A Phonological Approach to the Standard and Lebanese Arabic Languages: Differences in the Articulation of Consonants

Zolfa Imani
Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Isfahan University, Isfahan, Iran
zolfa1985imn@hotmail.com

In the current article, the author attempts to exhibit the differences between two varieties of Arabic regarding phonological aspects. In fact, the aim of the research is to investigate the consonants of the two varieties of Arabic, which are, Standard Arabic (SA) and Lebanese Arabic (LA). This research has been done through a descriptive (nonexperimental) method in that after studying written sources on Arabic in general and Lebanese in particular, the author collected the words the two languages have in common, and then compared them phonetically. Finally, I came to the conclusion that all the consonants used in the phonological system of SA are used in that of the LA as well. However, there is a difference: The pronunciation of these consonants is the major factor distinguishing LA from SA. In other words, some of the consonants of LA have a pronunciation that SA lacks. For the same reason, the 2 varieties are considered as 2 different languages.