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The “White Dialect” of young Arabic speakers from Qassim (Saudi Arabia)

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The use of the Qassimi Arabic variants in the White Dialect

Introduction

In the pilot study, the young Qassimi Arabic (QA) speakers reported that they use that what they call the White Dialect (WD) in interactions with people who are not speakers of QA, and that they try to avoid certain QA features when having such interactions.

This chapter will first describe the use of the six QA variables introduced in Chapter 3 in contexts where they would be expected to use the WD (see 5.1.1 for details). This will be compared to the rates of use of these six QA variables in in-group QA speech as produced by the same young speakers. The following chapter (Chapter 6) provides more detailed description on the main features of the WD speech used by the young QA speakers.

5.1 PART 1: The six Qassimi Arabic variants in the White Dialect of QA speakers

5.1.1 Methodology

As mentioned in Chapter 2 (section 2.2.3 Stage 2), the participants in this study were requested to provide two video or audio recordings of their social media posts: one directed to a Saudi audience, and the other for a general Arabic-speaking audience. The young participants explicitly confirmed that these posts represent a way of speaking that they would call “White Dialect”. The reason for testing the two types of audiences was to check whether they speak differently to a closed audience (Saudis) than to a broader audience of Arabs in general.

5.1.2 Analysis

The data was analysed in the same way as the in-group QA speech in Chapter 4 (section 4.1.2); that is, by calculating the difference between two main values: the number of times when the QA variant is expected to be used (the expected number), and the number of times a speaker actually used the QA variant (the actual number). The percentage of the linguistic variant use was calculated based on these two values.

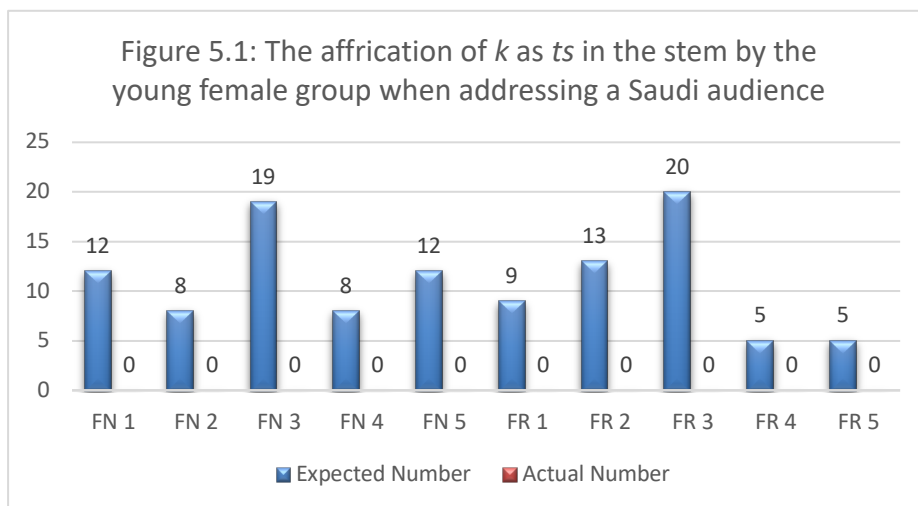
Each linguistic variable is discussed individually. The discussion of each linguistic variable includes four figures: the first two figures present the results from the female group, when addressing Saudis, and when addressing Arabs in general, and the other two figures present the results from the male group, when talking to Saudis, and when talking to Arabs in general.

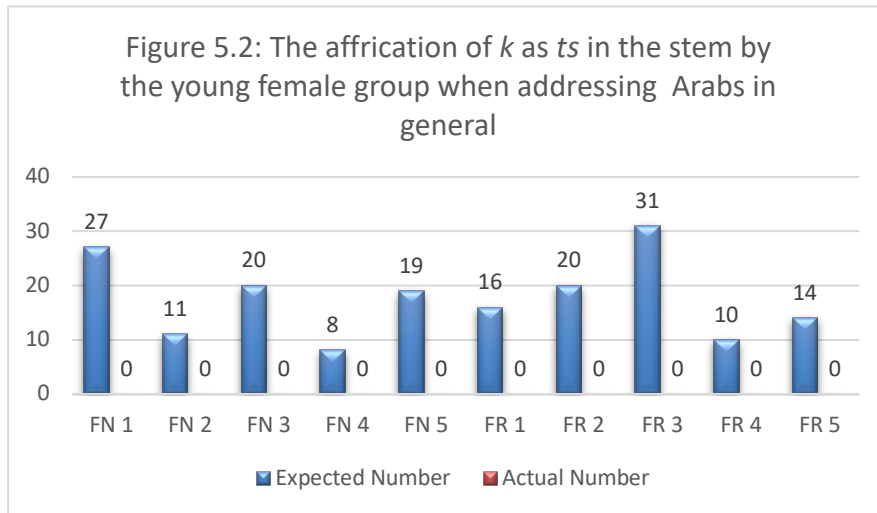
5.1.3 The use of the six QA variants in the WD

In this section, I present the data concerning the six variables described in chapter 3 in the social media posts produced by the young QA speakers.

The affrication of *k* as *ts* in the stem

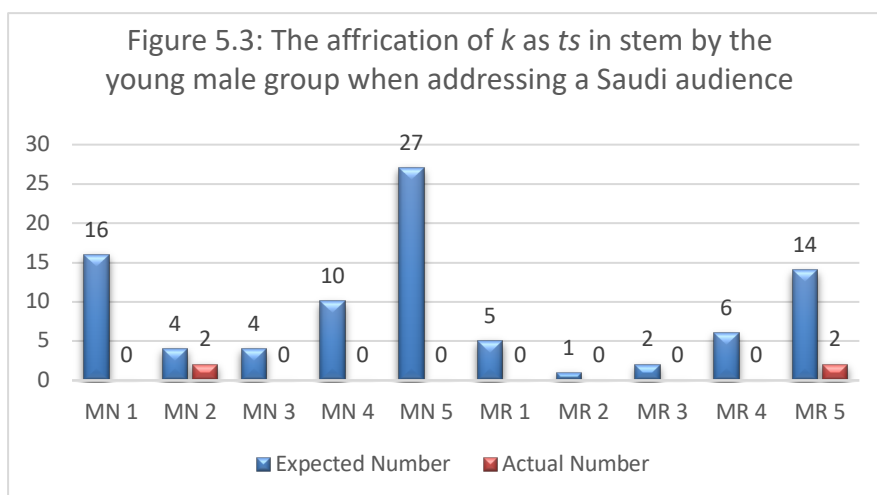
Figure 5.1 shows the use of this variant when the young female speakers were using the WD to address a Saudi audience, while Figure 5.1 shows their use of this variant when they were addressing Arabs in general.

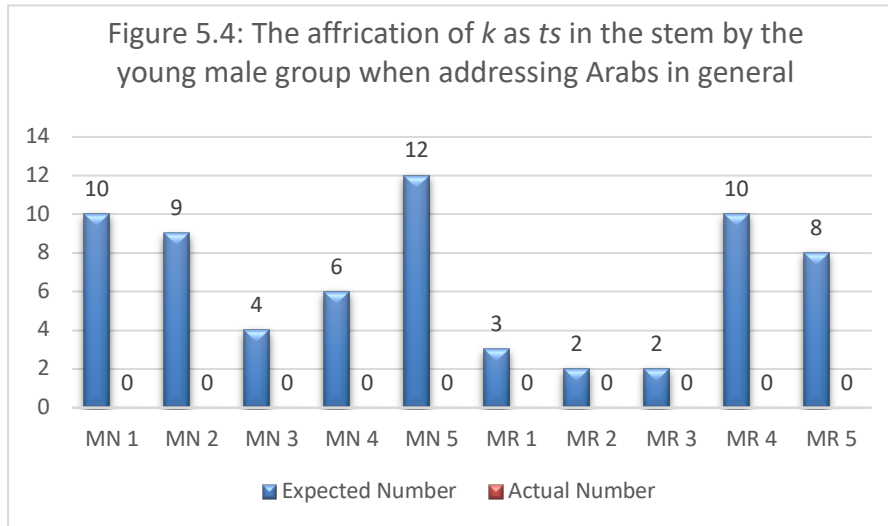




As the two figures 5.1 and 5.2 show, the affrication of *k* as *ts* in the stem was never used by the female group in their WD speech.

Figures 5.3 and 5.4 show the affrication of *k* as *ts* in the stem by the male participants when addressing Saudis, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.

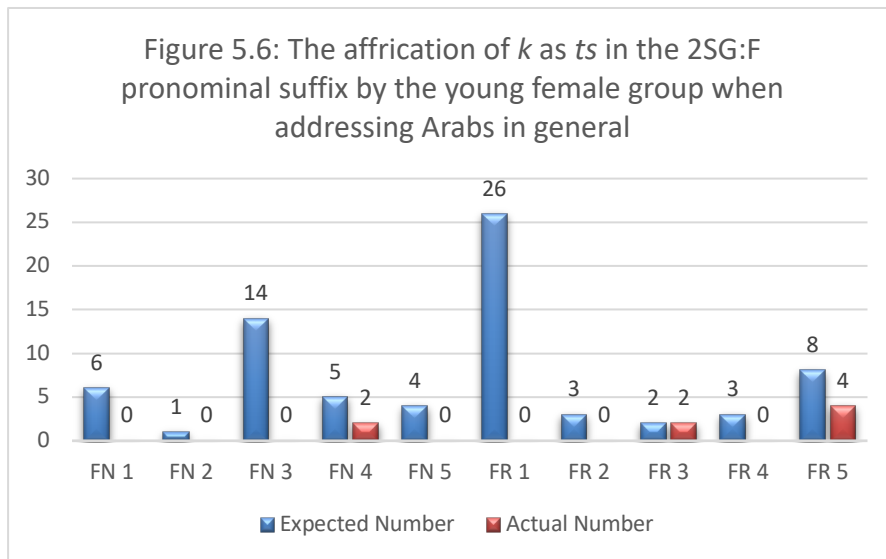
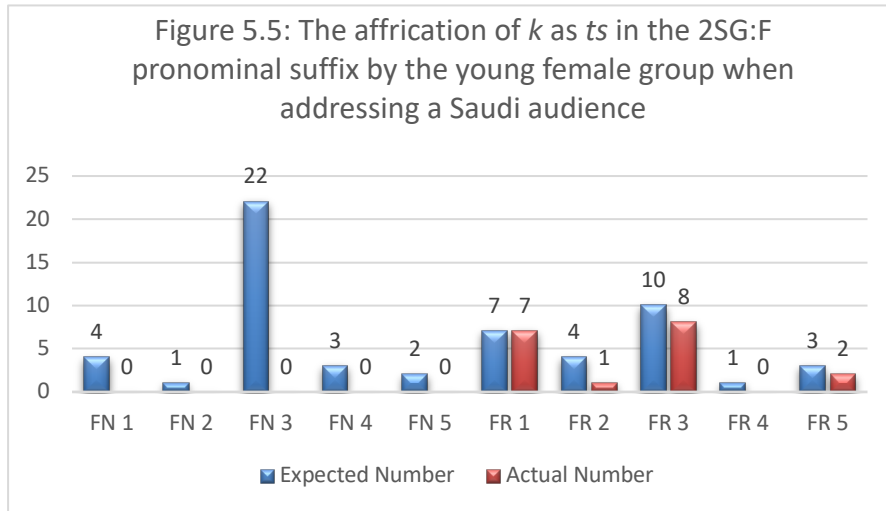




Two young male participants (namely MN 2 and MR5) used the variant in their WD speech when addressing a Saudi audience. They used it specifically in two words *tsiðb* ‘lie, not true’, and *tsinnuh* ‘it he looks like’. Meanwhile, the two participants avoided the use of the *ts* variant in the stem when addressing the Arabs in general even in the same words that they affricated when addressing the Saudi audience.

The affrication of *k* as *ts* in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix

Figures 5.5 and 5.6 show the affrication of *k* as *ts* in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix by the female participants when addressing Saudis, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.



Overall, the two figures show that the *ts* variant was used in the 2SG:F pronominal suffix by the young female speakers at a rate of 32% when addressing a Saudi audience and of 11.11% when addressing Arabs in general. It is important to note that the expected number of the variant *ts* in the 2SG:F pronominal suffix is low compared to the percentages found in the in-group speech of the young female group. The rationale behind this low rate of the expected number is that the young female

participants used an alternative method to avoid the affrication in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix: they used the 2PL.M pronominal suffix where the 2SG.F pronominal suffix would be expected, as illustrated by the following examples:

(1) *istaxdimi: af-fa:mbu: hag-kum* (instead of) *hag-its*

IMP.F.SG.use DET.shampoo PREP-2PL.M

‘use your shampoo’

(2) *irdziʕi: il-beit-kum* (instead of) *il-beit-its*

IMP.F.SG.go.back PREP-house-2M.PL

‘go back to your house’

(3) *istaxdimi: al-mitwaffir ʕind-kum* (instead of) *ʕind-its*

IMP.F.SG.use DET-available PREP-2M.PL

‘use what is available to you’

This strategy was also noticed by Al-Azragi (2007) when investigating the affrication in what she calls “the Najdi dialect”. She referred to it as one of the indirect methods of avoiding the 2SG.F pronominal suffix. According to Al-Azragi, speakers use this strategy only when they are talking about a shared possession, such as a house which is shared by all family members and is not exclusive to the addressed female. The results of my study concerning the use of the *ts* variant in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix in the WD speech of the young female group correspond to Al-Azragi’s (2007), as the participants never used this strategy when referring to the private property of the addressed female.

In addition, in my corpus, I detected another method that the speakers use to refer to the private property of a female addressee while avoiding affrication: namely, avoiding the possessive pronoun and expressing the object without pronominal reference, as in the following examples:

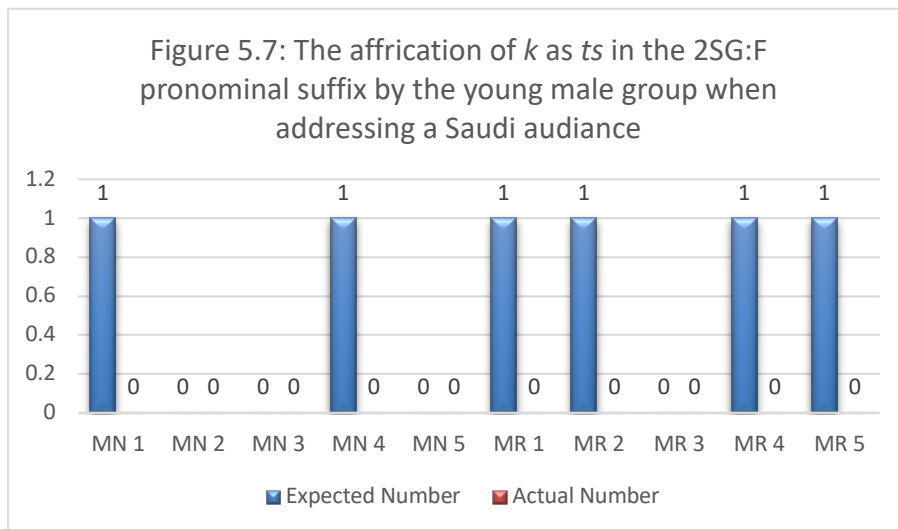
- (4) *al-karbuhaidra:t bsrʕih tarfaʕ as-sikkar wa bsrʕih tinazl-uh*
 DET-carbohydrates rapidly 3F.SG.raise DET-sugar CONJ rapidly 3SG.F.lower-
 3SG.M.DO
 ‘the carbohydrates rapidly raise and lower the sugar level’

Here, instead of saying *sikkar-ts* ‘your sugar’ using the feminine possessive pronoun, the speaker uses an unpossessed noun with the definite article.

- (5) *bida:l ma tinazli:n wazin tinazli:n ʕaðʕal*
 instead CONJ 2SG.F.lose weight 2SG.F.lose muscle
 ‘instead of losing weight you lose muscle’

In this example, instead of saying *wazin-its* ‘your weight’ and *ʕaðʕal-ts* ‘your muscles’, the speaker refers to the concepts in general without the use of possessive pronouns.

Figures 5.7 and 5.8 show the affrication of *k* as *ts* in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix by the male participants when addressing Saudis, and when addressing Arabs, respectively.



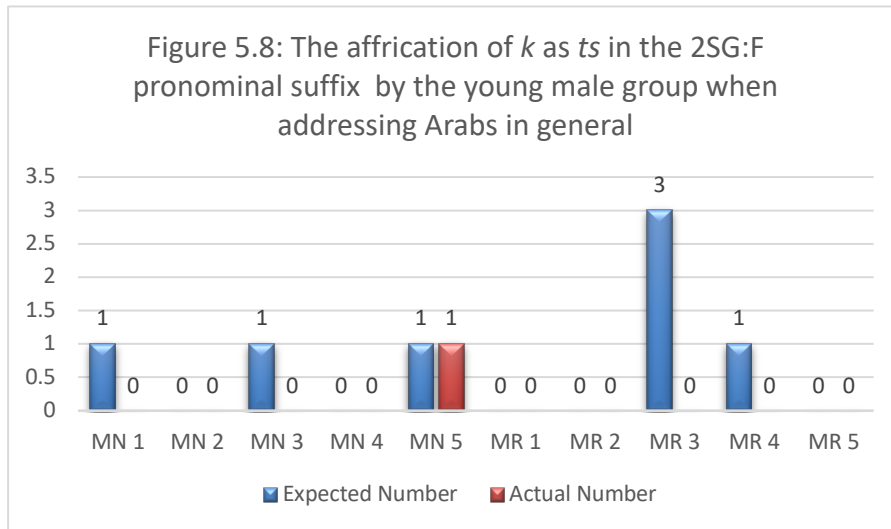


Figure 5.7 and 5.8 show that the expected number for the use of this variant by the male group in their WD speech is very low, thus, it is impossible to come up with a conclusion. As mentioned previously (Chapter 4), it is difficult to investigate affrication in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix in the young male group as this kind of affrication requires the participants to be addressing female counterparts. In their social media posts, the young male participants address both the Saudi audience and the Arabs in general using the 3PL.M pronominal suffix as they were speaking about general topics that concern both genders.

The affrication of *g* or *q* as *dz*

Figures 5.9 and 5.10 show the affrication of *q* or *g* as *dz* by the female participants when addressing Saudis, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.

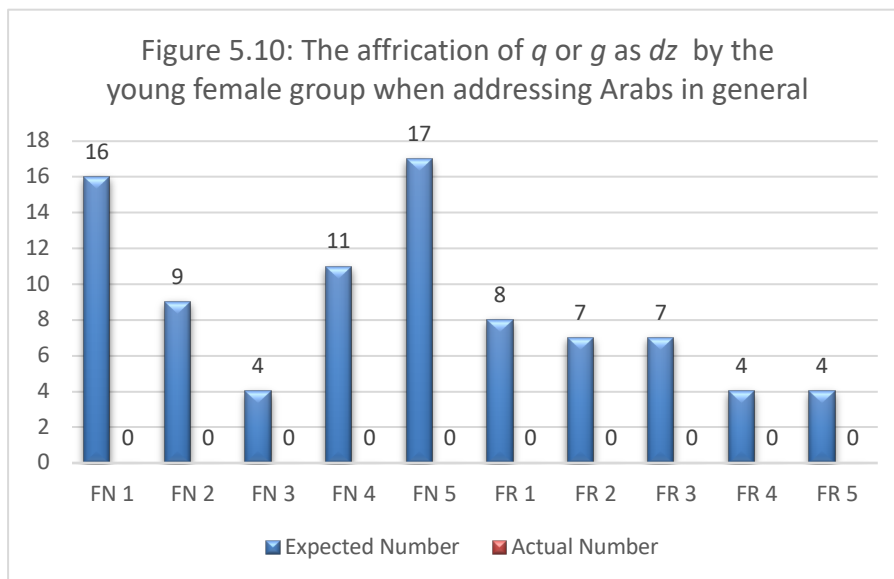
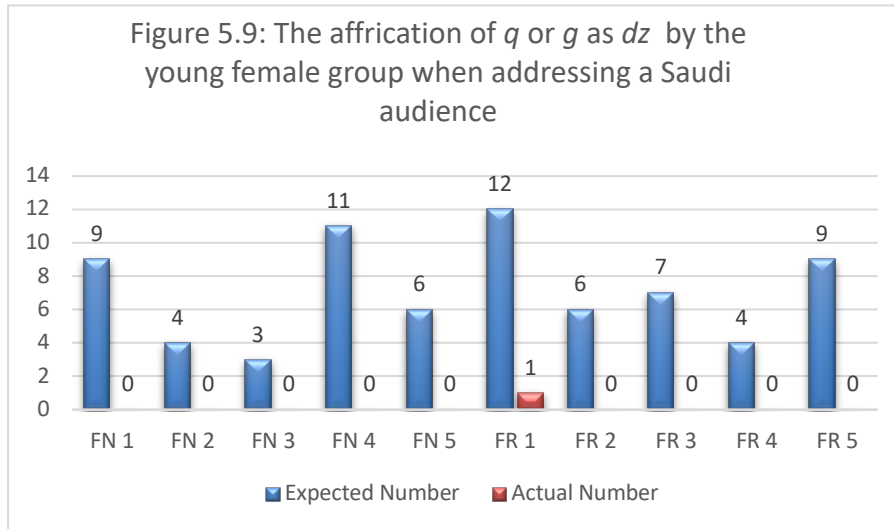
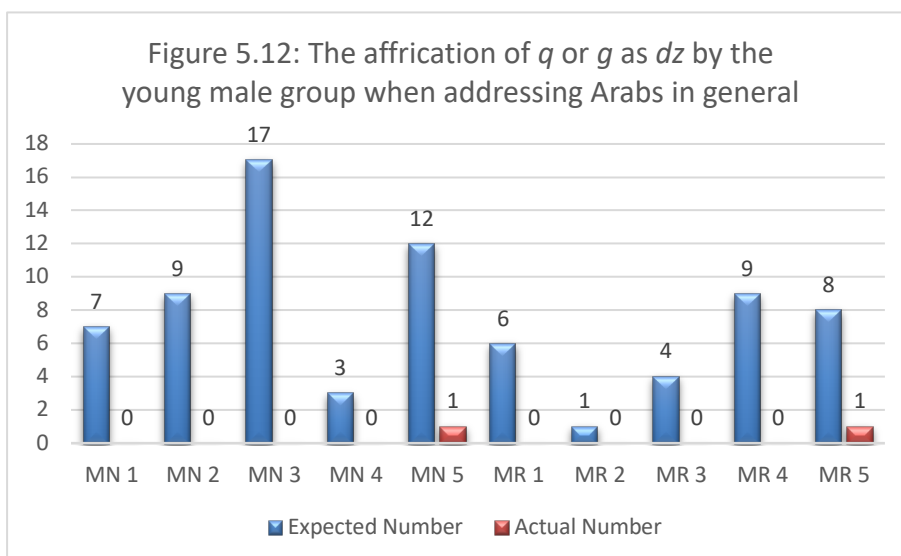
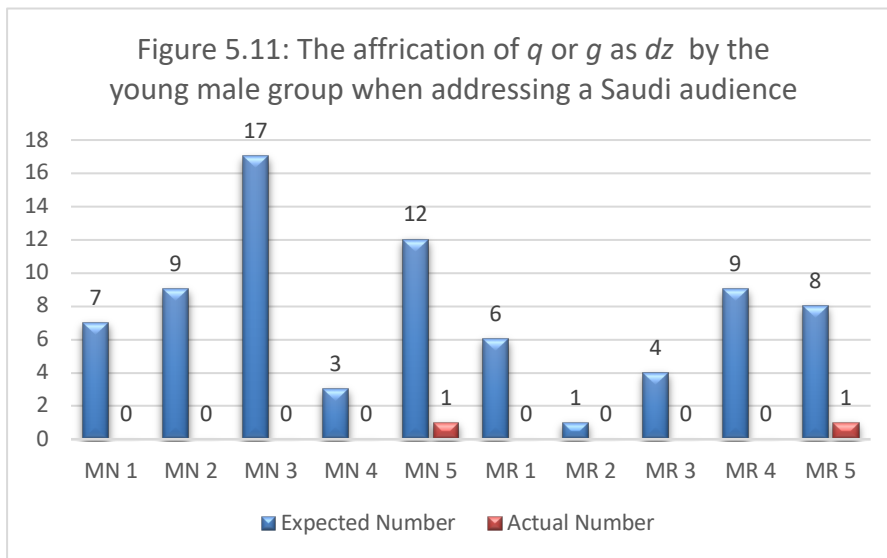


Figure 5.9 shows that the variant was used only once by one participant. Among all the 12 expected times in her WD speech, participant FR1 used the variant *dz* once in the word *s'a:dzih* 'she is honest', while she pronounced it without

affrication two other times. The other 9 female participants did not use the variant *dz* in their WD speech at all.

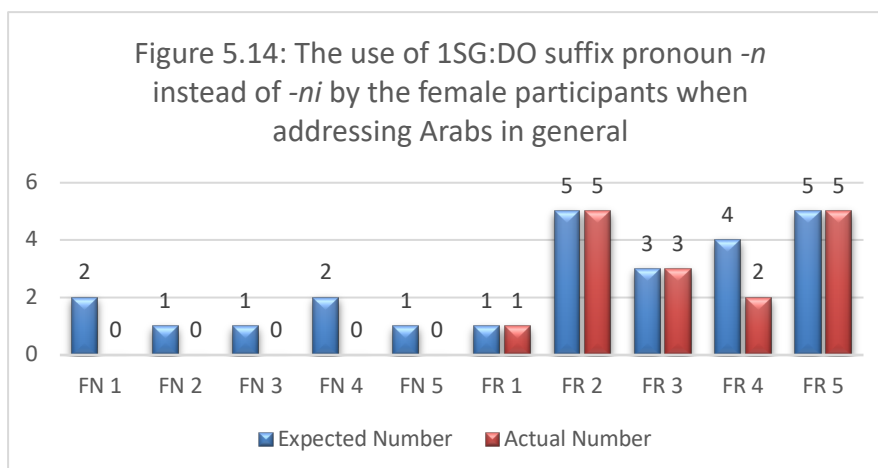
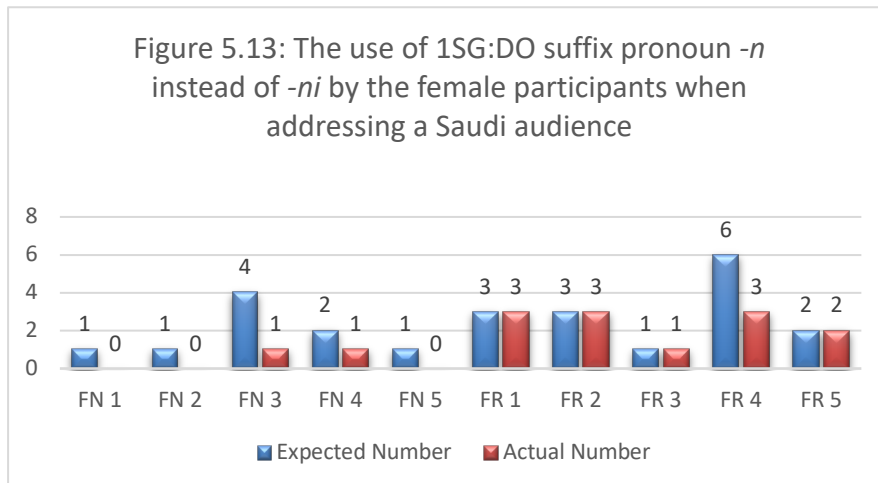
Figures 5.11 and 5.12 show the affrication of *q* or *g* as *dz* by the male participants when addressing Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.



As in the female group, the *dz* variant was used only in one word *sʿa:dz* ‘he is honest’ which was pronounced as *sʿa:dig* 3 other times by the same participants (MN5 and MR5).

The use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of *-ni*

Figures 5.13 and 5.14 show the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of *-ni* by the female participants when addressing a Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.

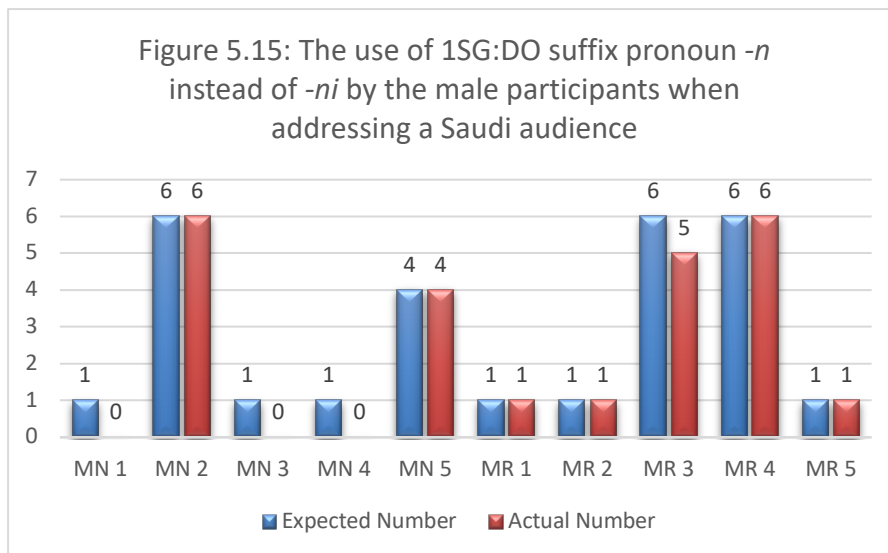


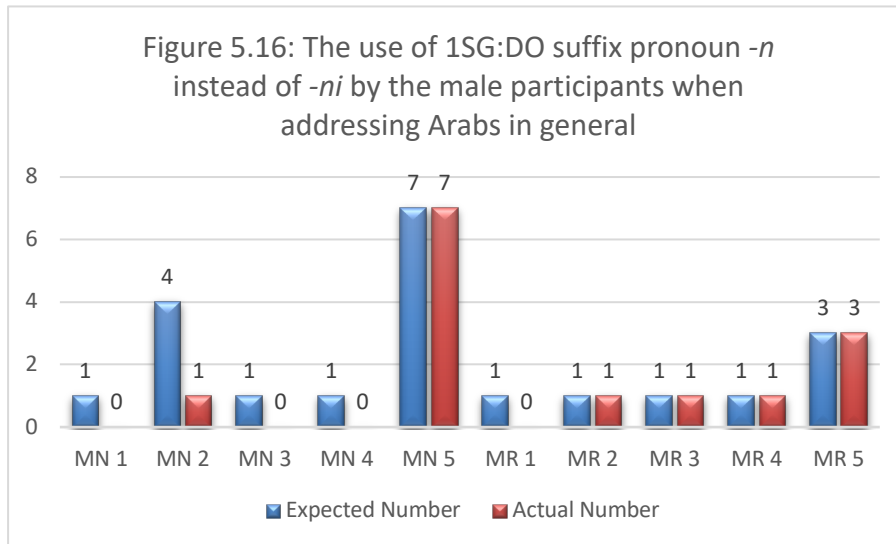
Overall, the female participants used the 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of its other variant *-ni* in their WD speech with a rate of 69.39%. Both figures (5.13 and 5.14) show that the young female speakers who received religious education (FR1-FR5) used the variant more than those who received a normal education (FN1-FN5). The difference of use between the two subgroups in the female group is statically significant as shown in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: *t*-test results for the difference between the two female subgroups’ use of the variant 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of its variant *-ni*

	number	mean	standard deviation	<i>t</i> - test
FN1 - FN5	5	11.11	15.71	0.03
FR1 – FR5	5	84.45	6.29	

Figures 5.15 and 5.16 show the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of *-ni* by the male participants when addressing Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.





Overall, the male participants used the 1SG:DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of *-ni* in their WD speech with a rate of 77.55%. The rate of use in the male group is higher than that in the female group; , however, the difference of use between the two groups is not statically significant as shown in Table 5.2. Moreover, unlike in the female group, the type of education does not seem to affect the use of this variant in the WD of the male speakers as the *t*-test result shows no statistically significant differences between the two male subgroups (shown in Table 5.3.)

Table 5.2: The *t*-test results of the difference in the use of the 1SG:DO suffix pronoun *-n* in the WD by the female and male groups.

	number	mean	standard deviation	<i>t</i> - test
female group	10	61.17	4.01	0.27
male group	10	76.19	13.47	

Table 5.3: *t*-test results for the difference between the two male subgroups' use of the variant 1SG:DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of its variant *-ni*.

	number	mean	standard deviation	<i>t</i> - test
MN1 - MN5	5	67.03	13.99	0.17
MR1 – MR5	5	89.52	5.39	

In general, the expected numbers of use of the 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* by both the two groups in the WD is lower than that in their in-group QA speech. The reason behind this is that young QA speakers are using two alternative ways to avoid the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* in their WD speech. The first way is by using the 1SG independent pronoun *ana*: ‘I’, as in the following two examples:

- (6) *gill-uh* *ana: ʔafraḥ* *b-hada:ja:-h*
 IMP.M.SG.tell-3SG.M I 1SG.delight PREP-gifts-3SG.M.POS
 ‘tell him that I get delighted by his gifts’

Instead of:

- gill-uh* *tara:-h* *jifarḥa-n* *b-hada:ja:-h*
 IMP.M.SG.tell-3SG.M CONJ-3SG.M 3SG.M.delight-1SG.DO PREP-gifts-3SG.M.POS
 ‘‘tell him that he delights me with his gifts.’’

- (7) *hu: jadri* *innuh⁸* *ana: atδ^ca:jag*
 he 3SG.M.know CONJ I 1SG.get annoyed
 ‘he knows that I get annoyed’

instead of:

- hu: jadri* *innuh jδ^ca:jiga-n*
 he 3SG.M.know CONJ 3.SG.M.annoy-1SG.DO
 ‘he knows that he annoys me’

⁸ *innuh* is a neutral QA conjunction ‘that’.

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The second alternative method to avoid the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* in the WD speech is to speak in a general sense without using the first-person pronoun, by using the form: noun phrase + adjective + *binisbah li*: ‘for me’, as in the following two examples:

- (8) *h-al-mauð'u:ʕ migrif binisbah li:*
DEM-DET-issue disgusting concerning PREP.1SG
‘this issue is disgusting for me’

instead of:

- h-al-mauð'u:ʕ jigrifa-n*
DEM-DET-issue 3SG.M.disgust-1SG.DO
‘this issue disgusts me’

- (9) *ad-dait ʕaða:b binisbah li:*
DET-diet torture concerning PREP.1SG
‘the diet is a torture for me’

instead of:

- ad-dait jaʕaðba-n*
DET-diet 3SG.M.torture-1SG.DO
‘the diet tortures me’

- (10) *al-dʒa:mʕih. yaθa: binisbah li: h-al-ʔajja:m*
DET-university a nuisance concerning PREP.1SG DEM-DET-days
‘the university is a nuisance for me these days’

instead of:

- al-dʒa:mʕih. tiyiθa-n h-al-ʔajja:m*
DET-university 3SG.F..annoy-1SG.DO DEM-DET-days
‘the university annoys me these days’

The second method was observed only in expressions with negative connotations. Specifically, it occurred with just three verbs in the whole dataset: ‘disgust’, ‘annoy’, and ‘torture’, as in the examples just given.

The presence of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* fluctuates in WD speech. This is especially noticeable when multiple possible contexts occur in one sentence, as in the following example:

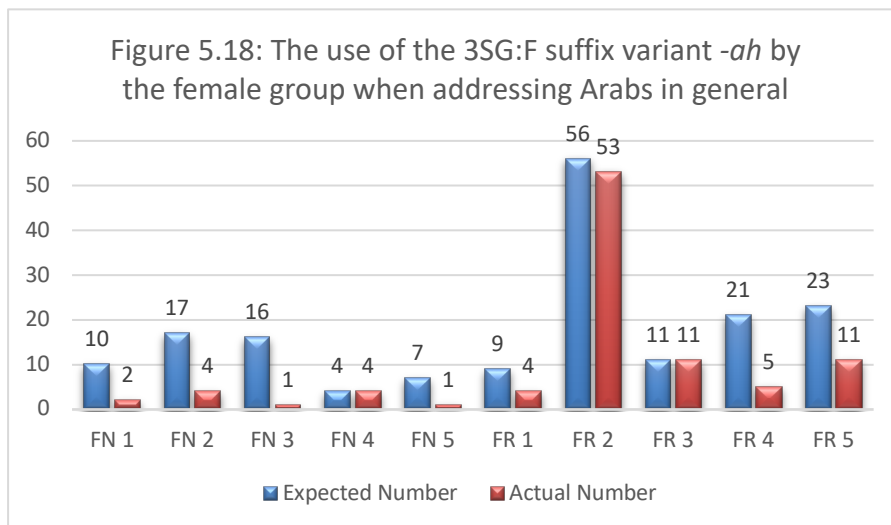
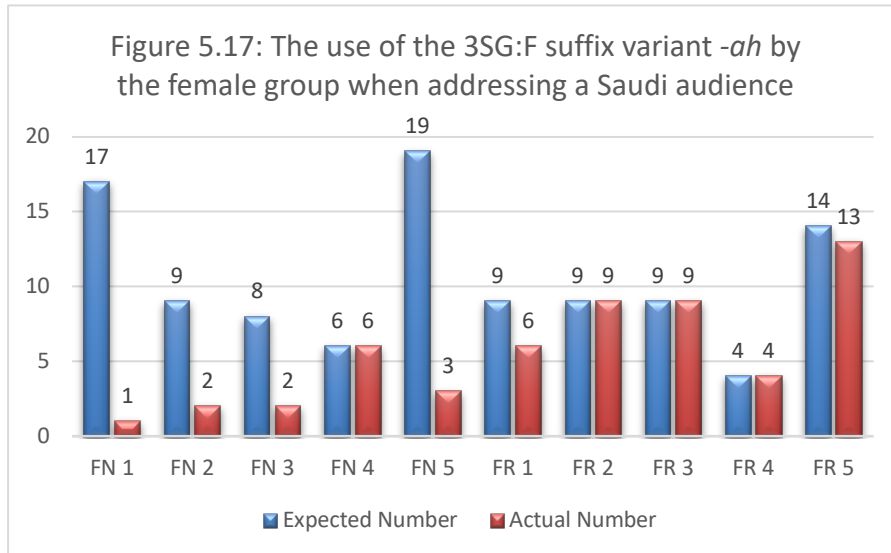
mumkin all'ah ma ast'a:-n ijah li?ann-uh jið'ir-an
 maybe Allah NEG 3SG.M.give-1SG.DO it because-3SG.M 3SG.M.harm-1SG.DO
 ‘Allah might not give it to me because it harms me’

In this example, the speaker used the 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-ni* at the beginning of the sentence *ast'a:-ni*, but went back to the QA 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* at the end of the same sentence *jið'ir-an*.

The speakers do not adhere exclusively to one single approach regarding the 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* when using the WD. Rather, they tend to alternate between the four approaches: for example, they use *-ni* at the beginning of their discourse, then they switch to *-n*; then, after a while they alternate between the two alternative methods of avoidance mentioned above; then they go back to *-ni*. Ultimately, the use of the 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* is not stable in the WD, in contrast to its situation in in-group QA speech.

The use of the 3SG.F suffix variant *-ah*

Figures 5.17 and 5.18 show the use of this variant by the female participants when addressing Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.



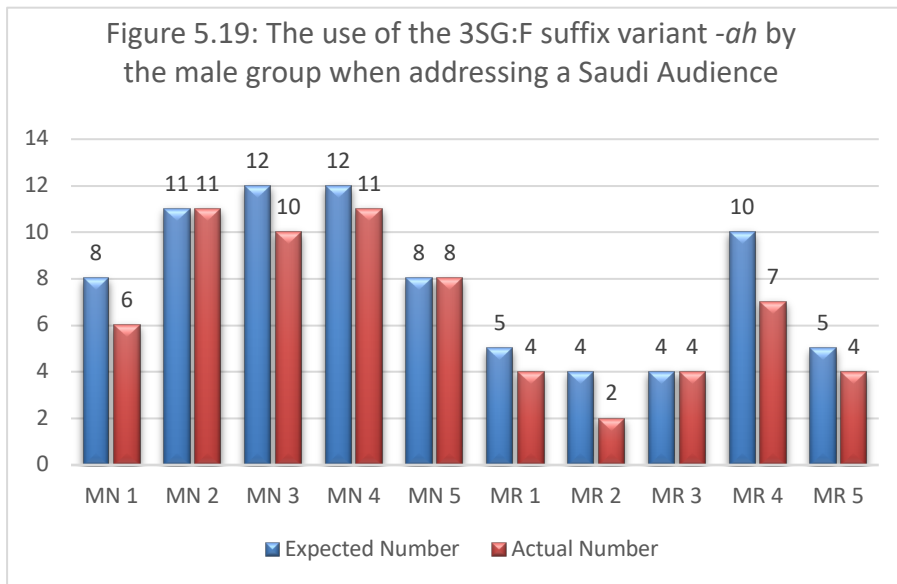
In general, the variant *-ah* was used in the 3SG:F suffix pronoun in the females' WD speech with a rate of 54.32%. The use of this variant is almost the same when addressing the two types of audience; as they used this variant with a rate of 52.88% when addressing Saudi audience and with a rate of 55.17% when addressing Arabs. Similar to the female group's result when investigating the variant 1SG.DO

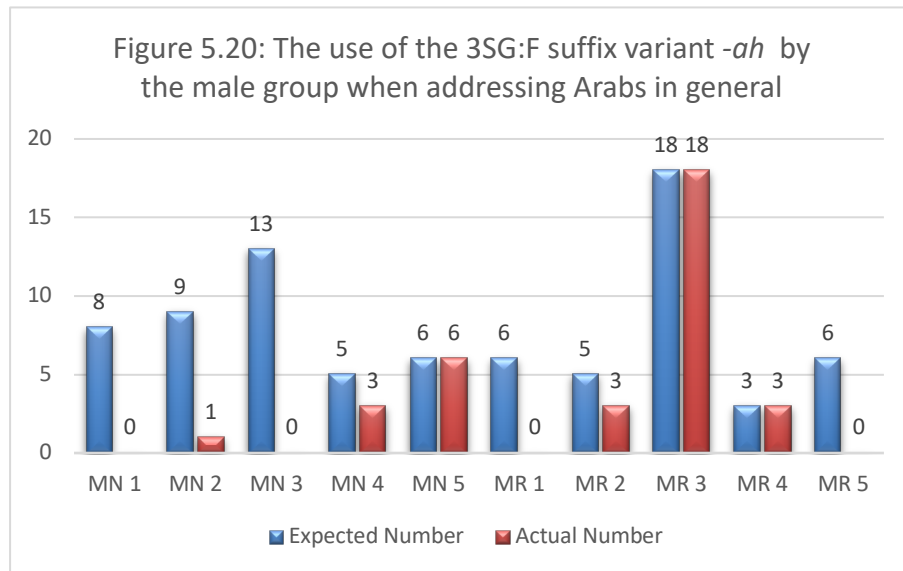
suffix pronoun *-n*, the Qassimi variant *-ah* was found more in the WD speech of the female speakers who received the religious education (FR1-FR5). The difference in the use of this variant among the two types of education is statistically significant as the *t*-test result shows in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4: *t*-test results for the difference between the two female subgroups’ use of the variant the 3SG.F suffix variant *-ah*

	number	mean	standard deviation	<i>t</i> - test
FN1 - FN5	5	22.98	1.07	0.03
FR1 – FR5	5	80.56	14.93	

Figures 5.19 and 5.20 show the use of this variant by the male participants when addressing Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.





Overall, in the males' WD speech the 3SG:F suffix variant *-ah* was used with a rate of 63.92%. Unlike the female group, the male participants showed a significant difference in their use of this variant when addressing the two types of audiences as the *t*-test result shows in Table 5.5. When addressing a Saudi audience, the male group used the variant with a rate of 84.81%, while when addressing Arabs in general, they used it with a rate of 43.04%. However, the male group did not show any difference concerning the use of this variant that are related to the type of education they have received.

Table 5.5: *t*-test result for the difference in the male group's use of the variant the 3SG:F suffix variant *-ah* between the two types of audience.

	mean	standard deviation	<i>t</i> - test
Saudi audience	1.2	1.03	0.04
Arabs in general	1.2	4.40	

The data collected show that in the WD the use of the 3SG:F variant *-ah* is unstable among all the participants. They all seemed to start with the non-Qassimi

variant *-(a)ha* when beginning to talk and give it up once they started to get deeper into their speeches or arguments. Speakers’ awareness of this variant in QA gave rise to many issues concerning number and gender agreement in their WD speech. This phenomenon will be discussed in detail in Chapter 6.

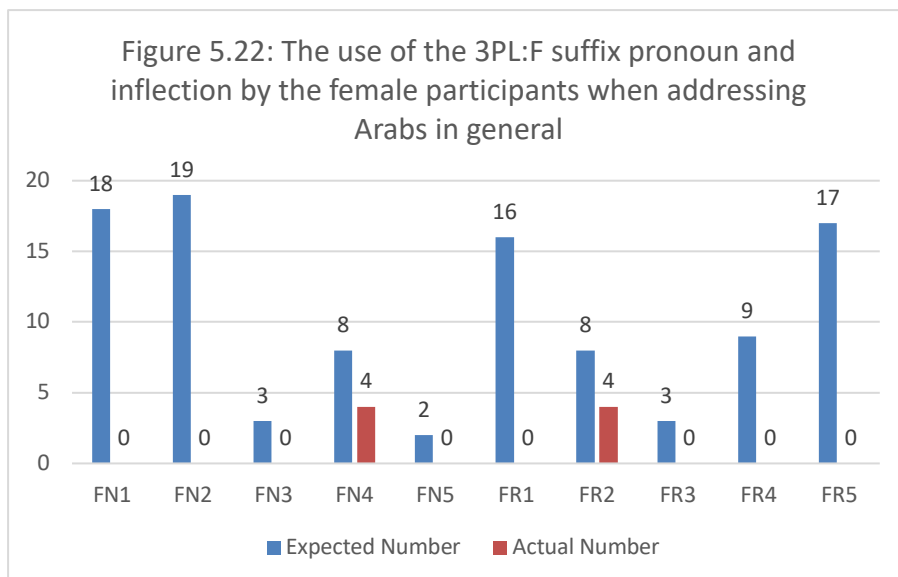
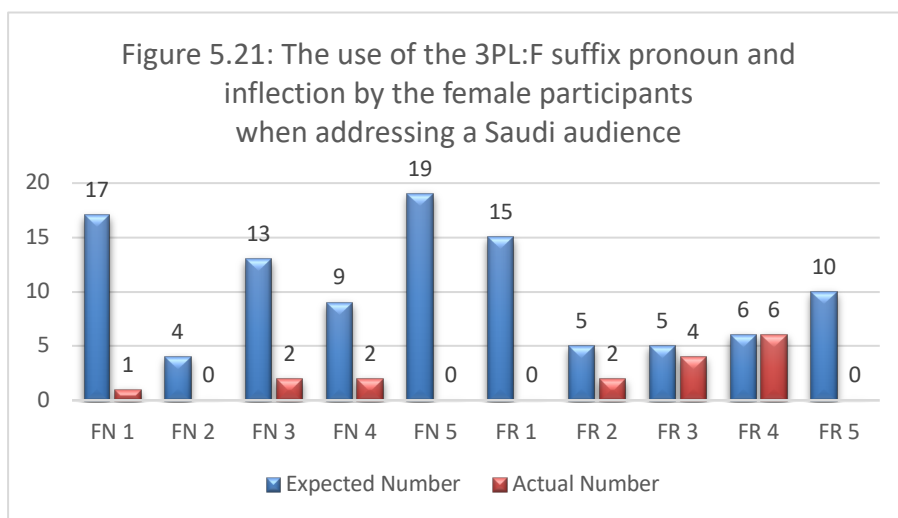
The data collected also show that there seems to be a correlation between keeping the vowel *a* in the feminine pronoun *-(a)ha* and recurrent use of the QA preposition *bi* ‘in’ in situations where Riyadh Arabic (RA) would use the preposition *fi*:. Thus, as the equivalent of RA *fi:-ha*: ‘in it’, they use the QA preposition to give as *b-aha*: ‘in it’. This is unusual, as the prepositional phrase is *b-ah* in QA. Thus the form *b-aha*: neither reflects QA nor RA.

There is an interesting difference in the frequent use of the non-Qassimi 3SG.F suffix pronoun *-(a)ha* and the maintenance of the Qassimi 3SG.M suffix pronoun *-uh*, as opposed to RA *-ah*. This might be one reason behind their report in the pilot that people “sound like Qassimis” even when they are using the WD. One possible explanation is that the speakers are aware that the masculine pronoun form in RA is phonetically the same as the feminine form in QA and the young speakers choose forms that are maximally unambiguous. While *-ah* can be interpreted as masculine or feminine according to the dialect, *-aha* and *-uh*, even though coming from different dialects, are unambiguous as to the intended gender. The following table shows an example, ‘her/his book’, of how the feminine and the masculine pronouns are treated differently in the WD:

	3SG.F	3SG.M
WD	<i>kita:b-aha ~ kita:b-ah</i>	<i>kita:b-uh</i>
QA	<i>kita:b-ah</i>	<i>kita:b-uh</i>
RA	<i>kita:b-aha</i>	<i>kita:b-ah</i>

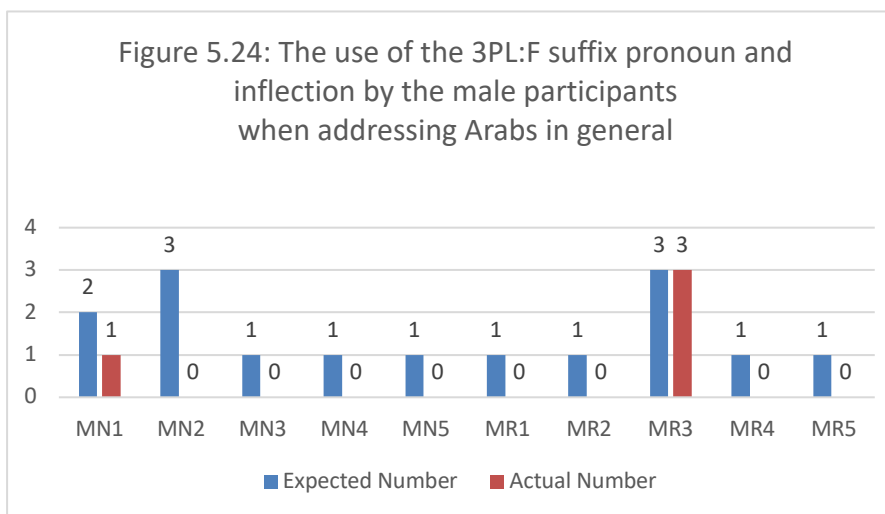
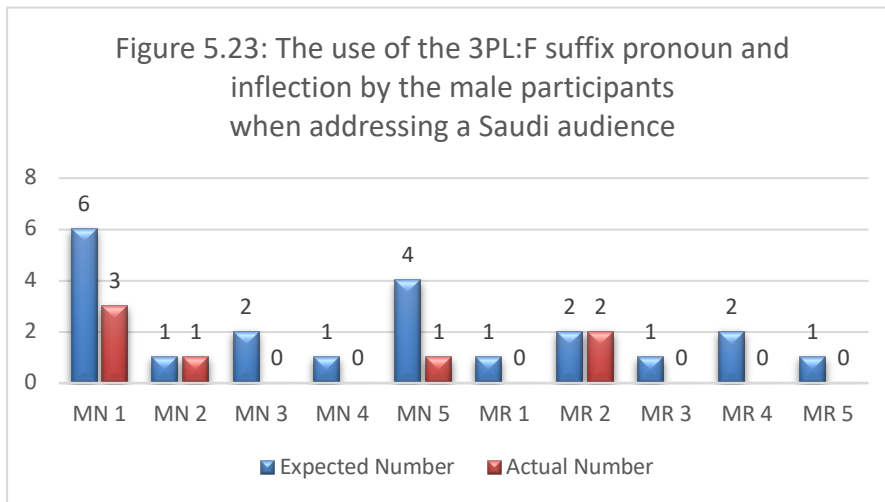
The use of the 3PL:F suffix pronoun and inflection

Figures 5.21 and 5.22 show the use of the 3PL:F suffix pronoun by the female participants when addressing Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.



Overall, the female group used the 3PL:F suffix pronoun and inflection with a rate of 12.14%. With a low rate of use of this variant by the female group, investigating the difference in use between the two different types of audience would not provide reliable conclusions.

Figures 5.23 and 5.24 show the use of the 3PL:F suffix pronoun by the male participants when addressing a Saudi audience, and when addressing Arabs in general, respectively.



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The male group used the 3PL.F suffix pronoun with a rate of 30.56%. In general, both the female and male groups were avoiding the use of the 3PL.F suffix pronoun in their WD speech. There is a clear difference between the in-group uses and the WD speech in the social media posts. In conversations among each other, the female QA speakers used 3PL.F suffix pronoun and inflection only with inanimate objects and abstract concepts. In the WD, however, the 3PL.F suffix pronoun and inflection are rarely used at all, both by the female and the male speakers. Instead, the speakers either use the plural pronoun *-hum* that stands for both masculine and feminine uses in RA, but only for masculine uses in QA, or they use the feminine singular pronoun *-(a)ha*. The following examples contrast how the 3PL.F suffix pronoun was used in the in-group QA data and how it was used in the WD (note that every QA and WD example in the following table was produced by the same speaker):

QA	WD
<i>al-mawa:d alli: darasti:-hin</i> DET-courses REL 2SG.F.study- 3PL.F.DO 'the courses that you have studied'	<i>at-taxas^us'a:t alli jadrusu:n-aha</i> DET-majors REL 3PL.M.study-3SG.F.DO 'the majors that they study'
<i>mihi:b jit^oabgin al-qawa:ni:n</i> NEG.F 3PL.F.apply DET-rules 'they do not apply the rules'	<i>keif tu:s^oaf-hum</i> how 3SG.F.describe-3PL.DO 'how she describes them' (the speaker was referring to a feminine noun)
<i>t^oumu:ha:t-i: alli: ?abya:-hin</i> ambitions-1SG.POS REL 1SG.want- PL.F.DO 'my ambitions that I want'	<i>astaxdim ziju:t tart^oib-aha ?aqwa:</i> 1SG.use oils 3SG.F.moisture-3SG.F.DO stronger 'I use oils with more moisturising effect'

Sometimes, the switch to the use of the feminine singular pronoun to substitute the 3PL.F suffix pronoun is followed by the use of the QA-specific variant *-ah* instead of *-aha*, as in the following example:

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ʔayli:-hum ʕa-n-na:r baʕduh asʕafi:-h wa afrub-ah
1SG.boil-3PL.M.DO PREP-DET-fire then 1SG.rinse-3SG.F.DO and 1SG.drink-
3SG.F.DO

‘I boil them on the fire, I rinse it and drink it’

min ar-riwa:ja:t alli: ʔagra-h da:jim
PREP DET-novels REL 1SG.read-3SG.F.DO perpetually

‘from the novels that I read all the time’

As with the other QA variants when they are avoided in the WD, there were a few cases where speakers used the 3PL.F suffix pronoun and avoided it in the same sentence, as in the following examples:

al-mawa:qif alli: taktib-hum lamma asmaʕ-hin
DET-situations REL 3SG.F.write-3PL.DO when 1SG.hear-3PL.F.DO

‘when I hear the situations that she writes about’

ʕala:qat-ha bi-l-ʔafja:ʔ alli: tiftiri-hin wa keif tu:sʕaf-hum
relationship-3SG.F.POS PREP-DET-things REL 3SG.F.buy-3PL.F.DO and how
3SG.F.describe-3PL.DO

‘her relationship with the things that she buys and how she describes them’.

5.1.4 Summary

In general, the use of the six QA variant in the WD was lower than that in the QA in-group speech of the young generation. Moreover, the female group showed lower use compared to the male group as shown in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6. The difference in the percentage of use of the six QA variants in the WD between the female and male groups (for both types of audience).

QA variant	female group	male group
the affrication of <i>k</i> as <i>ts</i> in the stem	0%	2.58%
the affrication of <i>k</i> as <i>ts</i> in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix	20.16%	n/a
the affrication of <i>q</i> or <i>g</i> as <i>dz</i>	0.63%	1.87%
the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun <i>-n</i> instead of <i>-ni</i>	69.39%	77.55%
The use of the 3SG.F suffix variant <i>-ah</i>	54.32%	63.92%
the use of 3PL feminine suffix pronoun and inflection	12.14%	30.56%

Only two out of six QA variants were highly used over the two gender groups in their social media posts: the 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of *-ni*, and the 3SG.F suffix pronoun *-ah* instead of *-(a)ha*. The other variables were used in a low ratio in the following descending order: the 3PL feminine suffix pronoun and inflection, the affrication of *k* as *ts* in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix, the affrication of *q* or *g* as *dz*, and lastly the affrication of *k* as *ts* in the stem.

The difference between the use of the six QA variants in the WD between the two types of audience is shown in Table 5.7.

Table 5.7: The difference in the percentage of use of the six QA variants in the WD between the two types of audience.

QA variant	female group Saudi audience	female group Arab audience	male group Saudi audience	male group Arab audience
the affrication of <i>k</i> as <i>ts</i> in the stem	0%	0%	4.49%	0%
the affrication of <i>k</i> as <i>ts</i> in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix	31.58%	11.11%	n/a	n/a
the affrication of <i>q</i> or <i>g</i> as <i>dz</i>	1.41%	0%	2.63%	0%
the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun <i>-n</i> instead of <i>-ni</i>	58.33%	64%	85.71%	66.67%
The use of the 3SG.F suffix variant <i>-ah</i>	52.88%	55.17%	84.81%	43.04%
the use of 3PL feminine suffix pronoun and inflection	16.50%	7.77%	33.33%	26.67%

As for the difference in use of the six QA variants in the WD between the two types of audience, it appeared to be significant in only one variant (the use of *-ah* in the 3SG.F suffix pronoun) in the male group.

5.2 PART 2: The in-group QA of the young speakers versus their WD

In the analysis of the in-group QA speech of the young speakers in Chapter 4, the six QA variants were all used by the young QA speakers in their in-group speech, even though some of them were relatively rare. The data collected for the WD speech indicated that the use of the six QA variants was lower than that in the WD as shown in Table 5.6.

Table 5.8: The percentage of use of the six QA variants in the in-group QA and the WD.

QA variant	female group in-group QA	female group WD speech	male group in-group QA	male group WD speech
the affrication of <i>k</i> as <i>ts</i> in the stem	0.74%	0%	22.32%	2.58%
the affrication of <i>k</i> as <i>ts</i> in the 2SG.F pronominal suffix	81.11%	20.16%	n/a	n/a
the affrication of <i>q</i> or <i>g</i> as <i>dz</i>	2.60%	0.63%	45.95%	1.87%
the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun <i>-n</i> instead of <i>-ni</i>	91.41%	69.39%	94.64%	77.55%
The use of the 3SG.F suffix variant <i>-ah</i>	96.19%	54.32%	93.51%	63.92%
the use of 3PL feminine suffix pronoun and inflection	19.10%	12.14%	54.39%	30.56%

The data compiled in chapter 5 showed that there are very clear overall differences between the use of these six variants in in-group QA speech and the WD for both the female and male groups (see Table 5.8)"

5. 3 Conclusion

This chapter looked at the use of six QA variants used by the female and male groups in their WD speech. The use of the six QA variants in the WD was significantly lower than in in-group QA, which indicates that the young QA speakers are avoiding the use of the QA variants when utilizing the WD. However, the level of avoidance is not the

same for all variants. Results show that two QA variants, namely the use of 1SG.DO suffix pronoun *-n* instead of *-ni* and the use of the 3SG.F feminine suffix *-ah*, were the least avoided variants among the six QA variants. The rate of use of these two variants in the WD corresponds to their rate of use in in-group QA as they had the highest rate of use in the young speakers’ in-group QA speech.

The results in this chapter also suggest that the six QA variants are less used when the speakers are addressing a general Arab audience than when addressing a Saudi audience. However, the two types of audiences (Saudis, and Arabs in general) do not seem to lead to major differences.