Abstract

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is one of the most popular and idealized people among the many undocumented leaders whose political life in Bangladesh has been discussed in the chronological order of history. The autobiography, which he wrote in jail in the mix of humanitarian issues of personal life with the flow of political events of the period up to 1938-55, has suddenly become the focus of interest of the reader. That’s why, perhaps, the name of this book is ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs). So the book’s literary value is immense besides its political value. But the thing that goes beyond the mentioned subject is the use of language in the book. Although there is limitation of research work on this rather than the need, there are many aspects of dialect in this book, which is based on the society, politics, economics and human values particularly speaking is the formation of new words and sentences in combination with one language and another. Thus, this study is founded on a logical basis for analyzing in the light of Sociolinguistics.

Keyword: Bangabandhu, Bangladesh, Code-mixing, Dialect, Register

Introduction

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was one of those whose new philosophy brought about revolutionary changes in the development of Bangla language and nationalism as well as subcontinent politics. In addition to the lifelong political activities of this ‘Poet of politics’, his legendary speeches also have been referred to as political poetry (News week: 1971). While autobiography was not prevalent in the beginning of the middle era of Bangla literature, autobiography began to take a new look as biographical literature in modern Bangla literature. Moreover, further research is required on whether ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs) should be included in the biographical literature or not. However, it is evident after the analysis of language of the book that the author has used code-mixing, registers, dialects very nicely with the coherence of time which has created new appeal in words and sentences. Use of daily life words with professional words, standard language with dialect and the combination of other
languages with Bangla language, are also evident in this book. The author uses prefixes, adjectives, inflexion, symbols to add extra emphasis to the word while writing this book. Considering the composition period, the book is written in the standard language of the then East Bengal (present Bangladesh), also found the use of the dialect of Faridpur region.

**Context and retrospective analysis of ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)**

This autobiographical book authored by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (1920-75), the first President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and known as Bangabandhu and the father of the nation (The undisputable leader in the historical cycle of Bangladesh). The title of the book implies that the book is incomplete and self-contained. It’s not a portrait of the whole picture of his eventful life, but a part of his personal and political life that has come up in his pen. The book was first published in June 2012 by The University Press Limited (UPL) in two languages: Bangla and English. The book was translated into English by Dhaka University Professor Dr. Fakrul Alam. The book has been translated into 11 languages so far: English, Hindi, Urdu, Japanese, France, Mandarin, Arabic, Turkish, Nepali, Spanish, and Assamese. Besides, translations are going on into Russian, Italian and Malay language. The introduction of this book is written by Sheikh Hasina, daughter of the author of the book and present Prime Minister of Bangladesh. According to the introduction of the book- Sheikh Hasina suddenly got four accounts of notebook in 2004 written by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Sheikh Mujib started writing the transcript in the middle of the prison in the middle of the year of 1967. But he could not finish the writing containing his ceaseless pain. Although incomplete, the history of this text is very valuable. Literary value is also infinite. For these reasons, initiatives were taken to publish it in book form. The book contains the context of Sheikh Mujib's autobiography, the author's lineage, birth, childhood, academic life, social and political activities. This book is basically written about the flow of events during the period of 1938-55. The book depicts the 1943 famine of Bengal, riots in Bihar and Kolkata, the partition, the politics of the Kolkata-based provincial Muslim Students League and Muslim League. Sheikh Mujib also highlighted the partition of the country. This book is also the chronological description of history of the maladministration of the Muslim League government, founding of the Awami League, establishment of the United Front, formation of the government through winning the elections. There is widespread talk of Pakistani mismanagement. The book begins with a page of notebook written by Bangabandhu. In which he wrote- “As a man, what concerns mankind concerns me. As a Bangalee, I am deeply involved in all that concerns Bengalees. This abiding involvement is born of and nourished by love, enduring love, which gives meaning to my politics and to my very being” (Rahman: 2012). The compelling start of autobiography strengthens the literary basis...
of the writing. In simple confession, Mujib writes: “My Friends keep telling me, ‘Why don’t you write your memories?’ My colleagues keep saying, ‘Write down your experience of politics; it will prove to be use one day.’ My wife told me one day while sitting with me in a room within the jail gate, ‘Since you are idle, write about your life now.’ I told her, ‘I can’t write, and in any case what have I done that is worth writing about? Will the public benefit from the stories of my life? I haven’t been able to achieve anything! I guess all I can say is that I have tried to sacrifice a bit of me for my principles and ideals” (Rahman: 2012). This role reaches him at the highest place of ideology. At the beginning, the great leader also appeared with great modesty. He mentioned his lineage and many of the men of the Sheikh clan. He was born on March 17, 1920. He started his schooling at English School founded by Dada Khan Saheb Sheikh Abdur Rashid. However, he said in his autobiography that he was of a very mischievous nature but not of quiet discipline. He used to play sports and sing. He had to break his study for four years due to his physical illness during his childhood. His writings inform us about the development of his mental sensibility in childhood. Bangabandhu was protagonist since his childhood. Therefore, as a boy, Bangabandhu came to know what the prison was. In his autobiography, he writes about staying in the women’s ward during his first imprisonment. This is known to all, the son of history became involved with politics since his schooling. However, the book contains a consistent and accurate description. In 1941, when Mujib was matriculated, he spent his days with politics. In 1943, when Sheikh Mujib was a member of the Provincial Muslim League Council, a severe famine broke out in Bengal. Young leader Sheikh Mujib has written in his book about his own initiative in dealing with this famine. He mentioned the riots in Bihar and Kolkata and described the history of partition. He shed light on the conspiracy to take away the Bangla language. The episode outlined various discriminatory policies with Pakistan. The book referenced the great politicians of his time. Among them Sher-e Bangla A. K. Fazlul Haq, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy and Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani are predominant. He also mentioned his close contact with them in his autobiography. However, when the book is finished to read, a sigh of relief grows. It seems, if the leader or writer Mujibur Rahman would have written a little more! Then we could learn more about the sixth points, the mass movement of the 1969 and the liberation war of Bangladesh through the eyes of great leader. But, it didn’t. Perforce, the thirst stays. Hence, Sumit Mitra in the review of The Hindustan Times says “The problem is, it is unfinished. Far from taking the story anywhere near its climax of Bangladesh’s birth, the narrative vanishes somewhere in the 1950s” (Mitra: 2012).

Dialect
The word ‘Dialect’ was first used in English in the sixteenth century. This word was used widely in Greek language and later it was adopted in English from Latin and French. The meaning of ‘Dialect’ in Greek was-the nature of talking. In old English, the
meaning of ‘Dialect’ had been-the form of language used by a particular community. Dialect is generally dependent upon culture and locality. Dialect differs with respect to society as it is also found to be varied with respect to social class, ethnicity or individuals. These are proved that, ‘A dialect that is associated with a particular social class can be termed a sociolect, a dialect that is associated with a particular ethnic group can be termed an ethnolect, and a geographical/regional dialect may be termed as regiolect.’(Wolfram, Walt and Schilling, Natalie: 2016).

**Code-mixing**

Code-mixing is found to be co-existing in bilingual situation. In other words, when one language gets coherently mixed up at different levels grammatically with another language while conversing, delivering lecture or presenting something in written forms, then this type of mixing is called code-mixing. Code-mixing is more or less seen in all languages of the world possesses. On code-mixing, linguist Kachru said, “Code-mixing is the use of one or more languages for consistent transfer of one or more linguistic units from one language into another, and by such a language mixture developing a restricted or not-so-restricted code of linguistic interaction. (Kachru: 1978).”

It is not that code-mixing often takes place between two or three languages. In some cases code-mixing can also happen between two different forms of the same languages and men use code mixing both consciously and unconsciously. In this situation, it is generally seen that standard form language gets mixed up with regional dialect or dialect.

**Research Methodology**

Research methodology is a systematic way to solve a problem. It is a science of studying how research is to be carried out. Essentially, the procedures by which researchers go about their work of describing, explaining and predicting phenomena are called research methodology. This paper used mixed methodology (both qualitative and quantitative) to gain the objectives of this study. For collecting data, thorough reading of book was conducted. Collected data was presented in tables and qualitative form.

**Findings**

**Use of Dialect in ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)**

From the ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs) of the writer, one can know that he was born and grew up in Tungipara which belonged to Gopalganj, a subdivision of the district of Faridpur of the then British Presidency of Bengal. It is natural that the writer was influenced by the local culture, food habits and customs as much as he was impacted by the local dialect whose influence becomes apparent in The Unfinished Memoirs. It is essential to highlight the primary information related to the dialect before one ventures to analyze the use of dialect.

Different linguists have discussed a lot, dividing the dialects of Bangladesh or the then East Pakistan into different types which were dependent upon regional boundaries. Structure of language is here emphasized
less. Sir George Abraham Grierson, Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji and Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah are the prominent linguists who emphasized regionality of languages. It is observed in the position that the author of the unfinished biography adopted and in his narrative that the dialect used in this book belongs to the region of Faridpur or present day district of Gopalganj. If we seek to analyze the dialect extant in the district of Gopalganj, then it is seen that Sir George Grierson includes this dialect as part of the East, Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji as part of Bangalee dialect and Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah as South East Part of the East.

Usage of Idiolect

Through a linguistic analysis of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs), it is found that he has his own linguistic style which he has used from the beginning of the book to its end. We can call it an individualistic example in the sight of sociolinguistics. By individualistic language we mean that usage of language which an individual uses in the context of varied environment situations, reflecting his individualistic or idiosyncratic characteristics. Harper and Douglas rightly comment, ‘An idiolect is the variety of language unique to an individual. This differs from a dialect, a common set of linguistic characteristics shared among some group of people. The term is etymologically related to the Greek prefix idio- (meaning ‘own, personal, private, peculiar, separate, distinct’) and a back-formation from dialect.’ (Harper, Douglas: 2019).

Some examples of idiolect usages are shown in table 1.

1. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman used both /guli/ and /gulo/ while using plural number but only emphasized upon /guli/

2. People generally use negative words while writing. It is found that many negative word have been used in the ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs). But it bears mentioning here that this writer has always used /nai/ instead of /nei/ which in English means- No. (See Table 2).

Code-mixing In ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)

Upon reading ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs), it is found that the writer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has used code-mixing in many places. In some places, he has consciously used code-mixing while in some other places, he has used code-mixing with a view to making meanings more relevant. However, before analyzing code-mixing, it is essential to mean what code-mixing is.

Usage of Code-mixing In ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)

It is essential to make it clear before any discussion on code-mixing that actually people use code-mixing in circumstances, depending upon social considerations, educational qualifications, knowledge of language and social milieu. Educated people are found to be bilingual in Bangladesh at present or before. We can explain code-mixing in the sight of Sociolinguistics in consideration of bilingual knowledge and socio-economic circumstances. It is better to say, ‘The bilingual speakers do not use
language in the way they do simply because of their social identities or because of other situational factors, rather, they exploit the possibility of linguistic choices in order to convey intentional meaning of sociopragmatic nature.” (Blom and Gumperz: 1972).

The writer of the Unfinished Autobiography, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has used code-mixing in three different ways. For example:

1. The writer knew Bangla, English, Urdu and he had also elementary knowledge of Arabic. It is natural in that depending upon his own multilinguality, the writer used code-mixing. In this context, code mixing of both Bangla and English are found immensely. In other words, it is Bangla-English Code-mixing.

2. In addition, he has mixed the dialect of Gopalganj with the Standard from of Bangla language. In other words, it is Standard Bangla-Regional Dialect (Gopalganj) Code-mixing.

3. He has also used professional word known as ‘Register’ and in his daily life word. In other words, Daily life word-Register Code-mixing.

4. In some places, Sadhu Bangla is found to be mixed with colloquial Bangla.

If we seek to show the proportionate usages of code-mixing of these four types, then it became clear that code-mixing has taken place approximately 243 times (if any word or sentence has been used more than once, then that has not been included in this counting.) The table 3 exhibits the number of code-mixing of words or sentences and their frequencies and percentages.

1. **Bangla-English Code-mixing in ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)**

In the ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs), we find two types of code-mixing of both Bangla and English. One is centered on words, such as English words mixing with Bangla. We can term it as “Lexicalization” in inter word. Besides, many English words which synonyms have been used.

Author used a number of Bangla suffixes, prefixes, inflexion and plural marker to mix-up with English word to maintain the lexicalization process (See Table 4).


By going through The Unfinished Memoirs, it is found that the book is written in Standard Bangla. But the writer being involved in politics for a long time, he has used as many professional words as he has used many local words since he has been man of the then Faridpur district. In most cases, the writer has used words of the Eastern region by mixing them with the Standard ones. But these are less in number. According to code mixing as used in this text, its proportion in percentage stands at 16.87% (See Table 5).

3. **Daily Life word-Register Code-mixing**

In ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)

An important subject of Sociolinguistics is Register or professional word. The words or structure of sentences which people use in their daily or individual lives are not used by
them in their professional or work places. Similarly, they do not practice work place words in their individual lives. Those words which are used in professional lives can be explained as register from general perspectives. William Labov and his fellow American linguistics have termed these as “Functional varieties of a language (Nath: 1999).

How people use language in the context of varied milieu or conditions has been called Register by the British linguist Halliday. According to him, “The name given to a variety of a language distinguished according to use is Register (Halliday: 1964). Since Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been a professional politician and since he has confronted different political milieu and conditions, his use of language exhibits myriad of words related to politics. This is why he has naturally used many words which can be called as register in the sight of Sociolinguistics. Simultaneously, it is also noticeable that the author has mixed daily life words while seeking to use register. It appears that he has used code-mixing consciously. The proportion of code-mixing used in this book is 24.27%.

For example: National Assembly, Constitution, Election, General Secretary, caretaker, Democracy, governor, nomination, party, President, Martial Law, communist, partition, Movement etc.

In this case author used only English word. But he didn’t use Roman (English) letter. He used Register in Bangla letter via transliteration method.

4. Sadhu-Colloquial Bangla Code-Mixing

As Sadhu form of Bangla was the medium of official format of language, author used Sadhu-Colloquial code-mixing for several times in ‘Ausamapta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs). According to code-mixing as used in this text, its proportion in percentage stands at 6.58% (See Table 6).

Conclusion

It is true that ample political analysis has been done about the political activities of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was one of the stalwarts of Bangladesh and Bengali’s political philosophy, mixed up his political activities with the events of his individual life and introduced a new concept but linguistic analysis of the same have hardly been done. Author Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has written his Unfinished Autobiography with a lot of political and individual events and issues. However, the book has still remained unfinished while simultaneously increasing the thirst of the readers. Whatever the author accomplished needs both political as well as literary reading because this historic text has both political and literary importance. However, it is not easy to interpret its information in the sight of both linguistics and social issues. Dialect is an important topic of Sociolinguistics. It has been found from the standpoint of code-mixing that though the writer is an important member of the society, he has presented different aspects of life by weaving them in simple language in his autobiography. He has also consciously emphasized as much on the usage of both words and sentences with a view to creating a special appeal of dialect as he has sought to remove the rigidity of
language through code-mixing. By side tracking all types of ambiguities, he, while seeking to highlight many aspects of political life, has used many professional words that we can call Register from the standpoint of Sociolinguistics. He has used many aspects of code-mixing which flourished the literary value of the book. As a result, the book has easily been a reader friendly one. This is, indeed, an extraordinary text since it is a reflection of then social system prevailing in Bengal. Moreover, it delves into the world of politics, family stories, humanitarian episode, foreshadowing of Bangladesh, future economic philosophy and the prehistory of the Language Movement. Comparatively speaking, one may not find much linguistic value of it but the meaning of this extraordinary text is no less. To be sure, it is a lively book in the sight of the lucidity of its language, language variation, use of the dialect and code-mixing.

References
### Table 1: Example 1 of Idiolect usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bangla Sentence (Transliteration)</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
<th>Page no</th>
<th>Bangla Sentence (Transliteration)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/bekar hostle-e kotoguli free room chilo, gorib chatroder jonno/</td>
<td>Baker hostel had a number of free rooms for poor students</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>/bekar hostle-e kotoguli free room chilo, gorib chatroder jonno/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/shes porjonto somosto dhan namiye rekhe lokgulike chere deya holo/</td>
<td>Of course in the end they were allowed to leave after their share (rice) had been offloaded.</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>/shes porjonto somosto dhan namiye rekhe lokgulike chere deya holo/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Example 2 of Idiolect usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bangla Sentence (Transliteration)</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
<th>Page no</th>
<th>Bangla Sentence (Transliteration)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/aro onek alap hoyechilo, amar thik mone nai/</td>
<td>We had covered a lot of issues while we were there through now I can’t remember them all.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>/aro onek alap hoyechilo, amar thik mone nai/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/huq saheb montrisobha gothn korechen, ami tokhono montri hoi nai/</td>
<td>This was when I had not yet joined Mr. Huq’s Provincial ministry.</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>/huq saheb montrisobha gothn korechen, ami tokhono montri hoi nai/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3: Number of Code-mixing in different part In ‘Ausampta Atmajiboni’ (The Unfinished Memoirs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Code-mixing</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>52.26</td>
<td>16.87</td>
<td>24.27</td>
<td>6.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Example of Bangla-English Code-mixing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bangla (Transliteration)</th>
<th>Code-mixing</th>
<th>Page no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/teacher-ra/</td>
<td>teacher(English)+ra (Bangla inflexion)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/court-e/</td>
<td>court (English)+e (Bangla inflexion)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/vice chancellor-er/</td>
<td>vice chancellor (English) +r (Bangla inflexion)</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/president-der/</td>
<td>president(English)+der (Bangla plural marker)</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Example of Standard Bangla-Regional Dialect Code-mixing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bangla Sentence (Transliteration)</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Page no</th>
<th>Bangla Sentence (Transliteration)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/pandal korlam noukar badam diye/</td>
<td>I constructed a</td>
<td>Here <em>badam</em>(<em>Sails</em>) is a dialectical word</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>/pandal korlam noukar <em>badam</em> diye/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6: Example of Sadhu-Colloquial Bangla Code-mixing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example: Sadhu (Transliteration)</th>
<th>Sadhu (Bangla) word (Transliteration)</th>
<th>Colloquial Word (Transliteration)</th>
<th>Meaning in English</th>
<th>Page no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/sekhanebishakto sorpokul achroy niyese/</td>
<td>/sorpo/</td>
<td>/sap/</td>
<td>Snake</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/district boarder sobhhyoo chilen, nam sheikh mosharrof hosen/</td>
<td>/sobhhyyo/</td>
<td>/sodosshoo/</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>