

**ANALYZING ARABIC-ENGLISH INTERLANGUAGE CODA  
CONSONANT CLUSTERS: OPTIMALITY THEORETIC  
APPROACH**

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CLUSTERS: AN OPTIMALITY THEORETIC APPROACH**

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## ABSTRACT

*The study investigates the problematic English coda consonant clusters which Arabic speakers have in pronouncing English. This investigation involves a constraint-based analysis of interlanguage syllable structure within the optimality framework to see how the native language (NL) interferes in L2 pronunciation. The study presents an analysis of interlanguage (IL) syllable structure and answers a question in how NL interfere in Arabic speakers articulation of ESL syllable structure. It also investigates the effective role of the markedness of the forms in contributing to such difficulty in pronunciation. In other words, how these two factors affect Arabic speakers` pronunciation of English coda consonant clusters. This study focuses on the simplification of English codas by Arabic ESL learners and argues the interlanguage production within the OT framework to explain the origin and the choice of the simplification strategies used.*

## **ABSTRAK**

Kajian ini meneliti kumpulan konsonan koda Bahasa Inggeris yang bermasalah apabila disebut oleh penutur Bahasa Arab. Penyelidikan ini melibatkan analisis kendala yang berasaskan struktur bahasa antara suku kata dalam Teori Optimum (OT) untuk melihat bagaimana bahasa asli (NL) mengganggu dalam penyebutan L2. Penyelidikan ini menyajikan analisis interlanguage (IL) struktur suku kata dan menjawab soalan bagaimana NL mengganggu dalam artikulasi struktur suku kata Bahasa Inggeris sebagai Bahasa Kedua (ESL) oleh penutur berbahasa Arab. Hal ini menyiasat peranan berkesan bentuk markedness untuk menyumbang dalam kesulitan tersebut dalam sebutan. Dengan kata lain, kajian ini menyiasat bagaimana kedua-dua faktor mempengaruhi sebutan kumpulan koda konsonan Bahasa Inggeris penutur Bahasa Arab. Kajian ini memfokuskan kepada penyederhanaan koda Bahasa Inggeris yang dibuat oleh pelajar Arab yang mempelajari ESL dan berpendapat bahawa pengeluaran bahasa antara rangka OT untuk menjelaskan asal dan pilihan strategi penyederhanaan yang digunakan.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BA	Bachelor's Degree
C	Consonant
CA	Classical Arabic
CAH	Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis
DEP	Dependence
ESL	English as a Second Language
EVAL	Evaluator
GE	General English
GEN	Generator
IDENT	Identity
IL	Interlanguage
L1	First Language
L2	Second Language
MAX	Maximality
MDH	Markedness Differential Hypothesis
MSA	Modern Standard Arabic
NL	Native Language
TL	Target Language

OT	Optimality Theory
QA	Qur`anic Arabic
SAE	Standard American English
SLA	Second Language Acquisition
UG	Universal Grammar
V	Vowel