

Linguistic Functions of *fii/maafii* in Hejaz Gulf Pidgin Arabic

**Nuha Suleiman Al-Shurafa (MA: Bath University, UK–PhD:
Manchester University, UK)**

Professor of Theoretical Linguistics

**King Abdul-Aziz University- Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
Department of European Languages. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.**

Abstract:

This paper is a contribution to determine the functions of the syntactic device *fii* (there is) and its negative counterpart *maafii* (there isn't) in its various forms as it is used in Hejaz Gulf Pidgin Arabic (Hejaz GPA). Beside its basic functions as a preposition and an existential element, it is used as a syntactic device to achieve predication, modality, negation and interrogative. Moreover, *fii /maafii* is found to display a variety of functions in the Hejaz GPA system. The negative variety *maafii* is one example, where it is substituted by the negative devices *maa* and *laa* quite often; the *fii /maafii* disappears where expected and informants from Africa use this device minimally. They substitute the device with syntactic techniques which are borrowed from the lexifier Hejaz Arabic and thus modify Hejaz GPA. Those and other users of Hejaz GPA who have lived long in Hejaz have perceived at a certain structural and aspectual stage other functional devices which are subconsciously assimilated and used by those speakers. Beside this, the discussion concludes that the characteristic displayed features are in congruence with those in the related literature, and that HejazPGA speakers follow conventionalized norms, albeit with some inconsistency.

Keywords:

Hejaz GPA, pidginization, function, structure, *fii /maafii* syntactic device, predication, simplified system, simplified linguistic variety

التركيب اللغوي لاستخدامات (فيه/مافيه) في اللغة المبسطة "البيجين" العربية الخليجية الحجازية

ملخص:

يعتبر هذا البحث إسهاماً لغوياً لتحديد تركيب الوظائف اللغوية لأداة النحو بصيغتي التأكيد (فيه) والنفي (ما فيه) ويقدم تحليلاً دقيقاً للاستخدامات اللغوية المختلفة لهذه الأداة في لغة "البيجين" المبسطة العربية الخليجية الحجازية إلى جانب استخدامها كحرف جر وفعل كينونة ، نجدها تستخدم كأداة نحوية تفيد إسناد المفاعيل ، وكأدوات شرط واستفهام ونفي. كما أن هذه الأداة تتمتع بالعديد من الوظائف الأخرى في لغة "البيجين" المبسطة العربية الخليجية الحجازية ، فنجدها كثيراً ما تُستبدل في صيغة النفي بكل من أداتي النفي (ما) و(لا) ، كما نجدها تختفي في لغة المغتربين الأفارقة المبسطة عندما نتوقع استخدامها، أو يستعملونها بأقل ما يمكن ، فنجدهم يستبدلونها بأدوات تركيبية أخرى تتناسق مع المعنى يستعرونها من اللهجة العربية الحجازية وبذلك يُدخلونها على نظام هذه اللغة المبسطة فتبدو لغة "البيجين" العربية الخليجية الحجازية هذه أكثر تطوراً من تلك التي تستخدمها العمالة الأخرى من آسيا والهند ، وربما يرجع ذلك بتأثرهم بلغتهم الأم، إلى جانب ذلك نجد أن هؤلاء الأفارقة و العمالة التي تعيش في منطقة الحجاز مدة أطول من خمسة عشر سنة يصبح استيعابهم للهجة العربية الحجازية و أزمنة الفعل المركبة والتامة والعديد من التراكيب الأخرى المتعلقة بأداة (فيه/ مافيه) أكثر عمقاً مما يجعلهم يتحكمون بها بصورة تلقائية لتظهر في لغتهم المبسطة. وبصفة عامة، فإن هذا البحث يتفق بشكل عام مع ما توصلت إليه الأبحاث (القليلة) السابقة فيما يتعلق باللغة المبسطة "البيجين" العربية الخليجية، واللغة المبسطة الحجازية وتتبع هذه العمالة غير العربية هذا النظام اللغوي ذو

القواعد اللغوية التقليدية والتلقائية رغم افتقاره لاتساق التركيب لغرض التواصل، وهذه القواعد لا زالت في حاجة إلى دراسات لغوية أكثر لوصف تراكيبيها.

1- Introduction

Gulf Pidgin Arabic (GPA) as used by the non-native labor force in the Gulf, including Saudi Arabia as one of the Gulf States, has never been documented in Hejaz before. The simplified linguistic variety GPA is used for communication among a large non-native immigrant population as well as with the natives as a practical solution to immediate needs.

This paper is a contribution to determine the precise scope of the function of the grammatical element of the affirmative *fii* (there is) and its negative counterpart *maafii* (there isn't) uses as manifested in Hejaz GPA because of two main reasons. The first is that it hasn't been studied before, and second is the popular use of this device by expatriates.

The study complements the substantial conclusions of the most recent documentations in this field (Næss 2008 and Bakir 2010) as well as related previous ones (Smart 1990, Holes 1995, Ingham 2006 and Wiswall 2002). This study adds more findings to the GPA linguistic system, linguistic specifications related to Hejaz GPA as a result of direct borrowing from the superstrate or lexifier language in this area. Moreover, cases where *fii* as a copula and a predication marker are found to be less frequently used in the Hejaz variety of GPA, and are never used excessively by the labor force from Africa such as Somalia and Eritrea. One reason can be related to their substrates which are of a different language typology than Urdu, Hindi, etc, where this lexical variety prevails (Bakir 2010: 218).

The descriptive analysis provided in this paper of *fii* /*maafii*'s structure and function depends on the theoretical framework manifested in a rich literature of sociolinguistics, dialectology and pidgianization since the nineteenth century. The study selects topics closely related to the topic of this paper, (Ferguson 1971, Holes 1995, Holm 2000, Owen 2001, Winford 2006, Trudgill 2009 and Al-Wer and de Jong 2009). However, GPA did not attract the researchers' attention prior to Smart (1990), who was the first to coin the term GPA and whose data were

provided by native Arabs imitating GPA (Bakir 2010 and Næss 2008).

The description in this paper of *fii* /*maafii*, which has been borrowed from the lexifier Gulf Arabic, has developed a wider range of use in GPA. It is found to function as a syntactic tool to achieve predication (Bakir 2010). The discussion carries the analysis forward and explores more functions of *fii*, one concerned with verb modality to indicate ability and possibility (as in examples 20 and 31 below). Structurally, *fii* occurs in a pre-verbal position, preceded by a subject and followed by a verb (as in examples 1 and 11 below) or a noun (as in example 19 below). It also occurs as a predicator preceded by the subject and followed by a nominal (as in examples 20 and 21 below), an adjectival (as in example 22 below), or an adverbial (as in example 23 below). It functions as a syntactic device in different types of questions (as in examples 24 and 25 below). Its negative counterpart *maafii* in the main sentences negate the main verb, nouns or adjectives (as in examples 42-45 below). Finally, there are cases where *fii* does not appear when expected, and is minimally used by labor workers from Africa (as in examples 52-55 below). Comments on such functions and structures involve the status of GPA as another variety with its own, though related, conventionalized norms.

2- Preview of Literature

Smart estimated that GPA variety prevails from Oman to Kuwait and inland Saudi Arabia (1990: 83). Wiswall's study contains a small corpus to document the linguistic behavior of workers in Kuwait, U.A.E, Qatar and East Saudi Arabia (2002: 7).

Two recent detailed linguistic contributions have been made by Næss (2008) and Bakir (2010). Næss's MA thesis verifies GPA status as a separate language variety and discusses among many other things three grammatical features; namely: possession, negation and verbal system. On the other hand, Bakir offers in his article a detailed discussion of the verbal system of GPA in his ten Asian informants in Qatar. The conclusions complement one another where both found the same link between GPA development of a light verb system and several of the main substrate languages such as Urdu, but unparalleled in the superstrate or lexifier Gulf Arabic.

3- Pidginization Theory

The linguistic varieties of GPA and Hejaz GPA are a product of human creativity where speakers of more than seven different languages are compelled to interact and communicate in this area of the world. The linguistic pidgin system produced has occurred between a large group of expatriate non-native adults since mid-twentieth century (Bakir 2010), and whose population size started to increase dramatically in the last three decades as a practical solution to immediate needs (Foley 2006:3). The non-national expatriates in Hejaz, like those in the Gulf, use this linguistic system among them since there is no other shared language.

Pidgin as a product of human activity and interactions is a practical solution and becomes a ‘target language’ for later arrivals on the scene (Winford 2006:279) in the same sociological situation. This pidgin system of communication is conventionalized and has a somewhat unified vocabulary and grammar and has limited functions unlike natural languages (Ferguson 1971, Trudgill 2009 and Grant and Guillemin 2012).

The immigrant population in Hejaz as a labor force uses the Hejaz GPA reduced linguistic system as a medium of communication with the local citizens, a case which exists in the various Arab gulf countries of the western coast of the Arab Gulf and Saudi Arabia (Smart 1990, Holes 2007). While no documentation of analyzing this system in Hejaz has been implemented, a very limited study of GPA has been documented relatively recently. Nowadays, it has become clear that this linguistic system has become a permanent feature of present life especially with the continued increase in the labor force. Hejaz GPA is used in a variety of contexts such as in the market, among drivers, domestic house cleaners, janitors, technicians, and others. The context of communication is characterized by the limited contact between L1 (or superstrate or lexifier) and L2 (or substrate) groups, and by the wide distance between the groups of speakers.

4- The Subjects

The study is based on collecting field data from Asian and African adult informants, who happen to be all males. They have been working in Hejaz, particularly Jeddah, Mecca and Medina for ten or more years.

Table (1) below summarizes specifications of the participants’ ages, first languages, lengths of stay and occupations. Data were collected from

five hour conversations recorded during tea-time held privately between seven Hejaz GPA speakers. They participate together as all of them reside and work in Jeddah, and four used to work in Mecca and Medina prior to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. They all use a variety of Hejaz GPA to communicate. None of the subjects is a native speaker of Hejaz or Gulf Arabic; the latter term, first used by Holes (1995). All the participants are friends and share the same neighborhood, which facilitated the three occasions of tea-gatherings to converse and record simultaneously.

Table 1. Participants' data

Speaker	Age	First Language	Length of Stay	Occupation
A	45	Hindi	15 years	Supermarket cashier
B	32	Tagalog	10 years	worker/janitor
C	48	Bengali	22 years	Supermarket janitor
D	50	Swahili	10 years	Electrician
E	42	Tigrinya	18 years	warehouse clerk
F	49	Tamil	22 years	Driver
G	31	Tagalog (Filipino)	Secretary 10 years	

Two of the above subjects belong to two African countries, namely Somalia and Eritrea (D and E informants), and the rest belong to the Asian expatriate community in Jeddah. None of the subjects share the same mother tongue.

5- Discussion

The discussion below involves the functions and structure of *fii/maafii* as used in our data.

5-1 *fii/maafii* as an expletive device

The point of focus is the affirmative *fii* (there is/are) and its negative counterpart *maafii* (there isn't/aren't), an expletive element which occurs extensively in Hejaz GPA where it is a borrowing from GPA (Bakir

2010). The affirmative *fii* occurs in usages such as:

- (1) ana *fii* maluum. (A)
I there is know
'I know.'
- (2) *fii* bank fuluus katiir? (C)
There is bank money plenty
'Do you have plenty of money in the bank?'
- (3) *fii* ukti. (D)
There is sister
'My sister is here.'

It also occurs in question forms as in:

- (4) inta *fii* mazraa ? (C)
youSG there is farm
'Do you have a farm?'

fii also occurs twice in the same question such as:

- (5) baaden *fii* raatib *fii*? (A)
then there is salary
'Did you get your salary?'

In (5), the first *fii* is 'to exist' and the second *fii* functions as a copula.

The negative counterpart *maafii* consists of the negation *maa-* immediately preceding the expletive *-fii*. It is used for negation as in:

- (6) *maafii* mushkila. (f)
there isn't problem
'There is no problem.'
- (7) gariib zawaaz *maafii* kwayyis. (C)
near marriage there isn't good
'Early marriage is not good.'
- (8) naas *maafii* fuluus.(A)
people there isn't money
'People have no money.'
- (9) *maafii* kudaar. (B)
there aren't vegetables
'There aren't any vegetables.'
- (10) *maafii* shugul *maafii* faayda. (E)
there isn't work there isn't use

‘If there is no work, there is no benefit.’

The negative syntactic device *maafii* also occurs in usages as in:

- (11) inta *maafii* maluum? (B)
youSG there isn't know
‘You don't know?’
- (12) ana muk *maafii*. (G)
I brain there isn't
‘I have no brain.’
- (13) saah, naas *maafii* fuluus zay awwal. (C)
right, people there isn't money as before
‘People do not have money like before.’

Below is a detailed description of *fii/ maafii* with the related exemplification extracts from our data.

5-2 *fii/maafii* as a preposition

This usage is a borrowing from Gulf Arabic, and occurs as in:

- (14) dahiin ana *fii* imaara badeen *fii* ruuh beet. (A)
now I SG in building then there is go house
‘Now, I am living in a building (flat), then I'll move to a house.’

The first *fii* in (14) above conveys the meaning of the preposition ‘in’.

5-3 *fii/maafii* as an existential element

Existential element in Hijaz GPA is frequently used as well as in Gulf Arabic. It means literally (in it) and has the English meaning ‘there is/are’ (Holes 1995: 72) as in the following:

- (15) inta *fii* bezuura? (C)
youSG there is children
‘Do you have children?’

fii in (15) is an existential if the question is (Are there any children?) as well as a possessive as in the interpretation given above. If it is taken as existential tool, it has no semantic role and is a dummy filler to fulfill and fill the existential place of the predicate.

The following example contains an expletive *fii*:

- (16) dahiin *fii* mushkila hina. (F)

now there is problem here
'There is a problem here.'

The above example is a statement where *fii* is functionally existential and occupies the position of the dummy subject.

5-4 *fii/maafii*, as a copula in equative sentences

The copula occurs in Hejaz GPA against the process described by Ferguson (1971: 145-147) who hypothesized copula absence in simplified speech. The following are extracts from the data:

(17) ana *fii* farhan. (G)

I there is happy
'I am happy.'

(18) *maafii* tariig karbaan, alatuul ruuh bahar.(D)

there isn't road ruined ,straight away go sea
'(when it rains) roads are not ruined as water pours into the sea.'

(19) iywa, ana *fii* hindi, *fii* taani paakistaani, kullu. (A)

yes ,I there is Indian, there is second Pakistani, all
'Yes, I am Indian, the other one is Pakistani, all kinds of nationalities.'

The copula in the above sentence (17) describes the present state of the speaker. (18) confirms the good state of the road using the negative form and (19) coordinates two noun phrases to state nationalities.

5-5 *fii/maafii* in predication

Hejaz GPA *fii* enjoys a wider scope of meaning to achieve predication which is found in equational sentences as in:

(20) ana *fii* masjid, ana *maafii* ziib mooya, insa. (A)

I there is mosque I there isn't bring water, forgot
'I went to the mosque(in Mecca) but I forgot to bring (Zamzam) water.'

(21) Mooya *maafii* mushkila, laakin laazim *fii* omra. (C)

water there isn't problem, but must there is Omra
'It isn't a problem (to forget) the water, but it is a must to perform Omra.'

(22) fikir *maafii* faayda. (B)

think there isn't use
'To think (a lot) is not useful.'

- (23) Inta *maafii* hinaak. (D)
youSG there isn't there
'You were not there.'

fii/maafii in the above sentences (20-23) functions as a predicator marker, linking the subject and the predicate, similar to the copulative in English. It is located between a subject and a nominal in (20) and (21) above, an adjectival in (22) and an adverbial in (23) above.

5-6 *fii/maafiin* questions

Forming questions, *fii/maafiis* used in different positions in the sentence. One occurrence is initially as in:

- (24) a. *fii* yizi sodiyya? (C)
there is come Saudi
'Has he (his brother) arrived to Saudi Arabia?'
b. *maafii* kashaab *fii* mazbuut hinaa? (C)
there isn't wood there is quality here
'Is there no wood which is good/proper here?'

Questions are formed with a question particle initially instead of *fii/maafii* which appears later as in:

- (25) a. eesh masna *fii*? (F)
what factory there is
'What kind of factory is it?'
b. keef inta *fii* sugul dahiin? (C)
how youSG there is work now
'How is your work going now?'

Questions also occur without the element *fii/maafii*. Instead, an adverbial is used initially as in:

- (26) hina kullu taaza, sah? (C)
here all fresh, right
'Here, everything is fresh, right?'

Moreover, a nominal is used initially in questions, with or without *fii/maafias* in:

- (27) a. suzaar kullu, sah? (E)
trees all, right
'A lot of trees, right?'
b. lyoom eesh *fii* tabbak? (C)
today what there is cook

‘What will you cook today?’

A verb also occurs initially in questions and *fii/maafii* exists also in the question as in:

- (28) a. *yizi fii sugul feen?* (G)
go there is work where
‘Where do you work?’
b. *fii sawwi tazkira inta, sah?* (C)
there is make ticket youSG, right
‘You got your ticket, right?’

Adjectives also appear in questions initially without *fii/maafias* in:

- (29) a. *kabiir omor kaam?* (C)
eldest age how much
‘How old is the oldest one?’
b. *sagiir kam omor?* (C)
youngest how much age
‘How old is the youngest?’

The question word *kaam* (how much) exhibits free word order; finally as in (29 a) and medially as in (29 b). In (25 a and b) above, the question words as *eesh* (what) and *keef* (how) occur initially and all are used by the same speaker, except for (25.a).

5-7 *fii/maafii* in modality

Tense, aspect and mood in Hijaz GPA are not indicated in the verbal usage of *fii/maafii*. Function is indicated through context. The verb is not inflected and suffers inflectional poverty as in GPA. However, continuous aspect has a possible function with *fii* as in:

- (30) *inta madam maafii kalaam maafii salli?*
you SG wife there isn't talk there isn't pray
‘Didn't you ask your wife why she doesn't pray?’

In Hejaz GPA, the question formation is implemented systematically by means of reduction, as in (11) above and/or by the use of a question word in different sentence positions besides *fii/maafii*. All types of questions are achieved by rising intonation. Negation, as detailed in section 3.8. below, is achieved in (30) above by means of the device *maafii* which negates the verbs *kalaam* ‘talk’ and *salli* ‘pray’.

The conditional is used in the data with *fii* and *maafii* as in:

- (31) *maafii shugul, maafii faayda.* (D)

there isn't work , there isn't use
'If you don't work, there is no benefit.'

It is also found with the affirmative *fii* as in:

(32) *fii* shugul, shugul dukkaan. (B)
there work work shop
'If there is work available, I'd rather work in a shop.'

The above examples (31) and (32) contain *fii/maafii* which indicate hypothetical conditions.

Examples below indicate affirmation:

(33) laa laa, *fii*, *fii*, laazim ruuh sawa sawa , hasil. A)
no no, there is, there is , must go together together, find
'No, no, there is. One day we'll go together and will find it.'

The above example (33) reveals that the function of the conditional *fii* extends to include the indicative affirmative modality.

5-8 *fii/maafii* in pre-verbal positions

Negative *maafii* in a pre-verbal position where it involves a past tense action as in:

(34) *maafii* ziiib asli. (C)
there isn't bring original
'You can't get the original.'

The following example involves an event which seems to fit the continuous aspect using the affirmative *fii*:

(35) *fii* ruuh. (F)
there is go
'You are going.'

The extracts below involve using the negative *fii/maafii* to describe a habitual state as in:

(36) ana *maafii* koof hurma. (B)
I there isn't fear wife
'I am not scared of my wife.'

(37) haada *fii* hurma, waahid dagaiga *maafii* istanna. (D)
this there is wife, one minute there isn't wait
'A wife doesn't tolerate waiting for a single minute.'

(38) *maafii* kalaam inta? (E)

there isn't talk youSG
'Don't you talk to him?'

However, there exist a number of usages where various types of verbs are not preceded by *fii/maafii* as a syntactic device as in:

(39) huwwa ruuh suug. (G)
he went market
'He went to the market.'

(40) inta yizi laa maa yizi, kalamtu kida. (B)
youSG come or not come talked this
My wife asked: "Are you coming or are you not coming?"

(41) hurma kalaam inta kamastaashar sana iglis, feen fuluus? (A)
wife talk youSG fifteen years stay, where money
'My wife told me you've been staying there for fifteen years. Where's the money?'

The above selected usages contain various types of verbs, such as: the affirmative *ruuh* 'went' in (39), the negated *yizi* 'come' with the negative particle *laa* 'not' in (40), and the two affirmative aspectual events within a question using the verbs: *kalaam* 'talk' and *iglis* 'stay' in (41) above. The *fii/maafii* syntactic device is expected to appear in a pre-verbal position to achieve consistency following Hejaz GPA conventions.

Therefore, the reason for this disappearance is hypothesized as at a certain structural aspectual stage, the *fii/maafii* syntactic device being perceived as serving another grammatical function. Such a precise function is randomly dominated by those speakers who are subconsciously satisfied by using only the verbs.

It is worth mentioning that the three above extracts, (39), (40) and (41), have been used by three different people who do not share the same mother tongue and that their length of stay in Hejaz has been between ten and fifteen years.

5-9 The negative *maafii*

The negative element consists of the negative particle /*maa-*'not' with /-*fii/* 'there is/are' or 'in'. According to Næss (2008: 69), it is a pseudo-verbal negation of which the syntactic expletive *fii* is negated by *maa-*. However, Bakir's (2010: 219) analysis is that *maafii* comes from the lexifier Gulf Arabic and has developed in GPA as a general negative particle with a wider scope of function. It is not only used to negate

existential and question sentences as in:

- (42) Inta *maafii* majnuun. (C)
youSG there isn't crazy
'You are not crazy.'

It is also used to negate sentences with main verbs as in:

- (43) inta *maafii* shugul katiir. (B)
you SG there isn't work a lot
'You don't work a lot.'

- (44) *maafii* akil tarabeeza? (A)
there isn't eat table
You do not eat on the table?

- (45) *maafii* rakkib fuluus bank. (A)
there isn't deposit money bank
I do not deposit my money in the bank.

The above extracts are variations of the main verbal function negated by *maafii*. Moreover, the single negative particle *maa* (not) appear in our data as in:

- (46) maa araf ana miin nafar. (G)
not know I SG who guy
I do not know who the guy was.

Other negating particles also occur as in:

- (47) laa, laa, lessa, baadeen. (B)
no, no, no yet, later
No, no, not yet. Later.

- (48) laa, laa, maa yizi. (A)
no, no, not come
No, no. He did not come yet.

No negating particles occur other than the above-mentioned, namely: 'laa' and 'maa' where both have the meaning (no~ not) appear in our data and they occur quite often. 'lessa' (not yet) and 'baadeen' (later) are negating/ adverbial phrases.

5-10 *fii/maafii* does not appear where expected

The collected data reveal two basic contexts where *fii/maafii* disappears where expected. The first one is when a Hejaz GPA user lives in this area

for over fifteen years, as informants (A), (C) and (F) as in:

- (49) katiir naas, zayy hajj. (A)
plenty people as Hajj time
There is a lot of people. It is like Hajj.
- (50) nafar maluum ana shugul medina. (C)
people know I SG work Medina
People know I worked in Medina.
- (51) haada katiir naas yizi ashaan mushkila wahid marra
maa kaffi. (F)
this plenty people come because problem one one
not enough
A lot of people come because the problem is one visit isn't
enough.

Generally, it has been noticed that the above informants' speech contain minimal *fii/maafii* syntactic device. Their speech can be characterized as borrowing sophisticated syntactic techniques from the lexifier language in Hejaz, such as 'zayy' (as..) in (49), and 'ashaan' (because) in (51) above. *fii* is likely to appear pre-verbally. Our hypothetical view is that at a certain stage, users of Hejaz GPA subconsciously dominate the precise function of *fii/maafii* and randomly modify some limited structural aspects in the Hejaz GPA simple linguistic system.

The second instance is when our two informants (D) and (E) from Africa, specifically Eritrea and Somalia, show slight or no existence of the *fii/maafii* syntactic device in their Hejaz GPA system as in:

- (52) walla shugul miyya miyya. (D)
(by) Allah work hundred percent
Honestly, the work is a hundred percent.
- (53) min kida tisaa ashara sana. (D)
from this nine ten years
I've been here for nine or ten years.
- (54) keef maa yizi? ashara marra yizi. (E)
how not come? ten times come
What do you mean I did not come? I came over ten times.
- (55) haada beet ana sawwi zayy kida, waahid gurfa. (E)
this house I SG made like this, one room
I made my house like this; one room.

The above utterances (52-55) are random selections of different structural forms to exemplify minimal occurrence of the *fii/maafii* syntactic device as appears in the usage by informants (D) and (E). Sentence (52) is a simple sentence, (53) is a conditional, (54) is a question conditional argumentation and (55) contains two sequential noun phrases and the adverbial phrase ‘zayykida’ (like this).

On the whole, the Hejaz GPA is characterized by being a simplified pidgin linguistic system of Gulf Arabic with the absence of functional categories as agreement, number and gender and containing very little affixation or inflection. Lack of inflectional morphology, strong reference for analytic structures, reduced verbal, nominal and pronominal paradigms compared to the substrate and superstrate languages make this simplified pidgin system non intimate and a cause of some laughter. One main distinguishing characteristic of a pidgin is that it does not have native speakers and is a first generation contact language. So GPA and Hejaz GPA have not developed into a Creole.

6- Conclusion

The status of Hejaz GPA reveals a significant structural description of *fii/maafii* linguistic variety in this article. Generally, the Hejaz GPA structure is characterized by its simplified rules and impoverished grammar. Some degree of consistency can generally be seen in its usage, although this is not always found to be the case depending on the speakers’ L₁ typology.

As a pidgin language in its early stages, the Hejaz GPA is a simplified pre-grammatical system which is not yet fully stabilized. This degree of pidginization justifies variations found in the informants speech beside other aspects which lie outside the scope of this paper, such as the speaker’s level of education and amount of practice achieved in Hejaz GPA. Less variation and more consistency to increase regularity can be achieved when speakers spend a longer time practicing this linguistic system.

The *fii/maafii* syntactic device as a preposition and as an existential copula borrowed directly from the lexifier language has a wider scope of functions in Hejaz GPA. Besides predication, it occurs in questions with a free word order. It occurs initially after a question word, medially or finally. It is found to be used for indicating affirmative modality and

conditionality, but inside a linguistic system that suffers inflectional poverty in general. It also occurs pre-verbally to involve a past action, continuous aspect and habitual state. The verb is also found to be used independently in a number of instances where it is not preceded by this syntactic device in some Hejaz GPA informants choices which is randomly dominated by those speakers who subconsciously are satisfied by not using them.

maafiis also a pseudo-verbal negative device and appears in existential and question sentences. Simple ‘*maa*’ (not) ‘*laa*’ (no) as single negating particles are also used frequently in Hejaz GPA common linguistic devices for negation. Informants who spend longer than fifteen years in Hejaz show minimal usage of the *fii/maafiis* syntactic device. Their speech is characterized by borrowing more sophisticated techniques from the lexifier language of Hejaz and these are confidently used. Words such as ‘*ashaan*’ (because) and ‘*zayy*’ (like) are just two of many of these lexical forms and phrases.

Finally, informants from Africa use speech with little or no occurrence of *fii/maafiis* syntactic device. This case supports the hypothesis that their substrate language does not contain this syntactic device, a case that is/are found in the Asian labor force’s substrate languages such as Urdu, (Bakir 2010:218). More research is needed in this field to confirm the relevant hypotheses and to enrich the discussion with further related conclusions.

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