A Sociolinguistic Study of Language

Accommodation among Jordanian TV Presenters

By

Iqab Mohammed Khader

(99300035)

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the
Degree of Master of Arts (Linguistics) at Yarmouk University

2002

Supervised by

Prof. Dr. Fawwaz Al- Abed Al-Haq
A Sociolinguistic Study of Language

Accommodation among Jordanian TV Presenters

By

Iqab Mohammed Khader

(99300035)

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the

Degree of the Master of Arts (Linguistics) at Yarmouk University

2002

Examining Committee:

Prof. Dr. Fawwaz Al- Abed Al- Haq ................... Chairman

Prof. Dr. Shahir El- Hassan ......................... Member

Dr. Riyadh Hussein

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Al- Khatib .................... Member
Dedication

To my beloved parents.

To my dear wife and lovely kids

who patiently shared with me

the accomplishment of this work
Acknowledgments

I wish to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Fawwaz Al- Abed Al- Haq, the supervisor of my thesis, to whom I am much indebted for helpful and invaluable comments on an earlier draft. This study has profited from constructive criticism together with extensive discussions with my distinct supervisor at various stages of the writing. I gratefully acknowledge the help I have received from him. I am also particularly grateful to Prof. Dr. Shahir El- Hassan for his insightful comments together with his invaluable advice and assistance. I would like also to express my indebtedness to Dr. Riyadh Hussein who kindly provided me with a copy of his study in this field. I am grateful for his interest and assistance. Special thanks are also due to Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Al- Khatib for his interest and kindness. I am also thankful to Prof. Dr. Mahmoud El- Kharbutly who was more than cooperative in providing me with all the details needed about the social structure and the speech styles in Lebanon.
# Reading conventions used in transliteration

## Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>IPA</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ء</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>glottal stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ب</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>voiced bilabial stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ت</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>voiceless dento-alveolar stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ئ</td>
<td>θ</td>
<td>voiceless dental fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ج</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>voiced alveo-palatal affricate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>چ</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>voiced alveo-palatal fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ه</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>voiceless pharyngeal fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ی</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>voiceless uvular fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>د</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>voiced dento-alveolar stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ذ</td>
<td>ð</td>
<td>voiced dental fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ر</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>Alveolar flap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ز</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>voiced dental fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ہ</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>voiced dento-alveolar emphatic fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>س</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>voiceless dento-alveolar fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ش</td>
<td>ʃ</td>
<td>voiceless alveo-palatal fricative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ص</td>
<td>ʃ</td>
<td>voiceless dento – alveolar sulcal emphatic fricative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V
ض ـ voiced dento–alveolar emphatic stop
ط ـ voiceless dento-alveolar emphatic stop
ظ ـ voiced dental emphatic fricative
غ ـ voiced pharyngeal fricative
ق ـ voiced uvular fricative
ف ـ voiceless labio–dental fricative
ض ـ voiceless uvular stop
ك ـ voiceless velar stop
ل ـ alveolar lateral
م ـ bilabial nasal
ن ـ alveolar nasal
ح ـ voiceless laryngeal fricative
و ـ labio–velar glide
ي ـ palatal glide

Vowels

a  Short front nearly open
e  Short front mid
i  Short front nearly close
o  Short back mid
u  Short back nearly close

Long vowels are indicated by doubling the appropriate vowel letter (ii, aa, uu)
List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JTV</td>
<td>Jordan Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTV</td>
<td>Lebanese Television</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Male Presenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Female Presenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Male Audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FA</td>
<td>Female Audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UJ</td>
<td>Urban Jordanian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UL</td>
<td>Urban Lebanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RJ</td>
<td>Rural Jordanian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BJ</td>
<td>Bedouin Jordanian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUV</td>
<td>Eclectic Urban Variety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JA</td>
<td>Jordanian Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESA</td>
<td>Educated Spoken Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Sociolinguistic Study of Language Accommodation among Jordanian TV Presenters

Abstract

A discernible characteristic of diglossic speech communities, among which Jordan is one, is the availability of more than one speech variety of the same language. A close examination of the speech of JTV presenters has genuinely displayed that they alternate in their use of urban Jordanian, urban Lebanese, and educated spoken Arabic switching from one code to the other. The alternating use of the three varieties was closely examined. The study proposed the emergence of a new speech variety which the researcher labeled eclectic urban variety which comprises an admixture of urban Jordanian and urban Lebanese. A speech variety which is awarded high prestige ratings by JTV presenters and which is better equipped to positively characterize the prestigious variety of speech. A variety that is not peculiar to any social group.

This study tackled the phenomenon of style – shifting employed by JTV presenters, i.e., code-switching between urban Jordanian and urban Lebanese as appeared in a number of video-taped recordings of several JTV programs. The areas of variation could be classified into three major areas and three sub-areas. These areas were discussed lexically and
phonologically. The focus of the study was on the tendency to maintain one's own dialect and the degree of movement away from that dialect. The study proposed a tentative classification of the existing speech varieties in Jordan. This classification consists of the following varieties:

i. Bedouin Jordanian.

ii. Rural Jordanian.

iii. Urban Jordanian.

iv. Eclectic Urban Variety.

This in addition to the well-known educated spoken Arabic (cf. El-Hassan 1977, 1978, Ferguson 1959). A feasible explanation was given for the absence of certain switches. Situations for approximately determining code choice for the speaker were diagrammatically displayed. Impulses behind switching to urban Lebanese were proposed and discussed. One can recognise that the degree of preference of eclectic urban variety is, to a certain degree, associated with sex.
# Table of Contents

Dedication

Acknowledgment

Reading Conventions Used in Transliteration

List of Abbreviations

Abstract in English

**Chapter One: Introduction and Review of Related Literature**

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Review of Related Literature

**Chapter Two: Objectives and Methodology**

2.1 Statement of the Problem

2.2 Purpose of the Study

2.3 Method

2.4 The Hypothesis of the study

2.5 Significance of the study

**Chapter Three: Data Analysis and Findings**

3.1 Preview

3.2 Major Areas

3.2.1 Lexical Items
3.2.2 Phrases and Expressions 51
3.2.3 Particles 55
3.3 Sub-areas 58

3.3.1 Transformation of: 58
   a. /q/ to /ʔ/ and nearly /k/ symbolized as /q/ 58
   b. /t/ to /d/ and /z/ 58
   c. /t/ to /z/ and /d/ 58
   d. /θ/ to /t/ and /s/ 58
   e. /j/ to /j/ 58

3.3.2 Non-emphatic /t/ 63
3.3.3 Loss of Gender Distinction 66

3.4 Motivations Behind Switching to UL 78

Chapter Four: Conclusions, Implications and Recommendations 81

4.1 Conclusions 81

4.2 Implications and Recommendations 84

References 86
Appendix 89
Abstract in Arabic 130
Chapter One

Introduction and Review of Related Literature

1.1 Introduction

A major characteristic of diglossic speech communities, among which Jordan is one, is the availability of more than one spoken variety of the same language. More specifically, we have standard Arabic that exists side by side with the so-called Jordanian Arabic.

This study, however, is confined to the effect of urban Lebanese spoken by LTV presenters on urban Jordanian spoken by JTV presenters. A close observation of the speech of JTV presenters has shown that presenters, especially female, alternate in their use of the two varieties switching from one to the other in a very discernible manner.

As to the reasons why speakers choose to alternate or switch in their use of urban Jordanian and urban Lebanese, I would like to argue that this reflects a choice on the part of the speaker to use urban Lebanese since urban Jordanian has an equivalent word, phrase or expression which the speaker could have used to convey the same meaning together with the same perlocutionary effect. However, during the course of discussion and data analyses, impulses behind switching to Urban Lebanese will be examined.

It is worth remarking that one can learn much about a speaker’s social background together with his/her regional origin just from the way he speaks.