

Abstract

This study aims to show the distribution of the variants of the sounds /k/ and /q/ in the Palestinian dialects according to the regional factor. This objective leads to an investigation of the link between the variants of the voiceless alveo-palatal/ post-alveolar plosive /k/ as [tʃ] and the voiceless dorso-pharyngeal plosive /q/ as [g], [k] and [ʔ] in Palestine. It is hoped that this study will contribute to the field of sociolinguistics by exploring theoretical linguistic accounts of the variants under study as well as the interaction between language and social stratification defined by geographical boundaries. This study also feeds into the pedagogic domain since it brings awareness to English teachers "dialect" and its impact on the teaching- learning process. This could be possible through making students aware of the varieties of the varieties of English as the case in Arabic which has a wide range of dialects.

Individual interviews were used to elicit natural samples of the used variants of the /k/ and /q/. To verify the used variants, a list of words designed by the researcher was used. The list contains the systematic occurrences of both sounds. Doing so, it is found out that the variants of the /k/ and /q/ sounds stratify the social communities in Palestine into rural versus urban dialects.