

## Afrikaans Language

Afrikaans is a Low Franconian West Germanic language descended from Dutch and spoken mainly in South Africa and Namibia. There are also speakers of Afrikaans in Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Germany, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the UK, the USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe. About 10 million people speak Afrikaans as a first or second language, and several million other have a basic knowledge of the language.

Afrikaans retains some features of 18th century Dutch, together with vocabulary from various Bantu and Khoisan languages and also from Portuguese and Malay. Speakers of Afrikaans can understand Dutch, though Dutch speakers



tend to need a while to tune into Afrikaans.

From about 1815 Afrikaans started to replace Malay as the language of instruction in Muslim schools in South Africa. At that time it was written with the Arabic alphabet. Afrikaans, written with the Latin alphabet, started to appear in newspapers and political and religious works in about 1850. Then in 1875 a group of Afrikaans speakers from the Cape formed the *Genootskap vir Regte Afrikaanders* (Society for Real Afrikaners), and published a number of books in Afrikaans, including grammars, dictionaries, religious material and histories. They also published a

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### Inside this issue:

Afrikaans Language

Arabic Language

journal called the Patriot.

During the early years of the 20th century there was a blossoming of academic interest in Afrikaans. In 1925 Afrikaans was recognized by the government as a real language, instead of a slang version of Dutch. Afrikaans has changed little since then.

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/afrikaans.htm>

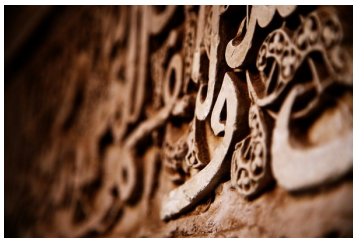
## Arabic Language

**Arabic** ( العربية *al-ʿarabiyyah*, IPA: [æɫ ʕaraˈbijje], or عربي *arabi*,

[ʕarabi:]) is a name applied to Literary Arabic and its derivations of languages and/or dialects of Central Semitic, thus related to and classified alongside other Semitic languages such as Hebrew and the Neo-Aramaic languages. Spoken Arabic varieties all together have more speakers

than any other group in the Semitic language family. They are spoken by more than 280 million<sup>[1]</sup>

people as a first language, most of whom live in the Middle East and North Africa. A standardized form based on Koranic Arabic which is Modern Standard Arabic, (also called Literary Arabic), is widely taught in schools, universities, and used to varying degrees in workplaces, government and the media. Literary Arabic is the official language of 26 states, and the liturgical language of Islam since it is the language of the Koran, the Islamic Holy Book. Arabic has many different, geographically



distributed spoken varieties, some of which are mutually unintelligible.<sup>[3]</sup>

Modern Standard Arabic derives from Classical Arabic, the only surviving member of the Old North Arabian dialect group, attested in Pre-Islamic Arabic inscriptions dating back to the 4th century.<sup>[4]</sup> Classical Arabic has also been a literary language and the liturgical language of Islam since its inception in the 7th century. Though Arabic language is used by many people, the language is not bended in dialects as in case of other languages like English. Also, Arabic in Quran is different from Arabic spoken by the common people as spoken Arabic may contain words borrowed from other languages.

Arabic has lent many words to other languages of the Islamic world, like Malay, Turkish, Urdu, Hausa, Hindi and Persian. During the Middle Ages, Literary Arabic was a major vehicle of culture in Europe, especially in science, mathematics and philosophy. As a result, many Euro-



Distribution of Arabic as an official language in the Arab World. Majority Arabic speakers (blue) and minority Arabic speakers (green).

pean languages have also borrowed many words from it. Arabic influence is seen in Mediterranean languages, particularly Spanish, Portuguese, and Sicilian, owing to both the proximity of European and Arab civilizations and 700 years of Arab rule in some parts of the Iberian peninsula (see Al-Andalus).

Arabic has also borrowed words from many languages, including Hebrew, Greek, Persian and Syriac in early centuries, Turkish in medieval times and contemporary European languages in modern times. Arabic is written with the Arabic alphabet, which is an abjad script, and is written from right-to-left.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language)