Linguistics in the Gulf-5

Full Title: Linguistics in the Gulf-5

Short Title: LGC-5
Date: 29-Mar-2015 - 30-Mar-2015
Location: Doha, Qatar
Contact Person: Dr. Michael Grosvald at lingingulf@qu.edu.qa

Call Deadline: February 8, 2015

After the success of the previous four conferences held in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013, the Department of English Literature and Linguistics, Qatar University, is pleased to announce its 5th Linguistics in the Gulf Conference (LGC-5), to be held on March 29-30, 2015.

The aim of this conference is to provide a platform for scholars and professionals whose research interests focus on language in the Gulf region to share their ongoing research and expertise and to promote the study of linguistics in the region. The conference also aims to create opportunities for research collaboration among linguists working in institutions across the region.

LGC-5 will host two prominent keynote speakers.

Dr. Abdelkader Fassi Fehri is Professor of Arabic and Comparative Linguistics at Mohammed V University Rabat and is the founding President of the Linguistic Society of Morocco. The title of his talk will be "Arabic Ways to be 'Gender-ed'."

Dr. Yasir Suleiman is the Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies, and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. He will present a talk called "Arabic Language Ideology: Principles and Applications."

We invite abstracts that deal with any aspect of language in the Gulf, including but not limited to the following areas:

- Formal aspects of the Gulf spoken dialects (phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics)
- Formal, social, and/or functional aspects of sign language(s) used in the Arabic-speaking world
- Contact of Arabic dialects with other languages in the region
- Linguistic variation and change, linguistic leveling, and language planning and policies
- Language ideology and attitudes about dialects and standard Arabic
- Discourse analysis of Arabic literary and non-literary texts
- Language acquisition & learning in the Gulf
- Forensic linguistics in the Arabic context
- Computational linguistics and Arabic data processing
- Neurolinguistics and bilingual language processing
- Sociolinguistics of English in the Gulf

Note

- **Abstracts must be submitted online by February 8, 2015 through EasyAbs (Easy Abstracts) at this link: http://linguistlist.org/easyabs/lingingulf5**
- **Abstracts should be at most 400 words (not counting references), and not indicate the name of the author(s)**

- **Decisions about your abstracts will be communicated to you in mid-February, 2015.**

Organizing Committee

Organizing Committee

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Iglal Ahmed
Michael Grosvald (Committee Chair)
Rizwan Ahmad

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Prof. Abdelkader Fassi Fehri

Professor of Arabic and Comparative Linguistics
Mohammed V University Rabat
Founding President of the Linguistic Society of Morocco

"Arabic Ways to Be 'Gender-ed'"

Abstract

The Arabic grammar instantiates rather original and unknown patterns of what surfaces as (feminine) Gender, although its interpretation has no connection to (the most known) natural or formal Gender. In Standard Arabic (SA), the feminine suffix *-at* (a) contributes the interpretation of a countable unit, e.g *tamr* 'dates' -> *tamr-at* 'date-unit', or (b) it forms a group from a singular individual, e.g *muᶜtazil(-ii) -> muᶜtazil-at* 'a theologian thinker group'. We call the morpheme forming a unit from a kind a singulative, and that forming a group from a singular a *plurative*.

The 'feminine' also marks (a) *double plurals*, as in SA *xarq* "violation" -> *xuruuq* "violations" -> *xuruuq-aat* "a lot of violations", or (b) a plural of a mass noun as in Moroccan Arabic (MA) *shta* "rain" -> *shtaw-aat* "a lot of rain", giving rise to *intensive* (bigger size or plural of abundance) interpretation. The size dimension is also found in diminutive formation. When the 'feminine' [- a] is affixed to a MA diminutive, the interpretation is ambiguous between (a) a *count* reading "a small discrete portion", and (b) an *intensive size* reading "a really small portion": *lbeyy-in* 'buttermilk-diminutive', "a small quantity of buttermilk" -> *lbin-a* 'buttermilk-diminutive-gender' (i) count: "a discrete small portion of buttermilk"; (ii) intensive size: "a very small quantity of buttermilk".

A further reading of Gender used in the context of diminutives or augmentatives is *Evaluative*: see SA *raahil* "traveler" -> *rahhaal* 'traveler-augmentative', "a big traveler" -> *rahhaal-at* 'traveler-augmentative-gender' "an acknowledged big traveler".

We provide evidence from various languages that (a) Gender expresses unity, quantity, size, and evaluation in various ways in the grammars of languages, and (b) that there are close morpho-syntactic and semantic connections between Singulativity, Plurality, Classifier, Size, and Evaluation. The various uses and patterns of Gender would then no longer appear unrelated or listed, as has been hitherto the standard practice.

Prof. Yasir Suleiman

Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies
His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies
Cambridge University

"Arabic Language Ideology: Principles and Applications"

Abstract

The paper tackles Arabic language ideology in a set of inter-connected moves. Taking Ferguson's study of diglossia (1959) as a point of departure, the article argues that the extension of this study to Arabic language ideology is long overdue. The paper explains the reasons behind this lacuna in the study of Arabic in the social world before it sets out to develop the broad outlines of language ideology. Using ideology in political sciences as a framing concept the paper re-focuses our attention on what ideology does rather than on the veracity of

ideological units as descriptive tropes. This perspective leads us to question the notion of myth in the study of ideology, including Ferguson's use of this term and its application to Arabic in another of his pioneering studies published in the same year. Thus such notions as the beauty or excellence of Arabic are best understood in relation to the meanings or purposes they serve in the extra-linguistic world rather than in terms of their correspondence with any truth. As discursive tropes of mobilisation and ideological duelling, so-called myths are important for establishing and maintaining group worth. For this reason, the so- called myths of language ideology are better re-christened as language traditions. While some of these traditions have a long pedigree in a language culture, others are more recent arrivals whose meaning is linked to fairly defined contexts. Arabic language ideology provides excellent examples of both kinds which can help throw light on the openness of language ideologies.

Program

The conference will be held in Auditorium Room 117, in the New Library Building (Building B13), on the Qatar University campus.

The university is located several kilometers from downtown Doha

Linguistics in the Gulf Conference #5   **Day 1: Sunday 29th March, 2015**

Time	Sessions	Presenters
9:00-9:05	**Welcome Speeches**	**Dean's Welcome Speech** **Dr. Eiman Mustafawi**
9:05-9:15		**DELL Head's Opening Remarks** **Dr. Ali Idrissi**
9:15-10:15	**Keynote Address**	**Keynote Speaker** **Prof. Abdelkader Fassi Fehri** Mohammed V University Rabat **Arabic Ways to Be 'Gender-ed'**
10:15-10:45		**Coffee break**
10:45-11:15	**Syntax and Historical Linguistics** **Chair:** **Prof. Haifa Al-Buainain**	Ghada Alkuwaihes University of York **A Syntactic Analysis of Vocative Exclamatives in Gulf Arabic**
11:15-11:45		Ahmad Alqassas Georgetown University **Presuppositional negation in Gulf Arabic**
11:45-12:15		Najib Jarad University of Sharjah **The Grammaticalization of Posture Verb "yālis" as Progressive Aspect Marker in Emirati Arabic**
12:15-1:30		**Lunch**
1:30-2:00	**Language Production and Perception** **Chair:** **Dr. Tariq Khwaileh**	Saleh AlQahtani & Laura Sabourin University of Ottawa **Syntactic Processing of Subjects in Arabic: Is there a difference between pre/post-verbal processing**
2:00-2:30		Esti Blanco-Elorrieta (New York University Abu Dhabi) Liina Pylkkänen (New York University Abu Dhabi / New York University) **Bilingual language control: domain general in production but not comprehension? Evidence from MEG**
2:30-3:00		Mark Scott (United Arab Emirates University) Ali Idrissi (Qatar University) **Audiovisual perception of geminate vs. singleton in Emirati Arabic**
3:00-3:30		**Coffee break**
3:30-4:00	**Socio-linguistics 1** **Chair:** **Dr. Michael Grosvald**	Ahlam Almohissen Northeastern Illinois University **Hidden concepts beneath Saudi cartoons**
4:00-4:30		Ekab Al-Shawashreh & Stephen Levey University of Ottawa **Word order variability in spoken Arabic: A comparative sociolinguistic perspective**
4:30-5:00		Amin Almuhanna & Jean-Francois Prunet Kuwait University **Numeric ethnonymic nicknames in the Gulf**
7:00		**Dinner**

Time	Sessions	Presenters
9:00-10:00	**Keynote Address**	**Keynote Speaker** **Prof. Yasir Suleiman** Cambridge University **Arabic Language Ideology: Principles and Applications**
10:00-10:30		**Coffee break**
10:30-11:00	**Socio-linguistics 2**	Heba Al-Kababji & Rania Abujazar & Rizwan Ahmad Qatar University **From Rajjal to Rayyal: Ideologies and shift among young Bedouins in Qatar**
11:00-11:30	**Chair:** **Dr. Irene** **Theodoropoulou**	Noha Selim & Sara AlQwassimi & Sara Hesari Qatar University **A sociolinguistic study on dialect shifting in contemporary Bahrain**
11:30-12:00		Murtadha Bakir University of Jordan **GPA Genesis: The extent of Substratal Influence**
12:00-1:30		**Lunch**
1:30-2:00	**Psycho-linguistics and Neuro-linguistics**	Shereen Elbuy & Hedayah Saeed & Reem Alhawamdeh Qatar University **Cueing in Impaired Lexical Retrieval of Arabic Nouns after Aphasia: A Single Case Study**
2:00-2:30		Tariq Khwaileh (Qatar University) Richard Body & Ruth Herbert (University of Sheffield) **A Normative Database and Determinants of Lexical Retrieval for Arabic Nouns**
2:30-3:00	**Chair:** **Dr. Vladimir** **Kulikov**	Laura Gwilliams (New York University Abu Dhabi) Alec Marantz (New York University & New York University Abu Dhabi) **Decomposition of spoken Arabic words into root morphemes during processing**
3:00-3:30		Hala Abdelghany Queen's College, City University of New York **The Prosody–Syntax Interface and Relative Clause Attachment Ambiguity in Arabic Sentence Processing**
3:30-4:00		**Coffee break**
4:00-4:30	**Syntax and Saudi dialects**	Muneer Alzahrani Northeastern Illinois University **On the Syntax of Word Order in some Saudi Dialects: A Minimalist Approach**
4:30-5:00	**Chair:** **Dr. Julieta** **Alos**	Thamir Al Barrag Taif University **Construct State in Hijazi Arabic: A Distributed Morphology Approach**