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THE ROLE OF USING THE ARABIC LANGUAGE IN THE EDUCATION
SECTORS AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

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abstract

The challenges against standard Arabic are currently increasing in proving itself because we are in the era of globalization by all means of spreading in economic, schools, universities cultural, media, and technical fields. The most natural reaction for Arabic language to be the education and sciences, knowledge acquisition, economic, administration, media, industry, information techniques and communication language. All of which are considered the fields of comprehensive and sustainable development. To what extent Arabic language contributes in achieving such comprehensive development in Arab world? How this will be reflected on the improvement, development, and modernization of the language? This research paper seeks to analyze the controversial correlation between development and language by three factors, namely the reality of Arabic language today. The role of Arabic language in achieving sustainable development in Arab world. The role of comprehensive sustainable in both improving and developing Arabic language.

Introduction

First, The Realty of Arabic Language Today:

The Arabic language means in this study the standard Arabic in which the Holy Quran was written by. Also, it means the standard official language that is common among Arab people. As such, it is distinguished from colloquial language and the dialects of other countries and cities in Arab world.

All of which does not mean that we are no taken into our account the development phase that happens for all the world and Arab languages. However, colloquial and Arab dialects are resulted from the development of standard language. In respect of the development that occurred to the standard language in terms of its pronunciation and semantic level is considered reasonable. It is the core of sustainability, vitality, and the revival of Arabic language. It improves according to the developments and requirements over time. Nevertheless, the primary characteristics of standard Arabic shall not be differentiated from the standard Arabic in the era of Arab globalization for any need or necessity¹.

Arabic language is the container of our culture and our identity. Therefore, protecting it resembles the protection of the self and the existence²It is the language that consolidated Arab in the past. It still considers as consolidated and unified language for communication³. It is currently regarded as our mean for expressing our feelings, emotions, thoughts, and for achieving our demands in communicating with the members of our society⁴. Anyone who sees the current situation of the Arabic language among its people and countries will be ascertained that such language is treated as a foreign language due to the marginalization of its rights⁵.

The abbreviate description of Arabic language and its situation in Arab world that such language suffers from two big challenges that boil down as follows:

- 1-The spread of colloquial language and its occupation of bigger areas in Arab life.
- 2-The competition of foreign languages for the standard language in education fields, vital fields in administrations, economic sector, some social aspects, and in serious speaking situations.

Second: the role of Arabic language in achieving sustainable development:

¹ Saleh Baleed. The Jurisprudence of Arabic Language. P. 69.

² Abd Al-Aziz Al-Twaige. The Future of Arabic Language in Changing World. P. 200.

³ Mohammad Blasé. Towards Promoting Language. P. 326.

⁴ Mohammad Blasé. Towards Promoting Language. P. 327.

⁵ Kamal Basher. Arabic Language among Illusion and Miscomprehension. P. 27

The definition of sustainable development:

The development has various definitions that are not confined in specific definition. Some people defined it as group of changes that occur in a society that seeks to achieve a development that depends on own potentials in a specific period of time. In other words, the development is defined as the planned qualitative change in all the sectors and the standard that measures the advancement level. This development shall not be achieved without depending on scientific knowledge and scientific research in studying, planning, and executing⁶.

The definition that most researchers are inclined to is the definition that bears in mind all the aspects of life without restricting them in one factor. Therefore, the development will not be real or sustainable until it constitutes the whole aspects of constructive structure. It is no limited in making other people happy and increasing the national income, raising the level standards, reducing income inequality, eliminating overspending manifestations. However, it is considered -in addition to what human development provides on the basis of replacement reference- as transformative human development that aims at eliminating moral and physical weakness⁷.

The development considers comprehensive and extended if it has been working on the positive change in the life of citizens in general i.e. not only on social and economic aspects but also on education and cultural aspects associated with individual character building and society devoid of constraints of underdevelopment and dependency⁸.

In this era that is characterized by a big explosion in both communication and information techniques in the whole world. The life witnesses a rapid change towards achieving knowledge society in which the speed of information and knowledge transition by internet, media, and communication contributes in its formation. This society plays a vital role in achieving development by enhancing research and development activities for enhancing technique, improving the performance of private institutions, promoting capacity building in sciences technique, and innovation. Such techniques help in social and economic changes and contribute in connecting between researchers, educators, advisors, and producer groups with each other and international information resources.

1-The Reality of Development in Arab World:

Knowing the reality of development in Arab world does not need huge effort, rather than it's a reality that resembles the life that each Arab individual lives

⁶Nedal Mohammad Al-Rays. The Perspective Towards the Role of Scientific Research in Development. P. 91.

⁷ Abd Al-Raheem Al-Adrawe. Language and Cultural Development any relation. P 326.

⁸ Abd Allatif Obaid. Arabic Language and the Comprehensive Development in Maghreb between the principle and application. Tunisia Model. P.283.

in. The person who acknowledges the reports of Arab humanitarian reports that are issued annually and prepared by experts in various fields. Also, this reality is evidenced by numbers and statistics that reflects the extent of big gap that Arab world suffers from in the development. Although some Arab countries have a good income due to the considerable riches that is enriched in Arab lands, such as petrol and mineral resources, but it suffers from considerable backwardness in the fields of specific developments in the development standards⁹.

The statistics indicate that the illiteracy rate in the Arab world exceeds 40% and the level of medical services is low. Also, more than 50% of the population of the Arab world suffers from malnutrition. Similarly, more than 50% of the food needs of the Arab world are imported abroad. The average per capita income is low and does not meet the most of the essential needs. Most of the population of Arab countries suffers from poor housing and overcrowding. The Arab labor force is generally referred to as low-skilled workers, as more than 40% of them are unqualified workers. On the contrary, small countries such as Singapore and Hong Kong that do not have any wealth and started from nothing except the seaport, have reached record rates of development, and this is by their reliance on the self-strength represented by their scientists and professionals¹⁰.

The abovementioned Arab development reality is an accident despite the existence of development policies undertaken by Arab governments since their inception and since their independence. They are undeniably powerful programs that sought to achieve development in the Arab world. As for the educational, scientific and cognitive aspect and what is related to technology, which is central to the issue of development. The policy followed by most Arab countries to obtain development did not give the desired results. For example, building prefabricated factories using the key in the hand method or purchasing modern equipment have not caused a real transfer of technology. In addition, sending scientific missions led to an increase in the brain drain to the developed countries instead of increasing scientific competencies in the Arab world. However, the reliance on foreign expertise in more than 80% of total investments, did not help in obtaining global technologies¹¹.

The Arab world today knows an apparent dependency in the media, communication, and information technologies. The dependency here may not be limited to the transformation aspect, rather than it is related to design, construction, monitoring, maintenance, and so forth. The primary source of this dependency is the intensity of knowledge contained in these technologies, and the very complex level that prints its programs and control systems. Also, its

⁹Yonthr. The Reports of Arab Humanitarian Development since its establishment in 1990 to 2012.

¹⁰SaedKanay. The Arabization of Science and its Role in the Development in Arab World. P.62-63.

¹¹SaedKanay. The Arabization of Science and its Role in the Development in Arab World. P.63.

source comes due to the weakness and fragility of the receiving infrastructure, and its low capacity to indigenize these technologies and integrate them into the economic and social fabric of their countries¹².

The efforts exerted to achieve comprehensive development in the Arab world are undoubtedly great efforts, but they did not succeed as the countries that were suffering from backwardness and dependence. However, its adopted development policy has enabled it to achieve record results in development, and it has become a model to be emulated and there are many examples in this field, such as some Asian countries. The serious challenge facing Arabs today more than before is the big gap in possessing technologies and indigenizing them, especially communication and information technologies that relied on achieving a knowledge society that achieving it leads to achieving comprehensive and sustainable development in various life aspects¹³.

2- The Place of Arabic language and Arabization in Arab development programs

The linguistic issue was presented in the literature of the national independence movements. The leaders of these movements were aware of the importance of language in shaping the Arab identity in contrast to the policy of Westernization that has followed by the colonialist to impose his hegemony on the colonized Arab people. They realized the importance of language in the ongoing conflict between the colonizer and the colonized people¹⁴ and its Arabization in order to make Arabic language as the language of education in all its stages and in various branches of formation and education, as well as the Arabization of administrative departments, ministries, and so forth¹⁵.

However, the situation did not remain as it was in giving Arabic the importance and the place it deserves. The Arabization policies witnessed a major setback in the late eighties, and the question of the validity of the Arabic language for university education, especially in scientific subjects, came back again. Therefore, the reforms that affected the educational system and university education in the following years worked to diminish Arabic and restore the foreign language to what it was in the early days of independence. The university Arabization retreated and has not reached the targeted goal before. Thus, Arab countries lived through a linguistic dualism, the effects of which were reflected in the state of development. In these countries, the phenomenon of the elite was formed, and empowerment was given to the cultural owners in the foreign language which hindered any trend and advancement of the Arabization project and worked to publish opinions and perceptions that would question the validity of Arabic to be the language of science and technology, and then to be a language that contains all the aspects of development.

¹² Yahya Al-Yahyawe. Arab and Knowledge Networks. P. 19.

¹³ The Report of Arab Humanitarian Development in 2003. P 124 and so on.

¹⁴ Florian Colmas. Language and Economy. Ahmad Awad Translation. P. 62.

¹⁵ Ahmad Bin Naman. The Future of Arabic Language. P.24 and so on.

All these obstacles that most Arab countries have known to enable the Arabic language, despite the efforts made and the budgets allocated in the Arabization and translation policies, have finally led to a knowledge gap between our Arab countries and the countries of the developed world, the most important of which is the digital gap in information, communication, and technology systems¹⁶.

This reality led to another inherent reality that is represented in as follows:

- Believing that development cannot occur in Arabic, but rather in foreign languages that have modern and scientific components.
- The excessive marginalization of Arabia, its stagnation in growth, development, and keeping pace with the times.

1-The relation of the mother tongue with the development

The issue of the relationship of the mother tongue with the development of its country has attracted the interest of scholars and researchers in recent decades, although many are surprised by this relationship because they believe that development leads to only the material elements represented in capital and the presence of companies, factories, energy and mineral materials. Is there really a relationship between language and development? how does this relationship manifest?

The answer to these questions existed in the opinions of scholars who worked with the linguistic phenomenon and the issue of development and when we review these research and reports in their books, development reports, and case studies of specific models of countries that have achieved the desired development, we find that this relationship indicates the existence of this relationship through two crucial matters, namely:

The first thing: that the mother tongue is the main engine of all creativity and innovation, and there is no renaissance on the face of the earth from the mother tongue, or from a foreign language to this nation.

The second thing: that is in the concept of contemporary development that is linked to the formation of a knowledge society, the mother tongue plays a decisive role in shaping this society, which inevitably leads to a comprehensive development.

A). Mother tongue is an essential engine for creativity:

At the beginning of theorizing about the issue of development at the beginning of the twentieth century, no one was concerned with development, theoretical and practical attention. It is believed that effective development is possible

¹⁶ Abd Al-Latef Obaid. Arabic Language and the Comprehensive Development in Maghreb between the Principle and Application 'Tunisia Model'. P. 290.

without the accumulation of capital, industrialization, labor power, and the institutional relations between capital and workers and a somewhat free market¹⁷. After a deep consideration of the backgrounds behind the occurrence of development, it became clear that economic development cannot be separated from both socio-political and cultural changes¹⁸.

This is what was confirmed by the well-known researcher Florian Colmas, as he tries to connect the relationship between language and economics. He cited to prove that to the sayings of some modern day philosophers and thinkers, seeing that "Gandhi" although he attributed great importance to the issue of the national language because it is a political symbol. Above all, he repeatedly referred to the economic aspects of the issue, declaring early in the 1920s that the nation had been suffering greatly due to congressional business processes that were administered almost entirely in the English language. A few years before independence, Gandhi was more specific when he declared that we should think of the time and effort that our youth have made in learning English as if it were our mother tongue, and to calculate, by simple calculation, the number of years and the amount of precious effort wasted on the nation¹⁹.

On another topic, we find "Gandhi" envy the Japanese for their language, as he considers Japan the model to be emulated because Japan - unlike India - did not use a foreign language as a means of education, and instead everything that the West produces is translated into the country's language. As such, the Japanese saved their effort. He considered those who wish to learn foreign languages are doing this in order to enrich Japanese culture with thought and knowledge that only the West can produce, and they are keen to translate into Japanese everything that is worth taking from the West. The knowledge obtained then becomes national property^{20, 21}.

In addition, it is difficult for any society to establish knowledge system without having a linguistic system that is comprehensive, collaborative, and embedded that have diverse dimensions in terms of thinking, spirit, and creativity. The language is the essential carrier for every developmental achievement. It –as a subject of education, search, and production- considers as a cornerstone of every economic project- we are a nation without a linguistic project. Our society want to build a developmental system by neglecting its robust linguistic predicament²².

¹⁷Abd Al-Latef Obaid. Arabic Language and the Comprehensive Development in Maghreb between the Principle and Application 'Tunisia Model'. P. 60.

¹⁸Abd Al-Latef Obaid. Arabic Language and the Comprehensive Development in Maghreb between the Principle and Application 'Tunisia Model'. P. 62.

¹⁹Florian Colmas. Language and Economy. Ahmad Awad Translation. P. 63.

²⁰Florian Colmas. Language and Economy. Ahmad Awad Translation. P. 63.

²¹ The Arabization and Settlement of Science and Technology. P.99.

²² Abd Al-Salam Al-Masde. Arab and Linguistic Suicide. P21-22.

If there is a group that sees in the foreign language the motive to bring about development, and accuses Arabic of shortcomings and backwardness, then that group with enthusiasm for the foreign language has ignored that the connection of knowledge with Arabic is imposed by the broad development process with programs designed to improve the individual, his/her entity, personality and building a sound building equipped with knowledge, and the whole of that preparing the person to launch in the contemporary aspects of human life in agriculture, industry and all the requirements of the times, and these sundries that are inevitable constitute the basic structure in the development process that requires those in charge to work on forming the national and regional identity of their country²³.

Using mother tongue or the national language in the field of knowledge, science, and university and technical formation will inevitably lead to the creativity in this language and innovation, and also lead to the possession and indigenization of technologies, and on this basis, Arab countries must plan ahead to move beyond the ready import phase to self-creation and creativity phase for these machines, scientific devices, and adding new inventions for Islamic Arabic civilization. This thing only comes with Arabic language and in the climate of their indigenous culture that has a long history, because the cultural and civilizational advancement for any society in the world is not achieved in isolation from the linguistic sophistication in which the thought of individuals grows and develops²⁴.

Scientists and researchers have not only demonstrated the existence of a close relationship between the mother tongue and comprehensive development. On the contrary, institutions and bodies of an economic and developmental nature emphasize the existence of this relationship and even highlight its importance, and development reports are field reports based on statistics, numbers, and case studies.

Arab Humanitarian Development Report for the year 2003, when considering, indicates that at the beginning of the speech stressing the importance of the mother tongue and its necessity for advancement as he says: "Perhaps language is the most prominent feature of human society, and no human civilization is accompanied by a linguistic revival, and there is no human conflict that is not hidden in its interior a linguistic conflict, and language is the tool that makes society a reality²⁵.

(1) B- National language and knowledge society

The new developmental and economic thought today tends to pay attention to the idea of a knowledge society that leads to a comprehensive development,

²³Ibraheem Al-Sameraee. Sha'abAla'rbiah. P. 328.

²⁴Ibraheem Al-Sameraee. Sha'abAla'rbiah. P. 109.

²⁵ The report of humanitarian Arab Development for 2003, P. 132.

and that the knowledge society in its realization needs several means, including enriching the digital content of all knowledge and science, and in all this knowledge must be widely spread in society. The mother language plays the decisive role in all of this. As such, what is the definition of a knowledge society? How can the language be a factor in creating this society?

(1) The concept of knowledge society

The knowledge society or the information society means the transformation from an industrial society in which information is more extensive and diverse, which is the dominant force, to a society whose members are mostly engaged in producing, collecting, or reducing information in huge quantities and diversity. Also, it has the power to influence the society's economy that is mainly based on Knowledge, its production, and its efficient use in all areas of societal activity. The information society is based mainly on producing and obtaining information, and using it in the service of improvement and development goals.

In respect of the developing countries, engaging in the information society necessarily requires transferring and indigenizing information technologies. Thus, providing infrastructure for investment to develop the telecommunications and information industry. Also, it requires overcoming the linguistic barrier in information and communication technologies, and enriching digital content that is resulted from data processing, knowledge, which is human experiences and experiments throughout history, civilizations, and generations, and its medium for that is the information network represented in the Internet and the various cultures related to it. The more society advances in the use of culture, this is considered as an indication of its involvement in the society of modernity. There are specific measurements and indicators required to present a knowledge society in its country, such as the number of researchers and information engineers, the number of research and educational products, the percentage of Internet users and the degree of its spread in various regions of the country, and measures of illiteracy, indicators use of symbols, the regional language, and informational translation indicators²⁶.

1-The role of Arabic language in forming knowledge society

The role of language witnesses an increase in the knowledge society due to many factors, such as the centrality of culture in the knowledge society that is considered as the main axis of comprehensive societal development, as the relationship of language increases closer with all branches of knowledge of all kinds: philosophy, science, and arts²⁷.

²⁶ Ali Mohammad Zahomah. Knowledge Society and Maghreb Countries. P. 44.

²⁷ Nabeel Ali. Internet and Knowledge Transfer in Arab World. P. 133.

The language plays a fundamental role in the knowledge economy, and it is expected that this role will increase with the expansion of the fields of informatics in its educational and cultural applications. Hence, linguistic backwardness is theorizing, learning, using, and mechanically mediated by the use of computer as one of the main causes of the digital gap, and this explains the reason behind an intense interest that people show in their national languages concerning the Internet. The main opportunity to develop Arabic digital content lies in the unity of the language between Arab countries cultural and social communication between its regions²⁸ with the increasing shift towards a knowledge society and the shift towards digitization on the Internet, the importance of using national languages to reduce the complete dependence on the English language in particular appeared, and this language (English) cannot constitute a knowledge society in any way in the Arab world²⁹.

As a result of the world moving towards a knowledge-based economy, and the extent of the role that the national language plays in order to establish and crystallize it, recent economic theories have appeared that describe, clarify and explain this trend, and the most important of these theories is the new growth theory, which shows the importance of scientific and technical knowledge in sustainable growth. Thus, in generating employment opportunities, increasing per capita income, and diversifying economic. As such, enabling the Arabic language to Arabize science and technology in order to use the Arab workforce this language has become an urgent and fundamental necessity to play an active role in the real growth of the Arab economy and in its transformation from a scientifically and technically dependent rentier economy to an economy that grows in sustainable growth with high added value³⁰.

The mastery of the language of science and technology by the members of society and the gain of human capital has an economic return, this return increases as the individual masters the use of the language of science and technology, and this mastery is affected by the quality of the language as well as curricula and the methods used in education.

On the other hand, learning and teaching sciences in a foreign language and not transferring them to the workforce has a positive economic return for the educated individual, but it affects the whole society. All of which led to the following:

- 1- Weakening the demand for scientific and technical translation, and this is what is happening in the Arab world today.
- 2- Limiting scientific and technical knowledge to the nation's elite and not translating it into society and its broad workforce. Consequently, the workforce does not speak the language of science and technology. One of the researchers

²⁸ Abu Al-SoudIbraheem. Arabic Digital Number. June. 2009

²⁹ Mahmoud Al-Said- The Reality of Arabic Language and the Career Prospects. P. 60.

³⁰Mohammad Al-Mrayate. The Impact of Scientific and Technological Language. P. 9.

in language economics resembled this case to the fact that the nation becomes like heads without bodies and bodies without heads³¹.

Finally, the Arab world's benefit from the opportunities that the knowledge economy will provide, taking its share, and avoiding the risks of not adapting it to the challenges that this economy will bring, require the Arab world to empower the Arabic language as follows:

- 1-Teaching sciences by Arabic language, which, in turn helps in establishing knowledge.
- 2- The interest in translating into Arabic which helps in transferring the knowledge.
- 3- The interest in spreading computer culture for contributing in spreading and connecting information and investing it.
- 4- Teaching foreign language especially English language because it provides the greatest proportion of knowledge³².

Third: The role of sustainable development in developing the Arabic language:

1-The Concept of Linguistic Development:

The linguistic development is considered as a conscious process that aims at making desirable changes rather than observing the linguistic changes³³. The contemporary linguistic were interested in the issue of linguistic development within the framework of increased interest in the search of linguistic issues in developed countries. There are other issues involved in this term and topic i.e. the diversity of languages within the state, the policies of the language of education, the languages, and symbols of self, the issue of terminology, writing, linguistic balance, and so forth³⁴.Linguistic development is a permanent necessity, because life changes and thus expressing it requires a renewed expansion of its vocabulary items, and it also requires codifying and codifying and registering in a new acceptable way among the people of the language³⁵.

Also, the idea of development includes the process of modernization which means making the concerned language on the same level with fine languages as a tool of communication, by acquiring the technical and cultural features that are believed to be found in the mentioned languages and which have become modern. Most importantly, the modernization process is the process of catching

³¹Mohammad Al-Mrayate. The Impact of Scientific and Technological Language. P. 33-34.

³² Mahmoud Al-Mrayate. The Impact of Scientific and Technological Language. Information and Arabization. P. 3-4.

³³ Mahmoud FahmeHjaze. Arabic Language in the Modern Age the Issues and Problems. P. 114.

³⁴Mahmoud FahmeHjaze. Arabic Language in the Modern Age the Issues and Problems. P. 116.

³⁵Mahmoud FahmeHjaze. Arabic Language in the Modern Age the Issues and Problems. P. 115.

up with the global community of languages that their transmission increases among them, which is recognized as appropriate tools for modern forms of dialogue³⁶.

2- The Development and Improvement of Arabic Language:

The aspects of development and its means in Arabic inevitably leads to the development, activation and improvement of the language; because it will be the language of usage, thinking, and the language of life in a complete way, and vice versa as well. Likewise, the exclusion of the language from the areas of development makes it an endogenous language, and this leads to its stagnation and backwardness and prevents its vitality and development. As such, it will not be the language of the age and its requirements. Also, it disrupts the process of language policies pursued for the sake of improving and developing Arabic.

If our language subjected us to the development experience and we are convinced that it is the language of the past, present, future, an important motive for the success of technology and for every revival, and provide it with all means of empowerment. Then, it undoubtedly will be the language of the desired development and advancement³⁷.

The Arabic language is an important factor in bringing about development in the Arab world which contributes, and even has a decisive role, in making the language alive, interactive, and developed. The relationship is a dialectical and collateral relationship, and they are in mutual and continuous interaction. This is confirmed by all those working in the field of Arabization, translation, and Arabic development. Also, all those interested in the issue of digital Arabic content, localization of technology, and digital culture³⁸.

Conclusion:

This study attempted to emphasize the dialectic relationship between language and sustainable development and its correlation. Each of them leads to the other. The following conditions are required for causing development in the Arab world:

A. The need for decision-makers in the Arab world to be convinced of the role of the Arabic language in bringing about development.

B. Enabling the Arabic language by all methods and means to become the language of dealing, education in all its stages, science in all its branches, media and informatics, and the language of administration, economics and all areas of life.

³⁶Mahmoud FahmeHjaze. Arabic Language in the Modern Age the Issues and Problems. P. 117.

³⁷ Mahmoud Al-Said. Symposium of the Arabic Language and the Prospects of Arabization. P.13 and so forth.

³⁸Mahmoud Al-Said. Symposium of the Arabic Language and the Prospects of Arabization. P.13.

Development cannot take place in the foreign language, and the experiences of Arab countries have proven their failure to bring development. Rather, the use of the foreign language in university and technical education has only led to dependency in scientific research, economics, technology and other knowledge.

This situation has affected the status of Standard Arabic and has led to the substitution of the foreign language in various aspects that are suitable only for the Arabic language and the colloquial language in many fields.

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