LANGUAGE PLANNING AND ARABICIZATION OF MILITARY TERMS

BY

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ABSTRACT

The present study is a sociolinguistic approach to investigate the problem of the Arabicization of military terms in Jordan from a Language Planning Perspective. It examines the attitudes of the Jordanian soldiers toward the Arabicization of military terms in Jordan. The main objective of this study is to examine the problems of the Arabicization of military terms and to recommend some solutions after finding out the reasons behind these problems. Furthermore, the study also aims at evaluating the effort of Arabicizing of military terms as accomplished by the Academy of Arabic Language in Jordan.

The sample of the study consists of one hundred eighty randomly selected military persons who attend an American Language Course in the Military Language Institute in Zarka. The sample consists of two major groups. The first group consists of 60 persons and the second group consists of 120 persons.

Two different tests were constructed in the study: First, 60 copies of the Infantry, Amour and Maintenance terms pamphlets were delivered to the first group of the sample. The sample was asked to mark any unacceptable Arabicization of the terms and give any other acceptable choice, if possible. Second, a questionire was developed. It includes the most problematic Arabicized terms and a group of statements about the attitudes toward
Arabicization. After that, the questionnaire was delivered to the second group of the sample. Then, it was gathered and the data were analyzed.

The findings of the study show that: (1) There is a gap between what is done by the Academy of Arabic Language in Jordan in the field of military terms Arabicization and what is really used in the field. (2) Most of the terms proposed by the users were more acceptable than those Arabicized by the Academy of Arabic Language in Jordan. (3) Most of the soldiers were enthusiastic and dedicated to the Arabicization of military terms. (4) Most of the soldiers were motivated to learn English more than Arabic.

The study concludes with some recommendations for the Arabicizers, or the Arabicization agencies and the users to help in solving the Arabicization problems by working together.