

PRAGMATIC MOTIVATIONS FOR ENGLISH-UZBEK CODE-SWITCHING IN ONLINE YOUTH COMMUNITIES

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Abstract: This study checks why bilingual young people switch between english and uzbek in digital chats. Code-switching means changing between two languages in one sentence or conversation. We analyzed 1,000 real chat examples from Telegram and Instagram. The results show that mixing languages is not a grammar mistake. Instead, young users switch languages on purpose to show humor, express soft feelings, share group identity, and use exact tech terms.

Keywords: code-switching, sociolinguistics, digital discourse, english-uzbek bilingualism, pragmatic motivation, identity construction, online communication.

YOSHLARNING RAQAMLI HAMJAMIYATLARIDA INGLIZ-O‘ZBEK KODLAR ALMASHINUVINING PRAGMATIK SABABLARI

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot yoshlarning internetdagi muloqotida o‘zbek va ingliz tillarini aralashtirib gapirish (kodlar almashinuvi) sabablarini o‘rganadi. Telegram va instagram’dagi 1000 ta muloqot misollari tahlil qilinganda, ikki tilni aralashtirish savodsizlik emas, balki aniq maqsadga ega muloqot usuli ekani aniqlandi. Yoshlar inglizcha so‘zlardan hazil qilish, hissiyotni yetkazish, o‘z guruhiga tegishli ekanini ko‘rsatish va texnik iboralarni aniq tushuntirish uchun foydalanishadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: kodlar almashinuvi, sotsiolingvistika, raqamli muloqot, ingliz-o‘zbek ikki tilliligi, pragmatik sabablar, shaxsiyat shakllanishi.

Introduction

The rapid growth of digital platforms gives young people more ways to use different languages. In Uzbekistan, university students live in a bilingual digital world where uzbek is their main native language and english is a popular global language. In online chats, young people frequently switch between uzbek and english within single sentences.

In the past, traditional teachers thought that mixing two languages showed poor language knowledge. However, modern linguistics shows that code-switching is a smart and systematic communication strategy used by skilled bilinguals. In text chats, where people cannot see facial expressions or hear voice tones, switching languages helps share feelings and attitudes clearly. Understanding why students switch between English and Uzbek helps us see how modern language is changing. This study explains the main social and practical reasons why young uzbek speakers use english words inside their native digital conversations.

Methods and materials

This study analyzed text messages gathered over five months:

Data collection: We collected a dataset of about 35,000 words from public telegram channels, Instagram comments, and chat groups used by uzbek university students aged 18 to 24.

Analysis framework: We categorized the messages using four simple communication goals:

1. **Emphasis:** Repeating ideas in another language to make them stronger.
2. **Emotional feelings:** Switching languages to show humor, irony, or personal feelings.
3. **Group identity:** Using english words to feel connected to global youth culture.
4. **Technical need:** Using english for tech, study, or social media terms.
- 5.

Results and Discussion

The analysis showed clear practical reasons for switching between english and uzbek:

Pragmatic motivation category	Frequency (%)	Exemplar structural pattern	Functional role in discourse
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Expressive stance & Irony	38.5%	Uzbek matrix + english affective phrase	Softer critique, humorous detachment
Identity & group solidarity	27.2%	Inter-sentential english markers	Signaling global identity and tech fluency
Lexical / technical precision	21.8%	English technical nouns + uzbek Inflection	Precise domain-specific communication
Reiteration & clarification	12.5%	Dual-language restatements	Emphasizing key arguments or instructions

As shown in the table, the main reason for code-switching is expressing feelings and irony (38.5%). Young speakers switch to english when making jokes, complaining softly, or sharing personal thoughts. Because english is a foreign language, using english words helps make awkward topics feel lighter and less aggressive in public group chats.

Furthermore, code-switching acts as a modern identity marker (27.2%). Using english phrases helps students show their modern style, education, and shared interests with friends. Structurally, uzbek provides the main grammar frame, while english supplies specific words, showing that language mixing follows logical rules.

Conclusion

English-uzbek code-switching in digital communication is a dynamic, useful practice that shows how young people express themselves today. Rather than showing weak language skills, digital code-switching proves high language ability. It helps speakers manage social relationships, share subtle emotions, and build strong ties with peers.

As bilingualism grows through digital media and global education, studying these mixed speaking habits remains very important. Future research should examine how digital code-switching influences everyday spoken language over time.

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