



The Language Question in the Arab World: Evidence from Algeria

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Abstract

In the last twenty years, there has been a continual protest over the language question in Algeria, as regards Tamazight in particular. Four languages are spoken in one way or another by Algerians: Classical Arabic the official language, Algerian Arabic spoken by almost all Algerians, French and Berber. The Arabisation policy conducted with no discernment subtlety, raised the problem of languages statuses especially Berber. Indeed, in recent years, there have been various protests movements against the imposition of Classical Arabic as the national language. The demands for Berber culture and language raised in their own way and at another level, the problem of national integration of communities that have their own ancestral languages and cultures.

About the Author

Hind Amel Mostari is an assistant professor in the English Section Faculty of Humanities, University of Sidi bel Abbas, Algeria. She mainly teaches sociolinguistics. Her interests centre around bilingualism, code switching and language dynamics in the world. She is also an engineer in Computer Science and management.

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