

Author's Response to Dr. Anna Fenyesi

Dissertation's title:

Language Maintenance and Language Shift among Algerian Arabic Speakers in France

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Anna Fenyesi for the remarkable effort and insights poured into reviewing my dissertation. The detailed comments, observations, and constructive feedback she provided during the in-house defense contributed greatly to enhancing the overall quality of the present work. I feel privileged to have such vast knowledge and expertise help shape this project into something I can be even more proud of.

I am very grateful for the reviewer's positive evaluation of the dissertation. I am pleased that she considered my study to be a very thorough and meticulous investigation of language maintenance and shift among Algerian Arabic speakers in France, and that she recognized the scope, structure, and analytical depth of the work. I am also grateful for her positive remarks regarding the bibliography richness, the accuracy of the formatting, and the quality of the academic English when writing. This reassures me that all the knowledge I gained during my PhD journey at the Multilingualism Doctoral School have been successfully implemented in the dissertation.

Following Dr. Anna Fenyesi's comments and suggestions, I have made several revisions and improvements. I revised issues of terminology regarding immigrants vs. second- and third-generation speakers, changed the phrasing of the second research question for clarity purposes, and consistently used *language attitudes* in the plural throughout the dissertation. The bibliography was also revised, as recommended by the reviewer in her earlier review. More specifically, I included all sources that were cited in the text but were missing from the bibliography, removed sources that were not cited, ensured correct alphabetical order of items and maintained consistent formatting throughout. I acknowledge that some minor inconsistencies may still be present in the bibliography; I apologize for this and I will make sure they are corrected should the dissertation be published as a monograph. All other formatting errors were fixed, taking into consideration the reviewer's shared in-text comments in the Word version of the dissertation.

I appreciate the reviewer's observations regarding the minor shortcomings of the dissertation. With regard to theoretical contributions, it may be true that the study did not introduce new theories or models that could add to our understanding of how and why language maintenance or shift takes place, yet it still makes a valuable contribution by filling an important research gap on Algerians in France. The Algerian community in France represents a unique case, as the first generation had already gained knowledge of the French language and culture prior migration, yet has received very limited scholarly notice despite its significant

size. I am very grateful to the reviewer for drawing my attention to the importance of online language use to the study of language maintenance and shift, since using the heritage language in the digital domain has been found to contribute to its maintenance across generations. For this reason, and following our discussion during the in-house defense, I revisited the interview transcripts and expanded the analysis of online language practices, particularly among the second and third generations. I was especially interested in participants' linguistic choices for online activities in social media, such as chatting, posting, and commenting (see p. 75 & 76). The interview data, however scarce, provided valuable insights in relation to language use in the digital domain, which opens the door for a more rigorous exploration of this aspect in the future research I aim to conduct.

I would like, once again, to extend my thanks to Dr. Anna Fenyvesi for the insightful feedback on my dissertation. Her comments have undoubtedly made a significant difference in improving the quality and clarity of the dissertation. I am truly grateful for the time, expertise, and support she has provided throughout the process.

Veszprém, September 30, 2025

Zahia Flih

