

Assimilation (Vocalic Harmony) and its Opposite Dissimilation

Question

From *Grammar Lesson 1*: اَلْتَقَاءُ السَّاكِنَيْنِ

quote :

... the مَنسُوبٌ of مَلِكٌ *malik-un* is:

مَلِكِيٌّ *malakiyy-un*,

not مَلِكِيٌّ *malikiyy-un*.

(end quote)

What does مَنسُوبٌ mean?

Also, please explain its application to مَلِكِيٌّ *malikiyy*.

Answer

Our Shaykh Dr. V. Abdur Rahim حَفِظَهُ اللهُ replied (quote):

The example of مَلِكِيّ *malakiyy* has been mentioned in the lesson to bring out the difference between assimilation (vocalic harmony) and its opposite dissimilation.

The مَنْسُوب of

مَلِكٌ (*malik-un*)

should have been:

مَلِكِيّ (*malikiyy-un*)

where both the *laam* and the *kaaf* have *kasrah*.

مَلِكِيّ

This makes its pronunciation a little difficult.

So to facilitate its pronunciation, the *kasrah* of the *laam* is changed to *fatHah* thus changing the word from

مَلِكِي

malikiyy-un

to

مَلِكِي

malakiyy-un.

This phonetic change is called dissimilation.

Another very good example of dissimilation is

مِنَ الْبَيْتِ

where *مِنَ* takes *fatHah* instead of *kasrah* which is the vowel used to avoid التَّقَاءُ السَّاكِنِينَ.

✗ مِّنَ الْبَيْتِ



مِنَ الْبَيْتِ



✓ مِّنَ الْبَيْتِ

Additional Notes

Meaning of مَنَسُوبٌ

quote :

نَسَبٌ

(gr) adjective formed from a noun by suffixing the letter يِ,

e.g.

دِينِي (religious)

from

دِينٌ (religion).

Such an adjective is called اِسْمٌ مَّنَسُوبٌ.

end quote.

pg 214:

A Glossary of Words Used in

دُرُوسُ اللُّغَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ لِغَيْرِ النَّاطِقِينَ بِهَا

Arabic-English Dictionary

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