



English-Kurdish-Arabic Code Switching in Mobile Messages

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1. Introduction

Communication is one way we express ourselves and we do this through language. For those with the linguistic repertoire of more than one language, it is common to display their linguistic ability. What sometimes ensues is a fusion of different languages, styles or even dialects which is termed code switching. The code switching phenomenon has been present in multilingual societies where languages, dialects and different varieties of the same language are used. Code switching is common in Kurdistan Region and especially among university students. In the university, it is common to hear a speaker using English words even when much of the conversation is in Kurdish or Arabic and vice-versa, using the Kurdish or Arabic language in an English dominated conversation.

2. Some Definitions of Code Switching

A perfect bilingual may switch from language to language during a conversation (Meeuwis & Blommaert, 1998:76).

Language plays a symbolic role in our lives, and when there is a choice of languages the actual choice made may be very important (Wardhaugh, 1986: 101- 102).

Most speakers command several varieties of any language they speak, and bilingualism, even multilingualism, is the norm for many people throughout the world rather than unilingualism. People, then, are usually forced to select a particular code whenever they choose to speak, and they may also decide to switch from one code to another or to mix codes (Wardhaugh, 1986:100).

A speaker may switch to another language as a signal of group membership and shared ethnicity with an addressee. Even speakers who are not very proficient in a second language may use brief phrases and words for this purpose (Holmes, 1992: 41).

3. Types of Code Switching:

We can describe two main kinds of code switching: situational and metaphorical. Situational code switching occurs when the languages used are changed according to the situation in which the conversants find themselves as they speak one language in one situation and another in a different one. No topic change is involved. When a change of topic requires a change in the language used we have metaphorical code switching. The interesting point here is that some



- (Allah o akbar) chand xareebim
(Subhana allah) chan je direm
(jarab) kangi de benim.
- Ahla qalib dile ta ya
Ahla kalema nave ta ya
Ahla shams chave ta ya
Ahla shagara baj na ta ya
Ahla kitab nama ta ya.

In many cases I found that the people code switch between English, Arabic and Kurdish for the musical tone of the message. By doing such code-switching, they add a poetical sense to their messages. Once you read such type of message as those mentioned above, you feel as if it is a kind of poetry and one feels happy in reading such type of messages.

From these explanations of different types of mobile messages that people write, It becomes clear that sometimes they code switched from language to another obligatorily as in the case when they do not find equivalent vocabulary in a specific language, also for quoting someone's speech. In other times, they use it optionally for the musical tone of the message, for showing off, and to make fun of others who do not know a specific language.

Also I found that when they code-switched to another language they used small expressions and also I found that lexical items such as adjectives and nouns are more frequently switched than function words such as prepositions and pronouns.

There are other characteristics of mobile messages especially when using English language in that it saves time and money like when we use, for example, the word 2moro for tomorrow.

5. Conclusions

The study indicates that code-switching between English Kurdish and Arabic is used overwhelmingly in mobile messages. The results of this study reveal the fact that some participants exhibit the ability to move back and forth between their three codes depending on the suitability of their communicative needs. . Many instances of code-switching in the data are found to serve various sociolinguistic functions. Switching to Arabic as an embedded language, for instance, was found to serve the functions of prayers and congratulating each other on religious occasions. However, it has been observed that people do resort to English for a number of sociolinguistic reasons, that is, they use some lexical items from English as a mark of prestige.

Furthermore, the analysis presented in this study shows that



code-switching is a structured and rule-governed process. Some syntactic categories are used much more than others; the distribution of the switches by syntactic category revealed that the majority of the switches take place at the level of single adjective, nouns, followed by phrases.

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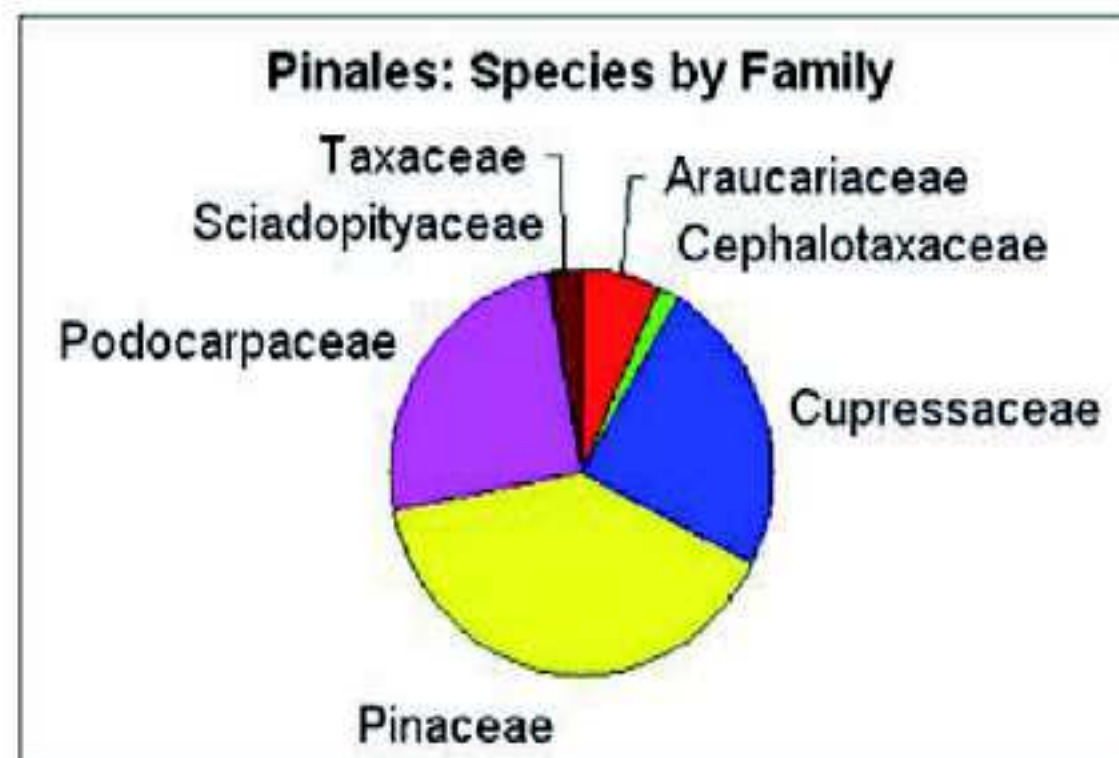
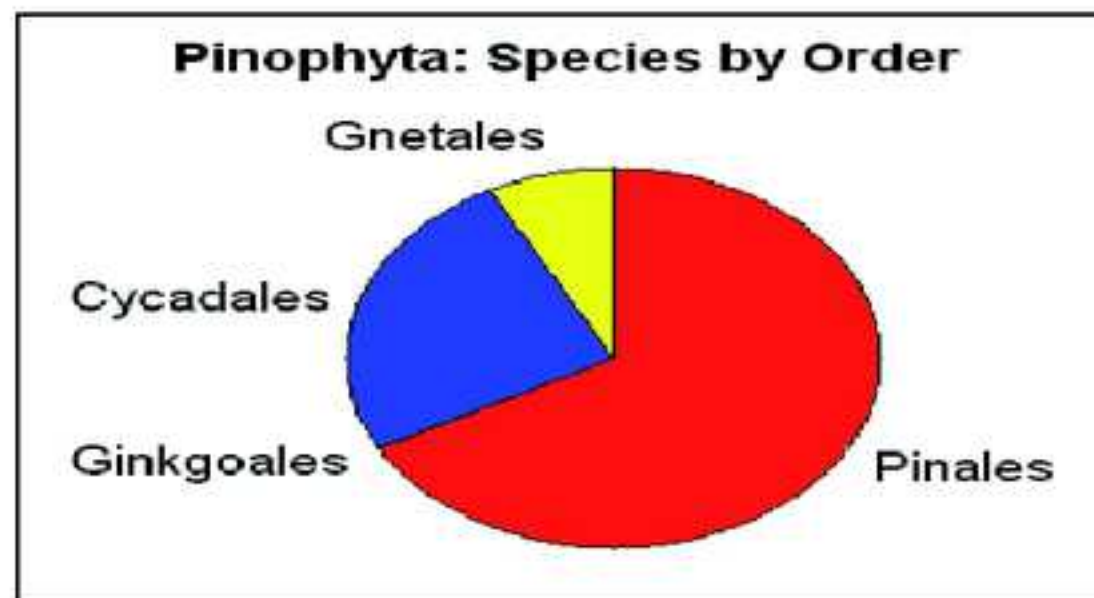


Native Gymnosperms in Kurdistan Region of Iraq

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Gymnosperm (Gymnospermae) is a group of spermatophyte seed-bearing plants with ovules on the edge or blade of an open sporophyll, which are usually arranged in cone-like structures. The other major group of seed-bearing plants, the angiosperms, [from the Greek, 'angion' - container] have ovules enclosed in a carpel, a sporophyll with fused margins. A carpel consists of a stigma, style and the ovary. The term gymnosperm comes from the Greek word gymnospermos meaning "naked seeds" and referring to the unenclosed condition of the seeds, as when they are produced they are found naked on the scales of a cone or similar structure. There are between 700 and 900 species of Gymnosperm. It is widely accepted that the gymnosperms originated in the late Carboniferous period of the Paleozoic era within the Phanerozoic eon (1). Early characteristics of seed plants were evident in fossil progymnosperms of the late Devonian period around 380 million years ago.

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Graphical summaries show the diversity of orders and families with regard to the genera and species they contained.

- Division Pinophyta
- Class Pinopsida
- Order Pinales
- Key to the Families of Pinales

Leaves needlelike, spirally arranged, bract and scale distinct, ovules two on each scale, seeds terminally winged or wingless.-----

-----Pinaceae

Leaves scale like or awl-shaped, opposite or in whorls, bract and scale fused, ovules two to many on each scale, seeds laterally winged or wingless. -----Cupressaceae

Several species of Pinaceae and Cupressaceae are present in our region, either native or naturalized (1).

1-Pinus brutia Tenore

Common Names: Calabrian pine, Turkish pine (En). Kaja Zawita (Kurd) Sanoubar Zawita (Arab).

- Trees up to 20m high with open crown of irregular branches. Bark of the lower stem part thick, scaly, fissured, red-brown and buff, but thin, orange-red at the upper stem parts within the crown. Winter buds with red-brown scales with free tips, revolute and fringed with white hairs.
- Leaves in fascicles of two, retained for 1.5 to 2.5 years, with a persistent, 1.0-1.5cm long sheath, 8-12cm long, 1-1.5mm wide, dark green, with serrulate margins
- Female cones erect to forward pointing on short stout stalks, 4-10cm long 4-7cm wide (at the midpoint) when closed, green, ripening shiny red-brown two years after pollination, open in summer and shed seeds in winter, solitary or in cluster of 2-7. Umbos dorsal, flat or slightly raised, 5-7mm wide, grey in color. Seeds grey-brown, 4-8mm long with a broad, auricled 1-2cm wing; wing yellow-buff streaked darker brown. Male cones numerous on the smaller shoots, yellow at maturity (1).



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growth in arid zones. The rate of growth of Zawita pine is considered to be moderate with mean annual ring width of 5.902 (0.9-15.6)mm, early wood 3.419 (0.5-8.7) mm, late wood 2.495 (0.4-6.9)mm and can live for a period exceeding 300 years (2).



Uses

1. *Pinus brutia* trees are not of a major commercial importance. They have relatively a moderately dense, coarse-grained, and resinous wood. The wood is often used for rough constructional purposes, box shoo, poles, firewood, charcoal, and carpentry. For saw timber production, especially when grown in closed stands when it tends to lean resulting in eccentric piths and a high proportion of compression wood. Consequently, features other than these that determine timber quality are usually considered.
2. *P. brutia* has proved very useful for roadside plantation, street planting, big urban gardens, and shelter belt. It is also proved to be effective in improving basic soil properties and regeneration of native trees and shrubs (3 and 4).



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Figure 4. Calabrian pine, *Pinus brutia*: 1. Zawita natural forest, N Dohuk, 2. Foliage and immature pollen cones,

2. *Juniperus oxycedrus* L.

Common Names: Prickly Juniper, Cade Juniper (En.), Havrist, Havrizhk, Qach (Kurd.),

Shrubs, spreading 2-3m tall, are very rarely small trees, 10-15m tall, dioecious. Bark gray to brown-red or gray-brown, soft, fibrous, longitudinally fissured at the lower part of the stem.

Leaves are needle-like in whorls of three, green, 0.5-2.0cm long and 1-2mm broad, cross-section triangular.

Male cones yellow, 2-3mm long. Female cones berry-like, green to orange-red with a variable pink waxy coating, spherical in shape, 7-12mm diameter, each cone with 3-6 fused scales in 1-2 whorls, three of the scales with a single seed (2).

Phenology: pollens release in February-March, seeds ripening in 18 months after pollination.

Habitat, Distribution and Physical Characteristics

The species is very common in mountains of Kurdistan, especially in its NW sector. It is a prostrate shrub rarely small erect tree within the oak natural forest or as a major element of the wood land areas, 700-1000m elevation, extending from Zakho to Rawandoz. Unfortunately.

Although characteristic of Mediterranean climates, it is also found deep into the Asian and European continents, growing on a variety of rocky sites from sea level up to 1600m elevation

The native distribution of the Prickly Juniper runs across the Mediterranean region from Morocco, Croatia and Portugal, north to southern France, east to Kurdistan, western Iran, and Caucasus mountains, at 0-1400 m elevation, and south to Palestine.

Uses

1. Cade oil is the essential oil obtained through destructive distillation of the wood of this plant. It is dark, aromatic oil with a strong tar-like smell which is used in some cosmetic and in the treatment of skin diseases such as psoriasis and chronic eczema (5), parasiticide in cases of psora, favus (5), and antiseptic (6). Oil from the leaves and shoots is also used in medicine.
2. The species, due to the spreading habit and stiff needle-like leaves, plays an important role in the ecology of region through preserving the wild life and preventing soil erosion, especially in mountainous regions.

The wood of Prickly Juniper is fragrant, usually reddish or reddish-

brown, easily worked, very durable, and rarely injured by insects (7). Therefore it is successfully used for fencing and villagers roofing. However, because of wood small sizes and low quality, it is seldom used as a timber tree. Numerous cultivars are used for landscaping (8). Because the genus is widely distributed in semiarid regions (it grows particularly well on calcareous soils) and some are not particularly palatable to domestic goats, it often affords the only tree of size on the landscape, thus providing an important source of wood for construction, fuel and other domestic uses.



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Figure . Prickly Juniper, *Juniperus oxycedrus*: 1. Habit, NW Dohuk dam, 700-750m altitude, 2. new foliage with mature male cones, 3. fruiting branches bearing female cones, 4. Bark of the stems and old branches, 5. Branch infected by the semi parasitic mistletoe, *Arceuthobium oxycedri* (Viscaceae), Koramarkey village graveyard, N Swaratuka.

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