

THE FUNCTIONS OF INDONESIAN-ENGLISH CODE-SWITCHING IN
WRITTEN LITERATURE

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Abstract

As language alternation, code switching has become usual conditions in particular type of speech community. That phenomenon automatically forces the existence of bilingualism. Bilinguals master at least two languages besides their own mother tongue. Indonesian students, for instance, speak English as foreign language, which is taught at school or university. Consequently, when they interact with others, they often switch one code into another code intentionally or otherwise. As a process to convey a message, code switching appears in written literature such as articles, thesis, textbooks, short stories, poems and novels. It is assumed that code switching which systematically appears in written literature is intended to accomplish several functions. The series of the functions are first proposed by Gumperz (1982) and added by Marasigan (1983). Those are quotation, addressee specification, interjection, reiteration, message qualification, personilization v.s objectivization and facility of expression.

Keywords: *quotation, addressee specification, interjection, reiteration, message qualification, personilization v.s. objectivization, facility of expression.*

Abstrak

Sebagai variasi bahasa, alih kode menjadi kondisi yang umum di masyarakat tutur tertentu. Fenomena ini biasanya memunculkan keadaan kedwibahasaan. Dwibahasawan setidaknya menguasai dua bahasa selain bahasa ibunya. Sebagai contoh, pelajar Indonesia berbicara bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa asing yang mereka pelajari di sekolah atau kampus. Akibatnya, ketika mereka berinteraksi dengan yang lainnya, mereka sering beralih kode satu dengan yang lain secara sengaja atau tidak. Sebagai proses menyampaikan pesan, alih kode muncul dalam karya tulis seperti artikel, tesis, buku teks, cerita pendek, puisi dan novel. Alih kode yang secara sistematis muncul di karya tulis diasumsikan dilakukan untuk memenuhi beberapa fungsi. Rangkaian fungsi tersebut diusulkan oleh Gumperz (1982) dan dilengkapi oleh Marasigan (1983). Fungsi-fungsi tersebut meliputi quotation, addressee specification, interjection, reiteration, message qualification, personilization v.s objectivization dan facility of expression.

Kata kunci: *quotation, addressee specification, interjection, reiteration, message qualification, personilization v.s objectivization, facility of expression.*

A. Introduction

Every normal human being acquires at least one language, which is regarded as his mother tongue without the requirement of systematic instruction. Human languages have developed through the millennia in which mankind has existed on earth as a separate species. The scope of the effect of particular language is dependent on the number of people who use them. In addition, languages are adaptable and modifiable according to the changing needs and conditions.

At the present time, as Robins (1980:12) reports that human progress is greatly hastened by the use of language in cultural transmission; the knowledge and experiences acquired by one person can be passed on to another in language, so that in part he starts where the other leaves off. In facing the third millennium where the world interactions happen, people begin to adjust themselves to the new trend of using international or other foreign languages.

There is apparently a trend within educated people to switch some part of their language into foreign

languages. They do so because they feel much comfortable and in some cases it is intended to increase their prestige. When the speaker feels inadequate in the preferred language used in conversation where an alternate language is permissible, other participant immediately shift to the language that every body could use comfortably (Marasigan 1983:4). There are many factors that stand behind code-switching, like solidarity, social status, topic, affection, and persuasion.

Referring to that phenomenon, many valuable articles, novels, dramas, poem and short stories are often affected by socio-cultural that is way, in describing ideas the writers often switched the language from Indonesia as the matrix language into the embedded languages like English, Javenese or other ethnical languages. Those alternation languages may serve for completing particular functions.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Bilingualism

When a speech community which cannot be touched by another speech community either because of the geographical position or that speech

community do not want to make relationship with other speech communities, it becomes monolingual community. Whereas, a speech community, which speaks one language lives in contact with a community, which speaks another, a proportion of one or both communities become bilingual. As effect of that language contact is called bilingualism.

What exactly is bilingual? Paivio (1981:289) defines that a bilingual is one who has equal ability in two languages. Emenau (1980:38) asserts that bilingual is the person who has native like control of two languages. The reasons that make a person bilingual, are usually regular contact with people who speak another language. Such contacts may come from intermarriage, immigration, trade, colonization, religious conversion, military conquest, travel, or residence in a foreign or bilingual community. A person may also become bilingual through foreign language study.

Meanwhile, in many cases the demand of mass communication in industrial society forces them into bilingualism. Chaer (1995:111) states

that bilingualism is the use of two languages or two codes. Furthermore, Emenaeau (1980:38) notes that the term bilingualism is applied to abroad band of situations, which run between two extremes. First is individual, educated or not, who learn more or less well another language than his mother tongue for various types of communication that on the whole are share by few in his linguistic community. At the other extreme is situation, in which many members of a linguistic community, being in continuous contact with many members of another linguistic community, learn more or less well the language of that other community.

The relation between bilingualism and society is still become one interesting research for linguists. Within the last few years, a number of studies have been conducted on the relationship between language behavior and social factors such as the setting, the role of the participants and the topics of conversation. However, Gumperz (1982:69) reports that bilinguals ordinarily do not use code switching styles in their contact with

other bilinguals before they know something about listener's background and attitude. It is done to reduce serious misperception within conversation.

In this world, there are many varieties of language depending on people's choices of language. It is influenced not only in respect of economic, educational and other observable mobility but also in respect of subject's evolution of desirability or correctness of various pronunciation. English, for example, is an international language in which people aware of the importance in mastering that language. Recently, English is the most important variety that has the greater status of world lingua franca. It is actually indexing the bilingualism or multilingualism in Indonesia.

2. Notion Of Code-Switching

Before describing the notion of code switching, any further, I want to present the notion of code. Code is a term, which refers to a variety, it may be an idiolect, a dialect, a sociolect, a register or a language (Marjohan 1988:48) That is why, the speaker usually has a set of codes, each code

have certain functions or may be of them have similar functions.

Moreover Gumperz's classified 'we code' and 'they code', which has been used by many researchers. He states that the tendency is for ethnical specific, minority language to be regarded as the 'we-code' and become associated with in-group and informal activities, and for the majority language to serve as the 'they code' associated with the more formal stiffer and less personal out-group relations (Gumperz 1982:66).

The relationship between minority groups and mainstream society is sometimes so complex that it is difficult to apply those terms, mainly when two or more languages are involved. Although English is not something like ethnically specified language in Indonesia, it can be regarded as the 'we-code' because in some extent it can be associated with in group and informal activities. The switches into English in informal speech can bring the circumstance of intimacy and informality. On the other hand, Indonesian as regarded as 'they-code' because the use of very good

Indonesian is indicating the frozen style, as it is demanded in writing or speaking in formal occasions. Indonesian is usually used in a conversation between person who have not familiar each other.

It is a basic premise in sociolinguistics that any full account of meaning in language must include attention to how that language indexes that cultural context of speech act and the social status and roles of both speakers and addressees (McCormack 1979:5). In addition, he reports that phenomenological study of such indexing is usually complicated by a human propensity to code switching during speech – whether from speech style to speech style, dialect to dialect, language to language and/or combinations thereof.

When member of a society can speak more than one language, switching between two or more languages in the same conversation is a common phenomenon. There are limitations of code switching, which are closely related to the notion of code switching.

In simple notion, code switching is “a kind of situation in which a single speaker uses different varieties at different time” (Hudson 1992:56). Marasigan (1983:7) declares that code switching is the use of two languages in the same sentence or discourse. Gumperz (1982:59) defines what he calls 'conversational code-switching' as the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems or subsystems.

Those limitations above give an illustration that code switching here is defined as the juxtaposition of two or more languages to convey a message, which has relation with speaker, addressee, topic and situation in sentence or discourse.

Gumperz (1982:60-1) argued that there are characteristics of code switching:

- 1) Speakers communicate fluently, maintaining an ever flow of talk,
- 2) No hesitation pauses, changes in sentence rhythm, pitch level or intonation contour mark the shift in code,

- 3) There is nothing in the exchange as whole to indicate that speakers do not understand each other,
- 4) Apart from the alternation itself, the passage have all the earmarks of ordinary conversation in a single language.

Characteristics above explain that there is no indication that speaker doesn't realize of the language meaning which is used to convey the message. Besides that, the existence of words, phrases or clauses, which are already switched into another language, show sentences systematically.

When speaker uses language switched, it does not mean to make the message obscure but that is an effort to make the message understandable. Therefore, there is main requirement, which have to be rewarded. That is either the speaker or the addressee is familiar with the languages which are used in the interaction. Due to the fact, code switching just can do in situation in which either the speaker or the addressee masters at least first language and the meaning of words in another language, which has systematic meaning, and integrate in first language.

Additionally, Scotton (1979:71) gives illustrations about the reason of code switching, that is the switcher recognizes that the use of either of two languages have its value in terms of the rewards and costs, which accrue to the user. Thus the switcher chooses a 'middle road' in terms of possible rewards and decides to use both languages in a single conversation. From those proportions Scotton (1979:71-3) then proposed that there are four main reasons for code switching.

- 1) Lack of knowledge of one language or lack of facility in that language on a certain subject.
- 2) Code switching is used in excluding certain persons present form a portion of the conversation if it is known that these persons do not know the language used for switching.
- 3) Code switching is also used as a stylistic device to indicate a change in to "tone" of the conversation at a certain point, or to signal the introduction of a subject more or less more formal than what had been under discussion.

- 4) Aman may use code switching in attempt to impress another with his virtuosity in several languages at least in one prestige language.

Currently, when member of community speak two or more languages, the use of code switching seems to be new trend that is found in a circle society. Gumperz (1982:64) reports that there is little indication that code switching is merely a deviation from monolingual norms that will soon disappear. On the contrary, the use of code switching is more likely to increase than to decrease.

This study may somehow interpret the use of language in abstract terms that can provide an insight into the way language is learned.

C. DISCUSSION

1. Code-Switching in Written Literature

As a process to communicate, code switching is not only find in sermons, speeches, lectures, news broadcast but also found in written texts

such as thesis, articles and textbooks. It is found in fiction stories such as short stories, dramas, novels and poems as well. In written literature, language is used to represent the writer's experiences with the reader as the addressee. That is why the writer often switches one language to another along the discourse intentionally or unintentionally. Due to the fact, Robins (1980:310) reports that the effect of the literary domination of language studies are seen in the concentration of attention on written language and styles of well-known and highly respected author.

In some Indonesian novels for example, the writers often express their interesting ideas through the use of code switching from Indonesian into Javanese or other foreign languages mainly English. They used some languages namely Indonesian as the second language, English as the language background of the stories and sometimes Javanese or other ethnical languages as their mother tongue and the language background of several characters in the stories. The social, cultural and individual background of

the characters also influenced the languages, which are used.

Furthermore, in written literature, language along the discourse is systematically switches to accomplish particular functions and it reflects one language attitude in the real community. That phenomenon, surely, causes a lot of problems. On the other hand, the author does not need to be a linguist or be explicitly concerned with the study of the language structure. In Addition, Robins (1980:312) declares that the linguist is not necessarily, or usually, an artist, any more than a literary artist is a linguist; but it is part of the linguist's task and competence by the application of the specific method of linguistics, to analyze the forms and patterns of languages, and so to make explicit some of the features in them that in varying degrees, according to the nature of the work, constitute the material which the author must use and exploit in expressing himself to his public.

2. Function of Code Switching

Based on the basic assumptions above, there are particular functions in code switching namely conversational

and socio-cultural. In conversational function, Gumperz (1977 in Marasigan 1983:38) argued that code switching tends to be treated primarily as a marginal or transitory phenomenon a type of linguistic interference, which accompanies the learning of new grammatical system. Whereas in socio-cultural code switching is done with considering the speaker, the addressee, the social categories to which they can be assigned in the context, the topic etc. (Blom and Gumperz in Marasigan 1983:38)

Referring to those assumptions Gumperz (1982:75) then classified the conversational function of code switching into six categories namely quotation, addressee specification, interjection, reiteration, message qualification and personalization v.s. objectivization. All switches approximately serve these categories although the prospect to set other categories if it is necessary is still opened.

Gumperz (1977 in Marasigan 1983:39) argued that code switching passages were clearly identifiable either as direct quotation or as reported

speech. It also served to direct message to one of the several possible addressees (addressee specification) to mark an interjection; to repeat a message in either literal or in modified form; to qualify constructions as sentences and verb complements or as predicate following a copula (message qualification) and to relate such things as the distinction between talk about action and talk as action; the degree of speaker involvement in, or distance from, a message, whether a statement reflected personal opinion or knowledge, or referred to specific instances or whether it has the authority of a generally known fact (personalization v.s. objectivization)

Moreover, another category called facility of expression added to account for other instances of code switching based on Marasigan's research (1983:39) in analyzing the conversational and written function of code switching.

D. Conclusion

The instances of Indonesian-English code switching, which are found in written literature intended to

serve several functions. Based on the functions that were first proposed by Gumperz (1982) and added by Marasigan (1983). It is supposed to fulfil the function of quotation, addressee specification, interjections, reiteration, message qualification, personalization v.s. objectivization and facility of expression. In most cases, it can be noticed that one instances of code switching can be intended for more than one function.

Finally, in fact, most of the switches are intended to serve the function of facility of expression, it indicates that the switching into other codes is applied to overcome difficulties in finding the right words in the time of speaking or to adapt conversation with topic, as a matter of fact, the English expressions, which are used in the code switching, have connection with profession and knowledge. In a particular occurrence of code switching, this function is reiterated in Indonesian or Javanese or other ethnical language so the readers who do not always understand English expressions could seize the message at the time of reading. The writer who is absolutely free in

expressing his ideas can exaggerate the use of code switching. Besides, it intended specific purposes to add the aesthetic in the written literature.

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