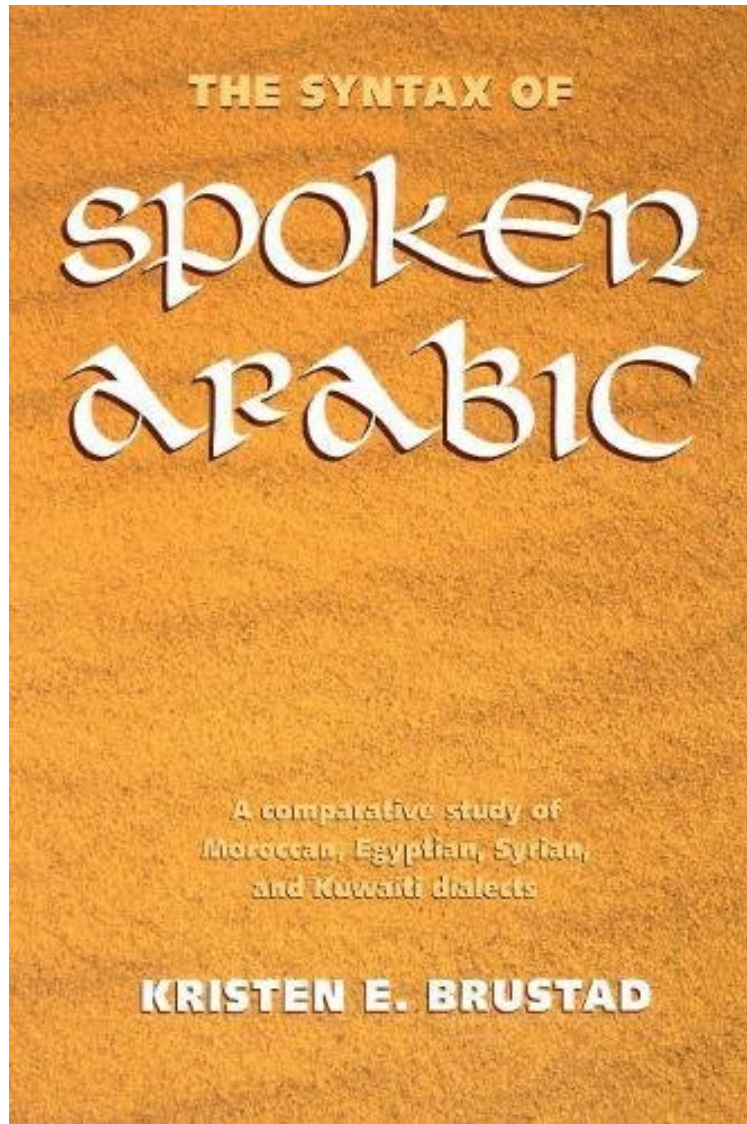


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The Syntax of Spoken Arabic: A Comparative Study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti Dialects (Arabic Edition)

Kristen Brustad

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Kristen Brustad : The Syntax of Spoken Arabic: A Comparative Study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti Dialects (Arabic Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Syntax of Spoken Arabic: A Comparative Study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti Dialects (Arabic Edition):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful work
By Maria
This book is a dream for anyone interested in Arabic colloquial linguistics. As a speaker of a more obscure dialect, I am always looking to expand my dialect base and study the technicalities behind the differences between the major dialects. Luckily, Kristen Brustad has put together a very impressive work, and having used her *Al-Kitaab* books years ago to learn Arabic MSA literacy, I knew this book would be a quality product. This book is, as the title suggests, a comparative study of Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian, and Kuwaiti dialects-- each one representative of major regional groups in vernacular Arabic (here North African, Egyptian, Levantine, and Gulf, respectively). Bearing in mind that each country has its own variations even between town to town, the author does her best to include different demographics for each country's study. She lists her sources in the first appendix, and the second appendix is a series of long passages that A) she used for her study, and B) are great for reading to get an even bigger feel of a conversation in the dialect specified. (They are shown here written in each of these 3 modes: vernacular Arabic writing, transliteration, and English translation. Each sentence is numbered for easy reference.) Throughout the book's myriad of examples, the author took the painstaking task of completely breaking down each prefix, word, and suffix for her translations. The body of her work goes into great technicalities and remains readable, fun, and interesting for someone who is interested in comparing these dialects. I highly recommend this book.
26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Excellent piece of work
By Josh
For me, a budding linguist, it is pure joy to read this type of linguistic work. Brustad covers so many aspects of spoken Arabic in such a professional, ordered and useful manner. Examples are cited from the four dialect regions studied (Moroccan, Egyptian, Syrian and Kuwaiti) to prove each point. They are written in the original Arabic (or how they would be written), then transliterated into the Romanized script, and then written with the English translation. Nearly every aspect of spoken Arabic is discussed here; even the most basic of points (ie differences in singular and plural nouns) are discussed in detail. She uses information from general linguistics, typology, syntax, phonology and compares Arabic with other languages for a great description of each dialect region. There are appendices in the back which have the full stories, anecdotes, jokes, etc. collected from her personal data which she uses throughout the book to prove her points. It is written in the same manner that the examples are written in.
GREAT BOOK! If you are interested in (Arabic) linguistics, get this book!
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Masterpiece!
By Yousuf B. Al-Bader
Being a native speaker of Kuwaiti Arabic, this book is an excellent choice to get to know the syntactic nature of my dialect as observed by one of the pioneers of Modern Standard Arabic, Kristin E. Brustad.

This book is the first comparative study of the syntax of Arabic dialects, based on natural language data recorded in Morocco, Egypt, Syria, and Kuwait. These four dialect regions are geographically diverse and representative of four distinct dialect groups. Kristen E. Brustad has adopted an analytical approach that is both functional and descriptive, combining insights from discourse analysis, language typology, and pragmatics-- the first time such an approach has been used in the study of spoken Arabic syntax. An appendix includes sample texts from her data. Brustad's work provides the most nuanced description available to date of spoken Arabic syntax, widens the theoretical base of Arabic linguistics, and gives both scholars and students of Arabic tools for greater cross-dialect comprehension.

"Thoroughly backed up by numerous solid references in the dialectological literature...an important publication advancing the field of comparative Arabic dialectology." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* "A welcome addition to Arabic linguistics. It is well written, with lucid explanations and transparent terminology. It breaks new ground in Arabic dialectology . . . Recommended reading for anyone who is interested in the Arabic language or Arabic linguistics, including teachers and professors, native and non-native alike. It is readable, clearly laid out, and written in an engaging style." *Modern Language Journal*
About the Author
Kristen E. Brustad is an associate professor of Arabic at Emory University. She is co-author, with Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi, of the Arabic language program *Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-cArabiyya: A Textbook for Arabic*, published by Georgetown University Press.