

## Two phenomena in Cairene Arabic

These two separate phenomena in Cairene Arabic serve as evidence about syllable structure in this language. The goal of this exercise is to propose a (single consistent) criterion for dividing words into syllables that provides insight into both phenomena.

---

### I. Pharyngealization (“emphasis”) spread

All Arabic dialects contain what are traditionally called “emphatic” sounds. Acoustically, they are characterized by lowered second formant, and articulatorily by a constriction in the pharyngeal cavity caused by retracted tongue root. Spreading of pharyngealization is illustrated by the following forms from Cairene Arabic.

- In these examples, capital letters indicate pharyngealized sounds. (This is a non-IPA convention, used here for convenience.)
- The underlying source of pharyngealization is the following sounds: /T D S Z L R/.

/ba:t/	→	[ba:t]	‘he spent the night’
/ba:T/	→	[BA:T]	‘armpit’
/ti:n/	→	[ti:n]	‘figs’
/Ti:n/	→	[TI:N]	‘mud’
/faSlu/	→	[FASlu]	‘his term’
/Ra:gil/	→	[RA:gil]	‘man’
/Ragle:n/	→	[RAGle:n]	‘two men’
/La:Tif/	→	[LA:TIF]	‘pleasant’ (masc.)
/LaTi:fa/	→	[LATI:fa]	‘pleasant’ (fem.)
/faDDal/	→	[FADDAL]	‘he preferred’
/faDDal#ilwalad/	→	[FADDAlilwalad]	‘he preferred the boy’

Propose an analysis to account for **how far pharyngealization spreads** in a word. Does your analysis explain why /Ragle:n/ ‘two men’ becomes [RAGle:n], *not* \*[RAGLE:N] or \*[RAGle:n]?

---

### II. Epenthesis

In Cairene Arabic, epenthesis (=insertion) of the vowel [i] occurs under certain conditions. Try to characterize the conditions that lead to epenthesis. **Do any insights from Part I help us understand this pattern?**

/balad-na/	→	[baladna]	‘our town’
/bint-na/	→	[bintina]	‘our daughter’
/kalb-na/	→	[kalbina]	‘our dog’
/ʔul-t-l-u/	→	[ʔultilu]	‘I said to him’
/katab-t-l-u/	→	[katabtilu]	‘I wrote to him’
/katab-t-gawa:b/	→	[katabtigawa:b]	‘I wrote a letter’
/ʔul-t-l-ha/	→	[ʔultilha]	‘I said to her’
/katab-t-l-ha/	→	[katabtilha]	‘I wrote to her’
/katab-t-l-gawa:b/	→	[katabtilgawa:b]	‘I wrote the letter’