



University of Salahaddin



College of Education

Department of English

Scientific Affairs

Research Plan Form

Research Title: **A Descriptive Study of the Acquisition of Doublet Verbs in Contemporary English**

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The abstract of the research:

It has been attested that there is a correlation between regularity and word frequency. Taking a deeper step into the nature of regularity processes in contemporary English, we will investigate the recent impact of vowel change on the retention of regularity in English doublet verbs that can be both regular and irregular like *burned/burnt* and *lighted/lit* to check whether there is a link between the salience of vowel change and (ir)regularity. So, the aim of this research is address the following questions: Do doublet verbs without vowel change (namely *bend, bless, burn, bust, clap, dwell, forecast, geld, gird, ken, learn, pen, rid, smell, spell, spill, spoil, strip, sweat* and *wed*) show more regularity than those with vowel change (namely *abide, alight, beseech, chide, clothe, creep, dream, grind, hang, heave, kneel, leap, light, shine, slink, sneak, speed, strive, tread* and *weave*) in both past and perfect forms recently? To do so, word frequencies of these forty doublet verbs in the past and perfect will be collected from a new linguistic corpus. Descriptive and statistical analyses will be conducted to test the significance of the results.

Keywords: irregularity, doublet verbs, vowel change, frequency, linguistic corpus

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