

## Episode 12: A Phrase is Worth a Thousand Words

### ***Original Script:***

Some of my students that come from Arabic backgrounds but don't speak it, tell me that the only time they would hear their parents speak Arabic is on the dinner table across from each other trying to tell a secret, so the kids don't understand. And these students from the minute they hear a foreign sounds or words, get hooked and want to learn this "secret language".

Kil logha ela jamela w 3ibarata. Ana ma feye e7ke ktir 3an ktir loghat! Ana be7ki English fluent w akid Arabe w ba3ref shway Farance. Bus yale feye olo inu logha el-3arabiyeh 3inda ajmal 3ebarat fi el-wa7ad yesta3mela. W hal 3ebarat btighneh 3an alef kelmeh, this means; a phrase is worth a thousand words. B hayde el-episode ra7 3arefkon 3ala 3ibarate el-mofdaleh yale bista3mela ktir. Other than the misunderstood phrase; "Allah Akbar". Just a side note if you still think the phrase "Allah Akbar" is a terrorist word, please reach to me because we need to have a conversation. The phrases that I will be sharing in a bit are from my 3rd Book- Nawartona- Lesson 4.

Lama btit3alam ktir loghat btefta7 3ala 7alak ktir bweb- btefta7 3ala 7alak ktir bweb means you open many doors. Hayde el-bweb malyeneh b foras hilweh w ejobiyeh. Forsah enak tsefer 3ala ktir belden w te2dar te7ke ma3 el-nes. Ya3ne btifhamon w byefhamok. W kamen btifta7lak foras 3amal b belden 3arabiyeh. Mitel milden el-khalijeyeh or Gulf countries. W akid ma fi a7la min enak tit3araf 3ala sa2afet jdideh. Ana 3arabiyeh bus kil ma bsefer 3ala balad 3arabe jdid bit3alam sa2afe jdideh. In my last trip which was in North Africa, I was exposed to the culture far away from the Middle East but yet shares similar customs, cultures, and religion and that country was Morocco. My trip to Morocco deserves a separate episode.

"Sob7iyeh" is an Arabic phrase that comes from the root word sobo7 or morning. Women usually say this phrase. Lama rjel biro7o 3ala shoghol el-neswen byejtim3o 3ala sob7iyeh b beit 7ada fihon. Bye7ko w bi7adro el-ghada sawa. W 3adatan el-neswen byerja3o 3ala byeton abel ma yerja3o el-wled min el-madraseh. W hayde el-jam3ah min ajmal el-jam3at yale ana keberet 3layha. Ktir marat erja3 min el-madraseh w le2e jiran ba3don 3ina. Kint 7eb etsama3 w e23od ma3on. I enjoyed listening to adult talk :). Kenit aghlab hal jam3at "Al w eel" meaning "said and says" in other words gossip. Gossip about their husbands, about the mother in law, or really about anything. Just a safe, sacred time for these mothers to unload their secrets. So, when ladies say to each other; "Ta3e sob7iyeh"- it means come

over in the morning after your husband leaves the work and your kids go to school. Just one phrase says it all!

El-rjel 3indon shi kamen esmo “Sahra”. Sahra 3akes sob7iyeh. Sob7iyeh lal neswen el-sobo7 w el-sahra la rjel bilel. 3adatan el-rjel biro7o 3ala sahra la yesharo ma3 ba3ed bil ahweh. Bus el-rjel byetim3o b ahwet el-7ay shi bye7dar football w shi bi2argel or smokes shisha, w shi bidakhen, w shi byel3ab wara2 or plays cards. Ma bitshuf neswen b el-ahweh bilel. Bus rjel!

Fi 3ibara kint esma3e dayman ana w sghireh “Khalafet benit”. Akid ba3ref shu ya3ne- “a girl was born, or she gave birth to a girl” bus ma kenit efham lesh keno y2oloha w nes teda7ak. Lama kberit fhemit inu hayde bi2eloha lama ykuno el-nes e3din sawa w faj2ah yesketo shi d2i2ah. Ma3neta inu keno kilon e3din w mabsotin w faj2ah sem3o khabar mish 7ilo inu khel2et benit w mish sabe. A girl was born and not a boy! In many cultures, having a male born child is a sense of relief as compared to a female born child. I refuse to use this proverb, but just in case you hear it :).

Ktir bimboset lama bit3araf 3ala nes bye7ko 3arabi w hene mish 3arab. Bimboset lama bshuf ade hene bi7ibo loghati w sa2afte. Ozge we7de min my followers 3ala Instagram. Ozge Turkiyeh bus bte7ke 3arabe, ra7 ghale Ozge tkhaberna aktar.

### ***Ozge Part***

Balshet ana etallem el arabi abel 9 sneen. Bel bedaye, daraset al fusha. Ana kont 3am rouh 3ala dawrat al lugha bil fusha. Ana kont roh 3ala al-dawrat se3ah sitta sabahan kol osboa. Ana kont am bamshi mn beyti 3ala al-dawrat, w am bitrawa2 ma3 as7abe w ostaze. Hal dawrat saret nahfa leya ! T3alamet asaseyat el lugha hunak w tarrefet 3ala as7ab kteer. Ana w ashabi kunna am na7ki bil arabi dayman, 3ashan kollena kan badna nethassan. Ana ba7eb el fusha ktir. Haydi lugat al adab w shaar, w musi'a., w kaman lugat al rasmiyya fi ktir bilaad. B ra2yeh, aya sha7es elly baddo yefham shu jameela hal lugha, lazeem yarouf al fusha. Bass, yemken haydi mish kefaya kermalak law baddak tahki ma3 nas fi souk, fi shari3a aw bi bayt!

Deciding to learn fusha or Levantine- will always be a big debate. But it all goes down into one thing: “Your Goal”. I have a live video on my Instagram where I talk about the pros and cons of both. Check it out!

Awel ma t3arrifet 3ala zawji, fahmet hal 7a2i2ah. Huwa min balad al arabi w ma byahki aw yefham fusha! Kan am y2ole a7yanan: “Leysh enti am tahki heyk? Ma bafhamek!” 3ala ma yabdou, ana hatajet e7ki 3ammiyya!

This is interesting and very common! Couples don't understand each other's dialect even though both of them are speaking Arabic!

Daraset el-3ammiyya, elli ashal min fusha. Hawalet e7ki dayman ma3 zawji w 3aileto, w ma3 as7abi min Lebnen kaman! Hal2, ana mit3awdeh e7ki 3ammiyya baad 8 shahar! Iza enta baddak ta7ki 3ammiyya, baddi ensa7ak b hal arba3 ashya:

1) Awwalan, laazim takoon sabor. Lazim enta tadres grammar kteer, shouf kteer, tesmaa kteer abel ma tahki! Ma 7ada byet3alam ela min kiso!

“Ma 7ada byet3alam ela min kiso”- literally translates to- “No one learns but from his bag.” In other words, you learn from your mistake. And Saber means patience by the way.

2) Taani shi, mish khayef! Hawel te7ki ma3a ay shakhes elly bya3ref el lugha! Ana akideh el-nas rah yasa3dok w rah yakonu mabsoutin!

3) Talat shi, tadarrib ala al lugha kol youm! Ay-wa! Kil youm! Ma baddak tensa kol shi elly t3alamt, sa7?

True! You need to practice daily. Dedicate some time for Arabic during your day and your week.

4) W akheran, tzakkar dayman leysh enta belshet hayde el-re7leh. Tzakkar a7lamak w ana akid enta twassalo. Tzakkar, lisaan jadeed 'insaan jaded!

“Lisan jdid, insan Jdid”- new tongue, new human! Love this! It's a valuable skill having the knowledge of a second language.

Nas baddo ya3refo lughat jdideh bi asbab akhar! Lil safar li ay balad, la shoghol, li zawwaj... Mahma kon sababna, ay lugha rah tsa3idna nkoon arib min olob al nas akhar! Yareet ana kol shakhes bi ardena ya3ref ay lughat al ajnabiy. Law kan, ed donia rah tkon a7la w ajmal w sal-lema aktar!

It's very important to be able to listen to many Arabic accents. Each village in the Middle East has its own and unique accent. And this is what I'm trying to create in this podcast. Offer this platform to my students and friends so you can also learn different accents and improve your language skills.

### ***Translation:***

Many of my students that come from Arabic backgrounds, but do not speak the language. They tell me that the only time they would hear their parents speak Arabic is on the dinner table across from each other when trying to tell a secret so the kids don't understand. And these students from the minute they hear a foreign sound or words, get hooked and want to learn this "secret language".

Every language has its own phrases and proverbs. I can't speak a lot about other languages! I speak English fluently, of course Arabic, and I know a little bit of French. But what I can say is that the Arabic language has beautiful phrases that one can use. And these phrases are worth a thousand words. In this episode I will introduce you to my favorite phrases that I use a lot. Other than the misunderstood phrase; "Allah Akbar". Just a side note if you still think the phrase "Allah Akbar" is a terrorist word, please reach out to me because we need to have a conversation. The phrases that I will be sharing in a bit are from my 3rd Book- Nawartona-Lesson 4.

When you learn many languages, it brings great opportunities. These opportunities are nice & positive. Gives you a chance to travel to many countries and be able to speak with people. They understand you and you understand them. It can also open new doors in your career. Like finding a job in the Middle East or the Gulf. And of course, nothing is greater than learning about new cultures. I'm Arab but every time I travel to a new Middle Eastern country, I learn something new about their culture. In my last trip which was in North Africa, I was exposed to the culture far away from the Middle East but yet shares similar customs, cultures, religion, and that country was Morocco. My trip to Morocco deserves a separate episode.

"Sob7iyeh" is an Arabic phrase that comes from the root word sobo7 or morning. Women usually say this phrase. When men leave to work, women gather in someone's house. They speak and prepare lunch together. And usually women return before kids come back from school. This gathering is one of the best and nicest gatherings that I grew on. Many times, I would return back home from school and the neighbors are still over. I enjoyed listening to them and sitting with them. I enjoyed listening to adult talk :). Most of these gatherings are to gossip.

Gossip about their husbands, about the mother in law, or really about anything. Just a safe, sacred time for these mothers to unload their secrets. So, when ladies say to each other; “Ta3e sob7iyeh”- it means come over in the morning after your husband leaves the work and your kids go to school. Just one phrase says it all!

Men have something similar called “Sahra”. Sahra is the opposite of sob7iyeh. Sahra is for men and Sob7iyeh is for women. Usually men gather at the neighbor hood coffee shop. Some watch soccer, some smoke shisha, some smokes cigarettes, and some play cards. You won’t see women at these coffeeshops. Just men!

There was a phrase that I used to hear a lot “Khalafet Benit”. Of course, I knew what it meant “a girl was born, or she gave birth to a girl” but I didn’t know why people would laugh when they say it. When I grew up, I later understood what it meant. It means when everyone is sitting happy and chatting and when suddenly everyone stops talking, they say this phrase as if, they stopped talking because it’s a sad news, a girl was born and not a boy! In many cultures, having a male born child is a sense of relief as compared to a female born child. I refuse to use this proverb, but just in case you hear it :).

It excites me when I meet people that know how to speak Arabic when they are not Arabs. I appreciate how they love my language and culture. Ozge is one of my Instagram followers. Ozge is Turkish but speaks Arabic, I will let Ozge talk more.

### ***Ozge Part***

I started learning Arabic 9 years ago. At the beginning, I studied MSA. I used to attend MSA classes. I went at 6 am daily. I walked from my house to the institute, I had breakfast with my friends and teacher. These classes became very important & meaningful to me. I learned the foundation of the language and I met new friends there. My friends and I spoke Arabic always, because we wanted to become better. I love MSA a lot. This is the language of poetry, literature, and music. And also, the official language of many Arab countries. In my opinion any person that wants to understand the beauty of this language, must learn MSA. But maybe this is not enough for you, if you want to be able to speak with the people on the streets or even at home.

Deciding to learn fusha or Levantine- will always be a big debate. But it all goes down into one thing: “Your Goal”. I have a live video on my Instagram where I talk about the pros and cons of both. Check it out!

When I first met my husband, I understood this truth. He is from an Arabic country but doesn't speak or understands MSA! He would tell me, "Why do you speak like that? I don't understand you!". Eventually, I had to learn colloquial Arabic.

This is interesting and very common! Couples don't understand each other's dialect even though both of them are speaking Arabic!

I studied colloquial and it's easier than MSA. I practiced a lot with my husband, with my friends from Lebanon as well! Now I'm used to speaking colloquial after 8 months of practicing! If you want to speak colloquial, I want to recommend 4 things that you could do:

- 1) First, you must be patient. You must study a lot of grammar, watch a lot, hear a lot before you speak.
- 2) Secondly, don't be scared! Try to speak with anyone that knows the language! I'm sure people will help you and they will be very happy!
- 3) Practice the language daily! Yes! Everyday! You don't want to forget what you've learnt. Right?
- 4) Finally, always remember the reason why you decided to learn this language! Remember your dream and you will reach it!

"Lisan jdid, insan Jdid"- new tongue, new human! Love this! It's a valuable skill having the knowledge of a second language.

People want to know learn a new language for other reasons! To travel to any country, for work, for spouse... Whatever the reason is, any language will help us get closer to people's heart! I wish all people on this earth knew all languages. The whole world will become a better place, nicer, and peaceful!

It's very important to be able to listen to many Arabic accents. Each village in the Middle East has its own and unique accent. And this is what I'm trying to create in this podcast. Offer this platform to my students and friends so you can also learn different accents and improve your language skills.