



المؤتمر العلمي السنوي الرابع والعشرون الموسوم
(مؤتمر كلية التربية الأساسية في مجال العلوم الانسانية والتربوية والنفسية)
والمنعقد تحت شعار
(العلوم الإنسانية أساس لبناء الإنسانية ونهضة الحضارة في التربية والتعليم)
للمدة 13-14 / 5 / 2024

A Sociolinguistic Study of Regional Variation and Language Identity in Iraqi's Dialects: AL- Anbar, Al Basra and Al Mosul in Iraq

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Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research\ Babylon
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Abstract

The research paper discusses a sociolinguistic study exploring regional diversity and language identity in three Iraqi dialects: Al-Anbar, Al-Basra, and Al Mosul. The varieties of dialect within one country are essential studies from a sociolinguistic point of view. The study seeks to investigate the sociolinguistic factors influencing linguistic variety in Iraq and examine the impact of regional dialects on language identification. Data was gathered from speakers of Al-Anbar, Al Mosul, and Al-Basra dialects by following the snowball sample. The study follows a mixture of qualitative and quantitative research methods, including interviews and questionnaires. The study examined the varieties of Arabic Iraqi dialect and how speakers perceive language identity concerning on their attitudes towards regional variety. It explores how sociolinguistic characteristics, including regional, age, gender, education, and social class, influence dialect use. The researcher adopts the theory of Labov Language Variation and Change (1968) to analyze the variation in the dialects in this study. As a result, the study finds that the Iraqi dialect consists of different dialects inside Iraq, some of them differ from the phonological change, lexical meaning or semantic meaning, which provide various ways of using and functioning the language, but all share the same classical dialect. The findings of the study enhance sociolinguistics and dialect studies, impacting language planning, educational policies, and language revitalization initiatives.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, qualitative, language variation and change, Iraqi dialects



Introduction

Iraq is a country characterized by a significant linguistic diversity, encompassing many dialects spoken throughout various locations. The diversity observed in the country is a direct result of its intricate historical background, cultural legacy, and geographical position (Yussif & Mohammed, 2023). Among the predominant and culturally significant dialects are AL-Anbar, Al Basra, and Al Mosul.

AL-Anbar is a regional variant of a language spoken in the western region of Iraq. The language is distinguished by a unique accent and lexicon that mirrors the region's cultural and historical connections to the Arabian Peninsula (Mohammed, 2018). However, Al Basra also is predominantly spoken in the southern region of Iraq, namely in the province of Basra. The language is renowned for its distinctive pronunciation, shaped by the region's extensive cultural interactions with surrounding nations (Alsiraih, 2021). Al Mosul is a regional variant of a language spoken in the northern region of Iraq, particularly in the province of Nineveh (Jasim, 2022). The dialect is distinguished by a unique pronunciation and lexicon that mirrors the cultural and historical connections of the region to the Kurdish area.

Although culturally and linguistically significant, the dialects spoken in Iraq have been influenced by different sociolinguistic factors that have altered their usage and perception. The utilization of these dialects has been significantly influenced by regional variety and language identity, both crucial aspects (AL-Bazzaz, 2020). Regional variation pertains to the divergences in language usage across distinct geographical areas, while language identity encompasses how speakers perceive and associate themselves with their language usage.

This study explores the geographical differences and linguistic characteristics of Iraq's AL-Anbar, Al Basra, and Al Mosul dialects, focusing on how language shapes identities and variations across different regions. It also explores sociolinguistic factors contributing to language variety and change. It's worth saying that this study aims to understand Iraq's linguistic landscape and its relationship with language use, culture, and social dynamics by analyzing geographical variation and dialect identity. It will provide insights into customized language instruction methods and contribute to the conservation and advancement of Iraq's linguistic variety while enhancing our understanding of language's impact on the nation's identity and cultural legacy.

2.1 Sociolinguistics Study of Dialect Variation

Sociolinguistics is the academic discipline investigating the connection between language and society (Jasem & Al-Shami, 2021). The study explores the utilization of language in social settings and its role in reflecting and influencing social identity, power relations, and cultural norms. However, examining dialect variation is a fundamental focus of research in sociolinguistics (Davenport, 2019). Therefore, dialects are distinct linguistic variations that occur at a local or regional level and exhibit pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax differences. Dialect diversity can be shaped by various social factors, including region, ethnicity, age, gender, and socioeconomic status (Heidary & Barzan, 2019).

Additionally, sociolinguistics investigates the variety of dialects, analyzing their differences and usage in many social settings (Mansfield et al., 2023). Researchers can get data on dialect usage and attitudes by conducting sociolinguistic surveys, interviews, and observations. They may examine linguistic data to discern patterns and trends in the variance of dialects. Finally, sociolinguistics investigates dialect diversity to gain insights into how language establishes and strengthens social identity and power dynamics. It can provide valuable insights into language policies and practices that foster linguistic variety and inclusivity.

2.2 Regional Variation and Language Identity

Regional linguistic diversity relates to how language usage and characteristics vary among distinct regions or geographical locations. This variety is evident in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax and can be shaped by several factors such as geography, culture, history, and social identity (Riandi & Nupus, 2022). However, various dialects or accents significantly contribute to regional language variance. Dialects are linguistic variants that occur at a local or regional level and can be distinguished by differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and syntax (Iviep & Crystal, 2024). For instance, within the United States, various distinct dialects of the English language exist, such as Southern American English, New York City English, and Midwestern American English.

Neumann (2020) states that language interaction can influence regional variety in language, which occurs when individuals who speak various languages or dialects engage with each other. This phenomenon can result in the emergence of novel linguistic characteristics, such as adopting loanwords or forming hybrid languages. Additionally, it can play a role in forming

distinct regional variations or speech patterns. In this sense, language change is a phenomenon that can contribute to regional variance in language. It occurs when speakers adapt their language use over time. Various factors, such as social, cultural, and economic developments, as well as language contact, might impact this.

Additionally, language identity is a notion intimately linked to regional language variety. It pertains to how speakers perceive themselves and their language usage. These elements encompass language skills, language use in social circumstances, and language attitudes (Duchene & Heller, 2007). Therefore, regional variation in language and language identity can be studied using many methodologies, such as sociolinguistics, dialectology, and language contact studies. These techniques enable researchers to examine language usage and attitudes and comprehend the variations in language across various areas and social circumstances.

Finally, the study of regional variation in language and language identity is crucial in linguistics since it allows us to comprehend the diverse ways language is used and perceived in different locations and social settings. By examining these notions, scholars can understand the intricate connection between language and society and enhance their comprehension of how language influences and mirrors social identity.

2.3 The Iraqi - Arabic Dialects

Budarsa (2017) states that to study language variants, one must provide a concise and comprehensive introduction to the concepts of society, language, and dialect. If language is the essential component in expressing people's identity, then society serves as a container for all the diverse cultures and identities expressed via the medium of language (Rutkoviska et al., 2022). The phrase's *language and dialect* are imprecise and might have multiple interpretations. Language can be described as the primary mode of communication (Cereci, 2015), encompassing the expression of a specific linguistic standard or a set of interconnected standards. In other words, language would be a unified system of linguistic communication encompassing several types that may be understood by each other. Bernstein (2003) defines *dialects* as specific variations of a language that individuals acquire within their language group. These variations can differ from the same language learned by other speakers. Geographical dialect is the specific form of language influenced by an individual's origin or socioeconomic status.

In this sense, Iraq is a linguistically diverse country with many languages spoken, and Arabic serves as the designated official language (Gurbuz, 2022). The Arabic dialects spoken in Iraq are a subset of the broader Arabic language family, encompassing dialects spoken in several nations around the Middle East and North Africa (Racoma, 2015). Multiple Arabic dialects are spoken in Iraq, each exhibiting unique characteristics and variations. Several prominent dialects include:

- **Mesopotamian Arabic:** It is the dialect spoken in the southern and central areas of Iraq, encompassing cities such as Baghdad, Basra, and Najaf. The language is distinguished by a unique accent and vocabulary that mirrors the historical and cultural legacy of the region (Albuarabi, 2018).
- **North Mesopotamian Arabic** is a dialect spoken in northern Iraq, specifically in towns such as Mosul and Kirkuk. The dialect resembles Mesopotamian Arabic; however, it has unique characteristics and a distinct pronunciation (Talay, 2011).
- **The Arabic-Kurdish dialect** is primarily used in the Kurdish-dominated areas of Iraq, specifically in the towns of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah (Galali, 2013). The language is a fusion of Arabic and Kurdish, characterized by a distinct lexicon and syntax that mirrors the cultural heterogeneity of the region.
- **The Gulf Arabic dialect** is primarily spoken in the southern areas of Iraq, specifically in the cities of Basra. The dialect is comparable to the Gulf Arabic spoken in neighbouring countries like Kuwait and Bahrain.

Bedouin Arabic is the dialect used by the Bedouin communities in the western and southern parts of Iraq (Holes, 2018). The language is distinguished by a unique accent and lexicon that mirrors the Bedouin community's story, way of life, and cultural customs. The Arabic dialects spoken in Iraq reflect the country's abundant cultural variety and extensive linguistic and cultural interchange history. They have a significant role in shaping the country's national identity and cultural legacy. They persistently undergo transformation and adjustment to align with the shifting social and political circumstances in which they are used.

2.4 Characteristics and Unique Features of Al-Anbar, Al –Mosul and Al-Basra Dialects

Iraq is a big country with two main languages: Arabic and Kurdish. The Kurdish language is spoken by people in the north of Iraq, especially Kurdistan (Ghazi, 2009). Some people in the north of Iraq mix Kurdish and Arabic. At the same time, the Iraqi Arabic dialect is used in any Iraq area. However, wherever you are in Iraq and speak Arabic, people can communicate with you and understand your intentions. In this sense, Iraq is prosperous of dialects; there dialects in Iraq distinguish; there people from one area to another. The following themes are the characteristics and unique features of the Iraqi dialect in specific areas, including Al Basra, Al Mosul and Al Anbar.

2.4.1 Al Anbar Dialect

The language is primarily spoken in the Anbar Governorate in western Iraq. It is renowned for its rural and Bedouin characteristics, characterized by a unique accent and vocabulary that mirrors the cultural and historical heritage of the region (Bettega & Morano, 2022). This dialect highlights the prominent focus on the letter "ayn" (ع) and the utilization of the letter "hamza" (ء) in specific terms. It exhibits a discernible cadence and inflexion, characterized by a fluctuating pattern of emphasis that imparts a distinctive melodic quality. However, specific contractions and different substitutions of sounds can be found in the dialects of Ramadi, Anah, Heet and Kubasa Different dialects characterize these areas in Al Anbar.

2.4.2 The Al-Mosul dialect

The Mosul dialect and adjacent areas are famous in Iraq. It can be found in some parts of Erbil, Kirkuk and Tikrit, and some Anbar cities (Jasim, 2022). It is the language close to Standard Arabic in terms of the pronunciation of AlQaf القاف because the rest of the Iraqis turn the letter Al-Qaf into a "G" or Egyptian Jim in their pronunciation; it is about a moon كمر instead of a moon قمر, and it has the advantage of using Turkish language too much because the city of Mosul has been under Ottoman occupation for a long time.

Additionally, one of the most critical characteristics of the exchange of the r ر sound into Gh غ, such as saying Ghejel instead of Rejel, which means foot, and Ghah instead of Rah, which means go. In Al Mosul, there are three main dialects: the dialect of the area known as Hmam Al Aleel, the dialect of

the center of AL-Mosul and the dialect of the area of the Sour. Specific phonological and morphological properties characterize each.

2.4.3 The Al-Basra dialect

The Basra dialect is primarily spoken in the Basra Governorate, located in southern Iraq, with a specific concentration in Basra (Alsiraih, 2021). The region is renowned for its unique "Basrawi" dialect and language, which reflects its abundant cultural and historical legacy. Basra dialect exhibits distinctive phonetic characteristics, including a softer pronunciation of the letter "q" (ق) than other dialects.

It is worth saying that there are three different dialects in Basra concerning the regional variation (Alsiraih, 2021). The first one is located in the north of Basra; people in this area are affected by the dialect of O'Mara, another Iraqi place, as well as the dialect of AL Ahwaz, an area in Iran (in which people speak both Arabic and Persian). When we move south of Basra, we can find two other dialects. However, the second dialect in Basra is the dialect of AL-Zuber, according to the name of this town. This area also has a geographical location near Safwan. Therefore, people in this area speak just like Bedouin or Kuwait and Saudi Arabia dialects. The third dialect variation in Basra is the dialect of Abo-Al Khaseeb (Al Khsebawi). It is just like the Gulf dialect, especially AL Kuwait.

Finally, each of these dialects collectively embodies the distinctive cultural, historical, and geographical attributes of its specific region, constituting a significant component of Iraq's abundant linguistic legacy.

2.5 Labov's Theory of Language Variation and Change (1968)

Labov's Theory of Language Variation and Development (1968) is a groundbreaking sociolinguistic study that seeks to elucidate the patterns and mechanisms behind language variation and development (Hazen, 2010). The theory proposes that language variety and evolution are influenced by social factors, such as geographic location, social status, and ethnicity (Matsumoto, 2019). Furthermore, language usage is molded by the social environment in which it is employed. Labov's theory suggests that language diversity and change result from diffusion, where speakers adopt new linguistic traits and discard old ones due to social conditions.

Additionally, spatial variation refers to language characteristics varying across different geographical areas due to geographic isolation or cultural differences. Social identity also influences language usage, as individuals use language to indicate their social group affiliation and differentiate themselves

from others. He introduced the concept of a linguistic marker as a linguistic characteristic used to indicate affiliation with a specific social group (Hazen, 2010). This theory has significantly impacted the study of language diversity and evolution, language interaction, and language change and is crucial for language policy and planning.

3. Methodology

This study utilizes a qualitative and quantitative approach to examine the regional differences and language identity in Iraqi dialects spoken in Al-Anbar, Al Basra, and Al Mosul. The study employs qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methodologies to completely comprehend the linguistic characteristics and language identity of the three dialects. A questionnaire collected quantitative data from 45 individuals, with 15 participants from each dialect zone. The survey questionnaire comprised a set of linguistic inquiries and dialectal attributes, encompassing pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar, to evaluate the divergence among the three dialects.

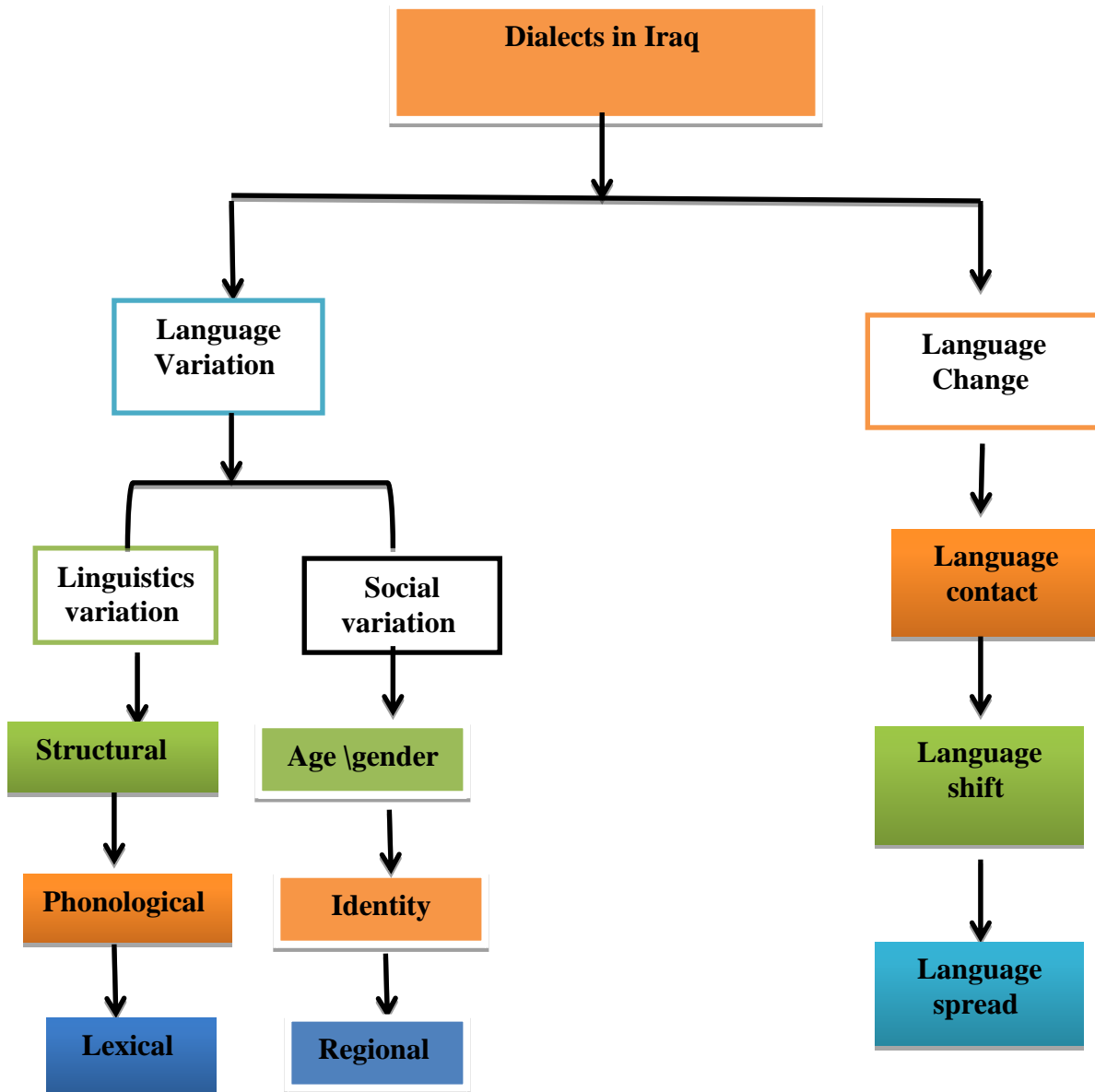
These interviews aimed to investigate the linguistic identity and attitudes towards the respective dialects. The interviews were captured in audio format, converted into written text, and examined for recurring patterns and ideas about language identity, usage, and attitudes toward other dialects. The data obtained from the survey and interviews were subjected to statistical and thematic analysis, respectively. The study's findings demonstrate notable regional disparities in dialects and provide insight into the intricate connection between language and identity within the framework of Iraqi dialects.

3.1 The Characteristics of the Data

This study concerns the investigation of a sociolinguistic study of regional variation and language identity in Iraqi dialects in selected areas in Iraq where people speak the Iraqi Arabic language in Anbar, Al Basra, and Al Mosul. Therefore, the researcher selects accurate data to make the study more reliable and achieve objective results. The researcher divides the study area into three main areas, and each area has three subdivisions according to the varieties of dialects in each area. Thus, the researcher chooses people from each sub-area and asks them to add more people to make the study more objective. However, each main area consists of 15 persons, and to make the total number of the data, 45 persons from different genders and ages starting from 30- 55 years old. So, the type of data chosen is random.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study adopted from the theory of Labov (1968), Language Variation and Change.



4. Data analysis

The data analysis depends on the interviews and questionnaires, ending by asking the data some questions and asking them to say them in their dialect to recognize the difference between the areas of the study in the Iraqi Arabic dialect. All of them speak Arabic, and the Standard Language in Iraq is Arabic except in Kurdistan, where Kurdish is also used, but this is not the concern of this study. The researcher asks the people from different areas the questions, and the following is the analysis of their dialect and how the areas differ from one to another.

4.1 Al-Anbar

In Anah, the *geographical location* of this area near Syria (Deer Al Zoor) impacts the dialect of the Iraqi people in this town. Their dialect is called *Anna's Dialect*, which is characterized by *the amplification* of letters and concerning on the letter (*qaf*) القاف. For example, *Shkoon Qaa' Tsawi* (شكون قاع تسوي؟) which means *what are you doing?* However, the letter *Qaf* can be used in many cities, including Al BuKamal to Heet, but the letter is more amplified in Anna.

Additionally, when people in Anah want to say that *We left in the morning*, which is in Standard Arabic, *Kharajna min al Sabah*. They said *Thala'ana min al suboh*. طلعنا من الصبح. The regional impact to distinguish this area in their speech. There no change in the structure of the sentence, concerning the phonological elements people make sounds longer than other areas' Similarly, people in *Heet*, another city in Al Anbar, said *Thala'ana min al ghobsha* (dawn), (طلعنا من الغبشة الصبح). The difference here is in the *lexical word*, but the meaning is the same. *Pronouncing* the words seems to make the sound more *prolonged* than others. Moreover, the center of Al Anbar says it differently, *Thala'ana min shag al fajer*. طلعنا من شگ الفجر. Thus, the word *shak al fajer*, just like *ghobsha*, really indicates the dawn. This change in the *linguistic lexicalization* of the word meaning is also the same.

In saying the sentence, *we wiped it up with a towel like flour was poured on the floor and mat*. People in Anah say *Intash altaheen ala alfrash wa ala alkaa wa meshnah*. انتش الطحين على الفراش و على الكاع و مسحناه. They, as usual, *pronounce* the words with *long letters*. The *lexical word* is *changed* by using *Antash*. there is also change in the structure, since they may use two preposition. Moreover, Heet is located in the Al Anbar Governorate of Iraq. It is located in the northwest of Ramadi. Situated on the banks of the Euphrates River, the city of Heet was initially a compact fortified settlement encircled

by a shallow trench and constructed on two elevated areas where the ancient city once stood. They say the sentence in the same way as Anah. The center of Al-Anbar also says the same thing as the other dialects in Al-Anbar. No change in the *linguistic, pronunciation, or structure* of words in this sentence.

In addition, the sentence *The gust sits in the sitting room*. In the center of the city, the people use the ward *Aldiywania* الديوانية for the sitting room. Thus, they say *يكد الضيف بالديوانية* *Yugad aldhaef bi aldiywania*. While Heet uses the word *Alisteqbaal* the reception الاستقبال, and Anah uses *the room of the gust* غرفة الخطار *Gorfat al kutaar*. The a difference here in the *lexical word*, but it has the *same meaning and structure*.

Another variation in the dialect of Al Anbar concerning the use of different words for the exact meaning is when people want to say *We ate heavy cream for breakfast*. The people in Heet and Anah use the same *lexical word* but differ in *making sounds longer* than in other dialects. So, they say, *Akalt Kamar an alraewog* اكلت كيمر ع الريوگ, while people in the center of Al Anbar use the word *Achalt* اچلت /I ate, in different *pronunciation* by *changing* the sound /K/ into *ch*, but the same meaning. They say *اچلت كيمر ع الريوگ*. In talking about the amount, Anbars' dialect emphasizes the sound *ch* in saying *Chetheer* كثير too much instead of *Katheer* كثير, which is used in Anna and Heet. In this part, people in Ana add another word for the sentence to emphasize the amount by saying *Heel Hatha Kathee* حيل هذا كثير.

In conclusion, the dialect in Al Anbar is charming, and people can be recognized by their dialect from one area to another. The *contact areas* near Syria make contact and lead to the *shifting* of some elements into the Al-Anbars' dialect. This dialect *spread* in a particular area, and people consider their dialect as their *identity*. In reality, the Modern Standard Arabic language is the language in this city, but their colloquial dialect varies from one area to another. Some areas in Al Anbar are distinguished by the *phonological* elements, such as *substituting* one sound for another or making some *sounds longer*. Making long sounds is sometimes used to indicate emphasis. *The lexical words* are a significant *change* in the dialects, but there is no change in the *structure*. Their language is very close to the Modern Standard Arabic, and the soul of Bedouin can be seen in their dialect because of their *geographical location* and the impact of the neighboring cities as well as other countries such as Jordan.

2. Al-Basra

In *Al Basra*, the way of saying this sentence differs from other places in Iraq except in the lexical words. However, the area in Al Basra can be divided into two places according to the dialect. The north and south. In the south of AL Basra, when people say the sentence *We left in the morning*, they say it as *Thalana ambacher (the dawn) طلعنا امبجر*. But in the north, they say *Thalana min alsobeh طلعنا من الصبح*. The variation of *the lexical words* is due to the impact of the neighboring area in the south near the Gulf areas. Moreover, the north of Basra says *Chab (chafat) al taheed ala alkaq w albsat w mshnah bilwsla. جب جفة الطحين على الكاع والبساط ومسحنه بالوصله*. While the south area say *Atashar altaheed w hasenah min alkaa' اطشر الطحين و حسينه من الكاع*.

Similarly, the north said *Yeqad al Khotar bildiwanyia, يكعد الخطار بالديوانية* while the south said *Yeqad alkhotar bil mudeef, يكعد الخطار بالمضيف*. The change is in the linguistic elements when the *lexical word* is changed from *Aldiwanyia to Al mudeef*. Another sentence that explains varieties of dialect between north and south of Basra is that in the north, people said *Akalt ghamer bil raeooq, اكلت كيمر بالريوك* the south said *Akalt ghamer fi al raeooq*. There is no change in the words; in talking about the amount, people in the south of Basra use the word *Wied or Chetheer وايد او جثير* which indicates too much, while in the north, people use *wijed واحد*.

In Al-Basra, dialect *variation* can be seen in the *linguistic elements*, such as when people of the north of Basra are affected by other areas, such as Iran, especially Al Ahwaz, in which people speak Arabic. The *region* of this area shows the boundaries in the dialect. Moving south of Basra, we can find the impact of AL-Kuwait and Arabic Sudia, especially in Al Zubar and Al-Khaseeb. The precise *variations* are in the *lexical words* and the *pronunciation*, which express how people reflect the Bedouin dialect in their speech. The *sentence structure* is the same as in Modern Standard Arabic, and there is no *change in the choice* of words between male and female, as well as age. They speak the same dialect in each area, and the *contact* with other countries sheds light on their dialect.

4.3 AL-Mosul

In Al-Mosul, there are three main areas according to the dialect. It can be divided into the south of Mosul, the north, and the southwestern near Salah Al Deen city, especially Tikreet. The Mosul dialects have unique

characteristics; in some areas, they replace the letters or use different words that cannot be understood except by the Mosulian people.

In the north of Mosul, the people say *Rah nhoh min wajh al- sobeh* *راح نحوح من وجه الصبح* the change here in the lexical words, the pronunciation where there is a substitution of some sounds. The /r/ changed into /h/ in the word *Nrooh* (left) *نروح* to make it *Nohoh*. The north of Al Mosul says the sentence as *Ghhna wj al sobeh*. *غحنا وج الصبح*. In the south of Mosul, said *Thalana min alghobsha* *طلعنا من الغبشة*. The word *Ntash* is used instead of *Tdashar* in the sentence, *Ntash al taheen ala alfaghras wa alagd mesahnah blwesle*. *نطش الطحين على الفغرس و الاغض مسحناه بلوصلي*. In the south of Hamam Al-Aleel, people said it was *Wigaa* instead of *Ntash*. Thus, they say *Wigaa Al Taheen ala al-frash wa Mashanah bwesla*. *و كع الطحين على الفراش و مشيناه بوصله*. In another are in Al- Mosul people say that *Ntash altaheen al fgheesh w alaghd w masahanaha bl khoqa*, *نطش الطحين عل فغيش و الاغض و مسناها بل خوقة*.

The sentence We ate the heavy cream in the breakfast. *Akalna alqamgh ala alfofogh*. *اكلنا القيمغ على الفطورغ*. The change in the pronunciation, the substitution of sounds that hold the sounds, and the lexical words are changed as a result. This way of producing the letters is in two areas of AL-Mosul, especially areas, especially in the western south and the north. Other area says *Akalto qamagh bl tagheuqah*, *اكلتو قيمغ بل تغيوقه*. In Hama AL-Aleel area they say *Achalna gamar a altaruga*, *اچلنا كيمر ع التريوكة*.

In Mosul people say *way dada hiatha ktheer*, which means it is over *وي دادة هادا كثير*. While in the southwest of Al Mosul, they said *Hatha ktheegh heel*. *هذا كنيغ حيل*. In the Hmam AL-Aleel area, they say *Hatha heel chtheer or Shdawa*. *هذا حيل چثير او شدةوة*.

Finally, the varieties in the dialects of the three areas can be noticed in the pronunciation, when there is a substitution of some sounds, such as \r\, which changes into \gh\ and \k\ changes into Arabic dialect sound \چ\ this sound just in colloquial dialect. The lexical words also change in some situations, distinguishing one area from another. The exact structure in the ordering of the sentence can be seen in all dialects, making this dialect very close to the structure of Modern Standard Arabic. Moreover, there is a change in the words that is used for male or female, the regional that makes AL-Mosul very close to Turkey, Syria, and other Kurdish cities affects the dialect effect and is affected by the dialect or language of the neighboring areas.

Table 1: The Varieties of Dialect in Iraq According to the Test

			AL-Anbar 3 Areas	AL-Basra 2 Areas	Al- Mosul 3 Areas
Language Variation	Linguistic Variation	Phonological	7	4	16
		Structural	5	1	2
		Lexical	11	7	26
	Social Variation	Age\ gender	0	0	0
		Regional	12	8	12
		Identity	12	8	12
Language Change	Contact		11	7	10
	Shift		7	6	4
	Spread		8	4	12

Results & Discussion

There are many studies concerned with the varieties in the Iraqi Arabic dialect. Al-Bazzaz and Ali (2020) present a study about Iraqi dialects that aims to examine the influence of TV series on students in universities' dialects and whether this influence is positive or negative. Their study is in the field of language and media. As a result, the researchers find that series have an implicit effect on relating certain images to certain dialects. Mayuuf and Majeed's study in 2020 is in the field of sociolinguistics, emphasizing the investigation of language variation in the Iraqi context in the comprehension of understanding how dialects vary from one area to another. They conclude that the Arabic-Iraqi dialect varies because of regional and social factors.

In contrast to previous studies, it deals with the variation of Iraqi Arabic dialect in certain areas, including AL-Anbar, Al-Musol, and Al-Basra. This study adopts Labove's theory of Language Variation and Change. It uncovers a notable geographical disparity in the dialects of Iraq, particularly in the provinces of Al-Anbar, Al-Basra, and Al-Mosul. Dialects exhibit variety in their phonological, structural, and linguistic characteristics. The study demonstrates that the Al-Anbar, Al-Basra, and Al-Mosul dialects display unique phonological characteristics. Regarding structural variation, the



research indicates that the dialects exhibit distinct structural characteristics. The study demonstrates that the dialects exhibit a substantial amount of linguistic differences. The social variation also shows a notable social disparity in Al-Anbar, Al-Basra, and Al-Mosul dialects.

Concerning language shift, the research demonstrates a notable linguistic transformation occurring in the dialects. The study emphasizes the importance of regional diversity in the dialects of Iraq, particularly in the provinces of Al-Anbar, Al-Basra, and Al-Mosul. Therefore, the findings indicate that the dialects exhibit discernible phonological, structural, and lexical characteristics shaped by the area's social and cultural milieu. The study also demonstrates a notable linguistic transformation in the dialects, which can be linked to the interaction between the dialects and other languages, such as Arabic and Kurdish.

Finally, this study has significant ramifications for language planning and policy in Iraq. The statement proposes that the government should acknowledge and honour the differences in dialects among regions and create language regulations that encourage the use of these dialects in public settings. The study also suggests implementing language education programs in schools to teach dialects and creating language centres to promote the use of these dialects in the media and other public settings. These measures aim to preserve these dialects as an integral part of the history and identity of these cities.

Conclusion

The study explores the geographical differences and linguistic characteristics of Iraqi dialects in Al-Anbar, Al Basra, and Al Mosul. It reveals significant variations in dialects influenced by geography, history, and cultural factors. The research highlights the intricate nature of linguistic identity in Iraq, where preferences are shaped by geographical association and ethnicity. It also reveals that language identity is fluid and continuously evolving, adapting to social environments. The study finds that Iraq is prosperous with different dialects. These dialects share the same structure and use modern standard Arabic. The variation between areas can be found in the phonological, lexical and sometimes the use for a specific gender.

The study emphasizes the importance of considering Iraq's linguistic diversity in language policy and educational programs. Standardizing Arabic may marginalize local dialects and overlook the country's cultural and linguistic diversity. The study highlights the need for language recording and



conservation, as multiple dialects risk extinction. The findings have implications for language policy, education, and preserving linguistic diversity in Iraq. Acknowledging and appreciating the diverse languages spoken can lead to a more inclusive and fair society.

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دراسة اجتماعية لغوية للتنوع الإقليمي والهوية اللغوية في اللهجات العراقية: الأنبار
وبصرة والموصل في العراق

مستخلص البحث:

تناقش ورقة البحث دراسة اجتماعية - لغوية تستكشف التنوع الإقليمي والهوية اللغوية في ثلاث لهجات عراقية: الأنبار والبصرة والموصل. ومن الضروري دراسة حقائق اللهجة داخل بلد ما من وجهة نظر اجتماعية - لغوية. وتسعى الدراسة إلى دراسة العوامل الاجتماعية - اللغوية التي تؤثر على التنوع اللغوي في العراق ودراسة أثر اللهجات الإقليمية على تحديد اللغة. وقد جمعت بيانات من متحدثين من لهجات الأنبار والموصل والبصرة، باستخدام أسلوب كرة الثلج لجمع العينات. وتتبع الدراسة مزيج من أساليب البحث النوعي والكمي، بما في ذلك المقابلات والاستبيانات. ركز التحقيق على التغييرات الفونولوجية، واللغوية، وتغييرات الدلالة في كل لهجة. وبحثت الدراسة الكيفية التي ينظر بها المتحدثون إلى الهوية اللغوية، ومواقفهم إزاء التنوع الإقليمي، وكيف تؤثر الخصائص الاجتماعية - اللغوية، بما في ذلك الإقليم، السن، ونوع الجنس، والتعليم، والطبقة الاجتماعية، على استخدام اللهجة. ويبحث البحث أيضاً كيفية تصوير اللغات المختلفة في وسائل الإعلام وفي الأوساط التعليمية. يعتمد الباحث نظرية الاختلاف والتغير في لغة لا بوف (1968) لتحليل التباين في اللهجات في هذه الدراسة. ونتيجة لذلك، خلصت الدراسة إلى أن اللهجة العراقية تتألف من لهجات مختلفة داخل العراق، بعضها تختلف من حيث التغييرات الصوتية أو من حيث جوهر الكلمات أو الدلالة توفر طرقاً مختلفة لاستخدام اللغة وتشغيلها، ولكن جميعها تشترك في نفس اللهجة الكلاسيكية. وتعزز نتائج الدراسة الدراسات الاجتماعية - اللغوية ودراسات اللهجة، مما يؤثر على تخطيط اللغات، والسياسات التعليمية، ومبادرات تنشيط اللغات.

الكلمات الرئيسية: اللغة الاجتماعية - اللغوية، والنوع، والتباين والتغير اللغوي، واللهجات العراقية.