



Study of Differences in Arabic Lahjah: Dialectal Variations in Various Arab Countries

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DOI: <http://doi.org/10.35931/am.v7i2.3659>

Article Info

Received: 28th May 2024

Revised: 16th June 2024

Accepted: 30th June 2024

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Abstract: Arab countries have a wide variety of dialects, which are varieties of Arabic that arise from the different ways of speaking of Arab Communities in Different regions that have different places of residence and socio-cultural needs. Arabic dialects have unique characteristics in each country, affecting daily communication and the culture of the local community. This study explores the linguistics diversity within the Arabic language by examining the variations in dialects across different Arab countries. This research aims to identify Arabic dialect variations (*Lahjah Arabiyah*) descriptively and factors contributing to their divergence. By considering sociolinguistic factors, historical influences, and geographical proximity. This research is presents a descriptive qualitative based on literature study. Researchers collected data related to the variety of Arabic dialects through documentation, namely by reviewing texts from various printed books and scientific journal articles. By providing a nuanced understanding of Arabic dialects. this research contributes to ongoing discussions in linguistics and highlights the importance of preserving and valuing linguistic diversity in the Arab Countries

Keywords: Arabic dialect variation, Arabic countries, Arabic Literature

INTRODUCTION

Language is an element of culture that arises because of the basic needs of humans to advance their civilization. In addition, language also acts as a means of communication between individuals. Language and culture are related to each other. Therefore, with culture, it can be seen how a person speak.(Husin & Hatmiati, 2018)

Arabic is one of the world's languages that is rich in diversity. As a language with a rich history and wide usage in various Middle Eastern countries and beyond, Arabic undergoes significant variation in its various linguistic aspects. (Nasution, 2017) One important aspect of this variation is the differences in pronunciation, lexicon and sentence structure known as lahjah or dialect.(Hasan, 2018)

The study of dialectal variation in Arabic is an interesting linguistic topic because it reflects the cultural and historical diversity that exists in different regions. Research on lahjah differences in Arabic provides deep insights into how language is used and develops in different social and cultural contexts in various Arab countries. (Sofa & Sugianto, 2024)

The basic purpose of this research is to add intellectual wealth and insight into the various dialectal variations of Arabic by identifying their differences. And with a better understanding of dialectal variations in Arabic, it is hoped that it can contribute to the development of linguistic studies as well as teaching and learning Arabic in various contexts. So on this occasion, the researcher tried to study with the title Study of Lahjah Differences in Arabic: Dialect Variations in Various Arab Countries.

METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative research, in which researchers collect information related to Arabic dialect variations and describe it in descriptive form, reflecting the facts related to the observed phenomenon. According to Sugiono, descriptive research directs researchers to explore and portray social situations in a comprehensive and in-depth manner. (Sugiyono, 2014)The data collection method in this research is through documentation by examining various sources both from various printed books and scientific journal articles. The data analysis uses an interactive model in the

form of data presentation (data display), and verification and conclusion. (Lexy Moleong, 2017)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Language Variation and Dialects

1. Definition of Language Variation

Language variation refers to a variety of languages that arise and are formed due to the existence of speech communities with different social backgrounds. The diversity of languages used by language speakers also causes this variation. Furthermore, if the language is used by many speakers in a large area, then the use of variation is growing. (Shazana, 2023)

Language variation according to Suwito includes various types of language varieties that are used according to their purpose and situation, but still adhere to the basic principles that apply in the language used. Therefore, language variation is a natural and complex phenomenon that reflects the diversity and dynamics in society. (Lukiana, 2019)

2. Definition of Dialect

Dialect according to Hasan Shadily comes from the Greek "dialektos" which refers to a local accent or variant that is different from the standard language (standard), due to differences in pronunciation and language rules. Etymologically, dialect in the al-Munjid dictionary (Ma'luf: 2002) means human language that is characterized and accustomed by it. (Suaidi, 2008)

In terminology, dialect as described in the Longman dictionary is defined as a variation of a language spoken in a particular region of a country, which variation is different from other variations of the same language in terms of word count or grammar. (Djafar, 2023)

This is in line with the opinion of Ayatrohaedi who argues that dialect is a language system used in a limited way by a community or group, to distinguish it from other neighboring communities who are closely related but use a different language system with their group. Kridalaksana also defines dialect as a variation that varies according to its users, in certain regions (regional dialect), by certain communities (social dialect), or within a certain period of time (temporal dialect). (Lestari, 2022)

So it can be concluded that the factors that influence the creation of dialects can be in the form of culture, idealism and diverse *dzauq* (feelings) of a people or group. Therefore, it can be ascertained that psychosocial, physiological

and sociocultural factors are quite significant in determining the differences in lahjah that make them various dialects. (Taubah, Hanun, & Nahilah, 2023)

B. Background to the Emergence of Dialectal Variations in some Arab Countries

Arabic is one of the most widely spoken languages and is the oldest language that has survived and is still used today. It has spread to all corners of the world, even being used as an official language by many countries during the golden age of Islam. (Alnosairee & Sartini, 2021) Because of its wide distribution and its long and intense interaction with other languages and cultures, it is very difficult if not impossible to maintain the original integrity of Arabic without the emergence of dialects ('ammiyyah). (Suaidi, 2008)

As a language in general use, Arabic is divided into two major groups, namely Fusha Arabic and 'Ammiyyah. Fusha Arabic is the official language commonly understood by all Arabs. Today, fusha Arabic is the form of language found in the Qur'an, the Prophetic traditions and the Arabic traditional heritage. (Nashoih & Ashoumi, 2018) It is widely used in official contexts and for the purpose of codifying literary works such as poetry, prose, speeches, proverbs, exhortations as well as for writing intellectual thoughts in general. (Nashoih & Ashoumi, 2018)

The 'ammiyah language, on the other hand, is a form of language used in daily activities. During the pre-Islamic era, people had a variety of dialects due to differences in residence and the socio-cultural needs of each tribe or kabilah. (Astuti, 2017) Interaction and assimilation between Arab tribes through trade, poetry and literary competitions in Makkah and the performance of worship also contributed to this diversity of dialects. As a result of this interaction, the Arabic language is rich in vocabulary. According to Wafi, there is one fundamental factor that causes the emergence of various dialects in one language, namely the wide distribution and use of the language by many people. (Munawwir, Muhammad Ihsan, Amran AR, & Moh. Sholeh Afyuddin, 2023)

Although the spread of this language does not directly cause the division of a language into various dialects, it opens the gap for other factors that contribute to the occurrence of this phenomenon. In addition to these basic factors, there are other factors that have a significant impact on the emergence of language varieties and their continuous development, including the following: (Azizah & Mar'atus, 2018)

1. Geographical Factors: The geographical location of a region can affect the dialect used. (Pantu, 2014) Geographical differences, such as mountains, lowlands or coasts, can affect the phonology, lexicon and grammar in the dialect spoken.
 2. Historical Factors: The history of contact with other nations and cultures such as colonization, trade, and migration can affect the development of dialects in Arabic. For example, contact with the Romans, Persians, or Ottoman Turks can leave traces in vocabulary and language structure.
 3. Social and Economic Factors: Social and economic differences between groups in society can affect dialect usage. For example, groups who come from different parts of the social strata or have different professions may use different dialects. (Al Suwaiyan, 2018)
 4. Cultural Factors: such as traditions, customs, and religion can also affect the dialect used. For example, the dialect used in rural areas may differ from the dialect used in urban areas due to differences in lifestyle and cultural values.
 5. Political Factors: Political changes and the division of political territories can affect dialect usage. For example, the division of modern Arab states can lead to restrictions on inter-regional communication, and the weakening of home language resources, which can affect dialect development and maintenance. (Hasnah, 2019)
- category and is widely spoken by the Dhabbah tribe.
 2. Lahjah al-'Aj'ajah: According to the narration of al-Azhariy, this dialect is widely used by the Qadha'ah tribe.
 3. Lahjah al-'An'anah: This dialect is spoken by the Banu Tamim, Qa'is, Azad, and the people who occupy other areas neighboring these bani.
 4. Lahjah al-fahfahahah: Arabic linguists agree that this dialect was spoken by the tribe of Huzail.
 5. Lahjah Al-Furatiyyah: This dialect is controversial because it is only spoken by ibnu Ya'is himself, no one else.
 6. Lahjah al-Gamgamah: Some explain that this dialect was spoken by the Qadha'ah tribe but some deny it because there is a narration that the dialect spoken by the Qadha'ah tribe is the dialect of 'Aj'ajah
 7. Lahjah Al-Isthinta': This was the dialect of the tribes of Sa'd ibn Abu Bakr, Huzail, Azad, Qais, and al-Ansar.
 8. Lahjah al Kaskasah: This dialect is spoken by the Bakarm tribe but in the al-Muhit dictionary it is mentioned that this dialect is the language of the Tamim tribe.
 9. Lahjah Al-Kiskisyah: This dialect is spoken by the tribes of Rabi'ah, Mudhar, Bakar, Bani Amru and Asad.
 10. Lahjah al-Klakhlahkhanayah: This dialect was originally unknown to its speakers. Abu Mansur al-Tsa'labi was the first to narrate and mentioned that this dialect was spoken by Arabs who were on the coast and the Oman area.
 11. Lahjah Ar-Ruttah: This dialect is spoken by Iraqis
 12. Lahjah As-Syansyanah: This dialect is spoken by the people of Yemen and is very popular in Hadramaut
 13. Lahjah At-Tadhajju': Attributed to the Qais, this dialect shares similarities with the dialects of the Tamim, Azad, and Najd people.
 14. Lahjah At-Tiltillah: This dialect is spoken by several Arab tribes such as Bahra, Qais, Tamim, Azad, and Rabi'ah. Ibn Jinni also narrated that the Banis 'Uqail also

C. Dialectal Varieties of Arabic

Various dialects of Arabic were widespread in the Arabian peninsula and developed in line with the expansion of Islamic territory after the conquests carried out by Muslims to reach the North African region. Among the dialects of Arabic that emerged around the Arabian Peninsula (Setiyadi, 2011) which is the center of various variations, including: (Hamzah et al., 2023)

1. Lahjah Al-'Ajrafiyah: This dialect is one of the dialects that belongs to the fusha

- kasrahan the harak of the mudhariah letters.
15. Lahjah At-Thamthamaniyah: This dialect is spoken by the Ta'i, Zad, and Hamir tribes.
 16. Lahjah al-Quth'ah: This dialect is spoken by the Ta'i tribe
 17. Lahjah al-Watmu: This dialect is spoken by the people of Yemen
 18. Lahjah Al-Wakm: This dialect is spoken by the tribe of Rabi'ah, the Kalabites, and Bakar bin Wail
 19. Lahjah Al-Wahm: This dialect is spoken by the Banu Kalab.
 20. Lahjah al-Mu'aqobah¹

As for its evolution, each region in Arabia that has geographical differences seeks to develop its own dialect with its unique characteristics. This results in a more prominent difference in each region or Arab country, so that Arabic dialects can be distinguished based on their geographical location: (لهجات عربية - المعرفة, n.d.)

1. Eastern Dialects (لهجات مشرقية)

- a. The Nile dialect (Lahjah Niliyyah) can also be referred to as a collection of dialects of Egyptian society which consists of:
 - Egyptian dialects (Lahjah Misriyah) including Alexandria
 - Sudanese dialect (Lahjah Sudaniyah)
 - Sa'idi dialect (Lahjah Sa'idiah)
- b. The Levantine/Shami dialect (لهجات شامية) is divided into two groups:
 - 1) Northern Shami dialects including:
 - Lebanese dialects
 - Syriac dialects (Lahjah Damascus, Lahjah)
 - 2) Southern Shami dialects include:
 - Palestinian dialects
 - Jordanian dialect
- c. Iraq dialect (لهجات عراقية)

- 1) Southern dialect: this is the dialect used by Muslims in southern Iraq including Baghdadi and Basrawi.
 - 2) Northern dialect: this is the dialect in northern Iraq and is mostly spoken by the Christian and Jewish communities in the cities of southern Iraq.
- d. The dialects of the Arabian Peninsula are divided into several general groups:

- A group of dialects in the center and east of the island
- A group of southern dialects stretching from Southern Hijaz to Yemen
- Urban Hijaz in central Hijaz cities
- Oman
- Bahrain

2. Western Dialects (لهجات مغربية)

The dialect of Arabic in the Western region, encompassing several varieties, including Western Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania. The Arabic spoken in Andalusia and Sicily also falls into this category. This dialect is spread across regions such as Malta, Sicily, Spain and Pantelleria and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. Researchers of Arab geography and history have noted that this dialect of Arabic in the Western region is identical to the Maghrib dialect. This Maghrib dialect is popular in North Africa, and has been spoken by about 40 billion people, stretching from Egypt in the East to the Atlantic Ocean in the West, and from the Senegal and Niger Rivers in the Southwest to Lake Chad in the Southeast. (Setiyadi, 2011)

Later mentioned in an article on the British and American-based Applied Language Solution Institute

divides the main Arabic dialects as follows: (www.appliedlanguage.com)(Ni'mah, 2009)

1. Hijaz dialect- (West Coast of Saudi Arabia, Western Saudi Arabia, Eastern Jordan, Western Iraq)
2. Hassaniya dialect- (Mauritania and Western Sahara)
3. Iraqi dialect- (Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia)
4. Levantine dialect- (Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Western Jordan)
5. Maghrib dialect- (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Western Libya)
6. Maltese dialect- (Malta)
7. Egyptian dialect- (Egypt)
8. Najd dialect- (Najd region of central Saudi Arabia)
9. Sudanese dialect- (Sudan with Continuum dialect of Chad)
10. Gulf dialect- (Gulf Coast from Iraq to Oman)
11. Yemeni dialect (Yemen to Southern Saudi Arabia)

From the above classification, these dialects can be broken down by administrative region of the country as follows: (Ni'mah, 2009)

Region of Transmission	Dialect Names
Afghanistan	Tajiki
Aljazair	Sahara Aljazair
Bahrain (also spoken in Oman)	(Bahara, Gulf)
Chad	Chadian
Cyprus	Cypriot
Djibouti	Ta'izzi-Anei/South Yemen
Eritrea	Hijazi
Iran	Mesopotamia, Gulf Mesopotamia, Najd,
Iraq	Mesopotamia Utara, Gulf, Judeo-Iraqi
Israel	Judeo-Tripolitania, Judeo- Maroko, Judeo-Iraqi, Judeo- Yamani, Judeo Yamani, Judeo- Tunisia
Kenya	Oman
Kuwait	Gulf

Lebanon	Northern Levantine
Libya	Libyan
Mali	Hassaniyya
Mauritania	Hassaniyya
Morocco	Morocco/Maghribi, Hassaniyya, Judeo-Morocco
Egypt	Egypt, Saudi, Libya, Estern Egypt, Bedouin
Niger	Libya, Hassaniyya
Oman	Gulf, Omani, Dhofari, Shihhi
West Coest Palestina and Gaza	Southern Levantine, Estern Egypt, Bedouin
Qatar	Gulf
Saudi Arabia	Najdi, Hijazi, Gulf
Sudan	Sudan
Syria	Northern Levantine, Mesopotamia, Najdi, Mesir Timur Badui
Tajikistan	Tajiki
Tanzania	Omani
Tunisia	Tunisia, Judeo -Tunisia
Turki	Mesopotamia Utara
United Arab Emirates	Gulf, Shihhhi
Uzbekistan	Uzbeki
Yemen	Sanaani/North Yemen, Ta'izzi- Ademi/South Yemen, Hadrami, Judeo-Yemeni
Jordan	Najd, Southern Levantine, Eastern Egypt Bedouin

D. Variations in Grammar, Pronunciation and Vocabulary Differences between dialects in different Arab Countries

Each dialect variation has its own characteristics or it can also be said that each dialect has special characteristics that differ from one dialect group to another. These dialectal differences are found in various aspects, namely grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. (Suaidi, 2008)

1. Grammar and Pronunciation

Here are some dialect variations with distinctive features of grammar and pronunciation according to Ahmad Taymur Pasha in his book "Lahjah al-'arab": (Djafar, 2023)

a. *Lahjah Al-Isthintha*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect replaces the letter 'ain sukun with the letter nun when the letter 'ain is close to the letter tha	إِنَّا انطيناك الكوثر

b. *Lahjah At-Tiltilah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect renders the letters mudhori'ah	يَفْتَحْ

c. *Lahjah Ar-Ruttah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect reverses the letter lam to ya	جمل into جي

d. *Lahjah As-Syansyanah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
In this dialect the letter kaf is replaced by shin in the absolute	ليس sentence اللهم ليس

e. *Lahjah At-Thamthamaniyah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
A feature of this dialect is replacing lam ta'rif with mim	امجو وصفا that is امهواء طاب : الجو وصفا العواء طاب

f. *Lahjah al-'Aj'ajah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect replaces the tasydid ya with jim	أنا تميمي into أنا تميمج

g. *Lahjah al-'An'anah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect changes the fathah-hatched alif hamzah in the letter ان to 'ain. But if the alif hamzah is kasrah then it is returned to its original form.	أشهد أنك رسول الله into أشهد عنك رسول الله

h. *Lahjah al-Gamgamah*

It is a dialect described by Arabic linguists as generalized speech that is difficult to understand. Al-Harir said that this dialect is speech that cannot be understood because of the truncated letters.

i. *Lahjah al-fahfahah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
Fahfahah is the linguistic phenomenon of replacing ha' with 'ain	حتى حين into عتي حين

j. *Lahjah Al-Furatiyyah*

This dialect is probably characterized by the Ruttah and lakhlakhaniyah dialects, which are quick to pronounce and shorten the long ones so that the clarity of the sentence is not heard.

k. *Lahjah al Kaskasah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
adding the letter sin after the letter kaf of the mukhatab ta'nits that is being memorized	<p>أعطيتكس و</p> <p>that أكرمكس</p> <p>وأعطيتكس is</p> <p>أكرمكس</p>

l. *Lahjah Al-Kiskisyah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
Replacing the kaf muannats in waqaf with a syiin or adding a syiin after the kaaf	<p>وحيك ما لش</p>

m. *Lahjah al -lakhkhaniyah*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect is characterized by a lack of fashiha in speaking or a heavy tongue.	<p>ما شاء الله كان</p> <p>ومشا الله كان</p>

n. *Lahjah al-Quth'ah*

This dialect is characterized by truncating a word before the final letter.

o. *Lahjah al-Watmu*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
This dialect replaces siin with ta'	<p>عمرو بن يربوع</p> <p>شرار الناس</p> <p>عمرو بن يربوع into</p> <p>يربوع شرار</p> <p>النات</p>

p. *Lahjah Al-Wakm*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
Read kasrah kaf in dhomir mukhtabiin (kum) when preceded by kasrah or ya'.	<p>بكم و عليكم</p> <p>Retrieved: bikim dan wa'alaikim</p>

q. *Lahjah Al-Wahm*

CHARACTERISTICS	EXAMPLE
Read kasrah ha' in dhamir ghoibin muttashil (hum)	<p>منهم عنهم بينهم</p>

As for today, the people in some Arab regions, which use Fusha Arabic, have a language order and pronunciation of several letters contained in several dialects categorized as follows: (Bahhat, 1996)

a. **القاف** (Qaf)

Ibn Khaldun explained that the pronunciation of qaf in classical dialects is not limited but branched, including

1) an-Nuthqu al-Mahmus (النطق المهموس)

- ق The pronunciation of classical Arabic which

is usually pronounced as the original, can generally be found in the dialects of Northern Iraq, Southern Yemen, Oman and Pre-Hilalia in Morocco. In most dialects, it is pronounced with some words borrowed from formal Arabic.

- ء is pronounced with this letter in many dialects

of Egypt and the Levant, as well as some parts of cities in the Maghrib, and Malta.

- ك is pronounced in the peasant dialect of

Palestine, some dialects of Bahrain, and the Maronite dialect of Cyprus.

2) an-Nuthqu al-Mahjur (النطق المهجور)

- **گ** is mostly used in the dialects of شبه الجزيرة العربية, Southern Iraq, Upper Egypt, Sudan, and the Maghrib dialect (Morocco)
 - **دز** is pronounced with this letter in the Najdi dialect, for example: اقلب ← ادزلب

- **ج** while this pronunciation is found in some Gulf Arabic dialects, e.g.: الشارقة ← الشارقة

b. الجيم (Jim)

Here are some pronunciations of the letter jim in various Arabic dialects:

- **ج** is usually used in Fusha Arabic pronunciation, pronounced this way in most dialects of the Arabian peninsula, Iraq, Upper Egypt, and Sudan.
 - **ز** is mostly used in the Levant and Morocco.
 - **گ** is pronounced like this in Egypt and southern Yemen
 - **ي** is used in the Arabian Gulf region

مطر	نو	مطر	مطر
كسلا	فِنْيَانْ	كسول,م	تمبا
ن	ن	عجاز,	ل,ك
		فِنْيَانْ	سلا
			ن
اياه	واش؟	اشنو/ش	شنو
		نو	ماذا
عاوز	يَبْغِي،	باغي/يَبْغِ	يريدي
	إِيْحَبُّ	ي	بيبي
		بزاف	هلبه
قطة	قطة	بالزاف	كثير
		قطه/مش	قطو
		ه	سطة
ازايك	كيف	كي داير؟	شنو
؟	حالك؟	لا باس؟	حال
			ك؟

2. Vocabulary

عربية الفصحى	ليبيا	المغرب	الجزائر	مصر	الأردن	الشامية	العراقية	الحجازية	الجزيرية
هَلَاءٌ ه	هَلَاءٌ ه	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا
إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى
كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع
هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا
إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى
كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع
هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا	هَسَا
إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى	إِحكى
كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع	كركع

a deeper understanding of the complexity of the Arabic language and its important contribution to understanding the cultural diversity and identity of Arab societies.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have played an important role in the creation of this scientific work. Without their support, guidance and contributions, this work would never have been realized.

First of all, I would like to thank Allah SWT for His abundant mercy and grace so that I can complete this scientific work well.

Next, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, who has provided invaluable direction, guidance, and input.

My gratitude also goes to my colleagues, who have provided moral and intellectual support, and have always been ready to help on various occasions.

Last but not least, I am very grateful to my beloved family who always provide encouragement and motivation, as well as the love that is always given.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who I cannot mention one by one, who have contributed both directly and indirectly in the preparation of this scientific work. Hopefully this work is useful for the development of science and can be an inspiration for further research.

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مطر	مطره	مطر	مطر، شتي	مطر
كيسل	كسلان	كسلان	عجزان، كسلان	كسلا ن
ماهو	أيش	شنو	شو	أيش
يبغى	يبغى	يريد	بدو	بدو
بسة	بسة	بزونه	بسينة	بسة
ايش حالك	كيفك؟	شلونك؟	كيفك؟	كيفك؟ شلو نك؟

CONCLUSION

Dialect diversity: Language is a living means of communication, and dialectal variations are a reflection of the rich culture and history of a society. Each dialect is not only a means of communication, but also an integral part of the identity and cultural heritage of the local community.

Influence of several Factors: The different lahjahs in Arabic are influenced by a number of factors, including geographical, historical, social, cultural, and political factors. These factors are interacting and complex, giving each dialect its unique color and characteristics.

Cultural Wealth: The variety in the different lahjahs of Arabic reflects the rich culture and history that abounds in the Arab world. Each dialect is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of the identity and cultural heritage of the local people.

Thus, the study of lahjah differences in Arabic is an important topic in the field of linguistics and Arabic cultural studies. Further research in this field will provide

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