

The Effects of Second Language Learning on First Language Production: A Code-Switching Study of an Indonesian-English Bilingual

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Abstract

As bilingual behaviour, code-switching has always been an interesting topic to discuss. Milroy and Muysken (in Chloros, 2009: 9) state that code-switching is probably the fundamental issue in research related to bilingualism. This paper discusses a code-switching study of an Indonesian-English Bilingual. The research participant (the informant) is an Indonesian-English bilingual who does code-switching very often when talking to an Indonesian who speaks English fluently and accurately. The data were taken from several sources: a chat in yahoo messenger, a chat in short messaging service (SMS), a conversation recorded in a mobile phone, a short paragraph written by the informant, and regular observation. The results of the research show the types of code-switching that appeared during the research are inter- and intra-sentential.

Keywords: *bilingualism, code-switching, and types of code-switching.*

1. Background

Second language learning (L2) could have positive and negative effects on first language (L1) production (Cook, 2003: 11). The positive effects are, for example, Hungarian children who know English can use more complex sentences in their first language (Kecskes & Papp in Cook, 2003: 11). English children who learn Italian for an hour a week read English better than those who do not learn Italian (Yelland et al., in Cook, 2003: 11). However, a person who has an ability to use a second language could lose the ability to use the first language (Cook, 2003: 12).

Another previous study on effects of L2 on L1 production has also been conducted by Pavlenko (in Cook, 2003: 33). He underlines that the influence of L2 on L1 production may occur in all areas of language, such as phonology, morphosyntax, lexis, semantics, pragmatics, rhetoric or conceptual

representations. The phenomena of the effect of L2 on L1 production could be seen, for instance, from *borrowing transfer* or *L1 attrition* (Cook, 2003: 32--33).

As the use of L2 and L1 deals with bilingualism, it can be related to one of bilingual behaviour, called code-switching. Most of bilingualism specialists agree that code-switching is a characteristic feature of fluent 'bilinguals' speech. (Ludi, 2003: 174) Milroy and Muysken (in Chloros, 2009: 9) state that code-switching is probably the fundamental issue in research related to bilingualism. Gumperz (in Romaine, 1995: 121) defines code-switching as 'the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems or sub-systems'. According to Poplack (Hamers and Blanc, 2000: 259), there are three types of code-switching: *extra-sentential* code-switching or the insertion of a tag, e.g. 'you know', *intersentential* code-switching or switch at clause/sentence boundary, one clause in one language, the other clause is in the other, e.g. 'I said yes to a job yang gue pikir sebentar' (Indonesian-English bilingual recorded by Nurdiana (2011) in a yahoo-messenger chat), and *intrasentential* code-switching, where the code-switching occurs within the clause boundary, including within the word boundary, for example, 'But insya Allah this long break mau mulai nulis thesis' (recorded by Nurdiana (2011) in a yahoo-messenger chat).

Many studies on code-switching have been conducted as the study of reasons and how people code-switch give us insights about many aspects of language as well as speech (Chloros, 2009: 4). Studying code-switching is also important as "switching between languages provides crucial material for our understanding of how language is both comprehended (processed) in the brain, and produced." (Chloros, 2009: 4)

As Milroy and Muysken (in Chloros, 2009: 9) point out that code-switching is probably the fundamental issue in research related to bilingualism, we could ask a question, e.g. 'Why do bilingual speakers switch from one language to another in conversational interaction?' (Li Wei, 1998: 156) Is it because extra-linguistic factors such as topic, setting, relationships between participants, community norms and values, and societal, political and ideological

developments? 'How do bilingual speakers switch one language to another?' (Li Wei, 1998: 156)

There are many questions which can arise when discussing code-switching, particularly the one occurring in a conversation. In this research, I shall discuss the types of code-switching that appear in a conversation between an Indonesian-English bilingual (the informant in this research) and me, as the researcher.

2. Research Questions

In this research, I propose the following research questions:

1. What types of code-switching which can be observed and appear during the conversation or chatting?
2. Why does the informant code-switch the language?

3. Research scope and objectives

The scope and the objectives of this research are to discuss the types of code-switching appearing during the conversation and why the informant does code-switching. The types of code-switching I refer to are the ones proposed by Poplack (Romaine 1998: 122--123 and Hamers & Blanc, 2000: 259) and Muysken (Deuchar, Muysken, and Wang, 2007). In addition, I find out the reasons why the informant code-switches the language by referring to the theories proposed by Kieswetter (Ncoko, Osman, and Cockcroft, 2000)

4. Literature Reviews

4.1 Definitions of Code-switching

Ping Li (1996: 757) says that 'code-switching involves the use of words from two different languages within a single discourse or even a single utterance.' It frequently occurs in bilingual communities. In Hongkong, for instance, Chinese and English are commonly used and therefore, code-switching occurs regularly. (Chan, 1993 in Ping Li, 1996: 757)

Liebscher and Dailey-O'Cain (Willans, 2011: 24) state that code-switching is 'a resource for effective bilingual communication'. Gumperz (Romaine, 1995:

121 and Hamers & Blanc, 2000: 258) defines code-switching as 'the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems or sub-systems'. However, this definition does not explain the frequency in which these passages of speech occur within a speech exchange. In addition, it does not tell us where and when code-switching occurs; further, it does not clarify whether or not the two grammatical systems are taken into account (Cantone, 2007: 55).

Grosjean considers code-switching as 'a complete shift from one language to the other, either for a word, a phrase or a whole sentence' (Cantone, 2007: 55). Another definition of code-switching is 'the selection by bilinguals or multilinguals of forms from an embedded language (or languages) in utterances of a matrix language during the same conversation' (Myers-Scotton, 1993 in Cantone, 2007: 55).

Meisel (Cantone, 2007: 57) states that:

'Code-switching is the ability to select the language according to the interlocutor, the situational context, the topic of conversation, and so forth, and to change languages within an interactional sequence in accordance with sociolinguistic rules and without violating specific grammatical constraints'.

Meisel's definition of code-switching requires 'ability on the bilingual's part, and hence is a positive statement about this speech style and the speaker's competence in it. Furthermore, this definition supposes that code-switching is constrained by grammatical rules.' (Cantone, 2007: 57)

Gumperz (Hamers and Blanc, 2000: 266) points out 'because of its reliance on un verbalised shared understanding, code-switching is typical of the communicative conventions of closed network situations.' Hamers and Blanc (2000: 266) state that 'in time, code-switching is used as a communicative strategy and a marker of ethnic group membership and identity. Muysken (Deuchar, Muysken, and Wang, 2007) describes the characteristics of the phenomenon of code-switching in terms of three competing bilingual speech strategies:

- (1) the insertion of material (most often a word or a constituent) from one language into an utterance in another language;
- (2) the alternation between stretches of words in different languages; and
- (3) the congruent lexicalisation of a shared language structure with words from different languages.

The term codeswitching is often used differently by different researchers. Some of them say that it refers only to *intersentential* mixing (Kieswetter, 1995 in Ncoko, Osman, and Cockcroft, 2000) while others use it as a broad term referring to both *inter-* and *intrasentential mixing* (Myers-Scotton, 1993a in Ncoko, Osman, and Cockcroft, 2000). Myers-Scotton (1988, 1992, 1993b, 1993c in Ncoko, Osman, and Cockcroft, 2000) define it as the use of two or more languages in the same conversation. These languages are termed either the matrix language or the embedded language.

4.2 Factors determining code-switching

Code-switching occurs because of some factors such as the speakers' relative competence and that of their interlocutors, the identities they can express through each language, and the acceptability of code-switching in their network and in particular contexts. (Chloros, 2009: 42). Hamers and Blanc (2000: 266) say that there are many situational variables which affect the type and frequency of codeswitching: the topic of conversation, the participants, the setting, the affective aspect of the message and so on.

Grosjean (Ludi, 2003: 174) states that 'the nearer to the 'bilingual pole' they see (or define) the situation, the more likely they will 'mix', e.g. activate both languages in their repertoire. Shahrzad Mahootian (2005: 365) underlines that:

'Code-switching can be used consciously to evoke a sense of cultural identity, unity and camaraderie. Here it is used as a direct and undeniable assertion of the bilingual identity. It is a way for speakers to underscore their ethnicity, their connection to their heritage and to others who share that heritage and the values associated with it, within the majority culture and language.'

Kieswetter (Ncoko, Osman, and Cockcroft, 2000) provides a comprehensive list of social variables related to codeswitching. The list includes variables such as: identity, interpersonal relationships, social positions, group solidarity, ethnic identity, exploring new relationships, status, level of education, authority, neutrality, distancing or intimacy. Kieswetter further says that the main determinants of codeswitching and codemixing were found to be the topic of conversation, status of the speakers, the speakers' individual roles, the general context and language choice.

4.3 Types of Code-switching

Poplack (Hamers & Blanc, 2000: 259 and Romaine, 1995: 122--123) suggests three types of code-switching:

- (1) extra-sentential code-switching, or the insertion of a tag, like 'you know', 'I mean', from one language into an utterance which is entirely in another language; Because tags are subject to minimal syntactic restrictions, they might be easily inserted at a number of points in a monolingual utterance without violating syntactic rules.
- (2) inter-sentential code-switching, or switch at clause/sentence boundary, one clause being in one language, the other clause in the other, e.g. "I said yes to a job yang gue pikir sebentar"(Indonesian-English bilingual recorded by Nurdiana (2011) in a yahoo-messenger chat). Inter-sentential code-switching can be considered as requiring greater fluency in both languages than tag switching since major portions of the utterance must conform to the rules of both languages.
- (3) intra-sentential code-switching, where switches of different types occur within the clause boundary, including within the word boundary. For example, 'But insya Allah this long break mau mulai nulis thesis' (recorded by Nurdiana (2011) in a yahoo-messenger chat). This type of code-switching involves the great syntactic risk, and could be avoided by all but the most fluent bilinguals.

According to Cantone (2007: 57), code-switching occurs during a conversation, from sentence to sentence, or within a sentence. The one occurring

from sentence to sentence is called *inter-sentential* code-switching while the one occurring within a sentence is called *intra-sentential*. Cantone further says that in adults, 'mixing is supposed to be a conscious action that happens only when the addressee is also bilingual, or at least capable of understanding the two languages.'

Poplack (Romaine, 1995: 124) found that full sentences are the most frequently switched constituents, followed by major constituent boundaries, such as between noun phrase (NP) and verb phrase (VP). At the lower end of the continuum are switches within major constituents, e.g. within the noun phrase. Therefore, the higher the syntactic level of the constituent, the more likely it is to serve as a potential site for a switch.

In one of the previous studies on code-switching and bilingualism, conducted by Berk-Seligson (Romaine, 1995: 124), it was found that in Hebrew/Spanish code-switching, the most common switched constituents were nouns.

5. Data Analysis

The data analyzed were taken from an informant who is an Indonesian-English bilingual. I obtained the data from several sources: a chat in yahoo messenger, a chat in short messaging service (SMS), a conversation recorded in a mobile phone, a short paragraph written by the informant, and regular observation. What I mean by regular observation is since I first met the informant in 2003, I have always observed and noticed the language she uses when speaks to me and to her other friends and colleagues.

The informant now is 34 years old, and currently is an English lecturer and a freelance interpreter. When collecting *data 2* and *data 4*, she was aware that she became an informant for this research. In addition, I told her that I was conducting mini-research on code-switching as she asked me the purpose of having a recorded conversation and writing a short paragraph.

In order to answer the research questions, I use the three types of code-switching proposed by Poplack. (Romaine 1998: 122--123 and Hamers & Blanc, 2000: 259) Thus, what I observe in this research is:

- (1) the insertion of a tag or extra-sentential
- (2) inter-sentential code-switching
- (3) intra-sentential code-switching, like lexical or morphological insertion.

In addition, I find out the reasons why she code-switches the language by referring to the theories proposed by Kieswetter (Ncoko, Osman, and Cockcroft, 2000)

5.1 Data 1

Data 1 is a chat that the informant and I had on Thursday morning, 8 December 2011. When collecting it, I did not ask her to have the chat in Indonesian. Instead, I started the chat in Indonesian (except the greetings part (“hi hi hi”). The informant seemed to be not aware that I was having a chat with her on purpose.

- 8 Dec 9:43
ND: hi hi hi
- 08 Dec 9:44
S: Hei..
- 08 Dec 9:46
ND: gi dimana?
- 08 Dec 9:47
S: Di rumah aja
- 08 Dec 9:48
S: Bentar lg mau jalan sm Nadin, *my 3 yo*
- 08 Dec 9:48
S: Di mana?
- 08 Dec 9:48
S: Kantor?
- 08 Dec 9:48
ND: oya lagi ga ngajar sih ya?
- 08 Dec 9:48
S: *Nope*
- 08 Dec 9:48

S: Ga dulu *til my studies* sls

- 08 Dec 9:49

ND: siapa tuh Nadin? My 3 yo maksudnya?

- 08 Dec 9:49

S: *My 3 year old*

- 08 Dec 9:49

S: *Daughter*

- 08 Dec 9:49

S:

- 08 Dec 9:50

ND: O... eh, btw, bu sari bilang kita mau diikutin program sandwich. anak LTBI dapet jatah katanya

- 08 Dec 9:50

S: *What sandwich?*

- 08 Dec 9:51

S: *LTBI with what?*

- 08 Dec 9:51

S: *Graduate or post grad?*

- 08 Dec 9:51

S: (*Interested abiss*)

- 08 Dec 9:54

ND: Kayaknya both tapi kalo ga salah denger anak S3 mau didauhulukan

- 08 Dec 9:54

S: Ooooooh oke2

- 08 Dec 9:55

S: *Do u know with what uni?*

- 08 Dec 9:57

ND: Ga tau bu sari ga bilang tapi dia bilang pokoknya kita semua mau diusahakan berangkat

- 08 Dec 9:57

S:

- 08 Dec 9:57

S: Waaaah alhamdulillah..

- 08 Dec 9:57

S: Sesuatu bgt!

- 08 Dec 9:59

ND: wkwkwkwk terjemahannya: waah,, thank God ya it's really something!

- 08 Dec 10:00

S: (Termasuk codeswitching ga tuh)

- 08 Dec 10:03

ND: Tanya pak Bahren

- 08 Dec 10:03

ND: btw ntar kul ga?

- 08 Dec 10:03

S: Kynya ngga deh

- 08 Dec 10:03

ND: emang ntar kul ap?

- 08 Dec 10:04

S: Gue tuh kan *freelance interpreter* ya

- 08 Dec 10:04

S: *I said yes to a job* yg gue pikir sebentar

- 08 Dec 10:04

S: Jadwalnya baru keluar kemaren dan ternyata mulainya jam 6 sore

- 08 Dec 10:04

S: Corpus

- 08 Dec 10:05

S: *Last meeting* pula

- 08 Dec 10:07

ND: O gituuu...btw, next semester dikau semester tiga ap empat?

- 08 Dec 10:07

S: 3

- 08 Dec 10:07

S: Masi kuliah

- 08 Dec 10:08

S: But insya Allah *this long break* mau mulai nulis *thesis*

- 08 Dec 10:08

S: *What are u doing this holiday?*

- 08 Dec 10:10

S: belum tau kayaknya sih mau liburan ke sumbawa tapi aku mau lihat agenda kerja UBM dulu

- 08 Dec 10:10

S: Oooh *honeymoon*..

- 08 Dec 10:11

S: Siplah

- 08 Dec 10:12

ND: Ok dweh nanti lanjut lagi ya chattingnya aku mau beres2 dokumen dulu.

- 08 Dec 10:12

S: *Ok me too*

- 08 Dec 10:12

S: *C u!*

- 08 Dec 10:13

ND: c u and tks for spending some time with me

- 08 Dec 10:13

S: *No worries mate*

Data 1 Analysis

In this chat, the three types of code-switching and 'NP (noun phrase)' code-switching appeared and used by the informant. For example, 'Ga dulu **til my**

studies sls' (*intra-sentential*), 'Last meeting pula' (NP code-switching or *intra-sentential*), 'But insya Allah **this long break** mau mulai nulis **thesis**' (*intra-sentential*), 'Bentar lg mau jalan sm Nadin, *my 3 yo*' (*intra-sentential*), 'I said **yes to a job** yg gue pikir sebentar' (*inter-sentential*), 'interested abiss' (*intra-sentential*), and 'Gue tuh kan **freelance interpreter** ya' (*intra-sentential*).

In this case, what makes the informant switched the language is because she knows that I can speak English. She said that 'Kl tahu **interlocutornya** bisa bahasa Inggris dgn fasih (*intra-sentential*) dan ada **term** yang ga bis ditranslate (*intra-sentential*).' When I texted her to find out why she did code-switching, she replied my text by code-switching the language, too. This proves what Kieswetter says about variables such as, identity, interpersonal relationships, social positions, group solidarity, ethnic identity, exploring new relationships, status, level of education, authority, neutrality, distancing or intimacy make code-switching possible.

5.2 Data 2

Data 2 is a short paragraph written by the informant. I asked her to write in Indonesian; however, if an interference occurs (using English 'intra- or intersententially'), I told her not to delete the English words, phrases, or sentences.

Hobi

Hobi saya masak. Saya berlangganan satu tabloid makanan dan resep untuk mengetahui cara-cara mengolah jenis makanan yang relatif itu-itu saja. Selain itu, juga agar tercipta variasi menu yang beraneka untuk keluarga, terutama untuk anak-anak saya yang masih balita. Saya sangat suka makanan nusantara yang kaya dengan bumbu juga makanan berkuah. Salah satu hobi saya adalah membuat berbagai macam soto. Dari soto padang yang *spicy* dan asam, soto betawi yang kental bersantan, tapi juga berempah. Soto favorit saya adalah soto mie, karena bumbunya relatif sederhana, tapi tetap berempah dengan paduan mi dan risol goreng. Saya juga suka makanan barat karena cara mengolahnya mudah dan agar

anak-anak saya mudah *terekspos* dengan berbagai jenis makanan dan tidak pilih-pilih bila sedang berada di luar rumah.

Data 2 Analysis

Interestingly, when I asked the informant to write a paragraph in Indonesian, the code-switching (*intra-sentential*) only occurred in the following sentences:

- ‘Dari soto padang yang *spicy* dan asam.....’
- ‘agar anak-anak saya mudah *terekspos* dengan berbagai jenis makanan.....’

The informant told me that she was asked to write the paragraph in Indonesian; then she did it. She said that ‘Cos u asked me to speak Indonesian, and I’m very speech convergence. I tend to easily follow how my interlocutor speaks.’

5.3 Data 3

Data 3 is taken from a recorded interview (I actually asked her to have a conversation in Indonesian, but it turned out that it was like an interview.) I will not transcribe the whole interview; instead, I will just transcribe the English words, phrases, or clauses used by the informant during the interview. In this interview, the informant talked about cooking and her favorite food.

Examples:

- ‘Makanan tuh *has always been the center of our activities*’
- ‘..... biar anak-anak lidahnya ga *picky*’
- ‘*My cooking utensil* ya bo’ *very very*..... ‘
- ‘Kita suka pergi ke tempat-tempat *we love to visit*’
- ‘Karena *root* saya itu Padang.....’
- ‘*Baking* sekarang *is my next experiment*.’
- ‘Ketoprak, *well*, yang *vendor* ya...’
- ‘Ada satu *dish* yang pedes’
- ‘Aku selalu bikin *weekend special treat*’

The following is the complete data taken from a recording conversation/interview.

- ND: Ok silakan bicara tentang err... hobi kamu

- S : Ok..jadi ini bukan wawancara ya? (*laughing*)
- ND: Ok ini percakapan aja
- S : Err...ehmm....(*hesitation/pause*)...aku hobi banget yang namanya masak...mungkin karena mama ku kali yang dia ibu rumah tangga tulen yang memang masak tuh bagian dari ritual, eh nggak... makan keluarga tuh bagian dari ritual keluarga..jadi kita tuh waktu ku belum nikah.. jadi dari kecil waktu aku masih tinggal sama orang tua udah pasti tuh solat magrib di rumah kemudian makan malamnya sama2 dan apaaa...kayaknya menurutku sih tu masa-masa paling deket bisa ngobrol sama keluarga tuh di jam-jam abis magrib.

Makanan tuh *has always been the center of our activities*...jadi kalo kita apaa..bahkan kita ga angkat telpon, ga ad telpon bunyi, TV itu matii..errr... dan makan-makan menurutku tuh nyatuin keluarga banget jadi kayaknya nurun ke saya walaupun saya udah punya keluarga sendiri dengan dua anak kecil jadinya kalo aku ga masak hilang juga esensi kekeluargaan ...

ND: Trus masakan favorit..?

S : Masakan favorit sebenarnya barat sama Indonesia aku sama jagonya

ND: Barat tuh misalnya..?

S : Barat tuh kayak *burger* daging, *spaghetti*, ya *roast chicken*, *mashed potatoes*, ehmm...itu sama lah *common* nya di makan di rumah dengan soto betawi, sayur asem jadi kayaknya penting sih kayaknya untuk kombinasi dua jenis makanan lebih supaya anak-anak tuh juga lidahnya ga *picky* nyampe luar cuma mau ayam goreng aja jadi anak2 juga terbiasa...

Data 3 Analysis

Most of the switches found in *data 3* are the ones which are categorized as *intra-sentential*, except ‘*You name I have it*, ‘aku sampai sering ke *Ace Hardware*

pergi sama suami ke tempat-tempat *we love to visit*' and *'I'm into baking now.'*
These three switches, according to Poplack, are classified into *inter-sentential*.

6. Results and Discussion

Based on the data analysis and the theories of code-switching proposed by Poplack and Kieswetter, it was found that during the conversation, the informant did code-switching behavior. It can be seen from the types of code-switching that appeared in data, such as *inter-* and *intra-sentential*. According to the informant, she code-switched the language because she knows that I speak English and I am an English teacher/lecturer. However, she will not code-switch the language if the interlocutor does not speak English or fluent English or she does not know the interlocutor at all. This proves what Kieswetter says about variables such as, identity, interpersonal relationships, social positions, group solidarity, ethnic identity, exploring new relationships, status, level of education, authority, neutrality, distancing or intimacy make code-switching possible.

Interestingly, when I asked her to write a short paragraph in Indonesian, she did it quite well. Only two English words (*intra-sentential*) appeared in the paragraph. If I do not ask her to write the paragraph in Indonesian, there is a big possibility that she will code-switch the language a lot. In my opinion, this is a very interesting phenomenon which needs further investigation.

Another interesting finding is 'Why did the informant use lots of *intra-sentential* rather than *inter-* and *extra-sentential*? This is, I think, needs further research, too. 'Does she do that on purpose or consciously or unconsciously'?

7. Conclusion

Results of the data analyses showed that most of the types of code-switching occurred were the ones categorized as *intra-sentential*. The reasons why the informant did the code-switching prove what Kieswetter says about variables causing people code-switch the language. However, further investigation is needed to find out whether the informant code-switches the language consciously or spontaneously/unconsciously.

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