mentioned the variation in using *m, mu,* and *mi* according to the style of speech where they seem different. In AD, some speakers would say, in informal situations, /mdarris/ instead of /mudarris/ and /mgaffil/ instead of /mugaffil/.

Regarding nunation (*at-tanween*) on pages 120, 124-128 and 153, the thesis states that defective active and passive participle do not take nunation in AD, as in /muʕadi/. In fact, this is not as it should be, since there are many cases where active and passive participle can take nunation in general, for example /mitba:hin bah/, /minʕimin minnah/, /mistawfin ħaggah/ (Al-Azraqi, 1998: 71-76).

Chapter VIII discusses pronouns and it is stated on page 140 that there are only two relative pronouns, /illi/ and /ʼilli/, that stand for person and gender in AD. In fact, /min/, /ma:/ and /ða:/ can also stand for relative pronouns in this dialect.

Finally, it is important to assure that Nakshabandi's study carries fruitful information about this dialect which reflects the hard work of the author. This makes the thesis a helpful reserve for whom it would be useful for studying AD or other Arabian dialects.

MSA. In fact, these nouns fall under a pattern that is not mentioned, which is /mafʕalah/, and the nouns are: /maknasah/, maṭragah/, /malʕagah/.

- On page 112, he lists broken plural nouns under the pattern /'afʕul/, nouns that are not used in AD. For example, /'anfus/ (/nfu:s/ in AD), /'arjul/ (/rju:l/ or /rijle:n/ in AD) and /'aðruʕ/ (/ðurʕa:n/ in AD). In addition, he lists plural nouns under /'afʕa:l/, which are not used in AD, such as /'abwa:b/ (/bi:ba:n/ in AD). Furthermore, on the same page, the pattern 4 /afʕilah/ is borrowed from MSA.

- On page 113, we found it odd that examples dedicated to nouns in Pattern 5 /fuʕl/ do not include nouns but adjectives. Likewise, Pattern 10 /faʕla/ also seems to be borrowed from MSA since the plural for /mari:ð/ in AD is /marða:n/ and not /marða:/ as stated in the thesis. The rest of the examples of this pattern are borrowed and are only used in formal speech.

- On pages 114 and 115, the thesis states that Pattern 14 /fi:ʕa:l/ does not occur in MSA. In fact, it does not occur in AD either, and the example he provides falls under the pattern /fiʕla:n/, which he lists as Pattern 16. The opposite is true with Pattern 22 /faʕa:lil/, which he states does not occur in MSA, whereas, in fact, it exists in both MSA (Ar-Rajhi, Abdoh, *AttaTbi:q AS-Sar*fi, dar an nahdah al-Arabiyah, Lebanon, 1984,: 125) and AD (Al-Azraqi,1998:70). We can find nouns like: /dara:zin/ and /shara:shif/ in AD. In fact, the noun /fari:gah/, which is listed under that pattern, is actually pluralised as /fara:yig/ under the pattern /faʕa:yil/, which is missing in the thesis. This pattern has also the nouns /xala:yil/, /jama:yil/, /ʕama:yir/ and /xara:yiṭ/, which occurs in MSA but with a glottal stop as /faʕa:'il/ (Ar-Rajhi 1984: 123). The other listed plural noun, which is /mala:ħif/, falls under the pattern /mafa:ʕil/ where /ma-/ is added to the verb to make the noun /milħaf/. Other similar patterns, such as /mafa:ʕil/ as /maxa:zin/ and /mala:ʕib/, and the pattern /mafa:ʕi:l/ as /mafa:ti:ħ/ and /maja:ni:n/ are not noted in the thesis.

Chapter VII examines adjectives. It is stated that active participles of Form II are not prefixed by /mu/, although it is stated on page 120 that some speakers pronounce the prefix /mu/ as /mi/. It might be useful if the author

which are in the pattern of Form II /faʕʕal/.

Regarding the imperative verbs on page 77 /iftaħi/ and /iftaħu/, the stem vowel in this form is not as stated, but changes according to the suffixed vowel to be /iftiħi/ and /iftuħu/. This is fully explained by Al-Azraqi (1998). Similarly, on page 64, the stem vowel in Form III verbs is not /i/ as stated in the example /yina:wilu:n/, but is deleted, since it is in an open syllable where the vowel is usually deleted after a final glide to be /yi naw lu:n/.

Chapter VI studies nouns and shows, on page 106, that many speakers of AD pronounce the feminine suffix /-ah/ with /h/ lightly pronounced. It is noticed that this voiced glottal approximate /h/ is mostly neglected in most of the examples despite its indication.

It is clear in the study that the author deals with this dialect as one single form of speech, as noted above. We think that the lack of any indication of the words that are borrowed from MSA is an important issue. In AD, some MSA words are used without change and this is associated with the level of education of speakers. For example, the noun that Nakshabandi mentions in page 99, /inshiga:g/, is unlikely to be used in this way. This word is borrowed from MSA and is not used except among educated speakers and, in this case, it is /inshiqa:q/ using the classical uvular /q/ and not the dialectal velar /g/. Similarly, on page 102, where the author lists the noun /tagahgur/ with /g/ and not /q/, and on page 98, where he lists the noun /tasa:wul/ without the glottal stop /'/. On the other hand, some MSA words go through different linguistic processes of change between native speakers where level of education is not the issue. If we take the example that the author lists on page 101 as /iħmira:r/ or /iswida:d/, the pattern of these nouns is found in MSA only and does not exist in AD. These nouns do have their equivalents in Abha Dialect in the pattern of /fiʕʕa:l/, to be /siwwa:d/ or /ħimma:r/ respectively.

In the same chapter, there are also nouns that are not listed under the right patterns. For example:

- On page 104, there are nouns listed under the pattern /mifʕala/, which are not used commonly in AD since they were only recently borrowed from

not only the tip of the tongue but the front part of it and their articulation involves direct contact with the alveolar ridge. In other words, it is unlike the English /t/ and /d/. In fact, many linguists have reached this controversial conclusion about these sounds in *Classical Arabic* (CA) and the dialects of Arabian Peninsula, in particular. Mitchell presents a good explanation for the production of these sounds (Mitchell, T.F., Pronouncing Arabic 1, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1990).

Another example of oversights is the place of articulating /x/ in page 10. It is described as a velar sound in the thesis. Speakers of this dialect pronounce this sound using the uvelum, which makes the sound uvular and not velar as the thesis states. Similarly, on the same page, /ġ/ is not a velar sound but uvular (Al-Azraqi, M.A. Aspects of the Syntax of the Dialect of Abha, PhD Thesis, University of Durham, Durham, UK, 1998). In addition, /J/ in this dialect is a fricative sound, and not affricate as the thesis states.

In the phonology part, page 32, it is mentioned that progressive assimilation occurs in Abha dialect. However, the examples provided do not seem correct since this kind of change does not occur at all, i.e. /Sadi:g/ remains /Sadi:g/, without the emphatic /ḍ/ /Saḍi:g/.

In the morphology part, the thesis studies roots and patterns of verbs in AD. The author explains triliteral and quadraliteral roots very well, including strong and weak ones. However, within triliteral verbs, he sees that hamazated verbs as /'akal/, /sa'al/, and /qar'a/ are weak verbs, which is not always acceptable since hamazated verbs have an initial, medial or final glottal stem which is not considered as a vowel. This group, in CA and MSA, is classified as strong verbs, *'afʕa:l Saħi:ħah* not weak verbs *'afʕa:l mu ʕtalah.*

Chapter IV studies verb derivation, forms and patterns. The list on page 44 reports a pattern that does not exist in AD, which is /faʕil/. All the verbs that were used as examples for this pattern are actually in the pattern /faʕl/ as /zaʕl/,/kabr/, and /salm/, which he mentions elsewhere in the thesis. Two verbs in that list, /hasin/ and /hasib/, are actually /hassan/ and /hassab/,

# A critical review for (*A Descriptive Study of The Morphology and Phonology of Abha Dialect*) by Anwar Nakshabandi, PhD Thesis, Georgetown University, Washington DC, 1988, 249 pages.

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The demand for reviews of available studies parallels the growing interest in studying modern Arabic dialects. The scarcity of studies that focus on *Abha Dialect* (AD) may render the PhD thesis of Anwar Nakshabandi one of the exclusive sources of information for those dialectologists who are especially interested in the dialects of the Arabian Peninsula.

Abha dialect is spoken in Abha city, which is the provincial capital of the Asir region in the southwest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its population is around 300,000. Although Abha city is located in the Asir area, the majority of its inhabitants originate from three tribes; namely, Asir, Shahran and Qahtan.

As a dialectologist and native speaker of AD, I observed a significant number of oversights and misinterpretations in the thesis that should be reported. First, the author's examples were not accurate in some cases, which misled him in his linguistic analysis. Second, the relationship between AD and *Modern Standard Arabic* (MSA) was not emphasized where necessary. Third, although the study was not a sociolinguistic one, the factor of *origin* should have been considered in many cases since morphology was considered. Fourth, data was not sufficient. Pronouns and demonstratives were not covered thoroughly. These points will be discussed briefly in the following paragraphs.

In the phonetic part of the thesis, it is stated on pages 6 and 15 that in producing /t/, /d/ and /T/, the speaker uses the tip of the tongue against the alveolar ridge, which is not quite correct. Producing these sounds involves