

Jargonic Expressions in some Iraqi Professions

(A Sociolinguistic Study)

- Inst. Sayf Hatem Abdalhakeem ,
- Ahmed Dhari Gorji
- (PhD) : Linguist , Instructor , College of Basic Education , English Department , University of Diyala , Diyala , Iraq.
- , (MA) : Linguist , Assistant Instructor , Ministry of Education , Diyala Education Directorate , Diyala .Iraq.

التعابير الاصطلاحية في بعض المهن العراقية

- (دراسة لغوية اجتماعية)
- م.م. احمد ضاري كرجي
- م.د. سيف حاتم عبد الحكيم
- , لغوي , مدرس , كلية التربية الاساسية , قسم اللغة الانكليزية , جامعة ديالى , ديالى ,
التواصل : واتساب ٠٠٩٦٤٧٧٠٠٧٨٨٢٠٦ - البريد الالكتروني
basiceng15te@uodiyala.edu.iq
- , لغوي , مدرس مساعد , وزارة التربية , مديرية تربية ديالى . ديالى . العراق.
التواصل : واتساب ٠٠٩٦٤٧٧١٦١٣٩٧٠٦ - البريد الالكتروني
ahmed.dhari@alkadhum-col.edu.iq

"التعابير الاصطلاحية" هي كلمات أو تعبيرات خاصة تستخدمها مهنة أو مجموعة معينة من الناس يصعب على الآخرين فهمها. (قاموس أكسفورد ، ٢٠٠١: ٥١١) تبحث الدراسة الحالية في التعابير الاصطلاحية المستخدمة من قبل مجموعات من الأشخاص الذين يستخدمون المصطلحات مثل العمال والأطباء وما إلى ذلك. تم اختيار عينة الدراسة من المجتمع العراقي الذي يستخدم هذه المصطلحات. المشكلة التي سيتناولها الباحثان هي أن هناك نوعا خاصا تستخدمه مجموعة خاصة من الأشخاص تسمى "التعابير الاصطلاحية" ، وهذا التنوع لا يفهمه عامة الناس ، لذلك سيجاول الباحثان توضيح هذا التنوع لعامة الناس ، وكذلك لتوضيح التعابير التي يستخدمها المتحدثون بالمصطلحات وتوضيحها لعامة الناس .. وأخيرا قام الباحثان بفحص المتغيرات الاجتماعية بين تنوع المتحدثين بالمصطلحات واللغة العامية التي يستخدمها عامة الناس ويحاولان إجراء مقارنة بينهما.

الكلمات المفتاحية : اللغة الاجتماعية ، التعابير الاصطلاحية ، اللهجة العامية ، المهنة

Abstract

Jargon is special words or expressions used by a particular profession or group that are difficult for others to understand. (Oxford Dictionary, 2001:511) The present study investigates the jargonic expressions used by groups of people who use jargon such as laborers, doctors, etc. The sample of the study is selected from the Iraqi community and uses jargon. The problem that will be tackled by the researchers is that there is a special variety used by a special group of people called "Jargon", this variety is not understood by common people, so the researchers will try to make this variety clear for common people, also to clarify expressions that jargon speakers use and make it clear for common people.. Finally the researchers examine the social variants between jargon speakers variety and the slang that common people use and try to make a comparison between them , as shown in the methodology of the present study.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Jargon, Slang, Profession.

1. Introduction

Jargon is the technical language used in a specific industry or field of endeavor (Neil, 2012:147). Jargon is frequently employed in a particular communication context, and it may be difficult to understand outside of that setting. Jargon can exist in any ingroup, but it often occurs in the context of a particular employment (i.e., a certain trade, profession, vernacular, or academic field).The problem that will be tackled by the researchers is that there is a special variety used by a special group of people called "Jargon", this variety is not understood by common people, so the researchers will try to make this variety clear for common people, also to clarify expressions that jargon speakers use and make it clear for common people. The study aims to state the linguistic features of the Jargon variety and how it differs from slang dialect ,also state the vocabulary of jargon and how they differ from a slang language, and to state the social variants of people who use Jargon, and how these variants differ from these of common people. The study hypothesis is that the linguistic system of Jargon differs from the slang dialect system. Furthermore , there are many vocabularies used by people who use Jargon but not used by common people. In addition , there is a difference in social variants between people who use Jargon from those who use slang dialect. The sample includes three groups of people who use Jargon. The first group is construction laborers, the second group is doctors and nurses who work in hospitals, and the third group is restaurant service workers. The purpose of selecting this sample is to see what expressions are used by those people and how common people can't understand these expressions. What distinguishes jargon from other languages and causes misinterpretation is its unusual lexicon, which commonly uses alternate meanings or senses of words that outsiders would ordinarily interpret in a different sense. Sometimes, jargon is distinguished from the official language used in a particular situation. field of endeavor by being considered a type of technical slang (Svetlana, 2011:519). In the literature, the terms jargon, slang, and argot are not consistently distinguished; many authors interpret these notions in a variety of ways. One definition claims that jargon is more clandestine than slang. 2008:28) (Tomasz). Another interpretation places it primarily concerning professional and technical groups (Patrick, 2007:88) Nonetheless, other sources consider these phrases to be synonymous (Jozef, 1993:385) Jargon is categorized as an expressive kind of language in Russian linguistics, whereas argots are used to describe secret languages (Jan, 2003:33). The current study asks the following questions to bridge the gaps:

1. How do jargon's sociolinguistic characteristics differ from slang dialects?
2. How do jargon terms change depending on the variety of professions?

3. What makes jargon unique?

2. The Differences between Jargon and Slang

One must first distinguish between jargon and slang to comprehend the meaning of jargon. People frequently think that the terms "slang" and "jargon" mean the same thing, which can result in misunderstandings concerning the function of jargon. Wright in Hudson (1996:75) makes the following distinction between jargon and slang in terms of the seriousness of the language: Jargon is generally serious and impersonal, whereas slang is primarily friendly and humorous. For the typical person, chemical equations and commercial advertisements that list substances X, Y, and Z are nonsense. In addition, Keith (2013:71) believes that jargon is more linguistically conservative than slang terms. He asserts that it is challenging to substitute words with specialized content. According to him, slang ages far more quickly than specialized content words and is harder to replace. The slang used by students in schools with the quickest turnover is a good illustration. On the other hand, according to Hudson (1996:78), it is difficult to distinguish jargon from slang because it is no longer limited to the meanings previously mentioned. Jargon's meaning becomes more expansive as a result of its hazy bounds. He continues by saying that Americans refer to jargon as "gobbledygook" and associate its definition with arrogant and verbose speech. The assumption that jargon terms are exclusive to a certain area of human endeavor is rejected by Hudson. Jargon has been used so carelessly in recent years that its edge has been removed, he emphasizes, and now, as has been aptly noted.

3. The Role of Jargon

In his article, Locker (1987:27–47) speculates on the function of business jargon and adds the following to the discussion: Jargon has been used in business letters at least since 1589 because people think it should be included and because it makes it easier for authors to write or dictate quickly. To enhance communication and give it a recognizable style that would distinguish the industry to which it was applied, jargon was developed. (Extracted from "As At Your Request: A History of Business Jargon," published in 1987) The meaning of jargon has developed over the previous century as humanity learned to harness its power. "Jargon is a word that can convey intent and impact as well as characteristics and help us to recognize society's adversaries.

1. It depicts a certain occupation or profession.
2. It is arrogant and has only a faint undercurrent of meaning.
3. Intellectually inferior individuals who feel the need to impress the general public with their significance frequently employ it.
4. It mystifies, whether on purpose or by accident. It's been suggested that many people can only cease using jargon once they've reached the pinnacle of their field since the usage of jargon can become addicting. Individuals who are moving up the social scale are reluctant to speak plainly, and some of them seem to need their jargon as a badge of vocation. It's interesting to note how jargon may be used to both conceal uncertainty and support a position. Adorno, Theodor. The interested parties who depend on the jargon's social-psychological effects for their power or on their public image will never wean themselves from it. Some people will feel humiliated by the lingo. When people sense the frailty of the authority they are looking to for support, even followers who trust in authority will avoid absurdity. According to Adorno (2009:89), whoever is familiar with the jargon "does not have to articulate what he thinks, does not even have to consider it properly." Adorno advises against the excess of jargon in the speaker's speech. This task is taken up by the jargon, which diminishes thought. Because of this, jargon might be heard while a speaker is trying to avoid Friedman concurs with the idea that jargon has an impact on how people think. Jargon can be utilized to make the right impression, but only when it is appropriate. "People employ jargon because they want to appear knowledgeable and credible, but in reality, they sound deeply dim-witted and typically can't be understood, which defeats the purpose of speaking in the first place," asserts Friedman. Jargon's capacity to be comprehended exclusively by those with specific expertise in the field in which this word is typically employed is one of its defining characteristics (Llamas, Mullany, and Stockwell 218). A person unfamiliar with this field may be extremely perplexed by its meaning and frequently has no idea what it means. He has no idea what the word means. Several jargon words from the hotel sector are shown in the following table as samples.

4. Different Classifications of Jargon

There are numerous forms of jargon, all of which are related to specific professions and activities, according to scholars. It is impossible to determine how many different types of jargon there are around the globe. The

diversity of jargon variants is illustrated by the abundance of published jargon dictionaries. Jargon, according to Pechter (2008:171-173), has always existed because it is a result of differences. According to Pechter, jargon is an interpretive category produced out of diversity rather than a feature ingrained in words. Jargon, according to him, is the language of those who think differently from us. This causes the issue of jargon classification to develop because more and more individuals nowadays seem to be using it Hudson (1979:62) suggests new classifications of jargon in addition to the usual split of jargon according to an occupational field based on the variety of uses of the language. According to Hudson, jargon can be used to transmit facts, express power, advertise, or conceal the truth. Hudson can identify numerous jargon subtypes and characterizes them based on their varied applications. These subcategories include jargon used in advertising, business, caste, cumulative, in-house, near-, steroid, resumes, cover the truth, and legal contexts. Adorno (2009:5–13) introduces the term "formal jargon" and offers a different perspective on the classification of jargon. Adorno issues a warning against formal jargon, claiming that it disregards the meaning of the words employed in favor of seeking recognition by their mere delivery. A speech of this nature would become mocking if the jargon were to be eliminated. Jargon terms sound more sophisticated than they are. Adorno associates formal jargon with dependent and underdeveloped professional groupings that engage in intellectual activity. Jargon is a "professional illness" for these folks.

Moony (2011:6) underlines the relationship between jargon and power and underscores how jargon can evoke awe in a listener. Individuals in positions of authority frequently speak (and write) in a way that others find challenging to grasp, he writes. At the same time, using jargon effectively is essential to building and defending power. Military and political language are two instances of power jargon.

5. Linguistic Features of Jargon

Jargon is the conversation that includes terminology and words that are used elsewhere but in a different context, or possibly not at all; this includes newspaper and magazine articles that cover specialist issues and utilize jargon (Finegan, 2008:322). We can come across jargon in its many distinct linguistic forms based on the aforementioned use. Words are the first language construct that springs to mind. For several reasons, academics are hesitant to classify jargon-related terms as inventory words. Several of these issues are described in the paragraphs that follow We must first examine the definition of the word "word" in linguistics. There are various ways to define the word "word," but one of them is that it is the most common naming unit that is free to occupy any place. A word is a laic term that is associated with numerous issues in linguistics, according to Ern (2008:63). In different languages, the same lexical meaning can be represented using a variety of words, yet it is still the same lexical meaning. Because of this, linguists prefer different terminology such a form, moneme, or lexical unit. The words in a language are its most tangible components, according to Finegan (2008:35). He claims that in order to define a word, we must look at its components and how it works in phrases. A word may consist of one significant component or numerous meaningful components. These components may be individual words or other meaningful fragments. According to Finegan, good use of a word necessitates the following four types of information:

- Its sounds and their sequencing (this is called phonological information)
 - Its meanings (semantic information)
 - How related words such as the plural (for nouns) and the past tense (for verbs) are formed (morphological information)
 - Its category (e.g., noun or verb) and how to use it in a sentence (syntactic information).
- Languages distinguish clearly between two types of words: content words and function words, according to Fromkin (2011:38–39). Words that refer to concepts like things, activities, qualities, and thoughts are known as content terms. By way of word-formation processes, the group of content words, also known as open-class words, is continuously expanding. Examples of content words include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Function terms lack distinct lexical meanings or conceptual associations. Relatively stable groups are function words or closed class words, and no new words add to this group. These words serve just grammatical purposes and are necessary according to syntactic standards. The articles, conjunctions, prepositions, and pronouns fall under this category. Because all jargon words are content words associated with objects, activities, qualities, and concepts, we can disregard the function words for our purposes.

6. Usage of Jargon According to Sociolinguistics

We must consider the role of sociolinguistics in jargon use since it permeates the speech of every social group. In addition to helping users communicate technical meaning, jargon also promotes intra-group loyalty. The words socio and linguistics were combined to create the phrase sociolinguistics (Sociolinguistic). Sociolinguistics is the study of the interaction between language and culture. With the study of language and culture and the examination of the function that language plays in the structuring of social groupings, sociolinguistics has strong ties to anthropology and sociology. Social psychology is also related to it, especially in how in-group and out-group identities are determined (Yule, 2006: 205). According to Gumperz in Wardhaugh (2006:11), sociolinguistics seeks to identify a connection between social structure and linguistic structure and studies changes that take place. Every social organization exhibits consistent patterns of behavior among people, within groups, and between groups and individuals. Hence, sociolinguistics researches the social applications of the language. the social evaluation of language variations.

7. Language and Society

The definition of these concepts should come first in any consideration of the interaction between language and society or the numerous ways in which language serves society. A language is what the people who belong to a given society speak. A society is any collection of people who come together for a particular reason. As a result, speech in practically every community takes on a variety of forms (Wardhaugh: 2006:1). Every community has its own rules for communication behavioral patterns, according to Trask. These patterns differ significantly from culture to culture; they are not universal (Ibid:59). Language is a tool for communication among members of a social group, according to Ern (2008:13–17). The main objective is to facilitate information sharing among its users. Apart from its basic role in communication, language has other purposes. They are the phatic, expressive, poetic, conative, referential, expressive, and multilingual functions. All of the aforementioned operations are linguistic macro-operations. In addition to being a means of communication, a language is also a vital tool for learning and explaining the world around us. The cognitive and denotative roles of language are discussed in this context. What qualifies as a language is a political, cultural, and technological issue, according to Mooney (2011:3). He asserts that even if a group of people speaks the same language, they will each use it in their unique way. The people who speak a language and the society in which they do so determine its variety. Language can reveal a lot about people's personalities, roles in groups, and interpersonal interactions. One element of communication abilities is sociolinguistic proficiency. It makes it possible to communicate effectively by using appropriate words (Yule, 2006: 169). According to Bernstein in Wardhaugh (2006:337), communication is how people learn their social roles. Role differences spread throughout society as a result of this process are unique to each social group. Every social group uses a different language, according to Bernstein. The formal code and the public code are two different languages kinds that are used in society, according to Bernstein. The formal code incorporates a variety of conjunction and subordination devices, complicated sentences, and proper grammatical order and syntax. In contrast, the public code employs poorly syntactic short, grammatically basic, and frequently incomplete sentences. There are several probable connections between language and society, according to Wardhaugh (2006:10–12). First, the social structure may affect or decide the linguistic structure and word choice, i.e., the languages that speakers employ to reflect upon their nationality, ethnicity, or even gender. Second, the social structure may be influenced by or determined by the linguistic structure and behavior. Languages, rather than the speakers themselves, can be sexist, according to Bernstein and Whorfian, who support this claim. The fact that language and society are constantly interacting with one another points to a third potential relationship between them. The final option is to presume complete independence between social organization and linguistic structure. Language and society are intertwined and cannot be separated. Language is a system of signs, like vocal sounds, gestures, or written symbols, that is used in communication to represent an idea, attention, and thought. A group of individuals who are associated with religious, cultural, scientific, political, professional, or other reasons is known as a society. The vocabulary of people working at a hotel differs from that of people working in a hospital or anywhere else, symbolizing one group among others. (Ibid:63)

8. Language Variation

Language usage variances that are caused by geographical, social, or contextual factors are referred to as linguistic variation (or simply variation). Interspeaker variation is the term used to describe differences between speakers, languages, and dialects. Intraspeaker variation is the term used to describe variance inside a single speaker's language. Language is flexible in all respects, including phonemes, morphemes, syntactic

constructions, and meanings. Language use can differ significantly between speakers or between groups of speakers in terms of pronunciation (accent), word choice (lexicon), or even preferences for specific grammatical constructions. Sociolinguistics is primarily concerned with a variation. It has been found that variety is frequently the means via which languages change. (R. Trask. 1999:2005) Regional variation is simply one of several types of variations among speakers of the same language. For instance, there are dialects based on profession (for example, a computer programmer and an exterminator have very different meanings for the word bugs), gender (for example, women are far more likely than males to describe a new house as adorable), and education (for example) (the more education people have, the less likely they are to use double negatives). There are dialects of age (teenagers have their slang, and even the phonology of older speakers is likely to differ from that of younger speakers), dialects of social context (we do not speak the same way to our close friends as we do to new acquaintances, the paperboy, etc.), and dialects of culture. Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and social characteristics such as age, sex, education, social standing, professional occupation, and others. These relationships are what lead to language variances. The three main categories of linguistic variation are accent, grammar, and vocabulary (regional dialect), as well as social variation (jargon, slang, and argot) (Finegan, 2008:247). Occupation, according to Meyerhoff (2006:196), is the primary variable used to classify speakers into various socioeconomic groups because it significantly affects a person's standing and chances in life. A language's register variation includes jargon. According to Wardhaugh (2006:52), a register is a collection of linguistic items connected to specific social or occupational groupings. The register is a customary style of using language that is tied to a particular situation, according to Yule (2006:210-211). It is possible to categorize the context as situational, professional, or topical.

The effect of age, sex, socioeconomic status, and attitude results in differences, such as jargon, register, argot, slang, and style. It is normal for the usage of jargon to occur among established social groupings.

9. Methodology

Data Collection

The data of the study is collected by making interviews with three groups of people who use jargon and also by observation. An advanced mobile phone is used to record the data, furthermore, the mobile phone is tested before recording these interviews to ensure the voice quality. The researchers observed three groups of people who use jargon in the workplace. The first group is construction laborers and the second group is doctors, whereas the third group is restaurant service workers. The researchers try to locate the ambiguous expressions that the three groups use and common people do not understand these expressions by asking these three groups to show the meaning of these expressions.

Data Analysis

The researchers base their analysis on the recordings and the observations. The description of data focused on the linguistic features of jargon and how these features differ from the standard dialect, also the researchers state the vocabulary that the speakers of jargon use and try to explain this ambiguous vocabularies. Finally, the researchers examine the social variants between jargon speakers variety and the dialect that common people use and tried to make a comparison between them.

The following tables show the jargonic expressions accompanied by their synonyms in slang language:

Table 1: Building Site Context

No	Profession	Jargon	Slang	Description
1	Construction labor	/tafja/	/xi/ba/	A small piece of wood is used for joining other pieces of wood
2	Construction labour	/endʒa/	/xi/ba/	A piece of wood that length an inch and width an inch.
3	Construction labour	/dago:r/	/xi/ba/	A piece of wood which support other pieces of wood
4	Construction labour	/dʒisir/	/tasli:h/	A bridge made of iron pipes placed over the buildings , used to support the roof.
5	Construction labour	/baghara/	/xi/ba/	A piece of wood used as a stand to carry other pieces of wood.

6	Construction labour	/kursi/	/Kaeda/	Iron pipes used for supporting other pieces of pipes. (its shape looks like a chair)
---	---------------------	---------	---------	--

Table 2 : Medical Context

1	Doctor	/serdzri/	amalia	An operation (A surgery)
2	Doctor	/tifj/	lafaf	A bandage used for rapping the wound
3	Doctor	alsi:zor/	almagas/	A tool used for cutting something.
4	Doctor	/sokjin/	/sahib sawael/	Getting liquids out of the patient's body.
5	Nurse	/alrandom/	/ alsukar/	To check random blood sugar(RBS)
6	Nurse	/aljrjen bag/	/ki:s albol/	A bag used for saving urine out of the patient's body.

Table 3: Restaurant Service Context

1	Restaurant manager	/wear/	/wasil/	It's on me (it means that someone paid money instead of you)
2	waiter	/sti:kat/	/laham/	Pieces of meat sliced into many pieces.
3	Waiter	/kordin blue/	/sadir dadzadz/	A kind of food (a chicken tamped with rice and cheese).
4	chief	/ri:zo/	/timan wa didzadz/	An Italian food, made of rice, chicken and some curry. it considered as appetizers. (unknown by common people)
5	waitress	/nafpa - fat/	/yabsa - dihin/	This expression means that the waitress asks the costumer whether he wants the chicken with or without fat.
6	waitress	/masmota/	/marag samak/	A dried fish soup (popular in south of Iraq)

10. Discussions and Findings

The present study reaches the following findings:

1. Jargon is special expression used by a group of people who has the same field of work. They use certain words as a code , this code cannot be understood by common people (understood only by the same group)
2. speakers of jargon use a random arrangement of words, also discovered that they use codeswitching from one language to another, especially jargon speakers who are doctors and nurses, they use Arabic language but as soon as , they make a codeswitching to English for example: /enti:ni alsi:zor/ (give me the seizure) which is a tool used for cutting things . On the other hand, speakers of jargon who are construction labors use certain expressions borrowed from other languages.
3. speakers of jargon differ in social variants according to their jobs. For example , doctors and nurses use a high prestige of language due to their job require this . whereas construction labors use the vernacular style or the slang language.
4. Restaurant workers use special jargonic expressions derived from different languages such as different types of food like, reezo , masmoota ,etc , which is unknown by common people.

References

- Adorno, T . (2009) . The Jargon of Authenticity. London: Routledge .
 Černý, J .(2008) . Úvod do studia jazyka. Olomouc: Rubico .

- Finegan, E. (2008) . Language: Its Structure and Use. Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth .
- Fromkin , V ,et al .(2011) . An Introduction to Language. Australia: Wadsworth, Centage Learning.
- Hudson , A . (1996) . Sociolinguistics . Cambridge : Cambridge University Press.
- Hudson, K. (1979). The Jargon of the Professions. London: Macmillan.
- Jan, K. (2003). "Terminy "argot", "argotyzm" w polskiej nomenklaturze językoznawczej". Poradnik Językowy (in Polish). Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego.
- Jozef ,M. (1993). Encyklopédia jazykovedy (in Slovak) (1 ed.). Bratislava: Obzor.
- Keith, Y. (2013) . Measuring Sense of Belonging among Employees Working at a Corporate Campus: Implication for Workplace Planning and Management.
- Locker, K. O. "As Per Your Request': A History of Business Jargon." Journal of Business and Technical Communication .
- Meyerhoff, M. (2006). . Introducing Sociolinguistics. Oxon: Routledge .
- Millward , C and Hayes, M. (2012) . A Biography of the English Language, 3rd ed. Wadsworth,)
- Mooney, A , et al.(2011). Language, Society and Power: An Introduction. 3rd. Oxon: Routledge.
- Neil, M. (2012). Writing Essays in English Language and Linguistics: Principles, Tips and Strategies for Undergraduates . Cambridge University Press.
- Oxford Dictionary . (2001). Oxford : Oxford University Press.
- Patrick ,F. (2007). Outsmarting Your Competitors: Techniques of Sales Excellence to Build Profitable Business . Marshall Cavendish.
- Pechter, E. (2008). "In Defence of Jargon: Criticism as a Social Practice." Textual Practice 5.2
- Svetlana ,P. (2011). "Differentiating between various categories of special vocabulary (on the material of a professionals speech of English-speaking stock exchange brokers)". In Rață, Georgeta (ed.). Academic Days of Timișoara: Language Education Today . Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Tomasz ,P. (2008). Język w grupie społecznej: wprowadzenie do analizy socjolektu (in Polish). Wałbrzych: Wydawnictwo Państwowej Wyższej Szkoły Zawodowej im. Angelusa Silesiusa.
- Trask,K. (1999). Key Concepts in Language and Linguistics. Routledge, London.
- Vogel, Radek. (2012). Basics of Lexicology. Brno: Masarykova Univerzita.
- Wardhaugh, R. (2006). An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Yule, G. (2006). . The Study of Language. 3rd. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.