

SOCIOPRAGMATIC FUNCTIONS OF CODE-SWITCHING AMONG REPATRIATED KAZAKH STUDENTS

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Abstract

The spread of English as a global language has shaped the linguistic spaces of many countries in the world. English is considered as a condition for successful integration into the global economy in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In recent years many studies have been carried out on code switching as a linguistic phenomenon in the educational space. The issue of English-Kazakh code switching has been the focus of some research in Kazakhstan quite recently; therefore, studies in this field are in the development stage and highly relevant. The current language situation is reflected in the Project “Trinity of Languages” where, along with the Kazakh language as a state language, English has been assigned a special status as the language of integration into the global economy. The present paper addresses the research on sociopragmatic functions of code switching among students of high schools. The role and the current status of English in the linguistic space of Kazakhstan are briefly analysed in the paper. The study investigated Kazakh-speaking students of higher educational institutions of the capital of Kazakhstan – Astana. The study was conducted at L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, S.Seifullin Kazakh Agrotechnical University. The participants of the study are students-repatriates majoring in «Foreign languages» (English). The questionnaires as well as the transcripts of the students’ speech were used for gathering data. The results of the study show that code switching has important functions in foreign language classroom that contributes to effective communication. According to our research, several functions of the sociolinguistic character have been determined during the research. The findings of the research demonstrate that English-Kazakh code switching facilitates foreign language learning.

Keywords: Code-switching, sociopragmatic, function.