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Code-Switching in Language

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Abstract:

Why do people code-switch between languages?

There are many multi-lingual people, they sometimes, code-switch consciously or unconsciously; which is the practice of alternating between two or more languages or varieties of languages in conversation. In addition to that, sometimes teachers try to code switch in classroom environments especially when the students are foreign to the language they study in order to give more detail or explanation regarding the lesson. Some other people try code-switching to when there is a certain topic, or they do it in business or trading since they can make the customer to have interest in them to give them a higher tip or a better deal. Through all these factors and many others which they are in the discussion part of this research, some people believe that there are some good points in code-switching by people; simultaneously some others believe that code-switching harms people's knowledge of both languages and especially the second language as in the case of classroom teaching by a teacher. One more situation of occurring is when the person counts or prays; they mostly switch to their native language which is interesting. What is interesting more than a phenomenon like code-switching that people as language speakers do, probably, without noticing it. People acquire and learn languages too, but more than that; while speaking or using those languages, they switch between them.

This research explores for the reasons and factors of code-switching in bilingual or multi-lingual environments. Since in America there are many international people, and also immigrants keep coming into the United States; this habit of code-switching happens almost in every day's peoples' lives that are bilingual or multilingual in the United States. This research explains most of those reasons that oblige a person to do code-switch or those that are spontaneously without any conscious; at the same time focuses on the benefits or side-effects of code-switching in different areas or domains which happens like teacher's code-switching in schools especially in ESL or EFL schools or institutions. For having a better view of the research as a sociolinguistics or linguistic research, this research depends on some data that was gained from interviews and previous researches in both fields to compare the results and findings.

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The study of code-switching is interesting because it happens in different times in specific contexts for specific topics. Kurdish mother language speakers in the United States often, code-switch into English or may be into Arabic when they speak with Kurdish friends in English or Arabic or vice versa. This research is applicable to anyone who are in the United States like, Kurdish, Arab, Persian, Spanish, Chinese, etc. these people noticeably involve in this phenomena with different factors.

According to the data that was found in this research; there are many crucial factors and reasons that make a person to code-switch, such as: to make it easier to speak their own language and to show that they belong to a specific group, to say something that they do not want to share with the other people around, to show they are bilingual or multi-lingual, to explain the meaning of a word, to express feelings or emotions in the way they want, to solve the problem of lacking vocabulary in the second language.

To examine this type of study accurately and scientifically, there are good enough evidence of showing those factors which make someone to code-switch but still there should be some psychological prove or cognitive experiments of the speaker's mind so as to have solid evidence to talk about the case; otherwise talking about unconscious code-switching would be a hypothesis that would be too difficult to prove.