



"EQREM CABEJ" UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
SOCIAL SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

RESEARCH -SCIENTIFIC ANDDEVELOPMENTPROJECT FOR
THE JOINT STUDY PROGRAM
DOCTORATE IN EDUCATIONAND HUMANS CIENCES

1. THE TITLE OF THE WORK

ETHNIC BILINGUALISM IN THE SOUTHERN GREEK MINORITY REGION UNDER
THE GLOBALIZING INFLUENCE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

2. FIELD AND SUBFIELD OF STUDY

Subfield: Humanities

Major: Linguistics.

3. LEADING TEACHERS/CONTACTS

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This doctoral proposal main focus is linguistics. It will also cover a great range of other linguistics-related disciplines such as Applied Linguistics, Theoretical Linguistics, Psycholinguistics and Sociolinguistics. Its foremost research target is the study of the current bilingual transitional developments in the southern region of Gjirokastra. Additionally, this study greatest emphasis is placed on the bilingual conductor bilingual communication practices of the inhabitants of the Dropulimunicipality and beyond, a region inhabited mainly by the Greek minority. This population for a long time, even during the 50-year of dictatorship, has preserved and inherited from generation to generation the Greek language as the first language and learned the Albanian language as the standard or official language. So, from the beginning of the establishment of the first settlements, we are dealing with a limited environment whose population inherited and used two languages at the same time: Greek and Albanian. It is worth noting that the Greek languages spoken by the minorities during the dictatorial territorial isolation was significantly different from

the modern Greek, which bears testimony of the above, as well as the conservative tendencies of the minority speakers. Pursuant to the above introduction the novelty lies in the fact that English language having established itself as the language of technology, science, entertainment, media etc is having such an irreversible effect on all the written and spoken languages, Greek and Albanian comprising.

1. Background of the study

The above proposed study will target mainly the new generation, children belonging to the 3-12 years age group. The latter also coincides with preschool and primary education. The main purpose of observing and studying the linguistic behavior of this age group is dedicated to the fact that they are more open and quickly embrace new technological developments and contemporary behavioral trends that impose the use of the English language up to such an extent of sporadically rejecting their first language (mother tongue).

The identification of influencing indicators in the acquisition of English language at such a young age will be also followed by the identification of the impact on the linguistic level of analysis and linguistic changes they might have undergone. Moreover, this paper will have as its object of study the acquisition of the first and second language as well as the main prevailing theories. On the other hand, it seeks to determine the changes inflicted in the lexical, morphological and syntactic linguistic levels as well as to predict the further damages that existing languages will suffer in the year to come. It is deemed to be a comparative, analytical and statistical research.

2. Rationale for the Research

It seems clear that in this world of ours, the globalizing influence of the English language has affected all civilizations. In this context, this doctoral study falling under the linguistics and communication field of study will firstly analyze and determine all possible ramifications English has on primary and secondary education children of the Greek minority. Secondly, the finding will be compared with the same studies carried out with the same age group children of the Albanianspeaking community of the Gjirokastra town. We will have to admit that the study we propose and aim to carry out will constitute a thorough research filling an empty spot in the large framework of similar studies already put through by the Albanian linguists and language purists. The latter have never extended their research in covering minorities language conduct..

3. Objectives and Significance of the Study

This thesis aims at fulfilling the following set of objectives:

1. To expose to the general view the existing linguistic reality of Dropull region and to identify cases of Anglophone influence on young and very young learners.
2. To identify the main sources of supply of English bulk of words and expressions as well as the reasons for such a quick and smooth embracing behavior displayed by the children of 3-12 years of age.

3. To analyze the possible connection that might exist between the use of technology and the globalizing tendencies of the English language
4. To determine the linguistic fields affected by this flood of English.
5. To determine the current linguistic reality in which the new generation born and raised in this Greek minority environment of Dropull region, widely accepted as bilingual communities from the beginning, finds itself.
6. To recommend possible means of impact minimizing.

4. Literature Review

Analysis of existing literature on bilingualism, multilingualism and the first and second language acquisition. Bilingualism and multilingualism are defined as specific-community linguistic behavior namely the ones identified as minorities. In the last decade, in the region of Gjirokastra and beyond it is noticed a growing welcoming and embracing tendency of the young generation towards bilingual language conduct driven by the excessive technological use. The studies have estimated a considerable number of Albanian pre-schoolers and primary-secondary education children being astonishingly fluent in both Albanian and English. In this framework we will laboriously commit ourselves in analyzing the language-related conduct in the Dropull region. Is this the case of multilingualism social groups?

The impact of technology in the acquisition of English language by minority children.

The rapid pace of social and technological change, especially after 90', in the Republic of Albania has profoundly impacted the language use, requiring a reassessment of the actual state of the Albanian language and in our case Greek language acquired as a first language by the Greek minority of Gjirokastra region.

5. Research questions

Research question 1. What are the language preferences and what is the language attitude of the pre-schoolers, primary/secondary education children of the Greek minority of Dropull?

Research question 2. To what extent has English impacted the language conduct of the 3-12 years age group children of the above community?

Research Question 3. To what extent do the above findings match or differentiate with the same language behavior of the non-minority community of the same region?

Research Question 4. What is the effect of the technology in English overlapping and further fusing both Greek and Albanian language and the emergence of techno-bilingual communities?

Hypotheses will be built on their basis, assuming that English has an irreversible influence in first and second language acquisition processes nurturing the emergence and establishments of bilingual societies or multilingual ones as the case of minorities. Furthermore, it will be speculated on the future of English depicted as the "invading" language of the times we are living.

6. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopts a mixed methods approach to comprehensively explore the impact of English in the emergence of bilingual and multilingual communities. The quantitative component will include the collection

and analysis of numerical data to identify English language overlapping or infusion, while the qualitative component will focus on furthering knowledge on possible changes affecting language level of analysis and hypothesizing on the future state of both Greek and Albanian.

Data collection methods

- Observations: Data collecting will be realized through pertinent observations of children language behavior in school and playground environments.
- Surveys: Quantitative data will be collected through structured surveys carried out with a diverse sample of educators and children.
- Interviews: Qualitative data will be collected through semi-structured interviews with educators, parents and children.
- Case studies: A series of case studies will be carried out in different educational settings to examine students' inclination in adapting their language conduct to what is regarded as this and next generation linguistic trend.
- *Data analysis procedures*
- Quantitative data analysis: Statistical software will be used to analyze the survey data, using descriptive and inferential statistics to identify trends, patterns and relationships.
- Qualitative data analysis: Interviews and case studies will be transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key themes, concepts and narratives.
- Integration of findings: Findings from quantitative and qualitative analyses will be integrated to draw comprehensive conclusions about the objectives of the study.

7. Expected results

Since 1991 (which coincides with the demise of the communist regime and opening of the borders) Albanian society suffered a linguistic flood. Such an English invasion of the Albanian language is quite noticeable and discernable. It was simply triggered by the inundation of the Western technology and migration. On the other hand this unexpected new reality caught our linguists and language purists on surprise which enabled the entrance of English words and expressions freely in our everyday lexicon.

Recently, linguists as well as young researchers have switched their attention mainly to the syntactic, grammatical and syntactic analysis of today's Albanian language, as well as the ever-increasing tendencies of linguistic bilingualism, mainly in the ages of 3-12 years.

To these days, the minorities and their language use has been overlooked since they have already been bilingual. What if these bilingual communities have undergone the same language transformational stages and run the risk of being transformed into multilingual realities or realities where one of the two existing languages is in danger of falling into disuse.

- This thesis itself will further complement the framework of studies in the field of linguistics as a whole and bilingualism as a linguistic behavior of a certain community in particular.
- On the other hand, it will prove the impact English language has had and continues to have on all linguistic realities, proving itself as a superstrata language.
- Comparatively, this research will decisively establish the extent to which English has affected the above languages.

Moreover, it will be a valuable source of information in the hands of linguists and young researchers interested in the above.

8. *Strategiestoreducerisk:*

- Increased diversity and sample size through broader recruitment strategies.
- Continuous monitoring of emerging technologies and societal trends to ensure research remains relevant.
- Using multiple methods of data analysis to minimize subjectivity in the interpretation of qualitative data.
- Engaging with educators and policymakers early in the research process to understand potential resistances and work on strategies to overcome them.

This detailed elaboration of the expected results and discussions should provide a comprehensive overview of the anticipated research results and the challenges they may face, along with strategies for addressing them.

9. *Recommended bibliography*

- Chomsky N., *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*, The MIT Press, Cambridge 1995.
- Chomsky N., *Three factors of language design*, Linguistic Inquiry, 2005-MIT Press
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- Mattschey J., *The effect of bilingualism on non-linguistic cognition. A historic perspective*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2023,
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- Wei L., *The bilingualism reader*, Routledge, 2007

The steering group proposing the project

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Ethnic Bilingualism in the Southern Greek minority Region under the Globalizing Influence of the English Language

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