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SPEAKER INTENTIONS AND CONTEXTUAL FACTORS IN UZBEK–ENGLISH CODE-SWITCHING: A PRAGMALINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract: This study examines the pragmalinguistic motivations and functions of Uzbek–English code-switching among bilingual speakers in Uzbekistan. Based on survey data collected from 36 respondents, the research explores how contextual factors, speaker intentions, and perceived communicative effects influence language-switching behavior. The findings show that code-switching is largely intentional and sensitive to context, serving pragmatic purposes such as communicative efficiency, politeness, emotional expression, and identity construction. By focusing on speakers’ own perceptions and language choices, the study contributes empirical evidence to the growing body of pragmalinguistic research on bilingual discourse in the Uzbek–English context.

Keywords: Code-switching; pragmalinguistics; Uzbek–English bilingualism; discourse context; speaker intention

НАМЕРЕНИЯ ГОВОРЯЩЕГО И КОНТЕКСТУАЛЬНЫЕ ФАКТОРЫ ПРИ УЗБЕКСКО-АНГЛИЙСКОМ ПЕРЕКЛЮЧЕНИИ КОДОВ: ПРАГМАЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ПЕРСПЕКТИВА

Аннотация: Данное исследование рассматривает прагмалингвистические мотивации и функции узбекско-английского код-свитчинга среди билингвальных носителей в Узбекистане. Опираясь на данные опроса, собранные у 36 респондентов, работа изучает, как контекстуальные факторы, намерения говорящих и воспринимаемые коммуникативные эффекты влияют на выбор языка и переключение кодов. Результаты показывают, что код-свитчинг в основном является осознанным и чувствительным к контексту явлением, выполняющим важные прагматические функции, такие как повышение коммуникативной эффективности, выражение вежливости и эмоций, а также конструирование социальной идентичности. Сосредоточившись на восприятии говорящих и их языковом выборе, исследование вносит эмпирический вклад в растущую область прагмалингвистических исследований билингвального дискурса в узбекско-английском контексте.

Ключевые слова: Код-свитчинг; прагмалингвистика; узбекско-английский билингвизм; дискурсивный контекст; намерение говорящего.

O‘ZBEK–INGLIZ KOD-ALMASHTIRISHIDA SO‘ZLOVCHI NIYATLARI VA KONTEKST OMILLARI: PRAGMALINGVISTIK YONDASHUV

Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot O‘zbekistondagi ikki tilli so‘zlovchilar orasida o‘zbek-ingliz kod-almashtirishining pragmalingvistik motivlari va funksiyalarini o‘rganadi. 36 nafar respondentdan to‘plangan so‘rov ma’lumotlariga asoslanib, tadqiqot kontekst omillari, so‘zlovchilarning niyatlari va qabul qilinadigan kommunikativ ta’sirlar tilni almashtirish xulq-atvoriga qanday ta’sir qilishini tahlil qiladi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, kod-almashtirish asosan ongli va kontekstga sezgir bo‘lib, kommunikativ samaradorlikni oshirish, muloyimlik va hissiyotlarni ifodalash hamda ijtimoiy identitetni shakllantirish kabi muhim pragmatik vazifalarni bajaradi. So‘zlovchilarning qarashlari va til tanloviga e’tibor qaratgan holda, tadqiqot o‘zbek-ingliz ikki tilli diskursining pragmalingvistik tadqiqotlari rivojlanib borayotgan sohasiga empirik hissa qo‘shadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Kod-almashtirish; pragmalingvistika; o‘zbek–ingliz ikki tilliligi; diskurs konteksti; so‘zlovchi niyati.

Introduction

Code-switching, commonly understood as the alternation between two or more languages within a single interaction, has received considerable attention in sociolinguistics and pragmatics. While previous studies have often focused on the social or structural aspects of this phenomenon, its pragmalinguistic dimension—how speakers use language choice to achieve specific communicative goals in context—has been less extensively explored. In multilingual societies such as Uzbekistan, where English increasingly coexists with Uzbek in educational, professional, and digital domains, code-switching has become a noticeable feature of everyday communication.

From a pragmalinguistic perspective, code-switching is not random or accidental. Rather, it functions as a strategic communicative resource that allows speakers to manage politeness, express stance, increase efficiency, and convey emotions more precisely. In the Uzbek–English context, English is often associated with modernity, professionalism, and global connectivity, which adds an additional layer of pragmatic meaning to language choice. This study aims to investigate the pragmalinguistic motivations behind Uzbek–English code-switching and to examine how bilingual speakers perceive its role and impact in communication.

2. Literature review

Code-switching has been widely studied across sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and discourse analysis; however, its pragmalinguistic aspects have received comparatively less focused attention. Gumperz’s (1982) seminal work introduced the concept of code-switching as a contextualization cue, highlighting its role in signaling speaker intentions and guiding interpretation in interaction. From this perspective, language alternation serves as a pragmatic device that shapes how interlocutors understand social relationships, conversational goals, and discourse organization.

Myers-Scotton’s (1993) Markedness Model further developed this pragmatic view by suggesting that speakers choose linguistic codes strategically to negotiate social identities and expectations. Although the model is often discussed in sociolinguistic terms, it has clear pragmalinguistic implications, as it emphasizes speaker intention and audience design. According to this approach, code-switching is rarely unintentional; instead, it reflects deliberate alignment with contextual norms.

Politeness theory, particularly Brown and Levinson’s (1987) framework, has also been influential in explaining why bilingual speakers switch languages in face-sensitive situations. Numerous studies demonstrate that inserting elements from a second language—especially one

associated with formality or prestige—can soften requests, apologies, or refusals. In contexts involving English, code-switching often signals indirectness, professionalism, or deference, thereby enhancing pragmatic appropriateness.

More recent pragmalinguistic research has highlighted the role of code-switching in expressing stance, emotion, and evaluation. Verschueren's (1999) theory of linguistic adaptation emphasizes that speakers constantly adjust their linguistic choices in response to contextual factors such as participants, communicative goals, and social norms. Within this framework, code-switching emerges as a highly adaptive strategy that allows speakers to fine-tune meaning beyond what a single language can offer.

In the Uzbek–English context, existing studies have largely focused on sociolinguistic factors such as globalization, education, and urban bilingualism. However, there remains a noticeable gap in research that systematically examines code-switching from a pragmalinguistic perspective, particularly with regard to speaker intention, perceived communicative effects, and context-sensitive meaning. This study addresses this gap by focusing on how Uzbek–English bilinguals themselves understand and use code-switching as a pragmatic resource in everyday communication.

3. Methodology

Data for this study were collected through an online questionnaire designed to gather both quantitative and qualitative information about code-switching practices. A total of 36 participants with diverse ages and professional backgrounds completed the survey. Most respondents identified Uzbek as their first language, and all reported several years of experience using English in daily, academic, or professional contexts.

The questionnaire included sections on the frequency and direction of code-switching, typical contexts of use (such as the workplace, family, and online communication), perceived motivations, and pragmatic outcomes. Likert-scale questions were used to assess attitudes toward clarity, politeness, emotional expression, and identity, while open-ended items allowed participants to provide natural examples of mixed Uzbek–English utterances. The data were analyzed descriptively, with particular attention paid to pragmalinguistic patterns and speaker intentions.

4. Analysis and Results

4.1 Participant Profile

All 36 respondents identified as Uzbek–English bilinguals, with Uzbek reported as the dominant first language in most cases. Participants indicated frequent use of English in professional, academic, and online environments, reflecting the growing functional role of English in urban Uzbekistan.

4.2 Frequency and Context of Code-Switching

The results show that code-switching occurs most frequently in professional and educational settings, followed closely by online communication. In contrast, family interactions displayed lower levels of switching. Many respondents reported switching languages multiple times within a single conversation rather than maintaining strict language boundaries.

4.3 Motivations for Code-Switching

Participants identified several factors influencing their decision to switch languages. Communicative efficiency and topic-specific vocabulary emerged as the strongest motivations, followed by the interlocutor's language competence. Politeness considerations and emotional expression also played an important role, particularly in formal or sensitive situations.

4.4 Perceived Pragmatic Effects

Overall, participants viewed code-switching positively. Many reported that switching languages helped them express ideas more clearly, communicate more efficiently, and convey

emotions more accurately. English insertions were often associated with professionalism, politeness, and a modern communicative style. These findings suggest that code-switching is a conscious and pragmatic choice rather than an automatic habit.

5. Discussion

From a pragmalinguistic perspective, the findings indicate that Uzbek–English code-switching functions as an intentional communicative strategy. The frequent use of English expressions such as sorry, please, and thank you within Uzbek discourse reflects the pragmatic transfer of politeness norms. In many cases, English appears to serve as a softening or formalizing device, especially in requests and apologies.

Efficiency emerged as a key motivating factor, supporting pragmalinguistic theories that emphasize speaker intention and relevance. When certain terms or expressions are more accessible in English, speakers switch languages to maintain fluency and reduce communicative effort. The prominence of code-switching in digital communication further highlights its role in managing informality, humor, and social alignment.

These results support the view that code-switching should be understood not only as evidence of bilingual competence but also as a powerful pragmatic resource for meaning-making. In the Uzbek–English context, language choice is closely linked to speaker stance, audience expectations, and desired interpersonal effects.

6. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that Uzbek–English code-switching is a pragmalinguistically motivated phenomenon shaped by context, intention, and communicative goals. Bilingual speakers use code-switching to enhance clarity, efficiency, politeness, and emotional expression, particularly in professional and digital settings. By foregrounding speaker perceptions and intentions, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of code-switching as a strategic and functional aspect of bilingual discourse.

Future research may extend these findings by incorporating spoken interaction data, larger participant samples, or comparative analyses across age groups and regions. Overall, the pragmalinguistic approach adopted in this study highlights the importance of examining how bilingual speakers actively use language choice to negotiate meaning in everyday communication.

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ЭВОЛЮЦИЯ ВЗГЛЯДОВ НА МЕТАФОРУ И МЕТОНИМИЮ В СОВРЕМЕННОЙ КОГНИТИВНОЙ ЛИНГВИСТИКЕ

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Аннотация: В статье рассматривается становление научных представлений о метафоре и метонимии в рамках современной когнитивной лингвистики. Прослеживается переход от их традиционного понимания как стилистических средств к интерпретации метафоры и метонимии в качестве фундаментальных когнитивных механизмов концептуализации и категоризации опыта. Освещаются опорные теоретические подходы и модели, отражающие преобразования в трактовке данных явлений, а также их место в антропоцентрической парадигме языкознания. Особое внимание уделяется взаимосвязи метафоры и метонимии, их функциональному взаимодействию в процессе формирования языкового мышления и концептуальной картины мира. Делается вывод о необходимости данных механизмов для усвоения когнитивных процессов и их роли в лингвистическом моделировании мира.

Ключевые слова: концепт, метафора, метонимия, когнитивная лингвистика, антропоцентрическая парадигма.

ZAMONAVIY KOGNITIV TILSHUNOSLIKDA METAFORA VA METONIMIYAGA OID QARASHLARNING EVOLYUTSIYASI