

## What can biscriptality offer in the realm of social media?

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The study examines the online writing practices of biscriptals, focusing on trans-scripting, a concept developed by Androutsopoulos (2015) within the framework of translanguaging. Trans-scripting is a “script-focused translanguaging” that emphasises the innovative use of biscriptal scripts and spelling; it is any “practice of representing a language in a non-canonical script in a way that is neither normatively expected nor technologically determined, but rather fluid and non-predictable” (2020, p. 304). Thus, the script serves as a meaning-making device formed by unconventional scripts and spelling rather than fixed visual systems.

This paper investigates the functions behind seven types of scripts that Saudi bilinguals can create from two primary standard scripts: Arabic and Roman, as well as from two languages: Arabic and English. These scripts are bi-scripts that involve either script-switching, code-switching, or both.

Arabic-scripted Arabic to Roman-scripted English (AA-RE)	عشاء مع view.	Dinner with view.
Roman-scripted English to Arabised English (RE-AE)	ستيب.	Success starts with a step.
Romanised Arabic to Arabic-scripted Arabic (RA-AA)	Yum jaded بد ايات جديدة.	New day, new beginning.
Arabic-scripted Arabic to 3arabizi (AA- 3arabizi)	ويا زين ألوانه جا al5reef	Autumn is here, what a wonderful colour.
Arabised English to 3arabizi (AE-3arabizi)	كوفي تيست al97bah بيتير ويذ	Coffee tastes better with friends.
Arabic-scripted Arabic to Arabised English (AA-AE)	يوم بيرفيكت. للتمشي	Perfect day for going out.
Roman-scripted English to Romanised Arabic (RE-RA)	Afternoon rawagan.	Afternoon relaxation.

The data were drawn from an online survey that asked 234 Saudi biscriptals about their reasons for using a mix of different non-standard scripts on social media.

The findings revealed that although most people felt that only two of the scripts were commonly used (AA-RE and AA-AE), they held opinions on all the combinations presented. The main reason for employing the AA-AE script was convenience, whereas the AA-RE script was utilised to imitate other social media users. Creativity was the predominant reasoning stated for the other scripts, and all trans-scripting practices were linked to the motivation of show-off.

Androutsopoulos, J. (2015). Networked Multilingualism: Some Language Practices on Facebook and Their Implications. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 19, 185–205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367006913489198>