

Code Mixing and Code Switching: A study of the Electronic Media of Pakistan

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Article History</p> <p>Received: May 06, 2021</p> <p>Accepted: December 08, 2021</p> <hr/> <p>Keywords : Bilingualism, Intra-sentential, Inter-sentential, Insertion, Alternation, Congruent Lexicalization</p> <p>DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5771093</p>	<p><i>Code mixing and code switching, the alternate use of low level constituents and higher level constituents (Weinrich, 1968; Kachru, 1975; Bloomfield, 1993), are such common phenomena, in many cases, of bilinguals (Grosjean, 1996) that any program in the electronic media of Pakistan is hardly witnessed without them. In this study, the instances of code mixing (insertion, alternation and congruent lexicalization) (Muysken, 2000) and code switching (extra – sentential code switching, inter sentential code switching and intra – sentential code switching (Hamers & Blanc, 2000) are identified along with different constraints like adjective and verb constraint (Bokamba, 1988), conjunction constraint (Kachro, 1975) and free and bound morpheme constraint (Poplack, 1980) being switched from the host language (L1) and the guest language (L2). Free and Equivalent morpheme constraint (Poplack, 1980) is vastly observed. English verb allows Urdu verb infinitive, only suffix unlike Lingala, double verb infinitive, prefix and suffix (Bokamba, 1988); whereas other functional and lexical heads follow the shifting similar to other languages. Urdu extra elements are observed with English sentences. Switching of sentences and extra sentences also found within sentences. Grammaticality, mainly, of the L1 is kept intact. Urdu – English code mixing and code switching occur mainly for putting emphasis on a particular point, clarifying it, absence of lexicon and substitute a word which is more concrete to the situation (Susanti, 2012).</i></p>

Introduction

The mixture of languages in a bilingual or multilingual setting has been termed ‘code mixing’ and ‘code switching’ which show language choice of individuals to alter the discourse from one language (L1) to another (L2). This choice of languages can be within clauses and sentences or even among clauses and sentences. Wardhaugh (1987) and Taylor (1987) illustrates that the world is full of many and diverse tongues, dialects and languages, the total number exceeds 5000. The 45% of the population of the world speak mainly five languages (Hoffmann, 1991). Codes are often altered among lexical entities, phrases or sentences. These phenomena are followed from the beginning of social contact. Nearly every person in the world is bilingual or even multilingual.

There are more than 75 different dialects and languages, spoken in Pakistan, out of which four are important having their own social and cultural setting; whereas Urdu serves as lingua franca between these languages. The mixing and switching are always observed in Urdu – Punjabi, Punjabi – English, Sindhi – Siraiki, Sindhi – English and Urdu – English or vice versa. Sindhi, Punjabi, Siraiki, Pashto, Balochi, Brahvi, Hindko and other languages and dialects are spoken in different regions of Pakistan as mother tongue. Urdu, the national language of Pakistan, is used as the second language in most of the cases. While the migrants from India, during the independence and partition phase in 1947, speak Urdu as the first language. English, in most of the cases, becomes the third language for the medium of communication.

In Pakistan, there was a single official channel, owned by the Govt. of Pakistan, Pakistan Television (PTV) before the regime of Gen. Parvez Musharaf in 1999. During his rule, licences were issued to a variety of channels to broadcast from Pakistan which caused a rapid development in the sphere of the electronic media pertaining to Pakistan. Though the channels telecast their most of the programs in Urdu, yet the utterance is being mixed and switched. A program, without mixing and switching, is hardly viewed.

Mixing and switching of codes are observed during different programs either news or entertainment programs. There is hardly any program in which these phenomena are not observed. The aims and objects of this study are to observe the instances of code mixing and code switching and to illustrate Urdu – English mixing and switching according to the processes of code mixing (Muysken, 2000) and code switching (Hamers & Blanc, 2000) with particular reference to different constraints.

The following are research questions for this study.

- i. What is mixing and switching of codes?

- ii. Which are the different processes of mixing and switching being observed with special reference to the electronic media?
- iii. Which are different processes rather than the processes of mixing and switching of codes in the media along with different grammatical constraints?
- iv. How does code switching and code mixing work in the electronic media of Pakistan?

1.1. Historical Perspective of Urdu and English in Sub – Continent

The word Urdu (/ˈʊəduː/) or (ˈɑːduː/) اردو is a word of Turkish language means an Army because it has been implanted by the Persians, Arabs and Turkish armies who conquered the sub continent from time to time. As a result of social contact with inhabitants, who speak different languages rather than the language of rulers, their emerged a language termed as Urdu. It is said that Urdu implanted in the sub continent during the days of Arabs in 11th century. Later, it came under the influence of Persian and Turkish languages during the rule of Persians and Turks resulting decisively in modern Urdu in 18th and 19th Century. It is written in Persio-Arabic script from right to left unlike English or Hindi which are written from left to right.

There came Britain after Mughal Emperors. During the time of British Rule, English enjoys an outstanding place in the sub continent and was treated as the official language of the sub continent. While, modern Urdu became the official language of Pakistan after the partition. There are more than 100 million speakers who speak Urdu; most of whom resides in the sub continent.

After the partition, Urdu remains the official language of Pakistan till to date. The steps were devised to make Urdu, the only official language, yet none proved fruitful to root out English language. At the same time, English remained the language of courts and offices till today. There are more than 75 languages and dialects spoken in Pakistan along Urdu which stands as a bridge between these languages.

British rule in the sub – continent, especially in the areas where now lies Pakistan, lasted for almost 100 years started from Sindh in 1842 and reached to Punjab and Balochistan in 1849 and 1879 respectively. Owing to the colonial policies, English emerged as an English variety used in the sub continent. Being rich ethnically and economically, it was adopted as a mean of source and power as well as status by many, especially aristocratic class and officials, in the sub continent. After August 1947, English enjoyed same prestige with Urdu as it was made facto official language of Pakistan till today.

1.2. Theoretical Background of the study

A lot of studies (Bentahila, 1983; Bentahila & Davies, 1983; Bokamba, 1988; Wei & Milroy, 1995; Alam, 1996; Bhatt, 1997; Moradi, 2014) were conducted in the realm of code mixing and code switching. The theoretical background of this study mainly lies on processes pertaining to code mixing (Muysken, 2000), and code switching (Hamers & Blanc, 2000).

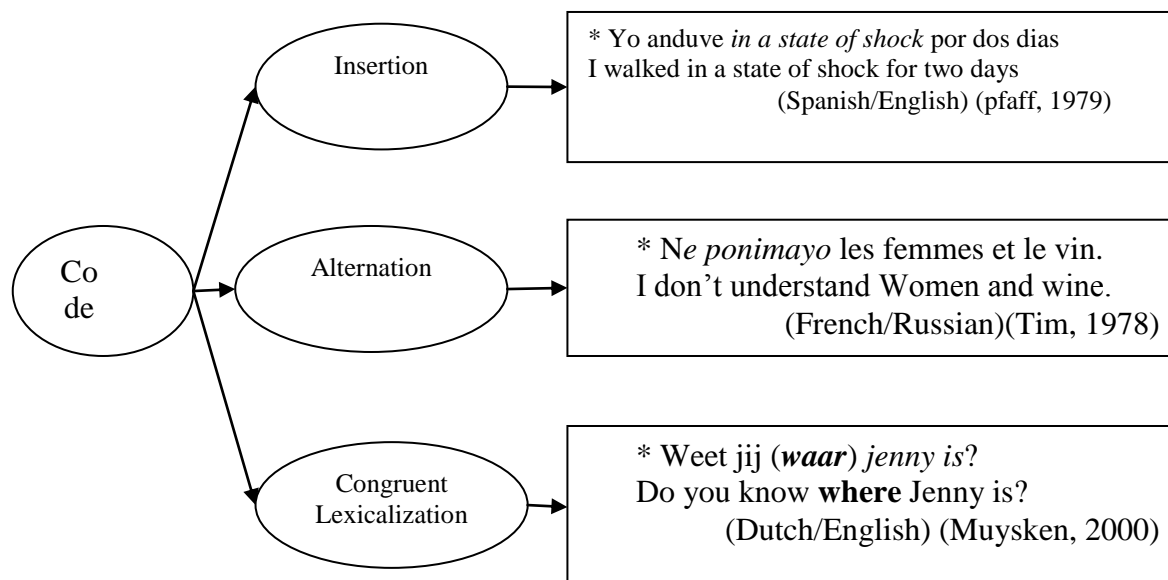
1.2.1. Code Mixing and Code Switching

Code switching is the ability of a bilingual to alter the codes from L1 to L2; whereas code mixing refers implying linguistic entities from L1 into L2. Code mixing is a process to shift in lexicons within sentences and code switching is a process of shifting from clause (subordinate clauses and coordinate clauses) or even among sentences from L1 and L2. Thus, the alternate use of linguistic units in the form of words or phrases (lower level constituents) is treated as code mixing and alternate use of different syntactic structures (higher level constituents) of L1 and L2 is referred as code switching (Kachru, 1975). This definition categorizes switching between clauses and sentences as code switching and between words and phrases as code mixing.

Before Blom & Gumperz (1972), code mixing and code switching was treated as the abnormality of individuals. It was then considered as illogicality and irregularity of bilinguals in the discourse. From that time onwards, they are generally recognized as the abilities of bilinguals during communication and discourse (Hamers & Blanc, 2000).

Code Mixing and Code Switching are very complex entities in alternation and intra – sentential code switching that sometimes, it is hard to differentiate. Mazraani (1997) defines code mixing and code switching having discursive function in which lexical units (sections) from L1 are altered with the lexicons (sections) of L2 for communicative purpose. Therefore, some linguists like Muysken (2000) and Myers-Scotton (1997), consider it same and one thing as they do not provide clear cut definition regarding these terms and illustrate them as ‘unnecessary confusion’. Code mixing is akin to code switching for the general process of mixing (Muysken, 2000). A great number of studies prefer ‘code mixing’ alternations which are intra-sentential switches (Myers-Scotton, 1997).

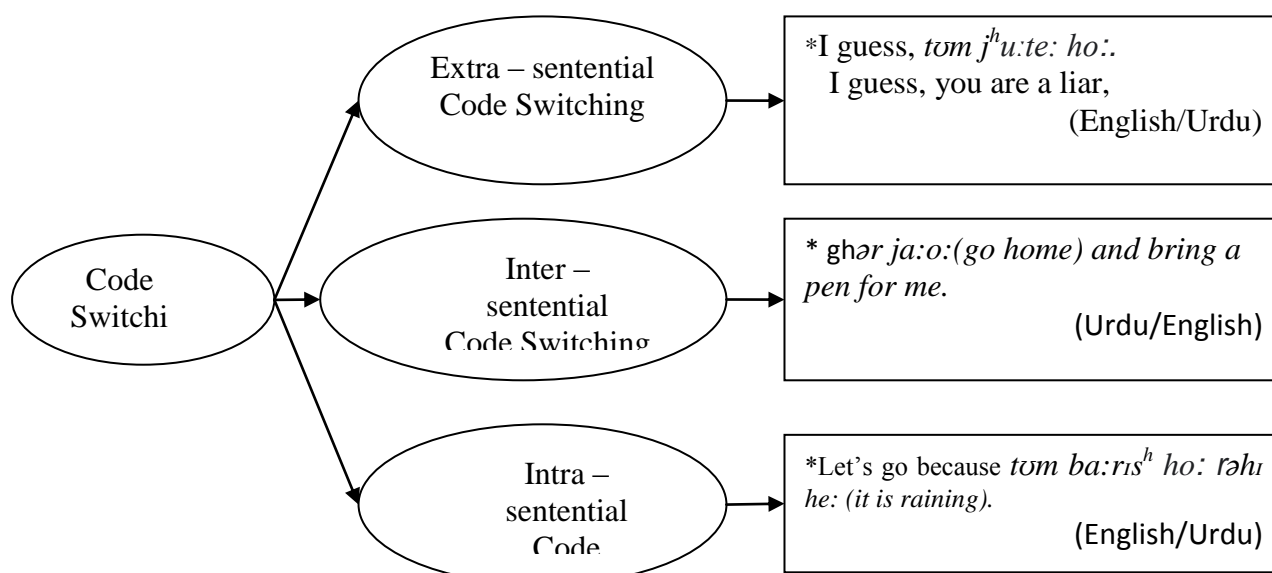
Muysken (2000) describes the three main processes of code mixing:



- I. **Insertion of material:** This means to insert lexicon from L1 into the syntax of L2 such as in the above example where Spanish lexical item is included in the syntax of English (Muysken, 2000).
- II. **Alternation of material:** This suggests putting structural units of syntax in the form of phrases from L1 to L2. The same is highlighted while mixing French structure into the syntax of Russian language in the above example (Muysken, 2000).
- III. **Congruent lexicalization:** This means to put a lexical item sharing same grammatical structures in L1 as well as in L2 such as in above sentence showing same lexical category in Dutch and English (Muysken, 2000).

Hamers and Blanc (2000) illustrates code switching into three processes:

- I. **Extra – sentential Code Switching:** It shows to insert a tag or add an extra – sentence with the main sentence shown in above sentence where an extra sentence from English is added with the main sentence in French in French – English code switching. (Hamers & Blanc, 2000).
- II. **Inter – sentential Code Switching:** It means to insert two coordinate sentences in utterance



from the either languages, as mentioned in the above example where two clauses are bound together during an utterance. (Hamers & Blanc, 2000).

III. Intra – sentential Code Switching: It shows to insert a subordinate clause with the main sentence as shown in the above example. This category also shows the blend in the word bountry of lexicon or a clause (subordinate). (Hamers & Blanc, 2000).

2. Research Methodology

The theoretical framework of this study mainly falls in the qualitative category. The qualitative research approach is used to collect, analyze and interpret the non numerical data and to comprehend and perceive the meaning underlying social identity and reality. It is also defined as the data collected through interviews, texts, audios or even videos. The collected data is analyzed on the basis of different established theories and themes. Qualitative Research approach is used in this study mainly to collect the secondary data through different TV channels. This research is carried out to highlight Urdu – English code mixing and code switching and their different processes, found in the electronic media of Pakistan. It is very challenging to collect five video clips from different channels as to make it profitable by highlighting the different processes of code mixing and code switching. With this intention, five video clips are selected to make the most of it.

The data for this study has been collected from five channels of the electronic media of Pakistan mainly from *PTV home, Hum TV, Geo TV, ATV and Hum Masala*. All these channels are 24 – hour channels. Therefore, five video clips are collected having most of the instances of code mixing and code switching to make this study more fruitful and more productive to formulate a comprehensive understanding of code mixing and code switching. These five clips from five channels are selected from the electronic media of Pakistan out of 89 channels in 2012. The data for this study belongs to three different years 2011, 2014 and 2015. The dates of broadcast were 19th December 2011, 5th December 2014, 21st January 2011, 19th July 2015 and 28th April 2015. Therefore, this data highlights different phases and the use of Urdu – English code mixing and code switching during different years with a comprehensive view over a span of five years. The collected data from five different channels are downloaded mainly from www.youtube.com through www.ytpak.com for the analysis.

The clips are downloaded and then transcribed. The different items of mixing and switching are isolated and explained with particular reference to the different processes of code mixing (Muysken, 2000), and code switching (Hamers & Blanc, 2000) with particular reference to different constraints like adjective constraint, free and equivalent morpheme constraint, conjunction constraint. It is also hypothesized to illustrate a different process, found in this study. Though research has been carried in different languages, yet the different process, found in this study is not found in other studies. This study is made reliable and valid by applying the processes mentioned in the theoretical background of this study. At the same time, switching of extra element is exceptional found in this study.

3. Findings and Results

Code mixing and code switching, the alternate use of low level constituents and higher level constituents respectively (see Weinreich, 1968; Kachru, 1975; Bloomfield, 1993), are such a common phenomenon, in many cases, of bilinguals (see Grosjean, 1996) that any program, either a talk show or a morning show or even a general program or a drama serial, in the electronic media of Pakistan, is hardly witnessed. In this study, five video clips are analyzed from five different sources of the electronic media of Pakistan. The instances are observed on numerous occasions. Languages tend to change with time but this change occurs rapidly at a primitive stage, whereas, it is slow in advanced ones. However, Urdu is at its advanced level and if code mixing and code switching continue, the action of change is likely to be rapid.

The following instances of code mixing and code switching are found at length.

3.1 Code Mixing

Code mixing is the process of transferring linguistics units (lexicons) from L1 to L2. Poplack (1980) suggests that code mixing occurs largely at the site of equivalent constituent order.

3.1.1 Insertion of material

The insertion of material is the most recurring occurrence found in this study on numerous occasions. Insertion of lexical items or entire constituents from English are mixed into the structure of Urdu syntax. This insertion of lexicon appears frequently during discourse such as follows:

i. Nouns

چاہیے۔	کرنی	ضایع	نہین	Memory	اپنی	کو	بچوں
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(1)

<i>ʃa:hi:je:</i>	<i>kərnɪ</i>	<i>Za:jæ</i>	<i>nəhɪ:</i>			<i>kə</i>	<i>bəʃfɪd̪o:</i>
Should	Waste		Not		Their		Kids
Kids should not waste their memory.							

(2)

ہے۔	نہیں	Time	زیادہ	اتنا	ہفتے	چار
<i>he:</i>	<i>nəhɪ:</i>		<i>zɪjɑ:dʰɑ:</i>	<i>ɪtnɑ:</i>	<i>hefte:</i>	<i>ʃɑ:r</i>
Is	Not		Great	Much	Weeks	Four
Four weeks is not much time.						

(3)

ہوں۔	دیتی	مثال	کی	agriculture	ایک	میں
<i>Hō</i>	<i>dəti</i>	<i>mɪsɑ:l</i>	<i>kɪ</i>		<i>ek</i>	<i>mɪ:</i>
	Give	Example	Of		a/an	I
I give u an example of agriculture.						

ii. Adjectives

(4)

ہے۔	دن	final	ہمارا	آج
<i>he:</i>	<i>dɪn</i>		<i>həmarɑ:</i>	<i>ɑ:dʒ</i>
is	Day		our	Today
It is our final day.				

(5)

ہیں۔	ہوجاتے	Excited	بہت	لوگ
<i>hɪ:</i>	<i>hɔ:gəjɑ:</i>		<i>bəhɒt</i>	<i>Log</i>
	Become			People
People become much excited.				

iii. Adverbs

(6)

ہے؟	نکلتا	کیا	right away	کے لیے	آپ
<i>he:</i>	<i>nikelta</i>	<i>ki:jɑ:</i>		<i>ke: li:je</i>	<i>ɑ:p</i>
	Come out	What		for	You
What comes out right away for you?					

(7)

کریں۔	Pursue	Seriously	اس کو	آپ
<i>kəri:</i>			<i>ɪskə</i>	<i>ɑ:p</i>
			It	You
You pursue it seriously.				

(8)

ہوں۔	کہتی	Insistently	بہت ہی	میں
------	------	--------------------	--------	-----

<i>hū:</i>	<i>kəhɪtɪ</i>		<i>bəhɔt hɪ</i>	<i>mī:</i>
	Say		A lot	I

I say insistently a lot.

iv. Verbs

(9)

کرتا ہے۔	Grow	باہر	سے	ظرح	صحیح	وہ
<i>Karta: he:</i>		<i>ba:hər</i>	<i>se:</i>	<i>tərah</i>	<i>səhɪh</i>	<i>wo:</i>
		Outside	From	way	Right	It

It grows outside in a right way.

(10)

کریں۔	Pursue	Seriously	اس کو	آپ
<i>kərī:</i>			<i>ɪskə</i>	<i>a:p</i>
			This	You

You pursue it seriously.

(11)

کیا۔	نہیں	Note	کبھی	میں
<i>kija:</i>	<i>nəhī:</i>		<i>kəbʰɪ</i>	<i>mī:nī:</i>
	Not		Ever	I

I did not ever note.

v. Conjunctions

(12)

رہا۔	فقط	شوہ	شوہ	یہ	but	تھا	شوہ	تھوڑا	یہ	سے	بچپن	میں
<i>rəha:</i>	<i>hɪ</i>	<i>ʃoq</i>	<i>ʃoq</i>	<i>Je:</i>		<i>ʃha:</i>	<i>ʃoq</i>	<i>tʰoɖʰa:</i>	<i>hɪ</i>	<i>se:</i>	<i>bəʃʃpən</i>	<i>mɔʃʰe:</i>
Remain	Only	hobby	keenness	this		was	keen	a little	Even	from	childhood	I

I was a little bit keen even from childhood but this keenness remained only a hobby.

(13)

مے	نہیں	سنا	mouse	Carrot	کبھی	میں	because	ہوگا	انتظار	ہمارا	آپکو
<i>he:</i>	<i>nəhī:</i>	<i>sona:</i>			<i>kəbʰɪ</i>	<i>mī:nɪ:</i>		<i>Ho:ga:</i>	<i>mtɪzɑ:r</i>	<i>hamara:</i>	<i>a:pkə</i>
	Not	hear			ever	I		Were	wait	us	You

You were waiting for us because I did not ever hear about carrot.

3.1.2 Alternation of material between structures from different languages

Alternate use of two language simultaneously is another process of code mixing in which a speaker shifts from one language to another language during his utterance showing his ability to best suit the choice of words indicating and highlighting purpose and attitude towards ideas, emotions and feelings such as follows.

i. Compound Nouns

(14)

ہے	کے لیے	Building	personality	اس کی	وہ
<i>he:</i>	<i>ke: li:je</i>			<i>iski</i>	<i>vo:</i>
Is	for			His	This
This is for his personality building.					

(15)

کریں	میں	Age	young	اپنی	وہ
<i>karī:</i>	<i>mī:</i>			<i>apni</i>	<i>vo:</i>
Do	in			Their	They
They do in their young age.					

ii. Phrases and Idioms

(16)

ہوا	معلوم	مجھے	Moment	The	At
<i>hōwa:</i>	<i>m'alu:m</i>	<i>mōj^he:</i>			
	know	I			
At the moment, I know.					

(17)

ہو	Die-hard fan	بھی	کی	خاتون	کسی	آپ
<i>ho:</i>		<i>b^hi</i>	<i>ki</i>	<i>k^ha:tu:n</i>	<i>kisi</i>	<i>a:p</i>
Are		Also	of	Woman	Any	You
You are die-hard fan of any woman also.						

3.1.3 Congruent lexicalization

Material from lexical inventories into a shared grammatical structure is inserted from one language to another language such as:

(18)

ہیں۔	سیکھتے	میں	minutes	Ten	بچے
<i>hī:</i>	<i>sik^hte:</i>	<i>mī:</i>			<i>bañfe:</i>
	learn	In			Children
Children learn in ten minutes.					

(19)

بنائیں	نہ	Record	World
<i>Bāna:ī:</i>	<i>na:</i>		
Make	Not		
Don't make world record.			

ہے	Call	کی	فرحان
he:		ki	
Is		Of/from	Farhan (a name)
This is a call from Farhan			

جاؤ	جیت	Phone	تم
Ja:o:	jit		tom
Go	Win		You
You can go after winning a phone.			

3.2. Code Switching

The alternate use of higher level constituents, between or within sentence, is termed as code switching. A sentence is a linguistic unit consisting of one or more words that are grammatically linked expressing complete meaningful idea; whereas, a clause expresses incomplete sense.

3.2.1 Extra – sentential Code Switching, or insertion of a tag

Extra – sentential code switching is another aspect of this phenomenon in which an extra sentence from L1 is included into the structure of L2 (Hamers & Blanc, 2000). This process of code switching is observed recurrently showing the knowledge and skill of the speaker. A few of the extra sentences are found during this study. The use of extra sentences depends upon the choice the speaker who can choose the extra sentences from the either language such as

(22)

English	Urdu		
That is the only mode I have to talk to my fans.	کہ	یہ	مطلب
	ki	je:	Mətləb
	that	It	Mean
It means that That is the only mode I have to talk to my fans.			

(23)

English	Urdu				
I mean	تھم	کہتے	ہمیشہ	آپ	یہ
	t ^h e:	kəhute:	həme:s ^h a:	a:p	je:
		say	Always	you	This
I mean you always say this.					

3.2.2 Inter – sentential Code Switching or switch at clause/sentence boundary

In inter sentential code switching, a speaker shifts from L1 to L2 within a discourse (Hamers & Blanc, 2000). In this study, the shifting of entire sentence from one language to another is found on numerous occasions. It shows the competence of the speaker about the either languages. Bloomfield (1983) proposes that a bilingual person should have the native speaker's competency in language. He calls it 'native-like control of two languages'. Competency and 'native-like control' refer to listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the two languages. This, at least, shows the speaking skill of a bilingual. The speakers select the sentences which serves best for the purpose.

24. He is the head of state, our president and we all love him,

25. You will be acting with him

26. Finally, you the message.

3.2.3 Intra – sentential Code Switching

Treffers-Daller (1992) treats switching between a main clause and a subordinate clause as intra-sentential code switching and between co-ordinate clauses as inter-sentential code switching. A co-ordinate clause stands as a separate entity rather than dependent entity, serves as a sentence if the adjunct is separated in between the clauses; whereas, a subordinate clause does not. It needs the help of main entity if the adjunct is separated. In this study, such examples are also found.

(27)

Pakistan star is going after bollywood	but	ہے	پڑتا	فرق	کیا	اس سے
		ha:	paḏ ^h ta:	faraq	kija:	is se:
		It does not make difference.				
Pakistan star is going after bollywood but It does not make difference.						

It is observed in this study that along with these kinds of code switching, the switching of extra element is also found at work in Urdu/English code switching. These extra elements have no meaning in the sentence, yet they add some meaning with the sentences showing character, dignity and honour.

3.3 Switching of extra element

Element here refers to a lexical item. In Urdu language, sometimes extra elements are included rather than extra sentences to show respect and honour. These elements apart from the switched sentences possess meaning but in the switched codes don't have any proper meaning. They just show regard and dignity. Sometimes, they also put emphasis on the switched codes. It does not mean that these elements are only used in embedded language during code switching. It is also used in the matrix language without code switching. The purpose of these elements remains same either in the embedded or matrix language. The instances found in this study are as follows.

(28)

Thank you, Kiran	جی
	ji
	Yes
Thank you, Kiran.	

(29)

What's happy	نہ
	na:
	No
What's happy?	

This switching is slightly like extra-sentential code switching. But there is a slight difference in the both. In extra-sentential code switching, the whole extra sentence is switched from one language to another though it only adds some meaning to the codes switched. While in extra-elemental code switching only an extra element is added with the switched codes.

4. Conclusion

This study shows that code mixing is a transfer of linguistic items, lower level constituents, from Urdu to English more often. Shifting of nouns, compound nouns, adjectives, adjective with nouns, adverbs, verbs, conjunctions, phrases and idioms is observed. This shifting is common, nowadays, not only in the electronic media but also in the daily chores of bilinguals. This shifting in different parts of speech is alike other languages, except adjective and verb, as in French, Spanish etc where a part of speech replaces the same part of speech in the other language without the drastic change in syntax (see Pfaff, 1979; Poplack, 1980; Atawneh, 1992; Muysken, 2004). The adjective constraint (see Pfaff, 1979; Bokamba, 1988) is commonly observed unlike French because the position of adjective is normally attributive in both the languages, Urdu and English. Whereas, the shifting of English verb in Urdu is alike Lingala/French (see Bokamba, 1988). In Lingala/French, a French verb takes double infinitives, prefix and suffix; whereas, a verb in English takes Urdu infinitival/derivational suffix of Urdu, verb *karna*: (کرنہ). They are rarely used without the Urdu infinitival suffix.

Different constraints are found (see Tim, 1975; Pfaff, 1979; Myers-Scotton, 1997; Mazraani, 1997; Muysken, 2000; Hammers & Blanc, 2000; Bassiouney, 2002), while, a few are quite opposite of the grammaticality of both the languages. The switching of codes in the higher level constituent is observed at passage and sentences, complete and short sentences, in accordance with the requisites of the syntax of an English sentence. This switching of codes is found in this study.

The question, why do people tend to opt for alternate use of languages?, needs to be answered. People shift their utterances for normally putting emphasis on a particular point, clarifying it, substitute a word which is more concrete to the situation and absence of lexical category (see Susanti, 2012). So is the case in the electronic

media and social sectors of the people of Pakistan as Pakistan is a country where different local languages, not only dialects, with diverse and unique cultures are vocalized. There is a need to conduct a comprehensive study pertaining to why people alternate their discourse, Urdu – English or other regional languages in Pakistan. On the whole, Urdu - English code mixing and code switching is akin to the phenomena in other languages but switching of extra elements is found in this study. This study will enable the linguists to formulate the comprehensive definitions and processes of code mixing and code switching as different constraints are found in different languages. This study will also help to comprehend Urdu – English code mixing and code switching from different levels and constraints.

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