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## Diminutive in Both English and Arabic Languages

M.A. Al-Shawi\*

### Introduction

In English, it is uncontroversial to view *-ling*, *-y*, *-let*, and *-ette* as derivational suffixes, because diminutive formation is not part of any general, syntactically driven paradigm. One good argument for this view is that no syntactic rule of English needs to make reference to the property 'x-diminutive'. But the reverse is the case in some other languages (Houghton, M. 1990). Thus, we compare diminutive in English with that of Arabic in which diminutive formation is based on fixed patterns and followed certain rules.

It is not easy to predict whether inflectional or derivational will be used to signal a particular concept as "diminutive", therefore we must remain skeptical about semantically based criteria for separating inflection from derivation.

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### \*Pattern Diminutive In both English and Arabic.

English has a few common diminutives, such as "kitty", "sonny", "dinette" (small dining room), "diskette" (a floppy disk). However, English makes particular use of a *y* / *ie*, *ette*, the morpheme *let* occurs when the resultant meaning endings (Langley, et al, 1982), AND SIMILAR FORMS have been noted

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in several other languages, such as Japanese -koGilyak-ki-q. In Spanish, most nouns and adjectives have diminutive forms, which is equivalent to modifying a word with little -ito, -cito (dedito, camioncito). Latin diminutive such as gladiolus (a small sword), "-chen" is used more in North and "-lein" is used more in Southern Germany. Many people across world, when speaking to children, adjust their speech to express endearment, affection, and smallness. One way of emphasizing these connotations involves the use of diminutive derivations as in *beddy* or *patty*.

The pragmatic and semantic features of diminutives seems to be universal (Johnston, 1973) which would lead one to expect that the frequency of diminutives in children speech should be similar across Languages.

English diminutives can be derived only from a very limited number of proper and animate nouns, along with a few child specific -items such as blankets, pacifiers, and beds, which paves obvious constraints on the frequency of diminutives usage. Arabic diminutives, take a Language on the other extreme of this continuum, are highly productive and can be derived from concrete nouns, thus providing more structural opportunities for their usage.

We would like to argue that, in some languages such as English and Arabic, diminutive derivations have facilitating properties, which may simplify certain aspect of morphology.

If this is true then the morphological effects of diminutivatisation can act as modulating variables.

In this paper, we compare the frequency of diminutives the two languages, English and Arabic, in which diminutives can be derived from any proper name. English make particular use of (ie, ette, tet) endings. Arabic has some morpho-phonological modifications those are transparent for a majority of nouns.

#### The Nruiter Diminutive

Often express endearment neatness, or tenderness (language of Germany) and -chen and -lein denote neuter diminutive nouns. The suffixes -chen and -lein from neuter diminutive nouns of any gender. -chen is connate with -kin in *lambkin* of English. -chen is used more in North and -lein is used more in southern Germany (Harold Eddleman, ph. D, president INDIANA BIOLAB, 14045 Huff St., Palmyra In 47164)

NOUN	DIMINUTIVE
derFu"rst	DieF"urstchen

# Diminutive (a form not used in English)

The diminutive is frequently used in Brazil is usually used to show a small version of something, but depending on the context, it is also used for emphasizing, expressing affection, irony and even in idiomatic expression. It is particularly used usually when one talks to small children or refers to their things. Some linguists believe that allomorphy and ambiguity are developments in the diminutive.

## Arabic Diminutive

Arabic Diminutive is of three forms Cvcc-, Cvcvc-, CvccvC (the most common forms for underived nouns) has a bisyllabic (four - mora), pattern CuCaiC-. For four -mora nouns CvCCvC the diminutive pattern is the five -mora-trisyllabic CuCaiCiC, and five -mora nouns of the form CvCCvC, the diminutive is the six -Mora pattern CuCaiCiC. Thus, the data presents the set:

Base	Diminutive	Examples
-cvcc "dog"	Cucaic	Kalb- [kulaib]
Cvcvc "mosque"	Cucaicic	Masjid-[musaijid]
Cvccvvc "sultan"	Cucaicicic	SutTaan [sulaiTiin]

If the data offered only these forms, we would have to conclude that the diminutive is formed according to a regular change or consists in a regular proportion between in put and out put rather than being based on a fixed out put pattern. This

proportion might be characterized in terms of a set of rules adding the sequence "ai" after the first heavy syllable of the input, and changing the vowel, of the first syllable to "U". (A third rule might

be needed to account for the "i(i)", for the vowel of the third syllable of forms with three syllable. But since /i/ is the normal quality of the epenthetic vowel, we might simply assume that this is supplied by default (McCarthy, 1979, 1981).

## Diminutive Formation Rule

α>> ai I [s(mm)-

v>> u / [ c-

However, in order to account for the diminutive patterns of two- Mora nouns and six-Mora nouns, because in these cases extra segments are added or deleted, respectively to bring the outputs into conformity with the patterns of the four-mora diminutive patterns, respectively

## Diminutive of "over-short" and "over-long" Nouns

Cvc<< cucaiy ?aX>> ?Uxaiy "brother" Cvcvvcw>>

Cucaicic Cankabut- >> Cunaikib-"Spider" Most interestingly, some four-mora nouns, notably those with three consonants and a long vowel in the first syllable, cvccvc, and nouns whose first mora is supplied by a transparent prefix have alternative four-mora (cyclic-) and five-mora (cucaicic) diminutive patterns. The five -mora pattern is more common in Arabic and is the only productive pattern in modern written Arabic. However, a residual four-mora pattern for some of these nouns is also cited in the



medieval grammatical sources. Some examples, cited by (Wright, 1897, p.282-3)

Base	Diminutive
Haarith	Huwairith
"plowman">>(Hurath)	
Haamid>>(Humaid)	Huwaimid "sour"
miCTaf>>(Culaf)	muCaiTif ("coat")
?aswad>>(suwaaid)	?usaiwid "black"

The words that are in parentheses are residual diminutive patterns.

The variation has arisen because speakers have, on the bases of the same formal data, derived a different procedure for forming the diminutive. If speakers assume that diminutive is formed by an infixation rule, then proportional analogy would give the pattern Cuwaicic as in:

Rule: Infixation of -ai: >> au s(mm)

Base	<ka>b >> <kuL>ai-b >> kuLaiib <ra>gul >> <rug>ai-l >> rugail
Extensions	<Haa>rith >> <Hua>ai-rith >> Huwairith <miC> Taf >> <muC>ai-Tif >> muCailif <baC>iid >> <buC>ai- buCaid

If speakers assume that the diminutive is formed of a fixed pattern, then segmental material must be deleted to fit four-

mora inputs onto a four-mora output pattern (Baker, 1986; Heath 1987).

Rule 2: Mapping (stem consonant only) to pattern cucaic

Base	Expansion
Kul ai b Cut ai c	Harith (cyclic) > Hurath , caic >> curaic MiCTaf << muCaitif Ciccae << cucaic

Historically, the sequence of development leading to this situation might have been as follows:

1. to begin with the internal diminutive was originally restricted to underived, three-mora nouns. I have no evidence for this case of the diminutive but this seems, from comparative evidence , to have been the range of the internal plural ( see Ruteliff, R.R.1992, p.59-62)

2. The internal diminutive was then extended to four-mora.

3. Nouns, according to an output-based analogy as in (rule 2) yielding the four-mora cucaic diminutive patterns which are still attested for some of these nouns in Arabic.

4. The strategy of forming a diminutive of these nouns according to a cyclic pattern is unsatisfactory, however, because it requires loss of a significant phonetics material, possibly obscuring the connection between the diminutive and the source word. Hence, a new strategy based on proportional

analogy as in (rule1), is employed to create a new set of diminutive patterns for four-mora nouns.

Yet, what is perhaps surprising is that the four-mora diminutive has also virtually disappeared as a possibility for the reflexes of three-mora and smaller nouns.

In brief, the diminutive of historically three-mora nouns formed on the five-mora pattern, with default segments added to fill out the patterns. The extra segment is either a consonant, which provides the onset of the final syllable, or a stable vowel, which provides the nucleus of syllable. The default consonant in this case is either *y* or a copy of the second stem consonant (Ratliffe, R.R., 1991:p. 112).

### CONCLUSION

In the light of the findings arrived at in this study, it could be said that the purpose of the study has been fulfilled in the following points:

1. The frequency of diminutive in English is very limited.
2. There are a large number of diminutives in Arabic.
3. Diminutives can be derived from any concrete an animate or inanimate nouns or any proper name.
4. English makes particular use of an -ie, -let, endings.

Arabic has some morpho-phonological modifications, which are transparent for a majority of nouns.

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## Preliminary Observations on the Effect of Leaves of Qat Residues on Germination and Growth of Okra Hibiscus Esculentum

Salim M. Bin Salman

### Abstract:

A preliminary study was undertaken to examine the effects of leaves of qat residues on germination and growth of okra. This study was conducted on 11th of Nov. 2002 at the department of Biology 'College of Education' - Mukalla, by the application of qat leaves residues at rates of 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 gm/pot on okra seeds. The preliminary trial was arranged in a completely randomized design with four replications. Then, several morphological and physiological plant traits were monitored. The results indicate significant positive effects on the parameters monitored compared to the control, of which rates of 10 gm/pot show the highest effect. In conclusion, this preliminary study shows that treatment of 10 gm/pot could be recommended as a good indicator to be used on such type of study. However, further investigations were needed.

### Introduction:

The term allelopathy may be applied to the phenomenon of biochemical interaction among plants. The term also refers to the effect of plant on others through releasing chemical compounds. These effects include positive as well as negative effects ( Rice 1984, Saied 1990 ).

The allelopathy is a process by which a plant releases several chemical compounds into the environment which inhibit the growth of another plant in the same or neighboring habitat (Rice

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