

Open Learning
Translation Department

Third Year
First Term

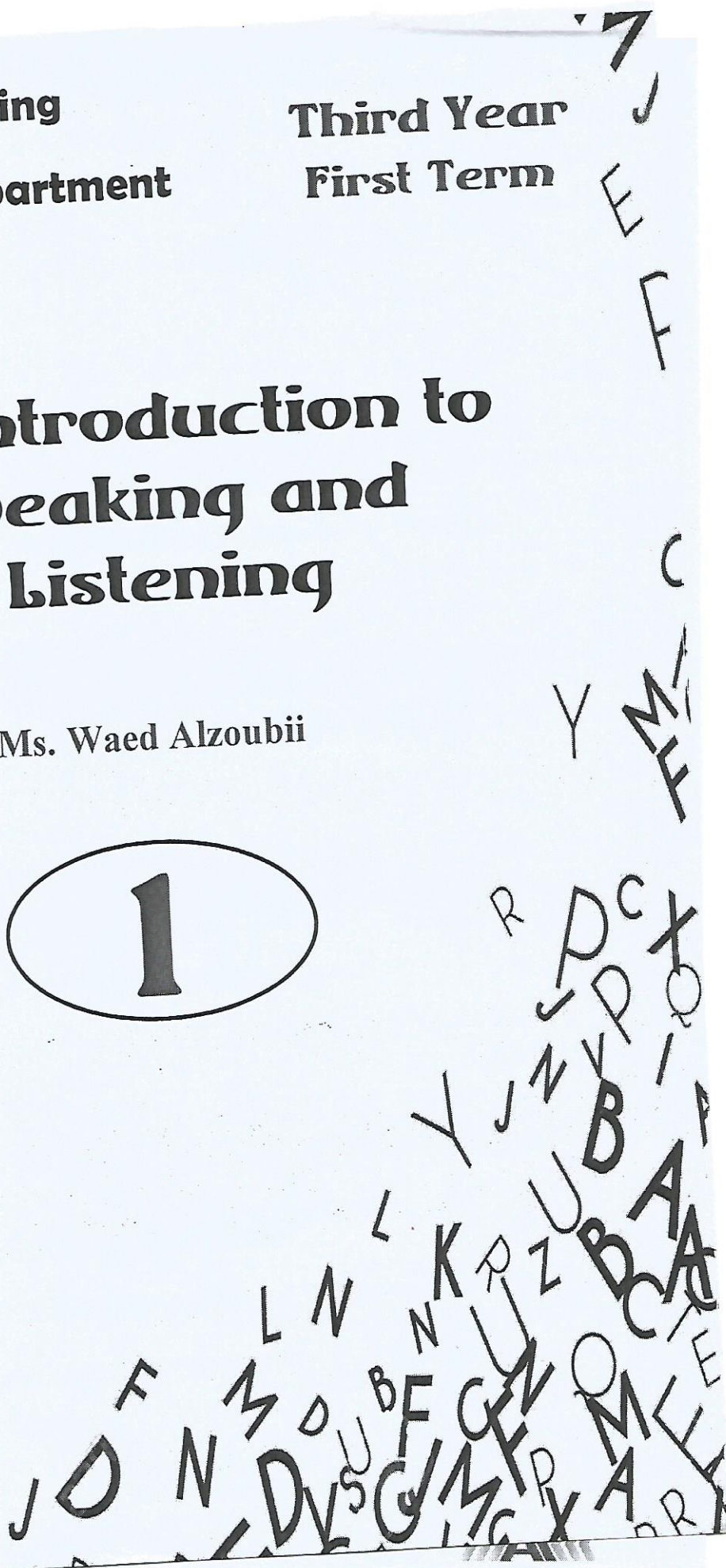
An Introduction to Speaking and Listening

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Let's
study!
English



Hello everyone

It's my first lecture in Damascus University, translation department. So, today we will only have an introduction to our subject.

Our lectures depend on listening and speaking skills, so you have to listen and you have to comprehend; to understand what we are listening, and we have to talk to each other using the English language.

You have to abandon speaking in Arabic and you have to start to communicate with the English language. You don't have to worry about your grammar or pronunciation; what really matter to me is just to communicate and to practice speaking English so you can be improved throughout the course. So, to achieve ideal speaking, we are supposed to have linguistic labs (computers and headphones) so we can hear topics and practice hearing and pronunciation, but we don't have these tools in Damascus University. We have to make our own practices so we can become better in listening and speaking.

My first question for you all is to introduce yourselves and to tell me:

why do you like to speak English? What do you like to speak English for? What are the topics that are interested for you?

The instructor asked these questions to all the students in the hall and the answers have differed depending on their own perspectives.

As we all know, listening is important in order to improve our speaking. How do we learn how to speak as children; as babies?

We hear, we listen to our parents and neighbors who speak Arabic, and then, after two years, maybe we begin to

Speak Arabic. So, this is similar to learning the English language; you have to listen a lot to the English language to be able to speak it later on. I advise you to listen to audio books, stories, news from CNN and BBC, T.V shows, films, broad casts, and even songs. This way, you will improve your speaking skills, and you have to speak English with others as well.

Most of you think about traveling out of the country. There, you have to make job interviews. The first question that you may be asked in there is: introduce yourself, where are you from?

What is your education?

Why would you like to work with us?

What are your objectives after five years?

What are you going to give the company for example?

This is the type of questions in job interviews outside of Syria.

If you are in a new city, you need to ask about the directions, for example; you may need to ask about the airport place, a bus to ride, a train to take. Of course, you will need food and you have to ask for a restaurant. Sometimes, you have to ask about specific things like water, vegetables, fruit, bread and a likes. So, these are small topics to learn. I expect that you all know them! Don't you?!

Do you expect to be taught Advanced English or beginner's level?

Most students said that they expect to learn beginner's level!!!

No, you are third year students so your English is supposed to be almost perfect.

What are the topics that you are interested in? Are they politic, health, food, What is the trend of the day?

Maybe politic or scientific topics, even beauty or news
Boys are interested in sports in general. So, when you turn the T.V on, what are the most topics that you hear? Right now, most of the topics are related to covid-19, social media and wars. For Syrians, the trendiest topics are gas, oil, electricity, Syrians out board, refuges and immigrations, like immigrates stuck on the borders of Bella Russia.

In this course, we are going to practice more than me giving you information. We are going to practice listening and speaking. I'm going to give you a lot of information about these skills.

I'm going to give you topics that you must search for in order for us to discuss during the next lecture as a group. Later on, I will give you the theory of listening and speaking. Our goal is to listen, understand and respond to each other.

What would you like for the topics for the next week?

Students answers have differed: (short stories, vaccine, theory of translation, scientific, politics, technical topics just like computers, beauty topics, literary topics)

Actually, most of the topics that are required to be translated are the technical ones, we rarely translate literary unfortunately.

Anyway, I'm going to be democratic in choosing the topics that we will discuss in our lectures. The topics will be up to you to choose.

Student: Who do you think is more successful in translating? Is it a translation department's student or English literature's student?

Instructor: The one who is graduated from the translation department because in literature, we focus on literary works, we discuss notions, terms of literature. But in translation, your focus is on the technique of translation.

The student of literature can do translation but the translation's student would be more qualified.

About the exam, I will give you an oral exam face to face. I will see your speaking skills. In regard of listening, I will ask you to rewrite a paragraph or something like this. I'm not sure yet, so we will discuss the exam later on. It may be partly oral. I will tell you about that later.

P.S:

The instructor was out of the country for 20 years, so obviously she doesn't know how things go in our university yet.

About the book, there is a PDF version of the book that I want you to study. I'm going to publish it on the Whatsapp groups, so you all can have it.

Note:

You can find it typed on AL-Anwar's Book Shop.

We need to focus in our lecture, and we need to listen to our topic, comprehend, understand the topic and discuss it as group discussion among your selves as students and then some of the ideas I'm going to discuss with all of you.

Now, let's vote for the next lecture topic.

Who's in favor of covid-10 topic? Just 3 students.

Who's in favor in the Syrian refugees out on the border's topic? None!!!!

Ok, would you like a topic about social media like influencers?

Some students think that it's a trendy topic and they liked the idea.

some students have suggested to discuss a topic related to Shakespeare, but others said that there is already literary subject in the third year.

Are you familiar with western writers?

وعم الهدوء في القاعة ☺

OK, what about eastern writers?

One student have mentioned (عقبة زيدان) and they discussed some of his novels.

If I give you listening theory, are you going to practice it?

Student: Yes, why not?

Do you think that there is no difference between theory and practice?

In theory, you can be a very good translator in your mind, but when you actually do the translating, do you find that your real-life translation lives up to your theory? Not always, actually theory is very different from practice.

I may give you a task; a video or an audio-book to listen to at home and you will register for me the ideas so we talk about them in the hall, and that's the way that we can practice listening and speaking.

The next lecture's topic will be about the life of Elon Musk.

It will be about his biography; prepare and search about him. I will ask you about him and discuss his biography together.

Thank you for being here, the lecture is done.

Thank you very much!
See you next week

Alanwar Est. **»»A««** مكتبة الأنوار

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