Tafkheem and Tarqeeq

Heavy and Light letters
Outline

Definition of Tafkheem and Tarqeeq
Letters that are always heavy
Letters that are always light
Rules of Alif Maddiyyah
Rules of Laam
Rules of Ra
Rules of Ghunna
Definition of Tafkheem

Linguistic Definition: To Fatten

Applied Definition in Tajweed: Technically, it is the thickness/fullness which fills the mouth with the pronunciation of certain letters.
Definition of Tarqeeq

Linguistic Definition: Tarqīq literally means to make something thin.

Applied Definition in Tajweed: Technically, it is the thinness (flatness) found in the mouth while pronouncing some letters.
Those that are sometimes heavy and sometimes light: Laam, Ra, Alif Maddiyyah, and the sound of ghunna.
Degrees of Tafkheem

Cairo:

1. First Degree: A heavy letter with a fatha and an alif following the fatha.
3. Third Degree: A heavy letter with a dhamma.
4. Fourth Degree: A heavy letter with a kasra.
5. Fifth Degree: A heavy letter with a sukoon.

Damascus:

1. First Degree: Fatha with an alif
2. Second Degree: Fatha only
3. Third Degree: Dhamma only
4. Fourth Degree: Sukoon, the sound is not dependent on the vowel coming before it.
5. Fifth degree: Kasra
The Ruling of Alif Maddiyyah

The alif takes the ruling of the letter that it is attached to in terms of lightness and heaviness.
The Ruling of Laam

Laam: Two conditions must be fulfilled to make laam heavy.

a. The laam occurs in Lafdh ul Jalalah

b. Has to have a dhamma or fatha before it. The dhamma or fathas can be permanent or due to the avoidance of the joining of two sukoons.
The Ruling of Ra

Heavy

1. If it carries a fatha.
2. If it carries a dhamma.
3. If the ra has a permanent sukoon and it is preceded by a fatha or a dhamma in the same word.
4. If the ra has a permanent sukoon, and it preceded by a permanent kasra in the same word, BUT is followed by a heavy letter, it will be heavy.
5. If the ra has a permanent sukoon, but the kasra is in the previous word, the ra will also be heavy.
6. If the ra has a permanent sukoon, but it preceded by a temporary kasra, it will also be heavy.
7. If the ra has a temporary sukoon, but is preceded by a fatha or a dhamma, or an alif, or wow madiyyah it will be heavy.
8. If the ra has a temporary sukoon and is preceded by another letter with sukoon, we will look at the letter before that. If that letter has a fatha or dhamma, the ra will be heavy.
The Ruling of Ra

Light

1. Ra has a kasra.
2. The ra carries a permanent sukoon, and is preceded by a kasra in the same word, AND no heavy letter follows it.
3. The ra carries a temporary sukoon, and is preceded by a kasra in the same word.
4. The ra carries a temporary sukoon, and is preceded by a ya sakinah.
5. If the ra has a temporary sukoon and is preceded by another letter with sukoon, we will look at the letter before that. If that letter has a kasra, the ra will be light.
6. The ra carries a permanent sukoon, and is preceded by a kasra in the same word, AND a heavy letter follows it in the next word.
Words that have options on Ra

If you continue, then it’s always heavy.
If you stop, then you are have two options, light and heavy (preferred).
Reason: Although the ra sakinah is preceded by a kasra, there is a heavy letter before the ra.
Appears in Surah Yusuf verses 21 and 99, Surah Az Zukhraf verse 51, Surah Younus ayah 87,

If you continue, it’s light.
If you stop, it can be light (preferred) or heavy, because there is a ya that has been deleted here. This word was originally نذری.
Appears in Surah Al Qamar, verses 16, 18, 21, 30, 37, and 39
Words that have options on Ra

When continuing, always light.
If you stop, it can be light or heavy (no preference).

When continuing, it’s always light.
When stopping, heavy or light (preferred). There is a ya that has been deleted here.
The first one appears in Surah Al Fajr ayah 4.
Words that have options on Ra

While continuing, you can also read the Ra as light or heavy. Also, when stopping it can read as light or heavy.

Appears in Surah Ash Shu’ara, ayah 63
The Ruling of Ghunna