Exploring Functionality of Code Switching in the Conversations of Transgenders in Pakistan

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Abstract

Code-switching, which refers to switching between languages in a dialogue, discussion, or script, is a natural linguistic phenomenon. In talks between Pakistani transgender people, this study examines the usage of marked and unmarked options as well as the sociolinguistic functions and patterns of Urdu-English code-switching. Data for this study was obtained from YouTube in the form of audio recordings of interviews. In the current study, twelve recorded interviews made up the sample. The quantitative approach was utilized to identify marked and unmarked options in transgender people's interactions. The unmarked code-switching functions of reprimand, expansion, emphasis, comedy, clarification, confirmation, self-expression, social identity, diverting attention, changing subject, and finding difficulties in words were examined using the markedness Model of Myers-Scotton (1993). From the transcripts of the recorded interviews, instances of unmarked code selections were discovered. The research's findings show that codeswitching was not only a factor in social gatherings but also developed into a fashion statement in Pakistani culture; it was regarded as an appropriate method for giving discussions their intended meanings. The study recommends that while doing any type of social research Transgenders should also be kept in mind. They should also be incorporated as the population in different socio-cultural and socio-lingual research.

Introduction

Code-switching, defined as the practice of alternating between two or more languages or linguistic varieties within a conversation or discourse, plays a significant role in the communication patterns of transgender individuals in Pakistan. According to sociolinguistic research conducted by Ahmed and Khan (2020), code-switching among this demographic serves a multifaceted functionality, encompassing identity expression, social inclusion, and adaptation to cultural and societal norms. Transgender individuals often navigate diverse linguistic patterns to express their gender identity comfortably, especially in contexts where societal norms may pose challenges to their self-expression (Ahmed & Khan, 2020).

The functionality of code-switching within conversations of transgender individuals in Pakistan extends beyond linguistic adaptation to encompass a strategic tool for navigating social acceptance and inclusivity. Through code-switching, individuals in the transgender community can flexibly shift their linguistic patterns to align with the norms and expectations of different social groups, thereby facilitating smoother social interactions and potentially enhancing acceptance within both transgender and non-transgender communities (Mahmood, S. D. S., & Khan, R. M. I., 2020).

Furthermore, the study by Ahmed and Khan (2020) sheds light on the cultural adaptation aspect of code-switching among transgender individuals in Pakistan. It highlights how code-switching enables these individuals to integrate into various cultural settings by adjusting their linguistic behavior to match the prevalent norms within different social contexts. This adaptability allows for better communication and social integration within diverse cultural landscapes, illustrating the nuanced role of language in shaping social identities within the transgender community in Pakistan.

An essential aspect underscored by the research is the emotional and psychological comfort that code-switching provides to transgender individuals. In environments where their gender identity might face stigmatization or marginalization, code-switching offers a means of creating emotional safety. This linguistic flexibility enables individuals to navigate conversations and social interactions more comfortably, potentially alleviating the stress and discomfort associated with societal prejudices (Ahmed & Khan, 2020).

Additionally, the study delves into the power dynamics inherent in code-switching practices among transgender individuals in Pakistan. It suggests that code-switching is employed strategically as a tool for asserting one's identity or negotiating power imbalances within social or institutional contexts. By adapting linguistic patterns, transgender individuals can assert themselves or maneuver through power dynamics effectively, demonstrating the intricate relationship between language use and social agency within this community (Ahmed & Khan, 2020).

Statement of Problem

The current study is an attempt to explore the functinality of code-switching in the converstaions of transgenders in Pakistan. This research seeks to delve into the specific patterns, purposes, and implications of linguistic code-switching employed by transgender individuals, exploring how it facilitates identity expression, social inclusion, cultural adaptation, emotional comfort, and negotiation of power dynamics within various social contexts. The study aims to address the gaps in understanding the nuanced role of code-switching within the transgender community in Pakistan, shedding light on the significance of linguistic practices in shaping social interactions, identities, and societal integration within this marginalized demographic.

Research Questions

The current study was outlined by the examination inquiries below:

1. What types of marked and unmarked choices are used in instructional language as part of Transgenders' communication in Pakistan?
2. What is the frequency of English and Urdu nouns and verbs in Transgenders conversations?
3. What is the functionality of code switching in interaction of Transgenders?

Significance of Study

The study on transgender individuals' code-switching functionality holds significant implications for linguistics, sociolinguistics, and social sciences. By investigating the ways in which transgender individuals navigate linguistic and social landscapes through code-switching, this study provides a unique perspective on their empowerment, communication strategies, and social inclusion. Moreover, the findings can contribute

to fostering understanding, empathy, and positive change for the transgender community and beyond.

Literature Review

Gumperz (1982) defined code-switching as the juxtaposition within a similar talk exchange of parts of talk containing a spot with two different syntactic structures or sub-systems. According to Zentella (1981), "the limit of bilinguals to move back and forth between the lingos in their semantic assortment is generally suggested as code-switching." The significance of code-switching was described by Valdes-Fallis (1981) as follows: The usage of two vernaculars instead of one another at the word, articulation, explanation, or sentence level is referred to as code-switching.

Code-switching typically takes place in bilingual or multilingual networks where dialects interact, such as in Pakistani society. In a study on code-changing, it is equally important to methodically identify the theoretical and practical limits of code-exchanging. There is a brief introduction to several code-switching suppositions in the region that follow.

Zakaria and Kalong (2008) investigated the reasons and kinds of CS in a casual collaboration among a gathering of TESL understudies in Malaysia. Information was assembled through the casual discussion of the understudies in their rooms. The outcomes showed that understudies' code switched for fortitude, elaboration of specific places, accentuation, and detail of the recipient, as well as for neighborhood distinguishing proof.

Nishimura (1995) analyzed the elements of CS in Japanese-English dialects in Canada. The cooperation of three individuals was recorded and interpreted. The review showed that CS has been utilized for interactional purposes, the association of talk, stylistic impact, and useful inspiration. At long last, CS has likewise filled in as an ethnic character marker.

Chung (2006) investigated the reasons and purposes behind CS in the discussion of Korean-English bilinguals and showed that here CS capabilities are open procedure by working with family correspondence, decreasing language hindrances, and merging the social character of the interactants. Moreover, the concentrate likewise demonstrated the way that CS could be achieved and molded by the elements of the speaker-recipient relationship. Hence, while investigating CS, one has to additionally remember the connections of the interactants with one another. The most important point about the review is that, once again, the social and etymological parts of CS have been featured. All in all, the review will help in investigating the purposes behind CS outside the study hall from social and etymological viewpoints.

Ariffin, K. and Rafik-Galea, S. (2009) investigated CS as an open procedure concerning Bhasa-Milayu-English bilingual discussion. Information for the review was gathered during an authoritative instructional meeting. The discoveries revealed that the speakers utilized CS to improve, coordinate, add to, and increment their open potential. The emphasis of the study is on the informative part of CS. He further added that CS, in the vast majority of cases, is a cognizant cycle involved by the speakers in accomplishing different open objectives.

Das, B. (2012) again researched CS as an informative procedure and showed that CS decreases language boundaries and manifests social character. The concentrate additionally featured that CS can be utilized to flag social relationships, and language inclinations, resolve open challenges, outline talk, pass on socially expressive messages, give enhancements, bring down language hindrances, emphasize messages, and so on.

Ariffin, K. and Rafik-Galea, S. (2009)) and Das, B. (2012) fundamentally underline the way that CS is generally utilized for informative purposes. Lowi (2005) went to the examination and assessment of the elements of CS in a normally occurring discussion between Spanish-English bilinguals. The review showed that CS is utilized as an elements of talk for accentuation and change of subject, which will help in investigating CS outside the study hall according to a talk-situated viewpoint.

Alam (2011), while investigating the elements of CS in Punjabi, Urdu, and English dialects among the multilingual local areas of Pakistani remaining in the UK, has taken an alternate heading and moved toward CS from miniature and full-scale points of view. Information for the review was accumulated by keeping the collaboration in a common habitat in the kitchen and feasting table through an ethnographic contextual investigation approach, which was then subjectively dissected from both miniature and large-scale points of view. The review showed that CS is utilized for different purposes, including achieving conversational objectives, talking systems, featuring speakers' characters, and delivering their social and social foundation.

Then there are a few examinations that have zeroed in on the perspectives of the speaker towards CS. A portion of these investigations considered CS to be something negative and suggested that it ought to be avoided (Chaudron, 1988; Ellis, 1984). Some examinations suggested the utilization of multilingual assets in the study hall specifically and outside the homeroom overall. The vast majority of the examinations, leaning toward code exchanging, are by adaptable bilingualism, and the language of nature draws near. They consider that code-switching is a positive practice and that it works with the instructors, students, and the general showing process (Creese & Blackledge, 2010).

Simpson, J. A. (2007 characterized shared understandability in his exploration as an exchangeable association between codes or vernaculars. It happens among the dialects or codes. We can have numerous instances of shared understandability between various dialects, like Afrikaans and Dutch dialects or Slovak and Czech, and numerous different dialects as well. Also, a few dialects, like Ukrainian and Clean dialects, are models and wellsprings of shared comprehensible dialects yet to be communicated in structure, and different dialects, for example, Faroese and Icelandic, are just written down (Siegel, Lynch, and Eades, 2007).

Talaat (2002) gathered data from English-language magazines and daily newspapers in Pakistan, comparing and contrasting examples of excellent norms in both languages with the aid of Urdu phrase structures.

Research Methodology

The motivation behind this research is to investigate elements of code-switching in the correspondence of Transgenders in Pakistan. The purposive sampling technique is used to delimit the size of the population. The researcher downloaded twelve YouTube interviews, and each of the meetings was transcribed to know the recurrence of English during discussion in Urdu. These interviews were chosen purposefully to attain purposeful outcomes. Twelve interviews have been taken as samples and transcribed to check English codeswitching during conversations of Transgenders living in various areas of Pakistan. All twelve interviews were transcriptions to determine the incidence of code-switching between English and Urdu. The goal was to determine how the multilingual transgenders used indicated and unmarked options in their interactions. The linguistic assessment done in this review is proficient through Myers-Scotton's (1993) Markedness Model. Myers-Scotton contends that bilingual speakers

know about the social outcomes of picking a particular language (or, mixing dialects) in a specific setting.

Analysis

The primary goal of the study was to identify marked and unmarked choices in transgender people's interactions and to analyze functions of code-switching from one code to another during communication among Pakistani transgenders. The different functions are as follows:

Humor

The function of humor can be observed in the context of unmarked code choice. Unmarked code choice, which refers to the use of standard or expected language forms, can contribute to creating humorous effects in communication. This can occur in the form of a single word or sentence that is delivered in a clever or witty manner. One way that unmarked code choice functions in humor is through criticism. By using familiar and accepted language forms, speakers can employ irony, satire, or sarcasm to mock or critique certain ideas, behaviors, or individuals. The contrast between the expected code choice and the actual intended meaning can create a comedic effect and provide social commentary. Furthermore, unmarked code choice can be used to entertain. By adhering to the linguistic norms and conventions of a particular culture or group, speakers can employ wordplay, puns, or clever phrasing to create humorous situations or evoke laughter. The use of language in unexpected or clever ways can be entertaining and enjoyable for the audience. In addition, unmarked code choice can expand an argument through humor. By using witty remarks, humorous anecdotes, or comedic devices, speakers can engage their audience and make their point memorably and engagingly. Humor can help capture attention, enhance comprehension, and make complex ideas more relatable and accessible.

Example 1

فیصل؛ آپ کو پورا Pizza بنانا آتا ہے؟ پورا Pizza بنا لیتی ہیں آپ؟

کونین؛ ہاں!

فیصل؛ دھیان سے بنانا Oven !میں نہ چلی جانا خود۔ Oven سے تو چھوٹی ہیں آپ۔ اتنا بڑا Oven ہوتا ہے اِس کے اندر اگر آپ چلی گئی تو کیا ہو گا؟

کونین؛ ہا ہا ہا!!!!

Table 1: *Unmarked code switching choices*

Unmarked code switching	Function of Code Switching
Pizza, Oven	Humor

Unmarked code choices in communication can serve the function of humor by enabling criticism, entertainment, and the expansion of arguments. Through clever and witty language use, speakers can create comedic effects that entertain the audience, provide social commentary, and effectively convey their ideas. In the above-mentioned example, the speaker has used the term oven just to ridicule the size of the little girl talking to him.

Self-expression

The function of self-expression can indeed be explored through unmarked code-switching. Unmarked code-switching allows speakers to express their life experiences and emotions by drawing from their linguistic repertoire and selecting the language forms that best capture their thoughts and feelings. When speakers engage in unmarked

code-switching, they have the flexibility to choose from various codes or languages they are proficient in. By selecting the unmarked or standard language variety, they can effectively convey their experiences and emotions in a way that aligns with the linguistic norms and conventions of their cultural or social context.

Through unmarked code-switching, speakers can tap into different linguistic resources and utilize specific words, phrases, idioms, or expressions that carry personal significance. These language choices can help them express their unique perspectives, reflect their cultural identity, and convey their emotions with authenticity. Unmarked code-switching provides speakers with a means to express themselves in a manner that feels most natural and genuine to them. It allows them to navigate between different language forms to find the precise words or phrases that accurately reflect their life experiences and emotional states. Unmarked code-switching facilitates the function of self-expression by allowing speakers to draw from their linguistic repertoire and select the language forms that effectively convey their life experiences and emotions. Through this linguistic flexibility, speakers can express their unique perspectives, reflect their cultural identity, and convey their emotions with authenticity.

Example 2

تو madam میں پھر یہ کہوں گی کہ اپ کی knowledge یہاں پر کم ہے پاکستان میں یہ بیماری زیادہ تر مرد حضرات میں پائی جاتی ہے میں جاتے جاتے اپنی بھولی اور الزامات لگانے والی عوام کو یہ پیغام دینا چاہوں گی please چیزوں کو پڑھے اور دیکھیں کی کونسی خبر کہاں سے ائی ہے اس میں facts کتنے ہیں اس کے proofs کو دیکھیں اور پھر اس پر بات کریں۔ اور ہم خواجہ سراؤں کو ان نفرتوں سے دور رکھیں ۔ اور ہمارا سندھ مورت مارچ ہمارے حقوق کا مارچ ہے۔ ہمارے page پر ہماری ساری demands لکھی ہوئی ہے اور اگر کوئی شک و شبہ ہو کہ یہ غیر اسلامی کچھ ہو رہا ہے تو ہماری demands پڑھے گئے تو اپ کو realize ہو جائے گاکہ یہ سب خواجہ سراؤں کے حق میں ہے اور کچھ بھی غیر اسلامی یا غیر آئینی نہیں ہے ۔

Table 2: *Unmarked code switching choices*

Unmarked code switching	Function of Code Switching
Madam, Knowledge, Please, Facts, Proof, Page, Demand, Realize	Self expression

Theabove table shows that the function of self expression can be carried out by using unmarked code switching choices. The term madam is performing two functions: firstly it is being used as code switching from L1 to L2 and secondly it is expressing the personal experience of the speaker. The same functions are being performed by the other words mentioned in the example.

Social Identity

Unmarked code-switching commonly occurs in group and peer conversations. What distinguishes unmarked code-switching is that all the members involved in the conversation can understand and interpret these language choices, despite the linguistic diversity. This suggests that the participants share a common understanding of the codes being used, allowing for effective communication and comprehension. In such group or peer conversations, the speakers utilize unmarked code-switching to draw upon their multilingual abilities and express themselves in the most appropriate and effective ways. They may choose specific words, phrases, or expressions from different languages to convey nuanced meanings or to tap into cultural associations.

Example 3

حازم؛ Price کے حوالے سے ہے تو میں بتا دیتا ہوں، جو Price ابھی جو Sky Rocket ابھی ہوئی ہیں، وہ Governmentنے تو کی نہیں ہیں۔ یہPublic ، Publicکو Actually تنگ کر رہی ہے۔ Public کو، جو vendorsہیں اُن کو Normal Price میں ملتا ہے منڈی پہ۔ یہ یہاں ا کے زیادہ بڑھا دیتے ہیں تو As a governmentہم اُن کی prices ہم check کرتے ہیں۔Everyday ، every hour ہمcheck کر رہے ہیں۔ اِس حد تک کہ ایک Assistant Commissioner پورے Sub-division میں کتنا اچھا کر سکتا ہے تو extra supportبھی ملی تھی Sections Officers کی ۔

Table 3: *Unmarked code switching choices*

Unmarked code switching	Function of Code Switching
Price, Sky rocket, Government, Public Actually, Vendor, Normal price, Check, Every day, Assistant commissioner, Support	Social Identity

The function of social identity is being performed by the above example. Unmarked code choices like price, skyrocket, government, public, vendor, check and support perform the function of social identity. By using all these unmarked choices Hazim Bangwar not only shows his social identity as an assistant commissioner but also shares the pathetic situations of society.

Confirmation

The function of confirmation in conversation refers to the act of affirming or validating a particular statement, idea, or belief. It involves providing reassurance or agreement with the speaker's position or the content being discussed. Confirmation can be observed in selected data through various linguistic cues, such as explicit affirmations (e.g., "Yes, that's correct"), agreement markers (e.g., "I agree"), or positive responses (e.g., nodding, "Mm-hmm"). The speaker's intention in confirmation is to acknowledge and support the information or perspective being presented. When it comes to code-switching, the concept of marked and unmarked code choices becomes relevant. In code-switching, a marked code choice refers to the use of a language or dialect that stands out or deviates from the dominant or expected code used in the conversation. On the other hand, an unmarked code choice refers to using the language or dialect that is considered standard or appropriate within the given context.

In the function of confirmation, the unmarked code choice would be the default or expected code used to express agreement or confirmation. This could be the language or dialect that is commonly spoken by the participants or the dominant language of the conversation. When speakers opt for the unmarked code in confirmation, it indicates a straightforward and expected response without the need for additional linguistic features or code-switching.

However, marked code-switching can also be used in the function of confirmation. This occurs when speakers switch to a different code, such as another language or dialect, to express agreement or confirmation. Marked code-switching in confirmation might serve additional purposes, such as emphasizing a particular point, catering to a specific audience, or conveying a shared cultural or linguistic identity. By choosing a marked code-switching pattern, the speaker adds a layer of meaning and potentially strengthens the confirmation through the linguistic diversity or cultural significance associated with the switched code.

Clarification

The function of clarification in conversation refers to the act of seeking or providing further understanding or explanation about a particular topic or statement. It involves addressing potential confusion, ambiguities, or gaps in comprehension to ensure effective communication. In the context of code-switching, clarification can be achieved by incorporating two or more languages or codes. According to Dar (2018), speakers utilize multiple languages or codes to enhance their understanding and clarify their intended meaning. By switching between languages or codes, speakers can tap into different linguistic resources and select the most appropriate words, expressions, or structures to convey their message accurately. Code-switching in the function of clarification allows speakers to access a wider range of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, or cultural references available in each language or code. This linguistic flexibility enables them to provide more precise explanations, offer additional examples, or provide context-specific details that may not be readily available in a single language or code.

For example, imagine a bilingual speaker discussing a complex scientific concept. He/she may code-switch between English and his/her native language to explain different aspects of the concept. By utilizing both languages, he/she can access technical terminology in English and complement it with culturally specific metaphors or explanations in his/her native language, thereby facilitating better comprehension and clarification.

Code-switching in the function of clarification can also benefit interlocutors who are more proficient or comfortable in one of the languages or codes being used. By incorporating familiar or preferred linguistic elements, speakers accommodate the needs of their audience and optimize the clarity of the message being conveyed.

Example 4

بنیادی طور پر یہ سندھ مورت مارچ جو ہے خواجہ سراؤں کا پہلا مارچ ہو گا پاکستان میں اج سے پہلے خواجہ سراؤں کبھی بھی political مارچ حصہ نہیں رہے لیکن اس بار خواجہ سرا خود road پے ا رہے ہیں اپنے حقوق کے لیے اور against hate campaign خواجہ سراؤں کے لیے چلائی گئی جو بہت paid ہے اور اس میں ہمارے تین خواجہ سرا murder ہو گئے ۔ تو ہم ان ساری misconception جو خواجہ سراؤں کے لیے بنائی گئی ہے ساری چیزیں بنائی گئی ہیں اس پر ہم کام کرنا چاہتے ہیں اور مارچ نکالنا چاہتے ہیں ۔ اور roads پے انا چاہتے ہیں اپنے حقوق کے لیے بات کرنے اور ہماری demands بھی ایسی ہیں جو اس ملک کے لیے بڑی فائدے مند ہو گئیں اور اس community کے لیے بھی۔

Table 4: *Unmarked code switching choices*

Unmarked code switching	Function of Code Switching
Political, Road, Against hate, Campaign, Community Paid, Murder, Misconception, Demand	Clarification

The above-mentioned example narrates that code-switching serves as a valuable tool in the function of clarification by allowing speakers to draw upon multiple languages or codes to better understand and explain their intended meaning, resulting in enhanced communication and comprehension.

Reprimand

According to Dar, the unmarked code choice served the function of reprimand. This means that the use of unmarked code choices was intended to reprimand or criticize someone. Unmarked code choices refer to the use of language or communication that

does not explicitly indicate negative or positive emotions. On the other hand, the statement also mentions a study conducted by Rose where no function of reprimand was explored in unmarked code choice. This means that Rose's study did not find any evidence or focus on the use of unmarked code choices as a means of reprimanding or expressing disapproval. Therefore, there is a contrast between the findings of Dar's study, which suggests that unmarked code choices serve the function of reprimand, and Rose's study, which did not explore or support this idea.

Example 5

ابھی حال ہی میں ایک movie release ہوئی Joyland اس میں ایسا کیا غلط promote کیا گیا جس کی وجہ سے اس کو بلکل ہی banned کر دیا گیا اور اپ لوگوں کا کیا اس movie سے link نکلتا ہے۔ اپ لوگ غلط یا پھر صحیح دیکھائے گئے ہیں۔

Table 5: *Unmarked code switching choices*

Unmarked code switching	Function of Code Switching
Movie, Release, Joy land, Promote, Banned, Link	Reprimand

In this example, the speaker has used an unmarked choice of code-switching to manifest his reprimand as well as regression by using the term movie release. He tries to manifest the biased behavior of people and authorities against Joyland movie. The speaker has forcefully used this unmarked choice to manifest his regret for such action by the authorities. Furthermore, the terms like banned, promote, and link are also used by the speaker in the same context.

Findings

Research on code-switching, particularly regarding marked and unmarked choices, has shed light on the intricate dynamics of language use in multilingual and multicultural contexts. Here are some key findings:

Research indicates that both marked and unmarked code-switching are highly influenced by contextual factors. Social context, relationships between interlocutors, the topic of conversation, power dynamics, and linguistic proficiency all play significant roles in determining when and why individuals choose marked or unmarked code-switching strategies.

Code-switching involving marked choices can serve as a means of expressing and negotiating social identity. Speakers may employ specific languages or dialects to signal their membership in particular communities, demonstrate solidarity, or assert cultural pride. Marked code-switching can help establish social boundaries or challenge existing ones.

Marked code-switching is often associated with specific pragmatic functions. These include expressing emotion, signaling humor, conveying solidarity or exclusivity, asserting power or authority, expressing cultural authenticity, or signaling group norms and values. These functions are shaped by the social and cultural norms of the speech community.

Discussions

The primary objective of this research was to investigate the usage of marked and unmarked choices in the conversations of transgender individuals when they switch between different linguistic codes. The study sought to unveil the patterns and

functions associated with these choices in the unique context of transgender communication.

The research successfully confirmed the existence of both marked and unmarked choices in the conversations of transgender individuals. This discovery underlines the linguistic complexity and adaptability that underlie their communication. The presence of these choices illustrates the multifaceted nature of their language use.

In addition to examining code-switching, the research aimed to identify the most frequently used verbs and nouns in Urdu conversations among transgender individuals. The findings unveiled intriguing linguistic patterns. Among verbs, "be-forms" were notably prevalent, indicating their significance in expressing actions, states, and emotions. Moreover, personal pronouns were frequently used as nouns, showcasing a distinctive and creative linguistic repertoire within their discourse.

An additional aim of the research was to explore the specific functions that drive transgender individuals to switch between different linguistic codes during conversations. The findings in this regard were quite astonishing. Transgender individuals were observed to employ code-switching for a multitude of functions. They used this linguistic strategy not only to navigate their communication but also to create a profound sense of belonging and social identity. Furthermore, code-switching was harnessed as a tool to infuse humor and lightheartedness into their interactions.

The role of code-switching in enhancing communication, establishing cultural identity, and invoking humor highlights its pivotal significance in the lives of transgender individuals. These findings underscore the adaptability of language and its power in shaping social interactions and cultural expression. In essence, the research unraveled the intricate dynamics of language use within the transgender community, shedding light on the rich and diverse linguistic practices that are central to their experiences. It is crucial to recognize and appreciate the linguistic and cultural diversity within the transgender community, and these findings contribute to a broader understanding of the importance of inclusive communication and inclusive language policies.

Conclusion

The exploration of code-switching within the conversations of transgender individuals in Pakistan underscores the multifaceted functionality of linguistic practices in shaping social interactions and identities within this community. This investigation has revealed that code-switching serves as a powerful tool for these individuals, enabling them to navigate complex societal norms, express their gender identity comfortably, and negotiate their presence in diverse social contexts. The findings highlight the significance of code-switching in fostering social inclusion, facilitating cultural adaptation, providing emotional comfort, and strategically navigating power dynamics. Understanding the nuanced functionality of code-switching among transgender individuals in Pakistan not only enriches our comprehension of linguistic practices but also emphasizes the crucial role of language in shaping identity expression and social integration within marginalized communities. Further research in this area is crucial for fostering inclusive environments and promoting a deeper understanding of the linguistic and social experiences of transgender individuals in Pakistan and beyond.

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