

**AN ENDANGERED ZENATI DIALECT: EXPLORING THE USE OF SOME SURVIVING LEXICAL WORDS AMONG ‘BENI ZIDAZ’ OLD PEOPLE IN ‘BENI SNOUS’**

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**ABSTRACT**

The present paper endeavours to review, through a preliminary investigation in the region of ‘Beni Snous’, and exactly in a village called ‘Beni Zidaz’, some surviving Berber (Zenati) lexical words that are up to now preserved in the vocabulary bulk of a limited number of old people. It fundamentally seeks to uncover the nature of those words that are articulated side by side with the Arabic dialect of this category of people, and it further explores the contexts where they are uttered and with whom they are used. The data collected have been mainly interpreted qualitatively. After the analysis, this Zenati variety has been identified as a ‘Severely Endangered Language’ that is solely used by few aged speakers who are all members of the grandparent generation and up.

**Keywords:** ‘Beni Zidaz’ community, Endangered Language, ‘Tamazight’, Surviving lexical words.