



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Language Group Specific Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

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HASSANIYA

Language Group Specific Informational Report

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Today Hassaniya is spoken by inhabitants of
Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Niger,
Senegal and the Western Sahara.



HASSANIYA

The name Hassaniya comes from the name of Yemeni bedouin tribes called Beni Hassan.

There are sub-dialects and slight variations with pronunciation and vocabulary between urban, rural, and nomadic people.

It's primarily a spoken form of Arabic; displaying pronunciation, lexical, and structural differences from all Arabic dialects.

HASSANIYA (ALPHABET)

- It's an Arabic dialect.
- Words are written in horizontal lines from right to left.
- The alphabet consist of 28 consonants.

خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ا
kha	haa	jiim	thaa	taa	baa	alif
ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د
saad	shiin	siin	zaay	raa	thaal	daal
ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض
qaaf	faa	ghayn	ayn	thaa	taa	daad
ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك
yaa	waaw	ha	nuun	miim	laam	kaaf

Google Images

HASSANIYA (ALPHABET)

- ✘ There are 14 “moon” letters and 14 “sun” letters.
- ✘ There are no capitals.
- ✘ Most of the letters are made to be connected while writing.

HASSANIYA (ALPHABET)

- ✘ The alphabet contains 7 vowels.
- ✘ Arabic long vowels are represented by the first three letters below. Short vowels or absence of a vowel are represented by diacritics as represented by the following four letters.

بُو	بِي	بَا	بُ	بِ	بَ	بْ
bū	bī	bā	bu	bi	ba	b

VIDEO OF HASSANIYA

[video of a hassaniya greeting](#)

Here is a sample of Hassaniya by a 4 year old girl giving a greeting. This is what the language sounds like.

HASSANIYA/ENGLISH

- ✓ There is no “it” in Hassaniya- all nouns must be masculine or feminine.
- ✓ Adjectives are placed after nouns.
- ✓ There is no form of the verb “to be”. Use the pronoun, noun, & adjective.

ex) The house is big.

translates to: “The house big” or “The house the big” (because when using the definite article “the” /il/, the adjective following it must also be prefixed by /il/)

HASSANIYA/ENGLISH

- ✓ Nouns can be singular, dual (2), and plural. Dual is a unique feature of Arabic used by adding the suffix /-ayn/
- ✓ Asking questions is indicated by tone of voice and “rising intonation” at the end of sentences.
- ✓ There is no equivalent to English _____’s to express possession.

ex) “Tom’s house” translates to “house Tom”

HASSANIYA/ENGLISH

- ✓ Present and Past tense obeys regular and predictable patterns. The different persons are indicated by prefixes & suffixes.

ex) he writes /yiktub/ she writes /tiktub/ you write /tiktubi/

- ✓ While saying numbers they say the hundreds first, then the ones, and tens last.

ex) two hundred and one and twenty

CULTURAL ASPECTS

- ❖ Greetings- Hands are shaken for longer and often held for a few moments while talking. Older men may not readily shake hands with women.
- ❖ Punctuality is not important. There's a profound difference on perception of time. "God Willing" if God wills the appointment be kept, it will; however, they may still be late.

CULTURAL ASPECTS

- ❖ A statement about the future is virtually always concluded with *inshallah*, which means “if God wills it.”
- ❖ People speak in commands. There’s not a lot of politeness or formality.

RESOURCES

BOOKS & INTERNET SITES

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MAPS & IMAGES

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