

**Evaluation of the null theories of intra-sentential code-switching: evidence from**

**Balti-English code-switching**



**M Phil**

(Applied Linguistics)

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**DEDICATED**

*To*

**My**

**Parent,**

**Muhammad Ibrahim Tabassum (father)**

**My Mother**

**And**

**All**

**Other family members**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Allah Almighty has blessed with a new milestone to bring forth the research thesis in black and white. This masterpiece (Research Work) has been successfully completed by the grace of God with frantic effort. My words can never compensate my internal expression of heart but it is praiseworthy and splendid opportunity to show on my feelings; Durood o Salam on our Holy Prophet: **Hazarat Muhammad (PBUH)**.

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**CERTIFICATE BY THE RESEARCH SUPERVISOR**

It is to certify that **Mr. Muhammad Bashir** is an obedient and bonafide student during the research work; his current thesis is the outcome of his frantic efforts. Furthermore his material, content and methodology that have been submitted on the Registration No. 14016084014 are up to the mark. Keeping in view the complete research work and his sincere efforts it is awarded that his work is satisfactory and he must be awarded Certification and degree.

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Signature.....

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This research work has been framed after a substantial observation. All the aspects of the task have been analyzed and assessed in a proper way. It is highly applauded and highlighted that the student has given his best effort to organize the material in an excellent way. Moreover, the supervisor and other concerned members have asserted in the positive adding that they have consented the research work.

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## DECLARATION

I, **Muhammad Bashir**, hereby state that the task has been put in an apple pie order after profound scrutiny and research. It is mandatory to mention here that the thesis is not clichéd from circulated material or source (except the references, etc). I do clarify that this work has not been presented to any other University for award of Certificate or Degree. In this context, the University has the right to take above-board actions if the information thus offered is plagiarized or extracted from any other source at any moment.

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## **Abstract**

The present research study tries to evaluate the empirical adequacy of the Null Theory of intra-sentential code-switching (CS) presented by Mahootian and Santorini (1996) and Chan (2008) from the Balti-English Code Switched Corpus. This research study exploits the corpus of Balti-English CS. In this research study 36 'balanced' Balti-English bilinguals have participated which were divided into 8 groups. Conversation on a specific topic has been assigned in a natural setting. The data was recorded via conversation and was transcribed in Roman Script. The transcribed data was analysed against Mahootian and Santorini (1996) and Chan (2008) models. However, the analysis of the data reveals that N and V being lexical heads do not determine the placement of their respective complement. Thus, the corpus of Balti-English CS is not compatible with the proposals offered by Mahootian (1996) and Santorini (1996) and provides multiple instances which demonstrate the empirical inadequacy of the model presented by Mahootian and Santorini (1996). Unlike Mahootian's, in Chan's (2008) model instead of lexical heads the functional category controls the head parameters values. Also this model does not support empirical outcomes in Balti and English CS patterns. After evaluation of Mahootian and Santorini (1996) and Chan 2008 models against data from Balti English CS patterns it can be implied that neither lexical heads nor functional head determine the position of their complement. The placement of complements in projections within covert functional heads remained unjustified in Chan's (2008) proposal.

**Key Words** Code switching, intra-sentential, complement, lexical head, functional head.

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Overview**

This chapter has been divided into two Sections i.e. 1.1 and 1.2. Both Sections are further divided into sub-divisions. Here, sub categories of section 1.1 deals with Purpose of the Study, and Introduce the topic Significance of the study, Delimitation, Research Question and Objectives, while section 1.2 and sub section has been designed in such a way that it discusses Language Contact/Background, Origin of Balti Language, Geographical area of Baltistan, Speakers of Balti Language, Grammar of Balti language, and also discusses English language, in Impact of other languages on Balti and attitudes towards Balti Language in General are all included in the same chapter.

#### **1.1.1 Purpose of the Study**

The present study has been done to assess the pragmatic adequacy of the Null Theory of intra-sentential code-switching (CS) proposed by Mahootian (1993) and Chan (2008) with different approaches (positive and negative) from Balti-English CS.

#### **1.1.2 Introduction**

Contact between languages is becoming a prominent phenomenon as a result different experiences seem emerging like code switching, code mixing and code borrowing. What are the technicalities in these terms remain, triggering in the minds of researchers. In this regard, a lot of studies (such as Mahootian and Chan2008) has been done in this process and is proliferating vastly.