LEXICAL AND PHONOLOGICAL VARIATION
IN SPOKEN ARABIC IN AMMAN

HASSAN RASHID E. ABDEL-JAWAD

A DISSERTATION
in
Linguistics

Presented to the Graduate Faculties of the University of Pennsylvania in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
1981

[Signatures]
Supervisor of Dissertation
Graduate Group Chairperson
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The fieldwork for this dissertation was funded at various stages by the National Science Foundation (doctoral dissertation grant BNS 80-22455) and the Yarmouk University. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the support of these institutions. I would like also to express my special thanks to Yarmouk University for providing me with the full scholarship which made it possible for me to continue my graduate studies and complete this work.

I am particularly indebted to my dissertation supervisor, professor Gillian Sankoff, for being everything that one could ever dream a supervisor to be, and much much more. I was very fortunate to work with her and was the envy of many a fellow student. She was a source of inspiration and motivation for me ever since she came to the University of Pennsylvania. She provided invaluable encouragement, criticism and guidance throughout the duration of this project. Her intellectual and human supervision were the green light, especially during the gloomy times. I do thank her for being patient with me, hard working, punctual understanding and full of new ideas and suggestions which contributed enormously to this dissertation. I would like to take the chance at this point to express my sincere apologies to Alice (forthcoming) for being too noisy and
disturbing her moments of quietness with our variable rules and gaffs and kaafs, and for the constant variation we created in her atmosphere. I am sure she will forgive us.

I wish to express my gratitude to professors Henry Hoenigswald, John Fought and William Labov, members of my dissertation committee, for their constant interest and very valuable comments and for giving their time freely. Professor Labov was particularly helpful during the quantitative analysis and I also profitted enormously from his discussions and suggestions.

For technical and editorial assistance of various kinds I wish to thank Sherry Ash, Lucie Schneck, Anne Houston and David Graff. Special thanks must go to David for being generous with his time and for his valuable discussions, comments and suggestions. I am also grateful to Julieta Sanchez for making the typing of this dissertation much easier.

It was a great learning experience and a great pleasure for me to participate in the dissertation seminar. I wish to thank all those who participated in this seminar in one way or another.

I have also benefited greatly from my contacts and discussions with all my fellow students and friends. My thanks must go to all of them without giving their names.

I must also thank all those who helped me during my fieldwork in Amman, especially my informants who were very
cooperative and generous with their time.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation must go to my parents for their constant love and blessings. And finally, there is no way I can properly acknowledge the contribution, moral and spiritual support of my lovely wife, Fawzieh, and my beautiful children, Firas and Jumana, who have been by my side all along, and without whom I would have never been able to complete this work. They were loving, patient and understanding and so they gave me the energy to go on.