The Manchester Forum in Linguistics
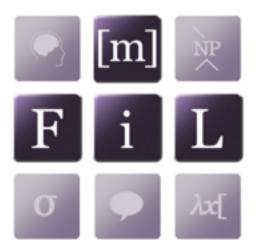
Certificate of Attendance

This is to certify that Ms. GHADA ALKUWAIHES attended the Manchester Forum in Linguistics (mFiL), presenting the talk "*A syntactic analysis of vocative exclamatives in Gulf Arabic*" at the University of Manchester on 6th - 7th November 2015.

Signed *Henri Kauhanen*

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A Syntactic Analysis of Vocative Exclamatives in Gulf Arabic
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Research into vocative exclamatives (VocE) is based on the traditional grammar of Standard Arabic which considers the structure of VocEs to be similar to that of vocatives due to use of the vocative particle (yā "O") (Sibawayh 1977), first published in the 6th century, (Ryding 2005, and Hassan 2010). The problem with this traditional view lies in the fact that it only accounts for vocative exclamatives in terms of their similarity to vocatives. However, their underlying structure and derivation have not been given much attention. Therefore, this paper examines the syntactic structure and the derivation of verbless vocative exclamatives (VocE) in Gulf Arabic providing an analysis of the data within the Minimalist Framework (Chomsky 1995). It also sheds light on the main differences between their structure and that of vocatives in terms of word order, definiteness and functional features.

I argue that vocative exclamatives are derived via ellipsis and that and the VocE particle (yā "O") marks the sentence as a vocative exclamative. I propose that Focus is a condition of the ellipsis process and this ellipsis is licensed because of the Focus properties.

1. yā ħallat-ha!
   O-cuteness-her
   "How cute she is!"

2. yā saʕādat-ī!
   O-happiness-mine
   "How happy I am!"

Each of the VocEs in (1) and (2) has the following syntactic structure:

- A pragmatic marker called a VocE particle, which is placed in the head of the VocE.
- This particle is followed by a FocP with which is merged to create a VocEP.
- FocP appears in the structure of the vocative exclamative due to its necessity in hosting the DP prior to the ellipsis operation of the TP.
- A possessive pronoun is attached to the Focused noun in a "construct state", that is, two nouns are linked together to specify a possessive relationship (Brustad 2000).
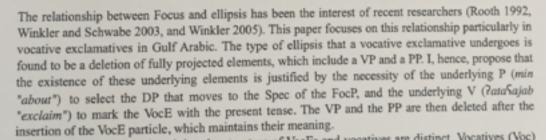
I argue that the vocative exclamative in (1) is derived from the following sentence, and that its underlying structure can be represented as in (4):

3. ʔataʕajab min ħallat-ha
   exclaim about cuteness-her
   "I exclaim about her cuteness."

4. [VocEP [VocE yā] [FocP [DP$_i$ ħallat-ha] [TP [T' [T] [vP [v' [v] [VP [V ʔataʕajab] [PP [P min] [t$_i$ ...]]]]]]]]]

The relationship between Focus and ellipsis has been the interest of recent researchers (Rooth 1992, Winkler and Schwabe 2003, and Winkler 2005). This paper focuses on this relationship particularly in vocative exclamatives in Gulf Arabic. The type of ellipsis that a vocative exclamative undergoes is found to be a deletion of fully projected elements, which include a VP and a PP. I, hence, propose that the existence of these underlying elements is justified by the necessity of the underlying P (min "about") to select the DP that moves to the Spec of the FocP, and the underlying V (ʔataʕajab "exclaim") to mark the VocE with the present tense. The VP and the PP are then deleted after the insertion of the VocE particle, which maintains their meaning.

The analysis has found that the structure of VocEs and vocatives are distinct. Vocatives (Voc) disallow the use of the definite article, while VocEs allow having it as in the following:

5. yā aðˤ-ðˤakī! [VocE]
   O the-smart
   How smart you are!

6. *yā al-walad. [Voc]
   O the-boy
   Boy!

The interpersonal feature [i-p] and the second person feature [2p] associated with the Voc particle are another distinct property of Vocs, which do not exist in VocEs. These functional features are what trigger the derivation of vocatives rather than the relation between Focus and ellipsis.

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