Arabic influence on the Spanish language

By

Nada Shaath
Pre-Assessments

Vocabulary
The Art of Cognates
(Worksheet)
Arabic influence on the Spanish language has been significant, due to the Islamic presence in the Iberian peninsula between 711 and 1492 A.D. In this lesson we will examine Arabic influence on Spain in three areas:

A. Architecture
B. Language
C. Music
Where are we in the world
Islamic World
Islamic world during Ummayad Period
Al-Andalus (Arabic: الأندلس) was the Arabic name given to the parts of the Iberian Peninsula governed by Arab Muslims, at various times in the period between 711 and 1492 (781 years).
Andalus map
Muslim occupation of Al Andalus
Muslims influence on Spain

Besides the food crops, Muslim brought to the Iberian Peninsula the cotton plant, which in Spanish is called algodon from the Arabic alqutn. They also developed the silk industry, to make Al-Andalus one of the major silk manufacturing countries of the medieval world. The fine fabrics of which Europe was to be proud in later centuries had their origin in this land of the Moors.
Islamic influence on Spanish Architecture

Islamic architecture encompasses a wide range of both secular and religious styles from the foundation of Islam to the present day, influencing the design and construction of buildings and structures in Islamic culture.

The principal Islamic architectural types are: the Mosque, the Tomb, the Palace and the Fort. From these four types, the vocabulary of Islamic architecture is derived and used for buildings of lesser importance such as public baths, fountains and domestic architecture.
Islam influence on Architecture in Spain
Al Hambra Palace

Al Hamrah “meaning the red”
A building in Spain with beautiful islamic patterns made of mosaic.
Beautiful Islamic designs that influence the colors of Spanish art in Spain and Latin America
Look and appreciate

With a partner look at the pictures provided to you. Try to identify the Islamic designs. Compare Islamic designs to the other pictures provided.
Arabic Language Influence on Spanish Language
Modern day Spanish language (also called castellano in Spanish) first appeared in the small Christian Kingdom of Castile in Northern Spain during this period of Islamic domination over most of the Iberian peninsula. As a result, the language was influenced by Andalusi Arabic practically from its inception.
Arabic imprint on the language increased as the Kingdom of Castile expanded into Muslim lands where the Castilian language had never been spoken and as arabized Christians (Mozarabs) from Al Andalus emigrated northwards during times of sectarian violence, and particularly as a result of the Almoravid conquest in the 12th century.
Arabic was used among the local elites and local Arabic-influenced Romance dialects, known collectively as Mozarabic were more prevalent as the vernacular language. Only the kingdom of Granada, under the Nasrid dynasty was totally arabized after many centuries of Muslim rule.
Modern Spanish is thus a mixture of Old Castilian and the Mozarabic dialects which it absorbed. This fusion explains why Spanish has, in many cases, both Latin and Arabic derived words for the same meaning. For example, aceituna and oliva (olive), alacrán and escorpión (scorpion), jaqueca and migraña (migraine) or alcancía and hucha (piggy bank).
The imprint of Mozarabic and Arabic is evidently more noticeable in the southern dialects of Peninsular Spanish than in the northern ones.
A small number of words have also been borrowed from Moroccan Arabic both due to geographic proximity, but principally as a result of Spain's protectorate over Spanish Morocco in the 19th and 20th centuries.
Lexical influence

A majority of these are nouns, with a more limited number of verbs, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions, thus not substantially changing the grammar or basic structure of the language. The exact number of words of Arabic origin in Spanish is not known and many words not included on this list are regionalisms: words which are used in certain parts of Spain and/or Latin America but are generally unknown elsewhere.
The suffix í. Arabic has a very common type of adjective, known as the nisba or relationship adjective, which is formed by adding the suffix -ī (masc.) or -iyya (fem.) to a noun. This has given Spanish the suffix -í (both masc. and fem.), creating adjectives from nouns which indicate relationship or belonging. Examples are Marbellí, Ceutí, Maghrebí, Zaragocí, Andalusí or Alfonsí.
## Nisba

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Masr</th>
<th>Masr iyya</th>
<th>Arab</th>
<th>Arab iyya</th>
<th>Maxeek (?)</th>
<th>Maxeek (?)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt Masr</td>
<td>= Masri</td>
<td>Masr iyya</td>
<td>= Arabi</td>
<td>Arab iyya</td>
<td>= Maxeek(?)</td>
<td>Maxeek (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxeek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inglees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franca</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With a friend try to do these in Arabic

مصرية

مصري

مصر

إنجليز

 بلد
Expression

A number of expressions such as "¡Ole!" (sometimes spelled "olé"), from *wa'llah*, or *ojalá*, from *inch'allah*, have been borrowed directly from Arabic. Furthermore, many expressions in Spanish might have been translated or adapted from their Arabic equivalent. In Old Spanish, *algo* could mean 'wealth, property'. The formal pronoun *usted* may also have Arabic influence; while it is derived from *Vuestra merced*, it happens to be pronounced the same way as the Arabic word *ustādh* 'professor'/'doctor'.

Although the phonetic influence of Arabic on standard peninsular Spanish is considered to be negligible, Arabic influence is thought to have influenced the phonetics of the Andalusian dialect of Spanish (and indirectly certain Latin American dialects). For example, the use of the fricative H, or the substitution of the sh for the ch sound is considered to be a result of contact with Arabic.
Arabic Influence on Spanish Music

Flamenco music was born, and still lives, among the scenic green hills of Andalusia in southern Spain.

The Arab roots of flamenco run deep. Though some scholars believe the word flamenco means “Flemish,” others think it is a corruption of the colloquial Arabic felag mangu, meaning “fugitive peasant” and derived from a root meaning “to flee.” The term came into use in the 14th century, and was first applied to the Andalusian Gypsies themselves, who were called either gitanos or flamencos.
Test your knowledge
What did you learn?

1. What three Arabic influences we discussed today?
2. Write down 5 Spanish words that are of Arabic origin.
3. The closest country to Spain Geographically is (Morocco, Lebanon, Iraq)
4. What is the meaning of professor in Arabic?