

LNG290: LINGUISTIC STRUCTURE OF ARABIC

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Time: Monday/Wednesday 12:30-13:45
Venue: CI 1046
Office hours: Sunday/Tuesday 11:15am – 12:45am, in CI 0043
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Language of instruction: English
Prerequisites: LNG100

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will discuss in detail the linguistic properties of the Emirati Arabic (EA) dialect spoken in the UAE . Students will be guided to investigate:

- the sound inventory of the dialect from an articulatory point of view and in accordance with general phonetic and phonological concepts such as phoneme-allophones distinctions, minimal pairs, free variation/complementary distribution;
- any relevant phonological processes that sounds in the dialect undergo, including assimilation, voicing, primary/secondary articulation, secondary articulation (pharyngealization, palatalization), deletion/insertion, consonant cluster reduction and segmental/suprasegmental phonology;
- the morphological structure of the language including non-linear morphological processes characteristic of Semitic languages; inflectional and derivational processes; borrowing; compounding; and so on.
- the syntax of EA focusing on language specific properties, word order and key phrase structure rules;
- and finally, the nature and definition of meaning, including the concepts of meaning relationships, polysemy, antonymy, complementarity, gradability, homonymy, hyponymy, meronymy/holonymy;
- if time allows issues related to micro-variation in local varieties of EA as well as sociolinguistics issues will be discussed.

2. TEACHING METHODS

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| 1) Lectures | - Learning aids - Phonetics Lab - Internet - Blackboard | -Attendance -Participation -Reading |
| 2) Classroom group discussion/work | - Field Work | -Attendance -Participation -Reports and presentations |
| 3) Problem based | -Library | -Project reports |

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| learning projects / assignments | -Online databases -Fieldwork sessions | -Data collection and transcription -Data analysis -Fieldwork reports |
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3. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of the course the students should have acquired a working knowledge of:

- what we mean by ‘EA’, both as a language and as a language system;
- the processes underlying language, in general, and EA linguistics, in particular;
- the sound inventory and phonology of EA;
- the morphological structure and processes of EA;
- the various possible syntactic structures in EA;
- the basic references, including electronic source materials, of use in the study of EA linguistics;

In addition students should

- have a good grasp of some of the major topics of interest to linguists who work on EA
- have read some of the important introductory texts and be in a position to be able to read some of the primary literature (where this is not too theoretically advanced).
- be able to analyze the formal structures of the language and have the knowledge and confidence to discuss this both orally and in writing.

4. STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students must attend class regularly.
2. Students must do the readings before they come to class (ways to test this may be used)
3. Students are expected to actively participate to class discussions (this would count in the evaluation).
4. Students who have missed class for any reason are responsible for finding out what information has been missed and are encouraged to talk to the instructor and/or classmates.
5. Missed quizzes may be made up only in cases of emergency (family or medical; a note from a doctor is to be provided). Tests will not be made up otherwise.

5. GRADING SCHEME

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| 1. Homework Assignments. | 20% |
| 2. Mid-term exam: | 20% |
| 3. Final exam: | 30% |
| 4. Two (2) quizzes | 10% |
| 5. A class project | 15% |
| 4. Class Participation ¹ | 5% |

¹ Class participation means a lot more than attendance, especially for this course – you have to participate in class discussions, and especially field work sessions, ask questions, and volunteer to tackle in-class analyses of data sets. While emergencies do happen, please make every effort to be in class on time at each session as I will take roll (and don’t forget to switch off your mobile phones!). A student who misses 5% of the class meetings allotted for the course will receive a warning, 10% a second warning and 15% will fail the course. Make up examinations: A make up examination can be scheduled only with the consent of the instructor and/or an official letter from a medical doctor or an official police report.

6. TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

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| Week 1: | Introduction: What is language? Properties of Human Languages, Subfields of Linguistics; Arabic; Genealogical Classification and Geographical Distribution; Varieties of Arabic; Gulf Arabic; Emirati Arabic |
| Week 2 | Phonetics and Phonology; Why do we need a phonetic alphabet; the Sound System of EA; description and transcription of EA consonants and vowels; pharyngeals and emphatics |
| Week 3: | More on transcription; allophonic variation; free and dialectal variation |
| Week 4: | EA Phonological Processes |
| Week 5: | EA Supra-segmental Phonology: Syllables, Stress, Intonation |
| Week 6: | Non-Concatenative Morphology: Identifying stems and affixes in Arabic; roots vs. stems |
| Week 7: | Inflectional Categories; Verbal and nominal morphology; compounds; other morphological processes; borrowing |
| Week 8: | Midterm Review and Midterm |
| Week 9: | The EA Lexicon; how to determine syntactic categories; |
| Week 10: | Clause Structure; Linear and Hierarchical Structure of Sentence; lexical and phrasal categories; constituent structure; structure trees |
| Week 11: | Mood, Tense and Negation; Adverbial Clauses |
| Week 12: | The DP: Modification and Construct State |
| Week 13: | Lexical Semantics |
| Week 14: | Sociolinguistics; diglossia; bilingualism; code-switching; language and gender; microvariation /dialectal variation |
| Week 15: | Final Review and Practice |

7. POLICIES

Academic Honesty: The United Arab Emirates University is committed to creating a learning environment that is honest and ethical. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at the UAE University. Academic dishonesty includes cheating², plagiarism³ or any other attempt to gain an academic advantage in a dishonest or unfair manner.

8. TEACHING MATERIALS

Required Text

No textbook is required – Students will be provided with a reader and occasional additional readings.

² Cheating is deliberately attempting to or help someone gain marks or academic credit dishonestly (sharing or showing answers during an assessment, test or exam, copying from other students and presenting as own work or giving another student access to your work, or bringing to an assessment materials that are not allowed.

³ Plagiarism is presenting another person's work as your own.

References

- Holes, D. Clive. 1990. *Gulf Arabic*. Croom Helm Descriptive Grammars Series, Routledge Curzon, London.
- Qafisheh, Hamdi A. 1977. *A short reference grammar of Gulf Arabic*. In consultation with Ernest N. McCarus. Tucson, Ariz.: University of Arizona Press.
- Qafisheh, Hamdi A. 1997. *NTC's Gulf Arabic-English dictionary*. In consultation with Tim Buckwalter and Ernest N. McCarus. Lincolnwood, Ill. : NTC Pub. Group.
- Main article 'Arabic', and articles on the language situation in 'Bahrain', 'Lebanon', 'Libya', 'Oman', 'Saudi Arabia', 'Syria', 'United Arab Emirates', in Asher R.E. et al (eds.) *The Encyclopaedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics* (10 Vols.), Pergamon/ Aberdeen University Press, 1994: Vol.1 191-4, 300; Vol. 4 2068-9, 2207; Vol. 5 2872; Vol. 7 3662; Vol.8 4500; Vol. 9 4836.

9, GRADE DISTRIBUTION

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| 90-100 | A | 4.0 | 70-74 | C | 2.0 |
| 85-89 | B+ | 3.3 | 65-69 | D+ | 1.3 |
| 80-84 | B | 3.0 | 60-64 | D | 1.0 |
| 75-79 | C+ | 2.3 | >64 | F | 0.0 |