

**A sociolinguistic analysis of language
Convergence in the speech of housemaids of
Sialkot, Punjab**



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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore convergence in the language of housemaids working in the Punjabi speech community. They were observed and their speech was analyzed at their homes and workplaces. The data was collected from the workplaces and homes of 30 housemaids from Sialkot, a city located in the province of Punjab. In order to find out the reasons behind the convergence, 16 landladies were interviewed as well. The participants of this study were Urdu/Punjabi bilinguals. Their first language was Punjabi and English was the academic language of the landladies. Descriptive approach was used to analyze the data. The study reveals that Urdu is the housemaid's language of communication at workplaces and Punjabi at their homes. They prefer to speak Urdu and try their level best to communicate with their landlady in the Urdu language. Their choice of topic also changes with the change of situation. They mix regular and irregular forms of Punjabi and English while speaking Urdu and use them in their conversation with the landlady. The number of forms code switched from English was greater than Punjabi. On the contrary, at their homes they did not mix languages. This study contributed in the field of sociolinguistics and suggested directions for future researchers.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents for their valuable
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations Definition

AT Accommodation Theory

SAT Speech Accommodation Theory

CAT Communication Accommodation Theory

WS Worksite

CS Code Switching

NEP National Education Policy

UGC University Grants Commission

UNESCO United Nations Education Scientific Cultural Organisation

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Chapter Overview

This introductory chapter provides a sketchy view about the study in hand. It begins with an introduction of the study that carries information about convergence and its role in the language of housemaids with reference to Punjabi language. Then problem statement, purpose, objectives, significance and research questions of the study are also included in this chapter. Finally, the chapter ends with the summary of the whole chapter along with the outline of the study.

1.2 Introduction

Man is endowed with the knack to give vent to his sentiments through language and it seems as if we have words for everything whether it is in the process of evolution or a part of our surroundings. It is not only the belongings, power, educational qualification or status that creates difference but the speaking manner and the choice of language also plays a pivotal role in this distinction. We change our styles of speech with the change of situation and person. Our language changes when we talk to a stranger, friend, boss, relatives or our parents. For instance, we try to speak slowly and use grammatically simple sentences during our conversation with children. It shows that we accommodate others by changing our speech according to them.