

Abstract

This research deals with the Arabic vowels, /a/, /u / and /i/ (short sounds) . In addition, it deals with /a:/, /u:/,/i:/ (long sounds). AL-Khalil Ben Ahmed proved that the Arabic vowels start from /a/. He also proved that the differences among the vowels in their manner of articulation is due to the different forms and shapes of throat , mouth, lips and the position of the tongue when they are articulated . Hence, vowels vary in clarity: the /a/ sound is clearer than /u/, and the /u/ is clearer than /i/. The differences in their clarity may be due to the different amount of air forming a sound in a syllable, as the difference between /a/ and /a:/ is merely a difference in the amount of air. Likewise, the difference between /i/ and /i:/ as well as /u / and/ u:/ is the same . The Arabic vowels is distinguished by the fact that each phoneme has another substitute. So, changing or replacing it with another one must lead to a difference in meaning.

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J.R.Firth,papers in linguistics, p.33			(79)
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