

CODE SWITCHING IN STAND-UP VERBAL HUMOUR

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ABSTRACT

Being a common trait of human language behaviour, verbal humour has ultimately been a recognized field of research in various disciplines. Such matter of study is basically a linguistic construct which penetrates into different forms of distractions such as stand-up comedy where laughter proliferates. The sort of humoristic discourse inspected in this theatrical setting is replete with Arabic/French switches, a commonplace phenomenon in Algeria, which a well-known Algerian comedian artfully exploits to entertain his audience. On the basis of such premise, the present paper aims to provide a novel insight to the analysis of the socio-pragmatic motivations for code switching (CS) in stand-up comedy. In order to make the investigation reliable, the choice falls upon Abdel-kader Secteur's five short performances.

KEYWORDS: Verbal Humour, Code Switching, Stand-Up Comedy, Markdness Theory