

The Prosodic Pattern of Words in
Adult-Child Jordanian Arabic

by

Dr Mohammad Anani

Department of English

Petra University, Amman, Jordan

The subject matter of this research is to determine the predominant prosodic pattern of words in naturally occurring utterances and to find out the roles that phonological stress have in structure reinforcement, in conjunction with other parameters such as the distribution of prominent/non-prominent syllables, tone-group boundaries or rhythm. Although description of Arabic stress has been firmly placed in the center of interest, it is only restricted to instances either drawn by elicitation or by introspection. Monahan, P. (2002), for example, makes a three-way distinction based on syllable weight: Light (CV), heavy (CVC or CVV) and super heavy (CVVC, or CVCC) syllables. Unlike Abu Salem (1987) who proposes a trochaic foot structure in Palestinian Arabic (PA), Monahan claims that the preferred foot structure in (PA) is trimoraic. He is not sure, for instance, about the presence of a bimoraic foot (LL) and he has not yet seen examples of (LLH)" *op.cit* p 185 . This study is therefore concerned with the description of the basic phonological structures underlying the various types of Jordanian Arabic natural spontaneous utterances . The relevant factors which might have led to select one or the other of prominent syllables are considered.

The corpus\of study on which analysis is based consists of texts recorded for conversational exchanges between adult and child in natural conversational settings. There are three conversational exchanges: Exchange I: This exchange was between Issa, 41 months old and Amina, 23 years old. Isa and Amina are native speakers of Jordanian Arabic .

Exchange II.: Conversational exchange II represents an exchange between Sarah, 38 months old and her mother.

Exchange III: Exchange III represents a recording made at Ahmad's home. his sister Hanan was the chief interactant.

Exchange IV: This exchange is a conversation between Omar, 3 years old and his sister , Nisreen, 7 years old.

There are\basically two recognized\stress patterns distinguished according to whether the underlying structure of a disyllabic word is (SW) or (WS). Verbs and nouns are analysed in terms of prominent and non-pominent syllables . They are paired together in the prosodic formation of the foot. The foot pattern follows the following order:

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