

Language in Contact
Pidgin and Creole
Code switching - Code mixing

• Definition

- In linguistics, a *pidgin* is a simplified form of speech formed out of one or more existing languages and used as a lingua franca by people who have no other language in common. Also known as a *pidgin language* or an *auxiliary language*.
- English pidgins include Nigerian Pidgin English, Chinese Pidgin English, Hawaiian Pidgin English, Queensland Kanaka English, and Bislama (one of the official languages of the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu).
- "A pidgin," says R.L. Trask and Peter Stockwell, "is nobody's mother tongue, and it is not a real language at all: it has no elaborate grammar, it is very limited in what it can convey, and different people speak it differently. Still, for simple purposes, it does work, and often everybody in the area learns to handle it" (*Language and Linguistics: The Key Concepts*, 2007).
- "At first a **pidgin language** has no native speakers, and is used just for doing business with others with whom one shares the pidgin language and no other. In time, most pidgin languages disappear, as the pidgin-speaking community develops, and one of its established languages becomes widely known and takes over the role of the pidgin as the lingua franca, or language of choice of those who do not share a native language."
(Grover Hudson, *Essential Introductory Linguistics*. Blackwell, 2000)

- "Many . . . **pidgin languages** survive today in territories which formerly belonged to the European colonial nations, and act as lingua francas; for example, West African Pidgin English is used extensively between several ethnic groups along the West African coast." (David Crystal, *English As a Global Language*. Cambridge University Press, 2003)
- **From Pidgin to Creole**
 - "A creole comes into being when children are born into a pidgin-speaking environment and acquire the **pidgin** as a first language. What we know about the history and origins of existing creoles suggests that this may happen at any stage in the development of a pidgin."
(Mark Sebba, *Contact Languages: Pidgins and Creoles*. Palgrave Macmillan, 1997)
- "There are several possible fates for a **pidgin**. First, it may eventually drop out of use. This has happened to Hawaiian pidgin, now almost entirely displaced by English, the prestige language of Hawaii. Second, it can remain in use for generations, or even centuries, as has happened with some west African pidgins. Third, and most dramatically, it can be turned into a mother tongue. This happens when the children in a community have nothing but a pidgin to use with other children, in which case the children take the pidgin and turn it into a real language, by fixing and elaborating the grammar and greatly expanding the vocabulary. The result is a creole, and the children who create it are the first native speakers of the creole."
(R.L. Trask, *Language and Linguistics: The Key Concepts*, 2nd ed., ed. by Peter Stockwell. Routledge, 2007)

- The Goa phenomenon (Portuguese and local Goan languages)
- The process of variety synthesis called Pidginisation
- Creation out of practical and immediate purpose
- Constructed to suit the needs of the users i.e. only those words and constructions are borrowed from both the languages which fulfill the need of communication
- The purpose and situation demand that the pidgin should be simple to learn
- Major portion of the vocabulary comes from the dominant language
- Syntax (structure) usually comes from the less dominant community so that easy to learn
- Pidgin usually does not have morphology (no inflection)
- As a trade language it is inexpressive of emotions and domestic functions
- HAS NO NATIVE SPEAKERS

- Creole: a pidgin that has acquired native speakers is called Creole (process of Creolisation)
- Pidgin continues for a longer time and people from both communities get married. Their children learn the same pidgin as a native language
- African slaves taken to the new world
- Decreolisation: a process where Creole gets a status of a variety or a language at the cost of losing most characteristics of Creole (the English of black people in UK)
- Situation with children in education (problems of learning standard language)



- Code switching: Bilingual or multilingual setup
- Borders of the states/ metropolis
- Interesting to know how speakers keep their languages separate
- In multilingual/ bilingual setup Code switching is a kind of Linguistic behaviour
- Choice according to situation (listener must know both languages)
- Choice is governed by social conventions
- One language at home other in social surroundings
- Belgaon/ Solapur/Kupwar/ Udgir/ Nilanga/ Bidar etc.
- Code switching is situational
- Symbolise the social distinctions (US/THEM)
- Prestige of knowing/ out group language
- Types of Code switching
 1. Tag switching: tag or set phrase inserted (Hai na!)
 2. Inter sentential : within a clause or sentence
 3. Intra sentential: at boundaries of clause or sentence
 4. Intra word switching: at word boundaries

- Code Mixing: bilinguals while interacting frequently switch on to languages.
- Celebrities like film stars/ cricketers do it often
- Not decided earlier what one in which language (called code mixing)
- Speaker balance between both language as if it is a Linguistic cocktail

Actress : बचपनमें मे for my early education, you know इंग्लंड
 चली गई. I completed my graduation from Oxford, और उसके बाद मुझे
 इंडिया बहुत आकर्षित करने लगा and you see I prefer domestic, emotional
 rural Indian atmosphere क्या मजा है इसमें you know.....

- The changes are random and governed by sentence structure
- The speaker uses code mixing only to the extent permissible by intelligibility.

Thank you????

