

moved with his wife out of the parents' home. The single brother and the married brother living with his wife at home are all baptized believers, but the parents are not. So at the sheep feast, during Ramadan, and at other such times it is very difficult; they would like to have people in their home but they cannot. The one brother has a real pastor's heart, but because of living at home with his parents he cannot invite the believers to meet in his home; he is not free to do that. Two of the teachers in the church are unofficially engaged, if God should bring this marriage into being that may be a home where the believers could meet together.

Finally ... To conclude, the ladies had this to say about their experience in "X."

Although there are problems and restrictions, and we see lukewarmness as well as commitment, basically we're encouraged. We're not oblivious to the fact that there could be a 'Judas' in the group, and acknowledge that they have their ups and downs. Some are not 'running' as well as desired, a couple show 'stunted growth,' some are fearful or cold, but God is working and what He begins He perfects. He is a Faithful God and Master Teacher, Holy and Just, Loving, Forbearing, Forgiving, Able to convince, convict, save, heal the wounded, and pick up the fallen. He sifts and He purifies. Our God is the Almighty, Eternal God. He is the Potter and we the clay.

¹Published by Bible Visuals International, PO Box 153, Akron PA 17501-0153 USA. Tel: 717/859-1131.

²Peter Beyerhaus & Henry LeFever, *The Responsible Church and the Foreign Mission* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964), pp. 126, 127

³The *Studies in Christian Living* series in Arabic, available from Ecole Radio Biblique, BP 2014, 13012 Marseille Cedex 01, France.

RESOURCES FOR LEARNING GULF ARABIC

by R.B.

For those wanting to live in the Gulf and meet Gulf Arabs, a knowledge of spoken Gulf Arabic is very helpful. However, one is not likely to learn it just by being "immersed" in the culture, as one could in Egypt, because the citizens tend to live apart from the many expatriates. One can study Arabic elsewhere, prior to moving to the Gulf, but in that case one is learning a "foreign" dialect. So for those wanting to learn Gulf Arabic, whether they have studied elsewhere or not, it is essential to have some helpful resources, both written and audio. And for those who have learned to speak one particular variety of Gulf Arabic, there may still be a need for resources to help them learn to understand the other varieties. Here are some of the most useful resources, identified by author.

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John Kirkbright

The study of Gulf Arabic will be greatly aided by a new (1993) book entitled *Spoken Arabic Step-by-Step, a beginner's course in the Spoken Arabic of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia*, by John Kirkbright. It is published by Motivate Publishing (P.O. Box 2331, Dubai, UAE). It comes in two attractive, spiral-bound volumes of about 90 pages each, with four cassette tapes of 45 minutes each, and costs about \$40.

The following introduction to the author is provided: John Kirkbright first started the study of Arabic as part of a B.A. Honours Course at Durham University, graduating in 1961. Since then, he has taught Arabic and other languages to a variety of students from diverse parts of the globe, besides being involved in business and banking. He has an M.A. in Linguistics and English Language Teaching from Leeds University (1974) and has written on Arab dialects. He is an Associate of the Institute of Linguists, U.K., and a member of the British Association for Applied Linguistics. He has lived in the Arab world for 25 years, of which the last 16 have been spent in the Gulf.

The author has both training and experience in the pedagogy of language teaching, and his expertise shows in the way he has developed this course. He does well at presenting patterns and providing substitution drills, without depending on a lot of grammatical terminology and rules. The vocabulary is kept as practical as possible, and numerous dialogues are included.

The book provides for review while avoiding the boredom of repetition. In volume one, after the first nine lessons, there is a review lesson. After that are 20 pages of supplementary exercises, which can be done as a review or with their corresponding lessons. After that there are 8 pages of dialogues to learn or translate, in both directions. This gives considerable flexibility to the course, enabling one to adapt it to the needs of complete beginners as well as the needs of those who know another dialect. Volume two follows the same pattern, but also includes appendices, each of which gives a vocabulary list for a particular semantic domain, such as the family, shopping, professions, the body, adjectives, etc.

Kirkbright presents the first-person imperfect form of the verb as the base form, which simplifies his approach considerably. For example, he can classify all kinds of roots and all derived forms into just two or three conjugation classes for the perfect and two for the imperfect (although he doesn't use these terms).

Since there are small differences among the Gulf dialects, both in vocabulary and in phonetic realisations, he often provides variant forms in brackets after the given forms. As for the given forms, they are usually those of what is called "Educated Gulf Arabic," meaning the leveled and cultivated spoken language of the region in which highly localised forms have been replaced by the more common forms or by standard forms. The voices in the tapes represent different dialects as well, to prepare one to understand speakers from different parts of the Gulf. He even includes a few notes about pronunciations in western Saudi Arabia and in Oman, although the book is mostly oriented to the regions bordering the Gulf.

This is a book I can highly recommend for anyone wanting to learn Gulf Arabic, regardless of his/her previous knowledge of Arabic or linguistics. Another linguist who worked through it describes it as follows:

The course has a practical design and the books are in an attractive modern format. It is deliberately thin on grammar, which may be a little frustrating for those who are analytical, and the phonetic symbols (especially the vowels) are different from the Abdo/Kelsey system. There is a short 1-page, but very interesting, summary of dialectal differences within Gulf and Saudi Arabic, and some dialectal variants are provided in the lessons, though generally it seems to be the Kuwaiti variants that are identified. The tapes are done by different speakers from various dialects, though this (and the resulting variation) can be a little confusing at first. Nevertheless, this is an excellent beginners' course.

Clive Holes

It would be good now to compare this book with the popular textbook by Clive Holes, a well-known descriptive linguist and sociolinguist who has written many books about Gulf Arabic. It is entitled *Colloquial Arabic of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia*, and was published in London by Routledge & Kegan Paul in 1984. It has over 300 pages and one cassette of about 45 minutes. It focuses on Educated Gulf Arabic, especially as spoken by Sunnis in Bahrain. Although the book is published in a popular series, the linguistic bias of its author shines through. For example, the first lesson on the tape consists of extensive practice of pronunciation, using lists of words that exemplify sounds in different word positions. This part would be good for all beginners.

Throughout the book, the lessons are thorough and the vocabulary is extensive. The author has evidently chosen words that he can use to illustrate grammar and to build vocabulary. Dialogues are provided as exercises to be read and comprehended. There are translation exercises in both directions. There are also substitution exercises. The last 45 pages contain the answer key.

This is an excellent book. The pronunciation drills will be of benefit to beginners, but the rest of the book might best be reserved for those who already know another dialect of spoken Arabic and for those who have already mastered Kirkbright's book.

Hamdi Qafisheh

Hamdi Qafisheh has written a three-volume set of textbooks with the following titles:

A Basic Course in Gulf Arabic
Gulf Arabic, Intermediate Level
A Short Reference Grammar of Gulf Arabic

All were published in the 1970s by The University of Arizona Press in Tucson, where Qafisheh is evidently a professor. The dialect taught is basically the Educated Gulf Arabic of speakers from Abu Dhabi, although some variety is present. Each volume has

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almost 500 pages, but not many words per page. The first volume concentrates on simple, effective drills of various kinds, without overloading the student with too much vocabulary or grammar. The grammatical patterns are well presented through comparisons and substitution drills. The vocabulary is basic and practical, and the book should be fairly easy to use. However there are not, to my knowledge, any tapes to go with it, so it might best be used as a supplement to Kirkbright and to Holes.

Aramco

People interested in the spoken Arabic of the Gulf coast of Saudi Arabia will want to acquire *Spoken Arabic (Saudi)*, by Van Wagoner, Satterthwait, and Rice, which was published by Spoken Language Services in New York in 1977. It comes with five cassette tapes of about 45 minutes each. This book was developed over the years for teaching Arabic to Americans working for Aramco. Most of the vocabulary and dialogues are taken from the field of petroleum operations, so it is very practical if that is your line of work. Since there are not many Arab women in the oil fields, it is not surprising that there are not many feminine verb forms in the book.

Others

It would be good to mention here two other books by Clive Holes. His *Gulf Arabic* is a reference grammar written for linguists. Those without training in descriptive linguistics will not find it useful; linguists will find it useful as an advanced reference work, but not as a textbook. The second book is entitled *Language Variation and Change in a Modernising Arab State, The Case of Bahrain*, published by Kegan Paul International in London and Boston in 1987. This is must reading for anyone who wants to understand the social dynamics of language use in the Gulf, particularly in Bahrain.

For any who want to know more about the Shi'ite dialect spoken in Bahrain and a few other locations, a serious linguistic description is available. It is *Language and linguistic origins in Bahrain: the Baharnah dialect of Arabic*, by Mahdi Abdalla Al-Tajir. It was published by Kegan Paul in 1982.

There is a somewhat dated but useful work in the manner of traditional comparative descriptive linguistics by T. M. Johnstone. It is entitled *Eastern Arabian Dialect Studies*, and was published by Oxford University Press in 1967. The author provides useful comparisons of grammatical features of the different Gulf dialects. While it is not a textbook for language learning, it will be useful for those wanting to become more familiar with other Gulf dialects. Another good technical book in the comparative vein is *North East Arabian Dialects*, by Ingham, Bruce, published by Kegan Paul International, London and Boston, 1982.
