

Word Formation And Morphological Integration In Jazani Arabic

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Abstract

Various studies have analyzed word formation in Standard Arabic. However, few have described it in colloquial Arabic, and none have discussed it in Jazani Arabic. To address that gap, this descriptive qualitative study analyzed words in Jazani Arabic in light of word formation and morphology. Data were collected via observations of everyday speech. In addition to morphological integrations, the study discusses five word-formation processes: 1) borrowing, 2) clipping, 3) hypocorism, 4) backformation, and 5) derivation. Based on this data, the study presents a novel morphological analysis for Jazani Arabic words. Borrowing was the most common process. Clipping was generally rare with common nouns but was familiar with proper names. While derivation was a fundamental process, it was complementary to backformation. Morphological integrations occurred across all of these word-formation processes. Nouns borrowed into Jazani Arabic were integrated into the morphology with an Arabic definite article, and borrowed verbs were integrated with a Jazani Arabic future marker. Clipping was predominantly attested with nouns, with no instances of it attested with verbs. Hypocorism showed similar but not identical patterns to those in other varieties of Arabic, while backformation was peculiar to Jazani Arabic. The study indicates that Jazani Arabic has distinctive morphological features and patterns.

Keywords: Borrowing; Clipping; Derivation; Hypocorism; Jazani Arabic

INTRODUCTION

With roughly 300 million native speakers and 60 million non-native speakers, primarily across North Africa and the Middle East, Arabic is one of the most spoken languages in the world (Albirini, 2016; Owens, 2013). It is spoken from Morocco and northeastern Nigeria in the west to Iraq and Khuzistan (in southwest Iran) in the east (Albirini, 2016; Bale, 2010; Owens, 2013). Thus, different dialects are spoken in various countries and areas (Theodoropoulou & Tyler, 2014), such as Jordanian Arabic (Al-Masri & Jongman, 2004; Khattab et al., 2006), Moroccan Arabic (Boudlal, 2001; Chakrani, 2013), Egyptian Arabic (Broselow, 1976; Watson, 2002), and Baghdadi Arabic (Abu-Haidar, 1989; Youssef, 2013). Further variation is seen within a given variety, as in the case of Saudi Arabic, Hijazi Arabic (Abu-Mansour, 1987; Al-Mozainy, 1981), Najdi Arabic (Al-Rojaie, 2013; Ingham, 1994), Abha Arabic (Al-Azraqi, 1998), and Jazani Arabic (Hamdi, 2015; Himli, 2014; Shamakhi, 2016).

Various studies have discussed word formation in Standard Arabic (e.g., Al-Jarf, 2021, 2023; Mahadin, 2011; Nasser, 2008; Oriabi, 2012) and colloquial varieties, such as Egyptian Arabic (Rattu et al., 2021), Jordanian Arabic (Altakhaineh, 2016), and Palestinian and Tunisian Arabic (Suparno et al., 2019), but none have discussed this process in Jazani Arabic and its integration with morphology, a gap the current study has

sought to fill.

The aim of this study was to examine the word-formation process in Jazani Arabic, spoken in southwestern Saudi Arabia. This region stretches along the Red Sea and is located on Yemen's northern border. Around 1.4 million people live in Jazan, with 1.1 million Saudis and 260,000 non-Saudis, according to estimates from the General Authority for Statistics (2019). Thus, the majority of the population presumably speaks Jazani Arabic. Jazani Arabic has lexical, phonological, and morphological aspects that set it apart from Standard Arabic and other varieties. While most of the lexemes in Jazani Arabic are derived from Standard Arabic, morphological integrations are different, with potentially different analyses. The study aimed to present a new dataset and provide a comparison of its patterns to that of Standard Arabic, shedding light on any similarities or differences, given the scarcity of word-formation or morphological analyses of Jazani Arabic. Before discussing word-formation in Jazani Arabic, the target processes of borrowing, clipping, hypocorism, derivation, and backformation are outlined in the literature review.

Word formation is a subfield of morphology concerning the structure of words. It is a productive process that produces words in a language via morphological or grammatical means, i.e., creating new words by combining basic words with affixes or other components. Therefore, it works with newly formed as well as existing words. According to Plag (2018) and Yule (2022), there are several processes of word formation, namely etymology, coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronym, derivation, affixation, hypocorism, syncope, metathesis, and lenition. This study focused on five of those processes: borrowing, clipping, hypocorism, derivation, and backformation.

A common source of new words, borrowing involves adopting lexical items from other languages, usually as a result of language contact. This process results in the enrichment of the borrowing language's lexicon (Thomason & Kaufman, 2001). English has borrowed from various languages, as illustrated in (1).

1. Examples of loanwords in English

Borrowed Word	Origin
dope	Dutch
croissant	French
piano	Italian
lilac	Persian
sofa	Arabic
pretzel	German
zebra	Bantu
yogurt	Turkish (Yule, 2022)

Prior literature has discussed borrowing in Arabic with respect to word formation, phonological adaptation, and morphological integration (Alomoush & Al Fagara, 2010; Al-Qinai, 2000). Many words in Arabic have been borrowed from other languages, as illustrated in (2).

2. Examples of loanwords in Arabic

Arabic Pronunciation	Origin	Original Pronunciation	Gloss
/telfezjun/	French	/televizjõ/	"television"
/ʃambo/	Hindi	/śaimpū/	"shampoo"
/batʕri:q/	Greek	/patrikos/	"penguin"

/derifjah/	Persian	/dari:ʃa/	"window"
/ʃantʃah/	Turkish	/ʃanta/	"bag"
/sinima/	English	/sinəmə/	"cinema"

(Alomoush & Al Fagara, 2010; Al-Qinai, 2000)

Al-Qinai (2000) analyzed the morphological paradigms applied to loanwords in Arabic. Morphological integrations included adding the definite article to common nouns. Persian loanwords, for instance, were prefixed with the definite article /ʔal/, as illustrated in (3).

3. Examples of Persian loanwords with Arabic definite article [ʔal]

ʔal + Borrowed Word	Surface Form	Gloss
/ʔal-dibadʒ/	[ʔaddibadʒ]	"silk brocade"
/ʔal-jasamin/	[ʔaljasamin]	"jasmine"
/ʔal-zandʒabil/	[ʔazzandʒabil]	"ginger"
/ʔal-lidʒam/	[ʔallidʒam]	"bridle" (Al-Qinai, 2000)

Dashti and Dashti (2017) discussed the morphological adaptation of English loanwords in Arabic used by Kuwaitis in social media such as X, formerly Twitter. They analyzed loanwords that integrated Arabic morphemes, such as adding the definite article /ʔal/ and plurilizing loanwords with the plural feminine suffix /at/, as shown in (4).

4. Examples of English loanwords with Arabic [at]

Borrowed Word + at	Surface Form	Gloss
/twi:t-a:t/	[twi:t-a:t]	"tweets"
/koment-a:t/	[koment-a:t]	"comments"
/ʔakkawnt-a:t/	[ʔakkawnt-a:t]	"accounts"
/gru:b-a:t/	[gru:b-a:t]	"groups"
/ʔadʒinda-a:t]	[ʔadʒinda-a:t]	"agendas"

One process of shortening a word is clipping. In clipping, a word with more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form, commonly in informal speech. This entails omitting syllables, usually from the beginning and/or end, leaving part of the word to represent the whole. The final version is referred to as a clipped form (Stageberg, 1974). In English, lexical items are often reduced to one syllable, as in (5).

5. Examples of English clipped words

Full Form	Clipped Form
facsimile	fax
gasoline	gas
advertisement	ad
gymnasium	gym
professor	prof (Fromkin & Rodman, 1983; Yule, 2022)

It is also common for English speakers to clip each other's names, as illustrated in (6).

6. Examples of clipped proper names

Full Form	Clipped Form
Aaron	Ron
Elizabeth	Liz
Michael	Mike

Patricia Trish (Plag, 2018)

Although clipping mostly affects nouns, it can also affect verbs, such as “prep” from “prepare” and “rev” from “revolve,” as well as adjectives, such as “comfy” from “comfortable,” yet it rarely affects adverbs or prepositions (Veisbergs, 1999). Bauer (1983) identified four types of clipping in English: fore-clipping, middle-clipping, back-clipping, and complex clipping. In fore-clipping, the initial part of the word is clipped and the final part is retained, as in “gram” from “telegram” and “phone” from “telephone.” In middle-clipping, the middle part is retained, while the initial and final parts are clipped, as in “flu” from “influenza” and “fridge” from “refrigerator” (Quirk et al., 1985). The most common is back-clipping, where the final part is clipped and the initial part is retained, as in “limo” from “limousine,” “ref” from “referee,” and “ad” from “advertisement.” In complex clipping, either the first or second constituent of a compound word is clipped and the other is retained, as in “para troops” from “parachute troops” and “show biz” from “show business.”

Previous studies have shown that clipping also occurs in colloquial Arabic. Rattu et al. (2021), for example, found clipping in the first syllable of time-related words in Egyptian Arabic but not in Modern Standard Arabic, as illustrated in (7).

7. Examples of clipped words in Egyptian Arabic

Standard Form	Egyptian	Gloss
/al-waaḥida/	/wahda/	“one o’ clock”
/at-taania/	/tnein/	“a quarter to two”

Other researchers have shown that clipping can occur in the middle and end of an Arabic word, as illustrated in (8).

8. Examples of clipping in Arabic

Full Form	Clipped Form	Gloss
/haḏa/	/ḏa/	“this”
/tilka/	/ta/	“that”
/monḏo/	/moḏ/	“since”
/sabaḥ/	/sobḥ/	“morning” (Sayeed, 1995; Wright, 1971)

Clipping commonly occurs in Arabic personal names, as one syllable or more can be reduced. In Standard Arabic, clipping as a grammatical pattern is mandatory with personal names in the vocative case, as in (9).

9. Examples of clipped words in Standard Arabic

Full Form	Clipped Form	Gloss
/fatḥimah/	/ja fatḥim/	“Hey, Fatimah”
/xadijah/	/ja xadij/	“Hey, Khadijah”
/jasin/	/ja jas/	“Hey, Yaseen”
/ʔismaʕil	/ja samiʕ/	“Hey, Ismail” (Nasser, 2008)

Other personal names can be clipped via diminutives, as discussed below.

Another shortening process is hypocorism. Hypocorism (names of endearment) is a word-formation process common in English, preferred by British and Australian English speakers, in which a lexical term is reduced, usually to one syllable, and combined with the diminutive suffix -ie or -y, as illustrated in (10).

10. moving picture → movie
television → telly
roommate → roomie

goalkeeper → goalie (Erlich, 1995; Yule, 2022)

Sometimes, clipping and affixation occur together to create diminutive forms of proper names, expressing smallness or intimacy, as in (11).

11. Amanda → Mandy
Charles → Charlie
Roberta → Robbie
Andrew → Andy (Plag, 2018)

Studies on Arabic have shown that hypocorisms occur mostly with proper names (forming nicknames) to show intimacy, as illustrated in the data from Ammani Jordanian Arabic in (12). These have the syllable structure CVC.CVVC(V), where /a/ is the first vowel and /u/ is the second long vowel, with a medial consonant that might be geminated. The final optional vowel suffix is often realized as [e], but in the case of a guttural sound, it is realized as [a].

12. Examples of hypocorism in Jordanian Arabic

Full Name	Hypocorism	Gloss
/buʃra/	/baʃʃu:r(a)/	“Bushra”
/xa:lid/	/xallu:d(e)/	“Khalid”
/marjam/	/marju:m(e)/	“Maryam”
/ʔibrahi:m/	/barhu:m(e)/	“Ibrahim” (Zawaydeh & Davis, 1999)

The most typical method of formulating new English words is derivation, using affixes to change the function and meaning of a word. These affixes can be prefixes, which go before the word (un-, pre-), or suffixes, which go after (-ness, -ful), as illustrated in (13).

13. known + un- → unknown
heat + pre- → preheat
kind + -ness → kindness
care + -ful → careful

Derivation is likewise the most common method of creating new lexical items in Arabic through a process of vowel mutation, which involves changing the vowels in roots of three to four consonants in predicable patterns. Numerous derivational patterns are used to derive nouns, verbs, agent, noun of a place, diminutives, and other forms, as illustrated in (14).

14. Examples of derivation in Standard Arabic

Root	Derivative	Gloss
k-t-b	/kitab/	“book”
	/kataba/	“he wrote”
	/kutajjeb/	“booklet”
	/maktab/	“desk”
	/maktabah/	“library”
	/katib/	“writer” (adapted from Al-Jarf, 2021)

Such derivation patterns occur with some word-formation processes, such as borrowing, as illustrated in (15).

15. Examples of derivation with borrowed words

Borrowing	Derivative	Gloss
Facebook	/jefasbek/	“to browse Facebook”
tactic	/jetaktik/	“to implement a tactic”
tension	/mitanʃen/	“tense”

parking /jaberken/ “to park” (adapted from Al-Jarf, 2021)

Backformation is a specific kind of reduction process. Generally, a word of one kind—typically a noun—is reduced to create a word of another kind—typically a verb. An illustration of backformation can be seen in (16), in which nouns have been used to create verbs.

16. Examples of backformation in English

television → televise

editor → edit

house-keeper → housekeep (Williamson, 2004; Yule, 2022)

In Arabic, backformation occurs in a pattern similar to that of English. New words, usually verbs, are created from existing words, usually nouns but sometimes adjectives, as exemplified in (17).

17. Examples of backformation in Arabic

Original Word	Gloss	Backformed Word	Gloss
/kahrabaʔ/	“electricity”	/kahraba/	“to electrify”
/barmadʒah/	“programming”	/barmadʒa/	“to program”
/ʕarabi/	“Arabian”	/ʕarraba/	“to Arabianize”

(Ameen, 2005)

METHOD

Jazani Arabic is a colloquial variety of Saudi Arabic, with its lexical items and their functions mostly derived from Modern Standard Arabic. Therefore, most of the data used in previous studies on Standard Arabic or other colloquial Arabic varieties can be exploited in favor of Jazani Arabic data. However, some lexical and function differences between Standard and Jazani Arabic are expected. As a result, the researcher, a native Jazani speaker, has either provided or collected new data for some of the word-formation processes. These data were confirmed by informants (native Jazani speakers who were linguistics experts and colleagues of the researcher). To avoid repetition, data are illustrated and discussed in the relevant word-formation process section.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Borrowing

Borrowing with the Definite Article [ʔam-]

One of the salient features of Jazani Arabic is the definite article [ʔam-] “the,” which functions like the standard form [ʔal-] (Author, 2024a). Jazani Arabic forms are compared to Standard Arabic in (Error! Reference source not found..

1. Examples of Arabic words with the definite articles [ʔam-] and [ʔal-]

Word	[ʔam-] + Word	[ʔal-] + Word	Gloss
/dʒawwal/	/ʔam-dʒawwal/	/ʔal-dʒawwal/	“the mobile phone”
/yazal/	/ʔam-yazal/	/ʔal-yazal/	“the deer”
/ʕinab/	/ʔam-ʕinab/	/ʔal-ʕinab/	“the grapes”
/maxaddah/	/ʔam-maxaddah/	/ʔal-maxaddah/	“the pillow”
/baħr/	/ʔam-baħr/	/ʔal-baħr/	“the sea”

When nouns are borrowed from other languages into Jazani Arabic, they can be preceded by the definite article [ʔam-], like the use of [ʔal-] in Standard Arabic (Author, 2024b). For example, “the lamp” would be realized as /ʔam-lambah/—surfacing as [ʔamlambah] in careful speech and [mlambah] in casual or fast speech—

in Jazani Arabic and as /ʔal-lambah/ in Standard Arabic. Examples of this are given in 2.

2. Borrowed words with Jazani Arabic definite article [ʔam-]

Borrowed Word	ʔam + Borrowed Word	Surface Form	Gloss
telephone	/ʔam-talafun/	[mtalafun]	“the telephone”
remote	/ʔam-romout/	[mromut]	“the remote”
bus	/ʔam-bas ^s /	[mbas ^s]	“the bus”
freezer	/ʔam-freizər/	[mfreizər]	“the freezer”
gloves	/ʔam-gilovz/	[mglovz]	“the gloves”
manicure	/ʔam-manakir/	[mmanakir]	“the manicure”
taxi	/ʔam-taksi/	[mtaksi]	“the taxi”
beer	/ʔam-birah/	[mmbirah]	“the beer”
radio	/ʔam-radi/	[mradi]	“the radio”
microphone	/ʔam-makrafun/	[mmakrafun]	“the microphone”
shoes	/ʔam-ʃuz/	[mʃuz]	“the shoes”

However, adding [ʔam-] to a borrowed word does not always result in a proper form, as shown in (20).

3. Improper forms resulting from adding [ʔam-] to borrowed words

Word	[ʔam] + Noun	Gloss
Twitter	*/ʔamtwitar/	“Twitter”
Snap(chat)	*/ʔamsnab/	“Snapchat”
bank	*/ʔambank/	“the bank”
YouTube	*/ʔamjutjub/	“YouTube”
academy	*/ʔamakædimjjah/	“the academy”

In all of these cases, speakers of Jazani Arabic resort to zero-article or use the definite article [ʔal-] rather than [ʔam-], yielding /twitar/ “Twitter,” /ʔassinab/ “Snapchat,” and /ʔalbank/ “the bank.” Such patterns are not exclusive to loanwords, as some native Arabic words, such as proper nouns, do not tolerate the use of [ʔam-]. For example, in Jazani Arabic, [ʔal-] occurs with place names, such as /ʔal-saʕudijjah/ “Saudi Arabia,” which surfaces as [ʔassaʕudijjah]; /ʔal-rijad^s/ “Riyadh,” which surfaces as [ʔarrijad^s]; and /ʔal-ʔardʒəntin/ “Argentina,” which surfaces as [ʔalʔardʒəntin]. In contrast, the forms *[ʔamsaʕudijjah], *[ʔamrijad^s], and *[ʔamʔardʒəntin] are not allowed. Determining why this is the case was beyond the scope of the current study.

Borrowing with the Future Marker

Although foreign loanwords in Arabic overwhelmingly tend to be nouns, verb forms are also borrowed. In Jazani Arabic, the future tense of a verb is expressed through the morpheme /ʃa/, whereas in Standard Arabic /sa/ is used. These forms are compared in 1.

1. Examples of normal Arabic verbs with the future marker

Root	Jazani Arabic	Standard Arabic	Gloss
k-t-b	/ʃaktub/	/saʔaktub/	“I will write”
	/ʃatuktub/	/sataktub/	“she will write”
	/ʃajaktub/	/sajaktub/	“he will write”
	/ʃajuktubun/	/sajaktubun/	“they will write”
	/ʃanuktub/	/sanaktub/	“we will write”

As can be seen from (21), the root k-t-b for the word /aktub/ “I write” can be prefixed with the future marker /ʃa/ to yield /ʃa-aktub/ or [ʃaktub] “I will write.” This is applied to borrowed words as well, as shown in 2.

2. Borrowed verbs with the future marker

Borrowed Word	ʃa + Borrowing	Surface	Gloss
cancel	/ʃa-ʔakansel/	[ʃakansel]	“I will cancel”
freeze	/ʃa-ʔaferzen/	[ʃaferzen]	“I will freeze”
check	/ʃa-ʔaʃjek/	[ʃaʃjek]	“I will check”
shoot	/ʃa-ʔaʃut/	[ʃaʃut]	“I will shoot”
filter	/ʃa-ʔafelter/	[ʃafelter]	“I will filter”
hashtag	/ʃa-ʔahʃteg/	[ʃahʃteg]	“I will create a hashtag”
nervous	/ʃa-ʔanerfez/	[ʃanerfez]	“I will make someone nervous”
hysteria	/ʃa-ʔahster/	[ʃahster]	“I will drive someone crazy”
puncture	/ʃa-ʔabanʃer/	[ʃabanʃer]	“I will puncture a tire”
philosophy	/ʃa-ʔatfalsef/	[ʃatfalsaf]	“I will philosophize”
format	/ʃa-ʔafarmet/	[ʃafarmet]	“I will format”
full	/ʃa-ʔafahl/	[ʃafahl]	“I will fill up with fuel”
snap(chat)	/ʃa-ʔasannib/	[ʃasannib]	“I will snap”

Clipping

Clipping refers to the reduction of a word that has more than one syllable to a shorter form. Such a process usually occurs at the beginning of casual speech. Some clipped nouns are more common in other Arabic varieties, while others are particular to Jazani Arabic, as shown in 1.

1. Clipped words in Jazani Arabic

Full Form	Clipped Form	Gloss
/fatʕimah/	/fatʕim/	“Fatimah” (female name)
/xadizah/	/xadiʒ/	“Khadijah” (female name)
/ħalimah/	/ħalim/	“Halimah” (female name)
/tʕamatʕem/	/tʕamatʕ/	“tomatoes”
/batʕatʕes/	/batʕatʕ/	“potatoes”
/ʕabduʔallah/	/ʕabdu/	“Abdullah” (male name)
/ʕabduʔarraħman/	/ʕabdu/	“Abdurrahman” (male name)
/ʕabduʔalʕaziz/	/ʕabdu/	“Abdulaziz” (male name)
/ʕabduʔalelah/	/ʕabdu/	“Abdulilah” (male name)
/ʔebrahim/	/brahim/	“Ibrahim” (male name)
/hajbar market/	/hajbar/	“hypermarket”
/suber market/	/suber/	“supermarket”
/snabfat/	/snab/	“Snapchat”
/watsaab/	/wats/	“WhatsApp”

As can be seen from the examples, clipping can remove one or more syllables. In the first three examples, which are common female proper names, it would appear that the syllable /ah/ is always deleted, as in /fatʕimah/ → /fatʕim/ and /xadizah/ → /xadiʒ/. However, this is not the case, especially if the deletion leads to a male proper name, given that /ah/ can distinguish gender in Arabic. For instance, the deletion of /ah/ in the female proper names in (24) would lead to male proper names, so clipping does not occur.

2. Improper clipping in Jazani Arabic

Full Form	Clipped Form	Gloss (Female)	Full Form	Gloss (Male)
/dʒamilah/	*/dʒamil/	Jamilah	/dʒamil/	Jamil
/saʕidah/	*/saʕid/	Saidah	/saʕid/	Said
/ʔamirah/	*/ʔamir/	Amirah	/ʔamir/	Amir
/ʕazizah/	*/ʕaziz/	Azizah	/ʕaziz/	Aziz

Unlike Standard Arabic, clipping with proper names occurs in Jazani Arabic unconditionally. In Standard Arabic, clipping with personal names is a mandatory grammatical pattern in the vocative, as in /fatʕimah/ → /ja fatʕim/ and /xadidʒah/ → /ja xadidʒ/. In this example, clipping removes one syllable. In other examples, clipping removes two or more syllables. For example, two syllables were clipped from /ʕabduʔallah/ to /ʕabdu/ and three from /ʕabduʔarraḥman/ and /ʕabduʔalʕaziz/ to /ʕabdu/. In fact, any proper names that contain /ʕabdu/, such as /ʕabdulḥafiḍ/ and /ʕabdulmadʒid/, are clipped by default by Jazani speakers to /ʕabdu/. As Antoine (2000) noted, clipping is a common practice among social groupings, similar to how each community develops its own language, slang, or jargon. When a group of people shares common goals or interests and needs to communicate swiftly and privately, it develops its own language, in which clipping occurs spontaneously.

Hypocorism

Unlike English, hypocorisms are formed in different ways in Arabic, utilizing affixation, ellipsis, and syncopation. In proper names, these mostly follow the pattern in (10). These forms in Jazani Arabic, similar to Jordanian Arabic (Zawaydeh & Davis, 1999), have the structure CVC.CVVC(V), where the first vowel is /a/, the second (long) vowel is /u:/, and the medial consonant can be geminated. In contrast to Jordanian Arabic, however, the final optional vowel suffix in Jazani Arabic is always realized as [i]. Examples of this are presented in 1.

1. Hypocorism in Jazani Arabic

Original Form	Hypocorism	Gloss
a. /nasʕer/	/nasʕsʕu:r(i)/	“Naser”
/fahad/	/fahhu:d(i)/	“Fahad”
/ʕahad/	/ʕahhu:d(i)/	“Ahad”
b. /mḥammad/	/ḥammu:d(i)/	“Mohammed”
/ʔabkar/	/bakku:r(i)/	“Abkar”
c. /marjam/	/marju:m(i)/	“Mariam”
/brahim/	/barhu:m(i)/	“Ibrahim”
d. /ʕabduʔarraḥman/	/daḥḥu:m(i)/	“Abdurrahman”
/ʕabduʔallah/	/ʕabbu:d(i)/	“Abdullah”
/ʕabduʔalʕaziz/	/ʕazzu:z/	“Abdulaziz”

The data in (25a) show that all consonants that appear in the original full names also appear in the hypocoristic forms, where the second (medial) consonant is geminated. Gemination also occurs in (25b), although the names here show that the consonant affixes that appear in the original full names do not appear in the hypocoristic forms, indicating that the initial /m/ in /mḥammad/ and /mansʕur/ and the /ʔ/ in /ʔabkar/ are epenthetic. The data in (25c) show names that follow a similar pattern to that of (25a) and (25b) but with no medial geminate consonant. Other names in (25d) show no specific pattern, except the medial consonant is still geminated, whereas the first and last consonants come from

different syllables from the original full name, i.e., the first and second syllables, as in /ʕabbu:d(i)/; the second, fourth, and last syllables, as in /dah̄hu:m(i)/; or the last and second-to-last syllables, as in /ʕazzu:z/. Thus, such forms do not appear to follow a pattern.

Derivation

Arabic derivational morphology relies heavily on using vowel mutation to alter triconsonantal roots (Ryding, 2005; Smith, 2024). Jazani Arabic derives words either according to patterns in Standard Arabic or to patterns that are not found in Standard Arabic. Examples of this for the root [l-tʕ-m] are given in (26).

1. Derivations in Jazani Arabic

Root	Derivation	Gloss
l-tʕ-m	/latʕmah/ or /multʕam/	“a slap”
	/latʕama/	“he slapped”
	/latʕim/	“someone who slaps”
	/maltʕum/	“someone slapped”
	/maltʕumah/	“Bell’s palsy”
	/malatʕim/	“slaps”

Most of the derivation patterns in (26) are also found in Standard Arabic, but some are not. For example, the derivations /multʕam/, /maltʕumah/, and /malatʕim/ have no equivalents in Standard Arabic. In particular, Jazani speakers derive the word /maltʕumah/ to refer to what is called in Standard Arabic [ʔalʕasʕab ʔassabīʕ] “the seventh nerve” or “Bell’s palsy.” This shows that Jazani Arabic has its own distinct derivational patterns.

In Standard Arabic, the pattern /faʕil/ is used to indicate the function of a subject/agent. It is also sometimes used in Jazani Arabic for the function of an object/patient, as in (27a). In addition, words derived from the pattern /mafʕul/ are used for the object/patient in Standard Arabic and rarely to indicate the subject/agent in Jazani Arabic, as in (27b).

2. Derivations in Jazani Arabic: /faʕil/ vs. /mafʕul/

	Root	Jazani Derivation	Standard Derivation	Gloss
a.	h-r-q	/harig/	/maħruq/	“burned”
	x-r-b	/xarib/	/maxrub/	“ruined”
	l-sʕ-q	/lasʕig/	/malsʕuq/	“glued”
b.	l-q-f	/malguf/	/laqif/	“intruder/picker”

Still, many words in Jazani retain the same /mafʕul/ pattern found in Standard Arabic to indicate the function of an object/patient, as in /masrug/ “stolen,” /maktub/ “written,” and /maxtʕuf/ “kidnapped,” and many words retain the /faʕil/ pattern to indicate the function of a subject/agent, as in /sʕadig/ “honest” and /kæðib/ “liar.”

Other derivations in Jazani Arabic follow patterns that are rarely attested in Standard Arabic and debated among Arabic grammarians. These words follow the pattern /tamaʕʕal/, as shown in (28).

3. Derivations in Jazani Arabic: /tamaʕʕal/

	Root	Derivation	Gloss
	l-s-n	/timalsan/	“became talkative”
	dʒ-h-l	/timadzhal/	“behaved ignorantly”
	r-q-sʕ	/timargasʕ/	“danced”
	h-r-f	/timahraf/	“provoked intentionally”

l-ʕ-b	/tɪmalʕab/	“played carelessly”
ð-k-a	/tɪmaðka/	“behaved smartly”
y-b-i	/tɪmayba/	“behaved stupidly”
k-ð-b	/tɪmakðab/	“lied intentionally”

Backformation

The process of creating derived word forms by analogy, known as backformation, involves either removing or adding an affix or generating a new base form. Backformation in Jazani Arabic mostly occurs by forming verbs from nouns, as demonstrated in 1.

1. Backformation in Jazani Arabic

Gloss	Noun	Verb	Gloss
shirt	/gamis ^s /	/jatgammass ^s /	“he is wearing a shirt”
thawb	/θoʊb/	/jatθawwab/	“he is wearing a thawb”
toothpaste	/maʕdʒuun/	/jamaʕdʒen/	“he is brushing his teeth”
watch	/saʕah/	/jatsawwaʕ/	“he is putting on a watch”
headscarf	/yotrah/	/jatyattar/	“he is putting on a headscarf”
bracelet	/bondʒol/	/tɪtbandʒal/	“she is putting on a bracelet”
shoes	/lakaʕah/	/tɪtlakkaʕ/	“she is putting on shoes”
earring	/ʕeɪlah/	/tɪtʕajjal/	“she is putting on earrings”
jerked lamb	/maħʃuʊf/	/tɪmaħʃɪf/	“she is making jerked lamb”
hair wash	/ʃoʊb/	/tɪtʃawwab/	“she is washing with hair wash”

In (1), all words are verbs backformed from nouns, indicating that backformed words denote functional as well as morphological change. That is, the affixes /ja/ and /tɪ/ are added to indicate a functional shift from noun to verb, such as /θoʊb/ “thawb” changing to /jatθawwab/ “he is wearing a thawb” and /maʕdʒuun/ “toothpaste” to /jamaʕdʒen/ “he is brushing his teeth.” Since Arabic heavily relies on derivation, I argue that the above are examples of two processes co-occurring to create new words, in this case backformation and derivation, also known as back-derivation.

CONCLUSION

Addressing a gap in the literature, this paper has presented and analyzed novel data from Jazani Arabic, revealing word-formation processes and patterns of the morphological integration of new words. These processes included borrowing, clipping, hypocorism, derivation, and backformation. The data showed that borrowed words could be incorporated using various morphological features and patterns. For example, the definite article applicable to native Arabic words can be applied to borrowed words. In addition, borrowed verbs can be used with the Jazani Arabic future markers just like native Arabic words. Clipping commonly occurred with proper names, with the original words sometimes reduced by as many as three syllables. The study shows that word derivation in Jazani Arabic is not restricted to the patterns in Standard Arabic, as it has its own morphological features and patterns. Of these, backformation was one of the preferred word-formation processes that Jazani speakers incorporated into their daily speech.

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