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LANGUAGE SITUATION IN ARABIC COUNTRIES

In one and the same limits of language system we distinguish several varieties of the Arabic language. These are classical Arabic, modern literary Arabic (both written and spoken), colloquial (simplified literary Arabic), territorial and social dialects. Modern Literary Arabic is written and official language for all the Arabic states. It comprises classical and modern Arabic languages. Classical Arabic bears cultural heritage (old Arabic poetry, Koran), it is applied in radio and television (in religious programs). It is the language of Al-azhar and of other Moslem centers. Modern Arabic language formed on the basis of the classical Arabic in the 19th century. As different from the classical Arabic it is used in science and in belles-lettres, it is the language of media and technical literature. Colloquial Arabic is represented with everyday speech and territorial and social groups. Everyday oral language formed as a synthesis of literary Arabic and dialects. It is at the same time simplified literary language with marked regional features.

Compared with the literary Arabic its dialects present the everyday means of communication. Some of the dialects have moved form the literary Arabic at such extents that it is very difficult or sometimes even impossible to comprehend them by means of knowledge of literary language merely. In addition to the territorial dialects one can distinguish social dialects as of towns-folk, Bedouins, and Felahs speeches.

Nowadays nobody arguers the fact that almost in every Arabic countries diglossia is a common phenomenon. Nevertheless Arab linguists refer to literary Arabic and dialects as the varieties of one and the same language and not independent lingual entities, as these speech codes have common basic grammatical categories, common vocabulary and phonetic contents.