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## CODE SWITCHING IN THE CLASSROOM INTERACTION: A STUDY

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### Abstract

This case study was carried out based on the issue of using code switching in teaching Bodo class on environment lesson that specifically to find out the frequent type of code switching and to observe the benefit and drawback of using them in Bodo language classroom interaction. In collection data for this study, the observation sheet and audio recorder were used as research instrument. India is a multilingual country. As a multilingual country, mostly people of the India are bilingualism and multilingualism. As being multilingualism people are used code switching during their conversation. It may in classroom interaction and general conversation. As example it is taken from my classroom interaction. Here in the discussion three types of code switching are discussed. These are Intrasentential, Intersentential, Extrasentential or Tag.

**Key Words:** Code Switching, Intrasentential, Intersentential, Extrasentential or Tag, Bodo.

### Introduction

Language holds significant role in daily life of human beings in a society as a medium of communication. Through the language people can share their own feelings, emotions, thought, desire and everything whatever they want to share each other. We human beings are here in today's stage only because of language.

India is a multilingual country. Varieties of languages speaker people are living here in India since the time immemorial. They all people have their own mother tongue or language 1. Being a multilingual country mostly Indian people can speak, write and read more than one language besides of mother tongue. So that we can say India is a multilingual country. When people master or use two languages is called bilingual in sociolinguistics and when master or use more than two languages is called multilingual in sociolinguistics. The bilingual and multilingual happens when people are in the place where their mother tongue is not only language. Besides mother tongue they have to requires others language also to exchange conversation and understand among the people. The education can also be cause of bilingual and multilingual. Because during giving and taking education

teachers and students require to speak, write and read in others language too besides mother tongue. So bilingualism and multilingualism is the cause of this phenomenon which is called Code-Switching and Code-Mixing.

#### **AIMS and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of the study are given as follows.

1. To investigate the types of code-switching used by the teachers and the students during the classroom interaction.

#### **Significances of the Study**

The significances of the study on this topic is expected to enrich the theories of references that deal with code-switching for other researchers interested in the field of sociolinguistics and expected that through this study the language user will get to know deeply information of code-switching and their types and uses.

#### **Data Collection**

In this study the data has taken as primary source from classroom interaction in U.N. Academy, Kokrajhar. Oppo Reno 6 5G Mobile Phone has used as instrument of data collection.

#### **Literature Review**

In sociolinguistics, the phenomenon of using more than one language in personal or social group is generally called bilingualism or multilingualism. People who can use or speak more than one language tend to use certain codes to communicate in the certain community or society, which is called code-mixing and code-switching in sociolinguistics. The use of more than one language at one certain time in sociolinguistics is named code-mixing and code-switching. The code-mixing and code-switching are phenomena which occur regularly in bilingual and multilingual society.

#### **Discussion**

##### **1. Code-Switching**

Code Switching is the use of different languages in the same discourse. The CS is a term in linguistics referring to use more than one language or variety in conversation. This code switching may occur in a single sentence or between the sentences of conversation as well as written form. This code switching emerged from the persons who can speaks or write more than one language. When the speaker use more than one language in sentence level orally or written it is called code switching in sociolinguistics. The speakers start or begin sentences with one language and finish with another language in code switching.

##### **2. Definitions of Code Switching**

Different linguists and different scholar have defined code switching in different ways.

Poplack (1980: 581) defines “CS as the alternation of two languages within a single discourse, sentence or constituent.”

Trudgill (1980: 82) preferred to use CS as “switching from one language variety to another when the situation demands.”

Grosjean (1982: 145) defines CS as “the alternate use of two or more languages in the same utterance or conversation.”

According to Gardner Chloros (2009) “CS refers to the use of several languages or dialects in the same conversation or sentence by the bilingual people.”

### 3. Types of Code Switching

The result of data collection shows that the teacher and students did code switching either from English to Bodo or Bodo to English in the class of teaching and learning conversation. In this data collection three types of code switching are found. These are intrasentential, intersentential and extrasentential or tag switching. All these three types of code switching are discussed below.

#### (a) *Intrasentential*

Intrasentential means within the sentence, if two languages or varieties of two languages used within the sentence it is called intrasentential code switching. It is basis on the clause level. Here in the below will be discussed on the intrasentential code switching which was used in between of teacher and students in the class conversations.

In this statement the code switching happened at the beginning of the class while the teacher has revised the class which was taken a day before. At the same time the students also replied in order to support the teacher by using the code switching.

Examples:

1. Teacher: We had discussed yesterday about **abhaoyani mwnbrwi thadersani sayao. Befwrw jabai Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, Lithosphere and Biosphere.**

(We had discussed yesterday about four segments of environment. These are atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere.)

Student: yes sir **jwng mwiya abhaoyani be mwnbrwi thadersani sayao saorainai jadwngmwn.**

(Yes sir we were discussed about these four segments of environment yesterday.)

2. Teacher: ok, let's start **arw boibw gsw hwna khwnasongkha.**

(Ok, let's start and listen carefully everybody.)

Students: ok sir, **jwng gsw hwna khwnasongwn.**

(Ok sir, we will listen carefully.)

This example is extracted from the conversation of teacher and students in the class room. The topic was on the base of lesson no. 1 of unit ii, H.S 1<sup>st</sup> year Bodo MIL subject which was taken class a day before. In this excerpt the teacher and student did code switching in terms of intrasentential 1. “we had discussed yesterday about four segments of environment.” “These were atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere.” At the same time the students also had replied “yes sir we were discussed yesterday about these four segments of environment” 2. “Ok, let's start and listen carefully everybody” At the same time the students also had replied “Ok sir, we will listen carefully.”

**(b) Intersentential**

Intersentential means at the sentence level. If two or more varieties of languages is used at the sentence level that is called intersentential code switching. It is base on the sentence level. Here in bellow example has given of intersentential code switching how it was used in between teacher and students during the class conversation.

Teacher: There are five layers at the atmosphere **da befwrkhou mwnfani unao mwnfa fari fariywi saorailangnai jasigwn.**

(There are five layers at the atmosphere now going to discussed one by one.)

In this excerpt above, the teacher started his lecture in English and then he did code switching in Bodo “**befwrkhou mwnfani unao mwnfa fari fariywi saorailangnai jasigwn** in the same utterance.”

In this conversation between the teacher and students above, intersentential code switching happened in terms of English “**There are five layers at the atmosphere.**” Then the teacher switched it in Bodo “**befwrkhou mwnfani unao mwnfa fari fariywi saorailangnai jasigwn.** Here the teacher trying to teach the students about the layers of atmosphere. Here two sentence is combined in single utterance, one is English another is Bodo.

Teacher: Only 3.5% water is fresh water on the earth बेनिखायनो जों हागौ मानि देखौ इयुननि थाखाय सरैखा खालाम नांगौ।

(Only 3.5% water is fresh water on the earth so we should save water for the future as much as we can.)

Here in the example two sentence is combined in single utterance, one is English another is Bodo.

In this conversation the teacher has explained about the Hydrosphere. During the explaining the teacher has switched Bodo language. He has started the sentence in English **Only 3.5% water is fresh water on the earth** and finished with Bodo बेनिखायनो जों हागौ मानि देखौ इयुननि थाखाय सरैखा खालाम नांगौ।

**(c) Extrasentential or Tag**

Extrasentential takes place when a word, tag statement is switched from one language to another language by the speaker at the end it is called extra sentential or tag witching.

Teacher: Environment consists of both biotic and abiotic components **bujibaina?**

(Environment consists of both biotic and abiotic components understand?)

Teacher: Subung onjima bangnaiyanw abhaoya gubungle janaini gahai jahwn **Right?**

(Over population is the main cause of Environment pollution Right?)

Teacher: Buhumao dwi thanai bahagwkhouw dwimondol bungnai jayw **ok?**

(The domain of water in earth is called hydrosphere ok?)

In this utterance, a tag element “**bujibaina**” from Bodo language switched by the teacher in the English utterance precisely at the end and “**Right**” “**OK**” English word are switched into Bodo utterance at the end of the sentence.

**Conclusion**

Language is a medium of communication and interaction with each other. Through the language people can understand and share the feeling, emotion and desires to each others. So that the mostly people of the world becoming multilingualism. As impact of multilingualism mostly people are using the code switching during their conversation. It may in classroom, market or any platform of conversation. The example of this study is also taken from classroom interaction. How the teacher and student used code switching during the class. They were used code switching intentionally or unintentionally to express clearly the idea and lesson. So that it is also one kind of strategy or way of conversation. We can accept it as medium of communication in today's modern era.

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## Code-Mixing In Select Bodo Novels: A Study

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### Abstract

Code-Mixing is a very important part of sociolinguistics, the study of how language is used in social contexts. In this study examines the use of code-mixing in select Bodo novel, focusing on the blending of Bodo with Assamese, English, Hindi. It analyzes how authors use code-mixing to reflect cultural identity, social settings, and multilingual reality. The research identifies common patterns and functions of code-mixing, highlighting its impact on both language preservation and literary expression. This study aims to contribute to the understanding of language contact and its influence on contemporary Bodo literature.

**Key Words:** Code-Mixing, Sociolinguistics, Bodo, Literature.

### Introduction

Language plays vital role in human life. It is the primary means of communication, allowing individuals to express thoughts, emotions, and ideas. Through language, people share knowledge, pass down traditions, and preserve culture. It helps in building social relationships, understanding others, and forming communities. Language is also essential in education, governance, literature, and media. Without language, human interaction and progress would be limited. Therefore, language is not only a tool for communication but also a foundation of civilization and cultural heritage.

India is one of the most linguistically diverse countries in the world, with the constitution recognizing 22 scheduled languages and hundreds of regional and tribal languages spoken across its vast territory. In such a multilingual environment, it is common for people to be fluent in two or more languages. This linguistic diversity naturally leads to the phenomenon of code-mixing, where speakers blend elements of different languages within a single conversation, sentence, or even phrase.

Code-mixing often occurs in both spoken and written forms as speakers shift between languages like Hindi, English, Assamese, Bengali, Bodo and others depending on the context, audience, and topic. It reflects not only linguistic ability but also social identity, cultural background, and changing communication needs. In India, code mixing is especially noticeable in media, films advertisement, everyday conversation, and literature. It is a creative and practical way for multilingual speakers to express themselves more fully and effectively.

### Aims and Objectives

The main aims and objectives of the study on proposed topic are as follows.

1. To identify and analyze instances of code-mixing in select Bodo novels.
2. To examine the functions and purposes of code-mixing in literary context.
3. To understand how code-mixing reflects the multilingual and cultural realities of Bodo society.
4. To examine the reasons and functions behind the use of code-mixing in the narrative.

### Data Collection and Methodology

In this study, data has been collected from primary sources, including selected novels, as well as secondary sources such as articles, books, and theses. The analytical method has been applied for the purpose of this study.

### Review of Literature

Some scholars have examined this topic from various perspectives. Notable among them those who have conducted studies on related subjects, as outlined below.

The thesis *“Use of stylistics in the short stories of Nilkamal Brahma”* in 2022 by Tanu Mashahary, she discussed the use of stylistic elements by the writer in select short stories. The researcher also discussed code-mixing and code-switching used in select short stories by the author.

The thesis *“Code-switching in Bodo: A Sociolinguistic Study”* (2022) by Jupitara Boro discusses code-switching in the Bodo language.

The dissertation, *“Code-mixing and Code-switching in Bodo Language: A Case Study of Kokrajhar District”* in 2021 by Samaina Bala Brahma, discussed the code-mixing and code-switching in Bodo language from different examples of other languages. Here, the researcher discussed some reasons of using code-mixing and code-switching in Bodo language.

*“Code-mixing and Code-switching in Silingkhar and Srimoti Durlai Short Story Book: An analysis”* in 2023, by Terisha Basumatary, a Ph.D. scholar of Bodoland University, Bodo department has published in the journal *“Insight- An international Multilingual Journal for Arts and Humanities”*, volume 3-issue2, 2023. In this journal, the researcher has discussed the code-mixing and code-switching in select short stories with the help of examples from the select books.

“Raobigianni Phora”(2017) Phukan Chandra Basumatary, there is a brief description of code-mixing and code-switching. According to him, “रायलायनाय समाव मोनफा रावनिफ्राय गुबुन मोनफा रावसिम बारस्लायनायखौनो राव-नेरसोन बारस्लायनाय (code-switching) बुडो आरो “गोबां रावारि थासारियाव माब्लाबा बाथ्रा सावरायनायाव एबा रायलायनायाव राव-नेरसोन सोसननाय नुनो मोनो। बेबादि बिजोखौ राव-नेरसोन सोसननाय (code-mixing) बुंनय जायो। बेबादि रावनि महराव गुबुन रावनि सोदोब, सोदोब जरा, बाथ्रा-फान्दाय, बाथ्रा-फाव, बाथ्रा सोसननाय नुनो मोनो। बुंनयावल नडा लिरनायावबो बेनि गोबां बिदिन्थि मोनो।

### Discussion

#### Code

In Linguistics, the word “code” refers to a language or a variety of a language that is used in communication. In simple, A code is any system of communication used by people to interact with each other. In multilingual societies, each language or language variety is called a code.

#### Code-Mixing

Code-mixing is a linguistics phenomenon where speakers blend words, phrases, or clauses from two or more languages within a single conversation, sentence, or even phrase. It is common in multilingual societies like India, where people often speak more than one language.

According to marry W.I. Tay (1989-408), *“Code-mixing involves the embedding or mixing of various linguistic units i.e. morphemes, words, phrases and clauses from two distinct grammatical system or sub system within the same sentence and same speech situation.”*

Kachru (1978:28) uses this concept to refer 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 new restricted or not restricted code of linguistic interaction.”

Bokamba (1989:278) notes “code-mixing is the embedding of various linguistic units such as affixes (Bound morphemes), words (unbound morphemes), phrases and clauses from two distinct grammatical systems within the same sentence and speech event. That is code-mixing is intra sentential switching.”

In Bodo novels, many novelists frequently use code-mixing from other languages in their writings. In the selected works of Chittaranjan Mushahary and Manoranjan Lahary, there is a significant use of code-mixing, incorporating elements from languages such as English, Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, and others. This phenomenon is analyzed below with examples from the selected novels.

### Mixing of English

In Bodo literature, many writers often incorporate English words into their writings. This typically happens when there is no suitable or equivalent word in Bodo to express a particular meaning, when they want to make a sentence sound more refined or expressive, or when they aim to clearly convey thoughts, ideas, and emotions—either consciously or unconsciously. Additionally, the use of English can also reflect the social status of the speaker or writer. In the selected novels of Chittaranjan Mushahary and Manoranjan Lahary, the highest number of English word usages can be found. Some examples are given below.

#### English noun mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. 1. बेयो दा कलेजाव फरायगासिनो दं। p-1 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

Eng. Rendering: She is now studying college.

2. ष्टेसननि साहा गनै गंथामसो रेलवे क'वार्तर। p-7 (Kharlung)

Eng. Rendering: A few railway quarters are located to the north of the station.

#### English verb mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. 1. बिष्टिरामआ गहेलनो सिगारेट अफार खालामो। p- 24 (Kharlung)

Eng. Rendering: Bistiram offered a cigarette to Gohel.

2. कल्पनाया गेरेजनिफ्राय Ambassador कार बहननानै शान्तिखौ फजनानै गावनो बोरलाखार बायदि Drive खालामो। p-15 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

#### English adjective mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. 1. अजितआ Brilliant गथ'। p-11 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

Eng. Rendering: Ajit is a brilliant boy.

2. आंहा मोनसे urgent खामानि दड दिल्लीयाव थानांगौ। p- 13 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

Eng. Rendering: I have to go to Delhi for urgent work.

3. नाथाय सानखान्थियाव गहेलआ जोबोद उइकमोन। p- 8 (Kharlung)

Eng. Rendering: But Gohel was very weak in mathematics.

#### English noun phrase mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. केरानीनी हाबा। भेराइटि अफ ओवर्कस, खिसि हाबा। p-39 (Kharlung)

English rendering: A clerk's work includes a variety of tasks, and the job often involves a mix of responsibilities.

#### English adjective phrase mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. भेरि गुड, आं गाबोन आफाखौ बंगोन। p-25

English rendering: Very good, I will tell my father tomorrow.

### Mixing of Hindi

In Bodo literature, writers frequently incorporate Hindi words also into their works. This practice often arises due to the absence of suitable Bodo equivalents for certain terms or expressions. Using Hindi words can help construct smoother and more coherent sentences, especially when expressing abstract ideas, technical terms, or modern concepts that may not have direct Bodo translations. Additionally, it enhances clarity and emotional depth, enabling authors to communicate their thoughts and feelings more effectively. Sometimes, this blending of languages occurs consciously as a stylistic choice, while at other times it happens unconsciously, influenced by the bilingual environment in which many Bodo speakers live.

### Hindi noun mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. 1 बे समाव सानजानिफ्राय गंसे **मालगारि** फैगौ। (Kharlung) p-58

Eng. Rendering: A goods train is coming from the east at this time.

### Mixing of Assamese

The Bodos are an indigenous ethnic group native to Assam in Northeast India. Assamese and Bodo serve as the official languages of the state, with Bodo holding the status of an associate official language. Most people in Assam are fluent in Assamese. That is why, while writing Bodo novels, Bodo novelists often use code-mixing from other languages. Some examples are given below.

### Assamese noun mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. सुशान्तआ एम. एस. सि. सिम फरायनानै सानसे समाव गुवाहाटी कटन कलेजाव Natural science **बिभागनि** professor जादौमोन। p-6 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

Eng. Rendering: After completing his M.Sc., once Susanta became a professor in the Department of Natural Science at Cotton College, Guwahati.

### Bengali noun mixed into Bodo novel

Eg. कल्पना नौ जुदि आंखो बंगप **सागरखौ** सानसिनानै बारनो थिनबा दानो दानो बारगोन आं, नौ आंखोल अनसायफिन। p-5 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

Eng. Rendering: Kalpana, if you ask me to cross the Bay of Bengal, I will do it right now, just accept me again.

The following are some reasons why authors use code-mixing in Bodo novels.

1 Multilingual Environment: Bodo speakers are living in a multilingual society since time immemorial, eg. Bodo, Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, and English and others. This multilingual environment leads to natural mixing of languages in daily communication of Bodo people and it reflected in literature too.

2 Lack of equivalent words: Some modern or technical terms (eg. Computer, mobile, interne and others) may not have direct Bodo equivalents. That is why novelists borrow words from others languages to fulfil the needs of words in native language. like English, Hindi, Assamese, and Bengali and other languages.

3 Stylistics choice: Novelists used code-mixing for stylistics effect to sound modern, humorous or relatable. It adds flavour and variety to the narrative, and also attract the readers or audience.

4.Character identify and social class: Different characters may speak in ways that reveal their background, education, or profession. For example, educated characters might use English phrases, doctors may use medical terminology, and lawyers may use legal jargon. Similarly, individuals from other professions or social classes may also use language specific to their field or community.

5. For emphasis or clarity: Sometimes words from other languages are used to emphasis a point or make the meaning clearer or better understanding.

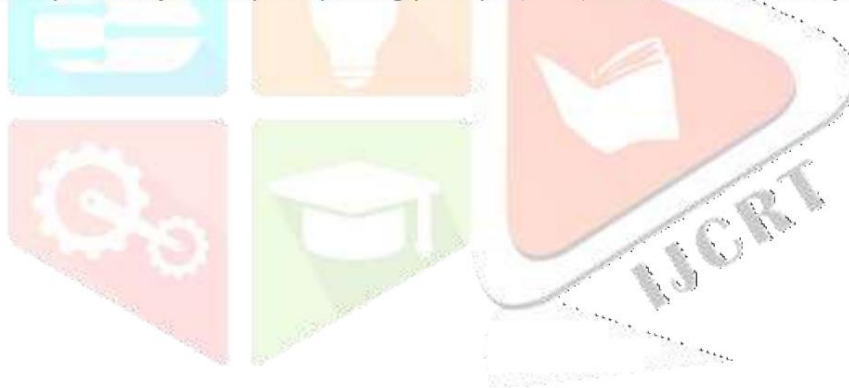
6. To reflect realistic speech: In multilingual societies, people naturally mix languages when they speak. At the same time writer also use code-mixing to represent authentic dialogue and everyday conversations.

### Conclusion

The study of code-mixing in select Bodo novels reveals a deliberate linguistics blending by the authors. The novelists intentionally incorporate words and phrases from other languages in their writing to make better writing. These are from English, Hindi, Assamese and Bengali languages. The code-mixing serves various function within novels. Like enhancing realism, expressing their ideas and thoughts clearly, filling lexical gaps, to create vivid imagery and attract the readers effectively.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

**EMERGING TRENDS IN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE & CULTURE**

Venue: Department of Bodo, Bodoland University

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

Organized by

Dept. of Bodo, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, B.T.R. Assam, India

in collaboration with the Dept. of Bodo, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India



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He/ She has presented a paper on *A Study on Code-Mixing in Bodo* .....

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