

Linguistics in the Gulf-2

The Department of Foreign Languages in the College of Arts and Sciences at Qatar University, is pleased to announce its second conference on "Linguistics in the Gulf" to be held on 11-12 March, 2009.

Due to the success of its predecessor, our Department is certain that this round of the conference will be of greater success in bringing together researchers and experts involved in the investigation of a wide range of topics related to the study of language in the Gulf region.

We invite contributions in any area of research on the language scene in this region including, but not limited to:

- Formal aspects of the Gulf spoken dialects;
- Contact of the native Arabic dialects with other languages in the region;
- Linguistic variation;
- Linguistic change;
- Standardization and linguistic leveling;
- Language planning and language policies;
- Linguistic attitudes;
- Relation to Standard Arabic;
- Language and the mass media.

Organizing Committee

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Keynote Speakers

Salman Hasan Alani

Indiana University

The historical and acoustic phonetic investigation of the sound /ḏād/

The Arabic language and most of its dialects include a unique phonetic feature called tafkhīm or emphasis. The phonetic term commonly used to describe the phenomenon of tafkhīm is pharyngealization and is primarily caused by a constriction in the upper pharyngeal area. Tafkhīm involves the four primary emphatic consonants /ظ, ص, ض, ط/. The phonetic articulation of these consonants basically focuses on two points of articulation. The primary front articulation occurs at the dental/alveolar region and a back secondary articulation that involves the constriction of the upper pharynx. In the process of acoustic analysis of the emphatic consonants it has been found that the lowering of formant two (F2) is an indication of the enlargement of the oral cavity which is caused by the configuration associated with the specific articulation of the emphatics.

This phenomenon of tafkhīm has attracted the attention of Arab grammarians since the 8th century from the time of al-Khalil and Sybawayh and it is being investigated by modern and western linguists today. The Arabic sound /ḏād/ was described by Sibawayh as "... extending from the front part of the side edge of the tongue and the molars next to it is the outlet of the ḏād" من بين اول حافة اللسان وما يليه من الاضراس مخرج الضاد و (vol 4, p. 433). This description was used by the majority of scholars who followed him with the exception of Ibn Sina who deviated from the Sibawayh tradition.

The phonetic description of Sybawayh raises main question for us today. The pronunciation of the sound /ḏād/ today in the Arab world is described as voiced emphatic dental stop. This is entirely different from that described by Sybawayh who said that /ḏād/ is a voice lateralized interdental fricative which is probably found in some dialects in Ḥaḏramawt and also at the island of Ṣoqṭrah off the coast of Yemen.

The main controversy concerning the pronunciation of the sound /ض/ is its merger with the sound /ظ/ in many parts of the Arab world. This is not a new phenomenon and has a long history. An experiment is currently being conducted with subjects from across different Arab countries in which they have been instructed to pronounce words that contain the sounds /ض/ and /ظ/ in the initial, medial and final positions. The objective of this study is to try to ascertain if the pronunciation of these two sounds are merged or simply pronounced as two separate sounds.

Mohammed Hasan Bakalla

King Saud & Imam University

The beginning and growth of linguistics in the Gulf

One cannot neglect or avoid the six or seven centuries of production and reproduction of grammatical works in the Arabo-Islamic World, particularly in the period between 8-15 century A.D. Nor can one talk about linguistics in the Gulf without giving, at least, a brief panoramic, though a bird's-eye view of the traditional linguistic achievement. The traditional grammatical works have kept reverberating throughout the centuries until the present time. In fact, the tradition has gained a stronger momentum in various quarters, especially in the Departments of Arabic in most of the Arab Gulf universities. The researchers in these departments are generally of two types: those who advocate the traditional views in their own traditional setting with very little, if none, of modern linguistic influence. On the other hand, there is a small group of modern Arab linguists, who try to reinterpret the traditional grammatical thinking in the light of various modern linguistic schools, in addition to applying some general linguistics on its own right as well. It seems to me that the researchers from Foreign Language Departments in the Gulf universities feel freer to apply the numerous general linguistic theories to Arabic or other languages, the most prominent of which is English.

The Gulf region has also witnessed a different development in the field of modern linguistic approaches to Arabic. This time the wind of change has come from the West. Linguistically, there was very little interest in the Gulf region during the 19th century. One can cite some Orientalists such as Jayakar, Reinhardt, Hurgronje and Socin who recorded some linguistic observations. This trend continued, but with a slow progress for the first quarter of the 20th century, producing scholars such as Meisner, Landberg and Rhodokanakis. We can consider this stage as the beginning of modern Arabic linguistics in the Gulf region. The next three decades which followed marked an increase of the western interest in the region as the oil discovery and the 2nd World War took place. This period produced further works and important research on the region by many authors such as Rossi, Cantineau, Rabin, Samarra'i, Anis, and many others. Oil companies, such as Aramco, also helped in producing glossaries and booklets on the spoken dialects of the Gulf. From the 60's onwards, the research on the region has intensified and has taken a different direction engulfing all kinds of linguistic research from pure linguistic analyses of the dialects and Standard Arabic to areas such as sociolinguistic issues, psycholinguistic subjects, areal studies, language planning, Arabization, among other research works which have been carried out within the Gulf region or outside. This research paper takes all these, and more, issues into account, and in a great detail.

Papers Submission

CALL FOR PAPERS

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We invite contributions in any area of research on the language scene in this region including, but not limited to:

- Formal aspects of the Gulf spoken dialects (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics)

- Contact of the native Arabic dialects with other languages in the region
- Linguistic variation
- Linguistic change
- Standardization and linguistic leveling
- Language planning and language policies
- Linguistic attitudes
- Relation to Standard Arabic
- Language and the mass media

In light of the great success of the first round of this conference, held in March 2007, we feel that this round will bring together more researchers and experts investigating a wide range of topics related to the study of language in the Gulf region.

The conference will also host two prominent researchers as keynote speakers

Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts (of 400 words max) should be submitted electronically as an attachment

(in rich text format, or pdf (especially if especial characters are used), to mjbakir@qu.edu.qa. They may also include:

- title of paper
- name, affiliation, e-mail and postal address of the author(s)

Deadline for abstracts: Jan 1. 2009

Receipt of abstracts will be acknowledged as soon as possible.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by Jan 15. 2009.

Presentations will be 20 minutes long followed by 10 minute question period.

Conference Objectives

We hope that this conference will

- provide a common platform for people who are engaged in linguistic research in the region
- promote the study of language in the region
- emphasize the importance of linguistic research and of linguistics as a scientific field
- bring into awareness questions facing research in the linguistics of the region
- put the discussion and the research in the various areas in their broader historical and theoretical perspectives.
- bring researchers from the region and abroad to a productive exchange of insights, experience, and views on current and future developments in the science of language and in their respective areas of interest and scholarship.

Inquiries may be directed to the chair of the Conference Organizing Committee:

Prof. Murtadha J. Bakir at mjbakir@qu.edu.qa

Program

Linguistics in the Gulf II

March 11-12, 2009

Conference Program

First Day : Wednesday , March 11, 2009

Venue : Room 223 Education

8.30 – 9.00 am. Opening Ceremony

1. Readings from Holy Quran
2. Welcoming Speech : Dean of CAS
3. Welcoming Speech : Chair of Department of Foreign Languages
4. Welcoming Speech : Chair of Conference Organizing Committee

9.00 – 10.00 First Plenary Speech Chair : Murtadha Bakir

Salman Alani: Indiana University

The Historical and Acoustic Phonetic Investigation of the sound /Dād/

10.00 – 10.30 Refreshments

10.30 – 12.30 First Session : Chair : Mohammad Hasan Bakalla

1. Tommi Leung: United Arab Emirates University
Negations in Sha'm Shehhi Arabic

2. Majid Abdulatif Ibrahim: University of Basrah

The Sound System of Zubairi Arabic: A Phonological Sketch.

3. Maria Persson: Lund and Uppsala universities

Circumstantial Qualifiers in Gulf Arabic Dialects

4. Domenyk Eades : Sultan Qaboos University

Remarks about the classification of the spoken Arabic of the Northern Šarqiyyah Bedouin of Oman

12.30 – 2.00 Lunch Break

2.00 – 3.30 Second Session Chair : Ali Idrissi

1. Showqi Bahumaid : University of Sharjah

A Corpus-based Linguistic Study of English Loanwords in Hadhrami Arabic

2. Ronald Boyle: UAE University

Varieties in Contact: A Study of English as a lingua franca in the UAE

3. Nuha Suleiman Al-Shurafa: King Abdulaziz University

Linguistic Variations and Use of the 21st Century Arabicisation of English

4. Rizwan Ahmad: American University of Kuwait

Multilingualism in a Monolingual Country: a Case of Kuwait

(*Eiman Mustafawi: Qatar University)

Can lone words be considered loanwords? Codeswitching and borrowing in an Arabic/English bilingual discourse

3.30 – 4.00 Refreshment Break

4.00 – 5.30 Third Session

Chair : Manal A. Ismail

1. Saddik Mohamed Gohar: UAE University

Language Abuse and Power Relationships in Literary and Political Discourse

2. Girma Halefom : UAE University

Splitting the Perfective Conjugation in Classical Arabic

3. Jean-François Prunet: Kuwait University, Ali Idrissi : UAE University, and

Renée Béland: Université de Montréal

Form and meaning in Arabic names

4. Muna A. Balfaqeh: UAE University

Power and Ideology in the Speeches of the war in Iraq: a Critical Discourse Analysis of Arabic and English Political Speeches

Second Day : Thursday , March 12. 2009

Venue : Room 223 Education

9.00 –10.00 Second Plenary Speech : Chair: Eiman Mustafawi

Mohammed Hasan Bakalla : King Saud University

The Beginning and Growth of Linguistics in the Gulf

10.30 – 1. 00 Fourth Session : Chair : Salman Alani

1. Sabah Safi: and Nahla Dashash: King Abdulaziz University

Lexical Development of Arabic Speaking Infants and Toddlers

2. Meera Al-Kaabi, Ali Idrissi, and Johann Braun: UAE University:

The interaction of templatic morphology and syntax in agrammatism

3. Fatima Ba-Safar and Sabah Safi: King Abdulaziz University

The Acquisition of Verb Inflection in Arabic

4. Saleh Shaalan: University of London

The role of word-order, input, agreement and syntactic complexity in language acquisition: insight from Gulf-Arabic typically and atypically developing children

5. Dimitrios Ntelitheos, Othaiba Tamimi, and Ali Idrissi: UAE University :

Acquisition of Definiteness in Emirati Arabic

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch Break

2.00 – 3.30 Fifth Session : Chair : Hamza Khusheifaty

1. Mahmoud al-Deeky : Al-Bait University

ضمائر المتكلم : أصولها وتطورها في لهجات الخليج العربي

2. Abbas Al-Tonsi : Georgetown University

إعادة النظر في التعريفات : هل العربية الفصحى هي لغتنا الأم؟

3. Ali Idrissi, Dimitrios Ntelitheos and Othaiba Tamimi : UAE University

Decomposition to the Root in Arabic: Evidence from Child Speech

4. Mohammed Al-Hannach : Dubai Institution for Education

الوصف الحاسوبي لتراكيب اللغة العربية: تطبيق على تركيب المطاوعة

3.30 – 4.00 Break

4.00 – 5.30 Sixth Session

Chair : Abbas Al-Tonsi

1. Manal A. Ismail: King Saud University

Saudi Men's and Women's Linguistic Attitudes to Standard and Colloquial Arabic

2. Muna Y. Al-Qouz: University of Bahrain

Dialect contact, acquisition and change among Manama youth, Bahrain

3. Aziza Alessa: King Abdulaziz University

When Najd meets Hijaz: Dialect contact in Jeddah

4. Hamza Khusheifaty: King Abdul-Aziz University

Sex Differences in Complimenting Patterns in Saudi Arabic and American English: An Empirical Study.

(* Murtadha Bakir: Qatar University)

Notes on dialect leveling in Doha

5.30 – 6.00 Concluding Remarks