

CultureTalk North Africa Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Languages Spoken in Libya

English translation of Libyan Arabic:

Woman behind camera: Well Abed, what are the languages spoken in Libya?

Abed: Of course the language that is official, certainly, is, is, is Arabic language of course. Then, Italian language comes next. And there are also of course dialects that belong to the Berbers. I mean, I mean we have the Berbers who live in the western part of Libya, of course they speak Imazighen. Of course, they live in areas of Nalut ...aaa... and Zwara, of course, these cities lie on the borders of Libya and Tunisia. And there is another group of course that lives in Gdames; and Gdames itself is certainly considered a historical area. I mean it has the Castle of Gdames; I mean the Old City of Gdames. And...aaa... and of course they speak Imazighen. And there is Tauregs, Tauregs who speak the Taureg language. Of course, they live in, in the southern part of Libya, usually, in an area called Ghatt, I mean, they are mostly concentrated in Ghatt. And...aaa... French language, of course; some, many people speak French. Ummm... and of course, it used to be taught, I mean, as far as Italian language, and English and French, I mean, used to be, I mean, taught. But now, the only foreign language that students study in Libya is the English language. Also, for instance, we can say that, for instance, private schools teach all, I mean, languages, I mean. But I, I mean, I mean, I speak, for example, generally, for example about official things in Libya. It's considered, I mean, I mean we can overlook private schools because of course in every country... has private schools where the quality of services is, of course, different, and among these services is teaching foreign languages.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

