
RESEARCH ARTICLE

English Spelling of Arabic Compound Personal Names by Educated Arabs on Facebook

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ABSTRACT

This study examines a sample of Arabic compound personal name spelling errors in English on Facebook as produced by educated Arabs such as students, faculty, schoolteachers, and other professionals. It also examines the kinds of variant spellings and their sources, and the spelling strategies used. A sample of 452 compound names was selected from Facebook consisting of the prefixes عبد *Abd*, أبو *Abu*, and the suffix الدين *-ddine*. The subjects have different proficiency levels in English. The English spelling data analysis revealed that 68.1% of the compound names begin with *Add*, *Abel*, *Abdal* and *Abdul*; 27.6% begin with *Abo*, *Abu*, *Abou*, *Apo*; and 4.2% end with *-ddine*, *-dine*, *-din*. In compound name containing *Abd*, the prefix has 3 attached forms, 3 detached forms and 1 hyphenated form. In 5 variants, *Abd* is attached to the definite article *-al* whether the compound structure is *Abd + -al+ Noun* or just *Abd + -al*. In 27% a capitalized noun follows *Abd*, *Abdel*, *Abdal*, *Abdel* and *Abdul*. The second prefix *Abo* was used in 54 compounds in this category; *Abu* in 50 compounds; *Abou* in 17; *Apo* in 2; *Abul* in 1; and *Aboul* in 1 compound. Only two compounds out of 125 contain this prefix attached *-al* (*Abul* & *Aboul*). In 74%, the subjects capitalized the second constituent that follows *Abu*, *Abo*, *Abou*, *Aboul*, *Abul*, and *Apo*. The suffix الدين occurred in 19 unique names. It has three variants (*-ddine*, *-din*, *-dine*) and 38 occurrences. The form with the highest occurrence is *-din*. In 10 compounds, the suffix and the first constituent are spelled as one word. In 15 compounds the definite article in الدين is capitalized. In 8 compounds the initial letter in دين is doubled as it is a sun letter that is assimilated with *-al*. The variant and deviant English spellings of compound names in this study can be attributed to lack of competence in grapheme-phoneme correspondence, ignorance of the English spelling rules, and transfer of the Arabic spelling system to English. The study gives recommendations for improving the subjects' spelling skills in English.

KEYWORDS

Compound personal names, Arabic names, English spelling of Arabic names, Facebook, compound names with *Abd*, compound names with *Abu*, compound names with *Eddine*.

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1. Introduction

A compound refers to a group of two or more words joined together into one unit that functions as a single part of speech. Most Arabic compounds consist of lexical items separated by a blank as in the following male names صلاح، عبد العزيز، ابن المقفع، صلاح أبو بكر، عبد العزيز، ابن المقفع، صلاح، زين العابدين أم كلثوم، أم السعد، the following female name باعلوي، باقيس، أم الخير، نور الهدى، نور القمر، فاطمة الزهراء، زهرة العلا، قطر الندى، بنت الشاطي، شجرة الدر، and others. Agglutinated compound proper names in which the constituents are spelled together are very few as in the following names in the pre-Islamic and early Islamic eras: بختنصر، سبيويه، خالويه، نبطويه، معديكرب. These are often referred to as mixed compounds مركب مزجي. Hyphenated compound names are not used in Arabic at all. The vast majority of Arabic words and compound have one spelling, i.e., there is a one-to-one phoneme-grapheme correspondence. Variant spellings exist in a limited number of Arabic words such as إسحاق/إسحاق، يس/ياسين، باسم الله/بسم الله (Al Jarf, 2011c; Al-Jarf, 2004a; Al-Jarf, 1994a; Al-Jarf, 1994b; Al-Jarf,1990),

unusual or even nonsensical to a native-English speaker. The specific word forms chosen by name-givers are motivated by the intended meanings. The study illustrates the African onomastic argument that personal names are not mere labels but windows that reflect the sociocultural context of their creation.

In Nigeria, Yoruba married women are still retaining their fathers' names after marriage due to some social reasons or factors such as the need for easy recognition, the desire to avoid problems of official documentation in the offices after marriage, efforts to guard against the extinction of family names, and to protect ancestral roots, among others. In addition, some of the social factors responsible for the use of compound surnames by married women include education, religion and exposure to western culture. This practice among educated Yoruba married women is indicative of erosion of this aspect of the Yoruba tradition as a result of contact with Islam and the West (Fakuade, Fadahunsi, Rafiu & Adekeye, 2015)

Another study by Táíwò (2009) examined the structure of Yorùbá complex words such as compounds (especially those derived through desententialization), and reduplication, and those derived through the attachment of Owolabi's Class II prefixes. He assigned heads to these complex words, re-analyzed Owolabi's Class II prefixes and concluded that they actually consist of two morphemes each. Results revealed that most of the Yorùbá morphologically complex words have their left-hand members as head. The researcher proposed a rule to account for the head in morphology.

In South Africa, Koopman (1984) analyzed Zulu compound nouns to explain the compounding process of various types of 'words' that form compounds of specific name-reference such as the difference between phonological and morphological vowel deletion and what these signify, and how the semantic import of the compounds can be derived from the two lexical items used in the compound, the structural differences between personal names and other compound nouns and relationships between underlying structures and their surface realizations.

In Iceland, Strandberg (2008) explored the etymology of compound Old Icelandic Óðinn names with the second component-*fǫr*. Óðinn, one of the most prominent gods of the Norse pantheon, is known to Icelanders by a remarkably large number of names (no less than 169 Óðinn names). The researcher examined a group of names that are compound names with the second component -*fǫr* (e.g., *Alfǫðr*, *Valfǫðr*, *Herfǫðr*), which shows a morphological deviation from the more frequent simplex form *faðir*. The researcher concluded that at least one of the *fǫr* compounds - *Alfǫðr* - may be plausibly interpreted as a possessive compound with remarkable support from the mythology as related in *Snorra Edda*.

In Lithuania, Sinkevičiūtė (2020) presented new Lithuanian compound names with the first stem of Christian origin from the Lithuanian *Metrica* (15th–16th century) as a witness of the intersection between pagan and Christian cultures, all of them relevant to the broader issue of the Christianization of North-eastern Europe. The researcher indicated that the first element of Christian compound names came from East Slavic in the 10th–13th centuries and that the vast majority of names came from East Slavic and Polish. East Slavic names might have entered Lithuania via Poland, whereas Polish names could have entered Lithuania via Belarus. The researcher concluded that compound names herein do not require an early influence of Orthodox Christianity in the pagan culture of the Baltic peoples.

Regarding ancient languages such as Assyrian and Hitti, Kloekhorst (2019) provided an overview of all personal names attested in the Old Assyrian texts from Kaniš that have a Hittitoid character. These names fall into a group of compound names and a group of other names. Women's names ending in -*ḫšušar* form the feminine counterpart to men's names ending in -*ḫšu* (*ḫapiaḫšušar* (f.) vs. *ḫapiaḫšu* (m.), *ḫištahšušar* (f.) vs. *ḫištahšu* (m.), etc. The researcher concluded that -*šar* is a feminizing element. On the basis of an equation between Kanišite -*šar* and the Hittite and Luwian feminizing suffixes -*š(ša)r(a)-*, which are of an Indo-European origin, he pointed out that the Kanišite personal names ending in -*ḫšu* and -*ḫšušar* have an Anatolian background. This is supported by the fact that the elements -*ḫšu* and -*ḫšušar* are placed after elements that resemble Anatolian, and, more specifically, Hittite lexemes, like *apizia-ḫšu* ~ Hitt. *apuzzi(ia)-* 'backmost, last', *niwa-ḫšu(šar)* ~ Hitt.

As for the study of Arabic compound nouns, Al-Jarf (2022f) explored the denotative meaning of compound shop names in Saudi Arabia, and identified the types of semantic and syntactic anomalies in the Arabic transliterations of English compound shop names. She analyzed a corpus of compound shop names collected from 12 major cities in a Saudi Mall Directory. Results showed that 69% of the Arabic transliterations of the compound shop nouns have syntactic and/or semantic anomalies (22% have syntactic anomalies, 14% semantic anomalies and 23% semantic and syntactic anomalies combined). Some compound shop names are meaningless because the two elements of the compound are incongruous, have a faulty word order, a faulty use of the definite article, use of constituents from two foreign languages with the same meaning.

In other studies by Al-Jarf, she examined the difficulties that student-translators have in translating Arabic compound names containing *Om-* and *Abu* as a first constituent of the compound (Al-Jarf, 2017); the promotional, sociocultural and globalization

factors that affect the dominance of foreign shop names over Arabic names in Saudi Arabia (Al-Jarf, 2022c); deviant Arabic transliterations of foreign shop names in Saudi Arabia and decoding problems among shoppers (Al-Jarf, 2022a); English transliteration of Arabic personal names with the definite article /al/ on Facebook (Al-Jarf, 2022b); variant transliterations of the same Arabic personal names on Facebook (Al-Jarf, 2022g); and gemination errors in Arabic-English transliteration of personal names on Facebook (Al-Jarf, 2022d).

Nevertheless, the literature showed lack of Arabic studies that investigate compound Arabic personal names and how they are spelled in English by educated Arabs on social media. Therefore, this study aims to: (i) examine a sample of Arabic compound personal names containing the prefixes *Abd* عبد and *Abu* أبو as a first constituent of the compound, and *Eddine* الدین as a suffix or a second constituent of compound names; (ii) how those compound personal names are spelled in English by educated Arabs on Facebook; (iii) the kinds of variant that exist in the English spelling those 3 constituents (*Abd*, *Abu*, *Eddine*); (iv) the strategies that educated Arabs use in spelling their compound names in English; and (v) the sources of spelling variants and deviations in the English spelling of Arabic compound personal names. For purposes of this study, *Abd* and *Abu* will be called prefix and/or first constituent and *Eddine* will be called suffix and/or second constituent. Vowel errors within the other constituent with which *Abd*, *Abu* and *Eddine* are combined are not the focus of this study.

Results of this study are significant for teachers of English to Arab students as it will reveal the deviant and variant spellings of compound personal names with the 3 constituents (*Abd*, *Abu*, *Eddine*) in English and how to provide help to students in sound-symbol associations or graphemes-phoneme correspondences in English.

The variations in and variant/deviant English spellings of Arabic compound names will make it difficult for non-native speakers of Arabic to decode those names correctly and accurately and will result in proper noun pronunciation inaccuracies by non-native speakers and native-Arabic speakers who are not familiar with some compound names (Al-Jarf, 2022a; Al-Jarf, 2022d; Al-Jarf, 2022e; Al-Jarf, 2022f; Al-Jarf, 2022g; Al-Jarf, 2022h).

2. Data Collection and Analysis

A sample of 452 compound names was selected from the author's 4000 friends on Facebook. The compound nouns in the sample consist of the prefix (first constituent) *Abd*+ Allah's Good Names, the prefix (first constituent) *Abu*, *Abo*, *Abou* or *Apo* + a person's name and the suffix (second constituent) *-ddine*, *-dine*, or *-din* preceded by a noun. All the names in the three categories are male names and they cover first and/or last names. Arab Facebook users with compound names come from different Arab countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, the Sudan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, UAE, and Yemen), have different proficiency levels in English and speak both Standard as well as their local Arabic dialect. The subjects have different educational levels. Some are students, others are college faculty and schoolteachers, in addition to other professionals specialized in education, business, computer science, medicine, and others.

Names of foreign friends from the USA, Europe, Japan, China, and others, those written in other alphabets such as French, Bosnian, Hindi, Vietnamese, Thai, Russian, Uzbek, initials, and abbreviations (*Moh*, *Mhmd*, *Ab*), nicknames (*Pinkrose*), and duplicate names were excluded. Arabic names spelled by non-native speakers of Arabic such as Malaysians, Bosnians, Bangladeshi, Uzbek, or any other nationality that uses Arabic names were not included in the sample. Only compound Arabic personal names spelled in English were compiled and analyzed. Focus is on the variant spellings of the Arabic compound name with the 3 constituents (prefixes and suffix) in English. Other spelling anomalies of vowels and consonants within the other constituents of the compound that do not exist in English are not the focus of the current study.

In analyzing the variations in the English spelling of Arabic compound names, each compound name was counted as one token, each variant spelling of the same constituent was counted as a token and each occurrence (repetition) of the same variant was counted as one token as well. For example, a compound name with several spellings such as *Abdulla*, *Abdallah*, *Abdullah*, *Abdallah* was counted as 4 tokens. If *Abdullah* occurred 10 times in the sample, it was counted as 10 occurrences.

In analyzing the spelling data, it was noted that variant spellings of a compound name might have one, two, or more differences: different forms of the same prefix (*Abu*, *Abo*, *Abou*, *Apo*), a form where the constituents of the compound are attached (spelled in as one word *Abdullah*), where the prefix is detached from the second constituent (*Abou Elfotouh*), or a form attached to the definite article *-al* (*Aboul*) and so on.

To describe the distribution of variant English spellings, the percentages of compound names having 2, 3, 4, 5 variants and occurrences of each variant were calculated. The mean, median and range of variant spellings of each constituent (*Abd*, *Abu*, *Eddine*) were calculated. Compound names with the highest number of variant spellings and those with the highest number of occurrences were calculated.

To find out the strategies used in the variant spelling of Arabic names, English spellings were classified into: (i) those that match the pronunciation of the name in the user's local dialect, not Standard Arabic; (ii) cases where the spelled name matches that of Arabic especially cases in which short vowels are deleted; (iii) cases in which the definite article has several variants and whether the sun and moon letters are taken into consideration in the spelling.

3. Results

Analysis of the 452 compound names in the sample revealed that 68.1% of the compound names begin with *Add, Abel, Abdal* and *Abdul*; 27.6% begin with *Abo, Abu, Abou, Apo*; and 4.2% end with *-ddine, -dine, -din* (See the frequencies for each variant in each category in Table 1). Moreover, Table 2 shows that a total of 58 unique compound names begin with *Abd, Abdel, Abdal, Abdul* and other variants. The compound names with the highest tokens (occurrences) and number of variants are عبد الله (66 & 16 respectively); عبد الرحمن (34 and 15); عبد العزيز (22 & 13); عبد الحميد (16 & 11); عبد الوهاب (13 & 7); عبد السلام (11 & 9); عبد الكريم (10 & 5); عبد الخالق (9 & 6); عبد الهادي (9 & 5). 57% of the names in this category have fewer than 2 tokens and 2 variants, with a median of 2 tokens and 2 variants, and a range between 1-66 occurrences and 1-16 variants, respectively.

In Tables 1, عبد has 4 variant spellings (*Abd, Abdel, Abdal, Abdul*) in which the prefix has 3 attached forms, 3 detached forms and 1 hyphenated form. In 5 variants, *Abd* is attached to the definite article *-al* in the second constituent whether all 3 elements of the compound (*Abd + -al + Noun*) of (*Abd + -al*) only are attached together.

Table 1: Summary of Variants in Each Category with Examples and Number of Tokens

Variants of عبد Abd Abdel, Abdal, abd al	Tokens (occurrences)	Variants of أبو Abo, Abu, Abou	Tokens (occurrences)	Variants of -din, -dine, -ddine	Tokens (occurrences)
Attached Abdel	99	Detached Abo	34	Detached	8
Attached Abdul	72	Attached Abo	16	Attached	11
Detached Abd	60	Detached Abou	9	-ddin	5
Attached Abdal	43	Detached Abu	8	-dine	3
Detached Abdel	12	Attached Abou	7	-din	11
Hyphenated	10	Hyphenated	5	total	19
Detached Abdul	7	Attached Abu C	3		
Total	308	Detached Apo	2		
		Attached Abo C	2		
		Detached Abul	1		
		Attached Aboul	1		
		Total	125		

Regarding the variations in *Abdel, Abdal, Abdul*, this is because of how (*Abd + definite article*) are pronounced in the users' local dialects, i.e., linking of the final consonant of one word with the beginning vowel in the following word (liaison process). In compound in which *Abd* is spelled as a separate morpheme (lexical item), Arab spellers are transferring the Standard Arabic spelling to English. *Abdul* reflects how the variant is pronounced in Standard Arabic in the nominative case (See Table 2).

In variants that end in /h/ in *Abdallah, Abd Dullah, Abdalah, Abdallah, AbdAllah, Al-Abdallah, Abdalh, Abdallah, Abdulh, Abdullah, Abdlh, Äbdüt-lh*, Arab spellers are transferring the Arabic spelling of عبد الله that ends in هـ, even if it is not audible in the pronunciation of the name before a pause (See Table 2).

In 11 unique names in the sample, the compound consists of *Abd + -al + Noun* beginning with sun consonant as in عبد الرحمن, عبد الصمد (عبد السلام, عبد الرزاق, عبد الرازق, عبد الرسول, عبد الزاهر, عبد الزهرة, عبد الستار, عبد السميع, عبد السيد, عبد الصمد). Although these compound names have 34 variant spellings and 56 occurrences, only 3 variants (*Abderrahmane, Abderrahmen, Abderrazak*) show assimilation between the definite article *-al* and the initial sun letter in the following name (second constituent). In the rest of the variants, "*Abd + -al + noun*" is fully spelled whether *Abd* is detached or attached with *-al*. This is a transfer from Arabic spelling as assimilation between the definite article and the initial sun consonant in second constituent is only apparent in pronunciation, not spelling (See Table 2).

Moreover, Table 2 shows that 27% of the compound names have a capitalized noun (second constituent) after *Abd, Abdel, Abdal, Abdel, Abdul* as in *Abd Alrman, AbdElrahman, Abdul Rahman, AbdulRahman, Abd Elrahman, Abd Alaziz, Abd El Aziz, Abd Elaziz, Abd El-Aziz, Abdel Aziz, AbdElaziz, AbdulAziz*. In these cases Arab spellers capitalized the second constituent whether the prefix *Abd, Abdel, Abdal, Abdel* or *Abdul* is detached, attached, or hyphenated which might be attributed to the fact that those users consider the second element a proper name that should be capitalized and know that *-al* is an addition.

Although the compound name *عبد الله* is very common in Arabic, some its spellings are exceptionally deviant (*Abdala, Abdallh, Abdella, Abdallah, Abdulh, Abdlh*) and show failure in sound symbol associations which are explicit in deleting a vowel and reducing the geminated /ll/ in Allah to a single consonant. The author finds the splitting of the geminated /dd/ in word boundary to one in the prefix and a capitalised one in the second constituent (*Abd Dullah*) unexplainable as this does not match the pronunciation of the name. Splitting the compound into two hyphenated parts one of which is {-lh} in (*Ābdūt-lh*) shows that spelling compound names is random and not based on any English or Arabic spelling rule.

Table 2: Classification of Names with *عبد* Abd, Abdel, Adal, Abdul, and Number of Tokens and Variants with Examples

Compound Names	# of Variants	Examples	Tokens (occurrence)
عبد الله	16	<i>Abdallah, Abd Dullah, Abdalah, Abdala, Abdalla, Abdallah, AbdAllah, Al-Abdallah, Abdallh, Abdella, Abdallah, Abdulh, Abdulla, Abdullah, Abdlh, Ābdūt-lh</i>	66
عبد الرحمن	15	<i>Abedalrman, Abd Alrman, Abdalrman, AbdElrahman, Abdelrhman, Abdul Rahman, Abdulrahman, AbdulRahman, Abdurahman, Abderrahmane, Abderrahmen, Abdlrahman, Abdualrman, Abdelrahman, Abd Elrahman</i>	34
عبد العزيز	13	<i>Abd Alaziz, Abd El Aziz, Abd Elaziz, Abd El-Aziz, Abdel Aziz, AbdElaziz, Abdelaziz, Abdelazziz, Abdulaziz, AbdulAziz, Abdullaziz, Alabdulaziz, Abdelazeez</i>	22
عبد الحميد	11	<i>Abdel-Hamed, Abd Elhamid, Abdal Hamed, Abdalhameed, Abdelhamed, Abdelhameed, Abdelhamid, Abdelhmed, AbdulHamid, Abdulhamid, Abdlhamed</i>	16
عبد الوهاب	7	<i>Abd El Whab, Abd El-Wahab, Abdalwahab, Abdelwahab, Abdulwahab, Abdul-Wahab, Abdelwhab</i>	13
عبد السلام	9	<i>Abd El Salam, Abd El-salam, Abdel Salam, Abdelsalam, Abdulsalam, Abd-salam, Abdus Salam, Abdusalam, Abdalslam</i>	11
عبد الكريم	7	<i>Abd Elkareem, Abd El-karim, Abd Elkreem, Abd Karim, Abdelkarim, Abdulkarim, AL-abdulkareem</i>	10
عبد الفتاح	5	<i>Abdel Fatah, Abdel Fattah, Abdelfatah, Abdulfattah, Abd Elftah</i>	10
عبد الخالق	6	<i>Abd Alkalek, Abd El Khalek, Abd Elkhalek, Abd El-khalek, Abdelkhalek, Abdulkhaleq</i>	9
عبد الهادي	5	<i>Abd Elhady, Abd El-hady, Abdelhady, Abdulhadi, Abdulhady</i>	9
عبد الناصر	8	<i>Abd Al-Naser, Abd El Nasser, Abd Elnaser, Abdelnaser, Abdelnasr, Abdelnasser, Abdul Naser, Abdo El Nasr</i>	8
عبد اللطيف	6	<i>Abd Ellatif, Abdel Latif, Abdellatef, Abdellatif, Abdul Latif, Abdulatif</i>	7
عبد الغني	4	<i>Abd Elghani, Abdelgany, Abdelghani, Abdelghany</i>	7
عبد المؤمن	3	<i>Abd-Elmonem, Abdalmonem, Abdelmoamen</i>	5
عبد الحافظ	4	<i>Abd Alhafez, Abd Elhafez, Abdelhafez, Abdul-Hafiz</i>	4
عبد الحق	4	<i>Abd Elhak, Abd El-Hak, Abdelhak, Abdulhaq</i>	4
عبد الحليم	4	<i>Abd Elhalem, Abdel Haleem, AbdElhaleem, Abdulhaleem</i>	4
عبد القادر	3	<i>Abdelqadir, Abdelkader, Abdul Kader</i>	4
عبد الباسط	3	<i>Abdel-baset, Abd El Baset, Abd Elbaset</i>	3
عبد التواب	3	<i>Abdel-tawab, Abdel-Tawab, Abdel Tawwab</i>	3
عبد الرحيم	3	<i>Abdalraheem, AbdulRahēem, Abderrahim</i>	3
عبد المجيد	3	<i>Abd El-mageed, Abdelmeqed, Abdelmequid</i>	3
عبد الغافر	2	<i>Abd Elghafar, Abdelghafar</i>	3
عبد النبي	2	<i>Abd-Elnaby, Abdelnaby</i>	3

عبد البديع	2	Abdelbadie, Abdelbady	2
عبد الجليل	2	Abd Elgelil, Abdeldjelil	2
عبد الجواد	2	Abd Elgawad, Abdul-Gawwad	2
عبد الرزاق	2	Abd Alrazek, Abderrazak	2
عبد العال	2	Abd Elaal, Abdelaal	2
عبد العظيم	2	Abd Elazem, Abdelazem	2
عبد القوي	2	Abd ElQawy, Abdulkawy	2
عبد الملك	2	Abdul Malek, Abdulmalek	2
عبد المنعم	2	Abdel Moneim, Abdelmoneim	2
عبد الواحد	2	Abdelwahed, Abdelwahid	2
عبد الستار	1	Abdelsattar	2
عبد الاحد	1	Abdul Ahad	1
عبد الباري	1	Abdelbary	1
عبد البصير	1	Abd Albasir	1
عبد الجبار	1	Abdeldjebbar	1
عبد الحسيب	1	Abd Elhassib	1
عبد الحكم	1	Abdelhkm	1
عبد الحي	1	Abdel-Hai	1
عبد الرازق	1	Abd Elrazek	1
عبد الرسول	1	Abd El-Rasoul	1
عبد الزاهر	1	Abdelzaher	1
عبد الزهرة	1	Abdul Zahra	1
عبد السميع	1	Abdelsamie	1
عبد السيد	1	Abdalsayed	1
عبد الصمد	1	Abd Somad	1
عبد العاطي	1	Abd El-Atty	1
عبد الكبير	1	Abdelkabar	1
عبد الكريم	1	Abdelkaream	1
عبد المحسن	1	Abdel Mohsen	1
عبد المعز	1	Abdelmoez	1
عبد المعطي	1	Abdelmoaty	1
عبد المولى	1	Abd Elmuola	1
عبد الإله	1	Abdulelah	1
Total	189		308

In Table 3, there are 5 unique variants of أبو (*Abu, Abo, Abou, Aboul, Abul, Apo*) as a first constituent in compound names with 12 unique forms. The names with the highest variants and highest occurrences are detached *Abu* (36 & 37 respectively); detached *Abo* (33 & 34); attached *Abo* (16 & 16); detached *Abou* (9 & 9); detached *Abu* (7 & 8); hyphenated (7 & 7); attached *Abu* + a capitalized noun (3 & 3); attached *Abo* + a capitalized noun (2 & 2); *Apo* (2 & 2); attached *Abul* and attached *Aboul* (1 & 1).

In cases where *Abu, Abo, & Abou* are detached (73%), Arab spellers are transferring the Arabic spelling to English as أبو in Arabic is considered an independent lexical item and is spelled as a separate entity. Those who spelled the 2 constituents of the compound together as one word, are probably spelling the compounds the way they pronounce them in their local dialect without a pause in word boundary during the low of speech. Here again, this is a transfer from Arabic.

In 74% of the compound names in this category, the users capitalized the second constituent that follows the prefixes *Abu, Abo, Abou, Aboul, Abul, & Apo* whether the two constituents of the compound are attached, detached or hyphenated (See Table 3 for examples).

As to the variations in the vowels, Table 3 shows that *Abo* was used in 54 compounds in this category; *Abu* in 50; *Abou* in 17; *Apo* 2; *Abul* in 1; and *Aboul* in 1. In Arabic أبو has one spelling and is pronounced with the long vowel /u:/. Due to the lack of competence in grapheme-phoneme correspondences and differences between the English and Arabic vowels system. It seems that Arab spellers are not able to discriminate /o/ and /u/. Examples of English words with o are *no, go, so, pot, lot, pod, post*. u has different pronunciations in *cut, cute, blue, music, cube, full, sugar*. Arab spellers also lack knowledge of which English vowel(s) represent the Arabic long vowel /u:/. They confuse vowel sounds and their corresponding graphemes in English, where several graphemes have

the same pronunciation as in *boot, rude, suit, choose, lose, group*. As a result, Arab spellers do not know the exact English vowel or vowel digraphs that represents the Arabic long and short vowels (Al-Jarf, 2003; Al-Jarf, 1994c; Al-Jarf, 1994d).

Moreover, results in Table 3 display only 2 compounds out of 125 (1.6%) in which *Abu* and *Abou* are attached to the definite article -al is attached to the following noun (*Abul & Aboul*).

Among the unusual and unexpected variants of أبو is *Apo* which is spelled with a /p/ in (*Apo Almagd, Apo Rahiem*) although the phoneme /p/ does not exist in the Standard Arabic sound system, nor graphemic system. There is no devoicing (assimilation) across word boundary in the compound as the second constituent begins with the definite article and the consonant /r/.

Table 3: Compound Names with أبو Abu, Abo, Abou and Number of Tokens and Variants with Examples

Compound Names	# of Variants	Examples	Tokens (occurrence)
Detached Abu	36	<i>Abu Al-betawi, Abu Alnajjar, Abu Abdallah, Abu Ahmd, Abu Ahmmad, Abu Alabed, Abu Alrob, Abu Al-Ruz, Abu Anis, Abu Anjelah, Abu Atwan, Abu Awad, Abu Baker, Abu Dagga, Abu Dughaim, Abu Ghazaleh, Abu Hatab, Abu Hussein, Abu Jamie, Abu Jneed, Abu Juma, AbuLehya, Abu Moaad, Abu Nabhan, Abu Omar, Abu Qadah, AbuShab, AbuShawish, Abuajina, Abualnaga, Abuatiea, Abuelsooud, Abuhaimed, Abujnaid, Aburas, Abushaikha, Abubakari</i>	37
Detached Abo	33	<i>Abo Abdurahman, Abo Abokhater, Abo Al-Nagah, Abo Dahy, Abo Eid, Abo Eita, Abo Elalla, Abo Elenin, Abo Elftouh, Abo Elian, Abo Eljarf, Abo El-Khair, Abo Elnaga, Abo ElNaga, Abo El-Naga, Abo Fady, Abo Fahd, Abo Hamdy, Abo Kenzy, Abo Lara, Abo Maka, Abo Makkah, Abo Malak, Abo Mody, Abo Mohmmmed, Abo Qaoud , Abo Qay, Abo Saif, Abo Sleman, Abo Zaed, Abo Zaid, Abo Zaine, Abo Zid, Abo Zied,</i>	34
Attached Abo	16	<i>Aboalhasan, Aboelfotoh, Aboelhaj, Aboelkhair ,Abohalawa, Abohasan , Aboismaeil, Aboklile, Abolajain, Abomaryam, Aboqamer, Aborizk, Abosalem, Abowarda, Abozaid, Aboalnoor</i>	16
Detached Abou	9	<i>Abou Al Ella, Abou Bakr, Abou El Fetouh, Abou El Maati, Abou Elaazm, Abou Fayez, Abou Galala, Abou Kayss, Aboul Khair</i>	9
Detached Abu	7	<i>Abu Tair, Abu Tb, Abu Yahia, Abu Younis, Abu Yousef, Abu Zaed, Abu Zarifa,</i>	8
Attached Abou	7	<i>Abouelenin, AbouElfadl, Abouelhamd, Abouelkassem, Aboulela, Aboulfotoh, Abouzekry</i>	7
Hyphenated	5	<i>Abo- Alomari, Abo-elyazeed, Abou-Almaaty, Abu-bakr , Abu-Elkhaer</i>	5
Attached Abu C	3	<i>AbuAhmad, AbuAl-Ruzz, AbuThuraya</i>	3
Detached Apo	2	<i>Apo Almagd, Apo Rahiem</i>	2
Attached Abo C	2	<i>AboElezz, AboJuneid,</i>	2
Detached Abul	1	<i>Abul Kalam</i>	1
Attached Aboul	1	<i>Aboul Fotouh</i>	1
Total	122		125

In Table 4, compound names ending in الدين show 19 unique names with have 3 variants of the suffix (-ddine, -din, -dine), 5 variant spellings and 38 occurrences. The highest form is -din with 11 occurrences; -ddin (5 occurrences) and -dine (3 occurrences). In 10 compounds, the suffix is attached to the first constituent (Noun + -al + din/dine/ddine), i.e., they are spelled as one word. In 8 compounds, it is detached and in 1 compound it is hyphenated (Mhyi-dine). In 15 compounds the definite article in the suffix الدين is capitalized (*Nasr El-din, Emad Eldin, Emad Eldin, Glal ElDin, Salah El Din, Mohy Eldin, Nour Eldin, Nasr El-din, Emad Eldin, Emad*

Eldin); in 8 compounds the initial letter in دين is doubled as it is a sun letter that follows the definite article -al (*Ala'addin, Alaaeddin, Fakarddin, Emadaddin, Bahaa Eddin, Ala'addin, Alaaeddin, Fakarddin*) taking into consideration that all the compounds should be spelled with /dd/.

The variant English spellings of الدين can be attributed to lack of competence in grapheme-phoneme correspondence and lack of knowledge of the assimilation process that takes place in lieu of the Arabic -al when it precedes a sun letter. Assimilation between -al + sun letter is usually clear in pronunciation but is not associated with any spelling changes in the written Arabic word, and how assimilated -al + sun letter should be represented in English.

Table 4: Compound Personal Names Ending in الدين -ddine, -din, -dine and Number of Tokens and Variants with Examples

Compound Names	# of Variants	Examples	Tokens (occurrence)
-ddin	5	<i>Ala'addin, Alaaeddin, Fakarddin, Emadaddin, Bahaa Eddin</i>	5
-dine	3	<i>Nouraldine, Zinelabidine, Mhyi-dine</i>	3
-din	11	<i>Nasr El-din, Emad Eldin, Emad Eldin, Glal ElDin, Salah El Din, Mohy Eldin, Nour Eldin, Salaheldin, Gelaldin, Baha'aldin</i>	11
Detached	8	<i>Nasr El-din, Emad Eldin, Emad Eldin, Gamaredin, Glal ElDin, Salah El Din, Mohy Eldin, Nour Eldin, Bahaa Eddin</i>	8
attached	10	<i>Ala'addin, Alaaeddin, Fakarddin, Salaheldin, Emadaddin, Gelaldin, Baha'aldin, Gamaredin, Nouraldine, Zinelabidine,</i>	10
hyphenated	1	<i>Mhyi-dine</i>	1
total	19		38

4. Discussion

Findings of the present study have revealed several variants and deviations in the English spelling of Arabic compound personal names containing the prefixes *عبد* and *أبو* and the suffix *الدين* which reflect lack of competence in grapheme-phoneme correspondences in English, and between the Arabic name and how it should be represented in English. Findings also reveal lack of knowledge of the differences between the Arabic and English phonological systems and how Arabic long and short vowels should be represented in English which has 12 vowels and 8 diphthongs as opposed to 3 long, 3 short vowels represented by diacritics and 2 diphthongs.

The variant spellings of the Arabic compound names containing *Abd, Abu* and *Eddine* are consistent with findings of a study by Al-Jarf, (2022g) which found that 59% of the Arabic names have 2 variant spellings in English and 26% have 3 variants spellings. Names with the highest number of variant spellings are (7) محمد, (35) الجرف. Variants with the highest occurrences are: محمود, (53), محمد (67), علي (90), احمد (153), محمد (154), الجرف (154). In 97% of the names, the variants differ in how the vowels/diphthong are represented in the English spelling because Arabic and English differ in the number of vowels, vowel quality and vowel articulation.

In addition, the problems that subjects in the current study have in spelling compound names with the definite article {-a} are similar to those found in a previous study by Al-Jarf (2022b) which found variant spellings of the Arabic definite article /-al/ as {al-}; {el-}; reduced {l-} and {il-}. In 54% of the names, the definite article is attached to the name (الجرف *Aljarf, Algarf*). In 15.5% of the names, the definite article is detached from the name (الجرف *Al Jurf, Al Jarf, Al Jorf*). In 15.5% the name attached to the definite article is spelled with a capital letter (الجرف *AlJurf*). In 13.5%, the definite article and proper name are hyphenated (الجرف *El-Garf, Al-Jurf*). In 1%, the definite article is reduced to {l-}, (الجرف *ljarf, الغريب Leghrib, الأسود Lassoued*). In 40%, the name that follows the definite article begins with a sun (coronal) consonant (*Attaher, Al-Salem*) as opposed to 60% of the names with an initial moon letter (*Aljarf, Alomari*). In Al-Jarf, (2022b), the definite article is misspelled; is attached to the wrong constituents of the compound (المينو دوتنس); some compound constituents are split into syllables or two parts ريز و اكس و اكس (Accessories); كلاي ماكس (Climax); and the two constituents of the compound are spelled together as one lexeme شرمبشاك).

Another problem in spelling compound nouns in the current study is germination particularly when the definite article and the initial sun consonant in the following noun are assimilated. In a prior study by Al-Jarf, (2022d), one third of the Arabic name tokens with geminates were spelled correctly, i.e., the Arabic geminate was represented by a double consonant in the corresponding English spelling as in the compound names (*Noureddin Abdullah*). In 41% of the name tokens, the geminate was represented by a single consonant in the corresponding English spelling as in *Elzahar, Sedeek, Elnagar, Amouna, Amool, Fatouh*. In 26%, a single consonant was doubled in the corresponding spelling, although the Arabic name has no geminates and the consonant is pronounced as a single phoneme as in *Ahmed, Ossama, Anass*.

As in EFL Arab college students' weaknesses in spelling general English words, educated Arabs on Facebook have graphemic problems with vowel digraphs, double consonants, silent vowels and consonants which reflect a simplification process that seems to affect the spelling errors (Al-Jarf, 2019; Al-Jarf, 2008b).

Failure to attend to the detailed knowledge of spelling stems from a partial-analysis strategy of word recognition. The most common strategies that EFL freshmen spellers used in faulty graphemes are substituting the vowel by another faulty vowel, deleting silent vowels, reducing geminates to a single one, substituting the target digraph by another with the same sound, substituting the target vowel by a digraph, and deleting vowels altogether. Omission errors may be due to transferring the Arabic spelling system to English because Arabic spelling is mainly phonetic. There is a one-to-one correspondence between the pronunciation of a word or compound and its written form. Arabic has no consonant and vowel digraphs, and no silent letters. Substitution spelling errors indicate that some educated Arabs on Facebook are unable to discriminate vowels, diphthongs, and some consonants due to lack of phonics and word identification skills. Some factors that contribute to poor spelling ability are poor knowledge of spelling-sound correspondences, and poor mastery of spelling rules (Al-Jarf, 2010; Al-Jarf, 2008a; Al-Jarf, 2007b; Al-Jarf, 1999).

The spelling weaknesses in the current study may be due to the use of a visual rather than a phonological approach, ignorance of the English spelling rules, transfer of the Arabic spelling system to English and the insufficient knowledge of letter-sound correspondences. Good spellers are aware of the differences between the English and Arabic spelling systems, have a good knowledge of the English spelling system, and are able to identify all the phonemes of the spoken form of the compound names in the current study and converting them to English graphemes. There is a strong relationship between spelling and decoding skills in L2 (Al-Jarf, 2011a; Al-Jarf, 2009; Al-Jarf, 2008c ; Al-Jarf, 2005a; Al-Jarf, 2005b).

5. Recommendations

Native-Arabic speakers on Facebook seem to have difficulties in spelling Arabic compound names in English. They tend to spell the same prefix and suffix (*Abd, Abu, Eddine*) in different ways. To minimize the variations and errors made in spelling Arabic compound names to English, this study recommends raising EFL students' awareness of the differences between the English and Arabic phonetic and graphemic systems in the English language, linguistics and contrastive analysis courses that they take in college; and how the phonemes and graphemes in Arabic compound names with *Abd, Abu, Eddine* can be represented in English (Al-Jarf, 2003; Al-Jarf, 1994c; Al-Jarf, 1994d; Al-Jarf, 2018; Al-Jarf, 2007; Al-Jarf, 1995; Al-Jarf, 1992).

EFL instructors are advised to provide phonics and rule-based instruction, which aims at increasing the students understanding of the English and Arabic phonic and orthographic systems. A category of tasks for adult EFL learners that consists of structural analysis, with an emphasis on analyzing sound and spelling patterns and some morphological elements can be provided. These tasks can be subdivided into discrimination-oriented and phoneme-grapheme correspondence practice (Al-Jarf, 2018; Al-Jarf, 2007; Al-Jarf, 1995; Al-Jarf, 1992).

Mind-mapping software can be used to show relationships among graphemes and their corresponding phonemes in a tree diagram, with examples of prefixes and suffixes in compound names (Al-Jarf, 2011b).

In addition, this study recommends the standardization of the English spelling of Arabic compound personal names containing *Abd, Abu* and *Eddine*. An online directory of Arabic compound personal names with transliteration tables and algorithms can be created. The aim of this directory is to standardize the transliteration of Arabic proper names to the English alphabet and the transliteration of foreign proper names to the Arabic alphabet.

When Facebook Arab users spell their compound names in English, the English version should be easily decoded by both English speakers who might read it in English and native speakers of Arabic who have some knowledge of English and might not be familiar with the surname either. An experimental study can be conducted in which English speakers are asked to decode variant spellings of the same Arabic compound name such as *Abdelrhman, Abd Alrhman, Abdalrhman, AbdElrahman, Abdelrhman, Abdul Rahman, Abdulrahman, AbdulRahman, Abdurahman, Abderrahmane, Abderrahmen, Abdrahman, Abdualrhman, Abdelrahman, Abd*

Ebrahim and find out how they pronounce each variant in order to choose the form that best corresponds with the Arabic pronunciation of the compound name.

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