

MARKED AND UNMARKED CODE CHOICES IN JANGLI–ENGLISH CODE MIXING**Muhammad Saeed** (Corresponding Author)

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This paper aims at exploring the marked and unmarked code selections in Jangli-English code mixing in the context of Markedness Model of Myers-Scotton. Moreover, the study is based on the naturally occurring speech data of Jangli-speaking bilingual people in Pakistan with the emphasis on the insertion of the English lexical items in the Jangli morphosyntactic structures. Meanwhile, the study prefigures the sociolinguistic motivations and interactional meanings of code mixing unlike other studies that treat code mixing as a structural or grammatical phenomenon. The results indicate that English insertions are both unmarked and marked options in different contexts, roles of the participants and communicative objectives. In the social and professional spheres, English lexical items are frequently functioning as unmarked options, and that on indices of competence, modernity and institutional alignment. Nevertheless, during more informal and intra-community communicative interactions, the same insertions can be called marked choices, indicating prestige, distance or identity negotiation. As shown in the analysis, coe-mixing is not random or an entirely structural phenomenon but a rational negotiation of rights-and-obligations (RO) set as suggested by the Markedness Model. The research also has theoretical value, in that it applies Markedness Model to a smaller-known regional variety (Jangli), and is also an empirical contribution because it reveals that code mixing acts as a strategic sociolinguistic tool in multilingual Pakistan.

Keywords: Code-switching, Code-mixing, Sociolinguistics, Code Choices, Identity construction.

Introduction

The mixing of English and the local language has emerged as one of the prominent manifestations of multilingual interaction in Pakistan. Whereas the mixing between Urdu and English or Punjabi and English is well-documented, (Awan et al., 2025; Bhatti, & Anjum, 2022) the mixing of the regional features like Jangli is a relatively unexplored field in the sociolinguistic research. Journal article: Punjabi bodily representation in a complex linguistic ecology: The case of Punjabi (Jangli) spoken in Western India in South Punjab within Institutional English socio-economic capital. In these environments, bilinguals often use the English lexical items in otherwise Jangli sentence structure, which leads to intra-sentential code mixing.

The sociolinguistic reasons that led to the practice of such mixing are examined in this paper with particular attention to the use of marked and unmarked codes in the context of the Markedness Model of Myers-Scotton (2020). Instead of considering code mixing as a structural or grammatical phenomenon, this paper discusses it as a socially significant practice where speakers construct identity, power, fit, and an appropriate situational appropriateness.

English is the higher education language (Sibtain et al., 2023; Abbas et al., 2023; Iqbal et al., 2020), the language of technology, the language of bureaucracy, and as the language of upward mobility in Pakistan (Rahman, 1999; Mansoor, 2004; Rahman, 2002). Its connotative link with prestige and modernity has a very high impact on language behaviour even in local-language (Butt, & Ahmed, 2023; Siddiqui, & Saleem, 2023) communities with dominance. In its turn, this implies that the introduction of English lexical material into Jangli discourse cannot be viewed as the unintended borrowing or linguistic inadequacy, but instead, it is the case of patterned sociolinguistic decisions determined by the larger ideological and institutional framework.

Past research work on code switching and code mixing has mainly taken structural perspectives, (i.e. grammatical constraints). While such analyses help to bring out morphosyntactic patterns in language, it often detracts from the social motives for language choice. Interactional and sociolinguistic, in their turn, predict language selection as a source of meaning negotiation and creation (Gardner-Chloros, 2020). Within this tradition, much coherence is given to the idea of code choice in Myers-Scotton's Markedness Model, as reflected in the conceptualization of code choice as a rational negotiation of rights-and-obligations (RO) sets.

The Markedness Model claims that the code that is chosen by the speakers is evident in their view of what is socially correct (unmarked choice) or strategically incorrect (marked choice) in a specific interaction. Code options are, hence not random acts but socially instigated ones, which codecton codes interrelations between interlocutors. Despite its substantial use to inter-sentential code switching, the model has not been adequately studied when it comes to intra-sentential lexical insertions, particularly to under-documented regional forms.

The current research fills this gap through the analysis of naturally occurring spoken data of ten Jangli-speaking bilinguals in mixed contexts, comprising of academic and semi formal interactions. The main emphasis is made on the cases when the English lexical elements are incorporated into the Jangli morphosyntactic frames. The study aims at establishing how such choices are either marked or unmarked in particular areas by analyzing the contextual interaction and relationships between the participants that are involved in such insertions.

Research Questions

1. How is distribution of English lexical insertions across academic and semi-formal distributed in Jangli-speech?
2. What is the reflection of intra-sentential mixing in terms of negotiations of rights-and-obligations sets by speakers?

Significance of the Study

Preliminary observations indicate that English lexical items with respect to educational issues, technology and institutional practices often are unmarked choices in library academic contexts in which English terminology is normalized to academic use. In semi-formal communication in which solidarity or local identity is the theme, on the other hand, similar insertions can serve as a marked choice, and they index prestige, power, or social distance. This is an aspect of duality that helps to emphasize the concept of the contextual fluidity of markedness, along with the significance of the domain in including in understanding code choosing. This paper makes three contributions to the sociolinguistic literature by paying particular attention to the intra-sentential mixing. First, it generalises the Markedness Model to a less studied type of language, thus challenging the explanatory strength of the model in other contexts than large-city bilingual environments. Second, it proves that even single lexical injections in a clause can have a great sociolinguistic influence. Third, it presents empirical materials in Pakistan to show that speakers of regional languages actively negotiate social meaning by using code mixing instead of passively on the reproduction of English dominance. The results dispute the deficit approaches to the interpretation of mixed language use and rather frame intra-sentential code mixing as a communicative resource that is of a strategic nature and framed within local normativity and institutional arrangements. By doing so, the study will inform larger debates regarding the ideology of language, bilingualism competence and post-colonial sociolinguistics of English.

Theoretical Framework Myers-Scotton Markedness Model

The concept of bilingual language use requires a theoretical perspective that preempts social motivational and interactional choice as opposed to structure patterns alone (Myers-Scotton, 2020). Markedness Model emerged in this school of thought offers a strong framework through

which the negotiation of language codes within multilingual environments is analyzed by the speakers. As opposed to structural approaches to code switching, based on syntactic constraints, or typological differences between switching and mixing, the Markedness Model presupposes the socio-pragmatic meanings of language choices.

Fundamentally, the Markedness Model frames language selection as a vindication of the rights and obligations (RO) framework where interactional relationships are established (Myers-Scotton, 2020). In communicative situations, speakers assess offered linguistic possibilities in a continuum between unmarked (normative/ expected) and marked (deviant/ socially significant) ones. The unmarked code choice corresponds to the socially anticipated behaviour in the participants, setting, and communicative objectives; and it validates the already existing social norms. Conversely, the colorful option is non-predicted and may indicate the change of power, identity, solidarity, position, and thus negotiate social relations anew (Myers-Scotton, 2020; Hamman-Ortiz et al., 2025).

The Markedness Model differentiates three major functional categories of choice

Unmarked Choice

The speakers use the expected or default linguistic code in a situation.

Marked Choice

The speaker chooses a code that is unexpected to bring about a particular social effect.

Exploratory Choice, a regime that tries new social norms or ambiguous interactional situations (Myers-Scotton, 2020).

The model, applied to the bilingual community, has proven to explain the processes in varied sociolinguistic contexts, such as African multilingual communities (Myers-Scotton, 2020) and the European immigrant communities. Recent studies have applied this model to other factors like translanguaging and iterative code mixing and claim that bilingual language choice is not a failed or random process but instead a strategic social act (Hamman-Ortiz et al., 2025).

In the South Asian example, where English is used as the language of education, law, and technology, whereas regional languages are common in the community, the Markedness Model can be especially applicable in the interpretation of code mixing situations. English lexical insertions in local discourse are not one of those structural interjections and are suggestive of social values like prestige, access to institutional capital, and alignment with global communicative norms. On the other hand, the use of a local language has the power to index solidarity, local identity, and in-group orientation.

One of the most important contributions of the Markedness Model is that it considers intra-sentential code mixing as the integration of English words into the matrix language an important socially significant selection, and not as a peripheral interference. Studies that utilize the model in intra-sentential areas show that even isolated lexical units may be marked or unmarked with sociological weight depending on a situation (Hamman-Ortiz et al., 2025). It is the opposite of structural methods which emphasize mainly on the inter-sentential switching and general typological categories.

The Markedness Model offers the analytical power needed to conduct the study by characterizing bilingual decisions as socially driven choices that are guided by the normative anticipations and communication objectives. The model can be used to explain why some insertions of English lexical items are normative in an academic/professional context (unmarked) and salient and socially informative (marked) in an informal/solidarity context in the case of Jangli-English mixing. The Markedness Model is therefore taken to be the major theoretical framework of the current study, which will enable the subtle analysis of how intra-sentential code mixing is carried out as a form of social negotiation, as opposed to structural convergence.

Literature Review

The study of language behavior among bilinguals has evolved with great pace in the recent decades (Iqbal et al., 2021; Afzal & Iqbal, 2018; Hayat et al., 2021; Tayyab et al., 2021; Sattar et al., 2021; Baig et al., 2020) with scholars shifting their focus on the structural description of the code mixing behavior to more interactive level analysis. Survey of early code mixing and code switching studies put emphasis on structural limitations and typologies usually concentrated on the way in which grammatical patterns (Iqbal et al., 2022; Azeem et al., 2021; Syeda & Iqbal 2021; Masroor et al., 2021; Afzal et al., 2021; Javaid et al., 2021; Rehman et al., 2021). Structural approaches however do not have full explanations explaining the social motivations behind language choice in normal interaction-a gap, which has been aimed to explain by socio-pragmatic models (Akhtar et al., 2020; Baig et al., 2021; Baig et al., 2021b; Umer et al., 2021).

Typological research is still relevant in characterizing the code mixing patterns. The article by Hamman-Ortiz et al. (2025) covering code switching gave one of the initial frameworks to recognize such structural patterns as tag switching and interleaving. On the same note, the typology presented by Muysken (2000) classified mixing to alternation, insertion, and congruent lexicalization. Nevertheless, these frameworks though define the process of mixing, they fail to provide the why of mixing language, especially in a multilingual context where the social objectives of speakers affect language behavior.

The socio-pragmatic strategies preempt the social roles of code mixing and underline the meanings negotiated by speakers by using language. As Hamman-Ortiz et al. (2025) emphasized, code-switching could work in a sequence in the interaction, connecting the change of language to the change of stance and alignment. Gardner-Chloros (2020) also highlighted the importance of language interrelation in the development of bilingual repertoires, demonstrating that mixing patterns are the reflections of the underlying social organization, not the grammatical principles.

Myers-Scotton proposed the Markedness Model which has been especially successful in mediating between structural description and social interpretation. Modern developments of the model focus on the interactional negotiation and rational choice in bilingual discourse. In this framework, speakers use unmarked and marked codes based on the interactional conditions, the role of participants, and their communication objectives (Myers-Scotton, 2020). This model is in contrast to those approaches that consider code mixing as a result of language competence or interference; however, in this model, mixing is a strategic decision that is consistent with social expectations and identity negotiation.

Research has recently applied the Markedness Model to other bilingual communities. Code-switching may be considered as a figurative resource, and translanguaging is a metonymic continuation of bilingualism. Hamman-Ortiz et al. (2025) also established that the things of borrowing and mixing can be best understood as a socio-pragmatic continuum where speakers give social meanings to the language choices that are negotiated. Such studies support the position that code mixing does not only occur in a structural sense but also as a manifestation of communicative desire and social orientation.

Multilingualism (Zafran et al., 2021; Bhatti et al., 2021) guide bilingual speech (Hamman-Ortiz et al., 2025) is also the standard in South Asia, with English being in a somewhat ambiguous sociolinguistic status, which relates to education, mobility, and institutional authority (Rahman, 1999). New studies have also been conducted in the Pakistani setting to show the interaction of English with the local languages like Punjabi and Urdu. To cite an example, Meighan (2024) examined the issue of coexistence between localized and global language practices and found that going by English does not make local people lose their identities but rather strategically use it.

Although this has been made, there has been comparatively small amount of research dedicated to intra-sentential lexical insertions- especially where English words are inserted into morphosyntactic structure of local dialects such as Jangli. The previously mentioned structural and interactional descriptions of the problem have been either merged without a solid theoretical background, or they are only at the macro-level (e.g., frequency of mixing) without contextualizing them socially. This gap explains why there is a necessity of models that can explain the social motivations of lexical mixing in bilingual speech.

Jangli variety-the Punjabi-adjacent variety at the heart of Southern Punjab, which reveals the sense of local identity and normal communicative ways. In situations where formal education and professional realms prefer English, speakers tend to interfere English lexical items into Jangli sentences, which causes intra-sentential mixture. The trend is indicative of larger socio-economic and ideological systems in which English could be viewed as a kind of signifier of modernity, education, and institutional attachment.

Previous studies of analogous varieties (e.g., Punjabi-English) have shown that intra-sentential mixing can have a particular communicative purpose, including the change of topic, clarification, or emphasis. But these studies have never been systematic to use the Markedness Model to explain sociolinguistic motivations of such mixing patterns.

The current study can make contributions to the literature in three important ways:

Application of Theory: It uses the Markedness Model to the code-mixing phenomenon to provide a more detailed explanation of why speakers decide to use specific codes in a single clause.

Regional Focus: It empirically captures the Jangli-English mixing, overcoming a gap in the sociolinguistic researches in Pakistan.

Social Interpretation: It interprets code mixing not in terms of lexical occurrence, only, but also at the marker of social negotiation, identity alignment and domain-specific appropriateness.

Through a combination of the socio-pragmatic theory and the highly contextualized data, the study contributes to the knowledge of the bilingual practices in multilingual societies. It goes beyond structural descriptions and focuses on the interactional motivations according to which speakers use a variety of linguistic repertoires.

Methodology

Research Design

The research design used in this study is a qualitative sociolinguistic research design to examine the marked and unmarked code choices in intra-sentential Jangli-English code mixing. The main goal is to analyze the English lexical insertions in Jangli grammars in the analytical prism of the Markedness Model by Myers-Scotton (2020). Since the proposed study aims to ask such questions as what social meanings and interactional motivations are rather than frequency patterns, a qualitative approach is found to be the most appropriate one.

The study pays a particular attention to the intra-sentential mixing as it is defined in the present study as the process of inserting the English lexical items into a Jangli morphosyntactic frame but the matrix language remains Jangli. The core analysis did not include inter-sentential switching because it was deemed unnecessary to shift the analysis and blur the theoretical focus.

Participants

The ten-bilingual speakers of the Jangli language with functional competence in English were used to gather the data. The participants include:

University students (n = 5)

Professionals at the beginning of their careers (n = 3).

N = 2: senior professionals/lecturers.

The participants are all of a Jangli speaking background and informally speak Jangli. The English language is mostly applied in the institutional or academic or professional fields. The heterogeneous demographic structure makes it possible to study the language selection in academic and semi-formal situations.

Purposive sampling was done to select participants who would make sure that:

Fully developed bilingual competence,

Frequent involvement in educational or semi-academic discussion,

Jangli in real life usage.

Data Collection

The research will be premised on naturally occurring spoken interactions which are recorded in academic and semi-formal situations, which include:

Classroom discussions,

Academic discussion with peers,

Professional meetings,

Informal relationships at the work place

Some 8-10 hours of recorded speech were obtained. Based on this corpus, utterances with lexical insertions of English in Jangli linguistic structures were discovered and eliminated.

Ethical compliance was ensured by ensuring that the participants knew the aim of the study and their consent was taken before recording the information.

Transcription and Glossing

Transcription of the data was done in Roman transcription in the case of Jangli based on conventions that are usually employed in sociolinguistic research in South Asia. Only where the phonetic clarification was needed, the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) was applied.

One illustration is given in three lines:

Events Original Jangli utterance (Romanized)

Interlinear morpheme by morpheme gloss (according to Leipzig Glossing Rules)

Free English translation

The lexical insertions in English are also preserved in their standard orthographic form in the transcription.

Example format:

(1)

Sir, meri assignment submit karni ae->

sir 1SG. GEN. assignment submit do.INF be.PRS.

I must present my assignment, sir.

Glosses which are abbreviated by the rules of the Leipzig Glossing Rules (2008).

Analytical Procedure

There were three stages of the analytical process:

Stage 1: Identification

The cases of intra-sentential English lexical injections were detected. These primarily included:

Nouns (assignment, meeting, project, etc.)

Verbs (e.g., submit, manage)

Technical terminology

Stage 2 Contextual Categorization

In every case, it was classified based on:

Interactional domain (academic/semi-formal/

Peer, hierarchical, professional relationship between the participants.

Communicative Hardy (instruction, clarification, emphasized, position)

Stage 3: The Interpretation of Markedness

Interpretations under Markedness Model framework were done by identifying:

The unmarked code of such communication.

The alignment or non-alignment of the insertion of the English with expectation.

Did the decision uphold or renegotiate extant rights-and-obligations (RO) set.

An insertion was considered:

Whether or not the English terminology was institutionalized there.

Circled in case the insertion brought prestige, power, distance, or in relation to what was expected in the context.

This interpretive model enabled the analysis to transcend structural categorization and evolve to socio-pragmatic explanation.

Analytical Reliability

To enhance reliability:

There were various examples compared among speakers and circumstances.

Thematic analysis of patterns was done instead of analysing isolated cases.

The contextual clues that were observed, including the use of tone, roles of the participants, setting, etc., were interpreted.

Although the research is qualitative in nature, the reliability of the analytical validity of the results is enhanced by the consistency in the determination of patterns of marked and unmarked choices.

Scope and Delimitations

This paper discusses only:

Intra-sentential mixing

Jangli lexical insertions of English frames.

Academic, Semi-formal Race Contexts

It does not aim to:

Statistically measure frequency distribution,

Examine phonological adaptation in detail,

Study inter-sentential switching in detail.

These constraints match Markedness Model theoretically.

Analysis and Discussion

The section will be a qualitative analysis of intra-sentential Jangli-English code mixing based on the interactions of the ten participants that occurred naturally. It is concentrated on the English lexical insertions that are oriented on Jangli morphosyntactic frames. All of us are viewed in terms of Myers-Scotton (2020) Markedness Model, but we pay special attention to rights-and-obligations (RO) sets negotiation.

The analysis will be broken down into three subsections:

English as an Unmarked Choice.

English as a Marked Choice

Markedness in Context Change.

English as an Unmarked Choice in Academic Areas

English lexical items are often unmarked options in an academic space and this is in line with institutional expectations. Because higher education in Pakistan is dominated by English, the English technical terms usage is socially normal, and not extraordinary.

Academic Obligation: An example is the ethical obligation of a teacher or lecturer to educate the students entailed in the course curriculum assignment.

(1)

Sir, meri assignment actual submit premium ki ho ae.

sir 1SG.GR assignment to-morrow submit do.INF be.PRS.

I must do my assignment tomorrow, sir.

In this example, assignment and submit are used in an embounding realm of Jangli sentence frame. The morphosyntactic structure is always Jangli with an infinitival construction (karnit ae) as - marker of predication.

In a Markedness view it is an unmarked selection. In an academic RO set- teacher student interaction, academic English is anticipated. To substitute these words with nothing other than Jangli equivalents would sound quite unnatural in an institutional discourse. In this way, the insertion is not the renegotiation of social relations but the confirmation of the existing norms.

Citation 2: Technical Academic Source.

(2)

Eh project di presentation Monday nu ae
DEM project GEN, Monday LOC be.PRS.

On Monday, the presentation of this project is scheduled.

In this case, project and presentation are institutionalized academic terms. The case marking (di) and locative marking (nu) as well as the sentence structure are purely Jangli.

The English insertions are congruent with domain expectations and hence, make an unmarked choice. They scale academic congruence and institutional competence in lieu of social deviation.

These instances imply that, in the academic setting, English lexical insertions are normalized in the bilingual repertoires.

English as a Marked Choice in Semi-Formal Interaction

The English insertions in semi-formal or peer-based contexts might serve as marked categories, especially when they are a reference to authority, prestige or social distance.

Example 3: Indexing Authority

(3)

Tusi meri planning nu seriously 作詞 na therein;
2PL 1SG. GEN planning ACC take.PRS NEG.

You do not put my planning to task.

Planning and seriously in a peer conversation bring about a tone that is related to professional or managerial discourse. In a solidarity-based RO set, an entirely Jangli face would be desired. The lexical insertions in English are thus marked options which indicates position and increases authority of the speaker.

This indication of choice renegotiates the relational relations by briefly bringing in a more official or professional identity.

Example 4: Prestige Indexing

(4)

Oh menu attitude na dikha.
attitude 3SG.DAT lot negate demonstrate. IMP
'Don't show me attitude.'

Attitude is a noun which is incorporated in Jangli structure. The evaluation and stylistic power of the insertion is present in a casual peer interaction. This is reinforced by the application of an English lexical item and it also indicates a modernized discourse style.

In this case, the English insertion is a marked stylistic decision, that is, indexing urbanity or modern identity in a local contact.

Shifts of Contextual Markedness

Markedness is not fixed, but it changes according to the circumstances and the roles of the participants.

None of the preceding statements are domain-independent. In this example, domain denotes the domain of objects. Markedness represents a domain-dependent property.

(5)

Main meeting ch busy saan.

1SG meeting LOC busy be.PST

'I was busy in a meeting.'

Meeting and busy are probably not marked out in a workplace situation. But when applied to a rural or community context, such insertions might index professional distance or prestige hence is marked.

This shows one of the major lessons of the Markedness Model that markedness is relative and context dependent and not intrinsic to the lexical object itself.

Patterns Across Speakers

Across the ten participants:

Most commonly inserted category was English nouns.

Jangli morphosyntax was hardly disrupted by insertions.

The matrix language was always Jangli.

Markedness was also not a speaker-independent phenomenon.

The normalized English terminologies in the academic contexts and the semi-formal contexts permitted more variability in the marked and unmarked values.

Social Negotiation by mixing intra-sententially

The results show that intrasentential mixing in Jangli is not accidental and solely structural. English lexical insertions are socially significant resources whereby speakers:

Identify with the institution,

Index competence and prestige,

Signal authority or stance,

Reinforce solidarity or disinstitution.

The Markedness Model can be used to successfully explain these options as rational bargaining of RO sets. Interactional meaning is affected by even slight insertions of lexicon.

As opposed to being a marker of language shift and/or structural interference, Jangli-English intra-sentential mixing can be understood as indicating bilingual competence and strategic sociolinguistic agency.

Discussion

This paper aimed at analyzing intra-sentential Jangli-English code mixing using the Markedness Model created by Myers-Scotton (2020). The results prove that English lexical insertions are not only structurally random but are also socially neutral; they are represented in patterned sociolinguistic negotiations of rights-and-obligations (RO) sets.

Re-evaluating the Intra-Sentential Mixing as a Social Action

The conventional structural treatment of code mixing has usually concentrated on morphosyntactic limitations (e.g. Matrix Language Frame model). Although the current data reveal that structural stability is observed (Jangli is always the matrix language), the results indicate that structural integration is not sufficient to understand the motivations of speakers.

The statistics indicate that even the single lexical insertions (e.g. assignment, meeting, attitude) contain the interactional weight. English terminology in academics is used as an unmarked

option, which is in line with the expectations of the institution. However, within semi-formal or peerly environments, the same insertions can be used as marked options, indexing authority, prestige, modernity or position.

That in turn confirms the main argument of the Markedness Model that speakers are rational decision-makers, who choose not based on the mere grammatical opportunities, but basing on the anticipated social norms.

Domain-Specific normalization of English

The domain-based normalization of English is one of the most reliable findings. English technical vocabulary is completely institutionalized in the academic discourse. Its insertion does not interfere with interactional equilibrium; rather, it confirms the competence and being a member of academic culture.

This is a wider sociolinguistic fact in Pakistan, in which English is a source of power, education, and occupational mobility. In these spheres, English vocabulary items turn into unmarked means of resources incorporated in the local language systems.

In other contexts, outside of an academic environment, however, markedness is fluid. Introduction can either raise position or renegotiate status. Therefore, markedness is not necessarily intrinsic to the lexical item, but is a product of anticipations in a context.

Matrix Language and Identity Anchor (1.1 {Rewriting and Mechanics of Meaning}) 6.3 Jangli Jangli is the structural and grammatical foundation in all the examples even though English insertions occur frequently. This implies that the mixing at intra-sentential does not signal language shift but it is a matter of bilingual dexterity.

Jangli provides:

Morphosyntactic framing,

Case marking,

Tense and aspect marking,

Pragmatic grounding.

English injections are thus overlaid in a local language platform. This tendency strengthens local linguistic identity and at the same time marks the availability of institutional capital.

The results are consistent with the modern sociolinguistic views that define bilingualism as an additive and strategic process, as opposed to being subtractive.

Theoretical Contribution

This research has three implications on sociolinguistic research:

It shows that even intra-sentential mixing, where complete code switching is not done, can well be studied using the Markedness Model.

It puts into focus the relativity of markedness in a Pakistani regional language situation.

It prefigures an underrepresented type, which is Jangli, in the academic discourse on bilingual practice.

The analysis proves that even the smallest lexical insertions are socially valuable options negotiating power, solidarity, professionalism, and identity.

Implications to Pakistani Sociolinguistics

The research has a larger implication regarding the issue of language use in college and workplaces in Pakistan. It suggests:

Lexical mixing of the English language has been institutionalized in academic languages.

Regional languages do not die out but are structurally strong.

The speakers of both languages have strategic control over language resources.

In the case of language policy discussion, the results imply that the dominance of English is not always the destruction of regional linguistic agency but a speaker incorporates English into local structures.

Conclusion

This paper compared the marked and unmarked code options of intra-sentential Jangli-English code mixing in ten bilingual speakers in academic and semi-formal communication. Based on the Markedness Model developed by Myers-Scotson as the main analytical tool, the paper has shown that English lexical insertions are socially strategic decisions and not mere chance borrowings.

In academia, English as a vocabulary is actually an unmarked option that is in line with the institutional norms. During semi-formal communications, though, English insertions can serve as a resource that is marked to signal authority, prestige, or position. Markedness is thus dynamic, situation specific.

Significantly, the matrix language is Jangli in all the instances, which means structural stability and continuity of identity. Intra-sentential mixing is a manifestation of bilingual competence and sociolinguistic agency as opposed to language shift.

The results support the explanatory power of the Markedness Model of the explanation of localized bilingual practices in Pakistan. They also highlight the necessity of future studies on the language-English mixing outside urban metropolitan versions.

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