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Abstract

This research work investigates the case of diglossia in one of the Algerian urban contexts located in the south west of the country. The area under investigation is Bechar which witnesses an alternate use between Standard Arabic and the dialect spoken by its inhabitants. The main objective behind the choice of this topic is to enrich Bechar with scientific studies and exemplify the case of diglossia there. The topic takes into consideration both formal and informal settings and analyzes them. The formal setting involves an analysis of diglossia in the various educational institutions such as: primary, middle, and secondary schools; in addition to some administrative spheres so as to make a comparison between diglossia in educational and administrative settings. The informal setting involves ordinary people who communicate with each other using a code which is a mixture between SA and their dialects. Indeed; teachers, pupils, and the Imams can introduce their dialects in their fields of work and study. On the other side, people working in administrations switch into SA when interacting with each other and the same code is used by ordinary people in everyday circumstances. Thus, the target population in this research work involves: teachers, pupils, people working in administrations, a limited number of Imams, and a given number of ordinary people who all live in Bechar. In order to collect data from those samples, observation, interviews and questionnaires were used. Observation was held in the educational institutions, interview was done with some teachers and Imams, and the questionnaires were addressed to teachers, pupils, and employees. The data collected from the target population were analyzed and discussed within this research work which showed that diglossia in the educational settings varies among the teachers. Some of them use their dialects in classroom while others do not; and such use depends mainly on their mastery of Standard Arabic. The employees also mix between SA and their dialect at work but their conversations carry more dialectal terms. Similarly, in informal settings people use their dialect and borrow some terms from SA when needed.
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