

Spotlight on Africa[Egypt]

by Dr. Nadia Ahmed Touba

Egypt is one of the countries that benefits from a unique strategic geographic position. The fact that the Suez Canal (which links the Red Sea and the Mediterranean sea) runs through it has added to its importance. This geographic position has given it the advantage of mingling with a number of other nationalities and this is one of the factors that resulted in it becoming a leader in the region. Egypt is regarded as a political, educational, and social leader in the region.

Every year, Egypt sends thousands of teachers to the Arab countries in Africa and Asia. These teachers are in a variety of specializations and they teach all levels of education from nursery to university and graduate studies. This certainly results in Egyptians having an impact on the attitude and outlook of their students. Moreover, a large number of Arab and African students come to Egypt to study for graduate degrees.

EGYPT

- Strategic geographic position
- Leader in the region
- Sending teachers to Arab countries
- Graduate studies for Arab and African students



(figure 1)

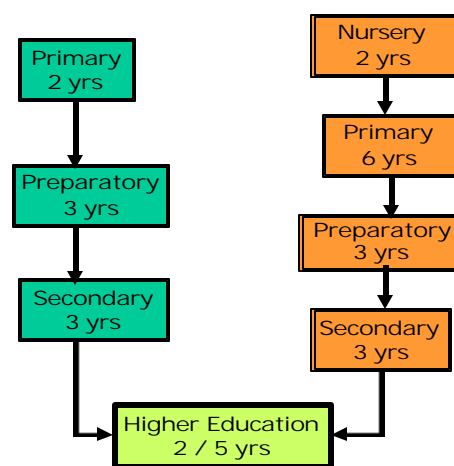
The knowledge of English opens the doors for employment and the need for it is felt more than ever in the Egyptian context.

In figure 2, it can be seen that English is one of the main subjects in the educational system. The first row shows its status within the general government school system, the second row is its standing within private schools. In both cases, students go on to study English in any post secondary institution they may qualify for or choose.

The status of learning English in Egypt is certainly what may be called “additive bilingualism” and its knowledge presents prospects and does not threaten the mother tongue or national identity.

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English in the Egyptian educational system



(figure2)

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