An Instrumental Study of Intonation in Hebron Arabic Dialect

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Abstract

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The present study aims at investigating the intonational system of the Hebron Arabic Dialect. It is mainly concerned with studying the form of intonation, the intonational patterns and the tonal Inventory of Hebron Arabic Dialect. Moreover, the study sheds some light on the pragmatic functions that intonation may serve. The autosegmental metrical approach developed by Pierrehumbert (1980) was adopted in conducting the current study. The analysis of data has revealed that there is a great deal of vowel lengthening which is sometimes motivated semantically. The data analysis has also shown that the default pattern for Hebron pitch accents is L+H*. Further, results have shown that every accented syllable has a H tone. Finally, it has been observed that there is a tendency to start most of the utterances with low tones.

Key Words: Intonation, Hebron Arabic Dialect, Intonation Patterns, Pragmatic Function, Pitch Accents, Boundary Tones.