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CODE SWITCHING AND CODE MIXING ON CHINA RICH GIRLFRIEND NOVEL BY KEVIN KWAN

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to find the classification of code switching and code mixing types, and the identification of the reasons that indicated the characters performing code switching and code mixing in the novel entitled *China Rich Girlfriend* by Kevin Kwan. The researcher used qualitative and content analysis approach in analyzing and interpreting the data. The data source of this research was *China Rich Girlfriend* novel and data were generated from the dialogues and utterances by the characters which contained the practice of code switching and code mixing. Through the finding of the analysis, there were 87 practices of code switching which is divided into three types. Those are intra-sentential switching, inter-sentential switching and tag switching. And there were 60 practices of code mixing which is known as insertion, alternation and congruent lexicalization. The reasons of the characters performing code switching and code mixing are talking about particular topic, interjection, quoting somebody else, being emphatic about something and expressing group identity.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Bilingualism and Multilingualism, Code Switching, Code Mixing, *China Rich Girlfriend*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan klasifikasi tipe-tipe alih kode dan campur kode, serta indentifikasi alasan yang mengindikasikan karakter melakukan alih kode dan campur kode dalam novel yang berjudul China Rich Girlfriend oleh Kevin Kwan. Peneliti menggunakan qualitatif dan pendekatan konten analisis dalam menganalisa dan menginterpretasikan data. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah novel China Rich Girlfriend dan data tersebut diambil dari dialog dan ujaran oleh karakter yang mengandung praktik alih kode dan campur kode. Berdasarkan penemuan penelitian, terdapat 87 praktik alih kode yang dibagi menjadi 3. Tipe-tipe tersebut adalah alih

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kode intra-sentential, alih kode inter-sentential dan alih kode penegasan. Dan terdapat 60 praktik campur kode yang diketahui yaitu penyisipan, perselingan dan konruen leksikalisasi. Alasan yang melatarbelakangi karakter-karakter tersebut melakukan alih kode dan campur kode ialah membicarakan topik tertentu, penekanan, empati terhadap sesuatu, mengutip orang lain dan mengekspresikan identitas kelompok.

Sosiolinguistik, bilingual dan multilingual, alih kode, campur kode, Kata kunci:

China Rich Girlfriend

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is generally used to deliver idea as verbal messages which meant to initiate, maintain and preserve social relationship with other members of the society (Beltrán, 2013). As the complexity of human relationship, they speak differently to a certain people depend on the situation of the conversation. Therefore, it can be seen that there is an the interesting interconnection between language and society as the user of language. In this case, sociolinguistics becomes the study that looks thoroughly on it. Further, according to Beltrán (2013) the object study of sociolinguistics is focused on explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts by identifying the social function of language and the way it is used to convey social meaning.

In this age of widespread global communication a language or speech community can rarely be monolingual since people used hundreds of languages in the world every day to interact freely with the speakers of other languages to fulfill their business of living. Therefore, bilingualism is a normal requirement of daily living that people is expected to be able to speak several languages (Wardhaugh, 1986). There are many countries in this world that the majority of the population speaks several languages, one of the countries is Singapore. This kind of language situation is not only brought by the physical interaction of the speaker, but also by social media interaction. Another kind of language phenomenon can also be found in the form of literary works. In this case, the researcher feels that there is an urgency to analyze the language phenomena happen in the society through a novel from a Singaporean author named Kevin Kwan entitled China Rich Girlfriend as the object of this research.

This research focuses on the types of code switching and code mixing which is frequently used in a novel. In addition, the researcher also investigated the reasons why the characters perform it. Therefore, this research is expected to inspire the future researcher to analyze a novel through linguistics point of view especially about code switching and code mixing.



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B. RELATED THEORY

1. The Relationship between Linguistics and Literary Criticism

Linguistics and literary criticism are two disciplines that commonly far apart from each other. However, the blurring border implied that there is a number of interdisciplinary connection can take place between linguistics and literary criticism. In fact, useful exchange of findings and perceptive observations underlined between linguistics and literary criticism. De Beaugrande in Hussein (2015) has discussed briefly about schematic set of contrasts between linguistics and literary criticism which led to progress towards the bridging contrasts that existed between these disciplines by examining several aspects.

The first is from both of linguistics and literary criticism orientation. Linguistics has a scientific orientation which primarily interested in objective and verifiable data. As to literary criticism, it remains more artistic than empirical and systematic. Means that literary criticism always takes an aesthetic as the orientation and chiefly concerned with value.

The second is from the methodological point of view. Linguistics is scientific in nature, its method is strictly analytic and descriptive that breaking a whole down the components and then move from the structure function of a text into its content, by leaning on the former and paying more attention to language. On the contrary, the method of literary criticism is essentially perceptive, intuitive and evaluative. A critic attempts to perceive a text in its irreducible artistic wholeness. Since the focal point is the inside of texts, the critic listens more to the voice of the writer.

The last is by its teleological aspect. Linguistics as a scientific investigation aims at drawing from the study of texts as a set of workable, abstract principles or sufficiently generalize results about language behavior and use. Likewise, literary criticism is a rigorous inquiry that intends to lay out an organon of methods, i.e. a set of universal terms, general principles and criteria for the evaluation of literary texts. However, it also seeks to uncover the individual characteristics of each text in terms of the aspects of existential experience that underlie it, its quality or value, as well as the formal and stylistic choices made by its author.

In this case, since the study belongs to linguistics field and the object study uses literary criticism features. Therefore, the study of linguistic features is used to concern on a particular literary text that give much light on the feelings or ideas the writer wished to express.

2. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study that focused on the relationship between language and society (Holmes, 1992). Language provides people variety ways of saying something by examining the social context. By this case, the variety leads to the language itself. Therefore, the vocal point of this research is focused on the factors



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that caused people used a variety of languages which called as bilingualism and multilingualism as the part of sociolinguistics study. Thus, the conceptions of those terms are delineated as follows.

3. Bilingualism and Multilingualism

Bilingualism is the ability to use two languages alternately in which people master both of the languages almost as well (Weinreich and Mackey, 1962). Whereas, there is also a similar situation where person who has the ability of using more than two different languages that called as multilingualism. Further, Sridhar (1996) explained that multilingualism is involving balanced, native like command of all the languages in the repertoire is rather uncommon.

4. Code

When two or more people communicate with each other, they employ a system of communication that can be called as code (Wardhaugh, 1986). In most cases, code is something that can be referred as language. Further, Wardhaugh (1986) stated that code is a system used for communication between two or more parties used on any occasions. In a specific situation, there will be a case where the speakers who have access to two or more codes for one reason or another shift back and forth between two languages. This situation is known as code switching and code mixing that can be described further.

5. Code Switching

Code switching is the changing process use by bilingual (or multilingual) within the same utterance or during the same conversation (Muysken, 1995). It took place when a bilingual switched from one language to another in a single conversation. People swapped their language to another language that they mastered while they were speaking or writing.

Types of Code Switching

This research classify the types of code switching based Poplack's (1980) theory. He proposed that there are three types of code switching.

Intra-sentential Switching 1)

This kind of code switching took place between clause or sentences boundaries. It occurred when clause or sentence is in one language and then it changed to another in a single utterance. According to Poplack in Romaine (1995), intra-sentential switching referred to the language that switched in the same clause or sentence which then contains elements of both languages.



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In another definition, this type of code switching also defined as the alternation in a single discourse between two languages, where the language switched after a sentence starts with a certain language then it switch to another language (Appel & Muysken, 1987). Intra-sentential switching arguably involved the greatest syntactic risk, and may be avoided by all but the most fluent bilinguals. It required a shift in language in the middle of a sentence, usually performed without pause, interruption or hesitation.

2) Inter-sentential Switching

Inter-sentential switching took place at a clause or sentence boundary, where each clause or sentence is in one language or another. It requires the speakers' fluency in both languages because the major portions of the utterance must conform to the rules of both languages. In addition, inter-sentential switching sometimes also marked with a short pause and occurred between the speakers turns. Therefore, inter-sentential switching took place when a speaker switched from one language to another on different sentence.

3) Tag switching

This type of code switching instantly occurred when the use of tag or exclamation from one language is inserted into an utterance in the other language. Tag switching is simply the insertion of a tag in one language in an utterance which is entirely in the other language. Since tag is subjected to minimal syntactic restrictions, it might be easily inserted at a number of points in a monolingual utterance without violating syntactic rules.

6. Code Mixing

Crystal (2003) stated code mixing is the transfer of linguistic elements from one language to another. It occurred when a sentence started in one language, then the speaker used words or grammatical features belonging to another language. Code mixing refers to the transfer of linguistic units from one language into another. The units might be morphemes, words, phrases, clauses or sentences (Kachru, 1983).

a. Types of Code Mixing

Muysken (2003) pointed that there are basically three types of code mixing as follows.

1) Insertion



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According to Muysken (2000) this kind of code mixing is the situation when the speakers inserted short elements such as words or phrases from one language into a structure from another language without altering the structure of the previous language.

2) Alternation

In this perspective code mixing, Muysken (2000) explained that it occurs when structures of two languages are alternated in distinctively both at the grammatical and lexical level. In other words, alternation entailed a true switch from one language to another, and involved both grammar and lexicon.

Congruent Lexicalization 3)

The last type of code mixing which proposed by Muysken is congruent lexicalization. It can be occurred when the language in sentence shared the grammatical structure of different languages which can be filled with the elements of either language.

7. Reasons of Performing Code Switching and Code Mixing

Another concentration of this research focused on identifying the reasons why the characters performing code switching and code mixing. In order to get a through understanding, Hoffman's (1991) conceptions of the reasons that motivated the bilinguals practiced code switching and code mixing are described as follows.

Talking About Particular Topic a.

There is a situation when people preferred to talk about a particular topic in one language rather than another. Then sometimes the speakers also feel free and more comfortable to express their emotional feelings in a language that is not their everyday language.

Interjection b.

People nowadays is favored to quote a famous expression of some well-known figures. Some of those well-known figures are mostly from some English-speaking countries. People who do not speak English but they are good at acquiring English can quoted the whole of any expressions from the original language. Those expressions are quoted in order to get the meanings clearly by trying to retain the original and exact words used by the speaker whom they were quoting. The switch also involved the words in quotation marks that the speaker is claiming what a person said.

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Quoting Somebody Else C.

The participants tended to mix or switch the language when they were being emphatic or showing sympathy for something. They probably speak using a language that is not his/her native tongue. They will switch or mix from his/her first language to his/her second language intentionally unintentionally to express empathy which probably have greater impact on the listeners.

d. **Being Emphatic About Something**

Interjections are words or expressions, which are inserted into a sentence to convey surprise, strong emotion, or to gain attention. Interjection is a short exclamation like: Damn!, Hey!, Well!, Look! etc. They have no grammatical value, but a speaker used them quite often. Code switching and code mixing among bilingual or multilingual people sometimes marked an interjection as sentence connector. It may happen unintentionally or intentionally to show their feeling in a certain event.

Repetition used for clarification e.

When a bilingual speaker wanted to clarify his/her speech in order to make the listener more understood, he/she might use both of the languages that he/she mastered in saying the same utterance. The speaker would repeat what they talked about to somebody else. The repetition by using other codes is intended to omit feeling unsure of the speaker about a certain word whether the interlocutor is understand or not about what the speaker said.

f. Intention of clarifying the speech content for interlocutor

When bilingual talks to another bilingual, there would be lots of code switching and code mixing practices are shared. It probably occurred to make the content of his/her speech runs smoothly and can be understood by the listener. Therefore, a message in a certain language is repeated by using another language as to emphasize and focus on a particular topic, somewhat in modified form.

Expressing Group Identity g.

Code switching and code mixing can be used to express group identity. People sometimes talked about a certain topic to somebody else using a selected word which is only familiar use in their group. It could be occur because the way



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of communication between academic people in their disciplinary groupings are obviously different from other groups. Further, code switching and code mixing is also practiced by any communities or groups to communicate or to show their identity to the other speech communities. Therefore, the way of communication of one community is different from the people who are out of the community.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

Qualitative method generated words than numbers as data for analyzing that emphasized the process of discovering how the social meaning is constructed and underlined the relationship between the investigator and the topic of the research (Denzin and Lincoln, 1998). In addition, the data are displayed descriptively by using content analysis technique in the form of text.

2. Data and Data Source

The researcher used two kinds of data this research, the first is primary data which generated from an English novel entitled China Rich Girlfriend written by Kevin Kwan. It was published on Toronto by Doubleday Canada. There are 407 pages which are divided into three parts. The data are taken in the form of English words, phrases, clauses and sentences by the characters.

While, the secondary data of this research are gained from books, journals or articles which are related to this research that provide the information about code switching and code mixing, as well as the reasons of performing code switching and code mixing in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel.

3. Data Collection Techniques

The researcher applied the systematic ways in collecting the data. First, the researcher read China Rich Girlfriend novel as source of the data. Second, selecting the data by highlighting the phrase, clause and sentences that belong to data of this study. Third, after the data have been highlighted, the researcher put the data which contain the form of code switching and code mixing into table.

4. Data Analysis

The researcher applied data analysis technique from Miles and Huberman (1994) in analyzing the collected data. It requires three phases of inquiry in qualitative data analysis as follows.

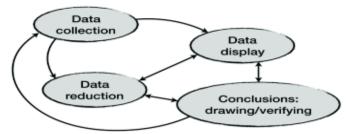


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Figure 1. Components of Data Analysis: Interactive Model

Data Reduction

Miles and Huberman (1994) explained that data reduction is a process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming the data. In this step,



the researcher processed the data by selecting the utterances, dialogues and conversations which contained the practice of code switching and code mixing by the characters in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel. After that, the researcher simplified the data into the types of code switching and code mixing, as well as the reasons of the characters perform it.

b. Data Display

Data display is an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing an action (Miles and Huberman, 1994) In this step, the researcher organized, explained and gave brief description towards the data comprehensively in the form narration as the way of showed the data.

Drawing Conclusion/Verification

Conclusion has been pictured by a researcher, since he/she decided a topic to be analyzed in a research (Miles and Huberman, 1994). In this case, the researcher holds the picture of a conclusion consideration whether it would be appropriate enough to answer the research questions. The conclusions were about the types of code switching, the types of code mixing, and the reasons of the characters perform code switching and code mixing on China Rich Girlfriend.

5. **Triangulation**

Research design needed to be strengthened through an appropriate way such as by triangulation. Triangulation can be referred as a process of combining data from different sources to study a particular social phenomenon. Further, Denzin (1978) identified the types of triangulation into four basic types as follow:

1) Data triangulation is the use of multiple data sources which include of time,



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- space and person in a single study.
- 2) Investigator triangulation is the use of multiple investigators or researchers in a research to study a particular phenomenon.
- 3) Theory triangulation is the use of multiple perspectives or theories to interpret the results of a study.
- 4) Methodological triangulation is the use of multiple methods to conduct a study of particular phenomenon.

Based on those types of triangulation, the researcher applied data triangulation and theory triangulation on this study. Because in conducting this study, the researcher used various data source to validate and to support the data findings' analysis. Those data sources are the audio book of China Rich Girlfriend novel and some references from the previous researchers that related to need of this research.

Further, theory triangulation is also used in this research because the researcher realized and believed that the topic has been discussed widely, besides the term of code switching and code mixing are sometimes used interchangeably. Therefore, the conceptual understanding of code switching and code mixing is made by using some expert theories. For this case, the researcher used Romaine's and Hoffman's theory to compare the classification of the types of code switching and code mixing. In addition, the analysis of the reasons why the characters performed code switching and code mixing, the researcher employed different theories in understanding the causal of the characters used several languages in the dialogues or conversation in the novel.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Types of Code Switching

After the data were generated from reading comprehensively, the researcher has found 87 code switching practices in China Rich Girlfriend novel which according to Poplack (1980), classified into three types. The types are intra-sentential switching, inter-sentential switching and tag switching. Then, these following types are discussed the reasons behind the characters performed it by using Hoffman's (1991) theory as follows.

a) Intra-sentential switching

The researcher found 6 data which belong to code switching type practices that identified as intra-sentential switching type in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel. Here is one of the example of inter-sentential switching.

Utterance No. 2

"What do you expect, when everything is so bloody high-tech? (Lorena laughed) Did the toilet at least help you **suay kah-cherng** [wash your bottom]?" (Lorena, p.16).



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Based on the sentence above, it belongs to intra-sentential switching type because according to Hoffman (1991), intra-sentential switching takes place in the same sentence, therefore there will be two languages mixed a sentence (Hoffman, 1991). This sentence conforms with the theory because it involved English which is switched to Hokkien in a single conversation.

The reason why Lorena switched from English to Hokkien is talking about particular topic, which in this context is a high-tech toilet of her daughter's brand-new apartment. In this case, Lorena preferred to use Hokkien to mock on her friend vulgarly about the high-tech toilet to bring the real sense of humor between them because they were emotionally close. Then by switched to Hokkien, it also showed the culture of Asian in using toilet. Instead of being like the foreign who washed and cleaned which is dried based using tissue, the Asians are not comfort and remain on their own way no matter how pricey and modern the toilet is.

b) Inter-sentential switching

There were 21 practices of code switching which identified as inter-sentential switching. Here is one of the example of inter-sentential switching.

Utterance No. 12

"*Lugh siow, ah* [Are you out of your mind]? You're really going to pay ninety million for a bunch of old scrolls". (Collin, p.35)

The sentence above belongs to inter-sentential switching because according to Hoffman (1991), inter-sentential switching occurs between clause or sentence boundary, where each clause or sentence is in one language or other. In this case, Collin started his statement by using Hokkien then continued the later sentence by using English. The statement matched with the theory because the sentence started by Hokkien, then other sentence is spoken in English.

Collin triggers to switch the language when he is talking about a topic of his wife desire's to buy an expensive Chinese Classical painting on a world top collectors exhibition. They have a close emotional relation, therefore it does not matter to Collin to use sarcastic word to emphasize his surprising feeling. Collin switched the language here to ensure his wife's irrational desire of keeping her wealth image on Asian by continuing to bid and buy that very expensive old painting.

c) Tag switching

There were 60 types of code switching which portrait the practice of tag switching type in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel. Here is one of the example of inter-sentential switching.

Utterance No. 20

"Aiyah, no need lah! What's this?" (Eleanor, p.52)



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The statement above is classified as tag switching because the use of tag or exclamation from one language is inserted into an utterance otherwise in another language (Poplack, 1980). In this case, there are tags derived from Mandarin 'aiyah' and Malay 'lah'. 'Aiyah' is an exclamation used at the beginning of a sentence to express consternation, despair, dismay, exasperation, etc. Whereas, 'lah' is a suffix particle used at the ends of words or phrases to emphasize the word after it. 'Lah' sometimes can be like force expression, and in any occasion is an imperative or command for someone to do something. It might be use as a sort of interjection like expressing 'there you are!'.

In this case, Eleanor switched the language by inserting two tags to show a humble expression. The reason is clearly interjection since she used the tags and there is the exclamation mark on the sentence. She intended to ask her friend to be pleasant by not replied her gift by another stuff. Although that Eleanor is a good pretender who actually wondered what kind of gift that she could get from her friend.

2. Types of Code Mixing

The researcher also found that there are some cases belong to the practice of code mixing. Through deep understanding by comparing the theory of code switching and code mixing, there are 60 code mixing practices in China Rich Girlfriend novel which according to Muysken (2000) divided into three types which known as insertion, alternation and lexicalization.

a) Insertion

The researcher found 46 occurrences of insertion in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel. Here is one of the example of inter-sentential switching.

Utterance No. 58

"Hey **swithart** [sweetheart], how are you? The strangest thing just happened." (Evangeline, p.103)

The data above belongs to insertion because according to Muysken (2000), short elements from a certain language are inserted into language another language but the structure of the other language is not altered. Evangeline inserted Filipino slang word in the form of 'swithart' when she is talking in the phone with her Philippines husband.

Evangeline mixed the language when she is receiving the phone from her husband. In this case, Evangeline inserted the Filipino because she wants to show her pampered expression while telling her husband what just happened. Therefore, the reason of Evangeline mixed the language is include into talking about particular topic because she unintentionally wanted her husband to handle the thing she meant for.

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b) Alternation

There are 3 data belong alternation in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel which display as follows.

Utterance No. 51

".....It's that son of mine. Ever since **Dato'** died. I've hardly seen or hear Bernard. It's as if I don't exist anymore. I've only met my granddaughter twice since she was born—first time at Gleneagles Hospital, and then when they came back for Dato's funeral...." (Carol, p.88)

The statement above also classified as alteration because there is an embedded of English possession 's' at the end of Malay honorific title '*Dato*'. Carol is the wife of a powerful businessman Tai Toh Lui. She mixed the language when she is telling about her son after her husband passed away.

In this case, the reason why Carol mixed the language is being emphatic about the situation of her family after her husband died. She seemed to put their family high reputation by mentioned 'dato' rather than called her husband by name or any close term of spouse. It expressed a kind of deep honor although that her husband has passed away.

c) Congruent Lexicalization

The result of this study provides that there are 11 examples of congruent lexicalization found in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel. Here is one of the example of Congruent lexicalization.

Utterance No. 135

"He only wishes he could be here. **Gum ngaam** [to fitting], ah, the one time you have a medical emergency in Hong Kong and Malcolm is away! We brought some **siew yook** [barbecued roast pork] and **wonton meen** [wonton noodle]. Are you hungry?" (Alix, p.345)

The sentence above is included into congruent lexicalization. There are mixing words derived from Cantonese form of the words 'gum ngaam', 'siew yook' and 'wonton meen'. In this case, the words from Cantonese are inserted randomly and shared grammatical structure with English in a single sentence.

Alix mixed the language because she wanted to make the situation is easier and calmed everyone about Rachel's poisoned case. She is cynically talking about a certain topic of someone that they believe in medical case, but the one they meant is coincidentally away. And then she suddenly switched the topic by ordering some Singaporean foods as a care expression to someone.

E. CONCLUSION

There are three research questions in this research. First, it tried to identify the types of code switching which was answered by using Poplack's theory (1980). There were 87 data of code switching practices. Then the data were fulfilled the



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classification of code switching types based on the theory which known as intra-sentential switching, inter-sentential switching, and tag switching.

For the second research question, it tried to identify the types of code mixing. It was answered by applying Muysken's (2000) theory, the researcher found that there are 60 data of code mixing. The data were compatible with theory of the code mixing types classification which are insertion, alteration, and congruent lexicalization.

Whereas, the last research question tried to find the reasons why the characters in *China Rich Girlfriend* novel performed code switching and code mixing through the dialogues by using Hoffman's (1991) theory. According to him, there are 7 the reasons that make the characters as the portrait of bilinguals switch or mix the language. However, the findings of this research only fulfilled 5 reasons that underlined the motives of the characters performed code switching and code mixing. Those reasons are; 1) Talking about particular topic, 2) interjection, 3) quoting somebody else, 4) being emphatic of something, and 5) expressing group identity. Thus, based on the findings, it can be concluded that multilingual and bilingual people still perform code switching and code mixing under specific reasons. This phenomenon is still happen in the society until today which indirectly enriches the language itself.

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