

Codeswitching as evidence of language change

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Nowadays, nobody can doubt that the fact when languages are in contact and when superposed variety plays any role in people's life- which corresponds to mass bilingualism (social bilingualism) as defined by Baetens Birdmore (1982) or Marcellesi (2003)- it's obvious that the varieties in contact are intertwined if not fused. In fact, in spite of the positions of the diaglossic paradigm theory (Ferguson, 1959; Fishman, 1967), real linguistic production of speakers does not manifest any functional separation of codes. On the contrary, being a natural practice in the actual maghrebian context, codeswitching becomes, in fact, the ordinary way of speaking of certain social ranks, especially the university graduates.

This paper intends to explore linguistic change in contemporary Tunisia through the study of an oral corpus collected during a sociolinguistic field work realized between 2005 and 2007. This work tends to explore the management, operated by speakers, of linguistic varieties, not in the perspective of code choice but rather in a mere linguistic way: that's to study, on the one hand, the linguistic system to extract the syntactical principles leading to the production of a mixed style involving the languages: Tunisian Arabic, Standard Arabic and French; on the other hand, this paper is an attempt to start up a response to the usage of a speaking mode which puts in practice the fusion of the three languages mentioned above.