Mohammed NAOUA

An Analysis of the Linguistic Phenomenon in Algiers: Code mixing and switching Vs Pidginization and Creolization

Eloued University

Algeria

Abstract

Algeria is a multilingual country par excellence. As far as local speech communities are concerned, mother tongues relevant to **Arabic** and **Tamazight** languages are largely used in everyday communication. However due to the extended contact between France and Algeria, which lasted for one century and thirty two years of colonization, French has become widely incorporated in daily interaction whether in the form of code mixing or code switching. This paper intends to conduct an empirical analysis to measure the extent to which lexical and morphological constituents of French interact with Arabic or Tamazight. The choice of Algiers as a site for this study is based on historical and geographical reasons. As a capital of Algeria, the location of the town on the southern coast of the Mediterranean made it the first place to encounter the French invaders and interact with them. The findings of the research will focus on determining whether this linguistic phenomenon is a matter of code mixing and switching, or whether it an issue of Pidginization or Creolization.

Speech Communities in Algeria

- Arabic-rooted Speech Community
- Tamazight-rooted Speech Community

The Linguistic Situation in Algeria

Mother Tongues:

- Arabic-based varieties
- Tamazight- Based varieties

Official and National Languages of the Country

- Arabic (Standard Arabic)
- Tamazight (which has not yet been standardized)

Diglossism: Standard Arabic and dialects is used cooperatively with its dialects. In the same way, Arabic is often introduced by means of Tamazight in Tamazight regions.

The Standard of French In Algeria

The French colonization of Algeria and the extended contact (1830-1962) between the two communities (the colonized and colonizer) had affected the linguistic behavior of the local community.

The Linguistic contact between the two languages resulted in the following phenomena.

The Reinforcement of French language, which now ranks a second language

Methodology:

Choice of the Method: Historical/ Descriptive-analytic Method

Data Gathering Tool:

The Observation

Corpus Selection: Public Markets/ Bus Stations/Universities/ TV Debate Sessions

Findings and Discussion

Diglossim is used in Education ,religious preaching

Code mixing is largely observed in public places where speakers incorporate individual words in their speech. We can mention the semantic concepts of mechanics, construction, electricity medicine, driving rules and signs and so on.

Concerning code mixing, it can be manifested when speakers (at a higher level of education switch from mother tongue to French and vice versa).

Pidginization: This language phenomenon in Algiers has resulted from the extended contact between the French (the Colonizers) and the Algerians (the Colonized), where the language of the powerful (colonized) has affected the linguistic behavior of the subjugated resulting to a type of Pidginization. Since this type of language has passed from the ancestors to their descendants using it as a mother tongue, some linguists call it 'Creole'.