Addition And Loss of Some Vocabulary
In Spoken Arabic In North Jordan

By:
Ashjan Badri Al-Judeh

B.A. English Language And Literature
Yarmouk University
Thesis Submitted In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements for The Degree Of Masters Of Arts In Linguistics At Yarmouk University

Examinining Committee
Prof. Yousef Bader.......................... Supervisor
Prof. Hussein Abdul-Fattah.................... Member
Prof. Fawwaz Abed-Al-Haq....................... Member
Prof. Sameer Istaiteyyeh........................ Member

July, 2004
Addition And Loss Of Some Vocabulary In Spoken Arabic In North Jordan

By: Ashjan Al-Judeh
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Yousef Bader

Abstract

This study investigates semantic modification in Arabic words borrowed from English and foreign as they are used in Jordan. And, the disappearance of some old Arabic words from Arabic language in Jordan. The most common types of semantic change, namely, widening, narrowing, transfer (metaphor), shift (drift); amelioration, and pejoration, will be found to be operating in these words. Numerous examples are provided in order to illustrate each type of change. In addition, various reasons, e.g. need and semantic or phonological similarity as well as sociological factors like prestige and taboo, are hypothesized as possible instigators of change. It is concluded that semantic change, especially widening., transfer, shift, and pejoration, reveals the flexibility of the Arabic language and its ability to
loose some old Arabic words from the Arabic language in Jordan and to use words borrowed from other languages in a variety of new meaning and contexts.