LANGUAGE-MIXING AND ITS PROCESSES IN PAKISTANI URDU NEWSPAPERS

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Abstract

Multilingualism has become a significant feature of today's linguistic scenario. Languages tend to affect each other when they are in contact on account of the role given or due to the attitude of the language users. Language contact results in language-mixing. Language-mixing in formal, written, corpora in Pakistan manifests the spread of English. The present study aimed to investigate the frequency of the occurrence of language-mixing in Urdu newspapers. Thus, it investigated the extent to which language-mixing is prevalent and the processes it takes when it occurs in Pakistani Urdu newspapers. Two Urdu newspapers (published in morning) were taken (from February 1 to 15, 2014) as sample. The study took front page (page number 1) and international news page (page number 3) as they cover all the aspects of news briefly. The data from Urdu newspapers were analyzed through linguistic analysis. The findings of the study showed that language-mixing is frequently done in Urdu newspapers and it takes various processes-insertion, hybridization and synthesis.

Keywords: Multilingualism, Language-mixing, Urdu Newspapers, Hybridization, Synthesis.

JEL Classification: Z 000

Introduction

According to researchers more than 60 languages, out of which 6 are major and 57 are minor, are spoken in Pakistan (Fareed, Humayun, & Akhtar, 2016; Rehman, 2010). Richards and Schmidt (2010) define multilingualism as "the use of three or more languages by an individual or by a group of speakers such as the inhabitants of a particular region or a nation" (p.378-379). English and Urdu have existed together for many years and exert considerable impact on each other from multiple aspects. Language-mixing of English words in Urdu is frequent in speech as well as in writings.

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Language-mixing is often referred to as code-mixing which is defined as "mixing of two codes or languages" in a sentence (Richards & Schmidt, 2010, p.88).It appears in many forms or processes such as hybridization, insertion and synthesis. Richards and Schmidt (2010) calls hybridity a "mixture, for example cultural mixing as an effect of globalization" (p.265) so it is "something that is formed by combining two or more" (Hybrid, 2014). The process of hybridity is "hybridization" (Bakhtin, as cited in Rasul, 2006, p.10). Insertion is defined as "the act or process of putting something into something else: the act or process of inserting something" (Insertion, 2014). Rasul (2006) has used the term "synthesis" to imply one of the processes of language-mixing" which includes "abbreviations, acronyms, reduplication, tags and fillers", etc. In the present study only the occurrence of acronyms and abbreviations has been categorized under synthesis which is a process of language-mixing.

The present study focused on the use and processes of language-mixing in written, non-fiction text-newspapers. It was limited to focus on two newspapers and used publication of 15 days. The researchers have delimited the study by focusing on front page and the third page of Urdu newspapers with the rationale that they contain news from different fields briefly. The objective of the present study was to explore the occurrence of language-mixing and the types of language-mixing processes in Pakistani Urdu newspapers therefore, it focused the following questions:
1) How frequent is the occurrence of language-mixing in Pakistani Urdu newspapers?
2) What types of language-mixing processes appear in Pakistani Urdu newspapers?

Statement of the problem

There is ample research that has focused on language-mixing in spoken corpora or the speech of bilinguals while language-mixing in written discourse or corpus has been researched less, specifically in the local context there is a need to research the area. In fictional writings the mixing of other code or language is seen as a part of writer's creativity, yet its occurrence in non-fictional corpora can lead to various reasons, such as, negligence or oversight of the editor, etc. Newspapers which are a significant source of information and provide rich data on language are read widely by the educated or less educated alike. Therefore the present study focused on language-mixing in formal, written corpora such as newspapers (print media).

Literature review

Languages have considerable influence on each other from all the aspects (phonology, morphology, lexicon, etc.,) when they coincide in bilingual or multilingual societies (Mohideen, 2006). The contact of languages over a period of time results in language-mixing and borrowing. Language-mixing and switching in multilingual context has been researched by many researchers (Li, 2000; Zakaria, 2011; Fong, 2011; Chantarothai, 2011; Erwin-Billones, 2012; Arumawanti, 2013; Adjei, 2014), while in countries like China where bilingualism is a new feature of language,

language-mixing and switching has been a new area of interest for researchers (Chun-xuan, 2010; Bi, 2011;Leung & Chan, 2016).

What are the types of language-mixing? What types of forms or patterns appear in the speech or writings of bilinguals when they mix two languages? What are the processes of language-mixing? What are the reasons for such mixing in speech or writings, particularly formal writings? These questions have been of interest for the researchers.

According to Poplack (1978) there are three basic types or categories of language- switching. The first one is intra-sentential switching (also called language-mixing or code-mixing) which is the insertion of word or phrase in a language. Switching at clause or sentence level is referred to inter-sentential switching. Then there is tag-switching. According to Muysken (2000) language-mixing takes three forms or processes- "insertion", "alternation" and "congruent lexicalization" (p.3). The first one involves insertion of "lexical items" or "entire constituents", while the second is "alternation between structures from languages and the third process involves congruent lexicalization of material from different lexical inventories into a shared grammatical structure" (p.3).

In classroom discourse and media discourse, language-mixing has been researched taking spoken as well as written data (Dar, Akhtar, & Khalid, 2014; Ahmed, Ahmed, & Seemab, 2015; Hossain & Bar, 2015; Fareed, Humayun & Akhtar, 2016; Akhtar, Khan, & Fareed, 2016; Chughtai, Khan, & Khan, 2016; Leung, & Chan, 2016). Chun-Xuan (2010) noted that the use of language-mixing in Chinese newspapers, particularly in sports news and reports, by the news writers is not an "accidental improvisation" but a "pre-planned and intentional" attempt "with specific goals to accomplish in the minds of sports writers and the editors" (p. 171).

Whether language-mixing is frequent in fictional corpus or occurs more frequently in non-fictional writings? Jalal (2010) has noted that in spoken or oral communication this linguistic phenomenon is common, yet in fictional writings as well language-mixing serves specific functions so is more frequent than non-fictional or formal texts. Should this imply that in newspapers, non-fiction and formal, there ought to be less use of language-mixing items because editors or news writers take heed of using minimum use of language-mixing? As language-mixing "in written work involves more thought processing and consideration" so "in official documents and non-fiction genres [language-mixing] is much less and occurs only to perform specific functions" (Jalal, 2010, p.45-46). Erwin-Billones (2012) found out that in newspapers the use of other language is manifestation of multilingualism. On the other hand Kia, Cheng, Yee and Ling (2011) contended that the occurrence of language-mixing and other "language-deviations" serves the purpose of attracting the "attention of the readers". According to Mareva and Mapako (2012) language-switching has become an integral part of the written language of Zimbabwe.

Many Pakistani researchers have also explored the phenomenon of language-mixing in

classroom discourse, textbooks, and media discourse (Sipra, 2009; Gulzar, 2010; Qadir, 2011; Mush-taq & Zahra, 2012; Mahmood & Asim, 2012; Aslam, Rehman, Qasim & Abbas, 2012; Rafi, 2013; Ehsan & Aziz, 2014). "Language is a significant broadcasting issue in Pakistan" (Geniets, 2013, p.54). Ehsan and Aziz (2014) pointed out that there is a need to pay heed to how extensively language-mixing is done in media which later is related to multiple concerns related to language. Muhammad and Mahmood (2013) found out "variation in Urdu language due to language contact" by their "corpus-based study". They contended that "Urdu is a flexible language" and is "absorbing" influence on its vocabulary yet its structure remains undistorted. Rafi (2013) found out that "adoption and conformity" are inevitable consequence of "Urdu and English contact in e-discourse" and the "features regarding contact languages" under debate "may not be considered true in the e-discourse" (p.84).

"Borrowing and mixing in Pakistani children's magazines" are common because "in Pakistan children's magazines are multilingual as are the people" (Rasul, 2013, p.47). She questions the consequence of language-mixing on Urdu "…how far this code-mixing adds to the richness of Urdu or affects its beauty; and what implications does it have with reference to the issues of globaliza-tion and Identity" (p.71).

The variation in Urdu due to mixing and borrowing of English words is becoming evident as we see more hybrid words at word and phrase level. This variation has not reached to clause and sentence level so far but the fact is irrefutable that English has asserted its power and hegemony over Urdu and other regional languages of Pakistan as we see its widespread use in newspapers, television, radio, and now in textbooks. Some researchers, educationalists and linguists support such mixing with the opinion that the only language that does not change is a dead language therefore language-mixing is positive for a language. Yet, some lament such mixing at widespread level and in formal texts.

Methodology

The sample for the study was two national level Urdu newspapers, which were selected through purposive sampling. The rationale to select the newspapers was that, they are widely read across the country hence serve purpose of this study. According to Erwin-Billones (2012) "When one writes for publication or performance, they create with forethought and intentionality" (p. 41).As "media is a mirror of any society, therefore it reflects back the contemporary literary practices and rituals" and "print media also replicates the existing literary traditions and produces the literature in such a way that it becomes acceptable for its readers" (Rasul, 2013, p.70).

The names of the newspapers were not used in the study to take ethical consideration in heed and to prevent harming the reputation of the newspapers with the idea that the findings of the study will not affect the name of the newspapers. The present study took its data from the front page (page number 1) and international news page (page number 3) with the rationale that they are consisted of

different kinds of news, be they entertainment or politics, etc.

Table 3.2
Sample for newspapers

Sample 1	February 1 to 15,2014	Page 1 & 3
Sample 2	February 1 to 15,2014	Page 1 & 3

Linguistic analysis was done to explore how frequent is language-mixing and what processes does it take.

To understand the English influence, it is not enough to study the type of words that exist and the semantic categories they belong to. It is important to look at the actual frequency of the occurrence of words. A word has significance if used frequently (Mohideen, 2006, p.48)

Mohideen (2006) emphasized the significance of investigating frequency of mixing English words which will consequently reflect the extent to which English has acquired dominance in Malaysian linguistic repertoire. The frequency of the use of English words was identified by the researchers themselves by using framework from previous studies and no software was used for counting frequency.

The framework for the "linguistic analysis" of language-mixing processes was adapted from Rasul (2006) and Muysken (2000). The process, "congruent lexicalization", delineated by Muysken (2000), has been used with the name "hybridization".

Findings

The findings showed that language-mixing of English words is frequent at word and phrase level and there are three main types of language-mixing processes, such as "insertion, hybridization and synthesis".

Table 4.1
Frequency (f) of insertion

1	Insertion of words		Sample 1	Sample 2
1.1	Nouns	Reader, allowance	327	336
1.2	Adjectives	Ideal, Liberal	13	20
1.3	Verbs	Appeal ki	30	26
1.4	Gerunds	Funding, Training	10	14
2	Insertion of Phrases			
2.1	Noun Phrases	Sui Southern gas company, Sunday magazine	377	391
2.2	Phrasal verbs	Break down, walk out	6	19
3	Insertion at clause level	Visit my Mosque, Welcome to London	3	1
	Total		766	807
	Total number of occurrences		2319	2194

Table 4.1 shows the cases of insertion at word, phrase and clause level in Sample 1 and Sample 2 of the study. English noun phrases are highest in their occurrence- 377 and 391 in Sample 1 and Sample 2 respectively. 327 nouns, 30 verbs, 13 adjectives, 10 gerunds, 6 phrasal verbs and 3 clauses were also found from Sample 1 and 336 nouns, 26 verbs, 20 adjectives, 14 gerunds, 19 phrasal verbs and 1 clause were found from Sample 2. Many English phrasal verbs (walk-out, break-down) found do not have equivalent words so they are borrowed directly from English.

Table 4.2
Frequency of hybridized items (within single words) in the samples

Hybridized items	Examples	Frequency	
		S1	S2
Universityun (universities), Vison (visas), Seaton (seats), Leaderon (leaders), Judgon (judges)		42	56
Total number of occurrences		164	144

Hybridized items found were further categorized into single words and hybridized within units. There were 42 and 56 hybridized items (within single words) in Sample 1 and 2 respectively. There are Urdu equivalents for many words such as leader (rehnuma), yet "leaderon" is used which exhibits hybridization within single word. Some might see it as distortion of Urdu lexicon or as a language deviation.

Table 4.3
Frequency of hybridized items (within units) in the samples

Hybridized items	Examples	Frequency	
		S1	S2
Agency baraaepanahguzeen, Azkhud notice case,Bahria Foundation, Cracker hamla		135	166
Total number of occurrences		339	287

There were 35 and 166 cases of hybridized items (within units) in Sample 1 and 2 respectively and they occur frequently.

Table 4.4
Frequency of abbreviations and acronyms (synthesis) in the samples

Abbreviations and acronyms	Examples	Frequency
CNG, DPO, ISPR, PIA, IDPs, IS, NADRA, NATO	95	94
Total number of occurrences	350	252

English abbreviations and acronyms were also very frequent in the samples. The frequency implies that the readers understand English abbreviations and acronyms; rather in some cases they are unable to recall the full names of the very acronyms and abbreviations. There were 95 and 94 abbreviations and acronyms in Sample 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 4.5
Overall frequency of language-mixing items

	Insertion	Hybridization	Synthesis	Frequency
Sample1	2,319 (73.1%)	164+339(15.8%)	350(11.03%)	3,172
Sample2	2,194(76.2%)	144+287(14.9%)	252(8.7%)	2,877

There were 3,172 and 2,887 words in Sample 1 and 2 respectively (as shown in Table 4.5).

Discussion

The present study focused on the frequency of language-mixing of English words and the types of processes that appear as a result of such mixing. The findings showed frequent use of English words which are inserted, hybridized and synthesized. Thus, the study had "structural analysis" as illustrated by Muysken (2000). The findings are in line with Rasul's (2006) study of spoken texts and she found that language-mixing takes the processes of "insertion", "hybridization" and "synthesis". The high number of the occurrence of hybridized items shows language variation and its assumed acceptance by the newspaper readers on the part of the editors and news writers. Such "hybridization" has been termed a result of "Englishization" by Kachru (2005). The words such as "Najkaari commission", "jet tayyarey", "Halal-i-ahmar society", "mega mansuubey", "parlimaani committee" are a result of what Kachru (2005) has called "Englishization".

It can also be considered that frequent use of English words in Urdu texts is due to two reasons- negligence or oversight of the writers and lexical gap in Urdu. Ehsan and Aziz (2014) have also found in their study that it is sheer negligence on the part of people who do not have knowledge of Urdu equivalents therefore, they mix language. They also pointed out that lexical gap in Urdu is also a significant reason for language-mixing. The words for technology, science, etc are borrowed from English although, they are more "technical and more difficult to pronounce and understand" (Ehsan & Aziz, 2014, p.167). Rasul (2006) has also attributed "lack of awareness" and "oversight" as the main reasons for language-mixing. Kachru (2006) has reasoned this lexical gap with "deficit hypothesis" which implies the lack of equivalents in a language leading to borrowing. Another implication for language-mixing is Kachru's (2006) "dominance hypothesis" which implies that language-mixing or borrowing is due to the dominance of English over Urdu.

Language-mixing of English in the form of hybridization and synthesis has brought variation in Urdu which is attracting acceptance by the readers, speakers as well as writers. The dominance of English over Urdu is another reason that is associated with such frequent mixing in written texts such as newspapers. There is need to see the attitude of the writers and readers of newspapers towards such mixing in written texts.

Conclusion

The present study found out that language-mixing is a frequent phenomenon in Urdu newspapers and English words and phrases are inserted, hybridized and synthesized frequently that they seem a part of Urdu lexicon. There might be various reasons and functions for such insertion and the frequent use which ought to be researched so that they provide insight into future policies for the language use in print media.

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