Announcements

- Prof. Sam Liebhaber’s guest lecture on Mehri next Tuesday, April 30.
- Research paper?

Today’s agenda

- Discussion of article on Iraqi Arabic.
- Introducing key terms in the area of language policy.

Discussion of Jaber and Krishnasamy’s article

1. What is the sociolinguistic phenomenon that the researchers were interested in studying? Give examples to illustrate the phenomenon.
2. What sociolinguistic methods did the researchers use in their study to collect and analyze the data? Was there an observer’s paradox issue?
3. What were the results?
4. What is the explanation that the authors give? Do you agree with it? Why? Why not?

Discussion of Jaber and Krishnasamy’s article

- Lexical innovation: Use of 12 next lexical items by Iraqi men and women.
  - حواسيم علَّاس قُبص صحة تُحسن مولاي مُعَمّم كيكي حًا ميلشيا إرهاب

Methods

- ‘A friend of a friend’ strategy for interviews to elicit data from Iraqi informants.
- Also a picture elicitation method.
- A questionnaire on attitude towards the words.
Standard ≠ Prestige in Arabic-speaking communities

- Standard: Men.
- Prestige: Women.

“The most important finding in the current research is that female prestige is not associated with the standard variety. Rather, the meaning of words is what should be prestigious. For females, if the meaning of a word is stigmatized, then the word is stigmatized as well even if it is a standard word.”

- Discussion.

Chapter 5: Language policy and politics

Issues from Chapter 5

- Official Language vs. National Language
- Language policy
- Language ideology
- Language practices
- Language planning
- Status planning vs. corpus planning
- Nation vs. State
- Language academies

Language policy

- **Language policy** is ‘a set of planned interventions supported and enforced by law and implemented by a government agency,” (Spolsky 2004:5).

- For example, deciding on a ‘national language’ or an ‘official language’ for a state reflects a language policy.

Official language vs. National language

- What is the national language of the USA?
- What is the official language of the USA?
Official language vs. National language

• A national language is a language of cultural and social unity. It could be used as a symbol to unite and identify a nation or a group of people. It does not necessarily have to have an official status.

• An official language is usually the language used in government offices in official contexts and documents, and the constitution clearly states that is official. It is a language with ‘muscles’; is supported by the institution and by a legal written document; it is something de jure.

Factors related to language policies

• Language ideologies.
• Language practices.
• Language planning.

Language ideology

• Language has two functions: instrumental and symbolic.
• Arabic in Algeria after independence.
• Why would some language policies fail?
• Not reflecting political and economic realities.
Language practice

- Language ideology refers to what speakers think they should do. Language practice refers to what they actually do, even if it is in violation of some underlying ideology they believe in.

Language planning

- **Status planning**: The process of selecting a language or variety for use.
- **Corpus planning**: The process by which the language or variety selected is codified, i.e. choices are made to standardize spelling, grammar, lexicon, etc.

Ideologies in language planning

  - Linguistic assimilation (France)
  - Linguistic pluralism (Canada)
  - Vernacularization (Indonesia)
  - Internationalization (English in Singapore)

State vs. Nation

- **Nation**: Refers to a psychological dimension of belonging to a community; a nation does not necessarily have clear borders; a nation is attached geographically to a specific territory and may have a specific religion; it may have its way of perceiving itself in relation to history, which may or may not be a true perception; a nation will have its own myths. A national identity may remain buried for years and can then be resurrected at times of crises or major historical turning points.

State vs. Nation

- **State**: Refers to a structure that, through institutions, exercises sovereignty over a territory using laws that relate the individuals within that territory to one another as members of the state. A state may also have citizens from different nations.

Italian nazionalismo vs. Arabic qawmiyya.
Arabic Language Academies: History

- 1919: The Arab Academy in Damascus. (المجمع العربي العلمي بدمشق)
- 1932: The Royal Academy of Cairo, now called the Academy of the Arabic Language. (مجمع اللغة العربية في القاهرة)
- Others were established later in Baghdad and Amman, as well as in North African Arab countries.

Arabic Language Academies: Goals

• These were the stated objectives of The Arab Academy in Damascus:
  (a) The protection of the Arabic language against dialectal influence (including the proposal to Romanize, which was part of the agenda of some of those who wished to see one or other of the dialects adopted as national language(s));
  (b) The maintenance of linguistic purity by ridding the language of intrusive foreign lexical elements brought in via the press and the radio, and some writers; and
  (c) The adaptation of the language to modern needs, particularly in the area of science and technology.

Arabic Language Academies: Activities

• Editing of Classical Arabic texts and manuscripts.
• Publication of journals.
• Dictionaries, e.g., "الوسيط المعجم," in which words are arranged alphabetically, rather than morphologically.
• Holding events about language and other topics.

التعريف

• New words are created according to the root-and-pattern rules of Arabic morphology.
• Nouns of instrument: مفاعل، مفعالة، مفاعل
  "microscope" "elevator"
• But:
  ارزيز "telephone"
  جُنّاز "tram"
التعريب

• -logy → علم
• Biology → علم الأحياء (للبيولوجيا)
• Psychology → علم النفس (للسيكولوجيا)
• But: How to derive adjectives?
  • بيولوجي
  • سيكولوجي

Next class agenda

• Colonization effects. Chapter 5, pp. 210-236.