

French versus Wolof: The Implications

French transcript:

Madjiguène: Mais je trouve que dès fois aussi les gens choisissent, au Sénégal, de parler wolof ou français, peut être pas wolof, de parler français selon leur situation sociale. Selon leur classe sociale et économique.

Fatim: Oui surtout classe sociale, un statut économique oui bien sur...

Madjiguène: Oui.

Fatim: Parce que quand on est une famille intellectuelle on a... C'est le middle, ok c'est la classe ok...

Madjiguène: Moyenne, c'est la classe moyenne.

Fatim: Voilà c'est classe moyenne ou bien l'aristocratie, on a plus tendance à parler français parce qu'on se dit que vu la classe sociale, donc ça va avec la langue.

Madjiguène: Oui.

Fatim: Les gens en tous cas font la corrélation entre être intellectuel, être riche et parler français.

Madjiguène: Et parler français, ou peut être sinon *et parler une langue qui n'est pas africaine de toute façon.*

Fatim: Mais le français, je crois que les gens font cette corrélation là. Oui.

English translation:

Madjiguène: I think that in Senegal people choose to speak French and Wolof, actually not Wolof, according to their social status, their social and economic status.

Fatim: Especially according to their social status. Economic status, yes....

Madjiguène: Yes.

Fatim: Because when you belong to a family of educated people, to the....

Madjiguène: Middle class!

Fatim: Exactly, to the middle class, you tend to speak French, because you think it goes hand-in-hand with your social status.

Madjiguéne: Yes.

Fatim: In any case, people make a correlation between being educated, being rich, and speaking French.

Madjiguéne: Speaking French and to a certain extent "speaking any other language that is not African."

Fatim: Exactly. Speaking a non-African language. And the story is different when you speak English. However, I think people do make that correlation with French.

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