1. Methods of integrating Hebrew lexical items into spoken Arabic by Arabic speakers in Israel

2. The integration of single words and phrases in Hebrew into an otherwise Arabic sentence illustrates the concept of salience in language. In other words, the Arabic speaker makes use of Hebrew words within an Arabic sentence because they are more salient than the relevant terms in standard Arabic. For example, the Hebrew phrase קופת חולים (*quppat ḥolim* – Health Maintenance Organization, literally “fund for the ill”) is properly rendered in Arabic as صندوق المرضى (*ṣunduq al-marḍaa*). It is exceedingly rare to hear an Arabic speaker in Israel use this formal translation, given the fact that said speaker has been hearing the phrase *quppat ḥolim* since childhood. Even though it is the formal Arabic *ṣunduq al-marḍaa* that appears on signs, in spoken language one exclusively hears the Hebrew *quppat ḥolim.*

3. When both languages are in simultaneous use and freely drawn upon, a serious lexical deficiency among Arabic speakers can become apparent. When an Arabic speaker is unaware of a certain term in Arabic, he uses the Hebrew phrase to cover for this Arabic lexical deficiency. At times, even when Arabic speakers are familiar with the proper Arabic term, they nonetheless prefer to use the corresponding Hebrew term as a matter of style – since, without exception, Arabic speakers in Israel integrate Hebrew words into spoken Arabic, even when aware of the Arabic equivalents.

4. Code-switching from one language to another demonstrates Arab speakers’ command of Hebrew. This proficiency allows them to employ entire Hebrew sentences within their spoken Arabic. Furthermore, code-switching points to the entrenchment of the Hebrew language within spoken Arabic discourse. When code-switching, the Arabic speaker does not merely search for the odd Hebrew word to replace a missing Arabic one, but rather consciously integrates entire Hebrew sentences. In our view, this indicates peak Hebrew influence on spoken Arabic.

5. In this article we have distinguished three methods of integrating Hebrew into spoken Arabic: the use of Hebrew words and phrases in an otherwise Arabic sentence; the free and simultaneous use of both languages; and code-switching. These methods are influenced by a variety of factors: the increased salience of Hebrew words in certain contexts relevant to a given sentence; the preference for a Hebrew term over the corresponding Arabic term for reasons of style; and Arabic speakers’ proficiency in Hebrew allowing for the integration of entire Hebrew sentences within spoken Arabic.