Social Hierarchy in real/virtual settings

My team project is titled as above. We have tried to identify various ways through which we can extract instances, where it is reflected. So, our project gets subdivided further into 4 parts, namely :

- Through survey (in real world settings), by crafting a series of interesting choice questions, as to what those individuals would do in certain situations involving social hierarchy of some kind.

- Through advertisements, by trying to analyse various ads where the social hierarchy comes into play.

- Through print media, by analysing speeches and obtaining critical thinking of individuals in accordance with the given topic.

- Through cinema and web series, this being a diverse subpart requires 3 team members. Here is where my role comes into play.

I've taken Article 15 as the film which I'll analyse, since it has multiple occurrences of our project idea, the film being loosely based on the discrimination against lower castes, so naturally classes come into conflict, and the social hierarchy comes into play.

My Analysis, Observations and Challenges

- **Overview of the work done**

- Data collection has been done, emphasizing on the modes of addressals, language of background music, linguistic variations from person to person, and subtle use of different pronouns.

- The film has been rewatched to better understand how extreme emotions affect the linguistic pattern of people, how the language switch happens, and how the modes of addressal are changed.

- Predominantly in the movie, the language Hindi code mixed with English is used. Usage of Hindi code-mixed with English is also looked upon thoroughly, as to whether it is really natural and necessary or the code-mixing is happening due to some other factors.

- How the linguists pattern vary according to the social class and order, how different languages are used to highlight different things, is also looked upon.

• Analysis

- Social hierarchy based on the cadre at the station.

- Regional dialects are used sparingly, so as to connect to the villagers' plight and simultaneously not overdo it. Using these dialects facilitates the connection between viewers and villagers.

- The use of pronoun "*hum*" is retained in most of the scenes, irrespective of whether the speaker is literate or illiterate, the speaker just needs to hail from the village. It is more of a regional linguistic feature. All of them speak in Hindi, some code-mixing it with English when they feel.

- Sporadic use of English is also done, particularly when the protagonist is in the scene. He speaks in Hindi code-mixed with English, retains the use of pronoun "*Main*", and resorts to English for his outbursts towards his subordinate officers.

- A lot about the order of social hierarchy can also be understood by the different mode of addressals to the protagonist by different people. For eg. most of his subordinates refer to him as "*Sir*" and when they have to use a pronoun, they invariably use "*Aap*". At the same time, the SP of the area calls him using his "name" and uses the pronoun "*Tum*". Whereas, most of the villagers refer to him as "*Saheb*".

- Whereas, the protagonist's mode of addressal is also telling. He mostly addresses everyone using the pronoun "*Aap* ". But when he gets angry, he switches to the pronoun "*Tum*" for addressing his subordinates, whereas the use of pronoun "*Aap*" is retained if he's addressing a senior official. This clearly exemplifies the order of social hierarchy.

- In the movie, Hindi code-mixed with English feels natural when the protagonist or his superior officers use it. This also gets highlighted when he texts with his friend in the same language. Whereas, when his subordinate chimes in with similar language, it does not feel natural. It seems as if he is using English deliberately to make a good impression of himself.

• Challenges

- Finding exactly which regional dialect is used in the opening song of the movie proved to be a very difficult task.

- Since the interactions between the protagonist and his superiors are very far and few, and rarely in a non-formal setting, recording the change in linguistic patterns again was an arduous job.

- "How much code-mixing comes naturally" was a point which has to be looked upon carefully, since almost all of them speak predominantly in Hindi code-mixed with English. Determining exactly when it begins sounding deliberate was another difficult task.

- Overwhelming amount of data, not exactly a challenge, but still required careful filtering out of the repetitive ones and the anomalies.

• Further Scope

- Exploring different point of views, through which the movie can be filtered further.

- Extraction of information from protagonist's interaction with his superiors.

- Linguistic patterns from his subordinates interactions with their colleagues.

- Interactions between villagers and his subordinates also needs to be looked upon, again differentiating between the influential villagers interactions and the commoners with the same subordinates.

- Analysis of speeches given by the politicians. Though, it's very limited, still we'll see what can be gained from it.