Announcements

• Homework #1 returned.
• Homework #2 posted. Due Friday March 15 by 12noon. Start early since it involves an interviewing activity.

Transition from last class

• Two ways to classify dialects: regional or sociolinguistic.

Arabic dialectal variation by region

Arabic dialectal variation by sociological variables: Urbanization

• Why are the Bedouin dialects and rural among sedentary dialects more conservative or less susceptible to change?
• As a general principle, isolation leads to linguistic conservatism, while areas of high rates of interaction exhibit many phenomena of reduction and simplification.
• Some salient differences between sedentary and Bedouin Arabic dialects.
Other sociological variables

- Other variables in society can also affect language usage: ethnicity, religion, social class, gender, and politics.
- Refer, for instance, to the example of how the pronunciation of ظ differs in Kuwait and Bahrain (Versteegh: 133).
- We will discuss more examples in the next few weeks.

Today's agenda

- Phonetics: Vowels.
- Hopefully, basics of morphology.

American English dialect areas

Studying language attitudes

- Sociolinguists are interested in studying speakers’ attitudes about their own speech as well as the speech of others, and possible explanations we can rely on to make sense of the attitudes that emerge.
- One way to find out about such attitudes is to ask speakers to ‘rate’ dialects, as linguist Dennis Preston did in a few studies.
- Before we look at his findings, I want us to do the same here.

Activity #1

- In your groups, use the dialect map and rate the US dialects on a scale from 1 to 10 in terms of CORRECTNESS.
- Think about where in the country you feel people speak the most correct form of American English. Where do they speak the least correct form?
- For the purposes of this exercise CORRECT ENGLISH is defined as the variety (or varieties) of American English that sounds the most acceptable to you. You can use all the other numbers between 1 and 10, and you can repeat a score as many times as you like. (Areas can tie.)

Activity #2

- In your groups, use the dialect map and rate the US dialects on a scale from 1 to 10 in terms of PLEASANTNESS.
- PLEASANT ENGLISH is defined as the variety of American English that sounds the most appealing to you. Note that appealing can be different from correct. An appealing accent may sound charming, but you may not consider it good English!
- For this reason your scores for CORRECT ENGLISH in Activity #1 and PLEASANT ENGLISH in Activity #2 may be the same, or they can be different.
Results from Dennis Preston’s study

• http://www.pbs.org/speak/speech/mapping/map.html

• The question now is: If we run a similar study on Arabic dialects, what will the results look like? And why?

Phonetics cont.

Consonant differences between CLA and the dialects

• The interdentals: ث، ذ، ظ.
• The ق.
• The ج.
• Consonant clusters.

Arabic consonants

Vowels

• Vowels are distinguished from consonants in that the passage through which the air travels is never so narrow as to obstruct the free flow of the airstream.
• It’s hard, however, to characterize vowels according to the same features that we have used in characterizing consonants. Why?
Parameters for vowel articulation

- Therefore, to distinguish between different vowels, we rely on four other features:
  (a) Tongue height: High, Mid, and Low
  (b) Which part of the tongue is involved:
      Front, Central, and Back
  (c) Lip rounding: Rounded and Unrounded
  (d) Tenseness or laxness of the vocal tract:
      Tense and Lax

American English Vowel Chart (from O’Grady et al 2005)

- [Link with graphic representations for the articulation of the vowels of American English, German, and Spanish.]
- This is a link for an interactive IPA chart, where you can listen to each IPA sound. It’s fun.
- [http://wso.williams.edu/~jdowse/ipa.html]

Classical Arabic vowel chart

- Consider some examples:
  - [aj] → [e:]  
  - [aw] → [o:]
But ... the glides are still there

- Consider some examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>العربية المصرية (plural)</th>
<th>العربية الفصحى (singular)</th>
<th>الكلمة</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[xe:r]</td>
<td>[xajr]</td>
<td>خير</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[yo:m]</td>
<td>[yawm]</td>
<td>يوم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[be:t]</td>
<td>[bajt]</td>
<td>بيت</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[mo:t]</td>
<td>[mawt]</td>
<td>موت</td>
</tr>
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<td>[biju:t]</td>
<td>[be:t]</td>
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</tr>
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<td>عين</td>
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<td>[lo:n]</td>
<td>‘color’ لون</td>
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But, the glides are still there ...

- Consider these examples:

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The schwa [ə]

- The Maghrebi dialects are known for the extensive use of schwa in place of the usual short vowels (particularly [a] and [i]), e.g.,

كتبت [ktəb] خرج [xrəʒ]

Comparing dialects phonologically

- Let’s compare Arabic dialects in their phonological features.
- Pay attention to the interdentals, the ظ the ج, consonant clusters, and vowels.
Tunisian

(3) TCA

?enna b-?ibb il-qrayya waqaddi mfikt il-makiba/
ba?fa/
1 asp-lg the-reading When walked-lg to-the-
love x lot/ library
ma-fi:ci f illa ha-k-ta:b l-i:di?m/ u haur nhubb
neg-lg- neg find-neg
nagra kta:b ?illa tarix l-ma fi fransa/
1sg-read book about history the-woman in France

Lebanese

(5) LCA

?enna b-?ibb il-qrayya khtir/ lamna rehbi l-ul-makiba/
1 asp-lg the-reading a lot/ When went-lg to-the-library
love
ma fi:ct illa ha-k-ta:b l-i:di?m/ wi ken haddi
neg-lg- except this-the- the-old/ and was-lg lag-want
find
?c?na kte:b Sun tarix l-ma lara b-fransa/
1sg-read book about history the-woman in France

Saudi

(7) SCA

?enna b-?ibb il-qrayya bhtir/ h?m waqt l-nekiba/
1 lag the-
love reading x lot/ When went-
library
neg-lg- except this-the- the-old/ and was-lg lag-a?m-
find (want)
?agra kta:b Sun tarix l-mara fi fransa/
1sg-read book about history the-woman in France

Next class agenda

- Language variation in terms of sociological variables. Read Chapter 3 of the textbook, pp. 88-117, and prepare answers to these QUESTIONS.