

Perceptions of Language Hybridization in Kurdistan Region of Iraq: A Matrix Language Frame Analysis

Res. Rezan Ismael Ghareeb

Prof.Dr. Abbas Mustafa Abbas

Department of English / College of Basic Education / University of Sulaimani

Abstract

This study investigates Kurdish-English hybridization in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from structural and attitudinal perspectives. Following Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame model, it aims at systematically identifying and analyzing the syntactic patterns through which English lexical items are embedded in Kurdish grammatical structures. A mixed-methods approach was adopted. Quantitative and survey data from 253 participants (mostly young, educated, and urban) were supplemented with qualitative data from analyzed records of naturally occurring speech samples. The analysis shows that hybrid forms are relatively highly accepted and normalized even into formal and semi-formal contexts. Statistical analysis has shown that variables - age, education, and occupation - are relevant in shaping attitudes toward language mixing. Structurally, the data consistently fit the MLF model's predictions. At the same time, attitudinally, hybridization at the KRI site seems not only a communicative convenience but also a vibrant force for cultural identity in globalization. In sum, these findings have the potential to impact sociolinguistic theory, bilingualism research, and language policy and call for education reforms that integrate acceptance and legitimization of hybrid practices into the emerging communicative repertoire of the region.

Keywords: Kurdish-English hybridization, Matrix Language Frame model, language contact, sociolinguistics, bilingualism, language attitudes, Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

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التهجين الكردي-الإنجليزي، نموذج إطار اللغة المصفوية، التواصل اللغوي، علم اللغة الاجتماعي، الثنائية اللغوية، المواقف اللغوية، إقليم كردستان العراق

الباحثة ريزان اسماعيل غريب

الأستاذ الدكتور عباس مصطفى عباس

قسم اللغة الانكليزية / كلية التربية الأساسية / جامعة السليمانية

المستخلص

يتناول هذا البحث ظاهرة التهجين بين اللغتين الكردية والإنجليزية في إقليم كردستان العراق من منظورين: هيكلي وسلوكي. وبالاستناد إلى نموذج إطار اللغة المصفوية لمايرز-سكوتون، تهدف الدراسة إلى تحديد وتحليل الأنماط النحوية التي يتم من خلالها إدماج المفردات الإنجليزية في البنى النحوية الكردية بطريقة منهجية. اعتمدت الدراسة منهجاً متعدد الأساليب، حيث جرى دعم البيانات الكمية وبيانات الاستبانة المأخوذة من ٢٥٣ مشاركاً (غالبيتهم من فئة الشباب، والمتعلمين، وسكان المدن) ببيانات نوعية مستخلصة من سجلات محللة لعينات كلامية طبيعية. وأظهر التحليل أن الأشكال الهجينة تحظى بقبول نسبي مرتفع وأنها مألوفة حتى في السياقات الرسمية وشبه الرسمية. كما بين التحليل الإحصائي أن متغيرات مثل العمر، ومستوى التعليم، والمهنة تؤثر في تشكيل المواقف تجاه التهجين اللغوي. من الناحية الهيكلية، جاءت البيانات متوافقة على نحو مستمر مع تنبؤات نموذج إطار اللغة المصفوية. أما من الناحية السلوكية، فيبدو أن التهجين في إقليم كردستان العراق ليس مجرد وسيلة للتواصل، بل يشكل أيضاً قوة دافعة لتعزيز الهوية الثقافية في ظل العولمة. خلاصة القول، إن لهذه النتائج أثراً محتملاً في تطوير النظرية السوسiolغوية، وبحوث الثنائية اللغوية، والسياسة اللغوية، كما تدعو إلى إصلاحات تعليمية تُدمج فيها ممارسات التهجين اللغوي وتُشرعن ضمن سياق التواصل الناشئ في المنطقة.

كلمات مفتاحية: التهجين الكردي-الإنجليزي، نموذج إطار اللغة المصفوية، التواصل اللغوي، علم

اللغة الاجتماعي، الثنائية اللغوية، المواقف اللغوية، إقليم كردستان العراق.

1. Introduction

Acceleration of globalization has drawn attention to phenomena of language hybridizations in modern linguistic landscapes (Pennycook & Otsuji, 2015). Rather complexly, a situation emerges in the KRI due to interactions among Kurds, Arabs, and English speakers in both formal and informal settings (AbdulRahman & Abdullah, 2024). This paper aims to study the relationship between language hybridization's structural issues and sociolinguistic attitudes in the KRI, principally via the analytical framework of Myers-Scotton's (1993) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model, allowing us to speak in detail about how bilingual speech functions in the complex multilingual environment of the KRI.

Language hybridizations refers to a variety of linguistic phenomena, including borrowing at the lexical level, code-switching, and syntactic blending, among others, all taking place in different multilingual settings (Nezami Nav & Link, 2024; Nguyen, 2024). In the Kurdish context, research has focused mainly on either structural or sociolinguistic perceptual aspects, and very few studies integrate the two for a thorough analysis of the phenomena (Fadhil, 2023). The present study intends to analyses both the linguistic processes behind hybridized speech and the social evaluations of its use in Kurdish society.

1.1 Research Context

The ecological linguistics of KRI is shaped and molded by multiple interrelated forces. Political forces advocating for restricted and unrestricted language policies have operated in cycles, primarily centered on the status of the Kurdish language. Educationally, there is a growing emphasis on English language teaching in colleges, hence providing greater exposure to English and hybridizations of English lexical and syntactic elements in Kurdish discourse (AbdulRahman & Abdullah, 2024). The new language practices and norms introduced by the growth of digital communication technologies also serve to increase the frequency and visibility of hybrid-language use. Simultaneously, cultural identity remains a significant issue in an area where a longstanding tug of war occurs between maintaining traditional linguistic

values and adapting to globalized methods of communication. It is the coexistence of all these factors that accounts for a dynamic, ever-changing, and constantly evolving linguistic scenario, where hybridizations occurs voraciously, in response to continuous social challenges.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

The study is based on Myers-Scotton's (1993) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model of code-switching. The MLF model postulates that in bilingual discourse, one language provides the morphosyntactic structure (matrix language), while the other provides content morphemes, usually lexical items. This structural asymmetry has been widely studied across several language pairs. For example, Nguyen (2024) proved this model robust in Vietnamese–English bilingual discourse but also pointed out syntactic units such as prepositional phrases that challenge its predictive capability. Similarly, Assali (2023) noted similar structural conflicts in Arabic–English switching, particularly when dealing with morphologically rich languages, where certain grammatical sites hamper the model's precision.

While the MLF model has been tested across various languages, the Kurdish–English language contact has received insufficient attention. Thus, this study applies the model in order to formalize the analysis of grammatical structures observed in hybridized Kurdish–English speech in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

Alongside the structural framework, the present study incorporates approaches in language perception research, especially sociolinguistic approaches to language attitudes. This twin-pronged perspective examines both the structural mechanisms that account for hybridized speech and the social attitudes that are attached to it. Through this intégration, the study approaches language hybridizations in the KRI both as a communicative process and as the symbolic expression of cultural and societal parameters.

1.3 Research Objectives

The study investigates the interrelation between the structural properties of Kurdish-English hybridizations and social attitudes prevalent in KRI among speakers from diverse demographic backgrounds. For this purpose, it has established the following objectives:

- (1) To identify and classify hybridized patterns of language through the MLF model.
- (2) To investigate whether attitudes toward language differ according to factors such as age, level of education, and occupation.
- (3) To determine those sociocultural variables that are determinants of acceptance or rejection of hybridized language forms.
- (4) To contribute toward a theoretical understanding of the study of language contact situations in a multilingual environment.

1.4 Research Questions

- (1) How does Kurdish-English hybridizations manifest itself structurally in different communicative contexts in the KRI under an MLF-theory-based analysis?
- (2) What are the common social attitudes related to hybridized language use among speakers with various demographic backgrounds (age, education, occupation) in the KRI?
- (3) What sociocultural factors most strongly affect whether Kurdish-English hybridized forms are accepted or rejected in the region?
- (4) How do macro-level forces such as globalization and educational reforms influence hybridized language production and perception in the KRI?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The multi-perspective approach considers multiple perspectives and draws insight from various disciplines. The MLF model is theoretically applied to Kurdish-English, largely an understudied pairing, allowing for the testing of the model's usefulness in a new setting (Nguyen, 2024). Methodologically, it observes structural linguistics and sociolinguistic perception research together to produce a fuller picture of language interaction. From a sociolinguistic perspective, the study investigates how globalizing trends affect local language use in the Kurdistan Region

of Iraq (KRI). It then contributes to language ideology and identity. Practically, the findings could promote an informed language education policy and help cultural organizations deal with language hybridizations in an evolving society.

1.6 Research Scope and Limitations

To investigate within the urban areas of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, and Duhok locations were selected because language hybridizations becomes more apparent with higher levels of education and digital connectivity. The analysis is limited to formal and semi-formal communication within work-related contexts. The only pairs being examined are Kurdish-English ones.

Regarding limitations, since the sample includes many young, educated participants, this reduces the generalizability of the findings to other populations. Being a cross-sectional study, it only examines linguistic patterns at a single point in time; therefore, the findings are merely a snapshot of an evolving sociolinguistic trend.

2. Literature Review

A significant challenge in the study of language hybridizations in Kurdish and English has been the separation of the two fields into the study of structural and sociolinguistic matters. Structurally, studies show the morphosyntactic integration follows consistent patterns, while the sociolinguistic viewpoints highlight the differing attitudes towards such hybrid forms. However, the absence of an integrated analytical framework, especially one that combines structural analyses with perception data, significantly limits what existing studies can explain. This section reviews the relevant studies in themes to provide an overview of the patterns, contrasts, and lacunae they imply for the present work.

2.1 Structural Approaches to Language Hybridization

2.1.1 Kurdish in Contact with English

In the Kurdish–English contact zone, the structural hybridization mostly appears as matrix-language dominance in morphosyntactic integration exerted by Sorani Kurdish. AbdulRahman and Abdullah (2024) describe the lexical phenomena in this regard: in colloquial speech, English nouns are commonly given Kurdish suffixes (e.g., meeting-a). This process of morphophonological adaptation is consistent with the MLF model, according to which one language provides the grammatical frame and the other supplies the content items. While there is ample documentation of lexical borrowings, the syntactic convergence between Kurdish and English has remained understudied. Most structural work has been done on spoken interaction, such as casual conversation or classrooms, and formal domains have been left unexplored. Nezami Nav and Link (2024) thus emphasize the need for granular domain-specific studies, observing how hybridizations patterns change drastically between academic writing and digital discourse. Those considerations imply that the investigation of structures used in workplace and governmental communication may lead to patterns that are altogether invisible at the level of the informal.

2.2 Sociolinguistic Perceptions of Hybridization:

2.2.1 Generational and Educational Divides

Attitudinal research indicates that perceptions of hybridizations vary across demographic lines. Daniel and Burgin (2024) report that younger, academically educated speakers often view code-switching and borrowing as part of a global cultural repertoire, using them for both practical and stylistic reasons. In contrast, older speakers tend to regard hybrid speech as a threat to linguistic purity and national identity, reflecting broader ideological tensions between cultural preservation and modernity. Similar findings emerge in Fadhil’s (2023) study of Kurdish teachers, who often resist English borrowings in school settings, interpreting them as signs of linguistic decline. These generational divides highlight how structural patterns are filtered through ideological lenses, influencing the acceptability of hybrid forms in different contexts in Abbas, A. M. (2012).

2.2.2 Prestige, Economics, and Digitalization

Before crossing generational factors, language mixing intersects with socio-economic mobility and technological change. In Goldberg's (2022) view, an English-Kurdish hybridization is often given the value of prestige among urban professionals, thus acting as a sign for cosmopolitan identity as well as symbolic capital. Expansion in digital communication has further instilled such trends while producing new hybrid forms. Shu and Ye (2022) describe such online spaces in which borrowings were quickly adopted, for example, text-Kurd is an English verbal root affixed with Kurdish morphology. However, acceptance is far from unanimous. Frank et al. (2022) argue that the acceptability of a digital hybridizations varies with the composition of the audience, the degree of formality, and the apparent identity of the speaker. In synthesis, these findings suggest that the encouragement of hybrid forms by prestige is moderated by context and ideology in Abbas, A. M. (2021).

2.3 Critical Gaps in the Existing Research

While an increasing number of scholars have paid attention to both structural and sociolinguistic conditions of Kurdish–English hybridizations, no study has embedded these in a combined analytical framework. In addition to his structural observation, Sadiq (2021) considers the attitudes involved in hybridizations within EFL classrooms in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. However, the MLF Model is not applied here. Moreover, one of the downfalls is that the study focuses solely on the educational domain. From the literature, one also sees a strong domain bias: structural studies tend to focus on either informal discourse or classroom discourse (AbdulRahman & Abdullah, 2024; Assali, 2023). Sociolinguistic ones, however, emphasize digital communication (Shu & Ye, 2022). Other formal and informal types of communication, such as workplace and governmental communication, are rarely mentioned, which restricts the generalizability of the findings across social contexts. Most of the said studies are mainly qualitative and focus on urban areas such as those of Fadhil (2023) and AbdulRahman & Abdullah (2024), thus leaving the rural population and less digitally connected

communities out of the discourse. Mixed methods integrating structural, attitudinal, and demographic variables as proposed by Adhikari and Timsina (2024) would present an all-around understanding of hybridizations processes in the Kurdish–English context.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The mixed-methods research design was chosen for the present study because it addresses the structural and sociocultural parameters of language hybridizations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The rationale for using mixed methods is to combine the qualitative aspect, which explores language use, with the quantitative dimension that records frequency and attitudes, providing a comprehensive understanding of deep linguistic phenomena.

Where qualitative methodology analyses naturally occurring speech and text for grammar and lexical aspects of hybridized speech, the quantitative dimension follows with structured surveys intended to determine the incidence and perception of language hybridizations within and across social groupings.

3.1.1 Theoretical Framework

Two complementary theories encompass the setting of this study. For the structural analysis of Kurdish-English hybridizations, especially English lexemes inserted into Kurdish morph syntactic frames, Myers-Scotton's (1993) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) theory is applied. Cultural Hybridization Theory (Sadiq, 2021) is employed to explore the sociocultural and ideological underpinnings of language mixing in globalized contexts. Thus, the two theories provide the researcher with a comprehensive problematic perspective, from both linguistic structure and social meaning standpoints, which thus aims at filling the previous research lacuna about structural and attitudinal factors concerning hybridizations concomitantly.

3.2 Procedures for Collecting Data

3.2.1 Qualitative Data

Naturalistic observation and semi-structured interviews were used for gathering qualitative data. The audio-recordings (120) captured spontaneous occurrences of code-switching between Kurdish and English in various daily scenarios, including private-family occasions, workplaces, cafes, and educational settings in the three cities of Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, and Duhok. These recordings depict spontaneous, natural speech free of editing.

The written corpus contains social media posts, comments in public forums, and informal communications in digital language reflecting lexical innovations in the hybrid language within digital domains.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 language experts, including linguists, university lecturers, and schoolteachers from the three cities. The guide comprised questions on the frequency of borrowing, the acceptance of syntactic mixing, and socio-economic factors influencing hybridizations. The age, gender, occupation, and education of the interviewees of each group appear in the Appendix, along with the full interview guide.

3.2.2 Quantitative Data

In the quantitative phase, a total of 253 Kurdish speakers were surveyed, between the ages of 18 and 65, to reflect the actual study sample. Stratified sampling was used to ensure representation of the various strata of major demographic variables such as age (youth-dominated, 89.3% aged 18–25), gender (62.8% females), education (majority with bachelor's degrees), occupation (mostly students), and location (mostly Sulaymaniyah, 64.4%). The survey was carried out in Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, and Duhok to cover the urban population actively engaged in hybrid language practices.

3.2.3 Research Instrument

The survey instrument had 30 Likert-type items divided into three clusters focusing on the frequency of use of hybrid language, feelings toward mixing languages, and socio-demographic information. Sample questions include "How often do you incorporate English words into Kurdish sentences?" and "To what extent do you associate language hybridizations with modernity or prestige?" The full questionnaire is in the appendix.

A pilot study of 30 participants was conducted to check for clarity, relevance, and reliability of the questionnaire, and the instrument was revised as needed before full administration.

3.3 Data Analysis

3.3.1 Qualitative Analysis

MLF theory principles were used to perform qualitative data coding. Through both auditory and visual media samples, instances were sought out where Kurdish was used as the matrix language with English functioning as the embedded content morpheme, especially in noun phrases, verb constructions, and syntactic boundaries of structural mixing. Situations violating MLF assertions, where English prepositions or modal verbs were inserted, were narrowly contextualized for an explanation for their occurrence.

These interview transcripts underwent thematic analysis with an inductive approach to coding. Codes were iteratively developed to target sociocultural themes on education, professional background, and how digital media affects hybrid language perception. This approach sought to get at participants' justifications and attitudes toward hybrid language within daily communication. More info about how the thematic analysis was conducted can be found in the appendix.

3.3.2 Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative data were entered into SPSS version 27 for data analysis. Descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations) were used to describe the frequency and distribution of views toward language hybridizations across demographic groups. An inferential statistical test, such as a chi-square, was used for categorical variables like age groups and native language. In contrast, ANOVA was used to compare mean attitudes by

education and occupation. The survey tool had great internal consistency reliability (Cronbach's $\alpha=0.928$).

These analyses were selected to give a general profile of hybrid language use and to test the relationships between demographic variables and attitudes, as was required by the research questions.

4. Results

The present investigation considered 253 participants from different locations in Kurdistan and revealed certain demographic characteristics. The sample mainly consisted of youths, with 226 participants (89.3%) aged between 18 and 25 years, and only 15 respondents (5.9%) in the 26–35 age group. Gender-wise, females outnumbered the males with 159 females (62.8%) and 94 males (37.2%). From an ethnolinguistic standpoint, 85% of the respondents identified Sorani Kurdish as their mother tongue ($n = 218$); next came Kurmanji Kurdish speakers with 10% ($n = 26$), followed by smaller minorities consisting of Arabic speakers at 1.6%, English speakers at 0.8%, and others at 1.2%.

Occupationally, the composition was heavily tilted towards students, constituting 85.4% ($n = 216$), teachers constituted 7.5% ($n = 19$), private sector employees 5.5% ($n = 14$), and another 1.6% ($n = 4$) worked in the public sector. Educationally, the sample was predominantly constituted of college graduates who numbered 234 (92.5%), whereas those who graduated from secondary school or below numbered 11 (4.3%). Most participants in the study were first and foremost Sulaymaniyah-based (64.4%, $n = 163$), with Erbil and Duhok contributing smaller numbers of participants (20.9%, $n = 53$; 10.7%, $n = 27$, respectively). In terms of language proficiency, 49.5% considered Kurdish their strongest language, while 37.4% declared English as stronger, indicating a rise in bilingualism or language hybridism in this region. When all these demographic data are taken collectively, they reflect mostly a sample dominated by young, educated, urban Kurdish speakers, especially university students in Sulaymaniyah, who are the forefront of innovative hybrid language practices in the Kurdistan Region.

Table 1
Structural Hybridization and the MLF (Matrix Language Frame)
Model

Questi ons	1	2	3	4	5	Me an	S. D	t- tes t	P- val ue	1	2	3	4	5
	Fr e.	Fr e.	Fr e.	Fr e.	Fr e.					%	%	%	%	%
X1	6	32	93	75	47	3.4 9	1. 01	55 .0	0.0	2. 4	12 .6	36 .8	29 .6	18 .6
X2	3	30	75	86	59	3.6 6	1. 0	58 .2	0.0	1. 2	11 .9	29 .6	34 .0	23 .3
X3	2	28	91	79	53	3.6	0. 96	59 .4	0.0	0. 8	11 .1	36 .0	31 .2	20 .9
X4	4	34	67	99	49	3.6 1	0. 99	57 .6	0.0	1. 6	13 .4	26 .5	39 .1	19 .4
X5	9	40	66	74	64	3.5 6	1. 13	50 .0	0.0	3. 6	15 .8	26 .1	29 .2	25 .3
X6	10	15	77	82	69	3.7 3	1. 04	56 .5	0.0	4. 0	5. 9	30 .4	32 .4	27 .3
X7	19	33	60	85	56	3.4 9	1. 18	46 .8	0.0	7. 5	13 .0	23 .7	33 .6	22 .1
X8	5	37	87	65	59	3.5 3	1. 06	52 .9	0.0	2. 0	14 .6	34 .4	25 .7	23 .3
X9	8	25	91	80	49	3.5 4	1. 01	55 .5	0.0	3. 2	9. 9	36 .0	31 .6	19 .4
X10	9	22	59	76	87	3.8 3	1. 1	55 .1	0.0	3. 6	8. 7	23 .3	30 .0	34 .4
Total	75	29 6	76 6	80 1	59 2	3.6	1. 04	-	-	2. 9	11 .7	30 .3	31 .6	23 .5

Table 1 presents the distribution of responses on structural hybridizations according to Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model.

These ten items (X1–X10) are designed to investigate how participants perceive and recognize the incorporation of English lexical items into Kurdish morphosyntactic frameworks. The total mean for all participants is 3.60, indicating moderate to strong agreement in the occurrence and acceptance of such hybrid structures. This suggests that certain syntactic blends enjoy more recognition and acceptance in digital or academic discourse, with X10 receiving the highest level of agreement from the participants ($M = 3.83$).

If one closely examines the non-parametric frequency distributions given the ordinal property of the Likert-scale variable, 31.6% of the responses fall under category ‘4’, and 23.5% under category ‘5’; only 2.9% fall under ‘1’ (strong disagreement). Such a distribution is an indication that a good number of respondents encounter or use structurally hybridized phrases regularly in their day-to-day language use. Standard deviations range from 0.96 to 1.18, showing moderate variability in responses, though not with extreme dispersion. Also, all items in Table 1 recorded statistically significant t-values, ranging from 46.8 to 59.4, with a P value of 0.00, which further implies that the mean differences observed are statistically significant.

All in all, Table 1 supports the application of the MLF model to the Kurdish-English context and demonstrates that structural hybridizations — primarily through English content morphemes in Kurdish grammatical frames — is not only fairly common but also socially accepted in the linguistic repertoire of young Kurdish speakers.

Table 2 Cultural Hybridization and Linguistic Evolution

Questions	1	2	3	4	5	Mean	SD	t-test	p-value
	Fre.	Fre.	Fre.	Fre.	Fre.				
	%	%	%	%	%				
X1	12	36	51	82	72	3.65	1.17	49.6	0.00
	4.7	14.2	20.2	32.4	28.5				
X2	10	30	64	90	59	3.62	1.08	53.0	0.00
	4.0	11.9	25.3	35.6	23.3				
X3	7	30	57	80	79	3.76	1.10	54.4	0.00
	2.8	11.9	22.5	31.6	31.2				

X4	5	24	54	77	93	3.90	1.06	58.3	0.00
	2.0	9.5	21.3	30.4	36.8				
X5	14	17	69	91	62	3.67	1.08	53.7	0.00
	5.5	6.7	27.3	36.0	24.5				
X6	6	29	70	93	55	3.64	1.02	56.7	0.00
	2.4	11.5	27.7	36.8	21.7				
X7	6	23	77	97	50	3.64	0.97	59.2	0.00
	2.4	9.1	30.4	38.3	19.8				
X8	9	30	66	91	57	3.62	1.06	53.9	0.00
	3.6	11.9	26.1	36.0	22.5				
X9	8	39	69	77	60	3.56	1.10	51.2	0.00
	3.2	15.4	27.3	30.4	23.7				
X10	6	22	69	83	73	3.77	1.03	57.8	0.00
	2.4	8.7	27.3	32.8	28.9				
Total	83	280	646	861	660	3.68	1.06	—	—
	3.3	11.1	25.5	34.1	26.0				

Table 2 revolves primarily around how participants perceive language hybridizations as a cultural and evolutionary phenomenon. The data lean towards generally upbeat attitudes, with the overall mean across the ten items estimated at 3.68, slightly higher than in Table 1. This shows a preference for viewing hybridized forms of language as more culturally adaptive and symbolically meaningful. The highest agreements are attained for Item X4 ($M = 3.90$) and Item X10 ($M = 3.77$), likely in areas where hybridizations align with evolving paradigms of culture, such as online expression, popular culture, and global professional communication.

Concerning the response frequencies, it is apparent that the percentage of responses in the '4' category accounts for 34.1%, while the '5' category stands at 26.0%; thus, more than 60% of all responses lean towards the cultural acceptance and normalizing of hybrid forms. Standard deviations, on the other hand, reflect relative consistency among participant responses and are contained within a narrow range (1.02-1.17). All items show statistically significant t-test values (49.6-59.2)

with P-values of 0.00, giving further support to the reliability and generalizability of the findings within the sampled population.

These findings in Table 2 suggest that Kurdish speakers, particularly the young, are contributing to the evolution of hybrid language use as an expression of contemporary identity within the broader context of cultural globalization and linguistic change. This reaffirms Nederveen Pieterse's (1994) conceptual argument that hybridizations functions as the key mechanism through which local and global cultural codes interact and alter each other.

Table 3

Sociolinguistic and Pragmatic Implications of Hybridization

Questions	1	2	3	4	5	Severity			
	Fre.	Fre.	Fre.	Fre.	Fre.	Mean	S.D.	t-test	P-value
	%	%	%	%	%				
X1	17	32	58	79	67	3.58	1.19	47.5	0.0
	6.7	12.6	22.9	31.2	26.5				
X2	14	18	70	88	63	3.66	1.09	53.2	0.0
	5.5	7.1	27.7	34.8	24.9				
X3	11	35	76	84	47	3.47	1.07	51.3	0.0
	4.3	13.8	30.0	33.2	18.6				
X4	16	36	69	69	63	3.5	1.19	46.7	0.0
	6.3	14.2	27.3	27.3	24.9				
X5	17	25	62	80	69	3.62	1.17	49.1	0.0
	6.7	9.9	24.5	31.6	27.3				
Total	75	146	335	400	309	3.56	1.14	-	-
	5.9	11.5	26.5	31.6	24.5				

Table 3 illustrates the participants' evaluation of the sociolinguistic and pragmatic considerations of hybrid language use. This is, for instance, whether it is socially acceptable, in terms of prestige associations, and whether it serves communication effectively. The mean scores range from 3.47 to 3.66 for the five items, with an overall mean of 3.56. Although this means value somewhat trails behind those in Tables 1 and 2, it represents the overall favorability or neutrality toward pragmatically

hybridizing, implying an approval that varies with context or even the audience.

This distribution of responses also supports this view in a significant way: 31.6 per cent of responses fall into category "4" and 24.5 per cent into "5", thus indicating partial agreement with the pragmatic and social worth of hybrid expressions. Moreover, a notable observation regarding responses is that 26.5% of the responses fall within the neutral zone ('3'), which may indicate sociolinguistic ambivalence or a range of attitudes towards different communicative situations. Average standard deviations have tended to be higher (1.07 to 1.19), indicating that participants derived more individualistic or context-sensitive interpretations.

All five items yielded highly significant t-test results ($p = 0.00$), with P-values ranging from 0.00 to 0.00, thus affirming that the subject respondents indeed provided actual answers that revealed meaningful patterns rather than random variations. These results therefore work in favor of hybrid language forms being broadly accepted at both structural and cultural levels, albeit depending heavily on the negotiation of pragmatics in specific situations that involve situational norms, interlocutors, and communicative intent.

Table 4

Comparison Between Age and Language Hybridization

Age	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	I don't know	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Mean	Std. Deviation
18 to 25 Years	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	89 (35.2)	89 (35.2)	40 (15.7)	226 (89.3)	3.5875	1.0806
26 to 35 Years	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (1.6)	4 (1.6)	7 (2.9)	15 (5.9)	3.9831	1.0741
36 to 45 Years	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	3 (1.2)	3 (1.2)	7 (2.8)	3.94	0.9515

46 to 55 Years	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.8)	4 (1.6)	3.12	1.023
56 and above	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	3.733	0.9632
Total	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	95 (37.5)	98 (38.7)	52 (20.6)	253 (100.0)	3.6318	1.0843
Chi-Square	179.1	Sig.	0.000					

Table 4 shows the relationship between the various age groups of participants and their responses to language hybridizations. The biggest respondents, aged between 18 and 25, accounted for 35.2% of the agreements and 35.2% of those who said "I do not know." Higher mean agreement scores were observed in the 26 to 35 (M = 3.98) and 36 to 45 (M = 3.94) groups. On the other hand, a lower mean agreement was observed in the 46 to 55 age group (M = 3.12). In other words, there exists a significant association between age and attitudes toward language hybridizations ($\chi^2 = 179.1, p < .001$).

Table 5

Comparison between Native Language and Language Hybridization

Native Language	Language Hybridization						Total	Mean	Std. Deviation
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	I don't know	Agree	Strongly Agree				
Kurdish (Sorani)	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	84 (33.2)	88 (34.7)	38 (15.0)	218 (86.1)	3.5814	1.0809	
Kurdish	0	0	8	6	12	26	4.0880	1.052	

(Kurmanji)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(3.2)	(2.3)	(4.8)	(10.3)		2
Arabic	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.8)	4 (1.6)	4.0114	0.9284
English	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	1 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.8)	4.1600	0.9398
Others	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.2)	3.4000	1.2247
Total	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	95 (37.5)	98 (38.7)	52 (20.6)	253 (100.0)	3.6318	1.0843
Chi-Square	290.4		Sig.	0.000				

Table 5 explores the relationship between respondents' native language and their attitudes toward language hybridizations. Kurdish (Kurmanji) speakers showed the highest mean agreement (M = 4.09), with English at 4.16 and Arabic at 4.01 close behind. Kurdish (Sorani) speakers, who are the majority within the sample, had a moderate mean agreement (M = 3.58), while other languages showed the least agreement (M = 3.40). The chi-square analysis ($\chi^2 = 290.4$, $p < .001$) showed a significant association between native language and perception of language hybridizations.

Table (6):
Comparison between Education Level and Language Hybridization

Education Level	Language Hybridization						Mean	Std. Deviation
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	I don't know	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total		
High school or below	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	3 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	11 (4.3)	3.2582	1.04055
Undergra	0	8	85	93	48	234	3.6337	1.08124

duate (Bachelor's degree)	(0.0)	(3.2)	(33.5)	(36.8)	(19.0)	(92.5)		
Postgrad uate (Master's /PhD)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.8)	2 (0.8)	4 (1.6)	8 (3.2)	4.0900	1.05235
Total	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	95 (37.5)	98 (38.7)	52 (20.6)	253 (100.0)	3.6318	1.08432
Chi-Square	94.502		Sig.	0.000				

Table 6 explores the association between education and attitudes toward language hybridizations. Participants with postgraduate degrees reported the highest mean agreement ($M = 4.09$), while respondents with undergraduate degrees came second ($M = 3.63$). The respondents with high school education or below showed the least average level of agreement ($M = 3.26$). Most of the participants were undergraduates (36.8% agreed, and 33.5% were not sure about language hybridizations). A chi-square test result ($\chi^2 = 94.50$, $p < .001$) reveals there exists a significant relationship between education and opinion of language hybridizations.

Table 7
Comparison between Occupation and Language Hybridization

Occupati on	<i>Language Hybridization</i>						Mean	Std. Deviat ion
	Strongl y disagre e	Disagr ee	I don't know	Agre e	Strongl y Agree	Total		
Student	0 (0.0)	6 (2.4)	84 (33.2)	89 (35.2)	37 (14.6)	216 (85.4)	3.3389	1.0982 2

Teacher	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	8 (3.2)	5 (1.9)	5 (1.9)	19 (7.5)	3.6584	1.0695 6
Government employee	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.8)	1 (0.4)	4 (1.6)	4.1007	0.9889 2
Private sector employee	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.8)	2 (0.8)	9 (3.5)	14 (5.5)	3.4840	0.9988 7
Total	0 (0.0)	8 (3.2)	95 (37.5)	98 (38.7)	52 (20.6)	253 (100. 0)	3.6318	1.0843 2
Chi-Square	194.4		Sig.	0.000				

This study examines the relationship between occupation and views on language hybridizations. Government employees reported the highest mean agreement ($M = 4.10$), followed by teachers ($M = 3.66$) and then employees of the private sector ($M = 3.48$). Students, who formed the majority of the respondents, reported a lower mean agreement ($M = 3.34$), despite recording the highest percentages for the classes "Agree" (35.2%) and "I do not know" (33.2%). The chi-square test ($\chi^2 = 194.4$, $p < .001$) showed the existence of a significant association between occupation and language hybridizations perception.

Table 8
Reliability Test

Methods	Result
Alpha Cronbach	0.928
Number of items	25

Hence, the school statistical comparison revealed several significant tendencies among the participants' perceptions of language hybridizations across some key demographic variables. From what Table 4 shows, age did matter relative to hybridization attitudes ($\chi^2 = 179.1$, p

= 0.000): The more mature groups, especially those in the 26 – 45 age range, seemed more favorable (mean scores above 3.9) toward the concept than the younger, dominant 18–25 group (mean = 3.58); albeit the sample behind these statistics was lower in representation for this older group. Possibly, the trend reflects greater sociolinguistic flexibility, or increased exposure to formal English among older respondents, in professional settings. Table 5 reveals a parallel significance in native language concerning hybridizations. With Sorani speakers constituting the majority, the reports were modest, scoring 3.58, while acceptance levels among Kurmanji speakers, minority Arabic speakers, and English speakers were distinctly higher, with mean scores above 4.0. Educational background also played a role, albeit a minor one, as shown in Table 6: Participants with postgraduate degrees were, on average, more accepting of hybridizations (mean = 4.09) than those with less education, although in small numbers. By occupation (Table 7), government workers and teachers showed the most acceptance (means = 4.10 and 3.66, respectively), possibly due to their engagement with multilingual settings and policy discourse. In contrast, the majority of students found it least acceptable, recording a mean score of 3.33. Lastly, Table 8 affirms the reliability of the survey instrument, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.928 across the 25 items, indicating excellent internal consistency and thus confirming the robustness of the attitudinal data collected.

5. Discussion

5.1 Structural Manifestations of Kurdish-English Hybridization

A clear structural dominance of Kurdish-English hybridizations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has been shown, especially in the media of academic, digital, and informal communication. The dominant grammatical frame is Kurdish, into which English lexemes are inserted, rendering a stable hybridized structure-governance pattern. This is not a random process but rather one showing systematic borrowing and adaptation processes as shown and described for other bilingual communities (Assali, 2023). The results suggest that speakers actively produce these hybrid forms rather than passively absorbing them. From that perspective, hybridizations have become a regular part of urban

youth's communicative repertoire, indicating its structural stability and social acceptability.

5.2 Social Attitudes and Demographic Variations

Attitudes toward hybridized language use are mostly constructive, yet variations start to emerge along demographic lines. While some speakers consider hybridizations an innovative and functional way of communicating, some remain neutral or indifferent. Variations seem due to pragmatic judgments about situations in which hybridized speech is socially deemed acceptable. In contrast to the older generation, younger practitioners of social hybridized language sometimes challenge this view. Aligning with Daniel and Burgin (2024) is the fact that language ideologies arise out of a fertilizing tension between institutional norms and individual attitudes.

Patterns related to age are contrary to what one would expect: older respondents (26–45) are more accepting of hybrid speech, as prolonged, formal exposure to English in work or postgraduate-related contexts can promote the appreciation of hybrid forms (Adhikari & Timsina, 2024). Other qualifications emerge as key demographic factors affecting acceptance levels when postgraduate allowances are granted; this finding is perfectly consistent with Zimmerman's (2022) observation that when engaged in mainstream academia, the ability to favor flexibility in linguistic expression is encouraged.

5.3 Sociocultural Determinants of Acceptance and Rejection

The findings underscore a few sociocultural factors that can determine the acceptance or rejection of hybridized language. Native background emerges as a factor: Sorani speakers, although receptive, tend to be less enthusiastic than Kurmanji and Arabic speakers, whose multilingual situations appear to incline them toward acceptance of hybridizations. This supports Fadhil's (2023) emphasis in that code-switching is deeply linked with ideological and identity-based questions within a multilingual society.

Also listed are professional roles in acceptance, where government employees, along with teachers, tend to consider hybridizations a matter of communicative competence rather than decline. This links to Frank et al.'s (2022) "co-constructed knowledge," where language is socially and institutionally modified to suit the needs of its speakers.

5.4 Macro-Level Impacts on Hybridized Language Use

Globalization and new media communication, including education reforms, aid in stabilizing hybridized speech. Hybridization was never looked upon as linguistic "pollution"; rather, it is considered one mark of modernity, identity negotiation, and cultural transformation. This view fits well within Pieterse's framework cited in Alexander (2024), who places hybridizations at the intersection between global and local discourse. Nevami Nav and Link (2024) also argue that hybridized forms can provide symbolic power to youth as they renegotiate cultural codes between Kurdish traditions and global English-speaking culture.

Whereas these explanations relatively conform to modern sociolinguistic theories, it can also be observed that purist discourses are still present, especially where a national identity and linguistic preservation are emphasized. This tension underscores that hybridizations continue to be socially negotiated, the very point for which ideology has vacillated over time.

5.5 Implications for Education

Among the findings, there are some with obvious implications for language education and policy in the Kurdistan Region. Senate recognized the hybrid forms and considered them legitimate as part of the linguistic reality that could allow for the development of more inclusive and culturally responsive curricula. Teaching strategies may consider using hybridized examples in instructional materials to link language learners' existing linguistic repertoire with formal language instruction. Teacher training should also examine the pragmatic environment where hybridizations occurs, enabling teachers to balance the preservation of cultures with the need for effective communication in multilingual contexts. This, along with approaches to the language taught in educational institutions versus newer forms of language use, could

bring education to reflect the intricacies of the region's sociolinguistic ecology.

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

The researchers investigated the structural, cultural, and socio-linguistic aspects of Kurdish-English language hybridizations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with an emphasis on young, educated speakers from urban contexts. This corroborates the widespread use and social acceptance of hybrid Kurdish-English among the youth, mostly in cities like Sulaymaniyah. Using Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model, one shows that English lexical items are entered into Kurdish morphosyntactic frames, hence marking the emergence of bilingual repertoires in this situation. Participants felt that the use of the hybrid language is a means of cultural adaptation and identity negotiation in a globalized linguistic environment. Acceptance of hybridized speech is contingent on sociolinguistic factors, such as age, native variety, education level, and the professional environment; those most exposed to multilingual settings tend to show more acceptance.

Theoretically, this study extends the use of the MLF model to the hitherto neglected Kurdish-English contact situation, while also methodologically combining structural analysis with attitudinal surveying. This way, the results demonstrate the dynamic interaction between global and local linguistic influences and thus foster the consideration of language and culture in the Kurdistan Region. Given these results, language education policies should recognize the hybrid forms of Kurdish-English as a linguistic resource and promote bilingualism. Teacher training should prepare teachers to work with hybrid forms constructively in their classroom setting. Follow-up studies are encouraged to broaden the scope by including rural populations and people of differing ages, apart from the longitudinal aspect, actually to trace developing attitudes and practices over time. Furthermore, cultural institutions and media should adopt the hybrid language as the language of modern-day Kurds, thereby promoting inclusivity and creativity. To this end, policymakers may consider fostering a dual agenda that focuses on both the modernizing aspect and on Kurdish culture, since they consider hybridizations as a natural and sustainable trait of multilingual societies.

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