CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION

5.1 General trends from results

This research was an attempt to understand and define the linguistic tools of codeswitching within the linguistic framework of the bilingual speakers of Odia. The researcher hopes that more of such small-scale works will be undertaken in future to further investigate the nuances associated with this phenomenon. Most of the bilingual speakers across the globe mix codes in their daily conversations nowadays. “The context in which codeswitching happens includes the macro-social organization, and the large-scale, society-wide distribution of resources in relation to the group of speakers which is the focus of analysis.” (Casas, 2008: 256)

Such analysis considers the status power equation at play within the linguistic group under study. These factors can form or destroy the fundamental linguistic behaviours of the group. This research aimed at proving that any analysis of codeswitching sans its related socio-cultural context is futile and incomplete. This study has attempted to show that the participants emphasized that the habitual expression which is related to psychological aspect of behaviour as the most important reason behind codeswitching. In addition to this, lack of register competence is also another contributing factor for codeswitching.

It should also be noted that the socio-political and linguistic situations in India in general and in Odisha in particular are responsible for the patterns of codeswitching among the speakers. The native Odia speaker is under enormous social pressure to maintain his/her
‘Odia speaker’ identity. This is done by the society to maintain its ethnic and linguistic identity. Thus, the native Odia speaker tries to speak in the native tongue irrespective of his/her formal training. A new technique adopted by this group is to insert phrases in Hindi or Odia when the main code of conversation is English.

This study is novel in its approach to understand the underlying syntactic systems that operate in a sample of Odia-English codeswitched speech. A three-level analysis is the first of its kind for this language pair. Apart for the code-specific novelty, the study is remarkable for its analysis of un-simulated Odia-based speech as produced on interviews and talk shows in state-based private channels.

5.2 Future Studies

5.2.1 Effect of English on Odia

Very few studies have been undertaken to understand the effect of codeswitching on Odia language. The present study, thus, can be treated as a beginning point of reference for future undertakings on this subject. There are many areas which have not been taken under consideration in the present study due to lack of scope. Future research works can answer many of such unanswered questions. Some of these questions are:

- How will future generation of native Odia speakers react to codeswitching?
- Will Odia syntax be affected and completely changed as a result of codeswitching?
- What will be the future of English as a code among bilinguals of Odisha?
These questions haven’t been answered in this paper. Romaine (1995) suggested that borrowings in a bilingual community “start off as code switches, and achieve a status of loanwords by recurring over time in the speech of more and more individuals” (p. 124). This has significant inferences for the present study. There are linguistic communities in Odisha who engage in codeswitching automatically. They may represent the beginning point for this trend to continue. This may in future change the entire lexicon or syntax of Odia language. “A factor to consider is the relative prestige of the proposed social networks that engage in codeswitching, since this could also contribute to the subsequent addition of lexical forms” (Myers-Scotton, 1992).

5.2.2 Future of English in Odisha
This research established codeswitching as an inevitable linguistic phenomenon which affects the entire mechanism of any linguistic group. “The possible effects of codeswitching on grammar include single noun insertion, lexical items that result in calques and clauses that pave the way for direct structural borrowing”. (Casas, 2008: 335) Odia remains the language of the people of Odisha. However, almost all the educated people in the state acknowledge the necessity to learn and master English as the second language.

In the process, Hindi as a second linguistic code has started to lose its place. As any other modern society in the post internet era, Odisha too continues to recognize the need to incorporate new linguistic structures into its existing framework. And all signs indicate that codeswitching is set to acquire an even bigger role in the future of the linguistic community. It is here to stay.
5.2.3 Coexistence of English and Odia

Some dilemmas regarding the nature of codeswitching continue to elude answer. Can Odia and English exist in this era of globalisation? Can they share, accept and integrate as linguistic tools? The present study has only hinted the answers. More detailed works are needed to answer these questions in detail. But Anglicization of Odia code seems to be inevitable in coming years. Thus codeswitching is expected to enrich Odia with variety in words instead of the pollution feared in terms of linguistic purity.

The findings of this research should be treated as tentative and introductory in nature. The significant patterns discovered among the Odia bilingual speakers should be treated seriously. As per Hakuta (1986), bilingualism at the level of the individual “presents a packaging puzzle, as it were, in which two language-bounded mental and social systems must be housed in a single mind [in a] delicate pattern of coexistence, cooperation, and competition”.

As this study discusses the linguistic behavioural patterns of bilinguals, the findings of the study are significant for future research work. Future data based works on this linguistic phenomenon will aid in clarifying the striking linguistic dynamics of Odia society. This will also help in identifying the changing linguistic identity of the speakers. Tabouret-Keller (1997) pointed out that the dynamics of ever-changing language takes place in non-homogenous “mainland, isles, and islets of relatively permanent usage based on a given linguistic stock, also only relatively permanent”. (p. 316)

All the participants in this research acknowledged the practice of codeswitching as a normal automatic discourse. Many of them even hinted at accepting English as the new
medium of communication in future. Hence, it may not be wrong to say that the puritans are right, to some extent at least, in their fear for the existence of Odia language. However, instead of being completely extinct Odia, as indicated by this study, will most likely metamorphose into a new Anglicized code.

Such bilingual speakers, by virtue of their command over the various linguistic codes, will facilitate the creation and transformation of linguistic identities. This research tried to highlight the different social checks (historical, cultural, ideological, and economic) that pervade in socio-cultural linguistic exchanges.

5.2.4 The Speakers of a new code

The participants proved how they construct and re-construct new sets of identities by means of codeswitching. The various speech patterns found during the research work demonstrate identities pertaining to the different types of linguistic worlds that now try to co-exist in their. Their bilingual speech style displays identities that respond to the reality of the two linguistic worlds that coexist within a single framework.

Codeswitching facilitates the creation of multiple identities, with two or more languages and between two or more worlds. “Codeswitching may be viewed as an extension to language for bilingual speakers rather than interference and from other perspectives it may be viewed as interference, depending on the situation and context in which it occurs.” (Muthuswamy, 2010: 16)

“This conclusion is drawn from the notions that switching occurs when a speaker: needs to compensate for some difficulty, express solidarity, convey an attitude or show social respect” (Crystal, 1987; Berthold, Mangubhai and Bartorowicz, 1997). “The switching
also occurs within postulated universal constraints such that it may be integrated into
conversations in a particular manner” (Poplack, 1980; Cook, 1991).

“On this basis, given that it occurs within a particular pattern, potential for codeswitching
to interfere into a language exists. It has also been outlined above that codeswitching may
facilitate language development as a mechanism for providing language samples and may
also be utilised as a teaching method for teaching second languages” (Cook, 1989; 1991).
Hence, codeswitching must be treated as a powerful linguistic tool that creates and
recreates new forms of mixed language.

5.3 Limitation of Study

The main limitation of this study is that it cannot discuss in detail the nuances of various
allied streams of linguistics. It cannot delve into the process of studying the phonological,
morphological and psycholinguistic impact of codeswitching in Odia. Separate
investigations will be necessary to see the by-products of Odia-English codeswitching
arising from reasons rooted in other humanities subjects like anthropology, political
science, history and economics.

This study was delimited to explore and analyse the significance of different functions of
codeswitching related to Odia discourse. It did not factor in the effect of other languages
that are prominently observed, used and incorporated along with English. Languages
such as Hindi, Bengali and other regional and tribal dialects from different parts of
Odisha do feature in the mixed language samples. However, a comprehensive and
inclusive study would be too vast to cover in a single scholar’s work.
5.4 Scope for Future Research

Future researches can benefit from this study in two ways. They can use the present patterns of codeswitching in predicting switch points and possible & impossible switches in various language contact situations. In a fast-changing demography and emerging hybrid economies that involve various linguistic workgroups, mixed code for easier communication shall be the objective of various language experts. The present study can help with authorities in Eastern languages to evolve a new code combining the systems of English with other Indo-Aryan languages.

The second utility for such a study is its application in present day advertising industry which has come to depend on mixed language to generate the interest of the bilingual audience and viewers. The applied linguistics lateral that caters to the educational institutions may find this useful in solving second language classroom issues where the learners are not comfortable with English due to extended dependence on Odia or similar languages or any other code.

Future researches can branch out using the leads in this work by dealing further with codeswitching in other forms of Odia-English communication. These may include codeswitching in print media or publishing, radio, film and music industries. It may also deal with codeswitching in written communication over various media like Mobiles, Internet, Post and other electronic channels. Research can be launched into the areas of advertising, pedagogy, correspondence, business management and international relations.