

LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES AND ETHNICITY IN ALGERIAN DIALECTAL CONTEXT: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The interaction between linguistic reflections and ethnicity has been considered in various studies on language variation in sociolinguistics (Labov, 1963). Accordingly, this research work is a comparative analysis which aims at describing the differences between the lexis of two Algerian social dialects co-existing in the same geographical space in Algerian West . These varieties are called after their indigenous ethnic groups: ‘El- Ksour’ and ‘El-Amour’. This paper endeavours to consider the relation between linguistic behaviour and non-linguistic factors, specifically ethnicity. It tends to provide social interpretation to certain linguistic realities such as aspects of similarities, differences and reasons behind this distinction. Likewise, our concern is to draw attention towards individual ethnic identity negotiation and identification within multiethnic (multitribal) speech community.

Keywords: Ethnicity – language variation – social dialect –social factors.