Lesson 2 Basics of Arabic and Naming Things

# Recap

What makes Arabic different from say English?

* Semitic versus non-semitic languages
* In non-semitic languages, changes to meaning of existing words come from adding syllables or words to those existing words, in semitic languages changes to meaning comes from changing the word itself or its vowels (inflexion)
* There are five vowels in English, three vowels in Arabic

How many kinds of words are there in Arabic? Three

Practice

Table

Duluth

Jumps

Jumped

Of

War

Loudly

From

Cried

Slept

Nicely

# Pronouncing Arabic Properly

Best site to use – Arabic 101 Makharij and Sifat

<https://youtu.be/-YrfRpwFMe8?list=PL6TlMIZ5ylgpmlnN3EpkOec0tJ8OJZ5re>

Another site – Arabic Coach

https://youtu.be/8\_60iWXl7dw

Because of cultural and language differences, there are many mistaken pronunciations that need to be corrected. The most common:

ذ Dhal – the same as th in then, not z



ضDod – no equiv in English, not zo, as in dollin, not zollin



ظDho – no equiv, no z, dholim, not zolim

Difference between ح and ه

Kha خ

ت. Ta ث. Tha. ُس. Sa. ة

Lam alif

Ta marbuta

Hamza

The vowel sounds

Fatha فَتْحَةٌ. AA بَ

Kasra كَسْرَةٌ EE ب ِ

Damma ضَمَّةٌ. OO بُ

بً بٍ بٌ

Tanween (nooning – making the noon sound) تَنْوِيْنَهُ

شَدَّةٌ shaddah – doubling of the consonants ّدْدَ

Sukoon

ء

Hamzatul Wasl and Hamzatul Qatt’i

وَالْكِتَابُ

وأَكَلَ

Hamzatul Qatt’I sits on the alif at the beginning of the word. In the middle or end, it can sit on alid, wow, or yaa (without dots) or standing alone depending on the vowel before it.

Hamzatul Wasl always occurs at the beginning of the word and its vowel is written above or below the alif. It is often not written or with the symbol آ

When the noun or adjective defined by the article begins with one of the “sun” letters (six letters ta, tha, dal, dhal, ra, zai, siin, shin, shad, dod, to, dho, lam and noon. The rest are called moon letters), the lam of the article is assimilated to the sun letter which is written with a shadda

Mad

Sound is elongated, made longer

# The Noun

Noun – How things are named. All words denoting a person, place, thing, idea, adjective (the description of things), adverbs (the description of verbs) or more.

كل كلمة تدل على إنسان أو حيوان أو نبات أو جماد أو مكان أو زمان أو سفة أو معنى مجرد من الزمان

Every word denotes a person, an animal, a plant, an inanimate object, a place, a time, an event, or a meaning devoid of time

# The Article

The article “the” in English is represented by the alif lam in Arabic. The proper noun loses its tanween.

كتابٌ الكتابُ

The alif in the article is a hamzatul wasl

How to distinguish nouns from other words

1. The admit a tanween
2. They have an article
3. They have a harf before them
4. They have a harf of calling

Use dictionary

Noun – rahmaan, rahim

Comes from rahm - womb

First difference is that rahmaan is normally translated as the merciful – that’s a problem, it’s not a good translation because mercy is what happens after something bad takes place, whereas rahmat has nothing negative about it – e.g. state of baby in the womb, complete safety, nutrition, care, love, etc. Baby does not know the numerous ways of how Allah is protecting and taking care of us. Just the eye – one organ, Allah is constantly taking care of it, keeping it moist, soft, clean – and we haven’t talked about our heart is taking care of us. I am just as ignorant of the rahmat of Allah to us.

Rahmaan – from fa’laan – happening in extreme manner, not normal, extremely loving, happening immediately. Being patient right now, versus someone is patient. It is temporary until something takes it away like Ghadbaan, Atshaan (he is rahmaan to everyone)

Rahiim – from fai’il – permanent, always loving and caring, not necessarily happening right now (he is rahiim to believers)

That’s why all of Allah’s command as Rabb (master) is for us not for Allah because he is rahmaan and rahiim, they bring us peace and contentment. We think of law and rules as burdens, actually the law frees us and saves us.

Why not switch – doesn’t work for us

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