

The role and distribution of case endings in formal Arabic speech styles

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- ▶ How do case endings relate to the diglossic continuum?
- ▶ How and to what extent do speakers mix case endings and the dialect in their formal register?

Outline

- ▶ Corpus
- ▶ Preliminaries
- ▶ Case and dialect
- ▶ Conclusion

Corpus

*INF: wlm tkn fy ywm\$HED:GEN/PRE:IND:TRI:XXX mn
'l#áy'm\$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM sryp\$HED:ACC/KAN:IND:TRI:UNM km' yzn
'l#b'd\$HED:NOM/VSO:ART:TRI:UNM lán 'l#sryp\$HED:ACC/INN:ART:TRI:UNM
m'n'-h\$HED:NOM/TOP:PRO:ALF:NOC šy'-uu\$HED:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:MAR
äxr\$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:DIP:UNM fy 'l#äd'-a\$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:AMB
'l#tnzymy\$ATT:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM . •

*INF: ám' 'l#ixw'n\$HED:NOM/TOP:ART:TRI:UNM k'nw' lhm
tršyh't\$HED:NOM/TOP:IND:SFP:UNM fy
'l#mj'ls-i\$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:DIP:AMB 'l#ny'byp\$ATT:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM
fy 84[N] wfy 87[N] wfy 95[N] wfy álf-yn\$HED:GEN/PRE:IND:DUA:AMB wfy
2005[N] wfy 2010[N] . •

*INF: f'l#ixw'n\$HED:NOM/SVO:ART:TRI:UNM k'nw'
d'ým-aa\$HED:ACC/ADV:IND:TRI:MAR y'mlwn fy
'l#l'n\$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM b#kl\$HED:GEN/PRE:CON:TRI:UNM
wqwh\$HED:GEN/ABS:IND:TRI:UNM +/. •

*INT: lkn hgh áwl mrp t'ml fy ít'r sy'sy hzby . •

*INF: äh y'ny hgh áwl\$HED:NOM/COM:CON:DIP:UNM mrp\$HED:GEN/ABS:IND:TRI:UNM
ykwn l#jm'p\$HED:GEN/PRE:ART:TRI:UNM hzb\$HED:NOM/VSO:IND:TRI:UNM
lánn' kn' wm' zln' nqwl ánuh 'l#ml-i\$HED:NOM/FII:ART:TRI:AMB
'l#sy'sy\$ATT:NOM/FII:ART:TRI:UNM wm' k'nt tm'rsh
jm'p-a\$HED:NOM/VSO:CON:TRI:AMB <'l#ixw'n 'l#mslmyn>[P] mn
'ml\$HED:GEN/PRE:IND:TRI:UNM sy'sy\$ATT:GEN/PRE:IND:TRI:UNM ínahu
'ml\$HED:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM šr'y\$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM
w#q'wny\$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM w#dstwry\$ATT:NOM/COM:IND:TRI:UNM . •

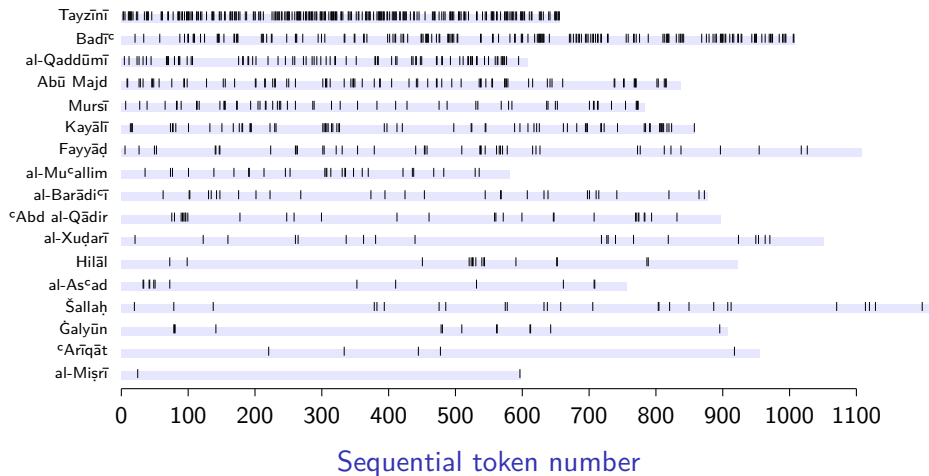
*INF: wqd dlln' 'l'y glik fy hyn-ih\$HED:GEN/PRE:PRO:TRI:MAR . •

*INF: ám' wán jm'p-a\$HED:ACC/INN:CON:TRI:AMB <'l#ixw'n 'l#mslmyn>['] fy

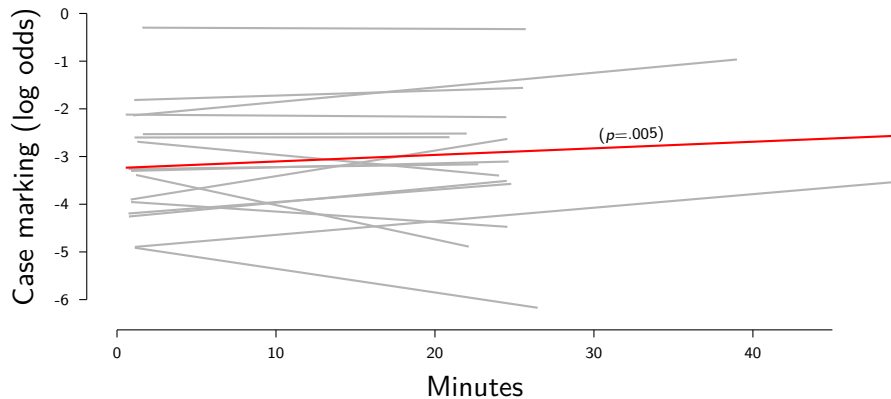
- ▶ 17 interviews
- ▶ Sy, Eg, Pa
- ▶ 5h 22m
- ▶ 35 000 words
- ▶ 15 000 tokens



Preliminaries



Preliminaries



Preliminaries

bi-šakl-in ADJ

in-way-GEN ADJ

‘in an ADJ way’

la šakk-a

no doubt-ACC

‘[there is] no doubt’

a stem-suffix combination occurring in the same syntactic position three or more times in one interview

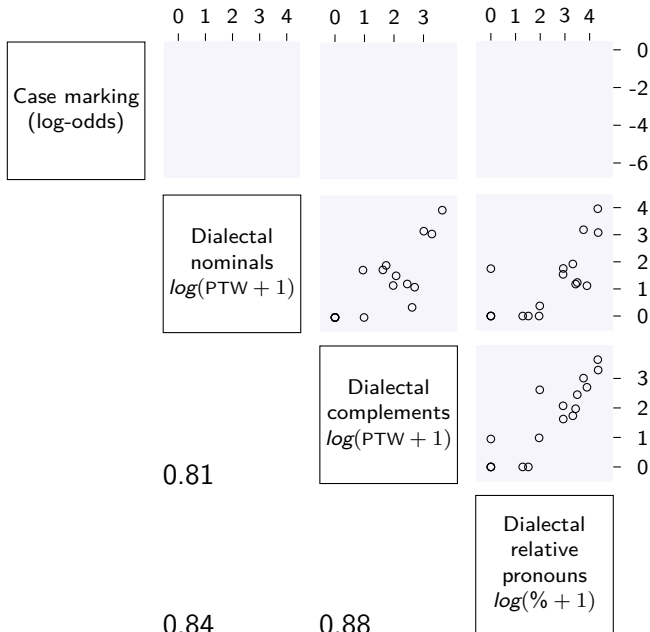
78 of 934 case endings

Case and dialect

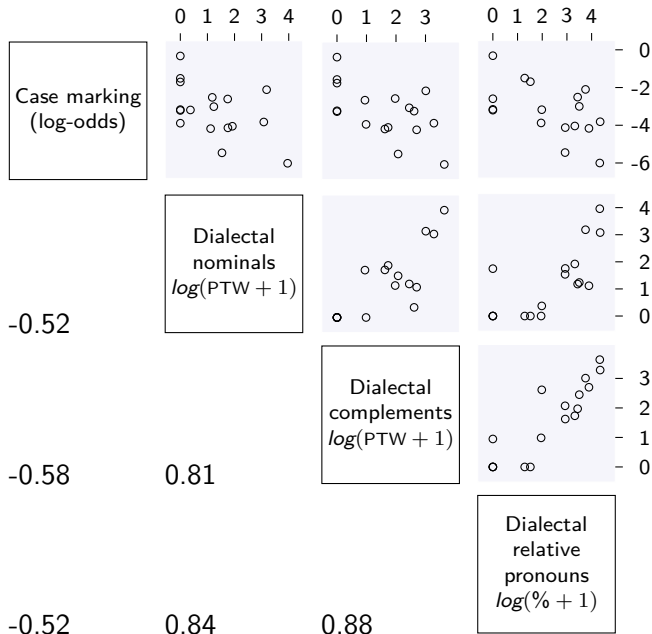
	NOMINAL		COMPL.		REL. PRON.	
	#	PTW	#	PTW	#	%
Tayzīnī	0	0	0	0	0	0
Badī ^c	0	0	0	0	1	2.6
al-Qaddūmī	0	0	0	0	1	3.6
Abū Majd	48	23.1	40	19.3	5	41.7
Mursī	4	2.3	11	6.2	6	30.0
Kayālī	9	4.7	3	1.6	0	0
Fayyāḍ	6	2.4	26	10.6	9	32.1
al-Mu ^c allim	0	0	0	0	0	0
al-Barādi ^c	0	0	0	0	0	0
^c Abd al-Qādir	1	0.5	28	12.7	1	6.2
al-Xuḍarī	0	0	4	1.7	2	6.1
Hilāl	42	20.8	52	25.7	16	76.2
al-As ^c ad	10	5.8	8	4.7	8	26.7
Šallaḥ	20	4.8	17	4.1	8	17.8
Ġalyūn	4	2.1	27	13.9	12	48.0
^c Arīqāt	10	3.7	19	6.9	3	17.6
al-Miṣrī	89	51.4	64	37.0	15	75.0
Mean	—	7.1	—	8.5	—	22.6
Median	—	2.6	—	4.7	—	17.6

PTW = per 1 000 words.

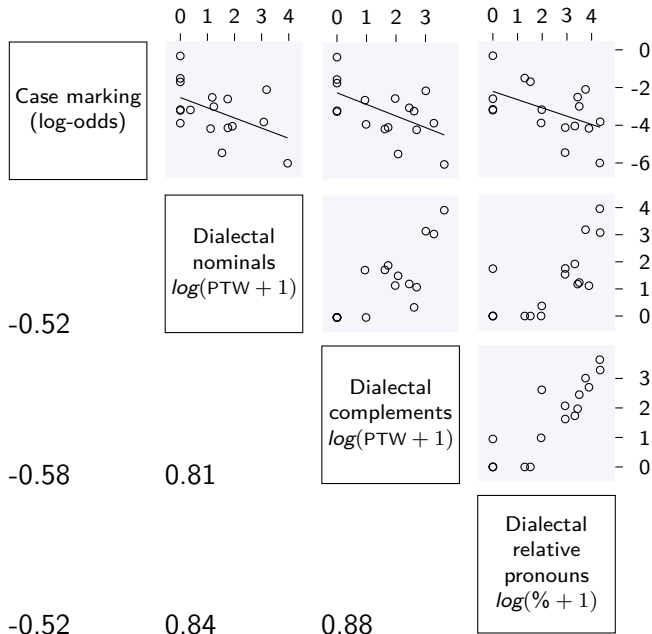
Case and dialect



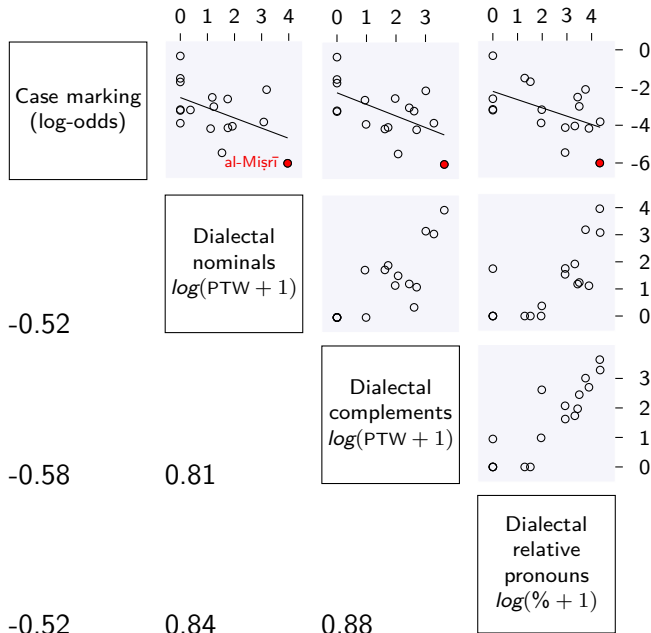
Case and dialect



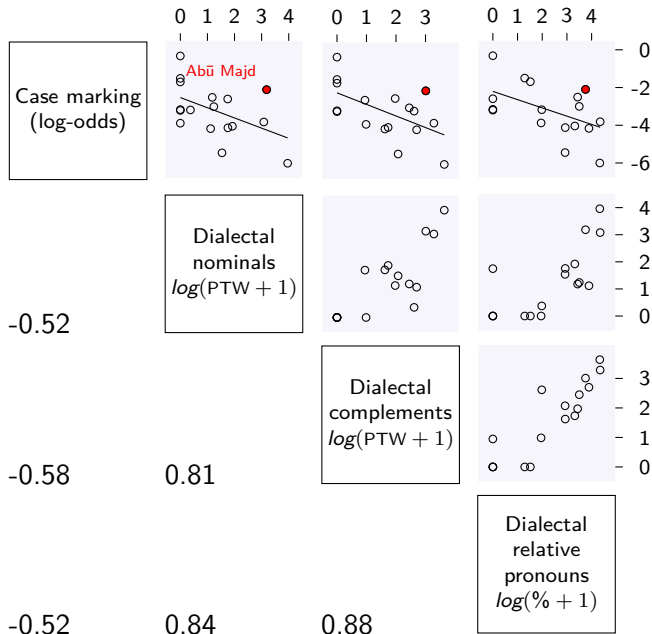
Case and dialect



Case and dialect



Case and dialect



Case and dialect

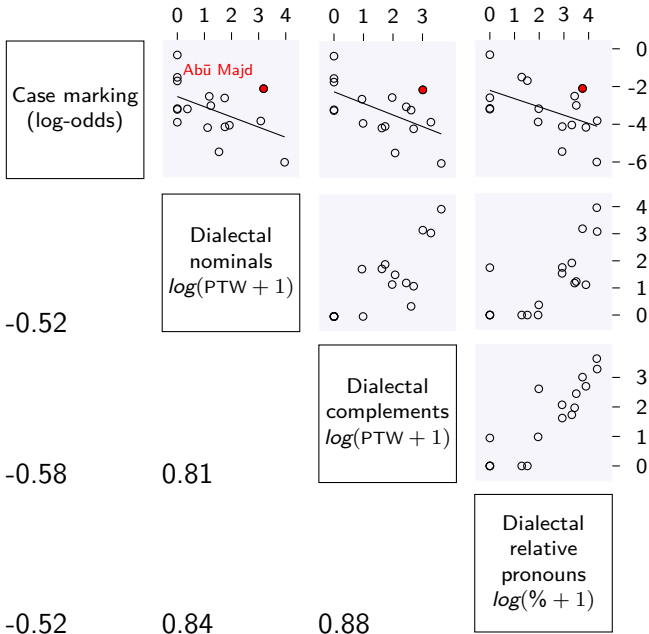
- (1) da maklama *fī* *ʔaḥyān-in* *kaṭīra*
that talking.shop in times-GEN many

‘That [the political discussion] is often a [mere] talking shop.’
(Abū Majd)

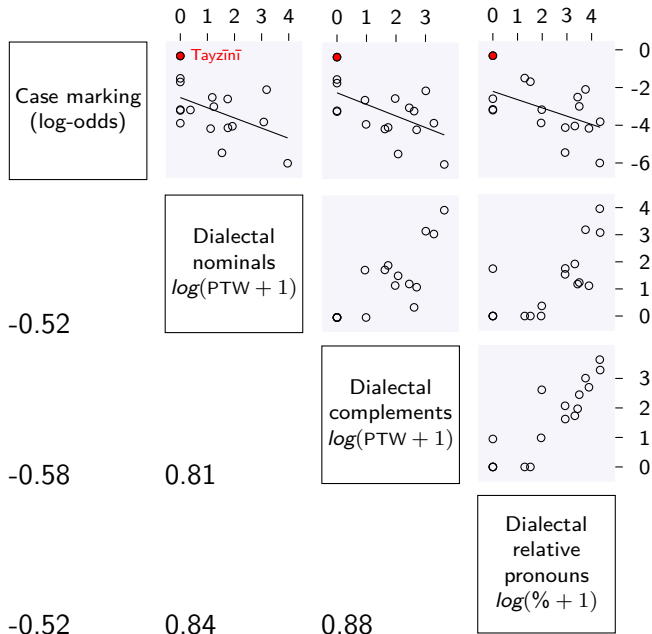
- (2) *ʔana* miš ʕāyiz *qinā^c* *yukallim-u* *qinā^c-an*
I NEG want mask 3MS.address-IND mask-ACC

‘I do not want a mask talking to a mask.’
(Abū Majd)

Case and dialect



Case and dialect

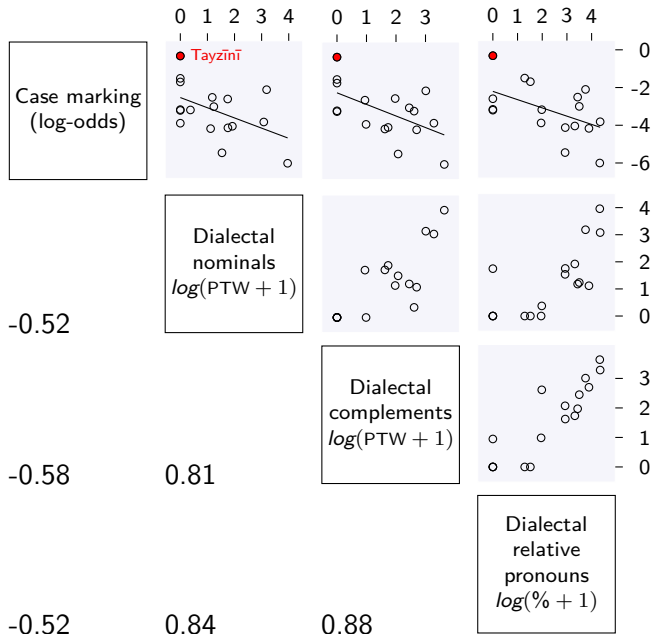


Case and dialect

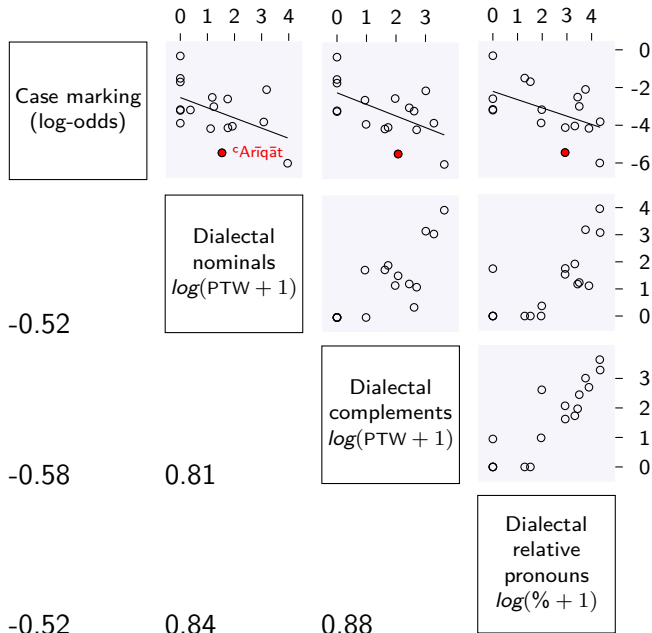
- (3) *wa-huwa ʔinna mā taqūlūna-hu min mā*
and-it COMP what 2MPL.say-it of what
yaḥduṭ-u fī sūriya ʔin huwa ʔilla natījat-u
3MS.happens-IND in Syria neg it but result-NOM
muʔāmarat-in xārijiyya
conspiracy-GEN foreign

‘...and that is: that which you say about what is happening in Syria [is that] it is nothing but the result of a foreign conspiracy.’ (Tayzīnī)

Case and dialect



Case and dialect



Conclusion

- ▶ Speakers develop individual ways of using case endings
- ▶ Case endings are used at different rates with relative freedom with regard to the speaker's position in the diglossic continuum

šukran