

References

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Arabic

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There are many tendentious issues in proposing a text in any form of Standard or Classical Arabic in spoken form. We will not justify the present text more than to say that the speaker was born in Safad, North Palestine, lived and was educated in Beirut from age 8 to 15, subsequently studied and taught in Damascus, studied phonetics in Scotland and since then has resided in Scotland and Kuwait.

It seems widely accepted that there are two dominant (prestigious) dialect centres of gravity for Spoken Arabic: first, that of Al-Shaam (greater Syria, from the Mediterranean coast to the eastern edge of the Fertile Crescent) and, second, Egypt (focused on Al-Azhar Mosque and University in Cairo). This is not to disregard the status of the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq or other areas as the sources of models, but the matter remains to be adequately investigated.

Consonants

| | Bilabial | Labio-dental | Dental | Alveolar | Post-alveolar | Palatal | Velar | Uvular | Pharyngeal | Glottal |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|---------|----------|---------------|---------|-------|--------|------------|---------|
| Plosive | b | | t d | | | k | q | | | ʔ |
| Nasal | m | | n | | | | | | | |
| Fricative | | f | θ ð s z | ʃ | | x ɣ | | ħ | | h |
| Affricate | | | | | ɖʒ | | | | | |
| Trill | | | | r | | | | | | |
| Approximant | | | | | | j | w | | | |
| Lateral Approximant | | | | l | | | | | | |

Pharyngealized consonants: tʕ, dʕ, sʕ, ðʕ, ʃʕ, ɣʕ

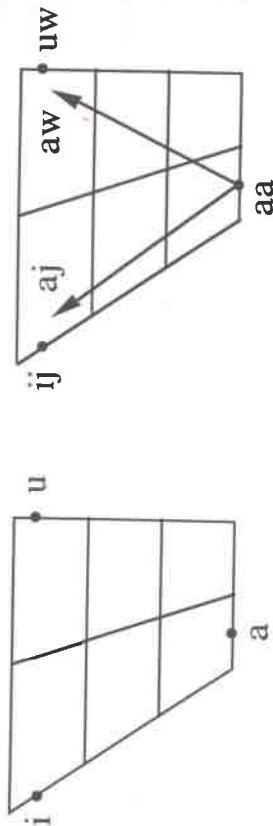
Note: /ʔ/ is represented as /ʕ/ in the transcriptions below.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|-------------|---|-------|------------|---|--------|-------------|
| b | balla | 'recovered' | t | tijn | 'figs' | k | kalb | 'dog' |
| m | malla | 'got bored' | d | dijn | 'religion' | q | qalb | 'heart' |
| f | dafara | 'stank' | n | nadda | 'released' | ʔ | saʔala | 'asked' |
| θ | daθara | 'covered' | s | saara | 'walked' | x | xilaaf | 'dispute' |
| | | | z | zaara | 'visited' | y | yilaaf | 'cover' (n) |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------|------------|----|---------|-----------------|---|-----------|--------------|
| ð | haakaða | 'thus' | ʃ | jadda | 'doubling mark' | ʃ | saʃala | 'coughed' |
| sʃ | sʃarf | 'exchange' | ħ | ɖʒadda | 'grandmother' | ħ | huruwɓ | 'wars' |
| ðʃ | ðʃarf | 'envelope' | ɖʒ | rawʔa | 'splendour' | ħ | huruwɓ | 'escape' (n) |
| | | | ɾ | lawʔa | 'sorrow' | ʃ | jararaqan | 'jaundice' |
| | | | ɿ | xirʃaab | 'letter' | w | wasʃ | 'receipt' |
| | | | ɖʃ | xidʃaab | 'henna' | | | |
| | | | ɿʃ | alʃʃaa | 'god' | | | |

Vowels

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|------------|----|------|--------------|
| i | ʃidd | 'promise!' | u | ʃudd | 'come back!' |
| ij | ʃijid | 'feast' | uw | ʃuwd | 'lute' |
| aj | ʃajn | 'eye' | aw | ʃawd | 'return' |



Stress

Stress within Arabic words falls on the final heavy syllable of the morpheme, disregarding suffixes. A heavy syllable is defined as having either a long vowel or a (C)VCC structure. In words with no heavy syllable the matter is still to be investigated for spoken Modern Standard Arabic, and it is assumed that the stress patterns operating in the background Colloquial Arabic of the speaker will operate.

Syllabification and the determiner [al-]

The assimilation of the consonant of the definite article to following [+coronal] segments is shown in the transcription. The vowel is assimilated to the final vowel of the preceding word, if any. Since word division is shown according to orthographic conventions, we have left out the vowel of the determiner in such cases. The actual realization is, of course, continuous.

Conventions

/t, k/ are aspirated, /tʃ, dʃ, sʃ, ðʃ/ are Retracted Tongue Root, involving simultaneous pharyngealization and greater or lesser degrees of velarization. The convenient phonological term within Arabic phonetic studies is 'emphasis/emphatic'.

These consonants exert a strong co-articulatory effect on all sounds in preceding and following syllables in given lexemes. This is not blocked by labials, the labialized /f/, and /r/. Only /j/ blocks the process. /sʃ/ is a Retracted Tongue Root glottal stop. This realization is supported by Gairdner (1925), Al-Ani (1970) and Kästner (1981) as well as extensive observation of a range of speakers from different regional origins residing in Kuwait at present (1990). Nowhere have we observed a pharyngeal fricative. /x/ is accompanied by uvular trill. Geminate consonants in word-final position in pre-pausal realization have an incipient syllable onset with [ə], e.g. /ʃadd/ → [ʃad.ə], where [.] represents a syllable boundary. In context they are realized without this feature.

The primary vowel allophones are conditioned by the presence or absence of neighbouring emphatics in the same word and by word-final position for non-emphatic contexts. /a/ has three main allophones: [ɑ] before Retracted Tongue Root consonants, [ɛ] before word boundary, and [a] elsewhere, taking phonological length into account. Length is neutralized in open syllables. /i/ and /ij/ become [i] before Retracted Tongue Root and pharyngeal consonants. This may be more retracted than a high central unrounded vowel, reaching towards [y]. In most contemporary colloquial dialects there is no phonological opposition between [i] and [u]. /u/ and /uw/ become [u] and [y] before Retracted Tongue Root and pharyngeal consonants. In word final position the length opposition is neutralized.

Points of particular interest in the sound system include:

1. The 'dʒim', which is here pronounced as a voiced lemis palato-alveolar affricate (Gairdner 1925: 23; see however Kästner 1981: 65, where it is described as a fricative).
2. The 'ðʃaaʔ', which is here pronounced /ðʃ/ 'a voiced dental fricative with tongue root retraction and concomitant pharyngealization and velarization'. See Kästner (1981: 62ff), and in contrast, Gairdner (1925: 21).
3. The 'ʃajn', which is realized as a pharyngealized glottal stop (see also Kästner 1981: 49; Al-Ani 1970: 62-71; and Gairdner 1925: 28-9).

There are various different reflexes of these sounds in the present day spoken dialects of Arabic, and in the phonetic descriptions of past dialects, which it is irrelevant to pursue here.

Transcription of recorded passage

kaanat rijhu ʃʃamaali tatadʒaadalu wa ʃʃamsa fij ʔajjin minhumaa kaanat ʔaqwaa min alʔuxraa, wa ʔið bi-musaafirin jatʔuʃu mutalaffifan bi-ʃabaaʔatin samijka. fa tafaqataa ʃalaa ʃtibaari ssaabiqi fij ʔidʒbaari Imusaafiri ʃalaa xalʃi ʃabaaʔatihi ʔaqwaa. ʃasʔafati rijhu ʃʃamaali bi-ʔaqsʔaa ma stafʔaʔat min quwwa. wa laakin kullumaa zdaada ʔasʔaf izdaada Imusaafiru tadaɖquran biʃabaaʔatih, ʔilaa ʔan ʔusqitʔa fij jadi rrih fa taxallat ʃan muhaawalatihaa. baɖdaʔiðin safʔafati ʃʃamsu bi-difrihaa, fa maakaana min almusaafiri ʔilaa ʔan xalaʃa ʃabaaʔatahu ʃalaa ttauw. wa haakaða idʔurat rijhu ʃʃamaali ʔilaa liʔuraafi biʔanna ʃʃamsa kaanat hija ʔaqwaa.

كانت ريح الشمال تتجاذل والشمس في أي منهما كانت أقوى من الأخرى، وإذا بمسافر يطلع متلفعا بعباءة سمكية . فاتفقتا على اعتبار السابق في اجبار المسافر على خلع عياعته الأقوى . عصف ريح الشمال بأقصى ما استطاعت من قوة . ولكن كلما ازداد العصف ازداد المسافر تكثر بعباءته إلى أن أسقط في يد الريح فتخلت عن محاولتها . بعدئذ سطعت الشمس ببقائها فما كان من المسافر إلا أن خلع عياعته على التو . وهكذا اضطرت ريح الشمال إلى الاعتراف بان الشمس كانت هي الأقوى .

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Bulgarian

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The style of speech illustrated is Standard Bulgarian as used by people with an academic background. Historically, the Standard contains elements of western and eastern Bulgarian, but in its present form, it cannot be localized in any particular region.

The speech on the recording is that of a 33-year-old speaker holding a post at the University of Sofia. Bulgarian examples are given in a transliteration from Cyrillic script.

Consonants

| | Bilabial | Labio-dental | Alveolar | Post-alveolar | Palatal | Velar |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|---------|-------|
| Plosive | p b | | t d | | | k g |
| Nasal | m | | n | | | |
| Fricative | | f v | s z | ʃ ʒ | | x |
| Affricate | | | ts dz | tʃ dʒ | | |
| Trill | | | r | | | |
| Approximant | | | | | j | |
| Lateral Approximant | | | l | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|--------------|----|-------|-------------|----|-------|----------|
| p | pija | 'I drink' | t | tom | 'volume' | k | kol | 'pole' |
| b | bija | 'I beat' | d | dom | 'home' | g | gol | 'naked' |
| | | | ts | tsar | 'tsar' | tʃ | ʃsar | 'charm' |
| | | | dz | dzift | 'tar' | dʒ | džob | 'pocket' |
| m | most | 'bridge' | n | nos | 'nose' | x | halxa | 'ring' |
| f | far | 'lighthouse' | s | sărna | 'roe' | ʃ | šal | 'scarf' |
| v | var | 'limestone' | z | žărna | 'corn' (pl) | ʒ | žal | 'pity' |
| r | roza | 'rose' | l | lale | 'tulip' | j | jak | 'strong' |

The phonemic analysis underlying the present transcription does not assume the existence of palatalized consonants. An alternative analysis postulates the following palatalized consonants: /pʲ, bʲ, tʲ, dʲ, kʲ, gʲ, tsʲ, dzʲ, mʲ, nʲ, rʲ, fʲ, vʲ, sʲ, zʲ, ʃʲ, lʲ/.