

We cordially invite you to the following guest lecture:

The role of code-switching in language variation and change: Evidence from Bollywood's bilingual songs

Ass.Prof. Dr. Snobra Rizwan

Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
University of Vienna

21.06.2023 11h45

HS 11.01, Heinrichstraße 36, Parterre

Abstract

This research focuses on the role of code-switching in language variation and change, analyzing clause complex relations in Bollywood's Hindi/Urdu film songs which are very popular in India and Pakistan. Songs like any other cultural artefact represent popular culture and hence are a source to study linguistic practices of the masses. This paper has threefold objectives. First, it analyzes and discusses formal and contextual links which serve to join clauses in the bilingual songs such as cohesive devices, referring expressions, lexical chains, etc.. Formal and contextual links inform us to what extent code-switching and code-mixing joins the clauses of a song making it a coherent semantic unit. Second, this paper discusses bilingual songs as a new song genre. Genre analysis tells us at what generic move code-switching is the most frequent phenomenon; at the beginning, in the middle or at the end. These patterns can be related to everyday conversation of the people. Finally, this paper relates the untraditional bilingual song genre to the widely prevalent code-switching in India and Pakistan which is a step towards the gradual emergence of a new hybrid variety of the Urdu/Hindi language. The study uses the labels of 'Systemic Functional Linguistics' (SFL) (Halliday 1986) to analyze *clause complex relations* in the songs, because SFL provides a variety of interpretations of clause complexes and is semantically oriented. The analysis reveals that the clause boundaries between different moves of genre become a site of interplay between English and Urdu/Hindi codes where both *taxis* (i.e. interdependence of the clauses) and *logico-semantic* relations (i.e., expansion and projection in clauses) are observed.



Dr. Rizwan is assistant professor at the department of English, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan (Pakistan), with a broad interest in sociolinguistic topics, from discourse analysis to multilingualism. She has earned her Ph.D. at the university of Graz. Among other topics, she is doing research on discourses about women as well as hijras in Pakistan. At the moment, she is visiting professor at the University of Vienna.



Organizer/contact:

ao.Univ.-Prof. Mag.Dr. Ralf Vollmann, Universität Graz, vollmanr@gmail.com