SAMPLE NOTE · ARABIC INTERVIEW RECORD REVIEW

Does the English record say what was said in Arabic?

Mustafa Ahmed RPSI · Arabic Dialect Specialist (Yemeni native · Gulf · Sudanese) · NRPSI 17911 · CTC Home Office registered

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE. Fictional extract. Not taken from any real case, client or recording.

MATTER (FICTIONAL)	SPEAKER	MATERIAL COMPARED	POINTS FOUND
Asylum substantive interview	Yemeni Arabic	Audio recording against the English interview record	4

Findings

1 · 00:14:32 — ADDED CHARACTERISATION

ARABIC AS SPOKEN	ENGLISH AS RECORDED	SUGGESTED RENDERING
أخذوني من البيت وما قالوا لي ليش	"They arrested me at home and did not give a reason."	"They took me from the house and didn't tell me why."

Why it matters. The speaker did not say "arrested" or say who took him. "Arrested" adds a formal, official act that the Arabic does not contain, and a decision-maker may build on it.

2 · 00:31:05 — DROPPED QUALIFIER

ARABIC AS SPOKEN	ENGLISH AS RECORDED	SUGGESTED RENDERING
يمكن كان في شهر رجب، ما أتذكر بالضبط	"It was in the month of Rajab."	"Maybe it was in the month of Rajab. I don't remember exactly."

Why it matters. A hedged estimate becomes a firm date. If a later statement gives a different month, the account can look inconsistent when it was never contradictory. A Hijri month also needs converting to the Gregorian calendar with care.

3 · 00:52:40 — NOT KNOWING RECORDED AS NOT REMEMBERING

ARABIC AS SPOKEN	ENGLISH AS RECORDED	SUGGESTED RENDERING
ما أعرف	"I don't remember."	"I don't know."

Why it matters. In answer to "Who gave the order?", "I don't know" states a lack of knowledge. "I don't remember" implies he once knew and has forgotten, which can be read as evasion or unreliable memory.

4 · 01:18:20 — PASSAGE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE AUDIO

ARABIC AS SPOKEN	ENGLISH AS RECORDED	SUGGESTED RENDERING
Place name unclear on the recording	"We then moved to [village name]."	Record as unclear. The audible sounds fit more than one place.

Why it matters. A misheard place name can later be tested against country information and produce a false credibility point. It should be confirmed with the client rather than entered as fact.

Summary. Findings 2 and 3 are the points most capable of being read as inconsistency or evasion. Finding 1 adds an official act the Arabic does not contain. Finding 4 should be put to the client before the record is relied on.

Scope and status. Independent linguistic analysis for the instructing solicitor's consideration. It is not expert evidence for any court or tribunal. This sample shows the format of a real note: timestamp, Arabic as spoken, English as recorded, suggested rendering, and why it matters.