

Levantine Arabic transcript:

المرأة: بحب أحكي عن اللهجات. اللهجات؛ أنا كنت بالشام، بتعرف في هي بلاد الشام كلغة وحدة بس في كثير.. يعني هم يكسروا، بجدو كثير الكسرة. يعني كيف بحكو السوريين. في بعض الكلمات مثلاً تقوليلوا.. بيدي أطلب من حدا. يطلبي منو إشي بقولك: تكرمي. بتعرفي.. إنو تكرمي.. أحد الشباب عنا بقول لواحد سوري "شو أنتا بتقولي تكرم؟ أنا كثير زعلان منك." استغرب السوري، بقولوا "يعني تكرمي يعني إنو إنا بلبيك طلبك بروح طيبه وأنا مسرور." قلوا: "أنا والله عندي تكرم يعني تصير عيني كريمه." "أنتا بتقولي تكرم." في كثير بعض الأشياء إلي يعني مختلفة بالمفهوم، بديش أحكي باللهجة، اللهجات قولي مختلفة حتى عنا بفلسطين، بس بالمفهوم.. الألفاظ.. يعني لما بتقولي أنتي عن الطريزه "سكمله" لما تقولي عن الكندرة "سكريني"، مثلاً "إذا بتريد"، يعني في كلمات.. بدل آه آيه، بنادوره بندوره، يعني هاي الأشياء بتختلف بس أنا بقول يعني إنو بالأخير إنو بجوز بلاد الشام، سوريا لبنان فلسطين الأردن في شويه ثقافة يعني مشتركة وتاريخ مشترك بالتالي.

English translation:

Is this worth using?

Woman: I would like to speak about accents ... accents I was in Sham¹ ... you know Belaad al-Sham is like one language, but they're a lot ... I mean ... they break, they like breaking a lot, I mean how they speak .The Syrians ... there are some words. For example, you tell him, I want to ask ... from someone ... you want to ask him for something, he tells you "tikrami"— generously ... ah ... one of the our guys says to a Syrian one ... he says to him "what do you say to me "tikram" -- I'm very upset with you." The Syrian guy expressed amazement; he told him "tikram" means that I respond to your request, I mean in a good spirit, and I'm happy." He told him [the Palestinian guy in this scenario] *wallah*,² for me "tikram" means that my eye shall become generous ... you are saying "tikram" to me. I mean some ... there are things which are different in conception, I do not want to say the accent, for accents are different even for us in Palestine, but in conception ... ah ... the terms; I mean, when you say for *tarabiza*³ *sakamleh* when you say for kundarah⁴ *skarbene*... for example instead of "ah" "eh," "bandorah" "bandorah"... I mean these things ... ah ... differ, but I say... I mean... at the end maybe *Belaad al-Sham*, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan there is some shared culture, and shared history, thus.

¹ Sham is the name for Greater Syria, which is the term that denotes a region in the Near East bordering the Eastern Mediterranean Sea or the Levant.

² *Wallah* in Arab is a casual swearing to the name of God; it is the colloquial for O-Allah, which means, "and God."

³ Stand, i.e light stand.

⁴ Shoe.

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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