

Arabic Self-Learning **التعلم الذاتي للعربية**

Interactive Multimedia Dialogue for Introductory Arabic as a Foreign Language

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This program, available in a prototype, uses the spatial and thematic metaphor of a home in Damascus, Syria, and a classroom at Damascus University to access the learner to myriad learning experiences in a contextually-based Arabic language learning situations.

Learners will be exposed to interactions, characters, and scenarios, utilizing available text, sound and video to understand the two stories in the prototype, and eventually develop their own story (s) using the same Arabic structures and vocabulary.

The prototype was developed using interactive multimedia techniques in a Macintosh environment. It is intended to introduce beginners to Arabic communicative patterns that indirectly induce conscious learning of, and the use of grammatical and literary skills. Levantine spoken Arabic is intertwined with Modern Standard Arabic in oral and written forms.

The goal of the program is to facilitate learners' adjustment to the new learning environment, namely learning with Arabic, not only linguistically, but conceptually. Obviously, this approach also introduces a non-conventional method of language teaching and learning, in addition to the fact that it relies on computer-based, learner-centered processes. The significance of this approach is that learners are able to integrate their prior and newly acquired knowledge and skills into new content areas, be it Arabic language and literature or any other subject area and communication needs.

This Prototype Program is currently under testing and evaluation. For further understanding of the nature of the entire curriculum design, the learning process and the research aspect of the program, and the other developed modules, you may read the following four references, which, including the CD (ARACD01), are available at Noyes Language Lab:

1. Brazangi, Nimat Hafez et al., 1997. (in Arabic) Nizam Hasoubi Li-Al-Ta'llum: Tatbiiq 'Ala Al-LLugha Al-'Arabiyah (Computerized Curriculum System: An Application to Arabic Language Learning) in Al-Taqqaddum Al-'Ilmi, Journal of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, No 20, October-December, 1997: 44-53.
2. Barazangi, Nimat Hafez et al., 1998. Arabic Language Learning: A Module of A Research-Based Computerized Curriculum. Proceedings of the 6th International Conference and Exhibition on Multilingual Computing (ICEMCO). Cambridge, England (April 17-18,1998).
3. Rebdawi, Ghayda, Safa Haddad & Nimat Hafez Barazangi, 1998. (in Arabic) Al-Hasoub Wa-Ta'llum Al-LLugha Al-'Arabiyah Lighayr al-Mukhtaseen Bi-al-Tariqa al-Tawasuliyah (Computer and Interactive Arabic Language Learning for Non-specialists) Al-Taqqaddum Al-'Ilmi, Journal of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, No 24, October-December, 1998: 52-59.
4. Barazangi, Nimat Hafez, et al. Arabic Self-Learning: A Module of A Research-Based Computerized Curriculum in Al- Arabiyya. A Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic (Winter, 1999) vo.32: 23-65.

Please write to the Language Center Director, Dick Feldman to have him set a station for you to view the Interactive Module for Arabic-Self Learning as a Foreign Language. Also, look for the Module for the self-learning of Arabic for natives, non-specialists (coming soon).

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