

# ARABIC IN ISRAEL

Language, Identity and Conflict

*Muhammad Amara*

# CONTENTS

<i>List of tables, figures, and maps</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xvii</i>
1 Language, identity and conflict	1
<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Identity and identities</i>	1
<i>Conflicting identities: Palestinian-Jewish relationships inside Israel</i>	4
<i>Language and social identity</i>	6
<i>The Arabic language and social identity</i>	8
<i>Language and identity in Israel</i>	10
<i>The vitality of Arabic in Israel</i>	13
<i>Language and conflict</i>	14
<i>The role of language in the Arab-Israeli conflict</i>	16
<i>Conclusion</i>	17
2 Internal and external challenges of the Arabic language	24
<i>Introduction</i>	24
<i>Internal challenges</i>	24
<i>Diglossia: old and new challenges</i>	24
<i>Modernization and the Arabic language</i>	26
<i>External challenges</i>	28
<i>Colonialism, globalization and the Arabic language</i>	28
<i>Policy towards Arabic in the Arab world: encountering challenges</i>	31
<i>Conclusion</i>	32

3	Internal and regional contexts and the Arabic language in Israel	37
	<i>Introduction</i>	37
	<i>Internal contexts</i>	37
	<i>Regional contexts</i>	40
	<i>Conclusion</i>	46
4	The status of the Arabic language in Israel	52
	<i>The linguistic situation in Israel</i>	52
	<i>The status of Arabic in Israel</i>	53
	<i>Conclusion</i>	57
5	Features of the Arabic language in Israel	60
	<i>Introduction</i>	60
	<i>Arabic in Israel</i>	61
	<i>Is there a unique variety of Arabic in Israel?</i>	61
	<i>Influences from other Arabic varieties</i>	62
	<i>Conclusion</i>	64
6	Arabic in the shadow of Hebraization	66
	<i>Hebrew is the dominant language in Israel</i>	66
	<i>Building the new Jewish Israeli identity</i>	67
	<i>Putting Hebrew on the national agenda</i>	67
	<i>Teaching Hebrew</i>	68
	<i>Hebraization consequences</i>	69
	<i>Ideologized Hebrew and its teaching to Palestinian pupils in Israel</i>	70
	<i>Attitudes towards teaching Hebrew to Palestinian Arabs</i>	71
	<i>The policy of teaching Hebrew: goals and curricula</i>	71
	<i>A new curriculum</i>	74
	<i>Textbooks and contents</i>	74
	<i>Consequences of Hebraization for teaching</i>	76
	<i>The penetration of Hebrew into the 'Heart of Arabic': borrowing</i>	77
	<i>Introduction</i>	77
	<i>Culture contact and its linguistic reflections</i>	77
	<i>The importance of the study of Hebrew</i>	79
	<i>The knowledge and use of Hebrew</i>	80
	<i>Borrowing lexical items from Hebrew: integration and diffusion</i>	81
	<i>The construction domain</i>	82
	<i>The food domain</i>	83
	<i>The domain of health services</i>	83
	<i>Borrowing and its linguistic characteristics</i>	83
	<i>The consequences of Hebraization on borrowing</i>	85

7	English in the Palestinian linguistic repertoire in Israel	92
	<i>Introduction</i> 92	
	<i>English teaching in the Palestinian schools in Israel</i> 92	
	<i>The current English curriculum</i> 94	
	<i>Textbooks</i> 95	
	<i>Achievements</i> 95	
	<i>Borrowing from English</i> 97	
	<i>Globalization and English</i> 98	
	<i>Writing with Latin and Hebrew letters</i> 99	
	<i>Conclusion</i> 100	
8	Hebraization of Arabic place names	103
	<i>Introduction</i> 103	
	<i>Hebraizing names: the translation of ideological orientation</i> <i>and political thinking</i> 107	
	<i>Conclusion</i> 111	
9	The current linguistic landscape in the Palestinian Arab localities in Israel	114
	<i>Linguistic landscape: a brief background</i> 114	
	<i>Studies on linguistic landscape in Israel</i> 115	
	<i>The Palestinian Arab linguistic landscape in Israel</i> 116	
	<i>Hebrew and Hebraization</i> 119	
	<i>Palestinian Arab uniqueness</i> 122	
	<i>Conclusion</i> 123	
	<i>The linguistic landscape from a different perspective: Umm-el-Fahm</i> <i>as a case study</i> 124	
	<i>Umm-el-Fahm: background</i> 124	
	<i>The linguistic landscape in the city</i> 126	
	<i>Mosques</i> 126	
	<i>Street names</i> 126	
	<i>Educational institutions</i> 127	
	<i>Local newspapers and Arabic</i> 127	
	<i>Location names</i> 128	
	<i>Social institutions</i> 129	
	<i>Language in the local politics</i> 129	
	<i>Conclusion</i> 130	
10	The Arabic language in the Palestinian Arab education system	134
	<i>Introduction</i> 134	
	<i>The effect of the Arabic curricula on the Palestinian Arab identity</i> 135	

<i>The hurdles blocking the achievement of high competence in Standard Arabic</i>	136
<i>What is the role of the Arabic language in the Palestinian Arab education system?</i>	140
<i>Conclusion</i>	141
11 Teaching Arabic in Jewish schools: language of the neighbour or the enemy?	145
<i>Introduction</i>	145
<i>Teaching the Arabic language</i>	146
<i>Jewish attitudes towards the Arabic language</i>	148
<i>Goals of teaching Arabic</i>	151
<i>Bilingual schools: the Hand in Hand schools</i>	152
<i>Conclusion</i>	153
12 Language ideology and attitudes: Arabic language academies and future vision documents	157
<i>Language ideology and attitudes towards Arabic</i>	157
<i>The Communist party and the Democratic Front</i>	158
<i>Balad</i>	159
<i>The Islamic Movement</i>	160
<i>Friday ceremonies</i>	162
<i>Transition rituals</i>	162
<i>Political festivals</i>	162
<i>Newspapers and websites</i>	162
<i>Schools for memorizing the Qur'an</i>	163
<i>The Center for Contemporary Studies</i>	163
<i>College of Islamic law</i>	163
<i>Civil organizations</i>	164
<i>Survey</i>	165
<i>Conclusion</i>	168
<i>Arabic language academies in the Israeli context: between the research role and nationalist aspirations</i>	168
<i>Arabic language academies</i>	169
<i>A brief background</i>	169
<i>The Cairo academy as an example</i>	170
<i>The Cairo academy: goals, committees and achievements</i>	172
<i>Arabic language academies in Israel</i>	173
<i>The formation of the Arabic Language Academy in Israel</i>	173
<i>The official Arabic Language Academy</i>	174
<i>The Al-Qasemi Arabic Language Academy</i>	175
<i>Conclusion</i>	176

<i>The role of Arabic according to the future vision documents</i>	178
<i>Introduction</i>	178
<i>Arabic in the future vision documents</i>	178
<i>Conclusion</i>	182
13 Epilogue: facing the challenges	186
<i>Challenges of the Arabic language</i>	186
<i>Facing the challenges</i>	191
<i>Arabic as a strategic choice for building an Arab knowledge society</i>	191
<i>Meeting the challenges: building a framework</i>	194
<i>The first avenue: linguistic practices</i>	195
<i>The second avenue: linguistic ideology</i>	195
<i>The third avenue: language policy</i>	196
<i>Practical proposals</i>	197
<i>The local level: reinvigorating Standard Arabic</i>	197
<i>The national arena: advocating for Arabic in Israel</i>	198
<i>Arabic education</i>	198
<i>Conclusion</i>	199
<i>Index</i>	202