

## Phonological Analysis of Arabic Language Linguistic Review Ferdinand De Saussure

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### Abstract

*This research was conducted on the basis of an important role related to the re-analysis of Arabic phonology because language and human life are two inseparable phenomena. The emergence of a modern view of language known as modern linguistic theory in the 19th or early 20th century made the world of linguistics not only focus on traditional linguistic theory. Arabic has a sound with its own meaning, so sound errors can lead to misinterpretations. The existence of structural theory made an update on studies related to linguistics and then gave rise to the figure of Ferdinand De Saussure who is known as the "Father of Modern Linguistics" which can raise awareness to review the role of reviewing modern linguistics in the process of learning foreign languages, especially Arabic.*

### Keywords

phonology; arabic; modern linguistics



### I. Introduction

Language is an object of linguistic study that has an important role in everyday human activities. Both are related so that they cannot be separated from each other which makes it easier to interact with each other. It must be emphasized before discussing further if the language that will be discussed here is in the form of a sound or speech system that applies to all humans, especially Arabic.

One part of the study linguistics is phonology which will generally talk about all things related to language sounds that must be known as Arabic learners. Krisdalaksana gave his opinion about what is meant by sound, which is an impression attached to the nerve center due to the effect of drum vibrations in the ear so that it gives a reaction due to the shift in pressure in the air. So the conclusion that is intended is that the sound here is what comes out of the human speaker's senses.

Meanwhile Ronal Wardhaough provides a definition of language is a set of systems with symbols that are used by humans to communicate with each other. Seeing from the above understanding, the definition of language is a symbol, which when combined with each other is what is finally appointed as a linguistic study. Ferdinand De Saussure as the "Father of Modern Linguistics" is famous for his ideas on synchronic or diachronic studies in language, and three other ideas whose ideas at that time had never been raised in any linguistic discussion or issue. Furthermore, Ferdinand also discussed three language domains which he thought were very dominant, namely *langage* (general language which is abstract), *langue* (special language which is abstract) and *parole* (which is dominant towards the psychology of language). In the realm of linguistics that can be included in the study is *langue*, not *parole*.

Another discussion that is still related to modern linguistics is the assumption that it can be understood or obtained because of continuous practice or repetition every day. This view is expressed by structuralists whose direction is more towards *behaviorism* which

states that all related things can happen if there is a habituation factor or practice and habit. This assumption illustrates that if someone wants to get a language in his life, he must do it continuously, as Indonesian is obtained because of the environment and work that uses that language as well as Arabic.

Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being (Purba, N. et al. (2020)). The existence of this modern linguistic review needs to be analyzed whether it is appropriate in the application of Arabic learning which in the end also raises a question about whether modern linguistics is very urgent in learning Arabic which has slight differences in each phonology and verbal pronunciation.

## **II. Research Method**

This study uses a literature study, which is a research that searches using books or also writings related to the title. Associated with Arabic phonological analysis: a review of modern linguistics research is also carried out with references to the titles of writings that are still related. In order to further strengthen the writing below, the author adds a bibliography and also footnotes to find out the origin of the references.

## **III. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1 Phonological Definition and Theory**

The definition of phonology comes from the combination of two Greek words, namely phone and logos. By definition, phone means sound and logos means system or science. Experts also explain the meaning of phonology, namely Abdul Chaer who explains that the origin of phonology is fon (sound) and logi (science). Taken in terms of terminology if phonology is a field of linguistics that examines or analyzes that discusses the sequence of sounds and language. Through the previous explanation, the essence can be drawn if the meaning of the phonological discussion that still exists in linguistic studies where the explanation in it is related to the sequence of language sounds.

In Arabic understanding, the science of sound or phonology can also be called the science of al-Aswat whose field of science examines all things regarding the formation and transfer and reception of language sounds. Starting from the release of a language sound so that it turns into an utterance that has meaning that is conveyed to the opponent into a language as a whole so that this becomes part of the study of phonology and the content of functions and meanings in it.

Looking at the explanation above, it can be concluded that phonology is part of the field of linguistics which includes a discussion of language sounds which fall into two categories, namely phonetics and phenomic. It is still in the part of phonology that phonetics is included in the discussion related to the sound of language without any influence of meaning in it. Phonemes are discussions of language sounds that have an influence on their meaning. For more details, let's go into a further discussion of phonological theory below:

#### **a. Phonological Study Group**

In the study of phonology sounds of language can be classified as follows:

1. Phonetics is part of a branch of science related to sound by studying sound problems without paying attention to the use and meaning of sound. One example is the rules for producing a sound, where the letters come out and their characteristics.

2. Phonemes, being a component of the smallest part of the sound system of language which has its own function, are different in meaning. To identify a phoneme, it can be applied by comparing the two language units that have the same sound whose meaning does not have the same meaning. If transferred to other letters so that the resulting meaning can be different.
3. Alofun, which is the smallest part of language that does not have a function that can be used as a distinguishing characteristic, which means that if there is a replacement it will not affect the meaning contained. For example, nun izhar and nun ikhfa.

## **b. Kind of Sound**

From the explanation contained in the characteristics of sound, linguists divide it into three parts, namely:

1. Vowel, which is a sound that comes through the vibration of the vocal cords without any constriction of the vocal tract. The sound of this language becomes a process through the air that runs without interruption whose output does not experience obstacles or difficulties. Included in the vowels are fathah, kasrah and dhammah. The sound can also be referred to as a sounding bunti and the process of its exit through penetrating the vocal cord valves with pressure. Then furthermore, the production of air coming through the lungs does not get its blockage in the throat and oral cavity and also does not come from the narrowing in the airways that causes displacement. Various vowel sounds in Arabic commentary from Arabic phonetic linguists are divided into three aspects, which are based on the length of the vowels, thick, thin and singular and compound vowels.

### **a) Aspects of Long Short Vowels**

In line with what has been written in the book *Al-Aswat Al-Arabiyyah* by the author Kamal Muhamed Bisyr, the vowel classification can be divided into 2 parts, namely long vowels and short vowels.

- 1) Long vowels: In Arabic studies, it is commonly known as mad whose pronunciation needs to be twice the duration of short vowels. An Arabic word that has a long vowel has a different meaning or meaning from a similar word with different long and short pronunciations. The transition of vowels from long to short or vice versa can have an influence on the meaning that appears.
- 2) Short vowels: the opposite of the meaning of long vowels which means that in Arabic some of the letters contain short vowels.

### **b) Aspect Thick Thin Vowel**

Regarding this aspect, the classification of vowel sounds in Arabic can be categorized into three types, namely thick, semi-thick and thin vowels. Meanwhile, what is included in the phoneme is that which gives different forms and meanings of a word, namely thin vowels. The full explanation is below:

- 1) Thick vowels: Commonly known as mufakhamah, the vowels contained in palatal consonants. Shot, Dho, Tho.
- 2) Semi-bold vowels: That is, vowels are in velar consonants, namely the letters ghoin, kho, qaf.
- 3) Thin vowels: What is classified as thin vowels are all vowels contained in consonants other than the consonants mentioned above.

### **c) The Single Aspect of the Compound Vowel**

The grouping here is based on the presence or absence of the original vowel combination. Single vowels are also called monophthongs, in contrast to double

or compound vowels which are also known as diphthongs (as a combination of two vowels) and triphthongs (as a combination of three vowels).

2. Consonant, which is a language sound that comes through the result of airflow obstruction contained in the part of the sound flow above the glottis. The mechanism of sound production is in the airways passing through the mouth and the barrier is in articulation. For example, the sound of popping, shifting, sound with sound and no sound. The main obstacle for this consonant sound is in the air flow that passes through the strong or weak barrier which can later make a pop or shift appear. Sounds that fall into the type of consonants are all types whose air passes through the nose when it is articulated or sounds that come out of the air through the left or right side of the mouth. There are 26 consonants in Arabic, one example is the letter ba.

Some linguists state that there are 28 consonants in Arabic. There are also those who state that if the consonants consist of 26 letters, the opinion that states 26 are those who do not include the letters wawu and yes. The difference between semi-vowels and consonants is that there is a scientific order, but when it is practiced, people think that they are the same. Semi-vowels have consonant properties that vowels do not have.

3. Semi-vowel, which is a type of sound that can be said to be a semi-consonant because of its nature which has various similarities to the nature of consonants. His voice is not very clear to the ear and the timing is fast for his speech. The semi-vowel sound when it is spoken, the organ that has taken a position as if it will declare a vowel, then briefly the organ speaks and changes its position as if it is pronouncing another vowel. In short, the sound that is issued is not the first and second, but the other sounds, for example yes and wawu.

Semi-vowel sounds have a way of pronunciation that is almost the same as the pronunciation of vowels. In practice, it is almost the same as a consonant but where the sound comes out so that it becomes a point of resistance in the flow of air through the lungs. In terms of barriers, there are two kinds of semi-vocal sounds, namely bilabial semi-vocals and mid-palatal semi-vowels. Bilabial is a semi-vowel whose articulator utilizes the lower lip and passive articulator on the upper lip. While the mid-palatal ie semi-vocal takes place when the active articulator is in the middle of the tongue and the passive articulator is located on the hard palate.

### **3.2 An Overview of Modern Linguistics in Arabic Phonology**

Before proceeding further in discussing modern linguistic reviews in Arabic phonology, it is necessary to understand in advance if language learning can be carried out by carrying out the following methods:

- a. Inductive method: a method that is used as a parser for all special things before finally drawing its general benefits. If it is used as a support in learning Arabic, it could be an opportunity for some elaboration of examples related to Arabic and then taken again as language rules.
- b. Deductive method: which is a method whose meaning is opposite to the inductive method, in which the frame of the method begins with a general thing and then is partitioned into a special form examples related to Arabic.

Furthermore, it is based on a number of modern linguistic theories on a language which explains that language is a sign system with arbitrary and conventional characteristics, language becomes an utterance, language is also a result obtained through habitual factors (habituation), whose process in language is the manifestation of SR

(stimulus-response), and language grammar is based on a group of factors that are generally believed, from that explanation, Lado gives discourse 17 points of several principles in the process of teaching and learning languages using modern structuralist linguistic theory in a language below:

1. The principle of speech precedes writing, because writing in terms of language is a manifestation of the existence of speech.
2. The principle of simple sentences is used as the basic material for communication because the language learning process is required to prioritize a gradual process.
3. The principle of establishing patterns to become habits, such as the use of the S+P+(O) pattern and vice versa.
4. The principle of using a sound system that still maintains speech.
5. Principles in developing and controlling the vocabulary (vocabulary).
6. The principle of mediating the problem.
7. The principle of writing becomes a manifestation of speech, so using learning through spoken voice is the main learning and is prioritized before going deep into written learning.
8. The principle is to present the pattern in a step-by-step manner, starting with the S+P pattern and then changing it to S+P+O then adding K (description) or vice versa.
9. The principle for forming responses in language actions is to produce a response from a stimulus.
10. The principle of avoiding language translation. Without translating the destination language into the mother tongue.
11. The principle of using basic linguistic standards even though there is no use of non-standard language when using it.
12. The principle of learning language through practice.
13. The principle of normalization in the acceleration of language style.
14. The principle of re-emphasis.
15. The principle of the direction of the target language culture.
16. Principles of content in language
17. The principle of providing benefits in good language.

With this set of principles and the many methods or techniques of learning Arabic, language phonology actually has a different meaning from modern linguistic theory which has made the growth and development of language skills through one technique, namely practice. The principle that is discussed above in modern linguistics and Arabic phonology is what ultimately becomes the guideline for why it is important to conduct a phonological analysis of Arabic in terms of modern linguistics.

In terms of practice, the principle of Lado du above, there are a number of things that must be done to make Arabic language learning maximally possible by using a modern linguistic approach using the method below:

- a) Practice by continuously repeating the utterances using Arabic which is done so that it can become a habit in Arabic pronunciation.
- b) Exercises to change sentence types are carried out with the aim of students not only understanding a sentence in Arabic.
- c) Exercises to expand the meaning in a sentence. This practice is carried out with the aim of students not only understanding the S + P sentence pattern but in a wider range.
- d) Exercises to connect what is practiced with the aim that students can play cohesion and coherence from the existence of sentences.

To deepen the Arabic language, a structuralist approach is urgently needed which can be done using the following method, an example of which is taken when using the deductive method in the language teaching process:

- 1) Take notes on the rules of the Arabic language to be used as a guide
- 2) Make the separation correctly in line with the applicable Arabic language guidelines
- 3) Practicing it in activities that use Arabic

In fact, phonology, which is a branch of linguistics with the concept of reading sounds, needs to be reviewed with modern science because of the nature of science that always develops over time. One of the most prominent modern steps is to practice directly because language is realized because of the habits that exist in the surrounding environment. Regarding the pronunciation itself, we return to the first principle, namely speech precedes writing, so it becomes natural when someone can pronounce Arabic pronunciation and meaning correctly but write it wrong.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Phonology is part of the field of linguistics which includes a discussion of language sounds which fall into two categories, namely phonetics and phonemics. It is still in the part of phonology that phonetics is included in the discussion related to the sound of language without any influence of meaning in it. Phonemes are discussions of language sounds that have an influence on meaning.

In the realm of modern linguistic discussion, there is an underlying principle which is written down in detail, there are 17 points and if taken in outline it emphasizes that the main purpose of language is understanding the meaning of the sounds issued by the mouth, in this case the way to get to the truth of this meaning can be done by practice language in everyday life. Practice practice by repeating it later can also lead to correcting the right sound gradually.

Ferdinand in the introduction also conveyed several things that were in line, namely that language was very dominant in three domains, including *langage* (abstract general language), *langue* (abstract specific language) and *parole* (which was dominant in the direction of language psychology). In the realm of linguistics that can be included in the study, *langue* is not *parole*, namely language that is abstract in nature, like in general or in certain languages, so that it is in line with the conclusions above if language in general can be understood by other people who are invited as opposed to interacting then the specific goal is to avoid misunderstandings in Arabic phonology, which have some similar letters, so that if the pronunciation is wrong, the meaning will also be wrong.



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