

Bangla-English Code-switching on Facebook: Features & Frequency

Exploring Linguistic Practices in Online Communication

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Code-switching

The shifting of one language to another within a single discourse, sentence, or constituent both in oral and written forms.

'Linguistic cocktail' (Hudson, 1996)

A communication strategy to extend speakers' communicative competence.



Types of Code-switching

1. Inter-sentential code-switching
2. Intra-sentential code-switching
3. Tag code-switching

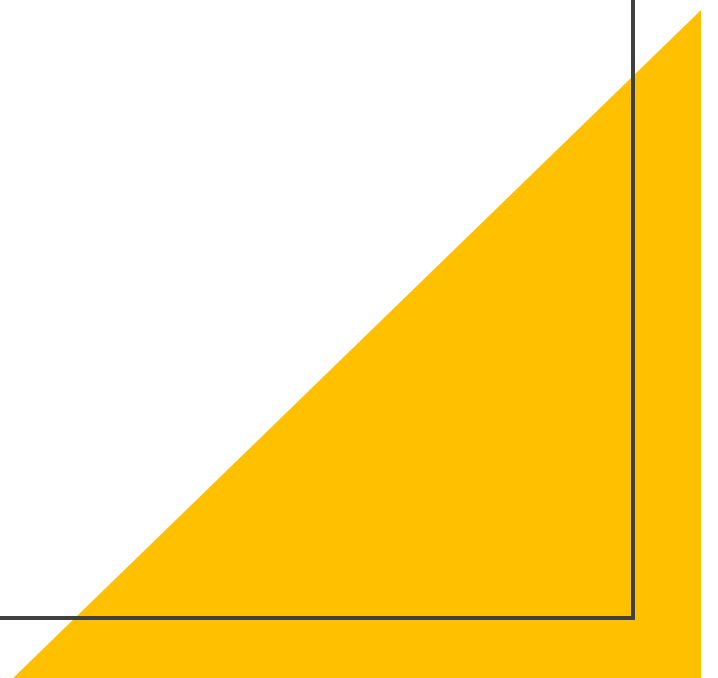
Inter-sentential	Intra-sentential	Tag
Khub mishti tomra. <i>I love you all.</i> very sweet you. I love you all. 'You all are very sweet. I love you all.'	Ei gaanta ami amakei <i>dedicate</i> korlam. this song I myself dedicate do-present-1st person 'I dedicate this song to myself.'	Tumi kalke China jabe, <i>right?</i> you tomorrow China go-future-2nd person (familiar) right 'You will go to China tomorrow, right?'

Bangla-English Code-switching

- A newly emerged variety spoken by Bangla speakers of Bangladesh.
- Found in both online (e.g., social media) and offline (in-person) conversations
- Found both in spoken and informal (written) discourse

Bangla-Speakers' thoughts on this:

- non-standard form
- casual form



Code-switching

Spanglish = Spanish +English

Changlish = Chinese+English

Hinglish = Hindi+English

Banglish/Benglish
=Bangla+English

Why Facebook?

- Facebook is a popular social media platform in Bangladesh.
- Linguistic Diversity on Facebook.
- Wide variety of users.

Research Questions

1. What is the frequency of Bangla-English code-switching in language use on Facebook, performed by the Bangla speakers in Bangladesh?

2. What are the types of codeswitching and their frequency found in the language use on Facebook of Bangla speakers of Bangladesh?

3. What are the main features and patterns of Bangla-English code-switching found on Facebook?

4. What are the most common contexts that induce Bangla-English code-switching?

Methodology

❖ Mixed method

❑ Participants were recruited through snowball method.

Participants # 30

❑ Demographic Information:

- Age category:

18-23- 6

24-39-22

Above 40-2

- Educational Qualification:

Secondary School Certificate- 11

Higher Secondary School Certificate –1

Undergraduate or Equivalent-11

MA or Equivalent- 16

Ph.D.-1

- Sex:

Male:11

Female:19

Data

- A total of 235 Facebook posts
- Data collected from March 1-March 15, 2021 timeframe

Findings



Frequency of Code-switching



**TOTAL NO OF POSTS
UPDATED BY THESE 30
PARTICIPANTS
WITHIN 15 DAYS**

**TOTAL NO OF POSTS
THAT INCORPORATED
CODE-SWITCHING**

**IN PERCENTAGE
(FREQUENCY OF
CODE-
SWITCHING)**

235

71

30.21%



Types of Code-switching and Their Frequency

Type of Code-switching	No of occurrences	In percentage
Inter-sentential	9	12.68%
Intra-sentential	62	87.32%
Tag	0	0.00%
	Total=71	100%

Intra-Sentential Code-switching

parts of speech that have been code-switched	No of occurrences	In percentage
Noun	116	70.30%
Adj	12	7.27%
Verb	24	14.55%
Adv	3	1.82%
Other	10	6.06%
Total= 165		

Significant Features

Noun:

- Some segments are adapted with minor changes due to the variation in phonemic inventory.

Example:

Corona has been adapted as *koruna, Karuna, Kuruna*

- Some are adapted without any morphological changes.

<i>Blood</i> dorkar blood need 'Blood is needed'.	<i>Post</i> porchi Post read-PROG.1SG 'I am reading a post'.
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Noun

- Some undergo some morphological procedures/changes.
- Inflected according to the principles of Bangla grammar for particular case, number, or definiteness (mostly).

<i>Post</i> + ti Post + the 'The post'	<i>Wall</i> + e Wall + on 'On the [Facebook] wall'	<i>Donor</i> + ra donor + s 'Donors'
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Noun

English bound morphemes added to Bangla nouns following English grammar principles.

For example: *Apu's*

Adjective

Adjectives hardly get inflected during code-switching.

Khubi *cute* tomra.

very cute you

‘You are very cute.’

Eta sobcheye *sweet*.

It among all sweet

‘It is the sweetest.’

Adverb

❑ Adverbs do not undergo any morphological procedures during code-switching.

Ekhane chotto ekta list royeche, *hopefully* ete help hobe onekangshe.

here small a list is, hopefully it will help to a greater extent

‘Here’s a small list, hopefully, it will help to a greater extent.’

Verb

In Bangla, you will find single verb, compound verb and conjunct verb.

❑ Conjunct verb construction: (commonly found in many Indo-Aryan languages)

Pole +vector =a single meaning

Noun/(sometimes other categories) + auxiliary verb

Kaj + kora

Work(n.) +do

'Do work/work'

The vector gets inflected according to the tense, and person. The pole remains unchanged.

During Bangla-English code-switching,

Pole is adapted from English language, vector from Bangla. (It's always the case)

Being a pole, the English verb contains the semantic value and thus decides the meaning of the verb as well.

Examples:

Help kortam-(kor+ -tam) help do-PAST.1SG 'Helped'	<i>Mention</i> din mention give-PRES.2nd(Polite) 'To Mention'
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Share kora Share do 'To share'	Bake kora Bake do 'To bake'	Knock kora Knock do 'To knock'	Copy kora Copy do 'To copy'	Manage howa Mangae get/become 'Get managed'	Like dewa Like give 'To like'
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Verb

- ❑ No instances of code-switched English verbs that were not supported by a Bangla auxiliary, inflected for tense and person.

This is similar to Canfield's (1980) study of Navajo-English code-switching, where English verbs were used "in conjunction with a Navajo helping verb".

- ❑ Most of the English verbs used in code-switching were somehow connected to different terminologies related to Internet, social media etc.

Examples: *share* kora, *comment* kora, *like* dewa etc.

No instances of ungrammatical combinations of the primary language and L2.

(Supports Poplack's Spanish-English study (1980))

Contexts of code-switching

- Celebration (Wishing people on special occasions)

Happy birthday, dosto!

Happy Birthday friend.

Happy Birthday, friend!

- Technical Terminology

Ei prothom **vowel parameters, speech organs** Bangla ditio potro boi -e dekhlam

this first vowel parameters, speech organs Bangla second paper book in see-past-1st person

‘For the first time, I saw the discussion of vowel parameters, speech organs in the Bangla second paper book.’

Contexts of code-switching

❑ Topic of Discussion (Entertainment)

pochonder kichu *senior*der niye banano *video*.

likable some seniors with make video

‘A video made on some likable seniors.’

❑ Common English Abbreviated Forms:

P. C. [P.C.-Photo Credit]- Tania Sultana (Pseudonym)

p.c.-Tania Sultana

‘Photo Credit- Tania Sultana.’

Contexts of code-switching

❑ Difficulty in Finding Equivalent Words

Inbox e knock [send a message] din

inbox in knock give-2nd person (polite)

'Knock me (contact me) in the inbox (of Facebook)'

❑ Common Facebook Terminology

Inbox, Post, Facebook Wall, Timeline, Cover Photo, Display picture, Profile picture,

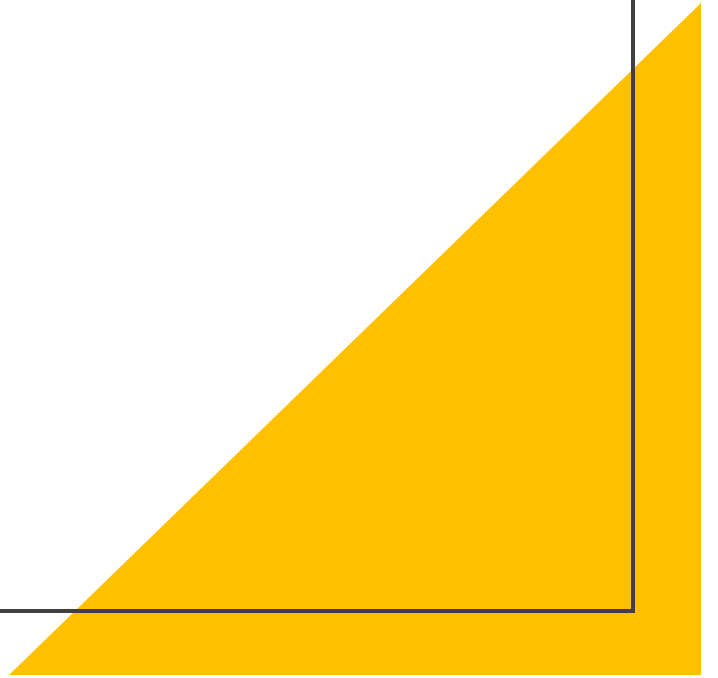
Scripts

Number of posts using Bangla script	Number of posts using Roman Script	Number of posts using Mixed Script
137	74	24
Total= 235		

Recap

- Bangla-English code-switching is a prevalent linguistic phenomenon.
- Intra-sentential code-switching is the most frequent one.
- Noun is the most frequent code-switched word-class.
- Code-switching occurs more in certain contexts.
- Both Bangla and Roman script is used respectively.
- Sometimes (Bangla-Roman) mixed script is used for writing

Concluding Remarks



Recommendation for further studies

Collect more data from wide variety of participants.

Exploring code-switching in other social media platforms

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Thank You!

Questions?

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