

Accent Variation in Egyptian Vernacular: a Case Study on Al-Minya Accent

Dr. Nahla Mohamed Nageeb khalil *

Abstract

Every language has its linguistic variation based on different factors; one of which is the geographical region. This research targets Al-Minya dialect as one of the Egyptian vernacular regional dialects. Since linguistic variation is observed in three linguistic levels, i.e. phonetic, lexical, and grammatical, which is too far to be covered in this study, the focus is confined to the phonetic level, namely the accent. This research targets the phonological variables in Al-Minya accent (MA), one of Upper Egyptian accents, in comparison to the Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It investigates the distinctive phonological variables of MA, which result from assimilation, metathesis, intrusion, elision, and vowel changes. It reveals the distinctive types of assimilation in MA. In addition, it deals with the different types of sound elision and sound intrusion as reflected in MA. To achieve these aims, the approaches of Burridge and Bergs as discussed in *Understanding Sound Change* (2017) and Gordon in *Phonological Typology* (2016) are used to investigate the data under scrutiny.

The data under analysis include 50 participants from variety of villages in Al-Minya governorate. Their contributions are extracted from number of episodes of *Ahl Alkaria Program* as broadcasted on Al-Minya TV local channel. The new findings suggest that assimilation in MA is classified into four kinds: pharyngeal, voicing, velar, and bilabial assimilation. In addition, the results reveal that sound intrusion is a distinctive phonological feature of MA. The most intruded phonemes in MA are /bi/ and /gamma/ as present tense preverbal markers. Furthermore, sound elision of glottal plosive and glottal fricative are distinctive phonological features of MA rather than Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).

Keywords: Modern standard Arabic- Egyptian vernacular - Al-Minya accent- metathesis - elision- aphesis - syncope - apocope - sound intrusion- prosthesis- anaptyxis- excrecence.

تباين اللمكنة في العامية المصرية: دراسة حالة لللمكنة المنيا

د. نهله محمد نجيب أحمد خليل

المستخلص

إن كل لغة لها تنوعها اللغوي بناءً على عوامل مختلفة؛ أحد هذه العوامل هو المنطقة الجغرافية. يستهدف هذا البحث التباين اللغوي للغة المصرية العامية والتي تتضمن تنوعاً غنياً في اللهجات، وتعتبر لهجة المنيا من اللهجات الإقليمية. ونظراً لأن الاختلاف اللغوي يلاحظ في ثلاثة مستويات لغوية، أي لفظي ومعجمي ونحوي، وهو موضوع لا يمكن تغطيته في هذه الدراسة، فإن التركيز يقتصر على المستوى الصوتي، أي اللمكنة. هذا البحث عبارة عن دراسة صوتية لهجة المنيا إحدى لهجات الصعيد مصر. وتستهدف هذه الدراسة السمات الصوتية المميزة لهجة المنيا من خلال تحليل المماثلة الصوتية والتبادل وإضافة وحذف الأصوات، وتغييرات حروف العلة. كذلك تكشف هذه الدراسة عن أشكال الإضافة والحذف الصوتي في لهجة المنيا. ولتحقيق هذه الأهداف، تم استخدام مناهج كيت بورج والكسندر برجز للتحليل الصوتي في كتابهما *فهم تغيير الصوت* (2017) ومنهج ماثيو ك جوردون في كتابه *التصنيف الصوتي الإصدار الأول* (2016) وذلك لتحليل العينة موضع الدراسة. وتشمل العينة موضع الدراسة 50 مشاركاً من مختلف قرى محافظة المنيا. أما عن المساهمات الكلامية المستهدفة تحليلها فقد استمدت من عدد من حلقات برنامج أهل القرية المذاع على قناة المنيا المحلية. تشير النتائج الجديدة إلى أن المماثلة الصوتية في لهجة المنيا تتضح في أربع أنواع: المماثلة الصوتية البلعومية والجهرية والحلقية والشفثانية. كذلك تكشف النتائج أيضاً أن

* Lecturer of linguistics - English Department- Faculty of Arts-Damanhour University.

الإضافة الصوتية هي إحدى السمات الصوتية المميزة لهجة المنيا. علاوة على ذلك، يعتبر الحذف الصوتي للأصوات الحلقية الانفجارية والاحتكاكية من السمات الصوتية المميزة لهجة المنيا على خلاف اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة (MSA)

الكلمات المفتاحية: اللغة العربية الفصحى الحديثة - العامية المصرية - لكتة المنيا - القلب المكاني للأصوات - حذف الأصوات - ترخيم مطلعي - ترخيم وسطي - ترخيم نهائي - اقحام الأصوات - الاقحام المطلعي للأصوات - الاقحام الاوسط للصوات - الاقحام الاوسط للصوامت

Introduction

In spite of the rich variation of the Egyptian vernacular, little interest has been paid to dialectal variation in Egyptian communities. This is attributed to the traditional view of considering any linguistic variation from the standard variety as a divergence from the correct norm, i.e. Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). Similar to all languages, Arabic language includes two varieties: standard and non-standard variety. The non-standard variety of Arabic language includes an enormous number of dialects; Egyptian variety is one of them. Alternative designations are Colloquial Egyptian, Egyptian, Vernacular (EV), and Egyptian Arabic. The Egyptian vernacular is the most understood linguistic variety among all Arabic varieties. This is attributed to the cinema industry, which is launched from Egypt throughout the Middle East. The spread of Egyptian films, TV programs, songs, and advertisements resulted in wide understanding of Egyptian Vernacular compared to other Arabic Vernaculars. Nonetheless, the current linguistic studies consider the EV as non-diverse variety of Non-Standard Arabic. For example, Brustad (2000) discusses the Egyptian Vernacular as one variety in his comparative study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti dialects. Undoubtedly, this is a misconception since the Egyptian Vernacular is characterized by a huge variety of regional dialects, sociolects, and ethnic dialects. Since regional dialects are the most prominent type of EV, the focus of this research is on Al-Minya accent as one of the regional accents of EV.

Egyptian Vernacular has great influence on none-Egyptian varieties. In his study of native and non-native varieties of Arabic in Kadugli, one of urban centers in Sudan, Manfredi (2013:29) mentions two linguistic influences of the Egyptian Vernacular on Kadugli Arabic. The Egyptian preverbal marker /ħa/ used for expressing future tense

and the Egyptian possessive marker /bitāʕ/ are influences of the Egyptian Arabic on the Urban dialect in Kadugli. Even non-native speakers of Kadugli Arabic use possessive marker /bitāʕ/. In addition, in her study of Moroccan Arabic, Lafkioui (2013: 78) suggests that the negation marker /ma___ʃ/, which is applied to non-verbal prediction specifically in adjectival predicates is an influence of Egyptian Vernacular. This is illustrated in /ma rqiʃ/ (he is not thin) i.e. a quality applied to a male.

Aims of the Study

This study aims to provide a synchronic analysis of Al-Minya accent. The linguistic variation in Al-Minya accent is clarified in phonetic changes that distinguish Al-Minya accent from the standard variety i.e. Modern Standard Arabic. *Assimilation, metathesis, elision, intrusion,* and vowel changes are the phonological processes under analysis. Sound *assimilation* and *metathesis* are phonological processes that distinguish Al-Minya accent from MSA. Other phonological processes under investigation are *elision*, which includes *aphesis, syncope, and apocope*. Moreover, sound *intrusion*, which includes *prothesis, epenthesis, anaptyxis, and paragoge*, are detected in Al-Minya accent. Vowel changes include *vowel raising, monophthongization, and diphthongization*. This research is confined to investigating Al-Minya accent based on segmental-level phonology. It aims to contribute to establishing a linguistic plan of regional accents of Egyptian Vernacular.

Methodology and Data

This research uses the approach of Burridge and Bergs (2017) and Gordon (2016) for sound changes. They are not previously applied to Al-Minya accent to the best of the researcher's knowledge. In addition, it exploits the episodes of *Ahl Alqaria Program* broadcasted on Al-Minya local TV channel. According to Abadi (2016: 72), Al-Minya governorate is one of the most important governorates of Upper Egypt, due to its central location and the unique monuments it contains. It is known as "the beautiful bride of Upper Egypt". It is also known for its Pharaonic, Roman, Greek, Coptic and Islamic monuments. Al-Minya Governorate includes ten towns.

Among them are Al-Rawda, Samalout, Abu Qurqas, Al-Minya, Deir Muas, Mattay, Al-Adwa, Bani Mazar and Ashmounin. The focus is on the phonological characteristics of Al-Minya accent using natural language extracted from the episodes of *Ahl Alqaria* program which has not been studied before to observe the distinctive phonological features of Al-Minya accent.

The approaches of Burridge and Bergs (2017) and Gordon (2016) are selected for a variety of reasons. To the researcher's knowledge, they have not been applied on Al-Minya accent. Second, they pay considerable attention to the sound modifications resulting from changing the phonological properties of sounds, i.e. place, manner of articulation and voicing. Other types of sound changes stem from transposition of phonemes within a lexeme; addition or deletion of a phoneme. Others include increasing sound sonority i.e. lenition or decreasing sound sonority i.e. fortition.

The approach followed in this research is delineated by Burridge and Bergs in *Understanding Sound Change* (2017) and by Gordon in *Phonological Typology* 1st edition (2016). Gordon (2016: 123) states that sound changes on segmental-level phonology results of certain phonological processes. These processes stem from three kinds of rules: rules related to phonological properties of sounds because of being adjacent as in *assimilation*. Burridge and Bergs (2017: 81) specify place of articulation, manner of articulation and voicing as the three parameters where *assimilation* takes place. In addition, *lenition* and *fortition*, as Gordon (2016: 123) declares, are sound changes on segmental-level. Burridge and Bergs (2017: 81) define lenition as "a shift that sees the strength of sounds diminish (e.g. consonants become more vowel-like)".

According to Gordon (2016: 123), the second category of rules relate to different number of phonemes as in *elision* or *insertion*. *Elision* is classified into Aphaesis, Syncope, *Apocope*, and haplogy as Burridge and Bergs (2017: 79) mentions. Gordon (2016: 123) adds a third category of rules that relates to different ordering of phonemes within words as in *metathesis* which Burridge and Bergs (2017: 81) attribute to certain combinations of sounds.

Assimilation, metathesis, intrusion, elision and vowel changes are the phonological features under investigation. To detect the distinctive phonological features of Al-Minya accent, one of the Upper Egyptian accents, a sample of 50 participants are selected to represent Al-Minya accent. The contributions provided by the Al-Minya villagers are extracted from *Ahl Alqaria program*. It is a social program broadcasted on Al-Minya TV local channel. The participants in the program are selected from variety of villages affiliated to Al-Minya governorate. Among the villages represented by the participants are *Al-Bahnasa* village and *Sandafa* village in Beni Mazar town; *Balansoura* village in Abu Qurqas town; *Hajj Qandil* village in Deir Muas town; *Sheik Zeyaad* in Maghagha town; *Mankatin* village in Samalut town; *Jaweer* village, *Sheikh Abada* village, *Al Sawahijah* village in Mallawi town; and *Al Qayat* village in El Idwa town.

The contributions are divided into extracts. Each extract includes the Arabic quotation under analysis, followed with its phonetic transcription, then the English translation. The analysis targets the phonological analysis of these extracts to detect the distinctive features of Al-Minya accent.

The intentional selection of the participants of this study as villagers is because of the linguistically conservative nature of the villagers; and the low educational level, hence to eliminate the influence of education on the participants' accent. The participant's contributions are phonetically transcribed using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to detect the phonological processes in Al-Minya accent.

Theatrical Background

According to Watson (2011: 8), Arabic language has three levels: *classical Arabic; Modern Standard Arabic (MSA); and Vernacular Arabic*. *Classical Arabic* is the codified form in the Holly book of Islam. *MSA* is a modern variant of classical Arabic. They are similar in syntax and morphology, but different in lexis and stylistics. *Vernacular Arabic* appears in numerous regional and social dialects. This diversity is an inherent feature in all living languages as Wardhaugh and Fuller state (2015: 25). They define the notion of

variety as a manner of speaking based on geographical location and social class of the speakers. These varieties either classified socially or regionally, are designated as dialects.

Yule (2010: 240-241) adds that each language includes a standard variety and other varieties based on regional or social basis. A standard variety is the idealized form used in formal contexts, such as broadcasting and education. The first linguistic choices that reflect the social or geographical dialect is the accent i.e. pronunciation choices. Some of these dialects are more prestigious than others in the same speech community. This is attributed to the economic, urban, and industrial conditions. For example, in the Egyptian community, Cairene and Alexandrian accents are mentally associated with prestigious accent than rural and Bedouin accents.

Watson (2011: 9-10) mentions that Arabic dialects are classified based on two axes: *Eastern-Western Dialects and Bedouin-Urban Dialects*. In the former category, the main difference is in the vowel system. The tripartite vowel system of *Western Dialects* is reduced to two-part vowel system in *Eastern Dialects*. For *Bedouin Dialects*, they are more conservative and homogeneous than urban dialects. Conversely, *Urban Dialects* are characterized by more dialectal variation because of age, gender, class, and region.

Behnstedt and Woidich (2013: 276) mention /q/ substitution with /g/ as a feature of *Bedouin dialects*, /g/ substitution with the glottal stop /ʔ/ in *Urban dialects*. Nonetheless, many villagers are pronouncing the glottal /ʔ/ instead of /q/ because of urban speech influence of education, occupation, and trade.

According to Al-Wer (2018: 526-530), Arabic dialects are classified into seven categories. Bedouin dialects are spoken by nomadic tribes while sedentary dialects are spoken by rural and urban settled communities. Western dialects are spoken in-between Egypt and North Africa while Eastern dialects are spoken between Egypt and Western Asia. Mesopotamian dialects are spoken in Iraq while Syro-Lebanese Dialects are spoken in the Levant. Finally, Egyptian dialects are spoken in Egypt. They are classified into rural, urban, and Bedouin dialects. Egyptian Bedouin dialects extend in the

western Delta and in the Mediterranean coast by some tribes such as Awla:d ʕali tribe; and in the eastern Delta and in Sinai tribal dialects. Egyptian rural dialects are classified into three categories: central Delta dialects, Middle Egypt dialects, and Upper Egypt dialects.

Woidich (1996) defines the Egyptian rural dialects as “the dialects of the peasants in both northern Egypt (fallaḥīn) and Upper Egypt (šaʕayda), as well as those of the inhabitants of the oases in the Western Desert”. He classifies the Egyptian vernacular into three dialect groups: Nile Delta, Nile Valley, and the Western Desert. The Nile Delta dialect group includes western dialects, northeastern dialects, central dialects, and eastern dialects. Nile Valley dialect group includes Middle Egypt dialects and Upper Egypt dialects. The final dialect group spreads in the Western Desert.

Wardhaugh and Fuller (2015: 32) describe the regional dialect as the most prominent type of linguistic variation within the same language. It appears in variable pronunciation, vocabulary, and syntax. For example, based on the researcher's personal experience of living in two different Egyptian speech communities, namely the Cairo community and the Alexandrian community, the regional variations are noted. Table (1) clarifies regional variables in two different Egyptian communities.

Table (1): Cairo and Alexandria Dialects

	The Cairene Dialect	The Alexandrian Dialect	Gloss
1	/romī/	/torkī/	Cheese
2	/ana nimt/	/ana namt/	I slept
3	/mabaxaf/	/mabax ^x af/	I don't fear

In table (1), the regional dialect variation appears in using different lexeme, namely /romī/ and /torkī/ for the same object i.e. cheese. On phonetic level, the different pronunciation of the same sentence i.e. "I slept" reflects the regional origin of the speaker. The Cairene dialect speakers use the high front vowel /i/ after the initial consonant in the past tense verb /nimt/ i.e. slept. Similar phonological variation can be observed in /fihimt/ (I understood), /ʕiribt/ (I drank), and /ʕirift/ (I knew). On the other side, The Alexandrian dialect speakers use the low central vowel /a/ instead of

the Cairene high front vowel /i/ in past tense verb: /fahamt/, /ʃarabt/, and /ʃaraft/.

Furthermore, the regional accents are similar in adding the palatal /j/ to word-final position of the present tense verb /xaf/ i.e. "fear". It is used as a negation particle, a word final intrusion that does not exist in MSA. Moreover, they are similar in using the short vowel /a/ in /ma/ instead of the long vowel /ā/ of the MSA variant /mā/ i.e. a negative particle means "did not". It is a form of vowel reduction. The difference appears in the use of the velarized /x^y/ in the Alexandrian dialect. This is attributed to the influence of the low central vowel /a/ on the velar fricative /x/.

Bhat (2001: 9) provides diachronic and synchronic evidence on the inevitability of sound changes in various dialects. Diachronic evidence appears when comparing between engraved inscriptions and the linguistic variations of certain civilization. This reveals the changes that one language undergoes in different periods. For example, in relation to Al-Minya dialect, Alabadi (2016: 72-79) mentions that the nomination of Al-Minya is derived from the hieroglyphic lexeme /manʃat/ منعت which is an abbreviation of the old nomination /mancat xōfō/ , the proper name of Khufu's wet nurse as engraved on Bani Hassan Tombs. Later, the nomination /manʃat/ abbreviated to be /mont/ in Coptic language i.e. house. Later, it changed to be /miniat/ and finally the /t/ replaced with the long vowel /ā/ to be /miniā/. Regarding synchronic evidence, it appears when comparing between the standard language and its dialects. Similarity is necessary in these dialects.

According to Walker (2010: 45-46), variation in sound system is divided into phonetic and phonological variation. Phonic variation occurs when the variation takes place at the level of speech pronunciation while phonological variation occurs when the variation is part of the sound system. Phonic variables occur on consonantal level when consonants are deleted, shifted in place or manner of articulation. In relation to vowels, phonic variation occurs when vowels are deleted, raised or lowered, diphthongized or monophthongized, fronted or backed. The difference between

phonic and phonological variation is in the degree of application, i.e. phonological variation has a high probability of application.

Sound changes share certain features or what Smith (2010: 2-4) calls universals. The first universal is the uniformitarian hypothesis. It refers to the systematic pattern of language change in the present and past times. The second universal is the comprehensive linguistic change i.e. on phonetic, lexical, and grammatical levels. The third universal is that some varieties are more conservative than others are. For example, Scottish English speakers rhyme 'good' and 'food' just like Shakespeare's contemporaries did. Conversely, the two words do not rhyme in Southern British English. In relation to Egyptian Vernacular, a good example of the conservative nature of some dialects is keeping on the /dʒ/ sound in Egyptian rural accents while substituting /dʒ/ with /g/ in the Cairene accent.

Bhat (2001: 8) classifies sound change into three kinds: *sound-oriented changes*, *grammar-oriented changes*, and *word-oriented changes*. The first kind refers to different pronunciations of the same sound either in conditioned or unconditioned cases that occur when new generation of speakers acquire a dialect. *Grammar-oriented changes* depend on removing morphophonemic alternations of sounds introduced by earlier sound changes. Finally, *word-oriented changes* depend on altering the phonetic structure of words.

Smith agrees with Bhat on the conditioned and unconditioned sound changes using different terminology. He (2010: 8) refers to the traditional classification of sound changes into *isolative* and *combinative*. The former refers to sound changes, which occur regardless of the phonological environment, while the later refers to sound changes depending on phonologically conditioned environment. Compbell (2013:15-16) exemplifies conditioned sound changes by substituting every /p/ with /b/ intervocalically in Spanish language. Conversely, unconditioned changes appears in Latin change of /l/ to /y/ regardless of the phonological environment.

Burridge and Bergs (2017: 90-93) differentiate between phonetic and phonemic sound changes. In Phonetic sound changes,

the sounds are investigated regardless of any phonological context. Phonetic sound changes do not alter the phoneme inventory of a language. They are changes in pronunciation. For example, the oral stops /t/ and /d/ are pronounced as dental stops [t̪] and [d̪] in tenth and width. Nonetheless, they do not alter the phonemic inventory of the English language. Phonemic sound changes are alternations in phonemes based on a certain phonological context i.e. conditioned. The phonemes are treated as meaningful distinctive units with different realizations, i.e. allophones. Phonemic sound changes alter the phonemic system of a language by merger or split. Merger results from the reduction of two phonemes into one phoneme, e.g. front rounded /y:/ in old English changes to be unrounded /i:/ in all phonological environments. It is a type of complete merger. A partial merger occurs in certain phonological contexts. For example, neutralizing /e/ and /æ / by New Zealanders before lateral /l/, therefore, 'shall' and 'shell' are homophones.

Murray (2017: 27-29) refers to phonetic changes or the New Grammarian Change and sound transposition as the most well-known classification of sound change. Phonetic change is controlled by the regularity hypothesis. It occurs mechanically and unconsciously by all speakers of the dialect. The most important distinctive feature of this kind is its regular occurrence. Sound transposition occurs only in individual words without changing the phonological inventory of the language e.g. metathesis and dissimilation. Compbell (2013: 15) adds that the phonetic change stems from the regularity principle of the new grammarian's hypothesis. It builds on their famous slogan "sound laws suffer no exceptions". By 'laws', they refer to "sound changes". Using the lexeme 'law' stems from their attempt to connect linguistics to other sciences built on laws.

According to Burridge and Bergs (76-77: 2017), the most common processes of sound changes are classified into sound loss, sound intrusion, and sound modifications within word structure. They attribute sound changes to the *Principle of Least Effort* or *Economy of Gesture*.

Gordon (2016: 123) classifies phonological processes on a segmental level into three categories. The first category stems from rules related to the phonetic properties of phonemes. Assimilation, dissimilation, fortition, and lenition are the phonological processes, which depend on the phonetic properties of phonemes. He classifies this category into active processes and static processes. The active processes are responsible for different allophones. The static processes are conditioned by certain phonological environments; either prosodic position or adjacent sounds. In the former kind, the sound change is a result of the occurrence of the target phoneme in a certain position within words; while in the latter kind, the sound change stems from the influence of an adjacent phoneme on the target phoneme.

According to Burridge and Bergs (81:2017), *assimilation* is the most common type of sound change where one sound becomes similar to or identical with adjacent sound, e.g., the nasal /n/ in 'sink' changes to be /ŋ/ because of the influence of the velar /k/. Place of articulation, manner of articulation, and voicing are the three parameters that phonemes assimilate with each other. In the previous example, the nasal /n/ assimilates to the velar /k/ in place of articulation.

Gordon (2016: 124-125) defines *assimilation* as a change in the feature properties of one sound because of the influence of adjacent sound. Articulatory ease and adjacency of place of articulation are causes of *assimilation*. *Assimilation* is interpreted based on four criteria: the kind of the assimilated sound i.e. consonant-consonant *assimilation* and consonant-vowel *assimilation*; the assimilated features i.e. place, manner and voicing; the direction of *assimilation*; and the distance between the target sound and the *assimilation* trigger.

Concerning the rules of sound change, Stockwell & Donka Minkova (2013: 95- 6) classify the rules of sound change or "predictable allomorphy" into three categories: *replacement rules*, *deletion rules*, and *expansion rules*. The first category includes *assimilation* rules where one sound is replaced by another sound

because of the influence of a phoneme of adjacent place of articulation. The assimilated feature could be place of articulation, manner of articulation or voicing. Gordon (2016: 126) adds that in consonant-consonant *assimilation*, the assimilated features could be voicing, nasality, laryngeal features, and sonority. In consonant-vowel *assimilation*, the consonant stimulates place *assimilation* in the adjacent vowel, e.g. nasalization of preceding vowels to nasals as in /mæn/.

Based on direction, as Stockwell & Donka Minkova (2013: 95) clarify, *assimilation* could be progressive i.e. left-to-right or regressive *assimilation* i.e. right-to-left. Watson (2011: 122) provides example on anticipatory or progressive *assimilation* of lateral /l/ to coronal obstruent in Cairene dialect. It occurs only in case /l/ is a phoneme of the definite article /il/: for example, /il+ ssigāda/ > /ls-siggada/, i.e. the carpet; /il+t̄ ĩn/ > /lt-t̄ ĩn/, i.e. the fig; /il+zīt/ > /lz-ze ĩt/ , i.e. the oil.

According to Stockwell & Minkova (2013: 96), labial *assimilation* is one kind where a velar /n/ is assimilated to a bilabial /m/ in case the next sound is /p/, /b/, /m/, or /f/. Algeo (2014: 31) provides the example of /pæŋkeik/ as *partial assimilation* where the velar /n/ is assimilated to the velar /k/ in the feature of velarization. In total *assimilation*, one sound is replaced by another sound as in /speis fip/ turns to be /speif fip/.

Burridge and Bergs (87-88: 2017) reveal that unlike *assimilation*, dissimilation depends on substituting one phoneme for another to differentiate between similar adjacent phonemes. It is triggered by repetition of the same category of sounds, e.g. too many nasals are problematic, and therefore, one of the nasals is replaced to ease pronunciation. For example, 'february' includes double /r/ therefore; the first /r/ is replaced by palatal /j/ in /'febʝʊəri /. Dissimilation is one of the sporadic sound changes triggered by rhotics and nasal's succession in English language.

Gordon (2016: 140) explicates that dissimilation occurs when one of two similar sounds shift to be different from the similar neighboring sound. Algeo (2014: 30) mentions examples of

dissimilation, such as 'chimney' > 'chimley' where the second nasal changed to /l/; and 'canterbury' > 'cantebury' where one /r/ is deleted.

Lenition is another type of sound change. Burridge and Bergs (85-86) characterize lenition as including sound weakening and reduction of the articulators' movement. It is motivated by weakened prosodic positions. The utmost form of lenition is *sound loss*, for example, in English language, lenition appears in two forms; reduction of /a/, /o/, /u/, /e/ to /ə/; and loss of nasal /m/ and /n/. Lenition paths are six: gemination of a consonant, stop > fricative > approximant; stop > liquid > approximant; oral stop > glottal stop; non-nasal > nasal; voiceless > voiced.

Crystal (2015:274) defines lenition as "weakening in the overall strength of a sound", e.g. changing a stop sound into a fricative, and a fricative into an approximant; and changing a voiceless sound into a voiced or a zero. Gordon (2016: 151) mentions that lenition of vowels appears in unstressed vowels, domain-final syllables, and voicing of intervocalic obstruents. Conversely, fortition, as Crystal (2015:197) states, is "strengthening in the overall force of a sound", e.g. changing a fricative to a stop sound, an approximant to a fricative sound, and a voiced to a voiceless. Gordon (2016: 153) indicates that fortition is noted in stressed syllables, in domain initial syllables, and in devoicing prevocalic consonants.

Sound omission is another fundamental phonological phenomenon. Gordon (2016: 157) defines sound omission as "extreme version of lenition". Triggers of sound deletion are the same of lenition: "final position, unstressed syllables, and contexts adjacent to sounds produced with wide vocal tract aperture". For example, in Sango, one of the African languages, the intervocalic sonorant consonants are deleted. Sound omission results in *compensatory lengthening*. This is clear in lengthening of adjacent vowel to an elided coda consonant and lengthening of a vowel that precedes a consonant followed with elided vowel.

As Burridge and Bergs (77-79: 2017) agree that sound elision results in compensatory lengthening. The adjacent vowel to the lost

sound is lengthened, e.g. in modern German /gans/ turned to be /gu:s/. Because of the nasal loss, the preceding vowel is lengthened. Sound loss is classified based on position within a word into *Aphesis* where a sound is lost from the initial-word position; *Syncope* where a sound is lost from the medial-word position; and *Apocope* where a sound is lost from the final word position. In addition, elision appears in deleting an entire syllable i.e. haplology which is triggered by consecutive similar syllables, e.g. interpretative > interpretive.

Compbell (2013: 32) adds that *compensatory lengthening* appears in examples such as /toŋθ/ > /tōθ/ > /tuθ/ (tooth) and in /Fimf/ > /fīf/ > /faiv/. The deleted /n/ and /m/ are compensated for by a long vowel /ō/ and /ī/ respectively. A nasal is lost before the fricatives i.e. /θ/, /f/, and the preceding vowel is lengthened to compensate for the lost nasal.

Burridge and Bergs (80:2017) label the *intrusion* of a phoneme to a word structure as *epenthesis*. It is an umbrella term for vowel or consonant *intrusion* to word structure. *Epenthesis* to word initial position is labelled *Prothesis*, e.g. adding a vowel to word structure is motivated by breaking up consonant cluster. Conversely, adding a consonant to word structure is known as *excrescence*, e.g. the non-standard pronunciation of something is /sɪmpθɪŋ/. *Excrescence* is motivated by mistiming of the organs of speech during the articulation process. In the previous example, when articulating the nasal /m/, the soft palate lowers, therefore, the air escapes through the nose. This is followed by raising the soft palate to articulate the dental /θ/. Mistiming happens if the soft palate is raised soon. Thus, allowing voiceless bilabial /p/ to be inserted before the dental /θ/.

Compbell (2013: 30-32) adds *anaptyxis* where an extra vowel is inserted between two consonants, e.g., inserting a schwa in-between /θ/ and /l/ in /æθəlɪt/. Finally, word-final insertion is known as *paragoge*, e.g. huespe changed to be huesped i.e. guest. It is a final consonant insertion of /d/. In /red/, a vowel insertion appears in /rede/ i.e. net.

Gordon (2016: 104-5) attributes the *epenthetic /i/* in Cairene accent to the tendency of eliminating complex onset or coda. The

epenthetic segment /i/ in Cairene accent is inserted after two consonants: /ʔul-t-lu/> /ʔultilu/, i.e. I said to him; /Katab-t-lu/>/katabtilu/, i.e. I wrote to him; /ʔul-t-l-ha/ >/ʔultilha/, i.e. I said to her; and /Katab-t-l-ha/> /katabtilha/, i.e. I wrote to her.

Burridge and Bergs (88- 89:2017) state that like *excrecence*, *metathesis* is triggered by miscoding or mistiming. Rotics, liquids, and nasals are subject to transposition in word articulation. For example, anenome > anemone; aminal > animal; renumeration > remuneration; emeny > enemy are examples of *metathesis* in English language. It is a sporadic kind of sound change, i.e. unconditioned. Algeo (2014: 33) agrees that reordering of sounds within a word is another form of sound change. For example, in "produce" – /pərduce/ and in "perform" – /prəform/ where the /r/ is transposed with an unstressed vowel.

Fagan (2016:143) adds two other types of sound change: *monophthongization* and *diphthongization*. While *diphthongization* is changing a monophthong to a diphthong, *monophthongization* is changing a diphthong to a monophthong. Dawson (2016:723) provides examples of *monophthongization* based on ethnic variation. In Standard American English, now and side are pronounced as /nau/ and /said/. In African American English (AAE), they are pronounced as /na:/ and /sa:d/ respectively. *Monophthongization* in AAE occurs before voiceless consonants.

Since the aim of this paper is to detect the sound changes in Al-Minya accent in comparison to the spoken MSA, a summarized presentation of spoken Modern Standard Arabic is necessary. According to Mustafawi (2018:11), MSA has opulent consonantal system, but a restricted vocalic one. Mustafawi defines MSA as "a slightly simplified version of CA i.e. classical Arabic in terms of its lexicon and syntax".

According to Holes (2004:58), spoken Modern Standard Arabic refers to a formal variety of Arabic spoken in radio and television. The consonant system of spoken MSA includes ten places of articulation, i.e. ten categories of consonantal phonemes. First, *Labials* of spoken MSA includes /b/, /w/, and /m/. The /b/ is phonetically described as

labial plosive voiced; the /w/ is labial fricative voiced, and the /m/ is labial nasal voiced. All the *Labials* of spoken MSA are voiced.

The second category of spoken MSA is *Labiodentals* which include one phoneme i.e. /f/. It is phonetically described as labiodental fricative voiced consonant. The third category is *Dentals*. It includes eight phonemes. They are subclassified into plain and emphatic or pharyngealized phonemes. A pharyngealized phoneme includes a secondary articulation where the back of the tongue is restricted simultaneously with the primary articulation i.e. the tongue blade creates obstruction with the back of the upper incisors. *Plain dentals* are /t/, /d/, /s/, /z/, and /l/, while *pharyngealized dentals* are /t̤/, /d̤/, and /s̤/. The /t/ is phonetically described as plain dental voiceless plosive. The /d/ is phonetically described as plain dental voiced plosive. The /s/ is plain dental voiceless fricative. The /z/ is plain dental voiced fricative. The /l/ is dental voiced liquid. The /t̤/ is pharyngealized dental voiceless plosive. The /d̤/ is pharyngealized dental voiced plosive. The /s̤/ is pharyngealized dental voiceless fricative.

Similarly, the category of interdentals is subclassified into plain and pharyngealized phonemes. The plain interdentals are /θ/ and /ð/, while the pharyngealized interdental is /ʒ/. The /θ/ is phonetically described as plain interdental voiceless fricative, the /ð/ is plain interdental voiced fricative, and the /ʒ/ is a pharyngealized interdental voiced fricative.

Alveolars include /ʃ/, /dʒ/, /r/, and /n/. The /ʃ/ is phonetically described as alveolar voiceless fricative; the /dʒ/ is alveolar voiced affricate; the /r/ is alveolar voiced liquid; and the /n/ is alveolar voiced nasal. The sixth category of spoken MSA is palatals. It includes one phoneme, i.e. /j/. It is phonetically described as palatal voiced fricative. The following category is velars. It includes /k/, /x/, and /ɣ/. The /k/ is described as velar voiceless plosive, the /x/ is velar voiceless fricative, and the /ɣ/ is velar voiced fricative. The only uvular is /q/. It is described as uvular voiced plosive. The pharyngeals of spoken MSA are /ħ/ and /ʕ/. The /ħ/ is pharyngeal voiceless fricative, while the /ʕ/ is pharyngeal voiced fricative. The final category of Spoken MSA is

glottals. It includes /ʔ/ and /h/. While the /ʔ/ is glottal plosive, the /h/ is glottal fricative.

Alnori (2019: 254) states that Arabic vowels are three short vowels /i/, /a/, and /o/. Arabic long vowels are /ī/, /ā/, /ō/, and two semivowels, i.e. /aw/ and /ay/. Arabic semivowels can be considered as consonants as they cannot occupy the nucleus position of the syllable. It is a position that is occupied only by pure vowels. Algori (226- 227) adds that Arabic sounds differ in sonority. They are organized from the most sonorant to the least in table (2).

Table (2): sonority scale of Arabic phonemes

1	Long vowels: /ā/, /ī/, and /ō/
2	Short vowels: /a/, /i/, and /o/
3	Semivowels: /aj/ and /aw/
4	Liquids: /r/, /l/, /m/, and /n/ respectively
5	Voiced affricates: /dʒ/
6	Voiced fricatives: /z/, /ð/, /ʒ/, and /ɣ/
7	Voiced plosives: /b/, /m/, /d/, and /ɟ/.
8	Voiceless fricatives: /s/, /ʃ/, /θ/, and /f/.
9	Voiceless plosive: /t/, /k/, and /q/

This research fills gaps, such as the lack of papers that focus on studying the characteristics of Al-Minya accent. The current research papers focus on studying the Egyptian vernacular as one kind that does not include variation as in "*Classical and Modern Standard Arabic*" by Putten. He focuses on the syntax and morphology of *Egyptian Arabic*, and compares its linguistic features to the *Levantine Arabic*. The focus is on the *Egyptian Arabic* as one kind. Even when Putten (2020: 50) refers to the phonological differences between the Egyptian and the Levantine Arabic, the pronunciation of the ġim as /g/ not /dʒ/ is mistakenly generalized as a feature of *Egyptian Arabic*. Contrary, as the current study proves, the pronunciation of /dʒ/ is proved a characteristic of *Al-Minya accent*.

Other research papers focus on the *Cairene dialect* such as Druel's study of "Emphatic sounds in educated Cairene Arabic: what to teach to AFL students" (2006); and Algarawi's study of "*Cairene Arabic: between Modernization and the Rustic Village*". Even when research papers study *Al-Minya dialect*, the focus is on the influence

of Cairene dialect on Al-Minya dialect as in "*Dialect Convergence in Egypt: The Impact of Cairo Arabic on Minya Arabic*"(2016) and in "*Dialect Convergence in Egypt: Switching from Minia /q/ local variants to Cairene [ʔ]*" (2015) by Sadiq. He focuses on the impact of Cairene Arabic on Al-Minya dialect. Even when the study focus on Upper Egyptian dialect, it is limited to syntactic and semantic levels, such as Nishio (1994) in his study of the Qift, one of Upper Egypt dialects. He confines his study to the grammar and vocabulary levels.

The third category of studies in relation to *Egyptian Vernacular* targets the isoglosses. For example, Woidich's "*Rural Dialect of Egyptian Arabic: An Overview*" (1996). His interest is on the isoglosses i.e. the linguistic features used to classify the Egyptian geographic regions. He divides the Egyptian dialect groups into Nile Delta, Nile valley, and the Western desert. The current research paper fills the gap of lacking study of Al-Minya accent. It targets Al-Minya accent as one of the regional varieties of Egyptian Vernacular.

After this brief presentation of types of sound changes, the following section provides a phonological analysis of Al-Minya accent. This is achieved by comparing Al-Minya variants to the variants of the spoken MSA. The assimilated sounds and the intruded sounds are bolded in Al-Minya variants while the deleted sounds in Al-Minya variants are bolded in the MSA counterpart. The aim of the next section is to investigate the sound changes in Al-Minya accent in relation to spoken MSA. The focus is on the phonological processes of *assimilation; metathesis; sound intrusion* i.e. *aphesis, syncope, apocope; sound elision*, i.e. *prothesis, excrescence, anaptyxis, paragoge* and *vowel changes*, i.e. *monophthongization* and *diphthongization*.

Analysis

Extract (1)

يتحلل بياخروا واحد مسلا كدا كبير في السن ويروح لصاحب
المشكلة ويحلهم... وهما جعدين يعني مفيش أي مشاكل بنسبة
لقريته صندا. أي خلاف بيتحل علطول واحد يروح مع واحد اللي
هو اتخانج وهو ويروحهم مع بعضيهم ويصلح يعني مفيش أي
حاجه ويتريل الخلاف.

Abdelghany. (2018). *Ahl Alqaria Program, the Village of Sundafa, Bani Mazar, Meeting the Basket Maker*. [Video].

bitithal bijāxdō waḥid masalan kidā kabīr fissin
wijrōh lisāhib ʔilmoʔkilah wi bijihlōhā wi
homma qaʔdīn jaʔnī mafīf ʔaj mafākil binnisbā
liqarjit sandafa..... ʔaj xilāf bijithal ʔalaʔōl waḥid
jirōh maʔa waḥid ʔillī howwa ʔitxāniq wi howwa
wijrōhom maʔa baʔdīhom wi iistalaḥo jaʔnī
mafīf ʔaj ḥādʔah wibijzil ʔilxilāf.

The problem is resolved where they take such an elderly person and go to the other person involved in the problem and resolve it while they are sitting... I mean there are no problems in Sandafa village... Any dispute is resolved immediately... The person goes to the other person involved in the problem and they reconcile... I mean, there are no problems and the dispute is resolved.

The previous extract is provided by the preacher of Sandafa village affiliated to Beni Mazar town in Al-Minya governorate. It is the preacher's reply to the inquiry about potential troubles between the neighbors in Sandafa village.

In the previous extract, *dental assimilation* appears in /jaxd+ō/ (they take) and /kidā/ (like that). The MSA variants are /jaʔxoð+ō/ and /kaðā/. The *interdental voiced fricative* /ð/ is totally assimilated to *the dental voiced plosive* /d/ in place and manner of articulation. Similarly, *dental assimilation* appears in /masalan/ (for example), where the MSA variant is /maθalan/. *The interdental voiced fricative* /θ/ is totally assimilated to *the dental voiceless fricative* /s/. It is a *place assimilation* triggered by the adjacency of place of articulation.

Velarized assimilation appears in assimilating *the uvular plosive* /q/ to *the velar plosive* /g/, which does not exist in MSA. This phonological feature of Al-Minya accent appears in /gaʕdīn/ (sitting) and /ʔitxānig/ (quarreled). The MSA variants are /qāʕidīn/ and /taxānaqa/. This is another distinctive feature of Al-Minya accent rather than MSA, which keeps on the *uvular* /q/. Similar to MSA, Al-Minya accent keeps on the *alveolar affricate* /dʒ/. This is clear in /ħāʔdʒah/ (a need). Finally, *pharyngealized assimilation* appears between the plain /t/ and the *pharyngealized* /t̤/ in /jiʃtalaħ/ where the MSA variant is /jataʃālaħ/. Both phonemes are *dental voiceless plosives*. The assimilated phonetic feature is *pharyngealization*.

Metathesis is used in /jiʃtalaħ/ (reconcile) where the MSA variant is /jataʃālaħ/. *Metathesis* appears in the transposition of *the dental fricative* /s/ and *the dental pharyngealized plosive* /t̤/, which is *dental plain plosive* /t/ in the MSA variant.

Sound elision is noticed in Al-Minya accent. It is illustrated in *aphaeresis and apocope*. *Aphaeresis* is noticed in /jā+xod/ (to take) where the MSA variant is /ja+ʔxoð/. The *glottal stop* /ʔ/ is deleted. *Aphaeresis* causes *compensatory lengthening* which appears in lengthening the low central /a/ to /ā/. *Apocope* is detected in /mafīj/ (nothing). The MSA variant is /mā + fī + [ajʔ]/; it is structured of three lexemes: /mā/, a negation particle; /fī/, a preposition; and /[ajʔ]/, a noun. *Apocope* appears in deleting the *diphthong* /aj/ and *the glottal stop* /ʔ/ in /[ajʔ]/. Likewise, *apocope* appears in the relative pronoun

/ʔillī/, whose MSA variant is /ʔallaðī/ (that). It undergoes word final sound elision of the *interdental fricative* /ð/ and *the long vowel* /ī/.

Prothesis appears in intruding /bi/ to present tense verbs. This is clear in /bi+ jāxd + ō/ (They take), /bi + jħil + ō+hā/ (they resolve it), /bi + jzīl/ (eliminate) and /bi+tīħal/ (is resolved). The MSA variants are /jaʔxoðō/, /jaħilōhā/, and /jazōl/ and /toħal/ respectively. The *intrusion* of the present tense preverbal marker /bi/ causes a phoneme *elision*, e.g. /jaħil/ > /bijħil/ , /jazōl/ > /bijzīl/, /bi+ti+tīħal/ > /toħal/.

Regarding past tense verb, it is intruded by the preverbal marker /ʔi/. This is observed in /ʔitxānig/ (to quarrel) where the MSA variant is /taxānaqa/. Similar to intruding present tense preverbal marker /bi/, past tense preverbal marker /ʔi/ has the same effect of vowel *elision*. In Al-Minya variant /ʔitxānig/, the low central /a/ is elided because of the /ʔi/ *intrusion*. Other examples of /ʔi/ *prothesis* to past tense verb are /ʔitfāhim/ (came to terms with), /ʔitṛāḍa/ (reconciled), and /ʔitkalim/ (he spoke). The MSA variants are /tafāham/, /tarāḍa/, and /takalama/ respectively. Finally, *Excrescence* appears in /howwa/ (he). The MSA variant is /howa/: the *bilabial fricative voiced* /w/ is intruded to word-mid position.

Vowel raising is observed in preference of *high front unrounded vowel* /i/ to *low central unrounded vowel* /a/. This is clear in examples such as /kidā/ (like that), /ʔilmōʃkilah/ (the problem), /wi/ (and), /jīrōħ/ (goes), /baʃḍīhom/ (together), and /ʔilxilāf/ (the dispute). The MSA variants are /kaða/, /ʔalmoʃkilah/, /wa/, /jarōħ/ /baʃḍahom/, and /ʔalxilāf/.

Extract (2)

وَجَوْلْ إِنْحْنَا فِي مَصْرٍ وَفِي الْقَرْيَةِ فِي قَرْيَةِ صَدَفَا إِنْحْنَا وَلِخَوَّةِ
الْمَسِيحِينَ نَسِيحٍ وَاحِدٍ وَاللِّي يَنْسِيحُ الْقَتْنَةَ دَه بِيَوْجَعِ مَصْرٍ وَمَصْرٍ
حَارِصْنَهَا رَبَّنَا وَمَزْكُورَةٌ فِي الْقُرْآنِ... وَلِخَوَّةِ الْمَسِيحِينَ إِخْوَاتِنَا وَ
بِتَعِيدِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَنَمْرُ بَزْرَفَا فَرَحٍ وَمَيْتَمِ كَلْنَا نَسِيحٍ وَاحِدٍ.

Abdelghany. (2018). *Ahl Alqaria Program, the Village of Sundafa, Bani Mazar, Meeting the Basket Maker*. [Video].

Waqōl ʔinniḥnā fi maṣṣr wi filqaria qarijt
sandafa ʔinniḥnā wilixwā ʔilmisiḥijin nasīdʒ
wāḥid willi bijṣir ʔilfitna dih bijwaqqaṣ maṣṣir
wi maṣṣir ḥarisha rabnā wi mazkora
filqorʔān...willixwa ʔilmisiḥijin ʔixwatna wi
binʕajid ʕalīhom wi binmor bizrōf faraḥ wi
majtam kolinā nasīdʒ waḥid.

And I say that we are in Egypt and in the village of Sandafa that we and the Christian brothers are one fabric. And those who stir up discord damage Egypt. And Egypt is safeguarded by our God, and this is mentioned in the Qur'an. The Christian brothers are our brothers. We congratulate them and go through joyful and mournful conditions. We are all one fabric.

The previous extract is provided by the *Head of the Development Complex* in *Al-Bahnasa* village, affiliated to *Al-Minya* town in *Al-Mynia* governorate. As one of *Sandafa* residents, the participant's contribution is a response to the interviewer's question about the relation between Muslims and Christians in *Sandafa* village.

Dental assimilation is displayed in /bįsīr/ (incite strife) and /bįzrōf/ (conditions). The MSA variants are /joθīr/ and /biḏorōf/. The *interdental fricative* /θ/ in /joθīr/ is totally assimilated to the *dental fricative* /s/ in /bįsīr/. Since both phonemes are *voiceless fricatives*, it is a *place assimilation*. Likewise, the *interdental fricative* /ḏ/ in /biḏorōf/ is totally assimilated to the *dental fricative* /z/ in Al-Minya variant. Hence both phonemes are *voiced fricatives*, it is a *place assimilation*. *Dental plosive assimilation* appears in /dih/ (This). The MSA variant is /ḏī/ i.e. feminine demonstrative pronoun. The *interdental voiced fricative* /ḏ/ is totally assimilated to the *dental plosive* /d/ in place and manner of articulation.

Pharyngealized assimilation is evident in /ħariṣ+ha/ (safeguards her) where the MSA variant is /ħarisoħa/. The *dental voiceless fricative plain* /s/ in /ħarisoħa/ is totally assimilated to the *dental voiceless fricative pharyngealized* /ṣ/ in Al-Minya variant. Since /s/ and /ṣ/ are *dental voiceless fricatives*, the only assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*. In addition, *Pharyngealized assimilation* appears in /ṣandāfa/. The MSA variant is /ṣandāfa/. The *dental plosive plain* /d/ in /ṣandāfa/ is totally assimilated to the *dental plosive pharyngealized* /ḏ/ in Al-Minya variant.

Another observed type of *assimilation* is the total *assimilation* of *uvular plosive* /q/ to *velar plosive* /g/, which does not exist in the MSA. This is shown in examples such as /wagōl/ (an I say), and /bijwaggaṣ/ (causes troubles) which have the MSA variants /wa ḡaqōl/ and /jōḡiṣ/.

Sound *elision* is detected in /wi+lixwā/ (and the brothers) where the MSA variant is /wa+ḡalḡixwah/. The *glottal plosive stop* /ʔ/ is deleted in word initial-position i.e. *aphaeresis* and word-medially i.e. *syncope*, in addition, the *glottal fricative* /h/ is deleted in word-final position, i.e. *apocope*. The *Compensatory lengthening* appears in vowel prolongation of /a/ > /ā/ in word final position. In /wagōl/, whose MSA variant is /wa+ ḡaqōl/, *aphaeresis* appears in eliding

the glottal plosive stop /ʔ/. Similarly, in /wi+lli/ (and that) whose MSA variant is /wa+ʔallaḏī/, the glottal plosive stop /ʔ/ is deleted word-initially i.e. *aphaeresis* and the interdental fricative /ð/ is deleted word-finally, i.e. *apocope*. Finally, *syncope* appears in /ʔixwatnā / where the MSA variant is /ʔixwatōnā/. The high back /o/ is deleted in word-mid position.

Prothesis is prominent in intruding the preverbal marker /bi/ to the present tense verb. This is clear in /bījsīr/ (incite strife), /bījwaggaʕ/ (causes troubles), /binʕajid/ (congratulate) and /binmor/ (go through). The MSA variants are /joθīr/, /joqiʕ/, /noʕajid/, and /namor/. The *intrusion* of present tense preverbal marker /bi/ causes vowel *elision*: high back vowel /o/ is elided in /bījsīr/, /bījwaggaʕ/, and in /binʕajid/ while the low central vowel /a/ is elided in /binmor/.

On vowel level, *vowel raising* is used where the low central vowel /a/ is raised to the high front vowel /i/ in /wi/ (and), /ʔilfitnah/ (discord), /dih/ (this), and /ʔilmisiḥijin/ (Christians). The MSA variants are /wa/, /ʔalfitnah/, /ḏa/, /wa/, and /ʔalmasiḥijin/ respectively. *Monophthongization* is noted in /ʕalīhom/ (on them) where the MSA variant is /ʕalajhom/. The diphthong /aj/ is monophthongized to the long vowel /ī/. It is a form of *lenition* where the sound acquires more *sonority*. Another noted use of *lenition* is in /majtam/ (funeral) where the MSA variant is /maʔtam/. The glottal stop /ʔ/ is modified to be diphthong /aj/ in Al-Minya variant. It is a form of *lenition* as diphthongs are more sonorous than plosive consonants. Finally, keeping on the *alveolar affricate* which is a shared feature between Al-Minya accent and MSA is clear in /nasīdʒ/ (fabric).

Extract (3)

أنا مَجِيب الطُّوبِا إِلِي هِنَاك دِه... هُو دِه إِلِي عَمَلُو فِي المَعْجَنَة دِي
...عَمَطَلَعُوا الكِرَاكَة مِن الطَّرْعَه وَيَشْفَ لَكِن دُون بَتَاع امشَارِيَع
إِلِي هِيَه بِطَطَلَع مِن مَبَاكِنِ العِمْدَانِ إَنُور...إِطِينِ اللُّزْر الحَامِد دِه دِه
يَبِشْ وَيَعْدِينِ يَطْخَلَط بِطْرَابِ الفُرْنِ إِلِي هُو اطرَابِ لَسْمَرِ إِلِي
هِنَاك سَعْتَيْنِ أَوْ ثَلَاثَه.

Abdelghany. (2017). *Ahl Alqaria Manqateen Village*. [Video]

*Ana madzīb ʔitōb ʔillī hinak dih... howwa dih ʔillī
ʕammabillow filmaʕdʕanah dī..... ʕammatalʕō
ʕilkaraka min ʔittorʕah wi jinsaf lākin dawwan
bitāʕ ʔilmaʕārīʔ ʔillī hijja bititlaʕ min makān
ʔilʕimdān ʔinōr. ʔittīn ʔillazar ʔildzāmid dih dih
jibīf wi baʕdīn jitxalat bitrāb ʔilforn ʔillī howwa
ʔittrāb lasmar ʔillī hināk....saʕtīn ʔaw talatah.*

I bring the bricks which are over there. This is what I wet in this mud. We take out mud by the dredger from the canal and dry it. But this comes from the projects and comes out of the place of the pillars of light. This hard laser clay becomes soft and then mixed with oven's dust, which is alluvium, for two or three hours.

This extract is provided by one of pottery makers in Mankatin village affiliated to Samalut town in Al-Minya governorate. His contribution is a response to the interviewer's question about stages of making pottery and the sources of clay used in pottery craft.

Dental plosive assimilation appears in Al-Minya variants /dih/ and /dī/, which, as Spiro (1999: 176) clarifies, means 'this'. Both variants have the MSA variant /ðī/ where *the interdental fricative /ð/* is totally assimilated to *the dental plosive /d/*. Moreover, Al-Minya variant /dih/ undergoes a process of *paragoge* where *the glottal*

fricative /h/ is intruded word-finally. In addition, *dental plosive assimilation* appears in /talatah/ (three) where the MSA variant is /θalāθh/. The *interdental fricative /θ/* is totally assimilated to the *dental plosive /t/* in word-initial and mid positions.

Pharyngealized assimilation is observed in /ʔiṭorʕah/ (the canal) and /bi+ṭrāb/. The MSA variants are /ʔattorʕah/ and /bi+torāb/ respectively. The *dental plosive plain /t/* is totally assimilated to the *dental plosive pharyngealized /t̤/*. Since both phonemes are *dental plosives*, the assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*. In addition, *bilabial assimilation* is detected in /bitāʕ/ (useful stuff) where the MSA variant is /matāʕ/. The *nasal bilabial /m/* is totally assimilated to the *oral bilabial /b/* and turns to be /bitaʕ/.

Aphaeresis and *syncope* are evident in /lasmar/ (the black). The MSA variant is /ʔalʔasmar/. The *glottal plosive /ʔ/* is deleted word-initially and word-medially. Word final *elision* appears in /ʔillī/ previously clarified in extract (1) and (2).

Prothesis in the above extract is evident in the present tense verbs /ʕamma + billo/ (I wet it) and /ʕamma + ʕalʕō/ (I take it out). The MSA variants are /ʔabilloh/ and /ʔoṭaliʕoh/ respectively. In Al-Minya variants, the preverbal marker /ʕamma/ is intruded to the present tense verb. In /biṭiṭlaʕ/ (It is taken from), where the MSA variant is /taṭlaʕ/, the preverbal marker /bi/ is intruded to the present tense verb. *Excrescence* appears in word mid *intrusion of the bilabial fricative /w/* in /howwa/ (he) where the MSA variant is /howa/.

On vowel level, *vowel raising* is clear in /ʔiṭōb/, /ʔillī/, /ʔilkaraka/, /wi/, /ʔilmaʕarīʕ/, /ʔilʕimdān/, /ʔinōr/, and /ʔiṭṭīn/. The MSA variants are /ʔaṭṭōb/, /ʔallaḏī/ /ʔalkaraka/, /wa/, /ʔalmaʕarīʕ/, /ʔalʕimdān/, /ʔannōr/, and /ʔaṭṭīn/. *Monophthangization* appears in /saʕtīn/ i.e. two hours. The MSA variant is /saʕatajn/. The diphthong /aj/ is monophthongized in Al-Minya variant to long vowel /ī/. Similarly, in /jibij/, the MSA variant is /jobawij/: the diphthong /aw/ is monophthongized to short vowel /i/.

Extract (4)

لو بَلَحَ بِأَيْزِهِ وَلَا حَاجِيهِ يَبْحُوشَهَا نُحُطُ أَنْضِيفَهُ بَسْ عِشَانِ خَاطِرِ
يَعْنِي صِيحُطِ الْإِلِي بِيَاكُلِ وَلَا حَاجِهِ... لِيَوْمِ يَعْنِي بِلِيَوْمِيهِ وَمَرَّةً
بِالشَّهْرِ. دَلُوجُطُ بَجَتَا بَرَبَعِينَ ... لَا هِيَا عَمْتَرُوحِ الْبَلَحِ.

Abdelghany. (2017). *Ahl Alqaria Program*, the Village of Al-Qayat, 2nd Episode. [Video].

*law balaḥā bāʾizah walla ḥaḍḡā binḥōfahā noḥoṭ
ʔinnadīfah bas ʕaḡān xāṭir jaʕnī siḥit ʔillī bijākol
walla ḥāḍḡā. lijōm jaʕnī biljōmijah wi marrah
biffahr dilwaxṭ baqat bārbiʕin ... lā hijja
ʕammanrōḥ ʔilbalaḥ.*

If it is a damaged date, we exclude it. We only put the fresh one for the sake of the person's health. Our salary is per day and sometimes per month. Now it is forty.... No... We just go to collect dates.

This extract is provided by a female villager of Al Qayat village affiliated to El-Idwa town in Al-Minya governorate. She is working in date's industry, one of the famous industries in Al Qayat village. Her contribution is a response to the interviewer's questions about honesty in sorting date fruits, her salary, and her past jobs.

Dental plosive assimilation is observed in /ʔinnaḡīfah/ (the fresh one). The MSA variant is /ʔannaʒīfah/. The interdental fricative pharyngealized /ʒ/ is totally assimilated to the dental plosive pharyngealized /ḡ/ in place and manner of articulation. Also, in /di+lwaṡṭ/ (this time), which has the MSA variant /ḡi+ʕalwaṡṭ/, the interdental voiced fricative /ḡ/ is totally assimilated to the dental voiced plosive /d/ in place and manner of articulation. Finally, pharyngealized assimilation appears in assimilating the dental voiceless plosive plain /t/ to the dental voiceless plosive pharyngealized /ṭ/ in /di+lwaṡṭ/. Both phonemes are dental voiceless plosives; therefore, it is a form of pharyngealized assimilation.

Prothesis is detected in /binħōjahā/ (we exclude it), in /bijākōl/ (he eats), and in /ʕamma+nrōħ/ (we go). The preverbal markers /bi/ and /ʕamma/ are initially intruded to the present tense verbs /nahōʃ/, /jaʔkol/, and /narōħ/. *Prothesis* of /bi/ and /ʕamma/ results in a vowel or consonant *elision*. The *low central vowel /a/* and the *glottal stop /ʔ/* are elided in Al-Minya variants. *Excrescence* appears in /bājzah/ (damaged). Ibn Manzur (119: 1993) states that the MSA variant is /bāzā/, which means to deviate from. The *palatal fricative /j/* is intruded word-medially. Similarly, in /hijja/ (she), the *palatal fricative /j/* is intruded word-medially.

Aphaeresis is evident in /di+lwaxʔ/, which has the standard /dī+ʔalwaqʔ/: the *glottal stop /ʔ/* and the *low central vowel /a/* are deleted word-initially in Al-Minya variant. *Apocope* and *syncope* appear in /ʕafān/. According to Shaalan (2003: 187), /ʕafān/ means for the purpose of. It has the MSA variant /ʕalā/ and /ʕaʔn/. *Apocope* appears in eliding the *dental liquid /l/* and the *long central vowel /ā/* in /ʕalā/. *Syncope* appears in eliding the *glottal stop /ʔ/* in /ʕaʔn/ in word-mid position. The elided *glottal stop /ʔ/* is compensated for by lengthening the *short vowel /a/* in /ʕafān/. Furthermore, *elision* appears in the demonstrative article /ʔillī/, which has the MSA variant /ʔallaḏī/, previously clarified in extracts (1) and (2). *Syncope* appears in the variants /bi+jākōl/ (he eats) and /bārbiʕīn/ (costs forty) which have the standard variants /jaʔkol/ and /bi+ʔarbaʕīn/. Both variants undergo *glottal stop elision*, which is compensated for by vowel lengthening in Al-Minya variants: /jaʔkol/ > /bi+jākōl/ and /bi+ʔarbaʕīn/ > /bārbiʕīn/.

Vowel raising from *low central /a/* to *high front /i/* is shown in examples such as /ʔinnadīfah/ (the fresh one), /ʕiħiʔ/ (health), /ʔillī/ (who), /wi/ (**and**), /dilwaxʔ/ (this time), and /ʔilbalaħ/ (the dates). The MSA variants are /ʔannaʕīfah/, /ʕiħat/, /ʔallaḏī/, /wa/, /ḏi ʔalwaqʔ/, and /ʔalbalaħ/. *Monophthongization* appears in /bi+lǰōmijah/ (daily salary). The MSA variant is /bi+lǰawm/ where the *diphthong /aw/* is monophthongized to long vowel /ō/ in Al-Minya

variant. Finally, keeping on the alveolar affricate /dʒ/ appears in /ħādzah/ (a need).

Extract (5)

وَنَا مِنْ جَبَلٍ حَتَّى مَتَّجَوْرَ (....) مِنْ عِنْدِي عَشْرِينَ خَمْسَةَ وَعَشْرِينَ
وَنَا فِيهَا شَعَالَةٌ فِيهَا... الْحَمْدُ لَهَا عَمَّيْجَوْتَنَا (....) دِي الِّي مَمْدُودَةٌ دِي
بِتَاغِ الِّي بَتَفُوتَ فِيهَا لِبَخَذَه لِحَبَالِ الِّي عَمَّيْشَتَلْ بِيهَا وَدِي نَشِيدُ
عَلَيْهَا (....) دِي الِّي عَمَّيْشَتَلْ عَلَيْهَا هِيَا دِي لِحَبَالِ الِّي عَمَّيْشَتَلْهَا هِيَا
دِي دَا حَلْفِ وَدِي زَبَابِ بَرَضُو فُوجِ عَمَّيْشَرِخَه دَا الِّي عَمَّيْشَتَلُو (....) أَنَا
الِّي عَمَّيْشَتَلُو مِنْ عَلَى الطَّرَعِ وَالْمَسَارِفِ.

Abdelghany. (2017). *Balansoura Village, Ahl Alqaria Program, the Mat Maker* [Video].

wanā min gabl ħatta matdʒawaz.....min ʕindī
ʕiʕrīn xamsā wi ʕiʕrīn wanā fihā ʕayyālā fihā
ʔilħamdillah ʕammajgawwitna (....)dī ʕilli
mamdōdā dī ʔillī bitāʕ ʔillī bitfōt fihā labāxza
ʔillīħbāl ʔillī ʕammniʕtayaḷ bīhā wīdī nīfid
ʕalīhā (....)dī ʕilli ʕammniʕtayaḷ ʕalīhā hijja dī
liħbāl ʔillī ʕammaftilhā hijjā dī dā ħalf wi dī
zabab bardō fōg ʕammanfarxo (...) da ʔillī
ʕammaniftilō (...) ʔanalli ʕammadʒībō min ʕalā
ʔittoraʕ wilmasārif.

*And before I marry... Since I was twenty or
twenty-five years old and I work in this
profession... Praise be to God, we earn our daily
sustenance from it... This stretched thing enters
the ropes through it... The ropes which we use
them... and these we fix them well... These are
what we are working on... These are the ropes
that we plait, and this is cogongrass, and this is a
shroud that we crack... This is what we plait.... I
bring it from the banks of canals and drains.*

The previous extract is provided by a female villager of Balansoura village affiliated to Abu Qurqas town in Al-Minya governorate. She is a matmaker. Her contribution is a response to the interviewer's question about her beginning in the mat-making craft and the techniques used in manufacturing the hand-made mats of straw.

Dental plosive assimilation is observed in the demonstrative article /dī/ (this) which has the MSA variant /ðī/. *The interdental voiced fricative /ð/* is totally assimilated to *the dental voiced plosive /d/* in place and manner of articulation. *Pharyngealized assimilation* appears in /ʔit̪t̪oraʕ/ (the canals) whose MSA variant is /ʔattoraʕ/. *The dental voiceless plosive plain /t/* is totally assimilated to *the dental voiceless plosive pharyngealized /t̪/*. Since both phonemes have the same manner and place of articulation, the assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*.

Bilabial assimilation occurs in /labaxza/ (excuse me) and /bitāʕ/ (useful stuff). Al-Minya variant /labaxza/ has the MSA variant /lāmoʔāxaða/. *Bilabial assimilation* appears in assimilating the *bilabial voiced nasal /m/* to *the bilabial voiced plosive /b/*. It is *partial assimilation* in manner of articulation, i.e. *nasal* and *plosive*. Moreover, *dental assimilation* appears in assimilating the *interdental voiced fricative /ð/* in /lāmoʔāxaða/ to *the dental voiced fricative /z/* in /labaxza/. The voiced fricatives i.e. /ð/ and /z/ are assimilated in the *place assimilation*. Finally, assimilating *the uvular plosive /q/* to *the velar /g/*, which does not exist in MSA, appears in /gabl/ (before) and /fōg/ (above). The MSA variants are /qabl/ and /fawq/.

Metathesis is exposed once in /gabl ma+t̪ɰawaz/ (before I marry) where the MSA variant is /qabl ʔan ʔatazawad̪ɰ/. The transposition is between *the alveolar fricative /d̪ɰ/* and *the dental fricative /z/*.

Prothesis is explicit in /ʕamma + jgawwitna/ (we earn our daily sustenance from it), /ʕamma + ftihā/ (I plait it), /ʕamma + nʕarxo/ (I crack it), /ʕamma + d̪ɰibō/ (I bring it), /ʕamm + nijttayal/ (we work

on), and /bi + tföt/ (go through). The MSA variants are /joqawwit/, /ʔaftiloh/, /ʔofarixoh/, /ʔaftiloh/, /ʔaɖʒiʔ bihi/, /naftayil/, and /taföt/. Either /ʕamma/ or / bi / is intruded word-initially to present tense verb in Al-Minya accent. Moreover, *excrescence* appears in /hijja/ (she): *the palatal fricative /j/* is intruded to word mid-position as the MSA variant is /hija/.

Aphaeresis is marked in eliding *the glottal plosive stop /ʔ/* word-initially in /wa+nā/ (and I), in /gabl ma+tɖʒawaz/ (before I marry), in /liħbāl/ (the robes), and in /ʔanā+lli/ (and I am the one who). The MSA variants are /wa+ʔanā/, /qabl ʔan ʔatazawadʒ/, /ʔalħibāl/ and /ʔanā ʔallati/. *Apocope* appears in /xamsā/ (five) and /mamdödā/ (stretched). The MSA variants are /xamsah/ and /mamdödah/. *The glottal fricative voiced /h/* is elided word-finally. Eliding the glottal fricative voiced /h/ in word final position is compensated for by lengthening the word-final vowel: /a/ > /ā/. *Sybcopie* appears in /labāxza/ while the MSA variant is /lāmoʔāxaða/. The glottal plosive /ʔ/ is elided in word mid position in Al-Minya variant.

Vowel raising is detected in /wi/ (and), in /ʔilħamdillah/ (praise be to God), in /dī/ (this), in /niʒid/ (fix), and in /ʔilħibāl/ (the robes). *The high front /i/* is preferred to *the low central /a/*. *Monophthongization* is illustrated in /ʕalīhā/ (on it) and /fōg/ (above). The MSA variants are /ʕalajhā/ and /fawq/. The diphthong /aj/ is monphthongized to *long vowel /ī/* and the diphthong /aw/ is monophthongized to *long vowel /ō/* in Al-Mynia accent.

Extract (6)

إِتْلَامِيْزٍ إِصْبِيَانٍ يَحْفَظُوْا قُرْآنَ فِصْبِحِ إِسَاعَةِ سَبْعَةَ وَثَمْنِ مِصْبِحِ
 كِدَا..ضِرَاصَةَ...لِحَدِّ إِسَاعَةِ إِحْدَاشَرِ كِدَا الْفِطْرَةَ إِتَاتِيَهْ إِلسَاتِيَّةِ
 كِدَا تِيْجِي إِسَاعَةَ إِحْدَاشَرِ لِحَدِّ إِسَاعَةِ إِتْنِيْنِ إِضْهَرِ.

Abdelghany. (2017). *Ahl Alqaria Program, the Episode of Sheikh Ziyad, Part Two*. [Video].

ʔittalāmīz ʔiṣobian jiḥfazō qorʔān fissobḥ
 ʔisāʕah sabʕah wi noṣ miṣṣobḥ kidā...
dirāṣah...liḥad ʔisāʕah ʔiḥdāʕar kidā ʔilfatrah
ʔittānijah ʔilmasaʔijah kidā tidʒī ʔissāʕah
ʔiḥdāʕar liḥad ʔissāʕah ʔitnīn ʔiḍḍohor.

The students memorize the Qur'an in the morning around half past seven, since the morning like this... the study... until the eleven o'clock like this... the second period in the evening like this from eleven o'clock until two in the noon

The previous extract is provided by a villager of Sheik Zeyaad village affiliated to Maghagha town in Al-Minya governorate. He works as tutor in one of the village's Koranic schools. His contribution is a response to the interviewer's question about the class schedule.

Assimilating phonemes in the previous extract appears in /ʔittalāmīz/ (the students) and in /jiḥfazō/ (memorize). The MSA variants are /ʔattalāmīḏ/ and /jaḥfaẓo/. It is a *dental assimilation* where *the interdental voiced fricative /ð/* is totally assimilated to the *dental voiced fricative /z/* in /ʔittalāmīz/. The *Dental plosive assimilation* is observed in assimilating *the interdental voiced fricative /ʒ/* to the *dental voiced fricative /z/* in /jiḥfazō/. In both cases, it is a *place assimilation* as /ð/ and /z/; /ʒ/ and /z/ are voiced fricatives.

Likewise, *the dental plosive assimilation* appears in /ʔittānijah/ (the second) and in /ʔitnīn/ (two). The MSA variants are /ʔaθθānijah/ and /ʔiθnajn/ respectively. The *interdental fricative* /θ/ is totally assimilated to *the dental plain plosive* /t/ in place and manner of articulation. Moreover, dental assimilation appears in assimilating *the interdental fricative* /z/ to *the dental plosive* /d/ in place and manner of articulation in /ʔiddohor/ (noon) whose MSA variant is /ʔaZZohor/. Finally, in Al-Minya variant /kidā/ (like that), whose MSA variant is /kaḏa/, *the interdental voiced fricative* /ð/ is totally assimilated to *the dental plain plosive* /d/.

Pharyngealized assimilation is salient in /dīrāṣah/ (the study) where the MSA variant is /dirāsah/. *The dental plain plosive* /d/ in /dīrāsah/ is totally assimilated to *the dental pharyngealized plosive* /d̤/. Furthermore, *the dental plain fricative* /s/ is totally assimilated to *the dental pharyngealized fricative* /s̤/. The only assimilated feature is *pharyngealization* since /d/ and /d̤/ are *dental voiced plosives* and /s/ and /s̤/ are *dental voiceless fricatives*. Similarly, in /ʔiḥḏājar/ (eleven), *the dental pharyngealized plosive* /d̤/ is the result of assimilating *the dental plain plosive* /d/ of the MSA variant in /ʔaḥada ʕajar/ to *the dental pharyngealized plosive* /d̤/ in Al-Minya variant. In /ʔilfaṭrah/ (the period), whose MSA variant is /ʔalfatrah/, *the dental plosive* /t/ is *pharyngealized* to be /t̤/. It is a form of *partial assimilation* owing to the fact that /t/ and /t̤/ are *dental voiceless plosives*.

Aphaeresis is observable in /ʔiḥḏājar/ (eleven) where the MSA variant is /ʔaḥada ʕajar/. *The pharyngeal fricative* /ʕ/ and *the low central* /a/ are elided in /ʕajar/. *Aphaeresis* and *syncope* appears in /sabʕah/ (seven). It has the MSA variant /ʔassābiʕah/. *Aphaeresis* appears in eliding *the glottal plosive* /ʔ/ while *Syncope* appears in eliding *the low central* /a/ and *the high front* /i/. The vowel reduction appears in reducing *the long vowel* /ā/ to *low central short* /a/. In /noṣ/ (half), *apocope* appears eliding *labiodental fricative* /f/ from the MSA variant /niṣf/. Similarly, *apocope* appears in eliding *the glottal plosive* in /tidʒī/ (come) where the MSA variant is /taḏʒīʔ/.

Apocope, *aphaeresis*, and *syncope* appear in /miʃobħ/ (since morning). The MSA variant is /min ʔaʃʃabāħ/. *Apocope* appears in eliding the *alveolar nasal* /n/, *aphaeresis* appears in eliding the glottal plosive /ʔ/ and *syncope* appears in eliding the long vowel / ā/.

The *vowel raising* from *low central* /a/ to *high front* /i/ is detected in /ʔissāʃah/ (an hour), in /wi/ (and), in /ʔilmasaʔijah/ (the evening), in /ʔiɖɖohor/ (noon), and in /jihfazō/ (memorize). The MSA variants are /ʔassāʃah/, /wa/, /ʔalmasaʔijah/, /ʔaʒohor/, and /jaħfazō/. *Monophthongization* appears in monophthongizing the diphthong /aj/ to the long vowel / ī / in /ʔitnīn/. The MSA variant is /ʔiθnajhn/.

Extract (7)

حَبِينَا نَعْرِفَا إِسْمًا لِيَه بِشَارِعِ الْجِرَامِي هُوَا بِنَجُولِكْ إِنْ كَانِتْ طَبْعَا
جَبَلْ مِرْفَاحِ الْكَهْرَبَا مَا يَدْخُلْ الْبَلَدِ كَانِتْ إِنَاسْ بِتَخَافِ تَمْشِي فِيه
يَعْنِي مَسَلَا إِيهْ يَحْصَلْ فِيه شَيْءٌ مَشَاكِلْ يَعْنِي مَسَلَا كَرْبِ أَسْرَةَ
أَجُولْ لِمْرَاطِي مَتَمْشِيشْ فِيه.

Abdelghany. (2019). *Jaweer Village*. [Video].

ħabbina niʃraf ʔissamā lih biʃāriʃ ʔilħaramī
howwa biqolak ʔin kanit ʔabʃan gabl mirfaq
ʔilkahrabā mā jidxol ʔilbalad kanit ʔinnās bitxāf
timfī fiħ jaʃnī masalan ʔih jihʃal fiħ fīʔ mafākil
jaʃnī masalan karab ʔosrah ʔagōl limrātī
matimlīl fiħ.

We would like to know why it was called Al-Harami Street. It is said that before the electricity service, the villagers were afraid to pass through it...I mean, for example, there were problems...For example, as head of family, I tell my wife not to walk in this street.

The previous extract is provided by one of the villagers of Jaweer village affiliated to Mallawi town in Al-Minya governorate. The villager's contribution is a response to the interviewer's question about the origin of the designation of Al-Harami Street, i.e. the street of the thief.

Dental assimilation is remarkable in /masalan/ (for example) whose MSA variant is /maθalan/. The interdental voiceless fricative /θ/ is totally assimilated to the dental voiceless fricative /s/. Since /θ/ and /s/ are voiceless fricatives, it is a place *assimilation*.

Pharyngealized *assimilation* is pronounced in /limrātī/ (to my wife) The MSA variant is /liʔimraʔati/. The dental voiceless plosive plain /t/ of the MSA variant is totally assimilated to the dental voiceless plosive pharyngealized /t̤/. Velarized *assimilation* appears in the variants /gabl/ (before), /mirfag/ (facility), and /ʔagōl/ (I say). The MSA variants are /qabl/, /mirfaq/, and /ʔaqōl/ respectively. The uvular voiced /q/ is totally assimilated to the velar voiced /g/, which does not exist in MSA.

Prothesis is detected in /bi+txāf/ (fear) and in /bi+jgolak/ (tell). The preverbal marker /bi/ is intruded to present tense verbs in Al-Minya variants. *Prothesis* causes *syncopation* of low central /a/ in Al-Minya variants. The MSA variants are /taxāf/ and /jaqōl laka/. In addition, *prothesis* is evident in the word initial intrusion of /ʔi/ in /ʔi+ssamā/ (It was called). It is a past tense verb in passive mode whose MSA variant is /somija/. *Prothesis* causes the germination of the dental fricative /s/. *Excrescence* is remarkable in /howwa/ (he). The MSA variant is /howa/. The bilabial fricative /w/ is intruded word medially. Finally, *paragoge* appears in /matimʃiʃ/ (do not walk). The MSA variant is /lā + tamʃiʃ/. The *alveolar fricative* /ʃ/ is intruded to word final position to mark negation.

Sound elision appears in /ħabbīnā/ (we would like) and in /mirātī/ (my wife). The MSA variants are /ʔaħbabnā/ and /ʔimraʔatī/ respectively. The MSA variant /ʔaħbab + nā/ is structured of the verb /ʔaħbab/ (like) and /nā/ (attached pronoun-expressing plural subject

of the verb). *Aphaeresis* is detected in eliding the glottal stop /ʔ/ and the low central /a/ in word initial position. *Aphaeresis* causes a word-final vowel intrusion of /ī/ in /ħabbīnā/. Similarly, in /mirāṭī/, *aphaeresis* and *syncope* appear in eliding the glottal stop /ʔ/ in word initial and middle positions. *Aphaeresis* is compensated for by intruding high front /i/ following the bilabial nasal and *syncope* is compensated for by vowel lengthening i.e. /a/ > /ā/ in /mirāṭī/. Finally, *apocope* is detected in deleting the glottal plosive /ʔ/ in /ʔilkahrabā/ (electricity). The MSA variant is /ʔalkahrabāʔ/.

Vowel raising from central /a/ to high front /i/ is frequently detected in /kanit/ (it was), in /ʔinnās/ (people), in /timjī/ (walk), in /jiḥṣal/ (happens), in /ʔilbalad/ (the village), in /ʔilkahraba/ (electricity) and in /niḥraf/(to know). The MSA variants are /kanat/, /ʔannās /, /tamjī/, /jaḥṣol/, /ʔalbalad/, /ʔalkahrabaʔ/, and /naḥrif/. *Monophthongization* is observed in /jīʔ/ where the MSA variant is /jajʔ/ (thing). The diphthong /aj/ in the MSA variant is monophthongized to be /ī/ in Al-Minya variant.

Extract (8)

إِضْلٌ زَغَيْرٌ وَالْمَنْطَطُ زَغَيْرُ الْوَأَسَعِ عَيْشٌ ... لَا مِشْ عَمَّحَطَلَّةٌ حَلْبَا..
جَمَحٌ وَشَامِي بَسْ وَخَمِيرَةٌ وَتِخْبُرٌ عَلْحَصَنُو... لَا دَهْ مَفِيهَشْ خَمِيرَةٌ.

Abdelghany. (2021). *Ezbet El Hajj Qandil*,
Dermwas Center. [Video].

ʔiddil ziyajr wilminatāt ziyajr ʔilwāsiʔ ʔijf ... lā mij
ʕammanḥotilōh ḥilba ... qamḥ wi fāmī bas wi
xamirā wi nixbizō ʕalḥasw ... lā dah mafihf
xamirā.

Eddil bread is small and Elminatāt bread is small... The big-sized shape is called bread... We don't add fenugreek, only wheat, Shami flour and yeast, and bake it on pebbles... No, this does not contain yeast.

This extract is provided by a female villager of Hajj Qandile estate affiliated to Deir Muas town in Al-Minya governorate. The female villager works in bakery. Her contribution is a reply to the interviewer's question about the difference between two kinds of bread and the ingredients of each kind.

Dental plosive assimilation is pronounced in /ʔiḏḏil/ (kind of bread in Al-Minya culture). The MSA variant is /ʔaZZil/. The *interdental fricative /z/* is totally assimilated to the *dental plosive /ḏ/* in manner and place of articulation. *Voicing assimilation* is noted in /ziḡajr/ (small) where the MSA variant is /ṣayīr/. The *dental voiceless /s/* is totally assimilated to the *dental voiced /z/*. Both phonemes are *dental fricatives*; the assimilated feature is *voicing*. The /s/ loses its *pharyngealization* and acquires *voicing*. Furthermore, the demonstrative article /dah/ (this) has the MSA variant /ḏa/. It is an example of *dental plosive assimilation*, previously clarified in extract (1). Finally, assimilating the *uvular plosive /q/* to the *velar plosive /g/* appears in /gamḥ/ where the MSA variant is /qamḥ/.

Prothesis is observed in /ṣamma + nḥoḡilō/ (we add to it). The MSA variant is /naḥoḡ laho/. The preverbal marker /ṣamma/ is intruded word-initially to the present tense verb /naḥoḡ/. It causes a vowel *elision* of the *low central /a/*.

In /ṣal + ḥaṣw/ (on the pebbles) where the MSA variant is /ṣalā + ʔalḥaṣā/, *apocope* appears in eliding the *long vowel /ā/* in /ṣalā/ (on). It turns to be /ṣal/ in Al-Minya variant. In addition, *aphaeresis* appears in eliding the definite article /ʔal/ in /ḥaṣw/ where the MSA variant is /ʔalḥaṣā/. In addition, the long vowel /ā/ is substituted with the *labiodental fricative /w/*, as the singular form of /ḥaṣāt/ (stone) is /ḥaṣā/ (stones). Furthermore, *apocope* appears in eliding the *glottal fricative /h/* in /ḥilba/ (fenugreek) and /xamira/ (yeast). The MSA variants are /ḥilbah/ and /xamirah/. Finally, *apocope* is evident in eliding the *diphthong /aj/* and the *glottal fricative /ʔ/* in /mafij/ (nothing). The MSA variant is /mā + fī + ʔajʔ/.

Vowel raising from low central /a/ to high front /i/ appears in /ʔiḏḏil/, in /wi/, in /ziʔajr/, and in /nixbizō/ (bake). The MSA variants are /ʔaZZil/, /wa/, /ʃaʔīr/ and /naxbizō/. *Diphthongization* or vowel fracturing appears in /ziʔajr/ where the MSA variant is /ʃaʔīr/ *Monophthongization* is found in /ʃīj/ (bread) where the MSA variant is /ʃajj/: the diphthong /aj/ is monophthongized to the long vowel /ī/.

Extract 9

بِير مَيِّه مَبَارَكْتَه طَبْعًا. مَيِّه عَازِيَه بِنَشْرِنِيهَا. وَفِيَه هِنَا نَاسٌ بَتَبْجِي
بَتَتَبَارِك بِيَه. وَفِيَه دَانِيهَا بَرْدُو بِيِنِجَا فِيَه شِفَا لُو وَاحِدٌ مَرِيضٌ وَلَا
حَاجًا بِيِنَحْطِي لِبِير بَبْرَكْتَه رَبَّنَا لَوْلَ بِيَشْفِيَه بَرْدُو وَيَجْعَلُو سَبَبًا.
وَفِيَه بَعْدُ كِدَ مَسَلَا حَذَّ مَعْتَدُوشْ مَسَلَا خَلِيْفَه وَلَا كِدَ بِيَتَبَارِك
بَلْبِير بِيَعْدِي عَلَيْهِ حَوَالِي تَلْتَا مَرَاتٍ أَوْ سَبْعَ مَرَاتٍ.

Abdelghany. (2017). *Ahl Alqaria Program, the Village of Sheikh Ubadah, Part 3*
[Video].

bīr majah mobarakā ṭabʿan. majah ʕāzbah
binifrabhā. wifīh hina ʔinnās bitīdʒī biṭiṭbarak
bīh. wifīh dajman bardō bijibqā fīh lifa law
waḥid marīḏ walla ḥaḏʒa bijxatī lbīr bibarakit
rabnā lawwal bijiffīh bardō wi bijidʒʕalō sabab.
wifīh baʕd kida masalan ḥad maʕandōf
masalan xalifā walla kida bijtbārik bilbīr bijʕadī
ʕalīh ḥawali talat marrāt aw sabaʕ marrāt.

It is a well of blessed water, of course. It is fresh water that we drink... and here people come to seek blessings from it. And there is a healing for the patient who strides the water of the well and with its blessings the Lord heals him. And God turns this water a reason. For example, if a person is sterile, he asks for blessings of water and strides it three or seven times.

This extract is provided by a villager of Sheikh Abaadi village affiliated to Mallawi town in Al-Minya governorate. The interview takes place when the villager is accidentally on a visit to the cemetery in Abaadi village. The villager's contribution is a response to the interviewer's question about a famous well in Sheikh Abaadi village.

Dental assimilation is detected in /ʕāz`bā/ (fresh) while the MSA variant is /ʕað`bah/. *The interdental voiced fricative /ð/* is totally assimilated to *the dental voiced fricative /z/*. Both phonemes are *voiced fricatives*; accordingly, it is a form of *place assimilation*. In addition, *dental assimilation* is noticed in /masalan/ (for example) and in /talat/ (three) while the MSA variants are /maθalan/ and /θalāθ/ respectively. In Al-Mynia variants, *the interdental fricative /θ/* is totally assimilated to the *dental* phonemes /s/ in the former and /t/ in the latter. In the variant /masalan/, *partial assimilation* appears in assimilating the place of articulation between the *voiceless fricatives /θ/* and /s/. In the variant /talat/, *dental plosive assimilation* occurs between the *dental plosive /t/* and the *interdental fricative /θ/*: *assimilation of place and manner of articulation*.

Pharyngealized assimilation is realized in assimilating *the dental plain plosive /t/* to *the dental pharyngealized plosive /t̤/* in /bi+ṭiṭbarak/ (be blessed), in /bi+barakiṭ/ (blessings), and in /marrat̤/ (times). The MSA variants are /tatabārak/, /bi+barakat/, and /marrat/ respectively. It is a kind of *partial assimilation* since both phonemes i.e. /t/ and /t̤/ are *dental voiceless plosives*. The assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*.

Aphaeresis and *syncope* are noticed in /lawwal/ (the first) while the MSA variant is /ʔalʔawwal/. *Aphaeresis* appears in eliding *the glottal plosive /ʔ/* word-initially while *syncope* is illustrated in deleting the *low central /a/* and the *glottal plosive /ʔ/* word-medially. In /ʕalbīr/ (on the well), whose MSA variant is /ʕalā ʔalbiʔr/, *apocope* appears in eliding *the long vowel /ā/* in /ʕalā/, i.e. on. In addition, *aphaeresis* and *syncope* appear in eliding the *glottal plosive /ʔ/* word-

initially and word-medially in /ʔalbiʔr/. The *elision* is compensated for by vowel lengthening, i.e. /i/ is lengthened to /ī/ in /bīr/. In /bardō/ whose MSA variant is /bi+ʔarḏoh/, as Taymour (133: 2002) mentions, *syncope* appears in eliding the *high front* /i/ and the *plosive glottal stop* word-medially while *apocope* appears in eliding the *glottal fricative* /h/ word-finally. According to Ameen (2007: 182), it is more likely that *bardo* is a variant of /bi+ʔarḏoh/ (in his land). He adds that a group of linguists believes that it is a modification of the Turkish *barda* (also) which is abbreviated from the word Bardakhiin.

Furthermore, *apocope* is evident in eliding the *glottal plosive stop* /ʔ/ in /bi+tīdʒī/ (they come) and in /ʃifa/ (healing). The MSA variants are /taḏʒīʔ/ and /ʃifāʔ/. In addition, Al-Minya accent is characterized by the *apocoped glottal fricative* /h/ in /mobarakā/ (blessed), in /xalīfā/ (sibling), in /hāḏʒa/ (something), and in /ʕāz`bā/ (fresh). The MSA variants are /mobarakah/, /xalīfah/, /hāḏʒah/, and /ʕaḏbah/ respectively. *Syncope* appears in /rab`nā/ (our God) where the MSA variant is /rabonā/. The *high back vowel* /o/ is elided word-medially.

Sound intrusion appears in intruding the present tense preverbal marker /bi/ in /bi + niʃrabhā/ (we drink it), in /bi + tiʃbarak/ (be blessed), in /bi + jibgā/ (remain), in /bi + tīdʒī/ (they come), in /bi + jxaṭī/ (he strides), in /bi + jifīh/ (he heals him), in /bi + jitbārik/ (he is blessed), in /bi + jidʒʕalō/ (he causes it), and in /bi + jʕadī/ (he strides). The MSA variants are /naʃrabhā/, /tatabārak/, /jabqā/, /jaxṭōl/, /jaffīh/, /jatabārak/, /jadʒʕaloh/, and /jaʕdō/ respectively. *Paragoge* is noted in /maʕandōʃ/ (he does not have) where the MSA variant is /mā ʕindaho/. The *alveolar fricative* /ʃ/ is intruded word-finally to mark negation in Al-Minya variant. In addition, al-Minya accent is characterized by the vowel reduction which is noted in changing the long vowel /ā/ to the short one /a/ in the negative particle /ma/.

Diphthongization is observed in /majah/ (water) while the MSA variant is /māʔ/. The long vowel /ā/ is diphthongized in Al-Minya variant to /aj/, the *glottal plosive* /ʔ/ is elided, and the glottal fricative /h/ is intruded word-finally. Similarly, in /dajman/ (always), the diphthong /aj/ is the result of *diphthongization* of long vowel /ā/ in /dāʔiman/. In addition, the *glottal plosive* /ʔ/ is syncopated in word-medially. Finally, *vowel raising* appears in /hina/ (here), /ʔinnās/ (the people), and /kida/ (like that). The MSA variants are /honā/, /ʔannās/, and /kaðā/.

Extract (10)

يَعْنِي عِنْدِي بِنَاغِ اِتْنَاشَرُ سِنَّةٌ...عِنْدِي تَمْتِيَةٌ وَرَبْعِينَ...الله يحضرك
...بِنَجْرَحُ فِيهَا وَنَحْشَهَا بِرَادَةٌ رَبَّنَا عَلْحَاجَةٌ اِلَيَّ بِتَخْشَنُ فِيهَا دِي بِييَا
فِيهَا تَعْبِينَ.

Abdelghany. (2019). *An Interview with the Basket Maker, the Village of Al-Sawahijah, 3rd Episode*. [Video].

jaʕnī ʕandī bitāʕ ʕitnāʕar sana... ʕandī tamanīa
warbiʕīn ... ʔalla jīhfazak binidʒaraḥ fihā
winxoʕahā birādat rabna ʕalḥāḍʒa ʔilli binxoʕ
fihā dī bijjibbā fihā taʕabīn.

*Since I was about twelve ... I'm now forty-eight
... God bless you... We get injured. God willing,
we encounter what is destined for us, we may
encounter snakes*

The previous extract is provided by a villager in Al Sawahijah village affiliated to Mallawi town in Al-Minya governorate. The villager works in basket making craft. His contribution is a response to the interviewer's questions about the time he started this craft and the difficulties he is facing in basket making craft.

Bilabial assimilation is observed in /bitāʕ/ (useful stuff), previously clarified in extract (3). *Pharyngealized dental plosive assimilation* is noted in /ʕitnāʕar/ (twelve) while the MSA variant is /ʕitnā ʕaʕar/. *The interdental fricative /θ/* is totally assimilated to the *dental plosive pharyngealized /t/* in /ʕitnāʕar/. Since /t/ and /θ/ are *voiceless*, the assimilated features are *pharyngealization*, place, and manner of articulation. *Dental plosive assimilation* appears in /tamanija/ (eight) and /taʕabīn/ (snakes). The MSA variants are /θamānijah/ and /θaʕābīn/. *The interdental fricative /θ/* is totally assimilated to the *dental plain plosive /t/* in place and manner of articulation. *Dental assimilation* is detected in /jiħfazak/ (keeps you safe) while the MSA variant is /jaħfaʕak/. *The interdental voiced fricative /ʒ/* is totally assimilated to the *dental voiced fricative /z/* in place of articulation.

Aphaeresis is clarified in /warbiʕīn/ (and forty) whose MSA variant is /wa ʔarbaʕīn/. *The glottal plosive /ʔ/* and the *low central /a/* are elided word-initially. *Syncope* appears in /bi+rādat/ (God Willing) and in /rabnā/ (our God). The MSA variants are /bi+ʔirādat/ and /rabonā/ respectively. While *the glottal plosive /ʔ/* and *the high front /i/* are elided in the former, *the front back vowel /o/* is elided in the latter. In addition, *syncope* appears in eliding the vowel /a/ in the variant /wi+nxoʕahā/ (and we enter it) where MSA variant is /wa naxoʕahā/. *Apocope* appears in eliding the *glottal fricative /h/* in /sana/ (year) and /ʔalla/ (God) where the MSA variants are /sanah/ and /ʔallah/. In addition, *apocope* appears in eliding the *interdental fricative /ð/* and the *high front /i/* in /ʔillī/ (that) where the MSA variant is /ʔallaðī/.

Prothesis is evident in /bi+niɖʕaraħ/ (We get hurted), in /bi+jibbā/ (there is), and in /bi+nxoʕ/ (we enter). The MSA variants are /nodʕaraħ/, /jabqā/, and /naxoʕ/ respectively. The preverbal marker /bi/ is intruded word-initially. It causes a vowel *elision* of *low central /a/* in /naxoʕ/. In Al-Minya variant /bi+jibbā/, whose MSA variant is /jabqā/, *the uvular /q/* is elided and compensated for by *labial germination*. *Vowel raising* appears in raising the *low central*

/a/ to the high front /i/ in /warbiʕin/ (and forty), in /jiħfazak/ (keeps you safe) and in /bi+jibbā/ (there is). The MSA variants are /waʕarbaʕin/, /jaħfaʕak/, and /jabqā/ respectively.

Results and Discussion

In the sample under investigation, the participants are the residents of Al-Minya villages as they clarified in the interviews of *Ahl Alqaria* program. Their regional accent appears in their speech contributions as a response to the interviewer's questions. The interviewer's questions revolve about crafts, difficulties in handmade crafts, and popularity of certain places in their villages. In the sample under investigation, the participants are deliberately selected as villagers to eliminate the influence of education and urbanity on their accent.

Since the aim of this research is to detect the phonological processes responsible for sound change in Al-Minya accent, Al-Minya accent is characterized by *assimilation, sound intrusion, sound elision, metathesis, and vowel raising*. In Al-Minya accent, the observed types of *assimilation* are classified into *pharyngealized assimilation, voicing assimilation, dental assimilation, velar assimilation, and bilabial assimilation*.

Assimilation analysis is applied to predict the assimilated sounds in Al-Minya accent. The first observed type of assimilation is the *pharyngealized assimilation*. It is evident in assimilating the *dental plosive plain /t/ to the dental plosive pharyngealized /t̤/*. As dental voiceless plosives, it is a type of *partial assimilation* of secondary articulation, i.e. *pharyngealization*. Assimilating the plain phoneme /t/ to the pharyngealized counterpart /t̤/ reflects Al-Minya accent tendency to *pharyngealization*. Table (3) illustrates examples of assimilating the *dental plosive plain /t/ to the dental plosive pharyngealized /t̤/* in examples (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10):

Table (3): Pharyngealized Assimilation in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	Gloss
1	/ħariʃha/	/ħarisoħa/	safeguard
2	/ʔiʔorʃah/	/ʔattorʃah /	the canal
3	/bi+t̤rāb /	/bi+t̤torāb/	soil
4	/di+l̤wax̤t̤/.	/ ð̤i+ʃalwaqt/	this time
5	/ʔiʔ̤torʃ /	/ʔattorʃ/	the canals
6	/ʔilfat̤rah/,	/ʔalfatrah/	the period
7	/limrāʔ̤i/	/liʔimraʔati/	to my wife
8	/bi+t̤iʔ̤barak/	/tatabārak/	be blessed
9	/bi+barak̤iʔ̤/	/bi+barakat/	blessings
10	/marrat̤/	/marrat/	times
11	/ð̤irāʃah/	/dirāʃah/	the study
12	/ʃand̤afa/	/ʃandafa/	Sandafa
13	/ʔih̤d̤āʃar/	/ʔaħadaʃajar/	eleven
14	/ʃiʔ̤nāʃar/.	/ʃiħnāʃajar/	twelve

Table (3) illustrates another form of *pharyngealized assimilation*, which appears in assimilating *the dental plosive plain /d/ to the dental plosive pharyngealized /ð̤/*. Similar to the previous kind, assimilating /d/ to /ð̤/ is a type of *partial assimilation* because the only assimilated phonetic feature is *pharyngealization*. The rest of the phonetic features are similar. The phonemes i.e. /d/ and /ð̤/ are *dental voiced plosives*. This is the second proof on Al-Minya Accent tendency to the phonetic feature of *pharyngealization*. This is illustrated in (11), (12), and (13).

Moreover, table (3) clarifies another type of *pharyngealized assimilation* where *the dental fricative plain /s/ is totally assimilated to the dental fricative pharyngealized /ʃ̤/*. It is a form of *partial assimilation* as the phonemes /s/ and /ʃ̤/ are *dental voiceless fricatives*. The only assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*. This is

another proof on Al-Minya accent tendency to *pharyngealization*. This is evident in example (1).

Finally, table (3) illustrates a secondary type of *pharyngealized assimilation*, i.e. *pharyngealized dental assimilation* where the interdental voiceless fricative /θ/ is totally assimilated to the dental voiceless fricative *pharyngealized* /s/. It is a form of *total assimilation* in place of articulation and *pharyngealization*. It is triggered by the adjacency of place of articulation i.e. a dental and an interdental place of articulation. The frequency of *pharyngealized assimilation* in the analyzed data appears in chart (1):

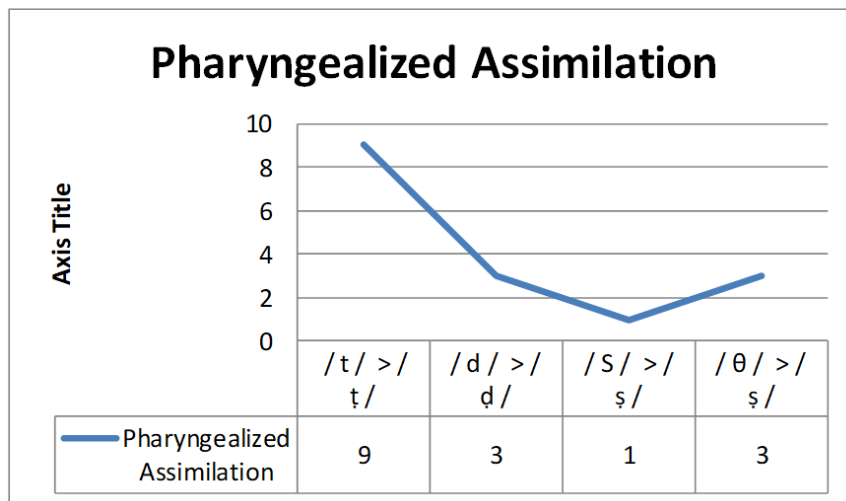


chart (1): Pharyngealized Assimilation in Al-Minya Accent

The second observed type of *assimilation* in Al-Minya accent is *voicing assimilation*. It appears in assimilating the dental voiceless fricative /s/ to the dental voiced fricative /z/. It is a *voicing assimilation* where the voiceless /s/ acquires voicing and turns to be the voiced /z/. This is another form of *partial assimilation* as the only assimilated feature is voicing. Assimilating /s/ to /z/ is infrequent as it appears once in /ziʃajr/ while MSA variant is /ʃaʃīr/ (small).

Dental assimilation is the third detected type of assimilation in Al-Minya accent. It is evident in assimilating the interdental /θ/ to the dental /s/. It is a type of *place assimilation* since both phonemes i.e. /θ/ and /s/ are voiceless fricatives. Therefore, it is *partial assimilation* as the only assimilated phonetic feature is place of articulation. Table (4) illustrates examples of assimilating /θ/ to /s/ in the data under analysis in examples (1) and (2).

Table (4): Dental Assimilation in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	gloss
1	/masalan/	/maθalan/	for example
2	/bi+jsīr/	/joθīr/	stir up
3	/labaxza/	/lāmoʔāxaðā/	excuse me
4	/ʔittalāmīz/	/ʔattalāmīð/	the students
5	/ʕāzbā /	/ʕaðbah/	fresh
6	/jihfazak/	/jaħfaʔak/	keeps you safe
7	/bi+zrōf/	/bi+ʔorōf/	conditions

Similarly, *dental assimilation* appears in assimilating *interdental fricative voiced* /ð/ to *the dental fricative voiced* /z/. It is a form of *partial assimilation* of place of articulation as both phonemes /ð/ and /z/ are *voiced fricatives*. Assimilating /ð/ to /z/ appears in table (4) in examples (3), (4), and (5). In addition, *dental assimilation* appears in partially assimilating *the interdental fricative voiced* /ʒ/ to *the dental fricative voiced* /z/. Both phonemes are *voiced fricatives*; therefore, the assimilated phonetic feature is place of articulation. This is illustrated in table (4) in examples 6 and 7.

A relevant type to *dental assimilation* is *dental plosive assimilation*. It is observed in assimilating *the interdental voiceless fricative* /θ/ to *the dental voiceless plosive* /t/. It is an *assimilation* in place and manner of articulation. Table (5) clarifies examples of assimilating /θ/ to /t/ in examples (6), (7), (8), (9), (10) and (11).

Table (5): Dental Plosive Assimilation in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	gloss
1	/jaxdō/	/jaʔxoðō/	they take
2	/kidā/	/kaðā/	like that
3	/dih/	/ðī/	this
4	/dah/	/ða/	this
5	/di+lwaxt/	/ðī+ʕalwaqt/	this time
6	/talatah/	/θalāθh/	three
7	ʔittanijah	/ʔiθnajn/.	two
8	/ʔitnīn/	/ʔaθθānijah/	two
9	/ʔalat /	/θalāθ/	three
10	/ʔamanija/	/θamānijah/	eight
11	/ʔaʕabīn/	/θaʕābīn/	snakes
12	/ʔinnaḡīfah/	/ʔannaʒīfah/	the fresh one
13	/ʔiḡḡohor/	/ʔaʒʒohor/	noon

In addition, it appears in assimilating *the interdental fricative /ð/* to *the dental plosive /d/*. It is a form of *total assimilation* of place and manner of articulation. It is triggered by adjacent places of articulation i.e. dental and interdental. It is a type of fortition i.e. decreasing sound sonority appears in assimilating a fricative /ð/ to the plosive /d/. Assimilating *the interdental fricative voiced /ð/* to *the dental plosive voiced /d/* appears in table (5) in examples (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5).

Finally, *dental plosive assimilation* appears in totally assimilating *the interdental fricative voiced /ʒ /* to the dental plosive voiced /ḡ/. It is a type of *total assimilation* in place and manner of articulation. Table (5) clarifies examples of assimilating /ʒ / to / ḡ/ in Al-Minya accent in examples (12) and (13). Chart (2) clarifies *dental assimilation* in the data under investigation where assimilating /θ/ and /ð/ to /t/ and /d/ is the most frequent type of *dental plosive assimilation*.

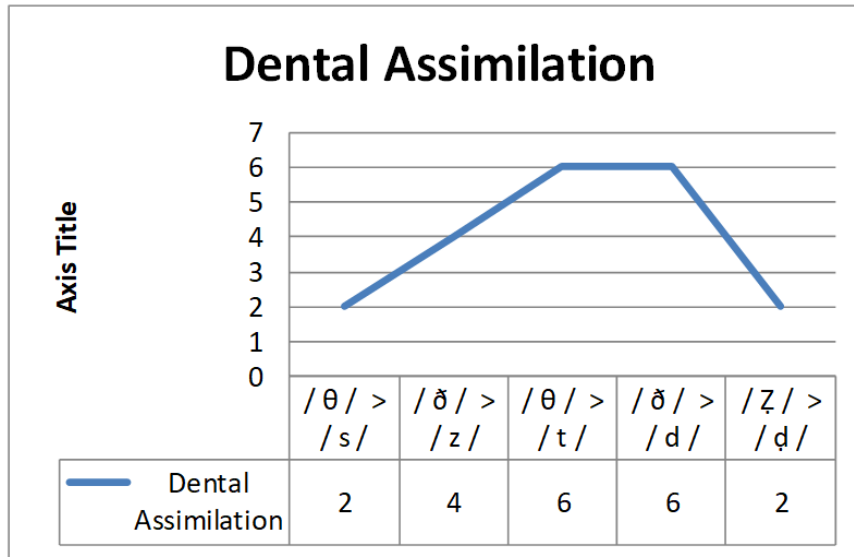


Chart (2): Dental Assimilation in Al-Minya Accent

The fourth observed type of *assimilation* in Al-Minya accent is *velarized assimilation*. It appears in assimilating the *uvular plosive* /q/ to the *velar plosive* /g/, which does not exist in MSA. It is triggered by adjacent place of articulation: velar and uvular. It is *partial assimilation* of place of articulation since both sounds are *voiced plosives*. Table (6) illustrates examples of assimilating the uvular plosive /q/ to the *velar plosive* /g/. It occurs word-initially as in (1), (6), (8) and (12); word medially as in (3), (4), (7), (10) and (11); and word-finally as in (2), (9), and (13). It is unconditioned sound change that occurs regardless of the phonological context.

Table (6): Velarized Assimilation in Al-Minya accent

	Al-Minya accent	MSA variants	Gloss
1	gaʕdīn	qāʕīdīn	Sitting
2	ʔitxānig	taxānaq	quarrel
3	Wagōl	Wa ʔaqōl	an I say
4	bi+jwaggaʕ	jōqiʕ	causes troubles
5	bagat	baqijat	became
6	gabl	qabl	before
7	ʕamma+jgawwitna	joqawwit	we earn our daily sustenance from it
8	gabl	qabl	before
9	mirfag	mirfaq	facility
10	bi+jgolak	jaqōl laka	he told you
11	ʔagōl	ʔaqōl	I say
12	gamḥ	qamḥ	wheat
13	bi+jjibgā	jabqā	remain

The fifth observed type of *assimilation* in Al-Minya accent is *bilabial assimilation*. It appears in assimilating *the bilabial voiced nasal /m/* to the *bilabial voiced plosive /b/*. It is *partial assimilation* in manner of articulation since */m/* and */b/* are *voiced bilabials*. The assimilated phonetic feature is the manner of articulation. It is triggered by identical place of articulation and voicing. Table (7) demonstrates examples of *bilabial assimilation*.

Table (7): bilabial assimilation in Al-Minya accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	
1	/bjtāʕ/	/matāʕ/.	useful stuff
2	/labaxza/	/lāmḡʔāxaḏa/.	excuse me

Table (7) shows that *bilabial assimilation* occurs word-initially and causes *vowel raising* of the next vowel. In examples (1) and (2), the *bilabial voiced nasal /m/* in the MSA variant is totally assimilated to the *bilabial voiced plosive /b/* in manner of articulation, i.e. changed to be a plosive sound. Chart (3) summarizes the kinds of phonological *assimilation* in the sample under investigation.

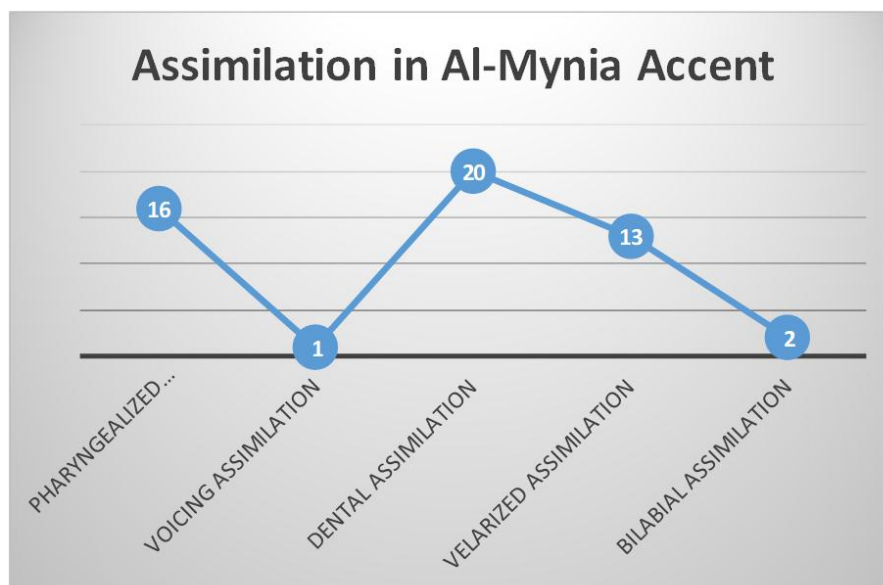


Chart (3): Phonological Assimilation in Al-Minya Accent

Chart (3) reveals that Al-Minya accent is characterized by five types of *assimilation*. Although *dental assimilation* is the most frequent type of *assimilation* with frequency of 20 times, *velarized assimilation* ($q > g$) is a regular sound change. It is observed that Al-Minya villagers never pronounce the *uvular voiced* /q/ except when they repeat the interviewer's words. In all word positions, they substitute the *uvular* /q/ with the *velar* /g/. Adjacency of place of articulation is the trigger of *velarized assimilation*. In *pharyngealized assimilation*, the plain phonemes are pronounced with secondary articulation, i.e. *pharyngealization*, turning them to be pharyngealized phonemes. It is a type of *fortition* where sound sonority decreases. *Voicing assimilation* is the least frequent type in the sample under investigation.

Metathesis or transposition of phonemes is one of the phonological features of Al-Minya accent. Table (8) illustrates *Metathesis* in the sample under investigation:

Table (8): Metathesis in Al-Minya Accent

Al-Minya Variant	MSA Variant	gloss
/jiʃtalaħ/	/jataʃālaħ/	reconcile
/matdʒawaz/	/ʔan ʔatazawadʒ/	before I marry

In Al-Minya accent, *metathesis* appears in /jiʃtalaħ/ while the MSA variant is /jataʃālaħ/. It appears in the transposition of the *dental plosive* /t/ and the *dental fricative pharyngealized* /ʃ/. Another use of *metathesis* is in /matdʒawaz/. The transposition is between the *alveolar fricative* /dʒ/ and the *dental fricative* /z/.

Phonological *intrusion* is another distinctive phonological feature of Al-Minya accent. *Prothesis* appears in intruding the preverbal marker /bi/ to present tense verb. *Prothesis* of /bi/ causes post-consonantal vowel *elision*. Table (9) illuminates *prothesis* where the present tense preverbal marker /bi/ is intruded to Al-Minya variants. It includes bolding of /bi/ in Al-Minya variants, bolding of the elided vowels in MSA variants, and the phonological change caused by the intrusion of the present tense preverbal marker /bi/.

Table (9): Prothesis in Present Tense Verbs in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA Variants	Phonological process	gloss
1	/bi+ jsir/	/joθir/	V-Syncope	stir up
2	/bi+ nmor/	/namor/	V-Syncope	go through
3	/bi+ jħilohā/	/jaħillohā/	V-Syncope	they resolve it
4	/bi+ nħōjahā/	/naħōjahā/	V-Syncope	we exclude it
5	/bi+ tfōt/	/tafōt/	V-Syncope	go through
6	/bi+ txāf /	/taxāf /	V-Syncope	fear
7	/bi+ jʃadī/	/jaʃdō/	V-Syncope	he strides
8	/bi+ nxoʃ/	/naxoʃ/.	V-Syncope	we enter
9	/ bi+ jaxdō/	/jaʔxoðōh/	C-Syncope + V-syncope	they take
10	/bi+ jzīl/	/jazōl/	V-Syncope + V-raising	eliminate
11	/bi+ jākol/	/jaʔkol/	C-Syncope + V-raising	he eats
12	/bi+ jgolak/	/jaqōl laka/.	V-Syncope + V-raising	he told you
13	/bi+ tiṭbarak/	/tatabārak/	V-Syncope + V-raising	be blessed
14	/bi+ tiḏʒi/	/taḏʒiʔ/	C-Syncope + V-raising	they come
15	/bi+ jitbārik/	/jatabārak/	V-Syncope + V-raising	he is blessed
16	/bi+ jxaṭī/	/jaxtō/	V-Syncope + <i>anaptyxis</i>	he strides
17	/bi+ nʃajid/	/noʃājid/	V-raising	congratulate
18	/bi+ tithal/	/tohal/	V-raising	is resolved

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA Variants	Phonological process	gloss
19	/bi+tiṭlaʕ/	/taṭlaʕ/	V-raising	Comes from
20	/bi+niʃrabhā/	/naʃrabhā/	V-raising	we drink it
21	/bi+jibgā/	/jabqā/	V-raising	there is
22	/bi+jiʃfiḥ/	/jaʃfiḥ/	V-raising	he heals him
23	/bi+jidʒʕalō/	/jadʒʕaloh/	V-raising	he causes it
24	/bi+nidʒarah/	/nodʒrah/	V-raising + <i>anaptyxis</i>	We get hurted
25	/bi+jibbā/	/jabqā/	V-raising + Germination	there is
26	/bi+jwaggaʕ/	/joqiʕ/	Germination + anaptyxis	causes troubles

Table (9) illustrates the effect of intruding preverbal marker /bi/ to present tense verb in Al-Minya variant. *Syncope*, *vowel raising*, *germination*, and *anaptyxis* happen in the phonological structure of the present tense verb in Al-Minya accent as a result of /bi/ intrusion. *Vowel syncope* appears in examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. *Consonant syncope* appears in examples 9, 11, and 14: once accompanied by *V-Syncope* and twice by *V-raising*. *Vowel raising* is illustrated in examples 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and example 23. It is accompanied by *syncope* in examples 13, 14, and 15; *anaptyxis* in 24, and *germination* in 25. *Germination* appears in 25 and 26: once accompanied by *V-raising* and once by *Anaptyxis*. *Anaptyxis* is illustrated in 16, 24, and 26. *Prosthesis* of /bi/ in Al-Minya accent is a conditioned sound change: its phonological context is the initial word position in present tense verb.

Similarly, *prosthesis* is observed in initial intrusion of the present tense preverbal marker /ʕamma/, which causes *vowel elision*. Table (10) exemplifies some of Al-Minya variants that undergo *intrusion* of /ʕamma/. It includes bolding of /ʕamma/ in Al-Minya variants and bolding of the elided vowels in the MSA variants.

Table (10): Prothesis in Present Tense Verbs in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA variant	Phonological change	Gloss
1	/ʕamma+nɾōħ/.	/narōħ/.	V-Syncope	we go to
2	/ʕamma+jgawwitna/	/joqawwit/	V-Syncope	we earn our daily sustenance from it
3	/ʕamma+ftilhā/	/ʔaftilhā/	C-Syncope	I plait it
4	/ʕamma+nʕarxo/	/noʕarixoh/	V-Syncope	I crack it
5	/ʕamma+dʒībō/	/ʔadʒīʔ bihi/	V-Syncope	I bring it
6	/ʕamma+nifʔtaya/	/naʔtaya/	V-raising	We work on
7	/ʕamma+billo/	/ʔabilloh/	C-Syncope	I wet it
8	/ʕamma+ʔaliʕō/.	/ʔoʔaliʕoh/	C-Syncope V-Syncope	I take it out
9	/ʕamma+nħoʔilō/	/naħoʔ laho/	V-Syncope	we add to it

Table (10) reveals that /ʕamma/ prothesis to present tense verb in Al-Minya accent results in either *syncope* or *vowel raising*. *Vowel syncope* appears in examples (1), (2), (4) (5), (6), (8), and in (9); and *consonant syncope* appears in examples (3), (7), and in (8). The *vowel raising* appears in example (6).

Prosthesis in past tense verb in passive mood appears in intruding the preverbal marker /ʔi/. Table (11) displays some examples of *prosthesis* in past tense verbs in Al-Minya accent.

Table (11): prosthesis in past tense Verbs in Al-Minya Accent

Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form	gloss
/ʔitxānig/	/taxānaq/	quarrel
/ʔissamā /	/somija/	It was called
/ʔitkalim/	/takalam/	talk
/ʔiṭrāḍa/	/tarāḍa/	reconcile
/ʔitfāhim/	/tafāham/	he agree

The /ʔi/ intrusion to past tense verb in passive mood causes *vowel elision* as in example (1) or *vowel-lowering* as in example (2). Other examples of /ʔi/ intrusion to past tense verbs in Al-Minya accent are /ʔiṭʕaraf/ (it became known) whose standard form is

/ʕorifa/, /ʔiʔrafaʕ/ (it is raised) whose standard form is /rofiʕa/, /ʔinkaʕar/ (it broke) whose standard form is /kosira/, and /ʔitbana/ (it was built) whose standard form is /bonija/.

In Al-Minya accent, *excrescence* appears in intruding the bilabial voiced fricative /w/ and the palatal voiced fricative /j/ to word medial position. This is clarified in table (12).

Table (12): Excrescence in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form	gloss
1	/howwa/	/ howa/	he
2	/bōjzah/	/bāzā/	damaged
3	/hijja/	/hija/	she

According to table (12), in example (1), the bilabial voiced fricative /w/ is intruded word-medially to masculine personal pronoun. In example (3), the palatal voiced fricative /j/ is intruded word-medially to the feminine personal pronoun. Similarly, in example (2), the palatal voiced fricative /j/ is intruded to the verb in mid position turning it to the adjective /bōjzah/ (inedible). *Excrescence* is infrequent type of sound change in Al-Minya accent.

In Al-Minya accent, *paragoge* appears in intruding the alveolar voiced fricative /ʃ/ as a negation marker. Table (13) illustrates some of these examples.

Table (13): Paragoge in Al-Minya Accent

Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form	Gloss
/matimʃiʃ/	/mā tamʃi/	do not walk
/maʕandōʃ/	/mā ʕindaho/	he does not have

Other examples of intruding /ʃ/ to verb final position as a marker of negation are /matakolʃ/ (do not eat), /matgolʃ/ (do not say), /maʃaff/ (he did not see), and /maraḥʃ/ (he did not go). The standard forms are /lā taʔkol/, /lā taqōl/, /mā ʃāfa/, and /mā raḥa/. In addition to intruding /ʃ/ to verb final position in Al-Minya accent, vowel reduction is observed in the negation particle /mā/ where the long vowel /ā/ is reduced to /a/ in Al-Minya variants.

Sound elision is observed in *aphaeresis* which appears in eliding *the plosive glottal stop /ʔ/* and the *low central /a/*. Table (14) signifies some of Al-Minya variants that undergo *aphaeresis* of *glottal plosive /ʔ/* and the *low central /a/*.

Table (14): Aphaeresis in Al-Minya Accent

Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form	gloss
/wilixwā/	/wa ʔalʔixwah/	and the brothers
/wagōl/	/wa ʔaqōl/	and I say
/willi/	/wa ʔallaḏī/	and that
/lasmar/	/ʔalʔasmar/	the black
/di+lwaxt/	/ḏī+ ʔalwaqt/	this time
/wanā/	/wa ʔanā/	and I
/gabl matdʒawaz/	/qabl ʔan ʔatazawadʒ/	before I marry
/liḥbāl/	/ʔalḥibāl/	the robes
/ʔanālli/	/ʔanā ʔallati/	and I am the one who
/ʔiḥḏāʃar/	/ʔaḥada ʔaʃar/	eleven
/sabʃah/	/ʔassābiʃah/	seven
/miʃobḥ/	/min ʔaʃṣabāḥ/	since morning
/ḥabbīnā/	/ʔaḥbabnā/	we would like
/mirāṭī/	/ʔimraʔatī/	my wife
ʃalḥaʃw/	/ʃalā ʔalḥaʃā/	the pebbles
/lawwal/	/ʔalʔawwal/	the first
/ʃalbīr/	/ʃalā ʔalbiʔr/	on the well
/warbiʃīn/	/wa ʔarbaʃīn/	and forty

Syncope appears in eliding vowels in present and past tense verbs because of initial *intrusion*. In addition, *the plosive glottal stop* is elided in word mid position as in /ʃafān/ (for) where the standard form is /ʃalā ʃaʔn/. Because of syncopizing *the glottal plosive*, a vowel lengthening is used as compensation as in examples (1), (5), (6), (7), (8), (13), and (15). This is clear in table (15) where the lengthened vowels are bolded in Al-Minya variants, and the elided phonemes are bolded in the standard variety.

Table (15): Aphaeresis in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form	Gloss
1	/jāxod/	/jaʔxoð/	to take
2	/wilixwā/	/wa ʔalʔixwah/	and the brothers
3	/ʔixwatnā/	/ʔixwatonā/	our brothers
4	/lasmar/	/ʔalʔasmar/	the black
5	/ʕafān/	/ʕalā jaʔn/	for
6	/bi+jākol/	/jaʔkol/	he eats
7	/bārbīʕīn/	/bi+ʔarbaʕīn/	costs forty
8	/labāxza/	lā moʔāxaða/	excuse me
9	/sabʕah/	/ʔassābiʕah/.	seven
10	/miʕobħ/	/min ʔaʕṣabāħ/	since morning
11	/lawwal/	/ʔalʔawwal/	the first
12	/barðō/	/bi+ʔarðoh/,	also
13	/ʕalbīr/	/ʕalā ʔalbiʔr/,	the well
14	/rabnā/	/rabonā/.	our God
15	/bi+rādat /	/bi+ʔirādat/	God Willing
16	/winxofahā/	/wa naxofahā/	and we enter it

Apocope appears in eliding the *glottal voiced fricative* /h/. Table (16) elucidates some examples of word-finally apocopated *glottal fricative* in Al-Minya accent. Similarly, the *glottal plosive stop* /ʔ/ is elided in word final position. This is evident in table (16) where the apocopated sounds are bolded in the standard variants.

Table (16): Apocope in Al-Minya Accent

Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	gloss
/mafīj/	/mā fī ʕajʔ /	nothing
/willi/	/wa ʔalla ðī /,	that
/tidʒī/	/tadʒ ʔ /.	come
/ʔilkahrabā/.	/ʔalkahrabā ʔ /.	electricity
/jifa/	/jifā ʔ /.	healing
/wilixwā/	/wa ʔalʔixwah/	and the brothers
/xamsā/	/xamsah/	Five
/mamdōdā/	/mamdōdah/	stretched
/ħilba/	/ħilbah/	fenugreek
/xamirā/.	/xamirah/	yeast
/barðō/	/bi+ʔarðoh/	also
/mobarakā/	/mobarakah/	blessed
/xalīfā/	/xalīfah/	sibling
/hādʒa/	/hādʒah/	something

Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	gloss
/ʕāzba/	/ʕaḏbah/	fresh
/sana/	/sanah/	year
/ʔillī/	/ʔallaḏī/.	that
/noʃ/.	/niʃf/.	half
/miʃobħ/	/min ʔaʃʃabāħ/.	since morning
/ʕafān/	/ʕalā ʔaʔn/	because
ʕalħaʃw/	/ʕalā ʔalħaʃā/.	the pebbles
/ʕalbīr/	/ʕalā ʔalbiʔr/	on the well

A recurrent *apocoptation* in *Al-Minya accent* appears in the demonstrative article /ʔillī/ (that). The standard form is /ʔallaḏī/ or /ʔallatī/. The *interdental voiced fricative* /ḏ/ is elided word-finally. Likewise, the *labiodental voiceless fricative* /f/ is elided word-finally in /noʃ/ (half) where the MSA variant is /niʃf/.

In *Al-Minya accent*, *vowel raising* appears in raising the tongue from low central position to high front position i.e. from /a/ to /i/. This is clear in table (17) where *the high front /i/* is bolded in *Al-Minya variants*, and the *low central /a/* is bolded in *MSA variants*.

Table (17): Vowel Raising in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form		Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form
1	/kida/	/kaḏa/	21	/ʔissāʕah/	/ʔassāʕah/
2	/ʔilmoʕkilah/	/ʔalmoʕkilah/	22	/ʔilmasaʔijah/	/ʔalmasaʔijah/
3	/wi/	/wa/	23	/ʔiḏohor /	/ʔaʔohor/
4	/jirōħ /	/jarōħ/	24	/jiħfazō /	/jaħfaʔō/.
5	/baʕḏīhom/	/baʕḏahom/	25	/kanit/	/kanat/
6	/ʔilxilāf/	/ʔalxilāf/.	26	/ʔinnās /	/ʔannās /
7	/ʔilfitnah/	/ʔalfitnah/	27	/timʔi/	/tamʔi/
8	/diħ/	/ḏa/	28	/jiħʕal /	/jaħʕol/
9	/ʔilmisiħjin/	/ʔalmasiħjin/	29	/ʔilbalad/	/ʔalbalad /
10	/ʔiḏōb/	/ʔaḏōb/	30	/ʔilkahraba/	/ʔalkahrabaʔ/
11	/ʔillī /	/ʔallaḏī/	31	/niʕraf/.	/naʕrif/.
12	/ʔilkaraka/	/ʔalkaraka/	32	/ʔiḏḏil/	/ʔaʔʔil/
13	/ʔilmajariʕ/	/ʔalmajariʕ/	33	/ziyajr/	/ʕayir /
14	/ʔilʕimdān/	/ʔalʕimdān/	34	/nixbizō/.	/naxbizō/.
15	/ʔinōr/	/ʔannōr/	35	/hina/	/hona/

	Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form		Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form
16	/ʔitt̪in/.	/ʔatt̪in/.	36	/ʔinnās/	/ʔannās/
17	/ʕinnadīfah/	/ʔannaʒīfah/	37	/wa+rbiʕin/	/wa+ʔarbaʕin/
18	/ʕiħit/	/ʕiħat/	38	/jiħfazak/	/jaħfaʒak/
19	/dilwax/	/ði ʔalwax/	39	/bi+jibbā/.	/jabqā/.
20	/ʔilbalaħ/	/ʔalbalaħ/			

Table (17) illuminates the raising of the tongue from low central vowel to high front vowel. It occurs in the phonological environment of definite article /ʔal/, which turns to be /ʔil/ in Al-Minya accent. This is illustrated in examples (2), (6), (7), (9), (10), (12), (13), (14), (22), (29), (30), and (20). Similarly, in the phonological context of the definite article /ʔal/ which includes *assimilation* to the next sound, the low central vowel is raised to high front vowel as in (16), (17), (21), (26), and (32). The dental liquid /l/ of the definite article /ʔal/ is totally assimilated to the /t/ in (16), /n/ in (17) and (26), /s/ in (21), and /d/ in (32). Vowel raising in Al-Minya accent occurs in other grammatical categories such as the relative pronoun /ʔillī/ (that), the place adverbial /hina/ (here), and the verb syntactic category as in examples (4), (24), (27), and (28). Accordingly, *Vowel raising* in Al-Minya accent is unconditioned sound change that occurs regardless of the phonological context.

In Al-Minya accent, the *diphthongization* appears in fracturing the long vowel /ī/ and /ā/ to the diphthong /aj/ and the long vowel /ō/ to the diphthong /aw/. Table (18) provides examples of *diphthongization* in Al-Minya accent where diphthongs are bolded in Al-Minya variants and monophthongs are bolded in the MSA variants.

Table (18): Diphthongization in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	Standard Form	gloss
1	/zi ɣajr /	/ʕayīr/	small
2	/ma ɣah /.	/māʔ/.	water
3	/da ɣman /	/dāʔiman/	always
4	/bi+l ɣaw mija/	/bi+lǒm/	daily salary

According to table (18), *diphthongization* in Al-Minya accent is accompanied by another sound change in the lexeme's phonetic structure. In example (1), the process of *diphthongization* is

accompanied by losing the phonetic feature of *pharyngealization*, i.e. /s/ > /z/ and eliding the *glottal plosive* /ʔ/ in examples (2) and (3). In Al-Minya accent, *diphthongization* is a form of *fortition* as it decreases sound sonority. In example (4), the monophthong /ō/ of the standard form is diphthongized to be /aw/.

Conversely, *monophthongization*, which appears in changing a diphthong into a monophthong, is observed in Al-Minya accent. Table (19) provides examples of *monophthongization* where the monophthongs are bolded in Al-Minya variants and the diphthongs are bolded in the MSA variants.

Table (19): monophthongization in Al-Minya Accent

	Al-Minya Variant	MSA variants	gloss
1	/saʕtīn/	/saʕatajn/	two hours
2	/jibij/	/jobawij/	becomes soft
3	/ʕalīhā/	/ʕalajhā/	on it
4	/ʕīj/	ʕajj/	bread
5	/ʔitnīn/	/ʔiθnajn/	two
6	/jīʔ/	/jajʔ/	thing
7	/fōg/	/fawq/	above
8	/bi+lǰōmijah/	/bi+lǰawm/	daily salary

Table (19) shows that Al-Minya accent is characterized by monophthogization of the diphthong /aj/ to long vowel /ī/. It is illustrated in examples (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6). In addition, *monophthogization* appears in changing the diphthong /aw/ to long vowel /ō/. It is clear in examples (7) and (8). *Monophthogization* is a form of *lenition* where sound sonority increases. It is noteworthy to mention that Al-Minya accent is similar to MSA in two features: both keep on *the low central /a/* in many lexemes such as /kabīr/ (big) and *the alveolar affricate /dʒ/* as table (20) illustrates.

Table (20): keeping on alveolar affricate / dʒ/

Al-Minya accent and MSA	The gloss
nasīdʒ	fabric
madʒīb	I bring
filmaʕdʒanah	mud
ʔildʒāmid	hard
ħāʕʒah	a need
matdʒawaz	before I marry
ʕamma+dʒībō	I bring it
tidʒī	come
Wi bijidʒʕalō	and he causes it
binidʒarħ	get injured
ʕalhāʕʒa	the thing

Conclusion

Based on the phonetic analysis and the quantitative analysis of the sample under investigation, Al-Minya accent is characterized by *dental assimilation*. It is observed in assimilating /θ/ to /s/ and /ð/ to /z/. It is partial *assimilation* of place of articulation where the *voiceless fricatives* /θ/ and /s/ are assimilated in place of articulation, i.e. the *interdental* /θ/ is totally assimilated to *the dental* /s/. Similarly, the *voiced fricatives* /ð/ and /z/ are assimilated in place of articulation, i.e. the *interdental* /ð/ is totally assimilated to the *dental* /z/ in place of articulation.

In addition, *dental plosive assimilation* is observed in assimilating /θ/ to /t/, /ð/ to /d/, and /ʒ/ to /d/. It is *total assimilation* of place and manner of articulation. The voiceless /θ/ and /t/ are assimilated in place and manner of articulation: the interdental fricative /θ/ > the dental plosive /t/. Similarly, in assimilating the voiced /ð/ to /d/, the assimilated features are place and manner of articulation: interdental fricative /ð/ > dental plosive /d/. Likewise, in assimilating the *pharyngealized voiced* /ʒ/ and /d/, the assimilated features are place and manner of articulation: *interdental fricative* /ʒ/ > *dental plosive* /d/.

The analysis section highlights another frequent type of *assimilation* in Al-Minya accent, namely *pharyngealized assimilation*. Al-Minya exhibits a great tendency to *pharyngealization* where the back of the tongue is constricted during the primary articulation. The most frequent category of consonants that undergo *pharyngealized assimilation* is *dentals*. This is clear in assimilating the *plain dentals* /t/, /d/, and /s/ to the *pharyngealized dentals* /t̤/, /d̤/, and /s̤/. The assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*: /t/ and /t̤/ are *dental voiceless plosives*. It is a type of *fortition* where sound sonority decreases. Similarly assimilating the *plain dental* /d/ to the *pharyngealized* /d̤/ is another proof on Al-Minya accent tendency to *pharyngealization*. The /d/ and /d̤/ are *dental voiced plosives*: the assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*. Consequently, the sound sonority decreases, i.e. *fortition*.

Likewise assimilating the *dental voiceless fricatives* /s/ to /s̤/ is another type of *pharyngealized assimilation* in Al-Minya accent. It is through assimilating the feature of *pharyngealization* that the *plain dental* /s/ turns to be *pharyngealized dental* /s̤/. In the previously mentioned kinds of *pharyngealized assimilation*, the *assimilation* is *partial* since voicing, place, and manner of articulation are identical. The only assimilated feature is *pharyngealization*.

The results demonstrate that another subsidiary type of *pharyngealized assimilation* is *pharyngealized dental assimilation*. It is infrequent as it occurs once. It appears in assimilating the /θ/ to the /s̤/. Since both phonemes are *voiceless fricatives*, the assimilated features are *place of articulation* and *pharyngealization*. It is another proof of Al-Minya accent tendency to *pharyngealization*.

A further novel finding is *velarized assimilation* as a distinctive phonological process of Al-Minya accent. It is observed where the *uvular plosive* /q/ is totally assimilated to the *velar plosive* /g/ in place of articulation. It is a *partial assimilation* since both phonemes /q/ and /g/ are *voiced plosive*.

The analysis section finds evidence for *bilabial assimilation and voicing assimilation*. In the former type, the /b/ is totally assimilated to /m/. It is a *partial assimilation* of manner of articulation since both phonemes /b/ and /m/ are *bilabial voiced phonemes*. In the latter type, the *dental voiceless /ʃ/* is totally assimilated to the *dental voiced /z/*. It acquires voicing in Al-Minya accent.

Metathesis is another phonological feature of Al-Minya accent. It is infrequent but it appears in transposition of dental sounds /t/ and /ʃ/. In addition, it appears in transposition of the *alveolar fricative /dʒ/* and the *dental fricative /z/*.

The results of the analysis found clear support for *sound intrusion* as a distinctive feature of Al-Minya accent. *Prothesis* appears in intruding preverbal markers /bi/ and /ʃamma/ to present tense verb in Al-Minya accent. Consequently, *vowel syncope, consonant syncope, vowel raising, germination, and anaptyxis* occurs in the phonic structure of the words. The most frequent result of the /bi/ intrusion is *syncope* of either a vowel or a consonant. This is followed by either *vowel raising* from low central /a/ to high front /i/ or *germination*. *Anaptyxis* is rarely to happen as a result of /bi/ intrusion. For the effect of /ʃamma/ intrusion to present verb tense, *syncope* is the dominant result. *Prothesis* in past tense verb in passive mood appears in intruding /ʔi/. This *intrusion* results in either *syncope* or *vowel lowering*.

Excrescence or *medial intrusion* is noted in intruding either the *palatal voiced fricative /j/* to feminine personal pronoun or the *bilabial voiced fricative /w/* to masculine personal pronoun. *Anaptyxis* is observed as an effect of /bi/ intrusion to present tense verb where the low central /a/ is intruded word medially. *Paragoge* or *final intrusion* appears in intruding the *alveolar fricative /ʃ/* as a negation marker.

The results confirm that *sound elision* is another distinctive phonological feature of Al-Minya accent. *Aphaeresis* is uncovered in eliding *the glottal plosive /ʔ/* word- initially. *Syncope* is exposed as one effect of intruding /bi/ and /ʕamma/ to present tense verb and /ʔi/ to past tense verb in passive mode. In addition, it appears in word medial *elision* of *glottal plosive /ʔ/* which is compensated for by vowel lengthening. Finally, *apocope* appears in eliding either *the glottal plosive /ʔ/* or *the glottal fricative /h/*. In addition, *apocope* appears in eliding the long vowel /ā/ in preposition /ʕalā/ (on) and the *interdental fricative /ð/* in relative pronoun /ʔallaði/ (that). Infrequently, *apocope* appears in eliding the *labiodental voiced fricative /f/* in /nisf/.

On vowel level, Al-Minya accent is phonologically distinctive from spoken MSA in three aspects. First, *vowel raising* where the tongue is raised from low central /a/ to high front /i/ in the definite article; the relative pronoun /ʔilli/, the place adverbial /hina/, and the verb category.

The analysis section provides evidence for *diphthongization as a phonologically distinctive* feature of Al-Minya accent. It is observed where the long vowels /ā/ and /ī/ are diphthongized to /aj/. This is usually accompanied by another sound change: for example losing the phonetic feature of *pharyngealization* and eliding *a glottal plosive*. *Diphthongization* in Al-Minya accent is a type of *fortition* where sound sonority decreases as *vowels* are more sonorant than *diphthongs*. Finally, *monophthongization* is observed in increasing the sound sonority of /aj/ and /aw/ by monophthongizing them to /ī/ and /ō/ respectively. It is a type of sound *lenition*. Al-Minya accent and MSA are similar in keeping on low central /a/ in some lexemes and keeping on the *alveolar affricate /dʒ/* in all cases.

Based on the previous presentation, the distinctive phonological features of Al-Minya accent can be summarized in the following points:

First, Al-Minya accent exhibits great tendency to *pharyngealization*. This is clear in the allophonic variation in Al-Minya accent: the /t/ is an allophone of /t̤/; the /d/ is an allophone of /d̤/; and the /s/ is an allophone of /s̤/. Moreover, Al-Minya accent prefers dental sounds rather than interdental sounds. This is clear in /s/ and /t/ as allophones of /θ/ and /z/. In addition, the /d/ is allophone of /ð/; and the /d̤/ is an allophone of /z̤/. Furthermore, Al-Minya accent is characterized by a regular sound change where every *uvular plosive* /q/ is totally assimilated to the *velar plosive* /g/. Accordingly, the *velar plosive* /g/ is an allophone of the *uvular plosive* /q/ in Al-Minya accent. Finally, Al-Minya accent is characterized by *bilabial assimilation* which occurs regardless of the phonological context. Accordingly, it is a sporadic type of sound change between /b/ and /m/ in manner of articulation.

Second, *prothesis* of /bi/ and /ʕamma/ to present tense verb is *conditioned sound change* that occurs regularly regardless of the phonological context. Past tense verbs in passive mood are intruded with /ʔi/ word-initially. Phonological processes of *syncope*, *anaptyxis*, *vowel raising*, and *gemination* occur because of /bi/ intrusion. *Excrescence* in Al-Minya accent revolves around intruding /j/ to feminine personal pronoun in subjective case and /w/ to masculine personal pronoun in subjective case. *Anaptyxis* reiterates in present tense verb because of the /bi/ *prosthesis*. It appears in intruding the low central /a/ word-medially. Finally, *paragoge* is confined to *intrusion* of /j/ to word final position as a negation marker.

Third, *elision* in Al-Minya accent appears in *aphaeresis* where the *glottal plosive* is elided word-initially. Likewise, *syncope* appears in word medial *elision* of *glottal plosive* that is compensated for by vowel lengthening. Finally, *apocope* clarifies in elision of the *glottal*

plosive and the *glottal fricative* phonemes word-finally. *Apocope* of vowels is illustrated in eliding long vowel /ā/ in preposition /ʕalā/ and interdental fricative /ð/ in relative pronoun /ʔallaðī/.

Fourth, based on the vowel analysis in the sample under investigation, *vowel raising* is markedly a recurrent phonological feature in Al-Minya accent. It happens in the phonological context of the definite article, the relative pronoun, and the place adverbial. It is a type of *fortition* where sound sonority decreases. Similarly, *diphthongization*, which is a type of fortition, is observed where the monophthongs /ī/ and /ō/ are changed to /aj/ and /aw/ respectively. The *monophthongization* happens when the diphthongs /aj/ and /aw/ are transformed to the monophthongs /ī/ and /ō/ respectively. The *monophthongization* has more frequency than the diphthongization in the sample under investigation. Finally, the distinctive similarity of Al-Minya accent and MSA is keeping on low central /a/ in some lexemes and keeping on the *alveolar affricate* /dʒ/ in all occurrences.

As the current research is confined to one regional accent i.e Al-Minya accent, potential areas for future research are the analysis of other regional accents of the Egyptian vernacular to enrich the linguistic branch of the Egyptian dialectology. This research paper raises concerns about other accents of the Egyptian vernacular such as Aswan accent, Asyut accent, Alexandria accent, Beheira accent, Damietta accent, Beni Suef accent that can be addressed by future reaserches. While the approaches of Kate Burridge and Alexander Bergs (2017) and Mathew K. Gordon (2016) for sound changes are the applied approaches in this study, other approaches for sound change can be exploited to investigate other Egyptian accents. Finally, future research on sound changes in Egyptian accents could analyze other phonological processes such as weak syllable deletion, stopping, and dissimilation.

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Appendix (1) illustrates the IPA transcription symbols of consonants used in the phonetic analysis of Al-Minya dialect:

Arabic Grapheme	Phonetic symbol	Arabic Grapheme	Phonetic symbol
أ	ʔ	ض	d
ب	b	ط	t̪
ت	t	ظ	ʒ
ث	θ	ع	ʕ
ج	dʒ	غ	ɣ
ح	ħ	ف	f
خ	x	ق	q
د	d	ك	k
ذ	ð	ل	l
ر	r	م	m
ز	z	ن	n
س	s	هـ	h
ش	ʃ	و	w
ص	ʂ	ي	j

Appendix (2) illustrates the IPA transcription symbols of vowels used in the phonetic analysis of Al-Minya dialect:

Arabic Grapheme	Phonetic symbol	Arabic Grapheme	Phonetic symbol
اَ	ɑ	إ	ā
إِ	i	ي	ī
أُ	o	و	ō