

Code-switching and mixing of English and Arabic amongst Arab students at Aligarh Muslim University in India

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Abstract- The aim of this study is to posit some points touching the use of Code-switching and mixing of English and Arabic . The objectives of this study were to show 1- whether Arab students at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) code-switch and mix to English in their daily contacts or not ,2- why Arab students at AMU code switch and mix to English.

This investigation was conducted on the 19th of January, 2015. It investigated 100 Arab students of different educational levels ,nationalities and ages , they are at 3 levels of education: Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. at AMU.

The tool used for data collection in this study was a questionnaire. The result have shown that most of Arab students at AMU do code-switch and mix to English in their conversations .

Finally, the findings show that the reasons Arab students at AMU code-switch and mix to English refer to the lack of knowledge in English .

Index Terms- Code-switching (CS) ,Code-mixing (CM) ,Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)

I. INTRODUCTION

The communication between users of different speech varieties appear in languages contact .Referring to Hammer and Blanc (2000), languages in contact describe a situation where two or more codes are used in interactions between people . Bilinguality is the psychological state of an individual who has access to more than one linguistic code as a means of social communication; the degree of access will vary along a number of dimensions which are psychological, cognitive, sociolinguistic, social psychological, social, sociological, sociolinguistic, sociocultural and linguistic (Hammers, 1981 cited in Hammers and Blanc, 2000: 6).

The study of language in contact focuses more on various types of language contact situations and various forms of bilingualism. However, the main issue in bilingualism research is code-switching and mixing , the alternative use of two or more languages in the same conversation by bilingual speakers (Lesley and Muysken, 1995).

The study of language contact as phenomena like bilingualism and CS/CM has increased last few years. Referring to (Jonsson, 2005) work 'language contact phenomena' was established to show different types of language contact phenomena such as code-switching, code-mixing, and

borrowings. This concept also covers phenomena that are not counted as code-switching, for example, loans and interference .

CS and CM can be Considered as a normal result of the bilingualism which is the interaction in two or more languages in multilingual and multicultural communities. Haugen (1956 cited in Romaine, 1995: 52) differentiate between: "switching, the alternate use of two languages; interference, the overlapping of two languages, or application of two systems to the same item; and integration, the use of words or phrases from one language that have become so much a part of the other that it cannot be called either switching or overlapping."

In 2006 Chung points that meeting the complex communicative demands requires the speakers of a community where two or more languages are used to switch from one language to another.

Referring to Haugen (1956), bilingual tend to use or form sentences that have elements from both languages especially at the beginning of the language development. It is normal for a speaker who speaks two or more languages fluently to switch or mix between them on justness or frequently while speaking to other people who speak the same languages. It also appear that if a speaker spends a lot of time in a bilingual or multilingual environment, he/she will start to switch from one language to another.

The purpose of this study is to discuss the phenomenon of Code-switching and mixing of English and Arabic amongst Arab students at(AMU)in India

Likely, higher learning institutions in India have decreed the language of content subject class rooms to English, which is the more significant of the second language in this large country . The motivation behind the moving towards using a second language in teaching, or content . this thing improve the language of local and the foreign students who are attending and learning at Aligarh Muslim University in India

Code-switching and mixing can be considered as a natural product of bilinguals' interaction in two or more languages in multilingual and multicultural communities.

This investigation tries to calibrate whether Arab students at AMU code switch/mix to English and the reasons they code-switch/mix to English in daily communication.

II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Bilinguals are known for their ability to code-switch and mix between the languages they speak through their conversations by substituting words or phrases from one

language with words or phrases from another language. The phenomenon of code-switching and mixing are appeared in the conversations among Arab bilingual speakers of English where they use a lot of English expressions and loanwords .

Many studies have been conducted on code-switching and mixing .On the other hand, few studies have been done on Arabic bilingual speakers of English. Whereas, there is a lack of information about the way of Arabic speakers of English code-switch and mix between the two languages in daily dialogues or conversations.

Previous studies on code –switching and mixing concentrated on the reasons why Arab bilingual code switch and mix to English . Previous studies did not concentrate on the kinds of code-switching and mixing used by Arab bilingual.

In other words, fewer studies have been conducted at the university setting to investigate the phenomenon of code-switching and mixing among Arab bilingual. Thus, study will examine code-switching and mixing in a university setting, for example, Aligarh Muslim University. The study will concentrate on the reasons why Arab students at Aligarh Muslim University code-switching and mixing to English in their daily dialogue. It will also examine the kinds of code-switching and mixing used by Arab University students at AMU.

III. THE PURPOSES OF THIS STUDY ARE:

- To assure whether Arab students at Aligarh Muslim University code- switch and mixing to English or not.
- To assure the reasons Arab University students at Aligarh Muslim University code-switching and mixing in their daily dialogues or conversations.

IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Do Arab students at Aligarh Muslim University code-switch and mix to English?
- What are the reasons Arab students at Aligarh Muslim University code-switch and mix to English in their daily dialogues?

Importance of the study

- The results of the study will be particularly important for their possibility in creating a better understanding of the code switching and mixing phenomenon amongst Arab bilingual.
- The researcher, moreover,believes this study will make a simple assistance in filling the gap of the lack of studies in the domain of the bilingualism, especially in code-switching and mixing of Arabic bilingual of English.
- The results will contribute to both L1 and ELS/EFL teachers' understanding of language use and communication among Arab University students.
- Last one, it is expected that the results of this study will help in second language acquisition investigation or research on the use of the second language. This means the study will share in the SLA literature on the problem of code-switching and mixing.

V. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Code-switching

Code-switching occurs when a speaker alternates between two or more languages, or language varieties, in the context of a single conversation. Referring to Grosjean (1982) code-switching is the alternate use of two or more languages in the same utterance, and this can be in a form of a single word, or a phrase, or a sentence/s. In 1998, Spolsky define code-switching as the phenomenon which occurs when bilingual switch between two common languages they share in the middle of a conversation, and the switch takes place between or within sentences, involving phrases, words, or even parts of words.

Code-switching, in this investigation , is defined as the phenomenon where bilingual change words, phrases, and sentences of one language by another languages.

Code-mixing

Code-mixing assign to the mixing of two or more languages or language varieties in speech.

The terms code-mixing are used to describe more stable situations in which many languages are used without any pragmatic effects. referring to Alvarez (1998) the formal code-mixing should be treated as distinct from code-switching, defined in pragmatic or discourse terms.

Bilingualism

Bilingualism refers to "the state of a linguistic community in which two languages are in contact with the result that two codes can be used in the same interaction and that a number of individuals are bilinguals" (Hammers and Blanc, 2000: 6).

In (1994) Mohanty defines bilingualism through defining the bilingual person, who is the one with an ability to meet the communicative demands of him/herself and of the society by interacting with the other speakers in normal circumstances in two or more languages.

The previous study on bilingualism said that proficient bilingual speakers employ code-switching and mixing in their speeches for different purposes and at different levels.

Bloomfield (1933) defines bilingualism as having the control of two languages equivalent to the native .

Referring to Haugen (1953) and Suleiman (1981): Bilingualism usually occurs within some particular social setting.

Bilingualism amongst Arabs

There are a large number of Arabs who live outside Arab countries. Those Arab people are at most bilingual, but their language choice varies from the first generation and the second generation who were born outside Arab countries and did not acquire the Arabic basics.

Among Arab Immigrants in India

CS/CM were observed as phenomena in the informants speech in settings such as home, friendship, and university.

The study found that CS/CM is used among the informants as a strategy in communication. but the motivations for switching and mixing in the informants speech are limited for some extent.

VI. IN JORDAN

The bilingualism phenomena in Jordan is appeared by the use of hundreds of English loanwords and expressions (Hazaymeh, 2004; Kailani, 1994). Since many Jordanians are bilingual in English, they prefer to code switch and mix towards English in fields as work ,education and general conversation. Hazaymeh also said that recent cultural contacts with the English-speaking countries have introduced many aspects of English culture and English loanwords into Arabic in the Jordanian society. Cultural contacts have been established by various means such as education, technology, trade, sports, media, and communications.

consequently, many Jordanians have been encouraged to learn English and become bilingual. Hazaymeh also point that Jordanians of different social backgrounds and ages like to code switch to English, using English words and expressions in their daily interactions because of many reasons, for example as a sign of knowing English and as a symbol of social prestige.

VII. FOCUS ON THE REASONS FOR CODE-SWITCHING AND MIXING

For several years ,code-switching and mixing researchers have trying to find a reason for code-switching and mixing. researcher like Gumperz (1982) and Auer (1984) have defined code-switching as one of a number of discourse cues (both verbal and nonverbal) that help signal and interpret interlocutors intentions. while the interest of other researchers, was to describe the morpho-syntactical constraints in inter-sentential switching focusing on the position or location in a sentence where code-switching and mixing would be allowed.

VIII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING

The research method have used in this study was quantitative. The method have employed in this study to collect data from some learners, Arab University students at AMU in India. The sample included Arab students from different ages, and nationalities. This held with Arab students at AMU. The participants have represented the following countries: Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, and Oman who enrolled at three levels of education, for instance Bachelor, Master, and PhD at Aligarh Muslim University/ India.

IX. SAMPLES

One hundred Arab students have participated, ten of them females and the rest males, 44 males and 6 females, were chosen through random sampling, using a list of all Arab students names gained from the Postgraduate Programme Departments at (AMU). The sample included Arab students of different ages and nationalities,32 Yemenis , 53 Jordanians,5 Palestinians , 2 Syrians, 2 Libyans , and 6 Iraqis, who are enrolled at 3 levels of education, Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.D. at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

The students were Arab bilingual of English; they speak Arabic as their mother tongue, including many varieties, and

English as a second language. They are enrolled in different programmes at AMU.

A total of 100 questionnaires were distributed of which 96 were returned; the return rate was more than 90%. moreover, only 91 of them were analyzed.

X. CONCLUSION

It has been recognized in the literature of CS/CM that this phenomenon is universal in the multilingual countries; but, the reasons for this phenomenon differ between countries. CS/CM have been observed in the daily discussion of Arab students at AMU. Arab students at AMU are mostly bilingual and they tend to code switch/mix towards English and Urdu in their speech. This study has found that the majority of Arab students at AMU do code-switch/mix to English in their daily conversations.

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