

**A Sociolinguistic Profile of English in Lebanon:
Issues of Identity, Imperialism, and Language Policy
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With the rise of English as an international language and its unprecedented spread all over the world, calls for awareness of the threat this spread is posing to indigenous languages and cultures have been voiced in various professional and academic settings. This research attempts to explore, from a World Englishes perspective, the complex sociolinguistic landscape of the spread of English and its ramifications on the Lebanese society through an analysis of three interrelated issues: the race to teach and learn English in Arab countries in general and in Lebanon in particular, and its relationship to linguistic imperialism; the effect of the spread of English and the American culture in shaping the Lebanese Arab identity; and the lack of communication between policy makers, teachers, and the actual needs of the society when it comes to language policies in State programs. A mixed method will be used in this study that involves both qualitative field research and quantitative data analysis. Description of users, uses, forms, and functions of English in Lebanon will be explored through the method of sociolinguistic profiling. Findings will provide insight into the different components that constitute the Lebanese Arab identity and into how language choice affects and is affected by that assumed identity, and by internal considerations. In addition, findings will shed some light into how language policies and pedagogies should be informed by the sociolinguistic reality of a given country first and foremost.