

Motivation and Migration Plan and their influence on L2 literacy: the case of adult Syrian refugees in South-East Turkey

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Turkey hosts more than 3.7 million Syrian refugees as a cause of the 2011 crisis. Kilis is a border town characterized by a higher number of Syrian inhabitants over the Turkish population (about 70%), while Gaziantep hosts about half a million Syrians. This research presents an overview of factors (attitudes, motivations) and variables influencing the knowledge and practice of Turkish language and reading/writing skills in the community (taking into consideration age, educational level, city/village provenance, job qualification, years in Turkey, family composition, etc.). A questionnaire in oral form was proposed to a stratified sample of 100 Syrians, men and women, living in Kilis and Gaziantep. Data also portrays differences in bilingualism depending on age and opportunities of education access and motivation and reveals significant differences in the different four skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) in Turkish and Arabic. Data offer significant insights both on multilingualism in the Syrian refugee communities and different roles play governmental and municipality choices in two close Turkish cities which have managed education in different ways. The interest of this kind of research also lies in the impact of dissimilarities observable in cases of chosen and forced migration and between border areas as compared to internal or foreign (non-border countries) migration.

References

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