Contact-induced change in Jaffa Palestinian Arabic: The case of (ʕ)

This paper examines a change in progress in one of the most salient features of Arabic, pharyngeality, in a dialect spoken in Palestine by a speech community whose members are predominantly bilingual (L2=Hebrew). Sociolinguistic interviews were carried out in both Jaffa itself and in the West Bank communities of Ramallah and Jerusalem, as control groups. Lenition of the voiced pharyngeal fricative (ʕ) was coded as a continuous variable from 0 to 4. Multivariate analysis (Rbrul) picked language of schooling as most favoring factor for lenition; coda position most favoring linguistic factor.