Sociolinguistic Typology

In linguistics, the classification is made through the morpheme structure of the language. Different types of languages were recognised according to their affixation .whether   clear, obstruct, or not accepted. In sociolinguistics, different types of languages were recognised in accordance with the status that languages have among their users. Different types of languages are now distinguished:

1-Pidgin

Also called the language of contact, it is the language which has a reduced grammatical structure, lexicon, and stylistic range. Pidgin is the native language of no one. It is formed by two speech communities attempting to communicate. These communities may be the result of political decisions to live together in the same territory. The system of communication among these community members is certainly going to be a simplified and reduced aspect of both languages natives to those communities. Pidgin may have appeared as a result of a trade need. Different people with different languages meet together for special purposes among which is commerce, and have to find out a compromise as far as language is concerned. The compromise often consists of using a sort of language with verbs not conjugated, no use of prepositions, no conjunctions, no articles.

2. Creole

A pidgin is a language with no native speakers, while a creole is the native language of the second generation of the pidgin. Creole is often elaborated to meet the need for communication using different registers while pidgin used to describe only situations related to one register. Creole languages are so often well elaborate so as to become the national language of the second or third generations who feel no need to resort to other languages to express their communicative needs.

3. Classical language

It is a language which is supposed to have native speakers who are not the whole speech community of that language (Latin is a classical language used in church).

4. Vernacular

It is the mother language of a speech community. It contains non-standard varieties used in a specific geographical area by a specific ethnic or social group in informal contexts. It is used in opposition to standard variety.

5. Dialect

It is a variety of language which has not been standardised yet. It is often seen as less prestigious than language, but it is used by a social group to show their geographical and social backgrounds. Users of different dialects of the same language can understand each other.

Bilingualism and Diglossia

Bilingualism is the use of two official language and diglossia is the use or two or more varieties of the same language. The multilingual situation is developed for reasons which may be classified as follows:

Political annexation: political or military acts can have immediate linguistic effect. People may become refugees and have to learn the language of their new home.

Religion: People may wish to live in a country because of its religious offerings or may wish to leave a country because of religious oppression. In either case a new language may have to be learned.

Culture: the desire to identify with a particular ethic or social group usually leads to learning the language of that group.

Education: Learning another language may be the only means of access to knowledge. This factor led to universal use of Latin in the middle ages and today motivates the international use of English.

Economy: a large number of people moved to other communities to find work and improve their living standards. This factor accounts for most of the linguistic diversity in many countries all over the world.

Diglossia

It is a language situation in which two significant divergent varieties coexist as standards throughout a community. One of these varieties is used in ordinary conversations and the other is used for special purposes, mainly in formal speech and writing. It is conventional in linguistics to refer to the former as low variety (L) and to the latter as high variety (H). Diglossic situations are widespread; some of the best known examples include Arabic, Modern Greek and Swiss-German. The functional distinctions between H and L are generally clear cut. H is used in formal contexts as lectures, formal speeches, news broadcasts and serious literature. It is a language that has to be learned at school.

L is used in everyday conversation, folk literature, H and L varieties can display differences in phonology, grammar and vocabulary. The H variety is often believed to be more beautiful and logical and thus the more appropriate to be used in all serious situations. There are arguments of either H or L varieties becoming the standard. Supporters of H argue with its believed excellence and contrast its unifying function with the diversity of its local dialects. Supporters of L stress the need to have a standard which is close to the people and which is in their view a more effective tool of communication at all levels.

Code switching

It is the use of two or more languages in the same conversation or even in the same sentence. Switching is a language phenomenon from generally bilingual or multilingual speech communities. People usually use code switching because they believe that one language can be more expressive than the other in some situations.