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Code Mixing and Code Switching in Select Bodo Novels: An Analysis

[1]Khwmta Narzary

[2]Bhoumik Chandra Baro

Professor Dept. of Bodo

Bodoland Univesity

1.Introduction

Code-Mixing and Code-Switching are linguistic phenomena that occur in bilingual and multilingual societies to make communication more effective, attractive, and meaningful, and to clearly express thoughts. The use of Code-Mixing and Code-Switching is often observed during conversations as a medium of communication to better convey what speakers want to share. Code-Mixing occurs when words or phrases from one language are inserted into another language during communication. In contrast, Code Switching refers to the use of more than one language, variety, or style by a speaker within a single utterance or discourse.

1.2 Monolingualism

Monolingualism or Unilingualism refers to the condition of speaking or using only one language. A monolingual or unilingual person speaks, understands, reads, and writes in just one language.

1.3 Bilingualism

Bilingualism is the ability to use two languages fluently. A bilingual person can speak, understand, read, and often write in two different languages.

1.4 Multilingualism

Multilingualism is the ability to use and understand more than two languages. According to Anup kr. Deka “Multilingualism refers to the speaker’s ability to use multiple languages. A person who is multilingual is called polyglot.

1.5 Code

In linguistic parlance, ‘code’ denotes the language itself or a variety of a language which is used by a speaker in a particular social context.

1.6 Aim and objectives of the study

The aim and objectives of the study are as follows

i. To analyse the instances of code-mixing from English language found in select Bodo novels, and to identify and categorize the different types of code-mixing employed by the novelists.
ii. ii. To analyse the use of code-switching from English language in select Bodo novels, and to identify and classify the different types of code-switching employed by the novelists.

1.7 Area of the study

This study is situated within the field of sociolinguistics, a branch of linguistics that explores the relationship between language and society. The proposed research, entitled "Code Mixing and Code Switching in Select Bodo Novels: An Analysis", focuses on the phenomena of code-mixing and code-switching as observed in select Bodo novels. The novels chosen for analysis are Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya by Chittaranjan Mashahary, Kharlung by Manoranjan Lahary.

1.8 Data collection and methodology

Data collection is an integral part of the research process. For this study, data has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data comprises selected Bodo novels, which serve as the core texts for analysis. The secondary data has been obtained from a wide range of scholarly sources, including theses, academic journals, magazines, articles, and critical books written by experts in the field. This study adopts an analytical method to examine and interpret instances of code mixing and code-switching as they appear in the select Bodo novels.

2. Code Mixing in Select Bodo Novels

Mixing of English

English is an international language, and most educated people around the world know it to some extent, as it is taught through formal education. Therefore, the use or mixing of English words, phrases, and clauses in conversations or written texts has become a common phenomenon. In Bodo literature, many writers frequently incorporate English words into their writings. This often occurs when there is no suitable or equivalent Bodo word available to convey a particular meaning, to make a sentence sound more refined or expressive, or to clearly communicate thoughts, ideas, and emotions either consciously or unconsciously. Additionally, the use of English in writing can also serve to reflect the social status of the speaker or writer. In the select novels of Chittaranjan Mashahary, Manoranjan Lahary, English words appear more frequently than words from other languages. Below are a few examples of English usage in their works.

2.1 Noun insertion from English

Example1:

मिथिगौ बेयो business खालामनोबा मानसिनि खुगायाव बेरेमोदैनिखुइ गोदैसिन जानाांगौ। p1 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

English rendering: He knows to do business, the language of a businessman should be

sweeter than honey.

Code-mixed word: Business

Equivalent English word: Business, trade.

Linguistic Structure

This is a complex sentence in the Bodo language, where the English word 'business' is inserted. This represents a lexical feature of language mixing. In this Bodo sentence, the English word 'business' is used instead of the native Bodo word phalangi. 'Business' is a common noun in English and refers to a person's profession or occupation.

Contextual Analysis

The example given above shows that the novelist has mixed the English noun 'business' in the Bodo novel 'Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya' and the author describes the female character Kalpana's identity and complexion, and her father Khwilash. Khwilash is a very rich businessman and a timber merchant. Despite his wealth, he is humble and does not show any ego. He knows well how to behave and how to deal with people in business. He is polite and gentle with everyone, and because of his good behaviour, people love and respect him. Caste, creed, religion, and language do not stand as barriers in business. For business purposes, people often communicate in multiple languages that are mutually understandable. This creates a platform for the development of new language forms such as pidgins, creoles, and phenomena like code- mixing and code-switching. Therefore, the English word business is widely used and understood by everyone. The author uses the English common noun business to reflect and emphasize the high status of Khwilash's profession as a wealthy timber merchant.

Example-2

गोनांनि फिसाजोब्लाबो कल्पनानि जिउआ फैमाल जायाखै। बेयो दा कलेजाव फरायगासिनो दं। p-1 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

English rendering: Though Kalpana is the daughter of a rich man, her life is not spoiled,

she is now studying in college.

Code-mixed word: कलेज (College)

Equivalent English word: Higher Educational Institution.

Linguistic Structure

'बेयो दा कलेजाव फरायगासिनो दं। (She is now studying in college) is a simple sentence. It makes a statement and provides information. In this sentence, the English word 'college' is inserted into the Bodo language,

demonstrating a lexical feature of code mixing. Instead of using the native Bodo word 'Phoraisalima', the speaker has used the English common noun 'college'.

Contextual Analysis

In the given example, the writer has inserted the English noun "college" in the novel. Kalpana is the daughter of Kwilash, a timber merchant. He is very rich and wealthy. Despite their wealth, Kwilash's daughter is not a failure in her studies. She is studying in college. Here, the writer has used the English word "college" instead of the Bodo word "Phoraisalima" to make the sentence more attractive, modern, and reflective of social status. It also aligns with the character, as Kalpana is pursuing higher education something significant for women in the context of the story. Therefore, the use of the word "college" is suitable and meaningful in portraying Kalpana's character.

2.2 Verb Insertion from English

Example-1

बिस्तिरामा गहेलनो सिगारेट अफार खालामो। p-24. (Kharlung)

English rendering: Bistiram offers a cigarette to Gohel.

Code-Mixed Word: अफार (offers)

Linguistics Analysis

This sentence is in the present perfect tense of the Bodo language. In this sentence, the English word "offer" is inserted and mixed. The equivalent word of "offer" in Bodo is "hwnai". However, the novelist has chosen to use the English word "offer" instead of the native word "hwnai."

Contextual Analysis

In this example, the novelist has inserted and mixed the English verb "offer." The sentence refers to the moment when Bistiram offers a cigarette to Gohel. Both Bistiram and Gohel are educated Bodo youths who studied at the same college and stayed in the same lodging in Kokrajhar town. Thus, they are very close friendship. The novelist used the English verb "offer" instead of the native Bodo equivalent to reflect their modern, educated background and to match the social status and relationship of the characters.

Example-3

सोरमोन नोंखौ एटाक खालामनाया गहेल? p- 48 (Kharlung)

English rendering: Who was attacked you, Gohel?

Code mixed word: एटाक (attacked)

Equivalent English word: attack, to assault, to assail.

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in Bodo, expressed in the remote past tense. In this sentence, the English verb "एटाक" (attack) is inserted and mixed by the novelist. The novelist could have used the native Bodo word "गाग्लोबनाय" (gaglwbnai) instead. However, the Bodo word was not used in order to reflect the social and educational status of both the hero and the speaker. The hero is a graduate and a government servant, while the speaker is portrayed as an intellectual socialist, leader, and a wealthy person.

Contextual Analysis

The above example is taken from the novel ‘Kharlung’. In this example, the novelist uses the English verb "attack" instead of the Bodo word "gaglwbnai." The male protagonist, Gohel, was attacked by the evil character Ramu while returning to his quarter from the house of Rangrasi. Ramu is known as a gunda (a local term for a thug) in the area, had previously tried

to molest Rangrasi one evening when she was returning home from college through a dense jungle. At that time, Gohel was on his way to visit Rangrasi, Malsing Babu, or Bistiram’s house after office hours. Suddenly, he heard crying of a girl coming from dense forest. He rushed toward the sound that someone is in trouble. There, he saw a man is attempting to molest a girl by force in the jungle. Gohel immediately intervened the illicit work and rescued the girl, who turned out to be Rangrasi. But, Ramu's plan was failed, for which he sought to take revenge on Gohel. Later, at the same place, Ramu attacked Gohel from behind with a sharp knife, leaving him seriously injured. Gohel was hospitalized after the attack. While Gohel was receiving treatment in the hospital, Malsing Babu asked him who had attacked him. In this context, the novelist uses code-mixing by inserting the English verb "attack" to reflect the background of the characters. Both Malsing Babu and Gohel are educated individuals. Gohel is a graduate and a government employee, while Malsing Babu is a socialist, leader, intellectual, and wealthy person. Therefore, the use of codemixing is a natural linguistic choice that aligns with their social status and education level.

3. CODE-SWITCHING IN SELECT NOVELS

3.1 Inter sentential code-switching

This type of code-switching occurs between at least two complete sentences or clauses. Inter-sentential code-switching involves switching at sentence boundaries, where one clause or sentence is in one language and the next is in another.

Example-1

The example given below is extracted from the novel ‘Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya’,

a social novel by Chittaranjan Mashahary."p-30

”मा लिरामोन शान्ति ?

“सि, शान्ति दाबुं खोनागोन।

”औ बावदोंसो आं, आरसा बुंनायसाय मा लिरामोन कल्पना ?

“लाभ लेटार। मिनिनानै बुङो शान्तिया।

English rendering

"What did you write, Santhi?"

"Don’t say Santhi, he will hear you."

"Oh yes, I forgot. Okay, tell me, what did you write?"

"A love letter," said Santhi with a smile.

Inter sentential code-switching: लाभ लेटार। (Love letter)

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example contains an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this exchange, the novelist begins the question through a character speaking in Bodo, but Santhi replies in English. This represents an instance of inter-sentential code switching from a sociolinguistic perspective. In this case, the first sentence starts in Bodo, while the response is given in English. This shift from one language to another within the same dialogue exemplifies how bilingual speakers naturally switch languages, often based on context, expression, or stylistic choice.

Contextual Analysis

Santhi is the only sister of Sushanto, and Sankar is a very close friend of Sushanto. The two have been close friends since childhood, and both are brilliant individuals. Sushanto was a professor in the Department of Natural Science at Guwahati Cotton College. He had a personal laboratory at home where he conducted research. He fell in love with a girl named Iramuti but never expressed his feelings to her. As a result, she never knew about his love and eventually married with someone else. Heartbroken, Sushanto could no longer focus on his work. He resigned from his position as a professor and never returned to his laboratory again. This is a brief background of Sushanto. Sankar, Sushanto’s close friend, became a doctor. After completing his medical degree, he went to Russia to specialize in ophthalmology. He eventually became an eye specialist and now runs a nursing home in his own residence. Santhi, Sushanto’s sister, is a college student studying arts. She secretly loves a boy named Ajit with all her heart, just as her brother once loved Iramutii. However, Ajit does not love Santhi. Instead, he is in love with another girl named Kalpana. Ajit was a brilliant science student who aspired to become a great scientist. He regularly visited Sushanto’s laboratory with Kalpana, his girlfriend and the only daughter of Kwilas, a wealthy timber merchant. The two were deeply in love. One day, while Ajit was conducting a practical experiment in the laboratory, an explosion occurred. Unfortunately, Ajit was seriously injured, and he lost his eyesight of both eyes. When Santhi informed Kalpana about Ajit's blindness, Kalpana left him without saying a word. But, Santhi was taking care of Ajit by pretending to be Kalpana, because Ajit did not love her at all except Kalpana. Santhi and her brother Sushanto searched for an eye specialist, but they could not find. Eventually, Sankar came to tell Santhi about Dr. Grimwig, an eye specialist from London who was currently staying at Sankar’s house. The following example is taken from a

conversation between Santhi and Sankar. When Sankar arrived at Santhi's home, she was writing a poem to distract herself from her emotions and sadness. Suddenly, Sankar asked Santhi what she was writing. In response, Santhi told him she was writing a love letter. In this excerpt, inter-sentential code-switching occurs. Although Santhi and Sankar were speaking in Bodo from the beginning, Santhi unexpectedly replied in English. The novelist used this instance of inter-sentential code-switching through Santhi's dialogue to reflect emotional intensity, cultural influence, or linguistic reality in a multilingual society.

"मा लिरामोन शान्ति?

"सि, शान्ति दाबुं खोनागोन।

"औ बावदोंसो आं, आरसा बुंनायसाय मा लिरामोन कल्पना ?

"लाभ लेटार। मिनिनानै बुङो शान्तिया।

In this extracted example, Sankar asked his question entirely in the Bodo language, while Santhi responded with a complete sentence in English. The conversation begins in Bodo and shifts to English in the reply. Therefore, this instance can be identified as intersentential code-switching, where the switch occurs between two complete sentences in different languages.

"मा लिरामोन शान्ति ?"

"लाभ लेटार। मिनिनानै बुङो शान्तिया।

In this example, Sankar asks Santhi in Bodo, "What did you write, Kalpana?" But Santhi replies in English with, "Love letter." This shows a clear switch from Bodo to English within the conversation. Santhi could have responded in Bodo for instance, "Mwjang mwnnaini laizam" instead of using the English phrase "love letter." However, she chose to reply in English. Both characters are portrayed as highly educated, and they understand each other's languages well. The novelist uses this code-switching deliberately to make the dialogue more natural and expressive, to reflect the characters' social status as educated individuals, and to align with their personalities. In this case, the conversation contains two complete sentences in two different languages one in Bodo and the other in English. This is a clear example of inter-sentential code-switching.

Example-2

The example given below is extracted from the novel Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya, a

social novel by Chittaranjan Mashahary. p-32

"बेनि सायाव माने करनिया इमफ्लेमेनटेसन जे आं खालामगोन करनियाखौ नों बहा मोननो कल्पना? Cornea is not so easily available."

English Rendering: That a cornea will implantation where will you get the cornea required, Kalpana? Cornea is not so easily available.

Inter sentential Code-switching: Cornea is not so easily available.

Linguistics Analysis

The first sentence in the example is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language, while the second sentence in English is a simple declarative sentence. Here, the novelist switches from one language to another, starting the conversation in Bodo and finishing it in English. Thus, this is considered an example of inter-sentential code-switching from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Contextual Analysis

The example above is a conversation between Dr. Grimwig and Santhi. After Ajit became blind due to a laboratory explosion, Santhi started treatment for him with the help of her brother Sushanto and their close friend Sankar. Eventually, through their efforts, they were able to meet Dr. Grimwig, an eye specialist from London who was temporarily staying at Sankar's house in India. Following Ajit's medical examination, Dr. Grimwig declared that both of Ajit's eyes required corneal transplantation. They searched for a cornea for the transplant, but were unable to find one, as corneas are not easily available in India. This conversation takes place in that context. During their discussion, the characters engaged in code-switching, a common phenomenon in sociolinguistics where speakers switch from one language to another within a conversation. In this instance, they started speaking in Bodo but switched to English at certain points. For example, the first sentence begins in Bodo:

"बेनि सायाव माने करनिया इमफ्लेमेनटेसन जे आां खालामगोन करनियाखौ नों बहा मोननो कल्पना?" and ends with the English sentence, "Cornea is not so easily available." Santhi also continues the conversation by asking Dr. Grimwig another question in Bodo: "खुनु राहा गैया डाक्टार...?"

In this exchange, the novelist has used English sentences within a Bodo-language novel to reflect the characters' educational backgrounds and social status. Since Dr. Grimwig is from London and naturally speaks English, and both Sankar (an eye specialist trained in Russia) and Santhi (a higher education student) are highly educated, the use of English words or sentences occurs naturally either consciously or unconsciously. Moreover, as this is a medical conversation, the use of English terms is appropriate and necessary to convey specific medical concepts effectively. This instance is a clear example of inter-sentential code-switching, where language switching occurs between complete sentences in different languages, reflecting real-life multilingual communication patterns.

Example -1 हाउ दु इउ दु ? -बिस्टिरामआ सोङो।

जास्ट गेटिं अन- गहेला फिन होयो।

हाउ आर इउ? -गहेला सोङो।

फाइन- बिस्टरामआ मिनिस्लु खालामनानै फिन होयो।

हयआर आर इउ फ्रम, नोंथाया बबेनिफ्राय मिस्टार ब्रह्म?

ननिफ्राय मिस्टार बर'।

हाउ फार, बेसेबां गोजान थांनो ?

नोंथांमोननि दरं हादाबखौ नायनो फैदों।

अलराइट, थौ जोंनिसिम।

बेसे गोजान नोंथांनि गामिया?

बारा गोजान नङा नोंथां, अनलि ए सिटल मोर देन एन आवयार जारनि।

English rendering:

Bistiram: How do you do?

Gohel: Just getting on. How are you?

Bistiram: Fine. (smiles)

Gohel: Where are you from, Mr. Brahma?

Bistiram: From home, Mr. Boro.

Gohel: How far will you go?

Bistiram: I coming to visit your place of Darrang.

Gohel: Alright, let's go to our home.

Bistiram: How far is your village? Gohel: Not too far, Mr. Brahma just a little more than an hour's journey.

Extracted from "Kharlunng" (unsettled) written by Mr. Manoranjan Lahary. p-22

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example illustrates inter-sentential code-switching. In this example, there is a conversation between the male protagonist Gohel and his friend Bistiram. The sentences include a combination of interrogative and declarative forms. Some questions are asked in English and answered in Bodo, while others are asked in Bodo and answered in English. Essentially, the language switches from one to another either from English to Bodo or from Bodo to English.

For instance - - - हयआर आर इउ फ्रम, नोंथाया बबेनिफ्राय मिस्टार ब्रह्म? ननिफ्राय मिस्टार बर'।

Gohel: Where are you from, Mr. Brahma?

Bistiram: From home, Mr. Boro.

Here, Bistiram asks a question in English, and Gohel replies in Bodo. The language switches from an English sentence to a Bodo sentence. Therefore, this is considered inter sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics. - बेसे गोजान नोंथांनि गामिया? बारा गोजान नङा नोंथां, अनलि ए लिटल मोर देन एन आवार जारनि।

Gohel: How far is your village?

Bistiram: Not too far, Mr. just a little more than an hour's journey.

In the same discourse, Gohel asks the question in Bodo, while Bistiram replies in English. This is also considered inter-sentential code-switching, as the sentences completely shift from one language to another. Contextual Analysis This example is taken from the social novel 'Kharlung' (Unsettled) written by Mr. Manoranjan Lahary. In this novel, the author uses extensive code-mixing and code switching between various languages. The examples mentioned above demonstrate inter sentential code-switching between English and Bodo. As previously stated, the use of code switching and code-mixing is a common feature and deliberate writing technique employed by Manoranjan Lahary. It can be considered a response to the demands of the narrative and social setting. In the example cited above, the characters Gohel and Bistiram are engaged in a conversation. Gohel is the protagonist of the novel, while Bistiram is a supporting character. They were classmates and roommates during their college years at Kokrajhar Government College. Gohel is the only son of Ransrem and Gaojeng. Both his father and mother have high hopes that Gohel would take full responsibility for the family after completing his education. Despite the family's poor economic condition, Ransrem made every effort to provide him with a higher education for a better future. Gohel pursued his bachelor's degree at Kokrajhar Government College, where he met Bistiram. After completing their studies, both returned to their respective homes Bistiram to Darrang district and Gohel to Kokrajhar. At home, Gohel remained idle, refusing to take on any responsibilities. His father expected him to either get a government job or take up farming, and also to get married. However, Gohel denied all of his father's wishes, which led to frequent quarrels between them. Ransrem often scolded Gohel out of frustration. 85 One day, Gohel left home without a clear destination. When he got off the train at Udalguri Railway Station, he unexpectedly met Bistiram after a long time. Their meeting led to a serious conversation, which is represented in the example above. During the exchange, they spoke in both English and Bodo. This is a clear instance of inter-sentential code-switching, as complete sentences are used in both languages one in English, the other in Bodo. The use of code-switching and code-mixing is a common phenomenon in today's multilingual societies. It often depends on one's profession, cultural background, social environment, and community. In this example, both characters are well-educated and possess a strong sense of self-respect. They are fluent in both English and Bodo and intentionally switch between the two languages. Manoranjan Lahary employs this technique to align the dialogue with the characters' identities, to reflect their social status, and to engage the reader effectively.

3.2. Intra sentential code-switching

It takes place within a single sentence or clause and is a form of bilingual

communication where speakers blend elements from different languages while following

the grammatical rules of both languages involved. Examples from the selected novels are

discussed below.

Example-1

If I don't succeed! बिदिब्लाथ' सानैबो खाना खानि जानानै थानांगोन। p-41 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

English rendering: If I don't succeed! then both will have to remain blind.

Intra sentential code-switching: बिदिब्लाथ' सानैबो खाना खानि जानानै थानाांगोन।

Linguistics Analysis

The mentioned example is a complex sentence composed of two languages. In this sentence, the first part is a dependent clause in English, and the second part is an independent clause in Bodo. This type of sentence is considered an example of intra sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics, as the speaker switches from English to Bodo within a single sentence.

For instance, "If I don't succeed" is the English dependent clause, while " बिदिब्लाथ' सानैबो खाना खानि जानानै थानाांगोन। is the Bodo independent clause.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from the social novel 'Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya' by Chittaranjan Mashahary. It is a conversation between the female character Santhi and Dr. Grimwig, a doctor who has come to India from London. The male protagonist of the novel, Ajit, lost his eyesight in both eyes due to a laboratory explosion while conducting an experiment. Ajit was a brilliant and ambitious young man who dreamed of becoming a scientist. Unfortunately, the accident left him blind. In an effort to restore his sight, Santhi decides to donate both of her corneas to Ajit, since corneal transplantation is the only way to help him regain his vision but no donor could be found. Santhi's decision is extremely risky, as donating both corneas would leave her completely blind. Her two brothers, Sushanto and Sonkhor, advise her against taking such a tragic and dangerous step. However, she ignores their warnings and approaches Dr. Grimwig to carry out the transplant. Upon learning the true reason behind her request, the doctor is shocked and initially refuses to perform the surgery. Despite this, Santhi repeatedly pleads with Dr. Grimwig to proceed with the operation. Deeply moved but concerned for her well-being, the doctor gently responds with the abovementioned line, attempting to stop her from making such a life-altering sacrifice. He reminds her that once the corneas are removed, her blindness will be permanent she will never regain her eyesight. In this example, Dr. Grimwig uses intra-sentential code-switching, blending English and Bodo within a single sentence. This kind of code-switching is common among multilingual speakers, especially when all participants are educated and fluent in more than one language. The novelist uses this technique to create a more realistic and engaging conversation between the characters.

3.3 Tag switching

This type of switching occurs when the language switch overs at the end of a sentence, typically with a question tag. It is known as tag switching. Tag switching often involves inserting a tag question from one language into a sentence that is otherwise in another language. An example of tag switching is discussed below with reference to selected novels.

Example-1

“मोनबाय आदा करनियाखौ?” p-34 “ Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya”

English rendering: Brother, did you receive the cornea?

Tag switching word:? करनियाखौ (Cornea?)

Linguistics Analysis

This example is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the novelist switches from Bodo to English at the end, using a question tag. The instance of tag switching here is seen in the use of "करनियाखौ?" ("cornea?"). Since there is no appropriate or exact equivalent for cornea in the Bodo language, the novelist uses the English word cornea as a loan word, integrated into the Bodo sentence. This is a clear case of tag switching, where the switch occurs at the end of a sentence using a borrowed English term to maintain clarity and accuracy.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from the social novel ‘Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya’ by Chittaranjan Mashahary. It is part of a conversation between Santhi, Sonkor, and Susanto. After a laboratory explosion during a practical session, Ajit becomes blind as the corneas of both his eyes are severely damaged. In search of a solution, Santhi and her brothers begin looking for a suitable cornea donor to enable a transplant. Santhi asks Sonkor whether he has been able to arrange a cornea, but he replies that he could not find one in India. Due to the shortage of donated corneas in the country, Santhi ultimately makes a life-changing decision: she chooses to donate both of her own corneas to Ajit. Santhi loves Ajit deeply and believes in his potential. She considers him a brilliant student who could become a great scientist in the future. She does not want his talent to be wasted due to blindness. Santhi believes that if Ajit regains his vision, he will be able to serve not only the nation but the world. Despite strong objections from her brothers and the doctors, Santhi remains firm in her decision and follows through with it. In the sentence cited above, the novelist uses tag switching, shifting from Bodo to English through the character’s dialogue. This technique reflects the emotional weight of the situation and highlights the bilingual environment of the characters.

Example-7

मानो रांरासिहा गहेलनि सायाव एफाग्राब इन्टारेष्ट? p-50 (Kharlung)

English rendering: Why is Rangrasi so interested in Gohel?

Tag switching word: इन्टारेष्ट?

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the author has used the English word "interest?" (इन्टारेष्ट?) as a tag question. The author switches from Bodo to English by inserting the English word at the end of the sentence. Therefore, this sentence is an example of tag switching in sociolinguistics,

where a word from another language here, English is added at the end of a sentence in the primary language, which is Bodo in this case. This kind of code-switching is found in the selected novel to reflect natural speech patterns and bilingual interaction.

Contextual Analysis

This example is cited from the social novel 'Kharlung' by Manoranjan Lahary. It is asentence spoken by Malsing Boro, the father of Rangrasi. Rangrasi had come to the hospital to visit Gohel, who was hospitalized after being attacked by Ramu Gunda. At that moment, Malsing Boro was surprised and questioned why his daughter was so interested in Gohel. In this situation, the author used the English word "interest" as a tag switch to reflect the character's linguistic background. Malsing Boro is portrayed as a wealthy, educated leader thus, the use of English or other non-Bodo words in his speech is natural and realistic. This demonstrates his multilingualism. The novelist uses this technique deliberately as a stylistic device to enhance the realism of dialogue, reflect the bilingual nature of characters, and engage readers through authentic conversation.

3. Conclusion

Code mixing and code switching in select Bodo novels reflect the dynamic nature of the Bodo language and its contact with other languages. Their use enriches the expression, dialogue, and characterization of the novels while representing the multilingual and changing socio-cultural realities of Bodo society. Thus, code mixing and code switching serve as important linguistic and literary devices in contemporary Bodo fiction. Apart from the English many languages were used in these select novels. But the only example of English is analysed.

Some advantages and disadvantages of using Code-Mixing and Code-Switching are given bellow.

Advantages

1. Better Communication: The people can express their ideas more easily by using words from other languages when native language does not have their own exact equivalent words.

2. Shows Identity and Culture: Code-Mixing and Code-Switching reflects bilingual or multilingual identity and cultural background.

3. Makes Conversation Natural: Among bilingual or multilingual speakers, mixing and switching languages often sounds more comfortable and natural.

4. Helps in Learning Languages: Code-Mixing and Code-Switching can improve a person's vocabulary and understanding of multiple languages.

5. Creates Social Bonding: Using shared mixed language can create closeness and strengthen group identity among speakers. switching, intra-sentential code-switching, and tag switching.

Disadvantages

1.Confusion for Listeners: People who do not know multiple languages they may not understand the conversation clearly and may confused.

2.Weakness in Language Proficiency: Frequent or excessive used of code-mixing and code-switching may reduce fluency or accuracy in one language.

3.Grammatical Errors: Code-mixing and code-switching languages can sometimes create incorrect sentence structures.

4.Negative Impression in Formal Situations: In academic, professional, or official contexts, excessive code mixing and code switching may be considered inappropriate.

5.Language Loss: Overuse of code-mixing and code switching may affect the purity or preservation of a native language over time.

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