**Language Varieties**

1. **Lingua Franca**

It is a language used in everyday communication between people for whom it is not the mother tongue. i.e. two people who have two different mother tongues use a third language to communicate. It can be a standard language or a dialect. For example: French may be used as a lingua franca between two persons, one from Algeria and the other from Mali.

1. **Pidgin**

A simplified form of speech that is usually a mixture of two or more languages. It has a reduced grammatical structure, lexicon and stylistic range. It is simple in grammar and vocabulary because it is used for limited tasks and purposes. It is used for communication between groups speaking different languages, and it is not spoken as a first or native language. It is formed by two or more speech communities attempting to communicate. These communities may be the result of political decision which make them live together in the same territory. The system of communication which enables the best communication among those community members is certainly going to be a simplified and reduced aspect of both communities native languages. Pidgin ma also have appeared as a result of trade needs; different people with different languages meet together for special purposes such as commerce and have to find out a compromise as far as language is concerned. The compromise often consists of using a sort of language with non-conjugated verbs, no prepositions, no articles, no conjunctions…

Islands in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans used to be the meeting points of different sailors who had different languages, their contact results in a new language which is a mixture and used for limited purposes. There is always a language that dominates pidgin; for example, English based pidgins and French based pidgins.

1. **The Creole**

It is the result of the extension of the Pidgin. When people settle the islands of exchange, the pidgin is no more a language of contact, it becomes their mother tongue and their babies acquire it naturally. The difference between a creole and a dialect is in the origin; the dialect is an extension of another dialect while the creole is the extension of a pidgin.

1. **Slang**

It is the lowest degree of formality in style –extreme informality-, it is a sort of rebellion against the established rules. People do not respect language rules and use instead slang expressions. For example, the police officer is called ‘a cop’.

1. **Filthy Language**

Some words and expressions referring to some biological functions, sexual organs or sexual acts are considered filthy, they are replaced with other expressions and words that are considered clean, the latter are called ‘Euphemisms’. All languages have taboo words, it is not the word itself that has something wrong but it is the result of social convention, i.e. the society made the word dirty. For example, when the English use ‘Bastard’, it is considered a dirty/ filthy word that insult such category of people ( who have unknown fathers), it is replaced by ‘natural child’ which is a clean word and reflects a neutral opinion.

Considering words as dirty depends on regions; what is dirty in one region can be clean in another and vice versa.

1. **Sexist Language**

It is a language that tends to discriminate between men and women through overvaluing the role of the man. The society decides about words to be sexist or not.

1. **Racist Language**

It is the language that expresses negative attitudes towards a group of people. The word ‘negro’ is a racist expression.

1. **Regionalist Language**

It expresses an attitude of a group of people in a particular region towards people from other regions. Although these attitudes are socially rejected, they exist and people use them to express their feelings.

1. **Idiolect**

It refers to the linguistic system of an individual speaker; it is affected by age, health, temper and personality in general. It distinguished two individuals who speak the same dialect and the same rules. Even brothers and sisters, or even twins, differ in their way of speech, the tone is one feature that makes the difference. For example, some individuals are slow, others quick, some hesitate, others swear all the time…

1. **Artificial Language**

An invented language for various purposes such as worldwide communication. The best example is ‘Esperanto’, which is a language invented by a polish scholar who thought that the problem of the world is the existence of many language.

1. **Jargon**

It is the language of any considerable science, profession or trade. Each science has its own special language, terms and structure such as the jargon of economy, chemistry, biology, linguistics… It is generally known by people who belong to a certain community. For example,

* In law ‘Matricide’ refers to ‘the act of killing the mother’, while ‘patricide’ refers to ‘the act of killing the father’.
* In chemistry, ‘insecticide’ refers to ‘the product that kills insects’.