

## CHAPTER-4

### CODE SWITCHING

#### 4.1 Code Switching:

In today's technological world the abilities to speak more than one language are increased. Multilingual society is its major advantage. There are various groups of people who speak a wide variety of languages in a multilingual society. Therefore, it is important that each and every people should learn the languages of other communities because one can not live alone in a society without communicating with others. That's why each and every community has to learn the languages of other communities so that they can assimilate with each other and it ultimately originates to a bilingual and multilingual society. When a person becomes bilingual and multilingual then he becomes a person with the ability to speak various languages along with their native languages. In that way code switching occurs in a person's languages by inserting different sentences phrase from other language in his native language. Phukan Chandra Basumatary has also stated in his book '*Raobigianni Phora*' that, "*switching from one language to another during interaction is called code switching*"<sup>11</sup>

According to Kachru (1983-193) "*The code switching entails the ability to switch from code B. The alteration of codes is determine by the function, the situation and the participants. It refers to categorization one's verbal repertoire in terms of functions and roles.*"<sup>12</sup>

According to Ashok Kumar (1995:44) "*Code switching which is influences by extra-linguistic factors such as topic, interlocutors, setting etc. is the alternate use of*

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11 Basumatary, Phukan Chandra: *Raobigianni Phora*, Nilima Prakashami, Barama: Baganpara, Baksa page-66

12 Basumatary, Bhawtina, *Boro Bathra raizlainatao code mixing arw code switching zanai thasari*, p.18

*fixed item, phrases, clauses and sentences from the non-native language into the system of the native language".<sup>13</sup>*

According to Gardner Chloros "when a bilingual person switch different languages or dialects while speaking that is called code switching."<sup>14</sup>

Code switching occurs in a language inserting different sentences, phrase or different languages or his own language while speaking or writing. Sometimes code switching occurs more than two languages at a same time. There are no rules for code switching. example:

ma dɔləd t<sup>h</sup>ak<sup>h</sup>u? **Come on, tora masti karo.**(Bodo to English and Hindi)

## **4.2 Reason for code switching:**

Code switching is an existing situation in today's daily conversation of every language. Language is not just for a single person because it is bridge of communication among multiple people. It has a deep meaning not only among individual but also in society. Within the society and among different peoples, language is used. In case of Bodo language of Kokrajhar district too code switching is seen through different reasons. These are:

**4.2.1 Bilingual and Multilingual:** Bilingual and Multilingual situation is a major advantage of code switching. Especially kokrajhar District is a place where different people of different language reside, such as Bodo, Assamese, Garo, Rabha, Santhali, Nepali, Bengali etc. The different communities of people living together in harmony learn each other's language by socializing. They learn the Bodo language and the Bodo people learned their languages. To live peacefully, it is essential to learn and understand each other's language. In the same way, Bodo people living in a multilingual society socialize with other communities and become multilingual. For this reason, people intentionally or unintentionally switch the sentence of different

<sup>13</sup> Basumatary, Bhawtina, *Boro Bathra raizlainaiao code mixing arw code switching zanai thasari*, p.18

<sup>14</sup> Basumatary, Bhawtina, *Boro Bathra raizlainaiao code mixing arw code switching zanai thasari*, p.18

languages while having a chat. Thus, many Bodo speaking people insert the sentence, phrase etc of different languages while talking with each other. example:

- a) ma harsinꞑ t<sup>h</sup>abai t<sup>h</sup>a<sup>u</sup>, **chalo qhumne**. (Bodo to Hindi)
- b) aꞑ t<sup>h</sup>aꞑnuw hala de, **I am sorry**.(Bodo to English)
- c) boha doꞑ? **zaldi azaw** (Bodo to Hindi) etc.

**4.2.2 Education:** Education is another reason for code-switching while talking with each other. Kokrajhar was the old capital of B.T.A.D and now B.T.R. The education sector is developing in Kokrajhar and there are various education centers like English and Hindi medium of schools. At the same time, the Bodo people believed that schools like English and Hindi medium have high priority and tends to send their children to that institutions. In this way, by going to different medium of schools, they learn to speak and write other languages and become multilingual. That is the reason when they talk, insert different languages along with the native language. Apart from that, through education and learnings, people adopt the knowledge of other nations. That's why, they insert the sentences of other languages while expressing their thoughts and feelings.

example:

- Aꞑnuw bek<sup>h</sup>uꞑ naꞑa, **kuch aur law** ( Bodo To Hindi )
- muzꞑ p<sup>h</sup>ꞑrai, **best of luck for your exam**(Bodo to English)
- mak<sup>h</sup>uꞑ giduꞑ? **Don't worry be positive** (Bodo to English )
- k<sup>h</sup>usijui t<sup>h</sup>a, I am so happy for you. (Bodo to English )etc.

**4.2.3 Prioritizing other languages:** Today's generation mainly consists of people competing one another. People give more importance to the languages they think are of high value, fashion-oriented and famous. They often grab such language within a short period. Learning such languages is a sign of success, respectable and smart in today's generation. In the same way, Kokrajhar and other places learn other languages like Hindi and English and term themselves more intelligent and standard

than the others. Because in today's society it is believed that people who don't know such languages are seen to be less educated with limited knowledge and the rest who knows are granted as a smart and intelligent person. For this reason, Bodo people switch the language while they talk whether knowingly or unknowingly.

example:

ᱠᱟ ᱦᱟᱢᱟ, **mujhe kahi aur zana hai** (Bodo to Hindi)

ᱠᱟᱨᱟ ᱦᱟᱢᱟ **par main nahi de sakti** (Bodo to Hindi)

ᱠᱟ ᱦᱟᱢᱟ, **I have no money** (Bodo to English) etc.

**4.2.4 Expressing the meaning of the word clearly:** To express clearly the exact purpose of what they think or feel with sentence is also what arises code-switching. When a person becomes multilingual and bilingual, then the words, sentences of different languages always strike the person's mind. When such words, sentence frequently come into the mind, then the person learns about the sentences. Thus, they use such kinds of sentences as code-switching with the native language to express faster and clearly. People always want to convey emotions without any delay, and sometimes it feels like it's not possible to complete the sentence in the native language. So, for this reason, people become bilingual and multilingual and insert different language sentences, phrases with native language while they speak.

Example:

ᱠᱟᱨᱟ ᱦᱟᱢᱟ, **kusra nai** (Bodo to Assamese)

ᱠᱟᱨᱟ ᱦᱟᱢᱟ, **zaldi zaldi azaw.** (Bodo to Hindi)

ᱠᱟᱨᱟ ᱦᱟᱢᱟ, **so boring** (Bodo to English)

**4.2.5 Time and situation:** It is also one of the reason for code switching in Bodo language. Sometimes a person speaks the language according to the situation of the place and time. Every time and situation are not same everyday. That's why code switching occurs in a language to maintain time and situation also.

example:

**Good Morning sir,** aŋ Renukha.(English to Bodo)

**Excuse me sir,** dɔse naŋt<sup>h</sup>ɔgwaɔmuun.(English to Bodo) etc.

### 4.3 Different types of Code Switching

Sociolinguistics has classified code switching into four main types. These are:

4.3.1 Inter sentential code switching

4.3.2 Intra-sentential code switching

4.3.3 Tag switching

4.3.4 Intra word switching

**4.3.1 Inter-sentential switching:** Inter sentential code switching occurs when a person insert another language in his native language. That means when a person insert sentence, phrase etc of another language while speaking or writing then it is inter-sentential code switching. example:

undudu de. **Good night sweet dreams.**(Bodo to English)

dabw p<sup>h</sup>uija. **why are you so late?**(Bodo to English)

aŋ t<sup>h</sup>aŋja. **usko hi lekar aao.**( Bodo to Hindi)etc.

**4.3.2 Intra-sentential code switching:** Intra-Sentential Code Switching occurs in a language through inserting sentences, phrase etc of different languages in his native language. It occurs quickly in a strong multilingual person's language while speaking or writing. example :

**hello sir,** mat<sup>h</sup>w siri t<sup>h</sup>ar, **khɔbɔr sɔbɔr kenekoa?** (English to Bodo and Assamese)

aju za gubaoni unao dinwisu, **val na? kaha pe ta itne dino se?** (Bodo to Assamese and Hindi)

muzanjiwi t<sup>h</sup>aŋdu, **have a save journey Mama**(Bodo to English and Hindi)

**4.3.3 Tag switching :** Tag switching occurs in a language in the beginning of a sentence and in the end of a sentence. It may be word or phrase or sentence of different languages. example :

**I know** nuŋ muzaŋjuinu mawlangun.( English to Bodo)

nuŋmarguɔ da? **Really?** (Bodo to English)

**hello** ma k<sup>h</sup>alamduŋ? (English to Bodo)

aŋ t<sup>h</sup>aŋla de **sorry** (Bodo to English)

**good morning** sik<sup>h</sup>ardɔ (English to Bodo)

aŋk<sup>h</sup>uɔ ɔndu **please**(Bodo to English) etc.

**4.3.4 Intra-word switching :** Intra-word switching occurs in a language through inserting words of different languages in the middle of the sentence while speaking or writing. example:

masi **gɔrɔm** dinwi. (Hindi)

ep<sup>h</sup>a **conjuse** mansi(English)

dinwi aŋna **mood** muzaŋ noŋja. (English)

p<sup>h</sup>wi **rasgulla** zahwini. (Bengali)

mansionu **daku** su. (Hindi)

p<sup>h</sup>wido **muri** zanuswi. (Bengali)

aŋ **nemki** zaguun.(Bengali)

ma **dakati** badi mansi. (Bengali)

burza **dabi** k<sup>h</sup>alamduŋ nu. (Bengali)

ma siri **bɔndu** ep<sup>h</sup>agrap<sup>h</sup>. (Bengali) etc.

## 4.4 Different types of Code Switching in the field of Bodo language

### 4.4.1 Code-switching in Bodo literature:

Literature is an important part of everyone's life. Now a day people use code-switching in a normal conversation. Similarly, code-switching in literature can be seen through writing. Different field of literature like a poem, story, short story, prose, drama etc., can be seen code switching by the writers to clearly express the thoughts and emotions by adding the words, sentences of different languages. Some of the example of code-switching in Bodo literature is given below:

#### i) Code switching in poetry

- a) “aṅ buhumkuworaṅ eba zariminkuaw bunp<sup>h</sup>runaṅja  
**Rock of Gibraltar never dissolves” (Bodo to English)**  
 (Brahma, Prasenjit: Zibralterni Onthai. Page no. 17)
- b) “kuut<sup>h</sup>ajaw doṅ--  
 Law p<sup>h</sup>it<sup>h</sup>aia zesebaṅ deramanuu  
 zeblabuu bilai siṅaw  
 aruu doṅ--  
**behind every successful man,  
 there is a woman.....” (Bodo to English)**  
 (Boro, Indira: Aizw, page no. 23)
- c) “zinahari aruu zinahari  
 Mabadi gilubalu suduub  
 bejuu soṛzabnanui doṅ aizw<sup>h</sup>urzuuṅ  
 hat<sup>h</sup>ai bazaar  
 gari mōtor  
**school, college  
 shopping mall**

**restaurant**

**hospital**

aizup<sup>h</sup>ura zanaŋduŋ

buli zinahari.....” (Bodo to English)

(Boro, Indira: Aizw, page no.26-27)

d) “**man does not live by bread alone**

mansinu naŋgwaɔ arubaw

t<sup>h</sup>aŋnanwui t<sup>h</sup>anaini k<sup>h</sup>ɔrag.....” (English to Bodo)

(Boro, Indira: Aizw, page no.40) etc.

### ii) Code switching in Bodo Novel

a) “...beseba gubawni unaw dinwui luguuunlaibai.

-**how do you do?** Bisthiram a sunj/w.

- **just getting on-** Gohel a p<sup>h</sup>in hu/w.

- **how are you?**- Gohel a sunj/w.....” (Bodo to English)

(Lahary, Monoranjan: kharlung, page no.21-22)

b) “.....anzad lanai zaj/w nama mabadi sakri **life** a? unaw Gohela gusuukwaɔ

t<sup>h</sup>ik<sup>h</sup> khalamasui di bij/w sakri laguŋ. bij/w luguuk<sup>h</sup>waɔ buŋasui-

-**Allright, I welcome your proposal, very kind of you,** nuŋt<sup>h</sup>aŋni

ɔnnai.....” (Bodo to English)

(Lahary, Monoranjan: Kharlung, page no. 25)

c) “.....nat<sup>h</sup>ai ada, aŋzuŋk<sup>h</sup>i gasuibu sɔman..?

: nɔŋgwaɔ sima, gasuibu, sɔman nɔŋa.

: aŋ gaok<sup>h</sup>waɔ sanak<sup>h</sup>wi ada, nɔk<sup>h</sup>ɔrk<sup>h</sup>waɔsu, sɔmazk<sup>h</sup>waɔsu. **because man can not live without friends, love and society.** ” (Bodo to English)

(Lawary, Diganta: Gathwnni Lwgw, page no.44)





English)

(Brahma, Kamal kumar: Mimangni Simang, Page no.32)

- d) “Swmdwn: maninaṅ ap<sup>h</sup>adgiri aru aṅgu t<sup>h</sup>andui luḡup<sup>h</sup>ur. ḡulaw zazanu ḡina aṅ beni sumundui bekewnu sanak<sup>h</sup>wimun. t<sup>h</sup>eɔbu bit<sup>h</sup>aṅa suṅbai zela aṅ ḡusunṅui buṅnai zanuṣui. Bodo ni raizw k<sup>h</sup>achar hadudni zu<sup>h</sup>bt<sup>h</sup>a raza Gobinda Chandra a t<sup>h</sup>uinaini unaw kru: pu: 1832 aw British p<sup>h</sup>ra k<sup>h</sup>achar khaw **Doctrine of Lapse** aṅenni dɔhai hunanui ḡaṣurni at<sup>h</sup>iṅ siṅṅaw laṅṅu.

Birensingh: **Excuse me sir, what is a doctrine of lapse?** ”(Bodo to English)

(Hazowary, Mangal Singh: Swmdwn, page no.84-85)

#### iv) Code Switching in Bodo Prose

- a) “...t<sup>h</sup>unlaik<sup>h</sup>aw zuɔḡahunai bizirnaṅa ḡunaṅt<sup>h</sup>i dɔṅ. T<sup>h</sup>unlaia **reflection of life and mirror of society** hunnanui ḡɔnait<sup>h</sup>i hu<sup>h</sup>zabai.”(Bodo to English)

(Boro, Ganesh: Fwrwnglai, page no.128)

- b) “..T<sup>h</sup>unlaigiri Walter Pater ni motebla bizirḡap<sup>h</sup>urni mawnanḡuaw habaṅa muunt<sup>h</sup>am: **to feel the virtue of the poet or the painter, to disengage, to set forte** ”(Bodo to English)

(Boro, Ganesh: Fwrwnglai, page no.128-129)

#### v) Code switching in Bodo short story

- a) “:he he ... ek<sup>h</sup>ɔnba zaṅu. Up<sup>h</sup>ai ḡuia zaṅuna... luḡup<sup>h</sup>urk<sup>h</sup>aw maburui nagarnu. **Man can not live without friends, love and**

**society...**" (Bodo to English)

(Lawary, Diganta: Masterni Shifiyao Thunlai Afad, page no.26)

**4.4.2 Code-switching in Bodo songs:** In a person's life, to forget all the sorrows and to bring happiness, music is essential. Code-switching is done to put sweetness and colour in a song, make it melodic, make a person happy, and express its meaning. To describe the song's purpose and emotions transparently, it becomes crucial to make it short and cover up everything within a few lines. For this reason, the writers convey the meaning of the song clear and in short, to the peoples, code-switching can be seen. Because the main motive of the song is to entertain the people by grabbing its heart.

example:

a) "Maldanj<sup>h</sup>arani hat<sup>h</sup>ai zanuw t<sup>h</sup>agnaiaw, suograwnai sik<sup>h</sup>laja **sorry** ada bunlai lainaijaw, **its ok** binanaw bunlaiduw aṅbu **no problem** binanaw bunlaiduw aṅbu...." (Bodo to English)

(Bodo semi folk song Maldangpara by Swrjisuma Bwiswmuthiary )

b) "o nuṅk<sup>h</sup>uonuw mut<sup>h</sup>uw mut<sup>h</sup>uw pyar **kiya re**

o nuṅk<sup>h</sup>uonuw p<sup>h</sup>agla badi **pyar kiya re**

wi zaruw wi mwina wi rupa

nuṅk<sup>h</sup>uonuw mut<sup>h</sup>uw mut<sup>h</sup>uw **pyar kiya re**" (Bodo to Hindi)

(Bodo modern song, Mwthw mwthw pyar kiya re by SB Cine Production)

**4.4.3 Code-switching in Social Networking, Text Message, etc.:** In today's generation, social networking, electronic media, etc., have reached all corner of the planet and made it like one household. It's like a society dominated by the peoples of different nations and through this one can learn each other's language. In this way, every day, by seeing, listening, and learning the language and the efficiency of different multilingual, one considers himself a smart person. To make everyone

understand today's generation, code switching in electronic media and social media can be found. example:

- a) **OMG** maburui bibdi zak<sup>h</sup>u, **so sad**. (English)
- b) **Happy Birthday** binanaw. (English)
- c) **wish you happy birthday** abo Etc. (English)
- d) **Happy married life my dear friend**, muzaŋjui soŋsar zalaŋdu. (English)

**4.4.4 Code-switching in classrooms:** With time, place, and reason, code-switching occurs and is used by people in a normal conversation. Classroom situation is also one of them. Different kinds of students from other places of varying levels gather in a classroom and create a diverse educational environment. To make all the students understand at once becomes very difficult for a teacher. For that reason, the teacher in the classroom, to make all the students understand clearly and concisely, have to adopt code-switching.

- example: a) **everything is clear** na? ((English)
- b) **Be concentrate** sirit<sup>h</sup>a boibu. (English) etc.