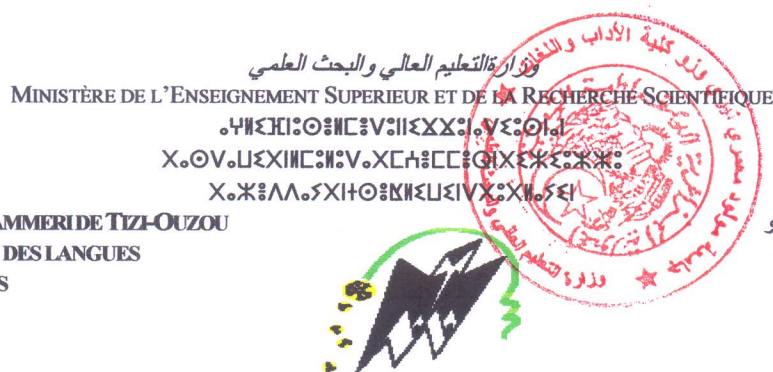


UNIVERSITE MOULOUD MAMMERI DE TIZI-OUZOU
FACULTE DES LETTRES ET DES LANGUES
DÉPARTEMENT D'ANGLAIS



جامعة مولود معمري- تيزي وزو
كلية الآداب واللغات
قسم الإنجليزية

Laboratoire des Etudes Algériennes Anglophones (LEAA)



(Laboratory of Algerian Anglophone Studies; LAAS)

Equipe de recherche : Analyse sémiotique du discours et didactique de l'anglais (ASDDA)

PRFU: Online Learning/Teaching Platforms, Virtual Spaces and EFL

Code: H02L01UN150120230001

Hybrid National conference on

***"Digital Identity, Language Variation, Politeness, and Power Dynamics
in Virtual Spaces"***

November 09th & 10th, 2026

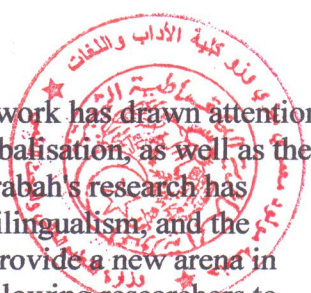
Conference Chair: Prof Souryana Yassine; Souryana.yassine@ummtodz

Co-chair: Dr Amel Benaissa: amel.benaissa@ummtodz

Call for Papers

The rapid expansion of digital technologies and social media has profoundly transformed the ways individuals communicate, interact, and construct social meaning. As communication increasingly takes place through online platforms, researchers have observed significant shifts in language practices, identity performances, and power relations. These developments have given rise to the growing field of **Digital Sociolinguistics**, which examines how language, society, and technology intersect in digitally mediated environments (Tagg & Seargeant, 2017; Androutsopoulos, 2015).

Within the Algerian context, the study of digital communication builds upon a rich tradition of sociolinguistic research that has examined multilingualism, language contact, linguistic identities, language policy, and language practices in everyday life. Foundational contributions by scholars such as Taleb-Ibrahimi (1997, 2004), Morsly (1988, 2017), Chaker (1998), Dourari (2003, 2004, 2011, 2013), Benrabah (2007, 2013, 2014), and Ali-Bencherif (2013) have highlighted the complexity of Algeria's linguistic landscape and the dynamic interactions between Arabic,



Tamazight, French, and more recently English. For instance, Dourari's work has drawn attention to the relationship between language, identity, multilingualism, and globalisation, as well as the role of language policies in shaping sociolinguistic realities, while Benrabah's research has provided critical insights into language planning, linguistic rights, multilingualism, and the political dimensions of language use in Algeria. Digital environments provide a new arena in which these long-standing sociolinguistic processes are reconfigured, allowing researchers to investigate how multilingual repertoires, language ideologies, and identity negotiations are enacted through social media, online communities, and emerging forms of digitally mediated communication.

Digital sociolinguistics investigates how users negotiate identities, communities, and social relationships through online discourse while adapting to the communicative affordances of digital platforms. Through practices such as code-switching, translanguaging, stylisation, emoji use, hashtagging, and multimodal communication, individuals create and perform complex linguistic identities in networked spaces (Zappavigna, 2018; Page et al., 2022). At the same time, digital interactions are shaped by platform architectures, algorithmic processes, moderation systems, and evolving norms of online behaviour, all of which influence patterns of language use and social participation.

Within the Algerian context, digital communication presents a particularly rich area of inquiry. Algeria's multilingual ecology - characterised by the coexistence of Arabic, Tamazight, French, English, and various local varieties - has generated innovative forms of online linguistic expression. Studies of Algerian social media discourse have highlighted the widespread use of code-switching, transliterated Arabic, multilingual practices, and emerging forms of digital identity construction among young users (Brahim, 2019; Benrabah, 2014; Boucherit, 2020). Furthermore, the increasing presence of English in Algerian digital spaces raises important questions about language ideologies, globalisation, and linguistic change.

Issues of politeness, face management, and power are equally central to contemporary digital communication. Online interactions often involve the negotiation of social norms, authority, inclusion, and exclusion. While some users employ politeness strategies to maintain solidarity and community cohesion, others engage in conflictual practices such as trolling, cyberbullying, hate speech, or online activism. The dynamics of anonymity, algorithmic visibility, and platform governance further shape how power is exercised and contested in digital environments.

This call invites scholars working in sociolinguistics, semiotics and discourse analysis, pragmatics, media studies, applied linguistics, digital humanities, and related disciplines to explore the evolving relationship between language, identity, politeness, and power in digital contexts. Particular attention is encouraged towards research focusing on Algerian multilingual digital environments.

Themes and Topics

We welcome proposals addressing, but not limited to, the following themes:

1. Digital identities and multilingual practices
2. Language variation and change in digital spaces
3. Politeness, impoliteness and relational work online
4. Power, ideology and digital discourse

5. Platform affordances and algorithmic influence
6. Methodological innovations in Digital Sociolinguistics



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Abstract submission

Prospective contributors are invited to submit a word format abstract of **250–300 words** related to one of the conference themes. The abstract should clearly present the research topic, objectives, theoretical framework, methodology, and main findings or expected contribution.

Abstracts may be submitted in **English, French, Arabic, or Tamazight** and should include:

- The title of the paper;
- The author's name(s) and institutional affiliation(s);
- A 250–300-word abstract;
- Three to five keywords.



All submissions will undergo a peer-review process. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by the Organising Committee and invited to present their work at the conference.

Important Dates

- **Submission deadline** : September 30th, 2025
- **Notification of acceptance** : October 10th, 2025

For further information, please contact: labo.leaa@ummto.dz

We look forward to receiving your contributions and fostering productive discussions on the rapidly evolving field of Digital Sociolinguistics and its implications for multilingual societies such as Algeria.