

## Patterns of Code Switching and Code Mixing: A Sociolinguistic Study on Khotta-Bangla Bilinguals

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### ABSTRACT

*Code switching is “the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems” (Gumperz 1982-59). Code switching and code mixing are two important terms in sociolinguistics. Code-switching is the mixing of words, phrases and sentences from two distinct grammatical systems while code-mixing aims at using two languages such that a third new code emerges in which elements from the two languages are incorporated into a structurally definable pattern. India being multilingual country, the code-switching and code-mixing phenomena are widespread. India is a land of 2000 ethnic groups using 1652 languages and dialects including 22 (+1) major languages listed in 8<sup>th</sup> schedule constitutions. In such a large country, code switching and code mixing of languages is inevitable due to close contact among the people of various groups and communities.*

*The present sociolinguistic study digs into the patterns of inter-sentential and intra-sentential code switching (CS) and code-mixing (CM) that are apparent in the speech of Khotta-Bangla bilinguals who have been staying in West Bengal. Apart from that, it also aims in the following two directions:*

- 1. Difference in the occurrences of inter-sentential and intra-sentential CS and CM irrespective of the informants who have been staying in Bihar, Jharkhand, India.*
- 2. The effect of language proficiency on these patterns.*