



A last issue concerns the phonological status of vowels regarding emphasis. It is generally claimed that the pharyngeal class is made of consonants only. If this is true, why is it that such vowels as [a], [e] and [o], which have in their structure the element A, and occur in the emphatic environments, cannot be seen as underlying emphasis-bearing segments as well? I will show that there is evidence for this view, since [-high] vowels can also transmit emphasis to adjacent segments. As an example, let's take the name of God in Arabic which is 'Allah'. This word is believed to be the only one in which the /tʕ/ is pharyngeal. I will argue that the /tʕ/ is pharyngealized by the preceding low vowel [a]. Evidence comes from the fact that in other cases where the /tʕ/ in this word is preceded by the high front vowel [i] the /tʕ/ is no more pharyngeal as is shown in (3b):

- (3) a. a-lʔʔa:h 'God'
 b. li-llæh 'for God'

Another argument comes from French loanwords adapted in MA. The word *moquette* 'fitted carpet', for example, is adapted in MA as [mʔokʔe:tʔ]. As far as the vocalic system of MA is regarded, we have a three vowel system /i u a/. The word *moquette* should normally be realized as *[mukitʔ] (Kenstowicz 2008). However, since [o...e], which have the element A as the head of their structure, transmit this element to the adjacent consonants [m...k], which become then pharyngealized as [mʔ...kʔ] respectively, it might be the case that vowels tend to become emphasis-bearing units in MA.

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