

هو الذي يصل تدهور  
صفات الفصحى  
التقليدية إلى حد يصبح  
معه من غير الممكن أن  
يبقى داخل العربية  
الفصحى.

The boundary between levels 2 and 3 is thus one of speech and writing. At the same time the line between levels 2 and 3 is said to be the line between Standard Arabic (*al-fuṣḥā*) and the dialect (*al-ʿāmmiyya*). One of the definitions given for level 3 is that it is the level “in which the features of traditional Standard Arabic [as described by the classical grammarians] are reduced to a point where it is no longer possible to regard it as within the boundaries of Standard Arabic” (Badawī 1973:149). The borders between spoken and written language on the one hand, and between Standard Arabic and the dialect on the other, coincide between Levels 2 and 3. In other words, only that which is written is Standard Arabic proper.

Case endings occur only in the upper part of the scale.<sup>3</sup> One of the differences between levels 1 and 2 is the commitment to case endings in the former. In level 1, case endings are for example retained in proper names and in numerals. Speakers performing at this level are careful to retain case endings in these positions precisely because it distinguishes their speech from level 2. Badawī reports how the Egyptian Language Academy after a lengthy discussion officially permitted the omission of case endings in proper names (ibid.:125–6).<sup>4</sup> The use of case endings in proper names and numbers is thus a sign of linguistic conservatism surpassing even that of the Academy. Not producing case endings in proper names and numbers is permissible in level 2, in the sense that it is not noted as a mistake by listeners and is not subject to correction. Still, it is, according to Badawī, inherently more difficult to speak in a prescriptively correct manner in level 2 than in level 1, since the topics dealt with in level 2 are vastly more diverse, that is, not only religious, and the speaker must focus more on content, with less attention paid to formal features (ibid.:128). The degree to which the case system is followed in level 2 varies with individuals, topics, and situations, but there is near unanimity in not producing case endings on numbers and proper names (ibid.:143). Producing the *wrong* case ending on the other hand is a mistake and subject to correction in all levels (ibid.:135). In level 3, case endings are only used very rarely for emphasis and only in ‘safe’ positions, such as genitive markers after prepositions (ibid.:170). There are no case endings in levels 4 and 5 other than in lexicalized forms and formulaic expressions.

يجوز الوقوف بالسكون  
عند تنابع الأعلام في  
مثل «سافر محمد علي  
حسين» مع حذف  
«ابن» تيسيراً على القراء  
والكتاب، وتخلصاً من  
صعوبة الإعراب.

<sup>3</sup>Badawī uses the term ‘*iʿrāb*’ but only gives examples of case and not of mood, the other part of the *iʿrāb* system. See 4.2 for a discussion of this term.

<sup>4</sup>The statement of the Academy, published in *Majallat majmaʿ al-luġa l-ʿarabiyya* [Journal of the Arabic Language Academy], nr. 20, p. 110 and quoted in Badawī (1973:126) reads: “It is permissible to use the pausal form in the sequence of a proper name, such as in ‘Muḥammed ʿAlī Ḥusayn traveled’ with the omission of *ibn* [‘son of’], in order to facilitate for readers and writers and to make away with the difficulties of *iʿrāb*.”