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Gender lexical variation in the Speech community of Relizane A case study : Men and women from Relizane

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Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to :

The dearest people to my heart, to the memory of my father who experienced agreat happiness whenever I made a step forward in my studies .

To my mother with love. A special dedication to my husband Abdellah who has brought peace,delight and love to my life .I apologize for not being available to him most of the time .I must say that without my husband's love, help and encouragement this study would have been impossible .

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Abstract

The present investigation is an attempt to analyse the sociolinguistic situation of an Algerian western town:Relizane .The main purpose of this study is to shed light on the gender lexical variation in the speech community of Relizane .Mainly gender lexical variation among verbs,nouns,adjectives and adverbs .This research work consists of three chapters :The first chapter provides an over view of the field of sociolinguistics in general mainly Gender and Language through defining the key concepts that I have delt with .The second chapter draws an overall picture of the linguistic situation of Algeria in general then of Relizane in particular. The most important part in this chapter is devoted to the methods used to collect data then participants after,procedure and the sample of the research .Third chapter provides the interpretations and discussions of data collected in chapter two .In doing so ,I have collected the data using two methods namely:Observation and Interview .The participants were selected randomly in their informal situations such as :Home,with neighbours and relatives,shops and bus …etc.40 women and 30 men aged between eighteen and fifty five years old, who live in Relizane centre were observed in their direct conversation .And about 70 men and women aged between twenty and sixty years old were interviewed.As a result ,the analysis and interpretations of the data helped me to come up with the fact that gender lexical variation exist in the speech community of Relizane and that there are different ways men and women say things .This lexical variation between men and women in Relizane speech community led to linguistic consequences, namely multilingualism , bilingualism, borrowing ,code switching and diglossic situation .

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List of abreviations

M S A :Modern standard Arabic

C A :Classical Arabic

D A:Dialectal Arabic

H: High

L: Low

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key to phonetic Symbols

ا	ء	'	-	ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك	ق	ف	غ	ع	ص	ش	س	ز	ر	د	خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ء
ə	i	U	a	j	w	h	n	m	l	k	q	f	ɣ	ʕ	s	ʃ	s	z	r	d	x	h	dʒ	ө	t	b	?

ɒ	i	æ	ɔ	ŋ	ɪə	eɪ
ɑː	iː	ʌ	ɔː	uː	ʊə	əʊ

VII

General Introduction

Sociolinguistics as an interdisciplinary field of study was interested in language in relation to society .A long ago ,the human being realized his /her inability to live alone to meet his /her requirements ,he /she was obliged to to achieve communication ,he /she used language as the earliest and most important mean,which was either oral or body language .Afterdealing with language in relation to society , sociolinguistics have turned its intrests into language and gender . In this research, gender and language are seen from different perspectives and approached through the difference paradigm.Through this research we will tackle the fact that language use varies from one to another because of many criteria .Accordingly,each language variety has a special use and function .For instance :Algeria ,a multilingual society ,has each regional part with a different variety .Our main intrest in this research is the western part,and more precisely Relizane;where we will examine Lexical Variation between men and women in this speech community . Among the linguists interested in variation between men's and women's: Robin.Lakoff , Deborah. Tannen,andWilliam.Labov. In fact many raisons were behind this choice such as :

_Since I belong to this region ,I am interested in its lexical variation especially between men and women .

_Gender and lexical variation are highly important fields within the scope of sociolinguistics which is in the same time my field of study.

_The arrival of foreign inhabitans to this region has lead to the emergence of various ways of speaking especially between men and women .

The present research questions are:

_Does lexical variation actually prevail between men and women in the speech community of Relizane. ?

_Does lexical variation co-exist within gender speakers in the speech community of Relizane. ?

_Do men and women speak differently in Relizane.?

_What are the different ways men and women say things in Relizane.?

_Why do men and women say the same thing differently in Relizane .?

In order to find adequate answers in light of the research questions raised ,the following hypotheses are advanced :

_Relizane as any region, has its special and own variation .

_Speakers have different ways of speaking with the same speech community .

_There are some sociolinguistic phenomena that motivate this variation .

_Within the same area ,we can find different pronunciation ,vocabulary,lexical terms and the unique raison is gender .

_Among the raisons of language variation are gender and language as Labov's hypothesis. (1960's).

In order to test hypotheses and get the required data ,the latter will be collected through unstructured observation of both men's and women's direct conversations .Then, the second method is direct interview with men and women in their informal situations .Both methods were used by Labov in analyzing lexical variation .

The present study consists of three chapters .Chapter one is entittled the literature review and theoretical issues ,that provides basic sociolinguistic concepts like :Gender and Language in general ,each concept invertes other subtittles in relation to our study .It mainly treats language variation ,gender and lexical variation .Each term is provided with a number of scientific deffinitions from different perspectives .However,the second chapter is entitled method section and practical issues .The field work includes two main parts ,in which the first part is devoted to the linguistic situation of Algeria ,the context of the study and the most significant language varieties namely:Classical Arabic ,Dialectal Arabic ,Modern standard Arabic ,Berber and French .And the second part is concerned with the methodology ,data collection techniques and description .Finally, chapter three is concerned with results ,data analysis ,discussions and interpretations.Plus limitations and recommendations .

Chapter One

Literature review and theoritical issues

1.Introduction

The first chapter provides the theoretical basis of sociolinguistics and gender studies of this study.Ittakles the relation between language and gender and considers the criteria associated with language variation in terms of age ,sex,occupation ,social class,style and region .After that the relationship between multilingualism and language variation is provided.

1.2.Gender and Language

Gender and language research is an interdisciplinary field of study involved in how men and women use language.Talbot(2010), focused on the idea that gender influences our behaviors when we use language, either by using this language or when language refers to us.Moreover, the study of gender and language have started by the publication of Lakoff'S article "Language and woman's place,1972". Lakoff   (1972) argued that women and men use language differently.ThenLakoff (1972) provided her idea by some examples:First,women' speech is tentative and powerless like using(sort of, I think) (Lakoff,1972).

Later on,DeborahTannen(1990) disputed that both boys and girls interact differently because they belong to different subcultures.BothLakoff(1972) and Tannen(1990) agreed that the difference between women' and men' language is based on male dominance.InMan made language Dale spender(1980) argued that male dominance over women is the raison that have made men and women speak differently.Additionally,Jennifer Coates(2004) in her book "Women,Men And Language" explained how language and gender researches developed within the scope of Sociolinguistics.Then ,Coates (2004) stated that we all have opinions about the existence of gender distinctions in language.

After Holmes(2001) stated that men and women neither use same language nor different one.Finally,scholars interested in gender and language studies have created four approaches to language and gender.The next is the difference approach.

1.3.The Difference Approach

In the difference approach men and women are seen different.Men and women are socialized differently right from their birth.So they, belong to different sub_cultures.This difference is shown in their ways of conversation.(Maltz& Borker,1982)

Later on ,Deborah Tannen(1990) has distinguished between men' and women' talk,in which the former is rapport and the latter is report.Then ,John Gray(1992) stated that men and women differ from each other because men are from Mars and women are from venus.Aries (1996) agreed and supported the same idea above with an example :women use tags to encourage communication where as men in order to elicit information.Moreover,when women ask questions men interpret it as lack of knowledge.On the other hand ,when men ask questions,women interpret it as showing intrest;men' and women' different speech features are based on psychological issue.Finally,Coates(2004)quoted"The difference approach emphasizes the idea that women and men belong to different subcultures."(p.06)

1.3.1. Male Speech Features

Men and women are totally different speakers even within the same speech community. (Holmes,2001) The following views indicate male speech features:First,according to Deborah Tannen(1990) men uses a language of status and freedom that is useful in cross cultural communication.Then, males dominate females in some Folklinguistics(Lakoff,1975) as cited in

(James.B,2003)ie, this domination is seen in conversations and in several ways.(Lakoff,1975) (as cited in James.B,2003).

Man in all his relations as a doctor or a parent is viewed as strong person (West&Zimmerman,1977,1984) (as cited in James.B,2003).According to James(2002) men use a different grammatical structure and are less polite if compared to women.In a research conducted by Zimmerman &West(1975) concluded that men interrupted women in a given conversation 55 times,where as women only twice (as cited in James,2003).Then ,as a sociolinguistic investigation,Coates(2004) discovered that in Norwich,Glasgow…etcmen'speech features are characterized by non standard speech.

According to Trudgill(2000) men swear more and utilize taboo terms (as cited in Li.Hedenmalm,nd).Li.Hedenmalm(nd)   concluded   that   men'   speech   contains discussions,,oppositions and insults .Finally,James(2003) claimed that men use more vulgar terms ie,it is logic and happens many times in their conversations.

1.3.2.Female Speech Features

According to Cameron(1990) among the first linguists who discussed gender speech features was the Dane OttoJesperson in his article "The Woman"(1990)(as cited in Gary.Massey,2005). Women are deficient speakers if compared to men (Jesperson,1990).Later on ,Lakoff (1975) referred to the following women' speech features:First,women use hedges such as "you know," "you see".Second,they use tag questions like:"she is very nice,isn't she?" Third,women use declarative sentences with rising intonation for instance:"It's really good?".Moreover, the use of empty adjectives for example:Divine,cute and special colour terms

as" Aquamarine" (Lakoff,1975).According to Lakoff(1975) these features proved women' powerlessness and weakness.

Then, Brown(2004) agreed with Lakoff (1975) that women hedge frequently and utilize tags(as cited in Gary.M,2005).Holmes(2001) provided examples about female speech features in English language like:women utilize mostly/ing/ pronunciations and few times/in/ pronunciations if compared to men .As an example ,swimming and typing. Consequently, women are characterized by using standard forms if compared to men .Additionally ,Holmes(1992) In her studies on female speech features suggested that women use affective expressions like "oh","it's you"…etc (as cited in Li Hedenmalm,nd).

After that,Lakoff(1975) and Wardhaugh(2002) agreed that women use polite terms like : Please,thanks within their conversation (as cited in Li Hedenmalmn,d).According to Coates(2004) women utilize minimal responses to show their interest.Labov(1972) described women as lames,their speech is characterized by vernacular terms .Then,Labov(1972) proved that since women use vernacular terms their speech is non standardie, as a speech feature,women are deviant groups (Coates,2004) .Finally,James.B (2003) stated that women use more listening devices such as (mmm,yeah…etc) compared to menie,women listen more than talk.

1.4. Language Variation

According to Ronald Ward Raugh(n,d) sociolinguistics deals with the use of language within a given social context. The fact that language is employed differently by the individuals is referred to as language variation. Indeed speakers vary in their use of language according to certain criteria. First, language varies according to speakers' age .This is obvious in the way old and young individuals speak.As an example,fathers use a polite and formal style,and add well

organized patterns.Their children ,on the other hand ,speak in a more spontaneous way(Ronald Ward .R ,nd) .Second,language varies according to sex;men ' language differ relatively from the one of women .Moreover,men' language is less polite ;non informal,less clearly pronounced and simpler.By contrast, women tend to be more polite ,prestigious, clearly pronouncing and complex in their speech .For instance, in Japen ,men and women are two different lexical items to express the same meaning as"naka" for men'form while "onaka" for women's form which both mean stomach.Female nouns have the polite prefix/o/;this what makes Japenese female speech more polite than male speech .(Holmes,2001).

Third,language also varies according to occupation. Eachoccupation, such as Medicine ,Teaching and Mechanics,has its special vocabulary.In other words ,it possesses its own Jargon . Forexample, a teacher uses educational words where as a doctor uses scientific terms . This kind of Jargon can be related to the educational and financial status(Ward Raugh,nd).According to Holmes (2001),language differs over time ,in physical space and socially.

More over,"language varies according to its uses as well as its users,according to where it is used and to whom,as well as according to who is using it "(Holmes,2001,p.223).Which means that language differs according to the context of its use .Holmes(2001) provided an example of different requests to gain one information,one from a friend ,another from a lawyer,and the last one from a teacher.The different context of each request influenced the way language was performed by the speakers above .

In addition,language variation includes other many types of variation ;The most considerable are : Regional ,social ,lexical and stylistic."..any linguistic phenomenon we want to treat as a single unit "(Downs,1998,p.17)is referred to as a variety. Varieties may be mutually intelligible .Here ,relation between language variation and speech community may occur.

1.4.1.Language Variation And Speech Community

Corder (1973) defined speech community as follows: "A speech community is made up of individuals who regard them selves as speaking the same language."(p.53).Though,within the same speech community language may vary between individuals ."There is no single style or single variety speaker;no speech community that does not have a choice of varieties"(The social study,nd,p.05).Moreover,"Language shift is the process by which a speech community in a contact situation(ie,consisting of bilingualism)(Ravindranath .M,2009,pp.7,15).Holmes (1992) proved this idea by an example of men and women belong to the same speech community but their language vary totally.

1.4.2.Lexical Variation And Gender

"Gender is classifying any person as a male or a female ie,male has to fit masculine norms whereas female to the feminine norms."(Holmes,2001,p.303).Men and women generally differ in terms of the use of vocabulary .This difference lead to the phenomenon of lexical variation. According to the article "lexical variation and change "(n,d),lexical variation means distinction in words ;what do these words mean and what is their etymology.The question we may ask here :How do men and women make a selection of words they use? or to which extent their choice is based on? This question will be answered in the following chapters.

Moreover,all languages make gender differences using pronouns for instance ",he "for males ",she "for females and "it "for both (in English language) (Holmes,2004).Each language and variety   may face the phenomenon of lexical variation within the same speech community;both genders are responsible in this difference .Lexical Variation may happen in different gender and also within the same gender, due to many raisons like :Age….etc.In my

opinion and according to the males' and females' speech features discussed before ,I have personally remarked a large difference between men and women in terms of words,which has proved to me the appearance of lexical variation between gender users.

1.4.3.Regional Variation:Dialect in contact

According to Holmes (2008),language is regionally variable .Each region has a different variety from the other ones.For example in Algeria , each region has its own variety : In Tlemcen ,they say /ʔaelek/ (say) where as in Relizane they say /gaelek/.As another point in case ,Algeria enjoys numerous   regional   varieties .Despite of their huge similarities ,they hold some differences in terms of grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

Concerning grammar ,women's words are different from men and vice versa.As regards vocabulary ,each region may use special terms since each area has its own dialect. Forinstance ,Constantine in habitans speak differently compared with speakers from Oran .The former say /hih/ (yes),but the latter employs /wah/.As for pronunciation for example ,in Algiers,/q/ sound is used whereas in Oran ,speakers use the /g/ sound .

According   to Crystal(1983), in case the difference between varieties is because of grammar ,vocabulary and pronunciation ,each variety is designated as a unique dialect .If these varieties are examined under their different pronunciation only,they are said to be different accents.This will be followed in the present work between both men and women .

1.4.3.1.Dialect Contact

As mentioned above ,regional varieties may linguistically be different but still considerablysimilar.They are said to be mutually intelligible due to many factors such as

migration from one region to another ,closely related varieties may come into contact .Trudgill (1986) designated the phenomenon as dialect in contact "By which is meant contact between varieties of language   that are mutually intelligible………."(p.1).The area where different background speakers live will inevitably experience variation at the linguistic level .This work is restricted to lexical variation .

According to Trudgill (1986) the result of contact between closely related varieties of a language   leads to mutual influence, among   these varieties :An example related to dialect contact is as follows :If a speaker of American English and another of English English come into contact ,each of them knowing very well that ,say American English "eggplant" corresponds to English English "aubergine",it is perfectly possible that the American speaker will eventually start saying "aubergine",and/ or that the English person will begin to say "eggplant".

1.4.3.2.Dialect

Broadly speaking, dialects differ from one another because of distance ;the more remote they are from another ,the more they are different .Geographical boundaries ,like rivers and mountains ,play a significant role in shaping dialect differences(Trudgill,2000).For example in Algeria ,eastern dialects differ from the western ones.

 "The term dialect refers strictly speaking to differences between kinds of language which are differences of vocabulary and grammar as well as pronunciation"(Trudgill,2000,p.05)

1.4.3.3.Accent

Holmes(2008) stated two examples useful to illustrate Accent ;RP(received pronunciation) refers to the accent of British English .It is neutral in the sense that it is not tied to any particular geographical locality. It is used by

_The British Queen.

_Politicians in the discourse .

_The B B C channel.

_British public and private schools .

_Foreign teachers all over the world .

Therefore,Rp English is prestigious throughout the United Kingdom and the world as a whole.Another example ,in Algeria ,is that the accent used in official domains differs from the one employed in daily life .Moreover,"…….The term accent,on the other hand ,refers solely to differences of pronunciation "(Trudgill,2000,p.O5).

1.4.4.Social Variation

According to Trudgill (2000) and Holmes(2008) language variation may emerge as a result of social hierarchy. As an illustration ,British society is constructed on the basis of classes ,upper class, middle class and lower class .The members of each category use a distinct variety which identifies their class. For instance ,the upper class is known as rich and educated ;its members use formal and prestigious lexical terms .In contrast, lower class is poor and less educated .Its variety is less formal but more spontaneous .Sometimes, lower class speakers pretend to speak like the upper class. They in fact over correct their speech to the point of making

eventual errors.For instance ,the upper class in English says "I did it yesterday ",whereas,lower class use " I done it yesterday".

1.4.5.Stylistic Variation

As Trudgill (2000) points out ,this variation may depend on the setting .The formal setting requires a particular variety (or a style) and the informal one necessitates a different style .An example is in French ",tu" (you) is used in familiar discussion and "vous"(you) is employed to address unknown people or those with a superior status .In fact ,stylistic variation depends on the variety it self .For instance ,British English tends to be more stylistic than American English. (Trudgill ,2000).

1.5.Bilingualism

Bilingualism is commonly defined as the use of at least two languages by an individual. Moreover, bilingualism is "The result of the use of more than one code by an individual or a society."(Bell,1976,p.135).As the example of Trudgill (2000) Canadians speak both English and French .The Algerians,on the other hand ,use Classical Arabic (C A) and /or Dialectal Arabic (DA) alternatively with French (FR).Classical Arabic and French are both used in institutions ,the media and education but DA and FR in daily conversational situations .

1.5.1.Code Switching

In multilingual societies , a highly important linguistic phenomenon emerges out .It is code _switching .According to Holmes (2001):"people sometimes switch code within a domain or a social situation .When there is some obvious change in the situation ,such as the arrival of new

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person , it is easy to explain the switch "(p.35) . As an example :English language students speak English at the" Amphitheatre ",where as they switch code ,out side ,to dialectal Arabic .

1.5.2.Diglossia

Finegan(1999) stated that the origin of the concept diglossia was first presented by the French Arabist Marçais's" La Diglossie Arabe"(1930);his observations were based on north African linguistic situation .However,Ferguson (1959) was the first American linguist who introduced the term diglossia into English sociolinguistics in 1959 .He identified four languages :Arabic ,Haitian Creole, Greek and Swiss German .The concept is defined as follows :

Diglossia is 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 early period or in another speech community, which is learned largely by formal education and is used for most written and formal spoken purposes ,but is not used by any sector of the community for ordinary conversation .(Ferguson ,1959,p.16)

Accordingly ,diglossia is the existence of two related varieties within the same speech community ;one is high (hereafter,H) and the other is low (hereafter ,L) (Holmes, 2001).Folllowing Ferguson (1959),H occurs only in situations where L is not appropriate ;and L takes place in a situation where H does not occur .In Algeria for example ,CA represents H while DA refers to L .CA IS then generally used at Schools, Mosqs and University lectures ,whereas ,DA is employed in ordinary conversations or at home (informal situation).

Finally ,Ferguson (1959) believes that diglossia seems to be stable for centuries .Algeria for instance ,has witnessed the presence of diglossia for a long time .The same linguistic situation is relatively noticed nowadays.

1.5.3.Borrowing

Generally, individuals may go throughout a lot of words .While communicating ,a speaker does not probably find the appropriate word in his language to convey his message .This has led to the appearance of borrowing ."…which occurs when the new word becomes more or less integrated into the second language "(Spolsky,1998,p.49).In other words and according to Ward.R (n,d) borrowing is defined as a way of adding new vocabulary items into a language . For instance ,English language has borrowed some words from Italian language like "Piano " and "Opera ".They are pronounced according to the sound system of English and not of the source language .

Algeria as a multilingualism country ,is also characterized by borrowing in which ,people borrow some words from the French language .For instance, the word "La chambre" is used as "chambra" in Algerian' speech .Now Multilingualism may occur .

1.6.Multilingualism:Languages in contact

According to Marçais (1930) and throughout history, there has been intensive contact between language communities .This is due to many reasons .Colonization is one point in case through which colonizing and colonized speech communities come into contact with each other .For instance ,the language of French colonization got into contact with many African languages ,particularly those used in Algeria .Another raison is that speakers may move from their community to another for the purpose of trade .Their variety comes into contact with other

different varieties .A third   cause   may be assigned   to migration .For example ,when the Algerians migrate to another speech community, they will inevitably use more than one variety.This situation   will lead to language   contact .As a result ,many   language contact phenomenon can take place when speakers of different distinct varieties interact .(Marçais ,1930).

2.Conclusion

This chapter has dealt with the speech features characterized by men and women and the fact that language variation   depends on gender ,age,sex,and occupation .Language may also vary   according to region social class   and setting .Varieties may   come into contact   and influence men' and women' speech.If these varieties are mutually intelligible ,dialect contact arises.In case they are mutually unintelligible,they lead to the emergence of language contact .The next chapter will be devoted to the linguistic situation of Algeria,the context of the present study and methods followed.

Chapter two

Method section and pratical issues

1.Introduction

The following chapter tackles the context of the current investigation as practical issues .Historical background of the linguistic situation in Algeria is presented in general ,then the sociolinguistic situation in Relizane in particular .The different Algerian varieties are illustrated as a concrete example of Multilingualism.They are in constant contact and interact distinctively in different situations.These varieties are mainly:ClassicalArabic,DialectalArabic,Modern standard Arabic ,French and Berber.The most important part of this chapter is concerned with the field work .It identifies   the participants,the method and the procedure of the   of the present investigation plus the sample of the research .

1.1. The Historical Background Of The Linguistic Situation In Algeria

Algeria ,a former French colony and a currently independent republic in the Maghreb ,is the second largest   country in Africa and the tenth largest country in the world .Algeria has inherited a complex identity from its strategic position and various invasions and settlements .The latter has caused the absorb of different foreign languages and cultures,so ,people in Algeria   have experienced a vast culture of linguistic contact through several invasions .(Hassaine.Z,1984)

According to Ammour.N (2012) ,Algeria has a profound linguistic profile since it is a complex Multilingual country ; due to the existence of three languages :Arabic, Berber and French .The linguistic situation in Algeria is influenced by some reasons ,the most important ones are the several settlements viewed historically in this country like:Turkish, Spanish and French that enriched the Algerian vocabulary.(Ammour.N ,2012)

According to Ammour.N (2012) historically ,Algerians spoke Berber first ,since Berbers settled in Algeria for a long period, about 4000 years .As a result, many Berber varieties were introduced for example : First ,Kabylian ; the variety used in the mountains of Kabylie. Second, we have Chaoui in the East ,more precisely Auresrange .Third ,we have Mzabi in Southern part.Moreover,in the mid 7[th]century,Arabsettlers /invaders identified Arabic language .The latter was accompanied by Islam as result , Algeria became a member in the Arab Muslim world. It's official language is Arabic .(Ammour. N ,2012)

Moreover,in Algeria Arabic is spoken in three ways .First , Classical Arabic as a language of the Quran which is used also at schools .Second ,Modern Standard Arabic as a new version utilized in official   contexts as Media. Third, Algerian Arabic ,that is presented in different dialects, in all regions used by Algerian speakers in informal situations. (which is the sample of our study)(Ammour.N,2012)

Additionally, and according to Chami .A (2009) the linguistic situation in Algeria is characterized by distinct civilizations and settlements such as :Tamazight, Greeks, Romans that had an important impact on language used in this country. Finally, and to conclude the linguistic profile in Algeria ,we have to shed light on French language used in Algeria since the French colonizations ;among their aims make French language the official one in Algeria and delete Arabic .These events had influenced the Algerian communities in which French language still take place in formal and non formal situations .Thus, became the second official language in Algeria .(Ammour. N,2012)

1.1.2.The Context Of The Present Study:The Sociolinguistic situation in Relizane

The word Relizane comes from " Ighil Izane ",that is burning knoll .It is a Western Algerian town ,situated near " Wadi Mina " which is a tributary of Chlef river.Moreover ,it is built near the ruined Roman settlement of Mina .Modern Relizane is a typical French style town of wide streets ,parks and surrounded by orchards and gardens.(Abadie.L,n,d)

As an important crossroad of civilizations ,the region of Relizane offers sights and monuments like :Roman,Phoenician and Turkish .Additionally,during the last colonization ie,the French one ,popular resistance was at its height in 1864 under the   iron role of "Sheikh Lazreg.Belhadj."(Abadie .L,n,d).The language variety under investigation in this study is spoken in an area called Relizane .The latter is characterized also by some linguistic and sociolinguistic features like the use   of Spanish words as :"couzina" and French language as "tabla" and "chambra".

1.3.Classical Arabic

Classical Arabic henceforth C A, is the official language in Algeria .It shapes a huge amount of classical literature .It is then a written medium .C A is the language of Islam ;over years preserved by the Quran   (ie sacred language) .Traditionally C A and Islam are raised as factors of one entity.As a relationship between written form and religion for example :Many texts in   C A begin with citations from the Quran, or with the mention of God's name.As a result , this fact displays that written C A has a strong impact upon the Algerian people in particular and the Maghrebins as a whole. (Moha-Ennadji,n,d)

Moreover,and according to Ammour.N(2012) historically,C A is considered as the original language spoken by western Hijazi tribes of Quraysh and the language of the holy book of Muslims .As a result, the Arab grammarians during the 8th and 9th centuries tried to apply codification to Arabic,in order to avoid mistakes in pronunciation.

1.3.1.Modern Standard Arabic

According to Ammour.N(2012) Modern Standard Arabic, henceforth M S Ais a new distinct version of C A .It includes modified vocabulary and special lexical items .For example, the whole Algerian population speak M S A .Though, morphologically and syntactically it is the same with C A .But it includes new vocabulary and practical terms .Moreover, the Arab world do not use M S A as a native language but it is allowed at schools for example, teachers in the primary school use it to facilitate explanation second,in Media and some other official conversations .

Finally ,M S A started to exist during the 19th century ,when the Arabs tried to have an independent home land .Their aim was to make a unique nation for the Atlantic Ocean until the Arabian sea, and stop the Western colonization in the Arab world .For them the best way to end colonization is to unify their language, since it is the first element to share the same community.(Ammour .N,2012)

1.3.2.Dialectal Arabic

Dialectal Arabic ,henceforth D A is the mother tongue of the majority of Algerians .It is not codified ,and therefore not taught at schools .It has a very big importance in informal situations and domains as ,family, second ,friendship ,third,theatre for example ,the majority of Algerian plays are performed in D A.Fourth, other public places like women at the traditional bath or hair

dresser and men in cafeteria or out side.D A is regarded as useless in important matters ,because it has no official status and codification. (Moha .Ennadji,n,d)

1.4.Berber

Brahimi (2000) states that "Berber is spoken in a number of African countries including Mali, Niger, Mouritania and Morocco"(p.71),this research paper is based on Berber in Algeria. The Berbers are the first inhabitans of Algeria for some 5000 years .They are highly influenced by the different invasions (ie right from the Phoenician arrival to the French invasion) .Berber variety has acquired the status of a national language since the constitutional amendment of may 8th ,2002.It is spoken in different parts in Algeria.(Moha .Ennadji,n,d)

Moreover,the Algerian television is diffusing a daily edition in Berber dialect. Although Berber is regarded as the second language in Algeria after C A ,it is mostly used in Berber ,Television and Radio as well as in communication in such towns as in Bejaia, Djidjel …..etc.(Moha .Ennadji,n,d)

Additionally, Ammour.N(2012) agreed with Moha .Ennadji (n,d) that Berber language started to be used as an official language in Algeria since May 2002;she added that only a small group of inhabitans about 15% of the whole Algerian population speak Berber language .

1.5.French

The French language was first introduced by the French colonists into the Algerian society .After independence ,most of the Algerians got the right to go to school and learn French ,after that ,French learning was restricted to only a minority with access to French schooling .Although ,the status of French was and is still, nowadays reduced to a foreign language ,it is

widely used by government ,media ,administration, university ,as well as in written domains. (such as literature ,some newspapers ……) (Moha .Ennadji,n,d)

Indeed for young generation ,French is studied in the Algerian schools ,it would be never considered as a foreign language since it is part of the linguistic environment .For that reason ,it is regarded as being the second language .

1.6.Data Collection

In this research paper, data were collected in interpretative research using two qualitative techniques ;namely Observation and Interview. And since we are dealing with Gender Lexical Variation ,observation is the ideal technique. In this method   data were collected   using unstructured covered observation .The second technique ie interview was carried as a supporting tool to uphold the results .

1.6.1.Observation

In this study ,observation   was the most useful instrument .Being a member of the understudied speech community of Relizane ;made me very practical in getting enough data by taking notes or sometimes recording direct conversations between men and women   in the community of Relizane .According to Ibid (n,d)"Participant observation can be an enormously fruitful method for sociolinguistics analysis. It produces a tremendous supply of high quality data and crucial insight into community dynamics."(p:71),as cited in Ammour.N(2012).

1.6.2.Interview

The second instrument followed in collecting data was the interview; since data collected in observation were not easy to analyse and interpret .This method was used as a supporting tool for validity of results .

1.7.The sample of investigation

In this research paper, I delt with Gender Lexical Variation in the speech community of Relizane Centre ;ie participants were selected randomly in their informal conversation and situations ,more exactly :Men and women at home with neighbours ,relatives, shops, bus and supermarkets. women also in the traditional bath ,hair dresser and wear dresser. The aim behind this selection is that participants within their formal conversations ,there were no variation of language .More over, in investigating lexical variation in a given community ,random sampling is recommended.

1.7.1.Participants

40 women and 30 men aged between eighteen (18) and fifty five (55) years old who live in Relizane .They were observed in direct conversation in their informal situations like :private institutions ,in the street ,restaurant …ect. Additionally ,about 7O men and women aged between twenty (20) and sixty (60) years old were interviewed also in their informal conversation .Finally ,all the participants involved in this research paper belong to Relizane community, and have different levels of education .

1.9.Procedure and Research Design

In a period of four (04) months ,I started collecting my data .Concerning the first method ,it was easy for me to collect data using observation since it was in the informal situation where I am habitually present .'men ' and' women' conversations were recorded and sometimes notes were taken .As a second method ,participants were subjected to an interview ;all of them were given an oral already made list of two hundred (2OO) items ,and were required to supply translation of each item in Relizane D A.Since the aim of the interview was straight forward ,the questions asked were direct and were of three types :

_How do you say ……?

_what is …………………?

_What do you mean by ………?

For the sake of objectivity ,the questions in the interview were in French ,the use of C A or D A might have influence the informants' oral production .As an interviewee I used ,whenever possible ,regulators (gestures,head shaking).Their intervention helped in eliciting more data from the informants .

2.Conclusion

This chapter has introduced the corpus of the study under investigation .AS Well as the case study and the sample of investigation by giving the reasons behind this selection .Then, the most important part represents the methodological instruments used in collecting data. Afterthat ,each technique is detailed alone according to the content questions format and focus. Finally ,data gathered in this study will be analysed and discussed in the following chapter.

Chapter three

Data Analysis and interpretation

1.Introduction

The present chapter is concerned with the results and analysis of the data obtained from the observation of both men and women in their informal situations .And also the data gathered from the interview .This chapter provides the different categories of gender lexical variation among: Verbs ,Nouns, Adjectives and Adverbs ,presented in different language varieties used in the speech community of Relizane .

1.2.The results

Data elicitation showed a high lexical variation among gender speakers(men /women) that we have encountered either in the observation or the interview .The results could be subdivided into two parts. First, variety of lexical items recorded from the observation and variety of lexical items given by the interviewees. Each part is represented in a number of tables . Gender lexical variation in our present research is mainly noticed among verbs, nouns, adjectivesand adverbs . The followings are the results ,their analysis and interpretations .

1.2.1.Data analysis of the observation

In the observation I found gender lexical variation including a mix between language varieties used in Relizane speech community such as: C A ,M S A ,D A ,and French.Data gathered in the observation were not easy to be analysed.And they are as follows :

Table 01: Gender lexical variation among adjectives in : C A ,M S A ,D A and French .

Gloss	Gender Lexical variation	
	Men	Women
Beautiful	ʃbeb	mesrær,zin
Nervous	mqələq	mnervi,hæmi
Calm	kʌlm	?ækel
Faithful	kɑnfiens	Mu:ltiqʌ
Talkative	jəhdərbezef	hʌdɑ:r
Delicious	bni:n	jhebəl,ʃbeb
Hot	nɑ:rteʃ?əl	humæn
Cold	smikri	berd
Warm	rʌjʌ	mli:h,?ələmʌ
Rich	jehd, ?ndu	mrefeh,bxi:r?lih
Fantastic	hɑjəkbi:rə	gæ? ʃəkæjen
Ugly	Xʌser	meʃiʃbeb
Tired	meʃitəjeg	?əjen
Good	nesmleh	Mlih
Kind	?əkel	msəgem
Bad	mekænhələ	kiwəlu
Cultivated	mtəqef	qəri
Proud	metkʌber	ræfedru:hu
Clean	jeʃ?əl	nqəi
Fast	jXɑf	jejri
Slim	d?i:f	næqes,kæmel
Expensive	rɑ:li	nɑ:r
Sissy	Xirikʌ	mriə
Fat	dʒəjeb rɔ:hu	smi:n

As indicated in table one ,adjectives used by men and women were translated either into :C A ,M S A ,D A or French .Thus,I have observed a very rich gender within lexical variation in Relizane speech community .

Table 02: Gender lexical variation among nouns in D A

Gloss	Gender Lexical variation	
	Men	Women
- Money	hʌbæt	drʌhem
-House	xəimʌ	dɔ:r
-work	xubzə	xedmɑ
-Marriage	ʔers	zwuəj
-Clothes	kʌʃ	keswɑ
-Wife	d ɑ:r	mrʌ ,mʌdɑ:m
-Husband	r ɑ:jel	mu :l d ɑ:r
-noise	hes	zg ʌ

Then, in table 02 all nouns used by the participants were translated in D A.I deduce absence of Multiligualism in this category .

Table 03:Gender lexical variation among verbs in C A ,M S A ,D A ,and French

Gloss	Gender Lexical variation	
	Men	Women
Prepare	nepripʌri	Nwejed
Repair	nsegem	nesnə?
Study	jekrʌ	jetʔəlem
Finish	kemelt	sayi
Draw	jdisini	jersem
Coun	jʔed	jehseb

Practise	jeprʌtiki	jdi:r
Made	jesnɑ?	jdi:r
Take off	jeglə?	jbedel
Shut up	hɑbes el hes	skut
Look	lik	ʃuf
Search	jhɑwes	jebhət
Harry	tlegru:jek	Xfi:f

After, in table 03 verbs used by men and women were translated in D A ,M S A ,C A and French, and here a remarkable presence of Multilingualism and rich background of lexical terms in the speech community of Relizane. But of course within the context of the selection I have made .

Table 04: Gender lexical variation among adverbs in French ,D A ,M S A ,C A

Gloss	Gender Lexical variation	
	Men	Women
Quickly	bel×f	Jejri
Particularly	spisiəl	m?ʌjnʌ
Happily	mejet b sə?ædɑ	ferhæn
Well	tɑp	mlih

In table 04,adverbs utilized by the selected participants were translated in D A ,C A ,M S A and French.

To conclude this part ,as a researcher ,I deduce a clear gender lexical variation in the speech community of Relizanewhen observing the participants ,but these results are still relative for me,because I can not over generalize my findings since they are based only on the selection I have made ;we could have different results when conducting another research .

1.2.2.Data analysis of the interview

Data gathered in the interview are sub-devided into four(04) categories :

1-   Gender lexical variation including classical Arabic and Dialectal Arabic

2-   Gender lexical variation including classical Arabic and French .

3-   Gender lexical variation including .dialectal Arabic and French .

4-   Gender lexical variation including .dialectal Arabic only .

Each category is representedin a table gender lexical variation in our present results is mainly noticed among verbs ,nouns ,objectives and adverbs as shown below .

Table05:Gender lexical variation among adjectives in classical Arabic and dialectal Arabic:

Gloss	1Gender Lexical variation	
	Men	Women
-sufficient	jqəd	kæfi
-joyful	ræ ʃqetlu,mreʃeq	ferhæn
-neglectful	m?ləbəlh b wəlu:	mutəhəwin
-moderate	ʃwijəʃwijə	mutəwəzin
-big	ʃi:bæni	kbi:r
-small	ɤɔriæn	sri:r
-old	ʃi:bæni	kbi:r
-faithful	?end rɔ:h u	?endeh el kelmɑ
-liar	qɑleij	Kedeb
-mad	mehbui:il	Mri:d
-silly	tæfeh	rɑbi

1.2.2.1Gender lexical variation including classical Arabic and dialectal Arabic

As indicated in table 05, some items were translated by the interviewees either into classical Arabic or dialectal Arabic .this category includes adjectives and verbs .

Table 06: Gender lexical variation among verbs in classical Arabic and dialectal Arabic

Verbs		
Gloss	Gender lexical variation	
	Men	Women
-to cry	Jebki	jdemme?
-to dream	Jehlem	jnu:m
-to steal	Jexwen	jedi
-to speak	Jehki	jəhder
-to wait	jqərə?	jestenʌ
-to make	jsegem	jesne?

1.2.2.2. Gender lexical variation including classical Arabic and French

A limited number of words were elicited in one of the varieties :classical Arabic , Modern standard , Arabic or French here table 07 comprises nouns table 08 consists of adverbs .

Table 07:Gender lexical variation among nouns in classical Arabic and French

Nouns		
Gender lexical variation		
Gloss	Men	Women
-father	ebi:	pɑpɑ
-mother	ummi:	mɑmɑ
-morket	sɔ:g	mrʃi:
-gloss	kæs	ʃɔp
-mobil	pɔ:rtʌbl	tilifu:n

Table 08 :Gender lexical variation among adverbs in dialectal Arabic and French

Adverbs		
Gender lexical variation		
Gloss	Men	Women
Necessarily	mfɔrsi	Besi:f,læzem
Hopefully	bəri	metmeni
Well	rʌjʌ	mlih

1.2.2.3.Gender lexical variation including dialectal Arabic and French

Amore Important number of items were supplied by the informants in either ,dialectal Arabic or in French .they were not translated into classical Arabic however ,here adjectives are incorporated in table 09 and verbs in table10.

Table 09 : Gender lexical variation among adjectives in dialectal Arabic and French

Adjective		
Gloss	Gender lexical variation	
	Men	Women
-gifted	fɔr	mʌʔtijetlu
-nervous	mqələq	mnervi
-strong	fɔrmʌ	dʒəjebru:hu
-elegant	ɑ:rtist	dʒiʔlih,pu:zi

Table10 :Gender lexical variation among verbs in dialectal Arabic and French

Verbs		
Gloss	Gender lexical variation	
	Men	women
-To imagine	jetXəijel	jiməʒi:ni
-To show off	jweriru:hu	jefri:mi
-To capture	jfi:lmi	jsəwər
-To disturbs	jqəleq	jdi:rɔŋʒi
-To search	jʃerʃi	jhəwes
-To motivate	jethərek	jbu: ʒi
-To eat	jækul	jmɔŋʒi
-To come	ɑrwɑh	fu:t

1.2.2.4.Gender lexical variation Including dialectal Arabic only

The tables below reveal that the participants(Men /women) translated many lexical items into dialectal Arabic .each item in French was provided with several corresponding items in dialectal Arabic .This was noticeably among adjectives .adverbs and verbs.

Table 11 : Gender lexical variation among adjectives in dialectal Arabic only

Ajectives		
Gloss	Gender lexical variation	
	Men	Women
-courageous	qæfez	sædʒi
-brave	ræjel	meiXʌf ʃ
-honest	məjerder ʃ	ʃri:f
-miser	mzəijer	medʒheh
-dangerous	sɑ:?eb	wæ?er

-hot	hæmi	jeʃʔəl
-Tired	mdegdeg	ʔəjen
-Monotonous	jkerəh	Ki :wəlu
-sugared	hlu	hsel
-quick	qæfez	Xfi :f
-delicious	ʃbeb	bni :n

Table12:Gender lexical variation among adverbs in Dialectlal Arabic only

Adverbs		
Gloss	Gender lexical variation	
	Men	Women
-Totally	gæʔ	ni:ʃæn
-Miserly	mzəiər	medʒheh

Table 13:Gender lexical variation among verbs in dialectal Arabic only

Verbs		
Gloss	Gender lexical variation	
	Men	Women
-To say	jəhdər	jgu:l
-To see	jʃu:f	jeXzer
-To gossip	jmənʃər	jgətəʔ
-To think	jtələʔ	jXəmem
-To light	jeʃʔəl	jdʌwi
-To steal	jedi,jezrem	jəXwen

1.2.3. Interpretation of the results

1.2.3.1. Gender lexical variation in a Diglossic situation

In the fifth table, I have noticed the presence of Classical Arabic and Dialectal Arabic ;this refers to a highly important phenomena:Diglossia ,as it was defined by Ferguson,Finegan in the first chapter see(1.5.2).In this case ,Classical Arabic terms are considered as part of a high variety ;and those of Dialectal Arabic belong to a low variety .Since C A is the language of Islam and formality in Algeria ,it carries many terms from the Quran .Other lexical items in C A are used in educational domains and official settings .Hence ,participants are bound to employ C A vocabulary at formal settings .By contrast ,Dialectal Arabic items are used in informalsettings like :family and friends.AS a result ,the lexis of each variety is employed in a different situation by different gender .Moreover ,men uses terms from Dialectal Arabic and women uses terms from Classical Arabic and vise versa .This is shown in the following example :The word sufficient is kæfi in Classical Aracic (used by women)but ;;;;;;;;;;;;;;; in Dialectal Arabic (used by men).Finally,the presence of D A or M S R and French in one region leads to gender lexical variation .

1.2.3.2.Gender lexical variation and Bilingualism

There were some gender participants who had a strong command of items of two language varieties ,or they had some functional ability in the second language ;those are called bilinguals ,they used classical Arabic and French because of the influence of means of communication like :Internet, Television and Mobiles .Music also plays an important role in this field .Hence ,gender lexical variation in Relizane has shown that men and women are bilinguals .

In the other hand ,the presence of Bilingualism in the speech community of Relizane leads to gender lexical variation .In table 07 for example, the word" father" is " ebi: " in classical Arabic (used by men)and "pəpə" in French used by women .By contrast ,the word" market" is "sɔ:g" in Classical Arabic used by men and "mrʃi:" in French used by women .

1.2.3.3.Gender lexical variation in relation to Code switching and Borrowing

Some informants coded between Dialectal Arabic and French mainly because of the influence of the latter on them ,since it is highly present in the Algerian society as whole and Relizane as specific .For that reason they could not avoid the use of Code-switching between French and Dialectal Arabic .To   illustrate , the word" nervous" in table 09,is "mqələq" in Dialectal Arabic used by men then switched by women to the French Borrowed word"mnærvi".

1.2.3.4.Gender lexical variation in the case of Dialect contact

Varieties differ from one place to another, In the sense that each region has its own dialect .Dialects can influence one another while interacting .In this context I found thatmen and women in Relizane speech community said or pronounced one word in various dialectal varieties and accents .This phenomenon is caused by dialect contact ,which is due to internal migration ,age and sometimes status or level of education .For example ,when men and women migrate to a new speech community within the Algerian territories ,they will inevitably use more than one variety there. Another reason is that ,men and women may move from their community to another for the purpose of trade .Hence ,their variety comes into contact with other different varieties .This situation will also lead to dialect contact .To exemplify the word " quick "in table 12,is " Xfi:f" by women and "qəfez" by men .

2.Conclusion

Finally,the interpretations and discussions of the data collected using observation and interview have shown that men and women in the speech community of Relizane use various language varieties ,such as Classical Arabic ,Modern standard Arabic ,Dialectal Arabic and French .Accordingly,Relizane speech community is considered as a Multilingual society using different dialects.Its items are multilingualardialectal.This what has led to the presence of gender lexical variation in Relizane.

General conclusion

Sociolinguistic previous researches have always focused on language and lexical variation from one area to another .Thus ,in the present work ,I have tried to reveal and explain the reasons behind the prevalence of gender lexical variation in the speech community of Relizane .Following Labov 's approach and hypothesis (1960's).Lexical variation has been related to some social variables like age ,sex and sociolinguistic phenomenon including the case of Multilingualism .I deduce from my investigation that within the speech community of Relizane there are different ways of speaking between men and women due to dialect contact ,the influence of means of communication and especially Gender of the informants .

In addition ,I have noticed during my inquiry that women are likely to use the standard forms and men tend to be more accommodating to other dialects .Hence ,this linguistic change is generally motivated by the influence of dialect contact in addition to age ,education and culture of the participants .One may wonder whether this gender lexical variation will persist in the speech community of Relizane .Or will simply be forgotten .Then ,the question I may ask ,what will be expected from Relizane speakers for some years in the future.? Will they preserve all these linguistic items or would there be other variations in this speech community. ? I intend to explore this study for further research .

The absence of Berber language does not mean that it is absent from the speech community of Relizane ,but because there were no berber informants when collecting the data and recording. finally, the data collected in this research showed also some similarities between men's and women's speeches ,those similarities are not mentioned in this research because my focus was concerned with variation only .And data elicited from this research are not over generalized but depict only a given context.

Limitations of the study

During the preparation of this fieldwork ,I faced some difficulties and problems .The first limitation is time constraints. Furthermore ,time was insufficient to complete my research . Second ,since the interview's questions were asked in French ,there were some participants (men/women) who did not master this language and therefore ,did not understand the questions .I was obliged to use some gestures in order to help them understand .Third ,there were some women and men who were not interested in this research ,and refused to do an interview with me .Fourth ,some participants thought that I was testing their qualification in speaking French language ;as a result ,they did not accept to speak because of their difficulties in that language .Finally, lack of books in relation to the field of this research in our library.

Implications for further research

This research paper found and analyzed the different lexical items found in the variety of Relizane between gender speakers ie, men and women .It would be interesting to make a further research in order to pick out the reasons of this variation and how does it impact the variety it self.

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