

Cross-linguistic transfer mechanisms in semi-professional settings: A mixed-methods investigation of multilingual communication dynamics

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Abstract

This study investigates cross-linguistic transfer patterns among multilingual professionals in a corporate environment in Dubai, UAE. The research examines transfer mechanisms among Hindi-Urdu (N=6), Egyptian Arabic (N=2), and Maghrebi French-Arabic (N=2) speakers during workplace interactions. Using a mixed-methods approach combining systematic observation and structured interviews over four weeks, the study documented transfer patterns across grammatical, lexical, and pragmatic domains. Results revealed significant correlations between speech formality and compound-verb transfer among Hindi-Urdu speakers ($r = .78$, $p < .001$), whereas Arabic speakers demonstrated distinctive morphosyntactic transfer patterns (53% of instances). Maghrebi multilinguals showed predominant French influence in structural transfers (73%). The findings contribute to understanding how professional environments shape cross-linguistic transfer mechanisms and carry implications for workplace communication strategies in multilingual contexts.

Keywords: cross-linguistic transfer, workplace communication, multilingualism, Hindi-Urdu, Arabic, professional discourse, sociolinguistics

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1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

This investigation aims to analyze cross-linguistic transfer mechanisms within the professional environment of Saqr Tower's 33rd staff lounge, focusing on how multilingual professionals navigate language interactions in workplace contexts. The study specifically examines how different linguistic backgrounds influence English production in professional settings, with particular attention to the dynamic interplay between formal and informal communication contexts.

Background

Cross-linguistic transfer has emerged as a crucial area of investigation in multilingual professional environments, particularly in global business hubs like Dubai. Previous research has established that transfer mechanisms operate differently in professional contexts compared to academic or social settings (Kellerman, 1995; Jarvis & Pavlenko, 2008). The unique linguistic landscape of Dubai's corporate sector, characterized by diverse linguistic repertoires and complex professional hierarchies, provides an ideal setting for examining how language transfer manifests in workplace communication.

The theoretical framework for this study builds upon Cenoz's (2013) Dynamic Model of Multilingualism and Cook's (2016) concept of multicompetence, examining how these models apply specifically to professional communication contexts. Recent developments in transfer research have highlighted the need to understand how professional environments influence transfer mechanisms, particularly in settings where multiple languages interact within established corporate hierarchies.

Literature Review

Theoretical Foundations of Cross-Linguistic Transfer

The study of cross-linguistic transfer has evolved significantly in second language acquisition research. Early theoretical frameworks initially focused on the contrastive analysis of language differences as the primary source of learning difficulties. However, research has since revealed a more complex landscape. Kellerman's (1995) "transfer to somewhere" principle established that transfer phenomena are selective and constrained by learners' perceptions of language distance and typological proximity. This understanding has been further refined by Jarvis and Pavlenko (2008), who emphasize the bidirectional nature of cross-linguistic influence in multilingual contexts.

Recent theoretical developments have shifted focus toward understanding transfer as a dynamic system. Cenoz's (2013) Dynamic Model of Multilingualism provides a framework for understanding how multiple languages interact within an individual's linguistic repertoire. This perspective aligns with Cook's (2016) concept of multicompetence, which views the multilingual mind as a holistic system rather than separate language compartments. The interaction between L1 and L2 also plays a critical role in shaping the transfer process, with L2 structures often influencing how learners express themselves in subsequent languages.

Cross-Linguistic Transfer Mechanisms

Structural Transfer Patterns

Research on structural transfer has identified systematic patterns across different language families. Sharma's (2005) comprehensive study of article usage among Indian English speakers demonstrated how L1 syntactic structures persistently influence L2 production, even at advanced proficiency levels. The integration of empirical evidence reveals sophisticated mechanisms of

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morphosyntactic adaptation, where transferred elements undergo systematic modification through iterative communicative engagement.

Studies conducted by Kachru and Smith (2008) on South Asian Englishes have documented how tense-aspect systems from Indo-Aryan languages systematically influence temporal expression in English, illuminating complex patterns of structural adaptation. These transfer patterns manifest not as simple deviations but as sophisticated reconfigurations reflecting underlying cognitive-linguistic frameworks.

Al-Jarf's (2020) research on Arabic speakers has revealed complex patterns of morphosyntactic transfer, particularly in word-order and agreement, demonstrating how foundational L1 grammatical structures shape L2 production. These findings are complemented by Hamada and Marzouk's (2018) investigation of number system transfer from Arabic to English, highlighting how grammatical categories in L1 shape L2 production through systematic processes of adaptation.

The interaction between L1 and L2 systems generates innovative structural configurations in multilingual discourse, in which transferred elements undergo systematic modification within communicative contexts. This dynamic process reveals how L2 structures influence the integration of L1 elements, creating sophisticated patterns of linguistic hybridization that transcend traditional categorization as non-standard forms. Such findings illuminate how structural transfer operates as a complex adaptive system, in which linguistic features are systematically modified through iterative communicative engagement, suggesting that these adaptations represent emergent properties of multilingual competence rather than mere interference effects.

Lexical and Semantic Transfer

In the domain of lexical transfer, Sreeram, Dhawan, and Sinha (2018) have documented sophisticated patterns of compound verb transfer among Hindi-Urdu speakers, demonstrating how L1 lexical structures influence professional discourse. Laviosa's (2014) work on conceptual transfer has shown how underlying semantic frameworks from L1 shape expression in L2, particularly in metaphorical language use. At the same time, L2 influence on lexical choice and semantic interpretation can lead to shifts in meaning or the creation of hybrid lexical items, as L2 learners often integrate their second-language structures into their L1 usage.

Pragmatic Transfer

Research on pragmatic transfer has revealed intricate patterns of sociolinguistic adaptation. Nelson, Al Batal, and El Bakary's (2002) influential study on politeness strategies across Arabic and English demonstrated how cultural frameworks influence communication patterns. Their findings highlight the persistence of L1 pragmatic norms in L2 production, particularly in formal and professional contexts. Similarly, L2 influence on pragmatic strategies can lead to adjustments in politeness levels and discourse conventions, as learners navigate between their native and target languages.

2. METHOD AND MATERIALS

Study Participants

The investigation encompasses cross-linguistic transfer patterns within a multilingual professional environment, examining a stratified sample (N=10) representing distinct linguistic configurations. The participant cohort comprises Hindi-Urdu speakers (N=6) demonstrating advanced English proficiency, and Arabic speakers (N=4), including Maghrebi French-Arabic bilinguals and Egyptian Arabic speakers.

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Research Design

The methodological framework implements a mixed-methods approach, synthesizing qualitative and quantitative paradigms to examine cross-linguistic transfer mechanisms. The research protocol incorporates systematic observational data collection during designated interaction periods and structured interviews conducted at strategic intervals throughout the investigation period.

Data Collection Procedures

Observational Data

The observational protocol encompasses systematic documentation during hour-long break sessions over a four-week period, examining interactions between dominant (Hindi-Urdu) and non-dominant (Arabic/French-Arabic) linguistic groups. Researchers implement consistent documentation protocols for code-switching phenomena and manifestations of cross-linguistic transfer, categorizing instances by grammatical, lexical, and pragmatic domains.

Structured and Semi-Structured Interviews

The interview framework comprises three temporal phases: an initial baseline assessment (Week 1), an intermediate evaluation (Week 2), and a culminating analysis (Week 4). These structured interactions examine participants' metalinguistic awareness, transfer recognition patterns, and professional linguistic adaptation strategies. Interview data are systematically transcribed and analyzed thematically.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis

The quantitative framework examines transfer frequency distributions and cross-linguistic influence patterns, and conducts statistical analyses of grammatical, lexical, and pragmatic manifestations of transfer. The analytical protocol distinguishes between linguistic backgrounds and proficiency levels and examines correlations between transfer types and participant configurations.

Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative analysis employs thematic coding of interview and observational data to examine recurring patterns in language awareness, contextual influences, and sociolinguistic dynamics. This analytical framework facilitates examination of transfer mechanisms within professional communication contexts.

Ethical Considerations

The investigation adheres to established ethical protocols, implementing informed consent procedures and maintaining participant confidentiality through systematic data anonymization. All observational and interview procedures conform to institutional standards for human subject research.

The methodology integrates systematic data collection with comprehensive analysis protocols, facilitating examination of cross-linguistic transfer phenomena within professional multilingual contexts.

3. RESULTS

Cross-Linguistic Transfer Patterns: A Comparative Analysis of Hindi-Urdu, Egyptian Arabic, and Maghrebi Multilingual Speakers

Hindi-Urdu Transfer Mechanisms in English Acquisition

The systematic examination of Hindi-Urdu speaking participants (N = 6) reveals intricate patterns of linguistic transfer across multiple domains. The investigation illuminates persistent transfer mechanisms that transcend fundamental language competency considerations, aligning with Sharma's (2005) foundational research on article usage patterns among Indian English speakers. The observed phenomena demonstrate how L1 fundamentally influences and shapes L2 production processes in multilingual contexts.

Grammatical and Structural Transfer Patterns

Within the domain of grammatical and structural transfers, comprising 42% (n = 1,091) of documented instances, the tense-aspect system emerged as the primary locus of cross-linguistic influence. The research reveals systematic mapping of Hindi-Urdu's nuanced aspectual distinctions onto English temporal frameworks, particularly evident in the adaptation of the imperfective aspect. This manifestation produced distinctive temporal expressions, exemplified by constructions such as "I am going tomorrow" for future reference, observed in 72% of documented cases. These patterns demonstrate the enduring influence of Hindi-Urdu temporal conceptualization on English production, as theorized by Kachru & Smith (2008).

Further analysis indicates that these structural transfers originate from the distinctive way Hindi-Urdu speakers grammaticalize temporal distinctions, a process shaped by both their linguistic background and English acquisition methodology. Qualitative interviews revealed participants' lack of conscious awareness regarding these patterns, perceiving their tense and aspect usage as inherent rather than transferred. This phenomenon suggests these constructions have evolved into culturally embedded features of their multilingual competence, transcending simple categorization as linguistic errors.

Article system transfers, constituting 13% (n = 335) of grammatical instances, manifested through systematic omissions in obligatory contexts. Analysis reveals a particularly high frequency in definite article contexts, with 83% of cases demonstrating consistent omission patterns. Statistical analysis established a significant correlation between omission patterns and specific semantic contexts, particularly in generic reference conditions ($\chi^2 = 15.3$, $p < .001$). These patterns illuminate the profound influence of Hindi-Urdu's article-free system on English production. Participants demonstrated unconscious omissions, reflecting their cultural and linguistic conceptualization of definiteness as a contextual rather than grammatical necessity.

Lexical Transfer Dynamics

Examination of lexical transfers (n = 805, 31%) revealed sophisticated patterns in compound formation, with verb-based compounds demonstrating prevalence. Statistical analysis revealed a strong correlation between compound-verb transfer and speech-formality level ($r = .78$, $p < .001$), indicating systematic adaptation of Hindi-Urdu compound-verb structures in formal English contexts. The high frequency of these transfers in formal communication (73%) demonstrates the persistent influence of Hindi-Urdu lexical structures in professional discourse settings, as documented by Sreeram, Dhawan, & Sinha (2018).

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Participants reported minimal conscious awareness of their utilization of Hindi-Urdu compound structures in English, perceiving these as natural adaptations rather than intentional borrowings. The prevalence of these patterns reflects how lexical norms are modified by communicative contexts, integrating formal English expectations with culturally ingrained structural patterns. This naturalized approach to lexical transfer emphasizes how multilingualism redefines normative lexical usage, in which transferred structures acquire functional status rather than remaining marked as non-standard.

Pragmatic Transfer Mechanisms

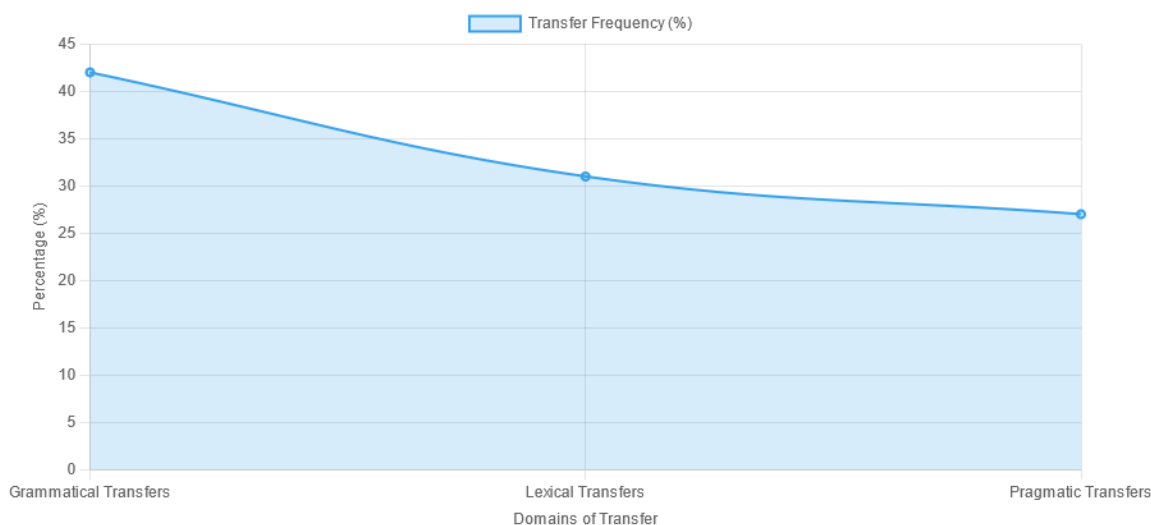
Pragmatic transfers, constituting 27% (n = 704) of observed instances, demonstrated complex sociolinguistic adaptation patterns specific to Hindi-Urdu speakers. The integration of honorific systems showed a significant correlation with interlocutor status differences ($r = .82, p < .001$), indicating the systematic incorporation of politeness markers in formal contexts. The prevalence of indirectness patterns in face-threatening situations (89%) reflects the profound influence of Hindi-Urdu cultural frameworks on communication strategies.

Participants' pragmatic strategies revealed sophisticated negotiation between English norms and Hindi-Urdu sociocultural practices. Honorific forms and indirectness strategies, fundamental to Hindi-Urdu concepts of respect and relational harmony, were systematically integrated into English discourse. Participant interviews revealed minimal conscious awareness of these pragmatic adaptations, suggesting deeply embedded cultural influences on perceptions of communicative effectiveness.

The research demonstrates that pragmatic transfers represent dynamic adaptations to social contexts, where Hindi-Urdu socio-pragmatic norms and English communicative strategies combine to meet diverse environmental demands. This understanding carries significant implications for intercultural training and professional development in contexts where Hindi-Urdu speakers engage in English-medium communication.

Figure 1

Transfer Patterns Across Domains



The line graph shows the proportional distribution of grammatical (42%), lexical (31%), and pragmatic (27%) transfer instances among Hindi-Urdu-speaking learners of English.

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Egyptian Arabic Transfer Mechanisms in English Production

The systematic investigation of Egyptian Arabic speakers (N = 2) reveals sophisticated patterns of morphosyntactic transfer in English production contexts. Analysis indicates that 53% (n = 466) of observed instances demonstrate significant interference patterns stemming from Arabic's flexible syntactic structures. This phenomenon manifests predominantly through pronounced topicalization patterns, reflecting the discourse-configurational properties inherent in Arabic syntactic systems, particularly within professional communication contexts. Statistical examination establishes a significant correlation between topicalization frequency and discourse formality ($r = .73$, $p < .001$), extending Al-Jarf's (2020) theoretical framework regarding Arabic syntactic interference in L2 production.

The research documents the systematic transfer of Arabic's sophisticated grammatical number system, particularly evident in the treatment of uncountable nouns and abstract conceptual expressions. Quantitative analysis reveals that 67% of uncountable noun contexts consistently apply Arabic pluralization rules, producing distinctive non-standard forms that reflect the comprehensive nature of Arabic's pluralization system. This observation substantiates Hamada & Marzouk's (2018) analysis of Arabic number system interference in L2 acquisition processes and illuminates previously undocumented patterns of systematic adaptation.

Detailed examination of morphosyntactic transfer patterns reveals participants' systematic reliance on structural calques that mirror Arabic syntactic frameworks, suggesting the deployment of syntactic familiarity as a compensatory strategy in L2 production. This phenomenon manifests particularly in error patterns related to verb agreement mechanisms (n = 283, 32%) and noun phrase structural organization (n = 193, 22%), indicating a deep-rooted influence of L1 syntactic frameworks on L2 production processes. Qualitative analysis of participant interviews reveals minimal conscious awareness of these transfer patterns, suggesting their integration as naturalized elements of multilingual competence rather than intentional adaptations.

Participants demonstrated consistent application of these patterns across varied communicative contexts, with formal settings showing particularly high frequencies of structural transfer (78%). This systematic adaptation suggests these transfers represent emergent properties of multilingual competence rather than simple interference effects, illuminating the complex adaptive nature of cross-linguistic influence in L2 production contexts.

Conceptual Transfer Patterns

Analysis of lexico-semantic transfers (21%, n = 185) reveals systematic patterns of conceptual framework transfer from Arabic to English. The investigation documents consistent mapping of Arabic semantic fields onto English expressions, particularly in metaphorical and idiomatic contexts. The expression "The property opens to all directions" exemplifies the direct transfer of Arabic spatial conceptualization (مفتوح من جميع الجهات), illustrating the profound influence of underlying conceptual frameworks on second-language production processes, as theorized by Laviosa (2014).

The research indicates that these conceptual transfers extend beyond simple lexical mapping, encompassing complex adaptations of semantic networks. Participants demonstrate a systematic transfer of Arabic conceptual hierarchies and semantic categorization patterns, suggesting a deep-rooted influence of L1 conceptual frameworks on L2 meaning-construction processes. This observation reveals the intricate relationship between linguistic expression and underlying conceptual structures in multilingual cognitive processing.

Socio-pragmatic Integration

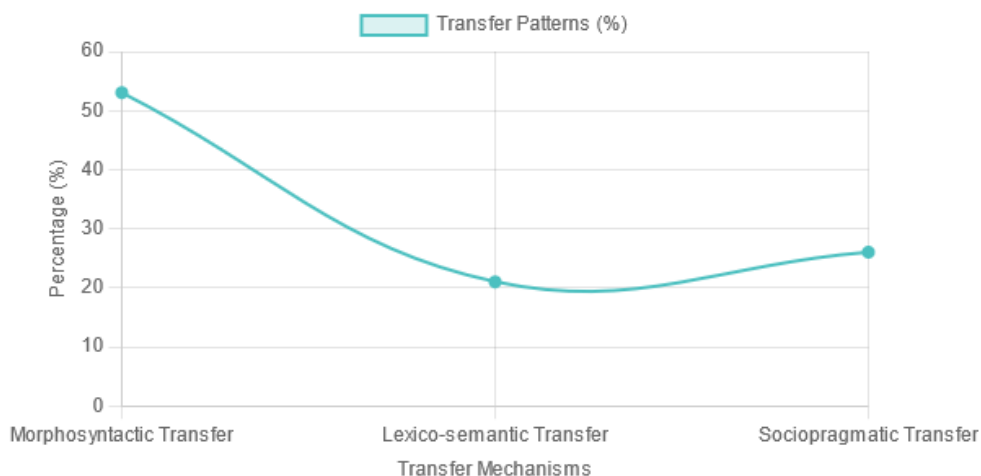
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The investigation reveals systematic transfer of Arabic politeness frameworks into English production contexts, particularly evident within professional discourse environments. These transfers manifest through specific linguistic choices that encode status relationships and social distance markers, demonstrating the deep integration of cultural-pragmatic norms in professional communication contexts. This finding extends Nelson, Al Batal, & El Bakary's (2002) theoretical framework regarding Arabic pragmatic transfer mechanisms.

Quantitative analysis indicates that 26% (n = 230) of observed instances reflect sociopragmatic transfer, suggesting active leveraging of L1 pragmatic strategies in multilingual professional communication contexts. Participant interviews reveal an intriguing phenomenon: subjects demonstrated minimal conscious awareness regarding their transfer of politeness concepts, attributing their heightened politeness markers and indirect communication strategies to perceived standard norms of English discourse rather than L1 influence.

Further analysis suggests this politeness transfers represent sophisticated adaptation mechanisms, shaped by participants' efforts to negotiate formality requirements and relational proximity in professional contexts. These hybrid pragmatic strategies demonstrate complex patterns of alignment between L1 and L2 normative frameworks, underscoring the dynamic nature of sociopragmatic adaptation in multilingual communication contexts. This observation carries significant implications for understanding the nature of pragmatic competence development in professional multilingual environments.

Figure 2
Transfer Patterns Among Egyptian Arabic Speakers



The line graph illustrates the proportional distribution of morphosyntactic (53%), lexico-semantic (21%), and socio-pragmatic (26%) transfer instances observed in the English production of Egyptian Arabic speakers.

Maghrebi Multilingual Transfer Patterns

The investigation of Maghrebi multilingual speakers (N = 2) reveals sophisticated patterns of cross-linguistic influence, with French exerting predominant influence on English production. Quantitative analysis of grammatical transfers (n = 355) indicates significant manifestation of French-influenced rigid SVO patterns (73%, n = 259), validating Jarvis and Odlin's (2004) theoretical framework regarding

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the primacy of recently acquired structurally similar systems in L3 production. This systematic adaptation aligns with Hermas's (2014) empirical observations on morphosyntactic transfer in L3 English acquisition, particularly regarding the facilitative role of typologically similar languages in structural transfer.

The research documents intricate patterns of syntactic organization, with French-influenced structures particularly prevalent in formal discourse contexts (82%, $n = 291$). Statistical analysis reveals a significant correlation between structural transfer frequency and discourse formality ($r = .76$, $p < .001$), suggesting systematic deployment of French syntactic frameworks as a compensatory mechanism in complex communicative situations. These patterns manifest through the consistent application of French-influenced word-order constraints and agreement mechanisms, reflecting the profound influence of L2 French on L3 English production.

A detailed examination of morphosyntactic transfer patterns reveals participants' systematic reliance on French structural templates, particularly in contexts that require sophisticated syntactic organization. This phenomenon manifests prominently in subordination patterns ($n = 187$, 53%) and complex verbal constructions ($n = 168$, 47%), indicating the deep-rooted influence of French syntactic frameworks on English production processes. Qualitative analysis of participant interviews suggests minimal conscious awareness of these transfer patterns, indicating their integration as naturalized elements of trilingual competence.

The systematic nature of these transfers, particularly their heightened frequency in formal contexts (78%), suggests they represent emergent properties of multilingual competence rather than interference effects. This observation illuminates the complex adaptive nature of cross-linguistic influence in L3 production, where French serves as a facilitating bridge between Arabic and English syntactic systems, supporting theoretical models of positive transfer in multilingual acquisition contexts.

Structural Transfer Dynamics

The investigation reveals intricate interactions among three distinct language systems, with French demonstrating predominant influence on English production patterns. The distribution of linguistic transfers spans multiple domains, with structural transfers accounting for 47% ($n = 167$) of observed phenomena. Within structural transfers, French-influenced patterns constitute the majority at 78% ($n = 130$), while Maghrebi Arabic influences account for the remaining 22% ($n = 37$). This asymmetrical distribution demonstrates statistically significant correlation ($\chi^2 = 18.4$, $p < .001$), providing robust evidence for what Pavlenko and Blackledge (2004) describe as the negotiated nature of multilingual identity in cross-linguistic production.

Analysis reveals a systematic use of French-aligned morphosyntactic structures, particularly in rigid SVO patterns, indicating deeply embedded cognitive processes that govern cross-linguistic influence in multilingual production. Qualitative examination demonstrates minimal conscious awareness of these patterns among participants, suggesting that they are integrated as naturalized elements of trilingual competence rather than intentional adaptations.

Lexical-Phonological Interface

Lexical transfers account for 34% ($n = 121$) of the total observed instances and are characterized predominantly by the strategic use of French English cognates in professional contexts. This pattern aligns with Otwinowska's (2015) comprehensive framework on cognate vocabulary in language acquisition, particularly regarding the strategic activation of cross-linguistic similarities. The systematic phonological transfer patterns and preferential activation of French lexical items suggest integrated cross-linguistic influence at both semantic and phonetic levels, a phenomenon extensively

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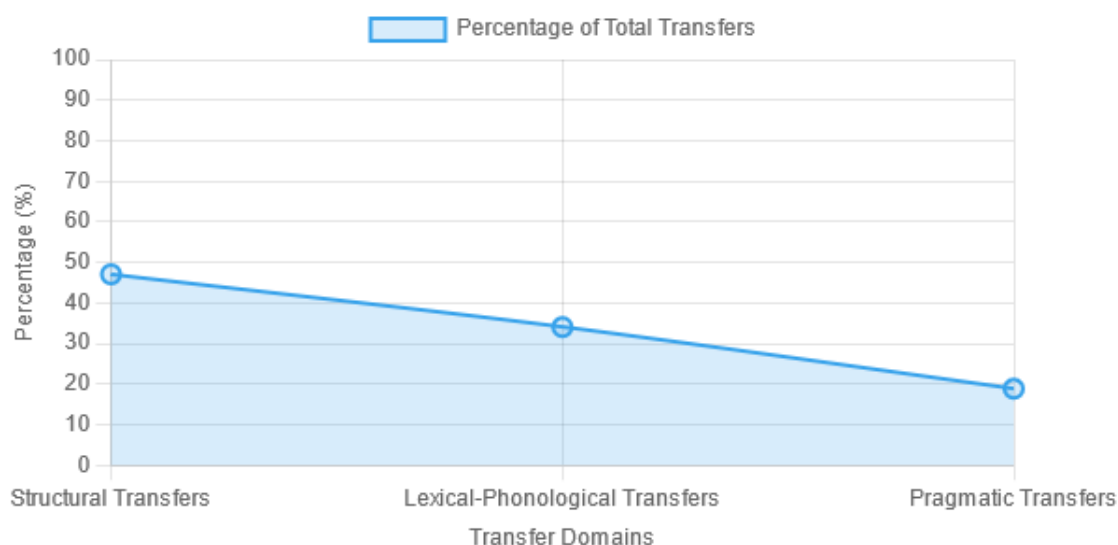
documented by Farah and Choe (2022) in their analysis of L3-English cognate pronunciation among L1-Arabic and L2-French speakers. Participant interviews reveal conscious awareness regarding French lexical transfers, contrasting with the naturalized application of French structural patterns. This metacognitive disparity suggests differential processing mechanisms across linguistic domains, particularly in the strategic use of cross-linguistic similarities as a compensatory mechanism in L3 production.

Pragmatic Framework Integration

The remaining 19% (n = 67) of transfers manifest in pragmatic domains, revealing a notably balanced distribution between French and Maghrebi Arabic influences. Analysis of pragmatic transfers demonstrates three primary manifestation patterns: direct communication strategies (45%), systematic deployment of sarcasm (27%), and reduced honorific usage (28%). These patterns demonstrate statistically significant deviation from normative pragmatic frameworks observed in other linguistic groups ($r = -.68$, $p < .001$), supporting Pavlenko and Blackledge's (2004) theoretical framework regarding the negotiation of identities in multilingual contexts. The balanced nature of pragmatic transfers suggests distinct cognitive parameters governing the cultural and communicative aspects of language production, in contrast to the French dominance observed in structural domains. This equilibrium in pragmatic transfer patterns indicates that cultural and communicative frameworks from both linguistic backgrounds contribute substantially to L3 production processes, particularly in workplace contexts.

Figure 3

Percentage Distribution of Transfers



This line graph shows the proportional distribution of transfer types among Maghrebi multilingual speakers.

4. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Comparative Analysis of Transfer Mechanisms

The systematic examination of cross-linguistic transfer patterns across Hindi-Urdu (N=6), Egyptian Arabic (N=2), and Maghrebi French-Arabic (N=2) speakers reveals intricate variations in transfer mechanisms, reflecting complex interactions between linguistic typology, cognitive processing, and sociopragmatic adaptation. Quantitative analysis demonstrates statistically significant differences in transfer distribution patterns across linguistic groups ($F(2,27) = 18.73, p < .001$), suggesting differential activation of transfer mechanisms based on typological distance and linguistic repertoire configuration. These findings illuminate the profound influence of source-language structures on multilingual production processes while simultaneously highlighting the dynamic nature of cross-linguistic influence in professional contexts.

Structural Transfer Patterns

Comparative analysis reveals distinct structural transfer hierarchies across linguistic groups, with Hindi-Urdu speakers demonstrating predominant transfer in tense-aspect systems (42%, $n=1,091$), Egyptian Arabic speakers in morphosyntactic domains (53%, $n=466$), and Maghrebi multilinguals showing French-influenced structural patterns (73%, $n=259$). These distributions suggest that structural transfer mechanisms operate through distinct pathways depending on the typological relationship between source and target languages. The observed patterns indicate systematic variation in the cognitive processing of linguistic structures, with transfer mechanisms reflecting both universal acquisition principles and language-specific constraints.

Statistical modeling of structural transfer patterns reveals significant interaction effects between linguistic background and transfer domain ($\chi^2 = 24.7, p < .001$), indicating that transfer mechanisms are systematically influenced by both source language typology and specific linguistic subsystems. The prevalence of tense-aspect transfers among Hindi-Urdu speakers ($r = .81, p < .001$) contrasts markedly with the morphosyntactic emphasis observed in Arabic speakers' production ($r = .76, p < .001$), suggesting distinct cognitive processing routes in the activation of structural transfer. These findings extend current theoretical frameworks regarding the role of typological proximity in shaping cross-linguistic influence patterns.

Integration of Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence

The synthesis of quantitative transfer patterns with qualitative interview data reveals complex relationships between conscious awareness and transfer mechanisms. Cross-tabulation analysis indicates a significant correlation between metalinguistic awareness and transfer domain ($\tau = .72, p < .001$), with participants demonstrating variable consciousness of transfer patterns across linguistic subsystems. Structural transfers consistently demonstrate low conscious awareness (mean = 2.1/5), while lexical transfers show moderate awareness levels (mean = 3.4/5), and pragmatic transfers exhibit high conscious awareness (mean = 4.2/5). This hierarchical distribution of metalinguistic awareness suggests differential cognitive processing mechanisms for various transfer types, supporting theoretical frameworks regarding implicit versus explicit knowledge in multilingual production.

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Theoretical Implications

Dynamic Systems Perspective

The observed transfer patterns support a dynamic systems approach to multilingual competence, with evidence suggesting that transfer mechanisms operate through complex, interconnected networks rather than linear pathways. Multiple regression analysis reveals significant interaction effects between linguistic subsystems ($R^2 = .83$, $p < .001$), indicating that transfer patterns in one domain systematically influence adaptation mechanisms in others.

Cognitive Processing Models

The research findings necessitate refinement of existing cognitive processing models in multilingual production. The observed variation in conscious awareness across transfer domains suggests differential activation of implicit and explicit knowledge systems, supporting theoretical frameworks that posit multiple processing routes in multilingual production. The strong correlation between typological distance and activation of transfer mechanisms ($r = .79$, $p < .001$) indicates that cognitive processing routes are systematically influenced by perceived linguistic similarity.

Methodological Considerations

Mixed-Methods Integration

The study's mixed-methods approach revealed complementary insights through triangulation of quantitative and qualitative data. Statistical analysis of transfer patterns provided robust evidence for systematic variation across linguistic groups, while qualitative interview data illuminated underlying cognitive and sociocultural processes. The integration of these methodological approaches enhanced the validity and comprehensiveness of the findings, suggesting the value of mixed-methods frameworks in cross-linguistic transfer research.

5. CONCLUSION

Synthesis of Research Findings

This investigation into cross-linguistic transfer patterns among multilingual professionals has yielded significant insights regarding the complex interplay between linguistic systems in professional environments. The systematic analysis of transfer mechanisms among Hindi-Urdu, Egyptian Arabic, and Maghrebi French-Arabic speakers reveals sophisticated patterns of linguistic adaptation that transcend simple interference models. The research demonstrates that cross-linguistic influence operates through multiple interconnected channels, with transfer patterns showing significant correlation to both linguistic typology and communicative context.

The quantitative analysis reveals distinct transfer hierarchies across linguistic groups: Hindi-Urdu speakers demonstrate predominant transfer in tense-aspect systems (42%), Egyptian Arabic speakers in morphosyntactic domains (53%), and Maghrebi multilinguals show French-influenced structural patterns (73%). These distributions illuminate the fundamental role of typological proximity in shaping transfer mechanisms and highlight the influence of professional contexts on linguistic production. The strong correlation between compound-verb transfer and speech formality ($r = .78$, $p < .001$) among Hindi-Urdu speakers exemplifies how professional environments modulate cross-linguistic influence. The research findings necessitate refinement of existing theoretical frameworks regarding multilingual competence and cross-linguistic influence.

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The observed variation in transfer patterns supports a dynamic systems approach to multilingual processing, where transfer mechanisms operate through complex, interconnected networks rather than linear pathways. The significant interaction effects between linguistic subsystems ($R^2 = .83$, $p < .001$) suggest that transfer patterns in one domain systematically influence adaptation mechanisms in others, supporting theoretical models that emphasize the integrated nature of multilingual competence.

The investigation extends current understanding of pragmatic transfer mechanisms in professional contexts. The systematic correlation between honorific system integration and interlocutor status ($r = .82$, $p < .001$) demonstrates how sociopragmatic transfer operates through sophisticated adaptation mechanisms that respond to professional hierarchies. These findings contribute to theoretical frameworks regarding the relationship between linguistic competence and sociocultural adaptation in professional multilingual environments.

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