

**Identification of the Phonological Modifications of Turkish
Loanwords Borrowed into Basri Arabic Dialect:
A Sociolinguistic Study**

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المستخلص

إن للتغاير المجتمعي الأثر الكبير في اللهجة البصرية . وحيث أن مدينة البصرة تعد من المدن العالمية ، لذا كانت هدفا دائما لاستيطان العديد من الشعوب والثقافات لما تتمتع به من موقع استراتيجي على رأس الخليج العربي وكونها الميناء البحري الوحيد للعراق. لذا فإن تنوع الشعوب والثقافات واللغات للوافدين الى البصرة كان له الأثر الكبير في اللهجة البصرية والتأثير في خواصها اللغوية. ان اختلاط هذه اللغات والثقافات وتداخلها خلق نقاط توتر بين الانظمة اللغوية لهذه اللغات وبين اللهجة العربية التي يتكلمها سكان البصرة. مما أدى الى تكوين لهجة متميزة تختلف كثيرا عن باقي اللهجات العربية المتكلمة في بقية انحاء العراق. سيعرض هذا البحث تأثير اللغة التركية فقط على اللهجة البصرية والتحويلات اللغوية التي اجراها البصريون الذين يتحدثون اللغة العربية اثناء محاولتهم ادخال هذه الكلمات المستعارة الى اللهجة البصرية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التناغم المجتمعي، خطاب المجتمع، التوتر اللغوي، تأصيل الكلمات المستعارة، اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة او المعاصرة، اللهجة العربية العراقية، اللغة العربية الفصحى، اللغة التركية.

Abstract

The heterogeneity of the community has a great influence on the speech of Basri dialect speakers of Arabic. Basrah as a cosmopolitan city had been a target for different types of nations and communities due to its strategic location at the top of the Arab Gulf and being the only port to Iraq. The variety of nations, cultures and languages has a great impact on the linguistic features of the Basri Arabic. The mixture of these languages and cultures in Basrah has created a linguistic tension between the systems of the source languages and that of the Arabic spoken in Basrah.

This has led to the formation of a dialect distinct to the city and is so different from all the other dialects spoken in the rest of Iraq. This paper will display the influence of Turkish language only on the Basri dialect and the modifications applied by the native Basri speakers of Arabic in the process of nativization of these loanwords.

Keywords: *heterogeneity, speech community, linguistic tension, nativization, Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), Iraqi Arabic (IA), Standard Arabic (SA), Turkish Language (TK).*

1. INTRODUCTION

As Iraq was under the direct rule of the Ottoman Empire, for a long time, Basrah became a flourishing commercial and cultural centre. It was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire from 1534 to 1917 except for 15 years (1623-38) when the Persians ruled the country, Hunt (2005). Basrah was the name of a vilayet of Asiatic Turkey. The vilayet has an area of 16,470 sq. m. The capital of the vilayet, also called Basrah, is situated in 47°34° E. long. and 32° N. lat., near the western bank of the Shatt al-Arab, about 55 miles from the Arab Gulf. Because the Ottomans needed Basrah port, they established a marine garrison for their fleet in the Arab Gulf and the Indian Ocean. Therefore, the Ottoman forces advanced towards Basrah and occupied the city in 1546 AD (An Najjar, 1990). Basrah had enjoyed autonomy until Ayyas Basha,. The Ottomans ruled Iraq until the (WWI) 1914-1918 (Nadim, 2008).

Turkish language was the main language together with Arabic as a second language under the Ottoman Empire control. The occupation of Basrah was not as easy as Baghdad and the Basri refused and fought all the Ottoman officials appointed from Istanbul. Therefore, the Ottoman authorities accepted to appoint someone who was accepted by the Basri who use to send them the tribute. In Baghdad Turkish Language (TK) was widely used. It was the official language in offices and even in education. While in Basrah, only the necessary official Turks were staying in Basrah and therefore Arabic Language was the dominant language.

This paper is organized such that; Section two provides a review to the linguistic aspects of Iraqi Arabic in general as well as Basri dialect in particular; Section three and four presents the sample and data collection with the structure of the interview design; Section five presents the results analysis of the data collected; Section six presents the conclusions and finally; Section seven presents some suggestions for further studies.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Linguistic Aspects of Iraqi Arabic (IA)

IA is no distinction from other countries in the Arab world. (Murad, 2007) indicates the coexistence of the standard and the dialect forms of Arabic which characterize the main linguistic scene in Iraq. MSA is the official language of Iraq and is widely used in written and spoken media, education, governmental institutions and when performing prayers. The Colloquial Dialects are spoken in casual interactions and everyday face-to-face interaction. However, IA is not written except for some vernacular poetry and comedies and some social drama. There are three major geographical groups of dialects in Iraq which can be identified as northern, central and southern dialects groups. There are, of course, many linguistic differences between the MSA and the IA. Those differences are phonological, morphological, lexical and syntactic. Table (1) below reflects the phonological differences between the two varieties.

Table (1): The Consonants of MSA and IA (Adapted from Al-Toma, 1969)

		Labial	Plain Interdental	Emphatic Interdental	Plain Dental	Emphatic Dental	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Stops	V	p			t	ṭ	č	k	q		ʔ
	L	p ⁺					č ⁺				
Spirants	V	B			d	ḍ	j	g			
	L	B ⁺									
Spirants	V	F	θ		s	ṣ	š		x	ħ	h
	L	F ⁺	θ								
Spirants	V	v	ð	ð?	z				ġ	ʕ	
	L	v ⁺	ð	ð?							
Trill					r						
Lateral					l	ḷ					
Nasal		M			n						
Semi-vowel		W					y				

(+) specific to IA ;

(-) specific to MSA

VL denotes voiceless

V denotes voiced

* Shaded area denotes articulation judged impossible.

Blanc (1964) in his book “Communal Dialects in Baghdad” has identified IA with two categories: the *gilit* ‘I said’, variety which is mainly spoken by those living in central and lower areas of Iraq, and the *qeltu* variety used by Muslims and non-Muslims living in the centre as well as the northern Iraq. Many other minority languages are spoken in Iraq too, but the most important minority language is Kurdish, which is the dominant language in the Kurdish region (Kurdistan - Iraq).

IA has thirty-four consonant sounds whereas MSA has only 28 consonant sounds. IA accommodates all the consonants of MSA except the /ḍ/ ض, on the

other side IA contains four consonant sounds which do not exist in MSA. These sounds are:

- /p/ as in *pa:ʃ* for English 'pass', (in rural areas and BA *ba:ʃ*)
- /g/ as in *ga:l*, 'he said'.
- /tʃ/ (č) as in *cha:n*, 'he was'.
- /v/ as in *vi:zəh* 'viza'

The IA alphabet has thirty-four characters listed with their transcriptions and scripts in the following table.

Table (2): The Iraqi and BA Alphabet Inventory.

<i>S</i>	<i>Script</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>IPA</i>	<i>Equivalent</i>
1	ء	<i>hamza</i>	ʔ	---
2	ا	<i>elif</i>	a:	<i>art</i>
3	ب	<i>ba:</i>	b	<i>bead</i>
4	پ	<i>pa:</i>	p ⁽¹⁾	<i>parcel</i>
5	ت	<i>ta:</i>	t	<i>tea</i>
6	ث	<i>tha:</i>	θ	<i>theater</i>
7	ج	<i>ji:m</i>	j , dʒ	<i>jam</i>
8	چ	<i>chi:m</i>	ch, tʃ, č ⁽²⁾	<i>chain</i>
9	ح	<i>ha:</i>	ħ	--
10	خ	<i>Kha:</i>	x	--
11	د	<i>daal</i>	d	<i>drill</i>
12	ذ	<i>dhall</i>	ð	<i>these</i>
13	ر	<i>ra:</i>	r	<i>read</i>
14	ز	<i>za:</i>	z	<i>zebra</i>
15	س	<i>si:n</i>	s	<i>stand</i>
16	ش	<i>shi:n</i>	sh, ʃ, š	<i>sheep</i>
17	ص	<i>sa:d</i>	ʂ	--

18	ض	<i>d̥a:d</i>	d ⁽³⁾	--
19	ط	<i>t̥a:</i>	t̥	--
20	ظ	<i>z̥a:</i>	z̥	--
21	ع	<i>a'yeen</i>	ʕ	--
22	غ	<i>gheen</i>	ɣ	--
23	ف	<i>fa:</i>	f	<i>fish</i>
24	ڤ	<i>va:</i>	v	<i>viza</i>
25	ق	<i>qa:f</i>	q	--
26	ك	<i>ka:f</i>	k	<i>kettle</i>
27	گ	<i>ga:f</i>	g ⁽⁴⁾	<i>girl</i>
28	ل	<i>la:m</i>	l (non-emphatic)	<i>light</i>
29	ل	<i>l̥a:m</i>	l̥ (emphatic) ⁽⁵⁾	<i>bottle</i>
30	م	<i>mi:m</i>	m	<i>mother</i>
31	ن	<i>nu:n</i>	n	<i>night</i>
32	ه	<i>ha:</i>	h	<i>hair</i>
33	و	<i>waw</i>	w	<i>wafer</i>
34	ي	<i>ya:</i>	y	<i>year</i>

- (1) The consonant *p*, پ is particular to IA and mostly used in loanwords, such as: *so:pa*: 'heating stove', *panka* 'fan', yet the Basris replace with /b/.
- (2) The consonant *č*, چ, equivalent to the sound of /tʃ/ is either used to replace the consonant sound *k* in SA such as *kalemah* 'word' into *chilmah*, or used in loanwords such as *čula* 'cooking stove'.
- (3) The consonant *d̥*, ض is not pronounced in IA; the sound *z̥*, ظ is pronounced instead.
- (4) The consonant *g*, گ is often used in IA either to replace the sound *q* from SA, such as *qari:b* 'near' into *giri:b*, or in some loanwords like *du:gmah* 'button' for 'düğme' pronounced as /dy:me/ in Turkish.
- (5) The consonant *l̥*, ل̥ the emphatic *L* which is similar to the *dark /l/* in English is often used in IA with the name of "Allah" and also occurs after some neighbouring consonants like /t/, /d/, /s/, /z/, /n/ such as *sul̥ta:n*, and *tu:lah* 'stable'. It is also used with some loanwords like *bit̥l̥* 'bottle' (Kopczynski, 1993).

Vowels in IA are of two types: long and short. IA has nine vowels, five are long and four are short, as shown in (Table 3) and (Table 4) below. The long vowels are longer in duration than the shorter vowels, for example the vowel *a:* is longer

than the vowel *a* (Alkalesi, 2007). The length of the vowel in Arabic influences the meaning of the words significantly, for example the words:

- *qalla* 'to reduce' *qa:la* 'he said'.
- *ʕadda* 'to count' *ʕa:da* 'returned back'

LVs are found next to consonants, while SVs are found above and below consonants. Tables (3) and (4) displays these vowels.

Table (3): The Long Vowels in IA. After (Alkalesi, 2007)

S	Vowel letter	Vowel	Example	Equivalent
1	ا	a:	<i>ba:b</i> 'door' باب	<i>after</i>
2	ي	e:	<i>be:t</i> 'house' بيت	<i>ease</i>
3	يي	i:	<i>ti:n</i> 'fig' تين	<i>team</i>
4	و	u:	<i>ʃu:f</i> 'wool' صوف	<i>choose</i>
5	وو	o:	<i>yo:m</i> 'day' يوم	<i>ooze</i>

Table (4): The Short Vowels in IA. After (Alkalesi, 2007)

S	Vowel	Vowel	Example	Equivalent
1	ـ	a	<i>ʃaff</i> 'class'	<i>father</i>
2	ـ	i	<i>liʕbah</i> 'game'	<i>bit</i>
3	ـ	u,o	<i>duwa</i> 'medicine' <i>romma:n</i> 'pomegranat'	<i>boot</i>
4	و	و (shorter than o: and longer than o)	<i>dor</i> 'role'	<i>pot</i>

2.2. The Phonological Variable:

According to Hudson (1996) the phonological variables are where the same lexical item has different phonological structure. He also explained that these too are uncontroversial and examples range from those which affect single lexical items such as *tava* /*tava*/, pronounced in BA as *ta:wah*, (the change of short vowel /a/ into long vowel /a:/ and the insertion of the feminine final (h)) to large scale differences which involve whole classes of lexical item such as those like *ʕorap*

/tforap/ (socks) into *chorab*, (change of /p/ to /b/). Bayley (2007) states that Labov's, informal definition, phonological variation involves "different ways of saying the same thing". Bayley (2007) also added that phonological variation in all languages is massively structured and orderly.

Some words were pronounced in a different way from their original ones in the SL. This is due to the sound production of each language (Hillal, 1993) for example explained that the difference in the sound production of the AL like the Arabic *jeem* ج is pronounced from the middle of the tongue. That's why when the Basri people used the Turkish word 'makyaj' they pronounce the /makjaz/ as *mikyach*.

People do need to communicate and contact with each other and this contact results in influencing language linguistically. Hilal (1993) confirmed that, the place and time of each city and the geography of each city affected the nature of the people of that city and affected their language. The language therefore, of an agricultural city is different from that of an industrial or desert, or mountain, and coastal area. In addition, the transfer of the language from generation to the other is accompanied by a relative change in the production of the same sounds. For example the old generations in Basrah used to pronounce the *y* as /q/ and vice versa, as in words like *qalam* 'pen or pencil' as *yalam*, , but the young generations are no longer substituting the *y* with /q/ and vice versa, except in the remote urban areas and by uneducated people.

2.3. Phonological Characteristics of Loanwords in BA:

It seems that it is true that native speakers of any language or dialect, when borrowing from another language, produce and receive it without consciously realizing that that language is a process where a complex hierarchy stands behind. In the same way, the rules and the phonological processes of BA are internalized by the people who speak it, who naturally apply these rules by means of patterns and by correlation (Hoffiz, 1995). Basrah has been always and through history subject to continuous contact with many languages and cultures which has a great impact on the linguistic features of BA. As a result, BA has integrated a significant number of foreign vocabularies into its phonological inventory. BA mainly borrowing is from Persian, English, Turkish and Urdu/Hindi languages. It has been found that the loanwords occur in the speech of a community undergo a process of change and normally are altered in pronunciation in the direction of the sounds and phonological patterns of the borrowing language. This occurs by taking more than one form in pronunciation (Abdullah, 2006: 24). These loanwords adapting the phonological patterns of BA, they have to undergo processes of alterations such as, addition, omission or elision, due to the inherent

sound patterns in Arabic. After investigating and scanning the data collected, it has been found that both consonants and vowels have witnessed these phonological processes or integrations as will be explained later.

3. THE SAMPLE AND DATA COLLECTION:

Judgment sampling has been used to select speakers from the speech community of Basrah City. This is because Basri dialect has characteristics that make it easy to be defined and identified.

The sample was drawn from speakers who were residents and spent most of their lives in Al-Basrah, but have been displaced due to the Iraq-Iran War and the sectarian offenses happening in Basrah after the American invasion in 2003. Therefore, many were forced to leave Basrah and live in other parts of Iraq such as, Al-Anbar, and Mosul, while others have fled Iraq to live in the neighbouring countries or even in Europe or the USA and Canada. A sample of 56 males and females, from Basrah city was selected.

The traditional methods of data collection in dialectology include postal questionnaires, fieldworker interviews, and telephone interviews, but the most suitable procedure for detecting categorical lexical alterations in geography-based dialectology is the linguistic interview. In this study both the linguistic interviews and telephone interviews were used. Sometimes videos, you tube and documentary films have been employed also.

The sample was categorized into three age groups representing three generations of Al-Basrah speakers. The first age group comprised older speakers aged 60 years and above, while the second age group included speakers aged between 35 and 60 whereas the third involved younger adults between the age of 19 and 35. Each group was divided into two categories according to their gender, male and female. These three age groups are illustrated in Table (5) below:

Table (5): Age group criteria of Informants under investigation

<i>Gender</i>	<i>60 yrs and over</i>	<i>35 to 60 yrs</i>	<i>19 to 35 yrs</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Males</i>	5	13	10	28
<i>Females</i>	10	10	8	28
<i>Total</i>	15	23	18	56

A prepared list of topics was prepared in order to generate talk in each interview. These interviews were structured in terms of set of questions organized around each specific topic. The list of questions was exposed to a jury of specialist in English language and linguistics to check on its face and content validity.

The data of primary interest to sociolinguists have been those representing the spontaneous, everyday usage of vernacular speakers (Milroy, 2003). This of course was accomplished easily into the community due to the social links and relation ties. The data was collected from the native speakers of Al-Basrah (Basrah City).

The collection of the data took about 4 months using interviews. The interviews were conducted in Ar-Ramadi, Mosul, Amman Jordan, Sharjah, Dubai (UAE) and in the KSA. The participants were interviewed for 30 to 60 minutes, at home, shops and other places of work. Only the colloquial dialect was used in order to encourage the participants to talk spontaneously on the topics of the interview. The interviews were recorded and have been saved each on a separate track using a Galaxy S3 mobile phone.

4. STRUCTURE AND DESIGN OF THE INTERVIEW:

Milroy (2003) confirmed that the interview is far from an ideal instrument for gathering data on the speech style, yet there are steps to be taken by the interviewers to encourage more casual speech, such as the attempt to influence the content of the interview; and the modifications to the dynamics of one-on-one interviewing. Although most of the interviews were one-on-one interviews, group sessions were also conducted, where the speakers speak more naturally and the conversations turned to be a time of remembering the good and happy days. The speech of each speaker was recorded on a separate track for one-on-one interviews, while the group sessions were recorded on the same track. The structure of the interview was flexible enough to be adapted to suit different choice of topics that might vary according to the gender and age of the interviewees. Milroy and Gordon (2003) propose that:

“The key, in addition to locating cooperative speakers, is preparing topics that the participants will eagerly discuss at length. Clearly, not all topics will work for all speakers. Interviewers must be flexible and willing to adjust their approach to their subject.”

The topics were designed to cover all the areas of interest for all the participants from different gender or age groups. Females were mostly interested in topics such as memories of childhood, marriage, having children, cooking and folklore and children games and songs. Topics like careers, political life and events, and stories from your experience, were more popular topics for older males. Topic like technology was a topic of interest for the younger males. While younger females, were interested in cooking, celebrations and school memories.

5. RESULTS ANALYSIS:

The linguistic variants have been identified, analyzed, and interpreted according to the used linguistic variables. Labov (1981) has stressed the importance of having good data on which to base claims. Such data can come from studies of a community conducted at different times. Since individual linguistic usage tends also to vary in fixed ways according to the age of the individual, such age-grading must also be taken into account because this process is an independent one. After collecting all the data, scanning them and analysing them, there have been many integrations that have been spotted and classified according to their phonological integrations.

5.1 Phonological Integrations:

Integrated loanwords according to Calabrese and Wetzels (2009) are words that have entered the lexicon of the borrowing language. These borrowings are implemented by a speaker to fill a gap in his language from a language that he knows poorly or not at all. These words will display certain adjustments and adaptations according to the structural system of his Native Language or mother tongue. These modifications do not occur instantly but, of course, through the process of perception and learning. (Ibid) call this process as “*nativization-through-perception*”. The following items will shed a light on the phonological adaptations of the integrated loanwords.

5.1.1. Consonants Assimilation:

Watson (2002: 24) believed that because speech sounds are internally structured, certain groups of phonological features behave as units in assimilation processes and that certain features depend on others. Such assimilations occur when a voiceless sound affects an adjacent voiced sound. There are many examples in BA that show words, for example, when the soft *s* is affected by adjacent sounds and changed into emphatic hard *ş* ص, yet the word’s meaning remains intact. Tables (6) and (7) below demonstrate this feature.

Table (6): Assimilation of *s* into *ş* in Words from TK

<i>S</i>	<i>Word F.</i>	<i>TK Pronunciation</i>	<i>BA Transliteration</i>	<i>Meaning*</i>
1	<i>borsa</i>	<i>/borsa/</i>	<i>borşah</i>	<i>stock exchange</i>
2	<i>garson</i>	<i>/garson/</i>	<i>garşon</i>	<i>waiter</i>
3	<i>sermaye</i>	<i>/sermaje/</i>	<i>şirma:yah</i>	<i>wealth</i>

4	<i>soba</i>	/soba/	ʃu:bah	<i>stove</i>
5	<i>sonda</i>	/sonda/	ʃu:ndah, ʃwandah	<i>tube, water hose</i>
6	<i>usta</i>	/usta/	ʔuʃtah	<i>skillful</i>

* Meaning according to BA.

Another example which shows the assimilation of soft *t* into emphatic *ṭ* ٤. Table (7) demonstrates these sounds in loanwords from Turkish.

Table (7): Assimilation of /t/ into /ṭ/ in words from Turkish

S	Word F.	TK Pronunciation	BA Transliteration	Meaning
1	<i>battanye</i>	/battaniye/	baṭa:niyah	<i>blanket</i>
2	<i>çanta</i>	/ʃanta/	chanṭah	<i>bag</i>
3	<i>çatal</i>	/ʃatal/	chaṭal	<i>fork</i>
4	<i>matara</i>	/matara/	maṭarah	<i>flask</i>
5	<i>takim</i>	/takəm/	ṭixim	<i>kit, set, matching</i>
6	<i>tebeşir</i>	/tebeşir/	ṭaba:shi:r	<i>chalk</i>
7	<i>toz</i>	/toz/	ṭo:z	<i>dust, powder</i>

5.1.2. Consonants Alteration:

When the speakers of Arabic language adapt loanwords, they try to maintain the words as they are used in their source language, yet the loanwords adapt the native language inventory, phonological restrictions and prosodic structures (Kenstowics, 2004). When producing a loanword, speakers try the closest proximation to the model they use in their language. This may be because the phonological patterns of the loanword's and the borrowing one do not correspond in the same degree, so speakers have to employ sound alteration because there are no such phonemes that exist in their language or there is more than one phonemic realization for such sounds (Hafez, 1996). Analysis of the data collected indicated that some words have undergone some phonetic alterations. Yet some of the sounds because they have equivalent in IA, retain their original features like *marka* (*brand*) and *kuftah* (*minced meat*), so the BA speakers produced them as they are. Below are some of the alterations occurred to the adapted new loanwords.

- 1- Although the phoneme /p/ was introduced and pronounced in BA and becomes part of its inventory through loanwords, but in most of the

loanwords, BA speakers prefer to substitute it with the phoneme /b/. Hence it can be found in some loanwords. Table (8) shows this phenomenon.

Table (8): Alteration of the Phoneme /p/ into /b/

S	Word F.	TK Pronunciation	BA Transliteration
1	çorap	/tʃorap/	cho:ra:b (socks)
2	kelepçe	/kelepʃe/	kalabchah (handcuffs)
3	pazar	/pazar/	baza:r (market)
4	perde	/perde/	bardah (curtain)

The /p/ phoneme is a voiceless bilabial stop which does not exist in the AL, but has been introduced in most Iraqi Dialects via loanwords from other languages. For example in IA *pa:fah* 'a traditional Iraqi meal made from head, feet and stomach of sheep', , yet in BA is pronounced *ba:fah*. BA speakers tend to pronounce the /p/ as /b/ even with loanwords.

- 2- The phoneme /k/ has been replaced by the classical phoneme the /q/. In case of the words borrowed from TK, only very specific cases have been realized through the survey of the collected data. It has been noticed also that older generations and uneducated citizens prefer to use *y* instead of /q/, while younger generations and educated citizens use /q/ instead. as Table (9) shows below:

Table (9): Alteration of the Phoneme /k/ into /q/ in Words from TK

S	Word F.	TK Pronunciation	BA Transliteration	Meaning
1	kaçak	kaʃak	qachaq	smuggling
2	kadife	kadife	qadi:fah	velvet
3	kalip	kalap	qa:lab	mold
4	kirmizi	kirmizi	qirmiz, ⁽¹⁾	red
5	kurdele	kurdele	q(y)irdaylah	ribbon
6	kutu	kutu	qu:ʃi:, gu:ʃi: qu:ʃiyah,	tin, can

⁽¹⁾ qirmiz (Turkish and Persian origin which means red) is the dried bodies of female scale insects of the genus *Kermes*, esp *K. ilices* of Europe and W Asia, used as a red dyestuff. It is used in BA to indicate

the different colours of a powder used to dye clothes and fronds by local Basris; red qirmiz, green qirmiz, blue girmiz, etc.

There are also other cases that have been inspected within the collected data which show the alteration of the consonant /k/ into /g/ like the loanword 'yelek' (waistcoat) into yeleg.

- 3- The /s/ phoneme was altered into /z/ in some cases for words borrowed from TK, as displayed in Table (10) below:

Table (10): Alteration of the Phoneme /s/ into /z/

S	Word F.	TK Pronunciation	BA Transliteration	Meaning
1	sokak	/sokak/	zu:qaq	street
2	salata	/salata/	zala:ṭah	salad
3	masa	/masa/	me:z	table

5.1.3. Consonant Deletion or Elision:

Deletion or elision is another morphophonemic alteration applied to loanwords. It refers to the omission of a sound, consonant or vowel or sometimes a whole syllable. (Sibawayh, 1317 AH) had employed the word '*/haḍf/ deletion*' to describe one of the changes applied to borrowed lexical items. Al-Jawaliqi (1990) had used the term /'ṣla:l/, i.e., (*the omission of a vowel*) and the /ʔibda:l/ (*the omission of a consonant*), to describe the process of deleting one or more segments from the original form of the word. These changes are attributed to the Arabs' eagerness to maintain unstrained and easy pronunciation of loanwords by omitting some of their sounds/letters or even syllables, to keep a rapid flow of the speech. During the course of the study, it was found that the deletion occurs at the end of the word in the case of loanwords from Turkish language. It was also noticed that sometimes part of the word, single or compound, was trimmed even. Table (11) exhibits some examples of the elision in BA.

Table (11): Elision in Loanwords into BA

S	Word F.	TK Pronunciation	BA Transliteration	Explanations
1	afiyette	/afijette/	ʕafyya:	(tte) - end

2	<i>danişma</i> k	/daneʃmak/	<i>daniş</i>	(mak) – end syl.(used as a verb)
3	<i>kuşet</i>	/kuʃet/	<i>kuşah</i>	(t) – end

5.1.4. Vowel Substitution:

It has been found that vowels are substituted in loanwords from other languages either because those vowels do not exist in the recipient language or the native speakers prefer a vowel over another or even for the vowel harmony. Because the substitutions happen unintentionally depending on the internal language inventory, it becomes a patterned and a systematic phenomenon without the interference of the speaker himself and it goes from generation to generation till it becomes part of the spoken dialect. Therefore, when the speakers of BA found that the vowels /ə/, /ɛ/, /ɔ/, /ɔ:/, /ʌ/, /iə/, /ʊ/, /əʊ/ and sometimes the diphthongs /ei/, /ɔi/ and /ou/, especially with loanwords from English, cause interruption in their speech articulation system they prefer to substitute them with an equivalent or semi equivalent vowels from their own language. The vowels /a/, /i:/, /o/, /a:/, /y/ are used instead, because those vowels are familiar to what is available in their language inventory and may be because of the absence of some of these vowels in BA. Moreover, the choice of vowels is limited to nine vowels in IA and BA as well, as mentioned earlier.

Loanwords of TK origins have undergone some changes in the vowels such as in: *ütü* /yty/ 'ironing board' becomes *u:ti:*, the final long /o:/ has been changed into long /i:/ and developed into *u:ti:*, /*tütün*/ 'tobacco' into *titan*, and /*aferin*/ 'well done' into *afa:rim*, and /*bahtfa*/ 'garden' into *bikshah* .

5.1.5. Vowel Lengthening:

Another phonological process that has been applied to BA is vowel lengthening. BA speakers are very well identified for the lengthening in the vowels while they speak, as it will be seen in the tables below. In many languages, including Arabic, phonetic studies have confirmed that vowels in word-final positions turn to be longer than vowels in those of medial or initial positions. (Munro,2004) had explained that "this lengthening effect has been shown to be cumulative such that segments in final position of larger prosodic domain are characteristically longer than those in final position of smaller domains". A list of BA words has been collected for examining the length positions and patterns of the vowels. The following cases have been identified:

- 1- In Arabic in general, things are either feminine or masculine. All the words borrowed from other languages into BA are categorized in this term. There is

no neuter gender. This is happening by the occurrence of the singular feminine suffix (-ah) as the ending of the feminine loanword causing the lengthening of the final vowel. Table (12) illustrates some examples.

Table (12): Words with singular fem. suffixes (-ah)

S	TK Pronunciation	Long Form BA Tran.	Meaning
1	/ajna/	ʕaynah عينة	mirror, glasses
2	/tava/	ta:wah تاولة	frying pan
3	/ʃorap/	ju:ra:bah جورابه	a sock

2- In syllables that are stressed, vowels become longer than in unstressed syllables. Of course the stressed syllables will follow the pronunciation patterns in BA rather than in the source language. AL leans towards placing the stress on the next-to-the syllable which often results in prolonging the stressed sound, consequently, short vowels change to be longer and sometimes it was changed or substituted by another long vowel (Al-Qinai, 2000). Thus the /i/ becomes /i:/, /a/ becomes /a:/, /u/ becomes /u:/ and /o/ becomes /o:/. In some cases especially for loanwords from English language, which is not the concern of this study, the diphthongs are replaced by long vowels such as /bəult/ 'bolt' into 'bu:lit'. and /kaʊntə/ 'counter' into /ka:wantar/. Table (13) below illustrates some examples from TK.

Table (13): Stressed Syllables and Vowel Change.

S	Word F.	TK Pronunciation	BA Transliteration Long F.
1	börek	/børek/	b'o:rag 'stuffed pie'
2	cüzdan	/dzyzdan/	jizd'a:n 'wallet'

3- The final vowel of a loanword is prolonged and pronounced longer than that of its origin such as: q(y)u:ʃi: for /kutu/ 'tin, can', ba:lʃu: for /palto/ 'overcoat', tebsi: for /tepsi/ 'oven tray'. Also the Turkish (-çi) /ʃi:/ suffix, which refers to profession or maker, when appended, the final vowel of such words gets lengthened as in: titanchi: 'tobacconist', qachaqchi: 'smuggler', chaychi: 'tea maker', etc.,

When vowels are lengthened, they are getting strengthened and even considered as vowel insertion, while shortening the vowels is weakening and considered as deletion (Bosisio, 2004).

6. CONCLUSIONS:

This study has investigated the influence of the Turkish culture and language on the speakers of BA and how the loanwords have been adapted in the attempt in the nativization process. The focus has been on the phonological and adaptations with some hints to the semantic aspects to help give a complete idea of the integration in this respect. After investigating and scanning more than 500 (five hundred) loanwords that have been used by the BA speakers and interviewing the sample informants, the following conclusions have been identified:

- 1- Being a cosmopolitan city, rich in resources and having a strategic location, Basrah has been a subject for many occupations and different types of immigrations from inside and outside Iraq. This of course influenced the language spoken there and introduced a mixture of multi nations inhabited Basrah. This mixture of languages affected the BA linguistically. The effect has been recognized in the phonological and morphological levels introducing a dialect unique for BA speakers. BA was affected more than any other dialect in the whole of Iraq.
- 2- After identifying, analyzing and interpreting the phonological level, many adaptations have been found due to the process of nativization of the loanwords into BA. Among those adaptations are:
 - a- The assimilations of many phonemes when words were borrowed such as the /s/ into /ş/, as in /usta/ 'skilful' into *şusta*;, etc., and /t/ into /t̄/ as in /taplo/ 'side table' into *tablah*, and /tabu/ into *ta:bu:* , etc. This occurs while the BA speakers trying to find equivalent to these sounds in their language, choosing what they believe is easier for them to articulate and to maintain speech harmony.
 - b- There have been many consonantal alterations that have been recognized among the collected data under this study. This resulted during the process of producing a loanword. Speakers try the closest proximation to the model they use in their language. This is because the phonological patterns of the loanwords and the borrowing ones do not correspond in the same degree. Therefore, speakers have to employ sound alteration because there are no such phonemes that exist in their language or there is more than one phonemic realization for such sounds. The following cases of phonemes alterations have been recognized from the collected data:
 - 1- It has been found that although there is no /p/ sound in AL but has been introduced into BA and IA from languages such as: Persian, Turkish and English languages. Yet in almost all the borrowings it has been altered into /b/ as in /tepsi/ into *tebsi:*;, /perde/ into *berdah*, etc. While the /p/

- can be found in some IA dialects, it has never been found in any of the borrowings into BA. All the /p/ sounds have been changed into /b/.
- 2- The phoneme /k/ has been replaced by the phoneme /q/ in some cases for words borrowed from TK, such as /kaçak/ into qachaq. In case of the borrowings from TK, almost all the words with /k/ phoneme have been altered into /q/ as in /kadife/ 'velvet' into qadi:fah. Moreover, few cases were detected when the /k/ is altered into /g/ as in /yelek/ into yalag from TK.
 - 3- Alteration of the phoneme /s/ into /z/ in some cases for borrowings from TK as in /sokak/ into zu:qa:q.
- c- The alteration of /ʃ/ into /dʒ/ when the BA speakers couldn't find an equivalent, as in /ifertʃeve/ 'bedsheet' into charchaf.
 - d- The phoneme /ğ/ is a silent letter in the TK which is equal to /:/ length sign. It only prolongs the preceding vowel and never comes at an initial position. Since in the AL there is no silent letters, the Basri speakers tend to either pronounce it as /q/ or ɣ or even /g/ depends on the geographical location of the speakers, as in /kağit/ /ka:et/ 'paper' into, ka:yad, or ka:qad.
 - e- Another morphophonemic alteration applied to the borrowed lexical items is the elision of a sound, consonant or a vowel. What is called in the AL *hađf* 'deletion' or the *ħla:l* 'the omission of a vowel' i.e, deleting one or more segments from the original form of the word and the *ibdal* 'the replacement of a consonant with another'. These changes have been attributed to the Arabs' passion to maintain unstrained and easy pronunciation of loanwords by omitting some of their sounds. It has been observed during the course of the study that the deletions happen at the initial, medial and final positions of the loanwords. Deletion goes farther than that and in some observed cases the syllables have been deleted as in /danefmak/ 'consult' to be da:nish. All these changes are considered to increase the ease of pronunciation and also of uttering some sounds are uttered more smoothly together. Some cases have been observed when some consonants have been replaced by others, as in /pantolon/ 'trousers' the /l/ has been replaced by /r/ to be banɥuro:n.
 - f- Many modifications and adjustments have also been witnessed on the vocalic elements of the loanwords integrated into BA. All the borrowings were limited to the nine vowels in IA and BA. Accordingly, all the unfamiliar vowels experienced different types of alterations including the substitution, lengthening, shortening and epenthesis. It has been observed that BA speakers tend a lot to use the long /i:/ and the short /i/ vowels very commonly in all their speech. This feature among others distinguishes the most BA among other Iraqi dialect, as when BA speakers utter number forty

as *arbi:ni* unlike other IA speakers who pronounce it as *arba:ni*. For vowel lengthening, it has been noticed that vowels get lengthened at the end of words when both the singular fem. suffix *ta:ʾ marbuʿah* (تاء) pronounced as (-ah) such as /*borya*/ 'reed mat' into *ba:ryah*, etc.

7. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

There have been many other aspects to cover and can go under further studies in future. Among them are the following:

- 1- The morphological, semantic, syntactic and pragmatic variables and how the borrowings have been adapted in accordance to the Arabic linguistic system.
- 2- Basrah have been in contact with many other cultures and languages, such as; English, Persian and Hindi/Urdu. The impact of these languages should be studied thoroughly.
- 3- This study dealt with the Basri Arabic spoken in the centre of Basrah. There are other six districts in Basrah which need to be covered in the future.

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