

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Holy Quran written in Arabic but with linguistic features of Muhammad's speech (the Meccan dialect), eventually became the model for the classical language.

The classical language principally due to Islam, has changed in grammar very little since the seventh century AD.

As Islam expanded from Arabic, the Arabic language exerted much influence on the native languages with which it came in contact.

## Pronunciation

Features that are not significant in most European languages include:

- /p/ doesn't exist t is usually devoiced to /p̥/
- classical Arabic does not have /v/ sound
- emphatic consonants, often misleadingly called velarized, pharyngealised are depicted with a dot underneath the particular consonant /p̣ / ḅ / ṭ /

- voiceless pharyngeal plosive  
kala /q/ (said)

/ʕ/ voiced pharyngeal fricative  
ʕayn /sing/

/ʔ/ - glottal voiced plosive  
ʔalʕ /bird/

/ð/ voiced labo dental fricative  
ðan /he went/

/t̥/ voiceless glottal plosive  
t̥ir /bird/

/d̥/ voiced glottal plosive  
d̥id /bite/

/ṣ/ voiced fricative  
ṣabun /soap/

.....  
.....  
.....  
/x̣/ voiced<sup>uṿ</sup> fricative .....

/x̣atim/ ring

### Cultural issues

- Friday midday not appropriate time for appointments.
- Pigs should not used, played with or should not be presented to a child.
- sticking tongue out for oral assessment may be considered "rude".

### Content dialect

Some words such as:

"ok" ] may be used

"bus" ] interchangeably

"train" ]

"no" ]

### Dialects

Arabic major language in Arab world e.g Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Gulf countries and in non-Arab countries such as Chad in Central Africa.

Arabic also minority language in other countries such as Nigeria, Iran and USSR.

Arabic is in wide use throughout the Muslim world as a second language and as a learned language in Pakistan, India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

# London SIG Bilingualism

## Arabic

|  | English  | Arabic  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b><u>Word order</u></b></p> <p>English + Arabic have the same word order</p>   | <p>Subject-verb-object</p> <p>e.g.<br/>the boy eats rice<br/>S V O</p> | <p>Alwalad yakul ruz<br/>S V O</p>  |
| <p><b><u>Question formation</u></b></p> <p>Questions are formed either by information or by the insertion of a question particle or word.</p>  | <p>e.g.<br/>What does the baby wear?</p>                               | <p>Esh bilbi's el baby?<br/>(What wears baby?)</p>                              |
| <p><b><u>Negatives</u></b></p> <p>in Arabic, negatives are formed by adding a negative particle <u>before</u> the verb</p>   | <p>e.g.<br/>I am not going to the cinemas</p>                          | <p>Ana laysa athab ila al cinema<br/>(I not go to the cinema)</p>               |
| <p><b><u>Prepositions</u></b></p> <p>Prepositions appear <u>after</u> the noun phrase in Arabic</p>  | <p>e.g.<br/>under the bed</p>  | <p>tahit el-takit<br/>(under the bed)</p>                                       |
| <p><b><u>Pronouns</u></b></p> <p>Pronoun category the same as in English. Third person pronoun has one word for male/female gender in North African dialects (e.g Tunisia, Moroccan)</p> |  |   |
| <p><b><u>Article</u></b></p> <p>Articles are presented in Arabic by adding article word immediately before the noun</p>  | <p>the, a, an</p>  | <p><u>The, a, an</u><br/>one word</p> <p>e.g.<br/>Al-tofoha<br/>(the apple)</p> |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><u>English</u></p> <p><u>Adverbs</u></p> <p>These follow the verb</p> | <p>he walks <u>slowly</u></p>                                | <p><u>Yamshi batee</u><br/>he walks slowly</p> |
| <p><u>Possession</u></p>   | <p>I've got a book</p>                                       | <p>Ana indi kitab<br/>(I've got book)</p>      |
| <p><u>Number tenses</u></p> <p>number used after noun</p>                | <p>two pencils</p>   | <p><u>Alam een</u><br/>pencil two</p>          |
| <p><u>Verb to be / to have</u></p>                                       | <p>these verbs are not present<br/>/recognised in Arabic</p> | <p>NA</p>                                      |