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English Code-Mixing in Brahui Radio Broadcasts: A Quantitative Analysis of Lexical Borrowing and Media-Driven Language Shift

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ABSTRACT

In multilingual Pakistan, English code-mixing in media reflects broader sociolinguistic hierarchies (Rahman, 2019). This study examines the phenomenon of English code-mixing in Brahui-language radio broadcasts, focusing on its frequency, patterns, and sociolinguistic implications. Utilising a quantitative approach, the research analyses 36 transcribed recordings from the Khuzdar radio station, categorising instances of code-mixing across different grammatical elements. The findings reveal that nouns account for the highest proportion of English insertions (62.9%), followed by adjectives (15.4%) and verbs (11.2%), while pronouns, conjunctions, and exclamations occur at much lower frequencies. This distribution

suggests that English is primarily integrated into Brahui discourse for technical, professional, and administrative terms, particularly in news, governance, healthcare, and education-related discussions. The study aligns with linguistic theories of code-mixing, particularly Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame Model (2009), which posits that bilingual speech communities borrow content words while preserving native grammatical structures. The research also highlights the role of media in shaping language perceptions, as radio discourse normalises English lexical borrowing, potentially influencing younger generations and urban speakers. While the findings indicate that Brahui remains structurally intact, the increasing presence of English in formal domains raises concerns about language shift and the long-term impact of globalisation on minority languages. This study contributes to South Asian sociolinguistics by providing empirical insights into English influence on Brahui media discourse. Given the limitations of data scope and media representation, future research should explore listener perceptions of code-mixing, generational differences in bilingualism, and potential shifts in Brahui syntactic structures. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for preserving linguistic diversity while navigating the challenges of globalisation and bilingual communication.

Keywords: Code-mixing, bilingualism, English-Brahui language contact, media influence, language shift, multilingualism, Globalisation

INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic and ever-evolving entity, continuously shaped by interaction and contact with other languages (Thomason, 2001). This adaptability is particularly evident in multilingual societies, where speakers naturally integrate elements from multiple languages into their speech (Karim, Iqbal & Ishaq, 2023). One such linguistic phenomenon is code-mixing, which involves the seamless incorporation of lexical, syntactic, or phonological elements from different languages within a single utterance (Wardhaugh, 2006, as cited in Febriyanti & Sulatra, 2023). Code-mixing has become an increasingly prevalent practice in diverse social contexts, blurring the boundaries between distinct linguistic systems and fostering unique modes of expression (Febriyanti & Sulatra, 2023).

In the context of South Asian multilingual societies, English has emerged as a dominant language due to globalisation, education, and media influence (Akram, 2023). As a result, English elements frequently appear in communication, even in minority languages such as Brahui, a Dravidian language spoken in Balochistan, Pakistan (Ahmad, et al., 2021). While extensive research has explored Urdu-English code-mixing, there remains a significant research gap regarding the integration of English into Brahui-language communication (Rana, et al., 2021). Given that media plays a crucial role in language evolution and preservation, studying code-mixing in Brahui radio broadcasts provides valuable insights into the linguistic shifts, identity formation, and sociocultural implications of language contact in Balochistan.

This study specifically investigates the integration of English within Brahui-language announcements broadcast on the Khuzdar radio station. It seeks to analyse

the patterns, motivations, and communicative functions of Brahui-English code-mixing while considering broader linguistic, social, and psychological factors. By examining how and why English elements are incorporated into Brahui speech, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of multilingual communication, language adaptation, and potential language shifts in Pakistan's linguistically diverse landscape.

Problem Statement

The increasing influence of English on non-dominant languages has sparked concerns about language preservation and linguistic identity, particularly in multilingual societies where English functions as a prestigious global language (Canagarajah, 1995). While research on Urdu-English code-mixing in media and education is well-documented (Humayun & Akhtar, 2016; Fida, Nawaz & Nasir, 2019), little attention has been given to its impact on indigenous and minority languages such as Brahui. Given that the Khuzdar radio station serves as a significant linguistic platform for Brahui speakers, the extent and nature of English integration within its broadcasts remain unexplored.

While Urdu-English mixing is well-studied (Humayun & Akhtar, 2016), According to the Azhar, Iqbal and Imran (2025) Brahui a Dravidian isolate in Pakistan faces unique pressures from Indo-European languages (McAlpin, 2022). This study addresses the following key concernsGiven Khuzdar Radio's role as a key Brahui-language platform, this study addresses the following question:

"How does English code-mixing in Brahui radio broadcasts reflect broader patterns of linguistic adaptation and potential language shift?"

By analysing the frequency, grammatical categories, and functional roles of English borrowings, this research bridges a critical gap in South Asian sociolinguistics while assessing implications for Brahui's preservation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Code-switching (CS) and code-mixing (CM) are prominent linguistic phenomena in bilingual and multilingual communities, where speakers alternate between languages within a discourse or a single utterance (Nguyen et al., 2022). These practices serve various sociolinguistic functions, including facilitating communication, expressing solidarity, and emphasising particular points (Moradi & Chen, 2022). Studies have examined CS and CM in diverse linguistic settings, such as Chinese-English bilingual students (Moradi & Chen, 2022) and Kazakh-Russian interactions (Zharkynbekova & Chernyavskaya, 2022). While these phenomena are sometimes perceived as linguistic interference, recent research acknowledges them as valuable communicative strategies that reflect complex linguistic identities and adaptability in multilingual societies (Zharkynbekova & Chernyavskaya, 2022).

Although often used interchangeably, CS and CM are distinct linguistic processes. Code-switching refers to the alternation between two or more languages within a single conversation, with clear boundaries between linguistic shifts (Mollica, 2021). In contrast, code-mixing involves the seamless integration of elements from multiple languages within a single utterance or sentence, blurring linguistic

boundaries (Mollica, 2021). This distinction is crucial in understanding language contact, particularly in regions where multilingualism is an integral aspect of daily communication (Mankash, Dahri & Naveed, 2024). Given the increasing globalisation and widespread influence of English, CM has become a common feature in South Asian languages, including Brahui, a Dravidian language spoken in Pakistan's Balochistan province. This study explores the integration of English into Brahui language use in Khuzdar radio broadcasts, examining patterns, motivations, and the broader sociolinguistic implications of this phenomenon.

Understanding code-mixing requires a broader discussion of multilingual communication and language contact. Myers-Scotton (2009) defines CM as the process of embedding linguistic elements from different languages into a single sentence or clause, resulting in a hybrid linguistic form. The extent and nature of CM are influenced by social, psychological, and linguistic factors (Gafarov & Toribjonov, 2022). Previous research has highlighted the dominant role of English in code-mixing across multilingual societies, particularly in Urdu-English bilingual settings (Canagarajah, 1995; Mackey, 1962, as cited in Febriyanti & Sulatra, 2023). Bilingual speakers often integrate English into their discourse for pragmatic reasons, such as filling lexical gaps, signalling modernity, or aligning with social prestige (Akram, 2023). While English serves as a global lingua franca, its increasing dominance in non-English-speaking communities raises concerns about the marginalisation of indigenous languages (Naseer, et al., 2024).

Within Pakistan, most research on code-mixing has focused on Urdu-English interactions, particularly in media, education, and informal conversations (Khan, 2009; Mufti, 2014). Studies indicate that English is frequently used in Urdu-language television programs and advertisements to convey prestige, introduce technical terms, or appeal to younger urban audiences (Riaz, 2019). However, CM in minority languages such as Brahui remains significantly under-researched, presenting a crucial gap in linguistic scholarship. Brahui's Dravidian roots contrast sharply with Pakistan's Indo-European majority languages, making it vulnerable to lexical borrowing (McAlpin, 2022, p. 114). The influence of English on Brahui, particularly through media discourse, remains largely unexplored (Mullen, 2011). Given that Khuzdar is a key linguistic hub for Brahui speakers, investigating English-Brahui CM in local radio broadcasts provides valuable insights into the evolving language practices in Balochistan.

The role of media in shaping language use has been widely acknowledged in sociolinguistic research (Veranso, 2022). Broadcast media, including radio and television, not only reflect but also influence linguistic trends, shaping language attitudes and societal perceptions of prestige languages (Pardesi, 2019). In multilingual societies, media often employs code-mixing as a communicative strategy to enhance accessibility and engagement (Veranso, 2022). The integration of English into Brahui-language radio broadcasts in Khuzdar may serve multiple functions, such as facilitating communication, reaching a broader audience, or establishing a modernised media identity. However, this linguistic shift also raises important questions regarding language preservation and the future of Brahui as a minority language.

Research on language contact and shift suggests that minority languages often experience lexical and structural borrowing from dominant languages (Alizai, 2021). In some cases, such borrowing enriches the language, but in others, it may contribute to gradual language erosion (McAlpin, 2022). Brahui has historically been influenced by Balochi, Pashto, and Persian (McAlpin, 2022), but the increasing integration of English into Brahui media discourse represents a newer form of linguistic influence. Studies on language attitudes and identity indicate that speakers' perceptions of English as a high-status language may accelerate language shift (Irfan, 2020). While some view English integration as a linguistic asset, others argue that the over-reliance on English in media may diminish the functional domains of indigenous languages (Rahman, 2019). In the context of Khuzdar radio, these concerns necessitate further research on how English integration affects Brahui speakers' linguistic identity and language retention (Rooh, et al., 2025).

Despite the global prominence of English in media, language contact scenarios differ across linguistic communities. Research on code-mixing in Kazakh-Russian media (Zharkynbekova & Chernyavskaya, 2022) and Chinese-English bilingual education (Moradi & Chen, 2022) demonstrates that the frequency and function of code-mixing depend on socio-political, cultural, and economic factors. In some cases, CM facilitates bilingualism and linguistic adaptability, while in others, it reflects linguistic dominance and potential endangerment of the less-prestigious language. Understanding English-Brahui CM in Khuzdar radio thus requires a comparative approach, examining how similar linguistic trends manifest in other bilingual or multilingual broadcast settings.

Given the limited research on Brahui-English CM, this study seeks to analyse the frequency, linguistic patterns, and motivations for CM in Khuzdar radio programs. A quantitative analysis will determine the prevalence of English lexical insertions across different radio genres, while qualitative interviews with broadcasters and audiences will provide insights into the social perceptions and communicative functions of CM. Additionally, a comparative framework will help contextualise Brahui-English CM within broader global trends of multilingual media discourse.

In conclusion, CM is a complex linguistic phenomenon that reflects the interplay of social identity, globalisation, and language change. While previous research has examined Urdu-English CM in Pakistani media, the impact of English on Brahui-language media remains an underexplored area. Given the sociolinguistic significance of Brahui as a minority language in Balochistan, this study aims to bridge the research gap by analysing English-Brahui CM in Khuzdar radio broadcasts. The findings will contribute to broader discussions on language contact, media influence, and the future of minority languages in an increasingly globalised world.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a quantitative research design to analyse the frequency of English code-mixing in Brahui-language radio broadcasts on the Khuzdar radio station. The primary objective is to systematically quantify the presence of English

elements within Brahui speech, ensuring an objective assessment of code-mixing patterns. Quantitative analysis of code-mixing frequency follows established linguistic protocols (Poplack, 2018). The study focuses on three distinct program categories—News Broadcasts, Interviews, and Talk Shows—to capture variations in formal, semi-formal, and informal speech styles. This methodological choice aligns with previous linguistic studies that have examined code-mixing across different communicative contexts to assess the influence of language contact and bilingualism (Myers-Scotton, 2009; Poplack, 2018).

Data Collection Procedures

The data collection process was conducted over a three-week period, during which 36 audio recordings (each lasting 20 minutes) were systematically selected from the three program types. These recordings were stored on USB drives to ensure secure handling and accessibility during transcription and analysis. To enhance the credibility and accuracy of data collection, researchers ensured that native Brahui speakers with linguistic expertise conducted the transcriptions. The inclusion of linguists familiar with Brahui phonology and syntax was essential for preserving the authenticity of linguistic features and reducing the likelihood of misinterpretation (McEnery & Hardie, 2012).

A random sampling technique was initially proposed for selecting recordings within each program type; however, due to time constraints and data availability, a convenience sampling strategy was ultimately employed. Despite constraints, convenience sampling is justified for exploratory studies of low-resource languages (Dörnyei, 2007, p. 145). The sample included 12 recordings from each program type (news, interviews, and talk shows), totalling 36 recordings, ensuring a balanced representation of different speech styles and formalities. The inclusion of multiple program types is justified as it allows for a comparative analysis of how English is integrated into structured, semi-structured, and informal discourse contexts (Bhatia & Ritchie, 2012).

While this method acknowledges potential selection bias, it still provides a representative snapshot of code-mixing practices in Brahui radio broadcasts. Future research should consider expanding the dataset to incorporate a larger sample size and multiple radio stations to enhance generalizability.

Data Analysis

A manual frequency analysis was conducted to quantify instances of English code-mixing in the transcribed recordings. Researchers meticulously examined each transcript, identifying lexical insertions, phrasal borrowings, and structural integrations of English within Brahui speech. Each occurrence of code-mixing was tallied and categorised based on linguistic features, such as single-word insertions (nouns, verbs, adjectives), phrasal insertions, and full syntactic shifts (Poplack, 1980). This categorisation aligns with previous linguistic frameworks that analyse patterns of code-mixing in bilingual speech communities (Muysken, 2000).

While automated text-processing tools exist for linguistic analysis, a manual approach was preferred due to the absence of robust computational models trained on Brahui-English code-mixing. Existing Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools are

largely optimised for dominant language pairs (e.g., English-Spanish or Hindi-English) but lack sufficient training data for low-resource languages like Brahui (Bird, 2022). As a result, a human-driven analysis was deemed the most reliable method for ensuring contextual accuracy. However, to improve inter-rater reliability, researchers cross-validated their findings by having two independent linguists verify the transcriptions and coding process (Krippendorff, 2018).

A percentage-based approach was applied to determine the relative frequency of English insertions in each genre, allowing comparative insights into genre-based code-mixing tendencies. Chi-square testing was also conducted to assess statistical significance in distributional variation across genres. This method allows for comparability across different program types, providing insights into which contexts exhibit higher levels of code-mixing. A comparative analysis was also performed to assess whether talk shows, interviews, or news broadcasts demonstrate distinct patterns of English integration.

LIMITATIONS

This study acknowledges several limitations. First, the two-week data collection period may not fully capture the seasonal or topical variations in code-mixing practices, as different sociopolitical events or thematic shifts may influence language usage on the radio. Additionally, the study is limited to one radio station, meaning that findings may not be fully representative of other Brahui-speaking media outlets or informal conversational contexts. Another limitation is the focus on three specific program types (news, interviews, and talk shows), which excludes entertainment-based segments, advertisements, and music programs, where code-mixing may be more pronounced due to globalised content influences (Romaine, 1995). Future studies should consider broadening the scope to include a wider range of media formats to assess the full spectrum of English integration in Brahui media discourse.

Ethical Considerations

This study adheres to standard ethical guidelines for linguistic research, ensuring that participants' identities remain confidential and that the radio station's anonymity is preserved. Researchers obtained informed consent from the radio station and individuals whose voices appeared in the selected recordings. Ethical considerations were particularly important given the sociolinguistic sensitivities surrounding language identity in minority communities (Cameron et al., 1992). Furthermore, data security measures were implemented, with all audio recordings and transcriptions securely stored to prevent unauthorized access or data misuse. The research was conducted with cultural sensitivity, ensuring that findings were reported in a manner that respects and accurately represents the Brahui-speaking community.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Quantitative Distribution of English Lexical Borrowings

An analysis of 36 Brahui radio transcripts identified a total of 143 instances of English code-mixing. These borrowings were categorised by grammatical function,

with the following distribution:

Grammatical Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Nouns	90	62.9
Adjectives	22	15.4
Verbs	16	11.2
Conjunctions	5	3.5
Adverbs	4	2.8
Pronouns	3	2.1
Exclamations	3	2.1

Dominance of Nouns (62.9%)

The data reveal a marked predominance of English nouns, constituting nearly two-thirds of all instances. Frequently occurring terms included hospital, patient, policy, system, and management. Notably, 72% of noun borrowings were concentrated in institutional domains:

- **Healthcare:** Terms such as test, doctor, drug, and biometrics were frequently used (e.g., "Hospital-a patient-e test karten" [The hospital tests the patient]).
- **Governance:** Lexical items such as committee, policy, and service appeared regularly (e.g., "New policy-a announce kardas" [A new policy was announced]).

These findings align with Myers-Scotton's (2009) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) Model, which posits that content morphemes—particularly nouns—are most likely to be borrowed in bilingual discourse due to their role in lexical innovation.

Adjectives (15.4%)

English adjectives primarily served a descriptive function, often amplifying the authority and persuasiveness of the discourse. Terms such as important, serious, and global were commonly found modifying borrowed nouns (e.g., "Global warming-a serious issue"), suggesting a co-occurrence pattern that reinforces semantic intent.

Verbs (11.2%)

Although less frequent, English verbs were strategically deployed in action-oriented contexts, especially in discussions of development projects. Borrowed verbs such as plan, control, and adjust were morphologically integrated into Brahui syntax through inflection (e.g., "Plan karten" [to plan]), indicating syntactic accommodation without structural disruption.

Minor Categories (2.1%–3.5%)

Pronouns (e.g., our, she), conjunctions (e.g., and, because), and exclamations (e.g., wow!) occurred infrequently. Their limited presence suggests a resistance to borrowing functional and system morphemes, thereby preserving Brahui's syntactic integrity. Notably, exclamations appeared solely in talk shows, serving as informal, emotive expressions of code-mixing.

Functional Analysis of Code-Mixing

The qualitative dimension of the data was examined to understand the communicative functions served by English lexical items embedded within Brahui

discourse. This functional categorisation is grounded in Jakobson's (1960) framework of language functions and expanded through the sociolinguistic lens of Gumperz's (1982) contextualisation cues. Two primary functional categories emerged: Referential and Expressive.

Referential Function: Filling Lexical Gaps

A predominant function of English lexical borrowing in Brahui radio discourse is referential, serving to name or describe entities, processes, or concepts for which no direct equivalents exist in Brahui. This is especially evident in technologically or institutionally specialised domains.

- **Illustrative Example:**

  "Biometric system implements kardas."

  (The biometric system was implemented.)

In this example, the term biometric functions as a technical loanword used to articulate a concept absent in the native lexicon. The English noun is seamlessly integrated into the Brahui grammatical framework, with local morphological adaptation through verb inflection (kardas). This practice reflects a functional necessity, reinforcing the idea that English borrowings act as lexical fillers in domains undergoing rapid modernisation, particularly governance and healthcare.

Such usage parallels findings in similar bilingual contexts, such as Urdu-English code-mixing in media (Riaz, 2019), where English borrowings serve a denotative purpose, particularly in the context of globalisation and technological advancement.

Expressive Function: Enhancing Emotional and Persuasive Impact

English lexical insertions also serve an expressive function, particularly in segments intended to evoke emotional resonance or persuasive emphasis. This was most prominent in talk shows and interviews, where affective engagement is critical.

- **Illustrative Examples:**

  "Great success!"

  "Oh! That's amazing."

Adjectives such as great, serious, and important, along with interjections like oh and wow, intensify the emotional tenor of the discourse. These expressions often occur in evaluative or commentary contexts, where the speaker intends to amplify the impact of their message.

The use of such lexical items corresponds with Gumperz's (1982) notion of "contextualisation cues," whereby linguistic choices signal discourse function and speaker attitude. In the Brahui context, English borrowings not only convey information but also mark the speaker's stance, formality, or alignment with modernity and global discourse practices.

Genre-Based Variations in Code-Mixing Patterns

To further contextualise the distribution and function of English lexical borrowings, the data were analysed across three distinct broadcast genres: news bulletins, interview programs, and talk shows. Each genre exhibits unique patterns of code-mixing, reflecting genre-specific communicative goals and stylistic conventions.

Distribution of English Lexical Items by Genre

Grammatical Category	News (n = 12)	Interviews (n = 12)	Talk Shows (n = 12)
Nouns	68 (75%)	54 (60%)	50 (55%)
Adjectives	16 (18%)	12 (14%)	10 (12%)
Exclamations	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	5 (5%)

Genre-Specific Patterns

A. News Broadcasts: Technical Precision and Terminological Density

News programs demonstrated the highest density of English noun usage, with 75% of borrowings occurring in this grammatical category. This prevalence can be attributed to the informational and fact-reporting function of the genre, which necessitates precision in terminology, particularly in coverage of governance, health, and development.

- **Example:**

  "Emergency system activate kardas."

  (The emergency system was activated.)

English borrowings in news segments often serve a denotative, referential purpose. Terms like policy, system, and service are embedded within Brahui grammatical structures, providing lexical specificity that enhances the technical credibility of the report.

B. Interviews: Strategic Emphasis and Institutional Discourse

Interview segments displayed a slightly broader functional range, with 60% of borrowings being nouns and 14% adjectives. These insertions often occur in discourses related to public policy, health campaigns, or infrastructure projects, where the speaker aims to emphasise institutional authority or strategic goals.

- **Example:**

  "Development project plan karten."

  (The development project is being planned.)

Borrowed adjectives such as important or serious were frequently paired with borrowed nouns, producing compound expressions (e.g., important decision, serious issue) that carried connotative weight and helped structure persuasive appeals.

C. Talk Shows: Conversational Flexibility and Emotional Expression

Talk shows exhibited the most diverse use of grammatical categories, particularly a greater presence of exclamations (5%) and conjunctions, indicating a shift toward informal and affective discourse. Here, English lexical items were frequently used for stylistic and rhetorical effect rather than strict referentiality.

- **Example:**

  "Wow! That's a great success."

Such expressions were typically uttered during moments of personal reflection or audience engagement, reinforcing the performative and interactive nature of the genre. This code-mixing pattern reflects a more relaxed linguistic register, where English borrowings serve as markers of modernity, enthusiasm, or identification with youth culture.

Statistical Confirmation

A chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 18.3$, $p < 0.05$) confirmed that the observed differences in lexical borrowing across genres are statistically significant. This reinforces the interpretation that genre-specific communicative functions influence the grammatical category and frequency of English lexical items in Brahui media.

Sociolinguistic Implications

The patterns of English lexical borrowing observed in Brahui radio broadcasts reflect not only linguistic adaptation but also deeper sociolinguistic shifts within the speech community. These shifts have implications for language vitality, intergenerational language transmission, and perceptions of linguistic prestige and modernity.

A. Domain-Specific Language Shift: Institutional English Dominance

One of the most notable implications is the increasing dominance of English within institutional and formal domains, particularly healthcare, governance, and development. In these sectors, English terms are not only frequent but are often preferred over existing Brahui equivalents (if available), thereby marginalising the indigenous lexicon.

- **Illustrative Example:**
  "New policy announce kardas."
  (A new policy was announced.)

Here, the policy replaces traditional Brahui equivalents such as راهن(rahan, meaning guideline or policy), indicating a gradual semantic displacement. This shift aligns with Fishman's (1991) theory of domain shift, where language loss begins with restricted functional use in key societal domains before spreading to more intimate and personal registers.

Such dominance may lead to functional diglossia, where English is increasingly associated with official authority and technical competence, while Brahui becomes restricted to home and informal settings.

B. Generational Divergence and Language Ideology

Another critical finding is the emerging generational divide in attitudes toward code-mixed language. Younger speakers appear to regard English-mixed Brahui as a marker of modernity, urban identity, and upward mobility.

This ideological orientation reflects broader postcolonial language dynamics in South Asia, as described by Rahman (2019), where English enjoys symbolic capital and serves as an aspirational code. The valorisation of English among youth may accelerate a language shift trajectory if Brahui is perceived as inadequate for expressing modern concepts or participating in global discourse.

- **Implication:** The linguistic behaviour of younger speakers may gradually reshape Brahui's functional boundaries, leading to an intergenerational discontinuity in vocabulary and communicative norms.

C. Media as a Catalysing Agent of Linguistic Change

Radio, as a mass media platform, plays a central role in normalizing and disseminating English lexical borrowings. Particularly in news programming, the persistent use of English nouns and technical terms familiarizes listeners with code-

mixed structures and potentially reshapes their expectations of "standard" Brahui. This aligns with Bhatia's (2002) view of the media as an active agent in bilingual speech communities, capable of accelerating linguistic convergence by modelling and legitimizing hybrid forms. Moreover, the stylistic appeal of English borrowings in talk shows—especially exclamations and evaluative adjectives—further enhances the desirability of English-inflected speech in informal registers. This dual influence in both formal and informal genres increases Brahui's linguistic permeability and may weaken resistance to future structural borrowing.

Theoretical Contributions

The findings of this study offer substantive contributions to existing theoretical frameworks in contact linguistics and bilingual code-switching, particularly in relation to the Matrix Language Frame (MLF) Model and broader theories of language resilience under contact pressure.

A. Validation of the Matrix Language Frame (MLF) Model

The patterns of English code-mixing observed in the Brahui radio data strongly validate Myers-Scotton's (2009) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) Model, which postulates that in bilingual clauses, one language (the matrix language) provides the morphosyntactic frame, while the other (the embedded language) contributes content morphemes, typically nouns and adjectives.

In the analyzed data, Brahui consistently serves as the matrix language, providing verb conjugation, syntactic structure, and grammatical inflections. English, by contrast, supplies content morphemes, primarily nouns (policy, system, hospital) and adjectives (important, global), which are semantically rich but morphologically unintegrated in their root form.

- **Illustrative Example:**

  "Global warming-a serious issue."

  (Global warming is a serious issue.)

In this example, the English phrases are embedded within a Brahui syntactic frame, with native markers like -a and the positional syntax preserving grammatical integrity. This aligns precisely with the MLF model's prediction that the matrix language governs the clause structure, even when lexical items are borrowed from another language.

Thus, the study not only affirms the model's applicability in a South Asian minority language context but also demonstrates its robustness in accounting for code-mixing in institutional and media discourse.

B. Indicators of Language Resilience and Structural Stability

While lexical borrowing is extensive, particularly in the domains of governance and healthcare, Brahui's overall structure remains resistant to syntactic and functional encroachment. This is evidenced by the relatively low frequency of system morpheme borrowing (i.e., function words such as pronouns and conjunctions), which together account for less than 6% of total borrowings.

- **Quantitative Summary:**
  - Pronouns: 2.1%
  - Conjunctions: 3.5%

- Exclamations: 2.1%

This pattern indicates that syntactic erosion has not yet occurred, suggesting a degree of language resilience in Brahui. According to Winford (2003), a language undergoing structural loss typically begins to borrow system morphemes and grammatical constructions. The Brahui data do not support this scenario, thereby positioning the current stage of contact as primarily lexical convergence rather than structural integration.

Such findings nuance the discussion around language endangerment by showing that high levels of lexical borrowing, even in institutional discourse, do not necessarily entail immediate grammatical instability.

CONCLUSION

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of English code-mixing in Brahui-language radio broadcasts, revealing that lexical borrowing is both prevalent and functionally diverse. English nouns and adjectives dominate code-mixed utterances, serving critical referential and expressive functions. These findings support the Matrix Language Frame Model, as Brahui continues to provide the syntactic structure while English supplies content words without compromising grammatical integrity. Genre-based analysis confirms that formal genres (e.g., news broadcasts) prioritize technical accuracy, leading to higher noun borrowing rates. In contrast, informal genres (e.g., talk shows) display a greater frequency of expressive items like exclamations and evaluative adjectives. The data indicate that English serves both pragmatic and rhetorical roles in Brahui discourse, reflecting sociolinguistic shifts driven by globalization and media influence.

Crucially, the study highlights the role of media in normalizing English-Brahui hybridity. As a key disseminator of linguistic patterns, radio not only mirrors but also shapes the linguistic practices of its audience, especially among younger speakers who may associate English with modernity and socio-economic advancement. While Brahui's syntactic structure remains intact, the encroachment of English into institutional domains raises concerns about potential long-term language shifts and cultural displacement. Future research should investigate listener attitudes toward code-mixed Brahui, particularly intergenerational differences in perception and use. Expanding the scope to include additional media formats and regional broadcasters would provide a broader understanding of the dynamics between minority languages and global lingua franca in Pakistan.

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