

## Chapter “1”

### Makharij (Places of Vocal Articulation)

#### - Definitions:

- **Makharij:**

- **Linguistically:** *Makharij* is the plural of *makhraj*, which means the place of articulation (literally, the place the letter is emitted).
- **Terminologically:** it is the place of articulation that distinguishes a certain *harf* (letter) from another *harf* (letter).

- **Harf (Letter):**

- **Linguistically:** *harf* means tip
- **Terminologically:** sound that depends on a *makhraj* (place of articulation), either a specific or not clearly defined *makhraj*.

- **Benefit of the Makharij:** The *makhraj* allows us to know the type and characteristics of the letters, differentiating them from one another.

- **Makharij Types:** Makharij are divided into two types:

**1- Makhraj Mohaqaq:** It is the place of vocal articulation that depends on a certain part of the mouth, such as the throat or the tongue. Its letters are 28 letters of the alphabet.

**2- Makhraj Moqadar:** It is the place of vocal articulation that does not depend on any particular part of the mouth, such as the *makhraj* of the *alif* sound, which exits from the oral cavity.

- **Determining the makhraj of a harf (letter):**

- **Letters with a Makhraj Mohaqaq:**

- Pronounce it either in a state of *Sukun* (with the absence of any vowel on the consonant, i.e. as a quiescent consonant) or *mushadad* (being doubled in length)
- Add a "*hamzat-ul-wasl*" (the *alif*) with any diacritical marks.
- The point where the air is obstructed in the production of the letter is its specific place of articulation.

- **Letters with a Makhraj Moqadar**

- Pronounce it when it is preceded by a consonant that has a diacritical mark which matches the letter of the *madd* i.e. a *fat-hah* diacritical mark if the letter of the *madd* is *alif*, etc..
- By listening carefully to the sound, you will notice that it ends with the air exiting out of the oral cavity i.e. at no particular point.

## Divisions of Makharij

Makharij can be divided into two: **General *makharij*** and **Particular *makharij***.

**General Makharij:** Those which contain one or more *makhraj*. There are **five** general *makharij*

- i. **Al-Jawf** (empty space in the throat and mouth).
- 2- Al-Halq** (the throat).
- 3-Al-Lisan** (the tongue).
- 4- Al-Shafatan** (the two lips).
- 5- Al-Khayshum** (the nasal cavity).

### **Particular Makharij:**

- These are the specific *makharij*, and each one of which has just one certain *makhraj*, Scholars of Tajweed have differed regarding these *makharij*

### **First Opinion: Seventeen *makharij* subcategorized under the five general *makharij*.**

- Opinion of Al-Khalil ibn Ahmad and later adopted by Imam Ibn Al-Jazari.
- In this classification the *jawf* (the empty space in the throat and mouth) has just one *makhraj*, *al-halq* (the throat) has three *makharij*, *al-lisan* (the tongue) has ten *makharij*, *al-shafatan* (the two lips) have two *makharij*, and *al-khayshum* (the nasal cavity) has just one *makhraj*.
- This is the preponderant practical classification, regarding which Imam Ibn Al-Jazari stated:

مخارج الحروف سبعة عشر على الذي يختاره من اختير

### **Second Opinion: Sixteen *makharij* subcategorized under four general *makharij*.**

- This classification was opined by Sibawayh and adopted by other scholars, including Imam Al-Shatibi.
- They omitted the *makhraj* of *jawf* and consequently modified the classification of its letters. Thus, according to this classification the *makhraj* of *alif* is now at the furthest point of the throat, just like the *hamzah*; the *makhraj* of the *ya' maddiyyah* (lengthened *ya'*) is like the not lengthened *ya'*, i.e. at the middle of the tongue; and the *makhraj* of the *waw maddiyyah* (lengthened *waw*) is like the not lengthened *waw*, i.e. at the lips.

### **Third Opinion: Fourteen *makharij* subcategorized under four general *makharij*.**

- This is the classification opined by Al-Fara' and other scholars who adopted his opinion.
- They omitted the *makhraj* of *jawf* and modified the classification of its letters in the same way as the abovementioned classification of Sibawayh. But they also classified the *lam*, *nun* and *raa'* under one *makhraj*, i.e. the tip of the tongue.

The following is an explanation of the five general *makharij*, as well as the particular *makharij* categorized under them:

## 1- Al-Jawf

### - Definition:

- **Linguistically:** it means emptiness.
- **Terminologically:** All the empty space present in the throat and mouth, up to the lips.
- **Particular Makharij:** it has one particular *makhraj* in which the three letters of *madd* are produced:  
1- *Alif*, such as in (قَالَ); 2- *Waw Maddiyyah*, such as in (يَقُولُ); and 3- *Ya' Maddiyyah*, such as in (قِيلَ).

### - Names of the letters:

- **Letters of jawf:** since they are produced in the *jawf*.
- **Maddiyyah (lengthened) letters:** since it is easy to lengthen the sound when pronouncing them.
- **Hawa'iyah letters (letters whose position of their makhraj depends on the air that is exhaled):** since they end or finish when the air finishes coming out of the *jawf* (the empty space in the throat and mouth).
- **Weak letters:** since a sick feeble person produces them with difficulty.

## 2- Al-Halq (the throat)

It has three particular makharij from which six letters are produced:

- 1- **The deepest part of the throat**, i.e. the part of the throat which is furthest from the mouth, and the closest to the chest: From this area of the *halq makhraj*, *hamzah* is produced, and just above it *ha'*;
- 2- **The middle of the throat:** From this area of the *halq makhraj*, the *`ayn* and the *hā'* are produced; and
- 3- **The closest part of the throat**, i.e. the nearest part of the throat to the mouth: From this area of the *halq makhraj*, the *ghayn* and *kha'* are produced.

## 3- Al-Lisan (the tongue)

It has ten particular makharij from which eighteen letters are produced:

1. **The part of the tongue which is furthest from the teeth** -i.e. the part just after the throat- when the tongue is raised enough to touch the soft palate which is just above it: From this area of the *makhraj* emerges the *qaf* sound.
2. **The part of the tongue which is just before the furthest part from the teeth** -i.e. the part just after the middle of the tongue but a little bit before the *makhraj* of the *qaf*, when the tongue is raised to touch the hard palate which is just above it. From this area of the *makhraj* the letter *kaf* is pronounced.

3. The middle of the tongue when it touches the part of the hard palate which is directly above it. From this *makhraj* emerge the letters **jīm, shīn, and the non-lengthened ya'**.
4. **One of the two edges of the middle of the tongue with the upper molars, either the left or the right edge.** From this *makhraj* emerges the letter **dād** which is easier to pronounce and most often produced from the left lateral side of the tongue, difficult but sometimes produced from the right lateral side of the tongue, and pronounced with the most difficulty, and so rarely produced, from both sides.
  - The **dād** is the most difficult sound that is produced from the tongue. It is exclusive to the Arabic language, and hence Arabic is called the language of the **dād**.
5. **From the beginning (which is the nearest to the lips) to the end of the tip of the tongue,** when the tongue is touching the part of the gum which is directly above it. From this *makhraj* emerges the letter *lam*.
6. **The tip of the tongue -slightly behind the *makhraj* of the *lam*- when touching the gum of the top incisors.** From this *makhraj* emerge the letters of the **izhhar, the nun sakinah and the mutaharikah (vowelized) nun**. It is stipulated that the *nun* is *muzh-harah* (pronounced clearly) here, since the *mukhfah* (hidden or weak) *nun* is considered a *ghunnah*, whose *makhraj* (place of articulation) is *Al-Khayshum* (the nasal cavity). The *mukhfah nun* is one of the secondary sounds.
7. The **ra'** letter is emitted from the tip of the tongue and the top of the tongue next to the tip, when it touches the gums of the two front top incisors which are just above it.
8. The three letters of **sād, Zay and sīn** are emitted from the very tip of the tongue and the top/bottom edges of the two front top incisors, at a point just above the two front lower incisors. A small space is left between the tip of the tongue and the tip of the teeth when pronouncing these *harfs* (letters).
9. The letters **ta', Dal and tā'** are pronounced from the **top of the tongue**, next to the tip, when the tongue touches the gum line of the two front upper incisors.
10. The letters **Zha', Dhal and Tha'** are emitted from the top side of the tongue, next to the tip, with the bottom edges of the two top front incisors.



#### 4- Al- Shafatan (Lips)

This *makhraj* contains **two particular makharij**, from which **four letters** are emitted:

The particular *makhraj* of the two lips are:

1. **Between the inside of the lower lip** and the tip of the two front incisors...  
Only one letter comes from this sub-*makhraj*; the letter *fa'*.
2. **Between the two lips...** Three letters come from this sub-*makhraj*; the letters *ba'*, *mīm* and *waw*.

(The *ba'* and *mīm* are articulated by closing the two lips together. The *waw* is articulated by forming a circle with the two lips, without the two lips meeting completely.)

#### 5- Al-Khayshum (Nose)

- **Definition:** The furthestmost and highest internal area of the nasal passage.
- **Particular Makharij:** Only one, from which *Al-Ghunnah* is emitted.

- The makharij of the letters are the places of articulation that distinguish letters from each other.
- The makharij are divided into *mohaqaq* and *moqadar*.
- The makharij are also divided into general and specific makharij.
- The common opinion is that of *ibn Aljazri* which says that the general makharij are five and the specific are seventeen
- The number of letters when discussing the makharij are thirty one letters (28 letters + the three letters of madd)

#### Review



## Test Your Knowledge!



### A- Fill in the blanks

1. The sad, zay and seen are called of \_\_\_\_\_ letters, whereas \_\_\_\_\_ are lathawy letters.
2. The letters that have only one specific makhraj are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The number of specific makharij according to Imam Sibawayh are \_\_\_\_\_, whereas they are \_\_\_\_\_ according to Imam Al-Fara'.
4. The three letters of madd are called \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The huruf Al-Nat'ya are \_\_\_\_\_, while the huruf Al-Zalqiya are \_\_\_\_\_.

### B- True or False

1. The letters that are articulated from a makhraj moqadar are the three letters of madd in addition to the haa'. ( )
2. The throat (halq) has two specific makharij, while the tongue (lisan) has 10 specific makharij. ( )
3. The Al-Shajariya letters come from the shajar of the tongue, ie. the middle. ( )
4. The khayshum has two specific makharij. ( )
5. The opinion of Imam Al-Shatibi is that there are three general makharij. ( )

### C- Write the makhraj (place of articulation) of each letter:

- 1.Kaf:.....
- 2.Dad:.....
- 3.Lam:.....
- 4.Ra':.....
- 5.Zha':.....
- 6.Sad:.....