

# IS KUWAIT TV DIGLOSSIC? A SOCIOLINGUISTIC INVESTIGATION

*Abdalmohsen Dashti, PhD*

The Public Authority for Applied Education & Training,  
College of Basic Education

*Fatima Dashti, PhD*

Kuwait University, College of Education

---

## Abstract

Diglossia is a sociolinguistic term refers to the use of two varieties of one language in a given community; one is regarded as the high variety and the other as a low variety. This paper is a qualitative study that investigates diglossia in various Kuwaiti TV stations. It attempts to mainly see if the two varieties are used differently whenever there is a change of topic in TV programs. Topics investigated include news, programs discussing political issues, cooking, sports, religion, and fashion. The researchers made sure that all programs chosen for investigation are presented by Kuwaitis. Data collected for this study relied mainly on observations and videotaping which took five months duration. Data was then phonetically transcribed and qualitatively analyzed. Speech extracts indicating the use of either H or L variety are demonstrated where necessary. The analysis showed that diglossia extensively exists in all the Kuwaiti TV channels under investigation. Such a study may, to some extent, draw some generalizations about diglossia in Kuwait due to the fact that these channels present a variety of diglossic behaviors in different settings by different Kuwaiti speakers.

---

**Keywords:** Arabic language Diglossia; Language variety; TV stations; Language in society

## Introduction

One of the topics that sociolinguists are interested in is the notion of diglossia. Ferguson (1959, p.336) defines diglossia as “a relatively stable situation in which, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards), there is a divergent, highly codified (often grammatically more complex) superposed variety, which is learned largely by formal education and is used for most written and formal spoken purposes but is not used by any sector of the community for ordinary

conversation”. A number of studies all over the Arab world have investigated the phenomenon of diglossia, for example, Al-Qenaie(2011), Saiegh-Haddad (2010), Mendenhall (2006), Palfreyman, and Al-Khalil, (2003), Zughoul, (1980) among others.

Kuwait is a diglossic community where the two varieties H (the high variety), which refers to Modern Standard Arabic, hereafter (MSA) and L (the low variety), which refers to Kuwaiti Arabic, hereafter (KA) are used for different functions. This paper is meant to investigate diglossia in different Kuwaiti TV stations through analyzing the type of variety used and the circumstances under which it is used. It attempts to mainly see if the two varieties are used differently whenever there is a change of topic in TV programs.

### **Theoretical assumption**

Ferguson (1959) introduced the notion of diglossia, in which a binary distinction is made between High (H) and Low (L) varieties. Citing examples of four speech communities and their languages- Arabic, Modern Creek, Swiss German, and Haitian Creole, Ferguson (ibid), proceeded to explain diglossia under nine rubrics: function, prestige, literary heritage, acquisition, standardization, stability, grammar, lexicon and phonology. The most important feature of diglossia is the functional specialization of H and L. Thus the languages in a bilingual community are seen as falling into a neat pattern of complementary distribution with little or no overlap. One implication of Ferguson’s conception of diglossia is that members of a bilingual community are seen as being constrained in their language behavior, merely reflecting a set of predetermined society-wide norms. Rapid and frequent code-switching which has been shown to be a characteristic feature of conversational interaction in many bilingual communities seems almost impossible according to this model (Li Wei, 1994).

Wardhaugh (1986:87) identifies two varieties in each language of the four mentioned above. He states that “in the Arabic situation the two varieties are classical Arabic (H) and the various regional colloquial varieties (L). In Switzerland they are Standard German (H) and Swiss German (L). In Haiti the varieties are Standard French (H) and Haitian Creole (L). In Greece they are the Katharevousa (H) and Dhimotiki, or Demotic (L), varieties of Greek”.

One cannot discuss diglossia without relating it to prestige. On the one hand, the H variety has prestige while, on the other, the L variety lacks such prestige. AlShamrania (2008:5) states that in “Arabic, for instance, the classical language, the H variety, is more ‘beautiful’, ‘expressive’, and ‘logical’ than the L variety. The classical is the language of the Qur’an, some

14 centuries old, and the language of classical literature, which goes back approximately two centuries before the Qur'an". Although the H variety has more prestige over the L variety, there are occasions on which using the H variety may not be appropriate. Using the H variety, for instance, in an informal activity such as conversing with family or very close friends is inappropriate. In fact, sometimes a speaker may be an object of ridicule if he/she uses the H variety in circumstances where the L variety should be used.

Saville-Troike (1982: 54-55) mentions eight major differences between H and L, namely that each variety has a specific function, however, they complement each other, H is more prestigious than L, there is a literary heritage in H, but not in L, children learn H at school, and L at home, the H variety is standardized, with a tradition of grammatical study and established norms and orthography, the grammar of H variety is more complex, and more highly inflected, H and L varieties share the bulk of their vocabularies, but there is some complementary distribution of terms, and finally, the phonology of H and L is a single complex system.

The Arabic language in Kuwait is diglossic where H (MSA) is used for more formal situations and L (KA) for informal ones. Fusion of both was first remarked only in the speech of educated Kuwaitis. However, recently it has been noticed that both educated and non-educated Kuwaitis are more or less, either consciously or unconsciously, experiencing the process of abandoning a wide range of their L vocabulary and its grammatical structures when they speak their L native varieties, for the sake of MSA.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the term diglossia, as defined by Ferguson, is very specific in that it requires that the high and low varieties should belong to the same language. However, Fishman (1967:55) extended and broadened the term to include 'any society in which bilingual or multilingual situations exist for different functions in different circumstances. Fishman provided examples for bilingual situations where the different languages have distinct functions such as Spanish and Guarani in Paraguay, and Standard English and Caribbean Creole'.

If we look at the linguistic situation in the Arab world, we will see that Ferguson's definition of diglossia applies to the Arabic language situation due to the fact that there are two coexisting varieties H and L, each has a specialized function. The L variety includes the colloquial dialects, the local vernaculars, which are considered the medium of everyday communication. These vernaculars are acquired naturally by Arab children. On the contrary, modern standard Arabic (MSA) is used essentially in formal circumstances such as in religious sermons, political speeches, lectures, news in TV or radio, written activities, and so on. It is acquired formally in schools or mosques, and it is not spoken in everyday interactions. MSA can be

understood easily by educated Arabs and to, some extent, by non-educated people. They can understand news and religious sermons, for example, without any difficulty. Similar to the varieties mentioned above, the H variety of the Arabic language has prestige over the L variety. Al-Shmarania (2008) claims that Arabs consider literary Arabic holy, being the language of the Qur'an. It is also the language of Arabic literature, which has been produced for centuries. Being the language of the Qur'an and literature, the literary Arabic, as the Arabs believe, gains its prestige and becomes the H variety. Native speakers who know the local vernaculars only are considered ignorant and illiterate and have low status in the society.

### **Language varieties in Kuwait**

This section introduces the Arabic language varieties that exist in Kuwait, namely, Classical Arabic (hereafter CA), Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), Educated Spoken Arabic (hereafter ESA) and Kuwaiti Arabic (KA). CA is the language of pre-Islamic poetry and prose. It is the language variety used in the Holy Qur'an. It also extends to some Islamic and post-Islamic poetry. Of the varieties of CA reported to have existed before Islam, the dialect chosen for the Qur'an was that of the /qurajf/ (the tribe of the prophet Mohammed). Owing to its geographic location the tribe /qurajf/ was the most isolated from the influence of foreign linguistic elements and their dialect was considered to be the most conservative.

MSA is the written language of contemporary literature, journalism, and formal education. It is the official language of Kuwait. Kuwaitis learn MAS only at school as a second language or as a second variety of the Arabic language since all the grammatical, morphological, phonological and lexical rules are first introduced to them at school. Many Kuwaiti students actually find difficulty in learning MSA. Many fail the Arabic language requirement course and have to repeat the whole year so that they may improve and show better achievement. It is also a complaint among educators that not enough people find interest in reading books in MSA other than the required curricula in school, although all these curricula are in MSA.

ESA is an intermediate variety between the high (standard) and low (colloquial) varieties. In other words, it is mixed language ore inter-Arabic (Kaye 1990). It is used in informal to semi-formal situations. For example, it is used on the radio, on television, in sports reporting, in weather forecast programs, and in informal discussions between academics. It is also used among educated speakers of different Arab origins whenever they meet informally. Linguistically speaking, ESA is not yet a focused variety. Its phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon are sometimes based on MSA and at other times on the vernaculars. Mainly, the phonological features and

the supra-segmental features are based on MSA, while the lexicon and the structure are based on the vernaculars (Dashti 1998).

### **Review of literature**

Abu-Melhim(2014) investigated the types of diglossic code-switches used in informal conversational settings among Arabic educated speakers of both males and females in Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. In addition, he investigated the pragmatic functions of these various diglossic code-switches, the informants' diglossic code-switching behavior, and reasons for diglossic code-switching. The tape-recorded conversations showed that the subjects didn't use Classical Arabic as a linguistic medium during their taped conversations. Rather, the informants employed a variety of accommodation strategies when conversing with one another, including the use of ESA, switching between ESA and the colloquial, and switching between colloquials.

Investigating the diglossic language situation in Iraq, Jabbari (2013) studied the distribution of both H and L varieties. He gathered the linguistic differences and categorized them according to the Surface Strategy Taxonomy. The study arrived at the conclusion that diglossic differences were found at phonological, lexical, semantic, and syntactic levels.

Darwiche, & Oweini, (2012) wanted to examine whether diglossia hinders vocabulary growth of Lebanese bilingual students [in L1 Arabic]. A 100 participants including pre-schoolers, first, second, fourth and fifth graders were randomly selected to answer a standardized, US normed picture vocabulary test. The researchers also sought the parents' and teachers' opinions to investigate the children's language preference at home and at school and vocabulary teaching practices. The analysis indicated that their Arabic skills, especially the older students, were below average. Both parents and teachers expressed their concerns regarding the diglossia effect and most of them had no reliable strategies to draw on. They believed that a reform in the Arabic language instruction in the school system should be called for.

**Turner & Wong (2010)** investigated diglossia in two Indonesian films from different genres, a teen movie and a nationalistic film. They investigated the difficulties in developing subtitles that are capable of conveying shifts of tenor of discourse. Through analysing dialogue segments, they discussed the association of diglossia, and then described how shifts in tenor of discourse enabled by diglossia have been dealt with in the translated subtitles of these two films. They arrived at the conclusion that some of the challenges arising from the diglossic nature of Indonesian appear to be very difficult and perhaps impossible to overcome when translating into a non-diglossic language like English within the time and space constraints associated with subtitling.

**Investigating the effect of Twitter on Saudi Arabic diglossia, Al-babtain, (2013)** examined 440 tweets and 220 replies to others' tweets collected from 22 Saudi male and female users. In addition, 60 random tweets in two hashtags, one written in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and one in the Saudi Colloquial Arabic (SA), were selected to see how people respond to the hashtag written in MSA and the one written in SA in terms of code choice. Examining the relation between humorous effect and code choice, 10 different random tweets were also linguistically analysed. The research questions revolved around the mechanisms of diglossic switching in Twitter and whether norms, rules and customs which explain how people switch between different varieties of Arabic could be generalised, and the role of code-switching in humorous written texts in Twitter. The findings were examined across factors, such as education and gender. Among the findings was that the MSA variety is treated as a high variety of Arabic and used by elite and educated Saudi users when talking about poetic, scientific and religious topics, while the SA is treated as a low variety of Arabic and used to discuss everyday experiences and in replies to one another. The data also showed that female users were more likely to use MSA than male users, and they were more likely to avoid code-switching within one tweet. The researcher believed that education and gender variations are important factors that affect code choice. However, male and female users are both likely to switch between the MSA and SA just for humorous effect; it is found that frequent code-switching in Saudi tweets are for humorous effect.

Tong (2009) examined code-switching between Standard Arabic and different spoken vernaculars during the talk exchange entitled *The Opposite Direction*, broadcasted by al-Jazeera TV channel. Four episodes of the program were observed and analysed to investigate the communicative functions and motivations for language choice. The applicability of relevant theories is examined to find the theories that best account for speakers' engaging in code-switching in the pan-Arab media discourse.

Alshammrania (2008) investigated diglossia in various Arabic TV stations, such as Aljazeera, ART, LBC, MBC, Dubai, Almajd, AlArabiya, Al-ekhbariah, Rotana, and Spacetoon among others, covering as many different programs, movies, songs, and sports as possible. The study analysed the type of variety used and the circumstances under which it is used, through observing and videotaping as means of collecting data. The study proved that diglossia exists in all the Arabic TV stations under investigation, and that the H variety of Arabic is used in news, documentaries, translated series, talk-show programs related to politics, economy, religion, and medical and social issues. On the other hand, the L variety is mostly used in series, games, songs, plays, and folklore. The study

has also shown that broadcasters and guests in various programs do switch to the M variety of Arabic.

### **Methodology**

This paper is a qualitative study meant to investigate diglossia as used by Kuwaiti nationals in Kuwaiti TV channels. It will mainly investigate whether TOPIC is a salient sociolinguistic parameter in diglossic interaction among Kuwaiti presenters in Kuwaiti TV channels. In other words, it will investigate whether the use of H or L varies when there is a change in topic. Although, gender and age are also worth investigating, yet these two variables will be investigated quantitatively in a separate paper. Nine Kuwaiti channels were investigated, namely, Kuwait channel 1, Kuwait Plus, Al-Watan, Al-Kout, al-Sabah, Al-Rai, and Al-fonoun, Sport, and Al-Adala. Kuwait channel 1 and Kuwait Plus are government channels while all the others are private ones. All these channels broadcast twenty four hours round the clock. Other Kuwaiti channels which mainly introduce movies and Arabic episodes were disregarded. Topics investigated include news, programs discussing political issues, cooking, sports, religion, and fashion. The researchers made sure that all programs chosen for investigation are presented by Kuwaitis as analysing programs presented by other nationals is beyond the scope of this study. Such a study may, to some extent, draw some generalizations about diglossia in Kuwait due to the fact that these channels present a variety of diglossic behaviors in different settings by different Kuwaiti speakers. Data collected for this study relied mainly on observations and videotaping which took five months duration. Throughout these five months, the researchers have observed as many different programs as possible. 40 hours of video-taping were obtained, almost an average of 5 hours for each channel. Data collected was then phonetically transcribed and qualitatively analyzed.

### **Research questions**

This paper mainly attempts to answer the following question:

1. Does the use of H and L vary among Kuwaiti presenters in Kuwaiti TV channels when there is a change of topic?

### **Discussion**

Generally speaking, the data analysis shows that diglossia extensively exists in all the Kuwaiti TV channels under investigation. Yet, there is considerable variation as to the extent and sometimes the contexts in which it occurs. Interestingly though, it was found that codeswitching between the two varieties is extensively used. Topic seems to be a salient parameter in

language choice, in this case, in choosing between H and L. Each topic-related program will, now be, discussed separately.

## News

In all the channels under investigation, News is an important broadcast. Besides AlSabah channel which is the first Kuwaiti news channel and which mostly broadcasts News and News related programs, each of the other channels broadcast News at least four times a day. The news start by presenting local news first followed by world news, economic, business and stock exchange reports, sports, weather forecast, and announcing the names of deceased people on that very day. It was noticed that in all News broadcast in all the channels under investigation, the H variety is mainly used, no matter the gender, age, or educational background of the presenters are. In all section of news broad cast, that is, the local news, world news, economics and stock exchange reports, and sports-except for the weather forecast section- the H variety is the only variety used. This is actually due to the fact that all presenters read from an autocue. The weather forecast in all the channels is presented in Kuwaiti Arabic as shown in extract 1 below.

### Extract 1: weather forecast where KA is used

Ijaw illela ba: ridwinħađirilaaba ? wilumahatjdi:runbalhum?la  
 The whether tonight cold and we warn the fathers and the mothers take  
 care their ŧyalhum.Aŧhabilmuxajma:tŧal?awilfaħamħazzatinnom. Wngu:lhaq  
 children. Campers get out the coal time the sleep and we say to  
 ilħada:qa ilŧawwa:jidba:ridilfajĒr the fishermen the whether very cold  
 at noon “It’s cold tonight. We warn fathers and mothers to take care of their  
 children. We advise campers the coal out of the tent before they go to bed”

On the other hand, the news presenters occasionally, invite guests for a few minutes, either in the studio or on the phone, to shed some light on a current issue. Whenever this happens, the presenters always use the H variety, while the Kuwaiti guests use Kuwaiti Arabic, no matter the guests’ age, gender, or educational background. Again, this is due to the fact that the presenters have a few questions set by the editor, and the presenters’ job is only to ask questions, and not to discuss anything else because of time limit.

### Extract 2. A dialogue between a presenter and his guest discussing political issues:

Presenter: ma ra?juk fi inxifaĐasŧarinifŧ?(MSA)

What do you think of the oil price fall?

Guest: ŧu:fxalniagu:liqawĒlfajinalkalaamillitsimŧa fi dwa:nija

Look let me tell you first thing that the speech that you hear in the diwaniya



aw fi twitEr mu: řahih(KA)  
or in Twitter no right

“Look, let me first, tell you something. Whatever you hear in the diwaniya or in Twitter is not true”.

Interestingly, it has been noticed that when the guests are from Arab nationalities, especially those from Egypt, these guests mostly use the H variety. Very rarely that they have been seen using their L varieties.

**Extract 3. A dialogue between a Kuwaiti presenter and an Egyptian guest:**

Presenter: hallaka an tuřti:nawa bi řu:ramu:řizanubđařamma  
Can you give us and in a way brief about what  
jařduθ fi maida:nittahri:r?  
happening in square al-tahrir?

Guest: jafandimillibjihřal dah řagaGari:bagidanhuwaa fi  
( ) sir what happens this something strange very is there  
sawra řblikidahbilmalaji:n di kulaha  
revolution before this in millions this all

“Sir, have you ever heard of a similar revolution where millions of people go out”.

**Political programs**

Political issues in programs, such as “almafhadissjasi” (The political scene) presented by Al-Watan TV, “warailaxbar” (Beyond the news), “fi qalbilhadaθ” (In the heart of event), presented by Kuwait TV, almanařa (The stand) presented by Al-Kut TV, “liqaairrai” (Alrai meeting) presented by Al-Rai TV, are mainly discussed in MSA. However, switching to KA is not ruled out completely. For example, in programs such as “almfhadissjasi” (The political scene) and, almasana, (The stand), the presenters usually invite MP’s, that is members of the Kuwait Parliament to discuss hot current political issues. The H variety is mainly used in these programs by both the presenters and the guests. This is probably due to the fact that Kuwait is undergoing a dynamic political movement which attracts most Kuwaiti people’s interest. Usually, most MP’s appear on TV to convince the voters to elect them in any future election. Hence dealing with such issues in the H variety will make the presenters and the guests appear as educated elite. Besides, the insertion of KA utterances in their speech would probably make the voters feel that the MP’s are emotionally closer to them when they use the L variety. So, it is not unlikely that both the presenters and the guest occasionally switch from H to L or vice versa as in extract 4 below:

#### **Extract 4: A dialogue between a presenter and an MP guest**

##### **Guest:**

Ka:nhunakʃai? min ilinsiḡamhaljaʃʕuralmuwaṭinbiha:ḡa (MSA)

There was some kind of harmony (pause) does the citizen feel the harmony.

giltliq wen ṣahibilqrr (KA)

I told you where friend the decision

“ I just said who is the decision maker?

leshmanhamiʃajḡama:ʕalazimjḡʃriku:nilmuwaṭin (KA)

why don't degrade whatever group (pause) must they involve the citizen

“why don't we degrade any other (ethnic) group? They have to get the all people involved

halistijwabri:salhu:kumamuasherqawi (MSA)

Is questioning the Prime Minister is a valid indicator?

**Presenter:** filisbu: ʕilma ḡikanhuna: kiḡtima: ʕlimaḡmu:ʕa min innuwa:b (MSA)In week last was there a meeting of a group of the MP's “Last week a meeting was held that embraced a number of MP's”

basintailkalamtqu: lafiḡ ḡhwajatmuba: la ḡaxalnku: nṣari: ḡin (KA)

but, you the speech you say in some exaggeration let's be frank

“However, there is some exaggeration on what you say (pause) let's say it frankly

On the contrary, in a program like “fi qalbilhadaḡ” (In the heart of the event), which is a weekly program presented by Kuwait TV, the presenter reads from an autocue for around five minutes presenting the topic and then introduces a Kuwaiti activist to talk about the topic. It has been noticed in this program,unlike the programs mentioned above, that there is no give and take discussion. Rather, the presenter asks questions and the guest gives a detailed analysis. Thus, both the presenter and the guest have always been seen using the H variety. It seems that the guest here is trying to accommodate to the presenter. It is widely acknowledged that in sociolinguistics that an addressee usually accommodates to the speech of the addresser in different spoken interaction communication. More often, convergence occurs where we move our speech closer to that of the other person (Holmes, 1992; Giles & Coupland, 1991; Giles & Clair, 1979) as shown in extract 5 below:.

#### **Extract 5: A dialogue between a presenter and a military expert**

##### **Presenter**

bida:jatannatasaʔalma:hijailabʔa:darramzijaallatitahmiluhazija:ratsim uwilami:r

In the beginning we ask what are the dimensions symbolic that carry it visit his highness the amir

“ We would like to ask, in the beginning, what symbolic facets does the visit of his Highness the Emir carry”

**Guest:** biraʔji:anazija:ratsimuwilami:rhijanuqtamuZi:ʔawabarazataalkUwajtdʒ  
Uzʔ min ilmanzmailxali:ʔijjiya

In my opinion that visit his Highness the Amir it spot bright and distinguished Kuwait part of regime gulf  
“I believe that the visit of his Highness the Amir acted as a bright spot and it distinguished Kuwait as an essential component of the gulf regime”

### **Religious programs**

In religious programs, such as “islamuna” (Our Islam), “Beyond doubt”, “nazrafarʔja”I (A legal look) “baʔaʔir” (Enlightment) presented by Al-Kout TV, “hadiθ, ðikrajat” (Memory talks), “liqaailʔumaa”(Friday meeting), “rabiʔilqulub” (spring of hearts), presented by Kuwait TV, it has been noticed that when the presenter presents the whole episode without inviting any guest, the H variety is used through the whole period of the program; however when the presenter invites a guest in the studio, the interaction is mainly in Kuwaiti Arabic with occasional switch to the H variety.

Our findings contrast with those of Alshamrania (2008) where it was noticed that the broadcaster, the scholar, and the very educated audience commonly use the H variety and seldom use the L variety in religious programs. However, in the religious programs investigated in this paper, all participants are Kuwaiti nationals and all of them have been seen using Kuwaiti Arabic. The only occasion where H is used is when the Friday sermons are introduced. A Friday sermon is an important ritual practiced by Muslims, where men from all ages go to the mosque at noon to listen to Friday speech (xutba) from the Imam before doing their prayer. All the speeches in all mosques are done in the H variety, and most Imams are Kuwaitis. Kuwait TV (channel 1) goes to one of the mosques each Friday and broadcasts the speech live. Almost an hour before the speech starts, a TV presenter introduces the Friday religious period. It has been noticed that even during this period, the H variety is used by the presenter.

### **Fashion**

In fashion and beauty programs, where most programs are presented by women, though a few by men, the L variety prevails, despite the fact that it is asserted sociolinguistically that women tend to use the prestige variety (in this case, the H variety). This is due to the fact that Kuwaiti women extensively codeswitch Kuwaiti Arabic with English/Kuwaiti Arabic. They believe that English carries more prestige than Modern Standard Arabic.

This has been seen in programs such as “banat w bas” (Only for girls), “spotlight” (an English titled program) both introduced by Al-Watan TV, “staylic” (Your style) presented by Al-Rai TV, ‘fababiljom” (Al-Adala Youth) presented by Al-Adala TV. In all these programs, the presenters meet with different people, both males and females to talk about different topics that interest young people and where fashion and beauty is an essential part of the programs. Extracts 6 and 7 below illustrate the above findings.

**Extract 6: A dialogue between a presenter and a guest**

**Guest:** fauhuḡgaḡidjḡi: riddantelha: ḡa bas ḡaḡilaḡa: firjiḡḡadtaqri: banisbu:ḡ

So it is what happening the lace this only for the nails stays nearly weeks two

“What is actually happening is that this lace is only made for nails and it would stay for almost two weeks”

**Presenter**

Allahwa:ḡidḡiluḡaḡnifikriḡajidi:daḡaḡqilbannuta:tillilitawhumjbu:njitmakḡiḡon  
my God very beautiful mean its idea new for little girls who yet want makeup

“oh, my God. This is a beautiful idea, I mean, is new for those little girls who have just into makeup”

**Extract 7:A dialogue between a presenter and a guest**

**Presenter**

Hi everyonemaḡaḡalqajidi: da min barnamaḡkum spotlight. Wilkomtumajḡoḡasanḡifna: k a:z a solo singḡrliaanamaratsina a ḡi:r agoḡifna: kmaḡamba: rak

Hi everyone with an episode new of program our spotlight. Welcome back to my show Hasan we saw you as a solo singer because passed a year a year ago we saw you with Mubarak

“hi everyone and welcome to a new episode of your program “Spotlight”. Welcome to my show Hasan; we’ve just enjoyed watching you as a solo singer because a year ago we’ve seen you singing with Mubarak”

**Guest:** ḡankju: ḡalailistiḡa:faawalḡ wow vḡri long taimilfarḡinaḡḡer a:r sompi:pḡljihibu:nil band maḡinstrumḡnts

Thank you for invitation first wow very long time the difference that there are people they like the band with instruments

“First thank you for inviting me to the show (pause) wow, it’s been a very long time (pause) there are people who actually like to work within a band with different instruments”

## **Sports**

Sport programs - where most of the presenters are males - are usually devoted to interviews with sports celebrities. In programs such as “liqamĖarijađi” (an interview with an athlete) and “Champion” (Champion), “extra time” (Extra Time), “illiĖibfalalli’ib ” (playing is cool), and “malĖabilwaĖan” (Al-Watanplayground), sports reports and sports panel usually analyse sports issues. In these programs, one presenter introduces a group of people, to talk and analyse sports issues. In all these programs, it has been noticed that the L variety has extensively used rather than the H variety. There is no incident that the H variety has been traced. However very few MSA lexical items and, similarly, a very few MSA phonological sound were traced but were totally insignificant.

## **Conclusion**

This study qualitatively analysed diglossia in Kuwait TV. The study arrived at the conclusion that diglossia exists in all the Kuwaiti TV stations under investigation. It has clearly shown that the use of either the L variety or the H variety varies according to the topic of the program. For example, the study showed that in news briefs, the H variety is always used since all presenters read from an autocue. One of the interesting findings revealed by this paper is that all Kuwaiti presenters use the L variety, in all types of programs, regardless of their gender, age, or educational background. In general, the study shows that the H variety is used in programs discussing political issues, news, and religion. However, however, the L variety is extensively used in sport, and KA together with KA/English codeswitching is extensively used in fashion and beauty programs. The researchers hope that the study has drawn some generalizations about diglossia in Kuwait due to the fact that these channels present a variety of diglossic behaviors in different settings by different Kuwaiti speakers.

## **Recommendations for future research**

*It is recommended that future research may carry out the following:*

1. A quantitative study to investigate the phonological, morphological, lexical, and syntactic variations in diglossic speech as presented in Kuwait TV channels,

2. A quantitative and/or a qualitative study to see if there is any significant difference between males' and females' diglossic interaction as it appears in Kuwait TV channels.
3. A quantitative and/or a qualitative study to see if there are any significant differences between Kuwaiti presenters' and non-Kuwaiti presenters' speech in diglossic interactions.

### References:

- Ababtain, H. (2013) Saudi Arabic Diglossia and Code-Switching in Twitter: Education and Gender Effect (online: language societies graduate seminar. Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. April, 2013.
- Abu-Melhim, A. (2014) Intra-lingual Code Alternation in Arabic: The Conversational Impact of Diglossia. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, Vol 4, No 5 (2014)
- Alrabaa, S. (1986) *Diglossia in the Classroom: The Arabic Case*. *Anthropological Linguistics*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Spring, 1986), pp. 73-79, Published by: Trustees of Indiana University
- Al-Shamrania, H. (2008). Diglossia in Arabic TV Stations. *Journal of King Saud University - Languages and Translation*, Volume 24, Issue 1, 2008, Pages 57–69.
- Al-Qenaie, D. (2011) Kuwaiti Arabic: A Socio-Phonological Perspective. Doctoral thesis, Durham University, 2011
- Darwiche, O. & Oweini, F.A. (2012) The effect of diglossia on Arabic vocabulary development in Lebanese students. *Educational Research and Reviews*. Vol.7(16) , pp. 351-361.
- Dashti, A. (1998) Language Choice in the State of Kuwait. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Essex.
- Ferguson C.A. (1959), Diglossia, *Word* 15 (1959), pp. 325–340
- Fishman, J. Bilingualism with and without diglossia: diglossia with and without bilingualism. *Journal of Social Issues* 23 (1) (1967), pp. 29–38.
- Giles, H. & Clair, R. (1979). *Language and Social Psychology*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Giles, H. & Coupland, N. (1991). *Language: Contexts and Consequences*. Keynes: Open University Press.
- Holmes, J. 1992. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. London: Longman.
- Jabbari, M. J. (2013) Arabic in Iraq: A Diglossic Situation. *Australian International Academic Centre, Australia*, Vol. 2 No. 1; January 2013
- Kaye, A. S. (1990). Arabic. In B. Comrie (ed.), *The world's major languages*. New York: Oxford University Press, 664–685.
- Li Wei (1994) Conversational Code-Switching, Special issue of *Journal of Pragmatics*, 37: 3, 2005

- Mendenhall, G. E. (2006). Arabic in Semitic language history. *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 126(1): 17-26.
- Palfreyman, D. and Al-Khalil, M (2003). A funky language for teenz to use: representing Gulf Arabic in instant messaging. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, Volume 9, Issue 1, November 2003
- Saiegh-Haddad, E. (2010). The linguistic affiliation constraint and phoneme recognition in diglossic Arabic. *Journal of Child Language*, Volume 38 / Issue 02 / March 2011, pp 297-315
- Saville-Troike, M. (1982) M. The ethnography of communication, Blackwell Publishers, Malden, Mass (1982).
- Tong, M (2009) Code-switching in Arab media discourse. Unpublished PhD thesis, The University of Texas at Austin.
- Turner, B & Wong, I. (2010) 'Tenor of Discourse in Translated Diglossic Indonesian Film Subtitles'. *The International Journal of Translation & Interpreting*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp.16-28.
- Wardhaugh, R. (1986). An introduction to sociolinguistics, Blackwell, Oxford (1986).
- Zughoul, M. R. (1980). "Diglossia in Arabic: Investigating solutions." *Anthropological Linguistics*, 22(5):201-217.