

THE IMPACT OF SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AMONG THE ARABIC- SPEAKING COMMUNITY IN THE REGIONAL CITY OF TOOWOOMBA, AUSTRALIA

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Abstract

This paper seeks to investigate the impact of the socio-psychological factors in the maintenance of the Arabic language within the Arabic-speaking community in the regional city of Toowoomba, Australia. A qualitative approach was applied in this study in order to explore the language maintenance phenomenon through engaging in the everyday life of the Arabic speakers. Additionally, a descriptive ethnography was used in this qualitative inquiry to understand this community from both insider and outsider perspectives, aiming to enhance the quality and richness of the results. Data was collected through participant observations and in-depth semi-structured interviews with 20 adult individuals who were selected using a mixed purposeful sampling strategy. Subsequently, a thematic analysis was undertaken which involved organizing, exploring, and coding the data into several themes and displaying and interpreting the data to answer the research questions. The findings of this study show that the Arabic language is well maintained among the Arabic speakers because of their positive attitudes and loyalty to maintain and preserve their language for their second generation children. The conclusions of this study contribute effectively in enriching the knowledge and theories of language maintenance, as well as redesigning the multilingualism and multiculturalism structure of the Australian society.

Keywords: Language Maintenance, Language Attitudes, Community Language and Arabic language.
