

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

ك: ماهي اللغة في الصحراء الغربية؟
س: اللغة اللولة طبعا عنها العربية الفصحى, يغير ما خالق حد يتكلم العربية الفصحى ألا نقرأوها في المدرسة, الجميع يتكلم الحسانية. الحسانية مختلفة. الحسانية ألا لهجة من لهجات العربية يغير مختلفة أقبالة عن اللهجات الثانيين و أملي أسمو, ألا هاذو هما اللغات. مثلا أنا جداتي تتكلم ألا الحسانية و العربية الفصحى ما تفهم فيها شي. ولا الاسبانية تعتبر اللغة الثانية, ياسر من الناس يتكلم الاسبانية و خاصة لكهولة و ذو لكبار في السن بهم الصحراء كانت ذيك الساعة محتلة من أسبانيا و ياسر من الناس يتكلم الاسبانية.

English translation:

K: What is the language spoken in Western Sahara?

S: The first language is of course Arabic Fus'ha [Standard Arabic]. But in fact, there is no one who speaks Fus'ha, we just study it in school and everyone speaks Hassaniya¹. Hassaniya is just one of the Arabic dialects but it is very different from the rest of the dialects. For instance, my grandmother speaks only Hassaniya and she doesn't understand Fus'ha at all. Spanish is considered the second language and there are many people who speak Spanish – and especially the elderly because Western Sahara was a Spanish colony in the past and that is why a lot of people speak Spanish.

¹ Hassaniya is the Arabic dialect spoken in Western Sahara, as well as in Mauritania and parts of Mali and Niger.

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