Abstract

Arabic exclamatory sentences are formally marked by the presence of the particle of intensification \textit{\`ma} followed directly by a (comparative) adjectival almost invariably of the structure \textit{(\`aCCaC)} + a pronominal suffix (e.g. \textit{\`ma + \`atwal + ak \`a}). They are distinguishable in part from other sentence types by lengthening vocalic as well as consonantal segments of the constituent syllables. The vocalic as well as the consonantal segments of exclamatory sentences are given considerably greater than would normally have been the case, say, in contexts of situation where a statement of fact is being reported.