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Rethinking Vocative and Vocative Exclamative Particles in Arabic

Virtual Presentation

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NORTH AND SOUTH: GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNESCO-CI HEADLINES IN ENGLISH, FRENCH AND SPA
LAURA DOMINGUEZ-GARCIA, CARMEN CORTÉS ZABORRAS.
PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES: ILLUSTRATIONS FROM VELAR VOWELS IN COLOMBIAN VARIETIES
SPANISH
CAMILO ENRIQUE DÍAZ ROMERO
RETHINKING VOCATIVE AND VOCATIVE EXCLAMATIVE PARTICLES IN ARABIC
GHADA ALKUWAIHES
THE SOCRATIC DIALECTIC ON NAMEGIVING AND A BRAND-NEW PHONOSEMANTIC THEORY
ALEXEI MEDVEDEV
TOWARDS THE INTERLANGUAGE THEORY: PRONOMINAL CLITICS IN NON-NATIVE SPEECH
PRODUCTION
SAVELINA BANOVA
WORD-FINAL SHORT VOWELS IN CLASSICAL PUNJABI
AAMIR ZAHEER
GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE USE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES: A CASE STUDY OF
LEARNERS AT POSTGRADUATE LEVEL IN PAKISTAN
SUMAIRA QANWAL, ANILA KHAN

RETHINKING VOCATIVE AND VOCATIVE EXCLAMATIVE PARTICLES IN ARABIC*

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ABSTRACT
The grammar of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) identifies one type of exclamatives as vocative exclamatives (VocE) due to the use of the vocative (Voc) particle *yā* (Sibawayh, 1977) and (Hassan, 2010). It only accounts for one type of VocE particles that exists in MSA, which is *yā*, and focuses on the functions and case-marking systems of Voc and VocE particles. However, the VocE particle *ʔayā*, which exists in Gulf Arabic (GA), has not received much attention. In addition, there is no in depth analysis of the properties or structures of Voc and VocE particles in Gulf Arabic to the best of my knowledge. Therefore, the aim of this research is to investigate the properties and structures of VocE particles in GA, and identify the relationship between them and Voc particles in MSA. It also aims at contributing a new approach towards the analysis of these particles following Tsoulas (2016) in considering particles to be complex and decomposable into two heads.

1. INTRODUCTION TO PARTICLES

This paper focuses on the nature of two vocative exclamative particles in Gulf Arabic; (i) *yā*, and (ii) *ʔayā*, and investigates the relationship between these particles and the vocative particles, which exist in Modern Standard Arabic. A vocative exclamative is a type of exclamatives formed with a VocE particle. In MSA, only the particle *yā* is used in exclamatives, whereas in Gulf Arabic *ʔayā* is used in addition to *yā*. The term *"vocative exclamative"* is used in the grammar of MSA due to the use of the vocative particle *yā*. Since the grammar of MSA considers the structure of vocative exclamatives to be similar to that of vocatives, there is no much research done on vocative exclamatives to the best of my knowledge. In order to identify the properties of VocE particles, it is important to shed light on the properties of Voc particles to point out the relationship between them. Below is a list of vocative and vocative exclamative particles that exist in MSA and GA:

- Vocative Particles in MSA: *ʔa - ʔai - ʔā - ʔayā - hayā - yā*[1]
- Vocative Exclamative Particle in MSA: *yā*
- Vocative Exclamative Particles in GA: *yā - ʔayā*

The structures and properties of particles have become the interest of recent researches (Tsoulas, 2015), (Tsoulas, 2015), (Oshima, 2015), (Biberauer and Sheehan, 2011), (Biberauer et al., 2014), and earlier (Tsoulas and Alexiadou, 2006). The term "particles" is an umbrella that covers a wide range of linguistic items. It has been thought of particles as pragmatic markers that add a specific meaning to the structure. However, having an accurate definition of particles in the linguistic theory seems to be challenging. Zwicky defines particles as:

> The particle is a ubiquitous notion in syntax. The most common use of the term is to label items which, in contrast to those in established word classes of a language, have (a) peculiar semantics and (b) idiosyncratic distribution. Thus 'particle' is a cover term for items that do not fit easily into syntactic and semantic generalizations about the language.
> (1985, p. 290)

Particles vary in their syntactic functions and semantic denotations, and exhibit different properties accordingly. General syntactic properties have been identified negatively (Biberauer and Sheehan, 2011) and (Biberauer et al., 2014) as follows:

1. Particles lack inflectional endings.
2. They occupy fixed positions.

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[1] The Arabic IPA used in this paper is based on (Alghamdi, 2020).
/ʔ/ glottal stop, /ʕ/ pharyngeal voiceless fricative, /a/ central vowel, fronted /æ/, /ū/ and /ī/ are long vowels.