WIKIMEDIA AND ARABIC SOCIOLINGUISTICS

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ABOUT US

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GROWTH OF ARABIC WIKIPEDIA

https://stats.wikimedia.org/FR/ChartsWikipediaAR.htm
SHARE OF PAGEVIEWS TO ARABIC WIKIPEDIA

https://stats.wikimedia.org/wikimedia/animations/wivivi/wivivi.html
REASON: SOCIOlinguistics

LANGUAGES OF THE YEAR 150 C.E.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_provincial_languages_150CE.png
When Classical Arabic had spread over Middle East and North Africa during the seventh century, it entered in contact with the languages already spoken in the region. This caused the creation of adapted varieties of Arabic that are easier to use by each community. Each variety took into consideration several features of the local languages of each region. This let every dialect distinct from Classical Arabic and from other varieties of Arabic.

This situation became more critical over years because of the different contact between each Arabic dialect and foreign languages such as French, English, Italian and Turkish.
REASON: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

TWO INITIATIVES TO FIGHT THE LACK OF INTELLIGIBILITY OF CLASSICAL ARABIC TO ARAB PEOPLE

Modern Standard Arabic (19th century)
Replacing unintelligible lexical and grammatical structures with understandable structures from Eastern Arabic dialects
Maghrebi dialects not taken into consideration

Functional Arabic (1967)
Replacing unintelligible mainly technical words of Modern Standard Arabic by common Maghrebi Arabic words
Not recognized by Middle Eastern speakers of Arabic

Consequences on Arabic Wikipedia
Lack of intelligibility of scientific articles on Wikipedia to Maghrebi users
Biased to Middle Eastern ideas and cultural thoughts
→ Adding support of Arabic languages to WMF wikis is needed to solve these matters
WIKIPEDIA EGYPTIAN: LIMITED OUTPUT, MANY STUBS, SEVERAL ARTICLES IN MSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
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<th>Wiki</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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<th>Admins</th>
<th>Users Active Users</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Egyptian Arabic</td>
<td>مصري (Maṣrī)</td>
<td>arz</td>
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<td>873,455</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>113,260</td>
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ابادة الشعوب


المصادر (مصادر التأليف)


[[https://arz.wikipedia.org]]
# Other Wikis Still in Wikimedia Incubator

https://meta.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/Requests_for_new_languages

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wikipedia Moroccan</td>
<td>Verified as eligible</td>
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<td>Wikipedia Hijazi Arabic</td>
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<td>Wikipedia Levantine Arabic</td>
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- Wikipedia Bahrani Arabic **Rejected** 27-Jul-2018
- Wikipedia Libyan Arabic **Rejected** 22-Mar-2018
- Wikipedia Northwest African Arabic **Rejected** 22-Mar-2018
- Wikipedia South Levantine Arabic **Rejected** 07-Nov-2008
- Wikivoyage Egyptian Arabic **Rejected** 06-Jun-2019
- Wiktionary North Levantine Arabic **Rejected** 25-Jan-2019
Orthography guidelines for writing Arabic languages in Arabic script are limited and quite imprecise.

Many Latin script-based writing systems for Arabic languages: Arabizi, DMG…

The rules of Latin Script-based orthography are not well defined.

Arabizi is widely used in social media. However, there is a lack of consensus of using it for formal purposes.
THOUGHTS ABOUT ARABIC LANGUAGES

Initiatives to add support of regional Arabic languages to WMF wikis are always offended by pro-MSA Arabic Wikipedia community

- The Arabic community sees the promotion of the formal use of regional Arabic languages as well as the use of Latin Script to transcribe them as a long-term project of the occident to destruct Modern Standard Arabic, Nationalist ideas and Arab cultural and religious heritage
- They use several politically influenced projects for the promotion of regional Arabic languages such as Said Akl project as examples
- They always tend to underestimate regional Arabic languages and consider them as accents of Arabic language although this is absolutely not accurate
- They always show that Modern Standard Arabic is the unique language of the Arab world although most of the Arab people rarely or never use it in real life

Discussion

- **Oppose** --Alaa :)..! 11:40, 25 November 2017 (UTC)
  @علاء: Eh? why? --Liuxinyu970226 (talk) 11:43, 25 November 2017 (UTC)
  @Liuxinyu970226: Its not a language! Tunisian is not a separate language from Arabic, its just an accent. The differences between it and other Arabic accents are not extreme to the degree that makes it a separate language --Alaa :)..! 11:47, 25 November 2017 (UTC)

- **Oppose** for the same reason that alaa provided--مصعب (talk) 12:20, 25 November 2017 (UTC)

- **Oppose** What a absurd coincidences! Migration season to the absurd. --صالح (talk) 19:54, 5 July 2019 (UTC)
Regional Arabic languages were first used in written form by Islamic theologists and mystic poets since the 15th century.

It is absolutely accurate that occidental colonizers were based on regional Arabic languages to communicate with the colonized Arab societies. However, they also found Modern Standard Arabic useful to declare decisions and statements related to all colonized Arab states.

During the Arab Renaissance, Arab scholars used regional Arabic languages to write several important literary masterpieces and research publications so that they can reach and cultivate mostly illiterate Arab people.

Nationalist politicians such as Neo-Destour members in Tunisia studied Arabic dialects and then used them to communicate with people and raise their awareness about Patriotic issues.
Scanned edition of more than fifteen public domain reference books about Arabic Languages are uploaded to Commons to raise awareness about matters related to Arabic Sociolinguistics.
### Tunison Arabic

This article is about a general description of the language. For the grammatical cases and conjugation, see Tunisian Arabic morphology.

<figure>

#### Tunisian Arabic

**From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

The grammar, the conjugaison and the morphology of Tunisian Arabic is very similar to that of other Maghrebi Arabic varieties, it is based on Classical Arabic and influenced by Berber languages and Latin, with some morphological inventions. The Berber influence is more noticeable in Pre-Nahhali dialects.

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<td>4. Quantifiers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1 NUM (Number, including affixes to the presence of the noun)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.2 RNB (Habia, with noun inflected by any meaning)</td>
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<td>4.3 Minku (Bo, as an evidence marker or is a questioning marker as in if question)</td>
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<td>4.4 Qoblu (To, as to the immediate reason)</td>
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<td>7.3 Imperfect tense</td>
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ADDING SUPPORT OF ARABIC LANGUAGES ON WIKIDATA
LABELS, DESCRIPTIONS AND ALIASES OF WIKIDATA ENTITIES
ADDING SUPPORT OF ARABIC LANGUAGES ON WIKIDATA
LEXICOGRAPHICAL DATA
WIKIS IN ARABIC LANGUAGES

Limiting the creation of wikis in Arabic Languages to two or three varieties of Arabic including Egyptian and Algerian so that we can have sufficient number of users for each newly created wiki.

Each article should be limited to one paragraph so that it can be verified and adjusted by a small number of admins.

Each wiki should use a lexicon that is common in the region it represents. For example, Wikipedia Algerian should use words that are also commonly used in Tunisia and Morocco.
Visscher, M. S. (2012). Landscape of Languages – The position of provincial languages in the Roman Empire in the first three centuries AD. Leiden University.


References


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THANK YOU

Questions