



A STUDY ON THE EXTINCTION OF DIALECTS DUE TO THE EFFECT OF DEMO-LINGUISTICS -A CASE STUDY IN BANGLADESH.

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Abstract: Every Country has many dialects but those dialects are being extinguished due to the effect of demo linguistics which people try to follow when they are out of their own place. This paper analyze why the people do not use their own dialects which they captured originally. The importance of this research is to grow the interest about learning and to keep alive the dialects among the people which have relation with our language. This paper is designed with the help of the study in the opinion of the inhabitants of Chattogram, Bangladesh. After the study case, the results were that most of the people do not show interest to use their dialects but they use their dialects as their home language, some people prefer elegant language, some mixed or use their own dialects. Options and sectors of gaining knowledge about dialects of one country should be increased to save different kinds of dialects as these have historical and traditional relationship with places.

Keywords: Demo linguistics, dialects, preferable languages, different thought about language, home language, usages of languages.

Introduction: Demo linguistics is a branch of Social linguistics where the discussion about people's requirement to adjust with the language trend followed in society is done. Demo means people or society and linguistics is related to language. The topic focuses on how people try to adjust with the language trend on Bangladesh. There are almost thirty eight languages are used in Bangladesh like Arakanese, Assamese, Bishnupriya, Burmese, Chak and Chakma, Asoh Chin, Falam Chin, Haka Chin, Bawm Chin, Khumi Chin, Chitagonian, Darlong, Garo, Hajang Ho, Khasi, Koch, KokBorok, Khurux, Megham, Meitei, Mozo, Mru, Mundaru, Pankhu, Pnar, Rajbanshi, Rieng, OraonSaderi, Santali, Shendu, Sylheti, Tangchangya, Tippera, Usuiand War. The people have the tendency to change their mind of using their own language. It occurs because of the effect of demo linguistics. This is one of the most common issues in linguistics. It is noticed when the people want to change their own districts or places and go to another places, their mind already become aware that they would be able to adjust with the language of people of new place or not. We all know that language is the main thing for communication

and it is only usable for human beings. With these languages there are many things which are related like demography, place etc. Extinction of dialects has become an ecumenical affair of Bangladesh due to the effect of demo linguistics. Literacy should provide the people idea that dialects are the parts of Bangla Language. But this is a matter of sorrow that the literate people are ignoring dialects which is the failure of education. The people who do not have any sense related to education are seemed to respect their own dialects now-a-days. Dialects are the parts of colloquial language and from dialects many words are purveyed for building up colloquial language. So ignorance of dialects means to neglect the tradition of language. Demo linguistics is accepted highly which is taken as the act of tidiness. In Bangladesh, there is no particular subject or course where dialects are uphold in front of the learners so that they can gain knowledge about dialect from their early age. Might be they are taught some dialects in the section of grammar in Bangla. But the learners do not think of the high usages of dialects except of getting marks. That is the reason for what the existence of dialects is being extinguished day be day. So in this article, it will be discussed how these things affect the people's mind and their own language or dialects.

Literature Review: People's requirement of language for communication is indispensable. If any person who has been using the dialect of his ownplace, he faces obstacles adjusting with a new language. Language's role is really important for different groups of people. The inhabitants of various districts fail to adjust with the urban people firstly because of their communication problem. Because of their dialects they face this problem. As a result, people are becoming super-diverse who know the language trend than the people of ethnic groups and the people who belong to different place (Vertovec, 2007). Recently, information about language use has been proposed as an useful trait for understanding groups (Christ and Thomas 2008; Peukert, 2013). Home languages can be taken as the media of communication between the same group people but it is not adjustable in every place. Every people from every district reflect their own culture through their language but their replacement in another district bring many thoughts about language. However, might be the first language is strong indicator of their own identity which are shaped by language use. (Penny Cook and Otsuji, 2003). The families which have changed their places for many purposes use their own language for only communicating with their own family members and outside they try to use the main language of everyday life. This thing also be notified by De Varies in 1990.

Previously, the relationship between linguistic and urban diversity has been mainly explored from qualitative perspective in the fields of linguistics and Cultural geography (Vertovec, 2019). It is notified that many people who have different dialects are working and living together. Sometimes they face problems and sometimes they are cooperating but it only depends on mentality. Sometimes using different language can be the reason of conflict because the choice of language is different.

The impact of differences in spoken language skills (e.g. phonological awareness, vocabulary, size, complexity of vocabulary entries) on early reading has been welldocumented (McCardle et al, 2001). National Reading Panal,2001). Less well understood are the potential effects of another source of variability in children's language experience the use of different dialects. Dialects are variants of a language spoken by individuals grouped by region, ethnicity, race, income and other factors (Chambers and Trudgill, 1998). The people acquiring the language

not reflected in their schooling context. Students also encounter formal uses of language outside School as they participated in civic life. „[T]hus, the development of academic language matters greatly not only in the context of schooling but also in the world beyond” (Haneda, 2014a, p. 89). Scholars are increasingly signaling the urgent need for culturally sustaining language and literacy instruction for students acquiring

English (Spycher et al. 2020). “the types and range of experiences and interactions that must surrounded minority youngsters if they are to acquire the kinds of language proficiencies considered desirable by educational institutions”. (Valdes, 2004, pp. 103). Multilingual individuals employ all their languages resources, more than one language or more than one variety of a single language “to make meaning, shape, experiences and gain understanding and knowledge”. (Baker, 2011, p. 288). Although all humans acquire spoken language is the absence of pathology, the characteristics of people's language vary widely. Languages exhibit statistical regularities involving the frequencies and co- occurrences of sounds, words and phrases. Children acquire knowledge of these regularities via exposure to large samples of utterances, beginning in *utero*. (Romberg and Saffran, 2010).

In this article, the effects of Bangladeshi people because of demo linguistics will be discussed and why the people want to try to cope up the language of a new place will be also included.

Data Analysis:

Thoughts of the students about demolinguistics and dialects:

Almost 20 students were selected for this research and all were from secondary level of Chattogram’s three high school, Bangladesh. From this questionnaire, the data are collected about how they are mentally affected by the language trend most especially with the colloquial language. The students were asked what language would be preferred by them between dialects and the colloquial language. 95% students answered that they always prefer the colloquial language for communication. They do not prefer their home language. It was also asked what the reasons of avoiding their home language. The students answered that they feel hesitate to express their thought using their dialects because they are fear of misunderstanding. Some students shared their hilarious experiences if they talk using their own dialects, people will laugh at them and they feel humiliated. They feel discomfort of presenting their own dialects. But when they are in the community of their own locality or people, they easily express their own dialects and do not feel hesitate. Students also say that they feel smart when they use colloquial language otherwise they feel down. 50% students use home language at home for communication. 3% students use mixed language and 2% use always their dialects for communicative purpose.

Chart

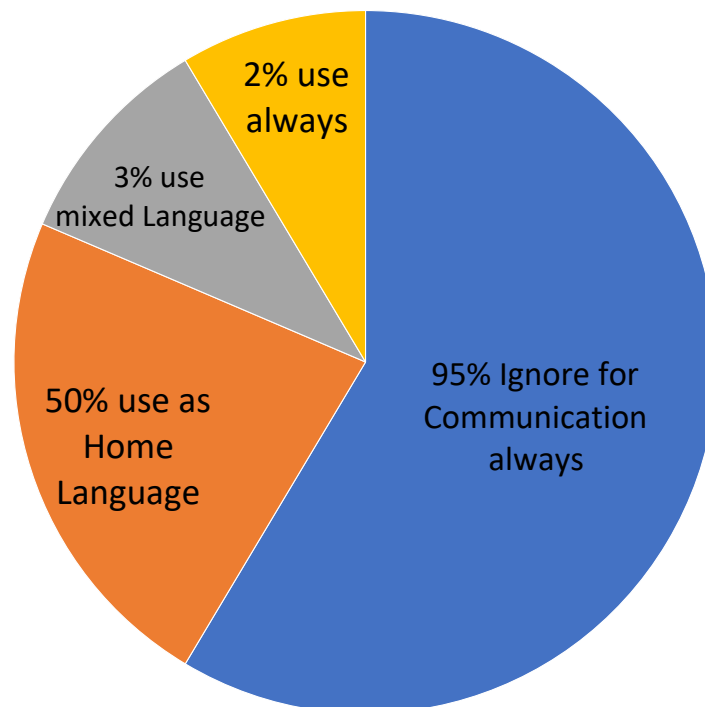


Figure: 1- Data Analysis

Thoughts of the teachers about demolinguistics and dialects:

20 teachers were asked the same questions and 90% answer was colloquial language is more preferable to them. As this language is the official language of every sectors, they have to use this language for communication daily to daily life. 5% teachers prefer to mixed language while they are communicating with others. Their saying is that they are not disrespecting their own dialects but because of the places and environment dialects are getting lost. While teaching in the classes, they do not prefer dialects because when speeches are delivered through dialects, the environment becomes ignominious. Sometimes it can be seen that the teachers use their own dialects as the purpose of entertainment. This thing create negativity in the classroom. Last 5% teachers prefer elegant language for communication because they think as they are in noble profession there should be delicacy in language. So they prefer to maintain elegancy in language rather than mixed language or colloquial language.

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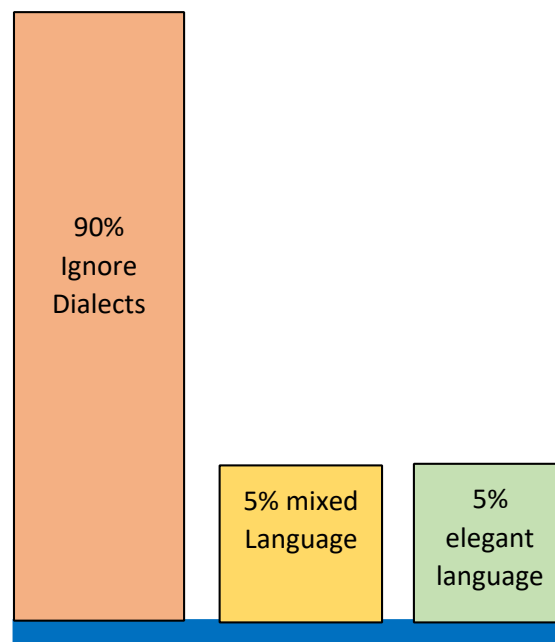


Figure 2: Data Analysis

Thoughts of common people: The questionnaire was asked to 20 people who work in other sectors. The people also gave the same answers except 35%. Their opinion is that usually they have to mix with many people who belong to different places. So different languages sometimes create misunderstanding and the purpose of communication breaks down. So they prefer colloquial language more. In their opinion own dialects are like gun shots in different places. This also can be seen that some people try to talk using colloquial language but their accents of dialects are produced automatically. 20% people who belong to lower class or who are less educated always talk in their dialects. Some of them also fail to understand the colloquial language and face problem to adjust firstly. They always produce dialects for communication. According to their opinion, people fail to communicate with them. So they have to make them understand by using colloquial language though they are not able to produce. 10% people are seen to use dialects willingly though they are literate and belong to aristocratic class. Their sayings are that dialects are the identities of their own mother language and they learnt it first time after birth from their mother. So they do not feel hesitate to represent their dialects in front of people. Last but not the least, 5% people use elegant language. They think that this way of talking is more standard. So they use elegant language for their communicative purposes. But they use home language for communication with the adults in house. They try to teach the children the language which is acceptable in society but the children learn the language which is used in greater portion in family.

Chart

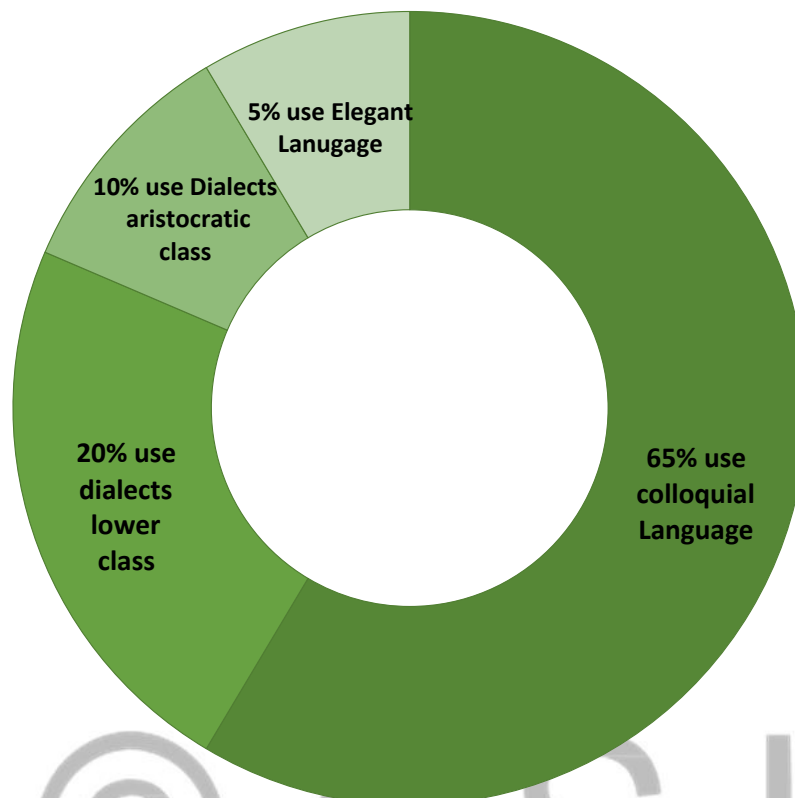


Figure 3 : Data Analysis

Preference between Colloquial language an dialects: After the question and answer session, it was almost 80% people who do not show eagerness using dialects when they are in different places not in their own districts. According to them, dialects can be the reason of humiliation, shame and misunderstanding. The people always try to adjust with the trend of language which are acceptable in society. They think, if they follow the trend language, they will be more accepted and this will be the representation of smartness. In Chattogram, out district's languages are not accepted easily. The endemic people do not accept other dialects and that's why the people who have transferred themselves in Chattogram do not want to use their dialects. If anyone uses his own dialect, Chitagonian people call him "Boinga" which represents humiliation.

If a couple of one family belong to two districts, sometimes they fail to communicate with their dialects. So they use the colloquial language mainly. In some family, it is also mixed language which means they use both their dialects and colloquial language.

Sometimes the people who come from different districts leaving their own try to learn the new dialect. This is a good thing but new dialect gets more preference than their own and because of this, the dialects are started to be lost. Their children are also not taught their own dialect by their parents because parents think about the communication purpose. So these children cannot

speak properly using their own dialects. In some families, children learn their own dialects because of environment and use it as their home language with comfort when they remain in house but they grow up and go outside of the house, they start to feel hesitate of their dialects. They try to occupy that language which the people use usually. So these two things much work in the extinction of dialects.

Recommendations: To avoid this ignorance, education authority should take this matter in their concern. In primary and secondary level, some chapters related to dialects should be included. The people can obviously use the language whichever they want but there should be some scopes for removing the hesitation to use the dialects. In our country, there are some subjects related to other languages like Islamic, English, Sanskrit, Pali etc. in University level. That is acceptable but as Bangla dialects are the traditions of Bangla language, they should be highlighted in Bangla subject. The education institutions also can hold some seminars on this topic so that the students can get interest. The teachers should know the usage and should encourage the students to respect dialects. Moreover, they can arrange an environment in classroom so that the students feel comfortable listening dialects. Home environment and parental motivation is also important. The parents can use their home language in front of the child and let them know that dialects are not the matter of humiliation rather than they are the heritages of a language.

Conclusion: Demo-linguistics's impact on people now-a-days has become extensive and that's why, people have started to lose their dialects gradually. Most of the people of every sectors are developing a negative thought because of trend language. People are always not ready to accept new languages except their own language and this mentality creates the situation of hesitation, humiliation and produces the behavior which is unacceptable. Bangladesh has mainly 64 districts but there are a number of dialects which are divided according to the different places of Bangladesh. These dialects belong to the people based on origins. But the people remain in dilemma to use their dialects in new places with new people or not. At present time, Bangladeshi people feel comfortable to use demo-linguistics or colloquial language most for communication. 38 dialects are there in Bangladesh but all are not recognized because there is not any use of them without in their groups. Not knowing something which belongs to one's country is not really positive thing. After asking people about their preference, it can be understood that actually demo-linguistics is affecting their dialects. To save the existence of dialects, the dialects of one country should be uphold in a broad way when children are in primary level. As learning something age factor matters, the knowledge about dialects should be captured by the people at an early age. There is obviously an official language of one country and people can use it without any obstacle but they ignore their own dialects because of thinking about other people's mentality. People say that dialects are not easily understood. That's true, but the reason of happening this thing to have lack of knowledge about the dialects of own country. Anyone cannot have knowledge of many things at a time but he should not disrespect anything what he does not know. People should try to understand dialects and show interest to these dialects to save our tradition of language.

Steiner G says, "When a language dies, a way of understanding the world dies with it, a way of looking at the world". Anthony Burgess says, "Regional dialects have to become national tongues before they can attain lasting glory...language deserves a chapter to itself".

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