

CHAPTER-3
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3.1 Concept and types of code-switching

Code-switching is a phenomenon closely related to code-mixing. It refers to the use of more than one language, variety, or style by speakers within an utterance or discourse. In general, code-switching occurs when bilingual or multilingual speakers switch from one language to another during a conversation. This switching helps to make the conversation more effective, attractive, and clear.

Code-switching involves the use of different languages within the same discourse. It can occur within a single sentence or between sentences, both in spoken and written forms. This may happen in fiction or non-fiction texts. In code-switching, a speaker may begin a sentence in one language and finish it in another. The choice of language often depends on the speaker or writer.

Writers, in particular, have the freedom to use any language according to their linguistic needs. They may use words, phrases, clauses, and sentences from other languages when the required expression is not available in the primary language. As a result, they may borrow, mix, or switch languages to fulfil their communicative needs.

It is important to note that we live in multilingual and multicultural societies, where languages influence each other. It is often difficult to trace the exact origin of every word, as languages frequently borrow from one another sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously. This exchange of words is a common phenomenon in modern linguistics.

3.1.1 Definition of code-switching

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

Trudgill (1980:82) Preferred to use Code-switching as switching from one language variety to another when the situation demands.”

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

Richards (1982:231) thinks “Code-switching is a communicative norm in Haugen’s terms which is the variety of language used daily interaction and which reflects the speaker situation and communicative needs.

Ashok Kumar (1995:44) adds “Code-switching which is influenced by extra linguistic factors such as topic, interlocutors, setting etc. is the alternate use of lexical items, phrases, clauses, and sentences from the non-native language into the system of the native language.”

According to the Gardner Chloros (2009) Code-switching refers to the use of several languages or dialects in the same conversation or sentence by the bilingual people.” Gumprz (1982:59) Coined the term conversational Code-switching and refers to it as the juxtaposition of passages speech belonging to two grammatical systems or sub systems within the same exchange. Most frequently, the alternation takes the forms of two subsequent sentences, as when a speaker uses a second languages either to reiterate him message or to reply someone else’s statement.”

Hudson (1983:56) calls Code-switching as use of different varieties at different times by a single speaker.”

Richards et. al. (1958:43) defines Code-switching as a change by a speaker (or writer) from one language or language variety of another one.”

Bokamba defines” Code-switching is the mixing of words, Phrases and sentences from two distinct grammatical systems across sentence boundaries within the same speech event.”

Marasigan (1983) says that Code-switching refers to the use of two languages in the same sentence or discourse.” Moreover, Marasigan explains that the Code-switching indicates imperfect knowledge of the grammatical system.

According to Ardila (2005:70) Code-switching occurs when the speakers switch between two languages in some point of the conversation and carries on with the use of the latter languages.”

Sciullo et. al. (1986:1) defines Code-switching as “a form of linguistic behaviour which produces utterances consisting of elements taken from the lexicons of different languages.”

Preston (1989:29) describes “language shift to meet social demands is Code-switching.”

3.2 Types of Code-switching

Poplack (1980) has identified three types of code-switching. They are Inter sentential switching, Intra sentential switching and Tag switching.

3.2.1 Inter sentential code-switching

Inter-sentential code-switching occurs when the switch between languages takes place at a clause and sentence boundary. In this type of switching, each clause and sentence are typically in a different language. It may also occur between turns in a conversation. Inter-sentential code-switching requires a higher level of fluency in both languages compared to tag-switching, as larger portions of speech must conform to the grammatical rules of both languages.

3.2.2 Intra sentential code-switching

Intra-sentential code-switching refers to language switching that occurs within a single clause and sentence. This includes the mixing of elements from different languages even within word boundaries.

This type of switching involves greater syntactic complexity and carries a higher grammatical risk. As a result, it is typically used only by highly fluent bilinguals who have strong command over both languages.

This view has been put forward by Poplack who claims in effect, the opposite relation between competence and switching from that implied in Weinreich's (1953) characterization of the ideal bilingual. According to Blom and Gumpez (1971) code-switching is divided into two types. They are situational code-switching and metaphorical code-switching.

3.2.3 Tag switching

Tag-switching involves inserting a tag phrase from one language into an utterance that is otherwise entirely in another language. Tags can be inserted at various points in a monolingual utterance without violating syntactic rules, as they are subject to minimal grammatical constraints. Because of this flexibility, tag-switching is often the easiest and most commonly used form of code-switching.

Switching of English

English is an international language. As a result, most educated people around the world know English to some extent, primarily because it is taught through formal education. Therefore, it is common to use or switch to English words, phrases, clauses in conversation and writing.

In Bodo literature, English language switching is frequently observed. Writers often incorporate English clauses and sentences in their works to clarify meaning, express emotions and ideas, or align with a character's personality consciously or unconsciously. Additionally, the use of English in writing may serve to reflect the social status of the characters or speakers.

In the select novels of Chittaranjan Mashahary, Manoranjan Lahary, Sumeeron Jwhwlao Bodoso, and Ashok Basumatary, English words, phrases, clauses, and sentences appear more frequently than those from other languages. These authors are multilingual and have grown up in multilingual and multicultural communities. Consequently, languages other than their native one naturally influence their speech and writing. This may

occur due to the unavailability of suitable words, phrases, or expressions in the Bodo language.

A few examples of English usage have been taken from select novels and are analyzed below.

3.2.1.1 Inter sentential code-switching

This type of code-switching occurs between at least two complete sentences or clauses. Inter-sentential code-switching involves switching at sentence boundaries, where one clause or sentence is in one language and the next is in another.

Examples

1. *I love football. Nathai ang gelenw rwnga.*

English rendering: *I love football, but I can't play.*

2. *I am very much happy. Nwng dinwi anzadkhrou gahamwinw uthrisarbai.*

English rendering: *I am very happy that you passed the examination today.*

In the above-mentioned examples, shows that both sentences begin in one language and end in another within a single utterance. This is why the phenomenon is identified as inter-sentential code-switching. In these examples, the speaker shifts from one language to another during the sentence.

In the first example, the sentence starts in English “*I love football*” and ends in Bodo “*nathai ang gelenw rwnga.*” Thus, the speaker shifts from English to Bodo. The second example follows the same pattern: it begins with “*I am very happy*” in English and finishes with “*nwng dinwi anzadkhrou gahamwinw uthrisarbai*” in Bodo.

The use of such mixed-language sentences is increasingly common in today's multilingual and educated societies. Producing these kinds of sentences correctly requires the speaker to have a good command of both languages, including their grammatical structures.

This thesis will examine such instances of code-switching and code-mixing found in select Bodo novels, where novelists incorporate elements of other languages into Bodo to enhance expression, clarity, and cultural relevance.

Example-1

The example given below is extracted from the novel 'Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya', a social novel by Chittaranjan Mashahary."p-30

"मा लिरामोन शान्ति?"

"सि, शान्ति दाबुं खोनागोन।

"औं बावदोंसो आं, आरसा बुंनायसाय मा लिरामोन कल्पना?"

"लाभ लेटार। मिनिनानै बुडो शान्तिया।

English rendering

"What did you write, Santhi?"

"Don't say Santhi, he will hear you."

"Oh yes, I forgot. Okay, tell me, what did you write?"

"A love letter," said Santhi with a smile.

Inter sentential code-switching: लाभ लेटार। (Love letter)

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example contains an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this exchange, the novelist begins the question through a character speaking in Bodo, but Santhi replies in English. This represents an instance of inter-sentential code-switching from a sociolinguistic perspective.

In this case, the first sentence starts in Bodo, while the response is given in English. This shift from one language to another within the same dialogue exemplifies how bilingual speakers naturally switch languages, often based on context, expression, or stylistic choice.

Contextual Analysis

Santhi is the only sister of Sushanto, and Sankar is a very close friend of Sushanto. The two have been close friends since childhood, and both are brilliant individuals.

Sushanto was a professor in the Department of Natural Science at Guwahati Cotton College. He had a personal laboratory at home where he conducted research. He fell in love with a girl named Iramuti but never expressed his feelings to her. As a result, she never knew about his love and eventually married with someone else. Heartbroken, Sushanto

could no longer focus on his work. He resigned from his position as a professor and never returned to his laboratory again. This is a brief background of Sushanto.

Sankar, Sushanto's close friend, became a doctor. After completing his medical degree, he went to Russia to specialize in ophthalmology. He eventually became an eye specialist and now runs a nursing home in his own residence.

Santhi, Sushanto's sister, is a college student studying arts. She secretly loves a boy named Ajit with all her heart, just as her brother once loved Iramutii. However, Ajit does not love Santhi. Instead, he is in love with another girl named Kalpana.

Ajit was a brilliant science student who aspired to become a great scientist. He regularly visited Sushanto's laboratory with Kalpana, his girlfriend and the only daughter of Kwilas, a wealthy timber merchant. The two were deeply in love.

One day, while Ajit was conducting a practical experiment in the laboratory, an explosion occurred. Unfortunately, Ajit was seriously injured, and he lost his eyesight of both eyes. When Santhi informed Kalpana about Ajit's blindness, Kalpana left him without saying a word. But, Santhi was taking care of Ajit by pretending to be Kalpana, because Ajit did not love her at all except Kalpana.

Santhi and her brother Sushanto searched for an eye specialist, but they could not find. Eventually, Sankar came to tell Santhi about Dr. Grimwig, an eye specialist from London who was currently staying at Sankar's house.

The following example is taken from a conversation between Santhi and Sankar. When Sankar arrived at Santhi's home, she was writing a poem to distract herself from her emotions and sadness. Suddenly, Sankar asked Santhi what she was writing. In response, Santhi told him she was writing a love letter.

In this excerpt, inter-sentential code-switching occurs. Although Santhi and Sankar were speaking in Bodo from the beginning, Santhi unexpectedly replied in English. The novelist used this instance of inter-sentential code-switching through Santhi's dialogue to reflect emotional intensity, cultural influence, or linguistic reality in a multilingual society.

"मा लिरामोन शान्ति?"

"सि, शान्ति दाबुं खोनागोन।"

"औं बावदोंसो आं, आरसा बुंनायसाय मा लिरामोन कल्पना?"

“लाभ लेटार। मिनिनानै बुडो शान्तिया।

In this extracted example, Sankar asked his question entirely in the Bodo language, while Santhi responded with a complete sentence in English. The conversation begins in Bodo and shifts to English in the reply. Therefore, this instance can be identified as inter-sentential code-switching, where the switch occurs between two complete sentences in different languages.

”मा लिरामोन शान्ति?”

“लाभ लेटार। मिनिनानै बुडो शान्तिया।

In this example, Sankar asks Santhi in Bodo, “*What did you write, Kalpana?*” But Santhi replies in English with, “*Love letter.*” This shows a clear switch from Bodo to English within the conversation. Santhi could have responded in Bodo for instance, “*Mwjang mwnnaini laizam*” instead of using the English phrase “*love letter.*” However, she chose to reply in English.

Both characters are portrayed as highly educated, and they understand each other's languages well. The novelist uses this code-switching deliberately to make the dialogue more natural and expressive, to reflect the characters' social status as educated individuals, and to align with their personalities. In this case, the conversation contains two complete sentences in two different languages one in Bodo and the other in English. This is a clear example of inter-sentential code-switching.

Example-2

The example given below is extracted from the novel *Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya*, a social novel by Chittaranjan Mashahary. p-32

“बेनि सायाव माने करनिया इमफ्लेमेनटेसन जे आं खालामगोन करनियाखौ नौं बहा मोननो कल्पना? *Cornea is not so easily available.*”

English Rendering: That a cornea will implantation where will you get the cornea required, Kalpana? Cornea is not so easily available.

Inter sentential Code-switching: *Cornea is not so easily available.*

Linguistics Analysis

The first sentence in the example is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language, while the second sentence in English is a simple declarative sentence. Here, the novelist switches from one language to another, starting the conversation in Bodo and finishing it in English. Thus, this is considered an example of inter-sentential code-switching from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Contextual Analysis

The example above is a conversation between Dr. Grimwig and Santhi. After Ajit became blind due to a laboratory explosion, Santhi started treatment for him with the help of her brother Sushanto and their close friend Sankar. Eventually, through their efforts, they were able to meet Dr. Grimwig, an eye specialist from London who was temporarily staying at Sankar's house in India.

Following Ajit's medical examination, Dr. Grimwig declared that both of Ajit's eyes required corneal transplantation. They searched for a cornea for the transplant, but were unable to find one, as corneas are not easily available in India. This conversation takes place in that context.

During their discussion, the characters engaged in code-switching, a common phenomenon in sociolinguistics where speakers switch from one language to another within a conversation. In this instance, they started speaking in Bodo but switched to English at certain points. For example, the first sentence begins in Bodo: “बेनि सायाव माने करनिया इमफलेमेनटेसन जे आं खालामगोन करनियाखौ नौ बहा मोननो कल्पना?” and ends with the English sentence, “Cornea is not so easily available.” Santhi also continues the conversation by asking Dr. Grimwig another question in Bodo: “खुनु राहा गैया डाक्टर...?”

In this exchange, the novelist has used English sentences within a Bodo-language novel to reflect the characters' educational backgrounds and social status. Since Dr. Grimwig is from London and naturally speaks English, and both Sankar (an eye specialist trained in Russia) and Santhi (a higher education student) are highly educated, the use of English words or sentences occurs naturally either consciously or unconsciously.

Moreover, as this is a medical conversation, the use of English terms is appropriate and necessary to convey specific medical concepts effectively.

This instance is a clear example of inter-sentential code-switching, where language switching occurs between complete sentences in different languages, reflecting real-life multilingual communication patterns.

Mr. Manoranjan Lahary is a famous poet, essayist, novelist and short story writer of Bodo literature. He is a multilingual writer of the Bodo society. He wrote some books in other languages apart from Bodo language. The using of English words, phrases, clauses or sentences are one of the common character or features and technique of Manoranjan Lahary. He mixed or switched English words or sentences directly to fulfill the needs of words or sentences which are unavailable in Bodo language. On the other hand, in his writing English is used to show superiority and glamour of the speaker as well as to adjust with the characters in his novel or short story. It can be said that the mixed or switched English was a fashion among the writers at that time. But in Manoranjan Lahary's novel the use of English more frequently than the other languages can see. A few examples are given bellow of his selected novel.

Example -1

हाउ दु इउ दु? -बिष्टिरामआ सोडो।

- जाष्ट गेटिं अन- गहेला फिन होयो।
- हाउ आर इउ ? -गहेला सोडो।
- फाइन- बिष्टिरामआ मिनिस्लु खालामनानै फिन होयो।
- हयआर आर इउ फ्रम, नोंथाया बबेनिफ्राय मिष्टार ब्रहम ?
- ननिफ्राय मिष्टार बर।
- हाउ फार, बेसेबां गोजान थांनो ?
- नोंथांमोननि दरं हादाबखौ नायनो फैदों।
- अलराइट, थौ जॉनिसिम।

- बेसे गोजान नोंथानि गामिया ?
- बारा गोजान नडा नोंथां, अनलि ए लिटल मोर देन एन आवयार्स जानि।

English rendering:

Bistiram: *How do you do?*

Gohel: *Just getting on. How are you?*

Bistiram: *Fine. (smiles)*

Gohel: *Where are you from, Mr. Brahma?*

Bistiram: *From home, Mr. Boro.*

Gohel: *How far will you go?*

Bistiram: *I coming to visit your place of Darrang.*

Gohel: *Alright, let's go to our home.*

Bistiram: *How far is your village?*

Gohel: *Not too far, Mr. Brahma just a little more than an hour's journey.*

Extracted from “*Kharlunng*” (unsettled) written by Mr. Manoranjan Lahary. p-22

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example illustrates inter-sentential code-switching. In this example, there is a conversation between the male protagonist Gohel and his friend Bistiram. The sentences include a combination of interrogative and declarative forms. Some questions are asked in English and answered in Bodo, while others are asked in Bodo and answered in English. Essentially, the language switches from one to another either from English to Bodo or from Bodo to English.

For instance -

- हयआर आर इउ फ्रम, नोंथाया बबेनिफ्राय मिष्टार ब्रहम ?
- ननिफ्राय मिष्टार बर'।

Gohel: Where are you from, Mr. Brahma?

Bistiram: From home, Mr. Boro.

Here, Bistiram asks a question in English, and Gohel replies in Bodo. The language switches from an English sentence to a Bodo sentence. Therefore, this is considered inter-sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics.

- बेसे गोजान नोंथांनि गामिया ?
- बारा गोजान नडा नोंथां, अनलि ए लिटल मोर देन एन आवयार्स जार्नि।

Gohel: How far is your village?

Bistiram: Not too far, Mr. just a little more than an hour's journey.

In the same discourse, Gohel asks the question in Bodo, while Bistiram replies in English. This is also considered inter-sentential code-switching, as the sentences completely shift from one language to another.

Contextual Analysis

This example is taken from the social novel '*Kharlung*' (*Unsettled*) written by Mr. Manoranjan Lahary. In this novel, the author uses extensive code-mixing and code-switching between various languages. The examples mentioned above demonstrate inter-sentential code-switching between English and Bodo. As previously stated, the use of code-switching and code-mixing is a common feature and deliberate writing technique employed by Manoranjan Lahary. It can be considered a response to the demands of the narrative and social setting.

In the example cited above, the characters Gohel and Bistiram are engaged in a conversation. Gohel is the protagonist of the novel, while Bistiram is a supporting character. They were classmates and roommates during their college years at Kokrajhar Government College. Gohel is the only son of Ransrem and Gaojeng. Both his father and mother have high hopes that Gohel would take full responsibility for the family after completing his education. Despite the family's poor economic condition, Ransrem made every effort to provide him with a higher education for a better future.

Gohel pursued his bachelor's degree at Kokrajhar Government College, where he met Bistiram. After completing their studies, both returned to their respective homes Bistiram to Darrang district and Gohel to Kokrajhar. At home, Gohel remained idle, refusing to take on any responsibilities. His father expected him to either get a government job or take up farming, and also to get married. However, Gohel denied all of his father's wishes, which led to frequent quarrels between them. Ransrem often scolded Gohel out of frustration.

One day, Gohel left home without a clear destination. When he got off the train at Udalguri Railway Station, he unexpectedly met Bistiram after a long time. Their meeting led to a serious conversation, which is represented in the example above. During the exchange, they spoke in both English and Bodo. This is a clear instance of inter-sentential code-switching, as complete sentences are used in both languages one in English, the other in Bodo.

The use of code-switching and code-mixing is a common phenomenon in today's multilingual societies. It often depends on one's profession, cultural background, social environment, and community. In this example, both characters are well-educated and possess a strong sense of self-respect. They are fluent in both English and Bodo and intentionally switch between the two languages. Manoranjan Lahary employs this technique to align the dialogue with the characters' identities, to reflect their social status, and to engage the reader effectively.

Sumeeron Jwhlwao Bodosa is a contemporary Bodo writer who has authored numerous works across various genres. His writings include novels, short stories, prose, syllabus-oriented model books, and an English spoken guide. In his literary works, he frequently employs code-switching and code-mixing from other languages such as English, Hindi, Assamese, and Bengali. This technique is a distinctive feature of his writing style.

Bodosa uses code-switching and code-mixing to reflect the linguistic diversity of his characters, to engage readers, and to express ideas more precisely when needed. The inclusion of English, Hindi, Assamese, and Bengali terms is common in his writings, partly due to his strong academic background. He holds an M.A. from Gauhati University and has completed *Probin* in Hindi. As a result, the use of these languages appears naturally in his works.

Some selected examples from his novels that illustrate this multilingual writing technique are given below.

Example-2

ओई लरकी लेकसार बन्द करो। अपना अपना काम करो। थाब दुगैग्राया बेनो? p-48 (Fanshari Nwng Angnisw)

English rendering: Hey Girl, stop your lecture and do your work. Why haven't you bathed yet?

Inter sentential code switched: ओई लरकी लेकसार बन्द करो। अपना अपना काम करो।

Linguistics Analysis

This example is a combination of two sentences in two different languages. The first part is in Hindi, and the second part is in Bodo. The Hindi portion consists of imperative sentences: "ओई लड़की, लेकसार बंद करो। अपना-अपना काम करो।" (Hey Girl, stop your lecture and do your work.), while the Bodo portion is an interrogative sentence: "थाब दुगैग्राया बेनो?" (Why haven't you bathed yet?).

Here, the sentence starts in Hindi and ends in Bodo, resulting in a switch from one language to another. Therefore, it is considered an instance of inter-sentential code-switching from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is extracted from the social novel '*Fanshari Nwng Angnisw*' by Sumeeron Jwhlwao Bodosa. It is part of a conversation between the male and female protagonists of the novel. The male protagonist, Suburun, is an M.A. student at Gauhati University, while the female protagonist, Fanshari, is a college student.

Fanshari had never visited Guwahati before, so she travels there with Suburun. The quoted dialogue takes place at Suburun's lodging after their long journey from Baksa to Guwahati. They were both feeling tired and hungry. Fanshari was about to take a bath in order to have lunch, but she got distracted and started chatting with Suburun instead. In response, Suburun said the line: "ओई लड़की, लेकसार बंद करो। अपना-अपना काम करो। थाब दुगैग्राया बेनो?" (Hey Girl, stop your lecture and do your work. Why haven't you bathed yet?).

This dialogue shifts from Hindi to Bodo, making it a clear instance of inter-sentential code-switching. It reflects a conversation between two educated and modern characters. The author used this technique to portray the characters especially Suburun as smart, urban, and highly educated. Suburun's background as a student living in Guwahati, a major city in

Northeast India, further justifies the natural mixing of languages. The use of code-switching in this dialogue adds realism, reflects their sociolinguistic background, and enhances the characterization in the novel.

Example -3

तैकस, मे गड ब्लेज इउ माय सान। बे आय सनाया सोर जाखो होम्बा फिसा? p-72 (Fanshari Nwng Angnisw)

English rendering: Thanks, may God bless you my son. Who is she, my son?

Inter sentential code swiching: तैकस, मे गड ब्लेज इउ माय सान।

Linguistics Analysis

This sentence is a combination of two languages. The first part is an optative sentence in English: *"Thank you. May God bless you, my son."* The second part is an interrogative sentence in Bodo: *"बे आय सनाया सोर जाखो होम्बा फिसा?"* (Who is she, my son?). The sentence begins in English and ends in Bodo, resulting in a switch from one language to another. Therefore, it is considered an example of inter-sentential code-switching from a sociolinguistic perspective.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is extracted from the social novel *'Fanshari Nwng Angnisw'* by Sumeeron Jwhwlaod Bodosa. It is part of a conversation between Bilifang and his father. When Bilifang returns home from his lodging after a long time, he informs his parents that he has passed his B.A. final examination with a first division. Upon hearing this news, his parents are very happy and excited. His father then encourages Bilifang to pursue an M.A. degree and suggests that he should aim to become a college lecturer.

Following this discussion, his father seeks clarification by asking the question: *"Thank you. May God bless you, my son. बे आय सनाया सोर जाखो होम्बा फिसा?"* (Who is she who accompanied you, my son?). In response, Bilifang explains that the girl is the daughter of his lodging house owner, where he stayed while studying for his B.A.

In this dialogue, the novelist uses inter-sentential code-switching from English to Bodo to reflect the characters' social status and level of education. Bilifang's father is portrayed as

a highly educated man who once secured first class, first position in M.A. across all of Assam. He has high expectations for his son to follow in his footsteps.

The use of English alongside Bodo in the conversation emphasizes the educated background of the characters and aligns with real-life patterns of speech among literate individuals in multilingual societies. By incorporating code-switching, the novelist not only adds realism but also enhances character development and engages the reader more effectively.

Example: 4

न' हैदो। may God help you. p-23

English rendering: Take and offer it. May God help you.

Inter sentential code swiching: May God help you.

Linguistics Analysis

The example given above is a combination of two sentences. The first is an imperative sentence in Bodo "न' हैदो" and the second is an optative sentence in English: "May God help you." The sentence begins in Bodo and ends in English, making it a clear case of inter-sentential code-switching.

Contextual analysis

The given example is extracted from the social novel 'Fanshari Nwng Angnisw'. It is part of a conversation between two characters, Fanshari and Sitra. When Suburun arrived at Fanshari's house along with his friend Satyajit, the mentioned line was spoken by Fanshari to Sitra.

Fanshari and Sitra had already made a plan Fanshari intended to propose her love to Satyajit. To create an opportunity for this, she handed over the responsibility of welcoming the guests and serving food to Sitra. This arrangement was made to allow Fanshari more time and space to interact with Satyajit.

As part of this plan, Fanshari expressed her wish to Sitra using the example sentence. The sentence reflects her inner hope and determination to fulfil her desire. Such expressions are common across various language communities in daily conversations, religious contexts, literary works, and public speeches.

In this instance, the author incorporates code-switching in the Bodo novel to reflect natural speech patterns and enhance character development. The use of such a sentence in the novel not only reflects the emotional state of the character but also adds authenticity and relatability to the dialogue.

Ashok Basumatary is a young Bodo writer who has contributed several works to Bodo literature, including the selected novel. In this novel, he frequently uses code-mixing and code-switching. In the modern era, the use of code-mixing and code-switching is common and widely accepted in literature. Writers may use these techniques either consciously or unconsciously. Sometimes, it serves as a deliberate literary technique. In Basumatary's novel, code-mixing and code-switching are prominently observed. As a multilingual writer, Ashok Basumatary studied for his MBA outside of his home state and has worked in various states across India. Therefore, his exposure to multiple languages makes the use of languages other than Bodo quite natural in his writing.

One notable point is that the main character, Roje, and her friend study in an English-medium school. To reflect the linguistic environment of the characters authentically, the author blends English and Hindi into the dialogues. Below are some examples that illustrate this usage.

Example-1

Don't laugh children, it is not matter of laughing. रजेनि बिफोर हाबाया जोबोत मोजां आरो बाखनायथावसो। Do you know the meaning of flower? p-35 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: Don't laugh children, it is not matter of laughing. These works of Roje are very good and praiseworthy. Do you know the meaning of flower?

Inter sentential code switched: रजेनि बिफोर हाबाया जोबोत मोजां आरो बाखनायथावसो।

Linguistics Analysis

The first sentence in the example is an imperative sentence in English. The second sentence is a declarative sentence in Bodo, and the third is an interrogative sentence in English. These sentences are spoken by a single teacher during a class, all at the same time.

In these utterances, the teacher switches from English to Bodo and then back to English. Therefore, these sentences are considered instances of inter-sentential code-switching in linguistics.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is extracted from the children's novel '*Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw*' by Ashok Basumatary. The example is part of a classroom interaction between a teacher and students. The school is an English-medium institution. The female protagonist, Roje, is a young girl studying there along with her friends.

Roje comes from a financially poor family. Since she has no father, her elder brother and widowed mother have to collect firewood from the mountains and sell it to support the family. Roje is well aware of her family's financial struggles and understands how her mother and brother work hard to make ends meet. To support her family, Roje also sells flowers on the street.

However, all her classmates come from wealthy families. As a result, they often insult, ignore, and mistreat Roje. The cited example takes place when a new teacher joins the school and is taking introductions from the students. When it is Roje's turn, she introduces herself and mentions that her hobby is gardening. Upon hearing this, her classmate Jembo mocks her by saying she is a street flower seller. This remark causes the other students to laugh at Roje.

At that moment, the teacher intervenes to control the situation and says the following:

"Don't laugh, children. it is not matter of laughing. रजेनि बिफोर हाबाया जोबोत मोजां आरो बाखनायथावसो। Do you know the meaning of flower?"

Although this is a Bodo novel, the main character Roje and her friends are study in an English-medium school. Therefore, the novelist has used both English and Bodo in the characters' dialogue to reflect their linguistic environment authentically and to engage the reader. This mixture of languages is an example of code-switching used purposefully as a literary technique.

Example-2

Where is that big animal one? बै गेदेर जुनातआ बहा थांखो? P-151 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: where is that big animal one? Where has that big animal gone?

Inter sentential code switched: बै गेदेर जुनातआ बहा थांखो?

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example contains two sentences. The first is an interrogative sentence in English, and the second is also an interrogative sentence, but in the Bodo language. In this instance, code-switching occurs from English to Bodo. The character first asks in English, "Where is that big animal one?", and then repeats the same question in Bodo: "बै गेदेर जुनातआ बहा थांखो?"

This shift from one language to another between sentences is known as inter-sentential code-switching in the context of sociolinguistics. It reflects the bilingual or multilingual competence of the speaker and is often used for emphasis, clarification, or audience adaptation.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is extracted from the children's novel '*Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw*' by Ashok Basumatary. This cited instance is a conversation between Pinki and Ben while they are in a dense forest. They went into the forest to rescue Roje's brother, where a battle had taken place. Roje's brother, Swmkhw, is a captain in the Indian Special Commando Forces. He went missing in the forest along with his team. As a result, his younger sister Roje, along with her two friends, Pinki and Ben, ventured into the forest to search for him.

At one point, when they felt very thirsty, Pinki went downhill to fetch some water. During that time, an elephant approached Ben. Ben, terrified and shocked by the sight of the huge animal, flinched and accidentally fell into a pit. When he managed to climb out, the elephant was no longer there. In a state of panic, he asked Pinki the question quoted in the earlier example

"Where is that big animal one? बै गेदेर जुनातआ बहा थांखो?"

Although Ben and Pinki were conversing in English, Ben switched to Bodo mid-conversation due to his emotional state. Both children are Bodo by ethnicity and study in an English-medium school. Pinki is the daughter of a District Commissioner (DC), which further explains their fluency in English. Therefore, it is natural and common for them to converse in English, switching to Bodo occasionally, especially in moments of stress or urgency. This is an example of inter-sentential code-switching, reflecting the bilingual reality of the characters.

3.2.2.1 Intra sentential code-switching

It takes place within a single sentence or clause and is a form of bilingual communication where speakers blend elements from different languages while following the grammatical rules of both languages involved. Examples from the selected novels are discussed below.

Example-1

Ok जॉबो नायगोन रजेनि अनसुलि गोसोखौ। p-37 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: OK, we shall see Roje's beautiful mind as well.

Intra sentential code-switching:

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example, "Ok जॉबो नायगोन रजेनि अनसुलि गोसोखौ।", is a simple sentence composed of two languages. The sentence begins with the English word "Ok" and continues in the Bodo language: "जॉबो नायगोन रजेनि अनसुलि गोसोखौ।" This combination of English and Bodo within a single sentence is an example of intra-sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics, where elements from two languages are used within the same sentence structure.

Contextual Analysis

Example-1

If I don't succeed! बिब्दिब्लाथ' सानैबो खाना खानि जानानै थानांगोन। p-41 (Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya)

English rendering: If I don't succeed! then both will have to remain blind.

Intra sentential code-switching: बिब्दिब्लाथ' सानैबो खाना खानि जानानै थानांगोन।

Linguistics Analysis

The mentioned example is a complex sentence composed of two languages. In this sentence, the first part is a dependent clause in English, and the second part is an independent clause in Bodo. This type of sentence is considered an example of intra-sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics, as the speaker switches from English to Bodo within a single sentence.

For instance, "If I don't succeed" is the English dependent clause, while "बिब्दिब्लाथ' सानैबो खाना खानि जानानै थानांगोन" is the Bodo independent clause.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from the social novel '*Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya*' by Chittaranjan Mashahary. It is a conversation between the female character Santhi and Dr. Grimwig, a doctor who has come to India from London.

The male protagonist of the novel, Ajit, lost his eyesight in both eyes due to a laboratory explosion while conducting an experiment. Ajit was a brilliant and ambitious young man who dreamed of becoming a scientist. Unfortunately, the accident left him blind. In an effort to restore his sight, Santhi decides to donate both of her corneas to Ajit, since corneal transplantation is the only way to help him regain his vision but no donor could be found.

Santhi's decision is extremely risky, as donating both corneas would leave her completely blind. Her two brothers, Sushanto and Sonkhor, advise her against taking such a tragic and dangerous step. However, she ignores their warnings and approaches Dr. Grimwig to carry out the transplant. Upon learning the true reason behind her request, the doctor is shocked and initially refuses to perform the surgery.

Despite this, Santhi repeatedly pleads with Dr. Grimwig to proceed with the operation. Deeply moved but concerned for her well-being, the doctor gently responds with the above-

mentioned line, attempting to stop her from making such a life-altering sacrifice. He reminds her that once the corneas are removed, her blindness will be permanent she will never regain her eyesight.

In this example, Dr. Grimwig uses intra-sentential code-switching, blending English and Bodo within a single sentence. This kind of code-switching is common among multilingual speakers, especially when all participants are educated and fluent in more than one language. The novelist uses this technique to create a more realistic and engaging conversation between the characters.

Example-2

माने अंग्रेजी में कहते हैं practical is better than advice. p-48 (Fanshari Nwng Angnisw)

English rendering: That means, it is called in English, practical is better than advice.

Intra sentential code-switching: practical is better than advice.

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example is a complex sentence composed of two languages. The first, a dependent clause in Hindi, is “माने अंग्रेजी में कहते हैं”, and the second, an independent clause in English, is “*Practical is better than advice.*”

In this sentence, the first clause begins in Hindi and the second clause ends in English. The switch from Hindi to English within the sentence is an example of intra-sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from the social novel ‘*Fanshari Nwng Angnisw*’ by Sumeeron Jwhlwao Bodosa. This example is part of a conversation between the male and female protagonists of the novel, Suburun and Fanshari, who are in love with each other.

One day, Fanshari visits Suburun’s lodging in Guwahati, and during their discussion, she says the above-mentioned sentence. Through this dialogue, the novelist aims to advise the readers. The phrase “practical is better than advice” means that taking action or doing something useful is more valuable than merely talking about what should be done.

Example-3

बेफोर जिखि जादोला आदा, आदा नों मा मावगोन After completing M.A? p-24 (Fanshari Nwng Angnisw)

English rendering: Nevertheless, what are you going to do after completing M.A brother?

Intra sentential code-switching: After completing M.A?

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example is an interrogative sentence. Based on its structure, it is a complex sentence composed of two languages: Bodo and English. This complex sentence contains two clauses: the first clause is an independent clause in Bodo, and the second clause is a dependent clause in English.

In this sentence, the code switches from Bodo to English within the sentence, which is why it is considered intra-sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics.

Contextual Analysis

The example "बेफोर जिखि जादोला आदा, आदा नों मा मावगोन After completing M.A?" is taken from the social novel '*Fanshari Nwng Angnisw*' by Sumeeron Jwhwlaod Bodosa. This example is part of a conversation between the sub-characters Saytajit and Sitra, who are friends of the male and female protagonists of the novel.

Sytajit is a classmate of the male protagonist Suburun, and Sitra is a classmate of the female protagonist Fanshari. When Suburun and Sytajit visit Fanshari's house, Sytajit and Sitra meet each other for the first time and introduce themselves. Upon learning about Sytajit's educational qualification, Sitra asks him, "What will you do after completing M.A.?"

This sentence is an example of intra-sentential code-switching between Bodo and English. The characters use English within a Bodo sentence, reflecting the bilingual and multilingual reality of many people today. Due to the influence of bilingualism and multilingualism, speakers often switch or mix languages during conversations. They do this to adjust to social situations, attract the audience's attention, clarify thoughts, or express their social status.

Because both characters are educated, the use of code-switching and code-mixing in their dialogue is natural and common. This blending of Bodo and English enriches the conversation and adds realism to the novel.

Example-4

बेनिफ्राय न' मोनजासिम बियो गोसोजों गोसो बुंबाय थाबाय आय लाभ इउ सित्रा, आय लाभ इउ सित्रा, आय लाभ इउ सित्रा.....p-30 (Fanshari Nwng Angnisw)

English rendering: After that he continued to murmur, 'I love you Chitra, I love Chitra, I love you' until he reached home.

Intra sentential code-switching: आय लाभ इउ सित्रा, आय लाभ इउ सित्रा, आय लाभ इउ सित्रा.....

Linguistics Analysis

Based on its structure, the above-mentioned example is a complex sentence from a Bodo novel. However, the novelist uses two languages within a single sentence Bodo and English. The sentence contains two clauses: the first is a dependent clause in Bodo, and the second is an independent clause in English.

The dependent clause, "*बेनिफ्राय न' मोनजासिम बियो गोसोजों गोसो बुंबाय थाबाय,*" is in Bodo, and the independent clause, "*I love you Sitra, I love you Sitra, I love you Sitra,*" is in English.

This combination of languages within a single sentence is an example of intra-sentential code-switching in sociolinguistics. It reflects the multilingual ability of the characters and adds a layer of authenticity to the dialogue.

Contextual Analysis

The example "*बेनिफ्राय न' मोनजासिम बियो गोसोजों गोसो बुंबाय थाबाय आय लाभ इउ सित्रा, आय लाभ इउ सित्रा, आय लाभ इउ सित्रा*" is taken from the social novel '*Fanshari Nwng Angnisw*' by Sumeeron Jwhwloa Bodosa. This example reflects the voice

of Saytajit, a character who meets a girl named Sitra for the first time. They quickly fall in love and promise to marry each other.

After meeting Sitra, while returning home, Saytajit says the above-mentioned sentence. Saytajit is an educated man who has completed his M.A. degree. Therefore, the novelist uses code-switching in his dialogue to align with the character's background and to engage the readers effectively.

Example-5

I am fine. Thank you नाथाय नौथाडालाइ माबोरै सार?

English rendering: I am fine. Thank you but how do you do sir?

Intra sentential code-switching: I am fine. Thank you.

Linguistic Analysis

The above-mentioned example is a compound sentence composed of two languages. The first part of the sentence is in English, and the second part is in Bodo. In this sentence, "Thank you" is an assertive sentence because it expresses gratitude, while "How do you do, sir?" is an interrogative sentence as it asks a question.

Therefore, the sentence qualifies as a compound sentence, as it combines both an assertive and an interrogative sentence within a single structure, and it involves code-switching between two languages.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from '*Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw*' by Ashok Basumatary. It is a conversation between the Deputy Commissioner and the Headmaster of a school. When the Deputy Commissioner visits the school to admit his daughter, the headmaster welcomes him and asks, "*How do you do, Commissioner साहाब?*"

The Commissioner replies with a smile, saying, "*I am fine. Thank you नाथाय नौथाडालाइ माबोरै सार?*" This response is a blend of English and Bodo, showing a natural switch between languages.

Both characters in the novel are highly educated and hold respected positions one as the Headmaster of an English-medium school and the other as a Deputy Commissioner. As multilingual individuals, it is common and natural for them to switch between languages during conversation. This use of code-switching reflects their linguistic flexibility and social context, and it also adds realism and depth to their interaction in the novel.

3.2.3.1 Tag switching

This type of switching occurs when the language switch overs at the end of a sentence, typically with a question tag. It is known as tag switching. Tag switching often involves inserting a tag question from one language into a sentence that is otherwise in another language. An example of tag switching is discussed below with reference to selected novels.

Example-1

“मोनबाय आदा कर्णियाखौ?” p-34 “ Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya”

English rendering: Brother, did you receive the cornea?

Tag switching word: कर्णियाखौ? (Cornea?)

Linguistics Analysis

This example is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the novelist switches from Bodo to English at the end, using a question tag. The instance of tag switching here is seen in the use of "कर्णियाखौ?" ("cornea?"). Since there is no appropriate or exact equivalent for *cornea* in the Bodo language, the novelist uses the English word *cornea* as a loan word, integrated into the Bodo sentence. This is a clear case of tag switching, where the switch occurs at the end of a sentence using a borrowed English term to maintain clarity and accuracy.

General Analysis

The cornea is the transparent layer that covers and protects the outer part of the eye. It plays a vital role in human vision. However, it can sometimes become damaged due to injury or disease. In such cases, a corneal transplant becomes necessary, as there is no other way to restore vision once the cornea is severely damaged.

In India, there is a shortage of donated corneas, making it difficult for many patients to receive timely transplants. This scarcity contrasts with other countries, where cornea donation is more common. In many of these countries, people choose to donate their corneas before death, ensuring a more-steady supply for those in need.

This reality is portrayed in the novel '*Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya*', which highlights the emotional and social struggles associated with corneal blindness and the urgent need for transplants.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from the social novel '*Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya*' by Chittaranjan Mashahary. It is part of a conversation between Santhi, Sonkor, and Susanto. After a laboratory explosion during a practical session, Ajit becomes blind as the corneas of both his eyes are severely damaged. In search of a solution, Santhi and her brothers begin looking for a suitable cornea donor to enable a transplant.

Santhi asks Sonkor whether he has been able to arrange a cornea, but he replies that he could not find one in India. Due to the shortage of donated corneas in the country, Santhi ultimately makes a life-changing decision: she chooses to donate both of her own corneas to Ajit. Santhi loves Ajit deeply and believes in his potential. She considers him a brilliant student who could become a great scientist in the future. She does not want his talent to be wasted due to blindness. Santhi believes that if Ajit regains his vision, he will be able to serve not only the nation but the world.

Despite strong objections from her brothers and the doctors, Santhi remains firm in her decision and follows through with it. In the sentence cited above, the novelist uses tag switching, shifting from Bodo to English through the character's dialogue. This technique reflects the emotional weight of the situation and highlights the bilingual environment of the characters.

Example-2

“मा! माब्ला लिरब्रबआ नों बे उइलखौ?” p-54“ Bikhaya Gaoyw Khugaya Geoya”

English rendering: What! When did you write this will?

Tag switching word: उइलखौ?(will?)

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the novelist uses an English tag question at the end. The English tag "उइलखौ?" ("will?") is added to a Bodo sentence. This insertion of an English element into an otherwise Bodo sentence is an example of tag switching in sociolinguistics. Tag switching typically involves inserting a word or short phrase from one language (often for emphasis or rhetorical effect) into a sentence primarily spoken in another language.

Contextual Analysis

The female protagonist of the novel, Santhi, loves Ajit deeply, with all her heart and soul. That is why she donates the corneas of both her eyes to him, sacrificing her own vision and becoming blind. However, Ajit does not reciprocate her love he is in love with another girl named Kalpana, whom he eventually marries.

Santhi is heartbroken upon hearing about the marriage between Kalpana and Ajit. Meanwhile, her elder brother, who could not bear to see his sister living in blindness, takes his own life out of grief. After his death, Santhi is left alone in the world. Sonkor, another elder brother and a close friend of Susanto, brings Santhi to live in his home.

Despite their support, Santhi no longer wishes to live. She decides to leave the world and donates all her property her house, land, and belongings in Kalpana's name, knowing that Ajit would never accept anything from her. One day, Kalpana visits Santhi and receives the will documents. At that moment, Ajit unexpectedly arrives and asks Santhi why Kalpana has come. Santhi explains everything, telling him that she has willed all her property to Kalpana. Hearing this, Sonkor is shocked and asks Santhi to confirm what she said. This leads to the example quoted earlier:

“मा! माब्ला लिरब्रबआ नों बे उइलखौ?”

("What! When did you write this will?")

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language, where the novelist inserts the English word "will" at the end as part of a question. This is a clear example of tag switching in sociolinguistics, where a word or phrase from another language (in this case, English) is inserted at the end of a sentence in the primary language (Bodo).

The likely reason for this switch is to reflect the educational and social background of the characters. All the characters Sonkor (a doctor), Ajit (a scientist), and both Santhi and Kalpana (educated youth) belong to a modern, educated generation. The use of English elements in their dialogue aligns with their social context and also serves to engage modern readers more effectively. The novelist uses such code-switching intentionally to maintain character authenticity and enhance the realism of the narrative.

Example-3

गथ' माने बेवहाय हालौनाय सेंग्राया? p-15 (Kharlung)

English rendering: Boy means the young man who is ploughing over here?"

Tag switching word: सेंग्राया? (Young man)

Equivalent English word: Young man

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the author has switched from Bodo to Assamese by inserting an Assamese tag question at the end. The tag word "sengra" is originally from Assamese, but it has been used in Bodo for many years as a loan word.

The term "sengra" (for a young man) and "sengri" (for a young woman) are commonly used in Assamese to refer to youth, and these words have been adopted into Bodo in informal speech and literature. In this context, "sengra" functions as a tag added to a Bodo sentence to identify or emphasize the reference to a young man.

This type of language mixing is an example of tag switching, a common feature in multilingual communities where words from another language are inserted often for clarity, style, or cultural relevance. The author uses this technique to reflect natural spoken language and enhance character realism.

Contextual Analysis

This example is extracted from the social novel '*Kharlung*' (*Unsettled*) by Manoranjan Lahary. The term *kharlung* reflects a common character trait or lifestyle in the Bodo community restlessness or instability. The main character of the novel, Gohel, embodies this trait. He is portrayed as unsettled, frequently moving from one place to

another without taking any stable responsibility. This is the reason the novel is titled *Kharlung (Unsettled)*.

Gohel is often scolded by his father for his irresponsible behaviour and lack of contribution to the family. As Gohel's parents grow older, his father urges him to get married and take on family responsibilities. However, Gohel continues to ignore these expectations.

One morning, Gohel goes to the paddy field to plough with a pair of oxen. Knowing her son has the habit of drinking tea in the morning but cannot eat rice early or at the field, his mother brings tea for him. When she reaches the field, she does not find her son only the oxen, grazing at the edge of the plot. This sight makes her anxious and confused. To find out what happened, she asks a nearby man who is also ploughing the field.

The man replies with the sentence: “गथ’ माने बेवहाय हालौनाय सेंग्राया?”
(Boy means the young man who is ploughing over here?)

In this example, the novelist has incorporated the Assamese-origin word "सेंग्रा" (*sengra*), meaning "young man." Though the sentence is primarily in Bodo, the use of *sengra* is a case of tag switching inserting a word from another language into the main sentence. *Sengra* is a loanword in Bodo, borrowed from Assamese, and has been commonly used in rural Bodo communities over many years.

The two characters in this scene the woman (Gohel's mother) and the man ploughing the field are both portrayed as illiterate villagers. Their use of mixed language reflects the linguistic reality of many Bodo-speaking regions, where Assamese is the official state language and commonly used in day-to-day interactions, especially in border or mixed-language communities.

Through this tag switching, the novelist skilfully captures the realism of rural Bodo life, the influence of Assamese on the Bodo language, and the authenticity of the characters' speech, making the dialogue more natural and culturally grounded.

Example-4

बिदिब्ला नोंथाडा दासान्दि भेगाबन्ड? बेकार? p-25 (Kharlung)

English rendering: Then, you are vagabond now a days? Unemployed?

Tag switching word: बेकार?

Equivalent English word: Unemployed or Idle.

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the novelist has employed tag switching from Bodo to Assamese at the end. The tag-switched word is "बेकार?", which is an Assamese word. Its equivalent meaning in English is "unemployed" or "idle."

The use of "बेकार?" in a Bodo sentence reflects a common linguistic practice in multilingual regions, where speakers often insert words from neighbouring or dominant languages into their native tongue. In this case, the novelist uses the Assamese word deliberately to add realism and authenticity to the character's dialogue, possibly to reflect the influence of Assamese as the official language of Assam and its long-standing contact with the Bodo-speaking community.

Such instances are examples of tag switching, a form of code-switching, where a word or phrase from one language is inserted at the end of a sentence in another language often for emphasis, clarity, or due to a lack of an equivalent term in the speaker's first language.

Contextual Analysis

This example is extracted from the social novel *Kharlung* by Manoranjan Lahary. It presents a conversation between two male characters, Gohel and Bisthiram, who were once very close friends during their college days. They studied at the same college and lived in the same lodging. However, after graduation, they went their separate ways and lost contact. The scene captures their reunion after a long period of time.

During their conversation, they inquire about each other's current livelihood and occupations. Bisthiram asks Gohel whether he is employed in a government job. Gohel responds that he is not working. Bisthiram then asks again to confirm, using the sentence: "बिदिब्ला नौथाडा दासान्दि भेगाबन्ड? बेकार?"

(Translation: "Then you are vagabond now a days? Unemployed?)

In this sentence, the novelist uses code-switching specifically tag switching from Bodo to Assamese with the word “बेकार” at the end. *Bekar* is an Assamese term meaning "unemployed" or "idle", and is commonly used in everyday speech, especially in reference to educated youth who are not employed after completing their studies.

Although both characters are portrayed as educated, they remain unemployed. The use of the Assamese word "बेकार" reflects the linguistic and socio-cultural context of Assam, where such expressions are widely understood and resonate deeply with readers. The novelist employs this word deliberately to enhance the realism of the dialogue, connect with local readers, and accurately reflect the characters' socio-economic condition.

This is a clear example of how tag switching can be used as a literary technique to mirror real-life language use, especially in multilingual settings such as Assam, where Assamese and Bodo often coexist in informal speech.

Example-5

गामिबोराइनि न'आव दा मोनाबिलियाव मिथिं, थांदो दा।

मानि मिथिंन्ना? p-31 (Kharlung)

English rendering: What is the meeting?

Tag switching word: मिथिंन्ना? (Meeting)

Linguistics Analysis

This example is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the author has used an English question word at the end of the sentence, which is an instance of tag switching in sociolinguistics. The author switches from Bodo to English, and the tag-switched word in this example is "मिथिंन्ना?" (*Meeting?*).

Instead of using the native Bodo equivalent "मेल" for “meeting,” the author intentionally uses the English word "meeting" as a loanword and as a tag at the end of the Bodo sentence. This reflects the influence of English in modern Bodo communication, particularly among educated speakers. It also demonstrates how multilingual speakers

blend languages for clarity, emphasis, or due to the common use of English terminology in institutional or professional contexts.

Thus, the sentence exemplifies tag switching a form of code-switching where a word from one language (in this case, English) is inserted at the end of a sentence in another language (Bodo) for stylistic or communicative purposes.

Contextual Analysis

This example is extracted from the social novel '*Kharlung*' by Manoranjan Lahary. It presents a conversation between Ransrem and Halmaji, the village messenger. The incident arises when the male protagonist of the novel, Gohel, leaves his oxen unattended in the paddy field. As a result, the oxen enter and damage Lesa's nearby paddy plot. Consequently, Lesa files a complaint against Ransrem to the village headman.

In Bodo villages, there is a traditional system of governance that includes a village headman and a village messenger, both of whom play key roles in maintaining discipline and resolving conflicts. The village headman holds full authority to conduct hearings and pass judgments. His decisions are final and binding. The village messenger serves under the headman and is responsible for conveying official messages to the villagers.

After receiving the complaint from Lesa, the village headman instructs the village messenger to summon the concerned parties. The messenger goes door to door informing villagers about the scheduled meeting. When the messenger informs Ransrem about the meeting and instructs him to be present at the headman's house in the evening, Ransrem responds with the following question to seek clarification: "मानि मिथिब्रा?" (what is the meeting for?)

This sentence illustrates tag switching in sociolinguistics, where the author inserts an English word "*meeting*" into an otherwise Bodo sentence. Instead of using the native Bodo word "मेल", the English term is used as a loanword, reflecting the influence of English in everyday village conversations, especially in formal or semi-formal contexts. This code-switching choice by the author helps to portray the realistic speech patterns of rural Bodo speakers and serves to connect the reader with the contemporary linguistic environment of the characters.

Example-6

हवाट टाइप अब जब? मा रोखोमनि साख्रि? p- 25 (Kharlung)

English rendering: what type of job?

Equivalent English word: job.

Tag switching word: साख्रि?

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the author has used the Assamese word "साख्रि?" as a tag question at the end of the sentence, making it an example of tag switching from Bodo to Assamese. The word "साख्रि", which means *job* or *employment* in English, is inserted at the end of the Bodo sentence as a loanword from Assamese. The word साख्रि in Bodo, is derived from Assamese word chakori. Due to phonological changes the word chakori became sakri in Bodo. Here, initial /ch/ sound is replaced by /s/ and the vowel /o/ in the middle is deleted.

Contextual Analysis

The example is extracted from the social novel 'Kharlung' by Manoranjan Lahary. The above-mentioned conversation takes place between the male protagonist Gohel and his friend Bisthiram. When Gohel and Bisthiram meet after a long time, they discuss their current occupations. Upon being asked about his job, Gohel replies that he is currently doing nothing. Bisthiram then offers to help Gohel secure a government job through his father, provided Gohel is interested.

At that moment, Gohel seeks clarification about the nature of the job before giving any response. He asks the question: "मा रोखोमनि साख्रि?" (What kind of job?). Here, the author uses the Assamese word "साख्रि" (meaning *job* or *employment*) as a tag switch at the end of a Bodo sentence.

Since there is no exact equivalent word in the Bodo language for "साख्रि", it has been adopted as a loanword from Assamese and has been used in Bodo for many years to fill this lexical gap. This type of code-switching demonstrates how the Bodo language

incorporates elements from neighbouring languages to meet communicative needs and reflect real-life multilingual interactions.

Example-7

मानो रांरासिहा गहेलनि सायाव एफाग्राब इन्टारेष्ट? p-50 (Kharlung)

English rendering: Why is Rangrasi so interested in Gohel?

Tag switching word: इन्टारेष्ट?

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. In this sentence, the author has used the English word "interest?" (इन्टारेष्ट?) as a tag question. The author switches from Bodo to English by inserting the English word at the end of the sentence. Therefore, this sentence is an example of tag switching in sociolinguistics, where a word from another language here, English is added at the end of a sentence in the primary language, which is Bodo in this case. This kind of code-switching is found in the selected novel to reflect natural speech patterns and bilingual interaction.

Contextual Analysis

This example is cited from the social novel ‘*Kharlung*’ by Manoranjan Lahary. It is a sentence spoken by Malsing Boro, the father of Rangrasi. Rangrasi had come to the hospital to visit Gohel, who was hospitalized after being attacked by Ramu Gunda. At that moment, Malsing Boro was surprised and questioned why his daughter was so interested in Gohel. In this situation, the author used the English word “*interest*” as a tag switch to reflect the character’s linguistic background.

Malsing Boro is portrayed as a wealthy, educated leader thus, the use of English or other non-Bodo words in his speech is natural and realistic. This demonstrates his multilingualism. The novelist uses this technique deliberately as a stylistic device to enhance the realism of dialogue, reflect the bilingual nature of characters, and engage readers through authentic conversation.

Example-8

How do you do commissioner साहाब? p-29 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: How do you do commissioner Saheb?

Tag switching word: साहाब?

Equivalent English word: sir/mister.

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in English. In this sentence, the author has used the Hindi question tag “साहाब?”, which originates from Arabic. This is an example of tag switching from English to Hindi. The word “साहाब?” serves as a question tag and is equivalent to the English term “sir” or “mister.”

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is extracted from the novel ‘*Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw*’ by Ashok Basumatary. It is part of a conversation between the headmaster of a school and the Deputy Commissioner of a district, who is also the father of Pinki. Pinki is a child and the best friend of Roje, the female protagonist of the novel. The dialogue is spoken by the headmaster of the school where Roje is studying. The Deputy Commissioner visits the school to admit his daughter, Pinki.

The headmaster, waiting to welcome them, greets him with the line: “*How do you do, Commissioner साहाब?*” This sentence blends English with the Hindi tag “साहाब”, which means *sir* or *mister*. Both characters are highly educated, and the use of English and Hindi is natural for them. English serves as an international language, while Hindi is the national language of India.

The author uses code-switching here to reflect the characters’ high social status, education, and multilingual competence, and to make the dialogue more relatable and appealing to readers.

Example-9

नों मा बुंदों आं स्कण्ड्रेल? p-50 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: What do you say I am scoundrel?

Tag switching word: scoundrel?

Linguistics Analysis

This is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo. In this sentence the author has used English word स्कण्ड्रेल? (scoundrel) as tag switching at the end of the sentence. It is an example of tag switching sentence from Bodo to English. Here scoundrel word is used as tag question at the end of the Bodo sentence.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is extracted from the novel '*Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw*', written by Ashok Basumatary. The example is part of a conversation between Anjali and Tom, who are secondary characters in the novel. They participated in a horse race competition at Anjali's request. However, they lost the race, and the horse rider Jeki was injured, resulting in a broken leg.

The following day, Anjali and Tom discussed their failure in the competition. During the conversation, Tom suddenly blamed Anjali for their loss in the horse race. This led to a quarrel between them. In the heat of the argument, Tom called Anjali a "स्कण्ड्रेल" (scoundrel). In response, Anjali asked a question to confirm or clarify what Tom had said, using the sentence: "नों मा बुंदों आं स्कण्ड्रेल?"

This sentence is an example of tag switching in sociolinguistics, where the speaker switches from Bodo to English at the end of the sentence. The novelist has employed this tag switching to engage and attract readers. Since the characters are students at an English-medium school, the use of English words or terms in their speech is a common phenomenon, especially among the younger generation.

Example-10

नों जॉनि मिसनखौ मोजां मोनाखै जानांगौ जेम्ब' **Am I right?** p-115 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: Jembo, you must have disliked our mission, **am I right?**

Tag switching: am I right?

Linguistics Analysis

The above-mentioned example is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language with an English tag switch. In this sentence, the author switches from Bodo to English by adding the question "am I right?" at the end. Therefore, this sentence is considered an example of tag switching in sociolinguistics.

Contextual Analysis

This example is extracted from the children's novel *Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw* by Ashok Basumatary. The sentence in question appears during a discussion among Roje's friends and is spoken by Tom, one of Roje's close companions, addressed to his friend Jembo.

The context is as follows: After Roje's elder brother, Swmkhwr, was lost in a battlefield, Roje, along with Pinki and Ben, went in search of him. Before leaving, they wrote a letter to their friends Anjali, Mainao, Tom, Jeki, and Jembo informing them of the situation. The letter was delivered by Adua, a physically disabled boy from the village. Upon receiving the letter, the group decided to help Roje by any means necessary. Initially, they had treated Roje poorly, and this guilt led them to support her in her mission to find her brother. They made a collective promise to assist her in the search. However, Jembo disagreed with the plan and chose to remain silent. At that moment, Tom directed the above-mentioned sentence to Jembo to clarify or confirm his feelings.

In this instance, the author uses English tag switching at the end of a sentence in the Bodo language. All the children are students at an English-medium school, so the use of English tag questions is both natural and realistic. The author employs tag switching to align with the characters' backgrounds and to enhance the authenticity of the scene.

Example-11

सोमखोर आदा मा रजेआ थिकयैनो दड ना गैया? **Is she alright?** p-165 (Great Mountain Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw)

English rendering: Brother Swmkhwr, is Roje alright or not?

Tag switching: Is she alright?

Linguistics Analysis

This sentence is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. However, a tag question in English is added at the end instead of using one in Bodo. This is considered an example of tag switching or extra-sentential switching in sociolinguistics.

The first part of the sentence is an interrogative in Bodo, for example: "सोमखोर आदा मा रजेआ थिकयैनो दड ना गैया?" The second part, "Is she alright?", is an English tag question added to the end. In this sentence, "Is she alright?" functions as a case of tag switching from Bodo to English.

Contextual Analysis

This example is extracted from the children's novel *Great Mountain 'Hajwmayao Rojeni Denkhw'* by Ashok Basumatary. It depicts a discussion between Ben and Swmkhwr on the battlefield, where they are fighting against a terrorist group from Afghanistan. During the conflict, Roje is seriously injured by an explosion and engulfed in flames, causing her to lose consciousness.

To find out Roje's condition, Ben asks Captain Swmkhwr who is both an Indian special forces commando and Roje's brother to clarify whether Roje is dead or alive. Roje is a recipient of a presidential award, so it is crucial to rescue her safely from the battlefield. Ben's dialogue, mentioned above, is used to confirm Roje's status. Although Ben is a Bodo boy, he is a student of an English-medium school. Therefore, the novelist incorporates English tag switching at the end of the Bodo sentence to make the story more engaging and vivid.

Example-12

नों बे सैग्राखौ हाबा माने marriage खालामोब्ला बिहारिसो हाबनांगोन। राजी ? p-11 (Fanshari Nwng Angnisw)

English rendering: If you want to marry this young man, then you have to be a co-wife. Agree?"

Tag switching: राजी?

Equivalent English word: agree or consent.

Linguistics Analysis

This sentence is an interrogative sentence in the Bodo language. The example consists of two parts. The first part is a declarative sentence in Bodo, for instance: नौं बे सेंग्राखौ हाबा माने marriage खालामोब्ला बिहारिसो हाबनांगोन। The second part is an interrogative word or sentence, for example: राजी?

In this sentence, the Assamese word राजी? is used as a question tag at the end of the Bodo sentence. Thus, the sentence becomes interrogative in Bodo with the help of the Assamese word राजी? This Assamese word has been used for many years in the Bodo language as a loanword to fulfil a linguistic need.

Contextual Analysis

The above-mentioned example is taken from the selected novel *Fanshari Nwng Angnisw* by Sumeeron Jhwlaod Bodosa. It is a conversation between two female characters, Phungja and Fanshari. When Phungja visited Fanshari's home, she saw a photo album that Fanshari had given her to look through during leisure time. While browsing, Phungja was surprised to see a particular photo and asked Fanshari about it. However, Fanshari did not explain clearly because the young man in the photo was her boyfriend.

Meanwhile, Phungja had already started to develop feelings for this young man after he returned her purse when they first met, but she was unaware that he was Fanshari's lover. Thus, Fanshari said the above-mentioned sentence to Phungja: नौं बे सेंग्राखौ हाबा माने marriage खालामोब्ला बिहारिसो हाबनांगोन। राजी?

In Bodo society, Bihari means co-wife or second wife. When a man marries a second woman while still married to his first wife, the second wife is called a Bihari. Fanshari used this term to ask or suggest to Phungja whether she was willing to be the co-wife or second wife of Suburun. The Assamese tag question राजी? is added at the end of the Bodo sentence as tag switching.

The novelist uses this Assamese tag switch because there is no exact equivalent word in Bodo to express this concept clearly.

3.3 Conclusion

The discussion in this chapter focuses on the phenomenon of code-switching as observed in selected Bodo novels. It begins by exploring the concept of code-switching in depth, supported by definitions and explanations from various scholars and linguists, which help establish a strong theoretical framework. According to them code-switching is the practice of shifting between two or more languages, dialects, or language varieties within a conversation. The section then delves into the different types of code-switching that occur within multilingual discourse, particularly in literary contexts. clear and concise Specifically, the analysis highlights three main types of code-switching: inter-sentential code-switching, where the switch between languages occurs at sentence boundaries; intra-sentential code-switching, which involves language switching within the same sentence; and tag-switching, where short phrases or tags from one language are inserted into a sentence in another language. Each type is illustrated through carefully selected examples from the novels, demonstrating how Bodo authors use these linguistic shifts to reflect realistic speech patterns, cultural interaction, and character identity. This detailed examination underscores the functional and stylistic roles that code-switching plays in Bodo literary texts. After analyzing code-switching, three types were identified. The maximum instances of inter-sentential code-switching were found between English and Hindi in the selected novels. Intra-sentential code-switching also occurred most frequently between English and Hindi. Tag-switching was observed in English, Hindi, Assamese, and Bengali.