

Egyptian Arabic Pronunciation Software

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Abstract- Most students who come to Egypt to learn Arabic as a foreign language aim to enhance their speaking and comprehension skills of the Egyptian Colloquial Arabic. They face major obstacles in their way to achieve this goal because of their articulation errors and their poor pronunciation which affect their speaking, listening, and comprehension. As a sequence, these articulation errors lead to ineffective verbal communication. Working on pronunciation in the class is important, but not sufficient, as it is time consuming (a student can't get an immediate feedback upon every single pronunciation mistake from the teacher), and the individual differences among students can not be handled in the class. At the same time, most of Arabic pronunciation software focus either on reciting Qraan or on teaching vocabulary and sentences in Modern Standard Arabic such as Arabic School software, Speak Arabic, Learn Arabic Education,...etc. Moreover, these tools haven't applied on teaching ECA pronunciation from phonetic and phonology point of view. The current work aims at achieving two goals. The first goal is to develop an interactive software that facilitates the process of learning and self- improving Arabic pronunciation. The second goal focuses on building a spoken corpus, of students of different mother tongues, in order to work more on the common articulation errors. This software offers students with a tool that will allow them to hear Arabic sounds, show them how to articulate them in isolation, in nonsense syllables, and in words of different syllabic structure. Moreover, a tool for auditory discrimination will be included as well, which will allow students to discriminate among Arabic sounds and articulate these sounds in minimal pairs. This tool will use a state-of-the-art speech recognition system to provide feedback on users' pronunciation.

Key words : Arabic as a foreign language- Egyptian Colloquial Arabic pronunciation- interactive pronunciation software- Arabic spoken corpus – speech recognition- pronunciation feedback- self- correction.