

The Main Factors Leading To Code-Switching In Azerbaijan

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Abstract. In today's globalised world integration of languages is a frequently experienced issue. Nowadays, people speak both English and Russian by mixing them with the Azeri language often. In linguistics, this phenomenon of mixing two languages is analysed and termed in various forms, such as code-switching, interculturalism, code-mixing etc. The study integrates quantitative research to assess interlocutors' and respondents; attitudes toward code-switching by using close-ended questionnaires. By revealing the key aspects affecting the emergence of code-switching from historical perspectives, the paper proves that preserving the originality and uniqueness of a language is a challenge that needs to be overcome. However, nowadays, at some point and by some respondents, this tendency has not been evaluated negatively.

By touching upon language contact situations based on intimate intersocietal relations and the outcome of this situation, the author used the quantitative method and data collection to conclude the goal set. Based on the background information of the respective community, the data and calculations are compiled systematically in tables and graphs for further analysis. The research outcome shows that education and other socio-economic relations are vital in protecting the existence and identities of languages. Moreover, the respondents' attitudes toward growing tendency helped to demonstrate the position and perspectives of people from different genders, backgrounds, and occupations.

Keywords: code-switching; integration; globalisation; mixing; interculturalism.

INTRODUCTION

Social relations and communicative practices in the context of late modernity create the opportunity to mesh languages and semiotic resources. However, it should be noted that these practices are familiar and recent. People from different occupations and backgrounds were observed through surveys to strengthen the position approaches to solving the problem in-depth. In this research, the units of observation were respondents and the language. As having been affected by communicative practices and social relations, "language" is an independent variable. Social practices, on the contrary, as an affecting part, are considered to be an independent variable.

The problem presented in the paper is the spread of switching two or more languages in verbal communication in the Azerbaijan community. Based on the observation of the process poses a real danger to the originality and authenticity of the Source Language. Even without realising it, people fill the language with words that belong to

the other milieu. Moreover, in their interaction, they switch to a different language or languages by violating the norms of their mother language. This paper expounds on revealing the natural causes of the problem taken for granted by the population and offers ways of solving the problem within the community. By interviewing and conducting surveys among the people living in Azerbaijan and abroad, their attitudes and reactions toward this tendency, which by half stems from their inattentive and careless attitudes toward both languages, were observed. The result of the survey will be brought, thanks to which a conclusion on the causes and effects of the process can quickly be drawn upon. By applying exploratory and inductive research, the article is intended to prove that using more than one language in verbal interaction poses a threat from a linguistic perspective and has adverse effects on the country's cultural heritage.

The *article aims* to document and describe the forms of code-switching and code-mixing be-

tween Azerbaijani, Russian and English in contemporary Azerbaijan, show the ways that code-switching/mixing patterns vary among speakers, analyse the functions that these can and do serve within the survey among 156 people, and demonstrate ways in which code-switching and language mixing are used to construct social identities in that socio-cultural milieu.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The research paper consists of two main parts. The first part delves into the root and reason for the emergence of this problem. Moreover, exploring the situation further leads to investigating its causes. However, in the second part of the investigation, an immediate solution to the problem, having been revealed and proven, will be presented. So, from one perspective, those who switch the codes don't need equal and advanced proficiency in both languages.

For a long time, linguists scarcely noticed CS, and they wrote about language contact. Authors [1, 2] referred to CS as the "transfer of words" the author [3] mentioned CS as the introduction of elements from one language into another, alteration of the second language, not just mixing. So, CS remained invisible over the last 40 years until [4] approached in early 1970. After that, people realised that code-switching is a widespread way of speaking. In social psychology, CS refers to language choices in a bilingual setting. So that according to [5], people perceiving their group as high (Anglo Canadians) think more positively while using their group language than those who perceive themselves to have their group as low vitality (Italy Canadians). CS as convergence at different levels was introduced by [6], and they mentioned that in practice, it is only sometimes possible to decide whether it occurred. Hence, according to [2], "one of the first terms used to describe L1 influence on L2 learning was interference, defined as "instances of language deviation from the norms of either language which occur in the speech of bilinguals as a result of their familiarity with more than one language".

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Azerbaijan is a developing country with many cultures and ethnic minorities living alongside locals and sharing their cultural heritages. To collect data by the experimental method, I will delve

into some historical facts on the causes and effects of these historical implications on Code Switching and people. In 1828 Azerbaijan became part of the Russian Empire till the collapse of the Russian Empire in 1991. Governmental language policies and other socio/political forces influenced the Turkic population of the Republic of Azerbaijan to speak Russian. The growing tendency toward the Russian language is encapsulated in the works of Azerbaijan writers who wanted to show their attitude toward this process. During governmental policy and planning firmly support the development and use of Azerbaijani, Russian use persists in some sectors of society. With Russian political domination in the 19th century, many Russian and non-Muslim immigrants came to Azerbaijan. While some Russian peasants immigrated to the countryside, most administrative workers came to larger cities, particularly Baku. In the late 19th century, Baku became the Russian Empire's industrialised oil production centre. This brought many Russians to Baku, which paved the way for marriages of ethnic Azerbaijanis and other nationalities.

Baku and the rest of the country became oriented toward the Russian language. So, even nowadays, the city's lingua Franca is still as much Russian as Azeri. In 1956 by the efforts of Mirza Ibrahim, Azerbaijani became an official language. The collapse of the Soviet era was described as the "double cataclysm" for the Russian-speaking populations of the non-Russian republics of the U.S.S.R. However, only in 2001, with the approval of the declaration on language use, Azerbaijani officially became the unique official language. All other foreign languages, including Russian, were banned from governmental proceedings. Nowadays, Russian is the most common foreign language and is competing with the English language. However, Russian is almost equally utilised with Azerbaijani by Baku citizens.

Multiculturalism is one of the reasons for the multi-scaled immigration process caused by an immense population influx. Consequently, various ethnic groups melt into and create a "melting pot". The relationship within society leads to language mixing having been a mixing process. Individuals and groups are incorporated into society without losing their national identity or being restricted from their rights. Multilingualism is the coexistence of two and more cultures and cultural groups. The central aspect affecting the process is bilingualism. "The local co-grammaticality or equivalence of two languages in the vicinity of

the switch holds as long as the order of any sentences, one before and one after, the switch point is not excluded in any language" [7]. Multilingualism, at some points, could lead to the death or deterioration of the second language by the language of the privileged society.

In writing on language death, the author [7] mentioned five reasons and how to care for it. The two causes experienced and being experienced in Azerbaijan society: Linguicide when the ruling group forbids using people their languages (as in the Soviet ruling period in Azerbaijan), and the second socio-economic factor – being overwhelmed by the encroaching industrialised world. Unlike the former, one socio-economic aspect seems to be the main reason for English being utilised by an overwhelming proportion of countries worldwide and Azerbaijani.

According to the country census, Azerbaijani is spoken as a native language by 92.5% of the population. In contrast, Russian and English play significant roles as languages of education and communication. Whereas, if we look at the census of 1994, we can see that 82 % of the population spoke Azeri as FL. According to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, out of 4472 schools, 340 are Russian-medium schools. This makes up 17 % of pupils getting their education in Russian. Despite the growing tendency toward Azeri language users, most citizens still need to utilise words belonging to 2 or more languages while interacting. Authors [6] choose the term "code-switching" "when referring to the use of two languages in the same clause, I use the term "code-switching", he mentions. If lexical items and grammatical features from two languages appear in one sentence, we use Code Switching. Very often, people code-switch consciously and unconsciously to act and talk more like those around them; according to [8], the factors affecting the emergence of code-switching in societies are: featuring migration, transnational economic and production relationships, digital media, online communications, education abroad, and other practices of communities.

As these social relations - implications affect the language. They are our independent variables. On the contrary, the SL that changes are the dependent variable. In this research, the units of observation are people from different groups. The team of analysts is the Azerbaijani language. One of the essential facts affecting code-

switching is education and several Russian - medium educational institutions. According to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we can see the precise number of educational institutions in the soviet and post-soviet eras.

The construction of the primary analysis dataset was primarily from the Azerbaijan State Statistical Committee and from interviews and online questionnaires that cover 156 residents from Azerbaijan. All respondents answered the questions anonymously by stating their position toward this recent tendency. A close-ended questionnaire was taken from people of different ages, backgrounds, occupations, fields of expertise and people of different marital statuses. These personal answers and data help us link our observations and draw a conclusion on set hypotheses. I used the experimental method to explore why people use several language units in a sentence. The idiographic approach helps to exhaust the personal reasons for code-switching. The inquiry used for data collection is observed by deductive reasoning so that the reasons for code-switching in SLA are discovered and analysed via the answers provided. The data was presented in a descriptive form via bar charts and tables. Samplings were taken from 156 people, which gives a basis for understanding and drawing a conclusion on the positive and negative effects of the process on the people involved.

The author [7] asserts, in today's globalised world, the total number of English speakers is about 330 million, while the non-native population of the English language is nearly 430 million, which doesn't include those learning English. Nowadays, some members of the Azerbaijan community switch to English frequently, so rapid growth is experienced in the number of English medium educational institutions and students studying abroad. The article focused on studying people in the process of living their lives. However, the purpose of the study is to explore rather than to describe or explain in any traditional sense. The interviewee is from one multilingual family. The father of which is a Turkish citizen, and the mother is Azeri, whose children (8 and 9 years old girls) attend the international school. As a result of the interview, the following conclusions were drawn. Even though the people involved are members of Azerbaijan society, they mostly speak English at home by switching to Turkish and Azerbaijani languages. During the interviewing process, the most used type of code-

switching was tag-switching. When the reason is questioned, they said: "Actually, when we are very excited or happy, we want to say the word that conveys this feeling in Turkish or Azeri to feel emotionally complete. We never feel comfortable speaking in English with our family and friends because we always feel that we are in a formal setting" I asked them to construct a table of a switch for a day. The result was as follows.

Table 1 – Frequency of spoken languages in respondent's family

Switches (Languages)	Time	Interlocutors
Between English and Azeri, Turkish – mostly English	From 8 a. m. - 12 a. m.	Girls
Between Turkish and English	From 1 p. m. – 6 p. m.	Mother and girls
Between Azeri-Turkish	From 6 p. m. – 10 p. m.	Father, mother and girls

The situation above applies the symbolic interactionism paradigm, where attention is paid to how and under which circumstances people react and switch to other languages. Authors [9] mentioned in the "looking-glass self" theory, we conclude by looking into the reactions of people around us. The data were collected via the interview survey method, and interviewers were asked individual questions to discover why they switched from one language to another. The interlocutor's identity directly affects the type and time of the code-switching. As girls spent most of their time being involved in class activities, mainly in English, the first part of the day was wholly occupied with English and somehow with Azeri. The fact that the mother spends the rest of the day with them and is fluent in all three languages but that she is Azeri makes girls feel more confident in talking to her in Azeri.

On the contrary, with a Turkish father who spends only the last 4 hours with them, they tend to switch between Turkish and Azeri. The study presented is a quantitative inquiry to measure the level of people utilising two languages and their attitudes towards this tendency. The study incorporates a close-ended questionnaire to collect the data from the study's respondents. Following quantitative Research Design, the study will provide empirical evidence for the concern issue of the study. The study provides a "hypothesis forming" mode of theory generation to form a new hypothesis. One of the oldest research techniques - "a survey, is used to conduct censuses to help to analyse the issue set forth as a mode of observation. The study aims to measure the orientation and attitude of a population group toward code-switching in SLA. The survey was conducted online among 156 people living in Azerbaijan and other parts of the world. The questions provided were open-ended and close-ended so the participants could write their answers. A standardised questionnaire was administered to the selected sample of respondents, and via descriptive, explanatory methods visualised, the answers were provided. Respondents were asked to go to a web link where the survey resided. Gender-based discrimination was not employed in the study, and males and females had equal rights.

The questionnaire mentioned consists of 7 separate questions. Following the respondents filling out the questionnaire, the collected data was converted into numeric. The findings of the study are presented through graphs and tables. Each graph presents the percentage of respondents having certain attitudes. Each chart illustrates the attitudes of respondents toward the questions provided. The table below shows the rate of the second language utilised by respondents.

The questionnaire mentioned consists of 7 separate questions. Following the respondents filling out the questionnaire, the collected data was converted into numeric. The findings of the study are presented through graphs and tables. Each graph presents the percentage of respondents having certain attitudes. Each chart illustrates the attitudes of respondents toward the questions provided. The table below shows the rate of the second language utilised by respondents.

Table 2 – Orientation and attitude of a group of the population toward code-switching in SLA

Language	%
English	49.7
Russian	25.5
Turkish	20.3
Azerbaijani	4.5

As it is seen compared to the 19th century, almost 50 % of the respondents use English as a second language in their daily communication and make switches between English and Azeri. If the attention switched to the gender of participants, it could be seen that 105 (68.4%) of the respondents are males and 49 (31, 6 %) are females. National minorities account for only 3.3 % of survey participants. The table shows that the percentage of single and younger participants is higher compared to married and older adolescents. This makes concluding that the tendency toward code-switching into English will grow soon. Based on statistics from Azerbaijan State Statisti-

cal Committee at the beginning of the Academic year of 2017, the number of students studying abroad accounted for 2197, which is among the most critical factors affecting code-switching enumerated previously. The table below is compiled from a survey conducted among 156 respondents. The table provides six categorical variables operationalised by numbers converted into percentages and attributes correspondingly. As the table below shows, more than half of the respondents are young males, and all are educated. The interesting point about the results was that despite the survey being conducted in Azerbaijani, 3 % of the respondents were not Azerbaijani citizens, which means that people with different SL switched to Azeri due to the factors mentioned previously.

Table 3 – The percentage of single and younger participants and married and older adolescents

Variable	Attribute	%
Age	18-25	51
	26-35	31.8
	36-45	8.6
Gender	Male	68.4
	Female	31.6
Nationality	Azerbaijani	96.7
	Other	3.3
Marital Status	Married	36.9
	Single	63.1
Education	Bachelor	60
	Master	28
	PhD	8
	Doctorate	4
Occupation	Public	40
	Private Sector	34.8
	Medical	8.9
	Others	16.3

Answers to the questions directed to the respondents are described in a bar chart below.

As is seen from the bar graphs above, the reason why people address a second language is different. Even though in the first part of the article, the critical importance of education on code-switching was mentioned, this survey demonstrates that the first two factors – emphasising

particular points and lacking vocabulary dominate education.

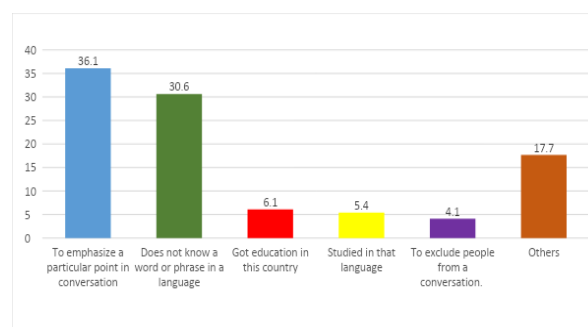


Figure 1

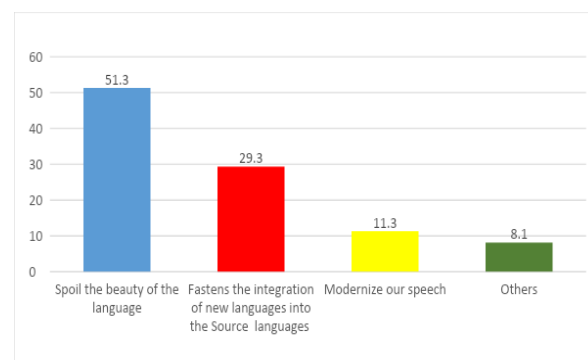


Figure 2

Based on the second figure, we conclude that more than half of the respondents opted for the adverse effects of code-switching. However, nearly 40 % see it as a sign of integration and modernisation.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, language is not just a tool. It is also a system of a community's cultural, political, and economic realities. Education and other socio-economic relations are vital in protecting the existence and identities of languages. The result of the survey and interviews fostered analysing of the process from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. Respondents' attitudes toward growing tendency helped to demonstrate the position and attitudes of people from different genders, backgrounds, and occupations.

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