Chapter Five

Conclusion

Communication is one of the most important aspects of human beings, which is accomplished by a particular language. Language is a medium of expression of human emotions and feeling. Language helps the human beings to earn their livelihood. Language makes ‘Homo sapiens’ human beings and language is one of the reasons why human beings are known as social animals. Language is such an important aspect that human beings, to overcome natural disability like dumbness, have invented substitute language codes like Braille to communicate.

Language is not a gift given to the human beings by any supernatural power or has not been gifted to us in the form of a book or dictionary by God. The question arises as to when, how, where and, why did language come into existence. Many researchers have come to conclusion that due to absence of direct or indirect evidences the topic is not worth any research. Furthermore, the theory of Continuity\(^1\) and the theory of Discontinuity\(^2\) do not have much to which we can substantiate our belief. But our normal human curiosity would certainly believe the imagination that human beings would have felt a want to what we now understand as, to communicate. The reason would have been hunger, thirst, hunting, lessons of hunting, storytelling, etc.
The speculated theories of origin of language is ‘The Bow-Wow Theory’, ‘The Ding Dong Theory’, ‘The La-La theory’, ‘The Pooh-Pooh Theory’, ‘The Yo-He-Ho Theory’ and many more, which are yet not substantiated with evidences. Every other theory is just a hypothesis and every other theory has something missing for it to be complete and convincing.

No matter which ever theory proves to be more instrumental in showing the pathway to the origin of language and its further development, one theory which all the scientist and researchers believe is that language and words would have originated or developed on continuous trial and error basis and that it would have evolved to the stage from when we can have evidences of language, through only one phenomenon and that is dynamism.

Almost all classical languages of the world have either changed or have perished in this modern world of communication. The languages, which have broadened its scope, have sustained the waves of globalization and modernization. Here, when we talk about language, we mean the society and the culture as well. A language is a representation of the society’s ethnicity and the group is well recognized by the linguistic traits.

This ultra important phenomenon called language is a living phenomenon. A language, which does not grow or does not change as per the change in the culture and living habits of the people by whom the language is used, will die.
This continuous process of the language being alive is known as dynamism. The dynamism in the language makes it fit to be used by the language users. This dynamism is affected through multi-dimensional factors. Advent of technology, advent of new means of communication patterns, advent of new philosophies in financial world, Mass communication, L1 pull pronunciation pattern, etc.

Language creates ethnicity and it gives the user her/his esteemed identity. Ethnicity is precious and so is the language. One will be proud of using one’s own language. Several societies around the globe fight to keep their language safe and there are movements and campaigns witnessed to save a language or to stop it from being polluted.

The very fight, movement or the campaign is like slow poisoning or keeping the language undernourished. The pollutants of the language, as mentioned by the language guards, actually act as vital elements. The language which shuns such intake will at one point of time become undernourished and not fit enough to sustain the slashes of the modern patterns of communication.

In the past, as English was being accepted as an International Language and as the peoples of the world were facing problem to cope up with it, a language, with a selection of a few words from English comprising approximately four hundred words, was developed. But the trial was
soon declared a failure as it lacked the capacity of varied expressions and was monotonous unlike human psychology.

The point which has to be understood here is that from the beginning of language till now, it has experienced substantial amount of dynamism. Dynamism is the only aspect of a language which is constant.

The thesis here studies the contextual dynamism of the spoken English in the ethnic groups of India with special reference to Gujarat. In Gujarat, Gujarati is the language which to the natives is either mother tongue or native language. In any case Gujarati and its traits are woven in the culture and the speech development. A person born and brought up in Gujarat has two distinct types of educational training. Type one are those who have been trained in the regional language as far as education is concerned. These, type one, people have to use English to sustain the competition of the survival of the fittest. The type two are those who have been trained in English medium as far as education is concerned. These, type two, people have a confusion of language at a very early stage of life. This confusion is resolved with time and the person is comfortable in switching the codes as per the necessity of the situation. Her/his L1 pull is significantly very less and she/he nears the IRP (Indian Received Pronunciation). These persons once again come across a phase when they interact with the type one language users. For some time the person struggles but soon adapts oneself with the type one language users.
She/he understands the words used contextually and also accepts the errors in the writing patterns.

This phenomenon adds up to the contextual dynamism. Dynamism does not mean only errors or wrongful scripting; it actually focuses on how the user manages to incorporate the words in the regional language as well as how the second language changes to fit in the regional language. English keeps on growing by the inclusion of regional language words at the same time there is a change observed in it which is termed as dynamism.

As established that English is not replaced in the three language formula and that English is now an inseparable part of the language of communication, Gujlish has become the lingua franca of the people in Gujarat. Gujlish is the mixture of Gujarati and English language. There are a number of words which are used in English. There are many words, the synonym of the same in the regional language is rarely used or even forgotten or do not exist at all. Such words are replaced by English words because the contextual availability of the English word and its intelligibility is quicker than the word of the regional language.

Apart from the native speakers, as Gujarat is one of the business hubs of India, we see two types of fluxes towards and within the state. The urban development enlarges the periphery of the city towards the villages. Apparently we feel that the people from the villages migrate towards the
city, but if we check microscopically, the reach of the urbanization has increased and the city is expanding towards the rural area encompassing them into it. The villages have become more self-sufficient and the technology of the city have reached the interiors of the village.

Once again the living style of the villagers give the impression that they are not aware of the modern world and the technology, but the villages have the reach to modern means of communication including the DTH (direct to home) connections, the internet facilities and the most powerful of all the cellular mobile phone technology. The villages are converting into districts and cities. The adaptation to modern communication pattern is very well observed in the villages as well. This is to mention the first type of flux observed within Gujarat. To mention the second flux, Gujarat being one of the prominent business hubs in India, people from several parts of the country come and settles here in Gujarat. And Gujarati being an outward type of a community, easily accepts the cosmopolitan culture within it.

The non-native speaker comes with her/his language traits and the one thing common amongst them is the use of English. The non-native Gujarati does not feel secluded and gets easily mingled amongst the Gujaratis because the Gujarati script and the Hindi script is ‘Dev Nagri’. So the Hindi knowing person can easily understand Gujarati and the usage of English words add to the intelligibility of the language. This
conglomeration of three languages gives rise to, one, dynamism in English language, two, Gujlish and three, Hinglish. The thesis limits itself to the first product and that is the dynamism in English language. Further the thesis limits itself to the dynamism observed in and through the Spoken English leading to written form which actually represents the dynamics of English colloquial form only.

The mother tongue, Gujarati, has its pull on the pronunciations of the English words used. The Gujarati language follows a script which is a phonetic script in itself. The user who has been trained in Gujarati medium and if English has been the second language, one of the major confusion occurs while accepting English is that the spellings and the pronunciation does not have consistent points. This makes the user pronounce the word with a strong L1 pull.

There are certain observations about Gujarati language, which are instrumental in its effect to the usage of English. Gujarati language rarely has vowel diphthong glides. The pronunciation pattern observed is that the L1 pull does not allow the user of English as second language to identify the vowel diphthong glides. The first vowel is kept and made prominent.

The pronunciation of the consonant ‘R’ in most of the words in English is frictionless continuant glide (semi-vowel). While the L1 pull allows the user to make it a voiced fricative all the time. The thesis limits its
approach to exemplify only two outstanding traits of Gujarati affecting English pronunciation. A special research can be initiated to find out with a microscopic approach other effects of Gujarati L1 pull on English. These L1 pull brings in dynamism.

One of the major factors affecting the unwanted dynamism in English is the way in which English is introduced to the children in the education system. The most natural pattern of language learning is initiated through listening. It is said that of all the senses of a new born child listening is the best developed. The child enters in this sound, voice and noise generating world with super capabilities of listening. The child feeds the data of sound, voice and noise around it at the first level. Around the age of few months, with the advanced vision, the child now realizes and differentiates the origin of sound, voice and noise and starts comprehending to which object, person or concept it relates to. As the child approaches the age of one to one and a half years and as the child’s muscular system becomes active, it realizes that it can produce sounds too. With this new invention the child keeps on experimenting and in the process starts generating sound similar to certain words which we understand as beginner words. The child reproduces the sound and now it understands that the sound produced by it has a meaning and associates it with a word. This process with a child is done with several hundred words at a time and a fixed pattern of the reproduction of sound now becomes words and sentences and the language which is around
takes birth in it. Thus the process of learning a language in human being is from Language listening to continuous experimenting with sound to language picking.

According to R. N. Sarma as he mentions in ‘Mimamsa Theory of Meaning’ (1988: 8)

“Through a process, one can acquire the knowledge of the sentence meaning. The process is like this each letter, in a sentence is heard after it is uttered, then the letters heard, be it one or many are joined together in the form of a word and then it comes to be understood as a word. After ascertaining the words, one understands through recollection, the corresponding meanings of words.”

This substantiates that language is not picked up by words, it is picked up by the language which one comprehends and then one realizes the existence of words which comprise the language.

R. N. Sarma in ‘Mimamsa Theory of Meaning’ (1988:13) explains clearly the theories of verbal comprehension:

“There are two popular theories of verbal comprehension in Indian Philosophical schools. These two theories are the theory of the correlation of the expressed and the theory of the expression of correlated.... It is meant that a word has no separate existence and it always conveys a complete meaning only in relation with other words. Every word, therefore, expresses its meaning as connected with an action which is denoted by other word, and these cumulative expressions of all the words in a sentence are called continual.”
The child’s learning process can be explained by the following flow chart.

As against this natural process of installing regional language into a child, English as a second language is introduced to children in the education system in a very different pattern. The process is confusing and so are the results. A child either in standard one or standard three is introduced to the English script directly. To add to the confusion the script is not phonetic. The child is then introduced to the relation of twenty six alphabets with only twenty six words which may be or may not be correlated to what the child might have come across till then or would just see it through photographic representation in the book. For example, a child might never have seen a xylophone but the alphabet ‘X’ is correlated with xylophone only. This is followed by introducing a copy-
writing of several more words and then short sentences followed by the rules of grammar and the child is then expected to use the language correctly. In this process the confused child would have managed to clear two grades of schooling and before the child gathers the strength to boldly speak that it is all confusing, she/he would have entered into the rat-race of examinations and scores and because of the fear of embarrassment the confusion is carried along. These confusions affect the usage of English language which may further lead to the positive or negative dynamism.

This research concludes with four major observations and leaves it open-ended. There are four categories of dynamism observed

1. Absorption of English words in regional language

As established in chapter three a list of English words used in regional language is shown. The list is not complete but gives an idea of how English has become an inseparable part of Regional language. These words are used in the regional language because of several reasons.

a. The representation of the concept in the regional language is lengthy and the English usage is more convenient.

b. The synonym of the word used in the regional language is not available.
According to Pica et al. (1996:61)

“Negotiation between learners and interlocutors take place during the course of their interaction when either one signals with questions or comments that the other’s preceding message has not been successful conveyed. The other then responds often repeating or modifying the message. The modified version might take the form of a word or phrase extracted or segmented from the original utterance, a paraphrase, or a synonym substitution thereof.”

Since the user does not want to replace the usage of English with the local synonym there is no search also to find out a word in the L1. Hence English only serves as the synonym

c. The synonym of the word used in the regional language is forgotten or is too difficult to be comprehended by the listeners in the context.

d. The English representation brings in the boldness easily.

e. The usage of English word would make the user feel fashionable or of the elite class.

f. The concept that anything represented in English, especially in terms of marketing, is qualitatively better.

This is the representation of a few reasons which are apparent. The reasons may vary from person to person, situation to situation and the mood in which they are expressed.

“Habermas believes that the potential for certain kinds of reason is inherent in communication itself. Building on this belief, he formalizes this potential in *The Theory of Communicative Action*:
Communicative rationality carries with it connotation based ultimately on the central experience of the unconstrained, unifying, consensus-bringing force of argumentative speech, in which different participants overcome their merely subjective view and owing to the mutuality of rationally motivated conviction, assure themselves of both the unity of the objective world and the inter-subjectivity of their life-world (JCT:127)”

2. Deviation in pronunciation of English words because of L1 pull

The pronunciation pattern of Gujarati overpowers the second language in the following manners.

a. The vowel pattern in English is different than the vowel pattern in Gujarati. Most of the deviations in the pronunciation of English words are because of the difference in the vowel pattern of the two languages.

b. Absence of diphthong glides in L1, that is, Gujarati.

c. Absence of certain consonant sounds in either language.

3. Deviation in spellings of words because of L1 pull

pronunciation

a. The user, who listens to the usage of English words contextually, would not have come across the written representation of the word. But when she/he has to represent the word in English script, with the impression of the phonetic script of L1, considers the English script to be phonetic as well and so represents the words in writing according to the phonetic aspect.
b. The pronunciation of the English word may be different as per the several dialects of Gujarati and so the spelling may witness several deviations from region to region.

However the varied representation in the respective region is easily comprehend by the users.

4. **Contextual understanding of the English word.**

There are various words in English language which pose a semantic barrier to the non user. Several words in the form of noun or verb or adjective or adverb give rise to varied meanings. This is understood contextually. In the absence of context the user fails to comprehend the word by itself. E.g. ‘Fire’ as in the form of noun has a different meaning than it in the form of verb. The word ‘shoot’ though used in verb format still has different meanings contextually.

To conclude, there is dynamism in English. The dynamism observed is contextual and is generated because of the spoken English. Such dynamism is observed worldwide where English is used as a second language. India is a country with varied cultures and languages. Every different state can be recognized by its own specific ethnicity. The ethnicity may be ritualistic, outfit oriented, linguistic, cuisine oriented, etc. The thesis deals with the linguistic ethnicity of India with a special reference to Gujarat. Gujarati is the linguistic ethnicity that is taken into consideration for its effect on the dynamism of English.
Thus to conclude one may say that English faces dynamism all over the world, it faces dynamism in India too. English worldwide experiences a tradaptation. This means that there is a continuous theatrical adaptation of English words used. A speaker, who has heard of the word contextually but is not sure of the actual pronunciation, uses the word with a little theatrical augmentation. The result is that the dynamism is identified from Binglish, that is, British English transformed which is spoken by non-native speakers of Britain. This has given birth to the concept of Hinglish, Gujlish and further as researches may predict that English will be known as ‘Inglish’, that is to say a combination of Indian languages and English.

Works Cited

