

### The Influence of English Words on Iraqi Dialect

**Hasanein Hasan Shaheed**

**Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research**

**University of Babylon**

#### **Abstract**

This research discusses problems faced by speakers of Iraqi dialect. They are using many words from foreign languages especially from English language, so these words became part which can not skip them from their language. This study focuses on new generations such as children, young and even adults. Therefore; speakers of these words (English words) in Iraq do not know that they are using English words and not Arabic words. The main problem here is that they don't know the Arabic meanings of these English words. Iraqi speaker when he/she talks one or two simple sentences uses English words instead of Arabic words and this is called (Code Shifting or Code Switching) this is a process to use foreign words instead of words in mother tongue (for bilingual speakers), but in Iraq this process is used for one or two words only, not for a full sentence, and sometime is added to English word rules from standard Arabic grammar which make the word as an Arabic word.

#### **Introduction**

There are tens or Hundreds of English words(listed below) which are used in Iraqi dialect, and they become as a part of the dialect which can not find any conversation without using them even a simple sentence that contains two or three words especially in modern technical field such as( cell phones, computers, automobile field, industrial careers,...etc.). From sociolinguistics point of view, these words have been entered to Iraqi dialect through many factors or reasons:

- 1 - Economic factor, because of trade, employment, and work. So the speaker who knows these words has a big chance to get job or work than one who hasn't..
- 2 - Social factor, this factor also has played a great role because the speaker of these words belongs to educated or cultural class in the society. So, he will be more respectful character.
- 3 - Political factor, as a result of political conflicts that have occurred in middle east region, and foreign interference in this region which increase the significance of English language and its words because it is the language of the might countries.
- 4 – Military and War factors, such as military occupation, Iraq was occupied at the beginning of the last century by Britain, English language has a major impact on the Iraqi dialect at that time. In addition to the U.S. occupation in this century has the same effect on Iraqi in the emergence of this phenomenon.
- 5 – Globalization factor, as a result of the use of tools of modern technology like computer, Internet, cell phones, and other modern devices of development. These reasons led to the entry of foreign words to the Arabic dialects in general, and in specific to Iraqi dialect which includes a lot of foreign words which can not be understood by others even speakers of the languages which they were derived from

them because Iraqis make some phonetic changes and some times make assimilation to letters of the words, then they produce a new word with little similarity to the origin one. This research indicates the influence of English words which are used in Iraqi dialect on the speaking of Iraqi family and society. These words have a great effect on the society; they make a person steps away from his/her tradition and culture.

### Aim of the Research

The main aim of this research is to indicate and to know English words which use in Iraqi dialect, also to mention, translate, and arabizing them. Then use Arabic words instead of them, because many of Iraqi dialect's speakers don't know the Arabic word to these English words. English words have being spoken as original Arabic words especially for those who are uneducated people in Iraqi society. So, the aim of research is to pay attention to dialects especially when dialectology emerges, the science which deals with dialects, and to preserve Iraqi dialect as an Arabic dialect and as part of the traditions or culture of this country, from the principle that maintains the part is maintain the whole.

### Analysis of data

There are many dialects, which implies under the Iraqi dialect, there is a dialect of southern Iraq similar to Gulf dialects, the dialect in the middle of Iraq, a mixture of several dialects of the Arab countries which bordering Iraq but it is the dialect that understood by all Iraqis, and dialects in the north of Iraq, the most prominent dialect Almsalawih or Almusliah, characterized by reversing and assimilating some of the letters and be understood by Almsalawi community only, but these alien vocabularies are almost to be in all dialects of Iraq, they are understood and used by everyone, even in some cases, they use in the language of the media and the press. The Switching and Shifting Process occurs in Iraqi dialect by altering one word or more in a single conversation and replace it by English word in an appropriate topic of conversation for example:

- Ali wants to buy a tracksuit.
- علي يُريد شراء بدلة رياضة
- αḥ ʔɑrɪdʃ ʃɪrʔ βædɔʃh rædɔʃh. (Standard Arabic)
- αḥ ʔɑrɪdʃ ʔʃɪrɪ tɾæksudʃ. (Iraqi dialect)
- علي ايريد يشتري تراكسود

To explain the issue in detail will ask some questions and try to answer them, why do people switch between languages in the course of single conversation? Or why do people use English words when they are speaking Arabic language (Iraqi Dialect)? This question has been discussed extensively in the sociolinguistics literature. Switching can be said to have the following functions:

- 1- Switching can serve the referential function because it often involves lack of knowledge of one language or lack of facility in that language on a certain subject. Certain subjects may be more appropriately discussed in one language, and the introduction of such a subject can lead to a switch. In addition, a specific word from one of the languages involved. May be semantically more appropriate for a given concept (Lass 1998).

This is one of the important functions which make Iraqis people use English words instead of Arabic words for example:

- I want to buy a bicycle.
- أنا أريد شراء دراجة هوائية
- ʔnɑ ʔɔrɪd ʃɪrʔ dɛʔɑdʒɪ fɪwɑʔəfɪ. (Standard Arabic).
- ʔrɪd ʔʃɪʔɪ bicycle. (Iraqi dialect).
- أريد اشترى بايسكل

Iraqi people use the word (bicycle) because it semantically more appropriate for a given concept and the use of such word is easier than using Arabic word.

Another example:

- Send me message.
- ارسل لي رسالة
- ʔʔsɛʔ ʔɪ ʔʔsɛʔɪ (standard Arabic)
- mʔʔsɪdʒɪʔɪ (Iraqi dialect)
- مسجلي

This type of switching is the one that bilingual speakers are most conscious of. When asked why they switch? They tend to say that is because they do not know the word for it in the other language, or because the language chosen is fit for talking about a given subject. (Gumperz, 1976; Gumperz and Hernandez- chavez, 1975, Poplack 1980, Scotton 1079, and Crystal 2003).

2- Switching often serves a directive function in that it involves the hearer directly. This being directed at the hearer can take many forms. One is to exclude certain persons present from a portion of the conversation. The opposite is to include certain persons more by using her or his language words. A person may have joined the participants in an interaction. All participant-related switching can be thought of as serving the directive function of language use. Example: Many parents try to speak a foreign language (or use foreign words) when they do not want their children to understand what is being said. If they do this too often, they find out that the children have learned the second language as well, or make up a language of their own to exclude their parents.

3- Poplack (1980) in particular has stressed the expressive function of code switching. Speakers emphasize a mixed identity through the use of two languages in the same discourse.

4- Often switching serves to indicate a change in tone of conversation, and hence phatic function. This type has been called metaphorical switching by Gumperz and Hernandez-Chavez (Bayley: 2007). Think of the stand-up comedian who tells the whole joke in a standard variety, but brings the punch line (or word) in a vernacular type of speech, e.g. an urban dialect.

5- Certainly, that many of the different Iraqi dialects use some English words do not differentiate them as Arabic words or from other languages, and rather did not know the Arabic word instead of English. Such words are: water- pump, tracksuit, Ariel, bicycle.....etc.

6- Insert grammatical rules of Standard Arabic language to English vocabularies to convert a word from singular to plural, whatever the word is feminine or masculine, the same rules apply to it. Such as words are:

Singular (English words)	Plural(English words)	Plural (Arabic words)
1- Tyre	Tyres	Tyrat
2- Mobile (cell phone)	Mobiles	Mobilat
3- Sheet (paper)	Sheets	Sheetat
4- Bicycle	Bicycles	Bicyclat
5- Radio	radios	Radiowat
6- Counter (as a table)	counters	Counterat
7- Message	Messages	Messagat

Mobile (singular, masculine, English word)

Mobilat (plural, feminine, mix between Arabic and English)

Note: (-at) is a suffix for plural case in Arabic language.

### Conclusion & Suggestion

Iraqi linguists have to work in order to save Iraqi dialect from English words; because the language is considered one of the basics of heritage of any country (the dialect also is considered as an identity of Iraqi community) and we must protect our language from the exotic words and stay away from the use of such words, in addition to that working on the translation or the Arabization of foreign words which are used in modern technology and work together to protect our dialect. Following points could be main recommendations or suggestions as follows:

1. The role of family in general and parents in particular, taking into account the learning of their children the correct words in Arabic and not to use English words such as (bicycle, radio, tracksuit, water pump.....etc.)
2. The role of educational institutions, language institutions, media institutions, and organizations associated with or interested with language in contributing to preservation and attention to dialect, because it is part of the heritage of the certain region or social group and in turn is part of the country folklore.
3. Interest in teaching the Arabic language in schools and educational institutions, and consider dialect as part of this language, dialect is an identity of the Iraqi person from other people who speaking Arabic language but in other dialects; as well as give attention to dialect, especially after the emergence of science which is called dialectology (Chambers and Trudgill, 2004); this is what we find is missing in the Arab educational institutions, particularly in Iraq.
4. Stay away from the use of these words and try to gradually replace Arabic words because these words (English words) began creeping into the official

## The Influence of English Words on Iraqi Dialect

books written in standard Arabic and also to the language of media and press.

5. Give more attention in the Arabization of English words as a word (blue tooth) through collaboration between linguists in Arabic and English, as it does not have any Arabic word that gives the exact meaning of this word as well as the literal translation is not given the precise use to this word.

### List of English words used in Iraqi Dialect

How Iraqis pronounce them	meaning	words in Iraqi Dialects	English words
ɱʂkuɫ or ɱʂʂkɜɫ	ترميشة	مسكل	Miss call
ɱʂʂdʒ	ارسل لي	مسنج	Message
ɾɔŋʂɑdɔ	عكس الاتجاه	رون سايد	Wrong side
ɾɑdʒo	مذياع	راديو، راديون	Radio
ɑr'e-əl	هوائي	اريل	Aerial
beiskɛɫ	دراجة هوائية	بايسكل	Bicycle
mæɾɱɫ	دراجة نارية	ماطور	Motor
kɔfi ʃɔb	مقهى	كوفي شوب	Coffee shop
ɪʂɫɪkæɾ	قدح خاص للشاي	استيكان	East tea can
grɑdʒ	مرآب	كراج	Garage
dɔʃbɔɫ	لوحة اجهزة قياس السيارة	دشبول	Dashboard
gɛzɛɾ	سخان ماء	كيزر	Geyser
βɔɫɔɫ	قنينة زجاجية او بلاستيكية	بطل	Bottle
ɾɔɫfɔzɪɔN	تلفاز	تلفزيون	Television
glɑʂ	قدح	كلاص	Glass

kʊβ	كاس	كوب	Cup
tæðə	مسحوق غسيل	تايد	Tide
dætəʃʊ	جهاز عرض مربوط بالحاسوب	داتاشو	Data show
ʃæk əɹ	سكر	شكر	Sugar
læbɪtɒb	حاسوب محمول	لابتوب	Laptop
kəmputɪ	حاسوب	كمبيوتر	Computer
ɪntɛɪnet	الشبكة العنكبوتية	انترنت	Internet
sɪstə	ممرضة/nurse	سستر	Sister
tɛləfɒn	هاتف	تليفون	Telephone
tæbəl lɑmp	مصباح منضدي	تبييل لامب	Table lamp
tʃeɪnʒəvɛ	محول او مغير	جينج او فر	Change over
dɪɹɪl	مثقاب	دريل	Drill
dɪɹɪl hɪmɛr	مثقاب كبير	دريل همر	Drill hammer
laɪt	مصباح للسيارة او مصباح يدوي	لايت	Light
ɹemɔtɔn	جهاز تحكم عن بعد	رمونت	Remote controller
ɡɜ	مبدل سرعة	كير	Gear
bɜk	الى الوراء او الخلف	بك	Back
dʌbəl	سيارة حمل ذو مقعد خلفي	دبل	Double قماره
slɑɪd rʊf	سقف سيارة متحرك	اسلايد روف	Slide roof
rɪsɪvɪ	جهاز استقبال	رسيفر	Receiver

## The Influence of English Words on Iraqi Dialect

r3sɛvɪɾ	جهاز اقراص مدمجة	دي في دي	DVD
dʊd	قرص ليزري	سي دي	CD
ʃɑʊəɾ	دوش	شاور	Shower
ʔrkeɪndəʃɪn	مكيف هواء	ايركنديشن	Air conditioner
sɜːblɪt	مكيف هواء نوع اخر	سبلت	Split
ʃɔɪt	سروال قصير	شورت	Short
dɪrɜːs	قميص	دريس	Dress
dɪʃ	صحن لاقط	دش	Dish
kæɪpɪt	سجاد	كاربت	Carpet
kəɪlɪŋks	منديل ورقي	كلاينكس	Clinks
bɪpsɪ	مشروب غازي	بيبسي	Pepsi
sɛvɪn ʔb	مشروب غازي	سفن اب	Seven up
kæmɪrə	آلة تصوير	كاميرا	Camera
ɔvɜːn	فرن	اوفن	Oven
sɪnəmə	دار عرض افلام	سينما	Cinema
fɪl	ملف او اضبارة	فايل	File
tæŋkɪ	خزان	تانكي	Tank
tæŋkər	سيارة حوضية	تانكر	Tanker

fɒldəʃ	مجلد	فولدر	Folder
flaʃ ʔɑm	جهاز خزن الكتروني	فلاش رام	Flash ram
ʔræksud	لباس رياضي	تراكسوود	Track suit
tɪʃɜt	قميص ذو كم قصير	تي شيرت	T-shirt
mɒbɑl	هاتف نقال	موبايل	Mobile
kʌvə	غطاء	كفر	Cover
sʌndwɪtʃ	شطيرة	سندويج	Sandwich
ʃæmpʊ	غسول للشعر	شامبو	Shampoo
plʌk	المأخذ(اداة توصيل كهربائي)	بلك	Plug
bɒdi	هيكل السيارة او ملابس ضيقة	بدي	Body
ʃɑg	اداة لرفع السيارة	جك	Jag
bætəri	بطارية	باتري	Battery
ʃækɪt	سترة صوفية	جاكيت	Jacket
ʃɔɪn	ربط	جوينت	Join
ʔbʊm	حافظة صور	البوم	Album
nɔʊzəl	فوهة	نوزل	Nozzle
gæʃ	مقياس	كيج	Gauge
ʒɪmʌstɪk	رياضة الجمباز	جمناستك	Gymnastic
waɪə	سلك كهربائي او معدني	واير	Wire
waɪəmæn	مصلح الاعطال الكهربائية	وايرمن	Wireman



## The Influence of English Words on Iraqi Dialect

fɪz	جهاز التجميد او التبريد	فريز	Freezer
ãskriŋ	بوظه	ايس كريم	Ice cream
tæɪ	عجلة او اطار	تاير	Tire
	صهريج	تنكر	Tanker
lɔɾɜ	سيارة حمل	لوري	Lorry
rãiɪ	السكة الحديدية او القطار	ريل	Rail way
ŋɔɪ	مركز تجاري او تسويقي	مول	Mall
ʂɔβɜɾŋæɾkt	سوق تجاري او مركزي	سوبر ماركت	supermarket
ʂɔb	شورية	سوب	Soup
ʂβɜɾ	دولاب سيارة اضافي	سبير	Spare
βɔkʂ	صندوق	بوكس	Box
ŋɟɛɪ	بريد الكتروني	اميل	e-mail
uɔɪɾbæŋ	مضخة ماء	وتربم	Water pump
ɔiɪbæŋ	مضخة دهون	اويلبم	Oil pump
tɾɛfk	اشارة ضوئية مرورية	ترفك	Traffic light
fæks	جهاز تلكس	فاكس	Fax
tɾɛzi	سباق خيول	ريسز	Race
kæŋæk	ربط او اتصال	كنك	Connect
ʂɔftuæɪɾ	برامجيات	سوفت وير	Software

ɱæʊʂ	فأرة الحاسبة	ماوس	Mouse
kɪbɔɹd	لوحة مفاتيح	كيبورد	Keyboard
kɑɹtʊn	افلام الصغار المتحركة	كارتون	Cartoon
ɔɹə-mɔɹɪki	ألي او تلقائي	أوماتيكي	Automatic
ʃɪt	شرفش او صفحة	شبيت	Sheet
kʊʂən	مسند او وسادة	كشن	Cushion

### References:

- Al-Syaid, Mohammad. 1995. *Society and language issues*. Alexandria: Dar Al-ma'rfah Al-Jamea.
- Bayley, Robert. 2007. *Sociolinguistic Variation*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Chambers, J.K. and Trudgill, Peter. 2004. *Dialectology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chaise La Dousa. *The Native Speaker & Mother Tongue*. Language Sciences Journal, volume 32, issue 6, November 2010: page 602-614.
- Crystal, David. 2003. *Language Death*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jourdan, Christine. 2006. *Language, Culture, and Society*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Khorri, Saqer. Thought and Language. Syrian Knowledge Magazine. No. 496. 2005: page 153.
- Lass, Roger. 1998. *Phonology: An introduction to basic concepts*. USA: Cambridge University Press.
- Naher, Hadi. 1998. *Sociolinguistics at the Arabs*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Irbid: Dar Al- Amal for Publishing and Distribution.
- Yoneyama, M. 1986. *Motion Verbs in Conceptual Semantics*. Bulletin of the Faculty of Humanities, No.21. Seikei University. Tokyo.