THE ROLE OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS IN SHAPING THE INDIAN INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to pinpoint the significance of the use of language in different contexts, approaches, and varieties of languages .It also signify the importance of language as a means .The importance of bilingualism and multilingualism. The importance of geographical, cultural, societal, ethnical and the religious aspects in determining the language .This paper asserts the claim that man is the citizen of the World.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Bilingualism, Multilingualism, Language varieties, Citizen of the World.

Introduction: Sociolinguistics is the elaborative study of the influence of any and all phases of society, like cultural habits anticipations and context , on the manner language is utilized; and the impact of the usage of language on society. The sociolinguistics also studies the varieties of languages such varieties exist between groups of people separated by particular societal variables like religion, borderlines, and ethnicity .Another variety comes along with the class layers , level of education, and gender.

According to Deckert "Sociolinguistics is a field that looks at how people use language in their everyday lives across a variety of life events and language experiences"(Deckert,2011:1) Thus there is a close relationship between the language and the individuals and the way these persons use and adopt to a given language. Soci-indicates how language fits in a given social context. On the other hand ,linguistics- indicates that we are quiet focusing on how language is used.

As it is well known that Language is the means of communication in home, abroad and worldwide as well. Language makes the life goes smooth and easy, without a knowledge of a language of others one feels incapable. People in different parts of the world use different languages and dialects for one purpose and same ideas but in different symbols in language we call them units. One must keep in mind the languages may vary or differ but the situation or the context would eventually be the same. Such varieties of social aspects and situations languages were first investigated by Indians linguists "The social aspects of language were in the modern sense first studied by Indian and Japanese linguists in the 1930s"(Wikipedia).

Bilingualism: Bilingualism is the key element that helps unravel the state of complication and blockage of communication between two different individuals. Bilingualism can be defined as the ability to speak two different languages .In a way of decoded message in a different language the encoded message to his mother language thus ,the bilingual individual functions the 'switch'. In India and the World at large there is a huge number of bilinguals compared to multilinguals. This case is basically due to the colonial era in which the British utilize the English to connect the states of the subcontinent, as it is huge in area and population. Moreover the Indians find this idea innovative and useful so they imparted the language in the education system .Some of the citizens reacted negatively to it at the start and considered English as the language of the invaders. However with the passage of the time English is found to be the second language in each and every state.

For instance India has about 28 states each one has its own mother tongue ,like Mahrathi, Hindi, Telgue, Urdu ,Tamil, Guajarati ,Malayalam etce. In these states the communication would be in mother tongue but when the individuals overlap and cross the states limits they switch into English or Hindi to bridge the gap. As one can see in the tourists brochure that is available in aircrafts that English is the second formal language of every state.

As mentioned that bilingualism prevailed in the world due to the educational purpose not only in India, but all over the world. Individuals with profession aspirations tend to learn English to facilitate their way to achieve their ends. Thus, it is obligational to learn and adopt to language and conditions of the other places .The relationship between the language and the use is inevitable.

Multilingualism: Those who manage to speak more than two different languages can be considered as multilinguals. For instance an India who speaks by nature Telgue and by association Urdu and by learning English. In an essay about multilingualism in India Pai described it as follow: "India is said to be a soci-linguistic giant and the nerve system of this giant is Multilingualism"(Pai,2005:1794).

For child it is an easy task to be a multilingual as the child develops the habit of acquisition of words as units of language without knowledge of that these different backgrounds units (word) belong to the same jargon .Thus the child has the ability to learn

more than one language without any difficulties .This task demolishes the varieties of languages.

Example I would like to display in this paper is about a two and a half year old child who is from Iraq. His mother and father instruct him in English and all what he watches on TV. Is an English cartoon. He spends hours in the owner's house who speaks Urdu, thus the child picked up Urdu. Finally the child started to learn his mother tongue that is Arabic due to some criticizing views from family and friends. That child in fact is my son.

The above mentioned example matches the observation of Deckert that "The learning of a language is greatly influenced by a family but it is supported by the larger local surroundings, such as school, sport teams, or religion(Deckert,2011:74).Therefore; it is necessary that every person learn and adopt to other societies And language in order to survive and secondly to prosper.

Variations (Linguistics): Language varies according to class, geographical terrains, age, class, gender and education. In each society or a country there are many criterion that one must keep in mind while going through the various languages and dialects .Wardhaugh explained it as follow;"The varieties of language that speaker use reflect such matters as their regional, social or ethnic origin and possibly even their sex(or gender)(Wardhaugh,1998:10)Yet, still the locality or the geographical area represent the major factor that determines the usage of the language .Besides the Internal migrations and dislocations of many families due to the need of job.

Varieties of language exists as the political, societal and religious climate alters. For instance most speakers name to whatever they speak such names may sounds strange to those who are interested in language but we should keep in mind that human naming often sound 'unscientific', Wardhaugh gave us an example from India "Census- takers in India find themselves confronted with a wide array of language names when they ask people what language or languages they speak. Names are not only ascribed by region, which is what we might expect, but sometimes also by caste, religion, village and so on. Moreover, they can change from Census to Census as the political and social climate of the country change.(Wardhaugh,1998:23).

However ,such varieties of language has its advantages , as the individuals of a particular society move from one place to another in seeking jobs or resettlement or pursuing higher studies in another country. It has always been a nightmare for those who travel for business, educations, how to adjust to other climate and atmosphere.

The Citizen of The world: With the emerging movement in the world, man has to compete to assert himself and identity in different societal locations that are not necessarily the same. As with growing terms like Globalization, travelling has become affordable to almost everyone. Therefore; the use of language has extended from the original places of English for example that is a language of the western society .India is a brilliant example of the English mobilizing institution, the government official work, judicial issues and companies communications are all to be conducted in English. Yet, still the Indians manage their daily life by the use of the mother tongue .

The phrase the citizen I have utilized her to match it to the property of the language , this language as English (English Speaking World) I see that in the same way the language is unifying issues for us , one must be a subject of the world and not only of his place and own identity. Man can also be a citizen of the World as he manages to adopt to different societal aspects that accompany language.

Advancement in education, industry, and technology has its own ties to the language. Those individuals who conduct such operations must have the efficiency of English to accomplish tasks like those. These individuals can adjust to any area they arrive at, they can live adopt and flourish and achieve the feature of the world citizenship. Socilinguistically they are not the property of their own nations only rather they are prosperous everywhere they are active.

For instance, the most powerful companies of the world like Google and Microsoft are run by India engineers and professionals .The Indians are active in the western society and the eastern society as well represented by the Arab countries like the Saudi kingdom and Dubai UAE.They are allotted in different areas of the world and they are doing well. They are performing highly tactical managements for the mentioned countries. In most of the countries and the Indian subcontinent the Indians perform better jobs for the others, themselves and the world at large.

Conclusion : Sociolinguistics can be used as the mirror to the relationship between the use of the language and societies. The nature of the society and its phenomenon can determine, the culture, habits and even the use of a particular language. It must be developed as a criterion that judges such relationship. Its importance should be referred to and those who manage two or more different languages should promote in both language for the different cultures they have.

In order to make the world one globe that shelters all of its citizens under prosperous and flourishing conditions, the individual must bridge the gulf of discrepancy and misunderstanding. As it's a natural right to know other's societies, cultural and habits.

That can only be done with the help of the socializing and the better knowledge of the sociolinguistics

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