

IMPACT OF CPEC ON THE LANGUAGE DYNAMICS OF PAKISTAN AND CHINA: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW (2019-2023)

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Abstract

The impact of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the linguistic dynamics of China and Pakistan over the past five years is reviewed in this article. The literature review is pretty thin before that. The essential knowledge based on Language dynamics such as Code-Switching and Multilingualism has expanded hugely in this time. Authors and scholars in Pakistan have made research and recommendations to access these linguistic aspects in various contexts. In the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), this paper attempts to investigate the themes that emerge from five years of writing on the impact studies on language dynamics and multilingualism between Pakistan and China and systematically reviewed selected articles published during 2019-2023. It attempts to answer the research questions and discuss them thoroughly. It is anticipated that the issues that have concerned the authors throughout that period as well as some of the noticeably missing subjects will help shape current and future research in the field.

Keywords: Language, CPEC, Literature Review, Pak-China, Multilingualism, Code-Switching

Introduction

This article reviews the literature on the Impact of CPEC on the Language Dynamics of Pakistan and China during the last 5 years. There is very little in the literature review before that. The essential knowledge based on Language dynamics such as Code-Switching and Multilingualism has expanded hugely in this time. Authors and scholars in Pakistan have made research and recommendations to access these linguistic aspects in various contexts. This paper aims to examine the themes that run through 5 years of writing on the impact studies on language dynamics and multilingualism between Pakistan and China in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is anticipated that what has concerned writers over that time (and some of the conspicuously absent topics) can inform the future of research in the current area.

Gardner-Chloros & Weston (2015), describe that code-switching in spoken modes, focused on conversational and grammatical levels. It questions whether models for spoken code-switching can be applied to writing, particularly in literary writing. There is a partial overlap between the functions of code-switching in spoken and written modalities. The phenomenon of code-switching is well-known and has gathered more attention lately. According to Rusli et al. (2018), code-switching is a phenomenon in language where speakers alternate between two or more languages or language varieties during a single conversation or discourse. It is frequently used in formal and informal contexts by bilingual or multilingual people (Abu Bakar & Dahlan, 2018 as cited in Nazri & Kassim, 2023). There are several reasons to code-switch, including highlighting a specific point, expressing solidarity with a group, or expressing social identity (Raja Mhd, Shahnuddin & Nor, 2022). In multilingual contexts, code-switching can also be employed as a strategic communication tool by speakers to bridge grammatical or lexical gaps in one language with vocabulary or sentence structures from another.

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Treffers-Daller et al. (2020) suggest that examining code-switching in popular culture can provide insights into how language shapes social identity and cultural representation. A society's values and beliefs are reflected in its popular culture. Through analyzing the application of code-switching in popular culture, scholars can acquire an understanding of how linguistic diversity is interpreted and portrayed in various settings. Moreover, examining code-switching in popular culture can help us comprehend how language functions as a tool for expression and communication in an increasingly interconnected world. Understanding the function of code-switching in popular culture can help people communicate and interact with people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds as society grows more multicultural and multilingual.

Often, articles examining code-switching and multilingualism between Pakistan and China refer only to certain aspects such as CPEC, and educational setup, while other discusses English as a third language of communication between the people of Pakistan and China. This article sheds light on the major areas that have been researched during the past 5 years in Pakistan and China as well as find the gaps in the existing literature. Moreover, this review seeks answers to the following questions:

- 1) What aspects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have led to a rise in the use and study of Chinese in Pakistan?
- 2) What obstacles and difficulties exist for the Chinese language to grow in Pakistan?
- 3) What possible long-term effects might the CPEC have on the language in Pakistan?

An Overview of Multilingualism and CPEC

The number of people who are bilingual or multilingual has increased in the context of growing globalization (Zhong & Fan, 2023). The importance of studying bilingualism and multilingualism is growing because communicating effectively across national boundaries requires speaking multiple languages (Sokolovska, 2023). Scholars from various disciplines have examined the phenomenon of bilingualism and multilingualism, with each contributing distinctive viewpoints. Code-switching, also known as language switching, has received much attention in the field of bilingualism and multilingualism in recent decades (Tomic & Kaan, 2022).

China launched a major development initiative called the China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) intending to alter Pakistan's course in life. English is the official language of Pakistan, and the CPEC has a positive effect on both the country's economy and linguistic landscape. Since China has the highest proportion of speakers worldwide, many Pakistanis are concentrating on learning the language as a result of CPEC's success. China's strength and power in the global economic war is to blame for this. A large number of Pakistani students are currently receiving Chinese scholarships, and the CPEC megaproject is expected to create excellent job opportunities for millions of people. Given that China is home to the second-largest economy and the world's largest population, the language has great significance.

Historical Overview

Cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan have been a longstanding relationship since ancient times, with the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. The Cultural Cooperation Agreement, signed in 1965, has been a significant step in promoting two-way exchanges. High-profile cultural exchanges between the two countries include visits by Chinese and Pakistani delegations, such as those led by former Ministers for Culture, Niaz Mohammad Arbab, and Masood Nabi Nur. These exchanges have made continuous progress since the diplomatic ties between the two countries (Asif, Zhiyong, Irfan Ullah, Nisar, Kalsoom & Hussain, 2019).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aiming to significantly enhance Sino-Pakistan relations in

economic, trade, political, and strategic areas. To promote China-Pakistani cultural exchanges and cooperation, three primary methods are suggested: establishing an effective mechanism for cultural exchanges and cooperation, expanding participation from cultural celebrities, researchers, and professionals from various fields, and promoting cultural cooperation at different levels.

The current mechanism of China-Pakistan cultural exchanges and cooperation is primarily confined to official levels, and governments should play significant roles in this new mechanism. The mechanism should be selected from various governmental organs and given powers and resources to plan cultural exchanges and cooperative projects. To improve cooperation, both countries can follow the model of the CPEC by building a China-Pakistan Cultural and Art Corridor, promoting more bilateral regular cultural exchange activities, and establishing large cultural industry projects. This "CPCAC" will not only use existing relevant institutions but also create new cultural products that can be consumed by people from both countries and regions.

Review Studies on Code-Switching and Multilingualism

Many studies have looked at code-switching from a variety of angles over the years, including its structural characteristics, sociolinguistic ramifications, cognitive processes, and communicative roles. A thorough summary of the current state of research on code-switching is provided by a literature review of earlier review studies, which also highlights the main conclusions, theoretical underpinnings, and methodological strategies used in this field. Five major themes that framed the research were identified by skimming the review papers published over 5 years. Research gap identification, methodological approaches and discussion, theoretical frameworks, application of code-switching in particular community contexts, multilingualism, code-switching studies in academic settings, and code-switching between Pakistan and China are the five themes.

Gaps in Code-Switching and Multilingualism Studies

To determine the research gaps of earlier studies, several reviews of code-switching studies have been conducted. Review studies were carried out by Liao (2023), Oueslati et al. (2020), and Zhong et al. (2023) to identify research gaps in code-switching studies. Liao (2023) examined several studies on the advantages of bilingual and multilingual education for executive functions, cognitive reserve, and code-switching expenses to identify research gaps.

In line with this, Zhong et al. (2023) identified gaps in the literature by conducting a systematic review of studies on conversational code-switching in multilingual society from a sociolinguistic perspective. These studies covered the previous 13 years. The study's conclusions highlighted the gaps in the research that existed in the code-switching studies' methods, goals, and contexts. These gaps included a decline in sociolinguistic research after 2019 and a preference for empirical qualitative methods over non-empirical ones. Moreover, code-switching studies are scarce worldwide, especially in Oceania, South America, and Africa.

Even though China leads the way in Asian research, other Asian nations require more thorough investigations. Recent publications centre on the effects of code-switching on language identities, and there is a dearth of comparative studies and macrosocial factors in code-switching research. The study finds that no research has looked at the effects of language/dialect distance on executive functions, the cost of code-switching, and cognitive reserve (the ability to delay the onset of dementia or Alzheimer's disease). Oueslati et al. (2020) identified significant gaps in the literature by reviewing Arabic-language research on sentiment analysis. According to the study, the discrepancies in vocabulary, grammar, and

phonetics between modern standard Arabic (MSA) and Arabic dialects are what cause these gaps.

Methodology

To answer the research questions, a thorough database search was done to extract studies published on code-switching and multilingualism between Pakistan and China. The database search, the inclusion and exclusion screening stage, and the coding, analysis, and interpretation phase of the collected data comprised the three main stages of the overall review process. The systematic review's procedures are shown in Figure 1.

P1: Database & Search engine	P2: Addressing Research Questions	P3: Coding analysis & Interpretation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sources Using Local and international journals •Google Scholar, Taylor and Francis, Bing, ScienceDirect, Researchgate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Written in English Language •Considerable clear description of the study variables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12 articles were selected for analysis and review •The remaining irrelevant articles were excluded from the list.

Figure 1: Systematic Literature Review Process

Phase 1 was conducted within 1 month employing the major databases. For this purpose, five databases used for the search were Google Scholar, Taylor and Francis, Bing, ScienceDirect, and Research Gate. The research articles with either qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods were identified and extracted. The database search was carried out using the following keywords: language dynamics, code-switching, analysis, multilingualism, bilingualism, Pakistan and China, Sino-Pak relations, CPEC, trade, culture, education, politics, and strategic language.

Phase 2 resolved the inclusion of articles in the attempt to address the research questions of the study. The inclusion criteria of the articles were:

- 1) The articles were written in English and this was the basis for the database search in phase one to set up a filter for the search.
- 2) The scope of the articles was the studies on code-switching in Pakistan and China as a result of CPEC. The screening process for this phase was done manually after the list of articles was generated from the process of phase one, by thoroughly going through each article's title and abstract.
- 3) The articles contained considerably clear descriptions of either both variables or at least one of the variables of the current study, which were the issues and/or functions of language dynamics, code-switching and multilingualism as a result of CPEC in Pakistan and China.

Finding and Discussions

The most common issues discussed in the articles

Culture and Language

Yang, Asif & Usman (2022) stated in their article that the CPEC is a demonstration of leadership and that it has strengthened political, economic, and cultural ties between China and Pakistan. The two sides' respective positions in each other's diplomatic strategies have gained prominence, and Pakistan-China relations are now regarded as a model for state-to-state relations worldwide. For the benefit of people everywhere, the two nations' collaboration on the CPEC has also come to serve as a model for international cooperation.

Asif et. al. (2021) were of the view that without publishing books, a society's capacity to spread and diffuse knowledge would be severely constrained. One essential component of it is the transmission of knowledge. The works of mainstream intellectuals must be made more widely known, publishing funds must be raised, professional editors must be developed, publication types must be enhanced, and cultural exchange methods must be extended.

Yang, Asif & Usman (2022), further investigate the translation of Chinese books published in Urdu, the national language of Pakistan. The essay focuses on the translator's duty to accurately convey the subtleties of the source material in their capacity as a cultural mediator. Translating culturally distinctive elements such as proverbs, figurative language, and allusions to religion, mythology, literature, and stylistics is at the core of the debate. Online literary publishing heralds a new age of artistic expression and greater literary culture democratization; it has had a profound effect on authors, readers, publishers, and libraries. The study found that insufficiencies included a poor conversion rate of published works, an unsteady publishing structure, and a lack of an introduction. We think that promoting publishing cultural exchanges and fortifying ties between the two nations is essential.

McCartney (2021) was of the view that in the 21st century, the world has become global, and cultural barriers are breaking down. Translation plays a pivotal role in bridging linguistic, social, cultural, and political gaps between nations. In Pakistan, a multi-lingual and multi-cultural society, translating Chinese literature into Urdu can help people understand each other's culture and deepen understanding. The China-Pakistan Literary Corridor (CPEC) has facilitated this by launching the Sino-Pakistan translation workshop.

Similarly, Asif et. al. (2019) discuss that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has significantly impacted the language and culture in Pakistan, with English becoming the most popular language among students. This has led to a rise in bilingualism and multilingualism in the region. CPEC is considered a "game changer" in economic development and language and culture in South Asia, particularly in Pakistan. The study highlights bilateral cooperation between the two countries to create a community of cultural industries and language centres, fostering a shared cultural ecosystem. The findings suggest that Chinese language learners' future will be bright and successful due to more job opportunities. CPEC is also transforming various industries, such as radio, television, folk arts, performing arts, festival exhibitions, publishing, advertising, entertainment, sports, printing, packaging, cultural education, healthcare, agricultural tourism, and new cultural formats. The Pakistani government is promoting the Chinese language at various levels, such as schools, colleges, and universities, to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries. The effectiveness of CPEC as a language changer cannot be denied.

Education and Language

Asif (2022) stated in his paper that, since 2004, China has built over 700 Confucius Classrooms and Institutes to enhance its language and culture and improve its foreign image. However, little is known about their operations and their impact. Cultural and public diplomacy are crucial for changing people's views of other countries and cultures. Confucius Institutes are significant in the national cultural institutions community due to their connection to China's development. China's foreign policy goals have increased the availability of Chinese language training globally, with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) opening up new avenues for Chinese language instruction abroad. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has influenced Pakistani culture and language, highlighting the need for bilateral collaboration to create a community of cultural enterprises and linguistic centers. The CPEC's efficacy as a language changer cannot be denied, as both countries' cultures can be openly shared (Asif, 2022).

Iqbal & Masroor (2023) argues in their article that learning the Chinese language in Pakistan has evolved as an investment in the education sector, constructing an alternative identity in the future linguistic market. Through in-depth interviews with stakeholders, the study uses Darwin and Norton's (2015) model of investment to investigate how investing learners in Chinese reshapes their current identities. The findings show a relationship between Chinese with a powerful economy, innovative technologies, and higher education, with the Chinese as an alternative resource with better employment potential in the future job market. This investment in the education sector in Pakistan is re-envisioning learners' future identities.

The global media often uses negative framing of China and Pakistan, influencing public opinion. Cultural products like language institutions, heritage opportunities, and events can be linked to the area, attracting tourism. The organizational capacity of tourism operators and heritage management authorities needs improvement (Hussain & Jamali, 2019). Additionally, there should be an entrepreneurial approach in museums and heritage sites to improve information services for tourists and volunteers. Programs should support the movement of cultural tourists through CPEC, reinvesting in the preservation of cultural and heritage sites and making them unique for tourist attraction (Hussain & Jamali, 2019).

English as a Third Language

Haidar & Fang (2019) conducted a study which examines language ideologies, laws, and the use of English in China and Pakistan, two nations where the language has varying educational roles. The role of the English language is changing due to globalization and advancements in communication; as a result, policies and ideologies surrounding English instruction need to change, especially when English serves as a lingua franca. Because of Pakistan's history of British colonization, the English language has a role that is associated with language ideology.

The colonial mindset is still present in language ideology and teaching methods, and opinions about the place of English in society are still divided. In contrast, since English is not a postcolonial language, it is taught as a foreign language in China (Sheng, Zubair & Khan, 2022). Although people's various communication needs are met by the English language, there is worry that if English is valued more highly than a person's native tongue, people may lose their sense of self. Thus, this essay outlines the connections between different language ideologies and the discussion surrounding English language instruction (Sheng, Zubair & Khan, 2022). Ultimately, this essay makes the case for the significance of contextualizing language policies to better meet the various needs and learning objectives of English language learners as well as the necessity of approaching English language instruction from a multilingual standpoint (Haidar & Fang, 2019).

Abbas, Zahra & Akhter (2021) throw light on the effect of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on the linguistic ecology of Pakistan would ultimately prove to be unquestionably true, albeit with some degree of deviation from our initial assumptions. The Pakistani language scene would have numerous new opportunities thanks to the economic corridor. On the one hand, this potential "fate and game changer" would undoubtedly lead to economic prosperity in the nation, but on the other, the significant alteration in the linguistic makeup of the nation would present significant difficulties for decision-makers in the areas of trade, education, law, and other fields.

Planning and policy for language use would become crucial in all spheres of life, including social, official, institutional, and possibly even political ones in the nation. Computational linguists' role would also become increasingly important in supporting this massive interaction with various devices and software. Thus, we propose that the government

anticipate this linguistic challenge by involving Pakistani linguists in the planning and management of the nation's languages (Farzana & Tanweer, 2021).

Learning Chinese Language and Literature

Traditionally and academically Pakistan and China have had a close relationship for many years. Recent years have seen a noticeable rise in the number of Pakistani readers who are interested in Chinese literature, indicating a growing affinity for Chinese culture and Chinese-authored literature. To better understand the literary ties between Pakistan and China, a comprehensive investigation into various facets of Chinese literature has been conducted. This research examines the social and political significance of Chinese literature in the context of Pakistan, the accessibility and availability of translated Chinese works, the literary preferences of readers in Pakistan, and the cultural connections between the two nations (Afzal, Khatoon & Anwar, 2023).

Aftab, Abbasi & Memon (2023) investigate the imagined identities of Pakistanis learning Chinese at a private institute in Karachi and their language investment. The research aims to understand how Pakistanis construct their imagined identities and the extent of their investment in Chinese language classrooms. A qualitative narrative inquiry was conducted, involving written narratives and semi-structured interviews with two Pakistani Chinese language learners. The findings indicate that factors such as institutional influences, foreign language proficiency, and individual experiences impact the construction of imagined identities and language investment in learning Chinese. The study provides a future pathway for understanding the role of Chinese language learning in Pakistan and the social impact of China-Pakistan is no secret that ties between China and Pakistan are getting stronger.

Safdar (2021) was of the view that the long-term friendship is embodied in the strategic relationship between China and Pakistan. To strengthen their close relationship and forge a stronger strategic partnership based on shared interests and values, both nations have taken significant steps toward one another. The relationship between the two nations has grown significantly stronger as a result of their friendship evolving into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor agreement. The recent expansion of the CPEC has encouraged young Pakistani learners to take Chinese as a foreign language to take advantage of numerous opportunities both domestically and internationally. It has been noted that there is currently a greater desire among young people to learn about Chinese Pakistan Economic Corridor project (Safdar, 2021).

Conclusion

The study conducted a systematic literature review on the impact of CPEC on the language dynamics of Pakistan and China and reviewed 15 articles published during 2019-2023. The four themes emerged out of the articles and the discussion chapter enlisted the highlights of all the studies. The analysis concludes that the linguistic dynamics of China and Pakistan have been significantly impacted by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Bilingualism and multilingualism have increased in Pakistan as a result of the CPEC, as has the use and study of Chinese. This is because the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened up an excess of new avenues for investment, trade, and education between the two nations. To take advantage of these new opportunities and enhance their job prospects, many Pakistanis are now studying Chinese. Positive effects of the CPEC have also been seen in Pakistan-China cultural ties. The China-Pakistan Literary Corridor is one example of how the CPEC has increased cultural exchanges between the two nations. This has aided in fostering respect and understanding between the two cultures. In general, Pakistan and China's linguistic and cultural ties have improved as a result of the CPEC. Bilingualism and multilingualism have increased in Pakistan as a result of the CPEC, as has the use and study

of Chinese. Cultural exchanges have increased as a result of the CPEC's beneficial effects on the two nations' cultural ties.

Recommendations

- Future research and studies must concentrate on the technology-mediated code-switching techniques used in online communication related to CPEC (e.g., social media, video conferencing)
- Examines how, in contrast to face-to-face interactions, virtual platforms create new code-switching dynamics or challenges.
- The possible long-term effects of CPEC on China's and Pakistan's linguistic landscapes.
- The role that CPEC has played in the creation of new frameworks for multilingual cooperation and communication.
- The possible hazards and moral dilemmas of code-switching in delicate CPEC situations.

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