Differences in Distribution between Arabic /l/, /r/ 

Phonetic differences between lateral and trill articulation in "emphatic" and "non-emphatic" context raises special problems for Arabic speakers of English, since differentiation depends on syntagmatic implications different from those relevant to English.

1. In the main, two chief varieties of Arabic /l/ are distinguished:

(i) "Clear" l with resonance approximating to a front close vowel /i/. Contact is typically made between tongue tip and the alveolar ridge, allowing air to escape at one or both sides of the tongue. The front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate ads for a front close vowel /i/. The back of the tongue is depressed in relation to the roof of the mouth.