

STRUCTURAL PATTERNS OF CODE-SWITCHING IN UZBEK-ENGLISH SPEECH AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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Abstract Code-switching is a widespread phenomenon in bilingual communication, particularly among university students exposed to multiple languages in academic and social contexts. This study examines the structural patterns of code-switching in Uzbek-English speech, focusing on types of switching, grammatical organization, and the distribution of matrix and embedded languages. Using a descriptive and qualitative methodology, the research analyzes naturally occurring speech data collected from bilingual students. The findings indicate that intra-sentential code-switching is the most frequent type, with Uzbek functioning as the matrix language and English as the embedded language. The study demonstrates that code-switching follows systematic structural patterns and contributes to the field of Applied Linguistics by providing insights into bilingual speech behavior in the Uzbek context.

Keywords: code-switching, bilingualism, structural patterns, matrix language, embedded language, Uzbek-English speech, sociolinguistics

Аннотация Код-свитчинг является широко распространённым явлением в билингвальном общении, особенно среди студентов университетов, находящихся под влиянием нескольких языков в академической и социальной среде. В данном исследовании рассматриваются структурные модели код-свитчинга в узбекско-английской речи с акцентом на типы переключения, грамматическую организацию, а также распределение матричного и встроенного языков. В работе применяется описательная и качественная методология для анализа естественной речи билингвальных студентов. Результаты показывают, что внутрифразовый код-свитчинг является наиболее распространённым типом, при этом узбекский язык функционирует как матричный, а английский — как встроенный. Исследование демонстрирует системный характер код-свитчинга и вносит вклад в область прикладной лингвистики, предоставляя новые данные о билингвальном речевом поведении в узбекском контексте.

Ключевые слова: код-свитчинг, билингвизм, структурные модели, матричный язык, встроенный язык, узбекско-английская речь, социолингвистика

Annotatsiya Kod-almashish ikki tilli muloqotda, ayniqsa universitet talabalari orasida keng tarqalgan hodisa bo'lib, bu ularning ilmiy va ijtimoiy muhitda bir nechta tillardan foydalanishlarini anglatadi. Mazkur tadqiqot o'zbekcha-inglizcha nutqdagi kod-almashishning strukturaviy modellarini, xususan kod-almashish turlari, ularning grammatik tuzilishi hamda asosiy va qo'shimcha tillarning kod-almashishdagi taqsimotini o'rganadi. Tadqiqotda tavsifiy sifat metodologiyasidan foydalanilgan holda, ikki tilli talabalarning so'zlashuv jarayonidagi tabiiy nutqi tahlil qilinadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, jarayonning gap tarkibida sodir bo'lishi kod-almashishning eng ko'p uchraydigan turi bo'lib, unda o'zbek tili asosiy-struktura tili, ingliz tili esa qo'shimcha-leksik til sifatida namoyon bo'ladi. Tadqiqot kod-almashishning tizimli xususiyatga ega

ekanligini ko'rsatib beradi hamda shu orqali amaliy tilshunoslik sohasiga o'z hissasini qo'shadi.

Kalit so'zlar: kod-almashish, ikki tillilik, strukturaviy modellar, asosiy (matritsa) til, qo'shimcha til, o'zbekcha-inglizcha nutq, sotsiolingvistika.

Introduction

In the context of globalization and the growing role of English in higher education, code-switching has become a frequent phenomenon in bilingual speech in Uzbekistan. University students often alternate between Uzbek and English during informal conversations, reflecting their linguistic competence and exposure to academic, digital, and international environments. [1]

Although the sociolinguistic functions of code-switching are widely studied, its structural features in Uzbek–English interactions remain insufficiently explored. This study applies Poplack's (1980) typology and Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model (1993, updated 2023) to analyze naturally occurring speech. The main objectives are to identify the dominant types of code-switching, examine their grammatical integration, and determine the matrix language in mixed utterances. [3][4]

Methodology

The research used a qualitative descriptive design. Data were collected through audio recordings of informal conversations among 25 Uzbek–English bilingual university students (aged 18–24) in urban areas of Uzbekistan. Participants discussed everyday and academic topics in natural settings to minimize the observer's effect. All recordings were transcribed, and code-switches were classified using Poplack's typology and analyzed through the MLF model. Informed consent was obtained from all participants. Types of Code-Switching. Three types of code-switching were identified according to Poplack (1980), with intra-sentential switching being the most common. [4]

Intra-sentential Code-Switching. This type occurs within a single sentence:

1. Men assignmentni ertaga topshiraman.
2. U presentation uchun tayyorlanyapti.

Inter-sentential Code-Switching. This type occurs between sentences:

Bugun dars qiyin bo'ldi. I didn't understand the lecture.

Tag-Switching. Short English expressions are inserted into Uzbek speech:

1. Bu juda qiyin, you know.
2. Keling boshlaymiz, okay?

Structural Analysis Code-switching was observed at different linguistic levels:

1. Word level: Single English nouns such as deadline, project, meeting.
2. Phrase level: English phrases integrated into Uzbek structure (final examga tayyorlanish; group discussion qilamiz).

3. Clause level: Full clause switches (Men harakat qildim, but it was too difficult.) These examples demonstrate systematic and rule-governed integration of the two languages. [1]

Matrix Language Frame Analysis Using the MLF model, the analysis shows that Uzbek consistently serves as the matrix language, supplying the grammatical frame, morphology, and word order. English acts as the embedded language, mainly contributing content morphemes (nouns and technical terms). Example:

Men assignmentni tugatdim. [3]

In this utterance, Uzbek provides the sentence structure and case marker -ni, while English supplies the lexical item assignment. This pattern supports the predictions of the MLF model and aligns with recent findings on Uzbek–English bilingual speech. [2][5]

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that Uzbek–English code-switching among university students in Uzbekistan is a systematic and grammatically constrained practice. Intra-sentential switching is the most frequent type, and Uzbek functions as the dominant matrix language. These findings confirm that bilingual speakers exhibit high linguistic competence and use code-switching strategically for communicative efficiency. [2] The results contribute empirical data from the Uzbek context to the field of applied linguistics. They also suggest that code-switching should be recognized as a valuable resource in English-medium instruction rather than a linguistic shortcoming. Future studies could involve larger corpora or explore connections between code-switching and language proficiency. [1]

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