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A CRITICAL STUDY OF LANGUAGE VARIATIONS

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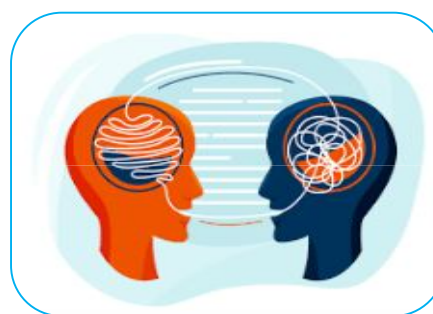
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ABSTRACT:

The research paper on the topic Critical Study of Language Variations highlights the social variation in language which is due to the social class, ethnic origin, age, and gender. Sometimes, we also see that, these variation remains stable but it is often the indication of a change in the language. Language is the most common and dynamic form in which culture is preserved and through which it is transmitted. Language is a social phenomenon and the product of culture which involving both social and cultural factors. Its cultural composition is made up of ideas, customs, skills, arts, etc. of a people or group. It is comprised of four components

like awareness of our own cultural worldview, attitude towards cultural differences, knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews, and cross-cultural skills. The language Varieties fall into two types like User-related varieties and Use-related varieties. It has also variations such as Standard language, Dialect, Sociolect, Register, Idiolect, Diglossia, High variety, Low variety, Pidgin and Creole.

The language Varieties fall into two types like User-related varieties and Use-related varieties. The User-related varieties, associated with particular people and often places such as African Americans in the US and Canadian. The Universalists suggest that all languages share basic common features; this implies the rejection of the assumption that languages differ in innumerable and unpredictable ways. Their basic assumption is that a child has an inherent, inborn, innate, or genetically-programmed capacity for learning any of the human languages. 'Language Planning' is a term used in sociolinguistics to refer to a systematic attempt to solve the communication problems of a community by studying the various languages or dialects it uses and developing a realistic policy concerning the selection and use of different languages. McArthur is more specific about it and who says that it is an attempt made to control the use, status, and structure of a language policy developed by a government or other authority in a given country. A language policy according to Bell specifies quite clearly as to which language/s will be the Official Language/s, used for what purpose, taught, and at what level, and taught to what category of learners and for what duration of time. Language is the most common and dynamic form in which culture is preserved and through which it is transmitted. Culture has been defined as the sum of transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thoughts characteristic of a community or population. But, ethnocentricity, the belief in superiority of one's own ethnic group, nation, or culture is manifested in the use of language. Ethnocentrism is maintained through language by creating a myth. Every culture has the process of myth creating through language.



KEYWORDS : Standard language, Dialect, Sociolect, Register, Idiolect, Diglossia, High variety, Low variety, Pidgin and Creole.

INTRODUCTION:

The research paper on the topic Critical Study of Language Variations highlights the social variation in language which is due to the social class, ethnic origin, age, and gender. Sometimes, we also see that, these variation remains stable but it is often the indication of a change in the language. Language is the most common and dynamic form in which culture is preserved and through which it is transmitted. Culture has been defined as the sum of transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thoughts characteristic of a community or population. But, ethnocentricity, the belief in superiority of one's own ethnic group, nation, or culture is manifested in the use of language. Ethnocentrism is maintained through language by creating a myth. Every culture has the process of myth creating through language. The Universalists suggest that all languages share basic common features; this implies the rejection of the assumption that languages differ in innumerable and unpredictable ways. Their basic assumption is that a child has an inherent, inborn, innate, or genetically-programmed capacity for learning any of the human languages.

The variation within a community leads to one variant being increasingly used in terms of frequency and its distribution, and this is called language shift. Language is a social phenomenon and the product of culture which involving both social and cultural factors. Its cultural composition is made up of ideas, customs, skills, arts, etc. of a people or group. It is comprised of four components like awareness of our own cultural worldview, attitude towards cultural differences, knowledge of different cultural practices and worldviews, and cross-cultural skills. The language Varieties fall into two types like User-related varieties and Use-related varieties. It has also variations such as Standard language, Dialect, Sociolect, Register, Idiolect, Diglossia, High variety, Low variety, Pidgin and Creole.

The language Varieties fall into two types like User-related varieties and Use-related varieties. The User-related varieties, associated with particular people and often places such as African Americans in the US and Canadian. In this sense, the term variety is similar to but less likely to carry emotive and judgmental implications than dialect, patois, etc. compare the phrases speaking the local jargon and speaking the local variety. The Use-related varieties associated with function such as legal English means the language of courts, contracts, and literary English means the typical usage of literary texts, conversations, etc. In this sense, the term variety is theoretically close to registering and in practice is a synonym of usage as in legal usage, literary usage.

There is also the concept of a standard language which is regarded as having social status and prestige serving as a 'model' for various functions and surpassing the usual boundary lines as a result. It is the model for educated written and spoken usage throughout the nation. It is used as the basis for producing modern grammars of the language concerned and subscribes to a standard pronunciation such as RP in case of British English. The dialect is a region-specific variant of language. It is not a distinct language but a variety of a language spoken in a particular area within a given country. On the other hand, Sociolect that is a social group or class-specific variant. It is a variety of language which is distinctive of a particular social group or class. Register is a subject-specific variant. It is the aspect of usage which has to do with vocabulary, pronunciation, level of formality, etc. chosen by a user in a particular social context.

There is an individual-specific variant called Idiolect. It should not be confused with style which is a manner or mode of expression in language, as distinct from the expressed, or the way of using words to express thoughts. Diglossia a situation wherein two language varieties exist side by side in a community and each one is used for different purposes. Usually, this is in the form of high variety and low variety. High variety diglossia is a variety used in government, the media, education, and for religious purposes. It is known as a formal variety of language. On the other hand, low variety diglossic used in the family with friends, while shopping etc. It is known as an informal variety of language. A mixed-language is one in which elements from two or more languages have become so intertwined that it is unclear which the basic language.

Pidgin is a mixed language or jargon, incorporating the vocabulary of one or more languages with a very simplified form of the grammatical system. It is one of these which is not used as the main language of any of its speakers with rules of its own. It is used for communication between people with

no common language e.g. Bambahiya Hindi. As well as, Creole is a form of language that develops when speakers of mutually unintelligible languages remain in persistent and long-lasting contact with each other with one of the contributing languages typically dominant. A creole is a pidgin which has become the first language of a community. Languages in Contact is a different concept as when two languages are in contact and there is contact between two cultures too. At the linguistic level, this process is called bilingualism and at the cultural level biculturalism or acculturation. It is the process of becoming adapted to a new or different culture with more or less advanced patterns and the mutual influence of different cultures in close contact. And this plays an important part in second language acquisition.

However, if that does not happen then an individual ends up learning and not acquiring the second language. We must remember at the same time, that language is an integral part of enculturation. It is the process causing us to adapt to the dominant cultural patterns of our society. There are two major reasons of the process of enculturation. One is that language is a part of a culture so much so that the two cannot be separated and second that the language is the medium through which the users explore and manipulate the sociocultural environment.

Bilingualism and Biculturalism are different terms. Hall's categorization of formal, informal, and technical levels of culture is useful in understanding the distinctions clearly. A language situation wherein a person can use or is capable of using two languages with equal or nearly equal facility is called Bilingualism. Coordinate bilinguals as People who know two languages and use them or are capable of using them but only slightly better than monolinguals and subordinate bilinguals is the people who know two languages and use or are capable of using second language with varying degrees of proficiency. On the other hand, incipient bilinguals is as people who can use or are capable of using Two languages with a near perfect mastery of the two systems. A language situation wherein a person can use or is capable of using several languages with equal or nearly equal facility is considered as Multilingualism. It is also called a polyglot, a word formed from 'poly' for many and 'got' for language because gloss used as a synecdoche in glossary also means language. Code-switching is an instance wherein a speaker who is bilingual or a multilingual switches from one language to another and this happens when the speaker and the listener belong to different language communities. On the other hand, Code mixing is an instance wherein a speaker who is bilingual or a multilingual, mixes one language with another quite unconsciously.

Code-Switching is a Communicative Strategy. Socially determined situations the ability to use one's language correctly in a variety of socially determined situations is as much and as central a part of linguistic 'competence' as the ability to produce grammatically well-formed sentences. There is also Situational Shifts where members of social networks sharing a linguistic stock of special skills, devices, techniques, etc. that they have of a particular field. And they know when to shift from one variety to another. Thus, in India, English has been until very recently the language of instruction, administration, technical education etc. It is even now used as a medium of instruction in higher education, technical education. English-using bilinguals in India keep on switching from one or more Indian languages to English according to different performativity occasions and the roles they are playing especially while dealing with issues in technical education. This kind of registered bilingualism may be labelled as registrational bilingualism.

'Language Planning' is a term used in sociolinguistics to refer to a systematic attempt to solve the communication problems of a community by studying the various languages or dialects it uses and developing a realistic policy concerning the selection and use of different languages. McArthur is more specific about it and who says that it is an attempt made to control the use, status, and structure of a language policy developed by a government or other authority in a given country. A language policy according to Bell specifies quite clearly as to which language/s will be the Official Language/s, used for what purpose, taught, and at what level, and taught to what category of learners and for what duration of time. The policy decided upon may not be a practical one, or it may be aimed at satisfying a particular political constituency due to the pressure brought to bear upon the government. For instance, the announcement that the Government of India was planning to add Bodo Language to the list of languages in the VIII Schedule of Constitution of India was apparently made in view of the Bodo Movement.

Language is the most common and dynamic form in which culture is preserved and through which it is transmitted. Culture has been defined as the sum of transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thoughts characteristic of a community or population. But, ethnocentricity, the belief in superiority of one's own ethnic group, nation, or culture is manifested in the use of language. Ethnocentrism is maintained through language by creating a myth. Every culture has the process of myth creating through language. The Universalists suggest that all languages share basic common features; this implies the rejection of the assumption that languages differ in innumerable and unpredictable ways. Their basic assumption is that a child has an inherent, inborn, innate, or genetically-programmed capacity for learning any of the human languages.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, Language is a social phenomenon and the product of culture which involving both social and cultural factors. Its cultural composition is made up of ideas, customs, skills, arts, etc. of a people or group. It is comprised of awareness of our own cultural worldview, attitude towards cultural differences, knowledge of different cultural practices and cross-cultural skills. The language Varieties fall into User-related varieties and Use-related varieties. It has also variations such as Standard language, Dialect, Sociolect, Register, Idiolect, Diglossia, High variety, Low variety, Pidgin and Creole, we find all over the world. The Universalists suggest that all languages share basic common features; this implies the rejection of the assumption that languages differ in innumerable and unpredictable ways. Their basic assumption is that a child has an inherent, inborn, innate, or genetically-programmed capacity for learning any of the human languages. Language is a social phenomenon and the product of culture which involving both social and cultural factors.

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