

### Publications of the Academy

- 1. Books:** The Academy has published a number of books on language and literature such as: Jubran, Sulaiman (2009), *Remarks on modernization & Restriction in Contemporary Arabic*; Zaydan, Ruqayya (2009), *The Impact of Leftist Concept on Palestinian Poetry*; Abu Salih, Saif al-Din (2010), *The Arab Literary Movement in Israel*; Majadly, Haifa (2011), *Arab Women's Concerns in the Writing of Laila Al- Uthman*; Azzam, Fuad (2012), *The Poetic of the Narrative Text*.
- 2. Al-Majalla / Journal of the Arabic Language Academy:** The Academy issues an annual journal called: *al-Majalla*, which is a refereed scientific journal that publishes articles on language and literature.
- 3. Language Bulletins:** The Academy publishes the novel lexical items and terms that are coined by its committees in official gazettes, and in special leaflets that are distributed to educational and cultural institutes.



The Arabic Language and the Palestinian Folklore in Daily Life-Symposium with Osaka University, Japan.



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One Hundred Years Since the Birth of Najib Mahfuz



مجمع اللغة العربية  
האקדמיה ללשון הערבית  
The Arabic Language Academy  
Haifa

*Brochure*

### The Status of the Arabic Language in Israel

Arabic is considered an official language in Israel according to a law issued during the British Mandate in 1922. However, the tardiness of the official authorities in Israel and ignorance of wide sectors among the Jewish population of this language emptied this law of its content. The status of Arabic has deteriorated even among its native speakers due to its marginalization and exclusion from the educational institutes, media and public settings. In view of this noticeable retreat in the status of Arabic, it has become necessary to operate in an organized manner in order to raise its status and restore its vitality.

### Establishment of the Arabic Language Academy

As a result of awareness of the importance of Arabic as a language of deep-rooted culture, a national language of a large sector of the population of this country, and an official language at the institutes of the State of Israel, the efforts of a number of scholars have led to the official establishment of an academic authority on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 to attend to issues related to the Arabic language.

### The Goals of the Academy

The Arabic Language Academy attempts to achieve a number of goals that contribute to establishing and increasing the presence of Arabic in the general linguistic scene and at the scientific, educational and cultural circles. The most important goals are:

Studying the Arabic language in different epochs and branches; working on the field of terminology; grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, transliteration, spelling; dealing with neologisms and linguistic innovations and their suitability to technology, computerization; compilation of general purpose and specialized dictionaries; studying the language in the Arab culture, especially in poetry and fiction; establishing relations and exchanging information with the Academy of the Hebrew Language and research institutions of Arabic and Hebrew in Israel and the world; cooperation with

the Ministry of Education and institutes of higher education and providing counseling to them in the different linguistic fields; publishing books and monographs and holding conferences on themes pertaining to the Academy's interests and activities.

### The Organizational Structure of the Academy

**The General Board of the Academy** consists of twenty volunteering members, who are leading figures and researchers in Arabic language, linguistics and literature. Sixteen of them are regular members: Dr. Mahmoud Abu Fanneh, Dr. Shlomo Alon, Dr. Habib Bulus, Dr. Kawther Jaber, Prof. Suleiman Jubran, Dr. Ruqayya Zidan, Ms. Khawla Saadi (Ma'rouf), Prof. Sasson Somekh, Prof. Elinor Saiegh-Haddad, Prof. Ibrahim Taha, Prof. Mahmoud Ghanayim (the current President of the Academy), Dr. Nabih al-Kassem, Dr. Nazih Kassis, Prof. Mustafa Kabha, Dr. Mahmoud Kayyal, Prof. Faruq Mawasi; three are honorary members: Mr. Hanna Ibrahim, Mr. Hanna Abu Hanna, Mr. Sami Mikhael; and one advisory member: Mr. Jamil Ghanayim.

The General Board elects an **Administrative Board** from its members every four years, and it consists of: the President of the Academy, the Vice-President, and four other members. The role of the Administrative Board is to run the financial and professional affairs of the Academy.

The members of the Academy are distributed among five committees: the Committee of Research and Publishing (which includes also the Committee of the *Dictionary of Modern Arabic*), the Committee of Terms and Words, the Committee of Everyday Linguistic Issues, the Committee of Naming.

### Sample Activities of the Academy

The Academy has organized a series of activities and conducted various projects that contribute to the achievement of its objectives and the realization of its vision. Some of these include the following

1. **Conferences and Workshops:** The Arabic Language in Israel: Reality and Challenges (2008); Mahmoud Darwish (2008); The Arabic Language and the Palestinian Folklore in Everyday Life (2009); The Arabic Language in the Mass Media (2010); Arabic Dialects in the Arabic Language and Literature (2011); Celebrating the One Hundredth Birthday of Najib Mahfouz (2011)
2. **Research Support:** The Academy has supported and funded a number of research studies, including a study of Palestinian Names, Interference of Hebrew in Written Arabic in Israel; The Palestinian Linguistic Scene in Israel; Arabic Translations of the Bible; Dictionary of Focal Terms in the Poetry of Mahmoud Darwish, and Dyslexia in Arabic.
3. **Scholarships:** The Academy has granted scholarships to tens of distinguished students in higher education.
4. **Field Activities:** The Academy has been active in communicating with schools and educational and cultural public institutes guided by its belief in the significance of widening the circle of those who are interested in Arabic and raising its status. These activities include competitions, seminars and courses.
5. **Student Visits to Spain:** For two years, the Academy participated in organizing Arab-Jewish Student Visits to Spain, whose aim was to give the students the opportunity to become familiar with the Arab culture in Spain (Andalus), and its influence on the Arab, Jewish, and Spanish cultures.
6. **Emile Habibi Corner**  
The Academy devoted a special corner in its center in Haifa to pay tribute to the author Emile Habibi. The corner includes his works and various studies of his writings.
7. **Library**  
The Academy runs a themed library that holds 4000 books on various topics related to the Arabic language and literature. The library is open to the general public and its content is accessible through the Academy's website.