

CultureTalk Egypt Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Comparing American and Egyptian Education

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: كان في، حضرتك قلت لي، حصلت على الدكتوراة وتخرجت من جامعة جورج واشنطن. فيه اختلاف كبير، اختلاف ما بين التعليم والحصول على الدكتوراة من جامعة مصرية و جامعة أمريكية.

الرجل: ok, when I got back to Egypt, لم رجعت مصر أنا اشتغلت طبعاً في جامعات كثيره هناك يعني. أنا مش عايز أقول التعليم في مصر وحش، التعليم في مصر كويس جداً. وأنا عندي دليل على كده إن أنا ابني واخذ ال high school من مصر، ولما جاء ال join هنا ال university، he is the best one in math and physics، compared with any student graduated from high school here ساييها هناك بتأخذ ال high school عشان بنتجي على لجامعة على طول، عشان ال basis. فداه أنا بقول لاتعليم في مصر يعني مش عايزين نقول التعليم وحش، لكن ال how to manage التعليم، هي ديه المشكلة، ال how to deal مع ال student and professor، يعني أنا بقول البروفيسور كويسيين، والطلبة ممكن يكونوا كويسيين. But how ديه relation cooperate with each other هي ديه مهمه جدا.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: هل هي ديه موجوده في الولايات المتحدة؟

الرجل: موجوده، موجوده، العلاقة دي موجوده ويمكن بأي لحظة الطلاب والدكتور العلاقة بينهم بتبقى مفتوحة. يعني في مصر الحته دي مش متوفرة أوي. يمكن للعدد الكبير بتاع الطلبة، يعني أننا كنت بدرس بمحاضرة 250-300 طالب في جامعة عين شمس. يعني it is too hard to monitor everybody during the class لكن هنا عندي في ال class maximum 20-21 15 12, it is easy to identify everyone, its activity, its response, its attendance during the whole semester that is why you are familiar by everyone.

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: التعليم في مصر داه تعليم funded by the state لكن التعليم هنا الطلبة بتدفع كثير اعتقد...؟

الرجل: التعليم هنا يعني في برضوا state universities التعليم فيها مش غالي، والتعليم still have the same relation between the professor and the student. أنا بس عايز أقول عليها كمان في التعليم في مصر. يعتبر التعليم كأستاذ كمدرس، الإدارة مهمة جدا يعني. How to manage, how to monitor, how to initiate the relations, والطلابية والبروفيسور دي مهمه جدا يعني. إحنا عنا العميد أو whatever position on top هو الإله إلي فوق وما في حد تحتيه. وأنا عندي في هذا example كثير جداً، يعني أنا مراتي أستاذة بالجامعة، وإلي بيحصل مجرد العميده ما تبقى قاعده على الكرسي يبقى كل الدكتوراة إلي تحت دول .sorry

المرأة خلف الكاميرا: إحنا نعاني من هذه المشكلة في الجامعات أيضاً؟

الرجل: معرفش دي ظاهرة بمصر لأي مدير في أي حته whatever هو مدير صغير ولا مدير كبير ولا مدير أكبر. المدير داه يفطس إلي تحتيه، المدير داه يفطس إلي تحتيه، المدير داه يفطس إلي تحتيه. وشفتها في حنت كثير جدا في مصر، أنا اشتغلت في كل الوزارات المعنية بمصر، شفتها. فدي يعني، هي ديه العلاقة إلي بتخلي الإنسان ما يغدرش ينجح.

English translation:

Woman behind camera: There was, I mean you told me that there is ... ah ... you earned the doctorate and graduated from George Washington University. Is there a big difference, a difference between the education and obtaining a degree from an Egyptian university and an American university?

Man: Okay, when I got back to Egypt, when I got back to Egypt,¹ I worked of course in many universities. I don't want to say that education in Egypt is bad. Education in Egypt is very good

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: And I have a proof of this, which is [that] my son earned his high school [diploma] from Egypt, and when he came here to join the university, he was the best one in Math and Physics

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: Compared to any student graduated from high school here. So that's why also my young daughter, I left her there to earn the high school [diploma], so that when she comes, she enters the university directly, because of the basis.²

Woman behind camera: Yes.

Man: That's why I say education in Egypt -- I mean, we don't want to say education is bad, but how to manage the education, this is the problem

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: How to deal with the student and the professor. I mean, I say the professors are good, and the students could be good, but how this relation cooperates with each other, this is very important, I mean.

Woman behind camera: Fine, does this exist in the United States?

Man: It exists. It exists; this relation exists, and, in any second, the student and the doctor [professor] -- the relation between them is open

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: I mean in Egypt, this part is not available really. Perhaps because of the large number of students.

¹ The professor here uses same sentences in English and Arabic. He's repeating them as a translator.

² The professor means the basics of education.

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: I mean, I used to teach in a lecture of 250, 300 students at the University of Ain Shams. I mean, it's too hard that I monitor everybody during the class.

Woman behind camera: Uhmm

Man: But here, I have in a class maximum of 20, 21, 15, 12. It's easy to identify everyone -- its [the student's] activity, its response, its attendance during the whole semester. That's why you are familiar with everyone.

Woman behind the camera: Ah ... the education in Egypt is ... ah ... funded by the state but the education here, the students pay a lot I think...

Man: The education here ... I mean there are also state universities. The education in them isn't expensive, but the education still have [has] the same relation between the professor and the student. The thing I would like also to point out regarding the education in Egypt ... education is considered as a professor, a teacher ... the administration is very important I mean...

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: How to manage, how to monitor, how to initiate the educational relations and the students and the professor ... this is very important, I mean. We have the dean or the ah ... as considered a position at the top, when he sits on the chair,³ he becomes the god above, and there is nobody under him, and I have examples on this, so many. And what happens ... I mean, my wife is a professor at the university.

Woman behind camera: uhmm

Man: And what happens, is once the dean sits on the chair, then all the doctors [professors] below ... ah ... sorry.

Woman behind camera: Yes, we suffer from this problem at the University of Menya, too.

Man: I don't know. This is, is a phenomenon in Egypt. Any director in any place -- he's considered a small director or a bigger director

Woman behind camera: Uhmm.

Man: Or a bigger director. This director crushes who's beneath him, and this director crushes who's beneath him and this director crushes who's beneath him. I saw it for a long time in Egypt since I worked in all the related ministries in Egypt. I saw it. This is, I mean, this is the relation that makes a person unable to

³ He means when a person holds an important position.

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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