

ROLE OF CODE SWITCHING AND CODE MIXING IN A DAILY CONVERSATION

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Abstract: The paper highlights the importance of understanding code-switching and code-mixing in multilingual contexts, challenging deficit perspectives and emphasizing their role in effective communication. Code-switching, the alternation between languages within a conversation, and code-mixing, the incorporation of elements from one language into another, are shown to be common phenomena with significant communicative and social functions. These practices enable speakers to express precise meanings, manage discourse, mark social identities, and negotiate relationships.

Keywords: Code-switching, Code-mixing, Discourse, Rapport, Multilingualism, Identity.

Introduction

Across the globe, in multilingual societies, code-switching and code-mixing are common phenomena in verbal communication. In one conversation, a person can use more than one language, which is called code-switching, while the combined use of multiple languages within a single corresponding conversation is called code-mixing. Such linguistic practices are not random, but rather thoughtful strategies that people use to fulfill specific social and communicative objectives. In terms of navigating daily interactions, code-switching and code-mixing are vital for multilingual speakers. These strategies enable both subtle and complex meaning to be expressed, thus clarifying or amplifying statements and even helping to control the dialogic tempo. Besides these, code-switching and code-mixing serve salient sociocultural functions like marking boundaries of in-group membership, identity expression, and power. Although code-switching and code-mixing are useful and serve a function, they often have a negative connotation; people think it means someone is lacking in languages or not proficient in them. Studies have shown that such practices have internal structure and rules, proving to be highly critical and sophisticated, indicative of communicative competence.

Main Body

Code-switching and code-mixing are common linguistic practices observed in multilingual communities worldwide. Code-switching is generally defined as the alternation between two or more languages within a single conversation, while code-mixing involves the integration of linguistic elements from different languages within the same utterance (Alhazmi, 2016; Woolard, 2004). These phenomena have been extensively studied in sociolinguistics, with a focus on understanding their functions and implications in daily communication.

Challenging Deficit Perspectives

Early perspectives on code-switching and code-mixing often viewed these practices as indicators of language deficiency or a lack of proficiency (Romaine, 1995). However, this view has been

widely discredited by sociolinguistic research. Contemporary studies emphasize that code-switching and code-mixing are complex and rule-governed behaviors that serve a variety of communicative and social functions (Auer, 2020). These practices are now recognized as strategic linguistic tools that reflect the speakers' communicative competence and resourcefulness (Gumperz, 1982).

Communicative Functions

Code-switching and code-mixing play a crucial role in facilitating effective communication in multilingual settings. Speakers employ these practices to:

- ❖ **Express precise meanings:** Multilinguals may switch languages to convey nuances, emotions, or cultural references that are best expressed in a particular language (Grosjean, 1982).
- ❖ **Enhance clarity:** Code-switching and code-mixing can be used to clarify or emphasize information, ensuring that the message is accurately understood by the interlocutor.
- ❖ **Manage discourse:** Speakers may utilize code-switching to control the flow of conversation, such as changing topics, introducing new ideas, or signaling transitions (Holmes, 2013).
- ❖ **Fill lexical gaps:** When speakers lack access to a particular word or phrase in one language, they may borrow from another language to maintain fluency and avoid communication breakdowns (Poplack, 1980).

Social and Identity Functions

In addition to their communicative functions, code-switching and code-mixing also serve important social and identity-related purposes. These practices can be used to:

- ✓ **Mark group membership:** Code-switching and code-mixing can signal solidarity with a particular community or social group, indicating shared cultural background, values, or experiences (Appel & Muysken, 2006).
- ✓ **Express identity:** Multilingual individuals may use code-switching to express their unique identities, which often encompass elements from multiple linguistic and cultural backgrounds (Wei, 2011).
- ✓ **Negotiate power dynamics:** Code-switching can be employed to assert authority, challenge social norms, or resist linguistic dominance in social interactions (Heller, 2012).
- ✓ **Build rapport:** Speakers may switch languages to accommodate their interlocutors, show empathy, or establish a sense of connection and solidarity (Myers-Scotton, 1993).

Conclusion

To summarize, code-switching and code-mixing stand out as distinctive features of everyday talk

in societies with more than one language. Such phenomena are not trivial, nor primitive in any sense; rather, they are highly developed and organized methodologies which accomplish numerous and varying communicative and social objectives. Code-switching and code-mixing allow multilingual speakers to convey complex and multi-layered meanings, control the flow of conversation, indicate affiliation, express self-conception, renegotiate relationships of power, and establish social bonds. Effective switching and mixing of languages demonstrate one's socio-cultural and communicative agility, as well as their linguistic competence. Appreciating the comprehensive linguistic landscape of the world multilingual societies, along with the dynamic relationships fostered through the use of code-switching and code-mixing, underscores the need to confront viewpoints lacking understanding which regard these ordinary and adaptive language practices as disorders."

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