

RESEARCH REPORTS

# Comparative Historical Dialectology of Standard Dhivehi and the Maliku Dialect (Mahl Language): Insights from Corpus Analysis

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**ABSTRACT** *Dialects represent variations of a language in vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and usage, often shaped by regional proximity, social distinctions, and cultural or historical influences. This study explores the historical evolution of the standard Dhivehi language through the lens of historical dialectology by conducting a comparative analysis of standard Dhivehi and the Maliku dialect, known as the Mahl language in India and referred to as the Maliku dialect in the Maldives. The main aim is to identify lexical differences between the two and trace the historical linguistic shifts. This qualitative study employs corpus analysis using the Malikthaanaa textbook, published in the mid-20th century to teach Mahl in Minicoy schools. A corpus of 1,035 phrases from the first 15 pages was analysed for similarities and differences between the Mahl and standard Dhivehi language, as two distinct dialects. Findings reveal that 56% of the phrases from the Maliku dialect match the current standard Dhivehi. Among the differences, most involve minor morphological or phonological variations. Remarkably, 1 in 12 words from the corpus aligns with older standard Dhivehi usage, suggesting linguistic changes over time. Additionally, the Maliku dialect retains a richer vocabulary for kinship terms compared to contemporary standard Dhivehi. Although the study is limited by the small size of the corpus and reliance on a single source, it highlights the potential of dialectological research to deepen our understanding of Dhivehi's linguistic heritage. The findings underscore the importance of further research to enhance and preserve the Dhivehi language.*

**Keywords:** *Dhivehi language, Maliku dialect, Mahl language, Historical dialectology, Corpus linguistics, Language change, Lexical variation.*





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(1990), 2003, 2012, 2023). In the Maliku dialect, the historical development of the phoneme /r/ is particularly noteworthy. This section discusses the phonological changes that have occurred over time, drawing on examples from the corpus. The Maliku dialect shows a distinct pattern of rhoticization, which is traced back to its historical roots. The analysis highlights the divergence between the Maliku form and the standard Dhivehi form, illustrating the unique phonological evolution of the Maliku dialect. The historical context of these changes is discussed, showing how they reflect the broader linguistic environment of the Maldives. The Maliku dialect's retention of certain archaic features is also examined, providing insights into the language's historical development. The corpus analysis reveals the frequency and distribution of these phonological features, supporting the historical reconstruction of the Maliku dialect. The Maliku dialect's phonological profile is compared with other regional dialects, highlighting its unique characteristics. The historical development of the Maliku dialect is shown to be consistent with the broader patterns of language change in the Maldives. The Maliku dialect's phonological evolution is a result of a combination of internal and external factors, including contact with other languages and the influence of the standard Dhivehi form. The Maliku dialect's unique phonological features are a result of its historical development, which has led to the formation of a distinct dialectal identity. The Maliku dialect's phonological profile is a reflection of its historical roots, which have shaped its unique linguistic characteristics. The Maliku dialect's phonological evolution is a key feature of its historical development, and it is essential for understanding the language's place within the broader linguistic context of the Maldives. The Maliku dialect's phonological features are a result of its historical development, which has led to the formation of a distinct dialectal identity. The Maliku dialect's phonological profile is a reflection of its historical roots, which have shaped its unique linguistic characteristics. The Maliku dialect's phonological evolution is a key feature of its historical development, and it is essential for understanding the language's place within the broader linguistic context of the Maldives.

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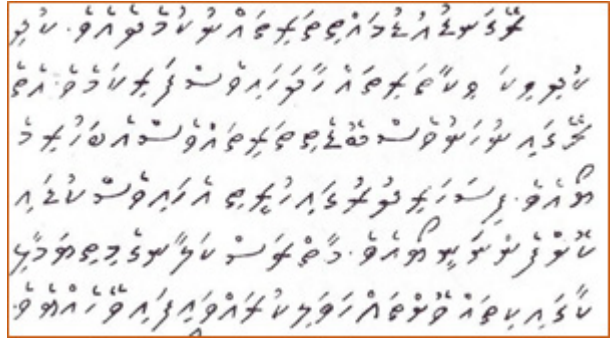
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1. דברי הימים ב' י"ד ט"ז (מקראות גדול, 2006, ע' 60) תורה ספר שיעורי



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2. **مدرسة تدمر** (مدرسة تدمر) - 8 سنوات (مدرسة تدمر) - 8 سنوات  
**مدرسة تدمر** (مدرسة تدمر) - 8 سنوات (مدرسة تدمر) - 8 سنوات

رقم	اسم المادة	عدد الساعات	عدد الحصص	عدد الدورات	عدد التلاميذ	عدد المعلمين	عدد الإداريين	عدد الفنيين	عدد الإداريين	عدد الفنيين	عدد الإداريين	عدد الفنيين
0	الرياضيات	89	1	1	89	1						
1	اللغة العربية	61	1	1	61	1						
2	اللغة الإنجليزية	184	3	1	184	3						
3	التربية البدنية	200	3	1	200	3						
4	التربية الفنية	1013	15	1	1013	15						
5	التربية الموسيقية	439	7	1	439	7						
6	التربية الاجتماعية	95	1	1	95	1						
7	التربية الصحية	112	1	1	112	1						
8	التربية المهنية	1015	15	1	1015	15						
9	التربية الحاسوبية	523	8	1	523	8						
10	التربية الإعلامية	538	8	1	538	8						
11	التربية البيئية	964	15	1	964	15						
12	التربية الأخلاقية	614	9	1	614	9						
13	التربية العلمية	714	11	1	714	11						
14	التربية الرياضية	710	11	1	710	11						
15	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	46	1	1	46	1						
16	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	88	1	1	88	1						
17	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	163	3	1	163	3						
18	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	86	1	1	86	1						
19	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	618	9	1	618	9						
20	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	13	1	1	13	1						
21	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	374	5	1	374	5						
22	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	32	1	1	32	1						
23	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	36	1	1	36	1						
24	التربية المهنية (مختلفة)	90	1	1	90	1						

مدرسة تدمر (مدرسة تدمر) - 8 سنوات (مدرسة تدمر) - 8 سنوات  
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...	...	...	...	...	54
...	...	...	...	13	813
...	...	...	...	1	93
...	...	...	...	1	100
...	...	...	...	4	237
...	...	...	...	4	242
...	...	...	...	5	371
...	...	...	...	8	535
...	...	...	...	10	637
...	...	...	...	8	552
...	...	...	...	8	572
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ސޯސިޔަތުގެ ގޮތުން ދިވެހި ބަހުގެ ބަދަލު: ދިވެހި ބަހުގެ ބަދަލުގެ ފުރުޞަތު.  
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