

Investigating the Pronunciation of '-S' and '-Ed' Suffixes in Yemeni English

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Abstract : The present paper seeks to explicate the pronunciation of the '-s' and '-ed' suffixes when applied in their relative places in word endings. It attempts to investigate the problems faced by Yemenis in the pronunciation of these suffixes in all occurrences and realizations. It discusses the realization of 's' in the four areas of plural, 3rd person singular and genitive markers, and contraction of 'has' and 'is' as in he's, it's ..etc. and shows how they are differently represented by three different sounds /s/, /z/ and /ɪz/ based on the phonological structure of the words in which they occur. Similarly, it explains the realization of the '-ed' suffix of the past and past participle marker and how it is realized differently by three sounds governed by the phonological structure of these words. Besides, it tries to shed some light on the English morphophonemic and phonological rules that govern the pronunciation of such troublesome endings. It is hypothesized that the absence of such phenomenon in the mother tongue pronunciation of these suffixes.

Keywords : Suffixes' Pronunciation, Phonological Structure, Phonological Rules, Morpho-Phonemics, Yemeni English

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