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## Language Policy in Sudanese-Arabic Speaking Families

Marwa Ibrahim  
*University of Northern Iowa*

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# **LANGUAGE POLICY IN SUDANESE ARABIC-SPEAKING FAMILIES**

**Marwa Ibrahim**

# LITERATURE REVIEW

BILINGUALISM

LANGUAGE  
MAINTENANCE

LANGUAGE  
LOSS

FAMILY  
LANGUAGE  
POLICY

## INITIAL QUESTIONS

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**How does family language policy affect the raising of a bilingual child?**

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**What other factors contribute to language maintenance?**

# PARTICIPANTS

## CRITERIA:

- First generation immigrants from Sudan
- Residing in the United States for more than 10 years
- Parents of more than one child over the age of
- Identifies as bilingual



# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## SURVEY



## INTERVIEW



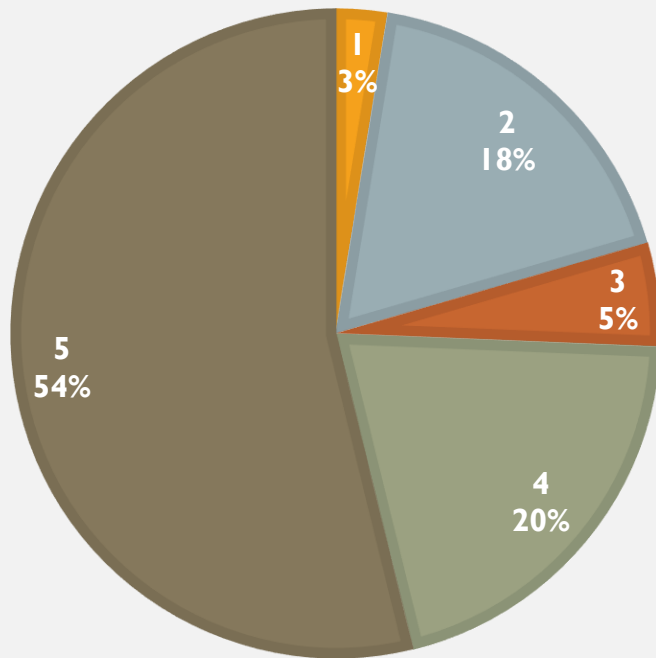
## MAJOR SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What does bilingual mean to you?
2. Can your child speak Arabic?
3. Can your child read and write in Arabic?
4. Can your child speak English?
5. What language(s) do you speak at home?
6. What language(s) does your child speak at home?
7. What language(s) does your child speak outside of the home?

# MAJOR SURVEY RESULTS

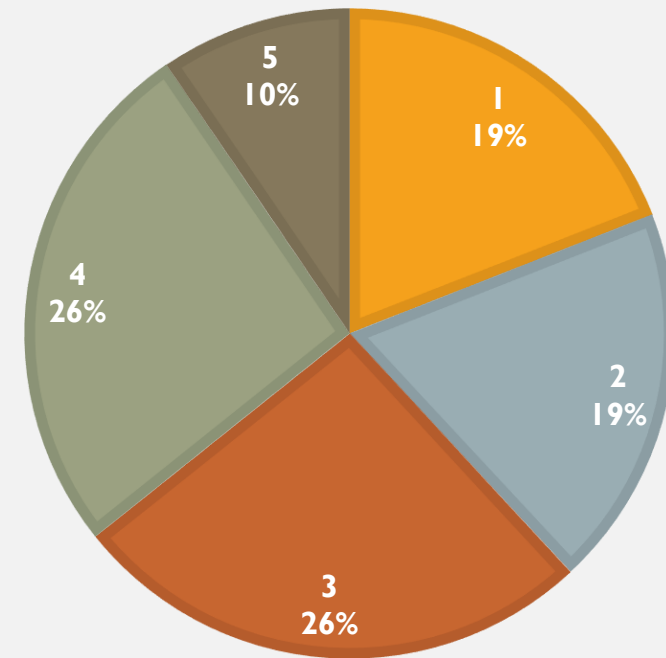
## CHILD'S ARABIC FLUENCY

1 2 3 4 5 (FLUENT)



## CHILD'S ARABIC LITERACY FLUENCY

1 2 3 4 5 (FLUENT)

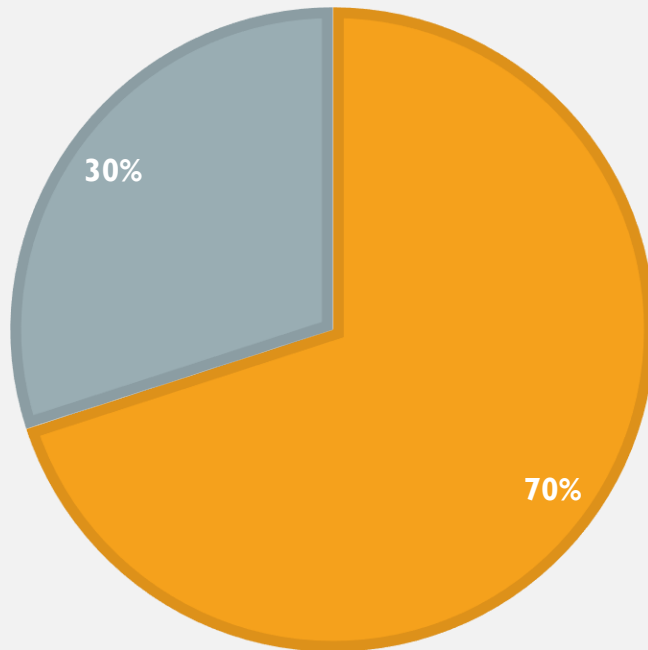




# MAJOR SURVEY RESULTS

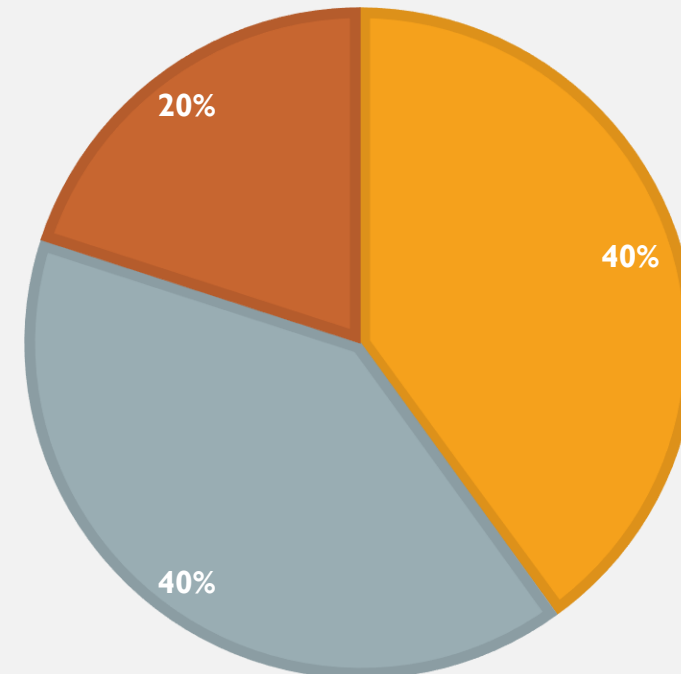
## PARENT HOME LANGUAGE

■ ONLY ARABIC ■ ARABIC AND ENGLISH



## CHILD HOME LANGUAGE

■ ARABIC ■ ARABIC AND ENGLISH ■ ENGLISH





## INTERVIEW RESULTS

- “I speak Arabic to my children because it is our language and my children need to remember it...”
- “(my children) speak English everywhere, at home they should speak Arabic...”
- “We are Muslim, my children need to read the Quran..”
- ”The Sudanese people in (Midwest town), helped my children learn about being Sudanese (and its language)...”

## DISCUSSION

- Language practice and management ≠ Language maintenance
- Cultural Identity → Language maintenance
- Heritage Community → Language and culture loyalty
- Religious language policy

## **FUTURE INQUIRIES**

How large does the heritage community need to be to assist in language and cultural loyalty?

Does connection to language affect connection to culture?  
Or vice versa?

What other internal or external factors affect the maintenance in language?

# FUTURE RESEARCH

Larger subject  
pool

Different language  
communities

Children's  
perspective





**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?**

**THANK YOU**

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