

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

البننت: في الوطن العربي تعتبر يعني زي هوليوود في أمريكا؟

المُقابله: طيب تقدري تكلميني عن الموضوع داه شويه؟
البننت: لأن الأفلام الي عملت في القاهرة تعتبر يعني عاصمة الوطن العربي، البلاد العربية كلها. وكل الممثلين معروفين، والأفلام كلها بتروح في كل البلاد العربية، بتروح في المغرب العربي بتروح في الإمارات في قطر في الكويت، بتروح في سوريا في لبنان. دي حاجة جميلة جدا..
المقابله: عشان الشعب كبير، ولا ليه، إيه السبب يعني؟ إن أحنأ ثمانين مليون مثلاً.
البننت: آه إحنأ كتار دا صحيح. بس لأ، بس يمكن مصر من الدول الأصلأ كموقع جغرافي هي في وسط العالم داه، فكلوا إجي على مصر، كتير إجو من سوري، كتير إجو من لبنان، كتير إجو من تونس، في مغنيه لطيفه، هي مغنيه كويسه جدا يعني.
المقابله: وسميرة سعيد..
البننت: وسميرة سعيد من المغرب. دول كلهم من بالدهم ونجحوا كتير في مصر واخذوا شهره بمصر.
المقابله: ممكن أسالك ليه في رايبك الناس دي بتعني في العامية؟
البننت: عشان العامية معروفة أكثر، بتتفهم بسهولة، ومعروفه لأنو كمان التلفزيون المصري بعملوا مسلسلات ويبيعلموا حاجات على طبعا الستالايت كلوا بيروح..الناس كلها بتتفرج على القنوات الفضائية المصريه، فطبعا اللغة العامية معروفة.

English translation:

Woman (Pink shirt): In the Arab world, it [Egypt] is considered like Hollywood in America, for example.

Voice: So, can you talk to us about this situation a little bit more?

Woman (Pink shirt): Because the films that were made are ... Cairo is considered to be the capital of the Arab world, all of the Arab countries, and all of the actors are famous, and all of the movies (from Cairo) go to all Arab countries -- they go to the Arab Maghreb,¹ they go to the United Arab Emirates, in Qatar, in Kuwait, it goes to Syria and Lebanon -- so this of course is a very beautiful thing.

Voice: Because the population is large or, why? What is the reason?

Woman (Pink shirt): What is the reason?

Voice: Is it because we are 80 million, for example?

¹ A region in North Africa.

Woman (Pink shirt): Yes, we are a lot, in reality! It's true, we are a lot, but no, possibly it is because Egypt is originally ... in terms of its geographical position, it is in the middle of this world, so everyone came to Egypt. A lot came from Egypt, a lot came from Lebanon, and a lot came from Tunisia ... like the singer Latifa,² who is also a very good singer.

Voice: And Samira Said?³

Woman (Pink shirt): Yes, Samira Said, from Morocco -- all these came from their countries, and they had great success in Egypt, and they became famous in Egypt.

Voice: Can I ask you why, in your opinion, do these people sing in the Egyptian dialect?

Woman (Pink shirt): Maybe because the Egyptian dialect is more famous, well-known. It is easily understandable, and it is well-known ... also because Egyptian television does TV shows, and they do things on the satellite, of course, so all people watch Egyptian satellite channels now, so naturally the Egyptian dialect is famous.

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.

© 2007-2010 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated

² Latifa is a famous Tunisian singer who is currently living in Egypt. She started her career in the 1980s and she won a World Music Award in 2004. She also acted in Youssef Chahine's film "Silence...We are filming."

³ Samira Said is a famous Moroccan singer currently residing in Cairo, Egypt. She has won Arab and international music awards for a few of her songs, she is well-respected in the Arab world and known as a talented and innovative artist. Her career started in the 1980s.