

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

أمل: حتكلم طبعاً عن اللغة العربية في البدو وهل هم بيتحدثوها أو لا يتحدثونها. فصحي لأ، ميتحدثوش الفصحى. لكن بحتفظ بشكل كبير جداً بكم من المصطلحات والكلمات إلي هي لغة عربية فصيحة، يمكن حتى مش بال accent، إنو ممكن تكون تختلف شوية. يعني أن فوجئت، وبتبقى في الناس إلي هم أكبر سناً فالأقل فالأقل فالأقل، بيحتفظوا فيها على هذا القدر يعني. إلي هم الأجيال الحديثة صعب إن هم تلاقيهم يعرفوا الكلمات دي أو صعب إن هم يتعرفوا عليها حتى لو سمعوها من حد كبير. في مثلاً واحده... أو حتى ممكن تسمعها بالشرائط الكاسيت، وبالمناسبة في أغاني للعرب مخصوصة. يعني في فنانيين عرب بدو بتزلهم كاسيت يتسمع، شرايط، وليهم جمهور غفير من العرب إلي هم بيسمعوهم، وبيحبوا الفن داه. بيحبوا الفن داه وبيعلوا يعني عن ما يجاوره من فنون تانيه يعني.

نجلة: من أشهر الفنانين أو المطربين؟

أمل: أشهرهم...

نجلة: أو أشهر التراث المغنى؟

أمل: حالياً في واحد اسمه خميس ناجي، في واحد اسمه حميد الفرجاني...

نجله: أو ععباب...

أمل: أبو ععباب. وفي ناس كثير مواضيع الأغاني شيق جداً إن تسمعيه كوحده، أنا ممكن أعتبر نفسي إن أنا مستمعة أكثر مني بدويه. أنا يعني مثلاً إنك تسمعي الكلمة وتروحي تدوري عليها في المعجم. أنا بعمل كده. يعني في كلمات ممكن تسمعيها لأول مرة تسمعيها، يا إما تسألني حد يقولك يعني آيه، يا إما تروحي إنتي للمعجم وتدوري على الكلمة، أصل الكلمة ثلاث حروف كذا، إلي هي الاصول بتاعتها في باب كده ومش عارف آيه تطلع. ممكن تطلع الكلمة وتتفاجئي إن بيها كلمة عربية موجودة. واحد بيغني مثلاً عن إن هو اشترى شبكة لزوجته، مواضيع شيقة غاية، بتشويق يعني. هو كان واحد متزوج اتنين...

نجله: هو انتي لسا بتتكلمي عن اللغة العربية...

أمل: عن اللغة العربية من خلال الفن. فهو كان متزوج بتنين، واحده حضريه ووحده بدويه، عايز يوفق بين الأثنين بحياتهم مش عارفين. الحضريه مش عارفة تتكيف مع حياته الصعبة ولا عارفة تعمل أو تقوم بالوجبات المنزلية زي الست التانية، أو مش عارفة تعمله الأكل الي هو عايزه، فيبشتكي. مدلعه، يعني إنتي عايشة في دور بابا وماما ومش عارف آيه وشوفير. بقولها أنت مدلعه وتعباني معاكي يعني. لكن التانية شايفة شغل البيت كويس فهي بتقوله معرفش أعمل زي ما هي بتعمل. داه كان حوار الأثنين. بتغني هي باللهجة القاهرية، وهو بيرد عليها بالبدوية.

نجله: والتانية...

أمل: والتناية مكش ليها دور كانوا بيحكوا عنها. كان شخص غائب. بينكلموا عنها هي بصيغة الغائب.

نجله: كانوا بيقلوا آيه يعني، لو تقدري تقولي...

أمل: أنا مفكرش بس أنا كان نفسي إن الكاسيت يكون معاي عشان أشغلهولك ويمكن أفسرك الكلام إلي هو بيقلوك.

نجله: ممكن نؤخذ بعض الأغاني

أمل: أنا فكرت إن أنا أعملهك وخصوصاً إنها انتشرت كمان وسط الناس الفلاحين، بيسمعوها، بيشغلوها في العريبات بتعاهم، وهم مش فاهمين معاني الكلمات، بس يمكن ال rhythm هو عاجبهم شويه... عارفة ال rhythm هو monotone يعني...

نجله: إحنا ودانا أساساً تعبت من القرف إلي بنسمعه كل يوم فيعني آيه، يعني بتهيألي شيء جميل إن هم يتحول... الأغنية (not clear).

أمل: أغلب الموضوعات إلي بدور في الأغاني موضوعات غزل، وداه تأثير البيئة العربية لأنو كانت من أهم الموضوعات إلي كانت الشاعر العربي إلي بيتكلم فيها موضوعات الغزل. مش التشبيب، غلي هو زكر المحاسن بشكل يعني over يعني. لأ هو ممكن يوصفها وصف

نجله: جميل في الغزل يعني غلي و بيمدح المحبوبة يعني، وغزل عفيف مش إلي هو...
أمل: بالزبط كده يعني، أنا عايز أقلك غزل عفيف مش تشبيب... فده من أهم الموضوعات. واحد غني عن وحده يابانية، كان بيحب وحده يابانية، موضوع غريب جدا. قعد يشتكي، يشتكي مده طويلة يعني. هي يابانية وتأثر بحلاوتها وجمالها بس يا خساره إن هي على دين وأنا على دين وصعب إن نلتقي مع بعض، وكان موضوع جميل جدا تسمعيه متعه يعني.

English translation:

Amal: I will talk, of course, about Arabic language in the Bedouin community and whether or not the Bedouins speak Arabic ... standard Arabic (Fus-ha)? No, they do not speak Fus-ha, but they keep to a very large extent a number of terms and vocabularies that are very standard Arabic, but not in the accent maybe it is a little different ... I was surprised ... and then it is so clear with the older people ... and then the less elderly, and the less elderly in age.. They keep it to this extent ... the recent generations ... it is difficult to find them knowing these words, or it is even difficult for them to recognize these words when they hear them from an older person. For example, someone ... maybe you can hear it on cassette tapes ... by the way, there are songs for the Arabs¹ in particular ... i.e. there are Arab artists, Bedouins that have cassettes distributed ... tapes [that are] listened to, and they have a large audience who listen to them and like this kind of art ... they like this kind of art, and it exceeds whatever is closer to it among other kinds of art, and they have

Naglaa: What are the most famous artists and singers?

Amal: Most famous?

Naglaa: Ummm, or what is the most famous heritage being sung?

Amal: Nowadays, there is someone called Khamees Naji ... there is someone called Hamed El Ferjani,

Naglaa: And there is “abou’eebeeb”

Amal: Huh ... “abou ‘ab’ab,” there is ... there are lots of people The themes of the songs are very interesting to hear as someone ... I can consider myself an audience more than a Bedouin. I, for example ... you listen to the word and then you go and look it up in the dictionary I do this ... there are some words that you might hear, and you hear it for the first time ... it is [the case that] either you ask someone to let you know what it means, this word, or you yourself go to the dictionary and look for the origin of the word.

¹ In Egypt, Bedouins are called Arabs.

Three letters, pla pla, these roots of the word ... under the chapter pla pla pla ... then the word may be checked out, and then you are surprised that this word is an Arabic word, existing in Ar Someone sings, for example, about the theme that he bought a *shabka*² for his wife ... very interesting topics ... very, very interesting There is one person who was married to two women.

Naglaa: You are still talking about the Arabic language in the Bedouin (culture)?

Amal: Arabic language through the art.

Naglaa: Ummm.

Amal: Aaa faaa fa he was ... married to two women; one is a civilian and the other is Bedouin He wants to reconcile between both in their life, but he does not know how. The civilian woman does not know how to cope with his life, the difficult one ... and she does not know how to do the housework like the other women She does not know how to make the food he wants, so he is complaining. He is telling her that you are pampered, you are playing the role of dad and mom (usually this is an expression of how spoiled kids are, because usually their moms and dads take care of them) and, pla, whatever, and chauffeur, and people like this But his other wife

Naglaa: He is saying?

Amal: Yes, he is saying that you are pampered, and you are making me tired. However, the other woman is taking good care of the housework. Then she says that I do not know how to do what she is doing. That was a dialogue between two persons, she was singing in Cairoene dialect and ...

Naglaa: Ummm.

Amal: ... and he replies to her in the Bedouin accent.

Naglaa: And the other woman?

Amal: The other woman (meaning the Bedouin) is not talking. She is an absent person. It is being talked about.

Naglaa: What was he saying ... if you can say what was he saying?

Amal: I do not remember anything. I wish I had the cassette with me and [could] play it, and then interpret the words he is singing.

Naglaa: We can take some songs and

Amal: I was thinking of doing so

² *Shabka* is a present offered to prospective wife or fiancée, and it is usually gold.

Naglaa: Ummm.

Amal: In particular, it [the music] was spread among the farmers. They listen to these songs in their cars, and they do not understand the meanings of the words. But they might like the rhythm a little bit.

Naglaa: It is something different, I mean.

Amal: You know the rhythm is monotone.

Naglaa: Our ears have been exhausted from the disgusting things that we hear everyday. I feel it is something pretty that those people move to another thing. I remember the song “khati la gedam sheway”³ ... I do not know what ... ”qa’eb el bint gazal medawar, yama khalag yama sawar.”⁴

Amal: Most of the topics that are included in the songs are *gazal* (a type of poetry in which the poet describes the beauties of his beloved). There are *gazal* topics, and this is the influence of his Beduoin (Arabic) environment. One of the important themes that the poet was discussing was the *gazal*, not the *tashbeeb*,⁵ which means the mentioning of the pretty features, in a form ... I mean, in a form ... over, I mean.

Naglaa: Ummm.

Amal: No, he might describe her, in a description ... a description, ummm.

Naglaa: It is pretty, the art of *gazal*, which praises the beloved. It is a *gazal afeef*⁶, not an ugly *gazal*.

Amal: Surely, this is what I want to say ... a , not *tashbeeb* ... ehhhh fa ... this is one of the most important topics. There is someone who talks about a Japanese woman. He was in love with a Japanese woman, and it is a very weird topic.

Naglaa: Ah ... how he was in love with her?

Amal: He is complaining for a long time ... I mean she is Japanese, and he was infatuated with her sweetness and her beauty. However, it is a loss! Because she is a Japanese, and she is believes in one religion, and I believe in another religion, and it is difficult to meet each other ... or ... it is a very pretty topic, and when you listen to it is a fun ... I mean.

³ Move forward a little bit.

⁴ The ankle of the girl is like round like a gazelle’s; Oh how beautiful it was created, how beautiful it was shaped.”

⁵ *Tashbeeb* is a form of poetry in which the poet describes in details the seductive parts of his female beloved.

⁶ Ghazal Afeef: is a form of poetry in which the poet describes his beloved in a pure respectful way without reference to physical features.

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.

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