

CultureTalk Iraqi Arabic Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Available Job Opportunities**

**English Translation:**

The availability of job opportunities after university, for most young men and women, you see them working in jobs different from their majors because job opportunities are sort of, especially the public sector hiring opportunities is limited for different majors. For instance, a student who graduates with a bachelor's degree in French for example, does not find a job in a company that requires him to speak French. You rarely find companies hire a French speaker. The most important thing for them is that the person has a college degree, regardless [of the major]. Sometimes you find a person with a bachelor's degree in history for example who works for a construction company.

It all depends on available job opportunities. But unfortunately most people don't work in their majors, and this is a loss of course because the person will not be creative in his work as his major is something and his work is something else.

Most people look for a job with companies. You rarely see people search for government jobs because a job with the government in Iraq, I mean its salary is small and its retirement is very small honestly. A person spends his entire life, 25 years in service, and leaves with barely a simple salary; that why most people don't want it [government job].

Some people look for financial stability. In other words, instead of working in the streets with a *basteya*<sup>1</sup> seller's table on a pavement, or work for a company that might fire him, [some] people look for jobs with the government in order to say "after 20 or 25 years in service, I can have a pension"; they can retire and earn their pension. The pension is continuous, that's the law in Iraq; anyone who retires must have a pension.

**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 everyday. 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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<sup>1</sup> *Basteya*: a seller's table on sidewalk. It looks like a small shop but without any construction.