

## CSM Induced Phonetic Changes in Modern Assamese

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### ABSTRACT

*Considering Code Switching and Mixing (CSM) as the common term for alternative use of two or more languages (Hymes 1974) in the speech of a person, it could be assumed that there would be some implications in the individual speech behaviour of a person. If the switched and mixed languages are from a different language family, the phonology of the speakers' mother tongue is bound to get inflicted with new features and gradually it gets diffused to the other speakers of the language. Presuming this hypothesis, an attempt has been made to examine the CSM induced phonetic changes in modern Assamese, an Indo-Aryan language being spoken in the North Eastern state, i.e. Assam in India. This is a synchronic description based on the observation of the author. The author himself is a native speaker of this language. This paper deals with the sound changes in Assamese caused by Code Switching and Mixing.*

**Keywords:** Code, switching, mixing, sound change, Assamese

### 1. CSM THEORY

Many researchers (Verhoeven 1987, Poplack 1980) assume that Code Switching and Mixing (CSM) take place because of the lack of sufficient proficiency to continue in the opening language or the selection to another language is mere random. This simply doesn't narrow down the importance of other social factors, such as 'showing off' attitude of the speaker, turn taking in a