

# THE INSTRUMENTAL USE OF LANGUAGE SKILLS

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Bilingualism or even multilingualism has become the norm rather than the exception worldwide. Morocco is no exception; this paper seeks to address the issue of multilingualism and language teaching in Morocco with a special focus on the functional specializations of each of the different languages existing in the linguistic map of Morocco. The purpose is to consider the economic benefits of such a linguistic situation for the Moroccan labor market. To achieve this goal, the linguistic map of Morocco is analyzed and the attitudes of selected interviewees in both national and international companies are unveiled. Following this analysis, we will highlight the real linguistic needs of Moroccans in the era of a globalized economy. Hence, a review of the Moroccan language planning policies and the institutes in charge, viz. the Institute of Studies and Research on Arabization and the Royal Institute of the Amazigh Culture whose roles respectively is to promote the Arabic and Amazigh languages in all Moroccans' walks of life. We will try to seek whether these policies would hinder or rather encourage the acquisition of foreign languages in Morocco and whether they meet the requirements of the flourishing business between Morocco and its close neighbors and commercial partners. We put forward as a hypothesis that to increase employability, the new job candidates need to have some linguistic skills that should meet the prerequisites of both the local and global job markets. To improve the Moroccan economic performance, proficiency of different languages and especially English is a must. The recent progressive free trade agreements ratified by Morocco with some countries namely USA, European Union, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates suggests that the most appropriate language to play the role of a lingua franca would be English.

**Keywords:** Multilingualism, Language Planning Policy, Language Attitudes

## **Biographical Note**

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