

**Review of  
Zahia Flih's dissertation**

**Language Maintenance and Language shift among Algerian Arabic Speakers in France**

Zahia Flih's dissertation is a very thorough and meticulous study of "Language Maintenance and Language shift among Algerian Arabic Speakers in France". The author clearly has a good grasp of her topic and carried out a large scale study that provided a wealth of data to analyze and draw conclusions from.

The paper is structured well and argued clearly throughout. The analysis of the data is complex, yielding a lot of important and interesting conclusions. The author's bibliography is impressive: it contains 351 items and covers all important sources, ranging from the classic ones to the most recent. The formatting of the dissertation largely requirements of linguistics papers. The dissertation is written in very good academic English and is mercifully completely error free.

The dissertation has two minor shortcomings. First, it does not provide many new theoretical insights in the mechanisms of language maintenance and language shift. It does not pursue research questions that have theoretical implications, and it does not produce many results that could add to or modify our understanding of these processes. And second, it does not address issues of online language use, that is, use of the immigrant language vs. the majority language in reading and listening to internet-based content, as well as using the speakers' languages in chatting, blogging, commenting etc. in the digital domain to the extent that a dissertation written on language maintenance and shift in 2025 should.

These minor shortcomings aside, this is a solid piece of work with original findings and lots of new details about Algerians' language use in France. The author has made many changes since the version of the dissertation submitted for the in-house defense earlier this year, and these changes fixed all fixable issues in the dissertation.

The final version of the dissertation has fleshed out considerably the aspects of the study that provide insight into digital language use by Algerians in France. Issues of terminology regarding immigrants vs. 2nd and 3rd generation speakers have been cleared up, and reference to *language attitudes* has been fixed throughout. The bibliography has been revised and cleared up, eliminating errors. (The only shortcomings I have been able to spot are missing places of publication for Bennett 1990 and Bichani 2015 – just in case the author

wants to fix them when her dissertation is published as a monograph.) All formatting errors have been fixed also.

All in all, this is a sound piece of work, and its author should be awarded the title of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) for it.

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