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" Role Of Code Mixing in the Language Mixing and Urdu Newspapers in Pakistan"

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Abstract

Language-mixing is a phenomenon that results from language interaction, and the fact that it occurs in written speech indicates the pervasive role that language has taken on in the linguistic landscape of multilingual nations. According to Rasul (2006), language mixing is regarded as "a sociolinguistic phenomenon" with interconnected "social and linguistic characteristics" (p. 11). Language-mixing in written, non-fiction publications is something that needs to be observed, as newspapers are read by both the educated and ignorant members of society and serve as a valuable source of information for both. The current study looked into readers' attitudes regarding language mixing in Urdu newspapers. Investigating readers' opinions of language mixing in Pakistani Urdu newspapers was the study's main goal. The purpose of the study was to investigate readers' attitudes toward language-mixing (including borrowing and code-mixing) in Urdu newspapers. This study only includes a sample of readers of Urdu newspapers who work in various professions, including teachers, students, and general readers of Urdu newspapers. The audience for this study was readers of Urdu publications, who were asked about their opinions on linguistic mixing. Purposive sampling was the method used. Three groups, or strata, comprised the sample for this qualitative study: general newspaper readers, students, and teachers. Urdu newspaper readers as a whole came from a variety of educational backgrounds and occupations. The questionnaire was created by the researcher, with some items modified from Bi (2011). 150 respondents provided information, including 50 instructors, 50 students, and 50 ordinary Urdu newspaper readers. The full study was carried out after the pilot study. The data's conclusions demonstrated that readers in general, educators, and students all had mixed attitudes toward this kind of blending. While some respondents believed that the overuse of English terminology was unavoidable, others believed that Urdu's lexicon and structure would be destroyed... The study can help policy makers, socio-linguists, and applied linguists understand how English affects Urdu's standing. It is noteworthy to see how English has assimilated into common speech, how it is used in written corpora like newspapers, and how people accept it.

Keywords: language mixing, attitude, multilingual, socio linguists, corpus, newspapers



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Introduction

Language and society are closely interrelated and each has considerable impact on the other. Whether a society shapes language or language influences the norms, practices and society, are the questions which have attracted attention of the researchers from different fields such as linguistics and sociolinguistics. Wardhaugh (2010) defines sociolinguistics that it “is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function in communication” (p.13). Language-mixing is considered “a sociolinguistic phenomenon” whose “social and linguistic characteristics” are linked together (Rasul, 2006, p.11). The present study thus takes its theoretical groundings from sociolinguistics and attempts to explore attitudes of Urdu newspaper readers towards language-mixing. It adapted its framework from Bi (2011) who used questionnaires to explore language attitudes. Print media includes newspapers, magazines, books, etc. Newspapers, in particular.

Problem Statement

How is a language used in a bilingual setting? What is the native speaker's perspective on language mixing, which many refer to as impurification? These are the areas that require investigation, and the current study will try to close the knowledge gap. The prevalence of language mixing in written, non-fiction materials, such newspapers, must be observed as educated, less educated, and uneducated people read them. The current study will concentrate on written conversation, whereas earlier research in the local context has concentrated on the usage of code-mixing and code-switching in spoken corpora. There are still significant gaps in our knowledge and comprehension of the phenomena of language mixing in Pakistani print media, despite the wealth of research in the field. Language contact patterns and functions were the main focus of earlier research (Rani, 2008; Muhammad & Mahmood, 2013; Rasul, 2013; Rafi, 2013; Ehsan & Aziz, 2014).

The undiscovered component of attitude toward the phenomenon will be the focus of this study, which aims to close the information gaps in Pakistani research by providing important insights for future developments in the field. Currently, Urdu is utilized as the primary language of Pakistan together with English. People who rarely notice when two codes or languages are merged tolerate this language mixing. Few people would bemoan the tainting of Urdu as a result of spoken and written linguistic code-switching and mixing. Policy makers will find the current work beneficial in addition to applied linguists and sociolinguists. The results of this study will shed light on the necessity of language policies for formal written corpora like print media. In order to respond to the following question, the study set out to find out how Urdu newspaper readers felt about language mixing in Pakistani Urdu newspapers: How do readers feel about



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language-bending (such as borrowing and code-bending) in Urdu newspapers?

Literature Review

Language selection is a crucial topic for research, and since language "indexes social values and attitudes," code selection is crucial (Ho, 2007). The identity and attitude toward a specific code are reflected in linguistic choices, which are important from a socio-cultural perspective. The socio-linguistic and socio-cultural dimensions are connected to the attitudinal factor that is the subject of this study. Language attitudes determine the quality as well as quantity of language mixing (Bhatia & Ritchie, 2004). The language that speakers choose reflects their attitude towards a particular code. Attitude is generally viewed as an outcome of perceptions and beliefs held by individuals and this attitude receives the great influence from the context in which individuals use language. "Attitudes often are the product of dominant ideology, concepts and opinions and may be divided along the positive-negative continuum" (Jabeen, Mahmood & Rasheed, 2011, p.110). "Investigating language attitudes is a systematic and critical method of exploring the variety of ways in which people behave towards a language" (Jabeen et al., 2011, p.119).

There is evident difference "between overt (conscious) and covert (unconscious) attitudes towards LM/S [language-mixing/switching]" (Bhatia & Ritchie, 2004). "Puritans and self-appointed guardians of language" protest against code-mixing and code-switching and view them "as a sign of the linguistic death of one of the two participating languages and call for action to maintain the "purity" of the linguistic systems in question" (Bhatia & Ritchie, 2004, p.388). Rasul (2006) investigated "socio-cultural implications of code-mixing and language hybridization in Pakistan". She argues: The linguistic choices made during the process of code-mixing are determined by the social aspects of the process, which encompass a variety of factors such as the setting, addressee, and addresser as well as the prestige attached to a language and its socio-historical background. Conversely, the linguistic choices made regarding the items to be code-mixed reflect the socio-cultural context. Noor et al. (2015) state that "in written discourse, especially, in textbooks such switches need to be avoided by all writers or carefully replaced by their substitutes by the compilers of the textbooks" (p. 18).

Pakistani students learn Urdu (their national language) in schools with the aid of textbooks; they observe these English switches and incorporate them into their Urdu lexicon. unable to find their equivalents in Urdu. It undermines both the oneness of the country and the fervor for their own tongue. (Page 19, Noor et al., 2015). In a multilingual nation like Pakistan, English fulfills a variety of purposes and is seen with mixed feelings by the populace. Because it is the language utilized in all of the major areas of life—education, media, science, technology, etc.—it holds a special place in the nation. (2009, Sultana). The national language of the nation is Urdu,

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which has an extensive lexicon. The study "the variation of Urdu as a result of language contact" (p.134) was conducted by Mohammad and Mahmood in 2013. The results of their investigation showed that the practice of combining English nouns with Urdu words has become common in Urdu magazine articles. On the other hand, Qadir (2011) contends that the status of Urdu language is being strongly impacted by the use of English terminology in Urdu textbooks.

Methodology

Before starting any study, careful consideration should be given to the research design of the project. According to Bhattacharjee (2012), the "data collection process," "instrument development process," and "sampling process" comprise the research design. Page 35 The audience for this study was readers of Urdu publications, who were asked about their opinions on linguistic mixing. According to Erwin-Billones (2012), p. 41, "Newspapers are as varied as their readers as they comprise multiple socio-economic levels as well as professional and educational differences." Newspaper readers come from a variety of backgrounds and social strata. People in Pakistan who read Urdu publications come from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and occupations. Purposive sampling was the sample strategy used because the population is big and it may be impossible for the researcher to reach every newspaper reader. Three strata or groups were included in the sample: general newspaper readers, students, and teachers. Urdu newspaper readers as a whole came from a variety of educational backgrounds and occupations.

Table 5.1 Distribution of The Sample

Number of:	f	%
Students	50	33.3
Teachers	50	33.3
General readers of Urdu newspaper	50	33.3

Table 5.1 shows that there were 50 (33.3%) teachers, 50 (33.3%) students, and 50 (33.3%) were general readers of newspapers. The rationale for choosing teachers and students as sample was to get an insight into the opinion of the people involved in educational process which might provide pedagogical implications in future regarding the use of English in Urdu corpus and its impact on the status and structure of Urdu. However, the category 'general readers' was used to include people other than teachers and students and people belonging to different professions, age group and educational background. The research instrument for the present study included questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed by the researchers of the present study, but it



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adapted some items from Bi (2011) with close-ended and two open-ended items. The respondents were asked to fill the questionnaires and return them. Out of the filled questionnaires, 26 questionnaires were rejected due to various reasons as they could affect the validity of the findings. There can be various ethical issues for a researcher during data collection and analysis phase. Creswell (2007) points out towards the ways of ensuring ethical considerations. What ethical considerations should be taken in heed in administering survey questionnaires? Creswell (2007) suggests protecting the anonymity of the respondents or participants. (p. 141-142). In administering the questionnaire the respondents were informed generally about the aims of the research to ensure that the study would not bring any harm to them. Their consent was taken which allowed the respondents to participate in the study voluntarily and withdraw at any time they feel uncomfortable. Research instruments can be validated through different ways. Among them, some are self-validation, pilot validation and expert validation. The questionnaire was sent to experts. The experts were language teachers and scholars. The experts were required to go through the questionnaire and give an opinion on it. The opinion of the experts was significant, some changes were made and items deleted from the questionnaire in the light of the opinion. For reliability an inter-rater reliability analysis using the Kappa statistic was performed to determine consistency among raters. In the light of the responses of two raters the inter-rater reliability for the ratters was found to be $Kappa = 0.672$ which is considered good for the reliability of the tool. The questionnaire was also piloted for pilot validation. The main aim of piloting is to measure the feasibility of the research plan and to identify anticipated threats to the study before embarking on the main study. The pilot study for the questionnaire was conducted on a group of people who were similar to the sample of the main study, but were not the actual ones. The sample for the pilot study was not a part of the main study. They included 5 teachers, 1 student and 2 general readers of Urdu newspapers.

Data Analysis and Findings

The opinions of readers of Urdu newspapers regarding the use of English in Urdu newspapers were gathered through a survey questionnaire. For analysis, 150 valid questionnaires were employed. Fifty instructors, fifty students, and fifty newspaper readers in general made up the sample. Version 16.0 of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the questionnaire data.

Table 6.1 Demographic Details of The Respondents

Gender

Male

Female

F

%

F

%

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29		19.3		121		80.7											
Age																	
Below 18	18-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56 and above									
f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%						
48	32.0	20	13.3	24	16.0	25	16.7	5	3.3	9	6.0	5	3.3	7	4.7	7	4.7
Education																	
Primary		Middle		Secondary		Higher secondary		Graduation		Post-graduation							
F	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%						
-	-	3	2.0	8	5.3	49	32.7	62	41.3	28	18.7						
Frequency of reading Urdu newspapers																	
Daily		Weekly		Monthly		Whenever I get opportunity											
F	%	f	%	F	%	f	%										
43	28.7	41	27.3	11	7.3	55	11.7										

There were 19.3% male and 80.7% female participants. 32.0% participants were below 18, 13.3% were between 18 and 25, 16.0% were 26 and 30, 16.7% were between 31 and 35, 3.3 % were between 36 and 40, 6.0% were between 41 and 45, and 3.3% were 46 and 50, 4.7% were 51 and 55, 4.7% were between 56 and above. There were 2.0% middle, 5.3% secondary, 32.7% higher secondary, 41.3% graduates and 18.7% post-graduate respondents. There were 28.7% respondents who read Urdu newspapers daily. The frequency and percentage of the close-ended questionnaire responses are shown in Table 6.2:

Table 6.2 Results of The Questionnaire

Label	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1. I find English words in Urdu newspapers easier to understand.	4	2.7	7	4.7	13	8.7	76	50.7	50	33.3

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2. I find it comfortable to read and understand Urdu news due to English words.	6	4.0	15	10.0	25	16.7	65	43.3	39	26.0
3. When I read English words in Urdu newspapers, it helps me understand terms which do not have equivalents in Urdu.	4	2.7	12	8.0	15	10.0	63	42.0	56	37.3
4. The use of English in Urdu newspapers can provide opportunities to learn English.	9	6.0	14	9.3	21	14.0	60	40.0	46	30.7
5. The use of English words in Urdu newspapers is a sign of internationalization.	25	16.7	26	17.3	33	22.0	42	28.0	24	16.0
6. I find English words in Urdu newspapers modern.	18	12.0	22	14.7	28	18.7	51	34.0	31	20.2
7. It is due to English that I am ashamed of using Urdu words.	68	45.3	35	22.0	21	14.0	16	10.7	12	8.0
8. It bothers me while reading English words used in Urdu newspapers.	59	39.3	47	31.3	17	31.3	20	13.3	7	4.7
9. People who do not understand English words in Urdu newspapers will be at disadvantage.	18	12.0	13	8.7	17	11.3	49	32.7	53	35.3
10. It is due to frequent use of English words that I am unable to recall Urdu words.	25	16.7	20	13.3	29	19.3	52	34.7	24	16.0
11. In my opinion mixing English in Urdu leads to the loss of Urdu.	18	12.0	15	10.0	15	10.0	43	28.7	59	39.3
12. I think that English can impurify Urdu.	24	16.0	19	12.7	16	10.7	36	24.0	55	36.2

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Table 6.2 provides complete details of the data. 76 (50.7%) and 50 (33.3%) of the participants believe they find English words in Urdu newspapers easier to understand, 65 (43.3%) and 39 (26.0%) agree that they find it comfortable to read and understand Urdu news due to English words, similarly 63 (42.0%) and 53 (37.3%) participants are of the opinion that when they read English words in Urdu newspapers, it helps them understand terms which do not have equivalents in Urdu, like wise 60 (40.0%) and 46 (30.7%) consider that the use of English in Urdu newspapers can provide opportunities to learn English, furthermore 42 (28.0%) and 24 (16.0%) participants are in favour that the use of English words in Urdu newspapers is a sign of internationalization. 51 (34.0%) and 31 (20.2%) agree that they find English words in Urdu newspapers modern. 43 (28.7%) and 59 (39.3%) of the respondents believe that mixing English in Urdu leads to the loss of Urdu. 36 (24.0%) and 55 (36.2%) think that English can impurify Urdu.

On the contrary, 25 (16.7%) and 26 (17.3%) respondents disagree that the use of English words in Urdu newspapers is a sign of internationalization, similarly 68 (45.3%) and 35 (22.0%) disagree that it is due to English that they are ashamed of using Urdu words, likewise 59 (39.3%) and 47 (31.3%) participants are of the opinion that it does not bother them while reading English words used in Urdu newspapers, moreover 25 (16.7%) and 20 (13.3%) disagree that it is due to frequent use of English words that they are unable to recall Urdu words, finally 24 (16.0%) and 19 (12.7%) participants do not feel that English can impurify Urdu. Through the open-ended questions asking about the advantages and disadvantages, many themes emerged. Thematic analysis of the responses of open-ended questions threw light on the opinion of Urdu newspaper readers about the use of English words. The responses showed that there are many advantages and disadvantages of using English words in Urdu newspapers. The use of English words enables familiarity with English words. R32, "People get familiarity [with] some more English words".

R12, "English is immersed in Urdu and becomes our habit so we see fluency not only in Urdu but in English as well". English words have become so widespread that they help understanding Urdu. R60, "it [the use of English words] can increase our knowledge of English words". The readers get a chance to read and learn English words. R97, "it is better to use English words in Urdu newspaper for such words which do not exist in Urdu". There are many words whose equivalents are not available in Urdu, thus justifying the use of them in Urdu. It gives awareness about different terms. R36, "[It] helps to create awareness about international, scholarly, political and social terms". It has the advantage of the ease of use. R18, "some words in Urdu are difficult and news can be understood with English words only". R39, "There are many words whose Urdu translation is complex. There are many disadvantages as well. It destroys the beauty of Urdu. R4 opined:

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[it is of] no use, just to explain the point of view in easy words, English vocabulary could be used, if most essential, otherwise it is destroying the sweetness of Urdu language. Urdu newspapers are the biggest source of promoting and learning Urdu. The use of English words unnecessarily is destroying the real language. R8, "impurifies Urdu". English words destroy the purity of Urdu. According to some respondents the use of English words should be limited to its use only, when necessary, otherwise it can affect vocabulary as well as the structure of Urdu. R26, "[The] use of English can make us addict of this habit. Switching during our conversation from English to Urdu is also the outcome of such bad habits. It leads to inability to recall equivalents". The excessive use of English affects speaking of the readers and they tend to switch quite often and use English words that they have often read in Urdu newspapers. The use of English words in Urdu leads to the loss of identity. R25, "[it is also causing] distance from national language".

The national language of a country is a part of a nation's identity and this identity is not given sufficient importance. Urdu words are marginalized and English words are given preference over Urdu words. People have a negative attitude towards their own language due to frequent use of English and its acceptance in society. R139, "people feel ashamed talking in Urdu and the use of English in print as well as social media has a negative impact on people". Language is associated with attitude that people hold towards that language. R147, "people perceive that using English make them modern and in effort of using English they are pacing far from Urdu language." Some respondents suggest that Urdu newspapers should be in Urdu and frequent use of English words ought to be discouraged. R34, "Only one language should be used at a time to make long lasting effects on readers." The findings of the data showed that the readers of newspapers hold mixed attitude towards language-mixing or English-mixing. Some view it as a natural by-product of English/Urdu contact while others take it as a sign of impurity for the structure and lexicon of Urdu language. The mixing of English words in Urdu has taken many forms and they belong to different syntactic and semantic categories.

Discussion

Linguistic phenomena like "language mixing," "code-switching," "borrowing," "language hybridization," "synthesis," and so forth are the outcome of language contact (Bhatia & Ritchie, 2004; Rasul, 2006; Sebba, 2012). Code-switching and code-mixing are two examples of the various ways that languages can be mixed together. Since code-mixing is exclusive to intra-sentential mixing, it has been applied primarily to the study of written discourse, whereas code-switching is utilized to evaluate spoken data. The purpose of the study was to investigate readers' attitudes about the use of English terminology in Urdu newspapers. In Pakistan, English has become so ingrained that even someone without formal education may understand terms like "party," "corruption," "policy," "sports," "target-killing," and so forth. Learning more is aided when

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words are used in conjunction with their equivalents. These results concur with those of Bi (2011), who discovered that English plays a beneficial function in e-discourse on the internet. Cuc (2012) also discovered that code-switching is frequently found in newspapers, indicating that code-switching is accepted by Filipinos, who view it as a "function of multilingualism" (p. 49). Likewise, readers of Urdu newspapers accept English terms in Urdu newspaper.

Given its flexibility, English and Urdu can be combined with ease. Readers get the opportunity to read and pick up vocabulary in English. The survey participants expressed the opinion that the use of English terminology in Urdu newspapers makes it simpler for them to read and comprehend Urdu news. English usage in Urdu publications can present chances for English language acquisition. The interviewees agree that using English vocabulary in Urdu media is an indication of globalization. English words are found in contemporary Urdu newspapers. They therefore view the usage of English terminology in Urdu favorably. Mushtaq and Zahra (2012) similarly came to the conclusion that products with English blended in them represent modernity and win people over. However, the respondents think that combining English and Urdu causes Urdu to disappear. Urdu might become tainted by English. They feel embarrassed to use words from the Urdu language because of English. They can't remember Urdu terms since they use English words so often. Bi (2011) also found that people in China feel bad about using English when speaking Chinese since it can cause Chinese to disappear and become less common. The amount of English words in Urdu publications shows how much English is influencing Urdu writing. Many words are used in Urdu because their English equivalents do not exist, which justifies their use. It raises knowledge of various terminologies.

It aids in raising knowledge of scientific, social, political, and international terminology. Its simplicity of usage is one of its advantages. Many Urdu terms have intricate meanings; English words have simpler translations.

The elegance and purity of Urdu are destroyed when English words are used. Some respondents stated that English words should only be used when absolutely essential because doing so could alter Urdu's lexicon and structure. An essential question is "...how far this code-mixing adds to the richness of Urdu or affects its beauty; and what implications does it have with reference to the issues of globalization and identity" (Rasul, 2013, p.71). This code-mixing of English and Urdu has an impact on Urdu's position. In contrast, Muhammad and Mahmood (2013) assert that "Urdu is a flexible language." And is "absorbing" vocabulary from other languages, mostly English, so as not to "distort" its own structure. English words are used "at the expense of their Urdu correlates," according to their argument (p. 134). The introduction of new phrases and inventions is the primary cause of the rise in the usage of English words in Urdu texts. Vocabulary in Urdu is lost when English words are used. The readers' speech is impacted by the overuse of English; they



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frequently flip between terms and utilize English words that they have frequently seen in Urdu publications. Identity loss occurs when English words are used in Urdu. A nation's identity is shaped in part by its national language, and if this identity is not given enough weight, it may begin to erode. Urdu is the official language, but it cannot advance.

Urdu is becoming less unique as a result of the overuse of English. English terms are prioritized above Urdu words, and Urdu words are devalued. This process has been referred to as "Englishization" by Kachru (1986). According to Hsu (2009), English is seen as a respectable language since it promotes "modernity, progress, and globalization." English code-mixing is seen by those who are neutral against it as an inescapable need of the modern day and as a "international trend" that aims "to internationalize Taiwan's market when used in advertisements." However, the study's uninformed participants—and older individuals in particular—have a bad attitude on code-mixing in English. They also understand that learning English will give them more authority, but if their mother tongue is at People's attitudes regarding their native tongue are negatively impacted by the widespread usage of English and its social acceptance. Speaking in Urdu makes them feel embarrassed, and people are negatively impacted by the use of English in print and social media. People believe that speaking English makes them more modern, and by doing so, they are moving away from Urdu. English is seen as a high-status language.

According to some responders, newspapers should only publish in Urdu and it should be discouraged to frequently use English words. For the purpose of leaving a lasting impression on readers, only one language should be utilized at a time. Newspaper readers in Urdu have conflicting opinions about the use of English vocabulary in Urdu. While some respondents view code-mixing as a harmful phenomenon, others regard it as a valuable addition to the language. Bi (2011) came to the conclusion that regularization was necessary to monitor the frequent insertions of English terms into Chinese. Bi (2011) asserts that in order to prevent "cultural interference," it is necessary to strike a balance while using multiple languages, which leads to code-mixing (p. 60). Newspaper readers in Urdu have differing opinions.

Conclusion

Language mixing is a typical linguistic occurrence in a multilingual nation like Pakistan. Numerous scholars in Pakistan have examined this phenomenon from a variety of angles. The current study looked into how consumers of Urdu newspapers felt about English words being mixed with Urdu words in written text, especially in official and published corpora like newspapers. The data's conclusions demonstrated that readers in general, educators, and students all had mixed attitudes toward this kind of blending. While some respondents believed that the overuse of English words undermines the structure and vocabulary of Urdu, others accepted

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English words as an unavoidable development. The study can help policy makers, socio-linguists, and applied linguists understand how English affects Urdu's standing. It is noteworthy to see how English has assimilated into common speech and how it is used in written materials like newspapers and is regarded favorably by the public. Future studies can concentrate on formal written texts like textbooks to examine how the linguistic mixing of English and Urdu terms has impacted the language and how Urdu native speakers perceive this linguistic mixing.

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