Grammatical hybridization and social conditions Leipzig 16-18 October 2014

Introductory remarks

(i) Types of social situations for hybridization:

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power asymmetry
       powerful group > powerless group
              (e.g. Hup vs. Tucanoan, Yiddish vs. Polish/Ukrainian, Likpe vs. Ewe,
              Northeastern Aramaic vs. Kurdish)
       modern state language > indigenous minor language
              (e.g. Sorbian, Saami, Nahuatl, Quechua, Manange in Nepal, and MANY
              others)
       national language > immigrant diaspora language
              (e.g. U.S. Norwegian, Pennsylvania German, Turkish in NL)
       language of administration > general language
              (Arabic > Daghestanian languages, Latin > Hungarian, Italian > Tigrinya,
              Russian > Uzbek, Japanese > Korean)
       plantation owners' languages > labourers' languages
              (e.g. Haitian Creole, Mauritian Creole, Melanesian Pidgin)
prestige asymmetry
       emblematic language > everyday language (6)
              (Hebrew influence on Yiddish, Irish influence in Standard Irish English)
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language of religion > secular language (7)

(Arabic in Indonesian, Pali in Thai)

language of admired culture > language of admirers

(Chinese in Japanese, Persian in Lezgian, English in Korean, French in German, Italian music terms in English)

range asymmetry

language of wider communication > local language (Malay in Madurese, English in French, Middle Low German in Swedish)

- symmetry

neighboring national languages(?)

(German/Polish, Italian/French, Thai/Cambodian(??))

neighbouring smaller groups (11)

(Takia/Waskia(?), ...)

multilingualism scenarios

(Africa, Melanesia, ...)

(social situation for **non-borrowing**: purism)

(ii) Types of cognitive processes in individual speakers:

adoption

- speakers adopt elements (forms, patterns) from a less familiar language
- identifiable elements are used more or less consciously for semantic or social reasons (enrichment)

imposition

- speakers impose elements (mostly patterns) from their native language on a second language that they learned imperfectly as adults
- difficult-to-suppress elements from the native language surface unconsciously in the learner version of the recipient language (substrate effect, especially phonology)

assimilation

- speakers assimilate patterns in one of their languages to another language that they know just as well (or better)
- difficult-to-suppress elements from a stronger language are used unconsciously in a weaker language (pattern copying and metatypy, serving equi-translatability)

Social conditions and cognitive processes: Possible correlations

	linguistic material involved	power/prestige/range (a)symmetries	adult/ post- adolescent/children	degree of bi- /multilingualis m	time span
adoption	• loanwords • discourse markers • grammatical markers • affixes (?)	asymmetry	adolescents/post- adolescents/adults	from low to high	no condition
imposition	• phonology • grammatical patterns (argument marking, valency)	asymmetry	adults/post- adolescent second language use	low to non- existent	short period
assimilation	lexical, grammatical calquing syntactic structures wholesale systems	both asymmetry and symmetry (?)	children/ pre-adolescents	high	over more generations