Announcements

- How was the screening of *The Writing Code*?
- I will post the rest of homework assignment #2 by Thursday.

Today’s agenda

- Discussion of questions on chapter 1 on diglossia and Arabic dialectal variation, mixed with reports from Exercise 4 on HW#1.

Discussion of questions on Chapter 1

- Question #1:
  - In the United States, there exists a standard variety of English (probably the one taught at school) and a number of other varieties (African American English, Southern English, etc.). Can this linguistic situation be described as a diglossia? Why or why not?

Other diglossic speech communities

- Switzerland. Greece. Haiti.
- Paraguay: Spanish and Guarani.
- NZ: informal Maori, formal Maori, and English. Polyglossia.

World Atlas of Arabic Dialects (in German ☺)

- These two sources on lexical variation among Arabic dialects are now available to you online.
- *Wortatlas der arabischen Dialekte Band I: Mensch, Natur, Fauna und Flora*
- *Wortatlas der arabischen Dialekte Band II: Materielle Kultur*

ARBC/LNGT 0227
Arabic Sociolinguistics
علم اللسانيات الاجتماعية في اللغة العربية

Lecture #7
March 5th, 2013
Is diglossia a problem?

- Do you think diglossia is a problem?
- Education issues.
- Judiciary system problems.
- Journalism issues.

Discussion of questions on Chapter 1

- Question #2:
  - In light of the anecdote about an Arab scholar told by Ferguson on pages 12-13, what do you think is the effect of the scholar’s attitude on the curricula of Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language?

The status of H

- Dialects were not prestigious.
- Colonialism promoted dialects.
- Standard Arabic = Unity.

Discussion of questions on Chapter 1

- Question #3: What role does Educated Spoken Arabic play in the life of Arabs?

- Question #4: What is the difference between standard and prestige discussed on pages 18-19? Why do you think grammar-book Arabic (CA and MSA), though standard, is not exactly the prestige variety in many places in the Arab World?

Discussion of questions on Chapter 1

- Question #5:
  - What are the two approaches that the author uses to classify Arabic dialects? What are the benefits of each approach (i.e., why/when would a researcher prefer one approach over the other)?

Arabic dialectal variation by region
Arabic dialectal variation by sociological variables: Urbanization

- Within the same nation, one can distinguish between 'sedentary' and 'Bedouin' dialects.
- Within Sedentary dialects, there are مَدَني ‘urban’ and ﻓَﻼّحﻲ/ﻗَﺮَوي ‘rural’ dialects.
- Why are the Bedouin dialects and rural among sedentary dialects more conservative or less susceptible to change?

Arabic dialectal variation by sociological variables

- After we finish our discussion of regional dialectal variation, we’ll move on to Chapter 3 for a more detailed discussion of variation according to sociological variables.

Next class agenda

- Read Versteegh’s chapter on the study of Arabic dialects.
- Also, take a look at this handout on Arabic verbal morphology.