



Review Article

Volume-05|Issue-05|2025

From Exolingual Communication to Interlingual Communication: When Two Typically Foreign Languages Communicate

Hassan Takroun

Multidisciplinary Faculty of Safi, Cadi Ayyad University Morocco

Article History

Received: 25.09.2025

Accepted: 29.09.2025

Published: 10.10.2025

Citation

Takroun, H. (2025). From Exolingual Communication to Interlingual Communication: When Two Typically Foreign Languages Communicate. *Indiana Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 5(5), 8-19.

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to ask about the mechanisms of linguistic regulation and discursive negotiation resulting from contact between two typically foreign languages, Moroccan Arabic and French, in exolingual communication situations in Moroccan context. To do this, two exolingual communication situations will be analyzed. One is unilingual where the mode of speaking is unilingual (literal Arabic and Moroccan Arabic). The other is bilingual where Moroccan Arabic and French form the bilingual way of speaking. The analysis of the data allows us to identify the compensatory strategies mobilized by the interactants involved both in exolingual-unilingual communication situations and in exolingual-bilingual communication situations. At the end of the study, we discovered that when in an exolingual-unilingual communication situation in the case of complex coding on the part of the competent/ strong speaker, the in-competent/weak interlocutor appeals to phonetically erroneous formulations, the tags such as pauses, hesitations, silence, repetitions and/or clarifying questions. The speaker collects these clues and interprets them as requests for help and in the light of which he activates the maxim of discursive cooperativity. This allows the competent / strong speaker to renegotiate the code of interaction by mobilizing compensatory strategies, among others, the proposal of fair wording, reformulation and simplification. Subsequently, the speaker in a position of verbal distress manages to ratify and confirm the information presented to him. In an exolingual-bilingual interaction, the interactants implement a cooperative in the form of negotiations of meaning, compensatory strategies triggering the metalinguistic dimension of the exchange such as transcoded formulations which translate a whole work of intercomprehension carried out jointly by the interactants. It is an implicit negotiation based on procedures and relationships as well as on meaning, and this, through tags, filled pauses, empty pauses, hesitations, repetitions, as well as transcoded marks. Similarly, formulations by extension of meaning such as denominative metaphors or the neologism, provisional formulations, attempts at luck, as well as temptations to literal denomination are among the compensatory strategies resorted to by interactants.

Keywords: Intercomprehension, interlocution, interlanguage competence, compensatory strategies, exolingual-unilingual communication, exolingual-bilingual communication.

Copyright © 2025 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

INTRODUCTION

This article aims to report on a dynamic aspect of the contact of Arab-French languages in the Moroccan Arabic-speaking field. The contact between these two languages typically transmitted in communication interactions gives rise to processes of renegotiation and cooperativity of the code of exchange and discourse. In this article, it will be important for us to study the mechanisms of metalinguistic and metadiscursive regulation developed by two speakers involved in exolingual communication interaction where one expresses himself in a code that he masters strongly, while, the other uses a code that he barely manages to dominate.

To do this, we have chosen to analyze two types of situations of exolingual communication: a situation of exolingual-unilingual communication where the codes involved are the two varieties of Arabic, namely, Moroccan Arabic and literal Arabic. In such a situation, the examination of discursive cooperativity focuses more specifically on the mechanisms of renegotiation

mobilized by interactants whose mother tongue is common.

It should be noted that a situation of exolingual-bilingual communication where the languages involved are totally foreign. It is an interaction where the interactants express themselves in two different languages, Moroccan Arabic and French, so as to confront them in situations of communication belonging to interlingualism.

To this end, we have collected two types of data in the form of conversations conducted on the airwaves of Moroccan radio channels. One includes exolingual situation with the unilingual mode of speaking (data 1). The other includes exolingual situations with the bilingual mode of speaking (data 2 and 3).

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Comparing the two language systems

Moroccan Arabic

Moroccan Arabic, vernacular or dialect, is the primary variety spoken by the majority of 70% of the

Moroccan population. But, despite its majority weight, Moroccan Arabic (now MA) still remains a low variety compared to the other varieties¹ of Arabic — literary Arabic (now LA) and standard Arabic (now SA) — valued on official and sacred levels. While the current use, the fluidity and the spontaneity of the grammatical and prosodic structures of the MA stipulate that it is a modern language² in full evolution.

Moroccan Arabic represents both a vernacular and a vehicular language for Arabic speakers as well as for Amazigh speakers who sometimes find it difficult to understand each other due to the morphological, semantic and phonetic divergences contained in the varieties of Berber. However, in a linguistic situation such as ours, the signs of the paradox manifest themselves explicitly because even if Arabic is a mother tongue of the majority of the people, "our national language is Arabic with all its dialectal and literary levels" (Lévy, 1989: 23), it enjoys no clearly defined status and has no value of knowledge. In addition, the devaluing social image that associates it with illiteracy and underdevelopment had participated in the establishment of its minority and devalued dialect status.

French

Even if it is neither official language nor a foreign language strictly speaking, French (now FR) enjoys important social privilege that links it in the social representation of Moroccans to success and social prestige. It thus remains appreciated, even sublimated and idealized. For a large majority of Moroccans "it is the most useful language for training and career, it is the most important since it ensures social success" (Ziamari, 2009: 177). It is therefore no longer illusory to think that FR is a functional language in the national linguistic spectrum, and which continues to intervene in several fields of socioeconomic life, as well as in the dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge, thanks to "its de facto status since it conveys officiality although it is not official" (Messaoudi, 2002: 31).

At the social level, FR is frequently spoken by Moroccans, but, in a literary and refined way, especially in certain elite families. Moreover, the promotional function of French in Moroccan society as a language that promotes integration and helps development is not unknown. Nevertheless, the use of FR as oral communication language among Moroccans tends to vary according to the milieu, but, cannot compete with that of AM. This is explained through the variation in mastery of the minimum linguistic competence in this language, insofar as a large part of Moroccans whose minimum linguistic competence in the FR is more or less poor have difficulty expressing themselves in this

language because, among other things, of the "state of interlanguage" (El Amrani, 2013: 62).

Communication exolingue

The notion of "exolingual communication" was first proposed by Porquier in 1979 to characterize the exchanges between learners of a target language and competent speakers in this language. Thus, according to Porquier; "exolingual communication [...] (as) that which is established through language by means other than a mother tongue possibly common to the participants" (1984: 19).

The notion developed by Porquier will be imposed in the works of French expression with P. Bange (1987) who specifies that exolingual communication is "a communication at risk on both levels of intercomprehension and relationship" (1987: 23). In terms of intercom-gripping, exolingual interaction requires more attention to linguistic and conversational operations. These results in a "bi-focusing" between the ordinary orientation towards a goal and the attention paid to the progress of the exchanges. In other words, it is the categorization of interaction situations according to symmetrical and asymmetrical relationships that generates the phenomenon of bifocalization on the code and on the content.

Indeed, the notion of bi-focusing as proposed by Bange could be defined as follows: first of all, there is "a central focus" which focuses on the thematic object of communication, on the goals, on what the interactants want to do together (as in all forms of communication). Then there is a "peripheral focus" on the formal problems that could appear in the production or in the understanding; "particular vigilance in the progressive alerting of attention to ensure the planned structure" (Bange, 1987:23).

It goes without saying that two types of vigilance are required; "increased vigilance" linked to the object of the communication, that is to say, its theme. And "a particular vigilance" focused on the problems of production and communication in the form of speech regulation processes of a metalinguistic and metadiscursive nature that condition its continuity and success ; "the smooth running of communication and understanding depend on increased cooperation manifested through communicative mechanisms, namely: reformulation and simplification" (Bange, 1992: 107).

Exolingual interaction and language contact

In exolingual-bilingual interaction, there is a high degree of divergence between the linguistic

Literal Arabic belonging to a concretely committed and sacred register serves with its linguistic form which had to be perfectly in accordance with the rules set out in the grammars of the Arabic language, both as a language for the profane and as a language for the sacred. Standard or median Arabic is a renovated language that develops in its grammatical and lexical components

detached from the Koranic model and distancing itself, gradually, from the archaic and fixed Arabic of the ante-Islamic poetry.⁽¹⁾

The dialect becomes a language simply because it fulfills the constituent conditions of the latter such as prosody (phonetic transcription), morphology (grammar), literature ... etc.⁽²⁾

repertoires used. The exchanges will be qualified, in this case, as being asymmetric or unequal, since one speaker has a very good linguistic competence in a linguistic code, while the other must use a code that he knows little. In general, exolingual interaction designates the forms and modes of verbal or non-verbal communication between speakers who do not practice the same language, whether these languages are close or completely foreign.

This is a situation of linguistic contact in which we can identify two prototypical modes of communication, "exolingual-unilingual and exolingual-bilingual" (De Pietro, 1988: 71). Thus, in the case of the "exolingual-unilingual" interaction, the exchange is characterized by the presence of one (or more) dialects or varieties of the code dominated by the participants in the interaction. Whereas, in the case of the "exolingual-bilingual" interaction, the exchange involves the use of the respective directories of the participants who use two different languages. One is strongly controlled, while the other is poorly dominated.

The exolingual interaction is essentially determined and constructed by "situational parameters whose communication situation is exolingual" (Porquier, 1984: 18-19). In fact, the exolingual dimension of the situation as mentioned by Portier includes four main parameters: first, the participants in the exchange cannot or do not want to communicate in a common mother tongue. Secondly, the participants are aware of this state of affairs. Thirdly, exolingual communication must be pragmatically and formally structured by this state of affairs and therefore by the awareness and representations of the participants. Moreover, the participants are, to varying degrees, aware of the specificity of the situation and adapt their behaviors and their language behaviors to it.

METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Corpus

In this paper, it is important for us to study the metalinguistic and metadiscursive regulatory mechanisms between two speakers involved in exolingual communication interactions. One expresses himself in a code that he masters strongly, while the other uses a code that he knows little. Having excellent linguistic competence in the language that he is using, the

first speaker is assumed to be a Native Speaker (henceforth LN³), and that the language he speaks is qualified as a First language (henceforth L1) or mother tongue.

Since he has minimal linguistic competence in the language he is trying to speak, the second speaker is considered a Non-Native speaker (now LNN⁴), and the language in which he is trying to express himself is a foreign language for him or not native (now L2).

To examine the communicative processes of discursive renegotiation in exolingual communication interactions, we have chosen two types of exolingual interactions : On the one hand, exolingual-unilingual communication interaction where the codes involved are the two varieties of Arabic, namely, Moroccan Arabic and literal Arabic. In such a communication interaction, the examination of discursive cooperativeness focuses more specifically on the renegotiation mechanisms developed by interactants whose mother tongue is common. In other words, the two interactants involved have MA as their mother tongue. Nevertheless, the asymmetry between them can be observed both at the level of linguistic identity — bilingual speaker versus monolingual interlocutor - and at the level of sociolinguistic identity —competent, strong, specialist speaker versus incompetent, weak, non—specialized interlocutor —. To do this, we have chosen the corpus (1). It is actually about recording of a conversation that took place during the program "kayn l-hal" [*there is a solution*] broadcast every day from Monday to Friday from 13 o'clock to 14 o'clock on the Moroccan radio channel "Aswat".

On the other hand, we opted for exolingual-bilingual communication interactions where the languages involved are totally foreign. These are corpus (2) and (3) where the interactants express themselves in two typically different languages, MA and FR, in the sense that MA is L1 and FR is L2. These are two recordings of the program "the morning show" broadcast every morning from Monday to Friday on the private Hit-radio channel. The two interviewees who do not share the same mother tongue engage in a conversation which is carried out in the language of the one who, in the position of investigator (MA), faces a monolingual interlocutor whose mother tongue is FR.

LN means that the speaker is native, that is, he expresses himself in his own mother tongue or the language of socialization.⁽³⁾

LNN is a speaker who expresses himself in a language other than the one in which he discovered the world (mother tongue).⁽⁴⁾

Transcription protocol

Consonants	
ʔ Stroke of the glottis (glottal stop)	ʒ Spirante cacuminale sound
b Occlusive bilabiale sound	ʃ Spirante cacuminale deaf
f Spirante labiodentale deaf	g Occlusive velar sound
m Occlusive bilabiale sound	k Occlusive velar dull
d Occlusive dentale sonore	ɣ Spirante velar deaf
t Occlusive dental deaf	x Spirante velar deaf
ḍ Occlusive dental sound	q Palatal emphatic
ṭ Dental emphatic	ε Laryngale spirante deaf
n Occlusive nasal dental sound	ħ Laryngale spirante deaf
z Spirante dental sound	h Laryngale deaf
s Spirante dental deaf	r lateral vibrant sound
ʃ Wheezing emphatic dull	l Vibrant lingual side.
w Semi-vowel posterior rounded pronounced -wa in front of a consonant normal and /u/ after a consonant normal	y Semi-vowel anterior stretched pronounced - there is before a consonant normal (1) and /-i/ after a consonant normal

Vowels	
a Vowel back-open-oral	ə Chewa, vowel neutral used to separate the use of three consonants.
i Vowel brief back-closed-oral	a: Vowel long rear-stretched-oral-open
u Vowel brief back-rounded-oral-closed	i: Vowel long rear-stretched oral-closed
e Vowel short rear mid-open (in short syllable)	u: Vowel long-before-rounded oral-closed

ANALYSIS OF THE CORPUS

Metalinguistic and metadiscursive regulation in exolingual-unilingual situations

Corpus 1	
J. M. (i.e) 001:	məktub huna ya sayyəd-i... y-azeb l-muša:daqa əala l-watiqa - written here, sir, it is necessary to legalize the document on the document. - Sir, it is necessary to legalize the document.
F (i.t) 002:	kifaš [l-məša:dqa] ʔa ssi duktur maetu:q+++ zəema n-šaddeq eli-ha - How [l-məša:dqa] o Mr. doctor maatouq, supposedly I give alms on her. - What do you mean by frankness? does this mean that I have to give alms?
J. M. (i.e) 003:	laa.... l-muša:daqa...l-muša:daqa...kifaš radi n-fasser lik...l-mušadaq ya-en-i ka tšawwer di-k l wərqa w ka y-təb-u li-k fih-a f-lbaladyya zəema rah-um bhal bhal - No, how will I explain to you, the equalization means you photocopy this sheet and they hide from you in it in the municipality that they are similar. - No, how would I say? Legalization means that they will officially confirm the authenticity of your document.
F (i.t) 004:	aaah... l-muša:daqa...waxxa ʔa ssi d-uktur !! fham-t barak llah-u fi-k ! - Ah. the equalizer..all right, Mr. doctor! understood-I bless myself God in you. - Ah! it's the EQ, okay I get it. God bless you!

At first glance, the first analysis of the interaction appearing in the corpus (1) indicates that it is a situation of exolingual-unilingual communication, in the sense of De Pietro. Indeed, it is a question of a communication situation where the interactants use the mode of unilingual Arabic speaking, with a "minimum" linguistic asymmetry (Mackey, 1982: 50), since the speakers remain in the same code. The asymmetrical nature of the negligible interaction is manifested in the fact of using two varieties (or dialects) of Arabic. One is formal, called literal Arabic. While, the other is an informal called Moroccan Arabic.

Thus, the speaker of the utterance {001} dominates the literary variety of Arabic, while the speaker of the utterance {002} has a low linguistic competence in the variety in question. In fact, in this kind of exolingual interactions where the exchange is characterized by the presence of one (or more) dialects or varieties of the code dominated by the interactants, the perceptible linguistic asymmetries could be essentially due to "the discursive, variational and dynamic conception of linguistic competence and in particular lexical" (Lüdi, 1994, 117).

If we accept to characterize the interaction in the corpus (1), first, as far as the macrolinguistic plane is concerned, we will find that the exchange takes place in the same linguistic system. Nevertheless, on the microlinguistic level, an asymmetry that can be described as minimal manifests itself between the two interactants. More specifically, these are differences that relate, on the one hand, to the degree of mastery of the linguistic competence of the interactants. On the other; "the language directories are activated during the verbal exchange (lexical competence)" (Porquier, 2003: 51).

Thus, the speaker {J. M. (i.e)} has an excellent level both in linguistic competence and in lexical competence relating to the two varieties of Arabic. Indeed, from the point of view of linguistic competence, the speaker {J. M. (i.e)} being qualified as LN⁵, he masters all the morphosyntactic constraints generating the uses of the linguistic elements in the two dialects involved in the interaction. As for the speaker {F. (I.t)}, the level of mastery of the morphosyntactic constraints of the MA makes it possible to qualify him as LN. However, the interaction in the corpus (1) indicates that there is a linguistic asymmetry triggered, in this case, in the statement {002}. The speaker of the latter has difficulty expressing himself in (LA) in the sense that the clarifying question indicates that he has a very low linguistic competence in this variety.

As for the lexical competence, the mastery of the system of morphological and lexical elements as they are perceptible in the statements {002} and {004}, indicates that the speaker {F. (i.t)} has an excellent linguistic competence in the MA, which makes it possible to consider him as an (LN). However, when it comes to producing statements in (LA), the speaker {F. (I.t)} is unable to interact with his interlocutor because he categorically ignores the morphosyntactic and lexical constraints relating to the literal variety of Arabic. Therefore, the low level of linguistic competence, as well as lexical competence will not allow him to produce and understand statements in (LA).

It is in this way that we find that in interaction (1), the lexico-morphosyntactic incompetence of the speaker {F (i.t)} is shown in two clues: firstly, the {F. (i.t)} takes up the term of the LA [l-muša:daqa]"equalization" in a false way, insofar as he introduces a phonetic slip which consists in the realization of the short-rounded-oral-closed vowel [u] of the AL as a neutral vowel [ə] (the chewa) of the AM.

This involuntary phonetic modification implies a total change of meaning. Thus, the noun [l-muša:daqa]"equalization" is pronounced by the speaker {F (i.t)} in the statement {002} as [l-məša:dqa] which means in MA "someone's frankness". The phonetic shift performed by

the speaker {F (i.t)} indicates that he completely ignores the phonetic system of the literal variety of Arabic. Secondly, the interaction in the corpus (1) includes two questions posed by means of the interrogative adverb of MA [kifaš]"how". In fact, the use of it by the speaker {F (i.t)} assumes in the statement {002} an interrogative function of understanding. Whereas, in the statement {003}, [kifaš] is used to mark a clarifying question.

It has been proven that in exolingual-unilingual situation, the presence of a linguistic asymmetry, even if it is minimal, can hinder communication. This is why the interactants themselves take into account the codic differences implied by the communication situation and implement various compensatory strategies to reduce them, while remaining, however, in the same linguistic system. In other words, the interactants conduct a cooperative quite often in the form of negotiations of meaning, communicative processes triggering the meta-language dimension of the exchange in order to continue the conversation.

Phonetically incorrect covers

In interaction (1), the situation is exolingual and the mode of speaking is unilingual. But, the speaker {J. M. (i.e)} being well competent in literal Arabic and well experienced in the field of exchange (law) imposes on his interlocutor the formal variety. The latter does not seem competent to continue the conversation because there is no longer a balanced conversation space, since the speaker {J. M. (i.e)} is LN/competent/expert, while the speaker {F. (I.t)} is LN/incompetent/non-expert. So, the use of AL seems a compensatory strategy for {J. M. (I.e)}. But the effectiveness of the latter is promoted only by the existence of "a potentially bilingual interlocutory space" (Giacobbe, 1992: 93), (MA + LA).

Faced with this situation of imbalance, the resumption of the noun of the LA [l-muša:daqa]"equalization" by {F. (i.t)} as [l-məša:dqa]"frankness" in the statement {002} is, first of all, interpreted mutually as a request for help from the interlocutor and to which there must subsequently be a reaction from the speaker in the form of a sequence of lexical work (the statement 003).

The shift from the short-rounded-oral-closed vowel [u] of (LA) to the neutral vowel [ə] (the chewa) of MA is explained by the fact that the {F. (I.t)} perceives the noun in question as belonging to MA. In dialogic processing, this kind of phonetic slippage functions as an indicator of obstacle, both structural and lexical, and gives a signal to the interlocutor to start lexical work allowing to propose formulations likely to help the interlocutor to overcome the situation of linguistic distress. Likewise, the repetition of the noun that poses a problem to the interlocutor by the speaker in the

The concept of "native" languages applies to Amazigh which is the mother tongue of non-Arabic-speaking Moroccans and to AM which is the mother tongue of non-Amazigh-speaking Moroccans. The impact

of the mother tongue on the speaker in which his personality was formed serves as a "sieve for any subsequent linguistic knowledge or use" (See YOUSSE, 1992: 21).⁽⁵⁾

statement {J. M. (i.é) 003} constitutes a proposal for phonetic and lexical formulation intended to help the interlocutor, first of all, to articulate the noun in question well, then, to grasp the meaning well.

Thus, from the phonetic point of view, the speaker {J. M. (i.é)} being competent-expert tries to propose to {F. (I.t)} the correct pronunciation of the term. From the lexical point of view, repetition indicates the beginning of a lexical research work leading to popularizing the difficult term. The speaker quickly remarked that continuing the exchange in LA is useless because "strategies based on L1 (LA) are generally less effective" (Haastrup & Phillipson, 1983: 155), if not in vain. Therefore, the use of MA remains a compensatory strategy, for two major factors: first, the speaker is convinced that all other means of L1 (LA) will be lacking. Secondly, "the maxim of cooperativity" (Lüdi, 1994: 122) is valid in this case, given that the interlocutor has more than the minimum mastery of L2 (MA).

Understanding and clarification's questions

The frequency and the functions of the questions as well as the evolution of their use depend closely on the way in which the speaker (LN/competent/expert) and the interlocutor (LN/ incompetent/ non-expert) define the situation. Indeed, the incompetence of the speaker {F. (I.t)} to endorse phonetically and semantically the utterance of the speaker {J. M. (I.e)}, generates "a bifocalization concerning the code and the content" (Bange, 1987: 23).

First of all, it is about the central focus on the thematic object of the utterance, on the objective behind the use of the noun of the [l-muša:daqa] "equalization", as well as on the situation in which the speaker seeks to put his interlocutor. This kind of focus is translated by the clarification question asked by the interlocutor according to the following formula: | kifaš + noun|. This could be understood by the speaker as a request for help in explanation, since the question is formulated through the adverbial interrogative of MA [ki-faš]"how", followed directly by the term posing a problem of understanding for the interlocutor [l-muša:daqa].

The analysis of the interaction (1) brings out a second type of focusing which this time is called "peripheral" (Bange, 1987: 23). More precisely, it focuses on the formal structural and lexical problems that accompany the production of the statement. The phonetically false use of the noun [l-muša:daqa] by the speaker {F. (i.t)} in the statement {002} reflects a peripheral focus for the interlocutor. The latter, ignoring the phonetic system of (LA), he resorts to a kind of

"phonetic markup" (Lüdi, 1994: 122) which indicates the ambiguous term as a word of MA.

Reformulation and simplification

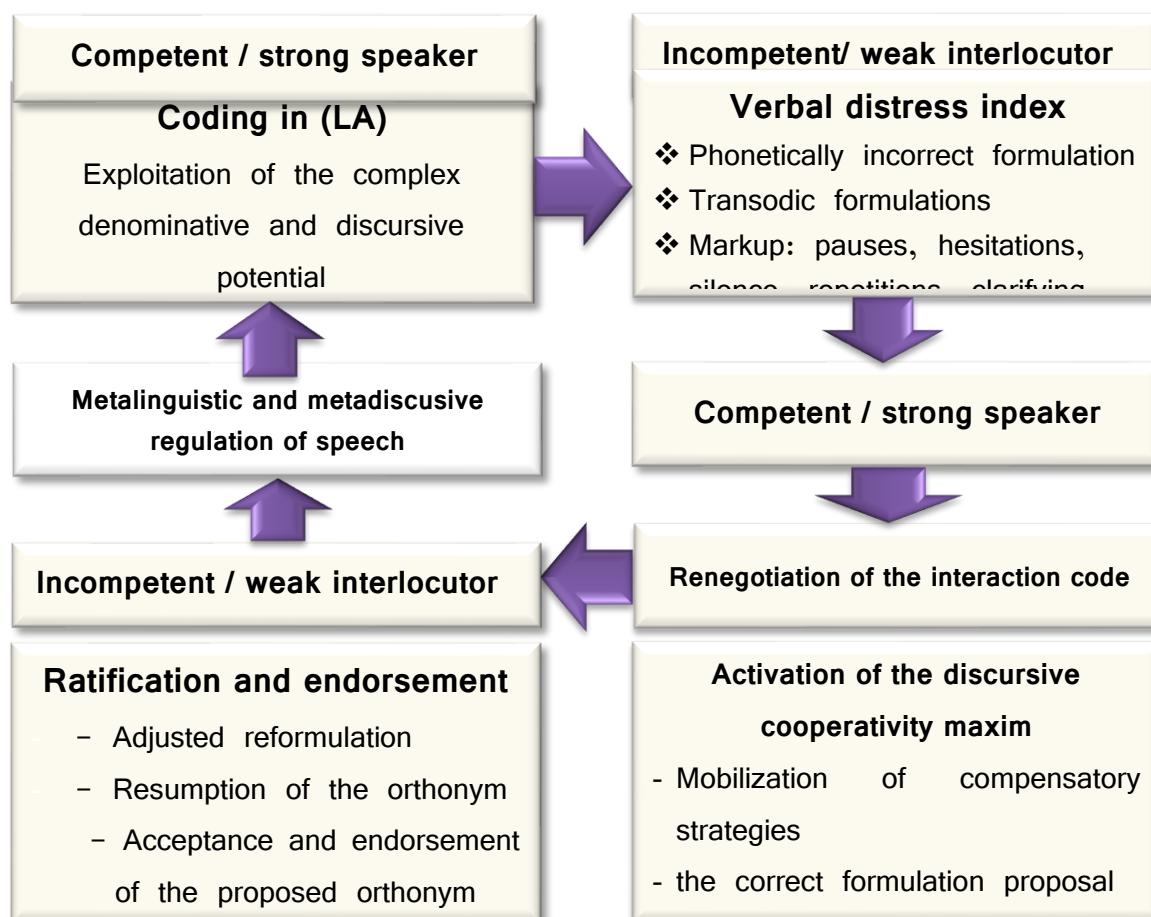
By reacting to the request for help made by the incompetent (weak) speaker to the competent (strong) speaker, the latter begins a cooperative work through the implementation of communicative negotiation mechanisms, among others, reformulation and simplification. Indeed, in the statement {003}, the competent speaker understood that the discursive strategy based on (LA) does not seem effective, and that it puts his interlocutor in a situation of distress. That is why the competent speaker activates the maxim of cooperativity according to which, first of all, he rejects the proposal of erroneous formulation made by the speaker {F. (I.t)} hence the use of the adverb of negation [la]"no". Subsequently, he proceeds to the proposal of fair wording repeated twice by way of insistence. The question posed by the speaker in the statement {003} indicates the search for a provisional formulation that is easier and more comprehensible in MA.

Even if the assessment of the situation allows him to assume a minimum of mastery of (LA) on the part of the weak speaker, since the question of comprehension posed by the latter only concerns a segment of the utterance and not to all of it, the strong speaker tries to exploit the denominative, deictic and discursive potential of his Moroccan Arabic repertoire. In fact, this exploitation is conveyed to simplify the theme of interaction as much as possible, hence the occurrence of the verbal actualizer [ya-en-i] "that is to say" and the particle [zæema]"so-called" which perform explanatory function, in addition to the fixed expression [bhal-bhal]"similar" whose function is deictic.

The statement {004} displays the regulation of speech taking place following the mobilization of compensatory strategies by the speaker. Indeed, the interlocutor being exposed to a lexical obstacle, mispronounces the word said by the speaker, asks a clarification question, which is interpreted by the speaker as a request for help. The latter proposes the "orthonyms or right word" (Portier, 1992: 42), uses it twice, makes it explicit and popularizes it by exploiting linguistic tools accessible by the interlocutor in a situation of distress. Finally, he accepts the right word, repeats it correctly this time and endorses it.

The functioning of this system of regulation of speech with a linguistic and discursive character between the strong (competent) speaker and the weak (incompetent) speaker as analyzed in the interaction of the corpus (1), obeys to the following structure :

Diagram 1: Cycle of metalinguistic regulation of speech in exolingual-unilingual situations



From exolingualism to interlingualism

In this point, it will be a question of addressing two types of inter-linguistic interaction resulting from the contact of two languages. It is actually about the interlanguage or the intercode and the interference. A verbal exchange of exolingual-bilingual nature is permeated by the differences in the language repertoires of the speakers who use two asymmetrically shared languages. One is strongly controlled (L1), while the other is poorly dominated (L2).

By intercode, it is understood the integration into a single code of the elements coming from two languages, the first language (L1) and the second language (L2). It is therefore a question of "a language phenomenon" (Mackey, 1982: 48). As for interference, it designates the use of elements from one language in the speech of another language, which makes it "a phenomenon of speech" (Mackey, 1982: 48).

In the following, we will analyze two corpus comprising verbal interactions taking place on air during the broadcast of a radio program on the Hit-radio channel. The interactants use two languages in such a way as to mix them without being mutually intelligible. The host of the show {M. (h.s)} is who an LN speaks MA (L1). While {D. (inv.)}, a guest of the show who is an LNN speaks FR (L1). This communicative dimension presupposes cooperation in the form of communicative processes of successive negotiations in order to follow the conversation.

Exolingual-bilingual interactions

After analyzing the functioning of the system of metalinguistic regulation in exolingual-unilingual interactions in Diagram 1, the following lines will be devoted to the study of the communicative processes of negotiations in exolingual-bilingual interactions where the interactants mobilize materials related to interlingualism.

Corpus 2

LNN	D. (inv.) 142 :	I am for the young people to come it's free, it's not a dollar, not a dirham, not a penny//
LN	M. (h.s) 143 :	waš d-dxul b~walu ? - Does the access with nothing? - Isn't there a fee for access?
LNN	D. (inv.) 144 :	uh.... [wallo]!! mhm....[laughing]...[wallo]...[wallo] ...but how? - Nothingness, how nothingness?
LN	M. (h.s) 145 :	- no walu...that is, for free!
LNN	D. (guest) 146 :	aah good walu! walu is that zero...so that's [dkul] it's... [walu]

In the corpus (2), it is a question of exolingual-bilingual interaction which is carried out in the language of the one who, in the position of investigator, faces an "alloglottis"⁶. Even if the investigator M. (a.e) is bilingual with MA as his mother tongue, however, he opts for it. On the other hand, the speaker D. (inv.) is monolingual alloglottis with FR as his mother tongue.

The M. (a.e) as host of the radio show imposes MA as the language of the interaction despite the situation of linguistic distress in which he puts his interlocutor. She is able to separate the two codes and assess the bilingual potential of the situation, tries to overcome verbal distress by exploiting the deictic, denominative and discursive potential of her repertoire. In fact, these metalinguistic and metadiscursive renegotiation processes, as we will analyze them in the following, will be considered as the marks of evolution of "interlanguage competence" (Lüdi, 1994:124) towards the ability to alternate the two codes "the switching code".

Moreover, the identification of the sociolinguistic status of each of the two speakers implies the following question: why the M. (h.s) even if he knows well that his interlocutor is a monolingual (LN or FR) does not alternate between "the mode of speaking unilingual" (Lüdi & Py, 1986) and "the mode of speaking bilingually" (Grosjean, 1982).

It is generally recognized that the alternation between the unilingual mode and the bilingual mode depends on several factors, among others, the presumed mastery of the interlocutor, the degree of formality of the situation and the normative representation of the interlocutor. Thus, the host of the show, who knows well that his interlocutor is a Frenchwoman who has been living in Morocco for a few years, assumes that the latter has minimal linguistic potential in MA. Similarly, it can be assumed that the M. (a.e) expressly attempts to place her interlocutor in a situation of linguistic distress so that she can use the minimal MA repertoire in order to mix L1 (FR) and L2 (MA). The use of MA is therefore favored by the existence of "a potentially bilingual interlocution space" (Giacobbe, 1992: 93).

Since it is carried out under conditions that take into account the degree of formality of the situation and the normative representation of the interlocutor, the exchange in the corpus (2) will allow us to understand and explain the mechanisms of communication between speakers of different linguistic territories or "interlingual communication" in the sense of Porquier (2003: 53), including the processes likely to guarantee a certain level of intelligibility between two different languages (MA and FR), through the intercomprehension between their respective speakers when they are interacting.

Transcodical formulation

It is generally accepted that the work of mutual understanding is carried out jointly by the participants who negotiate in order to agree on communicative objectives, procedures and relationships as well as on meaning. However, if we accept that the units composing the lexical memory of the speaker (LN or LNN) are "constructed, deconstructed and reconstructed objects in speech" (Lüdi, 1994: 119), it follows that lexical gaps as well as a total or partial opacity of certain lexical units lead to discursive operations relating to the lexicon. More precisely, they are operations of construction, enrichment, adjustment and verification of lexical hypotheses whose discursive character means that they surface on the surface of statements and leave traces there. This is the reason why conversational mechanisms of regulation of mutual understanding focused on the level of the verbal code are mobilized by the interactants.

Accumulation of tags

Transcodical marks consist of "a potentially conscious use, in utterance in L2 (foreign language), of a sequence perceived by the LNN speaker as belonging to L1 (mother tongue), in order to overcome a communicative obstacle" (Lüdi, 1991b: 187). In exolingual interaction, transcodical formulations are the result of linguistic incompetence. Being produced quite often in cases of verbal distress, transcodical marks are part of "interlingual compensatory strategies" (Siguàn, 1987:211). Our corpus is full of transcodical marks translating, among other things, situations of verbal distress, since an alloglottis interlocutor is involved in the interaction.

Non-native speaker in relation to the language of the exchange. ⁽⁶⁾

The interviewer asks the director of the festival, a French resident in Morocco, about the FIFAL 2012 (wildlife film festival 2012). The interaction takes place in the investigator's language in front of alloglottis interlocutor. In statement 142, she is explaining in her native language (FR, L1 for LNN) that admission to the festival is free. In statement 143, the question asked by the interviewer (LN) in MA constitutes instigation to the guest (LNN) to push her to mobilize her minimal repertoire in MA (L2 for LNN).

Having a low linguistic competence in MA, the speaker LNN tries to build a groped mental grammar of the target language (MA), by means of a set of stable, but systematic processes that result from cognitive work. This work promises to be a real trigger for a whole lexical and/ or common formulation work which aims - beyond the mutual cognitive environment of the interactants - to make lexical information mutually manifest. The analysis of the corpus allows us to identify the following metalinguistic negotiation processes.

Despite the instigation which is actually an implicit instruction to speak MA, FR appears in places. In addition, this use could be interpreted as a request for help, other clues reveal verbal distress at the speaker LNN, among others beacons. In exolingual-bilingual interaction, the tags are "lexical obstacle marks" (Portier, 1992: 42) that the LNN sows in its statements in L2. Indeed, in corpus (2), LNN uses numerous tags when producing statements in MA, the morphosyntactic framework of which is mentally groped.

Thus, in the statement (144), the alloglottis interlocutor is in verbal distress. That is why, it calls for filled breaks [uh], hesitation: [mhm], repetition: [wallo], [wallo], empty breaks: [...], phonetically erroneous repetition of the term [walu]"nothing" so as to accentuate the lateral lingual vibrating consonant [l] and open the closed oral rounded back short vowel [u], realized open [o] hence the articulation [wallo]"nothing". In fact, we are faced with transcoding formulations which signal that the speaker LNN perceives the element in question as belonging to L1 (FR).

It appears from the example (144) that the speaker LNN tries to exploit as much as it can the logical, denominative and discursive potential of its repertoire in L2 (AM). However, his linguistic incompetence in this language does not allow him to express himself. This is why the FR (L1) appears involuntarily in the form of a question of understanding (Example 144). The frequency and the evolution of the markup are the signs of the evolution of the faculty to alternate codes which also evolves according to the evolution of the interlanguage competence.

Interpreted mutually as requests for help, the transcoding formulations made by the speaker LNN are gradually picked up by the speaker LN and to which the

latter reacts in the statement (145). First of all, he uses the Moroccan Arabic term [walu] in order to insist on the correct pronunciation. Then, it seems that the switching code initiated by LNN in (144) is endorsed by LN in (145) obviously has the function of renegotiating the mode of the interaction which, for this purpose, slips towards the bilingual mode where the switching code exploits the bilingual competence of the interactants, albeit unbalanced, for discursive purposes. The switching code fulfills in this case two functions; one is deictic, the other is polyphonic.

In the statement (146), LNN accepts and endorses the information presented in French by LN in (145), thereby shifting the situation towards a more bilingual definition. It is therefore an interactive system where the tags function as lexical obstacle indicators and which can be represented according to the following model: [obstacle index $\Rightarrow$ transcoding formulation (markup) by LNN $\Rightarrow$ formulation proposal by LNN $\Rightarrow$ ratification by LNN].

The statement (146) manifests the structural tinkering on the part of LNN, which accompanies attempts of lexical tinkering. Thus, the introduction of the bilingual mode implies that LNN has the possibility of using L1 and L2 based on the proposal provided by LN. In other words, she must possess "a minimum competence in L2, which is often perceptible in the light of language uses which will be able to inform us if the bilingual individual is more or less dominant in L2 for a specific field or subject" (Hamers and Blanc, 1983: 26).

In this perspective, we can explain the occurrence of the structure [ddkul.. it's walu], in the sense that in the absence of a minimum linguistic competence in MA, the speaker LNN tries to tinker with a mental grammar of L2. The result of this structural tinkering consists in the use of the nominal construction [article zero + noun] where the nominal sentence [ddxul]"entry" preceded by the article zero (indeterminacy) is in the subject position of a verb in FR with presentative value [it is]. As for the cardinal number "zero" which fulfills a predictive function, it is also inserted into the structure in question with the article zero.

It is about frequent structure in MA. It is built on the basis of the simple linking of the two terms: [dxul] and [zero]. These fulfill two distinct functions in the statement, in the sense that the first is a constitutive reference {source term (a)}, while the second represents a predicative reference {goal term (b)}. This structure is called "a simple relationship" (Caubet, 1983: 237). Normally, in a simple relationship, the constituent term must be determined, while echoing the predicative benchmark that should necessarily be determined. Which is no longer the case in the statement (146) where the location of the zero article in front of the noun phrase makes the statement senseless. So these are the traces of

the structural tinkering that LNN resorts to in order to overcome verbal distress.

Provisional formulation by extension of meaning

In the following corpus, D. (inv.), an LNN mobilizes its "metaphorical or analogous competence" (Lüdi, 1994: 125) in a situation of verbal distress to

designate the lion and the donkey. However, the statements 157 and 161 are - mutually - interpreted not as rhetorical figures, but as a request for the right word in L2. The LNN speaker accompanies her utterances with lexical obstacle markers such as breaks (161), doubtful intonations (161), repetitions (159) and laughter (157).

Corpus 3		
LN	M. (h.s) 156 :	hiya daba <i>ɣadi t-šewər-u mēa sbeɛ f-blest me t-šawər-u mēa mumetəl...un sbeɛ...oui un sbeɛ</i> - So now (Future Modality.) you shoot with a lion instead of shooting with actor...a lion...yes a lion/ - <i>That is, instead of shooting with an actor, you will shoot with a lion.</i>
LNN	D. (invit.) 157 :	un [sbaaa], <i>c'est quelque chose qui porte le numéro sept</i> ? (rire) - is a [sbaaa] something with the number seven on it? (laughing)
LN	M. (h.s) 158 :	Non c'est le lion - <i>No, it's the lion</i>
LNN	D. (invit.) 159 :	aah un [sbaaa]...c'est ce que je dis toujours petit Momo, <i>le paysage du cinéma documentaire</i> s'enrichit donc/ - <i>aah a [sbaaa] ...that's what I always say little Momo, the landscape of documentary cinema is therefore getting richer/</i>
LN	M. (h.s) 160 :	ma t-qdər-š t-gul l-s-sbeɛ xuya <i>ɣadi n-æwd-u</i> -Ne tu peux pas tu dis à le lion frère de moi (Mod. Fut.) nous reprenons. - <i>Can't you tell the lion brother about me (Future Modality) we resume.</i> - Tu ne peux pas dire au lion nous allons reprendre la séquence. - <i>You can't tell the lion we're going to resume the sequence.</i>
LNN	D. (invit.) 161 :	j'ai vu l-kelb, le moš et <i>une espèce d'équidé marron</i>euhhh - <i>I saw l-kelb, the moš and a kind of brown equineuhhh</i> -J'ai vu le chien, le chat une espèce d'équidé marron - <i>I saw the dog, the cat a kind of brown equine</i>
LN	M. (h.s) 162 :	ah l-hma:r - Ah c'est l'âne ! - <i>Oh, it's the donkey!</i>
LNN	D. (invit.) 163 :	oui c'est ça [l-maar] - <i>yes that's it [l-maar]</i>

In the statement (159), it is a provisional formulation and not a metaphor. If we want to clarify the use of the italicized expression in (159), we will rely on the thesis of Lüdi (1992) according to which the (native) interlocutors signal each other in various ways if they intend to make a figure of speech or use, or even propose a new figurative meaning (the denominative metaphor).

Thus, according to this thesis, we can consider the formulation "the landscape of documentary cinema" as "a denominative metaphor or neologism" (Lüdi, 1994: 126). This is for the following reasons: first of all, because all the necessary conditions for lexicalization are met such as, the combined lexical hypothesis of an archisememe⁷ and specific traits. Secondly, because the formulation manifests a lexical gap. In the end, because it is a job specific to a specialty language.

In the example (157), we can analyze the use of the expression in italics as "a provisional formulation"

(Lüdi, 1994: 127), or even from a normative perspective, as an error. The reason is that the phonetic pronunciation of the term [sbeɛ]"lion" in MA is very close to that of the number seven [sebea]"seven". Therefore, we can say that from the phonetic point of view, the term "lion" shares the same consonants /s/ and /b/ with the term "seven", with the same articulatory features. However, a difference that can be considered minimal is noticed at the level of vowels. Thus, for the term [sbeɛ]"lion", the vowel /e/ is short, half-open (in short syllable). Whereas for the term [sebea]"seven", the /e/ is short half-open back (in short syllable), the /a/ is open and oral back. It appears from this comparison that it is a temptation of literal naming on the part of the speaker LNN which, given the analogy of the articulatory features of the two terms and the existence of a low linguistic competence in MA, develops a provisional formulation accompanied by an analogy instruction.

Lexeme which represent, on the level of the signifier, The common semantemes to two or more lexical units. ⁽⁷⁾

Thus, we can read this provisional formulation as follows: the term [x] is proposed by the speaker LN to the speaker LNN $\Rightarrow$ this [x] is present in the discursive memory of the interaction $\Rightarrow$ [x] is not present in the lexical memory of the speaker LNN, but there is a term [y] having articulatory features very close to those of [x] $\Rightarrow$ the speaker LNN elaborates a lateral naming of [x] by exploiting the semantic scope of [y] $\Rightarrow$ LNN imagines that [y] is the orthonym of [x] in L2. It goes without saying that this sequence of lexical work reminds us of Weinrich's approach according to which "the smaller the semantic (phonetic) distance between the compared and the comparator, the more daring the provisional formulation" (1983: 370).

In fact, another reading of example (157) is necessary. This is in fact the case where the italicized formulation is considered as a product of a LNN speaker reasoning of the type: "I don't know what does [sbee]"lion" mean; but I know in MA the number [sebea]"seven"; so if I am lucky, [sbee]"lion" can mean something that relates to the number seven in L2 (MA). This is the reason why, we can also consider the formulation in (157) as "an attempt at luck" (Lüdi, 1994: 128) on the part of the speaker LNN.

In exolingual-bilingual interaction, there is an explicit discursive contract that binds the speaker LNN and the speaker LN according to which the latter is obliged to react, "a hetero-initiated hetero-correction will nevertheless allow the LNN to revise its lexical hypothesis" (De Pietro, Mathey and Py, 1989: 109). It is this very contract which, so to speak, pushes the LN to react in the statement (162) following the markup made by the LNN in the statement (161) while presenting it with the just proposal [l-hma:r]"the donkey" to avoid the risk of misleading the LNN. Sometimes, this risk could have become particularly great if the LNN had not marked up its provisional formulation (for reasons of security, for example).

CONCLUSION

In this article, we have tried to study the mechanisms of metalinguistic regulation and discursive renegotiation resulting from the contact of Moroccan Arabic and French in exolingual communication situations in a Moroccan context. To do this, we analyzed two types of exolingual communication situations.

First, we examined an exolingual-unilingual communication situation where the mode of speaking is unilingual (Arabic). That is to say, that the two actors involved in the communication situation share the same mother tongue (MA). But the difference between them lies in the minimum language skills in the languages involved, in linguistic identities, as well as sociolinguistic statuses. Thus, the examination of this kind of exolingual communication situation brought out the following results.

When it comes to an exolingual-unilingual communication interaction where the speaker expresses himself in a variety of Arabic that he has a strong command of, while his interlocutor dominates it poorly, many metalinguistic and discursive regulation processes are developed by the interactants to overcome the situation of verbal distress.

Indeed, in the event of complex coding on the part of the competent/strong speaker, the incompetent/weak interlocutor mobilizes numerous mechanisms serving to signal the linguistic distress in which he finds himself, among other things, phonetically erroneous formulations, tags such as breaks, hesitations, silence, repetitions and/or clarification questions. The speaker collects these clues and interprets them as requests for help and in the light of which he activates the maxim of discursive cooperativity. This allows the competent / strong speaker to renegotiate the code of interaction by mobilizing compensatory strategies, among others, the proposal of the correct formulation, reformulation and simplification. Subsequently, the speaker in a position of verbal distress manages to ratify and confirm the information presented to him.

Secondly, we analyzed an exolingual-bilingual communication situation in which two totally foreign languages are involved. These are Moroccan Arabic and French which are used in communication interactions related to interlingualism and discursive negotiation. The examination of the situations of these interactions allowed us to arrive at the following results :

In an exolingual-bilingual interaction, the interactants implement a cooperative in the form of meaning negotiations, compensatory strategies triggering the metalinguistic dimension of exchange in order to continue the conversation and overcome the situation of verbal distress. Thus, among the processes of speech regulation to which we were able to arrive at the end of the analysis, there are first of all, the transcoding formulations which translate a whole work of mutual understanding carried out jointly by the interactants. It is in fact an implicit negotiation in order to agree on the communicative objectives, the procedures and the relationships as well as on the meaning, and this, through the tags, the filled pauses, the empty pauses, the hesitations, the repetitions, as well as the transcoding marks.

Similarly, formulations by extension of meaning such as denominative metaphors or the neologism, provisional formulations, attempts at luck, as well as temptations to literal denomination are among the compensatory strategies resorted to by interactants. The latter, being each expressed in a completely different code from that in which the other is expressed, are increasingly trying to reduce the distance of conversation and mutual comprehension by all possible means, on the one hand to avoid misleading the interlocutor, and on the

other, to continue the act of communication and guarantee its success.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Bange, P. (1987). *L'analyse des interactions verbales: La dame de Caluire, une consultation*. Peter Lang.
2. Bange, P. (1992). *Analyse conversationnelle et théorie de l'action*. Hatier-Didier-Crédif.
3. Caubet, D. (1983). *La détermination en arabe marocain*. University of Paris 7, ERA 642 Collection, Laboratory of Formal Linguistics.
4. De Pietro, J.-F. (1988). Conversations exolingues: Une approche linguistique de l'interculturel. In J. Cosnier, N. Gelas, & C. Kerbrat-Orecchioni (Eds.), *Exchanges on the conversation* (pp. 251–267). CNRS Éditions.
5. De Pietro, J.-F., Matthey, M., & Py, B. (1989). Acquisition et contrat didactique: Les séquences potentiellement acquisitionnelles dans la conversation exolingue. In *Proceedings of the Third Regional Colloquium on Linguistics* (pp. 99–124). University of Human Sciences/Louis Pasteur University.
6. Giacobbe, J. (1992). *Acquisition of a foreign language: Cognition and interaction*. CNRS Éditions.
7. Grosjean, F. (1982). *Life with two languages*. Harvard University Press.
8. Haastrup, K., & Phillipson, R. (1983). Achievement strategies in learner/native speaker interaction. In C. Faerch & G. Kasper (Eds.), *Strategies in interlanguage communication* (pp. 140–158). Longman.
9. Hamers, J. F., & Blanc, M. (1983). *Bilingualism and bilingualism*. Mardaga Éditions.
10. Lévy, S. (1989). Un autre aspect de la culture populaire: La composante juive. In *Moroccan popular literature: Proceedings of the study days held from March 11 to 13, 1986* (pp. 9–25). Association of Officials of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of Rabat, Okad Edition.
11. Lüdi, G. (1991b). Construire ensemble les mots pour le dire: À propos de l'origine discursive des connaissances lexicales. In U. Dausendschön-Gay, E. Gülich, & U. Krafft (Eds.), *Linguistische Interaktionsanalysen: Beiträge zum 20. Novelistag 1987* (pp. 193–224). Niemeyer.
12. Lüdi, G., & Py, B. (1986). *Être bilingue*. Peter Lang.
13. Mackey, W. (1982). Interaction, interference and interlanguage: Relations between bilingualism and language didactics. *Languages and Linguistics*, 8(1), 45–64.
14. Messaoudi, L. (2002). La variation langagière au Maroc: Éléments pour un aménagement linguistique rationnel. In *The future of languages in Morocco* (pp. 29–46). Publications of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Hassan II University.
15. Porquier, R. (1979). Stratégies de communication en langue non maternelle. *Work of the Semiological Research Center*, 33, 39–52.
16. Porquier, R. (1984). Exolingual communication and language learning. In B. Py (Ed.), *Acquisition of a foreign language (II)* (pp. 49–61). University of Paris VIII & University of Neuchâtel.
17. Pottier, B. (1992). *Sémantique générale*. Presses Universitaires de France.
18. Siguàn, M. (1987). Code switching and code mixing in the bilingual speaker: A cognitive approach. In G. Lüdi (Ed.), *Devenir bilingue – parler bilingue* (pp. 211–224). Niemeyer.
19. Weinrich, H. (1983). Semantik der kühnen Metapher [1963]. In A. Haverkamp (Ed.), *Theorie der Metapher* (pp. 316–339). Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft.
20. Youssi, A. (1992). *Grammaire et lexique de l'arabe marocain moderne*. Wallada.
21. Ziamari, K. (2009). Le contact entre l'arabe marocain et le français au Maroc: Spécificités linguistiques et sociologiques. *Synergies Tunisie*, 1, 173–186.

SITOGRAPHY

22. El Amrani, H. (2013). The status of written French for new students. *Langue et Société*, 143(1), 53–64. <https://doi.org/10.3917/ls.143.0053>
23. Lüdi, G. (1994). Mediate naming and lexical tinkering in an exolingual situation. *Acquisition et Interaction en Langue Étrangère*, 3. Retrieved October 12, 2018, from <http://journals.openedition.org/aile/4897>
24. Porquier, R. (2003). Two research benchmarks on exolingual interaction. *Linx*, 49.