Case Markers in Spoken MSA

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Research question

Conventions?

- to which extent?
- in which parts?

Individual strategies?

Research question

Conventions?

- ▶ to which extent?
- ▶ in which parts?

Individual strategies?

Patterned by

- ▶ case morpheme
- ▶ case governance
- ▶ fixed expressions
- ▶ pause (*waqf*)
  etc.

Corpus

Liqāʾ al-yawm, Aljazeera, 2010-2011
25-50 min.
Syrian, Palestinian and Egyptian interviewees.

- ► Educated speakers
- ► Public figures
- ► Highly formal
- ► One topic
- ► Unscripted

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Available audio/video and transcript.

Transcripts *not* source of data.

Annotation

Attribute	+/-
Case	Nominative, accusative, genitive
Case rule	Topic, subject, prepositional complement, etc.
Definiteness	Article, indefinite, construct state, attached pronoun
Declension	Triptote, diptote, sound m. pl., etc.
Marking	Marked, unmarked, hyper-correct, ambiguous

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```
*INF: nḥn jm´ᶜp$HED:NOM/COM:IND:SIN:UNM
      tḥml hd´´l#ísl´m$HED:ACC/OBJ:ART:SIN:UNM
      b#šmwl-ih$HED:GEN/PRE:PRO:SIN:MAR .
```

Annotation

Not annotated:

- Interviewer
- Formulaic expressions
- Proper names and titles
- Numbers above 10
- Quotations
- Colloquial words

Ambiguous case markers

Endings that can be produced by colloquial grammar.

- /a/ and /i/ preceeding article
  - *al-ʾumam-**a** l-muttaḥida*
  - *al-ʾumam-**i** l-muttaḥida*
- Acc./Gen.-form of dual/sound m.pl.
  - *al-muslim-**īn***
  - *al-muslim-**ayn***
- Some attached pronouns (*-uh, -ak*)
  - *kitāb-**uh***
- Egyptian binding vowels
  - *kull-**i** šaxṣ*

16.8% of data

Results

Exclusions:

1. ambiguous case endings
2. hyper-correct case endings
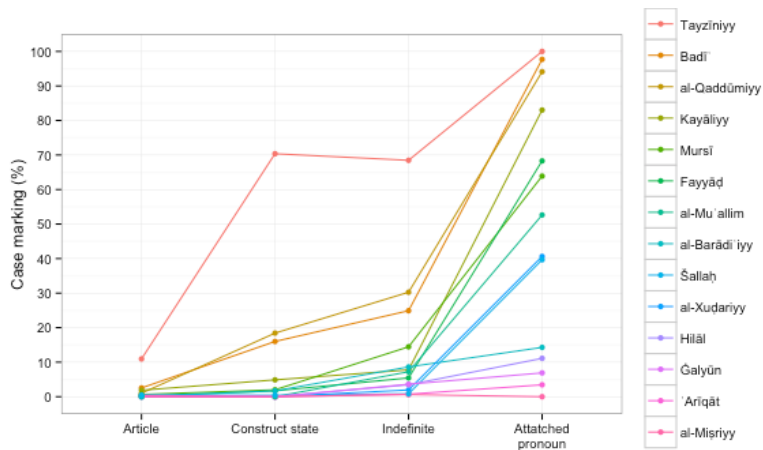3. indefinite acc. adverbs
4. dual and sound m.pl.

n=10247
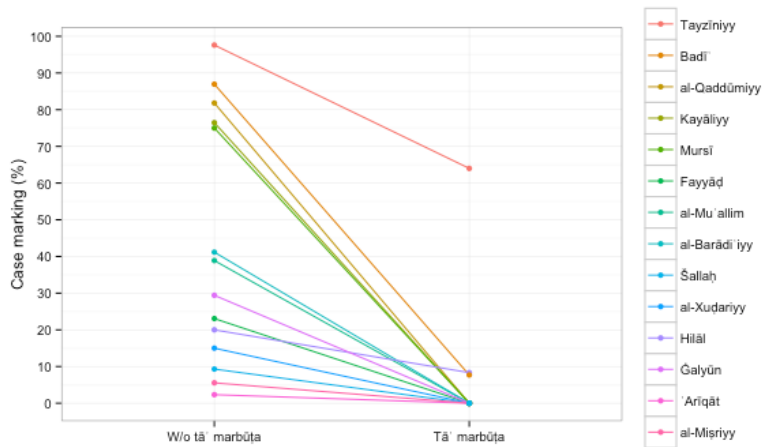14 speakers

Over-all ratings

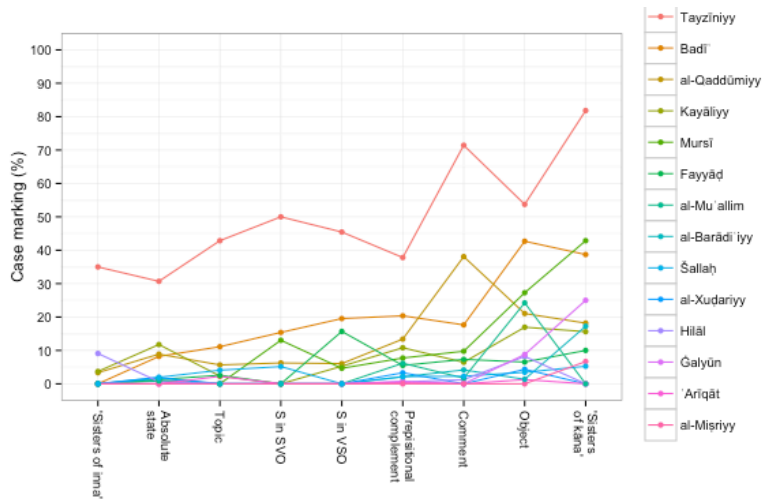|	Speaker	Case endings (%)
S	Tayzīniyi	44.19
E	Badīᶜ	22.19
P	al-Qaddūmiyy	14.71
S	Kayāliyy	10.06
E	Mursī	9.03
P	Fayyāḍ	5.32
S	al-Muᶜallim	4.89
E	al-Barādiᶜiyy	3.78
P	Šallaḥ	2.22
P	al-Xuḍariyy	2.21
E	Hilāl	1.93
S	Ġalyūn	1.71
P	ᶜArīqāt	0.5
P	al-Maṣriyy	0.22

Definiteness

Accusative -*an*

n=1082

Case governance

$n=9667$

Conclusion

Free parameters

- over-all rate
- case governance

Conclusion

Free parameters

- ▶ over-all rate
- ▶ case governance

Conventionalized parameters

- ▶ article/attached pronoun
- ▶ -*an* with and withouth *tā̄ʾ marbā̄ṭa*

Individual style

Individual style
within constraints