

A Phonological Analysis of Code-Switching in Akóóse

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Abstract

Research on insertion has focused on the point at which sentential code-switching is possible. In relation to this, Poplack (1980) proposes an approach of equivalence constraint which states that code-switching can occur only at points in discourse where the surface structures of two languages are parallel. Myers-Scotton (1993), on the other hand, proposes a matrix-language frame model which claims that one language provides a morphosyntactic frame into which content morphemes from the other language may be inserted. The present paper differs from previous works in that it does not only look at how code-switching takes place, but also offers a detailed analysis of the various phonological processes found within code-switching in Akóóse, a Bantu Language spoken in the South West province of Cameroon. The findings show that after code-switching between Akóóse and English, there are phonological processes that are present and different from those found within non code-switching texts in the phonology of this language. The aim of the paper is to throw more light on the phonological processes present in the phonology of Akóóse, taking into account code-switching text. One claim here is that the embedded language (English) is fully integrated in the phrasal phonology of Akóóse, especially with respect to tone.

Key words: Akóóse, English, code-switching, phonology, tone language.