

CODE-SWITCHING AS A MANIFESTATION OF LANGUAGE CONTACT IN BILINGUAL COMMUNICATION

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Abstract. *Language contact is one of the central factors influencing linguistic development in multilingual societies. Continuous interaction between linguistic communities leads to the emergence of various phenomena such as bilingualism, interference, borrowing, and language convergence. One of the most noticeable outcomes of language contact is code-switching, which refers to the alternation between languages within a communicative act. This article examines code-switching from the perspective of contact linguistics and bilingual communication. The study focuses on theoretical approaches to language contact, the role of bilingualism in linguistic interaction, and the sociolinguistic conditions that facilitate language alternation in speech. The results demonstrate that code-switching should be understood as a natural consequence of bilingual communication and as an important mechanism reflecting the dynamic interaction of linguistic systems.*

Keywords: *code-switching, language contact, bilingualism, multilingualism, sociolinguistics, linguistic interaction, bilingual communication.*

Аннотация. *Языковые контакты являются важным фактором развития языков в многоязычных обществах. Взаимодействие языков приводит к возникновению различных лингвистических процессов, таких как заимствование, интерференция и билингвизм. Одним из наиболее заметных проявлений языкового контакта является код-переключение — чередование языков в процессе коммуникации. В статье рассматриваются теоретические основы код-переключения в рамках контактной лингвистики. Анализируются роль билингвизма и социолингвистические условия функционирования языков в многоязычной среде. Делается вывод о том, что код-переключение является естественным результатом взаимодействия языков и важным механизмом функционирования билингвального дискурса.*

Ключевые слова: *код-переключение, языковой контакт, билингвизм, многоязычие, социолингвистика, взаимодействие языков.*

Annotatsiya. *Til kontaktlari ko'p tilli jamiyatlarda tillarning rivojlanishiga ta'sir qiluvchi muhim omillardan biridir. Turli til jamoalari o'rtasidagi muloqot natijasida qarzlash, interferensiya va bilingvizm kabi lingvistik jarayonlar yuzaga keladi. Ushbu jarayonlarning eng muhim ko'rinishlaridan biri kod almashinuvidir. Mazkur maqolada kod almashinuvi kontakt lingvistika nuqtai nazaridan nazariy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda bilingvizmning roli hamda ko'p tilli muhitda tillarning o'zaro ta'siri ko'rib chiqiladi. Natijalar kod almashinuvi til kontaktining tabiiy natijasi ekanligini va bilingval diskursning muhim mexanizmi hisoblanishini ko'rsatadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *kod almashinuvi, til kontaktlari, bilingvizm, ko'p tillilik, sotsiolingvistika, til o'zaro ta'siri.*

Introduction. The study of language interaction has become an important field of modern linguistics. Languages rarely exist in isolation; rather, they constantly interact with one another through communication between speakers belonging to different linguistic communities. Such interaction is studied within the framework of **contact linguistics**, which examines the processes and consequences of language contact.

Language contact arises when speakers of different languages communicate regularly due to social, cultural, political, or economic factors. In such situations, languages influence each other at various levels of their structure. As a result, linguistic systems may undergo changes related to vocabulary, grammar, phonology, and discourse organization.

One of the most important conditions for language contact is **bilingualism**, which allows speakers to operate with two or more linguistic systems. In bilingual communication, speakers may alternate between languages depending on communicative goals, social context, or pragmatic considerations. This alternation is commonly referred to as **code-switching**.

In modern sociolinguistic research, code-switching is viewed not as a deviation from linguistic norms but as a natural communicative strategy used by bilingual speakers. It reflects the dynamic nature of language interaction and demonstrates how linguistic systems coexist and function within multilingual environments. The aim of this study is to examine code-switching as a phenomenon arising from language contact and to analyze its theoretical foundations within the framework of contact linguistics.

Methods. The research is based on a theoretical analysis of linguistic studies devoted to language contact and bilingualism. The following methods were used in the study:

- descriptive linguistic analysis
- comparative analysis of theoretical approaches to language contact
- sociolinguistic interpretation of bilingual communication

The study also relies on the analysis of theoretical works in contact linguistics that examine the interaction between languages, the role of bilingual speakers, and the mechanisms of linguistic influence between language systems.

Results. The analysis of theoretical literature demonstrates that language contact leads to the formation of complex linguistic situations in which two or more languages coexist within a shared communicative environment. In such contexts, bilingual speakers become the central agents of linguistic interaction, since they possess the ability to use multiple languages in communication.

Bilingual communication creates conditions for constant interaction between linguistic systems. This interaction may result in a variety of linguistic processes, including lexical borrowing, structural convergence, and language interference. Code-switching emerges within this framework as one of the most characteristic manifestations of bilingual speech behavior.

Researchers emphasize that code-switching reflects the coexistence of multiple linguistic systems within the communicative competence of bilingual speakers. It demonstrates that languages within a multilingual environment do not function

independently but rather interact dynamically in the speech practices of individuals and communities.

Furthermore, the occurrence of code-switching is closely connected with sociolinguistic factors. The choice of language within a communicative situation often depends on the social roles of participants, the communicative domain, and the broader sociocultural environment. Thus, code-switching represents not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a social practice shaped by the conditions of multilingual communication.

Discussion. From the perspective of contact linguistics, code-switching can be understood as a direct consequence of the interaction between languages in multilingual environments. When speakers possess knowledge of multiple languages, these linguistic systems coexist within their communicative repertoire and may be activated depending on contextual and pragmatic factors.

The phenomenon of code-switching highlights the flexibility of bilingual competence. Speakers are able to navigate between linguistic systems and adapt their speech to different communicative conditions. This adaptability reflects the complex organization of bilingual language knowledge and demonstrates that linguistic boundaries are often fluid in multilingual communication.

In addition, code-switching illustrates the close relationship between language and social identity. In many cases, language alternation serves as a marker of group membership, cultural affiliation, or communicative alignment with interlocutors. As a result, code-switching becomes an important tool for managing social interaction within multilingual communities.

Modern linguistic research increasingly views code-switching as an integral component of bilingual discourse rather than as an irregular linguistic phenomenon. Within this perspective, code-switching represents a natural mechanism through which languages interact and influence each other in real communicative contexts.

Conclusion. The study confirms that code-switching is closely connected with the processes of language contact and bilingual communication. The coexistence of multiple linguistic systems within a multilingual environment creates conditions in which language alternation becomes a natural part of communicative practice.

Code-switching reflects both linguistic and sociocultural aspects of bilingual communication. It demonstrates how speakers manage multiple languages within their communicative repertoire and how linguistic systems interact within multilingual societies. Understanding the theoretical foundations of code-switching contributes to a deeper understanding of language contact processes and the dynamics of modern multilingual communication.

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