

Adaptation of English Words in the Algerian Dialect

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Globalization plays a major role in language change (Cronin, 2003; Collins, Slembrouck, & Baynham, 2009). Indeed, with the growing interest in learning English, Algerian learners of English are using whatever technological resources available in order to enrich their vocabulary repertoire and get their messages across. As a result, their Algerian dialectal Arabic is constantly changing over time, not only in terms of code switching but also in terms of lexicalization, a notion that was once exclusive to the use of French words, borrowed from the first foreign language in Algeria, French. Nowadays, Algerian EFL learners, especially those learning English with gusto, tend to use English words in their dialectal conversations. They keep the original root of the word and adapt it to the grammatical norms of their Algerian dialectal Arabic, giving birth to new lexical items in the Algerian Dialect. To illustrate, speaker 'A' asks her friend what she thinks about her new pair of shoes, the latter responds: /wallah laiktu/ (I really liked it). In this example, the English verb 'to like' abides by the morphological rules of the Algerian Arabic Dialect, wherein the Algerian Arabic suffix /tu/, that denotes both the speaker 'I' and the object 'shoes', is added to the original English root: /laiktu/. A survey has been conducted in order to identify the different patterns of lexicalized words among Algerian EFL learners as well as the rationale behind such language assimilation. The results reveal that different patterns are adopted by Algerian EFL learners in their adaptation of English words to the grammatical rules of Algerian Arabic. Likewise, the results further reveal different reasons that lead to lexicalization, the most important of which is the influence of the English speaking TV channels as well as the Arabic speaking channels using English for social media.

References

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