

**M.phl English (Applied Linguistics)**

**Evaluation of the Matrix Language Frame Model  
Evidence from HINDKO-ENGLISH Code-switching**



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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of

the requirement for the degree of

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**CERTIFICATION**

Certified that the contents and form of the thesis entitled:

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## **Dedicated to**

*My Honorable and loving  
Brother*

*ANWAR KHURSHID*

*whose*

*Courage, Kindness, and Guidance*

*is*

*like a ladder of success for me and it is my passionate desire that God  
the Benevolent may enable him to attain highest ends.*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

The abbreviations used in this paper (alphabetized) include:

*CS = code-switching; MLF = matrix language frame model; ML = matrix language; EL = embedded language; 1<sup>st</sup> prsn = first person; 2<sup>nd</sup> prsn = second person; 3<sup>rd</sup> prsn = third person; plu = plural; sing = singular; Np = noun phrase; vp = verb phrase; pp = prepositional phrase; Adv = adverb; adj = adjective; N = noun; V = verb, prep = preposition, CP = projection of complementizer; AdvP = adverb phrase; AdjP = adjective phrase; pres = present tense; pst = past tense; fut = future tense; aux = auxiliary verb; conj = conjunction; pro = pronoun; MOP = morpheme order principle; SMP = system morpheme principle; f = feminine; m = masculine; art = article; porg = progressive.*

## Abstract

With supporting evidence from Hindko-English code-switching, the study attempts to test the validity of the claims made by Meyers-Scotton's (1993, 2009) Matrix Language Frame Model. With evidence from the data, the study aims either to accept or reject the soundness of the claims of Matrix Language Frame Model. The design of the study is qualitative descriptive in nature. Naturally-occurring speech of Hindko-English bilinguals were recorded personally by the researcher and analyzed in order to test the validity of the claims made by Matrix Language Frame Model. The analysis of the data clearly marks that the Model fails to account for the switching patterns found in Hindko-English code-switching. Although most of the data do follow the Morpheme Order Principle and System Morpheme Principle, there are many instances in the data which the Model cannot account for. As per the provisions of the Model, Hindko does appear to be the Matrix language and provides morphosyntactic frame to the code-switched sentence while English serves as the Embedded Language providing only the content morphemes, playing no role in the morphosyntactic frame of the code-switched sentence. However, the data also offer in many instances where the system morphemes are not being provided by Hindko i.e. the Matrix Language; rather some of the system morphemes are provided by English i.e. the Embedded Language. Thus although the Morpheme Order Principle is supported by the evidence from Hindko-English code-switching, System Morpheme Principle is not supported by the evidence from the data. The code-switched sentence (67), (68), (69) and (70) pose serious challenges to the System Morpheme Principle as these sentences contain many system morphemes which are not contributed by the Matrix Language. Thus the presence of system morphemes from both the languages involved in code-switching i.e. Hindko and English in sentence (67)-(70) violate System Morpheme Principle. Thus the present study establishes with the help of evidence from Hindko-English code-switching that Matrix Language Frame Model cannot account for all instances of code-switching and cannot be applied universally across language pairs as is claimed by the Model.