



**Research Paper- English**

## Nativization of English in Shobhaa De's 'Sisters' and 'Strange Obsession'

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### ABSTRACT

Shobhaa De has made a deviant use of Indian English in literary discourse. It entered the process of nativization of English and the characters and the speech situations are revealed through the artistic use of language. She uses code-switched and code-mixed words, phrases and sentences in her novels. The linguistic experiments has triggered the process of nativization of English as she has given the Indian flavor to the incidents and the characters in her novels as they depict modern Indian culture. The nativization of English is the matter of interest in the novels of Shobhaa De as it is equipped with Indian ethos and cultural aspects. In addition, they unveil the aristocratic ways of life in the Indian urban society. She is closely associated with the way of English being spoken by her characters that reflect the mannerisms of upper middle class of the metropolitan cities in India.

The present research paper is the study of the selected extracts and conversations of the characters revealing the nativization of Indian English. Such expressions indicate the different ways in which she uses English language to express thoughts and feelings of her characters. She has tried many linguistic devices such as code-switching, code-mixing, hybridization, borrowing, reduplication, honorifics, diminutives, curses, blessings, abuses, slang expressions, regional dialect, sociolect, idiolect etc. explicitly to exhibit the Indianness of the characters and the situations from the Urban Indian upper class society. The detailed description of the metropolitan cities and the thoughts and feelings of the characters associated with the upperclass society have been in the interest of the novelist.

Language is under constant change. It moves from time to time, place to place and individual to individual. Even the same individual may not speak in the same manner in all the situations. People use unlike linguistic forms even if the intention is the same. So there emerges bilingualism where any speech community makes use of two or more languages coming in contact. A bilingual person very often moves from his mother tongue to second language or vice versa. English language also varies from region to region which causes regional variation. Every individual is unique in his or her use of language which is known as idiolect. A sociolect is associated with a particular social group that might have their own distinctive styles of language. Socio-economic status, age, occupation and gender of the speaker whereas, it is noticed that a multilingual speaker communicates in more than one languages simultaneously in their linguistic exchanges.

The code-mixing and code-switching highlight the communication of the bilingual user, who switches from one language to another while conversing. The code-mixing and code-switching is witnessed among people living in border areas because they come in contact with the people who speak different languages.

The novel, *Sisters* opens with the introduction of the main character, the female protagonist of the novel, Mallika (Mikki) who is the daughter of a rich industrialist, Mr. Hirallal. She came back to India from U.S.A. as soon as she learnt that her parents were killed in an air crash, and she became an orphan; her aunt and the old maid servants tried to console and pacify her grief. The novel, *Sisters* presents the story of two sisters, Mallika, the daughter of Seth Hirallal and Alisba, the daughter of Seth Hirallal and his mistress Leelaben. Mikki is being consoled by her aunt Anjanaben and her maid Gangubai. Mikki is advised by her aunt Anjanaben of small, mean eyes that she should not feel that she is alone in this vast world.

They are all with her and she was told to cry in order to relieve herself of the heaviness caused by the terrible sudden blow of her mother and father's death. Gangubai nursed her, nuzzled her, and raised her from the day she came out from her mother's womb. Mikki is an orphan now and this is the worst tragedy that has fallen on her. 'toe-rings', 'joss-sticks', 'poo-rooms' and 'pallav of nine-yard sari' are the instances of code-mixing. There is an ample use of repetition of words in the sentences such as 'faster, cry, you, cetera'. Anjanaben and Gangubai use different codes and these are some examples of code-switching and code-mixing.

Some more glaring examples of code-mixing and code-switching:

