Jordanian Pidgin Arabic

By
Ibrahim Abdul Kareem Al-Salman

2009300074

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts (Linguistics) in the Department of English Language and Literature, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan.

Supervisor
Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq

Examinig Committee
Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq (Chairman)
Dr. Lutfi Abu Alhaija (Member)
Prof. Mahmoud A. Kanakri (Member)
Abstract


This study aims at providing a linguistic description of the Jordanian Pidgin Arabic (JPA), a variety in use between the Bengali and the Jordanian workers who live and work in Irbid in the North of Jordan. The primary purpose of this study is to find out whether or not this variety constitutes a true pidgin. Data collection was based on some interviews with ten Bengalis. The study examines the JPA variety in terms of four linguistic features. First of all, it compares the JA and JPA with reference to phonology. Then, it describes the JA possession system and its counterpart in JPA. Finally, the study compares the verbal system and negation of both JPA and JA. The first is the negative particle mā (used for the negation of perfect and imperfect), the particle fī as a copula, as a progressive marker and as expletive. The second negative marker is māfī(š) which is used to negate imperatives (sometimes perfect and imperfect). The last one is miš (used with nominal sentences that lack copulas). In conclusion, the study compares other Arabic-based pidgins to this study, and concludes that JPA is a variety which is still an incipient pidgin that can be classified under the first stage of a pidgin ‘life-cycle’. Finally, the study ends with some recommendations for any later possible research.

Keywords: Jordanian Pidgin Arabic, Arabic-based pidgins, pidgin Arabic, negative particles.