



**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE SOUND ALTERNATIONS
OF ENGLISH AND ARABIC ARTICLES**

THESIS

Written by:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
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Presented for equipping the final project and for fulfilling one of the requirements to
finish S1 English program and to reach Sarjana Sastra Degree

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to:

1. My amazing mother, Maimunah who always support and pray for my way;
2. My beloved brothers and sisters who always accompany and teach me in my childhood;
3. My dearly beloved husband, Eka Nova Setyawan who came to my life in the latest time of my study, give me pressure to quickly finish my thesis, thank you, and thank you for the new life.
4. All of my teachers since the beginning of my study until now for the valuable guidance all this time;
5. Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

MOTTO

Seek (beneficial) knowledge, because seeking it for the sake of Allah is a worship; knowing it makes you more God-fearing; searching for it is jihad; teaching it to those who do not know is charity; reviewing and learning it more is like tasbeeh. Through knowledge Allah will be known and worshipped.

(Ibn Taymiyyah)

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “A comparative study of the sound alternations of English and Arabic articles” is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, July 24th 2013

The writer,

Mu’rifah

090110101118

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praises to Allah SWT, the Almighty God to whom I pray for His blessings so that I can finish my study and this thesis. This thesis is regarded as a scientific report and intended to be the final compulsory assignment of English study as well as the requirement of achieving the Sarjana Sastra Degree at the Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

I would like to thank my first and second supervisors, Drs. Wisasongko, M.A. and Drs. Albert Tallapessy, M.A, Ph.D who have used their time for supervising my thesis, correcting my work and giving me a valuable assistance. I thank them for their guidance, motivations, suggestions and patience. My gratitude also goes to Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed., the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Drs. Moch. Ilham, MSi., the former Head of English Department for giving me the chance to write this thesis.

My sincere gratitude is also dedicated to all of the lecturers of the English department, Faculty of Letters that have given me the valuable knowledge and all librarians of the central library of Jember University who have supplied me with the valuable materials to support my thesis. The last thank is for my best friends who have disposed to share and inspired about my thesis.

May Allah SWT reward them the best in the world. At last, I hope this thesis will contribute to the study of linguistics.

Jember, July 24th 2013

Mu'rifah

SUMMARY

A Comparative Study of the Sound Alternations of English and Arabic Articles; Mu'rifah, 090110101118; 2013: 86 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Sound alternation is a way of expressing grammatical categories which consists in changing a sound. It may occur in any languages. This thesis discusses about that problem which is applied in two languages namely English and Arabic and then comparing them in the sound alternation's application. Because this thesis discusses about two main points, they are about the sound alternations of two languages and the comparison between those two languages, it uses two theories. They are generative phonology theory and comparative analysis theory.

This thesis is intended to describe phonologically the sound alternations which occur in the English and Arabic and compare them to know the similarities and the differences of them. Library research is used in collecting data in this thesis because all of the data and analysis are taken from written materials. The descriptive method is used to describe the presented data, while the comparative method is used to know the similarities and the differences between the sound alternations in English and Arabic articles.

After finding the Underlying Representation based on the allophones of the articles, the sound alternations are described by phonological rules, and the derivational process is used to generate from the Underlying Representation to the Phonetic Representation. The result of this thesis indicates that there are some similarities and differences in the sound alternations of both English and Arabic articles. The similarities are that both English and Arabic definite articles apply

assimilation rule and unchanged rule as the appropriate rule in derivational process. Furthermore, the differences of them are that the indefinite articles of English apply insertion rule and unchanged rule, while Arabic does not apply any rule to its indefinite articles. Arabic has only the marker in indefiniteness and has no sound alternation occurs. The allophones of English definite article are only two namely /ðə/ and /ði/, while there are 14 allophones of Arabic definite article, they are /ʌl/, /ʌt/, /ʌθ/, /ʌd/, /ʌð/, /ʌr/, /ʌz/, /ʌs/, /ʌʃ/, /ʌsʰ/, /ʌdʰ/, /ʌtʰ/, /ʌðʰ/ and /ʌn/. The discussion of the definite article of Arabic is more complex than definite article of English because the applied rules are also more complex.

In conclusion, sound alternations occur in English and Arabic, and may be in other languages, but in applying the rules which make the sound alternations may be the same and may be different. Studying the differences of some languages in this case is important in order to be aware in pronouncing them correctly.

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