

Influence of English and French on Arabic Dialects: A Sociolinguistic Study of Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, and the UAE

Naji M AlQbailat¹, Khalid Hicham², Aysha Juma Alshamsi³, Nizar M Qpilat^{3,4}, Mukhled A Abu Shouk⁵

¹ Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan

² Faculty of medicine and pharmacy, Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco

³ Mohamed Bin Zayed University for Humanities, Abu Dhabi, UAE

⁴ Jordan University, Amman, Jordan

⁵ English Department, Faculty of Languages & Communication, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Terengganu, Malaysia

Correspondence: Naji M AlQbailat, Princess Alia University College, Al-Balqa Applied University, Abu Hamed Al Ghazali St., Ash Shumaysani, Amman, 11194 Jordan. E-mail: najimql@bau.edu.jo

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Abstract

This study investigates language borrowing with a specific focus on the incorporation of linguistic elements from French and English into Arabic dialects spoken in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, and the UAE. These countries were selected due to their representative geographical distribution across the Arab world and their historical exposure to English and French. The research aims to identify the primary uses and functions of borrowed words and the reasons behind this linguistic phenomenon. A sociolinguistic perspective was employed to examine how speakers contribute to language change through borrowing. To achieve this, four groups of undergraduate students from the selected countries participated in an unstructured questionnaire, which they completed using their knowledge or through the top Arabic newspapers from their respective countries. Borrowed words were categorized by usage, function, source language, and reason for borrowing. The findings showed that most borrowed words from both French and English served technical or educational functions. The primary reasons for language borrowing were related to post-colonial linguistic influences and the need to adapt to globalization, especially in education and modern communication systems. This study underscores the role of language borrowing in shaping contemporary Arabic dialects.

Keywords: Language borrowing, Linguistic change, Sociolinguistics, Arabic dialects, English, French

1. Introduction

A language does change and evolve without being noticed by its speakers, who are unconsciously in constant interaction with this language. Looking at some Arabic dialects, such as Moroccan, Algerian, Jordanian, and Emirati, we can notice that they are atypical of standard Arabic. Perhaps young and adult Arabs in these regions have tended to code-mix, code-switch, and borrow words. There is, however, a rather more profound and direct cause to this phenomenon, specifically in these regions, being the fact that these countries are former French or English colonies and are accordingly influenced by the linguistic inheritance of post-colonialism or contemporary globalisation linguistic exchange and necessities. Through borrowing, young and adult people have managed to allow the integration of structures and words that are new to the target language system. With that, we can hypothesize that if this phenomenon perpetuates, these dialects will, to some extent, vanish. This resulted mainly because of the unconscious behaviour of young and adult people who have a larger and more tolerant use of the French or English languages.

Therefore, this paper relates to a sociolinguistic study that aims to draw attention to the process of word borrowing as one of many by-products that emerged in the contemporary linguistic evolution of standard Arabic and its variants in the Arab world. It probes how young and adult people integrate French and English lexicons and items into the Arabic language of some Arab peoples in the contemporary era and to what extent these injections are customarily adopted and incorporated into daily routine conversations. These countries are ideal for observing language change and the implications and social impact contributing to this phenomenon because they represent the various accents of the Arab world, they are geographically located across the Arab world, and, most importantly, their variants could be the most influenced linguistically by many other languages, specifically English and French, in the last century in the contemporary era.

Shedding light on the Arabic borrowing from other languages would deepen the understanding of both academics and laymen of the development that has taken place in their language over time, thus documenting these linguistic changes for sociolinguistic and pragmatic usage in the future. It would also help in understanding how and why these linguistic changes took place, which may contribute to the more appropriate use of this phenomenon in various daily linguistic contexts and settings; therefore, the problem of this research stems

from various factors: First, the need for categorising the functions of the Arabic words that have been borrowed from other languages in the contemporary era, and the need for understanding why and how this phenomenon took place linguistically. Further, this is rare relevant research investigating the language borrowing in the Arab world from east to west and as affected by two international languages combined (French and English). It is believed the findings and body of this research would help academics and their students, who specialize in studying the evolution of Arabic in the last century, record, document, and better use all borrowed terms. Generally, this research attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What are the main usages of the words borrowed from French or English into Arabic dialects, especially in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, and the UAE?
2. What factors influenced borrowing French or English words in the Arabic dialects, especially in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, and the UAE?
3. How were the words borrowed from French or English adapted in Arabic dialects, especially in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, and the UAE?

2. Historical Overview

2.1 Morocco and Algeria

The linguistic imprint of French colonialism has had a major impact on the historical setting of post-colonial Algeria and Morocco. The linguistic landscapes of these two Arab countries were significantly influenced by the nearly two-century-long French colonial rule, which deliberately discouraged the teaching of Arabic in favour of using the language of the coloniser as a way of internalisation and interculturalization of the French language over the native population and their culture (Heggoy, 1984). As a result, the French language had empirical control over Moroccan and Algerian post-colonial linguistic features. Therefore, the linguistic influence of French in the post-colonialism era was evident in the continuing contestation and recognition of both the Algerian and Moroccan Arabic language dialects. This influence has, thus, played a pivotal role in shaping the linguistic landscape and language attitudes and policies in both Algeria and Morocco, reflecting the enduring impact of colonial history on the sociolinguistic dynamics of the two nations. The relevant manifestations of these influences can be briefly summarised in the following linguistic phenomena:

2.1.1 Linguistic Borrowing of Lexicons

The linguistic borrowing of lexicons can be referred to as the process of borrowing administrative terminology from French to everyday vocabulary in Algeria and Morocco as a leading linguistic factor in language transformation in both countries (Sadiqi, 2005). This means that Moroccan Arabic and Algerian Arabic, including related dialects, have adopted elements from French as a common phenomenon in language evolution, driven by various factors such as contact between cultures, language contact, language prestige, technological advancements, and the desire to express new concepts (Arlotto, 1972: 184; Thomason, 2001).

2.1.2 Divergence from Regional Arabic Roots and Linguistic Diversification

The influence of borrowing from French on the Arabic language in Algeria and Morocco has also been apparent on the phonological as well as syntactical level through changes and alterations in pronunciation (Khrisat & Mohamad, 2014), as well as changes in word placement and sentence structures.

2.1.3 Regional Variations: Distinctiveness, Diversity

Many regions in Algeria and Morocco have exhibited unique linguistic features resulting from borrowing, with a varying degree and nature across cities and rural areas (Gordon, 2019). More understanding of these regional dialectal diversities, in the context of borrowing, is often based on or directly linked to urban regional proximity and/or socioeconomic factors.

2.1.4 Sociolinguistic Factors: Language Attitudes, Language Shift, Role of French in Media, and Education Orientation

Linguistic studies on language attitudes manifested by different age groups and social strata identified how borrowing from French has affected language identity and prestige in former French colonies (Ball & Marley, 2017). Of the many investigations conducted in this matter, borrowing from French in multilingual settings has contributed to language shift in an extreme way, so much so that this can be seen in media and education as a promoting factor for the spread and acceptance of borrowed words in post-colonial societies. For these societies, one way to encounter the French influence and connote colonial dominance heritage has been through language policy and planning (Bourdieu, 1977). The basic aim was to Arabise the learning process, but the ultimate goal was to safeguard Arabic against linguistic marginalisation and thus the restoration of Arabic (Arabization) as a linguistic identity.

2.1.5 Multilingualism, Code-switching, and Diglossia

Both Morocco and Algeria are multilingual societies, with different dialects concurrent within these settings. In Morocco, per se, there are two first languages; a person may either speak Amazigh and Moroccan Arabic or both, yet classical Arabic may be used in more official as well as administrative or religious activities or situations. Also, in both countries, other foreign languages can be widely spoken by many, particularly French, Spanish, and English. Although the linguistic situation may seem rich in these regions, it indicates that the complexities of the linguistic interaction can lead to practices such as code-switching and code-mixing (Genesee & Bourhis, 1982) as a sign of linguistic multilingual competence and coexistence of these languages in different sociolinguistic contexts (see also Alshargabi, Kamil, & Hazem, 2022).

2.2 Jordan and the UAE

Both Jordanian and UAE Arabic have been affected by the English language significantly as a result of its lingua franca taught in schools and used in various socio-cultural contexts (Suleiman, 1981). Indirect borrowing from languages like French has also occurred in the two Arab countries. One of the first works on borrowing in Arabic was for Butros (1963), who investigated English loanwords in the colloquial form of the Arabic of Jordan (1948-1062). The researcher developed a comprehensive list of these words with a specific focus on their part of speech, Arabic equivalent, and the English headword, besides investigating the impact of English words on the phonemic, morphemic, syntactic, and semantic patterns of Jordanian Arabic. He found that the functions of most loanwords are represented in the field of science and technology with around 1200 loanwords. He has also found that the English phonemes had a ready adaptation to the phonemic habits of colloquial Arabic. It was also observed that the English regular plural morpheme was added. Generally, Suleiman (1981) concluded that there was a tendency towards the replacement of some English loanwords by Arabic words.

In a similar context, Al-Btoush (2014) investigated the borrowed words from English and the factors contributing to their growing incorporation into the everyday life of the Jordanians. The researcher employed a survey questionnaire as a data collection instrument distributed to a random sample of undergraduate students (No. 25 males and 25 females). It was found that English loanwords were used for prestige, habits, study needs, and modernity. Besides that, the research found that females use English more frequently than males while communicating. The study also revealed that the participants believed that the words borrowed from English had no equivalents in Arabic and they had been inserted into their Emeriti-used language.

Salem's (2015) research emphasised the words borrowed from English and used in Jordanian Arabic (JA), particularly the words used in Facebook interactions, newspapers, and daily conversations. His research found that the English loanwords in JA were widespread and covered various semantic fields, with "technology and communication" and "modern world" being particularly prominent. Nouns, adjectives, and phrases were found to be the most borrowed, respectively. The study has also demonstrated that the borrowed words, to fit into the JA linguistic system, have been modified phonologically, morphologically, and semantically. The modifications included sound adaptations, morphological patterns, and semantic shifts. As for the usage, which is the main drive of the current study, the researcher found that the borrowed words have similar use in written as well as spoken language. In spoken language, insertions serve communicative functions like message qualification, redundancy, and humor. However, borrowed words in written discourse enhance accuracy and persuasiveness and reflect the writer's linguistic proficiency.

Alnamer and Alnamer (2018) attempted to identify the origin and the reasons behind using the borrowed words that were commonly and currently used in Emirati Arabic (EA). The researcher collected data using a questionnaire distributed to 90 EA speakers' sampling population. The study demonstrated that females, educated, and young EA speakers used borrowed words more than their equivalents in their specific groups. This phenomenon was interpreted as a reaction to prestigious impacts and educational purposes.

3. Methodology

This research used a mixed methodology design of quantitative and qualitative data. Four different groups of undergraduate students from four different universities located in Morocco and Algeria (studying French) and Jordan and the UAE (studying English) were selected as a convenient sample for this research. Each group consisted of 15 students who were requested to individually complete an unstructured questionnaire by which they could provide this research with a list of 50 words that they were currently using in their first language as being borrowed from the language they were studying. The questionnaire consisted, in addition to blank columns of the borrowed words, of other columns for their source language, source, and target phonological transcription using the API and semantic register or function. Students were given enough time to do the task freely provided that they did not use written or electronic sources except for top popular newspapers in their countries, namely, Al-Alam from Morocco, Echorouk from Algeria, Ad-Dustour from Jordan, and Al-Bayan from the UAE. The reason for limiting the data of this research to students' daily-life newspapers was to ensure that the investigated borrowed words were integrated into the dialects of Arabs in their real-life settings. This procedure would likely lead to a deeper understanding of why and how people integrated the borrowed words into their language (standard Arabic or any of its dialects).

The reason behind employing university students for this research is that, as opposed to children who only tend to imitate utterances from their closer surroundings, they tend to be almost always exposed to several linguistic items from the French or English languages and are aware of how borrowing can help them adopt and assimilate new concepts that cannot be expressed using their mother tongue. A phenomenon that not only relates to the need for a foreign language as a means of communication but also as a historical natural development and a basic requirement for the globalisation of linguistic influences on Arabic in various countries and locations. For answering the research questions and testing the validity of the data, an unstructured questionnaire, which consisted of two main open questions, was used.

Although these data are qualitative and respondents were free to complete their open-ended questions, the collected data were analysed by using both descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages in line with qualitative descriptions and interpretations. Once the list of borrowed words by each group was collected and the common or frequently reoccurring words were refined, each group collectively generated a final list with no repeated words. Then the final unified list of borrowed words that was generated by each group was offered to a well-known dictionary of the source language to validate its origin, i.e., Larousse's Arabic-French dictionary and Cambridge dictionary were consulted. The list of words was then classified and analysed in terms of the usage, function, or topic they were used for. For example, this research classified these words into five main usages, functions, topics, or categories:

1. educational and technical terms,
2. food, shopping, and economic terms,
3. political and journalism terms
4. medical, animal, and biological terms, and
5. sports and games.

Therefore, descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages were used to analyse the data of this research. Since this research was conducted on borrowed words from two different languages, the data have been dealt with and analysed by two different groups of researchers.

4. Results

This research attempted to answer two main questions. The first revolved around the need to identify the usage and functions of words borrowed from French or English and used in Arabic at various locations and by various Arabic language dialects. The second question tried to find out the reasons for borrowing words from French and English in Arabic dialects. This section addresses these results in order as follows:

4.1 Results of the First Research Question

The analysis of the data gathered by the unstructured questionnaire revealed that the distribution of topics of the French and English borrowed words in Moroccan, Algerian, Jordanian, and Emeriti Arabic was represented mainly in the educational and technical terms with 42% of the investigated words, food, shopping, and economic terms with 21% of the investigated words, political and journalism terms with 14% of the investigated words, medical, animal, and biological terms with 13% of the investigated words, and finally sports and games terms with 4% of the investigated words. Tables 1 and 2 below show the detailed distribution of the borrowed words as per source and target languages by topic:

Table 1. Distribution of borrowed words by usage as per source and target languages

Topic	No. of words borrowed from French				No. of words borrowed from English				Total	%
	MA	%	AA	%	JA	%	EA	%		
Educational & Technical Terms	801	42	795	43	847	43	760	40	3203	42
Food, Shopping & Economic Terms	400	21	385	21	411	21	405	21	1601	21
Political & Journalism Terms	305	16	290	16	302	15	300	16	1197	16
Total	1506	79	1470	80	1560	79	1465	77	6001	79

MA (Moroccan Arabic)

AA (Algerian Arabic)

JA (Jordanian Arabic)

EA (Emeriti Arabic)

Table 2. Distribution of borrowed words by usage as per source and target languages

Topic	No. of words borrowed from French				No. of words borrowed from English				Total	%
	MA	%	AA	%	JA	%	EA	%		
Medical, Biological & Animal Terms	229	12	225	12	215	11	230	12	899	12
Sports & Games Terms	115	6	110	6	120	6	120	6	465	6
Others	57	3	55	3	65	3	70	4	247	3
Total	401	21	390	21	400	20	420	22	1611	21

MA (Moroccan Arabic)

AA (Algerian Arabic)

JA (Jordanian Arabic)

EA (Emeriti Arabic)

Tables 1 and 2 show the distribution of borrowed words by function and source language in four different Arabic dialects: Moroccan Arabic (MA), Algerian Arabic (AA), Jordanian Arabic (JA), and Emeriti Arabic (EA), where the source languages for the borrowed words are French and English. They also show that the total number of words that were collected by participants was 7612 borrowed words distributed to six different functions. The broadest function was the ‘*Educational & Technical Terms*’ with 323 words representing 42% of the total borrowed words, followed by the ‘*Food, Shopping & Economic Terms*’ with 1601 words representing 21% of the total borrowed words. The lowest category was the other borrowed words, which were difficult to identify, classify, or were unclear, with only 247 words representing 3% of the total borrowed words. Figure 1 below also shows this distribution of the loanwords function:

As can be seen in this figure, sports and games borrowed words from either French or English occupy the lowest category of functions before others or unidentified words, with 465 borrowed words representing 65 of the total collected words from the two source languages and used in the four target Arabic dialects.

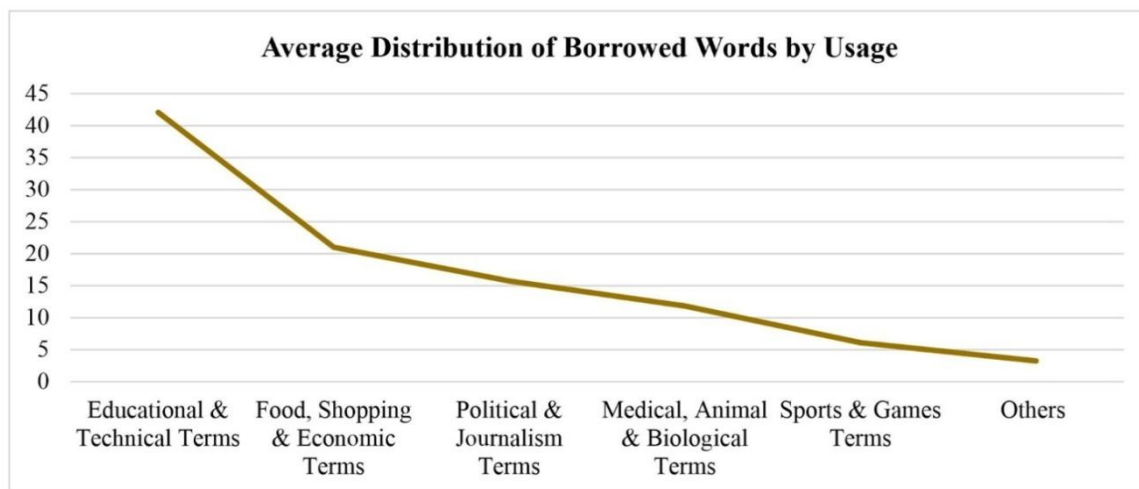


Figure 1. The average distribution of borrowed words by usage or function

4.2 Results of the Second Research Question

The data collected from Part 2 of the questionnaire shows that the vast majority of participants (90%) agreed that all mentioned reasons (major and sub-reasons) were equally responsible for integrating the collected borrowing from the source language into their own individual Arabic dialect. Table 3 below shows the level of agreement.

Table 3. Participants' level of agreement with factors beyond language borrowing

Factors beyond language borrowing	Level of Agreement with Reasons						Total	%			
	M A	%	A A	%	J A	%			E A		
Cultural exchange and need-filling	Colonialism	15	100	14	93	15	100	13	87	57	95
	Trade & Commerce	14	93	15	100	15	100	12	80	56	93
	Migration & Immigration	14	93	15	100	14	93	14	93	57	95
Prestige, Social Status & modernization	Social & Economic Factors	15	100	14	93	13	87	15	100	57	95
	Education & modernization	15	100	15	100	12	80	14	93	56	93
Language Contact & innovations	Linguistic Necessity	14	93	13	87	15	100	14	93	56	93
	Language Evolution	14	93	13	87	14	93	13	87	54	90
Political and Ideological Factors	Nationalism & Identity	13	87	12	80	13	87	12	80	50	83

Figure (2) shows that there is a group of reasons that are collectively responsible for borrowing words from French and English into Arabic dialects throughout history. All of these factors have been highly considered by participants as factors that influenced language borrowing. For example, colonialism, migration, and social and economic factors were considered responsible for the borrowing process by 57 participants, representing 95% of them. As for trade and commerce as well as linguistic necessity, they were rated as responsible for borrowing words by 56 participants, representing 93% of participants. The lowest-rated reasons for borrowing were language evolution and nationalism (90% and 83% of participants, respectively). Generally, all mentioned factors were considered crucial reasons for language borrowing.

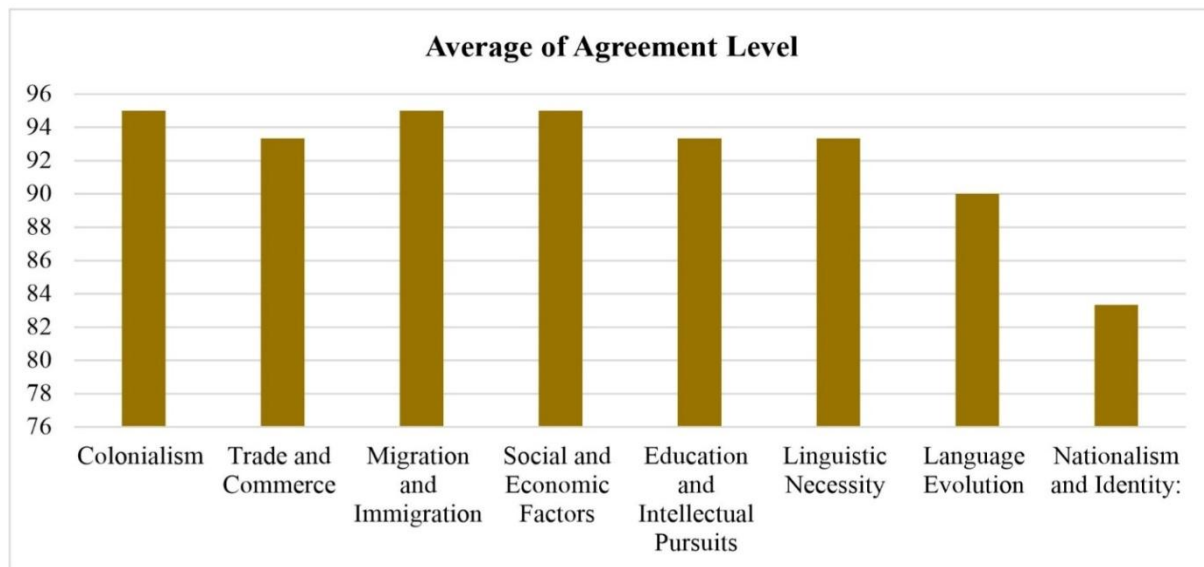


Figure 2. Participants' level of agreement with the listed reason for language borrowing

4.3 Results of the Third Research Question

By analysing several words borrowed from French and English into Arabic dialects to find out how these words were adapted, it was found that many of them were dealt with by Arab speakers from a sociolinguistic perspective, i.e., as lexical innovations, old-fashioned words, need-filling words, a modernisation process, euphemism-related, etc. Tables 4 and 5 show examples of these words and their phonetic transcription:

Table 4. Sample analysis of borrowed words from French and English

Method of Borrowing	Sample Words	Phonetic Transcription	Source Language	Target language
Lexical Innovations	tchokite	/tʃɔːki:t/	French	MA/AA
	(n)cerkel	/særkæl/	French	MA/AA
	activi	/a:kti:vi/	French	MA/AA
	(n)bipi	/bi:pl/	French	MA/AA
	(m)connecti	/kɔ̃nɛkti:/	French	MA/AA
	(n)d ɛplaca	/deplasa/	French	MA/AA
	(n)format ɛ	/fɔ:rmæte/	French	MA/AA
Old Fashioned Words	(n)demand ɛ	/dɔ̃m æde/	French	MA/AA
	طراباكو (Trabakho)	/tʁæbaxɔ/	Spanish /French	MA/AA
	طوموبيل (Tomobeel)	/tɔ̃mɔbi:l/	French	MA/AA
	بورطابيل (Portal)	/portʰabl/	French	MA/AA
Need-filling	ديسك (disk)	/disk/	English	MA/AA
	'billiard'	/bilyaardu/	English	JA
	'biscuits'	/baskoot/	English	JA
	'soap'	/saabuun/	English	JA
	'parliament'	/barlamaan/	English	JA

Table 5. Sample analysis of borrowed words from French and English

Method of Borrowing	Sample Words	Phonetic Transcription	Source Language	Target language
Modernization	'jacket'	/jaakiit/	English	JA
	'modem'	/mooda/	English	JA
	'accessories'	/ʰiksiswaaraat/	English	JA
	'perfume'	/barafaan/	English	JA
	television	/tilfizyoon/	English	JA
	radio	/raadyuu/	English	JA
Euphemism	'underwear'	/ʰandarweer/	English	JA
	'cancer'	/kaansar/	English	JA
	'toilet'	/twaaleet/	English	JA

Modernization	glass	/glɑ:s/	English	UA
	online	/ɒn'laɪn/	English	UA
	download	/'daʊnləʊd/	English	UA
	business	/'bɪznɪs/	English	UA
	charger	/'tʃɑ:dʒə/	English	UA
	draywel	/'drɑɪvəl/	English	UA

5. Discussion

Fasold (1984) states that:

"Some languages may lack the vocabulary to say certain things, but this is fairly easily corrected by adding new vocabulary to the language, either by coinage or by borrowing from other languages." (248-249)

This research explored the language borrowing phenomenon as French or English influenced various dialects across the Arab world from East to West. The main drive for this research was to identify the main usages, topics, or categories of the Arabic language borrowing phenomenon, the reasons beyond adapting this phenomenon in Arabic, and how words were processed in Arabic according to the topics they were used for.

The young and adult generations in Morocco and Algeria, for example, act essentially and dynamically for language change through their shifting from Arabic as the only regional linguistic landscape to new variations where French elements were dominant both politically and socially due to a long-lasting post-colonial status. English had similar impacts on other Arabic dialects in the middle and east of the Arab world, where Jordan Arabic (JA) and Emirati Arabic (EA) were no exception. Generally, one of the reasons English has a wider geographical distribution is that it is forced by its involvement in technological and scientific advancements. Based on our analysis, however, in Moroccan and Algerian speech communities, the terms related to new inventions, which fill a lexical gap in both colloquial Arabic dialects, are largely borrowed from the French language as opposed to other dialects of other regions that borrow directly from the English language.

Taking into consideration the historical background of the nations involved in this linguistic phenomenon as having been brought to a mandated language contact, this paved the foundation of French as an official language empowered by colonial desires. These desires, on the one hand, aimed to marginalise Algerian and Moroccan common Arabic identity and, on the other hand, guarantee its political and cultural influence in a supposedly post-colonial era. Consequently, French is used in official administrative activities and taught in classes from an early age. It was also observed that the need for borrowing was not always purely linguistic, such as filling a lexical gap. In some cases, we were able to find equivalents of French words in both dialects, but these words showed little distribution. For example, the words '(n)demand é to ask' and 'plizir: a favour' have an equivalent in Moroccan and Algerian Arabic dialects.

Participants, however, listed the French words instead in almost all situations where they felt the need to express those meanings. This is to show that the young and adult generations would insist on using the French language, reasoning that it is more effective compared to local dialects. This corresponds with the phenomenon of language shift, suggesting that a demoted feeling towards local languages as being inferior or incapable of expressing certain meanings is what primarily drives people to adopt a new language and, thus, shift to it (Fasold, 1984). Coupled with that, borrowing and the increase of bilingualism as well as multilingualism in post-colonial communities precipitate a feeling of being more prestigious and retain an important distinction between users of the borrowed words and those who do not.

In light of previous findings of relevant research, it can be revealed that the usages of borrowed words from French or English in Arabic were either perceived from a syntactic or semantic perspective, where it was found that nouns occupied 90% of the borrowed words, indicating the language's focus on naming new concepts and entities (Gardner & Lambert, 1972). This is supported by many studies (e.g. Hidalgo, 1986), which can be attributed to the nature of many loanwords, particularly those related to science, technology, and other name-intensive areas. Semantically, other studies (Al-Khatib & Farghal, 1999; Bader, 1990) indicated that 12% of English loanwords in Jordanian Arabic, for example, exhibit semantic innovation such as "Bluuzih," which refers to various clothing items like a blouse, pullover, or jumper, or "Sarfiis," which means taxi service or a restaurant's complimentary side dish.

Irrespective of the syntactic or semantic category of the borrowed words, this research indicated that there is a common usage of these words where some are dominant and more influential and thus could help us understand the reasons or factors that stood strongly beyond adapting this linguistic evolution and phenomenon. For example, this research found the main usages of borrowing were cultural, including colonialism, trade exchange, and migration. In fact, this is a normal finding since the investigated Arabic dialects were exposed to a long period of French or English colonialism, besides the continuous need for trade and commerce exchange with these countries in the post-colonialism era. Furthermore, many people in these countries immigrated mostly for study purposes and returned holding many of the source language culture and linguistic change. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the functions and usages of borrowed words included the need for filling-gab, which is considered a significant factor, particularly in technical areas, prestige, which is associated with western civilisation and technology, Euphemism, which is employed to avoid negative or offensive terms, and modernisation, which often reflect advancements in various fields.

As for the prestigious behaviour from a sociolinguistic point of view, this research may indicate that the higher education sector was the main contributor to word borrowing since it is associated with greater French or English proficiency and social prestige. However, despite

the fact that borrowed words can be seen as a sign of education, they may not be universally considered prestigious. Many Arabs view Arabic as a symbol of prestige and prefer native words over borrowed ones. Borrowed words were also used as a way of avoiding linguistic taboos. For example, one of the noticeable usages of the borrowed words is euphemism, which could help speakers use English loanwords to discuss sensitive topics like sex, disease, and death instead of direct Arabic words.

Generally, below is a sample analysis of some words adapted by the Arab dialects as being innovated by young generations:

- Through a process that entailed few morphological modifications, the French verb "se choquer" (which means "to be shocked") has been acquired and assimilated by native Moroccan and Algerian Arabic speakers as /tʃɔ:ki:t/. The addition of the grapheme /t/ at the beginning and end of the word indicates that it is used in the past tense. The absence of a term equivalent in meaning in local dialects, as well as the requirement to fill such lexical gap, were more than enough factors to justify this adoption. In light of the above, the word was taken from another language as a method of importation (Haugen, 1950).
- As a result of its widespread popularity, perceived modernity, and effectiveness in conveying the desired meaning, the French verb "circuler", meaning "to move around", was adopted by younger generations of native Algerian Arabic speakers, mainly, as well as Moroccan speakers, as "(n)cerkel /sərk əl/. This was done despite the presence of an equivalent term in colloquial Arabic. By the same token, the French verb "activer", meaning speed up or activate, has been translated into both dialects as "activi" /a:kti:vi/, whose meaning and use is dependent on the reader's age, and the context in which the word is used.
- Other examples include, but are not limited to, the term "bip" pronounced as (n)bipi /bi:pI/, initially translated from English to French, and then from French to Algerian and Moroccan Arabic. Given the ever-shifting nature of technology, the definition and usage of the word may have developed over the course of time. In other words, when loanwords are incorporated into utterances of a new language, they need to be fitted into native grammatical structures (Haugen, 1950). Similarly, the French verb "connecter" (to connect) was integrated into Algerian and Moroccan Arabic as (m)connect or /kənɛkti:/. The word has undergone morphological and phonological changes to fit the local language's patterns and has also expanded in meaning. The French verb "se déplacer" (to move about or around) was also adopted into Algerian and Moroccan Arabic as (n)dəplaca /deplasa/. The word has undergone minimal changes, primarily in inflection to conform to the grammatical structures of the target languages.
- Young generations contributed to many other borrowed words from French. For example, the French word "formater" (to format) was integrated into Algerian and Moroccan Arabic as (n)format é /fɔ:rmæte/. Taking into account the cultural and linguistic influences of French, the word came to be understood in a metaphorical sense within the framework of the local environment. Also, the French verb "demander", meaning to ask or request, became (n)ndemande /dəm ɛ̃de/ in Algerian and Moroccan Arabic. The word has acquired popularity among speakers, regardless of whether they were literate or not, despite the fact there are various synonyms for the word in local dialects.

A few additional words, however, were considered old-fashioned amongst communities. In many of the older speech communities, for instance, the following words are largely used and are also known to have been borrowed from French and other languages. These words have a distribution that is indicative not only of the French post-colonial influence but also of other colonial powers that were present at the time, such as the Spanish one.

- The phrase "travail par jour" (day-to-day labour) had a remarkable distribution among the Spanish and French colonial families in the region, as they were mostly dependent on locals to take charge of hard labour in return for a daily payment. The phrase was then borrowed into both the native dialects, Algerian and Moroccan, and has undergone substantial alternations, including elision, sound substitution, and fusion, which has resulted in a near-complete loss of its original form. This all could demonstrate the dynamic nature of language and the bidirectional influence of foreign terms and local dialects.
- In Algerian and Moroccan Arabic, the word "بورطابل" (portable) is becoming less prevalent, especially among younger generations, who prefer to use the term "telephone" instead, as more options and choices are now available to choose from. With this in mind, younger generations are more likely to opt for free choices than standardized patterns inferred from the use of (portable). This is a result of the word's progression in usage, which was adopted from French. The effect of technology advancement and the shifting landscape of language are both contributing factors to this transition. The decline in usage of the term "بورطابل" serves as a reference of how languages can evolve to reflect societal preferences and orientation.

Furthermore, this research proved the prevalence of English lexical items which relate to technology and communication in the Emirati Arabic. The widespread use of these English terms in areas such as Dubai and Abu Dhabi was a major factor that contributed to the continuous adoption of many English words and phrases into the daily language of Emiratis. Examples of this phenomenon include, to mention a few, "glass", "good luck", "pen drive", "charger", "already", "online", "yes", "same", "business", "nice", "hi", "gym", "bye", "tour", "private", "metro", and many other lexical items. It has been observed that the English verbs borrowed into Emirati Arabic followed the same conjugation rules as Arabic verbs. Concerning pronunciation, some English words underwent changes to easily suit Emirati Arabic pronunciation patterns, such as "draywel" for "driver" and "motar" for "motor". Therefore, one can fairly say that the use of English words in the UAE was particularly common among younger generations and in urban areas.

It was also revealed that Emirati Arabic was influenced by historical factors, such as the British mandate and bilateral ties with India and Iran, as well as social factors, such as gender, education, and age. Interestingly, from a sociolinguistic perspective, female Emiratis used

borrowed English elements more than male speakers; educated speakers used these words more than uneducated speakers, and younger people used loanwords more than older speakers. These findings highlight the influence of English on Emirati Arabic, particularly in the context of globalisation and technological advancements. The integration of English words into the daily language of Emiratis demonstrates the dynamic nature of language and its ability to adapt to changing cultural and societal influences.

6. Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to investigate the phenomenon of language borrowing in Arabic dialects, with particular emphasis on the influence of French and English. Moroccan Arabic, Algerian Arabic, Jordanian Arabic, and Emirati Arabic constitute ideal settings for a linguistic and a sociolinguistic analysis of this phenomenon and were actively involved in practices that shape and reshape the everyday language. In light of this, the purpose of this study was to determine the most common applications of borrowed terms, the factors that led to their adoption, assimilation, and sometimes deterioration. The data collected showed that the most occurrences of this phenomenon were concerned with filling a lexical gap, particularly in the fields of educational and technical terms, technology, science, and culture. It was also found that the reasons for borrowing stemmed from the need to express novel concepts, the prestige associated with foreign languages, and the desire to avoid negative or offensive terms. In order for successful borrowing of words into Arabic dialects, the integration process appeared to dominate when these words were subjected to phonological adaptation, morphological changes, and semantic shifts. This process was largely influenced by various factors such as historical colonialism and trade, as well as social factors such as education and social status.

In summary, this study has provided evidence on the dynamic nature of Arabic varieties and dialects as well as an enormous impact of foreign languages on these dialects through a long history of coexistence and contact. The findings also suggest that language borrowing is a complex phenomenon that is driven by a wide range of factors, including linguistic, cultural, and social considerations. The need for further investigation remains insistent, including the need to study the extent to which the borrowing process is constant and what the forces that drive the process negatively are, with reference to other international or regional languages.

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Authors' contributions

All five authors made substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study. The interviews and data analysis were conducted collaboratively by all authors. Each author participated in interpreting the findings and drafting the manuscript. All authors critically revised the work for intellectual content, approved the final version for publication, and agreed to take full responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the study, ensuring that any concerns are appropriately addressed.

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