



## A Study of Jargon Use with Reference to Selected Occupations in Mosul

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### Article information

#### Article history:

Received July 19, 2022

Review August 1, 2022

Accepted August 6, 2022

Available online June 1, 2023

#### Keywords:

Register, genre,  
Jargon, context of situation,  
Mosuli Arabic (MA), occupation,  
Profession, craft, physicians, IT  
Programmers,  
Electrical engineers,  
Construction workers,

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### Abstract

This study investigates jargon sociolinguistically. It examines jargon use within the context of situation by workgroup members in Mosul. Although workgroup members speak Mosuli Arabic (MA henceforth), it has been noticed that there are some terms, used by them, that are usually hardly understood by outsiders (the public) or even not understood. These jargon terms are supposed to be used for certain purposes, and the current research tries to shed light on the use of jargon by analysing six naturally-occurring dialogues that are recorded through non-participant observation. Since this study is conducted for the first time in Mosul, there is no ready-made corpus, and in order to be authentic and reliable the data of the study are collected by the researcher herself, though the data are said to be primary data. The data are collected from the field (context of situation) of six selected occupations, three of them are professions represented by physicians, electric engineers, and IT programmers. On the other hand, the other three occupations are crafts represented by goldsmiths, car mechanics, and construction workers. The speeches are analysed depending on Hymes' S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G. Model to find out the main uses of jargons.

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## دراسة استخدام المصطلحات بالإشارة إلى مهن مختارة في الموصل

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### المستخلص :

يتناول هذا البحث دراسة مصطلحات العمل دراسة لغوية-اجتماعية، و يبحث في استعمالات هذه المصطلحات من قبل افراد مجاميع عمل مختارة في الموصل ضمن نطاق عملهم. بالرغم من أن أفراد هذه المجاميع هم من المتحدثين باللهجة العربية الموصلية إلا أن المصطلحات المستعملة صعبة الفهم بالنسبة لغير العاملين ضمن تلك المجالات والتي عادة ما يتم استعمالها لأغراض خاصة بنطاق العمل والعاملين فيه. إن الغرض من هذه الدراسة هو معرفة الغرض من استعمال المصطلحات ضمن نطاق العمل الخاص بالأطباء، المبرمجين، مهندسي الكهرباء، الصاغة، العاملين في مجال البناء ومصلحي السيارات، وقد تم جمع بيانات هذه الدراسة من الميدان الخاص بكل مهنة عن طريق مراقبة العاملين و تسجيل بعض من محاوراتهم، ومن ثم ليتم تحليلها لمعرفة أهم استعمالات مصطلحات العمل.

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#### الكلمات المفتاحية:

نمط لغوي، مصطلح، سياق الحالة، اللهجة العربية الموصلية، نطاق عمل، مهنة، حرفة، أطباء، مبرمجين، مهندسي كهرباء، صاغة، عاملين في مجال البناء ومصلحي السيارات.

### 1. Introduction:

Within any speech community, there is a considerable language variation. This variation is not restricted to multilingual communities, but even in monolingual communities individual languages vary in accordance to several factors. The language we use in everyday life varies remarkably from one context to another. That is, no one speaks the same way all the time. Language is not a homogeneous entity and the speaker of any language does not speak one single variety. Single variety speakers are not found. All languages exhibit internal variation, and each language exists in a number of varieties that, in sum, form the language (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 1986).

The variation within a monolingual community could be due to geographical areas, language users, language functions (use) or it may occur over time, the variation related to language use is due to occupational, contextual, or functional factors (Holmes, 2013). Concerning occupation, context, and function, language varies into different registers. "Register could be described as an occupational style" (Holmes, 2013: 262). Registers are defined in terms of social situations, particular groups, or professions, like the language of the courtroom, pilots, criminals, politicians, and so on. Registers are characterised by the use of vocabulary which the members of the groups have developed to talk about their specialty, such specific vocabulary is called 'jargon'. Jargon is a special technical vocabulary associated with specific areas of work or interest as a part of the register. For example, the language people use with others they work with about their field or specialty is different from the language they use with their families in describing different topics at home (Trudgill, 1974: 85). Ferguson (1994:20) says, "People participating in recurrent communication situations tend to develop similar vocabularies, similar features of intonation, and characteristic bits of syntax and phonology that they use in these situations." This kind of variety is a register. Then he adds that the register contains "special terms for recurrent objects and events, and formulaic sequences or 'routines', facilitate speedy communication, serve to mark the register, establish feelings of rapport, and serve other purposes similar to the accommodation that influences dialect formation". This special kind of vocabulary is called 'jargon'. So, jargon represents special terms used by people within a group who share the same interest or career. In Mosul, jargons are investigated to be used by work groups members those who occupy professions as well as crafts.

### 2. Aims and Scope of the Study

This study tackles the sociolinguistic phenomenon of jargon as special terms used within some occupational varieties of MA. Workgroup communities in Mosul have their own specific register, the jargon terms within which may sound strange or even foreign to an outsider. For example, goldsmiths may use expressions like: /tabni:gi/ (commission), /kannifvaʃ/ (do not speak in front of others). Doctors may use expressions like /dayyad/ (died) and /fatfat/ (suffered from fit/ epileptic seizure). These jargons are difficult for outsiders to understand. Although the outsiders and the insiders are users of the same language, the expressions used seem to be very specific and vague, meant not to be comprehended by outsiders. Jargon use is investigated as the aim of this research that analyses a number of naturally-occurring dialogues in certain occupations related to the workgroups.

This study is concerned with and restricted by the following:

- 1- The data consists of dialogues related only to six workgroups (goldsmiths, construction workers, car mechanics, physicians, electrical engineers, and IT Programmers).
- 2- The data is concerned with jargon terms used in work occupations in Mosul, no other occupations outside Mosul have been tackled

### 3. Hypotheses

This study hypothesises that workgroup members develop their special terms to make use of them for certain purposes like secrecy, clarity, speedy communication, or to keep the social bond and to show ingroup identity.

#### **4. Review of Related Literature**

Any occupation, hobby, association, or organisation group is likely to develop its own jargon. Jargons are specialised occupational varieties developed by group members as special terms used to refer to their activity. For example, the police, postal workers, chat-room users, restaurant workers, drug addicts, and college students all have jargon. Jargons are also used to be obscure by the uninitiated-for not letting the other understand you, for the sake of precision, to show off, and to establish in-group membership (Brown and Attardo, 2005: 92).

Jargons used by professionals and their groups' members are usually extensive and vague in meaning (Formkin, 2003: 309). It is preferable, by members, to use a particular language variety or jargon to strengthen the members' relationship and, at the same time, to exclude outsiders. Thus, jargon is used as a tool to hamper people not affiliated with the group from any endeavours to understand anything related to the activities of the group (ibid). Jargon is "a special technical vocabulary that is associated with a specific activity or topic as a part of register" (Yule, 2010: 259). Jargons are particular expressions and words used by individuals of particular groups. These expressions are clearly understood by group members and are difficult for others. They represent an effective way of communication as it summarises details and conveys meaning in a concise way (Yule, 2010: 289). "Jargon that exists in a social community is usually about the subject matter related to their field" (Katamba, 1993: 113). Speech community, as defined by Labov (1972, cited in Coulthard 1985:37) is those who participate "in a set of shared norms". This indicates that each group of speakers who share the same perspectives are a speech community. In this study, six groups of work fields in Mosul are investigated. Each group has its perspectives of communication and has its own terminology/jargons. Thus every single group represents a speech community.

When the members of a speech community interact, their interaction is made up of many speech acts. Searle defines speech acts as "the minimal units of linguistic communication" (Searle, 1969: 16). These speech acts form a speech event that takes place in a speech situation (Coulthard 1985:42). Hymes (1974) talks about the hierarchy of speech in his framework that a speech situation contains a speech event that consists of speech acts. According to Hymes, a speech situation cannot be understood if only the linguistic aspects are taken into consideration, but other non-linguistic aspects should be taken into consideration. Since appropriate language use depends on the situation, Hymes develops a frame for ethnographic investigation of language use across speech communities. developed his model of 'Ethnography of Speaking' in which he shows that a speech that underlies a speech event has eight components. Hymes uses the acronym S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G. to summarise the eight components of speech which are: setting and scene, participant, ends, act and sequence, key, instruments, norms of interaction, and genre. S for setting and scene: According to Hymes (1974: 55) 'Setting refers to the time and place of a speech act and, in general, to the physical circumstances'. The scene refers to the participants' understanding of what sort of behaviour is appropriate (ibid). P for participants: It involves a wide range of elements of a speech event- the speaker and the listener, the addresser and the addressee, the sender, and the receiver, etc (Umezina, J, 2017: 10). E for Ends: it refers to the results or goals the participant seeks to accomplish in a speech event. They are called ends as they refer to the final goals targeted from the speech. A for Act sequence: it refers to the form, content, and order of what is said. It refers to 'the precise words used, how they are used, and the relationship of what is said to the actual topic at hand'. K for Key: it refers to the tone, manner, or spirit in which an act is done. Keys represent cues that offer the participants how to interpret the message content. The keys help the participant in understanding the content of the speech act. Kind of behaviour, gesture, posture, or tone can convey mocking, seriousness, sarcasm, showing off, etc (ibid). I for Instrumentalities: "it is the choice of oral, written, telegraphic, semaphore, or other medium of transmission of speech" (Hymes, 1972: 62-63). It may also refer to the language form and language

variety like the choice of language, code, and dialect. N for Norms: Hymes (1972: 63-64) states that it refers to norms of interaction. For Hymes, speech is a rule-governed activity by specific behaviours and properties that are attached to speaking, e.g. one must not interrupt, one can freely say something, how turns in speaking should be followed, and so on. G for Genre: "by genres are meant categories such as a poem, myth, tale, proverb, riddle, curse, prayer, oration, lecture, commercial, form letter, etc" (Hymes, 1972: 65).

#### **4. Methodology**

Methodology encompasses both processes of data collection and data analysis that are done to achieve the study results. The following two sections will present these processes briefly.

##### **4.1 Data Collection Procedure**

This study investigates jargon use. Seeking more accurate results, this study requires adopting more than one method for describing and analysing jargon use in the context of situation (qualitative inquiry). The data were collected ethnographically, through non-participant observation and interviews. The main goal of adopting the ethnographic method is that it provides the researcher a good insight into the setting of his concern, as it gives a chance to look at people in their cultural setting examine participants' behaviour and understanding their own interpretation of this behaviour. The samples are workgroups' members- the specialists in their workfield. Additionally, the researcher interviews three members of each to gather more data about jargon terms. And at least, two, or more, members' speeches of each group are recorded to be analysed by the researcher. In addition to the samples of each work group, the speeches may involve some outsiders of the public while participating with the specialists.

##### **4.2 Data Analysis Procedure**

The method involves observing the members of each group in their context of situation. Observation is adopted by the researcher because there is not enough information about the nature of communication and the culture of the workgroups. People in their workplaces talk differently from their talk for ordinary occasions. Thus, through observation, the researcher can investigate jargon use in discourse related to its specific context. This enables the researcher to record naturally-occurring conversations and be aware of certain influential context-related factors like the behaviour, setting, and participants. The conversations are recorded to be analysed qualitatively and to examine how and why jargon terms are used. The contexts of the work fields are very unique and demand experience and field knowledge for someone to integrate into. Actually, it is not possible to participate as an insider specialist or even as an outsider especially in the contexts of car mechanics and construction workers. Thus the researcher enters the involved communities without being an active participant but staying separate from the observed communities. The conversations, at first, are recorded by the researcher using the recording application on the mobile phone. Then, the dialogues are presented in the analysis section in a form of three lines following the rules of Leipzig glossing (Comrie et al. 2008). The first line is the phonetic transliteration of Arabic depending on the IPA font of Arabic shown above. In the first line, the morphological elements are separated by hyphens in a way that shows how the morphemes are attached to the base forms. The second is a literal word and morpheme-ordered translation of Arabic to English and the third (in italics) is an idiomatic translation into English. This method of data representation enables the reader to understand the syntactic and morphological structure of Arabic, and to see the idiomatic and situational meaning of the utterances. Data analysis is based on Hymes (1974) theory to analyse the context of situation in which jargon is used. The data of this section are recorded dialogues related to each occupation, the dialogues contain a number of jargons being used in the context of situation. The dialogues are transliterated and translated then the context of situation is analysed in the light of Hymes (1974) S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G. theory. After analysing each dialogue, jargon use in the context of situation is discussed to find out what are the sociolinguistic use of jargon in different occupations in Mosul. Hyme's (1974) S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G. theory is adopted in this section as it gives a detailed description for most of the situational factors that may affect the choice of language variety. So it can give an insight into the purpose behind jargon use.

## **5. Data Analysis and Discussion**

As illustrated earlier, this study deals with six groups of work fields, three of which are crafts and the others are professions. This section encompasses the qualitative part of the analysis as it deals with the analysis of jargons use in their related context of situation, so two short dialogues of each occupation will be discussed and analysed in this section. The dialogues will be analysed according to Hymes S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G. Model which stands for Setting and scene, Participants, Ends, Act sequence, Key, Instruments, Norms, and Genre.

### **4.2.1. Groups of Professions**

Three workgroups jargons are involved under this heading: medical, IT programmers, and electric engineers jargons.

#### **a- Medical jargon in use**

##### **Dialogue 1**

Dr1: ma: tiʕyifi:n aʃ-ʂa:ɣ...dayyad ʕind-i-lpe:ʃint ʔlbe:ħa

not you-know what-happened ...died-he my-the-patient yesterday

Don't you know what happened yesterday? A patient of mine died.

Dr2: aʃ-ka:n bi:n-u ?

what-was wrong-him?

What did he suffer from?

Dr1: dʒa:b-u:-nu ʔimfatfit w-ʕayvo:mit ma: ʔayʕaʕ-lla gaspan

brought-they-him epileptic and-ing-vommit not-I-see-but gasped-he

They brought him vomiting and epileptic, suddenly he began to gasp

Dr2: ka:n dagnazti:nu ʕassari:ʕ

had diagnose-you-him quickly

You had to diagnose him quickly

Dr1: baʕid tawwitna xalle:na:lu-l o:ksidʒin dayyad

Yet just-we gave-we-him-the oxygen died-he

Just yet we gave him oxygen, he died

Setting is at Ibn-Sina Hospital, and the scene is informal.

Participants: speakers are two resident female doctors- medical career members, while the listeners are a number of outsiders (lay people).

Ends: the resident doctor is telling her colleague what has happened to her patient who died before she diagnosed him.

Act sequence: First, Dr1 tries to get his colleague's attention to something serious that has happened before telling him about the patient's death. Then he continues telling what happened answering Dr2's questions.

Keys: the tone reflects worry that coincides with the worrying distressing event.

Instrumentalities: the channel is verbal using informal register and medical jargon.

Norms: Dr1's speech was informal but it needs attention, it was interspersed with gestures and silent pauses. Since the speech is informal, Dr2 interrupts his colleague-Dr1 with questions that reflect interjection and blaming.

Genre: patient case oriented

This speech event, that includes a number of medical jargons like 'dayyad, ʔlpe:ʃint, ʔimfatfit, ʃayvo:mit, gaspan, dagnaztu', reflects doctors identity. It is an indirect attempt to show off, as they are members of the medical field, and to exclude the outsiders who do not understand what is said. The use of medical jargon terms also shows the speakers' attempt to hide from the listeners what they are talking about.

## **b- IT Programmers' Jargon in use**

### **Dialogue 2**

Clerk1 : we:n-l-blanka:t... we:n xalle:tim axi:r-marra?

where-the-blanks... where put-you-them last-time?

where are the blank CDs, where did you put them last time?

Clerk2 : ma-ʃyif, hassa ʔayʃaʃilki... le:ʃ tyidi:him?

not-know, immediately I-see-for-you... why-want-you-them?

I do not know, I will search immediately... what for you want them.

clerk1 : daxzin haðo:li-l-fo:ldarat

Will-I-save these-the-folders

to save these folders

clerk2 : ʔaʃ-aku bi:him-l-foldara:t?

what-there-is in-them-the-folders?

What is there in the folders?

clerk1 : hay-l-fo:rma:t mal ʔasʔilit niʃ-i-ssani

this-the-forms of-the-questions mid-the-year

these are the forms of the mid-year questions

clerk2 : ʃayrilihiyim ʔana-sayyivim ʔib-labto:bi

share-you-to-me-them I save-them in-laptop-my

share them with me, I save them in my laptop.

clerk1 : la ma yihtað, aʃlan kin-sarrattohim-w-kammaltu:him... inʃi:ni haðak-l-fla:ʃ dafarmitu wa-nazzilim

no not need, already was-sort-I-them-and-fish-them... give-you-me that-the-flash to-format-I-it and-I-download-them

No need, I have already finished sorting them.. give me that flash drive in order to format it and save them

Setting: is in Al-Qada Secondary School, and the scene is an informal discussion.

Participants: two clerks (IT programmers), clerk1 is female and the other one is male. There were three teachers who were only listening but not participating.

Ends: clerk1 asks a question seeking to find the blank CDs, clerk2 is offering other media for saving.

Act sequence: clerk1 opens the speech event with asking about the blank CDs as an indirect request. Then clerk2 answers, offering her to send the folders so he will save them, but she refuses.

Keys: clerk1's way of speaking and body language reflect seriousness and upset that clerk2 has forgotten where he put the blank CDs.

Instrumentalities: spoken channel, informal register with use of IT programmers' jargon.

Norms: the speech event is informal but serious, so clerk2 is required to interact seriously and to speak in a friendly manner to Calm down his colleague as he lost the blank CDs.

Genre: offer oriented genre that contains an indirect offer and an unfriendly direct manner of refusal.

Jargons of IT programming, in this speech event, are used as a part of the work field rather than for hiding what is said from the teachers who were listening. In this speech event, the word 'flash' is used to fill the gap in Arabic, while the other words like 'blanka:t, fo:ldarat, fo:rma:t, fayrilihiyyim, ʔasayyivim, ʔib-labto:bi, sarrattohim, dafarmitu' are used for the sake of precision and clarity of communication in addition to being a part of the speakers' career.

### **c- Electrical engineering jargon in use**

#### **Dialogue 3**

worker: hay-l-muhawwila ʔatlawwiz.... yimkin bi:ha: ʃo:rt

this-the-transformer ing-lose ..... probably in-it short circuit

I think there is an electric short circuit in this transformer

engineer: faħašt-i-sse:ri:z ?

check-you-the-series?

Have you checked the series connection?

worker : la: dayrekt

no direct

No, direct connection

engineer : min-ha:ða lawazzit ʃindak... ma-hay miyyi-w-ʔaʃʃa vo:lt ʔamri:kiyyi

for-this lose-it have-you... not-this hundred-and-ten volt American

That what caused the short, it is a 110 volt American transformer

worker : wi: ma:-ʔabali

oh not-in-mind

oh, didn't think of that

engineer : di-dʒi:b-l-wa:yara:t w-rbiṭa w-ʃayyika

bring-you-the-wires and-connect-it and-check-it

Bring the wires, connect and check it

Setting: at the workshop of electric device repair, the scene is informal. Participants: the workshop owner- an electrical engineer and the worker who is training, both of them are males. There are no listeners except the researcher.

End: the worker is telling the owner about the transformer in order to consult him.

Act sequence: first the worker tells the owner about what he thinks the problem is trying to consult him indirectly. Then the owner replied with a question to know what has the worker done, then he explained to the worker what was wrong.

Keys: the worker's way of speaking reflects respect and worry, and the engineer's shows confidence while explaining the reason.

Instrumentalities: verbal channel using electrical engineering jargons.

Norms: the speech event is between the workshop owner and the worker, although it is informal but the worker had to listen, not to interrupt, pay attention and do what the owner told him.

Genre: informal speech, giving instructions genre that is related to the work field of electrical engineering.

This speech event contain a number jargons: ʔatlawwiz, ʃo:rt, sse:ri:z, dayrekt, vo:lt , l-wa:yara:t , ʃayyika. Except the loanword-jargon /vo:lt/ (volt) that is borrowed to fill a gap in Arabic that has no counterpart for it, most of jargon terms are used to avoid explanation and facilitate speedy communication in that it is easier to use ready-made expressions or as Hudson (1978) comments "jargon is a way of improving the cohesion and the 'camaraderie' between the group members".

#### **4.2.2. Group of Crafts**

The jargon of three craft work fields are involved under this heading, that are the jargons of goldsmiths, car mechanics/fixers, and the jargon used by construction workers.

##### **1- Goldsmiths jargon in use**

###### **Dialogue 4**

Goldsmith1: (seller) : tfaððali yo:m aʃ-tihtadʒi:n

welcome-you madam what-you-need?

Welcome madam, how can I help you

Customer: ʔayi:d ʔayʃaʃ haðak-l-ka:rte:r

I-want I-see that-the-cartier

I want to see that cartier

Goldsmith1: ha:ða ðahab ʔiʔa:li ma:rka... qiʃʃa ʔaʒi:li

this gold Italian trademark... piece heavy-female affix

It is an Italian brand-gold ... a good piece to gain

Goldsmith2: ʔnho:r-ʔ-ddaʃʃa (addressing the seller while looking at the customer)

beautiful-the-customer-female affix

The customer is beautiful

Goldsmith1: kanniʃʃaʃ... la: tiħzi (addressing Goldsmith2)

do not-you-speak ... not she-understand

Do not say that...she will understand

Goldsmith2: w-xalli- tiħzi (addressing the seller)

and-let-she-understand

Let her understand

Customer: baʃqad-l-ʔra:m ? (addressing the seller)



how much-the-gram?

How much is the gram?

Goldsmith1: ba-rbaʕa-w-sabʕi:n, yo:m

for-four-and-seventy, oh madam

It is seventy-four for the gram madam

Customer: yaʕni... baʕqad haða-ʔ-zzandʒi:l? (addressing the seller)

so... how much this-the-chain?

So how much does this chain cost?

Goldsmith1: ʔikaffi baqa...ʔ-ddafʒa-b-ħe:zak (addressing the Goldsmith2)

enough... the-customer-notices

That's enough... the customer notices

Setting: at a gold jewelry shop in Al-Muthanna market. The scene is a formal bargain.

Participants: two goldsmiths and one female customer.

Ends: the customer intends to buy a golden chain and she tries to bargain with the seller, while the goldsmith2 is trying to court her.

Act sequence: first, when the customer enters the shop, the gold seller asks if he could help her, then she asks him about the chain when the other goldsmith was trying to attract her attention and the seller was warning him.

Keys: the seller's tone is friendly that suits his attempt to convince the customer to buy the product. The seller and the customer's way of speaking are appropriate for bargaining and discussing a product, but the goldsmith2's body language and gestures reflect courting.

Instrumentalities: oral channel. Formal register between the customer and the seller, and informal register between the two goldsmiths with the use of goldsmiths' jargon.

Norms: the seller wants to sell his product, so he shows respect, speaks formally. He tries to warn goldsmith2 not to bother her so they use specific jargon in order that she couldn't understand them.

Genre: between the customer and the seller, it is a marketing oriented genre, a typical formal respectful gold seller-customer genre. Between the two goldsmiths it is an informal warning containing goldsmiths jargon and customer oriented.

This speech event shows the use of goldsmiths jargon like 'ka:rte:r, ʔnho:r, dafʒa, kanniʃfaʕ, la: tiħzi, zandʒi:l, ʔ-ddafʒa-b-ħe:zak'. Some of them used by the customer like 'ka:rte:r' and 'zandʒi:l'. Such jargons are extended to be understood and used by outsiders. Yet, the other jargons are specific and understood only by the goldsmiths group member and this justifies their use in hiding from the customer what they are talking about.

## **2- Car mechanics jargon in use**

### **Dialogue 5**

Car fixer: ʔaxuyi ʒayyil-i-ssayyara.... du:s-i-ssikre:tar

brother-my start-you-the-car... press-the-exhilarator

Start your car and press in the exhilarator

customer: ʔaf-tqu:l bi:ha

what-you-say in-it

What do you think? What is wrong

Car fixer: qattixbiṭ may-w-dihin... ṭillasti:k mal-kawar yaayih

mixing water-and-grease ... the-rubber-of-valve gone

It mixes the water and the grease, the cylinder head cover is ripped

Customer: ṭaf-la:zim niṣmal?

What-should we-do?

What should be done?

Car fixer: yinya:d niftah qapaṭ-l-muḥarrik w-nbaddil may-ṭ-rra:de:tar

needed we-open cover-the-engine and we-change water-the- radiator

We should open the cover of the engine and the water of the radiator has to be changed.

Setting: at a car repair shop, the scene is an informal conversation.

Participants: the car mechanic (car fixer) and his customer.

The ends: the customer intends to repair his car and he converses with the car fixer to know what should be repaired.

Act sequence: first the car fixer tells the customer to start his own car in order to check it, then they continue talking about what to change and what to repair.

Keys: the tone is serious, but at the same time it is friendly.

Instrumentalities: oral language and informal register.

Norms: the car fixer speaks seriously and loudly, his voice is louder than the customer to be understood and perceived. However, his manner is friendly.

Genre: it is car fixing oriented containing specific jargons of car mechanics.

Car mechanics' jargon like ssikre:tar, ṭillasti:k mal-kawar, rra:de:tar, qapaṭ-l-muḥarrik are used as part of the work field for the sake of precision, and to facilitate the communication. From the conversation it seems that the customer understands what the car fixer says which reflects that he comprehends the meaning and the use of jargons.

### **3- Construction workers**

#### **Dialogue 6**

Expert: ṭiṣmal-l-blo:k ṣal-ga:z w-quṣṣu ofse:d bi-zza:wiya

You-put-the-blocks on-the-small side and-cut-it-off side in-the-corner

Put the blocks on the smaller side and cut it diagonally in the corner

Worker : le:f ma:-nsawwi ṣal-baṭih?

why not-we-put-it on-the-bigger side?

Why don't we put them on the bigger side?

Expert : la: mayṣi:y... ṭil-ayid ṭimfo:baxa...

no not-permissible... the-land trapezoidal

You cannot, the land is trapezoidal

Worker : *ʃifit-l-xabiṭ ?*

see-you-the-mixture?

Have you seen the mixture?

Expert : *ʔil-xabiṭ ma:lak baʃdu ma:wi, ʃwayya ʕaxxinu bas la:-tiʃmalu mʃammiʃ*

the-mixture yours still-it fluid, little bit thicken-you-it but not-you-make-it very thick

Your mixture stills fluid, make it a little thicker but not very thick

Setting: at a house building site, the scene is giving instructions informally.

Participants: the construction worker and the expert -'ʔaṣṭa' as called by the field members. Both of the participants are males. There were other listeners but not addressed in the conversation.

Ends: the expert wants to give some instructions to the worker about how and what to do, and the worker wants to consult the expert.

Act sequence: the expert starts the speech event by telling the worker how to put the blocks and why, then the worker asks the expert to check the mixture.

Keys: the speech event is informal. The expert way of speaking and body language are serious that suit giving instructions, and his tone reflects annoyance especially after the worker tells him that he has put the blocks on the larger side.

Instrumentalities: it is an oral channel. An informal register is used that involves some jargon used specially by the construction workers.

Norms: in this speech event the expert wants the worker to build as he told him. So, when the worker suggests something different, he shows his annoyance and speaks loudly in order to be paid more attention and to be obeyed.

Genre: the genre is oriented by giving instructions about building. It is actually informal, and to some extent it is unfriendly.

The use of the jargon in this speech mirrors the Identity of the construction workers as it is very specific, condensed and highly relevant to the work field. The jargons used include ready-made expressions like 'blo:k ʃal-ga:z, ʃal-baṭiḥ, quṣṣu ofse:d' that enables the workers to express meanings and thoughts quickly that they do not need much explanation.

## **6. Conclusion**

This study concludes that while interacting, workgroup members make benefit of their incomprehensible and ambiguous jargons and use them for a set of purposes investigated by this study as follows:

1- Showing off and prestige as in the use of jargons by medical field members. The dialogue of the medical field presented earlier includes a number of medical jargon terms that are used to exclude the outsiders as they reflect in-group identity of the medical field. See (dialogue 1).

2- Secrecy and hiding what is said as reflected by the use of medical jargon (dialogue 1), as well as in the jargons of goldsmiths when the two goldsmiths interact using specific jargons in order not to be understood by the customer, see (dialogue 4).

3- Clarity and precision that are reflected by the jargon use of IT programmers (dialogue 2) and mechanics (dialogue 5). Jargon use between group members enhances cohesion in addition to being a part of their job.

4- Additionally, another purpose of jargon use is to fill a gap when a word has no counterpart in Arabic. So, they borrow words from other languages and use them as if they are Arabic. See the word /vo:lt/ in (dialogue 3) shown in jargon use by electric engineers.

5- Speedy communication as jargons provide their users with condensed abbreviated terms. So, they are used as shorthand between group members to avoid explanation, though to save time. This is reflected in construction workers' use of jargon, see dialogue (dialogue 6)

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