The Sociolinguistic Situation in Sierra Leone.

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INTRODUCTION

Linguistics is widely recognized or defined as the scientific study of languages and their structures which includes the grammatical study of these languages such as –"syntax, and phonetics". This study has specific branches which include: **sociolinguistics, dialectology, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, comparative linguistics, and structural linguistics**

My main focus on this write up (Assignment) is based on the sociolinguistic situation of Sierra Leone my country of origin. It goes without an iota of doubt that Sierra Leone faces a sociolinguistic situation which characterizes the presence of several languages, both national and international (French Arabic and English) among which, Krio plays a vehicular role and believed to have been preserved for the informal domain. As a result, its use preserves it a very important platform within the Serra Leone society.

BODY

The sociolinguistic situation in Sierra Leone is very complex. It is characterized by the presence of several languages such as: Krio, Limba, Loko, Fulani, Themne, Kuranko, Yalunka, Shabro, Gisi, Mende, Kono, Bullom etc Sierra Leone, the Krio it produces from its history, and english colonization and national languages confirm that Sierra Leone is a multilingual country. Indeed despite this sociolinguistic situation which is very complex, Sierra Leone has adopted the policy of unilingualism which favors a single language on the political, legal, social, economic arena etc.

1-LANGUAGES AND VARIETIES IN CONTACT

The Sierra Leonean sociolinguistic terrain reflects a multilingualism which constitutes Krio, Temne, Limba, literary English and dialectal English, Arabic, French.

1.1 THE KRIO

After the enslavement of Sierra Leonean slaves from England, the latter will speak a language that resembled English, but Sierra Leone did not adopt this language as a national and official language just after independence. English has been the official language of the country. All state institutions operate in the English language as well as education and administration. Krio plays the role of vehicular language, it is reserved for the informal domain, even if it has no status, its use preserves it a very important place within the Sierra Leonean society. Dialectal Krio is the native language of a large majority of Sierra Leoneans. However, it is taught in schools, colleges and even universities. The descendants of these slaves constitute a respected social entity in Sierra Leone - they are called the Krios. Krio is the most widely spoken language in Sierra Leone and originated from the Creoles who were freed slaves from Britain, the United States and the West Indies. It is mainly derived from English but has influences from other African languages (eg Yuroba), European languages (such as French) and also contains expressions found in the West Indies. NOTE: The writing system used here is the recommended spelling for schools and colleges in Sierra Leone. The spelling uses phonetic symbols for certain vowels in the krio. It is important to note that each symbol represents ONE and ONE sound, and that each sound is represented by only ONE symbol. Vowels are usually the problem. Below is a pronunciation guide for Krio's vowels.

1. ɛ as in "lit" in English.2. e as in English 'day' 3. ɔ as in English 'cot' 4. ʌ as in English 'cut' (not found in Krio) 5. ə as in English 'entre' (not found in Krio) 6. o as in English 'bowl' or 'boat'7. u like in English 'fool 8. Me as in English' seat '

In addition, the velar nasal sound ŋ, as in English "King", is used in Krio "fulɔp piŋ" (to the brim) and in Temne "kʌ lɛŋ" (to grow gray hair).

English	Krio
Afternoon	santɛm
Rum	rɔm / ɔmɔle
Bar	Pub ba

1.2 **THE TEMNE**:

Temne is spoken by the Temnes, who make up about 30% of the population of Sierra Leone. The people mainly come from the northern province of the country and have a rich culture and history. The famous Temne chief, Bai Bureh, launched a rebellion against the British in 1898, following an overimposition of his people. Some basic words of Temne and their translations follow.

NOTE: The writing system used here is the recommended spelling for schools and colleges in Sierra Leone. The spelling uses phonetic symbols for certain vowels in Temne. It is important to note that each symbol represents ONE sound, and that each sound is represented by only ONE symbol. Vowels are usually the problem. Below is a guide to the pronunciation of Temne vowels.

1) ɛ as in "Bed" in English.

2) e as in "Day" in English

3. ɔ as in "Cut" in English

4) ʌ as in " And" in English

5. ə as in "Among" in English

6) o as in "Bowl" in English.

7) u as in "Stupid" in English '

In addition, the vawel nasal sound ŋ, as in "King" in English is used in Krio thus- "fulɔp piŋ" (to the brim) and in Temne "ka lɛŋ a fon a fera" (to grow gray hair).

1.**3 The MENDE**:

Mende / ˈmɛndi / (Mɛnde yia) is a major language of Sierra Leone, with some speakers from neighboring Liberia. It is spoken by the Mende people and other ethnic groups as a regional lingua franca in southern Sierra Leone. Mende is a tonal language belonging to the Mande branch of the Niger-Congolese language family. Ex: a few words in Mende "Buwa" hello - "Biseh" How are you, "kaiwena" - how are you doing? "Kay ingoma" Am doing fine.

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1.**4 ENGLISH**

Before inependence the English language occupied a primordial place, it dominated the whole linguistic situation in Sierra Leone and the first PIONEERS who benefited from the teaching of English occupied the political scene and were first minister and president of the republic such as: Sir Milton Margai, Sir Albert Margai, Justice COE Cole, Juxon Smith, Sika Probin Stevins (Prime Ministers and President before and after the independence of the country). English is a universal language. It is classified as the first language in the world. It occupies the statue of the first language in Sierra Leone, because it is a language that promotes access to technology and civilization. It is also linked to the colonization of the country. It is used in all fields. It is also used in schools from kindergarten to primary and primary to university.

1.6 FRENCH

The French people have always kept their place in Sierra Leonean society until now. Its neighborhood with Guinea (French-speaking), its membership in West Africa (15 states), 9 of which are French-speaking, constitute an additional burden for Sierra Leone to learn and study French. It is used in Junior Secondary School as a first foreign language which suffers a great deal and does not have clear results. Sierra Leone does not have professional teachers for the French language at the primary, secondary and tertiary level, which constitutes a very serious handicap in communication with its French-speaking neighbors as well as in its higher education as a language of specialty.

In this part of the write up which is entitled the sociolinguistic situation in Sierra Leone, I drew on the sociolinguistic presentation in Sierra Leone which is characterized by the presence of Krio, English mende, themne, kono the limba the kuranko the madingo, the peul, the susu etc. Each of its languages wants to be the most used because it is the use that determines the value of that language.

After having presented the sociolinguistic situation in Sierra Leone and the languages present, it is useful to define some notions on which I will base my work further which is the linguistic presentation, Sierra Leone being Anglophone.

AIM

- The main aim of this study is to present the sociolinguistic situation in Sierra leone

Objective.

- The main objective of the study is to understand the different languages spoken in the country and their role to national development..

1 .LINGUISTIC REPRESENTAIONS

The sociologist Durkheim E. was the first to evoke the notion of representations in the 19th century which he called "collective" through the study of religions and myths. The sociologist distinguished collective representations from individual representations. Thus the concept of representation, one of the objects of study of the human sciences in the 10th century, was reintroduced into the field of active research in 1961 by Moscovici S. In turn, representations social are defined as follows: "social representations are modalities of practical thought oriented towards communication, understanding and mastery of the social, material and ideal environment". He defined this notion of representation as a modality of a particular knowledge whose function is the development of communication behavior between individuals. With his words the psychologist Seca. J-M. Adds "the social representation is the product and the process of a mental activity by which an individual or a group reconstitutes the reality with which he is confronted, and attributes a specific meaning to it". This notion was introduced in the field of language sciences, under various names: linguistic representation, linguistic imaginary, linguistic attitude, sociolinguistic representation or linguistic ideology. Representations in sociolinguistics are linked to the imagination of the individual or of a group of individuals is the set of opinions, ideas and feelings that make up a language. According to the dictionary of sociolinguistics, language contact "is the human situation in which an individual or group is led to use two or more languages". All over the world, a very large number of speakers who speak more than one language, which means that these speakers are mixing languages and codes. This mixture comes in several forms, either that an individual speaks two languages, in this case it is bilingualism, or three or more languages, in this case it is plurilingualism or multilingualism.

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BILINGUALISM

Bilingualism is a sociolinguistic situation, characterizing subjects speaking two languages, it is a linguistic concept which means the use of two different languages by an individual or by a social group. The linguist Boyer H. defined bilingualism as follows: "it is a sociolinguistic situation of two languages that are well spoken, but each according to some very particular modalities", this notion meant, the use of two languages leads me to understand that an individual who naturally has two mother tongues is considered bilingual. Bilingualism is used by the vast majority of speakers around the world, but it still remains an ordinary fact, and far from being a phenomenon, as confirmed by linguist Christian L. "bilingualism is far from being an exceptional phenomenon, (…) In fact affects the majority of the earth's population".

. PLURILINGUALISM

Plurilingualism is a worldwide phenomenon, which is the speaking of several languages by an individual or a society. It is used by the vast majority of speakers, and in different countries, in order to ensure communication. For linguist Boyer H, plurilingualism is "the coexistence of two or more languages within the same socio-political space, possibly spoken from a way favored by different communities "Plurilingualism is a situation that makes a person constructed by speaking more than two languages in different contexts of their daily or professional life.

. IDENTITY

The notion of identity is a complex one, because it has relations with other notions such as those of representation, linguistic community and that of language. In general, identity is the set of visible or hidden characteristics specific to a person, which distinguishes him from others, and which makes him a unique person. The sociolinguistic identity of a speaker is associated with his social affiliation, precisely his age, his level of education, his profession, etc. The notion of identity generates several links, such as that of afiliation, which is a link of descent and continuity between generations.

LANGUAGE COMMUNITY

The notion of linguistic community appears almost at the same time as the

Sociolinguistics, the term "community" is borrowed from sociology and language, from linguistics in order to jointly study language and society. The linguistic community is a group of

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individuals, who use the same language or the same dialect in order to be able to communicate with each other.

In this regard, the linguist Boyer H. defined this notion as follows "the linguistic community refers to all speakers of a language sharing assessments (more or less implicit) as to the ages of this language".

In a linguistic community, we can find members who speak in the same way among themselves, meaning in a similar way that allows understanding between these members, as they can differentiate themselves to the point that other linguistic communities do not. fail to understand them.

LANGUAGE SECURITY AND INSECURITY

Linguistic security is the feeling of speakers who consider their ways of speaking the language, that it is the most correct and the most rewarding form, so they do not feel embarrassed about their ways of speaking, such as defines Calvet JL "we speak of linguistic security when, for various social reasons, speakers do not feel called into question in their way of speaking, when they consider their norm as the norm. On the other hand, linguistic insecurity is the situation in which speakers feel that their way of speaking is devalued and therefore not in conformity with the norm, this tongue. "Sociolinguistics studies these relationships by collecting the data for analysis from a representative sample of the linguistic community, using the instruments that ensure the objective and reliability of the research." The sociolinguistic survey is the search for the distribution of variables, that is to say the factors and reasons that influence surveys such as: sex, age, socio-professional level.

Conclusively, by the look of things, and the comprehensive analogy made in this assignment goes without an iota of doubt that Sierra Leone faces a sociolinguistic situation which characterizes the presence of several languages, both local and international among which Krio plays a vehicular role and believed to have been preserved for the informal domain. As a result, its use preserves it a very important platform within the Serra Leone society.

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