The Phonological Features of the Dead Sea Dialect In Southern Jordan: A Comparative Study

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Abstract
Dialectology is both concerned with the empirical investigation of the variability of grammars and phonology. Thus, the goal of this research is to examine the phonological features of Dead Sea Dialect, a Jordanian Arabic variety that is performed by speakers reside in Southern Agwar Region. The paper proposes that Dead Sea Dialect has many distinguished phonological peculiarities compared to other dialects in Jordan. This research confirms the generalization of other studies relevant to Jordanian dialect which investigated Bedouin dialects in central Jordan. This assertion raises the query that; is the Dead Sea Dialect spoken by Southern Agwar tribes identical compared to other Jordanian dialects which are spoken by other tribes that settle in a closer geographical areas that belong to different origins and roots. This descriptive analytical research included 250 residents from Dead Sea Region. The findings of this research paper concluded that phonological features that relate to Dead Sea Dialect do not apply to all coastal area’s Arabic spoken by varied subtribes. Moreover, the findings of this research revealed that some of the phonological features throughout Dead Sea Dialect are identical with some Bedouin Arabic reside in closer geographical areas particularly those tribe who used to migrate throughout the Dead Sea line from the west bank of Jordan to the east bank. Also, it showed that the variation in the phonological features of the Dead Sea Dialect relate to both geographical and social variables. The study recommends that further future research be conducted to examine other coastal areas dialects in Jordan.

Keywords: Dialects, Phonological Process, Phonological Features