



In view of the importance of language to any social development and since it is interwoven with all systems of values, the laboratory of values society and development (LVSD) launches a series of international conferences on **"Language and Current Issues"**. The first issue in this series will be on **"Language and Education"**.

Language and Education is a very broad duality combination. It consists of two multi-referential terms: "language" may refer to any "system of signals" consisting of sounds, words, and word patterns governed by grammatical rules and used for human interaction (Bloch & Trager, 1942; Hendriks 2013). It may also denote any "system of communication" used by people of a particular country, social class, or type of work (Sapir, 1921; Goldstein, 2008). The first view of language focuses on its linguistic aspect, its structural properties, and its levels of analysis; the second one probes the language social functions, its sociolinguistic variations, and its levels of use. For the 20th century philosophers, the analysis of language is the essence of modern philosophy (Wittgenstein, 1922; Derrida, 1967; Austin, 1962; Bourdieu, 2001). Language in this respect shapes thought and hence, though still debatably, "determines" behavior.

Whether language is viewed from a structural perspective (as a system of signals) or from a functional one (as a means of communication) or even from a philosophical stand point (as a frame of thought), its relationship to education is also affected by the meaning attributed to the latter.

In effect, the term "education" may be used to denote at least two complementary fields of interests. In dictionaries, it is sometimes defined as "the knowledge or skill obtained or developed by a learning process". In other situations, it signifies "the field of study that is concerned with the pedagogy of teaching and learning". The first definition alludes to the outcome of education; the second highlights the methods of transmitting/teaching or receiving/learning the content of education.

Be as it may, the relationship between language and education can be treated from two significant angles: (1) education of language, (2) education through language.

In the first combination, language is viewed as a "content" subject and education as "methodology". Therefore, in addition to the official language of the nation state, the decision must be made as to what other foreign languages are to be integrated and taught in the educational curriculum. The choice is not always straightforward; especially in countries where the native language is different from English. There are ample political, cultural, economic, geographical, historical...etc. factors which interfere in the process. And sometimes there is a mismatch between pedagogues'

recommendations and policy makers' priorities.

In the second combination, education is viewed as a bundle of content subjects whereas language as means of communication or vehicle of knowledge transmission. So, the decision must also be made, especially again in non-English speaking countries, as to the subjects that should be taught via foreign languages. In the case of the Arab world, for instance, language policy makers still disagree upon the appropriate "applied language" to teach hard sciences: is it Arabic or another foreign language. The advocators of foreign languages also disagree on whether to adopt French (the Maghreb countries, for instance) or English (the Middle East countries). On the other hand, Arabization supporters view language as more than a code of interaction; it is a symbol of identity and culture specificity. Accordingly, Arabic must be adopted throughout the educational system. In this respect, another thorny issue related to language and culture must be dealt with. The question at stake is how much culture of the target language should be allowed to permeate the syllabus of the host educational system.

It is in this broad framework that LVSD (specifically, Language Contact and Language Policy Research Group) organizes an international conference on "**Language and Education**" within its series of "**Language and Current Issues**". This scientific event will be held at the Faculty of Letters - Ibn Zohr University, Agadir on **03 - 04 May 2017**.

The conference will, thereby, be an opportunity to gather together researches, pedagogues, language teaching practitioners and supervisors, textbook designers to address the aforementioned issues related to "language and Education" along the following sub-themes:

- Language policy and education.
- Foreign language(s) integration in the curricula of non-English speaking countries.
- Methodologies/Approaches/Techniques adequate to language teaching and learning.
- The triangular problematic relationship of language, culture, and thought.
- Language, Education, and Development.
- Methods/approaches suitable to teach grammar, language structures, and other linguistic aspects.
- Language teaching/learning and textbook design.
- Language and technology: Evolution in the digital age.
- Approaches to language structure and language use.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Important dates

- Participants are invited to submit abstracts of their presentations (300 words maximum) by September 15th, 2016.
- Participants will be notified of acceptance by September 30th, 2016, at most.
- Full versions of the articles should be submitted to the conference address by February 28th, 2017.
- Participants will be notified of the status of their full text submissions by March 30th, 2017.
- Conference: **03 - 04 May 2017**.

Travel and Accomodation Funds

- The participants will be offered complete funding for accommodation during the two days of the conference.
- Registration fees:
 - PhD students 500 Dh (50\$)
 - Professors and practitioners: 1000 Dh (100\$)

Co-operators

- The Laboratory of Values, Society, and Development
- Ibn Zohr University, Faculty of letters and human sciences
- Master Program: Applied Linguistics and Language Studies
- Académie Régionale d'Education Souss-Massa
- Region Souss Massa, Morocco
- **Diae** Network for International Conferences
- Regional English Language Office (RELO)
- British Council, Rabat / Morocco

Conference languages

- English
- Arabic
- French

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