Sociolinguistic phenomena in Algerian Arabic/French speech community

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Abstract:

Sociolinguistic phenomena are the outcomes of language contact situations which are the main characteristics of the Algerian speech community. This article deals with the different linguistic occurrences spreading from bilingualism; such as borrowing, code switching, and code mixing. Yet linguists and other researchers hold opposing views in their approaches and distinction between the three concepts. The methodology was based on the recordings of men and women natural conversations from different ages in Tlemcen city. The results exemplify many instances of borrowing like nouns, verbs, and adjectives, three types of code switching, and cases of code mixing.

Keywords: code switching; borrowing; code mixing; Algerian Arabic dialect; French language.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Algerian speech community is a multilingual one due to the spread and use of many languages. Algerian Arabic dialect (AA) and Berber are the principal spoken languages of the community in addition to Spanish and Turkish borrowing. French, on the other hand, is the most used foreign language. This language contact takes place under several forms, such as borrowing, code switching, and code mixing. All these concepts are, at the same time, related and separated from eachothers to some extent depending on the studied languages and the divergent linguists views. According to some of them (Myers Scotton, 1992, 1993) there is no determinant slash between code switching and borrowing. Whereas Poplack (1980) and Sankoff & Poplack (1981) distinguish the two phenomena taking into account the morphosyntactic level, Myers Scotton, 1992, 1993) sees continuity between them. The same principal is applied for code mixing which is often confused with code switching. The present paper describes the different types of code switching, borrowing and code mixing taken from Algerian Arabic/ French data from Tlemcen speech community relying on the proposed theories for explaining the three terms.

2. Linguistic situation in Algeria

The topic of Algerian linguistic situation arose the interest of many linguists, such as Benrabah (2013), Taleb Ibrahimi (1995), Saadi (1995) and so on, however, the issue is still problematic.

As other multilingual countries, Algeria is a melting pot of different languages; Standard Arabic (SA), and Berber as national and official languages, in addition to Algerian Arabic (AA) and Berber dialects and French. The coexistence of these languages created diverse sociolinguistic phenomena.

Algerian Arabic dialect is used as a vernacular language. It contains many loanwords originated from, Spanish, Turkish, Persian, French, English… they are detected through sociolinguistic phenomena like; bilingualism, borrowing code switching and diglossia. This language diversity and sociolinguistic singularities are the consequence of long periods of invasions and colonization which left great economic, political and sociolinguistic impacts. French is most spread language because of the 132 years of colonization. It may be used along with Standard Arabic, in formal contexts, or written forms. And it may also be employed with the local dialects, as it is mentioned in this work.

However, during these lasts years, we notice a real decrease of French language and the introduction of English words and expressions in AA. Even the government starts to replace French by English in administrations, and higher education.

3. Literature review

3.1 Code switching vs. Borrowing

The distinction between code switching and borrowing is still problematic, and linguists suggest different points for separating the two concepts.

Some linguists treat the question of CS and B taking into account the diachronic process of language change so they cannot determine at what point in time a lexical word gained the status of loanword. (Weinreich, Labov, Herzog (1968) knowing that this loanword or borrowed word started as a code switch, as stated by Spolsky (1998:48) "*the switching of words is the beginning of borrowing, which occurs when the new word becomes more or less integrated into the second language.*" This is what refers to the process of continuum mentioned by Myers-Scotton (1992), which means that some code switching forms, when used frequently, gradually, become Borrowing forms. In this respect, Gysels (1992) asserts that whether a 'lone other-language item' is a switch or borrowing in fact cannot be determined because the same form may be interpreted as either a borrowed item or a code-switch one depending on the overall discourse structure.

For Myers-Scotton (1992, 1993) code switching and borrowing undergo the same morphosyntactic treatment by the recipient language.[1] She does not deny, on the other hand, the differences existing between the two phenomena stating that; borrowing is considered as part of the mental lexicon and is more frequently used ,

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[1] Also called the matrix language or the base language

whereas code switching remains as embedded language (EL) material which occur in the matrix language (ML) morphosyntactic frames and is less frequent than borrowing.

Whereas Scotton (1992, 1993) sees a continuum between code switching and borrowing, Poplack (1980), on the other hand, draws a sharp distinction between the two notions. For borrowing, integration is at three levels, phonology, morphology, and syntax. There may be no integration at all for code switching, or it may be only at the level of syntax or phonology. Borrowings which are not established are called "nonce borrowing", they undergo morphological and syntactical adaptation. (Poplack & al., 1988).Scotton (1992) rejects this type of borrowing, stating that it is constraining and there is no need for adding such category.

3.2 Code switching vs. code mixing

Linguists hold different views concerning the distinction between code switching and code mixing. Many of them use the same parameters for such a difference. Bokamba (1988), for example defines the two concepts as follows:

"Code-switching is the mixing of words, phrases and sentences from two distinct grammatical (sub) systems across sentence boundaries within the same speech event… code-mixing is the embedding of various linguistic units such as affixes (bound morphemes), words (unbound morphemes), phrases and clauses from

a co-operative activity where the participants, in order to infer what is intended, must reconcile what they hear with what they understand."

William C. Ritchie and Tej K. Bhatia (2004: 337) mention that:

"*We use the term code switching (CS) to refer to the use of various linguistic units (words, phrases, clauses, and sentences) primarily from two participating grammatical systems across sentence boundaries within a speech event. In other words, CS is intersentential, and may be subject to discourse principles. It is motivated by social and psychological factors.*"

Whereas code mixing is defined by stating that:

"*We use the term code mixing (CM) to refer to the mixing of various linguistic units (morphemes, words, modifiers, phrases, clauses and sentences, primarily from two participating grammatical systems within a sentence. In other words, CM is intrasentential, and is constrained by grammatical principles and may also be motivated by social-psychological factors.*" William C. Ritchie and Tej K. Bhatia (2004: 337)

Most researchers consider code mixing as intrasentential code switching, including various linguistics units such as (words, morphemes, phrases, clauses, etc.), occurring within the sentence boundary, and code switching is considered as intersentential which occurs between sentences. The same analysis is shared by other linguists such as; Sridhar & Sridhar (1980: 407), and Appel & Muysken (1986).

4. Methodology

The data of the current work are taken from recordings of everyday speech of men and women from different ages in the city of Tlemcen. All the examples cited below are very frequent among the Algerian speech community. The distinction between borrowing and code switching is at the level of the mental lexicon (Myers-Scotton, 1992); i.e., all the French words belonging to the mental lexicon are considered as borrowing. Code switching is categorized into three types, and code mixing refers to one of the three types of code switching.

5. Results

5.1. Borrowing

When introducing the terms "adaptation and integration of loanwords', Haspelmath (2009: 42) states that a borrowed word in any language is adapted if it has phonological, morphological, syntactic and orthographic properties that do not fit into the system of the recipient language. He also asserts that like other languages, Arabic one is characterized by gender and inflection classes. Each word fits in a gender and inflection class so that it can suit the syntactic patterns which necessitate gender agreement and some inflected forms. (Benabadji Bouchenak A. & Negadi M.N., 2022)

French borrowing is used in different ways in AA, the majority of them include nouns, for example : /lbiru/ 'bureau' 'desk', /lfərʃiTa/ 'fourchette' 'fork', /lkaba/ 'caba' 'bag', there are also borrowed

adjactives, and attributive adjectives, like : /mgari/, 'garé', 'parked', /mʃarʒi/ 'chargé' 'loaded'. Verbs are also part of borrowing, such as: /n-décid-i/ 'je décide', 'I decide',

-Nouns

On the basis of phonological and morphological adaptation, French borrowing used in AA may be classified into many types according to the degree of assimilation;

Adapted borrowing

Some French words have linguistic properties that do not fit into the phonological morphological and syntactical features of AA. In case of lack of fit borrowings often undergo modifications to make them fit better into the recipient language, so that the French borrowed word becomes adapted or integrated into AA, like the examples below:

Table 1. Examples of French adapted borrowing

Algerian Arabic		French		English
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular
/kuli:ʒ/[2]	/kuliʒa:t/	collège	colleges	school
/bu:ʃTa/	/ bu:ʃTa:t/	poste	postes	post office
/bagiTa/	/bagiTa:t/	baguette	baguettes	loaf
/fila:ʒ/	/ filaʒa:t/	village	villages	village

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[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_Arabic

/bərTma:n/	/bərTmana:t/	appartement	Apparte-ments	flat
/fali:za/	/faliza:t/	valise	valises	luggage
/ʒadarmi/	/ʒadarmija/	gendarme	gendarmes	constable
/bulisi/	/bulisija/	policier	policiers	policeman
French borrowing with broken plurals				
/forma:ʒ/	/framəʒ/	fromage	fromages	cheese
/kamuju:n/	/kwamən/	camion	camions	truck
/ʃiku:la/	/ʃwakəl/	chocolat	chocolats	chocolate
/kartu:n/	/kratən/	carton	cartons	carton
/ʒərna:n/	/ʒranən/	journal	journaux	newspaper
/blaSa/	/blajəS/	place	places	place
French borrowing with both plural forms				
/fatu:ra/	/fwatər/ /fatura:t/	facture	factures	bill
/ʃambra/	/ʃnabər/ /ʃambra:t/	chambre	chambres	bedroom
/fərʃiTa/	/fraʃəT/ /fərʃiTa:t/	fourchette	fourchettes	fork

Most plurals of integrated French nouns take the form of Arabic feminine plural by adding the suffix /a:t/, some French borrowings, on the other hand, take the form of broken plurals submitting to the Arabic rule, and other may have both forms.

Nouns which change the gender

Some Algerian speakers change the gender of some French nouns, especially from masculine to feminine by adding the suffix /a/, like the following nouns:

Table 2. French borrowing changing the gender

Algerian Arabic	French	English
/fulara/	un foulard	a scarf
/bibija/	un bébé	a baby
/saʃija/	un sachet	a bag
/karlaʒa/	un carrelage	a tiling
/muʃwara/	un mouchoir	a hanky
/karTona/	un carton	a carton
/boTona/	un bouton	a button
/gaToja/	un gâteau	a cake

-Adjectives

Most of the time French adjectives are used with French nouns forming, thus EL islands (mentioned in Myers-Scotton, 1992). Yet there are cases where a French adjective describes an Arabic noun, such as:

/llba:s l-*foncé*/ 'the dark dress'

/lʔaTnija l-*bleue*/ 'the blue blanket'

/dda:r ʒ-*jaune*/ 'the yellow house'

The adjectives 'foncé', 'bleue', 'jaune' are adapted into AA by the affixation of the Arabic article 'l'. However, the most frequently used adjectives are those formed from French verbs and affixed with AA prefix 'm', these are called attributive adjectives, they follow the noun they describe in number and gender, for the feminine form, we add /ja/ and for the plurals, we add the suffix /jən/ such as the following examples:

Table 3. Adapted French adjectives

Algerian Arabic			French	English
masculine	feminine	Plural		
/mgari/	/mgarja/	/mgarjən/	garé (es)	parked
/məsTasjioni/	/məsTasjionja/	/məsTasjionjən /	stationné (es)	parked
/mbuːʃi/	/mbuːʃja/	/mbuːʃ jən /	bouché (es)	blocked
/məsTrisi/	/məsTrisja/	/məsTrisjən /	stressé (es)	stressed
/mnarvi/	/mnarvja/	/mnarvjən /	énervé (es)	upset
/mkalmi/	/mkalmja/	/mkalmjən /	calme (es)	quiet
/mʃarʒi/	/mʃarʒja/	/mʃarʒjən /	chargé (es)	loaded

-Verbs
Present tense

The infinitive of borrowed French verbs is formed according to AA rule, in order to integrate the verbal system of AA. Note that in AA and MSA there is no specific form of infinitive like it is the case

in French. So that, in present tense, the infinitive of verbs in all personal pronouns take the suffix /i/ and /iw/ for plurals looking like the french infinitive 'er' /é/. These verbs undergo the same inflection as an AA verb ending with 'alif maksura', such as the following verbs : /mʃa:/ مشى 'go', /ʃka:/ شكى 'complain', /bka:/ بكى 'cry', which are suffixed with /i/ in the present tense.

Many French verbs are affixed to AA affixes, either to refer to the past or present tense, the prefixes /n/, /t/, /j/ indicate the different personal pronouns in present tense, the table below shows how is the French verb 'décider' employed in AA:

Table 4. the verb 'décider' in AA in present tense

Personal pronouns	French verbs in AA	French	English
ʔana	n-décid-i	je decide	I decide
ntina/ nta	t-décid-i	tu decides	You decide
huwa	j-décid-i	il decide	He decides
hija	t-decid-i	elle decide	She decides
Hna	n-décid-iw	nous décidons	We decide
ntuma	t-décid-iw	vous décidez	You decide
huma	j-décid-iw	ils/elles décident	They decide

Past tense

French verbs in past tense submit to the AA rule, thus they take the same affixes, for example, the verb 'charger' follows the same modifications as the Arabic verb /ʃra:/ شرى 'buy' with the last 'alif maksu:ra' the following table illustrates how is the verb 'charger' used in the past tense;

Table 5. the verb 'charger' in AA in the past tense

Personal pronouns	French verbs in AA	French	English
Ɂana	charge-it	j'ai chargé	I loaded
ntina/ nta	charge-it	tu as chargé	you loaded
huwa	charge-a	il a chargé	he loaded
hija	charge-at	elle a chargé	she loaded
Hna	chargé-na	nous avons chargé	we loaded
ntuma	chargé-tu	vous avez chargé	you loaded
huma	charge-aw	ils/elles ont chargé	they loaded

The future tense is formed like the present, but most of the time, we add the prefix 'duk' before the verb, for example: /duk n-voyag-i/ 'je voyagerai' 'I will travel'.

5.2.Code switching

Our study presents many instances of code switching, which are devided into three types according to Poplack (1980);

-Inter-sentential code switching: it occurs within the same discourse, at the sentence boundary; the first sentence is completed in one language, then the other starts in another language, for example:

- mʃat ʕand ldʒara *parceque* Təlbət ʕliha

 She went to the neighbor because she asked for her.

- *je l'ai appelée maintenant*. Hkatli ʔassəm Sra:

  I called her now. She told me what happened

- mʃit ʕla reʒlija *ça m'a fait du bien.*

  I went on foot. It made me feel good.

-Intra-sentential code switching: it occurs within a sentence or an utterance, such as:

- ʒi:bli *la brosse* taʕak nəmʃəTlək biha

   Give me your hair brush I brush your hair

- fu:t l *la pharmacie* w *récupér*-i li *la carte* ʃifa taʕi

     Go to the pharmacy and get back my medical card

- duk nʃuflek *quelqu'un pour ce travail*.

   I'll look for someone for you to do (help you) this work (for you)

-Extra-sentential code switching or tag switching: it includes tags, exclamations, and expressions.

- had lbas xir *non* ?

  This dress is better, no ? (isn't it ?)

- *bon* ʔana dərwaʔ noxrəʒ

  Well, I'm going out now.

- *en principe* tkun mʃa:t

    Basically she's gone

5.3. Code mixing

As stated above, code mixing is part of code switching, thus the examples are identical to those of intra-sentential code switching:

- ʕlabalək bəlli *ils vont partir*?

'Do you know that they will go?'

- xassək tzifət Ha *trois articles* w tsənna.

'you have to send nearly three articles and you wait.

- rah ʕandi *un problème* f l'ordinateur.

'I have a problem in my computer.'

6. CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to enlighten the various sociolinguistic phenomena within the Algerian speech context. The corpus of Algerian Arabic Dialect and French language contact revealed many examples of borrowing which itself includes nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Examples of code switching were classified into three categories; inter-sentential, intra-sentential, and extra-sentential. Code mixing patterns, on the other hand, refer to intra-sentential code switching. This study focused on the description and the distinction between the three linguistic facts resulting from a bi/multilingual

environment. It is considered, thus, as a preliminary to other researches on the social and psycholinguistic motivations that lie behind such use.

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