

Languages in Al-Andalus



Summary

1. Introduction
2. Arabic in the Iberian Peninsula
3. Mozarabic language
4. Languages transition (1000 to 1500)
5. Spain under the Arabs
6. Arabic-Spanish-Valencian vocabulary
7. Literature in Al-Andalus
8. Relevant people in Al-Andalus

Introduction

- The official language of Al-Andalus was classical Arabic. But in everyday life, two languages were used: a dialect of Arabic with a mixture of Latin and Romance words (Mozarabic) and a vulgar Romance dialect (language derived from Latin).
- Teachers of higher education (taught in mosques), also used romance.

Arabic in the Iberian Peninsula

The Arabic language was synonymous in Al-Andalus with refinement and erudition, despite the fact that almost the entire population also spoke in Romance. Not only did Muslims study Arabic, but also Mozarabs, Christians who remained under Muslim rule, and Jews.



Mozarabic language

- Mozarabic was the set of romances spoken in the territories of the Iberian Peninsula under Muslim rule from the Arab conquest (year 711) and possibly until the 13th century.

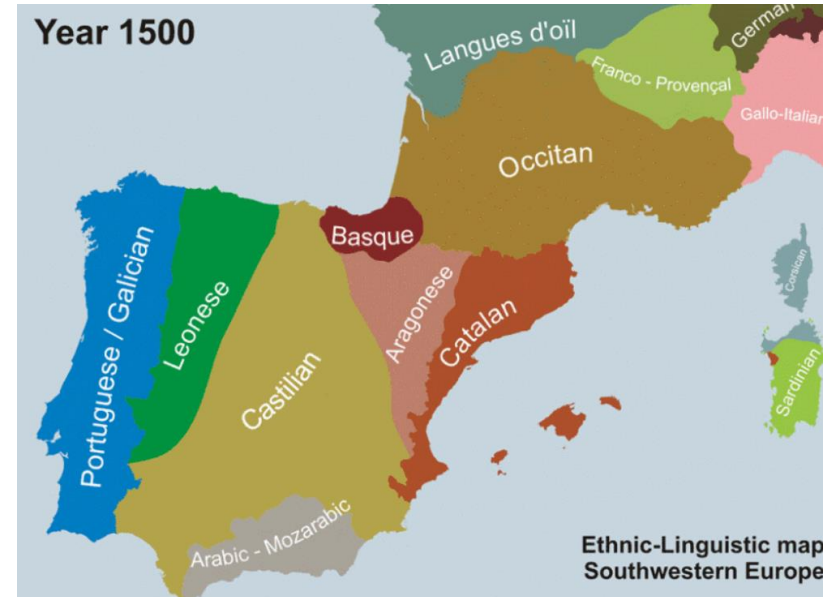
Mozarabic:

De š kand Meu Sidielo bénid,
jtan bona al-bišāra!
com raya de šole e šid
en Wād-al-ḥaḡāra.

- These dialects disappeared around the 13th century, due to the Castilian, Aragonese and Portuguese conquest, being replaced or merged with the languages of the Christian kingdoms (Galician-Portuguese, Asturleonian, Spanish, Aragonese, Catalan).



Languages transition (1000 to 1500)



Spain under the Arabs

- Muslim Spain knew a great linguistic contact between Arabic and Spanish.
- Disciplines of human knowledge were cultivated, books were published in different areas and great schools and libraries were created in all Andalusian cities with a view to transmitting Arab culture, only in Cordoba which had more than 400,000 words.

Arabic-Spanish-Valencian vocabulary

| Arabic | Spanish | Valencian |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| laymün | limón | llimó |
| assúkkar | azucar | sucre |
| aljabar | álgebra | àlgebra |
| kuḥúl | alcohol | alcohol |
| algotarismus | algoritmo | algoritme |
| ṭaríḥa | tarea | tasca |

Literature in Al-Andalus

The educated poets, in Al-Andalus, gave a certain originality to their production by modifying somewhat certain poetic forms and insisting with the same success on themes known in the East but rarely developed. These forms of poetry are called muwashsháha-s (a name taken from women's necklaces); they are quite diverse; they are made up of sequences punctuated by sayings arranged in many ways.

1

byš mw qrgwn dmyb
y' rb š mtrnd
tn m'l mdwlyd llḥbyb
'nfrmw y'd kwnd šrd.

Vaisse (?) meu corajon
|de mib
ya rabbī si se me
|tornerad
Tan mal me doled
|l-ḥabīb
enfermo yed cuand
|sanarad.

Relevant people in Al-Andalus



Yehudah Halevi;
philosopher



Muhámmad Mutámid;
philosopher



Avempace;
writer



Abbás Ibn Firnás
philosopher

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