ABSTRACT

Code-mixing is a widespread phenomenon in bilingual and multilingual communities where speakers use their native tongue (L1) and their second language (L2) in certain domains. In bilingual and multilingual speech communities, there is a natural tendency among the speakers to mix lexical items, phrases, clauses, and sentences during interaction. This has given birth to code-mixing and code-switching, which are supposed to be very common tendencies in the present multilingual scenario.

The distinction between code-mixing and code-switching is made by some researchers. However, the overlapping between code-mixing and code-switching has created problems for the researchers to draw the clear cut boundary line between the two. The available research on code-mixing and code-switching shows the complex nature of code-mixing.

Code-mixing plays a vital role as a communicative tool in multilingual societies. The need for communication results into code-mixing. The code-mixing phenomenon is very significant as it highlights the attempts made by the bilingual or multilingual users for the communication. The present multilingual scenario gives importance to the learning of English along with the regional and national languages. The globalization has created bilingual and multilingual societies, where one needs to know more languages for living together and for the smooth communication. Therefore, the code-mixing proves to be very useful and effective tool of communication in the present multilingual scenario.

The present research is the study of code-mixing from the selected Indian English novels: Raja Rao’s *Kanthapura* (1971), Mulk Raj Anand’s
Untouchable (2003), Shobhaa De’s Starry Nights (1992), and, R.K.Narayan’s Waiting for the Mahatma (1967, Reprint 2011). The attempts are made to explain the categorically selected examples of code-mixing from the above mentioned novels, taking into consideration different sociolinguistic factors.

The present research is an empirical study of code-mixing in the novels under consideration. There is only one kind of source of data collection in this research, that is, categorically selected dialogues spoken by the characters in the novels under consideration. The chapter wise plan of the thesis is as follows:

The first chapter of the thesis is ‘Introduction’. This chapter provides a statement about rationale and significance of the study, review of study in the area, aims and objectives, hypothesis, scope and limitations, methodology, data collection, data analysis and plan of the study.

The second chapter ‘Theoretical Framework’ outlines the frame of study in the form of scope, nature and meaning of code-mixing. It considers socio-linguistic aspects and links them to the study of code-mixing. It provides a broad frame of analysis.

The third chapter ‘Code-Mixing: Features and Reasons’ highlights various features and reasons of code-mixing. These features explain various modes and patterns of code-mixing in the selected Indian novels in English. The reasons help the readers to know the meaning of the code-mixed utterances and its relevance in the particular context in which the characters make use of code-mixing in the novel. Both the features and
reasons of code-mixing prove to be very useful in understanding the novels under consideration.

The fourth chapter ‘**Analysis of Code-Mixing**’ deals with code-mixed words in the novels under consideration. The categorically selected examples of code-mixing are explained along with their literal, general and contextual meaning, for understanding the code-mixed examples in the novels under consideration.

The last fifth chapter is ‘**Conclusion**’. This chapter offers the major findings of the study. Some major findings of the study are:

1. Language is seen as an identity of human beings. It depicts various facets of human interactions and it is through such interactions that identities are formed and communicated.

2. Language interference is a natural phenomenon. No one is monolingual in today’s world. We always come in contact with people of different, castes, creeds, classes, interests, regions, etc. It creates contact situation where a person uses code-mixing as a common tendency.

3. India is seen as a multilingual, multireligious, and multicultural country where people of different communities communicate with one another for various reasons which results in code-mixing. Indian socio-cultural setting highlights the need of code-mixing. Therefore, Indian fiction in English has a great scope for code-mixing because of multilingual Indian scenario.
4. Code-mixing is a universal phenomenon. It is seen in all walks of life. The numbers of bilingual and multilingual users are increasing fast. They use code-mixing easily and effectively.

5. The present study observes that the code-mixing in the selected novels take place at word and phrasal level. Among single words nouns are the most used code-mixed words.

6. It is observed that the categorized examples of code-mixing in the present study help to know some general domains where code-making takes place.

7. It is noted in the present study that apart from nouns, adjectives, verbs, and noun phrases, there are other words such as reduplicative, hybridized words and discourse markers which are used as code-mixed words.

8. The present study shows that sociolinguistic approach plays an important role in understanding fiction.

At the end, pedagogical implications of the study have been stated with the scope for the further study in the related fields of the study.