



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Egyptian Arabic in the seventeenth century : a study and edition of Yusuf al-Magribi's 'Daf al-isr an kalam ahl Misr'

Zack, E.W.A.

Publication date

2009

Document Version

Final published version

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Zack, E. W. A. (2009). *Egyptian Arabic in the seventeenth century : a study and edition of Yusuf al-Magribi's 'Daf al-isr an kalam ahl Misr'*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam]. LOT.

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Acknowledgements

It was during a semester spent in Cairo that my interest in the Egyptian colloquial was kindled. The importance of the dialect in daily life on the one hand, and the lack of attention and, often, appreciation it received for its prose form on the other were some of the issues that fascinated me. As a result of this initial experience, I decided to write my Master's thesis about *Laban il'aṣṣūr*, a novel by Yūsuf al-Qa'īd which is written entirely in the Egyptian dialect. Later, in 1999, when I was looking for a suitable subject for a dissertation, Professor Manfred Woidich suggested that a facsimile edition of *Daf al-iṣr 'an kalām ahl Miṣr* by Yūsuf al-Mağribī, which he had purchased in Cairo in the sixties, may be of interest to me. I was immediately charmed by the fascinating descriptions of Egyptian daily life set out in this 17th century word list of the Egyptian Arabic dialect, as I also was by the poems composed by al-Mağribī himself and others, and the delightful anecdotes. So, without further hesitation, I decided to prepare an edition and began studying the text.

In preparing this work I have had invaluable help from many people and organizations who offered their assistance over the last nine years. First of all, many thanks go to my supervisor Prof. Manfred Woidich, whose support over the years opened many doors. His energy, excellent suggestions and continuous flow of books from his personal, extensive and valuable library have paved the way for this study to see the light of day.

In Egypt, I would like to thank, in particular, Prof. Madiha Doss (Cairo University), who generously abandoned her plans to create an edition of *Daf al-iṣr*; Dr. Humphrey Davies (American University in Cairo) for providing me with information about the Egyptian Arabic content of *Hazz al-quḥūf*, another 17th century work; consecutive directors of the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo ("NVIC") during my residence in Egypt, namely Prof. Han den Heijer (Université catholique de Louvain), Dr. Gert Borg (Radboud University), as well as the current director of the Institute, Dr. Kim Duistermaat, with whom I, unfortunately, only worked for a short period of time before my return to the Netherlands; I also wish to extend a word of gratitude to all my other colleagues at the NVIC.

In the Netherlands, I would like to thank Dr. Arie Schippers (University of Amsterdam) for his assistance with some complex metrical matters; Prof. Jan Just Witkam and Dr. Arnoud Vrolijk (University of Leiden) for their help with a Persian translation; my colleagues at the Department of Arabic Language and Culture at the University of Amsterdam, with whom I have been working since 2006; the members of the Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication for their

Acknowledgements

practical support; and finally, the Stichting Oosters Instituut (“Foundation The Oriental Institute”) for funding both my stay in St. Petersburg in May 2001 and my participation in the “First International Symposium: Middle Arabic and Mixed Arabic throughout History” at the Université catholique de Louvain in May 2004; I would especially like to thank its President, Prof. Harry Stroemer, for his help in obtaining these grants.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Prof. Olga Frolova (St. Petersburg State University) for encouraging me to edit the manuscript and for providing me with her articles on *Daf al-iṣr*; Dr. Erich Prokosch for his help with some Turkish poems; and Prof. Elie Kallas (Università degli Studi di Trieste) who advised me on some of the “vulgar” poems included in the manuscript. Of course, any errors or omissions in this dissertation remain my sole responsibility.

No research would have been possible without the help of numerous librarians. First of all, I am grateful to Mrs. Tamara Deryagina, librarian at the Oriental Department of St. Petersburg State University, who entrusted me with her precious manuscripts, and had a microfilm made of *Daf al-iṣr* in a record-breaking time. Further thanks are due to Anita Keizers, librarian at the Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo; Hans Stein of the Forschungsbibliothek Gotha for providing me with a copy of al-Mağribī’s *Buḡyat al-Arib*; Dr. Lutz Wiederholt at the library of the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, who provided me with a CD-ROM of Thorbecke’s transcript of *Daf al-iṣr*; and the Bibliothèque Nationale for providing me with a CD-ROM of al-Mağribī’s *Taḥmīs lāmīyat ibn al-Wardī*.

Finally, I would like to thank my family and friends, and particularly my parents, for their great support.

A special word of gratitude goes to my husband, Rami Mardiros; without his encouragement, patience, and moral support I would not have been able to write this dissertation.