

Frequently Used Phrases

Hi, Hello

How are you doing?

How are you doing?

I'm fine

I'm fine

This is

This is

Yes

No

I/ I am

You

What is your name?

My name is Tom

Pleased/ honored to meet you

I love you

Lebanon

Do you Speak Lebanese?

I speak a little

I speak good Lebanese

I do not speak Lebanese

I did not understand

Maybe

For sure

Sorry

Bye

Good

Very good

OK

Now

Later

Oh

Here

Marhaba

Kiifak? (addressing male)

Kiifik? (addressing female)

Mniih (m)

Mniiha (fem)

Hayda (m)

Hayde (fem)

E

La'

Ana

Inta (m)/ Inte (fem)

Cu ismak? (addressing male)

Cu ismik? (addressing female)

Isme Tom

Tcarrafna

Ana Bhibbak (addressing male)

Ana Bhibbik (addressing female)

Libnen

Btiħke Libnene?

Biħke cway

Biħke Libnene mniiħ

Ma biħke Libnene

Ma fhimit

Yimkin

Akiid

Pardon (French)

Bye (English)

Mniiħ

Ktiir mniiħ

OK

Halla'

Baxden

Yii

Hon

Learn Lebanese
Level 101 – Lesson 1
Introduction and Alphabet
Lebanese Latin Letters -LLL System

Lebanese Language Center Curriculum V1.0

www.abcleb.com

LLL System as developed by the Lebanese Language Institute
www.LebaneseLanguage.org

The Lebanese Latin Letters System - LLL

Letter	Pronunciation in English	Examples in Lebanese	Meaning in English
`	Alef	The beginning sound in "If"	`mar, War`a
A	A	A in Car or Cat	Alam
B	Be	B in Bed	Beb
C	Ce	Sh in She	Cajra
D	De	D in Door	Daraj
Ď	Ďa	Hard D, D in Bud	Ďaw
E	E	"a" in care or "ai" in fair	Warde
F	Fe	F in frog	Finjen
G	Ge	G in Glass	Argiile
Ġ	Ġa	G without closing airflow	
H	He	R in Parisian French	Cigil
Ḥ	Ḥa	R in Parisian French	Cigil
H	He	H in home	Hawa
Ḥ	Ḥa	Hard H	Ḥilo
I	I	E in Ben/ I in Sin	Im, Sin
II	II	"ee" in feed	Iid
J	Je	G in Beige	Jabal
K	Ke	K in book	Akil
Ḳ	Ḳa	J in Spanish	Ḳibiz
L	Le	L in land	Laban
M	Me	M in man	Mreye
N	Ne	N in name	Nahir
O	O	O in open	Moz
P	Pe	P in Peter	<i>Please</i>
Q	Qa	Hard K *	Iiqaax
R	Re	R in orange, Spanish R	Raś
S	Se	S in Sam	Sama
Š	Ša	Hard S, S in fuss	Šura
T	Te	T in toy	Talij
Ṭ	Ṭa	Hard T, T in dotted	Ṭawiil
U	U	oo in moon, u in June	Uda
V	Ve	V in Victor	<i>Video, Bravo</i>
W	We	W in word	Warde
X	Xa	A stretching tongue base	Xen
Y	Ye	Y in yellow	Yamiin
Z	Ze	Z in Zebra	Zahra
Ẓ	Ẓa	Hard Z, ZZ in buzz	Buza

Pronunciation Rules: There are four basic rules to reading and writing Lebanese with the LLL system - write it like you speak it:

- 1-** The Letters are pronounced in one unique way. However the vowels such a and i might have slight variation in some in words. Also, every letter is pronounced whether it is in the beginning, middle or end of a word.
 - 2-** One characteristic of Lebanese is the use of an "Alef" in the middle of the word. Words such as "Mas`ul", "War`a", or "Ra`am", should be treated as if you are pronouncing 2 separate words joined together, they are pronounced respectively; mas- ul, war-a and ra-am. Some might call Alef "Hamze".
 - 3-** When using double of a consonant, like "rr" or "tt" etc.. you stress on the R or T letters in the respective words. When doubling one of the vowels: *a*, *e* or *o*, using aa, ee or oo the vowel is pronounced longer.
 - 4-** When you are not able to pronounce the Lebanese letters: "Ď", "Ġ", "Ḥ", "Ḳ", "Š", "Ṭ" and "Ẓ", the closest letter to substitute will be: D, G, H, K, S, T, and Z.
- As for the letter X, if you were not able to pronounce it, you can just "X" it out, or remove it from the word. For example the word *xen* (means eye), is very close to the Lebanese pronunciation if pronounced *en*.
- Understanding these four basic rules will give a key into reading and writing Lebanese exactly as you speak it. These are the man rules you need to know in order to be able to unlock the system no matter what your native language is. In addition, you have to learn to pronounce new sounds characteristic of most Semitic languages:
- "Ď", "Ġ", "Ḥ", "Ḳ", "Š", "Ṭ", "X" and "Ẓ".

Notes:

1. E is pronounced a little shorter when at the end of the word
2. I has almost two slightly different sounds, one like E in Ben, and one like I in Sin.

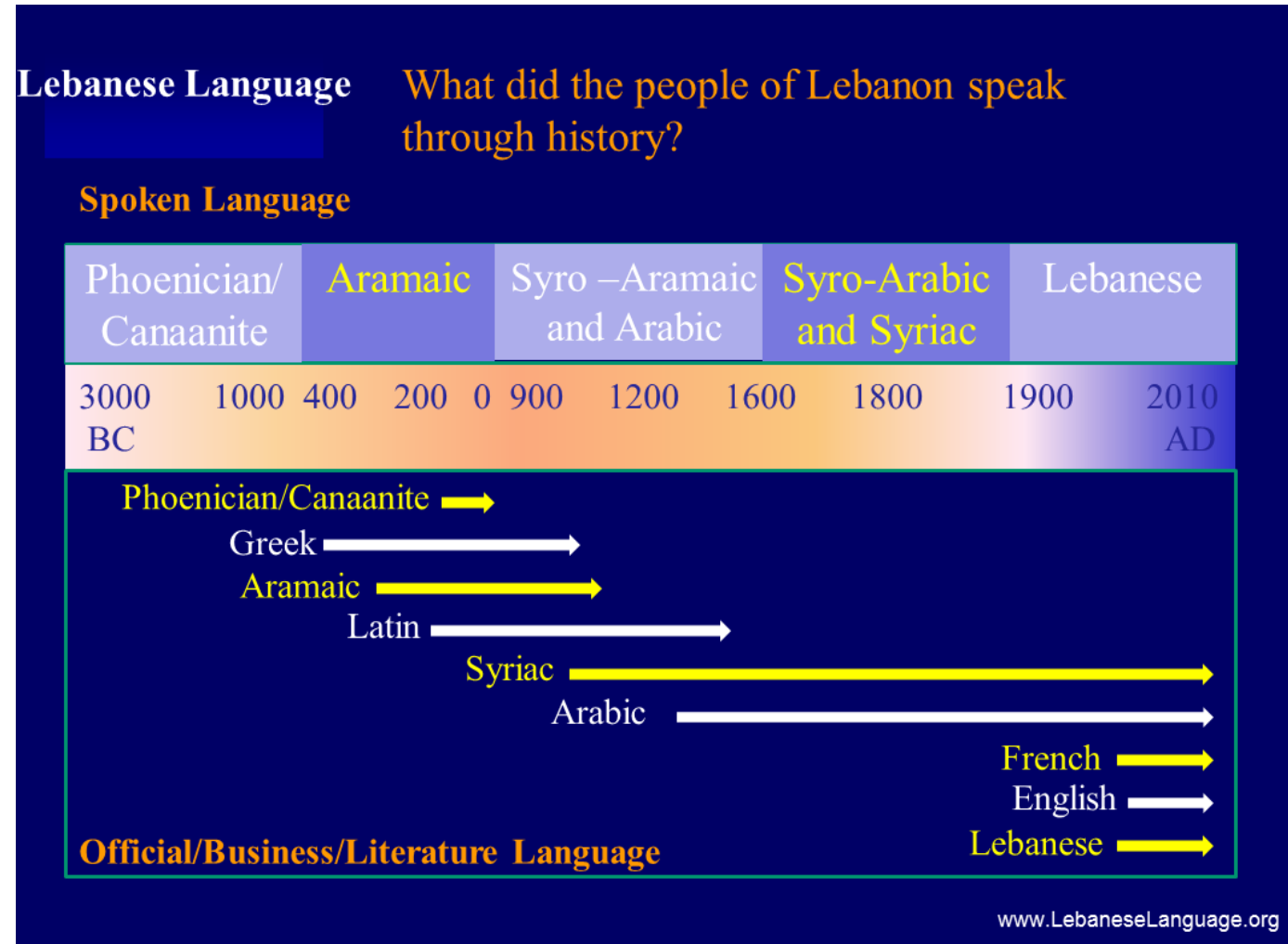
Lebanese Keyboard

DOWNLOAD the Lebanese Keyboard from www.LebaneseLanguage.org and start typing in Lebanese. It's the best way to express your Lebanese language on the internet today. Yalla!

Follow the link [DOWNLOAD THE LEBANESE KEYBOARD](#) on the home page!

What did the people of Lebanon speak through history?

Just like today, the spoken language(s) of the people who lived in Lebanon often varied from the language(s) that was/were used as official language or as language(s) of literature.



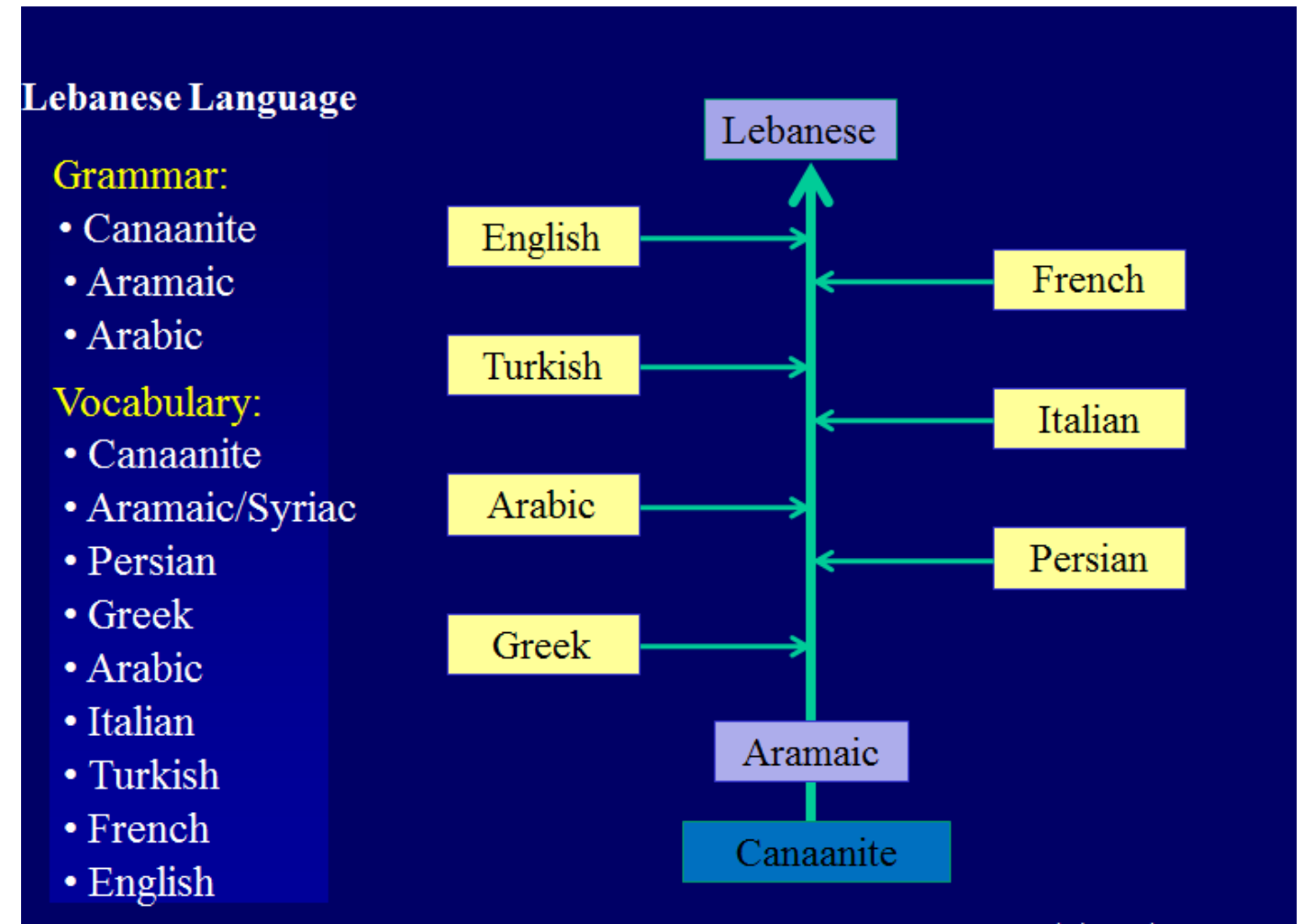
Lebanese is the native language in Lebanon today. The Lebanese people learn also Arabic, English and French at school. Armenian is also popular and is taught in some schools. The Lebanese usually pick some Egyptian which is, along with Lebanese, a prominent understood language in the Middle East.

If I learn Lebanese, what languages can I understand?

Lebanese is very close to the languages that were derived from the same Aramaic roots and got the Arabic and Turkish mix. So people who speak Lebanese can easily communicate with the people who speak Syrian, Palestinian and Jordanian (except those who speak Badawin).

Lebanese Grammar

The modern Lebanese language grammar and vocabulary is a mix of several Semitic and non-Semitic languages. While the Lebanese vocabulary has been changing through history, most of the Lebanese grammar had not changed since the ancient Canaanite language was spoken over 6000 years ago.



How was the Lebanese Language developed?

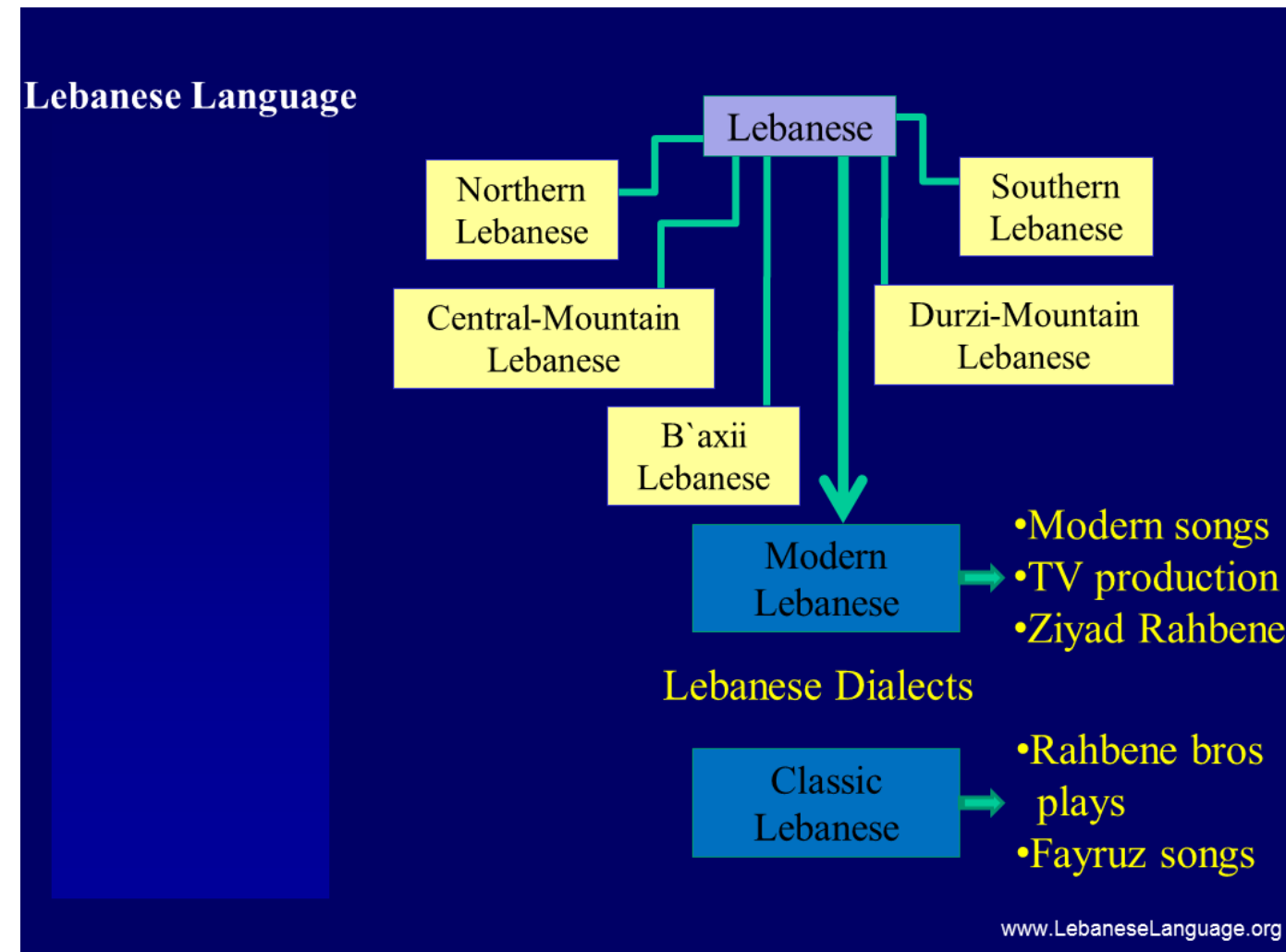
The Lebanese language currently spoken was developed from its parent Semitic language Aramaic and the ancient Phoenician/Canaanite. Aramaic was spoken in the whole region until about 900 AD. Later, the people in Lebanon were speaking several dialects of Aramaic especially in the mountains and North Lebanon while Arabic dialects were introduced in some coastal cities.

Eventually, the people of Lebanon blended their Aramaic with Arabic. From the 17th to 20th centuries, some Turkish was incorporated. The Lebanese language kept developing until these days where some French and English were introduced in the past century.

How many Dialects does the Lebanese language have?

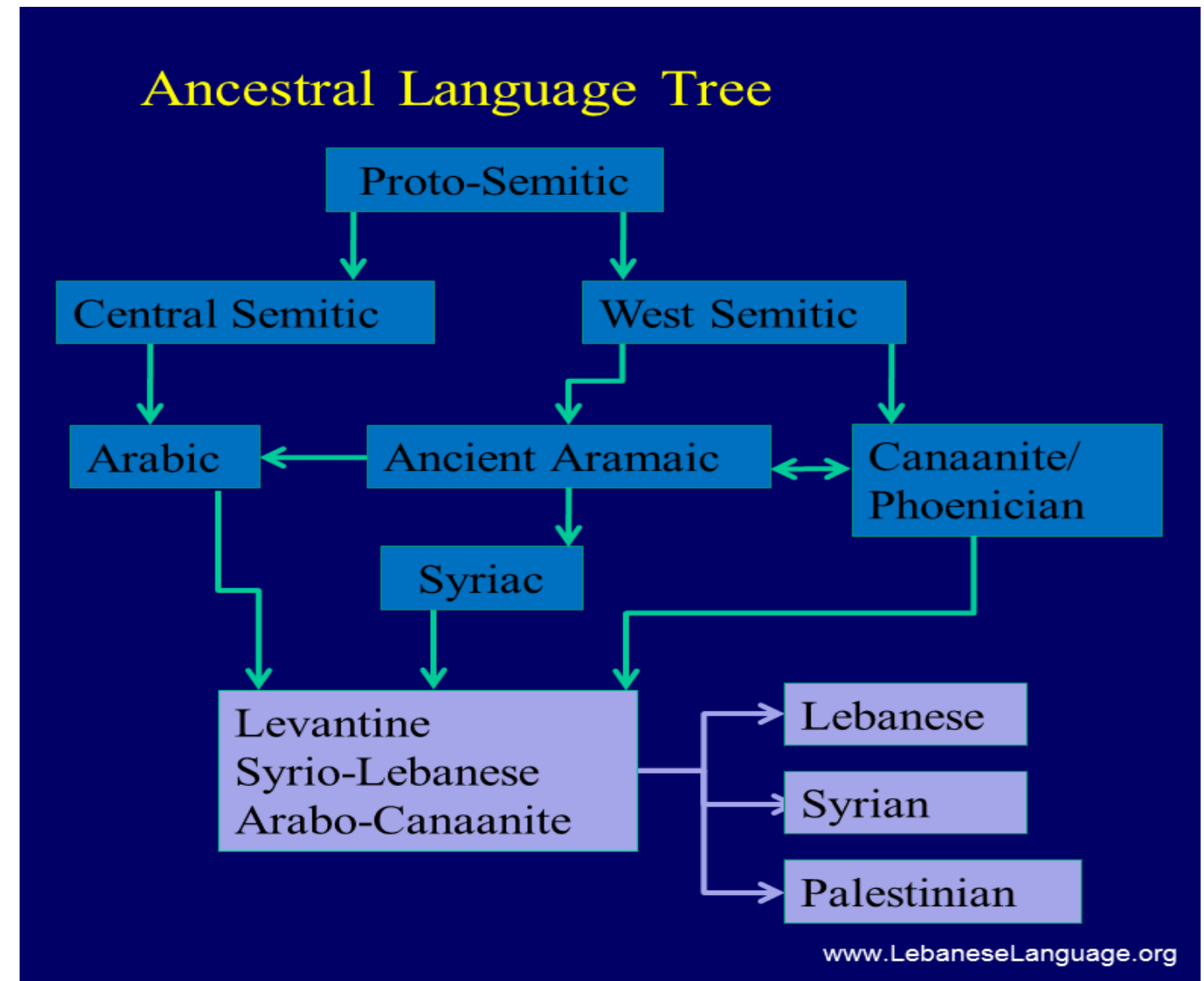
Seven main dialects are commonly recognized in the Lebanese language: Northern Lebanese, Central-Mountain Lebanese, Southern-Lebanese, Traditional-Beiruti-Lebanese, Biqaxii-Lebanese, the Durzi-Mountain Lebanese, and modern Lebanese that evolved in the recent few decades.

Most of the Lebanese now, in all Lebanese regions, speak modern Lebanese. The modern Lebanese simply developed toward dropping the regional dialects.



Lebanese Language Ancestral Tree

It is not easy to trace the ancestral trees for ancient languages, especially those that were spoken before inventing writing. The diagram below gives us however one of the linguistic routes that is affiliated with Lebanese.



Which Lebanese dialect do we teach?

We are teaching the modern Lebanese that is spoken by most of the Lebanese today; the one used mainly in conversation and on televisions. If you speak the Lebanese as tutored in this program, you will speak like most of the Lebanese do.

Who speaks Lebanese?

There are about 4 million in Lebanon and almost twice the number around the world who speak Lebanese today.

Who understands Lebanese?

Due to being one of the most popular languages of television and entertainment production, most of the people in the Arabic countries understand Lebanese. The Lebanese songs and television production attract over 200 million from the region between the Arabic/Persian Gulf and Morocco. That also applies to the many immigrants from that region to the Americas attracting several millions over there.