

fricative results, mostly when the segment is followed by the suffix “-ion” (Eka et al. 2010, p.66). A typical example is televise + ion. In the interaction between /s/ and /ɪ/, that occurs while turning the verb to the noun form, results in /ʒ/, which gives /tɛlɪvɪʒn/ (Jolayemi, 2010, p.101). See Appendix B for more examples.

3. Forms of Assimilation

Although assimilation can be progressive, regressive or coalescent, it has two forms: full assimilation and partial assimilation (Ofulue et al, 2010). When the sound totally adopts another sound, it is called full or complete assimilation. When the sound partially adopts the properties of other sounds, it is called partial or contact assimilation.

3.1 Full Assimilation

Full assimilation is also known as complete assimilation. As mentioned previously, a sound may change and become like another. This conversion might be partial or complete. What is meant by complete assimilation is that a sound is totally affected by a neighboring sound in which both sounds become one, or become identical. For example, the phrase / ðæt pleɪs/ becomes / ðæp pleɪs/ (Ladefoged, 2006). It is clear that the /t/ sound is totally, or completely, assimilated to the /p/ sound and becomes identical to the one in the next word.

3.2 Partial Assimilation

Assimilation of sounds doesn't always occur completely. Sometimes, sounds partially assimilate with the surrounding sounds that the influenced sound acquires some properties from other

with the sound /l/ in the definite article al if the sound is followed by one of these coronals; the moon letters are non-coronals (Heselwood & Watson, 2013). The reason of such total assimilation is that /l/ in Arabic is a coronal consonant so that it assimilates with other coronals. Nevertheless, Heselwood & Watson (2013, p.49) reject that there is an assimilation between the definite article (al) and coronal consonants:

‘We have argued that the geminates which occur in definite article plus coronal consonant constructions are not the result of synchronic assimilation and should instead be regarded as ‘true’ geminates, not assimilatory geminates.’

Therefore, it is more logical to say that there is no assimilation between (l) and coronal consonants. The better term is ‘true geminates’. The results are that the (l) sound disappears and is not pronounced when followed by coronal consonants.

6. Historical Assimilation

What is discussed previously is called contextual assimilation. It means that the assimilation of consonants is subject to the environment of sounds. However, historical assimilation has taken place in the development of a language. A sound in a word may change to another sound that shares the same place, manner or voicing because of the development of a language. For example, the word 'ant' / ænt/ in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries was pronounced / æmætə/ and later /æmtə/ and /æmt/. Thus, the spelling with /n/ instead of /m/ first appeared in the fifteenth century which clearly indicating the change to the modern pronunciation /ænt/ (Jones 1972, p.217) cited in A.Ali (2012, p.149).