

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS INFLUENCING CODE-SWITCHING (using Russian-Uzbek code switching as an example)**Yusupbaeva Mukhayyo**

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Abstract. This article examines the social and cultural factors influencing code-switching in Russian-Uzbek linguistic interaction. Particular attention is paid to aspects such as social status, educational level, age, professional environment, national identity, and family traditions. Based on an analysis of communicative situations, the main causes and mechanisms of code-switching are identified. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of bilingual communication and current trends in the language situation in Uzbekistan.

Keywords: code-switching, bilingualism, Russian-Uzbek language interaction, social factors, cultural factors, language situation, national identity, bilingualism.

In modern society, where bilingualism is becoming increasingly common, the phenomenon of code-switching – the alternation of two or more languages within a single utterance or discourse – has attracted particular attention. This phenomenon is characteristic of many multilingual communities, including Russian-Uzbek linguistic interaction in Uzbekistan.

Code-switching can be determined by various factors, including cognitive, linguistic, and psychological, but social and cultural aspects play a particularly important role. Social status, educational level, age, professional environment, as well as national identity and family traditions – all influence the choice of language code in a particular speech situation.

The purpose of this article is to examine the social and cultural factors influencing Russian-Uzbek code-switching and to analyze specific examples of its manifestation. To achieve this goal, we will examine the theoretical foundations of code-switching, analyze Russian-Uzbek linguistic interaction in various communicative situations, and examine the factors determining the frequency and causes of code-switching.

Research into this topic not only contributes to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of bilingual communication but also allows us to identify key trends related to the dynamics of the language situation in Uzbekistan.

Code-switching is "the alternation of two or more languages within a single utterance, dialogue, or discourse" [1, 200 p.]. This phenomenon is widespread among bilinguals and multilinguals, making it an important research topic in sociolinguistics.

There are several classifications of code-switching. The most common is the typology of Peter Auer and Penelope Gardner-Kloros, which identifies three main types of code-switching:

Intrasentential code-switching – occurs within a single sentence. For example: Я купил новый телефон, но uncha yoqmadi.

Intersentential code-switching occurs between sentences. For example: Ertaga gaplashamiz. Я сегодня занят.

Tag-switching is the addition of individual words or phrases from another language, such as introductory words, interjections, or questions. For example: Hy, sen nima deb o'ylaysan?

«Code-switching can be spontaneous or conscious and depends on many factors, including the social context, the linguistic competence of the speakers and the goals of communication.» [2, 150 c.].

Code-switching is driven by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The main reasons for this phenomenon include:

Communicative necessity – the lack of a suitable equivalent in one language or the desire to convey meaning more accurately. For example: Как вам концерт – zo‘r!

Situational factors include changes in the topic of conversation, the recipient, or the level of formality. For example, in a formal setting, Russian is preferred, while in informal conversation, Uzbek is preferred.

Expression of cultural identity is the use of a particular language to emphasize national identity, social values, or group solidarity.

Emotional expression: Bilinguals often switch to another language to enhance the emotional content of a statement. For example: Tushunmayapsan, это важно!

Stereotypes and quotations – many set expressions and proverbs are used in the source language without translation. For example: Лучше один раз увидеть, чем сто раз услышать!

Code-switching mechanisms include cognitive processing of languages, language proficiency, and the ability to spontaneously shift between codes depending on the context.

Uzbekistan is a country with rich linguistic diversity, where Russian and Uzbek have coexisted for a long time. Russian has traditionally played an important role in education, science, and business administration, while Uzbek is the state language and a symbol of national identity.

Socio-cultural aspects of bilingualism in Uzbekistan include:

Educational and professional factors – Russian continues to be widely used in science, higher education, and business communication, which contributes to its active use in professional settings.

Media and the digital environment – social media, television, and online communities facilitate the hybridization of languages, making code-switching a part of everyday communication among young people.

Family traditions – in Russian-Uzbek families, bilingualism is passed down through generations, and code-switching becomes a norm of communication within the family. National language policy – the gradual expansion of the use of the Uzbek language in official documents and education – impacts the dynamics of code-switching among young people.

Code-switching in Russian-Uzbek linguistic interaction is largely determined by social factors, including educational level, professional environment, age differences, and the influence of globalization and the media environment. The social context of communication plays a key role in the choice of language code and the frequency of its switching.

“Social status and level of education are among the main factors determining the intensity and nature of code-switching” [3, 220 p.]. In Uzbekistan, the Russian language is traditionally associated with the educated strata of society, science, business, and international relations, while the Uzbek language is enshrined as the state language and is actively used in public and cultural life.

Highly educated bilinguals more often use Russian in academic and professional settings, but in informal settings they may switch to Uzbek, especially when expressing emotions or national-cultural concepts.

People with low levels of education more often use Uzbek in everyday communication but may switch to Russian when discussing technical or scientific topics, where Russian vocabulary is dominant.

The middle class generally has a high level of proficiency in both languages, which facilitates active code-switching depending on the situation.

Thus, «the higher the level of education and professional training of the speaker, the more conscious and functional the process of code switching is» [4, 180 c.].

The communication context plays a decisive role in the choice of language code. There are two main types of speech environments:

Formal context – includes business communication, government agencies, education, the media, and formal discussions. In these situations, either exclusively Uzbek (in government

agencies) or exclusively Russian (in business and academia) is often used. Code switching in these contexts is minimal and typically involves quotations or terminology.

Informal context – encompasses everyday conversations, friendly interactions, and family discussions. In this environment, code switching occurs most actively, as bilinguals use both languages depending on the topic, emotional state, and environment.

For example, in a business meeting, the discussion may begin in Russian, but if the participants are of Uzbek descent, they may switch to Uzbek to discuss informal topics or personal matters.

«Different age and occupational groups exhibit different patterns of code-switching» [5, 210 c.].

Young people increasingly use mixed discourse, actively incorporating Russian and Uzbek elements into their speech, especially on social media and in informal conversations. For example: «Bugun bizda контрольная, но я вообще таууорланмадим!»

The older generation (especially those who grew up during the Soviet period) more consistently uses Russian or Uzbek depending on the situation, avoiding frequent code-switching.

Professional environment also influences code-switching. In technical and scientific professions, Russian predominates, making it the dominant communication code, while in the arts, politics, and culture, Uzbek assumes greater importance.

Thus, younger people and those in professions involving international interaction demonstrate more flexible and frequent code-switching.

«Modern technologies, the Internet and global communications contribute to the development of mixed language practices, including code-switching» [6, 175 c.]. Key influencing factors:

Social media and online communication – young people actively use mixed language in chats, comments, and blogs, which contributes to the development of a new communication style. For example, online discussions often feature a combination of Russian, Uzbek, and even English words: "Сегодня погода zo'р, гулять qilamizmi?"

International trends and media – viewing Russian-language content (YouTube, TikTok, Telegram channels) increases the use of Russian elements in the speech of Uzbek-speaking users. At the same time, Western trends are leading to the integration of English expressions.

Migration and cultural contacts – interaction with Russian-speaking countries and labor migration contribute to active bilingualism and the expansion of the spheres of use of the Russian language.

Globalization is leading to the formation of new linguistic norms, where code-switching becomes a natural communication tool.

Cultural factors play an important role in the code-switching process, especially in multicultural societies such as Uzbekistan. National identity, family traditions, literature and art, as well as emotional and expressive speech patterns influence bilingual behavior and the language choices of Russian and Uzbek speakers.

«Language is an integral part of national identity, and its use is often associated with the perception of oneself as a representative of a particular culture.» [7, 300 c.]. In Uzbekistan, the Uzbek language plays a key role in shaping national identity, but Russian remains an important means of communication, especially among the multilingual population.

For some bilinguals, code-switching serves as a way to express dual identity: Russian-Uzbek bilinguals may use both languages, emphasizing their affiliation with both Uzbek culture and the Russian-speaking community.

In certain situations, language choice can be a conscious act of demonstrating cultural loyalty. For example, during official speeches and celebrations, Uzbek is preferred, while in professional settings, Russian may be used for ease of communication.

Political and social changes also influence the perception of languages. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the Uzbek language, leading to a change in the dynamics of code-switching and a strengthening of language loyalty.

Thus, national identity directly influences the process of code-switching, shaping the linguistic strategy of bilinguals in various spheres of life.

The family is one of the most important social institutions where linguistic habits are formed and cultural values are transmitted. In Russian-Uzbek families, bilingualism is a natural phenomenon, and code-switching often becomes a part of everyday communication.

In families where one parent is Russian-speaking and the other Uzbek-speaking, children become accustomed to bilingual communication from an early age and easily switch between languages depending on the interlocutor and the context.

It is common for children to speak Russian at home and Uzbek with their grandparents, which fosters the development of a flexible linguistic awareness.

Parents can consciously use code-switching as a parenting technique, for example, by using Uzbek to explain traditional values and Russian for educational and academic purposes.

Cultural forms such as literature, music, and folklore significantly influence linguistic behavior and can facilitate code-switching.

Many works by Uzbek writers have been translated into Russian, and some authors incorporate elements of two or more languages into their works, reflecting the bilingual culture of the region. Contemporary Uzbek performers often use Russian words and phrases in their songs, especially in youth pop and rap. For example, the lyrics feature Russian-Uzbek fusions: «Ты моя любовь, lekin yuragim og‘riyapti.»

Code-switching is often used to convey emotional states and enhance the expressiveness of speech. This process occurs for several reasons:

Conveying subtle nuances of emotion: Some feelings and states are easier to express in one language than another. For example, Russian words can be used for logical reasoning, while Uzbek words can be used to express emotions: «Я так устал, jonim!»

Hyperbole and Humor: In informal conversation, people may deliberately switch between languages for comic effect or irony. For example: «Ты же обещал помочь, yer yuttimi seni?»

Message Intensification: In an argument or emotional conversation, code-switching helps emphasize the importance of what is being said. For example: «Бу знак sizga bu yo‘lda hech qanday преимуществу bermaydi!»

Emotional code-switching is especially characteristic of young people, who actively use a mixture of languages on social media, in chats, and in everyday conversations.

The study showed that Russian-Uzbek code-switching is a natural phenomenon influenced by numerous social and cultural factors. It serves communicative, expressive, and identifying functions, ensuring the flexibility and adaptability of speech.

These findings may be useful in the fields of linguistics, pedagogy, and sociology. They will help develop effective methods for teaching Russian and Uzbek, as well as communication strategies in bilingual environments.

Potential areas for further research

Promising areas include:

Studying the impact of digital technologies on the development of Russian-Uzbek code-switching.

Analysis of the linguistic behavior of migrants in Russian-speaking countries.

Research on the psycholinguistic aspects of bilingualism.

Thus, Russian-Uzbek code-switching remains a relevant and multifaceted phenomenon that requires further study in the context of dynamic linguistic development.

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