The Phenomenon of Qalqala in Qur’ān Recitation

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Abstract

This study investigates the phenomenon of qalqala, a feature unique to Qur’ān recitation. It aims at analyzing the sound accompanying the qalqala sounds [q, t, b, ʤ, d] acoustically to see whether or not this sound has a vowel-like articulation. Therefore, an acoustic analysis has been conducted to the sound accompanying the qalqala sound together with the preceding and following vowels to give their acoustic features such as the amplitude (i.e. the intensity), the formant frequencies (F1 and F2) and the recurrence of waves at regular intervals. The main conclusions of the present research are: (a) the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is a vowel-like articulation (b) this vowel, in most cases, tends to be /ə/ and (c) the phenomenon of qalqala is of two levels, minimum and maximum.

Keywords: qalqala, recitation, Qur’an, acoustic analysis, phonemic status.

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of qalqala in Qur’ān recitation violates the natural human tendency for economy of muscular effort, since it is much more difficult to produce a sound like [b] with qalqala than producing a simple non-muqalqal [b]. It is realized as a sound that accompanies the release phase of the five Arabic stop sounds of qalqala[q, t, b, ʤ, d]. Making qalqala with these sounds prevents the sound of qalqala from becoming like the following sound in some feature(s), as in the sound [b] in ['jabta ɤᵰiː] becoming *['japta ɤᵰiː], or avoids assimilating [d] to the following [ṣ] in the phrase ['laqad ṣar’arfnaː] to make it sound as *['laqaṣṣər’arfnaː]. Both of these cases which result from not making qalqala violate the rules of recitation.

Many studies have described the sounds of qalqala from the articulatory point of view and described the sound that accompanies the qalqala sound as a sound that results from the separation of the contact between the articulators. Old Arab grammarians like "Sibawayhi describes qalqala sounds as the musharraba, i.e. accompanied by something not of its nature, viz. a slight movement or ʃuwayt"(Bishr, 2000: 384). Contemporary Arab grammarians view qalqala as "the strength of turbulence in the place of articulation of the sound when uttered in its non-vocalized form resulting in strong strain"(Al-Ghawthāniyy, 2011: 107 and Zalaṭ, 2005: 62). On the other hand, non-Arab scientists define qalqala as an insertion of a schwa after qalqala sounds (e.g. Denny, 1989: 19 and Nelson, 2001: 22f). Arab scholars differ in their viewpoints about qalqala types (i.e. levels). Some believe that it is of two types according to the position of the sound in the word ignoring the geminate/non-geminate distinction of the non-vocalized form in word-final position (e.g. Arbāwyy, 2004: 40and Swayyid, 2011: 189). Others divide it into three types; the third being the geminated pausal form of qalqala sound in final position which is considered as the strongest (e.g. Al-Harbiyy, 2006: 13and Sulaymān, 1988: 57). This study describes the phenomenon of qalqala acoustically by means of adobe audition 2.0. An acoustic analysis has been conducted to measure the acoustic features of qalqala sounds such as the amplitude (i.e. intensity), the formant frequencies (F1 and F2) and the recurrence of waves at regular intervals.

2. Statement of the problem

The present research tries to investigate the phenomenon of qalqala instrumentally in order to arrive at the instrumentally-evidenced phonetic facts about this unique phonetic phenomenon which, to the best of our knowledge, has not been studied instrumentally before.
3. **Aim of the study**

This study aims to present an acoustic description of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound by measuring its intensity and formant structure and comparing it with that of the vowels that precede and follow it in order to determine the phonetic and phonemic identity of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound.

4. **Procedures**

The procedures to be followed in this research are as follows:

a. Examining the sound accompanying the qalqala sound acoustically to show its waveform and formant structure; this will be done for each of the four Qur'ān reciters\(^1\).

b. Working out the phonemic status of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound.

5. **Hypotheses**

a. The sound accompanying the qalqala sound in the post-release phase is realized as a vowel-like articulation.

b. The vowel occurring as a result of the phenomenon of qalqala is mostly [ə].

c. The phenomenon of qalqala in reciting the Glorious Qur'ān is of two levels, minimum and maximum.

6. **Acoustic Investigation of the Qalqala Sounds**

In the acoustic investigation of the qalqala sounds, three things have been accounted for: amplitude, formant frequency and waveform repetition. These have been worked out for each of the four reciters.

6.1 **Amplitude Analysis**

Ladefoged (1993: 163) states that "the intensity is proportional to the average size, or amplitude, of the variations in air pressure...measured in decibels (abbreviated as dB) relative to the amplitude of some other sounds". Al-Ghāmidiyy (2000: 105) defines **amplitude** as the amount of sound intensity which is measured by decibel. The amplitude of the sound that accompanies the qalqala sound is calculated by taking the summation of ten peaks of this sound and dividing the number by ten to give the mean value of the intensity of this sound and prove that this sound is a vowel-like articulation.

6.1.1 **Sa'ad Al-Ghāmidiyy**

In Al-Ghāmidiyy's performance, analysis of the post-release phase of the qalqala sounds [q, ṭ, b, ʤ, d] in word-medial position shows that the sounds accompanying [q] in ['ʔuq?simu]\(^2\), [ṭ] in ['ʔat?ʕamahum], [b] in ['ʃab?ri], [ʤ] in ['jadʒ?ʕal] and [d] in ['ʃad?rak]\(^3\) have amplitudes of +12dB, +12dB, +10dB, +8dB and +14dB, respectively (see Figure 1).

![Figure 1: Waveform of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [d] and the following [a] in ['ʃad?rak] for Al-Ghāmidiyy.](image)

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\(^1\) The four reciters are: Sa'ad Al-Ghāmidiyy of Saudi Arabia, Muhammad Şiddīq Al-Manshāwiy of Egypt, Abdul-Hādil- Kanākiriy of Syria and Ni'mat Al-Ḥassān of Iraq.

\(^2\) The mark (?) indicates the sound accompanying the qalqala sound before knowing its identity.

\(^3\) These words will be the basis of analysis for word-medial qalqala when accounting for the other reciters, so they will not be repeated.

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In word-final position, the sounds accompanying [q] in ['is\textquoteleft tab?raq?'], [t] in ['lu\textquoteleft t?'], [b] in ['waqab?'], [d\textdagger] in ['harad\textdagger'], [d] in ['kabad?'] and the geminated [q] in ['haqq?'](4) have amplitudes of +12dB, +12dB, +14dB, +8dB, +14dB and +13dB, respectively (see Figure 2).

![Figure 2: Waveform of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [b] in ['waqab?] for Al-Ghamidiyy.](image)

### 6.1.2 Muhammad Siddiq Al-Manshawiyy

In Al-Manshawiyy's performance, analysis of the post-release phase of the qalqala sounds [q, t, b, d\textdagger, d] in word-medial position shows that the sounds accompanying [q], [t], [b], [d\textdagger] and [d] have amplitudes of +17dB, +12dB, +15dB, +10dB and +13dB, respectively (see Figure 3).

![Figure 3: Waveform of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [d\textdagger] and the following [a] in ['jad\textquoteleft ʕal] for Al-Manshawiyy.](image)

In word-final position, the sounds accompanying [q], [t], [b], [d\textdagger], [d] and the geminated [q] have amplitudes of +21dB, +16dB, +14dB, +19dB, +18dB and +13dB, respectively (see Figure 4).

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(4) These words will be the basis of analysis for word-final qalqala when dealing with the other reciters, so they will not be repeated.
6.1.3 Abdul-Hādīl-Kanākiriyy

In Al-Kanākiriyy's performance, analysis of the post-release phase of the qalqala sounds [q, ṭ, b, ḏ, d] in word-medial position shows that the sounds accompanying [q], [ṭ], [b], [ḏ] and [d] have amplitudes of +2dB, +1dB, +6dB, +3dB and +1dB, respectively (see Figure 5).

In word-final position, the sounds accompanying [q], [ṭ], [b], [ḏ], [d] and the geminated [q] have amplitudes of +4dB, +12dB, +5dB, +3dB, +7dB and +8dB, respectively (see Figure 6).
6.1.4 Ni’amat Al-Hassān

In Al-Hassān’s performance, analysis of the post-release phase of the qalqala sounds [q, ṭ, b, ʤ, d] in word-medial position shows that the sounds accompanying [q], [ṭ], [b], [ʤ] and [d] have amplitudes of +4dB, +4dB, +8dB, +6dB and +4dB, respectively (see Figure 7).

![Figure 7: Waveform of the preceding [u], the sound accompanying [q] and the following [i] in [ʔuq?simu] for Al-Hassān.](image)

In word-final position, the sounds accompanying [q], [ṭ], [b], [ʤ], [d] and the geminated [q] have amplitudes of +5dB, +4dB, +9dB, +7dB, +12dB and +2dB, respectively (see Figure 8).

![Figure 8: Waveform of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [q] in [ʔis’tab?raq?] for Al-Hassān.](image)

6.2 Formant Frequency Analysis

Ladefoged (1993: 162) writes:

"Frequency is...the number of complete repetitions (cycles) of variations in air pressure occurring in a second. The unit of frequency measurement is the Hertz, usually abbreviated as Hz. If the vocal cords make 220 complete opening and closing movements in a second, we say that the frequency of the sound is 220Hz".

Al-Ghāmidiy (2000: 105) defines frequency as the number of vibrations in one second, measured by Hertz. Thus, the formant frequencies F1 and F2 of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound has been measured to arrive at the quality of this sound and then to compare it with the preceding and following vowels in word-medial position and with the preceding vowel in word-final position.

In word-medial position, analysis of the four reciters’ performance of the qalqala sounds shows that F1 and F2 of the preceding [u], the sound accompanying [q] and the following [i] in [ʔuq?simu] are as follows:

**Al-Ghāmidiy**: 260Hz and 500Hz, 280Hz and 510Hz, and 260Hz and 555Hz, respectively; hence [ʔuqṣimū].
Al-Manshāwiyy: 220Hz and 432Hz, 189Hz and 394Hz, and 200Hz and 400Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔuqasimu] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Kanākiriyy: 260Hz and 516Hz, 240Hz and 470Hz, and 270Hz and 516Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔuqasimu'] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['ʤepədi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Hassān: 253Hz and 555Hz, 225Hz and 555Hz, and 280Hz and 570Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔuqasimu'] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['ʤepədi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

In ['ʔaṭʔamahum], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [t] and the following [a] are as follows:  
Al-Ghāmidtīyy: 270Hz and 510Hz, 270Hz and 520Hz, and 270Hz and 520Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔaṭʔamahum'] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Manshāwiyy: 225Hz and 430Hz, 195Hz and 370Hz, and 215Hz and 400Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔaṭəʔamahum'] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['ʤepədi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Kanākiriyy: 272Hz and 545Hz, 256Hz and 495Hz, and 256Hz and 495Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔaṭʔamahum'] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Hassān: 220Hz and 410Hz, 195Hz and 400Hz, and 220Hz and 417Hz, respectively; hence ['ʔaṭəʔamahum'] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

In ['ṣaʃri'], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [b], and the following [i] are as follows:  
Al-Ghāmidtīyy: 260Hz and 540Hz, 260Hz and 530Hz, and 230Hz and 450Hz, respectively; hence ['ṣaʃari'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in word-medial position in ['ventʃəro'] are around 165Hz and 360Hz.

Al-Manshāwiyy: 220Hz and 440Hz, 190Hz and 380Hz, and 200Hz and 400Hz, respectively; hence ['ṣaʃari'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Kanākiriyy: 208Hz and 416Hz, 185Hz and 380Hz, and 220Hz and 425Hz, respectively; hence ['ṣaʃari'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Hassān: 232Hz and 487Hz, 232Hz and 450Hz, and 215Hz and 415Hz, respectively; hence ['ṣaʃari'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

In ['jadʃal'], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [d], and the following [a] as follows:  
Al-Ghāmidtīyy: 250Hz and 500Hz, 250Hz and 500Hz, and 240Hz and 475Hz, respectively; hence ['jadʃaʃal'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Manshāwiyy: 250Hz and 472Hz, 235Hz and 472Hz, and 235Hz and 472Hz, respectively; hence ['jadʃaʃal'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Kanākiriyy: 235Hz and 470Hz, 190Hz and 390Hz, and 235Hz and 470Hz, respectively; hence ['jadʃaʃal'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

Al-Hassān: 274Hz and 540Hz, 274Hz and 540Hz, and 274Hz and 540Hz, respectively; hence ['jadʃaʃal'] since F1 and F2 of [a] in ['dępadi'] are around 187Hz and 390Hz.

In ['sadʃakah'], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [d], and the following [a] as follows:  
Al-Ghāmidtīyy: 260Hz and 500Hz, 232Hz and 450Hz, and 232Hz and 450Hz, respectively; hence ['sadʃakah'] (see Figure 9).

The Recorded materials for the schwa have been taken from Exercise 1 of Tape Unit 9 in Roach (1983: 176f).
Al-Kanākiriyy: 280Hz and 530Hz, 235Hz and 487Hz, and 235Hz and 487Hz, respectively; hence [‘ṣadarak] (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: F1 and F2 of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [t] and the following [a] in [ʔaṭa’amahum] for Al-Kanākiriyy.

Al-Hassān: 295Hz and 590Hz, 285Hz and 590Hz, and 264Hz and 494Hz, respectively; hence [‘ṣadarak] (see Figure 12).

Figure 12: F1 and F2 of the preceding [a], the sound accompanying [ʤ] and the following [a] in [‘jaʤaʕal] for Al-Hassān.

In word-final position, F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] in [ʔis’tabraq?] and of the sound accompanying [q] are as follows:

Al-Ghāmidiyy: 230Hz and 430Hz, and 190Hz and 370Hz, respectively; hence [ʔis’tabaraqa] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘entarə] in word-final position are around 170Hz and 365Hz.

Al-Manshāwiyy: 230Hz and 450Hz, and 195Hz and 395Hz, respectively; hence [ʔis’tabaraqa] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘netə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Kanākiriyy: 250Hz and 520Hz, and 168Hz and 370Hz, respectively; hence [ʔis’tabaraqa] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘netə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Hassān: 240Hz and 420Hz, and 190Hz and 360Hz, respectively; hence [ʔis’tabaraqa] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘servə] are around 190Hz and 360Hz.

In [luːʔ], F1 and F2 of the preceding [uː] and the sound accompanying [t] are as follows:

Al-Ghāmidiyy: 240Hz and 480Hz, and 160Hz and 380Hz, respectively; hence [luːtə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘lʊŋə] are around 167Hz and 355Hz.

Al-Manshāwiyy: 230Hz and 470Hz, and 176Hz and 387Hz, respectively; hence [luːtə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘netə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Kanākiriyy: 230Hz and 473Hz, and 160Hz and 380Hz, respectively; hence [luːtə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘netə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Hassān: 216Hz and 444Hz, and 184Hz and 368Hz, respectively; hence [luːtə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘netə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

In [‘waqabʔ], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [b] are as follows:

Al-Ghāmidiyy: 250Hz and 470Hz, and 208Hz and 407Hz, respectively; hence [‘waqabə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in [‘servə] are around 190Hz and 395Hz.
Al-Manshawiyy: 202Hz and 404Hz, and 177Hz and 370Hz, respectively; hence ['waqaba] since [ə] in ['netʃə] whose F1 and F2 are around 174Hz and 364Hz, respectively.

Al-Kanakiriyy: 240Hz and 450Hz and 185Hz and 380Hz, respectively; hence ['waqaba] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['netʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Hassān: 282Hz and 550Hz and 282Hz and 525Hz, respectively; hence ['waqaba].

In ['haradə'], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [dʒ] are as follows:

Al-Ghāmidiyiyy: 230Hz and 440Hz, and 180Hz and 320Hz, respectively; hence ['haradə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['kaːla] are around 130Hz and 300Hz.

Al-Manshawiyy: 210Hz and 410Hz, and 185Hz and 370Hz, respectively; hence ['haradə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['netʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Kanakiriyy: 245Hz and 470Hz, and 195Hz and 375Hz, respectively; hence ['haradə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['netʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Hassān: 210Hz and 410Hz, and 188Hz and 376Hz, respectively; hence ['haradə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['postʃə] are around 167Hz and 375Hz.

In ['kabadə'], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [d] are as follows:

Al-Ghāmidiyiyy: 206Hz and 430Hz, and 206Hz and 430Hz, respectively; hence ['kabada].

Al-Manshawiyy: 220Hz and 400Hz, and 184Hz and 360Hz, respectively; hence ['kabada] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['netʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Kanakiriyy: 240Hz and 490Hz, and 182Hz and 370Hz, respectively; hence ['kabada] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['netʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz.

Al-Hassān: 238Hz and 477Hz and 228Hz and 447Hz, respectively; hence ['kabada].

In the case of the geminated [q] at the end of ['haqq?], F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [q] are as follows:

Al-Ghāmidiyiyy: 260Hz and 478Hz, and 200Hz and 400Hz, respectively; hence ['haqqə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['seːvə] are around 190Hz and 395Hz (see Figure 13).

Figure 13: F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [b] in ['waqaba] for Al-Ghāmidiyiyy.

Al-Manshawiyy: 212Hz and 430Hz, and 168Hz and 340Hz, respectively; hence ['haqqə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['netʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz (see Figure 14).

Figure 14: F1 and F2 of the preceding [a] and the sound accompanying [d] in ['kabada] for Al-Manshawiyy.
Al-Kanākiryy: 270Hz and 500Hz and 185Hz and 385Hz, respectively; hence ['ḥaqqə] since F1 and F2 of [ə] in ['neɪtʃə] are around 174Hz and 364Hz (see Figure 15).

Al-Ḩassān: 270Hz and 520Hz, and 260Hz and 509Hz, respectively; hence ['ḥaqqa] (see Figure 16).

6.3 Waveform Repetition

Ladefoged (1996: 49) states that "vowels which continue for a comparatively long time; contain a number of consecutive waves which are almost identical to one another." These waves have different shapes according to vowel quality; so, a difference in the shape of the wave means a difference in the quality of the vowel and "they are heard as different vowels because each has a characteristic wave shape....in each of them the complex pattern repeats itself every one-hundredth of a second" (Ladefoged, 1996: 28). Analysis of the post-release phase of the qalqala sound together with the other vowel in the utterances shows that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound has a waveform which repeats itself every 0.02-0.06sec. This applies to the post-release phase of all the qalqala sounds. For example, in word-medial position, the waveform of the preceding vowel [a] and the sound accompanying [b] in ['ṣabari] repeats itself every 0.03sec. This means that the sound accompanying [b] is a vowel similar to the preceding vowel [a] in waveform repetition (see Figures 17 and 18).
In the articulation of the qalqala sound [ʤ] in ['jaʤaʕal], the waveform of the preceding [a] and that of the sound accompanying [ʤ] repeats itself every 0.02sec (see Figures 19 and 20).

Figure 19: Repetition of the waveform of the preceding [a] in ['jadʒaʕal] every 0.02sec for Al-Manshāwiyy.
Figure 20: Repetition of the waveform of the sound accompanying [ʤ] in ['jadʒaʕal] every 0.02sec. for Al-Manshāwiyy.

In the articulation of the qalqala sound [d] in ['sadarak], the waveform of the preceding [a] and that of the sound accompanying [d] repeat itself every 0.04sec (see Figures 21 and 22).

Waveform of the preceding [a]   Repetition of the waveform of the preceding [a]

Figure: 21: Repetition of the waveform of the preceding [a] in [ṣadarak] every 0.04sec for Al-Kanākiriyy

Figure: 22: Repetition of the waveform of the sound accompanying [d] in [ṣadarak] every 0.04sec for Al-Kanākiriyy.

In the articulation of the qalqala sound [d] in ['ʔahadaʔ], the waveform of the preceding [a] and that of the sound accompanying [d] repeats itself every 0.03sec (see Figures 23 and 24).
7. The Phonological Status of the Sound Accompanying the Qalqala Sounds

Since the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is a vowel like fatḥa, dhamma and/or schwa, then it is considered as a phoneme which occurs whenever the qalqala sounds occur. [a] and [u] have long been established as distinctive segments in Arabic, i.e. separate phonemes /a/ and /u/. As regards schwa [ə] which occurs only as a sound realizing the phenomenon of qalqala in reciting Qurʾānic verses, there is a well-established phonological principle: "once a phoneme, always a phoneme", thus the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is a phoneme which can be tested by the "minimal-pair test" as follows:

[ṣ̱abār] "patience" / [ṣ̱abar] "he showed patience"
[q̱adār] "dignity" / [q̱adār] "destiny"
[badār] "full moon" / [badar] "he came unexpectedly"
[naq̱d] "rescission" / [naqad] "he refuted"
[līʔaḏalihī] "for his sake" / [liʔa’ḏalihī] "for his moment of death"
[qaṭās] "assertion" / [qaṭa’s] "he asserted"
[faḏar] "dawn" / [faḏar] "he acted immorally"

From the above minimal-pair test, we may conclude that [ə] functions in Qurʾānic recitation as a distinctive segment, i.e. a separate phoneme /ə/, just like the other vowels accompanying the qalqala sounds, i.e. /a/ and /u/.

8. Results and Discussion

The results of the acoustic analysis of the qalqala sounds in terms of amplitude, formant frequency and waveform repetition are as follows:

Figure 23: Repetition of the waveform of the preceding [a] in ['ʔahāda] every 0.03sec. for Al-Hassān.

Figure 24: Repetition of the waveform of the sound accompanying [d] in ['ʔahadə] every 0.03sec. for Al-Hassān.
8.1 Amplitude Analysis
When measuring the amplitude of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound (the post-release phase of the qalqala sound), the spectrographic analysis shows that this sound is a vowel since it has intensity like any other vowel in the examined utterances for all the four reciters. However, the value for intensity is different from one reciter to another.

8.2 Formant Frequency Analysis
The results of F1 and F2 of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound in word-medial position show that this sound is mostly close to [ə] in Al-Ghāmideyy's performance. In word-final position, on the other hand, the spectrographic analysis shows that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is close to [a].

The spectrographic analysis of Al-Manshāwīyy's performance shows that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is close to [ə] in word-medial and word-final positions. The results of Al-Kanākiriyy's performance show that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is close to [ə] in word-medial position, whereas it is close to [a] in word-final position. Finally, the results of the spectrographic analysis of Al-Hassān's performance show that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is close to /a/ in word-medial position, whereas in word-final position it is sometimes close to /a/ and sometimes close to /ə/.

8.3 Waveform Repetition
The results of waveform repetition of the four reciters show that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is a vowel that has a waveform which repeats itself every 0.02-0.06 sec similar to the other vowels in the utterance.

9. Conclusions
It may be concluded that the sound accompanying the qalqala sound is a vowel-like articulation since it has intensity; this vowel is, in view of its F1 and F2, mostly close to [ə]. The waveform of the sound accompanying the qalqala sound repeats itself at regular time intervals. It is also concluded that the phenomenon of qalqalais of two levels: minimum and maximum, since there is no real difference between the geminated qalqala sound and its non-geminated counterpart. Because the phenomenon of qalqala is a feature that goes against the natural human tendency for economy of muscular effort, there is no stability among the four reciters' performance of qalqala sounds.

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