OBJECTIVE

This study aims at shedding light on the language attitudes and language use of jvoal, a variety of informal/colloquial French spoken in Québec. The term jvoal is used pejoratively and criticized by many throughout the province and the global francophone community as an incorrect or inferior form of French. Jvoal is nevertheless a fundamental element of Quebec identity, which must be rid of its pejorative connotation and granted equal status within the francophone community.

MODELS

Canada:
- English Speaking Population: 26,216,243
- French Speaking Population: 7,914,498
- Bilingual Population (English - French): 6,216,075
  - 75.6% English
  - 22.8% French
  - 1.7% Bilingual

Québec:
- English Speaking Population: 1,103,475
- French Speaking Population: 6,890,300
- Bilingual Population (English - French): 3,586,410
  - 13.7% English
  - 85.4% French
  - 5.9% Bilingual

Montreal:
- English Speaking Population: 286,280
- French Speaking Population: 1,472,058
- Bilingual Population (English - French): 2,231,540
  - 5.1% English
  - 94.3% French
  - 5.8% Bilingual

LINGUISTIC TRAITS OF JVOAL

English: I'm going to park my car.
International French: Je vais garent ma voiture.
Québec French: Je vais stationner mon auto.
Jvoal: J'vais parquer mon char.

1. Anglicisms
   a. Bécosses – backhouse
   b. Parquer – to park

2. Neologisms
   a. Cabane à sucre – sugar shack
   b. Acériculture – maple syrup production

3. Archaisms
   a. Toque – toque (IF)
   b. Charr – chariot (IF)

4. Phonological Traits
   a. Schwa deletion
   b. Diphthongs in stressed syllables: e.g. rêve [ʁəv], santé [sɛ̃t]
   c. A variant in word-final position: e.g. moi [mwa] becomes moa [mwa]

KEY DATES

- 1534: Arrival of Jacques Cartier in New France
- 1608: Québec founded by Samuel de Champlain
- 1763: Treaty of Paris & The Royal Proclamation
- 1774: Québec Act
- 1791: Constitution Act
- 1839: Durham Report
- 1840: Act of Union (Article 41)
- 1867: British North America Act
- 1894: Jvoal, J'voal, s.m., Cheval
- 1910: Lot Lavergne
- 1960: Quiet Revolution
- 1961: Establishement of the Office de la langue française
- 1974: Bill 22
- 1977: Bill 101
- 1980: Quebec Referendum on Sovereignty
- 1982: The Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms
- 1987: Lake Meech Accord
- 1997: Anonymous Professor
- 1998: Bill 178
- 1999: Bill 86
- 2013: Bill 14
- 2021: Bill 96

CONCLUSION

Considering this work, we can better understand how the question of language has weakened the québécois people, who are a nation distinct from the rest of Canada. Although French has obtained the official language of Quebec, jvoal still can’t be considered an alternative. Nevertheless, jvoal is inseparable from the Quebec identity because it is very much alive and remains a functional language to the French speakers in Montreal. Perhaps, this research has shown that jvoal is an essential variety of French use in Québec, a variety that should not be denounced but affirmed.