Abstract

The aim of the present paper is to explore homophony in English as well as Arabic as one of the lexical relations. Homophony then refers to the phenomenon of words with different meanings having the same sound. Those words are called homophones. Homophony offers a fertile ground for a paper of a small size which falls into three sections. The first deals with the concept of homophony in English through some definitions by Western linguists. Related terms to homophony are also provided in this section with reference to different types of homophony in English. The second section is concerned with homophony in Arabic. The same approach adopted in the first section is followed in the second one. Definitions of homophony by Arab rhetoricians are surveyed followed by the various different types of homophony in Arabic. The third section is intended to shed some light on similarities and differences in terms of definitions and types of homophony in both English and Arabic. The findings of the paper are summed up in the conclusion.

1.1 Definitions of Homophony in English

In everyday talk, one frequently gives the meaning of words in terms of their relationships. In doing so, one is characterizing the meaning of a word not in terms of its component features, but in terms of its relationship to other words. This procedure has also been used in the semantic description of languages and treated as the analysis of lexical relations. 'Homophony' represents one of the less well-known terms which are often used to describe relationships among words in a language (Yule,1996:118-20).

In linguistics, a 'homophone' is one of two or more words that are pronounced the same but differ in meaning, origin, and sometimes spelling. Homophony then refers to the phenomenon of words with different meaning having the same sound. Etymologically, homophony is from the Greek "homofonos", where 'homo' means the same, and 'phon' means a sound, literally 'same-sounding' (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2008:1).

Those words are called hyponyms or homophones since they may be spelled the same, such as rose (flower) and rose (past tense of "rise") , or differently, like carat, caret, and carrot, or two and too, or know and no. Another example, in English, the spelling of 'saw' can mean at least two different things, i.e., a tool for carpenters or the past tense for the verb 'to see'. Interestingly, the present tense of the same verb also has two meanings, i.e., perception by eye and the religious reference to the seat of power as in "the holy see" (ibid.).
The examples just given have identical spellings for the different meanings as well as identical sounds. But homophony is not restricted to such cases at all; 'meat' and 'meet' are not spelled the same and yet they have different meanings but identical sounds. A homophone is a type of homonym, although sometimes homonym is used to refer to homophones that have the same spelling but different meanings (Homophony in Chinese, 2008:1).

The following pairs are examples of homophones that have different spellings for the same sound (Fromkin and Rodman, 1988:357):
1. a. The book was red.
   b. The book was read.
2. a. Reading is allowed in the library.
   b. Reading is aloud in the library.

Homophones are often used to create puns and to deceive the reader or to suggest multiple meanings. The last usage is common in poetry and creative literature. An example of this is seen in Dylan Thomas's radio play Under Milk Wood: "The shops in mourning" where mourning can be heard as mourning or morning. Another vivid example is Thomas Hood's poem "Faithless Sally Brown" where toll'd is heard as told or toll'd (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2008:1):
3. His death, which happen'd in his berth,
   At forty-odd befell:
   They went and told the sexton, and
   The sexton toll'd the bell.

Homophone is strictly a relative term, then the words if spoken without context are of ambiguous signification. It is convenient, for instance, to say that son and heir are both homophones, meaning that each belongs to that particular class of words which without context are of ambiguous signification: and it is convenient also to say that son and sun and heir and air are homophones without explaining it is meant that they are mutually homophonous, which is evident. Thus, a physician congratulating a friend on the birth of his first-born might say, 'Now that you have a son and heir, see that he gets enough sun and air (Bridges, 2004:2).

Sometimes, homophones are good candidates for humour as well as for confusion like:
4. "How is bread made?"
   "I know that!" Alice cried eagerly.
   "You take some flour."
   "Where do you pick the flower?" the White Queen asked.
   (Carroll cited in Fromkin and Rodman, 1988:211)

the humour of this passage is based on two sets of homophones: flour and flower. Alice means flour as made by grinding corn, whereas the White Queen is interpreting flower to mean the rose flower.

In music, homophony is a texture in which two or more parts move together in harmony, the relationship between them creating chords. In other words, homophony means music in which the voices or instruments sing or play chords. In homophonic music all the choir are singing the same words at the same time. There is a tune on top and the lower parts are the accompaniment. This is what happens in hymn singing (Paul, 2005:1).

This is distinct from polyphony, in which parts move with rhythmic independence, and monophony, in which all parts move in parallel rhythm and pitch. A homophonic texture is also homorhythmic (or uses a very similar rhythm). However, in homophony, one voice, often the highest, plays a distinct melody, and the accompanying voices work together to articulate an underlying harmony. Initially, in Ancient Greece, homophony indicated music in which a single melody is performed by two or more voices in unison or octaves, i.e., monophony with multiple voices. Homophony as a term first appeared in English by Charles Burney in 1776, emphasizing the concord of harmonized melody (Randel, 2002:1).
1.2 Related Terms

Several similar linguistic concepts are related to homophony. The term 'homonym' is ambiguous because there are a number of ways that two meanings can share the 'same name' and because the term is used in different ways by educated speakers, and these variant meanings are recorded by dictionaries. The terms 'homograph' and 'homophone' are however usually defined the same way as meaning "same spelling" and "same sound" respectively, and 'heteronym' and 'homonym' can be seen as respective subclasses of these (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2008:1-2).

In linguistics, a 'homonym' is one of a group of words that share the same pronunciation but have different meanings, and usually spelled differently. Some sources only require that homonyms share the same spelling or pronunciation (in addition to having different meanings), but these are the definitions most other sources give for homographs and homophones respectively. The state of being a homonym is called 'homonymy'. Examples of homonyms are stalk (which can mean either part of a plant or to follow someone around), bear (animal) and bear (carry), left (opposite of right) and left (past tense of leave). Some sources also consider the following trio of words to be homonyms, but others designate them as "only homophones": to, too and two (ibid.).

Some sources state that homonym meanings must be unrelated in origin (rather than just different). Thus, right (correct) and right (opposed to left) would be polysemous, i.e., polysemes are words with the same spelling and distinct but related meanings, and not be homonyms. But the distinction between polysemy and homonymy is often subtle and subjective, and not all sources consider polysemous words to be homonyms. Words such as "mouth" meaning either the orifice on one's face, or the opening of a cave or river, are polysemous and may or may not be considered homonyms. The word "homonym" comes from the conjunction of the Greek prefix 'homo' (meaning same) and suffix 'onym' (meaning name). Thus, it refers to two or more distinct words sharing the "same name" (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, 2008:2).

Homonyms may create ambiguity. A word or a sentence is ambiguous if it can be understood or interpreted in more than one way. The sentence:
5. She cannot bear children.
may be understood to mean "She is unable to give birth to children" or "She cannot tolerate children". The ambiguity is due to the two words bear with two different meanings. Sometimes additional context can help to disambiguate the sentence:
6. She cannot bear children if they are noisy.
7. She cannot bear children because she is sterile.

Both words bear used in the above sentences are verbs. There is another homonym bear, the animal, which is a noun with different semantic properties. But the adjective bare, despite its different spelling, is homophonous with the above words and also has a different meaning. Bare as a verb is yet another homonym (Fromkin and Rodman, 1988:211).

Another related term to homophone is 'homograph' since both of them constitute two types of heteronyms. 'Heteronym' is used as a broad term to include both homographs and homophones, but not homonyms. A homograph is one of a group of words that share the same spelling but have different meanings. Homographs may be pronounced the same, in this case they are also homophones. For example, bark (the sound of a dog) and bark the skin of a tree) (Riggs,1999:4).

Alternatively they may be pronounced differently, in this case they are also heteronyms. For instance, row (argument) and row (propel with oars) . Homograph comes from the Greek prefix 'homo' means "same" and suffix 'graphos' means "written with the hand". Examples of common homographs include the following (All About Spelling,2008:1-2):
8. does and does (c.f. Same spelling, different pronunciation):
   a. He does like to run.
   b. Does are female deer.
9. wind and wind (c.f. Same spelling, different pronunciation):
   a. I can feel the wind in my hair.
   b. Wind up the string before it gets tangled.
10. **well** and **well** (c.f. Same spelling, same pronunciation) :
   a. Sam doesn't feel **well** today.
   b. Our neighbors are digging a new **well**.

   From the above explanations, it is concluded that there is a considerable confusion and contradiction in published sources about the distinction between homonyms, homographs and homophones. Significant variant interpretations include :

   **Random House Unabridges Dictionary** (2008:2) explains that homonym is technically the correct term for words that are simultaneously homographs and homophones but that it is used in the sense of only homograph or only homophone in nontechnical contexts. Thus, a river **bank**, a savings **bank**, a bank of switches, and a **bank** shot in pool, share only a common spelling and pronunciation, but not meaning. **Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary**, (2008:3) also states that a homonym is "one of two or more words spelled and pronounced alike but different in meaning", but appears to also give homonym as a synonym for either homophone or homograph. **Cambridge Dictionary of American English** (2008:5) defines homonym as "a word that is spelled the same as another word but that does not have the same meaning" and adds "A homonym is also a homophone". Homonym is a somewhat looser term than homophone, sometimes referring to all homophones and only homophones, and sometimes referring to the subset of homophones that are spelled alike (Suber and Thorpe, 2008:1).

   The entry for homograph in **The Encyclopedia Britannica** (2008:3) mentions that homographs are "words spelt but not sounded alike", and homophones are "words alike only in sound, i.e., not alike in spelling". Also homographs are defined in the **Oxford English Dictionary**
   (2008:3) as words that are spelled and pronounced the same as another but with a different meaning (which is the definition of a homonym in most other sources), thus, excluding pairs **desert** (abandon) and **desert** (a rid region), which are considered homographs by most other sources.

### 1.3 Types of Homophone

This section discusses different types of homophone with reference to illustrative samples for each one of them as indicated below :

#### 1.3.1 Oronyms

Homophones in the context of word games are known as 'oronyms'. Oronyms are basically homophones which span words. They work in spoken English because one runs all his words together. This term was coined by Gyles Brandreth and first published in his book **The Joy of Lex** (1980), and it was used in the BBC programme **Never Mind the Full Stops**, which was featured Brandreth as a guest (**Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**, 2008:1).

Generally the word homophone is used to describe one of a pair or group of words that have the same sound like **ant** and **aunt** ; **hear** and **here**, whilst oronyms are normally strings of words or phrases that sound the same as another string of words or phrases, but they are spelt differently such as **iced ink** and **I stink**. Oronyms usually occur because sometimes in speech it is almost impossible to tell where one word ends and the next begins. The seamlessness of speech can often cause misunderstandings (Pinker, 2007:1). Mistakenly hearing an oronym in a song or poem instead of the phrase referred to as a mondegreen or juncture which means a series of words that result from the mishearing of a statement or song lyric as exemplified in the following (**Mondegreens and Oronyms**, 2008:2) :

11. **mint spy** vs. **mince pie**.
12. **stuffy nose** vs. **stuff he knows**.
13. **i.c.u.** vs. **I see you**.
14. **depend** vs. **deep end**.
15. **the sky** vs. **this guy**.

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Two onymyms appear in "Ana’s Song (Open Fire)" by Silverchair, while they initially sound like monongreens, reading the lyrics will reveal that this is not the case. The first line of the song, "Please die Ana, for as long as you’re here we’re not”, also sounds very much like "Please Diana,…", which confuses people into believing that "Ana" is a person, when really it is just a nickname for anorexia. The next verse is "And Ana wrecks your life, like an anorexia life", which is another onymym that proves "ana's" real meaning (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2008:2).

Here are some more phrases that sound the same (Oronyms, 2008:1):
16.a. The good can decay many ways.
b. The good candy came any ways.
17.a. Ice cream for a tasty tea time treat.
b. I scream for a tasty tea time treat.
18.a. If you listen you can hear the night rain.
b. If you listen you can hear the night train.

1.3.2 Pseudo-Homophones
Pseudo-homophones are non-words that are phonetically identical to a word-pseudo-homophone pairs which are phonetically identical letter strings where one string is a word and the other is a non-word, for example, groan/grone; crane/crain; oui/we and nein/nine are pseudo-homophone pairs, whereas plane/plain is a homophone pair since both letter strings are recognized words, both types of pairs are used in lexical decision tasks to investigate word recognition (Cooper, 2008:2).

1.3.3 Proper Nouns Homophone
This type of homophone refers to a few proper names, that are capitalized the names of two or things having the same pronunciation but different spellings. Notably a lot of nations, nationalities, and place names are pronounced the same as common nouns as in the following samples (English Homophones, 2008:3):
19. Pete, peat.
22. Rome, roam.
23. Wales, whales.

1.3.4 Homophones of the Letters of Alphabet
Since homophones represent the state or condition of a letter, word, or symbol having the same sound as another but a different meaning, then,

this type of homophone refers to a letter or a character expressing the same sound as another (Farlex, 2008:1):
24. I, eye, aye.
26. T, tea, tee.
27. U, you, ewe, yew.

1.3.5 Homophones Related to Threat
This type of homophone is called so when one spelling is of a threatening nature and one is not, as in:
28. slay/sleigh.
29. war/wore.

It has been used in studies of anxiety as a test of cognitive models when those with high anxiety tend to interpret ambiguous information in a threatening manner (Mogg, 1994:461).

Furthermore, homophones can be found in hyphenated compounds like: fillip, fill-up, Phillip and acronyms that have come to be pronounced as words, e.g., WACS in WACS, wacks, wax,
whacks. There are also pairs of words when pronounced together sound like some other single words as in: a cord, accord; back ache, backache, and there are some words that differ in spelling from other words only in the use of a possessive apostrophe, e.g., homes, home’s. However, when an apostrophe indicates a standard contraction, it will include the following pairs: its, it’s, theirs, there’s (Suber and Thorp,2008:2).

Obviously, the determination of what counts as sounding the "same" depends on the dialect of the speaker. This means that regional accents may affect whether words are homophones: c.f. rode and road, father and farther, court and caught in the so-called Received Pronunciation (RP) of British English. In certain Scottish accent, none of these pairs of forms are homophones; as father: farther and court: caught, though caught and cot are homophones in many American accents. It is an important fact about Standard English that it is pronounced differently by different groups and what are homophones for one group of speakers may not be for another (Lyons,1981:71).

Occasionally dialectal variation produces what is called "disjunctive homophones", when some people pronounce route and rout alike, while others pronounce route and root alike (Suber and Thorpe,2008:3).

2.1 Definitions of Homophony in Arabic

'Homophony' (الحناس) is one of the oldest and important arts of (الندع) since it reflects beauty whether in music or speech and makes speech have an essential effect on ear and soul because of the great surprise and deceive to the mind of the speaker when he expects the same thing that happens again. The importance of this subject made Arab grammarians and rhetoricians write basic textbooks about it. Some of them have the same name of this art like (162-ه) when he wrote a book entitled (الأجناب) while others have different names since they refer to its semantic aspect as: (285-ه 1350-ه), انفاق التفظين والمعنى مختلف when published (ت:710-ه:1988,24:1 when published سيريه), and (ت:710-ه:1988,24:1 ما اتاق نطقه واختلف معناه من القرآن المجيد).

This art is known by: (ت:711-ه:1955,43:6) as المطلق تغلب (ت:291-ه 1980,56:29) ابن المعتز (ت:296-ه 1350-ه:25) and defines it as "the same pronunciation for words of different meanings" and this makes him the first one who agrees with other rhetoricians about the definition of homophony. According to (اء 1988,24:1) homophony is considered the second and basic arts of (الندع) which is flourished and developed in types and terms by the poets and writers particularly in the late ages.

Homophony is found in the Glorious Quran and even in old and modern poetry as exemplified below:

2. "But set thou thy face to the right Religion," (ibid.)
3. (زهير بن أبي سلمي) and (أيديفورد) cited in 276:1998,85 say:
   "We have come to Christians to make a treaty and establish their religion in every land"
4. (أبحث) say:
   "We have come to Christians to make a treaty and establish their religion in every land"

2.2 Homophony in Linguistics

In linguistics, (النطاق) all of them mean (النطاق) which refers to everything such as people and birds (النطاق) (النطاق) 63:4,85-6,1955,1383,5,2001,85:1383,4,2001). Some of the Arab rhetoricians want to differentiate between them and say (النطاق) comes from (النطاق) (النطاق) but if one of them is similar to the other, it will be homophone. The base of (النطاق) (النطاق) and some of them say (النطاق) (النطاق) comes from (النطاق) for it is homophone and has different types (النطاق) (النطاق) 4,2001,85:1383,4,2001).
There are different definitions for the concept of homophony in Arabic rhetoricians but all of them agree on one that is given by Ibn al-mutən (الاسم ماعز (الشيخ:42004). 2.3 Types of Homophony

The ancient rhetoricians divided homophone into two categories verbal and abstract. Verbal homophone (الجناس الفظ) refers to the sameness in pronunciation which is subdivided into two basic types: perfect homophone (الجناس غير النام) and imperfect homophone (الجناس النام). whereas abstract homophone (الجناس المنوي) is divided into two: implicit homophone (الجناس الإضمار) and demonstrative homophone (الجنس الإشارة).

Homophone has different names according to different rhetoricians like: اٌٛؽةٛاؽ تد و quienes subdivides it into seven types such as: perfect homophone (الجنس المماثل) and imperfect homophone (الجنس المماثل)، where complex (الكرير), demonstrated (النظر) and important letters (الخط) and and of which the siwati (ت:19973:1:289) who pride of great numbers of homophone that never heard before.

Despite of all these types, the study will discuss the two basic types of homophone which are given by اٌمض ٚ٠ٕةٟ تد since they are the most reliable types for most modern Arab rhetoricians. Thus, verbal homophone and its types are set first and abstract homophone and its types are set second.

2.3.1 Perfect Homophone (الجنس التام)

Perfect homophone (الجنس التام) refers to homophone words in their letters but have different meanings.

But the precise definition of this type is given by اٌمض ٚ٠ٕةٟ تد:٘ة when he says that they have homophonous letters concerning their types, numbers, shapes and orders.

This means that the words in this type of homophone associate with each others in everything including exact characteristics of their sounds and letters' orders except meaning.

Perfect homophone is subdivided into three types: identical (المماثل), complete (المكمل) and complex (المكرر) which can be presented in the following sections.

1.3.1.1 Identical (المماثل)

Identical homophone (المماثل) refers to the homophonic words in the types of letters, numbers, shapes and orders, and they belong to the same part of speech whether nouns, verbs or prepositions as in (فِيودر:1988:279:955).

- "On the Day that the Hour(of reckoning) will be established, the transgressors will swear that they tarried not but an hour." (Ali, 2001:1023)

Identical homophone exists between two nouns: Hour (ساعة) and hour (ساعة) and they are similar in their pronunciation but differ in meaning since the meaning of the first Hour which refers to Doomsday is different from the second which means a period of time.

- "The vivid flash of His lightning well-night blinds the sight. It is Allah Who alternates the Night and the Day: Verily in these things is an instructive example for those who have vision! (ibid.).

And says: عبّاس عبّاس أذا أهتم الوضي في البجّف وفّاضم وفّاضم and the first two are proper nouns whereas the second means scowl, فّاضم عبّاس and Rejib refers to spring season (الشيخ:2004:51).
Identical homophone may occur between verbs which is exemplified by the following:

8. قوم لو أنهم أرتاضوا لما فرضوا أو أنهم شعروا بالنقص ما شعروا.
   the first verb here, (شعر) means sense that is different from the second means compose poetry. And it also happens between prepositions as in:
   قد ينزل المطر شتاء وقد ينزل صيفا.  
   The identical homophone is between two prepositions (قد) in everything except meaning for the first one refers to plenty of rain while the second means little rain (ibid.).

1.3.1.2 Complete (mistawi)

This type of complete homophone (الجنس المستوفي) refers to the sameness in letters concerning their types, numbers, shapes and orders except a contrast in word classes. Thus, one of them can be a verb while the other is a noun or a preposition and one of them may be a noun whereas the second is a preposition. Homophones that occur between a noun and verb are in the following lines:

9. لَٛ أُٔٙ اسربػٛا ٌّب لشػٛا        أٚ أُٔٙ  
   The rain might fall in winter and might fall in summer. The identical homophone is between two prepositions (تلةذ) in everything except meaning for the first one refers to plenty of rain while the second means little rain (ibid.).

2.3.1.3 Complex (المركب)

Complex homophone (الجنس المركب) occurs if its words are complex or one of them is complex while the other is single. The poet says (ibid., 282):

10. وسميته يحيى لحبي بفلم يكن إلى مرد أمر الله فيه سبيل
    the first word (يحيى) is a noun while the second is a verb.

11. ودارهم ما دمت في دارهم وأرضهم ما دمت في ارضتهم.
    The poet uses four homophonous words between verbs and nouns such as the first verb (دارهم) to mean good deed whereas the second noun means their houses. Homophone also occurs between the verb (أرضهم) which means satisfy them and noun to mean their land (الشيخ, 2004:51).

Homophone between a verb and preposition is (قُيود, 1998:281):

12. علا نجمه في عالم الشعر فجاجة         على أنه ما زال في الشعر شاديا.  
    Here, the poet expresses homophone between the first word (علا) as a verb to mean go up and the second one as a preposition. Then, homophone can also occur between a preposition and noun as in:

13. هويت في حفرة سقطت من في أسناني.

Here I fell down in a hole and lost my teeth. When the first word (في) is used as a preposition while the second is a noun.

Homophone here, is between a single word (تُتْر) and complex one (كل متني). The same is in the following line:

14. على وفظ سئا لعجْ            ع ج١٢٤  
    This line is similar to the above one since the complex words comprise two: (مجال سجدود) and (مجال جود). This type of complex homophone is called faked (ملفقة).

Complex homophone may have two parts: one of them consists of a single word and the other has one word and a half. Arab rhetoricians call such a type as woven (كلمتيني). This type of homophone may also comprise a single word and two words. This is called (متشابها) if the items are similar to each other in pronunciation as well as spelling. The poet says:
Here, the first word is a complex one that consists of two: ( tội ) whereas the second is a single one (ذاهبة). And if they are pronounced alike but have different spelling it is called separated like: (جامنا) and (جامنا). If the pronunciation is alike but spelt differently it is called separated like: (تعباب) and (تعباب).

2.3.2 Imperfect Homophone

Imperfect homophones is also called (الجناب الاستثنائي) by (الجنس غير الناتح) (166) who states that it is different from perfect homophone because of the deficiency that may occur in (الحركات) and the differences between the letters of the words that may come from one base or not.

The same point is expressed by (المثبات) (290:2003) when he calls such differences in the shapes of the letters, numbers, types, and orders as deviant (الحراشين)، deficiency (المضارع واللاحق)، present and subsequent (المضارع)، and reverse (القلب) respectively. The following sections will discuss these types of imperfect homophone.

2.3.2.1 Deviant

Deviant (المحرف) is one type of imperfect homophone that refers to the agreement between words concerning the letters' types, numbers and orders except a contrast in their shapes. Such differences may occur in (ذوالفقار) as in: "But We sent a foretime among them (messengers) to admonish them - then see what was the End of those who were admonished (but heeded not)" (Ali, 2001:1145)

Or in (الشاعر) as in: "And one leg will be joined with another: that Day the Drive will be (all) to thy Lord!" (Ali, 2001:1568)

2.3.2.2 Deficiency

Some rhetoricians agree to say that deficiency homophone (الجنس النافص) is spelled differently concerning the numbers of the letters only that's why it is called deficiency since one of the homophonous words are deficient from the other in one or two letters only. An example of the deficient letter that occurs initially: "And one leg will be joined with another: that Day the Drive will be (all) to thy Lord!" (Ali, 2001:1568)

Homophone in this aaya is between (المضارع) (the present tense) which is different from (المضارع) in one letter only. Or in the middle of the word:

I finally found my effort.

2.3.2.3 Present and Subsequent Homophones

Present homophone (الجنس المضارع) refers to the differences between words including the types of the letters in no more than one and if they are similar to each other in articulation they will be called so. Such differences may occur at the beginning of the words like (المضارع) and (اللمثة) in (الشاعر) (291:2003).
26. "Others they keep away from it, and themselves they keep away;"
(Ali,2001:300)

And at the end of the words as in the Prophet Muhammed's speech:

27. "Woe to every(kind of) and backbiter," (Ali,2001:1698)

28. "That was because ye were wont to rejoice on the earth in things other than the Truth, and that ye were wont to be insolent." (Ali, 2001:1225)

29. When there comes to them some matter touching(Public) safety or fear," (ibid.:210)

Present and subsequent homophones differ in letters' types only and similar in letter's numbers, orders and shapes. This means that homophonous words are alike in their spelling except a contrast in dots, so they are called:

30. "And at the end of the words as in the Prophet Muhammed's speech:

31. Here, the poet expresses homophones between two words that look like the same except a contrast in their dots.

2.3.2.4 Reverse Homophone

Reverse homophone means the differences between homophonous words in the orders of the letters which is either complete reverse when one of them is completely opposite the other in the letters' orders, as in:

32. Truly I feared lest thou shouldst say, Thou hast caused a division among the Children of Israel," (Ali,2001:783)

Here, homophone is between two words:

33. "And I have come to thee from Saba with tidings true." (Ali,2001: 943)
2.3.3 Implicit Homophone  
 Implicit homophone is the first type of abstract homophone which is expressed by the speaker when he says something but means another that can be understood from the context, e.g.:

فهو إذا رأته عين الرائي أبو معاذ أو آخر الخنساء.  

The meaning of أبو معاذ (أبو معاذ) is a mountain and (آخر الخنساء) is a rock but they are not meant here, because the implied meaning is blaming the hearer when he looks like a rock (الشيرازي, 1379هـ: 2).

2.3.4 Demonstrative Homophone

The second type of abstract homophone is represented by demonstrative homophone which means the speaker mentions only one of homophonous words while the other is interpreted from certain reference to it:

39. في ضلوك اسمك أضحي مصباحاً ويثاب.

The poet mentions حمزة as one of homophonous words and he demonstrates to the other (الجمعة) and (خيصم حمزة) as follows.

3.1 Analysis of Homophony

In this section, an attempt is made to trace the similarities and differences of homophony in English and Arabic. This will be done in terms of the definitions characterizing homophony and its types.

1. Defining homophony: Despite the various names and definitions given by Arab rhetoricians, the concept is the same in Arabic language. Homophony is basically the process that exists between words that are pronounced alike, but have different meanings. But there is a confusion about the definition of homophony in English. A homophone is a word that shares the same pronunciation as another word but differs in meaning. Homophones may be spelled the same in this case they are also homonyms or spelled differently. In such a case, the distinction between homophony and homonymy is not always clear cut. A homophone, on the other hand, is considered a type of homonym and homonyms can be seen as the subclass of homophones that are spelled the same, on the other hand. This means homonym according to some Western linguists is seen as a synonym with homophone. Above all, if homophonous words share the same spelling with another, they will be similar to Arabic perfect homophone and if they have different spelling, they will be parallel to imperfect homophone in Arabic.

2. Types of homophony: The study of the types of homophony in English and Arabic has shown a difference in manner of classification. Types of homophony in English are more restricted in comparison with Arabic. Each type of homophony in English is set according to a certain aspect of homophony. The types recognized are in terms of the strings of words, identical words to non-words, proper nouns, the conditions of letter and threat. In Arabic, the classification of the types of homophony enjoy more freedom of membership. Arab rhetoricians and grammarians have tried to put types of homophony in terms of two categories: verbal and abstract then each one of them is subdivided into various types. Despite the differences in classification between types of homophony in both languages, there are similarities between some of them. Thus, onyroms represent one type of homophone in English which is parallel to Arabic complex perfect homophone since both of them comprise a pair of words. The second similarity is between proper nouns and identical perfect homophones in English and Arabic that refer to homophone between nouns and things sharing the same pronunciation.
Conclusion

It has been found that the concept of homophony in English is not the same as in the case of Arabic. Western linguists confuse between the two terms homophony and homonymy concerning their definitions while Arab rhetoricians share the same view that homophony is basically a lexical relation when the words have the same sound but different meanings. It is maintained that the comprehension of any homophony depends on context in order to reveal the ambiguity that rises between homophonous words. Homophony in both languages shows itself to be dependent on context. Arab grammarians and rhetoricians adopt a different approach from their Western counterparts in the classification of types of homophony. Arab scholars give homophony a lot of attention and study it extensively due to their interest in rhetoric. The classification of types of homophony in Arabic confirms this.
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