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## **NATURE OF CODE-SWITCHING AMONG THE BANGLADESHI TERTIARY LEVEL FACEBOOK USERS**

**Zarin Tasnim**

Lecturer, Department of English, American International University Bangladesh, Bangladesh  
[z.shreyoshi@gmail.com](mailto:z.shreyoshi@gmail.com)

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### **Abstract**

*The aim of this research paper to explore the different types and frequency of code switching in Facebook by the tertiary level (both graduate and undergraduate) FB users in Bangladesh. Code-switching is a regular and subconscious practice for verbal communication. But this issue is very prominent among the students of universities on the social media, especially on Facebook. I always find it interesting and so it prompted me to conduct a research study on this topic. For this purpose, a qualitative study was conducted by observing FB status updates and conversation of 10 active FB users. 4 status updates and 6 private conversations were collected as data and data were analyzed through text analysis. After data analysis, the findings show the frequency of the three types of code-switching in Facebook profiles of the tertiary level FB users. My research has revealed that university students as active FB users often switch codes in their status updates and private conversations. It has been found that all three types of code-switching namely inter-sentential, intra-sentential and tag switching occur but intra-sentential switching occurs most in their status updates and conversations. As the research was done on a very small number of participants, it cannot justify the various reasons and factors behind code-switching of the tertiary level FB users. So more studies have been recommended to find out related issues and overall impact of code-switching among the Bangladeshi young FB users.*

## **Keywords**

Code-Switching, Facebook, Tertiary Level, FB Users, Text Analysis

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## **1. Introduction**

Code-switching is a very familiar and expected linguistic phenomenon in everyday conversation of people. In recent days, people switch codes in their daily lives to achieve interactional goals with others. Facebook is the place where the occurrences of code-switching are very high. Facebook users have a natural tendency of switching from one code to another while communicating with others. Most of them usually do not stick to a particular language or code, but often mix or switch languages. This linguistic behavior depends largely on the interlocutors, situation and topic of conversation.

In Bangladesh, a large number of people use Facebook to communicate with friends, families, colleagues or others. Most of the active FB users tend to use both Bangla and English to correspond in Facebook. Bangladeshi students (both from Bangla and English medium) grow a habit of using both Bangla and English either consciously or subconsciously. This bilingual behavior is further enriched when they enter into the universities where the medium of instruction, is often in English. While communicating in Facebook, Bangladeshi students from tertiary level (both graduate and undergraduate) switch codes just like they do in regular life. This research paper will focus on the nature of code-switching occurred among the Bangladeshi tertiary level FB users.

### **1.1 Purpose of the study**

Facebook users have developed a language of their own, which can be: shortening of texts (e.g. u-you, d-the, btw- by the way, tc- take care etc.), using emoticons (e.g. ☺- happy, ☹- sad, ;) -winking etc.) or switching codes. It has been observed that people switch from one language to another frequently. It is also interesting to note that how the types of code-switching differ based on the relation, situation and topic or issue of the conversation.

The purpose of this research is to explore the different types of code-switching occurred among the Bangladeshi tertiary level FB users in their status updates and conversation on Facebook.

### **1.2 Significance of the study**

This study will add to the existing literature on code-switching, specifically on online conversation. Information gained from the study will help to provide insight on how and why

code-switching occur both in spoken and written form. It is important as bilinguals will then be aware of code-switching that occurs on online conversation via social networking site.

Facebook has become the largest and most popular social networking site worldwide in the last few years. This paper focuses on the various types of code-switching which occurs in FB status updates and chats and messages of Bangladeshi tertiary level students.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

This research was led by these two questions:

- (i) What are the types of code-switching that can be observed among the Bangladeshi university students while communicating in Facebook?
- (ii) Which type of code-switching occurs most in their FB status updates and private conversations?

## **2. Literature Review**

This section comprises the concept of bilingualism and multilingualism, definition of code-switching and its types, several studies on code-switching in Computer Mediated Communication and previous researches on code-switching in Bangladeshi context.

### **2.1 Bilingualism and Multilingualism**

Bilingualism occurs when a person can use two distinct languages in his daily life where he uses one code to maintain the communication within his community and another is outside the community. Multilingualism means when a person uses different languages (more than two) in different contexts, where one is at home, another is at workplace, another is for purpose of trade and another is for communicate with villagers. People, who are bilingual or multilingual, can shift from one language to another without any hesitation and can access into wider social or political organizations very easily (Wardhaugh, 2010).

### **2.2 Definition of Code-switching**

In Socio-Linguistics, the word ‘code’ can be used to “refer any kind of system that two or more people employ for communication” (Wardhaugh, 2010, p.84). The term ‘code-switching’ can be used to refer to the act of conversing in another language along with mother tongue. It occurs when a speaker alternates between two or more languages, or language varieties, in the context of a single conversation. Gumperz (1982) refers code-switching as the “juxtaposition of the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems

or subsystems” (as cited in Gulzar, 2010, p.26). As defined by Lightbown (2001), code-switching is “the systematic alternating use of two languages or language varieties within a single conversation or utterance” (p. 598).

In brief, code-switching is shifting from one language to another within a conversation. In the context of foreign language classroom, it refers to the alternate use of the first language (L1) and the target language (L2), a means of communication when the need arises. In fact, code-switching is the act of speaking or writing in different languages interchangeably in order to overcome language constraints, to deliver speeches effectively and most importantly, as a crucial step towards successful communication.

### **2.3 Types of Code-Switching**

Poplack (1980) categorized code-switching into three types: tag switching, inter-sentential switching and intra-sentential switching.

#### **(a) Tag Code-switching:**

It involves inserting a tag or short phrase in one language into an utterance that is otherwise entirely in another language. Tag switching occurs the most easily for the reason being tags typically contain minimal syntactic restrictions thus not violating syntactic rules when being inserted into monolingual sentences. Common English tags such as **I mean, you know, right, okay** etc. are some of the examples that fit into this category. For example, ‘*//ami parbo na//*’, okay?

#### **(b) Inter-sentential Code-switching:**

This switching occurs between sentences. It takes place at a clause or sentence level of an utterance in which each clause or sentence is in different language. Inter-sentential switching requires more fluency in both languages in order to conform to the rules of both languages. For example, “*//ami jani na//*, do you know?” (*ami jani na* meaning- I don’t know).

#### **(c) Intra-sentential Code-switching:**

This type of code-switching occurs within a clause or sentence boundary of an utterance. It may even occur at a word level or middle of the sentence. This type of code-switching is also known as ‘code-mixing’. For example, ‘*amra* more or less, *duita* language mix *//kore kotha boli//*’! (Meaning- we all, more or less speak mixing two languages.)

### **2.4 Code-switching in Computer Mediated Communication (CMC)**

Many linguists have studied code switching in CMC environment which can be related to this study. Communication through internet is known as computer-mediated communication.

According to Herring (1996), CMC is the communication that takes place between people via the instrumentality of computers (as cited in Huang, 2009, p. 12). He opined that discourse in CMC is now recognized as exhibiting unique manner of communication, representing the term computer-mediated discourse, encompassing all kinds of interpersonal communication carried out on internet, e.g., by email, instant messaging, web discussion boards and chat channels (as cited in Huang, 2009, p.13).

Facebook is a social networking website that provides an extensive number of features for its users to socialize and share information. Users can sign up on the website with a valid email address and create a profile page, allowing them to keep updated with friends' social activities, upload photos, share links and videos and connect with people. Facebook has become the leading social networking platform on internet and here code switching occurs frequently.

Huang (2004) investigated language choice and use in emails used for interpersonal communication written by eight Chinese- English bilinguals in Taiwan. He found out that Chinese is used to express their personal thoughts and ideas and English for internet and international identity (cited in Cardenas- Claros and Isharyanti, p.72). English was used for technology and academic matters and Chinese in traditional context. Cardenas-Claros & Isharyanti (2009) examined the phenomenon of code switching in CMC or particularly internet chat room conversations of non-native English users from both Spanish and Indonesian backgrounds. Goldberg (2009) studied Spanish- English code-switching in email exchange of five Latin American participants and found out English was used for professional matters and minority language for situations (p.3). Fong (2011) investigated the occurrences of code switching in CMC among Mandarin Chinese- English bilingual university students on Facebook to examine the various functions and reasons for code-switching.

## **2.5 Previous Studies done on the Issue of Code-switching in Bangladeshi Students**

We, the Bangladeshi people, mostly switch codes from Bengali to English. Though our official language is Bengali, the importance of English as a foreign language is increasing rapidly in this country. English is taught as a compulsory subject at primary, secondary, higher secondary and tertiary levels. With its outgrowing importance, English has become the medium of instruction in most of the universities.

According to Rahman (2005), English was introduced as a compulsory subject from class I to class XII in schools on 19 January 1989 where students have to qualify in the board examinations. Moreover, at the tertiary level, English was introduced as a compulsory subject in

many disciplines since the 90s. Rahman points out that most of the universities use English as their medium of instructions. Besides, there are compulsory English language courses for all the undergraduate students. That is why English is given an extra emphasis in the university education system. So the students at the tertiary level are used to communicate by switching both languages back and forth.

Alam (2006) found out some of the following factors that are responsible for code switching.

- Bilingualism and multilingualism
- Diglossia
- Culture
- Talking about a particular topic
- Drawing attention of others
- Quoting somebody else
- Impressing for professional purposes
- Clarifying something
- Emphasizing something
- Softening or strengthening request or command
- For lexical need

In Bangladesh, people have grown a habit of code switching which is also reflected in their written text on Facebook. Khadim (2014) has conducted a broad research on code switching by Bangladeshi FB users to find out the motivation behind code switching. She also made a thorough study on the types of code switching on Facebook. The FB users selected for her paper were mostly young people whose code-switching gives them a separate identity.

My research will focus only the types of code switching occurred on Facebook among the Bangladeshi tertiary level including both undergraduate and graduate students. I will also try to find out the frequency of the type of code switching occurred in their FB status updates and conversation with others via Facebook.

### **3. Methodology**

Qualitative method has been used for this research. In qualitative research, data are collected through careful observation, in depth interviews and also based on various situations and events. Much authentic and reliable information can be gained through qualitative research.

Moreover, researchers can reflect their own biases, values, assumptions and experiences in this type of research for its subjective reflexivity. So I have selected this approach to collect and analyze the data of my research.

### **3.1 Participants**

For the research, I used to observe the status updates of my more active Facebook friends, both known and unknown, especially those students of tertiary level. After a close observation, I wanted to select 20 active FB users whom used to switch codes frequently. Every one of them was Bangladeshi university student and native Bangla speaker. They were from different universities (public and private) studying different majors such as BBA, Economics, English, Physics, and Engineering etc.

Finally, I had to choose 10 university students as active FB users who were supportive to my research purpose. Gender balance has been maintained as 5 of the selected participants were males and 5 were females. Their age limit was 19-24 years. All of them agreed to co-operate me in this research. The actual names of the participants were replaced by another name in order to ensure their privacy and confidentiality. I have taken consent from each and every respondent to gather data for my research purpose. They were also allowed freedom of withdrawing their consent at any moment.

### **3.2 Instruments**

In order to collect data, observation procedure had been used. I used to observe those FB status updates where actual code switching occurred. Along with status updates, I also wanted to collect data from their conversations with their fb friends. So I requested the participants to provide some of their private conversations on Facebook for my research. I ensured their privacy and on this condition, they gave their consent and sent me screen shots of their FB messages. They also permitted me to use their status updates for my research purpose.

### **3.3 Data collection**

Only status updates and conversations where code switching occurred were considered as data. 15 conversations and 12 status updates containing language switching codes were collected from FB through personal computer and cell phone. In order to avoid uncertainty, the corpus was presented in its original form with all its flaws such as misspellings, shortened form of texts, emoticons, incorrect grammar, colloquial terms etc. No changes were made in the status updates or conversations to preserve their authenticity.

**Table 1:** Selection of participants and collected data

Number of expected participants	20
Number of selected participants	10
Percentage of sample	50%
Number of collected status updates on FB	12
Number of collected conversations on FB	15

### 3.4 Data analysis

For this research, I gathered all the status updates and FB conversations where code switching occurred. I analyzed the data using text analysis approach. It was very interesting to note that the messages or conversations I got from the participants were mostly between their friends or peers. Very few of them were between their family members or others. It might be because most of the university students communicate mostly with their classmates and friends on Facebook. Among the 8 status updates, I have chosen 4 to present as examples in my research. I have selected specific portions of 6 conversations or private messages as representatives of code-switching to present here. Pseudonyms for the participants have been used to maintain their privacy and confidentiality. I have made attempts to analyze the data through an analysis of their words or speeches, in short, the entire text in order to find out the type of code switching occurred in the data. To distinguish between the base language and code switching discourse, all the Bangla words are italicized and the sentences or utterances (only in case of status updates) are also translated into English which are put into first brackets.

**Table 2:** Type of collected data along with the pseudonyms and age of the participants

Pseudonyms of participants	Kabir	Shumi	Maya	Palash	Eti	Rakib	Akash	Brishti	Anu	Zahid
Gender	Male	Female	Female	Male	Female	Male	Male	Female	Female	Male
Age(approx.)	19	21	20	22	19	24	23	20	19	21
Collected data type	status update	status update	status update	status update	message	message	message	message	message	Message

**Source: News Feed of Facebook Profile (started from March to May, 2017)**

**N. B:**

- i) Screenshots of status updates and conversations were taken with the full consent of the participants.
- ii) Privacy of the participants has been preserved, therefore, their original profiles have not been showed.

### 3.4.1 Analysis of Status Updates:

For example,

#### (i) Status update given by Kabir:

“Somya Sarkar next Liton Das //hote choleche//. //Akhono// time //ase//. //Cheletake kichudiner jonno// rest //din/!”

(Meaning: Somya Sarkar is going to be the next Liton Das. There’s still time left. Let the boy take rest for a few days.)

It is seen that in this status update, Kabir used both Bangla and English words in his utterances. His code switching occurs at word level, thus becoming intra-sentential switching. He constantly switches from Bangla to English and again English to Bangla and code switching takes place within the clause boundary.

#### (ii) Status update given by Shumi:

“Teacher //er takay// breakfast //korata j koto// special //ta// life //a//first realize //korlam//. //Shei// teacher //jodi hoy varsityr abar tao// department head //tahole to kothai nai//.” ☺

(Meaning: this is the first time I realized how special it feels when a teacher gives a breakfast treat. If that the teacher is from the varsity and the Head of the Department, then it is more than awesome).

In this example, it has been noted that Shumi has started with an English word but gradually switches to Bangla and again moves back to English. This keeps going on through the utterances. It is noteworthy that her status update shows intra-sentential switching where switches occur at lexical level within the same utterance.

#### (iii) Status update given by Maya:

“//ei bochor j porimane// pizza & pasta //khaisi shei taka diye// literally //akta// Lamborghini car //kine felte partam//. Whatever, //ei bochor dokaner malik kinuk//, next year //ami kinum//”:D  
# ye saal to abhi baaki hain meri dost :P

(Meaning - I could have bought a Lamborghini car with the money which I spent to eat huge number of pizza and pasta in this year. Whatever, let the owner of the shop buy the car, I will buy next year :D)

(# this year is still left, my friends: P).

In this example, Maya has expressed her feelings through mixing three languages: Bangla, English and Hindi. At the last, she switches code to Hindi by which she summarized her speech using hash tag (#). She started from Bangla and used English words as she proceeds. Here

from the very beginning, intra-sentential switching occurs within the same sentences. But at the last point, the sudden switch to a third language, Hindi indicates inter-sentential switching occurring at a sentence level.

**(iv) Status update given by Palash:**

“//amr// friend list a //amon keu ki ase j biye korben// one week //er moddhe/? //Amr khub biye khaite icche kore fransss//! //Khub// enjoy //korte mon chay//!Don’t worry! //Dawat dilei// gift //niya jabo//. Plz, don’t avoid it as fun!”:D

(Meaning- is there anyone in my friend list who is going to get married within one week? I want to attend a wedding ceremony, friends! Want to enjoy a lot! Don’t worry! I will attend with gifts if I get invitation. Please, don’t avoid it as fun!)

This status update has both intra-sentential and inter-sentential switching. Palash switches from Bangla to English throughout the sentences. The fourth line is a clear indication of inter-sentential switching where switches occur between sentences. It is very interesting to observe that in the preceding sentences, Palash uses at least one English word which shows his intra-sentential code switching.

**3.4.2 Analysis of Conversation on FB:**

For example,

**(i) A conversation between Eti and her friend Sohel:**

Eti: *dost, aj class a gesili?*

Sohel: *//hmm...tui ashish nai kan?//*

Eti: um sick, *//dost//... ☹ sir //kono// important topic //poraysen/?*

Sohel: *alwz //to shuni// sick //thakish//....!!! Class bunk //kortesis, na/?*

Eti:*//na, dost//...this time I’m really sick!*

It is seen that the respondent, Eti wrote in an informal way. Both her and Sohel’s code-switching occurs is intra-sentential in type. Eti, in every of her sentence wrote started in Bangla but switched to English using the words, “class”, “sir”, “important topic”. Similarly, Sohel started with Bangla but in second utterance he used English words such as- “sick”, “class bunk”. He also used tag-switching “class bunk kortesis, na?” (Meaning- you are bunking classes, aren’t you?). In the last utterance of Eti, she produced inter-sentential switching by completing her utterance using a full English sentence switching from Bangla.

**(ii) A conversation between Rakib and his school friend Saddam:**

Rakib: hi, buddy? What’s up?

Saddam: good! //Tor dekhi kono khobor nai!!!!//

Rakib: //r bolish na// um busy with exams, presentation, assignments.....

Saddam: let's meet someday. //Onkdin adda deya hoy na aksathe!//

Rakib: great idea! Let's talk to our other buddies!

It can be observed that Rakib used English in his first utterance but starts his second utterance in Bangla and moves to English again. In his third utterance, he has used complete English expression. In this conversation, inter-sentential switching occurs in the second and third sentences.

**(iii) A conversation between two friends:**

Toma: //janish, amdr// Piya is going to get married! Surprising, //na//?

Akash: really!!! Invitation //pabo na//?

Toma: invite //na korleo chole jabo//! :P

Akash: :D. //age or kache// treat //to nei//!

Toma: //chol// couple //er kache// treat //aday kori//! :P

This conversation shows intra-sentential code-switching in the sentence levels of both the respondents. In their every utterance, we can see that both of them wrote using Bangla and English words and thus switch from one language to other within the sentence boundaries.

**(iv) A conversation between Brishti and her elder sister Bithi:**

Brishti: //apu//, do u know what I saw yesterday?

Bithi: how can I know if u don't tell me? //Ki hoise//?

Brishti: I liked a pair of beautiful shoes in Apex. //jodi tumi dekhta//, um sure you'll love that!

Bithi: //ami jani// how much u love shoes!

Brishti: //kine dao na apu, eta hobe amr// birthday gift! ☺

Bithi: //tor// result //dekhe nei// then decide //korbo//:D

In the first sentence, it is seen that Brishti wrote in whole English before adding a Bangla word "apu" which produced intra-sentential code-switching. On the other hand, Bithi starts her utterance in English and switches to Bangla at the sentence level. This is inter-sentential switching. In the last three utterances, intra-sentential switching has taken place within sentence levels.

**(v) A conversation between two classmates:**

Sabbir: tour //a jaccho//? Cox's bazaar?

Anu: not sure yet. //Accha//, subscription //koto dhorse//?

Sabbir: most probably, 5000 tk. sure //hoye// inform //korbo//!

Anu: //amdr// class //theke kotojon jete pare//? Teacher //ra jacche//?

Sabbir: I guess 50 //jon to jabei//....teacher //rao jete// interested.... ☺.

In this conversation, intra-sentential switching occurs in almost all the sentences, except the last sentence. Sabbir and Anu spoke by switching from Bangla to English or English to Bangla in the same utterances. It's noticeable that when Anu started writing English, Sabbir also responded in English and both gradually shifted to use Bangla. In each of these sentences, at least one English word has been used and thus intra-switching has occurred.

**(vi) A conversation between Zahid and Saba:**

Zahid: //tor// birthday treat //pai nai//! //Kobe pabo bol//!

Saba: it's has been old birthday, //dost//! Treat //pabi// but //koyekdin por//! //Fokir asi//! :P

Zahid: no way!loan //ne, pore to vulei jabi//! //Dorkar hole// kidney //beche tk niye ay//! :P

Saba: kidney //bechte parle to// iphone 6 //kinte partam// :D

In this conversation, intra-sentential code switching has occurred. Both Zahid and Saba wrote mixing both English and Bangla words in their utterances. But in the first utterance of Saba, she finished one sentence in English but immediately moves to Bangla in the next sentence. She used inter-sentential as well as intra-sentential switching in this utterance.

## 4. Findings

After analyzing the collected data, it has been found that more or less, the three types of code switching occur in language used by Bangladeshi tertiary level FB users. They, while communicating with others, especially with friends, classmates or siblings on Facebook, tend to switch codes often either from Bangla to English or English to Bangla. Moreover, they also switch codes in expressing their feelings or views through status updates.

The findings of this research can be divided into three categories:

**(a) Occurrence of intra-sentential code-switching:**

From the data analysis, it can be observed that all participants have used intra-sentential code switching to a great extent. Both in status updates and conversations, the participants switch codes within the sentences.

The following table shows the frequency of intra-sentential switching in the participants' status updates.

**Table 3:** *Frequency of intra-sentential switching in status updates*

Status updates	Number of occurrences
Status update 1	5 times
Status update 2	8 times
Status update 3	6 times
Status update 4	8 times

The findings show that in status updates, the four participants switch codes 5, 8, 6 and 8 times (total 27 times) respectively within the sentence boundaries.

In case of conversation, it is also seen that code switching occurs in a more interesting way. The table below shows the frequency of intra-sentential switching in conversations.

**Table 4:** *Frequency of intra-sentential switching in conversations*

Conversations	Number of occurrences
Conversation 1	4 times
Conversation 2	3 times
Conversation 3	8 times
Conversation 4	7 times
Conversation 5	10 times
Conversation 6	12 times

The findings indicate that the respondents switch codes 4, 3, 8, 7, 10 and 12 times (total 44 times) in the six conversations respectively.

So it can be said that the participants' use of intra-sentential switching is very common in their status updates or conversations.

**(b) Occurrence of inter-sentential switching:**

After analyzing the whole data, I have observed that the participants also used inter-sentential code switching in their status updates and conversations but the occurrence is not so high in frequency.

The following table shows the frequency of inter-sentential switching in status updates given by the participants.

**Table 5:** *Frequency of inter-sentential switching in status updates*

Status updates	Number of occurrences
Status update 1	0 times
Status update 2	0 times
Status update 3	1 time
Status update 4	2 times

The findings indicate that in status update number 1 and 2, the users have not used any inter-sentential switching at all. But in status update number 3 and 4, the users switch codes 1 and 2 times (total 3 times) respectively at the sentence boundaries.

The table below shows the frequency of inter-sentential switching in conversations.

**Table 6:** *Frequency of inter-sentential switching in conversations*

<b>Conversations</b>	<b>Number of occurrences</b>
Conversation 1	2 times
Conversation 2	3 times
Conversation 3	0 times
Conversation 4	2 times
Conversation 5	0 times
Conversation 6	1 time

The findings show that the respondents switch codes 2, 3, 0, 2, 0 and 1 times (total 8 times) in the six conversations at the sentence boundaries respectively.

So it can be said that the participants sometimes use inter-sentential switching in their status updates and conversations but not as much as they do use intra-sentential switching.

**(c) Occurrence of tag-switching**

By analyzing the data, it has been found that the participants' use of tag-switching in their status updates or conversations is not much in comparison to inter-sentential or intra-sentential switching.

In all the four status updates, the participants did not seem to use tags in their sentences. On the other hand, in conversation 1 and 3, tag switching occurs 1 time per each. No tag-switching has taken place in other conversations.

The following table shows the types and frequency of code switching along with percentages by the Bangladeshi tertiary level FB users from the analysis of the collected data:

**Table 7:** *Types and Frequency of code switching*

<b>Types of code-switching</b>	<b>Status Updates</b>	<b>Conversations</b>	<b>Number of occurrences</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>
Intra-sentential	27	44	71 times	84.52%
Inter-sentential	3	8	11 times	13.1%
Tag	0	2	2 times	2.38%
			Total- 84 times	

The findings indicate that tag-switching (2.38%) is rarely used by tertiary level FB users. On the contrary, it is evident that they most often use intra-sentential switching (84.52%) in status updates or conversations. The occurrence of inter-sentential switching (13.1%) is not so prominent on Facebook communication. So intra-sentential switching is the most frequent type of code switching occurred on Facebook.

These findings provide the answers of the two research questions. It has been observed that Bangladeshi tertiary level FB users apply all three types of code switching. But all of them tend to apply intra-sentential switching frequently. It might be because most of the young FB users feel more comfortable or become used to switch codes within the sentence levels. That is why, intra-sentential code switching occurs most in their FB status updates or conversations.

## **5. Summary**

Code-switching is a common linguistic norm in our everyday life. The language used in Facebook is not exception to this phenomenon. In this research, I have studied on the types of code-switching occurred among the tertiary level FB users in Bangladesh. It has been found that they employ three types of code switching: intra-sentential, inter-sentential and tag switching. According to the findings, it can be said that all of the participants seem to be aware of this shift from one language to another. Their manipulation of both Bangla and English helps them to accomplish their communicative functions and interaction through Facebook.

From the collected data for my research, I have found that the participants' use of code-switching is almost similar to each other. It is very important to mention that as all of the participants are from tertiary levels and they have developed a particular language code for FB communication. When they write on Facebook in Bangla or English, they switch codes accordingly. In this study, I have observed that all of the participants use intra-sentential switching while communicating in Facebook. Inter-sentential switching (13.1%) and tag switching (2.38%) are also found but these are not as prominent as intra-sentential (84.52%) switching.

### **5.1 Limitations of the study**

This study was conducted with a very small number of participants. As a result, the data I collected is not sufficient enough to make any strong claims to be applied to a large number of tertiary level FB users regarding the nature of code-switching on their Facebook profiles. Moreover, in this research, I have not focused on the reasons behind the type and frequency of

code switching. So it cannot be properly justified that the Bangladeshi tertiary level students use different types of code-switching for the same purposes. It may vary based on the personal relation of the users, topic of conversation, lack of finding equivalent words, personal choice or mood etc. These factors have been overlooked in my research.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendations**

Code-switching is closely related to our everyday communication with people. As most young people use Facebook to a great extent, they tend to switch codes in FB for different purposes. In my research, I have chosen 10 participants from whose I have collected data to explore the nature of code-switching in Facebook. In this regard, the study of Ho (2006) can be related for logical reason. She conducted research on code switching of 21 tertiary students in Hong Kong while using ICQ (an instant messaging computer program). English was used for technology and academic matters and Chinese in traditional context. Ho mentioned that the usage of two languages illustrate the identity of the new young generation of Hong Kong (as cited in Cárdenas-Claros and Isharyanti, p.73). The Facebook users selected for this paper are young people who use code-switching for their personal convenience and gain individual identities. They use different types of code switching which reflect their particular use of language in Facebook.

Many limitations are prevalent in my research. So it is necessary to recommend some more studies on this topic. The research studies should be conducted on a large number of participants so that more authentic and relevant information can be gained about the nature of code switching in Facebook. Different reasons and factors behind this phenomenon should be considered in this regard. Moreover, various sociolinguistic functions should also be taken into account when conducting future studies regarding this topic.

The phenomenon of code-switching in Facebook by Bangladeshi FB users of tertiary levels is a very relevant, interesting and unique topic to study. More research should be conducted on this topic to gain a better understanding about the factors, purposes and functions of code-switching. Future studies regarding this subject can provide valuable knowledge and insights about overall impact of code-switching in Facebook.

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