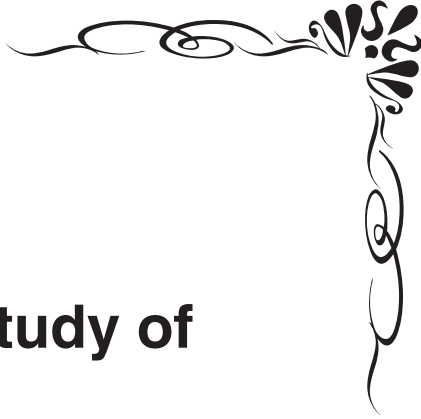




A sociolinguistic study of Diglossia and Lingua Franca

دراسة اجتماعية لغوية للازدواجية اللغوية
واللغة المشتركة

By Ass.Lect. Aya Qasim Hasan
University of Samarra/ College of Education/ En-
glish Department

Aya.qasim@uosamarra.edu.iq

اية قاسم حسن عباس
جامعة سامراء/ كلية التربية/ قسم اللغة الانكليزية





Abstract

Diglossia and lingua franca are two terms related to language use in multilingual societies. When two related languages or dialects are spoken in a society, one variety is used in formal or high-prestige contexts (like education, literature, or the media), while the other variety is used in informal or low-prestige contexts (like casual conversation). Diglossia affects speech communities rather than individuals. People are able to speak multiple languages. Diglossic communities and societies exist. In other words, diglossia is a form of institutionalized or societal bilingualism that requires two varieties to cover all facets of the community. Individual bilingualism is very uncommon in certain diglossic communities, like Haiti, where more than 90% of the population speaks exclusively Haitian Creole. They are consequently unable to engage completely in more formal fields. A language intended to facilitate communication between speakers of different first languages is known as a lingua franca. Tukano is the primary language used by Colombian Indians, and it can be spoken with Indians who reside in the Vaupés region of the northwest Amazon on both sides of the Colombia-Brazil border. Since non-Indians in the area hardly ever learn Tukano, Indians require a second language if they wish to converse with them. Brazilians speak Portuguese, while Colombians speak Spanish. The literature review, definitions, types, and examples of diglossia and Lingua Franca are covered in this study.

Key words: sociolinguistics, diglossia, lingua franca, trade language, high/low variation

المخلص

الازدواج اللغوي واللغة المشتركة هما مصطلحان مرتبطان باستخدام اللغة في المجتمعات متعددة اللغات. عندما يتم التحدث بلغتين أو لهجتين مرتبطتين في مجتمع ما، يتم استخدام أحد التنوعات في السياقات الرسمية أو ذات المكانة المرموقة (مثل التعليم أو الأدب أو وسائل الإعلام)، بينما يتم استخدام التنوع الآخر في السياقات غير الرسمية أو ذات المكانة المتدنية (مثل المحادثة غير الرسمية). تؤثر الازدواج اللغوي على مجتمعات الكلام



بدلاً من الأفراد. يتمكن الناس من التحدث بلغات متعددة. توجد مجتمعات ثنائية اللغة. بعبارة أخرى، الازدواج اللغوي هو شكل من أشكال ثنائية اللغة المؤسسية أو المجتمعية التي تتطلب نوعين لتغطية جميع جوانب المجتمع. ثنائية اللغة الفردية نادرة جداً في بعض المجتمعات ثنائية اللغة، مثل هايتي، حيث يتحدث أكثر من ٩٠- من السكان الكريولية الهايتية حصرياً. وبالتالي، فهم غير قادرين على الانخراط بشكل كامل في مجالات أكثر رسمية. تُعرف اللغة التي تهدف إلى تسهيل التواصل بين متحدثي اللغات الأولى المختلفة باسم اللغة المشتركة. التوكانو هي اللغة الأساسية التي يستخدمها الهنود الكولومبيون، ويمكن التحدث بها مع الهنود المقيمين في منطقة فويس شمال غرب الأمازون على جانبي الحدود الكولومبية البرازيلية. ولأن غير الهنود في المنطقة نادراً ما يتعلمون التوكانو، يحتاج الهنود إلى لغة ثانية إذا رغبوا في التحدث معهم. يتحدث البرازيليون البرتغالية، بينما يتحدث الكولومبيون الإسبانية. تتناول هذه الدراسة مراجعة الأدبيات، وتعريفات، وأنواع، وأمثلة على ازدواجية اللغة واللغة المشتركة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: علم الاجتماع اللغوي، ازدواجية اللغة، لغة مشتركة، لغة التجارة، تباين عالٍ/منخفض

1. Introduction

Sociolinguists investigate how language and society interact. In addition to determining the social uses of language and the methods it is employed to transmit social meaning, they are interested in elucidating why we speak differently in various social circumstances. A community's social interactions, how people express and develop elements of their social identities through language, and how language functions can all be learned by analyzing how people use language in various social circumstances. (Holmes, 2001:1) Diglossia and lingua franca may be used in a wide range of settings. One version is typically used in formal settings like public speaking, writing, and education and is considered the "high" or prestigious form of the language. The second type, on the other hand, is used in casual settings like casual conversations and is considered the "low" or vernacular form of the language. This review of the pertinent literature



will examine the concept of diglossia, its historical and cultural contexts, and its implications for language use and instruction. (Kloss,1968:69). Diglossia is a relatively stable linguistic situation where there is a second, highly codified variety of the language that is learned mainly through formal education and is used for the majority of written and formal spoken purposes, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards). (Fishman,1967:29). The concept of diglossia was initially put forth by Swiss linguist Charles A. Ferguson in 1959. Ferguson described it as “a relatively stable language situation in which, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards), there is a very divergent, highly codified (often grammatically more complex) superposed variety, the vehicle of a large and respected body of written literature, either of an earlier period or in another time period.” (Ferguson, 1959: 336). During that period, the concept of diglossia has been studied across various linguistic and cultural contexts, including nations that use Arabic, Greece, Switzerland, and Haiti, among others. In numerous instances, the high variety is linked to colonial or religious authority, while the low variety is tied to local or regional identities. For example, in countries where Arabic serves as the native tongue, Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is the formal version of the language utilized in official education, literature, and media. In contrast, vernacular Arabic dialects are employed in everyday conversation. Similarly, French is regarded as the prestigious form in Haiti, associated with the educated elite, while Haitian Creole is viewed as the less formal variety, spoken by the majority of the population. (Freeman,1996: 58). There has been extensive debate in academic circles regarding the effects of diglossia on language use and education. Some researchers argue that exposure to a broad spectrum of languages could enhance linguistic accuracy and complexity, suggesting that diglossia might positively influence language and literacy development. Conversely, others argue that diglossia can lead to linguistic and social disparities. This is because the high variety is often associated with privilege, while the low variety is generally linked with stigma or a sense



of inferiority.

2. Literature Review

1.1 Diglossia

Diglossia occurs when the same group of people uses two or more languages for distinct purposes. Many causes exist for this. Linguists and specialists have explained diglossia in several ways. "A relatively stable language situation in which, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards), there is a very different, highly codified (often grammatically more complex) superposed variety," "A large and renowned corpus of written text from a previous period or speaking group uses this variation. Most written communication uses it, and schools teach it..." (Ferguson, 1959: 325).

2.2 Features of Diglossia

there are 9 features presented by Ferguson (Fasold, 1987:34-38). They are:

1. In a diglossian society, there are two variations in one language. These variations are called the high variety (H) like the language of poems, news, mosque and low variety (L) like orders to servants, workers, folk literate, families conversations. There are a few countries that use two varieties in one language.

2. Prestige, in a diglossian society, there is a subjective assumption stating that the H dialect is more prestigious, superior, and more respected, while the L dialect is considered inferior and sometimes its existence is even rejected by some people. This can be seen in most educated Arabians and Haitians who suggest that the L variety does not need to be used even though they use it in daily conversation. In Indonesia, it can also be seen from the phenomenon that the standard Indonesian variety is considered more prestigious than non-standard Indonesian.

3. Literary heritage Folk literature and poetry use the L variety although many society members assume that only literature and poems with the



H variety are actually the literary works of a nation.

4. Acquisition, in terms of acquisition both H and L varieties can be traced as follows: the H variety can be acquired by studying it in formal education, while the L variety can be obtained by socializing with family, friends, and the like. In its application, the H variety is not always used and it is always controlled by grammar rules and principles when it is learned. Meanwhile, the L variety is used regularly and continuously in daily interactions.

5. Standardization, as a variety that is considered prestigious, the H variety is usually standardized through formal codification. It can take the forms of dictionaries, grammars, pronunciation guidebooks, and rule books for using correct and proper language. Meanwhile, the L variety is rarely noticed. If there is any codification, it is usually made by researchers from other speech communities in different languages.

6. Stability, in diglossian communities, the existence of language varieties has been maintained for a significant amount of time. This leads to stable H and L varieties. With the development of language, the L variety's borrowing lexical elements from the H variety is common, but using the L variety's lexical elements in the H variety is less common because the variety is usually used when forced.

7. Grammar, according to Ferguson, similar language forms create H and L varieties in diglossia although there are grammatical differences. Two examples would be German and French. Standard German has four noun cases and two indicative simple tenses while Swiss German has three noun cases and one indicative simple tense. French nouns indicate agreement in number and type (gender) while Creole-Haitian nouns do not.

8. Lexicon, In terms of vocabulary, most of the H and L varieties are the same. However, there are H variety verbs that do not have pairs in the L variety, or vice versa.

9. Phonology, in phonology, the sound systems of H and L varieties are single systems, but the phonology of the H variety is a basic system, while that



of the L variety is a subsystem. The H variety phonology is closer to the general forms underlying it in languages as a whole. The L variety phonology is further from the basic forms.

2.3 Types and Examples of Diglossia

When two dialects of a language coexist in the same community, one is utilized in official contexts like school, literature, and the media, while the other is used in more casual contexts like everyday conversation, this is known as diglossia. There are two types of diglossia:

1. High/Low Diglossia: In this type, one of the language varieties is used in formal contexts and is regarded as prestigious, while the other is used in informal contexts and is seen as less prestigious. (Sridhar& Sridhar,1980:78).

Examples of high/low diglossia include:

- **Arabic:** various dialects of Arabic are the informal varieties, while modern Standard Arabic is the formal variety.

-**Greek:** the informal variant was called Demotic, and the formal variety was called Katharevousa.

2. Diglossia of Functional Distribution: The two language variants of this type serve diverse purposes and are utilized in various spheres of life. (Cheshire,1991:98).

Examples of diglossia of functional distribution include:

-**Swiss German:** Swiss German dialects are used in informal settings, but Standard German is used in formal settings.

- **Hindi:** Regional dialects of Hindi are spoken in informal contexts, while Hindi is utilized in official situations.

-**Chinese:** Regional dialects of this language are spoken in informal contexts, whereas Mandarin is utilized in formal ones.

It is important to remember that diglossia is not just found in these instances: it is present in many other languages worldwide. (Jafee,2009:121).

3.1 Lingua franca

A language that is extensively used by speakers of several languages in a given



nation or area as a communication tool is known as a lingua franca. A lingua franca is a language that is frequently used to promote communication between participants from various linguistic backgrounds in international contexts, such as conferences, seminars, and academic exchanges. A lingua franca is a language that individuals who do not speak the same language use to communicate in order to build mutual understanding and collaboration. (Smith, 2017:23). lingua franca is an ancient term. In the Hellenistic Mediterranean, Greek served as the common tongue. Latin spread across the Roman Empire as a language of commerce and diplomacy. Throughout the Middle Ages, Arabic was the dominant language in the Islamic world, while Latin was used in Europe. During the 16th-century Age of Exploration, Portuguese and Spanish emerged as the dominant languages in colonies in the New World, Africa, and Asia. In the 19th and 20th centuries, English became the universal language because of the British Empire and American culture. (Kramsch, 2014:296). English is the universal language which spoken by more than billion people worldwide, making it the most often taught second language. The global language of business, education, and travel is English. Other languages are used as lingua francas in some places. French continues to be the dominant language throughout Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. The common language of the Middle East and North Africa is Arabic. Mandarin Chinese is emerging as a language used for business and commerce in East Asia. (Seidlhofer, 2011:213). There have been benefits and drawbacks to English's internationalization. It has promoted cross-linguistic communication, international cooperation, and globalization. It also makes it possible for people and businesses to expand. However, concerns regarding linguistic diversity and linguistic imperialism have been sparked by English's dominance as a lingua franca. At the expense of other civilizations, English as a lingua franca advances English-speaking customs and cultures. (Swann & Holliday, 2015: 87). A language used as a communication tool between speakers of different languages who do not speak the same language is referred to as a lingua franca. It is frequently employed in fields including trade, diplomacy, and



others where communication between speakers of many languages is necessary. In the Mediterranean region, the phrase “lingua franca” was first used to refer to a hybrid language that was employed to facilitate communication between speakers of various languages and nationalities. These days, the phrase is applied more widely to any language that facilitates communication between speakers of various languages. (Crystal,2003: 5). A language intended to facilitate communication between speakers of different languages is known as a lingua franca. People who speak various languages can communicate with one another by using a common language known as a lingua franca. A lingua franca is a language that speakers of different languages use to communicate with one another, especially when there isn’t a common language. (Graddol,2006:10). A language that is used as a common communication tool between individuals who do not speak the same first language is known as a lingua franca. A lingua franca is a language that facilitates efficient communication between speakers of different languages by acting as a bridge. (Phillipson,1992:25). A lingua franca is a language that people who speak various languages use to communicate with each other, particularly in diplomatic relations, international trade, and other contexts involving global engagement. A lingua franca is a language that is utilized in a certain area, community, or industry to facilitate communication between speakers of other languages. (Romaine,2010:192).

3.2 Types and Examples of Lingua Franca

A language or dialect that is used to facilitate communication between individuals who do not speak the same original tongue is known as a lingua franca. The following are some varieties and illustrations of lingua franca:

1. **Trade language:** A trade language is utilized as a common language for trading purposes. Examples of this type are:
 - East African Swahili.
 - Cantonese in Southeast Asia.
 - Lingua Franca Nova in universal trade.(Bakker& Matras,2018:178).

2. **Colonial language:** A language that was brought by a colonial power and is



used by several communities as a common tongue is known as a colonial language. Here are several examples:

- English in Nigeria, India, and Ghana.
- French in Algeria and Senegal.
- Portuguese in Angola and Brazil. (Chaudenson,2020:345).

3. International language: A language that is used to facilitate communication between individuals from many nations is known as an international language. Examples like:

- English is an international language used in science, business, and diplomacy.
- French, an international language used in education, culture, and diplomacy.
- Spanish, an international language used in media, business, and culture. (Crystal,2006:1065).

4.Artificial language: A language that has been developed specifically for a goal, such promoting intercultural understanding, is known as an artificial language. Examples like: --

- Klingon, which was developed for the Star Trek television series.
- Esperanto, which was developed as an international language in the late 19th century.
- Toki Pona, which was developed to promote mindfulness and simplicity. (Romaine,2010:518).

5. Pidgin language: it is a simplified language that emerges as a communication tool between individuals who do not speak the same language is known as a pidgin language. Examples like:

- Tok Pisin in Papua New Guinea.
- Bislama in Vanuatu.
- Chinook Jargon in the Pacific Northwest of North America. (Tryon,2017:281).

Conclusions

When two distinct language varieties are employed in the same speech group, this is known as diglossia. When two languages are spoken in a country, the high



variety is typically utilized in formal contexts and the low variety in informal ones. Conversely, a lingua franca is a language that people who do not speak the same language use to communicate with one another. The notion that language use is closely related to social and cultural aspects is one of the most significant lessons to be learned from researching diglossia and lingua franca. The majority of diglossic societies are highly divided socially, with low variety language being used for everyday communication and high variety language being associated with status and power. In a similar vein, the employment of a lingua franca—a language intended to facilitate communication between speakers of different languages—is frequently linked to questions of power and domination. .

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