Saudi Teachers' Attitudes toward Linguistic Globalization in Saudi Arabia: A Sociolinguistic Study

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in the Department of English Language and Literature, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan

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Dedication

To my lovely mother

To my heartfelt wife

To my Kids
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List of Abbreviations

1- OPEC Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
2- SABIC The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation
3- ARAMCO Arabian American Oil Company
4- K.S.A Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
5- UK United Kingdom
6- U.S.A United States of America
7- FL Foreign Language
8- UNICEF United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
9- HKJ The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
10- TOFEL Test of English as a foreign language
11- $\bar{x}$ Mean
12- SD Standard Deviation
13- STC Saudi Telecommunication Company
14- ICDL International Computer Driving License
15- IT Information Technology
Abstract

Saudi Teachers' Attitudes toward Linguistic Globalization in Saudi Arabia: A Sociolinguistic Study

There is a generally bad impression among Saudi population that widespread use of English in the country, especially in the light of globalization, detaches many Saudis away from their religion, values, customs, traditions, and culture. Also, the English language, in their opinion, reduces the status of the Arabic language. The study is an attempt to examine the attitudes of male Saudi teachers toward the linguistic globalization in Al-Qurayat area. The study describes the respondents' attitudes toward the English language in terms of the effects of English on religion and social behavior, the need for the English language, attitudes toward culture and heritage, the appreciation of English, English in media and linguistic globalization. The present researcher developed a questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale. This attitudinal questionnaire is meant to assess the attitudes of the respondents toward English globalization in Saudi Arabia. The sample of the study consisted of 100 male Saudi teachers working in Al-Qurayat area. The present study shows the importance of English in modern technology and modern sciences. The findings of the study also stressed the
importance of English as a means of disseminating Islam to other parts of the world. The respondents also recognize the importance of English in different domains such as financial affairs and research. They did not believe that there are many imperialistic purposes hidden beyond widespread use of English in the country. Furthermore, the findings indicate that Saudis have not adopted western norms, neither has their culture and language got weakened by the American styles; nor has their religious commitment become corrupt. English, according to the respondents' viewpoint, is one of the most important means for communicating with foreigners inside or outside the country. Finally, the study concludes with some recommendations for further research.
Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background

Language is a means of communication. It is more than words and structures; it is an expression of culture, civilization, economy, politics, modernization, education, technology, etc. Hjelmslev (1953:1) views language as “the ultimate, indispensable sustainer of the human individual, his refuge in hours of loneliness, when the mind wrestles with existence and the conflict is resolved in the monologue of the poet and the thinker”. Similarly, Haugen (1971:288) claims that language is much more than an instrument. Among other things, it is an expression of personality and a sign of identity. In fact, nobody can deny the function of any language in the world. It helps us express our feelings, ideas, and emotions.

To a certain extent, some languages play a very important role in people’s life. English, for example, is one of the most important world languages. It spreads all over the world. It has become the official language in many countries like India. It is used to communicate with expatriates about different domains of life such as industry and trading. Further, it is used for disseminating human innovations and information technologies more than any other languages. This state of affairs indicates