

LANGUAGE CONTACT IN ALGERIA

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ABSTRACT

From the beginning of modern sociolinguistics, a major goal has been the study of speech communities characterized by 'Language Contact'. The crucial point here, almost too obvious to merit stating, is that languages spoken by bilinguals are often altered such that ensuing changes differ from the results of internal processes of change within monolingual speech communities. In other words, languages spoken by bilinguals influence each other in various ways: Latin influenced the languages in the Western part of the Rome Empire; Anglo-Saxon largely impacted the pre-existing Celtic languages in the British Isles; the Cajun French population of Louisiana has been in contact with English; native speakers of Québec French have witnessed a long history of English contact, and the Algerian speech community is no exception.