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**An investigation of Linguistic Accommodation among Women:  
Case of Female Commuters of Sidi abdelli-Tlemcen**

Dissertation submitted to the department of English as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for Master's degree in Language Studies

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## **Declaration of Originality**

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which has been accepted for the qualification of any other degree or diploma of a university or another institution. I also certify that the present research work contains no plagiarism and the result of my own investigation.

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**Dedication**

To me

To mom

To dad

Who always believe in me, and stood firm whenever I was stray in the tornado of  
Despair.

To my sisters

Nassima

&

Samira

Who were my second haven and back me up with every bit of tender and wisdom

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## **Abstract**

The present extended essay endeavors to investigate linguistic accommodation among Sidi Abdellie's female commuters in Tlemcen community. Subsequently, its main objective is to gauge the motives behind such accommodative mechanism and the characteristics of Tlemcen speech repertoire that the females adopt in their discourse. The descriptive design of the present case study has adhered to a mixed methods approach in collecting and analysing data obtained via a structured participant observation and a questionnaire administered to forty informants who commute to work and have linguistic friction with the Tlemcen dialect for more than five years. The sample was selected based on probability sampling from distinct backgrounds to guarantee an objective and scientific dimension. The research findings have unraveled that linguistic accommodation does exist to a relative rate, and that the primary stimulus that incites the informants to recourse to linguistic accommodation is to minimise social distance via the adoption of an exclusive Tlemcen speech repertoire.

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# **General Introduction**

## General Introduction

The nucleus that permitted humans to bind together in social groups is communication as it constitutes an indispensable tool for surviving and constructing social entities. In this course of thought, social psychologists strived to contemplate thoroughly the mechanisms that establish an effective and cooperative communication. They inferred that speakers shift their communicative styles to coincide with that of their interlocutor for the sake of attaining mutual understanding and elude from communicative break downs. Such adaptive mechanism is labelled as linguistic accommodation. It hinges upon the reciprocity of the linguistic styles to fulfil a communicative purpose. It issued a copious amount of studies in both sociolinguistics and social psychology.

In this vein, female commuters encounter some linguistic hurdles preventing them to achieve a total understanding of the tenor of the message of their Tlemcen companions. Accordingly, speech accommodation is the sole outlet to avoid communication failure. Nevertheless, the problematic issue is to display the factors that reside behind such linguistic dissimilarities. This study constitutes an endeavor to investigate the phenomenon of linguistic accommodation among women in Sidi Abdellie's speech community. The main question is:

To what extent do the female commuters accommodate their speech to that of Tlemcen community?

Accordingly, the researcher strived to answer to the following inquiries:

- 1-What are the motives that urge the female commuters to accommodate their speech?
- 2-What are the features of Tlemcen speech that the female commuters implement in their conversations?

The aforementioned questions let to the formulation of the following hypotheses:

- 1-Female commuters accommodate their speech because they aim at minimizing social distance

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2-Female commuters adopt some phonological aspects exclusive to Tlemcen dialect such as the deletion of /θ/ and /ð/.

The pre-mentioned inquiries drove the researcher to design a descriptive case study dealing with female commuters. The investigator selected a mixed methods approach and elicited data from numerous sources relying on a set of research instruments: a questionnaire administered to forty female respondents and a participant observation to portray a real-life depiction of such a linguistic phenomenon. The research findings were analysed and discussed on the basis of a mixed methods approach.

The general layout of the present dissertation falls under two main chapters. The first chapter is allocated to the theoretical rubric to draw a research boundary of the subject matter. The chapter equally strives to cast light on the different components of communication accommodation such as its reasons, strategies and its features. The second chapter is practical and represents the fieldwork of the present case study. It is devoted to data collection and data analysis. It represents the findings yielded from the submitted questionnaire and the conducted observation and the implications of the study from a sociolinguistic angle.

The researcher supplied a comprehensive theoretical foundation on linguistic accommodation. Accordingly, it is quite crucial for individuals to gain a glimpse on the tenets of such a theory for it has a numerous implications on the societal life of individuals. For instance, it fortifies social bonds among speakers, demonstrates the speaker's identity and impacts future encounters. The topic of linguistic accommodation among female commuters elucidates the speaker's accommodative strategies when initiating a conversation. Such strategies are prone to the societal norms.

# **Chapter One**

## **Literature Review**

### **1.1. Introduction:**

It is an axiomatic convention that whenever two distinct varieties come into friction may generate plenty of linguistic phenomena. In similar vein, when speakers of two mutually intelligible but regionally different varieties come into contact accommodation would be the sole consequence of such contact. The latter fall into the researcher's sphere of interest. Accordingly, this chapter attempts to elucidate the notion of communication accommodation theory, the different definitions of linguistic accommodation and its features, the reasons that prompt people to accommodate their speech, speech accommodation strategies, and ultimately speech accommodation among women.

### **1.2. Definitions of linguistic accommodation:**

Linguistic accommodation refers to the linguistic adjustments individuals make in their language use to commit fully or partially to the societal and cultural norms of their conversational partner in order to elude from communicative break downs (Olzem Atalay 2015:95-107). In this vein, Ruch, H & De Benito-Moreno, C (2023:17-48) declared that "we define linguistic accommodation as the adjustments speakers make to become linguistically more convergent or less divergent similar to an interlocutor or social environment. When they occur in a single interaction or experiment over minutes or hours".

To speak, accommodation is classified into two types; psychological accommodation and linguistic accommodation. Linguistic accommodation emphasizes on speech behavior. In this respect, it is further divided into; objective and subjective accommodation. Objective accommodation refers to perceivable transition of behavior either positively (convergence) or negatively (divergence) Galois et al., (2005, as cited in Elhani, A., (2020), p.197) such as altering the supra-segmental features of the speaker, for instance: vocal intensity, pausing frequencies, and speech rate Bradac et al., (1988, as cited in Elhani, A., (2020), p.197).

On the extreme edge of this continuum, subjective accommodation refers to the feeling and perception of the individual of either interlocutor(s) on their behavior. (Ross et al., 1990 as cited in Elhani., 2020, p.197). To illustrate, Gallois et al. imply

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that “while speakers’ linguistic shifts can objectively be described as diverging (or converging), speakers may believe that they are converging (or diverging)” (2005, p.127). This perspective is backed up by Giles (2016, as cited in Elhani, 2020, p.197) “who implies that in CAT the crucial factor is recipient subjective evaluation since the response is the result of his/her evaluation.

Linguistic accommodation is a dynamic process shaped by the power dynamics, social hierarchies. Bloomfield (1933, p. 476-77) postulates that persons with power and prestige are imitated to a greater extent than socially less influential individuals.

Accommodation in long-term contacts is of less interest for social psychologists and of substantial interest for linguists because it deals: “with contact between speakers of different regional varieties, and with regionally mobile individuals or minority groups who accommodate, in the long term, to a non-mobile majority that they have come to live amongst” (Trudgil, 1986, p.2 as cited in Kherbach, 2017, p.18-24).

The topic of linguistic accommodation has captured the interest of plenty of discipline namely; sociolinguistics and social-psychology. As a clear cut, linguistic accommodation is understood by social psychologists in a social dimension rather than geographical and they are interested in behavioral and supra-segmental modifications. Conversely, sociolinguistics portrayed such a mechanism as the aftermath of dialect contact and placed a very high value on long-term accommodation. Nevertheless, a majority of pioneers in the field of sociolinguistics invest in accommodation, and it was Peter Trudgil who coined the term linguistic accommodation. Within Trudgil’s framework, the terms dialect contact and accommodation are closely related to each other. (Kherbache, 2017, p. 20).

The dialect contact paradigm investigates the outcomes of the clash between varieties of the same language when speakers are in face-to-face interaction the outcome of such a contact is described as linguistic accommodation which takes place between socially and regionally different speakers by reducing or dropping their speech patterns. If speakers of mutual intelligible but regionally different varieties come into contact, accommodation will be the consequence of such a contact. If speakers continue to meet permanently, short-term accommodation becomes long-term

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accommodation. The latter could be the result of; colonization and mass migration (Kherbache, 2017, p. 20-21).

As a deduction, linguistic accommodation hinges upon the individuals' adjustments of their speech behaviour to reciprocate and match the linguistic patterns of their conversational party. It can be divided into objective and subjective accommodation; the former revolves around anchoring on convergence or divergence depending on the speaker's assessment and perception. Meanwhile, the latter refers to the feeling or the belief of converging or diverging of the interlocutors or their behaviour. Moreover, linguistic accommodation is subsumed under the heading of CAT, focusing on language adjustments such as accent, tone, and vocabulary to coincide to the communicative style of the interlocutor(s) Meanwhile, CAT is a comprehensive theoretical model that encompasses non-verbal and paralinguistic aspects like intonation, facial expressions and gestures.

### **1.3. Communication Accommodation Theory**

Accommodation theory was issued by Giles (1973) and then rectified and expanded by Giles and Coupland in 1991. In its earlier form, it emerged as a social psychological model of style modification known as SAT (Coupland, 2010, p.21) within this theory; Giles initiated his accent mobility, a model to explore interpersonal accent convergence and divergence. In follow –up studies, SAT was relabeled as communication accommodation theory. As research in it thrives to encompass supra-segmental features such as: speech rate, pronunciation, utterance length, pausing frequencies, jokes, vocal intensity, gestures and social behaviour (Lakin, 2013 as cited in Ruch et al. 2023, p.18).

CAT proposes that we adapt our communication behaviors base on two motives. First, we want to manage comprehension (e.g., making sure individuals understand what we are saying); CAT labels this our cognitive motives. Second, we want to manage our social relationships through communication, CAT labels this our affective motives (Soliz et al., 2022, p. 131).

Giles claimed that CAT of paramount importance because it fuses intergroup and interpersonal interactions. CAT is an interpersonal and intergroup theory that seeks to



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explain the process of speech adjustments of individuals to their communicative and social goals (Gasiorek & Giles 2012). The relationship between intergroup and interpersonal mediates and thrives through communication which helps to ingrain interaction between distinct ethnic clans. (Giles & Johnson 1987, p.:68-99). In its current form, CAT explains how and why people adapt their communication, as well as the consequences and the outcomes of the adjustment across a variety of relational domains. For instance, the theory has guided scholarship into intergenerational communication, including the causes and the consequences of patronizing communication toward older adults (i.e. talking slower and louder with simplified speech) stemming from age-based stereotypes (Soliz et al., 2022).

Over the last few decades, CAT has been applied to various contexts ranging from healthcare, police-civilian interactions, family relationship, instructional settings, and social media interactions. CAT developed as a hypo-deductive theory in the post-positive tradition, eventually taking propositional forms to guide research. As the theory has updated, CAT has also been employed as a sensitizing framework for interpretive studies employing qualitative methods. This methodological pluralism and its applications to distinct contexts across different cultures and languages have led CAT to be one of the ideal theories of interpersonal communication in the last two decades (Soliz et al., 2022).

Accordingly, CAT is comprehensive frame work that is standing on the reciprocity of linguistic and extra linguistic features to coincide with that of the interlocutor in order to achieve a mutual intelligibility and avoid communication failure. Moreover, such accommodative act is not bounded solely to the exchange of the linguistic styles, but it encompasses other supra-segmental features.

### **1.4 Components of Communication Accommodation Theory**

Research within communication accommodation theory had grown immensely. For instance, research conducted by Gallois et al. in 2005 helped in reshaping the theoretical landscape of the theory with seventeen newly devised prepositions that influence the processes of convergence and divergence. The prepositions are categorized in four major components: the sociohistorical component, the

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communicators' accommodative orientation the immediate situation, evaluation and future intentions (Gndykunst, 2003 as cited in Bonfiglio, 2013, p.05), These components are essential to communication accommodation theory and affect the course of intercultural communication.

The sociohistorical deals with the way how past interactive experience between intergroup may intrude i.e. Before interaction take place there are prior ties between conversational parties and the speech community to which they belong. In other words, it refers to “the relations between groups having contact and the social norms regarding contact” (Gndykunst, 2003 as cited in Abdesslam, 2020, p. 53). In this state of affairs, it refers to the pre-established bonds between distinct social groups and the societal tenets that supervise such contact. To be clear, interpersonal communication with in-group members always revolves around the hub of the society. To sum up, the sociohistorical context includes the relations that the groups in contact have in common, and the established societal conventions that dictate that contact. It impacts the communicator’s attitudes for future contact because of the speech community norms to which they are prone to influence the way they approach a conversation.

Accommodative orientation is about the inclinations to distinguish "contacts with out-group members in interpersonal terms, intergroup terms, or a combination of the previous two" (Gndykunst, 2003 as cited in Abdesslam, 2020, p.54). In other words, this relates whether the conversational parties perceive the contact as inter-personal or inter-group encounter Simply put, communicators can approach a conversation based on individual’s uniqueness or as belonging to larger or macro social group. There are also initial orientations that take place when a speaker, for instance, perceives a contact as a potential for spurring a conflict such as prejudices and stereotypes about his ideological background.

However, as Griffin (2008) points out, there are certain issues that influence the initial orientations factors such as past interactive experience of an interaction with certain social groups, stereotypes, high group solidarity, allegiance and high group dependence, and person’s self-esteem inside the group. Overall, conversational parties in a single conversational episode approach an encounter as inter-personal or as inter-

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group. The former relates to the individual's linguistic flexibility to initiate a conversation by retaining his variety without due regards to social norms, and the last refers to the individual's sense of belonging to a larger speech community in which the used variety reflects his identity and both of them can be attested and impact the encounter.

Immediate situation refers to the actual interaction. According to Gndykunst et al. (2005), it encompasses five interrelated aspects (as cited in Bonfiglio, 2013, p.06): the sociopsychological states of the communicators refer to the mental and emotional status of the conversational partners at the time of engaging in an interaction. the addressee's goals and focus address individual's motivation, conversational and relational needs (Gndykunst et al., 2005, as cited in Bonfiglio, 2013, p.06).The interlocutors often have specific pre-established objectives in mind when engaging in conversation. This includes motivations for communication and the degree of attention paid to the receiver's needs and interests.

Sociolinguistic strategies are linguistic options made by communicators to navigate social contexts such as adjusting speech patterns, diction, or non-verbal stimuli to accommodate to the situation. Behaviour and tactics revolve around specific actions or approaches taken during communication, including verbal and non-verbal behaviours such as accent and topic. Labeling and distribution refer to how communicators assign identities (speaker's persona). Moreover, it hinged upon decisions made throughout the course on an interaction based on the individual's perception and evaluation (Gndykunst et al., 2005, as cited in Bonfiglio, 2013, p.06). As an inference, it refers to the diagnostic stance of the conversational partners during a turn-take encounter and whether this rating is going to impact future contact and the emotional and behavioral status of the communicators during that immediate contact.

Evaluation and future intentions refer to how communicators perceive each other's behaviour during the course of an interaction and how these perceptions impact future contact and friction between the two groups. It is relevant in cases of long-term interactions where there may be ongoing friction between the conversational partners. Positive evaluations are typically associated with interactions that facilitate

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communication between members of different groups and potentially lead to speech convergence, where the speech patterns of the communicators become more similar over time and hence resulting in long-term accommodation. To illustrate, in a workplace with blend teams, initially distinct communication styles may converge through repeated collaboration and exposure, leading to improved teamwork, communication, and productivity. On a nutshell, within this component CAT tackles how the conversational parties assess their conversational counterparts and whether it impacts their future encounters, but generally mutual interest and positively categorized discussions may pave the way for further contact between interlocutors (Gndykunst et al., 2005 as cited in Bonfiglio, 2013, p.08).

To conclude, during a conversational episode the communicators draw conclusions and formulate attitudes on their partners which in turn may affect contact. Overall, immediate situations in communication implicate numerous constituents such as psychological states, goals, strategies, behaviours and linguistic aspects. Evaluating and assessing these stretches of discourses can provide insights into future intentions and the potential for sustainable contact and accommodation between distinct groups.

### **1.5 Factors of Linguistic Accommodation**

Within the realm of CAT, the conversational parties launch a set of communicative strategies such as; speech divergence or convergence in order to achieve a tacit or lucid communicative effect on their interlocutor(s) as such this adaptive process may arise for a myriad of factors; the desire of the speaker to conform to the societal norm may prompt him to accommodate his speech to match his conversational partner and to avoid communicative failure. In this regard, Beebe and Giles (1984, as cited in Kherbache, 2017. P, 21) argued that the social motive behind such accommodation is to “evoke their social approval, Increase communicational efficiency i.e. (mutual intelligibility), and Maintain positive social identities”. In other words, the leading stimuli to be fully engaged in this linguistic phenomenon are to minimize social boundaries between distinct speech communities, and validate their social status.

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Moreover, the individual's speech is prone to the context of its occurrence. For instance, the setting may interfere and play a pivotal role. Formal setting such as: academic context dictates more careful and standard language use (Frozen style). Henry Ferguson (1959, as cited in Kherbache. 2017. P, 42). In opposite to intimate conversation with friends which may implicate more casual and colloquial expressions. In this vein, the proximity of the conversational partners is another variable that may govern language use, in which the closeness of the relationship between conversational partners can affect linguistic accommodation. To speak, regional and cultural discrepancies may impose on people to modify their speech to achieve mutual understanding or to comply with the linguistic norms of a given region or culture.

Furthermore, the cognitive abilities of individuals may also dictate a unique language use (Fernald, 1985, as cited in Guerrout & Azzaoui, 2018, p. 21) or exalting their language depending on the cognitive potential of their interlocutors. Another stimulus that urges people to adjust their speech is adaptability. Some individuals are flexible and more adaptable, readily accommodating their speech. Others are rigid and less adaptable to display their identity and social belonging. Besides, the communicative goal is the leading reason that pushes people to reset their speech. It guides linguistic accommodation, whether the aims to persuade, inform, or build a rapport and thus, individuals accommodate to achieve the desired outcome. (Hymes, 1972).

Ultimately, accommodation can be influenced by power differentials and social status. In this regard, Bloomfield in his affluent work "Language" (1933, p.476-77) argued that people have the proclivity to imitate persons with power and prestige more than socially less influential individuals. As a result, individuals are more likely to converge to people whom they idealize and cherish especially those with a prestigious rank in society such as: celebrities. To sum it up, CAT theory is fully dependent on the reciprocating the conversational partner for the sake of adapting and blending in the macro speech community and hence to validate the individual social rank. As such, linguistic accommodation arises for a variety of factors namely; to match to the

cognitive aptitude of the interlocutor, to compel to the target culture and the regional nuances of a certain society, or to imitate.

## **1.6 Speech accommodation strategies:**

This ubiquitous phenomenon may emerge whenever there are linguistic discrepancies conversation partners may utilize some strategies;

### **1.6.1 Convergence**

Convergence is defined as the attempt of the communicator to decrease differences at the linguistic and the psychological boundaries to be more similar to the behaviour of the interlocutor and to be more analogous to the conversational partner and to seek social approval and ultimately to achieve mutual intelligibility. (Giles et al., 1979 as cited in Elhami, 2020, p. 194). For instance, younger people raise their pitch to be more understood by the elderly people. Moreover, convergence is not only exclusive solely to linguistic dimension, but also it implicates non-verbal variables such as: speech rate, accent, pitch, gestures, and the length of the speech. In similar endeavor, Giles and Soliz (2015, as cited in Elhami, 2020, p.194) assume that convergence may occur through different linguistic dimensions such as: changing the topic or switching to another dialect. To illustrate, Coupland (1984) carried out a study in which a travel agents altered her word enunciation. In follow up studies, Dragojevic et al. (2016a, as cited in Elhami, 2020, p.194) observed that, usually in a conversation between younger people and elderly people, younger people converge their communicative styles and behaviours for counterbalancing.

A variety of features may arise during the course of accommodation and they may be subsumed in the frame of convergence. In this regard, lexical accommodation refers to individuals altering their word choice and diction to that of the interlocutor for the sake of devising a mutual intelligibility or to economize language. In this flow, some dialects are characterized by high speech ratio and hence acting as a hurdle preventing the interlocutor to comprehend the overall message and accordingly, some speakers slow down and articulate he words in a lucid manner. In this orientation, Pagno (2018 as cited in Etaf, 2021, p. 27) identified three pivotal constituents in paralinguistic:

volume, tone, and speed. Eventually, syntactic accommodation is to accommodate the sentence construction to match the linguistic style of the conversational partner.

### **1.6.2 Divergence**

Dragojevic et al. define divergence as “adjusting behaviors to accentuate verbal and non-verbal differences with others, to appear more dissimilarly” (2016b, as cited in Elhami, 2020, p.194). Thus, speech divergence is a comprehensive linguistic mechanism that encompasses both linguistic and extra- linguistic cues to underlie and emphasize the differences in order to disassociate themselves from the others by accentuating their speech. Maximising social distance can be a reason for divergence (Palomers et al., 2016 as cited in Elhami, A., 2020, p. 194).

Divergence may be perceived as a hurdle or may provoke negative response. Giles et al. (1977, as cited Elhami, A., 2020, p. 194). In earlier study studying divergence adjustment, Street and Giles (1982) demonstrate that divergence does not always perceived as negative insinuation in certain situations; it may be to enhance comprehension. A bilingual may act like s/he has problems recalling certain terms to remind the interlocutor any malfunction in linguistic or cultural Interaction because of foreignness (Elhami, 2020, p. 194).

### **1.6.3 Maintenance**

The term maintenance is analogous to speech divergence. It refers to the individual retaining his style or level of communication and not comforting to the others. Gasiorek and Giles (2013 as cited n Elhami, 2020, p. 194) imply that maintenance is “the absence of accommodation adjustment by individual, that is, maintaining their “default” way of communicating without taking into account the characteristics of their fellow interactants”. To repeat, such & strategy is merely another facet of the same coin of divergence. To elucidate, as demonstrated by Bourhis (1984, as cited in Elhami, 2020, p. 195) in a study in Montreal, a female asked for directions in English and French, when she asked in French almost half of the Anglophone pedestrians answered in English.

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Galois and Giles (1998, as cited in Elhami, A., 2020, p. 195)) note that convergence and divergence can manifest in a variety of shadows. In this regard, Dragojevic et al. (2016a) distinguish between upward, downward, short-term, and long-term accommodation. For Giles and Polwesland (1975 as cited in Elhami, 2020, p. 195)), upward and downward adjustment (convergence and divergence) are related to social conventions and values. Upward convergence is shifting toward the more dominant and powerful speech variety (Dragojevic et al. 2016a, p.36-59 as cited in Elhami, 2020, p. 195). To speak, it is adopting to the communication behaviour which is socially valued and accepted. In contrast, downward convergence is moving to the less prominent and subordinate variety of speech (Dragojevic et al. 2016a, p.36-59 as cited in Elhami, 2020, p. 195). When a Standard English speaker adapts his accent to non- Standard English speaker is known as downward convergence; upward divergence is when a Standard English speaker highlights and accentuates his accent in an interaction with non- English speaker (Elhami, 2020, p. 194).

Moreover, short –term accommodation is the outcome of temporary contact as the speakers respond to their interlocutors on a particular situation. It is the result of face-to- face interaction which precedes long term accommodation and does not affect their speech permanently (Trudgil 1986, as cited in Kherbache, 2017, p. 23). “Long-term accommodation is the aftermath of permanent contact as a change might occur in the speaker’s automatic speech habits” (Kherbache, 2017, p. 24). As a summary, the speaker’s linguistic and cultural background has a tremendous impact on conversational trajectory. Some individuals prefer to blend with the linguistic behaviour of their receivers (convergence) or accentuate their linguistic uniqueness to disassociate themselves from their interlocutors (divergence and maintenance). Overall, linguistic accommodation is lucrative mechanism that enables the individuals to cope with their interlocutors’ linguistic features (convergence) or to cling to their authentic speech behavior (divergence), and between these extreme edges reside a wide arrays of features that can be subsumed under the umbrella of convergence such as; lexical, syntactic, and phonological accommodation.



### **1.7 Speech Accommodation among Women**

Speech accommodation is based on the interpersonal adjustments of speech production to match the linguistic mold to that of the conversational partner. This phenomenon depends on some variables such as: age, social class, and gender. The latter is of paramount importance as it is the nucleus of a variety of sociolinguistic investigations since it may alter their manner of producing discourse. To demonstrate, this binary (men and women) differ vastly, this discrepancy is exhibited in the Deficit Model. Lakoff, R. posits this model to project the nuances between men and women speech. Women tend to accommodate more because they are concerned with their overt prestige. In contrast, this is less common among men who attach to their variety as a means of social bonding (solidarity). Furthermore, women in the flow of conversation are less dominant despite their talkative nature. In addition, a 2002 study suggested that women were more attentive and sensitive to accommodation than men (as cited in Stupka, A, 2011, p. 03).

A remarkable percentage of investigations on the gender and language and their direct impact on the process of phonetic accommodation have concluded that female speakers exhibit more speech convergence. In this respect, Namy et al. (2002, as cited in Barõn, 2023) observed that in a shadowing trial of isolated words, women exhibited a higher ratio of speech convergence with their male and female interlocutors more than men did. Strikingly, female speakers converge to men more than with females. In similar interest, Leviton et al. (2012, as cited in Leonardo, 2023, P.08) found that male / female dyads converge the most than male / male pairs who converge the least.

Nilson (2015) used the theoretical tenets of CAT and discourse analysis to portrait the dialectal levelling in Sweden. From this investigation it has been concluded that female speakers tend to converge more than male speakers do. Such disparity stemmed from female's interest in more prestigious and classy variety because of their concern with overt prestige. Research in such sphere of interest has unveiled that, in a dyadic conversation each individual is assigned a role and people are more likely to mimic the linguistic behaviour of the dominant one (Watzlawick et al., 1967, as cited in Burin & Nicolas, 2017, p. 4).

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Elisikovits (1987, as cited in Burin, & Nicolas, 2017, p. 04) analysed the speech of teenagers and inferred that females are more sensitive, cooperative, converge to the most dominant and they even tended to diverge from their speech. As a result, “women might be sensitive to indexical features talkers, which could lead to greater convergence.” (Pardo, 2006 as cited in in Burin & Nicolas, 2017, p. 4). Generally, women adopt such an adaptive strategy for a more mutual understanding. In a nutshell, individuals tend to converge and accommodate to the most powerful and influential

### **1.8 Overview of prior studies on speech accommodation among women**

Studies on speech accommodation among women that made use of communication accommodation theory. Stupka (2011) attempted to focus on how accommodation processes perform in male-female conversational pairs as a formation of gender. The sample of this investigation composed of 26 participants (13 dyads), in which 13 participants were perceived as female and the other 13 as males. They were selected via convenience probability sampling. They were opted for based on factors such as proximity, volume, and talkativeness. The researcher utilised a structured participant observation. The research findings have shown that women exhibit more accommodative behaviour. Conversely, male speakers exhibit zero accommodation. However; the topic of conversation did not affect the accommodation process. Meanwhile, conversational mood seemed to have a direct influence on accommodation.

Taking Lakoff as a benchmark, Pérez Sabator (2017) conducted an investigation on linguistic accommodation in online communication: the role of language and gender. She adopted an online corpus designed in English and Spanish with the aim to gain a glimpse on the explicit guidelines on participants and if men and women accommodate their styles by converging to structural elements. The results, in general, women accommodate to the general structure of the online community to a greater extent than men. Thus female’s greater convergence to the general style of the forum reflects their need to be socially involved in the support group and to exhibit her solidarity and her politeness.

## Chapter One Literature Review

Hassanien (2016) conducted an investigation on accommodation in gender based speech production: This experiment examined the speech properties between a grade twelve male and female counterpart when they try to explain the laws of gravity to a third grader student in the same school. It took place in an American curriculum school in Dubai. The sample was composed of two twelve grader students (male and female) and a third grade student. It is worth noting that both students are high achievers and volunteered in extra-sessions to low achiever students. The researcher utilised observation as a tool throughout the experiment by taking notes while observing the interaction and language production from the participants. The researcher allocated 4-5 minutes mini-lessons about the laws of gravity.

The results of such an experiment revealed that the female participant used a very simple diction in order to simplify things and to make her ideas lucid to the third grader. The intonational units used by the female participant were short sentences that reflect an intentional effort to simplify her language and the complexity of the lexis by adopting a slower pace in order to give the student time to process the information. She used tons of question tags and intensifiers. Accordingly, lexical convergence is plainly attested in her explanation throughout the lesson. Conversely, the male participant used complex sentence structure and the intonational units seemed to be longer even though he strived to lower the pace. He was directive and avoided the fillers and question tags (Hassanien, 2016).

Namy et al. (2002) examined how perceptual sensitivity contributes to gender differences in vocal accommodation. They adopted the experiment method with the utilisation of a test (observation was omnipresent). They chose five males and five female counterparts in which they were required to shadow isolated words presented over a headphones by male and female speakers. Male and female listeners evaluated whether accommodation took place. It has been unveiled that female participants exhibited more phonetic convergence (in which they adopt to the characteristics of their conversational partner's accent and other phonetic attributes such as vowel length.) and that gender differences raised in accommodation even when immediate social motives were shrank indexing that accommodation may stem from differences

## Chapter One Literature Review

in perceptual sensitivity to vocal characteristics. To conclude, the gist of the aforementioned studies denotes that women show more accommodative behaviour than men do and this stems from their cooperative and sensitive behavior.

### **1.9. Conclusion**

This chapter was dedicated to delve into the distinct facets of linguistic accommodation and its features, strategies, and reasons that stimulate speakers to adopt such a communicative act. It also, demonstrated the thorough history of communication accommodation theory and implementation of such a phenomenon by the female speakers and ultimately its bounds to various areas of research. The next chapter is allocated to the data collection and analysis.

# **Chapter Two**

## **Data Collection and Analysis**

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

### **2.1. Introduction**

This chapter is allocated to the collection and analysis of data. It projects the methodology steps that were carried out in order to present qualitative and quantitative data from the research procedure. Also, it provides an overview on the setting, the background, and the research design of the present case study. The researcher has relied on a questionnaire as a primary research instrument for data gathering and observation to portray real-life depiction of this phenomenon.

### **2.2 Linguistic situation in Algeria**

Algeria is a linguistic market where at least three languages are at play this linguistic richness may stem from its strategic geographical location. As it represents Africa portal to the world. Accordingly, permitting it to be in constant contact with Europe and the rest of the world. Moreover, its historical bounds with the French Colonialism give out in this linguistic depth. Algeria is the melting pot of distinct language varieties namely; Modern standard Arabic, dialectal Arabic, Berber, and French.

Arabic stems from the Semitic languages spoken roughly by 150 million people throughout the Middle East and North Africa. It was the dialect of Quraysh and then it gained a standard status through the descend of Quran. There are three pivotal varieties of the Arabic language: Classical Arabic, Modern Standard Arabic, and Dialectal Arabic (Djennane, 2014, p. 53). Classical Arabic possesses an exalted status due to its bounds with the Holly Quran. It is worth noting that Classical Arabic encompasses a wide array of lexical items than the Modern Standard Arabic.

Modern Standard Arabic is also known as Modern Literary Arabic and formal Arabic. It has been implemented since independence as the national and official of the country. It is the simplified, updated version of Classical Arabic mainly at the lexical boundary with slight nuances at the syntactic one. This variety does not exist only in Algeria, but throughout the Arabic community making it indisputably the Lingua Franca of the Arab World (Kherbach, 2017, p.46).

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

Algerian Arabic is the mother tongue of the majority of the Algerian community. It is also referred to as Darija. It encompasses a fusion of numerous language varieties which had previously existed in Algeria namely: French since a decent proportion of the French vocabulary is adapted to Algerian Arabic phonemic inventory, Spanish, and Turkish. Berber is a variety long existed before Arabic (after the Islamic conquests). Its writing system consists of a unique symbols referred to as Tifnagh. It has recently has shared its diversity and unity, reflected the Algerian identity as national and official by the Algerian constitution (Lalimi, 2018, p. 17).

The longitudinal existence the French Imperialism in Algeria (more than 130 years) was enough to reset the linguistic landscape of Algeria. France endeavored to impose French on the Algerian community and eradicate Arabic to blind the pure Islamic and Algerian identity. It is unescapable truth that French penetrated and form an integrate part of the Algerian Arabic and it is commonly attested in the regular use of the French lexical items in everyday life of the Algerian community (Lalimi, 2018, p. 17).

This investigation constitutes an endeavor to investigate and therefore to dissect the phenomenon of linguistic accommodation among women in Sidi Abdellie speech community and the ratio of the occurrence of such accommodative pattern in their speech behaviour and lastly to come up with an account for the reasons of linguistic accommodation

### **2.3 Linguistic situation in Sidi Abdelli**

Sidi Abdelli is municipality in the city of Tlemcen. It is located in north east of Tlemcen. In the North it is bordered with commune of Aghlal, to the south by Ain Fazza and Ouled Mimoun to the East with Ain Talout and to the West with Bensakrane. It is characterized by its unique dialect that is a fusion between mainly all the western cities namely; Oran, Sidi Belabbass and Ain temouchent. For instance, a speaker from Sidi Abdelli is more likely to converge to his interlocutor when he commutes to Oran or one of these western cities taking the fact that his variety resembles Oran dialect.

## **Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis**

In the case of Sidi Abdellie's female commuters, a variety of features may arise during the course of accommodation and they may be subsumed in the frame of speech convergence. Furthermore, some phonemes are utterly shrank besides the adoption of certain linguistic repertoire of Tlemcen dialect in Sidi Abdellie's dialect. Eventually, Sidi Abdellie's dialect is regarded by many as the amalgamation of many western cities such as: Oran, Ain temouchent, and Tlemcen. Such linguistic resemblance may stem from its geographical location or due to historical friction. Yet, what is plainly exhibited is that Sidi Abdellie's female commuters immerse into the Tlemcen dialect via the adoption of certain linguistic patterns such as the deletion of certain phonemes and usage of some exclusive Tlemcen lexical items.

### **2.4 Participants**

The present study is a sociolinguistic investigation that was conducted in Sidi Abdellie. It aims at thoroughly comprehending the phenomenon of linguistic accommodation among Sidi Abdellie's female commuters. The informants of the present study are forty women from distinct occupations who consented to part take in this investigation. Roughly all the participants were commuting to work for more than five years. The informants were randomly selected which in turn added more credibility to the overall research.

### **2.5 Research instruments**

The researcher has adopted a mixed methods approach to conduct the present investigation. In the sphere of social sciences, data is generally collected via the utilization of a variety of research tools and this implicate; questionnaires, observation, and interviews. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the selection of the research instrument should coincide with research objectives and should best resonate with the tenor of the research questions. Within the present investigation, the researcher used a questionnaire as a primary source of data collection about linguistic accommodation. The following section provides an account on questionnaires and their usefulness in data gathering.

#### **2.5.1 Questionnaire**



## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

The questionnaire is used for eliciting data and recording information about a particular issue or phenomenon. In sociolinguistic investigations, implementing such instrument would be lucrative as it helps the researcher to collect data about a given issue or linguistic phenomenon. In this regard, Brown (2001 as cited in Dornyei, 2003, p, 6) refers to a questionnaire as “any written instrument that present respondents with a series of questions or statements to which they are to react either by writing out their answers or selecting from among existing answers.”

Ideally, the questionnaire should reflect the researcher’s objectives and in the frame of the research questions. Moreover, the researcher should ask for the informants’ consent before administering it, and should reassured that the data they supply will be remain as anonymous as well as their personal profiles as these stand as indispensable section of research ethics. The questionnaire is such a practical and economical tool since it permits the researcher to gather a considerable bulk of data in short time horizon and in a reasonable budget. Furthermore, in order to design a well-structured questionnaire, the questions should be idealistically well ordered and ranging from close-ended to open-ended questions.

Within the present study, a questionnaire was administered to respondents of distinct occupations to elicit a sufficient amount of data on linguistic accommodation among Sidi Abdellie’s female commuters. It was addressed to forty women from different occupational backgrounds for the sake of collecting data about accommodation among the female commuters and its leading factors. It encompassed fourteen questions that are the amalgamation of close-ended and open-ended questions. It was composed of eleven questions devoted to the reasons that stimulate individuals to accommodation and the contexts that prompt people to do such accommodative act (see appendix A). Eventually, the researcher piloted the questionnaire before submitting it to the larger population and did readjust and rectify some misunderstood items and anomalies.

### **2.5.2 Observation**

Observation is an instrument used for observing and describing the behaviour of a subject and it involves watching rigorously the phenomenon until an insight is gained.

## **Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis**

“It is our basic method of obtaining information about the world around us.” (Kumar, 2022, p.1). In this sociolinguistic investigation, the researcher employs observation to collect qualitative data about the informants’ behaviour.

The researcher opted for a structured observation to attain well-structured and systematic data. The setting was a forum for the newly graduate teachers at primary schools in Tlemcen. A checklist was utilised as a pre-plan of the aspects to be observed such as aspects of speech convergence and divergence and linguistic aspects (see appendix B). Within the present observation the aim was to test and capture the theory at play with a realistic setting and to verify the data gathered through the questionnaire.

### **2.6 Data analysis**

Data analysis refers to the procedure of summarizing and interpreting the collected information. It stands as indispensable rubric as it reports the research findings. Raw data cannot be useful and informative unless they are organized and described. The researcher selected a mixed methods approach which in turns results in a practical and comprehensive research work. Quantitative data analysis aims at explaining a given phenomenon by collecting numerical data that are primarily analyzed via mathematical and statistical methods. It involves the use of descriptive and inferential statistics.

Simply put, quantitative data analysis method allows the investigator to calculate the findings and categorize them to yield an explanation and interpretation of the investigated issue (Dornyei, 2007). Qualitative data analysis encompasses organizing, summarizing, and explaining the elicited data without the use of statistical and mathematical methods. It aims at describing a given phenomenon through the informants’ lens. Its objective is to supply a thorough understanding of the informant’s experience. It relies heavily on coding which a strategy utilized by the researcher to list and categorize similar answers in order to come up with a general account the respondents’ orientation (Cohen, et al., 2001).

#### **2.6.1. Questionnaire Results**

**Q-1 what do you do for living?**

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

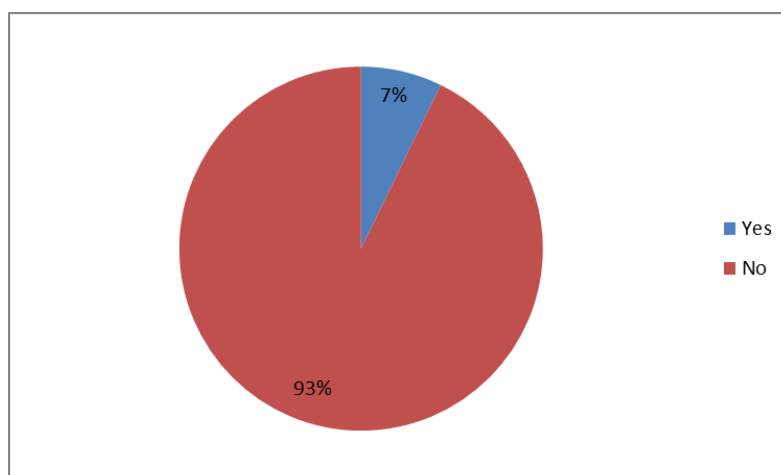
This question was a part of gaining a glimpse of the respondents' profile and occupational background. The answers showed that the informants have distinct occupations ranging from teaching, administration, and studying.

### **Q-2 How long have you been commuting to work?**

Such inquiry was posed in order to get an idea of the informants' contact with the Tlemcen variety. A mass majority of the answers were from 05 years and above.

### **Q-3 Did you find it difficult to get accustomed to Tlemcen speech?**

The aim that resides behind such a question was to have a scope on the experience of the informants' with the Tlemcen speech and whether they faced any linguistic hurdles during such contact. In their responses, a vast majority of them did not experience any obstacles (93% said no). The following pie chart exhibits the respondents' degree of habituation with Tlemcen variety.



**Figure 2.1. Informants' responses on their habituation with the Tlemcen speech**

As it is displayed in the pie chart, the female commuters did not suffer any linguistic discrepancies (93% said no) due to the fact that a copious amount of them have been commuting to work for more than 05 years which in turn permitted them to gain familiarity with the Tlemcen variety.

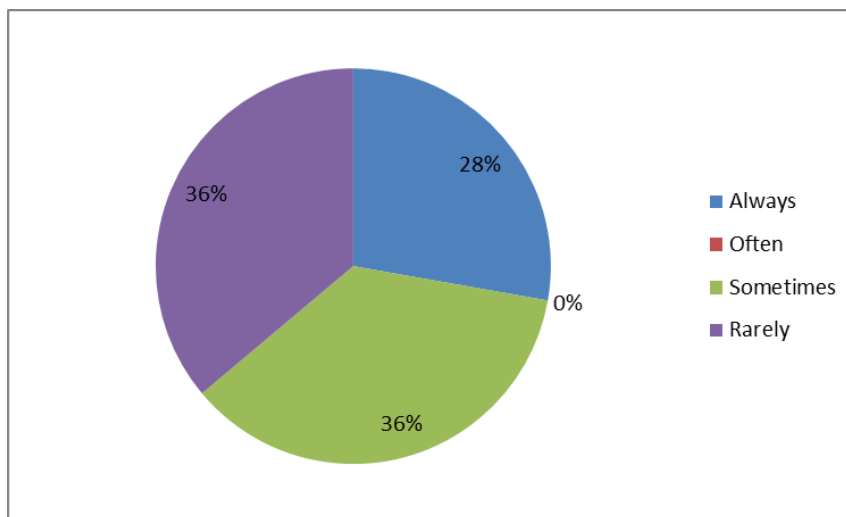
**If yes, why?**

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

The purpose of such question was to know whether the respondents' had any sort of deficiency in comprehending the other variety, yet most of the informants' did not experience any issues in interacting with the people of Tlemcen (7% said yes).

### **Q-4 How often do you find yourself adjusting your speech?**

This question was an attempt to cast the light on the number of the instances in which the female commuters utilize such accommodative behaviour while carrying a conversation with their Tlemcen companions. The pie chart below shows the informant's ratio of speech accommodation.

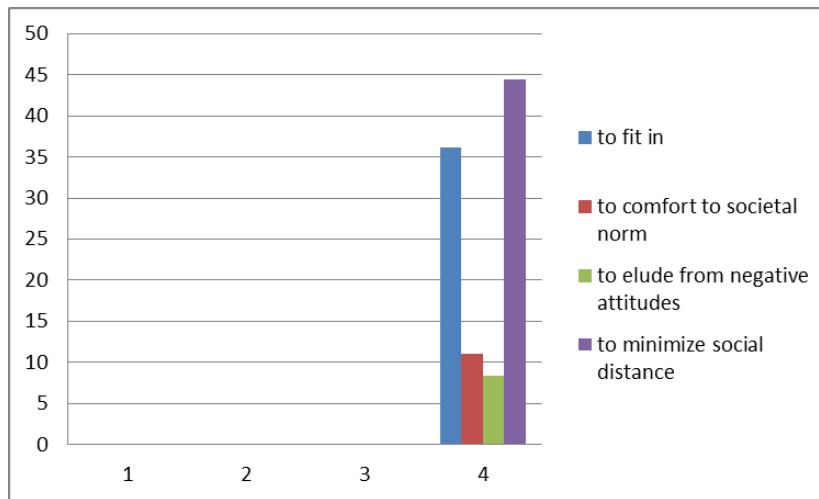


**Figure 2.2. The informants' frequencies of adjusting their speech**

As noticed, in the above pie chart, Sidi Abdellie's female commuters roughly did not project any sign of accommodation (36% answer with sometimes and the other half respond with 36% rarely) due to their habituation with Tlemcen speech and they have already broken the ice (more than 05 years of commuting).

### **Q-5 What are the primary reasons that make accommodate your speech?**

This question was addressed to female commuters to gain an inclusive perspective on factors that stimulate them to cooperate with their conversational partners.

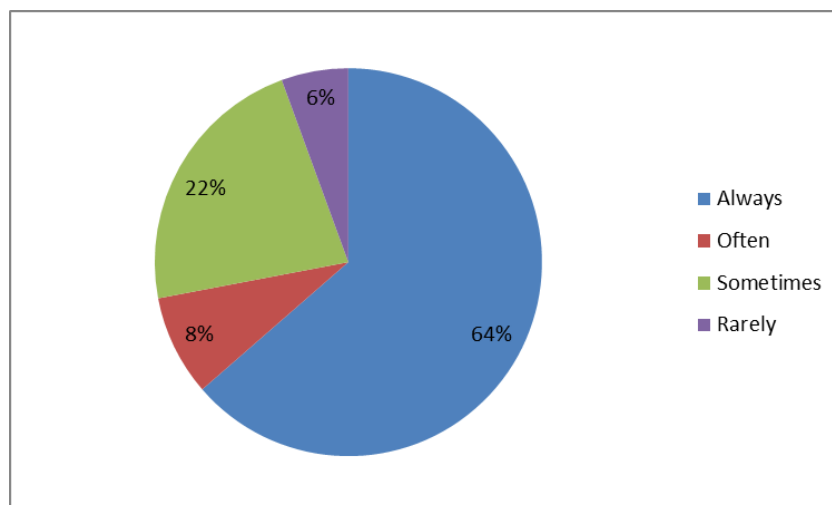


**Figure 2.3. Informants’ stimuli for speech accommodation**

As it is projected in the bar graph, the primary factor that prompts Sidi Abdelli’s female commuters to adjust their speech is the desire to minimize social distance (44.44%). The latter enhances speech and makes it more cooperative and productive.

**Q-6 to what extent do you feel comfortable expressing yourself authentically?**

This area of inquiry in the present case study is an attempt to target the extent to which female commuters express themselves genuinely and without being at discomfort before their Tlemcenian colleagues. The graphic aid plainly portrays the informants’ comfort in expressing themselves in their local variety.



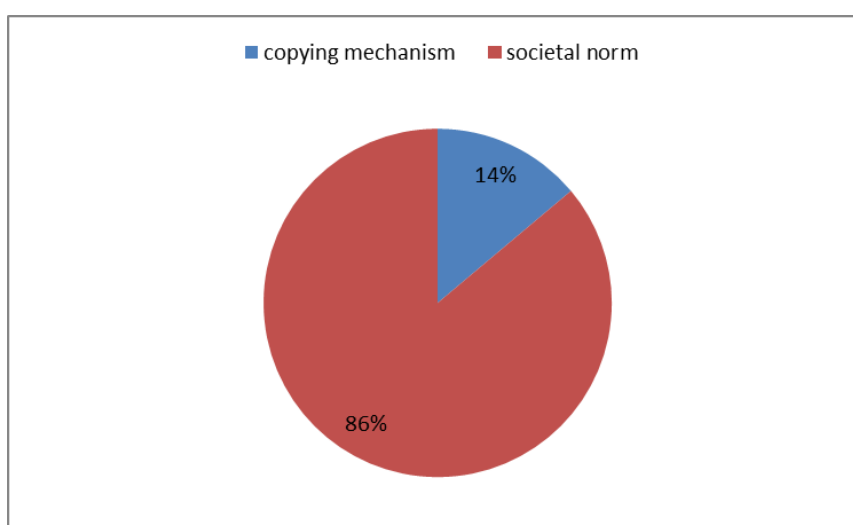
**Figure 2.4. Informants’ authenticity in expressing themselves**

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

As an endeavor to justify their answers, the informants displayed that (64%) express themselves genuinely and without being artificial.

### **Q-7 do you think your speech adjustment is?**

Such a question was assigned to the female commuters in order to obtain a thorough understanding of the motives that urge them to rely on such accommodative behaviour either as a copying mechanism or as a societal norm.. The following pie chart shows the factors leading to the respondents' recourse to this linguistic mechanism.

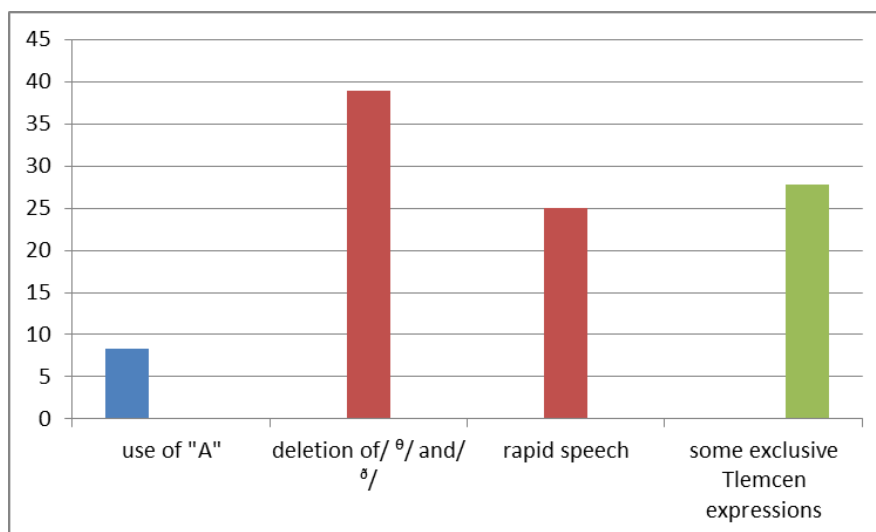


**Figure 2.5. Respondents' motives for speech adjustment**

The above pie chart demonstrates that 86% of the respondents show proclivity to societal norm as the pivotal stimulus for their speech accommodation for the sake of shrinking social boundaries and avoiding communication anomalies.

### **Q-8 what are the characteristics of Tlemcen speech that you implement in your discourse?**

This question strove to shed the light on the verbal repertoire of Tlemcen speech that Sidi Abdellie's female commuters utilize in their speech in order to coincide with communicative style of their interlocutor.

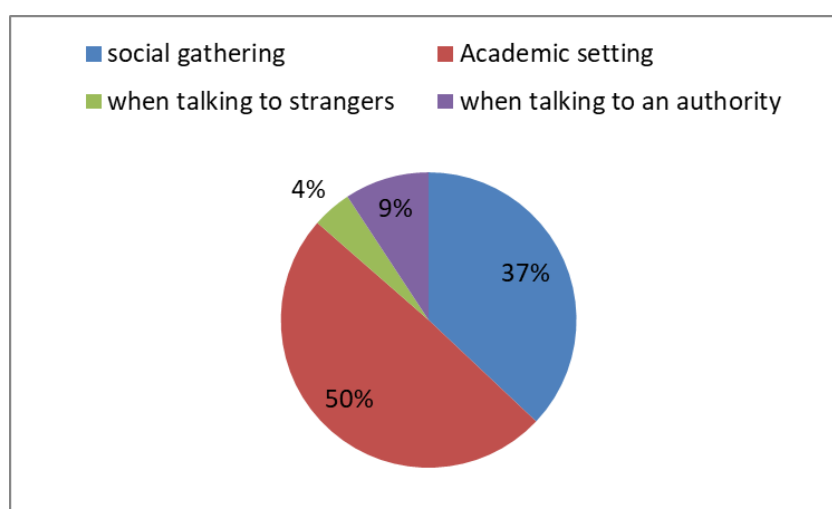


**Figure 2.6. Informants' implementations of Tlemcen speech register**

As it is lucidly demonstrated in the above bar graph, the respondents do utilize some features of the Tlemcen dialect in their discourse (38.88%) elided the use of /θ/ and /ð/. from their verbal conversation.

**Q-9 in which situation do you accommodate your speech?**

The objective that resides in such an orientation is to get a scope on the contexts that push the informants to orchestrate between their local dialect and Tlemcen speech. The visual aid below is designed to explain the settings that prompt the respondents to accommodate their speech.



**Figure 2.7. The stimuli of linguistic accommodation among female commuters**

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

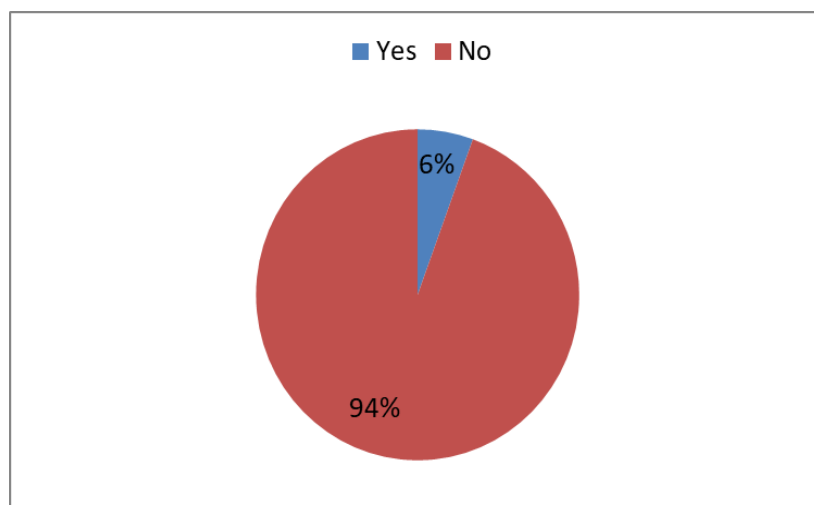
The respondents asserted that such a linguistic adaptation is context-dependent; females who commute claimed that they endeavor to adjust their speech mostly in academic institutions (50%) where there are abundance of linguistic variation and aim to cope with that.

### **Q-10 to what extent do your speech differ from Tlemcen speech?**

The researcher aimed at drawing a frame in which he would identify the linguistic features of each variety and to what extent do they diverge. A copious amount of the responses showed that their speech differ roughly in some expressions and certain features like intonation. Some of the respondents stated that they delete the /θ/ and /ð/ from their speech. While a few of them claimed that such linguistic variation is due to geographical location since Sidi Abdelli is geographically approximant to Aghlal (Ain temouchent). And one of the informants suggested that Tlemcen speech differ immensely from his local dialect.

### **Q-11 Have you ever faced any consequences for accommodating your speech?**

This inquiry in the present investigation tries to approach the experience encountered by the female commuters while adjusting their speech to their conversational partners and whether they have been discriminated in adopting such linguistic act. The following pie chart explains the informants' experience in accommodating their speech and whether they have been met with disdain or not.



**Figure 2.8. Informants' experience with communication accommodation**



## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

It is plainly displayed in the above graph that the respondents did not experience any discrimination for adjusting their linguistic style to that of their interlocutors (94% said no).

### **If yes, what are these consequences?**

The investigator's purpose was to delve thoroughly on consequences and negative judgment faced by Sidi Abdellie's female commuters and the aftermaths that result from such an adaptive behaviour. Only three of the informants stated that they have been told that they sound artificial and not genuine while shifting to Tlemcen speech.

### **2.6.2 Observation Results**

The researcher dissected the present tool of research into two pivotal themes in order to be intelligible and feasible. The themes were as follows: speech accommodation strategies (convergence and divergence) and linguistic aspects. Speech convergence is widely attested in Sidi Abdellie's females' speech whenever they encounter a Sidi Abdellie's resident while they are turn-taking with their Tlemcenian interlocutors. For instance, they swing back and forth between two distinct linguistic styles and on the use of Tlemcen exclusive speech repertoire and retain to their genuine accent and diction. On the other hand, humans attempt to blend in and adhere to the general principles of the larger groups. Similarly, Sidi Abdellie's female commuters stand as a minority group aiming at fitting in Tlemcen speech community via adopting their conversational partner linguistic mold. To speak, the researcher observed the adoption of certain supra-segmental features such as; intonation, speech rate, and accent besides, some exclusive Tlemcen lexis

The researcher jotted down an amalgamation of linguistic aspects from the part of Sidi Abdellie's female commuters. A majority of them completely elided /θ/ and /ð/ from their speech whereas none of the respondents utilised the glottal stop in their conversations as they would sound inauthentic especially if they misplace it. Besides, some of the informants inserted some Tlemcen speech repertoire. The most recurrent ones were; "AJI" (come here), "ALLAH YKHALIK" (may God protect you), and "ASEM" (what or what is the matter). Eventually, an ample amount of the observed

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

sample did shift from their local accent to that of Tlemcen especially if they were in the presence of native speakers. To illustrate, the following table summarises the aforementioned themes:

**Table 2.1. Informants' speech accommodation strategies**

Themes	Sample's behavior
-Sociolinguistic strategies (convergence/divergence)	-Informants accommodate their speech in the presence of a native speaker, and converge in the presence of the locals
-Linguistic aspects	-Elimination of /θ/ and /ð/. - glottal stop avoidance and the insertion of Tlemcen lexis

The majority of the female commuters did adopt some linguistic aspects such as elimination of certain phonemes and repertoire accommodation.

### **2.7. Data interpretation**

The submitted questionnaire was an asset to speculate deeply on the phenomenon of linguistic accommodation and to respond to the pre-set inquiries which hinged upon elucidating the pivotal stimuli that incite Sidi Abdellie's female commuters to adjust their speech and to what extent do they implement the Tlemcen repertoire in their conversations. The respondents were randomly selected from distinct occupational backgrounds. Since the investigator strove to grant all the members of the speech community an equilibrium opportunity to take part in the conducted case study. Moreover, the informants had been commuting to work for more than 05 years.

The crux of the present case study is mainly concerned with the act of accommodation, and it constituted the problematic issue of this research work. In this endeavor, the gathered data aided the researcher to be versed in the distinct facets of such accommodative act. An abundance of the respondents declared that they had recourse to linguistic accommodation as a mechanism to shrink social distance

## Chapter Two Data Collection and Analysis

(44.44%). This may stem from the fossilized negative attitudes and to give some glimpses that they belong to the same speech community.

Another focal point in the questionnaire which was concerned with the features of Tlemcen dialect that the females implement in their discourse; the findings showed that 08.33% did utilise the glottal stop, 38.88% they elided completely /θ/ and /ð/ from their speech, 25% employed rapid flow of speech, and 27.77% claimed that they had recourse to this communicative adjustment by employing a set of exclusive Tlemcen expressions. The aforementioned findings were thoroughly checked and validated by the researcher through the observation.

The aim that resides in linguistic accommodation is that the informants relied on it as a sort of an outlet to integrate into Tlemcen speech community and achieve an effective and lucrative linguistic exchange. The concluding rubric was assigned to provide a scope on the consequences encountered by the respondents while adjusting their speech. Interestingly, most of them (94.44%) indicated that they had not faced any negative comment or attitudes due to the fact that the Tlemcenian people are more polite and well-mannered. On the other hand, few of them did experience negative comments for the fact that they sound inauthentic and mimicking the accent. Also, the researcher employed a structured observation; the findings unveiled that a vast majority of Sidi Abdellie's female commuters did utilize a number of Tlemcen exclusive repertoire.

### **2.8. Conclusion**

This chapter was allocated to the data collection and analysis whereby the data were gathered and analysed according to a mixed methods approach to provide a well-rounded and comprehensive academic research. Such a step was of paramount importance to validate and hence to respond the researcher's inquiries. Plainly, the research findings were in alignment with the formulated hypotheses. An overall, linguistic accommodation is attested among female commuters and constitutes a linguistic haven to minimise social distance with their Tlemcenian colleagues. In addition, Sidi Abdellie's female commuters adopt a certain exclusive repertoire to meet the aforementioned aim

# **General Conclusion**

## General Conclusion

Female commuters encounter some linguistic hurdles preventing them to achieve a total understanding of the tenor of the message of their Tlemcenian companions. Accordingly, speech accommodation is the sole outlet to avoid communication failure. The conducted research work strove to speculate thoroughly on the distinct facets of linguistic accommodation among Sidi Abdellie's female commuters. The researcher has tailored a descriptive case study whereby data were gathered via a questionnaire and structured observation. The aim was to figure out the reasons that incite the female commuters to have recourse to such an accommodative mechanism and the characteristics of Tlemcen speech that the respondents implement in their discourse.

Due to the fact that Sidi Abdelli speech is the amalgamation of a variety of western dialects namely; Ain temouchent and Oran dialect, linguistic accommodation is the sole outlet to avoid communication breakdowns. Such an investigation constitutes an endeavor to investigate and therefore to dissect the phenomenon of linguistic accommodation among women in Sidi Abdellie's speech community. The investigation has involved forty women who consented to take part in this research. The informants were randomly selected from different occupational backgrounds. This in fact immersed the study in the realm of credibility. The findings of the questionnaire have been analysed qualitatively and quantitatively. In the same vein the results of the observation have been analyzed qualitatively. In this state of affairs, the female commuters encounter some linguistic hurdles that impede them to achieve a total understanding of the tenor of the message of their Tlemcen companions.

The findings unravel that linguistic accommodation exists to a certain extent and the leading motive was in fact to shrink the social distance that resides between these two speech communities. In this light of thought, the desire to minimize social distance is undisputedly the driving incentive to adjust their speech patterns with their interlocutors. The second query relates to Tlemcen characteristics that female implement in their discourse. The research findings have shown that most of the respondents do swing between two exclusive repertoires in a single conversational episode. Overall, linguistic accommodation stems from two major factors: the daily interaction and contact of female commuters with the local members of Tlemcen

### *General Conclusion*

speech community (most of them have been commuting to work for five years). Besides, their desire to encapsulate the social distance.

The present research work was an attempt to describe the linguistic situation in Sidi Abdellie. It is a lucrative study as it aims at displaying the features of such a variety and conduct a linguistic description on the difference between Tlemcen and Sidi Abdellie dialect. It aims at investigating linguistic accommodation among female commuters and explaining such a complex socio-psychological- driven linguistic phenomenon. In this endeavor, such an investigation was descriptive in nature and could not generalize the research findings on a macro scale due to the following hurdles. The sample was quite small in regard to the target population. It was not collaborative. Eventually, as a suggestion for a follow-up research, it is lucrative to examine such an intricate mechanism among male members.

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# Appendices

**Appendix A**  
**Questionnaire**

Dear informants,

You are kindly invited to fill in the following questionnaire that represents a data collection tool for a thesis for the degree of Master in Language Sciences This questionnaire is designed to investigate linguistic accommodation among Sidi Abdellie's female commuters. I would be so grateful if you could spare some time to respond to the questions. Your answers will be indicated as anonymous.

1-What do you do for a living?

A student

Administrator

A teacher

Others .....

2-For how long have you been commuting to work?

.....

3-Did you find it difficult to get accustomed to Tlemcen speech?

Yes  No

If yes, why?

.....

4- How often do you find yourself adjusting your speech?

Always

Often

Sometimes

Rarely

Never

5- What are the primary reasons for accommodating your speech?

Appendices

To conform to societal expectations

To elude from negative attitudes

To minimize social distance

Others .....

6- to what extent do you feel comfortable expressing yourself authentically?

7- do you think your speech adjustment is?

A copying mechanism

A societal norm

Others .....

8- What are the characteristics of Tlemcen speech that you implement in your conversations?

Glottal stop

Elimination of /θ/and /ð/

Rapid flow of speech

Some pure Tlemcen expressions

9- In which situations do you tend to accommodate your speech?

Social gathering

Academic environment

When talking to strangers

When addressing an authority figure

10-To what extent does your speech differ from that of Tlemcen?

.....

Appendices

.....

11-Have you ever faced any consequences for accommodating your speech?

Yes       No

-If yes, what are these consequences?

.....

.....

**Thank you for your collaboration**

استبيان

هذا الاستبيان صمم للتحقيق حول ظاهرة التكيف اللغوي بين الاناث المتقلات ندوكم لملء هذا الاستبيان الذي يمثل أداة جمع بيانات من أجل شهادة ماستر في علوم اللغة سنكون ممتنين اذا خصصتم بعض من وقتكم للإجابة على هذه الأسئلة ' هويتكم ستبقى مجهولة

1- ما هي مهنتك؟

طالب

اداري

أستاذ

.....

2- كم من الوقت وأنت تنتقل للعمل؟

.....

3- هل وجدتها صعبة للتكيف مع اللهجة التلمسانية؟

نعم  لا

اذا نعم لماذا؟

4- كم من مرة وجدت نفسك تعدل من كلامك؟

دائما

غالبا

أحيانا

قليلًا جدا

5- ما هي الأسباب الرئيسية التي تجعلك تكيف كلامك؟

لاندماج

للتكيف للعرف الاجتماعي

لاجتناب الانطباعات السيئة

للتقليل من البعد الاجتماعي



## Appendices

6-ما مدى ارتياحك بتعبيريك عن نفسك بطريقة حقيقية؟

دائما

غالبا

أحيانا

قليلا جدا

7-هل تكيفك لكلامك هو

آلية تقليد

عرف اجتماعي

8-ما هي خصائص اللهجة التلمسانية التي تستعملها في خطابك؟

استخدام ال A

اجتناب استخدام (ذ)(ث)

الحديث السريع

بعض العبارات الحصرية بتلمسان

9- في اي حالة من هذه الحالات تكيف كلامك؟

تجمع اجتماعي

مكان أكاديمي

عند التحدث للغرباء

عند التحدث مع اطار

10- في رأيك الى أي مدى تختلف لهجتك عن اللهجة التلمسانية؟

.....

.....

11-هل واجهت أي عواقب لتكيفك لكلامك؟

نعم  لا

Appendices

-اذا نعم ما هي هذه العواقب؟

.....

.....

Appendices

**Appendix B**

**Observation Checklist**

<b>Items</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>-The elimination of /θ/ and /ð/.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-The informants adjust their speech in the presence of a native speaker</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-The use of glottal stop</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-The insertion of some pure Tlemcen expressions and verbal repertoire</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-The complete transition from their home accent to that of Tlemcen</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-Rapid flow of speech</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-To what extent do they implement some exclusive Tlemcen repertoire</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-soften their voice</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>-This transition from their home speech is it psychologically driven?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>They converge their speech to minimize social distance and validate their acceptance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Do they sound artificial, non-genuine, and, in some cases, over accommodating their speech?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Summary:

The present extended essay endeavors to investigate linguistic accommodation among Sidi Abdellie's female commuters in Tlemcen community. Subsequently, its main objective is to gauge the motives behind such accommodative mechanism and the characteristics of Tlemcen speech repertoire that the females adopt in their discourse. The descriptive design of the present case study has adhered to a mixed methods approach in collecting and analysing data obtained via a structured participant observation and a questionnaire administered to forty informants who commute to work and have linguistic friction with the Tlemcen dialect for more than five years. The sample was selected based on probability sampling from distinct backgrounds to guarantee an objective and scientific dimension. The research findings have unraveled that linguistic accommodation does exist to a relative rate, and that the primary stimulus that incites the informants to recourse to linguistic accommodation is to minimise social distance via the adoption of an exclusive Tlemcen speech repertoire.

**Keywords:** linguistic accommodation, speech repertoire, accommodative mechanism.

## ملخص :

يسعى هذا المقال إلى دراسة التكيف اللغوي بين مسافرات سيدي عبدلي. ومن ثم، فإن هدفه الرئيسي هو قياس الدوافع وراء هذه الآلية التيسيرية وخصائص اللهجة تلمسانية التي تعتمد عليها الإناث في خطابهن. لقد قام الباحث بدراسة وصفية قائمة على دمج أساليب مختلطة في جمع وتحليل البيانات التي تم الحصول عليها من خلال ملاحظة المشاركين واستبيان تم إجراؤه على أربعين عينة ينتقلون للعمل ولديهم احتكاك لغوي مع لهجة تلمسان لأكثر من خمس سنوات. وقد تم اختيار العينة على أساس المنهج الاحتمالي من خلفيات متعددة لضمان البعد الموضوعي والعلمي. كشفت نتائج البحث أن التكيف اللغوي موجود بنسبة نسبية، وأن الحافز الأساسي الذي يدفع المخبرين إلى اللجوء إلى التكيف اللغوي هو تقليل البعد الاجتماعي من خلال اعتماد على المرجع الكلامي الحصري الخاص بتلمسان.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التكيف اللغوي، الآليات التيسيرية، المرجع الكلامي

## Résumé:

Le présent essai approfondi s'efforce d'étudier l'accommodement linguistique parmi les navetteuses de Sidi Abdellie dans la communauté de Tlemcen. Par la suite, son objectif principal est d'évaluer les motivations derrière un tel mécanisme accommodatif et les caractéristiques du répertoire vocal Tlemcenien que les femmes adoptent dans leur discours. La conception descriptive de la présente étude de cas a adhéré à une approche de méthodes mixtes dans la collecte et l'analyse des données obtenues via une observation participante structurée et un questionnaire administré à quarante informateurs qui se rendent au travail et ont des frictions linguistiques avec le dialecte de Tlemcen depuis plus de cinq ans. L'échantillon a été sélectionné sur la base d'un échantillonnage probabiliste provenant d'horizons distincts afin de garantir une dimension objective et scientifique. Les résultats de la recherche ont montré que

l'accommodation linguistique existe dans une mesure relative et que le principal stimulus qui incite les informateurs à recourir à l'accommodation linguistique est de minimiser la distance sociale via l'adoption d'un répertoire exclusif de Tlemcen.

**Mots-clés :** accommodement linguistique, répertoire, mécanisme accommodatif.