

## DIGLOSSIA: PART 2

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- **Diglossia**

in some speech communities there is “one particular kind of standardization where two varieties of a language exist side by side throughout the community, with each having a definite role to play”

(Ferguson 2000 [1959]: 65), one of which is a *superposed variety*, that is, not a primary “native” variety, but one learnt in addition to the native variety.

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“The varieties are called H and L, the first being generally a standard variety used for ‘high’ purposes and the second often a ‘low’ spoken vernacular. [...]

- L is typically acquired at home as a mother tongue [...]
- H, on the other hand, is learned through schooling and never at home, and is related to institutions outside the home.”

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### Ferguson's 9 criteria for determining diglossia (2000 [1959])

1. **function**
2. **prestige**
3. **literary heritage**
4. **acquisition**
5. **standardisation**
6. **stability**
7. **grammar**
8. **lexicon**
9. **phonology**

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### Situation 'high' variety 'low' variety

- Arabic: Classic Arabic Various regional colloquial varieties
- Swiss: German Standard German Swiss German
- Haitian: Standard French Haiti Creole
- Greek: Katharévousa Dhimitiki

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### Fishman's extended diglossia

1. **Both Diglossia and bilingualism**
2. **Diglossia without bilingualism**
3. **Bilingualism without diglossia**
4. **Neither diglossia nor bilingualism**

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**Both diglossia and bilingualism** clearly defined or separate functions

e.g. Spanish (H) and Guaraní (a typologically unrelated indigenous language) in Paraguay “where almost the entire population speaks both” (83)

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### **Bilingualism without diglossia**

the two languages or varieties lack clearly defined or separate functions

- may be indicative of “rapid social change, of great social unrest, of widespread abandonment of prior norms before the consolidation of new ones” (85) - prone to be unstable and transitional (87)

e.g. industrialisation in the Western world with means of production from one speech community (H) and labour force from another (L) language shift from L to H

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### **Diglossia without bilingualism**

two or more speech communities “united religiously, politically or economically into a single functioning unit” (84)

- typically an impermeable group boundary between a small H-speaking élite and the L-speaking masses, i.e. bilingualism is not widespread.

e.g. French-speaking élites in a number of otherwise non-French-speaking European countries prior to World War I.

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### **Neither diglossia nor bilingualism**

theoretically possible, but perhaps only in small, isolated and undifferentiated speech communities.

but since “[a]ll communities seem to have certain ceremonies or pursuits to which access is limited”, this category “tends to be self liquidating.” (87)

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Thank you for your kind attention

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