Form and Function of Code Mixing in Marathi

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Abstract

English has been a dominant feature of daily communication. In a multilingual country like India, English works as a connecting thread among people of different linguistic backgrounds. It proves to be a helping hand to anyone who does not share the linguistic code used in other states. English is so merged in our languages that it seems nearly impossible to use any state language without words from English. Sociolinguistics has a wider scope in a multilingual setting like India. *Code mixing* and *code switching* as sociolinguistic terms seem natural in such a multilingual setting. Nevertheless, analysing language use in such a setting is an enriching experience for those who are interested in sociolinguistic study. The present paper explores the issue of code mixing as a sociolinguistic device and discusses formal and functional aspects of code mixing in specific relation to Marathi.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Code Mixing, Form, Function, Multilingualism.

Introduction

The present paper seeks to explore code mixing in Marathi, the official language of Maharashtra, in daily discourse.

Terminology

In any socio linguistic study, study of multilingualism, bilingualism, multiculturalism, borrowing, code mixing, and switching, etc., is of vital importance. Among these the last mentioned code mixing is defined by Kachru (1978:28) as follows: *'Code mixing denotes to the use of one or more languages for consistent transfer of linguistic units from one language into another, and by such a language mixture developing a restricted or not so, restricted code of linguistic interaction.'*

Code mixing takes place both at the lexical as well as syntactic level which in turn gives birth to hybridization of language structure. Borrowing takes place to fill in the semantic gaps which otherwise is not possible for the speaker at that particular speech moment to fill up with the available linguistic data in his/her language. Code mixing is distinguished from code

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switching as *'code mixing is considered as the formal manifestation of consistent functional usage, of the latter'* (Kachru, 1978: 28). It means code switching process is in accordance with the code mixing through ascending development of progress.

Uses of Code Mixing

Functions performed by the use of code mixing may be classified in terms of Halliday's (1973) framework: the ideological and interpersonal, the former is used to convey information, clarify, explore, etc. whereas the latter is used to communicate and express personal experience. Ideological functions include the following: inquire, instruct, explain, discuss, greet, express anger, etc. and interpersonal functions include to cheat, be humours, kidding, etc. Code mixing as discussed by S.N.Sridhar, (1978) has three types of motivation. First, code- mixing as a distancing device, second, code mixing as an emphasising device and third code mixing as a neutralizing device. These may be described as formality, focus, manner device.

The present study explores the systematic ways featuring the use of code mixing in Marathi speakers, and classifies these under formal and functional aspects.

Methodology

In the present attempt to explore code mixing used by Marathi speakers and its formal and functional features, help has been taken from resources like newspapers in Marathi, and related linguistic data gathered through listening to people in their daily interaction.

Formal Aspects of Code Mixing in Marathi

This section describes the formal features of code mixing utilising the format devised by Kachru (1978). As it is mentioned above the examples in this paper have two major sources: newspapers and oral discourse/interaction of the language users. However, these examples have specific significance pertaining to socio-cultural setting in which these have been employed. The discussion does not cover the total corpus of utterances.

Code Inclusion

Code mixing occurs usually by the insertion of code in grammatical structure.

- **Sentence Insertion**

Example 1

Mi khup vaat pahili, now it's more than enough. (Marathi)

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I a lot waited have, now it's more than enough. (Structure)

I have waited a lot, now it's more than enough. (English)

Example 2

How are you? (English)

Fine. Aaple nehmipramane. (Marathi)

Fine, as usual. (English)

Fine our as usual. (Structure)

Example 3

How was the lecture? Lecture kase zale?

Excellent, mi khup anandi aahe. (Marathi)

Excellent, I am very happy. (English)

Excellent, I very happy am. (Structure)

- **N or NP Insertion**

  Example 1

  Plan changla aahe. (Marathi)

  (It's) a good plan. (English)

  Plan good is. (Structure)

  Example 2

  Government kahitari Karen. (Marathi)

  Government will do something. (English)

  Government something will do. (Structure)

  Example 3

  Sunday la sutti asate. (Marathi)

  Sunday is a holiday. (English)

  Sunday holiday is. (Structure)

- **V or VP Insertion**

  Example 1

  Mala abhayas bor vatato. (Marathi)

  I feel study boring. (English)

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I study bore feel. (Structure)

Example 2

Tyala relieve kara. (Marathi)

Let him go. (English)

Him let be. (Structure)

Code Synthesis

Code mixing is also characterized by code synthesis where codes (language, units) from one language are inserted in the larger grammatical framework of regular language (usually used by a speaker as his/her mother tongue). Here are a few examples of code synthesis.

- **Adjective + Noun**

  Example 1

  Shevatche lecture. (Marathi)

  Final lecture. (English)

  Example 2

  Changle Handwriting (Marathi)

  Good Handwriting. (English)

- **Noun + Noun**

  Example 1

  Gas Shegadi (Marathi)

  Gas stove (English)

  Example 2

  Roll Call Vahi. (Marathi)

  Roll Call Notebook. (English)

Inclusion of Idiom and Collocation

Code mixing involves idiom and collocation patterns from either of the languages to serve the purpose of emphasis.

Example 1

What is there in name? Tumche kaam tumchi olakh nirman karte. (Marathi)

What is there in name? Your work creates your identity.(English)

What is there in name? Your work your identity creates. (Structure)

Inflectional and Reduplication

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Code mixing process bears certain morphological changes or processes in the interaction of two languages. Especially nouns in English are attached with Marathi plural markers to have plural nouns.

Example 1

     Alikadachya paperanmaddhe he chapun aale. (Marathi)

     This has been printed in recent newspapers. (English)

     Recent papers in this printed has been. (Structure)

Example 2

     Cyclewale disat nahi aaj kaal. (Marathi)

     Now a days cycle riders are not seen. (English)

     Cycle riders seen not today-yesterday. (Structure)

Moreover, reduplication occurs in the case of English words with their similar, usually non-standard, sound units.

Example 1

     Lecture-ficture mala nahi karayche. (Marathi)

     I don't want to attend lecture. (English)

     Lecture I not attend. (Structure)

Example 2

     Mala photo-bito nahi pahije. (Marathi)

     I don't want the photo. (English)

     I photo don't want. (Structure)

Example 3

     Apalyala doctor- bictor avadat nahi. (Marathi)

     I don't like doctor. (English)

     I doctor like don't . (Structure)

Functional Aspects of Code Mixing in Marathi

Code mixing includes communication in general and the expressive needs of the speaker and the communicative needs of the listener and the speaker both. These communicative needs determine the use of code mixing and their relative function in communication. Thus, code mixing specifies need-dependent forms and functions.

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Users and Contexts of Code Mixing in Marathi

Uses of code mixing involving Marathi are usually found in the speech of educated people, students, and semi-literate. However old people and illiterates also contribute to this process.

Typical contexts in which English-Marathi code mixing takes place are summarized as follows:

- **Educational Setting**

The present study is based primarily on the data gathered from the interactions among students, teachers and others.

Example 1

Maths che shikshak changle shikavatat. (Marathi)

Maths teacher teaches well. (English)

Maths teacher well teaches. (Structure)

Example 2

Kahi vidyarthi sharp aahe. (Marathi)

Some students are sharp. (English)

Some students sharp are. (Structure)

Example 3

F.Y.B.A. la admission pahije mala. (Marathi)

I want admission for F.Y.B.A. (English)

F.Y.B.A. for admission want I. (Structure)

Example 4

Libraritun I cards gheun ja. (Marathi)

Get I Cards from the library. (English)

Library from I card get. (Structure)

Example 5

Sarvanni carefully eka. (Marathi)

All of you listen carefully. (English)

All carefully listen. (Structure)

Example 6

Konala supplement pahije.? (Marathi)

Does anyone want a supplement? (English)

Anyone supplement wants. (Structure)

Example 7

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Sagalyanni lectures attend karayala pahije. (Marathi)

All have to attend lectures. (English)

All lectures attend have to. (Structure)

Example 8

Kaal practical la kaun absent hote? (Marathi)

Who were absent for practical yesterday? (English)

Yesterday practical for who absent were. (Structure)

Example 9

Aaj aapan page number tees varchya diagramcha abbhyas karu. (Marathi)

Today let's study diagram given on page number thirteen. (English)

Today let's page number thirteen on figure study do. (Structure)

Example 10

Ya mahinyachya tees tarkhela tumchi oral exam honar aahe. (Marathi)

Your oral exam will be on thirty of this month. (English)

This month thirty date your oral exam will be. (Structure)

Conclusion

The present paper has brought out some remarks related to the process of code mixing on the basis of the specific data that has been gathered, studied and analysed. Code mixing can occur at the lexical and grammatical and at the sentence levels. Code mixing is constrained by the two widely used languages in the user's social setting. Its use features the need of communication of the language user and sometimes the deliberate intentions that the user wants others to note.

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