

The Status of Teaching Chinese Language in the Arabic World

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Abstract

Language is the link between countries, and it is the gateway through which it is possible to discover the cultures of other societies, learn about its customs and traditions, and integrate into it. This integration contributed to the cultural, political and economic development between countries. Therefore, China and the Arab countries are keen on learning both the Arabic and Chinese languages, in order to facilitate exchange and cooperation in various fields. Knowing that the Arab-Chinese communication goes back a long time, since the Arab merchants began to migrate to China carrying various goods, and the arrival of Chinese merchants to the Arab countries, until two roads were opened: the Silk Road and the Commercial Spice Road, which greatly contributed to spreading Islam and different cultures. Since that time, the door has been opened for exchange between China and the countries of the Arab world. The desire to learn both the Arabic and Chinese languages increased. The fever of studying the Chinese language spread in the Arab countries, as the language met with a large number of Arab students. Therefore, many Arab universities and institutions set up departments and opened centers for teaching the Chinese language.

Keywords: Teaching, Chinese language, Chinese Culture, Arabic world

الملخص:

اللغة هي حلقة الوصل بين الدول، وهي البوابة التي يمكن من خلالها إكتشاف ثقافات المجتمعات الأخرى، والتعرف على عاداته وتقاليده، والاندماج فيه. وهذا الاندماج ساهم في التطور الثقافي السياسي والاقتصادي بين الدول. لذا إهتمت كل من الصين والدول العربية بتعلم اللغتين العربية والصينية، وذلك لتسهيل التبادل والتعاون في شتى المجالات. مع العلم أن التواصل العربي الصيني يرجع الى أمد بعيد، منذ أن بدأ التجار العرب بالهجرة الى الصين محملين بالبضائع المتنوعة، وقدم التجار الصينيين الى الدول العربية، حتى تم فتح طريقين هما طريق الحرير وطريق التوابل التجاري الذان ساهما بصورة كبيرة في نشر الإسلام والثقافات المختلفة. ومنذ ذلك الوقت فُتِح باب التبادل بين الصين ودول العالم العربي. وإزدادت الرغبة على تعلم اللغتين العربية والصينية، فإنتشرت في الدول العربية حمى دراسة اللغة الصينية، حيث لاقت اللغة إقبالاً كبيراً من الطلاب العرب. لذلك شرعت الكثير من الجامعات والمؤسسات العربية الى إنشاء أقسام وفتح مراكز لتدريس اللغة الصينية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تدريس، اللغة الصينية، الثقافة الصينية، العالم العربي.

Introduction

Long time ago the Silk Road had the main role in building and strengthen the co operation and exchange between china and the Arabic world countries. After the development that china achieved, the co operation between china and the Arabic world increased in many fields like economy, culture, society and others.

After the establishing the public republic of china this co operation continues to reach different learning fields .some Arabs countries signed many agreement in different fields of learning. Egypt was the first country to cooperate with china, since the Muslim scholar Mao Fu Ju visited Egypt during Qing dynasty and joined the holy Azhar to study Islamic sciences .This open the way for Chinese students to travel to Egypt. Egypt also sent many of their students to study in china and some other countries followed. Thus, the way between china and the Arabs countries is facilitated now for the Chinese and the Arabs students to study.

Since 1978-1991 the number of Arabs students who study in china reach about 932 students, distribute as follow:

Yemen 218 students

Sudan 184 students

Somalia 156 students

Egypt 120 students

Syria 60 students

Tunisia 54 students

Morocco 44 students

Jordon 33 students

Algeria 24 students

Iraq 10 students

Kuwait 10 students

Lebanon 10 students

Saudi Arabia 7 students

UAE 3 students

Djibouti 2 students

Studying Chinese language wasn't just exclusive to china travelers, it is now taught in Arabs countries no need to travel to china and that because of increasing fever of studying Chinese. That is why many universities and institution established departments, centers to teach Chinese language.

1.Department of teaching Chinese in Arabic universities

In 1958 the first department of teaching Chinese was built in Egypt Ain Shamas university faculty of arts. At that time the number of the students was not more than ten students, later the number increased to reach 1500 students according to 2008 statistics. Egypt joined as many Arabs countries. In 1987 Burgaba institute in Tunisia established the first Chinese language department because of continuous increase they opened another one in Carthage faculty of linguistics 1996.

Sudan established the first section in Khartoum university faculty of ArtsIn 1993, year after year system was used because of the fewness of the students. a new department was opened in Azhar university faculty of arts in Egypt .by the year 2002 Cairo university established special section to teach Chinese.

Since then no other Arabs university establish new department till 2009 when Jordon opened a new department in the military college, and another one in Jordan University.By the year 2013 another department was opened in Philadelphia university in Jordan .another department also was opened in Bahri college in Sudan .before them was Nawkshot modern university in Mauritania to open their own section in 2010.After that two departments were established in Karari military college in Sudan in 2016 and another one in Karari civil college in 2018.in the same year another department were founded in Middle East University in Jordon and another one in Alexandria University in 2019.

2. Confucius institutes in Arabs countries

Confucius institute is a volunteer non profitable institute for teaching and spreading Chinese culture around the world. The Chinese president xi Jin bing says (Confucius institute belong to china and the whole world) lately in more than 140 country more than 548 institute have been established around the world. In this institutes there are two managers one is national and the other one is Chinese. In Arabs countries Confucius institutes are as follow:

	Name of the institute	The country	Date of establishment	Chinese partner
1	Confucius institutes Algdees Yusuf University	Lebanon Beirut	27\4\2007	Shen yang normal University
2	Confucius institutes Ganat Alsiwas university	Egypt Ismailia	4\2008	Hu bei university for elect power
3	Confucius institutes Mohamed alkhamis university	Morocco Rabat	7\12\2008	Beijing 2 nd instit for languages
4	Confucius institute Khartoum university	Sudan- Khartoum	2009	North west normal university
5	Confucius institute Talal Abugazla	Jordon - Oman	2\4\2009	Shen yang normal university
6	Confucius institute Cairo university	Egypt- Cairo	24\9\2009	Beijing university
7	Confucius institute- Dubai University	UAE-Dubai	12\9\2010	Ning Xia University

8	Confucius institute Zayed university	UAE- Abu Dhabi	7\3\2012	Beijing university for foreign languages
9	Confucius institute Philadelphia University	Jordon- Jarash	20\9\2012	Liao Cheng university
10	Confucius institutional classes in Safagis	Tunisia- Safagis	4\11\2009	The international broadcasting station
11	Confucius institute Alhasan alsani university	Morocco - Casablanca	10\10\2012	Shanghai University for foreign languages
12	Confucius institute Bahrain university	Bahrain- Sager	15\4\2015	Shanghai University
13	Confucius institute Abdalmalik Alsadi University	Morocco- tatwan	2014	Jiang xi University
14	Confucius institute Nouakchott modern University	Mauritania	2018	Hu bei university
15	Confucius institute Comoros university	Comoros	2018	Jiang xi normal University
16	Confucius institute Ain Shams University	Egypt	11\10\2018	Han ban center
17	Confucius institute cortage university	Tunisia- cartage	10\4\20\2019	Da lian University
18	Confucius institute	Palestine	17\12\2019	Jiang g xi



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Teaching Chinese in Arabs country wasn't just exclusive to university departments or Confucius institutes .many universities started their own classes for teaching Chinese, some of them even had training workshop.

In Qatar, Hamad Bin Khalifa institute for translation in college of humanitarian and social science started a program for teaching Chinese started in 2018.chinese language was also included as optional subject for all social science students in sultan Gaboos university in oman.another institute was established in middle east university in Jordon in November 2018.lebenon had the lead to establish many centers for teaching Chinese in language and translation centers in Lebanon university. And a center for teaching Chinese language in American Lebanon university .alwaleed center in the capitol of Algeria offers different classes for learning Chinese language.

All these institutions are trying to teach Chinese language and spread it culture among university students and graduates .so far there are some countries already started to Chinese language for elementary and secondary school students because they have high ability for learning and grasping. Chinese was taught as optional, compulsory or training session during holidays. Some of the countries that started teaching in early age:

Sudan

In Khartoum the capitol of Sudan three elementary schools started teaching Chinese as demand. In Allrisala School Chinese is taught from the first till the sixth class. It is different in Khartoum international school they started at fourth year in two classes one for boys and another for girls. Regarding Standard internal English school it started teaching Chinese in 2017.

Algeria

Chinese curriculum was added in HI school (private school) for teaching foreign languages in 2009 in three levels system each level 96 hours. Also in Zahrt intelligence school there level system each level 30 hours. But for Khan school it is different they take students from age of ten and above.

Morocco

In December 2019 a partnership was made between Moroccan bank foundation for foreign trade and Confucius institute university of Abdalmalik A Isadi for teaching Chinese for the fifth and the sixth elementary school students in Tanja.

Yemen

Chinese language is crucial part of the curriculum in Alnamowzgia private school in Sana'a the capital. and it is a leading school in teaching languages in Yemen.

Tunisia

In 2003 the ministry of education in Tunisia decided to teach Chinese as optional subject for second year students in secondary school. In 2005 the ministry demanded that any student

who want to study Chinese language at university, he\she should have studied in the secondary school stage.

Qatar

In 2018 the institute of translation studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University started languages session for children including many languages, Arabic, German, French, and Chinese for two hours every Saturday as optional subjects.

UAE

In 2019-2020 the ministry of education in UAE ,started teaching Chinese in 13 school in Abu Dhabi ,6 in Alain,4 in Alzafra,10 in Dubai,15 in Shrajaeh and 11 school in different areas in UAE. the number of the school that teach Chinese reach 60.

Saudi Arabia

In 2019 Saudi Arabia declared that Chinese language is implemented in the curriculum for all educational stages.

The problems that face teaching Chinese in the Arabic world

Despite the raising fever of teaching Chinese in the Arabic world and the increasing in the number of the potential students still there are some problems in the system of teaching Chinese some of them are:

- 1- Shortage in educational materials. Most of the departments and the institutes of teaching Chinese have a real shortage in educational materials. Because of this some students tend to copy materials. Chinese is a new and strange language to Arabs students that's why they need to read and expose themselves to its culture. Such books are also hard to find. Also some debarments and institute lack equipped labs like computers, smart screens, recording cassette to improve their listening skills.
- 2- Lack of teachers and trainers .because Chinese is a new language that's why it is taught by Chinese teachers. Also because of the spread of Chinese around the world these institutes send teacher from china to teach but they sometimes send only four teachers for one department which isn't enough because of the growing need for learning Chinese.

Conclusion

Chinese language became popular and found a good acceptance since it entered the Arabic world through universities and institutes despite the fact that it doesn't look like Arabic or English .but remarkably Arabs students were able to master it in outstanding way. Which led to the noticeable increase in the number of the students, they were about ten now they are more than hundreds. Despite of the mentioned problems learning Chinese language fever is rising in the Arabic world.

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