

# *The Reasons for Bilingualism among Bangladeshis in the City of Erbil: A Sociolinguistic Study*



أسباب ازدواجية اللغة لدى البنغلاديشيين في مدينة أربيل: دراسة لغوية اجتماعية

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### **The Reasons for Bilingualism among Bangladeshis in the City of Erbil: A Sociolinguistic Study**

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#### **Abstract**

The aim of this study is to shed light on the reasons why Bangladeshi workers in the city of Erbil are learning Kurdish. The main research questions of this study are as follows: What are the reasons that motivate Bangladeshi workers in Erbil to learn and use the Kurdish language? How does learning Kurdish influence the social and economic lives of Bangladeshi workers in Erbil? To obtain data, an open-ended survey is used involving 110 Bangladeshi workers in Erbil. To analyze the attained data, the researcher used a mixed methods research approach, encompassing both quantitative and qualitative methods. The current study concluded that learning Kurdish helps Bangladeshi workers in Erbil get jobs, integrate into Kurdish culture and society, and have a good life.



## المخلص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء على وسائل تعلم العمال البنغلاديشيين في مدينة أربيل للغة الكردية. وتتخلص أسئلة البحث الرئيسية فيما يلي: ما هي الأسباب التي تحفز العمال البنغلاديشيين في أربيل على تعلم اللغة الكردية واستخدامها؟ كيف يؤثر تعلم اللغة الكردية على حياتهم الاجتماعية والاقتصادية؟ ولجمع البيانات، تم استخدام استبيان مفتوح شمل ١١٠ عمال بنغلاديشيين في أربيل. ولتحليل البيانات، استخدم الباحث منهجًا بحثيًا مختلطًا يجمع بين الأساليب الكمية والنوعية. وخلصت الدراسة إلى أن تعلم اللغة الكردية يساعد العمال البنغلاديشيين في أربيل على الحصول على فرص العمل، والاندماج في الثقافة والمجتمع الكرديين، والتمتع بحياة كريمة.

## 1. Introduction

Generally speaking, the issue of bilingualism has gained more and more relevance over the last few decades in multilingual societies, especially within those areas where the rates of migration and cultural interaction are the highest. Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, is a developing cosmopolitan city that is attracting workers and expats of various countries, such as Bangladesh. Consequently, the language contact of speakers of the Kurdish language and Bangladeshi migrants has led to the development of a peculiar type of bilingualism based on both need and accommodation. Such bilingual behavior offers a valuable insight into the way language acquisition, social integration and identity negotiation operate in a multicultural environment.

To Bangladesh migrants in Erbil, the use of Kurdish is more than a matter of language competence; it is a necessary mechanism of everyday communication, whether that be for work or for getting acquainted with people. Kurdish is a language of connection in workplaces, markets, and as a native language in neighborhoods, bringing them closer to their Kurdish employers and to the locals. Therefore, practical functional bilingualism is acquired by many Bangladeshis as a coping strategy with regard to their sociolinguistic environment. The reasons as to why this bilingualism happens are, however, multifaceted and are not restricted to communication. Economic need, social and cultural integration, and long-term adjustment are some of their reasons for learning and speaking Kurdish alongside their mother tongue. The current study depends on the work of Kirchmeier (2022), who states that learning and knowing the language of another nation or country is crucial for integration, accessing





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better job opportunities, obtaining a higher wage, and understanding another culture.

### **1.1 The Problem of the Study**

There is no doubt that language plays a very positive role in the exchange of information and views among all people. There are many reasons to use another nation's language while living in another country. According to the researcher's best knowledge, no academic research has been done in Erbil into the impact of the Kurdish language on Bangladeshi citizens living there. It is believed that, in order to adapt to a new environment, migrants should learn and know the language of the country to which they immigrate. Therefore, in this study the researcher has tried to determine the reasons why Kurdish is learnt by Bangladeshi workers in Erbil.

### **1.2 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study can be summarized as:

1. Explaining why Bangladeshi workers in Erbil try to learn Kurdish.
2. The outcomes of a knowledge of Kurdish among Bangladeshi workers in Erbil.

### **1.3 Limits of the Study**

This limited study is based on a group of Bangladeshi workers living in Erbil. It focuses solely on their use of Kurdish. The data and results of this study reflect the views of this group of Bangladeshi workers working in Erbil, and not the views of all Bangladeshis working in Erbil and other cities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

### **1.4 The Aims of the Study**

This study has three crucial aims. First, it sheds light on bilingualism and its types. Second, it explores the factors that motivate Bangladeshi workers in Erbil to achieve proficiency in Kurdish. Third, it explains the importance for migrants of learning a new language in a new environment.

### **1.5 The Research Questions**

The study aims to address the following questions:

1. What are the reasons that motivate Bangladeshi workers in Erbil to learn and use the Kurdish language?



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2. How does learning and using Kurdish influence the social lives of Bangladeshi workers in Erbil?

### **1.6 The Hypotheses**

This research study hypothesizes that:

1. There are some reasons that motivate Bangladeshi workers in Erbil to learn and use the Kurdish language.
2. The learning and use of Kurdish influence the social lives of Bangladeshi workers in Erbil.

### **2. Theoretical Background**

#### **2.1 Some Information about Erbil**

Ibrahim et al. (2015, p. 14) state that Erbil is the largest city and the capital of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The city is considered by UNESCO to be one of the oldest settlements in the world because it has been inhabited for nearly 6,000 years. The city is constantly increasing in population as a result of people migrating from the villages to Erbil. One of the factors contributing to the city's continuous expansion is its amazing security measures and the prevalence of a peaceful living environment.

#### **2.2 The Reason Behind Bangladeshi Workers Coming to Iraq**

Palma (2009) states that after 2003, Bangladesh approved increasing numbers of its workers to move into various sectors throughout Iraq. This process of sending Bangladeshis continues in most Iraqi cities and there are several purposes behind the initiative. First, the presence of Bangladeshi workers in Iraq had not been possible for several years. Second, the economy of Bangladesh is supported through the income from its foreign workers. Third, it was desirable for Bangladeshis to work in several different sectors, especially construction.

#### **2.4 The Rights of Kurdish in the Iraqi Constitution**

According to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Iraq (Article No 4, pp. 2-3), Kurdish and Arabic are the two official languages of the country. These two languages are used without problems in education, official institutions, and daily conversation by Iraqi citizens. Here, it is worth mentioning that other minorities such as Turkmen, Assyrians and Armenians are also given the right to study and communicate in their own languages. Regarding the use of Kurdish by Bangladeshi workers in the city of Erbil, Kurdish is the first language in the Kurdistan Region of





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Iraq. Therefore, workers learn and use Kurdish in the city of Erbil when communicating with Kurds there.

### **2.5 Bilingualism**

According to Pransiska (2017, p. 391), an individual is considered bilingual when he/ she is able to communicate successfully in two different languages. Butler and Hakuta (2004, p. 115) state that bilingualism exists when individuals have enough skills to communicate in two different languages clearly and effectively, both in oral and written form, with speakers of one or more languages in another society or nation.

### **2.6 Types of Bilingualism**

According to Meck (2014), there are six types of bilingualism.

#### **1. Simultaneous bilingualism**

This occurs where two languages are learned spontaneously from childhood onwards, especially through the interactions between members of the family or in a multi-lingual set up, thus leading to the simultaneous creation of both cognitive and linguistic systems.

#### **2. Sequential bilingualism**

This emerges when one of the languages is learnt initially, after which a second language is acquired subsequently and is usually introduced through education, immigration or schooling, forming a stratified linguistic competence.

#### **3. Receptive bilingualism**

This happens when a person has acquired two languages, but may feel insecure or not well-able to speak both of them fluently, thus showing a partial but operational bilingual ability.

#### **4. Productive bilingualism**

This can be defined as the capability of comprehending as well as practically applying two languages in communication, which means a fuller bilingual capability.

#### **5. Balanced bilingualism**

This describes speakers whose command of two languages is almost equal. Thus, they can easily switch and reduce interference between the two linguistic systems.

#### **6. Dominant bilingualism**



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This is used when one language is more dominant or more commonly used in daily life compared to the second, and thus has a greater influence over the cognitive and communicative mechanisms.

### **2.7 Advantages of Bilingualism**

Baker (2002, p. 12) states that when people are bilingual, they get benefits from speaking with members of other nations. Firstly, they can speak to members of other nations effectively without misunderstandings. Secondly, they can understand the two cultures more deeply. Thirdly, bilinguals are able to get jobs more easily.

### **2.8 Obstacles to Bilingualism**

According to Hamers and Blanc (2004, p. 92), the obstacles to becoming bilingual were initially observed in the first half of the twentieth century. King and Mackey (2007, pp. 30-32) state that there is no doubt that bilingualism has many advantages, but the process of becoming bilingual can sometimes be challenging and even discouraging, though ultimately rewarding. For instance, a person learning a second language may struggle to speak fluently in conversations. If they speak too slowly or with hesitation, others may find it difficult to understand them, as their sentences and expressions lack flow. As a result, they may find it hard to engage with people and sustain conversations, which can limit the benefits of bilingualism. Moreover, if people cannot learn new vocabulary from the second language, they cannot be competent in that language. Furthermore, to communicate effectively in another language, it is essential to develop strong grammatical competence. If such difficulties are not overcome, individuals striving to become bilingual may struggle to secure employment, and may also face challenges in integrating and communicating effectively with people in another community.

### **2.9 The Relationship between Bilingualism and Culture, National Integration, Job Opportunities and Good Wages**

In his study, Kirchmeier (2022) states that bilingualism is not only evidence of individuals' ability to learn another language. However, it is worth noting that bilingualism has a positive relationship with cultural engagement, national integration, job opportunities and good wages.

#### **2.9.1 Bilingualism and Culture:**





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Capstick (2020, p. 5) mentions that whenever bilinguals converse with individuals of another nationality, they learn a lot of new information about each other's cultures because they exchange information during the conversation. This allows them to integrate more with each other and to become familiar with each other's history and culture. This cultural understanding will pave the way for greater respect and encourages individuals to treat each other as members of the same nation. Therefore, knowing another language helps everyone to get more information about another nation's culture.

### **2.9.2 Bilingualism and National Integration**

Diaz (2014, p. 69) conforms that when individuals of one nation communicate with those of another in a common language, they become more familiar with one another. This paves the way to stronger relationships and integration. Bilingualism removes the barriers to communication and social inclusion. Therefore, bilingualism definitely plays a key role in promoting integration among people of different nationalities.

### **2.9.3 Bilingualism and Job Opportunities**

Kraft (2020, p. 171) says that whenever individuals of one nation move to another nation for a better life, it is important that they learn the language of the place they are moving to, as this can help them find work.

### **2.9.4 Bilingualism and Good Wages**

Smith (2025, p. 58) points out that if someone is able to speak a foreign language (a language of another nation) very well, communicating and understanding without difficulty, he or she will earn better wages in the workplace. Bosses always require people who speak their language very well and will pay them higher wages. Similarly, Thordardottir (2011, p. 435) states that encouraging people to become bilingual can make nations more competitive in the global workforce. Many workspaces and companies are on the look-out for employees who can speak two languages. Indeed, bilingualism is a marketable quality, which may lead to enhanced job prospects as well as increased pay checks.

### **2.10 Functions of Languages**

Many linguists talked about the functions of languages. However, the most accepted framework is by the linguist Jakobson (1960, pp. 353-357). According to him there are six functions of languages.



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### 1. The Referential (Informational) Function

To convey information, facts and ideas language is used.

Eg. "Water boils at 100 °C."

### 2. The Emotive (Expressive) Function

People use language to express their feelings, emotions and attitudes.

Eg. "I am not sad today."

### 3. The Conative (Directive) Function

To influence or direct the behaviour of others (requests, advice, commands) language is used.

Eg. "Please open the door."

### 4. The phatic (Social) Function

It refers to maintain the communication channel.

Eg. "Good morning. How are you?"

### 5. The Metalinguistic Function

To talk about language itself language is used.

Eg. "What does the word 'show up' mean?"

### 6. The Peotic (Aesthetic) Function

Language is used to focus on beauty, style and form of speeches and messages. It is often used in literature and poetry.

Eg. "Time and Tide wait for no man".

Now, it is time to determine how much the functions of languages have impacts on migrants when they learn the local language of where they work because each function of languages determines how and when each language is used in a new community. The referential and conative functions often encourage bilingual speakers to give priority to the dominant language for work (workplace) because effective requests and clear information are very necessary for survival. The phatic function of language helps bilinguals keep everyday social contact by using the local language even simply and briefly. This social contact has two crucial benefits. First, it helps integration. Second, it reduces social distance. Additionally, the expressive and poetic functions of languages tend to be kept in the first language of speakers, because it is a better way for fully conveying humor, emotions and cultural identity.

Now, it is worth noting that this functional division of languages proves that bilingualism is not just to show the ability of knowing two languages, but also a strategy of the strategic use of a particular language to



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negotiate power relations, define identity, and find new social belonging in the host society.

### **2.11 Methods of Data Collection**

#### **2.11.1 Data Collection Tools**

To obtain data for the current study, a 10-item open survey was used. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were applied to the data analysis. For each item on the survey, participants were required to submit written responses. Additionally, they received enough time to express their views.

The Likert Scale was used to analyze the collected data. For this scale there are five possible responses: Strongly Disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Neutral = 3, Agree = 4 and Strongly Agree = 5. These allow participants to state their views with regard to each item. To guarantee that all survey items were clear and comprehensible, the researcher carried out a pilot study by obtaining feedback from a group of Bangladeshi workers in Erbil prior to distributing the survey to participants. Three weeks after administering the pilot study, the face validity was evaluated based on the feedback collected from this group.

#### **2.11.2 Participants**

To collect data, 110 Bangladeshi workers in Erbil (all of them are male. In Erbil it was difficult to find female Bangladeshi workers, although the researcher tried to find them to include their views) participated in the survey. Regarding all items, enough time was given for them to write their views. The ages of the participants ranged from 25-35 years. All participants were able to speak Kurdish well. They work at hotels, restaurants, saloons, malls, homes and companies.

#### **2.11.3 Validity and Reliability**

According to Creswell and Creswell (2018, p. 380), validity means that the data obtained should make sense and allow the researchers to reach an acceptable conclusion. In this study, to make sure that every survey item of data used was suitable and appropriate to the primary goal of the study, a group of professors and assistant professors served as jury members (evaluators) to evaluate the validity of all the items which were used in the survey prior to the data collection. They provided their opinions and indicated recommendations concerning each of the items. This resulted in certain modifications of each item. Regarding reliability, when



participants provide their views regarding all items of the survey on two separate occasions, the data should remain stable (Ibid, p. 251). Therefore, after the initial data collection, the researcher asked the participants to provide their views regarding all items of the survey three weeks later, to ensure that they stated the same views as before.

### 2.12 Data analysis:

To determine each item's P-value, mean score, standard deviation, and percentages of the participants' views, the SPSS 22 program was used to analyze the data collected. Heo, Kim and Faith (2015, p. 1) confirm that Cronbach's alpha must be used to evaluate the degree of internal consistency. The Cronbach's alpha value for all items of the survey was 0.87, which is greater than 0.60. Consequently, the internal consistency is accepted for all items. According to Wodak (2019, p. 89), when the P-value outcome is equal to or lower than 0.05, the outcome is considered significant.



Participants' responses to item (1):								
"Before coming to Erbil, you had no information about the Kurdish language."								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
Item 1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.60%	95.40%	4.95	4.43	0.009
Participants' responses to item (2):								
"Learning Kurdish late, after arriving in Erbil, had negative effects on your life."								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
Item 2	0.00%	1.82%	7.27%	27.27%	63.64%	4.53	4.06	0.03
Participants' responses to item (3):								





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**“Speaking Kurdish helps you adapt to Kurdish culture.”**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
<b>Item 3</b>	0.00%	0.00%	2.73%	47.27%	50%	4.47	3.98	0.01

**Participants’ responses to item (4):**

**“Speaking Kurdish helps you integrate into the Kurdish community.”**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
<b>Item 4</b>	1.82%	3.64%	0.00%	32.73%	61.81%	4.2	3.75	0.04

**Participants’ responses to item (5):**

**“Speaking Kurdish helps you get jobs.”**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
<b>Item 5</b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	34.55%	65.45%	4.65	4.15	0.002

**Participants’ responses to item (6):**

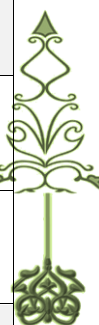
**“Having an excellent level of proficiency in Kurdish plays an important role in obtaining a better job and a higher wage.”**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
<b>Item 6</b>	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20%	80%	4.8	4.29	0.03

**Participants’ responses to item (7):**

**“There are specific factors that motivate you to use Kurdish during your leisure time and in your accommodation with your Bangladeshi roommates in Erbil.”**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
Item 7	0.00%	0.00%	5.45%	58.18%	36.37%	4.31	3.82	0.04
<b>Participants' responses to item (8):</b> <b>“Knowing Kurdish enriches the culture of Bangladeshi workers in Erbil.”</b>								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
Item 8	7.27%	10.91%	18.19%	47.27%	16.36%	3.55	3.20	0.01
<b>Participants' responses to item (9):</b> <b>“Being proficient in Kurdish any reduces the isolation Bangladeshis feel in Erbil.”</b>								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
Item 9	12.73%	5.45%	9.09%	40%	32.73%	3.75	3.46	0.003
<b>Participants' responses to item (10):</b> <b>“Using Kurdish does not have a negative effect on your mother tongue.”</b>								
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean score	Standard deviation	P-value
Item 10	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	47.27%	52.73%	4.53	4.03	0.001



### 2.13 Results and Discussions

As for item (1), the mean score is 4.95, and the standard deviation is 4.43. For this item, the P-value is 0.009. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

4.60% of the participants agree and 95.40% of them strongly agree with the statement. They explain that prior to their arrival in Erbil, they possessed no knowledge of the Kurdish language. This lack of awareness was attributed to the fact that the language had not been introduced or





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taught in their formal education, nor had they encountered it in everyday communication within their previous environments. As a result, all the participants indicated that they were entirely unaware of the existence of Kurdish as a distinct language.

As for item (2), the mean score is 4.53, and the standard deviation is 4.06. For this item, the P-value is 0.03. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

27.27% of the participants agree and 63.64% of them strongly agree with the statement. They mention that a lack of ability to speak Kurdish had a negative impact on their lives, because they could not buy necessities in the markets and shops. Some 7.27% of the participants did not express any views with regard to this item, due to not having enough information. However, 1.82% of the participants disagreed with the statement. They believed that a lack of ability to speak Kurdish had had a negative impact on their lives, because they sometimes had to use body language for communication. Moreover, in markets and shops they had to show pictures of the products they needed to the people working there.

As for item (3), the mean score is 4.47, and the standard deviation is 3.98. For this item, the P-value is 0.01. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

47.27% of the participants agree and 50% of them strongly agree with the statement. They say that learning Kurdish had a very positive impact on learning about Kurdish culture. The Kurdish language has taught them how to behave and communicate with Kurdish individuals of both sexes, respecting each other and speaking to each other in a very polite way. Moreover, learning the Kurdish language has enabled them to learn about Kurdish history, culture and the past by listening to and watching programs about Kurdish culture and history. Some 2.73% of the participants did not provide any views with regard to this item, due to insufficient information. Generally, the results with regard to this item are in agreement with the study of Capstick (2020).

As for item (4), the mean score is 4.2, and the standard deviation is 3.75. For this item, the P-value is 0.04. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

32.73% of the participants agree and 61.81% of them strongly agree with the statement. They point out that learning and speaking Kurdish has a

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very positive effect on integrating into the Kurdish nation in Erbil, because every day during work and during recreation in parks, or when buying necessities in markets and shops, they speak to Kurds in Kurdish and exchange information about the two nations. During these conversations they make many Kurdish friends, and they often sit together in a park at night and talk about their lives. This makes them feel much more integrated with the Kurdish nation. This integration creates a beautiful love between them and Kurdish individuals in Erbil. This respect and love often lead Kurds to invite them to their family wedding parties where they get to know each other. However, 3.64% of the participants disagree and 1.82% of them strongly disagree with the statement. They say that speaking Kurdish does not help them to integrate into the Kurdish nation in Erbil because they work hard every day. After finishing work, they have to clean their workplace, which makes them very tired. Moreover, after dinner they go to bed to rest and get up early in the morning to resume work. Therefore, they do not have enough time to integrate with the Kurds of Erbil. Generally, the results of the current item are in line with the study of Diaz (2014).

As for item (5), the mean score is 4.65, and the standard deviation is 4.15. For this item, the P-value is 0.002. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

34.55% of participants agree and 65.45% of them strongly agree with the statement. They say that learning Kurdish was a very important reason behind them getting a job in Erbil. Learning Kurdish has enabled them to exchange information and ideas with their boss without misunderstandings. Therefore, they have been able to keep their jobs in Erbil. They always encourage friends, relatives and citizens of their country who want to come to work in Erbil to learn Kurdish before traveling there, even if only a little, so they can get jobs without difficulty. They say that learning Kurdish is a very important tool for earning an income in Erbil. The results with regard to this item are in agreement with the study of Kraft (2020).

As for item (6), the mean score is 4.8, and the standard deviation is 4.29. For this item, the P-value is 0.03. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.



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20% of the participants agree and 80% of them strongly agree with the statement. They confirm that after living in Erbil for a while and achieving a better level of spoken Kurdish, they were able to get a much better job with a much higher salary. Having a better level of spoken Kurdish also had a great effect in easing conversations with customers and people who visited their workplace. Moreover, when they speak to these people on the phone, customers do not notice that they are not Kurds, owing to their excellent grasp of spoken Kurdish. It is this which keeps them going at work. The results of the current item are in line with the study of Smith (2025).

As for item (7), the mean score is 4.31, and the standard deviation is 3.82. For this item, the P-value is 0.04. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

58.18% of the participants agree and 36.37% of them strongly agree with the statement. They mention that there are undoubtedly several reasons that encourage them to speak Kurdish with their roommates in leisure time. First, so that they do not forget the Kurdish language. Second, to help each other correct any mistakes. Third, to express Kurdish words in the most beautiful way possible, with excellent pronunciation. Fourth, to gauge each other's level in speaking Kurdish perfectly. It should be noted that the use of Kurdish by Bangladeshis in Erbil has a very positive role in learning more Kurdish and not forgetting the language. Some 5.45% of the participants did not provide any views with regard to this item, due to insufficient information.

As for item (8), the mean score is 3.55, and the standard deviation is 3.20. For this item, the P-value is 0.01. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

47.27% of the participants agree and 16.36% of them strongly agree with the statement. They state that when they hear Kurdish short stories, songs and historical events on television, they sometimes write them down in Bangladeshi and then compare them with stories, songs and historical events in their own country. As a result, they discover many beautiful similarities between the Kurdish and Bangladeshi cultures. Whenever these similarities are noticed, they tell their relatives on social media, and they discuss the similarities with their relatives in Bangladesh. This has led to many beautiful aspects of Kurdish culture entering Bangladeshi

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culture. Moreover, when they visit their parents and family members in Bangladesh, they wear Kurdish clothes there. They are amazed by Kurdish clothes and express surprise at their beauty. In addition, they often buy Kurdish clothes for their younger brothers, sisters and children, and take them back to Bangladesh, where they wear them with great enthusiasm. Some 18.19% of the participants did not provide any views with regard to this item, due to insufficient information. However, 10.91% of the participants disagree and 7.27% of them strongly disagree with the statement. They believe that, despite knowing Kurdish, Kurdish culture does not play a role in enriching Bangladeshi culture for two important reasons. First, their culture is very different from Kurdish culture. Second, because they work most days and go to bed early, which means they do not have much time to watch Kurdish cultural programs on television.

As for item (9), the mean score is 3.75, and the standard deviation is 4.46. For this item, the P-value is 0.003. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

40% of participants agree and 32.73% of them strongly agree with the statement. They believe that learning Kurdish professionally will have a very positive impact on reducing loneliness here, because their Kurdish friends visit them at the weekend and at night, and they sometimes go out and spend time together. They do not feel lonely during conversations with them. Moreover, their Kurdish friends sometimes invite them to their homes and they have dinner with their parents. They talk to them and treat them like their own parents. Speaking Kurdish plays a big role in bringing them closer to their Kurdish friends and their parents. This has been a wonderful way of overcoming one's lonely moments. Moreover, when they are at the market, they use Kurdish with the people there, because they understand each other. They never feel like foreigners in Erbil. Some 9.09% of the participants did not provide any views with regard to this item due to insufficient information. However, 5.45% of the participants disagree and 12.73% of them strongly disagree with the statement. They mention that it is true that they live in a hospitable city, but most of the time they are thinking about their parents. Some of them have children and families living in Bangladesh, so they feel isolated.





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As for item (10), the mean score is 4.53, and the standard deviation is 4.03. For this item, the P-value is 0.001. Therefore, the result is statistically significant because it is less than 0.05.

47.27% of the participants agree and 52.73% of them strongly agree with the statement. They point out that the use of Kurdish does not have a negative impact on their mother tongue, because they are free to use Bangladeshi whenever they want to use it, as a means of communication with their Bangladeshi friends. It should be noted that their Kurdish friends have learned many words and sentences of their language, and that they have learned Kurdish from their Kurdish friends in a wonderful way, which has caused them to use words and sentences from each other's languages.

### **Conclusions**

The current study is entitled *The Reasons for Bilingualism among Bangladeshis in the City of Erbil: A Sociolinguistic Study*. The following conclusions are drawn from the results of the study.

1. There are various reasons that motivate Bangladeshi workers in Erbil to learn and use Kurdish. First, to get jobs, because if they are unable to use the Kurdish language with the local Kurds in the city of Erbil; they cannot get jobs easily. Second, by using Kurdish fluently, they are able to get better jobs whenever they want. In this case, they can have a good life because they can get a good income. This is the answer to the first research question and it is worth mentioning that the first hypothesis of this study is verified.
2. By learning and using Kurdish without any problem, Bangladeshi workers in Erbil are able to integrate into Kurdish culture and make new Kurdish friends. In this way, they can learn new information about Kurdish culture and history, because they exchange ideas and views with Kurds in Erbil.

### **Recommendations**

The researcher recommends the following:

1. Carrying out research into the impact(s) of the learning and use of Arabic by Kurds in other cities of Iraq where the main language of communication is Arabic.
2. Carrying out research into the impact(s) of using Kurdish among Christians in the city of Erbil.



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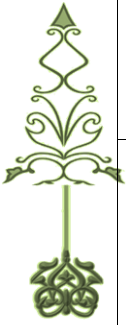
Disagree (D), 3= Neutral (N), 4= Agree (A), and 5= Strongly Agree (SA).  
 Moreover, provide the reasons for your choice of every item.

No .	Items	How you feel about the statement				
		SD	D	N	A	SA
1	<b>Before coming to Erbil, you had no information about the Kurdish language.</b> ..... .....					
2	<b>Learning Kurdish late, after arriving in Erbil, had negative effects on your life.</b> ..... .....					
3	<b>Speaking Kurdish helps you adapt to Kurdish culture.</b> ..... .....					
4	<b>Speaking Kurdish helps you integrate into the Kurdish community.</b> ..... .....					
5	<b>Speaking Kurdish helps you get jobs.</b> ..... .....					
6	<b>Having an excellent level of proficiency in Kurdish plays an important role in obtaining a better job and a higher wage.</b> ..... .....					
7	<b>There are specific factors that motivate you to use Kurdish during your leisure time and in your accommodation with your Bangladeshi roommates in Erbil.</b> ..... .....					





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8	<p><b>Knowing Kurdish enriches the culture of Bangladeshi workers in Erbil.</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>						
9	<p><b>Being proficient in Kurdish any reduces the isolation Bangladeshis feel in Erbil.</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>						
10	<p><b>Using Kurdish does not have a negative effect on your mother tongue.</b></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>						

