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CODE-SWITCHING AS A MARKER OF BILINGUALISM

The article deals with phenomenon of code-switching that displays the bilingual utterances in the language of Ukrainian diaspora. Having analyzed the mass-media texts and colloquial materials the author makes a conclusion about a binary, social and psycholinguistic, approach toward this issue.

Nowadays bilingualism is one of the major characteristics of daily communication due to culture and language mixing. Code-switching as one of the effects of the bilingualism, which stands apart from borrowings, language interference and calquing. The main peculiarity of this phenomenon is its revealing not only in one particular language level but in individual communicative acts.

Uriel Weinreich defines code-switching as an occurrence of using two languages in completely different situations but not in the frames of one communicative act by fluent bilingual speakers. The scholar notes that the speakers, which were addressed with two languages from early childhood randomly, tend to code-switch more often [2].

For bilinguals an opportunity to code-switch is important for two main reasons: firstly, a chance to use the resources of the second language when the competence of the first one is not enough and, secondly, if the person switches the code depending on situation he or she identifies him- or herself as a part of a certain social group. This is how the social side of code-switching is disclosed.

Li Wei classifies types of code-switching according to their reference to the syntactic structure of the communicative act. There are three key types marked out: tag-switching, inter-sentential and intra-sentential. The classification is based on the patterns, which are used in a different language. Tag-switching means using only a particular phrase in the second language, while inter-sentential code switching is mainly occurring among the sentence clauses. Intra-sentential switching is characterized by changing language, accent or dialect within one clause [3].

We have conducted a research basing on the spoken and written materials of Ukrainian diaspora in the USA and Canada and have found out that this effect of bilingualism really takes place in both types of communication: written and oral. We have taken into account the statement of linguist B.M. Azhnyuk about dependence of language choice on the inner communication (speaker's thoughts, memories etc.) [3]. Tag-switching is mainly used for proper nouns, names of streets, geographical names and so on. The situational code-switching can be found in utterances marked by inter-sentential type. Intra-sentential code switching typically demonstrates the insufficient language competence of the speaker.

LITERATURE

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