Code Switching on Social Media among Private University Students of Bangladesh: A Case
Study

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Declaration

It is hereby declared that

1. The thesis submitted is my own original work while completing degree at Brac University.

2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.

3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.

4. I have acknowledged all main sources of help.

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Approval

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Abstract

Code-switching has become a common phenomenon in Bangladesh particularly among the teenagers. Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp etc. gains a huge popularity in Bangladesh. As social media itself is informal in nature, social media users tend to switch codes frequently in their conversation, particularly the trends have seen among private university students. As English is the medium of instruction in almost all the private universities in Bangladesh, students from these universities tend to switch codes more often. This study critically explored the nature of code-switching among private university students of Bangladesh. This study was conducted using a qualitative approach. Data were collected through observation, interviews and analyzing various textual data from social media conversation. The result revealed that private university students have used tag switching, intra-sentential switching, inter-sentential switching and intra-word switching in their social media conversation. The study also has found that students switch codes in social media for communication purposes, not for showing mastery of English language. They do believe using English in social media posts can draw attention of others. The result also showed that code-switching does have negative impact on the Bangla language.

Key words: Bilingualism, tag switching, inter-sentential switching, intra-word switching, intra-sentential switching.

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Chapter I: Introduction

1.1 Introduction:

Code switching is a common phenomenon in a globalized world. Switching codes have become a norm in different parts of the world. Even though Bangladesh is a monolingual country, people of Bangladesh have used Arabic, English, Hindi frequently along with Bangla. As a result, they develop communicative competence in more than two languages. Developing communicative competence in more than two languages has affected the language choices of people be it in daily life or in social media. Regarding the code-switching in Bangladesh context, Banu & Sussex (2001) stated that, "as the use of English is increasing day by day in different forms, there is significant evidence of using English with Bangla as code mixing or code-switching" (as cited in Shanta, 2017). Sometimes they have done it unconsciously and sometimes they have done it intentionally. Switching codes between Bangla and English is more common among the students of private universities as they frequently have used English in the university. When they come into social media it looks like they switch codes more frequently as we know Social media itself is informal in nature and they have used Bangla and English more frequently than any other languages.

In the last few decades or so, the importance of English has grown rapidly and has created a new dimension. Even though English is a foreign language in Bangladesh but people are more inclined to English nowadays. English has been given emphasis on different sectors of the society particularly in education. English medium schools are growing rapidly in urban areas as parents are putting more emphasis on the English language. Private universities have created a

new dimension in the education system in Bangladesh. Most of the top rated universities

emphasized on English and provides English medium instruction. As a result, in the campus they

have to use English language along with Bangla. As most of the private universities emphasized

on English hence private university students also get used to speaking English on campus. As a

result, when they speak they tend to mix English with Bengali. Sometimes they do it

unconsciously and sometimes due to lack of proficiency in English language. Hence, it's become

quite common to use two languages concurrently in the university. When they come to social

media, there is a tendency to mix English, Arabic or other languages with Bangla. It looks like

they have used versified pattern of languages in social networking sites. Hence, we cannot deny

that the younger generation of Bangladesh is adopting a new variety of language. As social

media itself is informal in nature hence they switch codes more than what they have done in their

daily life. Due to easy access to the internet, social media has become very popular among

teenagers particularly among university students. Social networks are virtual communication

sites where users are engaged in virtual communication. Social networking sites such as

Facebook, twitter, Messenger, Instagram etc. permits users to connect and build relationships

among themselves. In Bangladesh, Facebook has become the largest and most popular virtual

zone among the teenagers as well as among the general people. In social media, people uses two

or more languages while interacting with interlocutors. Code-switching occurs often in social

media for instance in Facebook, one of the world's largest social networking sites. People spends

their free time in popular social media and it is evident that they are switching codes more often

while communicating with friends, colleagues and virtual friends on social media. According to

Salloum et al., (2017), "Social media networks make it easy to communicate with colleagues on

anytime anywhere settings" (as cited in Al-Qaysi & Al-Emran, 2017). Social networking sites

such as Facebook can be a reliable platforms for higher educational institutions as students can utilize the social platforms for communication with friends and educators. From childhood, Bangladeshi students are exposed to Bengali and English language as they study Bengali and English simultaneously in educational institutes. As a result, they have a good grasp of both languages. Due to this, they grow a habit of using Bangla and English simultaneously. The use of both languages increases when they enter a university, particularly Private University. As most of the private universities instruction medium is in English hence they grow a habit of using Bangla and English consciously or unconsciously. On the other hand, news channels such as BBC, CNN and English channels also play a vital role in developing bilingual characteristics. It is noted that using two languages is not only seen in private universities but also in social media.

1.2 Context:

In Bangladesh, social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp gains an enormous popularity and teenagers have spent most of their leisure time in social media. They have used versified pattern of languages in social networking sites. It looks like social media users have developed a language of their own, for instance shortening a text: F9-fine, U-You. Apart from that, they frequently switch codes in their Facebook posts and comments, in their tweets and Instagram posts. Social media users have a tendency for instance mixing of words/phrases or sentences from two distinct grammatical system across sentence boundaries within same speech events. Code-switching referring to alternating between two languages during the same conversation and more often it has done by the bilinguals or multilingual speakers. As the popularity of Social media grows hence code-switching trend is evident in Facebook / Intsagram or other social networking sites. As private university students spend their time in various social networking sites hence they also switch codes in social media

conversation. Due to the importance of the English language in Bangladesh in the last few

decades, many Bangladeshi developed bilingual characteristics. As a result, they have good

command over Bengali and English simultaneously and private university students are not

exception. Most of the top rated private universities use English as a medium of instruction.

Therefore, students of these universities get used to use English and Bangla simultaneously when

they stayed on campus. As a result, it is no surprising that private university students have a

tendency to use English and Bangla simultaneously and it has an immense impact when they

enter in social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc. Although, most of the

popular social media's instruction is in English but private university students tend to use Bangla

and English concurrently to correspond in social media. It is evident, they carried their bilingual

characteristics when they came to social media. That does not mean that they have only used

Bangla and English in social media, languages such as Arabic, Hindi, French also used. But

using Bangla and English is more frequent. In other words, they switch from either English to

Bangla or Bangla to English while interacting with their friends or family members in social

media. They have used versified pattern of languages while interacting with friends. It looks like

their Facebook status, WhatsApp/Messenger conversation contains several variations when they

are engaging in a formal and informal conversation in social media depending on the situation. In

this paper, I will look at their communication culture in their FB wall posts and other social

networking sites. Private university students are the members of several social networking sites

and it seems they are switching codes more often than not. Hence, I have chosen private

university students. The study is conducted to observe code-switching in social media. I have

chosen CMC (Computer Mediated Communication) as it gives me an opportunity to observe

synchronous as well as asynchronous social media activities. According to Crystal (2006), "Here

on status updates, one can response with comment right then and there, as in synchronous way,

or it can have delayed acknowledgement, as in asynchronous way"(as cited in Sultana et al.,

2020).

Chapter II: Literature Review

In this chapter I have reviewed past relevant studies. For this study, I have reviewed a numbers of journal articles, books and other sources related to the focus topic. I have also studied some related literature from different context also. The main aim of this review is to provide an overview of past research and to find out the research gap. Another purpose of this review is to show how my study will fit within the existing literature in the field.

2.0 Introduction

The medium of instruction in most of the top rated private universities is in English. Students of either public, private or National University have more or less proficiency in English. Hence, they are using English with Bangla in their everyday life. However, private university students tend to use English with Bangla more as they get used to using English more in their campus. In their comparative study, Kabir and Mohiuddin (2016) have chosen both public (Dallas) and private university (Nottingham) students of Bangladesh. They have disguised the real name of the both universities. In their study, they have found that, while communicating, the students of Nottingham (private) are comfortable and frequently uses English words/phrases in their Bangla sentences. On the contrary, the students of Dallas (Public) also uses English words/Phrases in their Bangla sentences during the communication but it is not as much as Nottingham University. They also found that, 67% of the students of Nottingham University are feel free to use English words/phrases in their conversation whereas only 24% students of Dallas University are comfortable to use English words/Phrases in between their conversation. In our society, there is a special appeal to the people who use English in their speech hence mixing between Bangla and English is quite common. The young generation of Bangladesh have a tendency to adopt a new strategy in verbal communication while they are interacting with their friends. Particularly

private university students whose instruction medium is in English. As a result, they are encouraged to use English in their writing as well as speaking hence mixing and switching between Bangla and English has become more frequent in their everyday life.

2.1 Monolingualism, Bilingualism and Multilingualism

Being a monolingual bilingual and multilingual is a common phenomenon. Bangladesh have a history of language movement hence it is no surprising Bangladesh is a monolingual country as majority of the people speaks Bengali. Monolingual means when one can speak only one language. Researchers calls anyone bilingual when he /she speaks two language and multilingual when anyone speaks more than two language.

2.2 Concept of Code Switching:

Code switching is a linguistic term that denotes the concurrent use of more than one language or language variety. According to Wardhaugh (1992), in a single utterance when a bilingual uses more than one language is termed as code-switching. He also mentioned that it can occur in conversation between speaker's turns or within single speakers turn.

Code-switching is basically juxtaposition of the same speech exchange. Basically it refers to the changing language from one to another based on the speakers or depending on the conversation of the topic. Wardhaugh (2010) stated that, whenever people choose to speak they are required to pick up a particular code and even within short utterances they tend to switch codes and thus in that process they create a new code termed as code-switching. It can arise from an individual's own choice or can be used as an identity marker for a group of people who tend to use more than one language for their common pursuit. According to Jingxia (2010) "Code-switching is the notion of moving between two languages in the middle of the conversation when both the speakers speak same two languages" (as cited in Al-Qaysi &Al-Emran, 2017). Wardhaugh

(1992) defines, code as a strategy where bilingual speakers uses for the communication (purposes). ELLO (2018) defines code-switching as a linguistic phenomenon which occurs in a multilingual community where multilingual speakers alternates or switches between two languages or codes in a same conversation (as cited in Kabir and Mohiuddin, 2016). Basically, Code-switching alternates between interlocutor's mother tongue and target language as they are keen to acquire target language.

2.3 Types of Code-switching:

Many linguists have classified code-switching in many ways. Wardhaugh (1992), classified code switching in two ways: these are situational code-switching and metaphorical code-switching. Situational code-switching occurs when speaker use one language in and different language in another situation without changing the topic. They often switch to high variety to low variety but it's different from diaglossic situation. In situational switching speakers are not aware that they are switching high variety to low but in diaglossic community speakers are aware that they switch to another code. Metaphorical code-switching occurs when there is a change of the topic.

Scholars have identified four major forms of code-switching-tag switching, intra -word switching, inter-sentential switching and intra sentential switching.

1. **Tag switching**: Tag switching occurs when one word from a different language is inserted at the end of the sentence as a tag form .e.g. University will reopen soon, tai na?

2. **Intra**-**word switching:** This types switching happens with a word boundary such as morpheme boundary.

a. **English root word**, **Bangla suffix**: Chair-gula, Cousin-er .Here, combination is made by using Bangla inflections with English words.

b. **Bangla root word**, **English suffix**: In the word /bhabs/ (moody), the combination is made by Bangla noun bhab with English suffix(s).

3. **Inter-sentential switching**: This type of switching happens outside the clause and sentence boundaries. It is also known as extra sentential switching. For example: We are going to meet tonight. Tumi asbhe?

4. **Intra-sentential switching**: It occurs within a clause or sentence boundary. Adding an English words/phrase in a Bangla sentence. For example: Tumi ki lunch korecho

2.4 Reasons for Code-switching:

There are many reasons for code switching. Diglossia, Bilingualism and Multilingualism is some of the factors for code-switching.

2.4.1 Diglossia:

According to Wardhaugh (1992), "A diaglossic situation exists in a society when it has two distinct codes clear functional separation; that is one code is employed in one set of circumstances and the other in an entirely different set" (p.90). He also maintained two types of variety which have existed in diaglossic situation. Low variety is used in informal conversation such as friend's conversation and high variety is used in formal conversation such as talking with colleagues/teachers. Speaker of diaglossic community have used two types of variety based on the circumstances.

2.4.2 Bilingualism and Multilingualism

Code-switching refers to the mixing of two or more languages by the bilinguals or multilingual in a conversation more often without changing the ongoing topic. It can take place on any

linguistic level but its occurrence within the confines of a single sentence, constituent, or on

world level draws the linguistic attention.

2.4.3 Factors for Code-switching:

Kabir & Mohiuddin (2016) studied code-switching trends among public and private university

students of Bangladesh. From their study, they have found that both public and private university

students have a tendency to switch codes to impress and attract others. Rahman & Mohiuddin

(2018) studied the students of three faculties (Science, Arts and Business) to reveal why students

switch codes. The result revealed that students of all three faculties use English words and

phrases in their Bangla sentences for their professional development and also for showiness (as

cited in Kabir& Mohiuddin, 2016).

Malik (1994) proposed ten reasons for code-switching among Indian speakers. Those are: lack of

ability, lack of registered competence, temperament of the speaker, reiterate the idea, routine

experience, semantic reason, to show empathy with certain group or people, to mention other

spectators, rational reason and to attract (as cited in Sultana et al., 2020). Holmes (2008)

mentioned, people often switch codes within a domain or social situation to show the solidarity

with certain group or people as they shared same ethnicity. He also added, "Switches provoked

by the personality and connection between participants, communicate move along the solidarity

or social distance" (as cited in Sultana et al., 2020).

Leyew (1998) studied code-switching between Amharic-English in Addis Ababa University,

Ethiopia. Being a multilingual country, code-switching is more common in Ethiopia among the

speakers of different languages. His worked showed different reasons for code-switching

between Amharic-English. From the study, it has found that code-switching used in pedagogical

way to enhance the command of the some bilinguals. Bilinguals also switch codes when they lack Amharic equivalent for words like computer. Apart from that, people considers someone more educated when they express something in English instead of Amharic. Due to this, bilinguals have a tendency to use English with Amharic as they think they have a better chance to express something better in English. Like Leyew, Kim (2006) also believed that code switching is hoped to be modern and educational and prestige is related to it. He also mentioned about the lack of appropriate words in one language which forced speakers to switch codes. Lack of vocabulary is one of the reasons for switching codes. Apart from that, situation also forced speakers to switch codes for instance in informal conversation, speakers tend to switch codes.

2.5 Code-switching impact on language

Many are concerned that code-switching has a negative impact on language as the trend of switching codes is rising particularly among teenagers. Now the question arises whether code-switching has any negative impact on Bangla language or not.

Shanta (2017) states that, English has created a curious linguistic situation in Bangladesh which put English language in an unusual position with Bangla. From the study, she has found that, code-switching and use of deviated form of Bangladesh have become a common phenomenon. In another study, Ghosh (2014) found that excessive use of English words/phrases in the daily conversation is restricting the students of private university from learning Bangla vocabulary. Due to this, practicing proper Bengali language may disappear and it's a barrier for Bangla language. Hossain (2013) states that, using English language in conversation more or less than it is required is a bad practice as it hampers the Bangla language. He also recommended that, students should be aware of negative impact of English for the sake of their own culture and language. However, there are people who are not much concerned about the code-switching

negative impact on Bangla language. Alam (2006), studied the phenomenon of code-mixing among the non-government white collar service holder and professionals. In her study, she has found that Bangladeshi people are now more interested to use English language. However, she believed, it is not an alarming sign for Bangla language and Bangla language is not under the threat. According to Khan (2016) who is constantly working with Bangla language, disregard the fuss that Bangla is on the brink of extinction. She states, "Whatever the mechanism of code-mixing and whether non-standard dialectal forms are used or not, the Bangla language is by no means endangered or even under threat". It is the nature of any language to be in a constant state of flux. However, it seems purists denounced using Bangla and English concurrently and worried about ignoring native language and placing English as a symbol of education and social prestige. The attitude of ignoring native Language and placing other language is present among the educated neo-upper middle class.

The attitude is criticized in a report that published in *The Daily Protham Alo* (popular Bangla Daily) where Pintu in his write up titled "Bangla akhon goriber bhasa" shows how English is taking the place of Bangla (as cited in Tina, 2014). It's clearly evident that, some native speakers of Bangla are inclined towards English and showing apathy towards Bangla.

Chapter III: Methodology

This chapter provides an overview of the methodology of this paper including research design, research questions, data collection and analysis techniques and the ethical issues taken into account.

3.0 Research design

For this study I have adopted a qualitative case study as I am more interested to understand the phenomena rather than finding any numeric value or to compare anything. Qualitative approach is also suitable for this study as I have collected different forms of data including textual data from various social media platform. This approach also allows me to explore the phenomena thoroughly using evidences from various sources.

3.1 Significance of the study

For this research, I have selected social media because social networking sites are popular among the Bangladeshi people, particularly among the teenagers. Being a private university students myself, I have seen how they are switching codes in social media frequently. Due to this, I have chosen private university students. Previously few studies are done on code switching trend on Facebook users but in this study I have chosen popular social media such as Facebook, twitter, Instagram, Messenger, WhatsApp. In this paper I examine types of code-switching private university students have used in social media conversation such Facebook status, Instagram posts, Tweets, Messenger etc. I also examine social media user's intention whether they switch codes unconsciously or they do it purposefully to show their mastery of English language. Apart from that, I have also explored whether code switching has any impact on Bangla language or not.

3.2 Data collection tools:

 The research employed two methods of data collection that is observation and interview. It enables

me to come up with the intended information in this study.

3.2.1 Observation

 To collect data, I have observed social media such as Facebook, Instagram, twitter, WhatsApp,

Messenger etc. very closely. I have observed Facebook status, comments and reply, tweets, and

Instagram posts. Apart from that, with the consent of the participants I have also followed group

chats of private university students. I have carefully observed social media because social media

is one of the places where code-switching occurs most as people are engaging in informal

conversation as well as formal conversation at a time. I have observed how participants

borrowed and mixed English/Arabic/Hindi words in their conversation on social media.

3.2.2 Interview

As I have followed a qualitative approach hence I emphasized on in depth interviews of the

participants. According to Patton (2002), "interviews are done with the intention of finding out

things that cannot be observed" (as cited in Johanes, 2017). I have designed semi-structured

questionnaires for the participants. Qualitative approach is subjective hence in depth interview is

very effective to answer my research questions. The main purpose of choosing this strategy is get

the clear idea and detailed information concerning code-switching on social media. According to,

Patton (2002), the main objective of interviewing is to find out what is in and on someone's

mind. Hence, I have got clear picture after interviewing the private university students.

3.3 Data Analysis:

After collecting data from interview, it is very important to get to know the data. For this, I have

gone through the data over and over again. Then, I look at how the participants respond to the

questionnaires as every individual is different from one to another. After that, I carefully look at

the pattern across interview and summarize the information. I find out the common theme.

Finally, I moved to "interpretation bringing all together" where I look at my own interpretative

lens.

3.4 Ethical consideration:

Before observing their social media activity, I take consent from all the participants and ensure

them I would keep the confidentiality. I have used the pseudo name of all the participants hence

their privacy is fully assured. I explain to them the purpose of the research. As a result, all the

participants take part in this research without being worried about too much. They are given full

license to withdraw from the research if they are not willing to take part at any time. During

open-ended questionnaires, I kept a recorder with me and transcribed it later.

3.5 Participants:

 30 private university students took part in this study. They are native speakers of Bangla though

they developed bilingual characteristics. Their age limit is between 19-22. They are from

different socio-economic and socio-cultural backgrounds. I have observed 25 Facebook status

and Instagram posts, 10 tweets and 10 Messenger and WhatsApp group chat. Even though 30

participants took part in this study, I have taken interview from 15 participants. Here, majority of

the participants are from Bangla medium school but there are few participants who are from

English medium background.

3.6 Obstacles encountered:

The lack of support from the few respondents causes troubles for me to collect data on time.

They assured me to give an interview but some of the respondents did not show up on a given

date. Hence, I had to request them few times to get their interview. Closure of university makes it even more difficult as some participants are out of the city. Hence, it was not an easy task to interview as few interruptions occurred during the interview. As a result, delay occurred while gathering the data.

3.7 Limitations of the study:

 Due to covid-19 pandemic, I was unable to take interviews from too many participants. I had a plan to take interviews from 25-30 students. Unfortunately, due to the surge of covid-19 infections and death, educational institutions remained closed till now. Hence, I have no other option but to continue my study on limited participants.

3.8 Research Questions:

1. What types of code-switching do private university students of Bangladesh use in social media?

2 .Do they switch codes intentionally to show mastery of the English language?

3. Does Code switching on social media have any impact on Bangla language?

Chapter IV
Results

4.1 Analysis of Tweets, Instagram posts, Facebook status and comments, Messenger conversation

Tweets:

Tahmid:Tera aur kya Chahiye, Steak?

Twitter is a bit different from other social media as it allows the users to use a limited number of letters. Due to this, twitter users tend to keep their tweets short. Here, Tahmid tweeted and finished his tweet in one sentence. Tahmid starts the sentence with Hindi then switches to English. Here, tag switching is happening as Tahmid added one word (Steak) from a different language (English) as a tag form. It is quite usual for Tahmid to insert steak rather than using Hindi word for this tweet as steak is more familiar to his followers. As he inserts an English word at the end of the sentence hence tag switching is achieved.

Instagram

Ratul:Photogula ☹☹☹

Bangladeshi social media users have used Instagram for sharing photos mostly. Unlike Facebook or other networking sites users, Instagram users tend to use short captions in their post. In Instagram, Ratul writes a short caption 'Photogula ☹☹☹'. Here, Ratul inserted gula (plural) with English word (photo) which turned it intra-word switching (English root word, Bangla suffix). He also used emoticon (sad).

Facebook Status

Dipto:Friender Birthday Party ☺☺☺

In this Facebook status**,** intra-word switching occurs. As we know that**,** Intra**-**word switching occurs with a word boundary such as morpheme boundary. Sometimes, it has English root words, Bangla suffix and sometimes Bangla root words, English suffix. Here, Dipto in his status writes, 'Friend-er Birthday Party ☺☺☺'. Here Dipto has used, English word (Friend) and Bangla suffix (er) which turned it intra-word switching. Here, Bangla inflections have been added.

Facebook Status:

Fahmida: I have done with 12ᵗʰ semester, Alhamdulillah

In this Facebook status, tag switching occurs. Here, Fahmida used an English-Arabic pattern of code-switching in her Facebook status. Here, participant used tag switching which is inserting a term from one language to a clause of another language. In this example, participant started with English then inserted an Arabic word Alhamdulillah at the end of the sentence as a tag form. It looks like the participant is very relieved to be done with the semester. Hence, she is using the Arabic word Alhamdulillah to thank God. Arabic is the language of Quran and being a Muslim Fahmida inserted Arabic to thank to God.

Facebook Status

Fahmida:Ajk amr nanir 23ʳᵈ Death Anniversery.May Allah give her Jannatul Ferdous.

In this FB status participant uses Bengali-English and English-Arabic pattern of code-switching. Here, Fahmida starts with Bengali then switches to English in her first sentence. Code-switching occurs at an intra-sentential level as switching occurs within sentence boundaries. In her second

sentence, she suddenly shifts from Bengali to Arabic and writes, "May Allah give her jannatul

Ferdous". Here, Fahmida inserted Arabic word while praying for her late grandmother. It is

evident from her Facebook status that she is frequently using Arabic and linking to her Muslim

identity and culture. That's why she constantly uses Arabic words in her status. Hence,

Fahmida's insertion of Arabic is quite usual but she prefers English rather than Bengali in her

rest of the status. In this status, Fahmida's code-switching occurs at intra-sentential level.

Fahmida:NSUers during Final Weeks!Btw my brother Bindas mood still on.

Here, the same participant used an English-Hindi pattern of code-switching. She was

describing the condition of her brother whom final exam is approaching. Here, she again inserted

a Hindi word Bindas which is quite similar to the previous Facebook statuses where she uses

English-Arabic pattern of code-switching in her Facebook status. The difference is that she uses

Hindi instead of Arabic this time around. She started with English and then inserted a Hindi

word bindas which means relaxed in the middle of the sentence.

Anindo:Series jitsiiiiiii Again I am not dreaming Again I am not dreaming

Apparently, participant following English/Bengali pattern of code-switching. Here, Anindo

started off the sentence with English but inserted a Bengali word jitsiiiiiii(won). Anindo is not

only switches to Bengali word but also extended the word jitsiiiiiii to put an emphasize on it.

Then he again switches to English and write the same sentence twice to emphasize on the

winning of Bangladesh cricket team against Australia. In this status, Anindo also has used intra-

sentential switching as code-switching occurs within a sentence boundary.

Conversation between two friends regarding exam during the Pandemic

Facebook Status

Kamrul: It's good to see je corona r mode porikkha university nicce else we would be in serious

trouble

Comment Box

Sumon:Session jam er kotha bolsis?

Kamrul:Yap!ai virus ta jeno taratari chole jai and stay safe stay home

Sumon:We will get over it Inshallah.

From the example above it can be seen that the participants are following

English/Bengali pattern of code-switching. Both respondent's code-switching occurs at intra-

sentential level. Here, Kamrul gives a FB status regarding online exams during the Covid-19

Pandemic. Sumon responded in the comment box and the conversation going on between two

friends. First of all if we look at FB status of Kamrul, it is clearly evident that he is constantly

switching from English to Bengali then again shifted to English. Hence, we can say that kamrul's

code-switching occurs at intra-sentential level. If we look at the FB status of Kamrul, it is evident

that switches in this clause occurred within sentence boundaries. In the comment box, Sumon

responded to the Status and asking Kamrul whether he was referring (else we would be in serious

trouble) to session Jam. Here, Sumon wrote Session jam -er where he added Bangla suffix with

English word jam which turned it intra word switching. Kamrul's response is affirmative and

again he uses intra-sentential switching but this time he shifted Bengali to English within the

same sentence boundaries. Contrary to the Fb status, here Kamrul started off with yap! Then he

switched to Bengali and gradually shifted to English. Here in the comment box, Sumon brought

something different. He inserted Inshallah which is an Arabic word. Hence, here Sumon is using

tag switching and his pattern of code switching changes from English/Bengali to English/Arabic. Hence, throughout the FB status and comment box we have seen different pattern of Code-Switching. They have used intra-sentential switching, intra-word switching and tag switching.

Conversation between two friends in a Messenger Group Chat

Naim: This semester is too hectic

Muhid: Yes, Waiting for the end.

Naim: I am also waiting to get rid of the semester.

Muhid: University kobe je open hobe

Naim: After vaccination probably.

In this conversation code-switching occurs only in one sentence. Naim and Muhid both used English throughout the conversation in a messenger group chat except one instance. In 4th sentence, Muhid switches to Bengali. He mentioned, University je kobe open hobe means he is waiting for re-opening the university. Here, Muhid's code-switching occurs at intra-sentential level. Naim started in English and Muhid replied to that in English only exception is in the 4th sentence where Muhid switches to Bengali for a little period of time. I think they are comfortable to continue their conversation in English as they both are proficient in English. They both are studying in a top rated university and they have English Medium background. Due to this, they hardly use Bengali in their conversation though it is a private messenger group of 30 people.

Conversation between two friends in the Facebook Status and Comment Box

Facebook Status

Zaman: Missing my friends badly. What's up friends? K akn koi acho

Comment Box

Khalil :I am so fed up.

Zaman: Why so sad man? Chaphe Acis naki?

Khalil: Nope! Restriction and it's too much

Zaman: Come to the park. Onkdin adda deina.

Akash: I am in chol kalke meet kori.

Khalil :I will let you knw(Know)

Zaman: Okay,done.

Akash: Yap! then done.

Here, Zaman in his FB status uses inter-sentential code-switching. He started with English and then switched to Bengali. The switching occurs outside sentence boundaries. In the comment section, two of Zaman's friends Khalil and Akash respond. Interesting thing is that Khalil does not switch code whereas Akash does. However, Akash's code-switching occurs at intra-sentential level. If we look at Akash's response, "I am in Chol kalke meet kori" then it is evident that the switching occurs within sentence boundaries. Whereas Zaman again uses inter-sentential switching in the 4th sentence of the comment box where he invited his friends to come to the park for gossiping. If we look at Zaman's reply "Come to the park. onkdin adda deina" then it's clearly evident he again uses inter-sentential switching. Hence in this Facebook status and comment, it is evident that Zaman and Akash switch codes though both have used different types of code-switching. Throughout the conversation Zaman uses inter-sentential switching and Akash's code-switching occurs at intra-sentential level. It looks like Khalil is comfortable with English hence he has not used any Bengali in this conversation.

 After analyzing the data in social media such as Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, Instagram, it is revealed that private university students use tag switching, intra-word switching, inter-sentential switching and Intra-sentential switching. In social media, they are connected with diverse people.

In their friend list or followers list, they have added their friends, family members, virtual friends and teachers. Due to this, they use formal language as well as informal language while posting something on social media. It depends on the relationship between the users whether they use formal language or they use informal language. In social media, they use verbal form of language more often than the written one.

4.2: Finding of the Open-Ended questionnaires: There are various reasons for which participants are switching codes. They have seen it as a communication strategy to keep the flow of the conversation as well as sometimes they tend to switch codes to draw the attention of the others. Switching codes frequently tend to have a negative impact on Bangla language.

4.2.1: Reasons for code switching in social media:

Most of the respondents think it's easy to communicate in two languages as sometimes it's not that easy to find a suitable words in one language. Apart from that, the situation also plays a vital role when it comes to switching codes on social media. It's quite normal for the users to use versified language pattern in their posts/comments and chatting. In the current era, Social media such as Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, twitter etc. has become a part of our daily life hence it is no surprising private university students are using social sites to connect and building relationship. As their conversation in social media is close to their daily conversation hence they are engage in an informal conversation more often than not. As a result, social media users are inclined to exercise code-switching in their Fb status, comments or WhatsApp chatting. Ismail states that I write something in Bangla then switch to English in other sentences more often than not. He thinks using two language is normal and he sees no problem whatsoever to mix two languages. Fahmida thinks it's easy to convey message in different languages. For instance, she often uses Arabic word in her Facebook statuses. Fahmida thinks that as a Muslim, it is quite

natural to use Arabic words in Facebook statuses. She thinks it's natural to switch codes either in English, Arabic or Hindi.

4.2.2: Use of code switching in social media from everyday life:

 Participants have mixed approaches in social media when it comes to switching codes from their everyday life. Out of 15 respondents, 9 thinks that it is similar to everyday life means they make no changes in their social media conversation. However, 4 participants believed it is a bit different from their real life. Pranto believes he uses real life patterns in social media. He said, I tend to switch codes in social media not because I want to show off rather due to constant view of English contents in social media. Code-switching in social media not only confined in social media, it is related to daily social life also. Fahmida states, "Yes, it's different when I talk to my friends particularly my university friends. I used to switch codes frequently on social media but when I talk to local people there is no way I can use English often as you know they won't understand hence I use native language". Two of the participants are neutral as they believe they have different approaches in different situation. It's totally depends on with whom they are talking. Zaman states, "In formal situation I tend to switch codes less particularly when talking to the teachers on course related Facebook groups but in informal situation I switch codes often". When asking whether they have different approaches in social media conversation while talking to friends outside of the university, they have answered the same as they have mentioned about their social media conversation from everyday life. Majority of the participants have the same approach while talking to friends outside of the private university however one of the participants mentioned she had different approaches while talking to the friends outside the university. Muhid said, "All are friends in social media and there is no way I change my approach in social media". On the contrary, Khalil though have a different view on this. He said,

"I have used English more often than not in social media as I have friends who are most from English medium background. As a result, I have used English and sometimes mix it with Bengali". From the interview, it was revealed that, majority of the participants have used real life pattern in social media though there are few exceptions. Apart from that, most of the participants have used same approach while talking to friends outside of the private university. They do not make any changes whenever they are engaging in social media conversation.

4.2.3: Developing vocabulary:

Majority of the participants agreed that Code-switching via social media play a dominant role to develop their English language skills. Particularly using English words/phrases between Bangla sentences help them to enrich their vocabulary as they are introduced to new English words by using dictionary or Google. They think that code-switching via social media will do good if anyone is willing to take it as a tools for improving their English language skills. According to Fahmida, if you write a sentence in English, it may be helpful for you as well as others. Hence, Facebook posts can be a better option to enhance English language skills of the people who are not proficient in English. As we know via social media people from different backgrounds are connected, particularly the students. Through Facebook/Instagram posts, users are introduced to English as Fahmida mentioned, whenever anyone writes something in English in social media, there is always a room for improvement. We have seen that the participants of this study have written Facebook status on Facebook walls or Instagram where they have used English in between Bangla sentences. Some of the participants have written ungrammatical sentences, incorrect vocabularies and also wrote wrong spellings in their social media posts. Hence, they can use social media to rectify their mistakes if they want. For instance, they can sort out

misspellings, they can note down new vocabulary from the social media posts. Pranto thinks that code-switching via social media gives an edge when it comes to reading and writing. He added, I truly think that even in speaking it gives an advantage as before putting up on social media I do have to speak the words in my mind. Hence, it is quite helpful. Naim thinks that it is obviously good for developing English language skills. He stated, it improves my English skills as I search for synonyms of a particular word in a Google/dictionary so it helps me a lot. From the response from the participants it looks like they think using English words/phrases between Bangla sentences will help them to develop their English language skills as they think they will be able to rectify their grammatical mistakes and their vocabulary will be enriched.

4.2.4: Code-switching as a communication strategy

Respondents have mixed views on this. Majority of the respondents think that they switch codes when they cannot express something in Bangla/English due to lack of equivalent word. Aziz thinks that, it is not possible to find specific words in one language and, it's better to use known words of everyday life. For example, I do not write kedara in my Bangla status instead I write chair. Here, I did it purposefully to make it comprehensible to the audience as kedara (Chair) is not known to many people. Ismail said, I switch codes intentionally to emphasize a word or sentence. He believes, switching codes help to express something better as it's sometimes difficult to express in one language due to lack of equivalent words. Pranto said, "I will say bit of both actually. You know most of the contents are usually in English hence it is no surprising there is a habit of English vocabularies or phrases that come in between every sentence". Like Aziz, he also thinks that certain expressions can only be related to either Bangla/English hence he has to switch codes. It looks like participants switch codes to make it more comprehensible to their friends and followers as sometimes there are lack of suitable words in Bengali.

4.2.5: English as a symbol of social prestige?

Respondents have mixed feelings regarding social status or prestige. Out of 15 respondents, 6 thinks that using English in Facebook status or Instagram post even in WhatsApp chat tend to get the attention of the people and they get praise from the people. However, 4 of the respondents think that using English in social media has nothing to do with the social prestige. Other 5 respondents have neutral view. They think that, switching codes can up haul the status of any social media users but they are not sure whether it has anything to do with prestige. Their view on this regards is that, they switch codes to express their feeling better and also make it more clear as it's not always possible to get exact same meaning in one language. Aziz thinks, "It has nothing to do with social prestige and I do not do it intentionally to get the attention, it's my spontaneous expression that come out in my social media posts". Ismail also has the same view as Aziz. He thinks that he switches codes to express his feeling better and make it comprehensible and it is not related to English. On the contrary, there are few respondents who thinks it can bring prestige. Fahmida said, yes, it obviously up haul my social prestige as you know speaking and writing English means you are from a posh background so it gives a sense of social prestige.

4.2.6:Negative Impact on Bangla language

All the participants agreed that code switching via social media has negative impact on Bangla language. Fahmida said, obviously it hampers and using Bengali and English is not good. Ismail said, I think it's bad for Bangla language as we tend to use half English and half Bengali. He thinks young generation does it on purposes and it's really bad for Bangla language. Naim thinks that, it's destroyed the original roots of Bangla. Pranto said, I have a mixed feeling about it as I

admit using English with Bengali is good for practicing but problems began when anyone is using English frequently to look more progressive and at a time for showiness. Hence, it is alarming when native speakers having conversation in foreign language. Certainly, it will have negative impact on Bangla language in near future. He added that, using English or other languages can be reduced to a minimum then it won't impact much on Bangla language.

4.3 Types of Code-switching in social media

From the observation of Facebook status, Messenger chat and tweets, it is evident that Private university students have used Bengali/English, English/Bengali, English/Arabic, Hindi/English pattern of code-switching. It was revealed that social media users have frequently used intra-sentential switching often when they are engaging in an informal conversation. Apart from that, inserting Arabic words are common when it comes to the Muslim identity as they frequently inserted words such as Alhamdulillah. It has been found that private university students maintain a formal relationship in their Facebook posts when they are talking to their teachers or mentors in Facebook group posts or comments. After observing Facebook course related group's posts and comments, it has found that they have used inter-sentential switching more often. Intra-word switching is also seen in Instagram posts and Facebook posts however intra-word switching is not as frequent as inter-sentential or intra-sentential switching. Intra-word switching has been found in informal posts. In Facebook Messenger group chat, I have found both inter-sentential switching and intra-sentential switching. From my observation in various group chats in Messenger or WhatsApp, I have noticed, intra-sentential switching is more evident. It is not surprising as they tend to talk informal in Messenger chat or WhatsApp chatting.

4.4 Do they switch codes to show mastery of English?

Before my research, my prediction was that private university students switch codes intentionally to show their mastery in the English language. After the observation and interview, will my prediction come true? From the observation and open-ended questionnaires, it was revealed that they switch codes when they cannot express something in Bengali/English due to lack of equivalent words in one language. Switching codes help them to expressing something better in English and same is applicable to Arabic/Hindi though English is more prominent. They use English words often as some of the Bengali words are not known to the people. In that case, English words are better suited than Bengali. As a result, they have used English words/phrases in Facebook status or Messenger chat which are supposed to be written in Bengali. However, some of the participant use it intentionally to show people that they have good English language skills. As we know people who have good command over English is treated differently in Bangladeshi context. As a result, some of the private university students tend to fall this trap and want to look cool in front of their friends. They tend to believe that using English expression in the middle of a Bengali will draw the attention to the followers in social media. There are few instances when they switch to English words/phrases to put more emphasize on a particular sentence as Ismail mentioned during the interview. It's also noticeable among the participants whom I observed as I have noticed that they tend to use English words to emphasize a sentence or words. So the question is, do they switch codes intentionally to show their mastery in English language? The answer is no. They have seen code switching to English as a strategy to keep the flow of the conversation and make it more comprehensible. Apart from that, it's not always possible to know the all the Bangla vocabulary and also if they know, their followers may not know the vocabulary as Aziz said he avoids using Bangla word Kedara (Chair) in his Bangla

status as many of his social media friends do not know the meaning of Kedara. Hence instead of Kedara, he uses Chair to make it comprehensible to the social media followers. To sum up, it's a spontaneous expression and they want to make it more comprehensible to their social media audience. From the open-ended questionnaires, it has been found that participants believe that code-switching from Bengali to English helps them to enhance their English language skills as they can learn new vocabulary. Naim mentioned that he tends to look up the dictionary or Google to search for English words/phrases whenever he puts English words/phrases in his Bangla sentences. In that way, his vocabulary has enriched. After analyzing the open-ended questionnaires, it looks like they do not switch codes to show mastery in English rather they use code-switching to develop their English language skills. Their vocabulary can be enriched by putting English words/Phrases in between Bangla sentences. Apart from that, they use English words to put emphasize as well as to make it more comprehensible to the followers as we do not know the meaning of all Bangla vocabulary. However, we cannot deny that sometimes they tend to use English words intentionally as good command over English draws the attention of the Bangladeshi social media users. As most of the top rated private university prioritized English and they promote English hence it is no surprising some of the private university students tend to switch or mix codes in their social media intentionally to show the mastery of English language.

4.5 Code Switching impact on Bangla language:

  Majority of the participants think that code-switching via social media have negative impact on Bangla language. They think that mixing Bengali and English between sentences does no good to a language. Then the question is, why do they switch codes if it has a negative impact on Bangla? From their response, it looks like they have seen it as a communication strategy which helps them to keep the continuity of the conversation. As we know, it's not always possible to

find an exact word in one language hence referring to other words/phrases of another language comes to rescue in many occasions. However, code-switching via social media does have negative impact on Bangla language. The most alarming side of code-switching is that some teenagers tend to think that using English words in Bengali language makes them more cool. They carry their attitudes when they are admitted into private university. As a result, they use English phrases here and there while writing Bengali status/chatting with their friends in messenger/WhatsApp. As a result, they cannot speak English fluently and hardly say a full sentence in Bangla. It's an alarming sign for the Bengali language. Pranto mentioned, it's really frustrating when native speakers tend to keep using foreign language in a native language. In that case, Bangla language is the worst sufferer of code-switching. In a study, Shanta (2017) found that Facebook users are using the English alphabet while writing their Bangla Facebook status and comments even though a number of software are available to write Bangla. It's a clear apathy towards writing Bangla language. If the apathy towards Bangla continues and the trends of showing positive attitude towards English continues in the name of code-switching then it will have negative impact on Bangla language which will be visible in near future. It seems that it won't take much time when Bangladeshi teenager's particularly Private university students will lose their fluency in Bangla language and they will start using English more. As a result, certainly it will have negative impact on Bangla language. There is a possibility that their next generation may base their conversation in English and use a Bengali words in between their conversation. Hence, code-switching does have negative impact on Bangla language.

Chapter V: Discussion and Conclusion

The importance of English has grown immensely due to the rapid spread of globalization and Bangladesh are no exception, particularly private universities that put more emphasized on English. Most of the top rated universities instruction medium is in English hence proficiency in English is a must for the private university students. The importance of fluent spoken English has grown immensely as they have to speak in English in their university premises. As a result, switching codes to Bangla and English is very common. Apart from that, due to the influence of the media and movies, languages such as Hindi also dominate along with English. For religious purposes, Arabic is also learnt by the people. Thus, they develop bilingual or multilingual characteristics and it has immense impact when they come to social media.

  As from the collected data and questionnaire, it is evident that participants have developed bilingual characteristics. It looks like they are accustomed to using two languages simultaneously hence using Bangla/English, English/Bangla, English/Hindi, English/Arabic pattern of code-switching has become spontaneous. From the analysis of the data, it has found that they have different approaches for different circumstances. In informal situation for instance while talking to the close friends, it is seen that they are using intra-sentential switching whereas in formal situation when they are talking to the university seniors /teachers, they are using inter-sentential switching. For clarification, they have used tag switching such as tai na, right etc. In Facebook posts and comments box, it looks like participants are treating social media as their own space. As a result, their Facebook post's is more like a verbal way than a written one. According to Debrowska (2013), CMC environments give vague impressions regarding the distinction between verbal and written form of the language Facebook users have used in their status and comment is colloquial. He also mentioned that electronic media itself is informal in nature. Due

to this, code-switching occurred frequently on social media as it's informal in nature and participants also saw it as a communication strategy. Hence, it is no surprising I have found intra-sentential switching more often in social media posts particularly when analyzing Messenger and WhatsApp chat.

Another important question is that, do they switch codes intentionally to show mastery of their English language skills? As we know, any people who have good command over English gets the attention in Bangladeshi context. As my participants are from private universities hence it is an obvious question to ask them whether they switch codes intentionally or not. Many would argue that they switch codes intentionally but in this case, it looks like the majority of the participants are not switching codes intentionally to show mastery of English language rather they switch codes to keep the flow of the conversation. Sometimes, they do not get the exact words/phrases in native language hence code-switching comes as a rescue to them. According to Leyew (1998), bilinguals switch codes when they have lack of equivalent words in native language. Sometimes, lack of appropriate words forced the speakers to switch codes. Private university students have a tendency to use English words/phrases in between Bangla sentences. From the observation and interview I have found that, participants have used the synonym of that word of another language when they don't find the exact word. Sometimes they use English to emphasize a specific words in their social media posts. Due to this, sometimes they have searched for a specific English word/phrases in dictionary/Google to use it in their social media posts. It can be said that, they have used English words/phrases to emphasize a specific words in a sentence. Apart from that, they think that using English in Facebook posts /twitter or other usage of social media enhances their English language skills particularly enriches their vocabulary. It looks like they have seen inserting English words in between sentences as a way

to improve their vocabulary rather than showing off. However, there are few participants who switch codes intentionally as they think it up haul their social status and prestige. They think that it draws the attention of the social media users. It is quite usual for some of them to use English words/phrases intentionally to show smartness. Ghosh (2014) studied code-switching trends among the private university students. In her study, she has found that some of the participants believe that code switching is a fashionable trend of using language where they can upgrade their status as well as draw the attention of the others.

From the interview, it looks like participants are not using English words/phrases to show mastery of English, rather they use English in between Bangla sentences to make it more spontaneous and enriching their vocabulary. They use English to keep the flow of conversation and at a time to emphasize specific words. Sometimes they switch to English when they do not find an appropriate words in Bangla. Hence, it's clear that participants switch to English for not showing mastery of English language rather they switch to English for other different reasons such as to emphasize a word, lack of appropriate words in Bangla etc. However, few of the participants did it intentionally to show their English language skills but the number is very small.

   Another interesting finding of this research is whether code-switching has any impact on the Bangla language or not. In my first two research questions, I have found participants switch codes to different languages for their communication purposes as they want to keep the flow of the conversation. As we know, it is not an easy job to know all the words/phrases in one language. Lack of equivalent words is obvious hence switching to another words/phrases of another language comes to rescue to get rid of those situations. Hence, participants see no problems in mixing two or more languages. However, when I ask them, do they think it has any

negative impact on Bangla language? The answer is interesting because except few, most

participants think that code-switching have a negative impact on Bangla. It seems that they see

code-switching as a threat to Bangla language. They believed their frequent use of English

words/phrases in Bangla sentences generates a new form of Bengali language. In her study,

Ghosh (2014) have found that, most of the interviewees of private universities have shown

serious concerns on code-switching as they believe switching to English frequently restricting

them from learning Bengali vocabulary. However, 20% of the interviewee have different view as

they stated code-switching does not have any impact on Bengali language and they prefer using

English and Bangla concurrently. Code-switching does have negative impact on Bangla language

as we have seen private university students tend to insert a English words/phrases in between

their Bangla sentences in social media posts sometimes unconsciously and sometimes

deliberately to emphasize a word. Whatever the reasons for inserting English or other languages,

it does have negative impact on Bangla language. It's restricted them from using Bangla

vocabulary even though Bangla has a large collection of vocabulary. Hence, using English words

in between sentences means they are losing their opportunity to show the world how rich Bangla

vocabulary are. Shanta (2017) found that, Bangladeshi Facebook users have a positive attitude

towards English whereas they have shown apathy towards Bangla. Showing apathy towards

native language is an alarming sign as it may result the language death of a language. However,

in this study, participants have attachments towards Bangla language and that's an encouraging

sign. From the interview it's clear instead of showing apathy, they have shown their concerned

about the code-switching negative impact on Bangla language. That's an encouraging sign as

linguistic awareness can lead a language in right direction. Azami (2005) studied Linguistic

manipulations in the Bengali language by the Bangladeshi lived in Manchester. From his study,

it was revealed that there was some changes in natural forms of Bangla language. At the syntactic level, only and obvious manipulation was found was code-switching. He studied first generation and second generation of the Bangladeshi living in Manchester. The study revealed that, the first generation of Bangladeshi used English words/phrases in their Bangla sentences whereas second generation had used Bangla words in their English sentences. It is clearly evident that second generation of Bangladeshis lost their fluency in Bangla and inclined to English more. The same thing can be happened in Bangladesh also if the social media users insert a words/phrases in between their Bangla sentences frequently. The next generation may get accustomed to use more and more English/Arabic/Hindi words and they may start showing apathy towards Bangla language. There is a possibility that, they won't be able to say a full sentence in neither in Bangla nor in English. For the sake of Bangla language, they need to be careful and should not switch codes deliberately particularly in English. It's an alarming sign for Bangla language and we need to ponder about frequently switching codes to different languages. It's clear that code-switching does have negative impact on Bangla as it's restricted the Bangla language users to practice proper Bangla language and proper Bengali language may disappear in near future. Bangla language will be under a threat due to the excessive use of English/Arabic/Hindi words/phrases in Bangla sentence particularly English.

Conclusion

Bangladesh is a monolingual country yet due to the rise of English language as a medium of instruction has created a new dimension in educational institutions particularly in private universities. The students of private university developed bilingual characteristics hence they mix English with Bangla be it on campus or in social media. As we know, social media is itself informal in nature hence they tend to switch codes frequently in social media. In social media, they have used versified pattern of languages and it seems that private university students have developed a new variety of language. While interacting with friends and family members they have used different pattern of language. It is evident that they have used informal language more often than not while interacting with friends in social media. As a result, intra-sentential code-switching is more evident from the social media posts of the participants.

It seems that participants of this study has seen code-switching as a communication strategy to keep the flow of the conversation. As we know it is not always easy to find an exact words in one language hence due to lack of appropriate words, they tend to switch codes to English. It has revealed that participants are not switching to English words/phrases to show their mastery of English language rather they switch codes due to lack of equivalent words in Bangla and also sometimes to emphasize a specific words in a Facebook status/Instagram posts. They sometimes switch to Bangla to English to make it more comprehensible as some Bangla words are not familiar to their followers in social media. However, we cannot deny that some of the participants switch codes intentionally to draw the attention of the others and to show their English language skills.

Code-switching is effective as a communication strategy to keep the flow of the conversation. Being bilingual or multilingual, it's quite usual to switch codes in different languages. However,

code-switching does have negative impact on native language. If anyone frequently uses English words/phrases in between Bangla sentences, certainly it's restricted them from using Bangla words. We cannot deny that it's a barrier to learn the Bangla vocabulary. Sometimes teenagers have shown apathy towards Bangla and prioritized English which does no good to Bangla language. Due to this, they won't be able to learn neither English nor Bangla. That's an alarming sign for them. Due to excessive use of English words/phrases in between Bangla sentences, they will lose their fluency in Bangla language. In this study, most of the participants are concerned about the extinction of Bangla language due to the mixing with foreign languages. Yes, they also switch codes in different languages but they do it sometimes unconsciously and sometimes due to lack of appropriate words in Bangla. They have seen code-switching as a communication strategy. Hence, their concerned on excessive and deliberate use of English words/phrases or other foreign words in between sentences are legit. They believe that proper Bengali language may disappear if the deliberate use of foreign languages with Bangla continues. In my opinion, code-switching does have negative impact on Bangla languages and for the sake of Bangla languages, we should abstain from using excessive foreign words in between Bangla sentences. Otherwise, it will certainly have more negative impact on Bangla language in near future.

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Appendix

1. Why do you switch codes in social media?

2. With whom you communicate in social media?

3. What types of social media you have used?

4. Your use of code-switching in social media is different from your daily life?

5. Do you think code-switching via social media helps you to develop your English language skills (e.g. writing, reading etc.)?

6. In your Facebook status/tweet/Instagram post, do you switch codes intentionally or you express the ideas that you cannot express in Bangla/English?

7. Do you use tag switching (e.g. taina) intra-word switching (jotils) in social media?

8. How often you use English words in your Bangla Facebook status or Instagram posts or Chat? Can you explain why?

9. In social media, do you switch codes for gaining social status or prestige? What motivates you? Please explain.

10. Do you switch codes when you are talking to friends outside of your university (e.g. Public/NU) or you switch codes frequently on media? Please explain.

11. Do you think code-switching on social media have any impact on Bangla language? If yes then explain why?