc)   they know   بعرفوا

Some dialects uses different vowel according to the verb. For example in the Syrian dialcets:

/be-/ variety is used with verbs with imperfect (yefʕelu يَفْعَلُ), such as **bel**bes[44] بلبس (cvc) **bel**besuu بلبسوا, while imperfect (yefʕulu يَفْعُلُ) verbs insert /u/ vowel, such as **buk**tub بُكْتُب (cvc) **buk**tubuu بكتبوا (cvc)

3.   The other pronouns

Other pronouns allow the verb pattern to determine the variety of the /b-/ prefix in some dialects, such as Levantine dialects . The pronouns (we إحنا , you s.m. إنتَ , you s.f. إنتي, you p. إنتو, she هيَّ, they f. هن, which is changed into she هيّ because it does not exist in most dialects, use the two varieties /b-/ (without a vowel, ccv) and /bi-/, /be-/ or /bu-/ (with a vowel, cvc). See table (5).

A.   Patterns that use /b-/ without a vowel
1.   Pattern 1 (feʕele فَعَلَ)
a.   Saalim سالم

<div dir="rtl">بنقدر[45]</div>

bnigdar   ccv   we can

<div dir="rtl">منُكتُب[46]</div>

Mnuktub   ccv   we will write

It is noticed that the prefix /b-/ changes into many forms according to the pronoun in the Syrian dialect; it is changet into /m-/ in the 1st person plural talking. In Tripoli in Lebanon mnektob (we will

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40   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 96.
41   Holes, *Colloquial Arabic of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia*, p. 139.
42   Hajjé and Cantineau, *Le parler Arabe de Tripoli (Liban)*, p. 47.
43   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 98-100.
44   Cantineau and Helbaoui, *Manuel élémentaire d'Arabe Oriental (parler de Damas)*, p. 26.
45   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 111.
46   Cantineau and Helbaoui, *Manuel élémentaire d'Arabe Oriental (parler de Damas)*, p. 219.

write); mnilbas (we will wear)[47]. Also some dialects change the voiced prefix /b-/ to voiceless /p-/ as happens in Hawran, such as katab كتب **pt**uktub (she will write), **pt**ilbas (she will wear)[48]. This change may occur because of the existence of the voiceless of the conjugation (t-); it affects the prefix /b-/ and changes it into voiceless (p-).

> b.   Mehmuuz مهموز

بناخده قدوة

bnaaxduh qudwe   ccv

We consider him as a role model for us

بتقرا قرآن

btiqra qurʔaan   ccv

She reads the Quran

btisʔel   ccv[49]

> c.   muʕtell معتلّ

i.Weak 1st (miθeel مثال)

بنوصل[50]

bniwSal   ccv

We arrive

ii. Weak 3rd (naaqiS ناقص)

الكيك اللي بنحشيه

ʔil keek ʔilli **bn**iHʃiih   ccv

The cake that we fill

> 2.   Pattern 4 (ʔefʕele أَفْعَلَ) root SaHiiH الجذر صحيح

بتنجب[51]

btinʒib ccv

She gives birth

> 3.   Pattern 5 (tefeʕʕele تَفَعَّلَ)

بتتزوّج[52]

btitzewweʒ   ccv

you will marry

> 4.   Pattern 6 (tefeeʕele تَفَاعَلَ)

بنتواصل[53]

bnitwaaSal ccv

We are getting in contact

> 5.   Pattern 7 (ʔinfeʕele إِنْفَعَلَ)

بتنبسط[54]

btinbisiT   ccv

You will be happy

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[47]   Hajjé, Cantineau, *Le parler Arabe de Tripoli (Liban)*, p. 26-27, Cantineau, *Les Parlers Arabes du Hōrân*, p. 219; see also, Cantineau and Helbaoui, *Manuel élémentaire d'Arabe Oriental (parler de Damas)*, p. 26.

[48]   Cantineau, *Les Parlers Arabes du Hōrân*, p. 219; see also, Cantineau and Helbaoui, *Manuel élémentaire d'Arabe Oriental (parler de Damas,* p. 26.

[49]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 104

[50]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 105

[51]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 106

[52]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 106-107

[53]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 107.

[54]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 108.

6.   Pattern 8 (ʔifteʕele اِفْتَعَلَ)

bniʕtimid   ccv

We rely on

7.   Pattern 10 (ʔistefʕele اِسْتَفْعَلَ)

بنستخدم[55]

bnistexdim   ccv

We use

B.   Patterns that use /b-/ with a vowel

On the other hand, the other patterns must insert a vowel after the prefix /b-/ in the Syrian dialects. For example,

1.   Pattern 1. (feʕele فَعَلَ)

a.   SaHiiH doubled (muDaʕʕaf صحيح مضعف)

بِنْحِلّها

binHillhee   cvc

We can solve it

b.   Weak 2nd (ʔeʒwef أجوف)

بِنْكون

binkuun   cvc

We should be

بتشوف[56]

bitʃuuf   cvc

You will know

2.   Pattern 2, feʕʕele فَعَّلَ

بتغطّيه

bitɣaTTiih   cvc

You cover it

بِتْخَلفي

bitxelfii   cvc

You (3 s. f.) will give birth

3.   Pattern 3 feeʕel فَاعَل

مصر بتعاني[57]

MiSr **bit**ʕeenii   cvc

Egypt suffers

بيحاربوها[58]

biyHaarbuuha   cvc

They are fighting her

4.   Pattern 4 ʔefʕele أفْعَلَ root muʕtell الجذر مُعْتَلّ

بتقيم علاقات

bitqiim ʕalaqaat   cvc

It have relations

Table (6)

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[55]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 110.

[56]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 111-112.

[57]   Elshorbagy, *the Prefixes in Urban Arabic Dialect*, p. 115-116

[58]   Bakalla, *the Morphological and Phonological Components*, p. 315.

Varieties of the prefix /b-/ according to the verb pattern

Pattern	Verb form	The variety of /b-/	Example
1	Feʕeleَفَعَل		
	SaHiiH صحيح		
	seelim سالم	/b-/	bniqdar بنقدر
	muDaʕʕaf مضعَّف	/bi-/	binHilhee بنحلها
	mehmuuz مهموز	/b-/	btiqra بنقرا
	muʕtellّمُعْتَل		
	Weak 1st mıθeel مثال	/b-/	bnuwSal بنوصل
	Weak 2nd eʒwef أجوف	/bi-/	bitʃuuf بِتْشوف
	Weak 3rd naaqiS	/b-/	bniHʃiih بنحشيه
2	Feʕʕeleّفَعَّل	/bi-/	binʃeɣluh بِنْشغْله
3	Feeʕele فاعل	/bi-/	bitʕeenii بِتْعاني
4	ʔefʕeleَأفْعَل		
	Root SaHiiH الجذر صحيح	/b-/	btinʒib
	Root eʒwef الجذر أجوف	/bi-/	bitqiim
5	Tefeʕʕeleَتَفَعَّل	/b-/	bnitnewweʕ بِنْتْنَوّع
6	Tefeeʕele تَفاعَل	/b-/	btitʒeewez بِتْجاوَز
7	ʔinfeʕeleَإنْفَعَل	/b-/	btinbisiT بِتْنْبِسط
8	ʔifteʕeleَافْتَعَل	/b-/	bniʕtimid بِنِعْتَمِد
1 0	ʔistefʕeleَاسْتَفْعَل	/b-/	bnistexdim بنستخدم

Conclusion

As what is seen from the analysis of the corpus collected from the different Arabic dialects, the arabic speakers use the many prefixes with imperfect verbs to produce three tenses: habitual, progressive and future.

The prefix /b-/ and its varieties are the most used prefix to produce the three tenses:present simple (habitual actions), present continuous (progressive) and future. On the other hand, the prefix /h-/ is only used to produce future.

The most conspicuous feature in some dialects is that they use both prefixes /b-/ and /h-/ quite equally to produce future tense, such as in the urban dialect in Gaza. This refers to that some dialects belong to a group of dialects in some features, while it belongs to another group of dialects in some other features; for instance, Urban dialect in Gaza belongs to Egyptian dialect in some features, such as both dialects do not change the /b-/ prefix into /m-/ as Levantine dialects do. On the other hand, the urban dialect of Gaza belongs to the Levantine dialects in some other features, such as using the prefix /b-/ without the vowel (i) with some pronouns and verb patterns.

Although some regions are very spaced, they have same feature of the Arabic prefixes. For example, dialects in Yemen, Rural Egypt and Morocco (Larache) use the /ʕa-/ prefix to produce future tense.

Because each Arabic dialect has its own distinctive linguistic features, many linguists believe that there are considerable differences among various Arabic dialects, and also among the standard Arabic and

the Arabic dialects; the linguists described the dialectical situation as "a linguistic dichotomy"[59], but I believe otherwise. During my study I found that the morphological differences among Arabic dialects are not significant, and sometimes are very slight, and many linguists believe that most Arab people do not worry about the state of diglossia.[60] Arabic as a Foreign Language (AFL) teachers should believe in this concept to be able to convince their students that the Arabic dialects are only different varieties of the standard Arabic; therefore, it is easy for the student who learns standard Arabic, as an example, to learn any dialect.

Moreover, such comparative sociolinguistic studies have many benefits, some of them are that comparative linguistic and sociolinguistic studies allow us to classify dialects into groups. Additionally, we can find the rules that explain some linguistic phenomena, such as from where all these prefixes emerged, why they are different, why some distant regions use the same prefix, while close regions use different prefixes., Furthermore, these studies clarify the historical vision of the dialects; when different Arabic dialects are studied, we can reach the older dialect from which many Arabic dialects were derived.

Table (7)
Transliteration list

Arabic form	Transliteration symbol
Consonants	
ء	ʔ
ب	b
پ	p
ت	t
ث	θ
ج	ʒ
ح	H
خ	x
د	d
ذ	ð
ر	R
ز	z
س	s
ش	ʃ
ص	S
ض	D
ط	T
ظ	Z
ع	ʕ
غ	ɣ

59   Amal Farris, *Diglossia in Arabic Speech Communities: The Classical Language Compared With the Syrian Vernacular*, 1975, p. 11, (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED117975) Retrieved May 6, 2009, from ERIC database)

60   Anwar G. Chejne, *The Arabic Language: It's Role in History*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1969, p. 162.

Arabic form	Transliteration symbol
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
هـ	h
و	w
ي	y
Vowels	
FatHah (short vowel) بَ	a
a (long vowel) ا	aa
Damah (short vowel) بُ	u
u (long vowel) و	uu
Kasrah (short vowel) بِ	i
i (long vowel) ي	ii
Close-mid front vowel (short)	e
Close-mid front vowel (long)	ee
Close-mid back vowel (short)	o
Close-mid back vowel (long)	oo

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