

# PROMOTING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDUCATION AT THE ALGERIAN UNIVERSITY (FACULTIES OF LAW AS A MODEL)

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Received: 12/2024,

Published: 02/2025

## Abstract:

*The most prominent developments that have characterized Algerian university education in recent years is the trend towards teaching in English, which culminated in communication No. 1433 issued by the Secretary-General, Abdelhakim Bentlis, on September 28, 2022, addressed to the heads of regional seminars, the intention of the Minister of Higher Education, Mr. Kamal Badari, to popularize and promote the use of the English language. In the era of globalization, the professor and university student in Algeria must master the language of the age, "English", and it is not enough to master the language to be studied as a language only, but it must be taught and generalized in the teaching of some subjects in legal sciences such as "legal terminology".*

**Keywords:** English Language, Algerian University, Higher Education, Legal Terminology.

## INTRODUCTION

Articles 3 and 4 of the Algerian Constitution, amended in 2020, stipulate that Arabic and Amazigh are national and official languages, in addition to these two languages. The Algerian state has been dealing since independence in French, whether ingovernment entities, learning and scientific research, but in recent years to keep pace with development and modernization, Algeria has taken to adopt English as the language of technology and science.<sup>1</sup>

The most prominent developments that have characterized Algerian university education in recent years is the trend towards teaching in English, which culminated in correspondence No. 1433 issued by the Secretary-General, Abdelhakim Bentellis, on September 28, 2022, addressed to the heads of regional seminars, the intention of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Kamal Badari,

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to popularize and promote the use of the English language at the Algerian University, Several faculties at the Algerian University have adopted English in teaching, including the Faculty of Law. indeed the teaching of legal terminology in English at the Faculty of Law at the University of Mouloud Mammeri Tizi Ouzou for First Year Students Bachelor's Degree since 2022, provided that the experience is generalized to some other modules, and based on the above, we pose the following problematic: **To what extent will the generalizing**

<sup>1</sup>Article 3 of the Algerian Constitution states: "Arabic is the national and official language. Arabic remains the official language of the State.

A High Council for the Arabic Language is created under the President of the Republic.

The High Council for the Arabic Language is responsible, in particular, for working for the development of the Arabic language and the generalization of its use in the scientific and technological fields, as well as for encouraging translation into Arabic, to this end

Art. 4. — Tamazight is also a national and official language. The State shall work to promote and develop it in all its linguistic varieties used on the national territory. An Algerian Academy of the Tamazight Language shall be established, placed under the authority of the President of the Republic. The Academy, which relies on the work of experts, is responsible for meeting the conditions for the promotion of Tamazight with a view to concretizing, in the long term, its status as an official language. The procedures for the application of this article shall be laid down in an organic law ", see Presidential Decree No. 20 -442 of 30 December 2020 on the promulgation of the constitutional amendment, ratified in the first November 2020 referendum. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ALGERIAN REPUBLIC.No. 82, 30 December 2020.

of teaching in English Contributes to the evolution of Algerian University in general and the faculties of law in particular ?

To answer, we decided to divide the plan into two axes:

**I. The reality of teaching in English at the Algerian University**

**II. The future of teaching in English language in Algerian law faculties.**

### **I. The reality of teaching in English at the Algerian University**

the technological development that was accompanied by the occupation of the English language among the first places among languages in the world led to its acquisition of an important position in scientific research in various international universities. (1)

There has been a lot of talk in recent years about education in English at the Algerian university, which has increased the interest of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in this subject. (2)

#### **1- Global trend towards the use of English in teaching and scientific research**

A reform program is being implemented by the Algerian government to integrate the university system with modernization and progressive internalization in response to the urgent need for economic growth and rapid progress in science and technology. In accordance with the European standardisation programme, the Algerian university degree structure is being adapted to the LMD system. This new system is being introduced gradually. It is encouraging to note that, as the LMD is a new experiment, further proposals for a national foreign language program are expected<sup>2</sup>. especially English

The growth of the English language and its importance today have motivated the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to make it the language of university teaching in the near future. The ministry has begun to adopt the following measures:

- The English language module (which is considered a secondary module) is included in each major's annual programme. As a result, the ministry now proposes that it be taught remotely using the Moodle platform as an experimental stage before applying the process (distance learning) to all modules in the coming years.

- All professors, regardless of their domains, are required to improve their English language skills through Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research-supervised training sessions.

- Allowing professors who want to improve their levels to enroll in the university's English language department. If a professor successfully completes his/her three years of learning, he/she will be able to earn a BA in English language. This is in addition to the Centers for Intensive Language Teaching at several universities, which enable professors and students to develop their proficiency in a variety of languages.

- In collaboration with the University of Massachusetts (MIT), the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has put up a digital platform to train about 30,000 professors in English remotely. It consists of four MOOC courses spread over 16 weeks. It is worth noting that the purpose behind this initiative is to train at least 80% of professors in the field of science and technology and 100% of professors in the humanities and social sciences.<sup>3</sup>

Tsidal Nelly, associate professor at Harvard Business School and author of *The Language of Global Success*, points out that "business-level fluency in English means you are able to do business in English without having someone else to translate or interpret words for you. You can have conversations with coworkers,

<sup>2</sup>Belkacem BOUABDESSELAM, Objectives and Perspectives of English in Algeria: Reforms and Strategies, Algerian Journal of Manuscripts, Volume: 18, N° 2, 2022, p43

<sup>3</sup>Redouane Touati, Towards Generalising the Use of the English Language at the Algerian University A Critical Study of Teaching "Media and Communication Studies" in English and its Impact on Achieving the Principles of Media Public Service and the Right to Information, International Journal of Social Communication, University of Mostaganem-Algeria VOL, 11 N°: 03, 2024, p. 77

management, customers, and suppliers as well as the ability to read company documents and read and write emails".<sup>4)</sup>

The top 5 of the most spoken languages in the world and for translation are: English, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish and Arabic, which undoubtedly contribute to the dissemination of scientific research:

- 1 - English: more than 1.4 billion speakers Number of native speakers: 379+ million, Total speakers: 1.4+ billion, and it is the first most spoken language in the world, and everyone agrees that English has the largest number of speakers in the world because it is an international language used everywhere.

- 2 - Arabic - More than 372 million speakers Total speakers: 372+ million, Fifth At the top of the list of the most widely used languages in the world for translation is Arabic.<sup>(5)</sup> From the above, we note that the percentage of English speakers includes Arabs, who speak English.

Many multinational companies have chosen English as the language of intercultural communication with access to the global market. English is also a *lingua franca* for diplomacy and research, as well as the language of instruction in higher education. In 2003-2004, it is estimated that 1500 master's programs were offered in English in countries where English is not the first language. In Europe, culturally and linguistically diverse, English is increasingly used as a working language<sup>(6)</sup>.

Scientific progress is based mainly on communication and exchanges between researchers. Scientists and scientists find them today, as we mentioned earlier, forced to publish the results of their research in periodicals and journals in order to read, evaluate and recognize them by the scientific community, finding them to choose and prefer the language most circulated in these circles. There is almost unanimous consensus in these circles that English is a common language of the entire world. "English is the guarantor of rapid and global communication for scientific progress and development"<sup>(7)</sup>

But forcing researchers, scientists and experts to use English may result in so-called intellectual dependence, especially since most of them, unable to do so, cannot give their thoughts as they should. They resort to a simple and easy method. But the sure thing that has increased the strength of English is its ease, flexibility and availability in many terms, which motivated most researchers and scientists to adopt and use it in their communication.<sup>8)</sup>

## **2- correspondence No. 11 from the Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

English has been given a great importance by the Algerian authorities. Since 1990, the government has been trying to give place to English in the Algerian institutions, particularly in the universities. Indeed, the authorities realized the importance of English as a global language and became aware of its role in developing the national know-how and in attaining the modern science in all fields. In a situation where the French language has lost much of its ground in the sociocultural and educational environments of the country.

The introduction of English is being heralded as the magic solution to all possible ills-including economic, technological and educational ones. In other words, English is gaining much more importance in Algeria. It is taught in all universities in order to upgrade the economic, scientific, and technological fields.

In the Algerian ELT departments, students are submitted to a comprehensive programme which involves different modules such as; morphosyntax, Reading Comprehension, Aural Comprehension, Written Expression,

<sup>4</sup>The importance of English in the workplace, <https://uctlanguagecentre.com/ar/blog/english-at-work/the-importance-of-english-in-the-workplace>

<sup>5</sup>List of the most commonly used languages in the world for translation with Linguae!, by Aorinka, 24 June 2024 <https://www.linguae.com/ar>

<sup>6</sup>The importance of English in the workplace, op.cit

<sup>7</sup>Dada Dalila, The Status and Use of the English Language in the Algerian University Environment, Contribution to the Case Study of Professors and Researchers of the National Polytechnic School, memory of magistrate, Library Science and Documentation, Algeria, 2004, p39

<sup>8</sup>Dada Dalila, op.cit, p 40

Oral Expression, Phonetics, TEFL, American Literature, British Literature, American Civilisation, British Civilisation, General Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics, and Research Methodology. In the third year, the students are required either to make a short research which should be presented in the form of an extended dissertation or to go through training sessions in schools and write their training reports. After finishing this program successfully, students obtain a diploma of the English language. The majority prefer to carry on their studies to get the Master degree. Many of these become teachers of English in schools, some work as translators, and a few of them make doctoral studies.<sup>(9)</sup>

In a correspondence from the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Algeria, Mr. Abdelhakim Bentellis, bearing No. 11 dated January 11, 2024, addressed to the directors of higher education institutions, he recalled the promotion of education in the English language, and the reference is seven previous missions of the Ministry since 2022, in which he called for the continuation of the training of research professors to reach a level of learning corresponding to the degrees of B2 and C1 by various available means, and also demanded the programming of lessons in English during the adjustment of study schedules through trainings in various fields, including the fields of social sciences and humanities, by continuing to teach horizontality in English and establishing cohorts in which subjects are mostly taught in English.<sup>(10)</sup>

Apart from the political and ideological controversy that usually accompanies the language debate in Algeria, there are technical necessities that, according to specialists, necessitate the adoption of English in order to increase the visibility of the Algerian university, value its research and raise its international ranking, which is difficult without English being the first language of publication.<sup>(11)</sup>

According to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Algeria ranked first at the Maghreb level, second at the African level, and third at the Arab level in terms of the number of classified higher education institutions, based on the results of the Times Young University Ranking 2023.<sup>(12)</sup>

To formally implement the project to promote English during the upcoming university season, The Ministry recently obliged all professors to enroll in intensive language training centres to obtain the required level of teaching. foreign language ", in which university professors saw an opportunity to learn a global foreign language, However, there are some who are wary of rushing the application since replacing one language with another language ", requires a medium- and long-term strategy.<sup>(13)</sup>

## **II-The future of teaching in Arabic language in Algerian law faculties.**

The future of promoting education in the English language in the faculties of law at the Algerian University is linked to the vital role of university professors, and this is impossible to implement without good and effective training of university professors, and this is really what the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has done by providing intensive lessons for professors to train them in the English language, (1)on the other hand, we must not forget the ability of students to learn English and provide the appropriate possibilities to achieve this, because the difficulty of the matter lies in the original language of instruction, which is the language Arabic because lectures and directed works are taught in Arabic. (2)

### **1 -University Professor's Role in Promoting English Language Use in Law**

Executive Decree No. 24-103 on the special status of the teacher-researchers set new tasks to the traditional tasks previously assigned to him, the new tasks set out in article 4 are as follows: "

<sup>9</sup>Madani Habib ,The English Language Teaching in Algeria ,Faslo el-khitab,p 16, in [www.manaraa.com](http://www.manaraa.com)

<sup>10</sup>Abdelhakim Bentellis, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Algeria, 3/1/2024

<sup>11</sup>Algeria is accelerating the pace to adopt English as a language of instruction in universities, a political or educational plan?Al-Quds Al-Arabi, July – 2023<https://www.alquds.co.uk>

<sup>12</sup>Algeria is accelerating the pace to adopt English as a language of instruction in universities, a political or educational plan,op.cit

<sup>13</sup>Ilham Bouthalji, Expanding English in Universities, Professors Welcoming with Caution, Al-Shorouk, 31/03/2023<https://www.echoroukonline.com/>

– Teacher-researchers, through teaching and research, carry out a public service mission of higher education and scientific research. As such, they are required to: – provide quality and up-to-date teaching, face-to-face or remote, for educational subjects defined by the institution, taking into account developments in science and knowledge, technology and teaching and didactic methods, in accordance with ethical and professional standards; – to participate in the development of knowledge and to ensure the transmission of knowledge in the context of initial and continuing training by introducing advanced information and communication technologies;

to accompany, assist and guide students and to help prepare them for their professional integration; – to promote the entrepreneurial spirit in the university environment aimed at creating wealth through the development of innovation. »<sup>(14)</sup>

In order to carry out the tasks of the Algerian professor to the fullest extent, the Executive Decree stressed the need to support the administration of the professor's efforts by harnessing the necessary possibilities and means. article 22 of Executive Decree No. 24-103 stipulates that: "

– The administration is required to organize, on a permanent basis, for the benefit of teacher-researchers, in-service training aimed at perfecting and developing their professional skills, as well as updating their knowledge in the field of their activities, in particular those aimed at mastering new pedagogical practices, through the introduction of information and communication technologies into pedagogy, under the conditions laid down by the regulations in force. »<sup>(15)</sup>

All the above tasks are directly related to the promotion of English language use in university teaching and scientific research

Humanities and social sciences majors, in which Researchers study in Arabic, and their research articles are published in Arabic, often in national journals classified by the Ministry for the same purpose, it may be more difficult due to the accustomed professors of various ranks to deal in one language, which is Arabic, unlike other disciplines that are taught in French and sometimes in English, so teaching in these disciplines in English, may require years of training, a special effort in the field and an awareness of those concerned of the importance of this, which requires effort and strategy Long-term training of professors and students together to master English and this through communication with researchers in internationally ranked universities, and the establishment of internships in them, in addition to partnership and twinning<sup>(16)</sup>.

To further elaborate on the topic of mainstreaming the use of English in law, the Faculty of Law and Political Science is one of nine faculties at the University of Mouloud Mammeri -Tizi Ouzou

- The Faculty of Law has evolved steadily since the creation of the Department of Administrative Sciences in 1978 within the Tizi Ouzou University Centre, before becoming the Institute of Legal and Administrative Sciences in 1989, and the Faculty of Law and Political Science since 2006.
- The Faculty of Law and Political Science has two sections: the Department of Law and the Department of Political Science.

The academic programme in the field of law and political science aims at:

- To provide students with the knowledge and administrative skills necessary to enable them to carry out administrative work and supervise work in government and private sector institutions, with great efficiency, and to prepare national skills and human frameworks capable of working in various fields (legal, administrative and political) to cover the needs of local and national communities of these skills.
- Establish a sound legal basis for the law student
- Develop scientific research capacity using sound scientific approaches.

<sup>14</sup>Executive Decree No. 24-103 of March 7, 2024, amending and supplementing Executive Decree No. 08-130 of May 3, 2008, on the special status of the teacher-researcher. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ALGERIAN REPUBLIC N° 18, 13 March 2024

<sup>15</sup>Executive Decree No. 24-103, op.cit

<sup>16</sup>Ilham Bouthalji, op.cit



- Language of instruction: Arabic (in addition to teaching foreign languages at all levels)

Teaching in English at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at **Mouloud Mammeri University** appeared in the academic year 2022-2023, where one module, terminology in English, was programmed and the course was taught in two parts, the first part on the module of "**the introduction to legal sciences**", and the second part on the subject of "**separation of powers**" in the module of constitutional law

## 2-The extent to which students are willing to learn law in English

Every generation of students presents challenges to educators, and the current generation is no exception. Students today generally have shorter attention spans than their predecessors, especially with respect to learning methods that lack interactivity.

Another salient characteristic of today's students is their affinity for technology. Reliant on technological devices from an early age, many

Students have become dependent on these technologies for communication, intellectual engagement and stimulation This presents a challenge to

instructors, insofar as the essential techniques for seminar-based instruction are not dependent on technology, educators also face a broader array of students and learning styles than ever before. Whether presented in a classroom setting or by means of telecommunications, students attending seminars today come from a host of nations and cultures.

This presents special challenges and opportunities, especially when instructors must present seminars to non-native English speaking students, some of whom may be new to the interactive nature of seminar discourse. In addressing these opportunities, the authors will draw on their experiences as seminar leaders who have led hundreds of seminars, both in the United States and abroad, for students from Europe, Eurasia, the middle East, Africa, and elsewhere around the globe.<sup>17</sup>

Teaching in English at the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Mouloud Mammeri University began in the academic year 2022-2023 and the academic year 2024-2025 is the third consecutive year in teaching English at the Faculty of Law and is the third year of a bachelor's degree.

In the context of knowing the opinion of students in the language in which they prefer to study at the Faculty of Law, we asked them as follows:

- 1- Which language do you prefer to study at the university?
- 2- Do you want to study all the subjects of the master's training in English or suffice with the terminology material in English?
- 3- What is your level of English?
- 4- Do you want to improve your level of English? What solution do you think is appropriate to improve your level of English, and do you prefer to improve your level of English at university or outside it and why?

Students' answers were different, but they were unanimous that learning the law is better in Arabic and merely in terms in English. Most of the responses agreed on their low level of English and expressed their desire to improve their level of English by various means inside and outside the university, especially modern technological means.<sup>18</sup>

The Director of Higher Training at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Jamal Boukazata said that teaching in English does not mean abandoning Arabic and French, saying: "We are open to all

<sup>17</sup>James H. Anderson & Andrew H. Bellenkes, *Leading Dynamic Seminars: A practical handbook for University Educators*, Palgrave Macmillan, England, 2013,p 3

<sup>18</sup>we asked a sample of questions, to a group of students in the first year of the Bachelor and a group of second-year master's students, specializing in public international law, faculty of law, October 7, 2024

languages and English is a universal language and inevitable for the development of the scientific research sector."

The speaker emphasized the development of a programme and strategic plan for the gradual dissemination of English in higher education institutions, in scientific and technological disciplines and even in the human and social sciences<sup>19</sup>

No one can deny the importance of learning foreign languages and their place in today's world. But there is still a disagreement about teaching and how you are currently studying. A report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization warned UNESCO to be cautious about the declining global status of native language compared to other foreign languages.<sup>20</sup>

There is a discrepancy between the results of many studies on the impact of education in a second language in achieving the aims of the educational process.

There is a decrease in the achievement of the learning goals of students in a second language, where their levels of acquisition of knowledge are low, and they are less willing to obtain them.<sup>21</sup>

## Conclusion

The promotion of education in English is not born today at the University of Algeria, but has been known to embody the field in 2022 thanks to the instructions of the Minister of Higher Education through the Secretary-General of the Ministry

Through the above we have recommended the following findings:

1. English is the most widely spoken language in the field of teaching and scientific research, as it is the language of science, knowledge and technological advancement.
2. The Algerian State has used all material and human means to promote the use of English in teaching in the university community.
3. Faculties of Law, such as other specialties in social and human sciences, have adopted teaching in English but only in some horizontal subjects, with the experience circulated to many subjects in the ministerial programme.

From the findings reached during this research, we suggest the following:

1. The need to wait in the process of mainstreaming English in the field of legal sciences, because it takes a long time for teachers to learn English, the language cannot be learned in a short time
2. Provide students with the opportunity to learn English to accommodate and satisfy themselves in the field of legal sciences with the subject of terminology in English
3. Leaving the student in the law to choose the language in which he/she wants to study. Teaching in Arabic and English can be granted the student's freedom of choice.
4. Mainstreaming the use of English in the field of law should be promoted in addition to other languages without posing a danger to them, but rather create integration and enrichment for them to keep up with the quality in teaching and scientific research.

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<sup>21</sup>Al-Hassan bin Yahya Manakhara, op.cit, p426

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