**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

**University of Béjaïa**

**Department of Social Sciences**

**First Year**

**Chapter I: Introduction to English language for Sociology Students**

**1- Importance of English**

**2- Relationship between Languages and Sociology**

**3- Relationship between the English Language and Sociology**

**1- Importance of English Language**

Why Learning English is important?

* **International language**

English is the World’s Common Language. English has come of age as a GLOBAL LANGUAGE. It is spoken by a quarter of the world’s population. It belongs to the world and increasingly to non-native speakers – who today far outnumber native speakers. English drives growth and international development.

* **Developing and Emerging Eonomies:**

There is enormous demand and need for English in public education systems to boost stability, employability and prosperity. English is a major medium of instruction in schools. There are large number of books that are written in English language. If you want to pursue higher education in field like technology, medical, space science, you need to learn English language.

Additionally, the ability to communicate in multiple languages is becoming more and more important in the increasingly integrated global business community. English is the dominant business language and it has become almost a necessity for people to speak English if they are to enter a global workforce. Being able to communicate directly with new clients and companies in their native language puts any multilingual person miles ahead of his or her peers in the competition for jobs and high-prestige positions.

* **Online Research:**

Most websites are written in English, helping you to boost your knowledge when researching for your studies and later on in life.

* **Gain Valuable Experience:**

Learning a new language requires a lot of time and patience. Therefore, being able to show off this impressive skill will help you stand out to employers and boost your CV.

* **Meet new people:**

Studying English will help you meet interesting people from all walks of life and learn about different cultures too.

* **Language of the Media Industry:**

English is the most prevalent language used in movies and TV series around the world. By learning the English language, you’ll be able to enjoy more of the latest blockbusters!

* **Multiple Career Prospects:**

A person possessing effective communication skills have more career opportunities than others.

open your opportunities to work remotely with companies all over the world.

In today’s increasingly interconnected world, being able to communicate in this dominant business language is essential for both personal and professional success. For many people, learning English opens up a world of new opportunities, both in terms of employment and in terms of access to information. Being able to speak English gives you the ability to work with companies from all over the world, and many international job sites are based in English, so being proficient in the language can give you access to a wealth of job opportunities..

* **Gain Confidence**:

 If you own good communication skills then your confidence will automatically be high.

When we speak effectively and with confidence, anyone can get attracted.

Part of the Global community – English language is a part of the global world. So, if one knows good English then one can interact with others.

**2- The Relationship between Languages and Sociology**

Language is a symbolic system through which people communicate and through which culture is transmitted. Some languages contain a system of symbols used for written communication, while others rely on only spoken communication and nonverbal actions.

Language is central to social interaction in every society, regardless of location and time period. Language and social interaction have a reciprocal relationship: language shapes social interactions and social interactions shape language.

The language that we speak influences our cultural identities and our social realities. We internalize norms and rules that help us function in our own culture but that can lead to misunderstanding when used in other cultural contexts. We can adapt to different cultural contexts by purposely changing our communication.

We should become aware of how our verbal communication reveals biases toward various cultural identities based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and ability.

Social context influences the ways in which we use language, and we have been socialized to follow implicit social rules like those that guide the flow of conversations, including how we start and end our interactions and how we change topics. The way we use language changes as we shift among academic, professional, personal, and civic contexts.

**Sociology of Language Vs Sociolinguistics:**

The sociology of language studies society in relation to language, whereas sociolinguistics studies language in relation to society. For the former, society is the object of study, whereas, for the latter, language is the object of study.

Both sociolinguistics and sociology of language are closely-related fields that study the interaction between language and society. The basic difference between sociolinguistics and sociology of language is that sociolinguistics focuses on language while sociology of language focuses on society.

**3- Relationship between English and Sociology**

The English language has an impact on the social structure of society. It has become a language of global communication and has helped to break down language barriers. It has also helped to promote multiculturalism and diversity in society, as people from different cultures and backgrounds can communicate with each other in English.

Furthermore, English has an impact on different social factors like education, business, technology, politics, literature, entertainment…

**Activity 1:**

Describe an accent or dialect that you find pleasing/interesting. Describe an accent/dialect that you do not find pleasing/interesting. Why do you think you evaluate one positively and the other negatively?

**Activity 2:** Give examples on how English impacts education, business, technology, literature, politics and entertainment in the real world.