THE ARABIC LANGUAGE AND THE ROLE OF MOTHERS IN MAINTAINING IT AMONG ARAB FAMILY IMMIGRANTS IN CHICAGO

**Mona Turjoman**

King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

**Abstract**

This sociolinguistics article investigates the role mothers play in maintaining the Arabic language among Arab family immigrants in the Chicago area on the family level. The focus of the research is Arab immigrant mothers living in the Chicago area. Data collection is based on questionnaires, participant observation and semi-structured interviews. Although many studies have been carried out regarding language maintenance, a negligible number has considered the role mothers play in maintaining it. This study is intended to help give an overview of Arabic language maintenance and the role of mothers in maintaining it as well as fill in one of the many gaps that may assist in maintaining the Arabic language among Arab immigrants in the USA.

**Keywords:** sociolinguistics, language maintenance, Arab Americans, immigrants, Arabic