Love, Death, Fame

Note on the Language of the Poems and Narratives

MARCEL KURPERSHOEK



The few aspects highlighted below should be read with a caveat. They are not meant as an introduction to the linguistics of Emirati Arabic, whether in this volume's seventeenth-century poetry or the twentieth-century narratives, but as a sampling of some of the features wherein these texts differ markedly from the Najdī Arabic of the Library of Arabic Literature volumes *Arabian Satire* and *Arabian Romantic*. Therefore, the examples given below are solely meant as illustrative of these differences, and by no means as a systematic overview. The edition of the poetry does not give variant wordings in the manuscripts nor information about often different notation of identical lines in different manuscripts, though these may yield interesting material for linguistic analysis. Similarly, the text of the narratives represents a selection, agreed with the volume's reviewer Sultan Alameemi, from numerous versions. In sum, these remarks are the editor-translator's subjective choice of some of the language aspects that happened to catch his attention from the perspective of his work on the Library of Arabic Literature's previous volumes of Najdī poetry.

Language of the poetry

Consonants

Perhaps the best known feature of Arabian Gulf dialects is the pronunciation of the $j\bar{\imath}m$ as $y\bar{a}$ ': $r\bar{\imath}l$ for CA rijl ("foot"); $yaw\bar{a}d$ for $jaw\bar{a}d$ ("bucket," §9.3); $y\bar{u}niyyah$ for $j\bar{u}niyyah$, ("sack cloth"); ' $iy\bar{a}l\bar{a}$ for ' $ij\bar{a}l\bar{a}$ (CA ' $ajl\bar{a}n$ pl. ' $aj\bar{a}l\bar{a}$, "quick, fast," §6.3); $ay\bar{\imath}b$ for $aj\bar{\imath}b$, "I bring"; $y\bar{a}d$ for $j\bar{a}d$, "to be generous"; $y\bar{a}$ for $j\bar{a}$ (CA ja'a), "he came"; $y\bar{\imath}uh$, "they came to him"; $yid\bar{\imath}d$ for $jid\bar{\imath}d$, "new"; $yim\bar{\imath}l$ for $jim\bar{\imath}l$, "beautiful"; yibal (CA jabal, "mountain"); inhay, "go!"; $n\bar{a}h\bar{\imath}$, "going away" (CA nahaja, "to enter upon a road"); $yarh\bar{\imath}a$ for $jarrah\bar{\imath}a$, "he drew, pulled it out"; wiyh pl. $wy\bar{\imath}uh$, "face" (CA wajh), wi- $tw\bar{\imath}ayah$ w- $y\bar{\imath}ah$, "he greeted him" (CA $taw\bar{\imath}ajaha$); w-tayyar mirrah, "he resolutely kept going, riding through the midday heat" (CA $taw\bar{\imath}ajaha$, "to go, travel at the time of the midday heat"); ard, $niy\bar{\imath}bah$, "noble earth, land" (CA $tau\bar{\imath}ajb$, "noble").

CA $q\bar{a}f$ (Najdī g or affricated g) is frequently pronounced as $j\bar{i}m$. CA qidwah pl. $qid\bar{a}$, "right direction, guidance" corresponds to Emirati $jid\bar{a}$, "towards, in the direction of," $jid\bar{a}kum$, "towards you"; $j\bar{a}d\bar{i}$, "direction"; $yj\bar{a}d\bar{i}$ bi-t-tifag, "he takes aim with the gun"l (Najdī $gid\bar{a}$ and the adjective $g\bar{a}d\bar{i}$, "sensible, reasonable"); $injil\bar{a}b$ for $ingil\bar{a}b$ (CA $inqil\bar{a}b$, "change, transformation"); $shir\bar{a}j\bar{i}$ for $sharg\bar{i}/sharq\bar{i}$ ("eastern," §1.3); jihim for gaham, "to get down from, jump off" (CA iqtahama, "to plunge, rush"); $jidd\bar{a}mhum$

¹ Al-Matrūshī, al-Lahjah al-Imārātiyyah, 94.

for $gidd\bar{a}mhum$, "in front of them" (CA $qudd\bar{a}ma$, "in front of"); $lij\bar{\imath}h$, "he found him," $lij\bar{\imath}u$ al- $b\bar{e}t$, "they found the house" (CA laqiya); $jil\bar{\imath}l$ for $gil\bar{\imath}l$ (CA $qal\bar{\imath}l$, "little, few"); $thij\bar{\imath}l$ (CA $thaq\bar{\imath}l$, "heavy"); $j\bar{\imath}l$ for gil, "poetry" (CA $q\bar{\imath}la$ pass. of $q\bar{a}la$, "to say"); $m\bar{a}$ tlij imirrah, "it is absolutely inappropriate" from $til\bar{\imath}g$ (CA $l\bar{a}qa$, "to befit, be proper"); $lir\bar{\imath}j$, "(tribal) group" (CA $far\bar{\imath}q$); $lir\bar{\imath}j$ for $lir\bar{\imath}g$ (CA laqa, "road, way"). Occasionally, this $j\bar{\imath}m$ morphs into $y\bar{a}$ ': lagray lagray

The $k\bar{a}f$ may be pronounced as an affricate \check{c} : in the stories kazz ("to halt, stop" e.g., a mount, w- $\check{c}azzat$ an- $n\bar{a}gah$, "the she-camel halted"; $\check{c}azz$ $yal\bar{i}n$ yatah, "he halted until she had come to him") is written as $\check{c}azz$ (\vec{z}).

In written notation there are no hard and fast rules for all cases. In the editions and the MSS variants occur: in MSS $j\bar{i}m$, $q\bar{a}f$, and $k\bar{a}f$ may be written according to the CA notation. The Arabic text of this edition's narratives is written in conformity with the rendering of the selections in the editions of Alameemi and Thānī.⁵

¹ In the Emirates *imirrah* means "absolutely." "In Bahrain it is *marra* in this sense. In Oman it is *barr*, "at all," and an equally possible alternative: *il-barr* (communication of Professor Clive Holes and see Holes, *Glossary*, 494).

² Holes, Glossary, 55.

³ Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 222.

⁴ Holes, *Dialect*, 3:19, 100. As with *qad*, the presence of features that suggest classical influence instead of the vernacular option can be misleading. For instance, *illadhī* (CA *alladhī*) instead of *illi* ("who, which") is "authentic dialectal" and of frequent occurrence in the poems, see Holes, *Dialect*, 3:93, 388; *gad/jid/chid* have manifold forms and functions, and the functions differ with geography just as much as the forms do; *gad*, for example, in southern Najd and the Omani desert borders is bascially no more than an introductory particle for nominal sentences (communication of Clive Holes).

The Arabic notation of Alameemi and Thānī differs in many respects. In Thānī's notation of the narratives the affricate $k\bar{a}f$, like the affricate $q\bar{a}f$, is occasionally written as $j\bar{i}m$ (τ), e.g. Danj for Dank (currently in Oman, an oasis associated with Ibn Zāhir's early life), see p. xiii; simaj for simak, "fish"; $fl\bar{a}n$ $yib\bar{a}j$, "so-and-so wants you (fem. sg.), asks you to come to him," whereas Alameemi uses $k\bar{a}f$ and preceding vowel, kasrah, to mark the feminine singular suffix pronoun. Alameemi's text is fully vocalized, whereas Thānī is sparing in his notation of short vowels. The Arabic text of this edition follows their respective notation in the selections from their works.

Vowels

The Emirati pronunciation tends towards -i even where in Najd guttural consonants or consonants in contiguity with gutturals or sonorants would take $-a.^1$ E.g. ' $il\bar{\imath}l$ for ' $al\bar{\imath}l$ ("ill," §8.39); $khib\bar{\imath}th$ for $khab\bar{\imath}th$ ("mean, evil"); $ghir\bar{\imath}r$ for $ghar\bar{\imath}r$ ("inexperienced, ingenuous"); ti ann $\bar{\imath}a$ for ta ann $\bar{\imath}a$ ("to head for," §§2.17, 12.22); ' $if\bar{\imath}a$ for ' $af\bar{\imath}a$ (CA i ' $f\bar{\imath}a$ ', "exemption," here "from hard work in order to rest and gain strength" §12.23); ' $it\bar{\imath}ak$ for ' $at\bar{\imath}ak$ (CA 'a' $t\bar{\imath}ak$, "he gave you"); $ghiz\bar{\imath}al$ for $ghaz\bar{\imath}al$ ("gazelle"); $ghid\bar{\imath}ar$ for $ghad\bar{\imath}r$ ("pool of water"); ghidat for ghadat (§10.22); $hiw\bar{\imath}aw$ for hawaw ("they collected, rounded up," §11.11); $khish\bar{\imath}ayish$ for $khash\bar{\imath}ayish$ ("inferior quality dates," 12.19); $tir\bar{\imath}a$ for $tar\bar{\imath}a$ (CA tara' \imath a, "to occur, mention, think of"); di ' $tih\bar{\imath}a$ for tara ("they called her").

Diphthongs

In Emirati usage the diphthong aw goes to the mid back long vowel \bar{o} (as is the case in Najd) and is then raised to the high back long vowel \bar{u} ; in parallel to this, -ay goes to the mid front long vowel \bar{e} and is then raised to the high front long vowel $\bar{\iota}.^2$ Examples are: $\hbar \bar{u}l$ for $\hbar \bar{o}l$ (CA $\hbar awl$, "year"); $d\bar{u}min$ for $d\bar{o}min$ (CA dawman, "constantly, always," §7.18); $m\bar{u}g$ for $m\bar{o}g$ ("eyes," §3.9); $sh\bar{u}r$ for $sh\bar{o}r$ ("counsel"); ' $\bar{\imath}r\bar{a}t$ for Najdī ' $\bar{e}r\bar{a}t$ (CA ' $ayr\bar{a}n$, "hardened camel resembling the onager, 'ayr); $gh\bar{\imath}m$ for $gh\bar{e}m$ (CA ghaym, "clouds" §11.27); $r\bar{\imath}t$ for $r\bar{e}t$ (CA $ra'\bar{a}$, "to see"); $m\bar{\imath}l$ for $m\bar{e}l$ ("needle used for applying kohl" §8.3); $gh\bar{\imath}b\bar{a}t$ for $gh\bar{e}b\bar{a}t$ ("absences," §5.38); $s\bar{\imath}l$ for $s\bar{e}l$ (CA sayl, "flood, torrent"); $k\bar{\imath}l$ for $k\bar{e}l$ (CA kayfa, "how"); $gi\bar{\jmath}l$ for $gi\bar{f}el$ (CA qafa, "to turn one's back, go away"); $s\bar{\imath}a\bar{f}el$ ("I humored, behaved nicely towards"); $w\bar{\imath}sh$ for $w\bar{e}sh$ (wa-ayy shay', "what"); $shid\bar{a}g\bar{\imath}h$ for $shid\bar{a}g\bar{\imath}h$ (dual form, "both his jaws," CA shidq); $minkib\bar{\imath}h$ for $minkib\bar{\imath}eh$ ("both his shoulders," §10.61). In the Arabic text CA hawl ("year") might be written as both $h\bar{\imath}ol$ and $h\bar{\imath}ul$.

¹ See Holes, *Dialect*, 3:66. Difference in voweling in editions "points to an unpredictable variability, perhaps as a sign of ongoing change, between two separate and different realizations" (communication of Clive Holes). In Alameemi's edition, which here has mostly been followed, the narratives have been fully voweled, and the poetry only sparingly. Other editions, dictionaries, collections of proverbs, and editions of other Emirati poetry listed in the bibliography have been consulted for this edition.

² Communication of Clive Holes; see also Holes, *Dialect*, 3:67-68.

Definite article

The definite article al- is generally l-: not al-an' $\bar{a}m$ but l-an' $\bar{a}m$. Nunation, the adding of a final $n\bar{u}n$ to mark a word as indefinite, is of regular occurrence, often to bring the line in conformity with the requirements of the meter. In §3.15 it is even found attached to the particle $k\bar{e}f$ (CA kayfa) "how:" w- $k\bar{e}fin$.

Conjunctions and particles

The CA conjunction $idh\bar{a}$, "when, if" may occur in this form in the MSS or in the dialect forms: $idh\bar{a}$, $l\bar{\imath}$, $il\bar{\imath}$, $il\bar{\imath}$, $il\bar{a}$, $il\bar{a}$; also $il\bar{a}$ min, $w-\bar{\imath}l\bar{a}$, $il\bar{e}n$, $l\bar{e}n$. In the poems one also finds: $il\bar{a}h$ (for $idh\bar{a}$ bih, "and see, there he, it"); $w-\bar{\imath}lan$ kannah $h\bar{a}ttinh\bar{a}$ $s\bar{a}$ 'ah, "and see, lo and behold, it was as if he had put it there just now"; $l\bar{a}lin$ (CA $idh\bar{a}$ or $idh\bar{a}$ lam); ilan, ilan, $y\bar{\imath}lan$, ilan (CA $il\bar{a}$ an); w-lan (CA wa-in, "if"); in $\check{c}\bar{a}n$; ilinnah (CA bi-annah, "that he," \$8.45); $ill\bar{a}$ "there is no" (\$8.48); $l\bar{a}$ "or."

Hamzah

As in other dialects, the CA *hamzah* has generally disappeared. As a non-radical consonant it left without trace. As radical consonant it developed and brought about changes in various ways.⁴

- 1 Holes, Dialect, 3:103.
- 2 Alameemi, Al-Māyidī ibn Zāhir, 323; Holes, Dialect, 3:403.
- Holes, *Dialect*, 3:371, 373. Density of conjunctions and particles adds to the various ways in which individual verses can be understood. This also goes for Emirati students of the poet who acknowledge the difficulties and the uncertainty of many interpretations, whether because of loss of quality in the course of oral transmission or due to the inherent challenges of interpreting early Nabaṭī poetry in view of a relative scarcity of comparative material. In general, however, a verse's meaning becomes clear if it is viewed in context. For instance, *lālin* (synonym of *idhā*, "if, when"); *ti'idd*, "you tell, recount"; *al-ism*, "the name"; *tamm*, "it remains"; *kimā* (CA *ka-mā*), "as if"; '*afwin*, "a thing obliterated"; *w-ma'rifat*, "and the knowledge"; *an-na'ām*, "of livestock"; *awsāmhā*, "is its tribal brands", \$13.9. The preceding verse avers that some people gain renown by their deeds, others represent no more than a name, i.e. are virtual nobodies. As often in this poetry, a verse may embroider on the one before. Therefore, the awkward formulation of the first hemistich and the abstruse juxtaposition in the second hemistich, suggests that without chivalrous feats to one's credit, one ends up being no more than a name, like cattle that have been marked with a branding iron. Still, one is left wondering if a poet named Ibn Zāhir used these very words or if the verse has been mangled and patched up in the course of oral transmission.
- 4 Holes, Dialect, 3:56-58.

Passive verb

As in Nabaṭī poetry from Najd and other parts of the Gulf, the internal passive ("apophonic") is of regular occurrence, especially in the poems.¹

Sound effects

The poems abound in assonance, alliteration, parallelism, internal rhyme, and morphological echo. The first half of the third poem is conspicuous for a particularly high density of examples: in the second verse: <code>yighūshin/nighūsh/ghāsh</code>; lines four and five: <code>ar-rimmās/tizāwalū/zāl/ar-rimmās/zōl/ar-rammās/haffāz</code>; verse ten: <code>misūh/misūh/al-mash</code>; eleven: <code>ghiḍā/lizā/fēḍ/ḍaww</code>; verse thirteen: <code>hānhā/bārid/bārid/hānhā</code>; verse twenty: <code>yṣāfīk/ṣāfī/yasfī</code>, to mention just a few. It may lend a sing-song quality to the auditory impression and emphasis to intended meaning, such as the throngs of admirers and connoisseurs in verses four and five, and the tears that cannot be stanched by wiping in verse ten. It is a somewhat manneristic aspect of the era's Nabaṭī poetry and may have reached its culmination in the Najdī poetic correspondence of Rumayzān and Rushaydān bin Ghashshām, and Jabr ibn Sayyār in the second half of the seventeenth century. Mostly, this seems part of rhetorical acrobatics, unrelated to semantic content.

Language of the narratives

To a large extent the foregoing is also valid for the narrative prose.

Infix

Some features do not occur in Ibn Zāhir's poetry. One of them is the infix -in(n) that comes "between an active participle with verbal force and an object enclitic." Examples are: $g\bar{a}b\dot{d}innah$; $kh\bar{a}dminh\bar{a}$; mithaddinnah; hattinnah; $m\bar{a}kiltinh\bar{a}$; $d\bar{a}kkinh\bar{a}$; $y\bar{a}yinnah$, "coming to"; $mh\bar{e}dinhum$, "he knew them (Banū Hilāl) for sure"; $d\bar{a}fininnah$, "they buried him"; $imirrah\ bin\ Z\bar{a}hir\ mithaddinnah\ wi-mhattinnah\ fi\ mikhbayah$,

¹ Holes, Dialect, 3:166-68.

² Holes, *Dialect*, 3:453–54. An egregious example is Rumayzān's poem on the rhyme employed in \$11: *f-anshabna shadd w-shālhā bi-wshālhā* [...] *li-zhābhā w-azbānhā b-ashmālhā* [...] *sādāthā wi-ḥmāthā wi-rjālhā* [...] *b-āyāthā ḥammālhā wa-'mālḥā*. (Sowayan, *al-Shi'r al-Nabaṭī*, 408–9).

³ For numerous examples, see Sowayan, al-Shi'r al-Nabaṭī.

⁴ Holes, Dialect, 3:20-23.

"sure as hell, I will challenge (CA taḥaddā) Ibn Zāhir and stuff him into my pocket";¹ 'lūmah mākhdhinhā 'an ḥayāt ibūyah, "I received this information about him from my father";² mwaṣṣinhum, "he counseled them; he left them his will" (CA waṣṣā, "to counsel"); illā 'āṭinhum zharah, "and before they knew, he (lit. "gave them") turned his back on them (CA 'a'ṭā, "to give"). It may resemble a tanwīn-ending assimilated with the following preposition li- ("for"), as in mākhdhillah and msawwāytillah bakrah for msawwāytin lah lit. "his wages were reckoned to be a camel," i.e. "he paid him by giving him a camel" (msawwin li-, "giving as wages").³

Consonant reduction

The narratives show many examples of a regular phonological process in many if not all Gulf dialects: the loss of an unstressed short vowel in open syllable produces an unacceptable consonant cluster which is in turn reduced.⁴ Alameemi's notation of the recorded narratives shows a prevalence of consonant reduction in geminate verbs and nouns, as in *yiḥuṭhā* for *yiḥuṭṭhā*; '*idnā* for '*iddnā*, "count us"; *ḥagnā* for *ḥaggnā*, "for us"; "w-shal w-rad fī manzilah for shall w-radd, "he packed up and returned home"; mā bi-ysid for sadd, yisidd (CA sadda, "to plug, satisfy, meet a need"); thād w-yā hal Dhān, "he quarreled with the folks of Dhān" (perhaps a VI pattern verb derived from CA al-hadd, al-hadad, "rude, menacing language").⁶ Also, it happens that one of the consonants of a medial doubled consonant (tashdīd) is dropped: here with the infix -in, myawzinhā < mjawwizhā, "he gave her in marriage"; m'alminhā bi-rūḥah for m'allimha, "he indicated, marked (the place) himself"; sibūg mā tḥidhā for

¹ Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 203.

² Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 214.

^{3 &}quot;In the dialects that have this infix feature (which not all Emirati dialects do) it is an obligatory feature of their grammar (as it is in all the Omani dialects and in the related Baharna dialects of Bahrain and eastern Saudi Arabia). Though it remains to be studied, this usage seems particularly common in the eastern part of the UAE, though it occurs sporadically everywhere. Its occurrence here may depend on where the speakers were from: many of them must have had it in their normal dialects and would have used it in any context at all. There are many examples of it in UAE poetry recorded by Saeed Abu Athera (see Holes, Clive, and Abu Athera, Said Salman, *The Nabaṭī Poetry of the United Arab Emirates*, 2011), including poems where the theme rhyme is *-innah*." (communication of Clive Holes).

⁴ Communication of Clive Holes. See Holes, Dialect, 3:71-72 for this "consonant reduction."

⁵ Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 71-72.

⁶ Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 230.

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tiḥiddhā, "she's so fast she can't be caught"; *ydawrūnah* for *ydawwirūnah*, "they search for him" (CA *dawwara*).

Diminutives

Diminutives occur more frequently than in the poetry: $kh\bar{s}\bar{i}\bar{s}\bar{n}$ dimin. of $kha\bar{s}\bar{s}\bar{n}$, "small axe"; $sgh\bar{e}r\bar{u}nah$ for $sigh\bar{i}rah$, "the little girl"; $sn\bar{i}b\bar{i}j$ for $sanb\bar{u}k$, "a common type of ship in the Gulf"; $sh\bar{i}kh\bar{i}m$ for $sh\bar{i}am$, "charcoal"; $sh\bar{i}am$ mittarrarah, "wearing a wretched, tattered robe" (dimin. of $shad\bar{u}rah$, "Emirati long, white shirt, robe").

Prefix b-

As in other Gulf dialects and Najd, the prefix b- lends a future sense (also used for volition) to the verb¹ as in w- $b\bar{\imath}bayyitk\ bi$ - $\bar{\imath}$ - $\bar{\imath}\bar{\imath}niyyah$, "he will put aside food on the tray for you to eat tomorrow"; $b\bar{\imath}wa$ " $\bar{\imath}k$, "he will wake you up"; bi- $n\bar{\imath}h$, "we will come to him" (apparently a progressive reduction $nij\bar{\imath}h > ny\bar{\imath}h > n\bar{\imath}h$, like $m\bar{a}\ t\bar{\imath}bah$, "you cannot get the better of him," perhaps from $m\bar{a}\ ti\bar{\imath}\bar{\imath}\ bah$).²

Vocabulary

There is a presence of all vocabulary especially associated with the southern Gulf.³ A few examples are: *rimas*, "to speak," frequently used in the poetry for "to recite poetry in assemblies attended by participants in the oral culture"; *ḥād*, *yiḥīd*, "to remember, know for certain," as in *anā bi-ghēr ḥyād*, "I am not quite sure about it"; *bi-ḥyād*, "for sure," and *ḥayyad* "to be sure"; *ḥayād*, "good memory of something"; *mā aḥīd*, "I have no memory of it, of having heard it"; *shall*, *ishtall*, "to move, carry away"; *tṣawwakh*, *iṣṭakh*, "to listen"; *siḥḥ*, "dates"; *shirwā*, "like, similar to"; *ṭuwī/ṭiwī*, "well"; *kandūrah*, "the Emirati long, white shirt, robe." Another common verb, not or rarely used in this sense in Najd, is *rām*, *yirūm* ("to be able to, capable of"), as in *mā arūm ashall*, "I cannot carry it, it is too heavy"; *mā rimt aḥfazhā baʿad*, "I have not yet been able to

¹ Holes, *Dialect*, 3:200. In Oman and probably in parts of the UAE, the *b*- prefix it does not (as it does in Bahrain) have a purely "future" or "intention" coloring. In Oman there are many examples of its use for "habitual" (i.e. one form of *realis* meanings) rather than it being purely *irrealis* meanings like future, intention, hypothetical (communication of Clive Holes).

² Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 228.

³ Holes, Glossary, xxi.

⁴ Holes, Glossary, xxi.

⁵ Al-Maṭrūshī, al-Lahjah al-Imārātiyyah, 160.

memorize it"; *ash-shay illī mā aḥīdah mā arūm armis bah*, "I cannot really say anything on matters I am not absolutely sure about." 1

Vocabulary connected with seafaring, fishing, pearling, types of boats, ropes and rigging, rowing, etc. are of rather frequent occurrence in both the poetry and even more so the stories.

Particles

A number of particles occur in the narratives and not, or to a lesser extent, in the poetry. The particle hab means "is not" (as CA laysa): $huw\ hab\ ablam$, "he is not a mute"; and $m\bar{a}\ h\bar{u}b$, "he is not" ($< m\bar{a}\ h\bar{u}\ bi$ -); $m\bar{a}\ h\bar{u}b/m\bar{a}hub\ bintah$, "she is not his daughter"; $imb\bar{u}nah$, "at first, from the beginning he."²

The text is interspersed with particles, interjections and interrogatives like: \check{ci} , \check{cidhi} , "really, is it so, are you serious; like this" (as in \check{cih} sawwēt kidhih, "what now, why did you do this?"; \check{cih} mā tt 'ashshā, "what's the matter, why won't you eat dinner?"); $ij\bar{i}/ij\bar{i}$, "approximately"; $ij\bar{i}$ $iy\bar{i}$, "approximately"; $ij\bar{i}$ $iy\bar{i}$, "any, at all"; $iy\bar{i}$ $iy\bar{i}$, "and like that, before they knew the man was coming"; $ij\bar{i}$ shay, "any, at all"; $ij\bar{i}$ $iil\bar{i}$ $iil\bar{i}$

Substitution of 'ayn for hamzah

Some features are bound to create confusion if one approaches the dialect from the viewpoint of classical Arabic or another dialect like Najdī. For instance, 'ajal may not be related to the verb "to hasten" (CA 'ajila) but to ajal (CA 'ajal, "yes indeed, certainly"), and then may turn into 'iyal as in mnū 'iyal shā'ir, "who, after all, is a poet?"

¹ Alameemi, *Ibn Zāhir*, 213; *rām*: "This is the normal verb 'to be able' in rural northern Oman" (communication of Clive Holes).

^{2 &}quot;Ma hub and even just hub (without the $m\bar{a}$) is common for 'not' in the Bedouin descended dialects of Bahrain, and occurs in the rest of the Gulf too; $imb\bar{u}nah$ is also standard in all of Oman" (communication of Clive Holes).

³ Alameemi, Ibn Zāhir, 229.

⁴ Holes, Dialect, 3:101.

⁵ Holes, Dialect, 3:27.

^{6 &}quot;In the form *shingāyil*, this is also used in Bahrain. It also occurs in central Asian Arabic, almost certainly taken there by eighth century Omani migrants" (communication of Clive Holes).

⁷ See p. 2, n. 1 above.

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and 'iyal $m\bar{a}$ taskin, "then you can't live here"; and 'add \bar{a} for add \bar{a} in adverbial clauses of time, as for instance in $l\bar{e}$ 'add $\bar{a}/add\bar{a}$ s-sibh, "when morning came": an ancient phenomenon known as 'an'anah.

Verbs

The verb <code>istuwā</code> (CA <code>istawā</code>, "to be even, regular, equal") is used in the entire Gulf with the meaning "to be ripe, grown up," or simply "to become, get," as in <code>ilēn-im-mā</code> <code>tistuwī</code> 'indak <code>bēzāt</code>, "until you get some money together"; ⁴ <code>anā min istiwēt balmā ilēn</code> <code>al-yōm</code>, "I have grown up a mute until today"; <code>shū istuwā</code>, "what happened?" The verb <code>āzam</code>, <code>yāzam/yāzim</code> is probably specific to the Emirates and used as a synonym for <code>ṣār</code>, "to become, to start to." Other characteristic usages are: <code>zigar</code> for "to call"; <code>laḥaz</code>, <code>lāḥaz</code> for "to see" in the poetry (and other Nabaṭī poetry of the era); <code>tlāḥiz</code>, "do you see?" 7

¹ Holes, *Dialect*, 3:287, 396. Alameemi, *Ibn Zāhir*, 239, 201.

² Holes, *Dialect*, 3:101.

³ Holes, Dialect, 3:396.

⁴ Holes, Dialect, 3:432.

⁵ Al-Maṭrūshī, al-Lahjah al-Imārātiyyah, 41.

⁶ Al-Maṭrūshī, al-Lahjah al-Imārātiyyah, 39.

⁷ Al-Maṭrūshī, al-Lahjah al-Imārātiyyah, 249.