

## Assimilation Process In Tamil And Arabic Languages: A Contrastive Study

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### Abstract

Whenever a person learns a second or foreign language, who is aware of the grammar of his mother tongue alone, it significantly impacts learning the second language. Challenges faced in learning a second or foreign language can be decreased by the comparative study of the grammar of the two languages. Accordingly, this research tries to study sound assimilation in Arabic and Tamil languages comparatively. The research problem concerns whether there are similarities between the two different languages from two other families in the assimilation process. This research aims at a comparative study of the assimilation of sound between Arabic and Tamil languages. This object is tried to be achieved through the qualitative research methodology under descriptive analysis for the secondary data analysis. While both languages are available from two different families, the assimilation process happens in consonant letters alone. Assimilation occurs in both of these languages due to the factors like place of articulation, characteristics of sounds, and place of vowel and consonant letters. In contrast, in the Tamil language, a word is divided into morphemes, and the homogeneity between the morphemes impacts the assimilation of sound. However, dissimilation occurs in these two languages due to sounds' characteristics and vowels' impact on consonants. The morphemes of the Tamil language have unique meanings. This research has identified that the types of good assimilation are the same for the two languages, while complete assimilation is an added type in Arabic. On such a background, this research would hopefully assist those who learn Arabic as a second language with the mother tongue of Tamil.

**Keywords:** Tamil; Arabic; Assimilation; Dissimilation; Phonetics

### INTRODUCTION

Language is the primary tool in an effective exchange of views. It is an excellent tool for expressing man's thoughts, desires, and opinions at appropriate times as a potential instrument (Karunakaran & Jaya, 1997, p.1). All the people represent voices for their purposes (Ibn Jinny 2006). Phonological change takes a prominent place in phonology, the study of languages (Al-Fozan 1989: 50). Phonological change is any change that occurs in the structure of a sound of a language. Some of such changes are that some sounds disappear from usage. In contrast, some new sounds emerge, as well as some other sound alters into different sounds (Nuhman 2002: 89). It is unpredictable to understand the time the change occurs in a speech or a language. There would be slight changes according to some of the subordinate factors and environmental changes; meanwhile it becomes a new unique pronunciation (Subramanian 1998).

Assimilation is the overlapping of two similar, homogeneous, and approximate sounds to become one sound. It is a phonological process by which two sounds are

overlapped, forming one sound the first is a Quiscent sound, and the second is Movent. As it is difficult to pronounce the two sounds together and to make their pronunciation easier, they tend to be assimilated to become one stressed sound (Al-Murşafi 1982: 231). Sounds interchange within each other. This results in the sounds of a word undergoing changes producing Assimilation (Mumathala), Dissimilation (Mukhalafa) and Replacement (Qalbul Makanee). This aims at providing an easy pronunciation decreasing the movements of articulatory organs during pronouncing (Abdullah 2009: 114).

Assimilation of sound refers to the phonological process where a sound looks like another neighbouring sound due to the impact of one on the other. This may occur in the beginning, middle or ending of a word. Assimilation is the main factor for phonological changes. This impact differs from language to language. Some sounds impact quickly than some other. The homogeneity between the sounds is the main factor for assimilation (Anees 1975: 145).

The terminology of assimilation of sounds is identified in Tamil language in terms like ஒலித் திரிபு, இயைபு, புணர்ச்சி /<sup>w</sup>olitt̪t̪riɸu , iɸjəɸu , puɸərt̪t̪ɸr/ Meanwhile in Arabic terms like المماثلة /muma: θla:/ ، المضارعة /mu d̪ˤ:raʕa:/ ، الإدغام /idɸy:m/ are used to refer assimilation (Zainab n.d.: 162). The linkage of some sounds of a word with some other is known to be Tashakul التشاكل /t̪ʃa:kul/. At times the first letter impacts on the second while the second on the first. Similarly, two sounds form a new sound (Waafi 2004). The neighbouring morphemes assimilate partially or totally (‘Umar 1997). Similarly, a sound intermingles with another forming the same single sound under specific sound structure. This is known to be At Tahyeedh التحييد /t̪h̪j̪j̪id/ (Husam addeen 1985). Therefore, this research is a comparative study of the assimilation in both Tamil and Arabic languages.

## METHOD

This research is based on qualitative methodology under descriptive contrastive analysis finding out the similarities and dissimilarities in assimilation between Tamil and Arabic languages. The secondary data were collected from journal articles, books, research papers and comparative studies. The researchers used the library and internet for data collection and the gathered data were analysed through contrastive technique. Firstly, the researchers discussed the assimilation in the two languages separately, then found the similarities and dissimilarities throughout the theoretical data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Assimilation In Tamil Language

The method of pronunciation differs from person to person. Similarly, there are variations in pronunciation while repeating the same words. Such minor variations develop and results in a morpheme changing to another. Accordingly, such changes occur due to the factors like defects in pronouncing in articulatory organs, defects in gaining knowledge, and defects in right understanding of the language followed by the people from the learned people and so as to simplify the language. Assimilation is the fundamental of such a change (Seenivasan 1980: 75). This can be divided into two types such as assimilation of consonants and assimilation of vowels. Assimilation of

consonants occurs when Quiscent and the Movent join together and consonant changes by the impact of the other. (Seenivasan 1999). This is of 3 types.

### 1. Progressive:

The change in phoneme characteristic due to influence of a sound occurring before it.

Examples:

பொன் + நன்று = பொன்னன்று /pon+ nændr̥ʌ = ponnændr̥ʌ/

கல் + நுனி = கன்னுனி /kəl+ nuɳi = kənnuɳi/

கண் + நன்று = கண்ணன்று /kəɳ+ nændr̥ʌ = kəɳnændr̥ʌ/

### 2. Regressive:

The change in phoneme characteristics due to influence of a sound occurring in the word immediately following after it.

Examples:

நல் + சேர்க்கை = நற்சேர்க்கை /nəl + se:rkkej = nərtʃe:rkkej/

நெல் + காய்த்தது = நெற்காய்த்தது /nɛl + ka:jttəðʌ = nərkə:jttəðʌ/

நல் + நூல் = நன்னூல் /nəl + nu:l = nənnu:l/

### 3. Reciprocal:

Both the phonemes Quiscent and Movent assimilate together.

Examples:

கல் + தூண் = கற்றூண் /kəl + tu:ɳ = kətt̪u:ɳ/

கல் + தீது = கஃறீது /kəl + ti:ðʌ = kəgr̪i:ðʌ/

Assimilation of vowels /Vowel harmony is the assimilation of vowel sounds with one another. (Seenivasan 1999:21&22)

Examples:

Change of இகரம் /<sup>h</sup>ɪgəɾəm / into யகரம் /jəgəɾəm / with உகரம் /<sup>u</sup>ɪgəɾəm /

பெரு + மை = பெருமை → பெரு + யது = பெரியது

/pɛɾʌ + məj = pɛɾʌməj → pɛɾʌ + jəðʌ = pɛɾijəðʌ/

அரு + மை = அருமை → அரு + யது = அரியது

/əɾʌ + məj = əɾʌməj → əɾʌ + jəðʌ = əɾijəðʌ/

## Assimilation By Place

### Contiguous Assimilation

Assimilation between two consecutive sounds. Assimilation of consonants occurs here.

This is categorized under 5 types

1. Palatalization:

முயல் + த் + இ = முயற்சி /mujəl + t̪ + i = mujəɾtʃi /

Here, தகரம் /<sup>h</sup>təgəɾəm/ assimilated to இகரம் /<sup>h</sup>ɪgəɾəm /

2. Dentalization:

நீர் + து = நீந்து /ni:r + t̪ʌ = ni:ɳt̪ʌ/

3. Here, ரகரம் /<sup>h</sup>rəgəɾəm/ assimilated to 'ந' /n/ with தகரம் /<sup>h</sup>təgəɾəm/

4. Labialization:

கால் + பு = காம்பு (ல் → ம்) /ka:l + pʌ = ka:mpʌ (l → m) / assimilated to பகரம் /pəgəɾəm/

5. Retroflexion:

உண் + து = உண்டு (த் → ட்) / உண் + து = உண்டு (த் → ட்)/ assimilated to  
ணகரம் /ṇaḡarəmə /

6. Alveolarization:

தின்+ து = தின்று (த் → ற்) / தின்+ து = தின்று (த் → ற்) /

### Noncontiguous

Vowel Harmony occurs here. The two consecutive sounds are homogenous.

சாகிறான் – சாகறான், சாவறான் / sa:ḡira:n – sa:ḡara:n , sa:vəra:n / (Dialect)  
மைத்துனி – மச்சினிச்சி / məjttu:ni – mətʃʃinɪtʃʃi / (Dialect)

### The Phonological Changes In Tamil Dialect

The change of a phoneme according to the pronunciation of a phoneme before or after occurs in Tamil dialect too. (Damodaran & Aalis n.d.)

The second phoneme of the word கேள்வி, கத்தி /ke:lvi , kəttɪ/ changes when a conjunction 'கு' /ku/ joins with that.

Examples:

கேள்விக்கு → கேள்விக்கி /ke:lvi:kku → ke:lvi:kki/  
கத்திக்கு → கத்திக்கி /kəttɪ:kku → kəttɪ:kki/

Similarly, the phonemes of ப, ச /pə , sə/ after ண், ன்/ṇ , n/ change to be ம், ஞ் /m , n/ respectively.

செண்பகம் → செம்பகம் /seṇbəḡəm → seṇbəḡəm/  
எண்பது → எம்பது /eṇbətɔ → eṇbətɔ/

Numan, M. A. (2003) identifies the word assimilation of sounds as to be 'புணர்ச்சி' /puṇərtʃʃi/. The assimilation in Tamil can be categorized into 2 namely, உயிர் ஈற்றுப் புணர்ச்சி, மெய் ஈற்றுப் புணர்ச்சி /<sup>w</sup>ujɪr i:tɪrəp puṇərtʃʃi & mej i:tɪrəp puṇərtʃʃi/

### Assimilation Of Vowel உயிர் ஈற்றுப் புணர்ச்சி /<sup>w</sup>ujɪr i:tɪrəp puṇərtʃʃi/

This refers to the assimilation of sounds where Quiescent is a vowel and Movent is either vowel or consonant. (Numan) this is of two types :

Assimilation of Vowel before Vowel உயிர் முன் உயிர் புணர்தல்

/<sup>w</sup>ujɪr mɔṇ <sup>w</sup>ujɪr puṇərdəl/

Assimilation of Consonant before Vowel உயிர் முன் மெய் புணர்தல்

/<sup>w</sup>ujɪr mɔṇ mej puṇərdəl /

1. Assimilation of Vowel before Vowel உயிர் முன் உயிர் புணர்தல்

/<sup>w</sup>ujɪr mɔṇ <sup>w</sup>ujɪr puṇərdəl/

When a vowel comes as a Quiescent and movent also a vowel, a consonant of யகர மெய் or வகர மெய் / jəḡərə mej or vəḡərə mej/ appears and assimilates. Such a consonant is known as உடம்படுமெய் /<sup>w</sup>ɔdəmbəḡəmej/

2. Appearance of consonant யகர மெய் /jəḡərə mej/

When the last letter of quiescent is one of இ, ஈ, ஐ /i , i , əj/ and movent begins with any vowel யகர மெய் /jəḡərə mej/ appears as உடம்படுமெய் /<sup>w</sup>ɔdəmbəḡəmej/.

Examples:

கிளி + ஐ → கிளி + ய் + ஐ → கிளியை  
/kɪlɪ + əj → kɪlɪ + j + əj → kɪlɪjəj/  
தீ + ஐ → தீ + ய் + ஐ → தீயை /t̪i + əj → t̪i + j + əj → t̪i:jəj/  
பனை + ஐ → பனை + ய் + ஐ → பனையை  
/pənəj + əj → pənəj + j + əj → pənəjjəj/

3. Appearance of consonant வகர மெய் / ʋəgərə məj/

When the last letter of Quiescent is none of vowels இ, ஈ, ஐ /ɪ, i, əj/ and the first letter of movent is any vowel வகர மெய் / ʋəgərə məj/ appears as உடம்படுமெய் /  
ʋɔdəmbəɖəməj/.

Examples:

பலா + ஐ → பலா + வ் + ஐ → பலாவை  
/pələ + əj → pələ + ʋ + əj → pələ:ʋəj/  
பசு + ஐ → பசு + வ் + ஐ → பசுவை  
/pəsɯ + əj → pəsɯ + ʋ + əj → pəsɯʋəj/

**Assimilation of Consonant Before Vowel உயிர் முன் மெய் புணர்தல்**

/ʋɔjɪr mɔn məj pɔnəɖəl/

This is of 2 types: Assimilation of Surds before vowel and assimilation of nasal and medial consonants before vowels.

Assimilation of surds before Vowel

The surds க், ச், த், ப் / k, s, t̪, p/ participates in the assimilation.

அ + காலம் → அக்காலம் /ə + ka:ləm → əkka:ləm/  
தீரா + பசி → தீராப் பசி /t̪i:ra + pəsɪ → t̪i:ra:p pəsɪ/  
குருவி + கூடு → குருவிக் கூடு /kɔɾɯvi + ku:ɖɯ → kɔɾɯvikku:ɖɯ/

**Assimilation of Consonant மெய் ஈற்றுப் புணர்ச்சி /məj j̪i:tt̪ɪp pɔnəɖɪt̪ɪ/**

Assimilation of sounds when quiescent is a consonant and a movent is either a vowel or consonant (Nuhman 2013: 255). This is of 2 types.

**Assimilation of Vowel before Consonant மெய் முன் உயிர் புணர்தல்**

/məj mɔn ʋɔjɪr pɔnəɖəl/

After a short vowel, the consonant comes in the last of a word while the first letter of movent is a vowel, repetitive assimilation takes place.

Example:

கல் + ஐ → கல் + ல் + ஐ → கல்லை /kəl + əj → kəl + l + əj → kəlləj/  
மண் + ஐ → மண் + ண் + ஐ → மண்ணை /mən + əj → mən + ɳ + əj → mənɳəj/

The last letter of quiescent being a consonant assimilates with the vowel in the start of a movent creates a consonant vowel.

Example:

பால் + ஐ → பாலை /pa:l + əj → pa:ləj/  
அவர் + ஆல் → அவரால் /əvə + a:l → əvəa:l/

**Assimilation Of Consonant Before Consonant** மெய் முன் மெய் புணர்தல்  
/mej mun mej puṇarḏal/ :

**மகர ஈறு /mægərə 'i:ru:/ : kfu <W:**

Presence of a surd before the suffix of மகர ஈறு /mægərə 'i:ru:/. Surd becomes dominant.

Examples:

மரம் + கொம்பு → மரக்கொம்பு /mərəm + kombu → mərəkkombu/

வட்டம் + கல் → வட்டக்கல் /vattam + kal → vattakkal/

**ணகர, னகர ஈறு / ṇægərə , nægərə 'i:ru:/ :**

Presence of surds before the words with the suffixes of ண், ன் / ṇ , n/ assimilate into ட், ற் / ṭ , r/ respectively.

Examples:

மண் + குடம் → மட்குடம் /maṇ + kuḏam → maṭkuḏam/

பொன் + தகடு → பொற்றகடு /pon + taḡaḏu → poṭṭaḡaḏu/

**ல், ள் ஈற்றுப் புணர்ச்சி / l , l 'i:tt'up puṇartfɪ:/ :**

Presence of surds before the words with the suffixes of ல், ள் / l , l/ assimilate into ற், ட் / r , ṭ/ respectively.

Examples:

கல் + கள் → கற்கள் /kal + kaḷ → kaṛkaḷ/

நாள் + கள் → நாட்கள் /na:l + kaḷ → na:ṭkaḷ/

**யகர ஈறு / jægərə 'i:ru:/ :**

Presence of surds before யகர ஈறு / jægərə 'i:ru:/. Surds dominate.

Examples:

வாய் + சொல் → வாய்ச்சொல் /va:j + sol → va:jtɪɪol/

நாய் + குணம் → நாய்க்குணம் /na:j + kuṇam → na:jkkuṇam/

**ரகர ஈறு / rægərə 'i:ru:/ :**

Presence of surds before ufu ரகர ஈறு / rægərə 'i:ru:/. Surds dominate.

Examples:

தேர் + திருவிழா → தேர்த்திருவிழா /te:r + tɪruviɪa → te:rttɪruviɪa/

வேர் + கடலை → வேர்க்கடலை /ve:r + kaḏaləj → ve:rkkaḏaləj/

**ழகர ஈறு / ḷægərə 'i:ru:/ :**

Presence of surds before ழகர ஈறு / ḷægərə 'i:ru:/. Surds dominate.

Examples:

தமிழ் + புத்தகம் → தமிழ்ப்புத்தகம் /tamiɪ + puṭṭaḡam → tamiɪppuṭṭaḡam/

தமிழ் + தாய் → தமிழ்த்தாய் /tamiɪ + ta:j → tamiɪtta:j/

**Assimilation In Arabic Language**

Assimilation / التلاصق / linguistically refers to the overlapping of two sounds similar, homogeneous, approximate in feature to become one sound. It has been defined

as the change in the pronunciation of sounds. This may occur in the beginning or in the last part of the word. In Arabic language, the voiced sounds /al-as<sup>w</sup>wa:t̤ al-madzhu:ra:/ الأصوات المهموسة change to voiceless /al-as<sup>w</sup>wa:t̤ al-mahmu:sa:/ الأصوات المجهورة and voiceless change into voiced sounds, while nasal consonants /al-muraqqaq/ المرقق change into surds /al-mufaxxam/ المفخم. This is categorized under 6 types:

#### 1. Al Mumathala Al Juziyya (المماثلة الجزئية)

This is known as partial assimilation. the sounds with homogeneous characteristics change partially. We cannot see a complete assimilation in the sounds though the changed sound maintain some of its unique characteristics.

in the verb وزن افتعل /waznu iftʕla/ form تاء /t̤/ is changed into طاء /t̤ʕ/ when one of the occlusal letters حروف الإطباق ص،ض،ط،ظ /huru:ful it̤ba:q/ comes in place of فاء الكلمة /fa:ul kalmia:/، تاء /t̤/ is changed into طاء /t̤ʕ/.

Example:

The occlusal letter present in the verb form اصطفى /is<sup>t̤</sup>ʕafa:/ is ص /s/. The letter closer by تاء /t̤/ is nasal consonant. thereby, تاء /t̤/ changes into طاء /t̤ʕ/. However, the meaning of the word has not been changed.

(اصطفى) → (اصطفى) /is<sup>t̤</sup>ʕafa:/ → /is<sup>t̤</sup>ʕafa:/

Conversion of تاء to دال /d/ in the verb form وزن افتعل /waznu iftʕla/. whenever the ذال /ð/ or الزاء /z/ is present in place of فاء الكلمة /fa:ul kalmia:/، تاء /t̤/ is converted to دال /d/.

(ازيدجر) → (ازيدجر) /iz̤dʒra/ → /iz̤dʒra/

#### 2. Al Mumathala Al Kulliyya (المماثلة الكلية)

This is the complete assimilation which means absence of a vast difference in the pronunciation due to the homogeneity of the sounds. One sound changes to another.

Example:

(اطلع) → (طلع) → (اطلع) /t̤ʕat̤laʕ/ → /t̤ʕat̤laʕ/ → /it̤ʕat̤laʕ/

due to the impact of الطاء /t̤ʕ/ on التاء /t̤/ has been converted to الطاء /t̤ʕ/.

#### 3. Al Mumathala Al Taqadumiyya (المماثلة التقدمية)

This is known as progressive assimilation. the change in phoneme characteristics due to the influence of a sound occurring before it. In such a way, the first word is affected by the first one.

in the verb وزن افتعل /waznu iftʕla/ form تاء /t̤/ is changed into طاء /t̤ʕ/. when one of the occlusal letters حروف الإطباق ص،ض،ط،ظ /huru:ful it̤ba:q/ comes in place of فاء الكلمة /fa:ul kalmia:/، تاء /t̤/ is changed into طاء /t̤ʕ/.

The occlusal letter present in the verb form اضرب /id̤ʕtaraba/ is surd ض /d̤ʕ/.

(اضرب) → (اضرب) /id̤ʕtaraba/ → /id̤ʕtaraba/

#### 4. Al Mumathala Al Rajaeyya (المماثلة الرجعية)

This is known as regressive assimilation. The change in phoneme characteristics due to the influence of a sound occurring immediately after it.

Example:

in the verb وزن افتعل /waznu iftʕla/ form واو /w/ is changed into تاء /t̤/. when واو /w/ comes in place of فاء الكلمة /fa:ul kalmia:/، واو /w/ is changed into تاء /t̤/.

(اوتعد) → (اتعد) → (اتعد) /iw<sup>t̤</sup>ʕaʕda/ → /it̤ʕaʕda/ → /it̤ʕaʕda/

#### 5. Al Mumathala Al Tajawuriyya (المماثلة التجاورية)

This is known as contiguous assimilation. This refers to the assimilation of sounds due to the neighboring sound.

Example:

The surd الطاء /tʰ/ in the word اطّلع /itʰtʰalaʕa/ affects the neighboring nasal consonant التاء /t/ and thereby التاء /t/ has changed to be الطاء /tʰ/.

(اطّلع) → (اطّلع) → (اطّلع) /itʰtʰalaʕa/ → /itʰtʰalaʕa/ → /itʰtʰalaʕa/

#### 6. Al Mumathala Al Tabaudhiyya (المماثلة التباعدية)

This is known as non-contiguous assimilation. The assimilation occurring between two distant sounds while both the sounds have different sound characteristics.

Example:

In the word السراط /al-sira:tʰ/ the phoneme السين /s/ is affected by the surd الطاء /tʰ/ and the sound الصاد /sʰ/ is formed .

(السراط) → (الصراط) /al-sira:tʰ/ → /al-sʰira:tʰ/

While exploring the types of assimilation of sounds in Arabic language it can be categorized as follows (Al Musharawa 2007: 192).

#### Assimilation Of Vowel With A Vowel مماثلة صائتية صائتية

This occurs as a result of any impact of vowel with another vowel. For example: the word (به) /bihi/ is basically (بيه) /bihu/. The kasra /kasra/ of letter (الباء) /b/ has impacted on Dhamma /dʰamma:/ of (الهاء) /h/ and has altered into Kasra.

#### Assimilation Of Vowel With The Consonants مماثلة صامتية صائتية

The impact of consonants on a vowel letter. Example the word (عَلِيّه) /ʕalajhi/ is basically (عَلِيّه) /ʕalajhu/. The letter (الياء) /j/ with Sukoon /suku:n/ when comes before (الهاء) /h/, (الهاء) /h/ is given Kasra.

#### Assimilation Of Consonants With Vowel مماثلة صائتية صامتية

The impacts of vowel on the consonants. The word (مِيْعَادُ) /mijʕa:d/ is basically (مُوْعَادُ) /miwʕa:d/. As it is difficult to pronounce (الواو) /w/ with Kasra, (الياء) /j/ is joined which is compatible with Kasra and (مِيْعَادُ) /mijʕa:d/ is formed.

#### Assimilation Of Consonant With Consonant مماثلة صامتية صامتية

Impact of a consonant in the following consonants. This consists of assimilation in الإبدال /ibḏal/ This includes the change of word structure افتعل /iftʕla/

(اصطير) → (اصطير) /isʕtʕabara/ → /isʕ tʕabara/ (اطّلع) → (اطّلع) → (اطّلع) /itʰtʰalaʕa/ → /itʰtʰalaʕa/ → /itʰtʰalaʕa/

According to Abdullah (2009) "assimilation is one of the major aspects of expression of sounds and such an assimilation occurs in every language", this research tries to identify the presence of assimilation in Tamil Language also. Table 1 depicts the types of assimilation in both of the two languages taken for the research.



Table 1. Occurrence Of Assimilation Of Sound In Arabic And Tamil Languages

Tamil	Arabic
Reciprocal	Al Mumathala Al Kulliyya (المماثلة الكلية)
Progressive	Al Mumathala Al Taqatumiyya (المماثلة التقدمية) Al Mumathala Al Juziyya (الجزئية المماثلة)
Regressive	Al Mumathala Al Rajaeyya (المماثلة الرجعية)
Contiguous	Al Mumathala Al Tajawuriyya (المماثلة التجاورية)
Noncontiguous	Al Mumathala Al Tabaudhiyya (المماثلة التباعدية)

In accordance with table 1 it can be identified that there is equivalence with the progressive assimilation in Tamil language though both of them are named with different titles, the method of the change of sounds are the same. Finding of this research is both of Al Mumathala Al Taqatumiyya (المماثلة التقدمية) & Al Mumathala Al Juziyya (الجزئية المماثلة) in Arabic language refer to the same phenomena which is put forward by Abdullah (2009). Hence, it can be mentioned that assimilation of sound in both of the languages are correlated. The table two refers to another categorization of sound assimilation namely assimilation of consonants and vowels which is brought about in

Table 2. Assimilation Of Consonants And Vowels

Tamil	Arabic
assimilation of vowel with vowel	مماثلة صائتية صائتية Assimilation of vowel with a vowel
assimilation of consonants with vowel	مماثلة صائتية صامتية Assimilation of consonants with vowel
assimilation of vowel with consonants	صامتية صائتية Assimilation of vowel with the consonants مماثلة
assimilation of consonants with consonants	= Assimilation of consonant with consonant. صامتية صامتية مماثلة /muma:θala: s'a:miḻḻja s'a:miḻḻja/

Henceforth, table 1 is based on assimilation of sounds according to the place of the assimilation while the table 2 is based on types of letters as consonant or vowel. It has been the major finding of the research that such 2 types are found in both the Arabic and Tamil languages. Meanwhile, it is noticed that though both of these languages come from two different language families, assimilation occurs in both vowel and consonant letters. Furthermore, this research has found out the factors behind assimilation of sound as place of articulation, characteristics of sounds, place of vowels and consonants of a word. As far as the Tamil language, assimilation takes place by division of the word into morphemes. Such morphemes have a unique meaning. However, according to the characteristic of sounds of the two languages, the impact of consonants over vowels and vowels over consonants have resulted in dissimilation of sounds.

## CONCLUSION

This research has found out that the presence of similarities is higher than the dissimilarities among the assimilation of sound between Tamil and Arabic languages. While there are major differences in the method of Assimilation of sound, their types are similar to each other. It is expected that this research would certainly assist to face the challenges to learn Arabic as their second language being native Tamil speakers. It is easier to learn a language through comparison of grammar of a language it would be easier if mother tongue is compared with other foreign languages. (Lado 1976) Thereby, the researchers expect that this research would offer a clear description of assimilation in both Arabic and Tamil languages comparatively to those who learn Arabic as their second language.

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