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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59531

Title: Interferences linguistiques et alternance codique dans l usage du francais et des langues locales dans les marches urbains d Avotrou et de Midombo (Cotonou, Benin).

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✔		
Techn. Quality			✔	
Clarity			✔	
Significance	✔			

Reviewer's Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Repot

This manuscript presents an exploratory sociolinguistic study examining language contact phenomena—specifically linguistic interference and code-switching (*alternance codique*)—in verbal interactions between traders and customers across two major urban markets in Cotonou, Benin (Avotrou and Midombo). The research addresses how French interacts with local languages, primarily Goun (Gungbe) and Yoruba, in spontaneous commercial settings.

The methodology employs a mixed descriptive and exploratory design. Primary quantitative data were collected via random sampling of $N = 30$ respondents (15 traders and 15 customers), supplemented by qualitative thematic interpretations of language practices and reported usages.

The main empirical findings include:

- **Language Combination:** 76.7% of respondents combine French with at least one local language in commercial exchanges. Specifically, 33.3% report combining French and Goun, and 33.3% report combining French and Yoruba.
- **Prevalence of Code-Switching:** 73.3% of participants explicitly report practicing code-switching during market interactions.
- **Functional Typology:** The analysis identifies five core functions driving code-switching: communicative, identity-building, commercial/marketing, humorous, and emotive functions.

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- **Linguistic Interference:** The study documents phonetic-phonological, lexical, and syntactic-semantic interferences arising from the contact between French structures and local language grammars.

The manuscript provides a valuable contribution to urban sociolinguistics in West Africa, extending language-contact research beyond academic and school settings into everyday commercial environments.

Key Strengths

1. **Focus on Informal Urban Spaces:** Studying market interactions offers authentic insights into language contact, switching, and negotiation outside formal classroom environments.
2. **Clear Functional Typology:** Categorizing code-switching into communicative, identity, commercial, humorous, and emotional functions effectively links linguistic choices to pragmatic business goals.
3. **Transparent Methodology and Limitations:** The author explicitly acknowledges the exploratory nature of the small sample size ($N = 30$) and reliance on self-reported survey data, properly framing the conclusions.

Recommendations for Improvement

While the manuscript is methodologically sound and conceptually well-grounded, the author should address the following minor points prior to final publication:

1. **Complete English Language Translation:**

The manuscript body is currently written in French, while the submission metadata requires an English review. The author should complete a full, standard English translation of the main body text (Sections 1 through 5) to align with journal publishing requirements.

2. **Differentiate Self-Reported vs. Observed Linguistic Data:**

In Section 4 and Section 5.5, clarify that the percentage figures reflect self-reported practices (*données déclaratives*) rather than recorded audio frequencies. Adding brief verbatim transcript excerpts of market interactions will strengthen the qualitative analysis of interferences.

3. **Contextualize Demographics and Fon (Fongbe) Usage:**

In Section 3.2 and Section 5.6, mention whether participant demographics (e.g., age, gender, education level) influence language choice. Briefly clarify why Fon—a widely spoken language in Cotonou—did not feature prominently in the survey responses compared to Goun and Yoruba.

4. **Editorial and Bibliographic Cleanup:**
    - Standardize all reference entries in the bibliography to follow uniform APA 7th Edition guidelines.
    - Fix minor formatting and spacing glitches across table captions and headings.

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Final Evaluation and Verdict

This manuscript offers an insightful exploratory analysis of code-switching and linguistic interference in Benin's urban markets. The functional categorization is well supported, and the theoretical framing is appropriate.

The manuscript is **accepted with minor revisions**. Completing the full English translation of the body text, adding minor demographic clarifications, and standardizing the reference list will render the paper fully ready for publication.

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