

Code mixing

Healthy hai...isme aloe vera hai



- Spanish-*English* (from Valdés-Fallis 1978:1).

a. No, yo sí brincaba en el trampoline *when I was a senior*.

‘No, I did jump on the trampoline when I was a senior.’

b. La consulta era *eight dollars*.

‘The office visit was eight dollars.’

c. *Well, I keep starting some*. Como por un mes todos los días escribo y ya dejo.....

‘Well, I keep starting some. For about a month I write every thing and then I stop....’

• (2) Hindi-English

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• a. *Train* men *seat* mil jaae to ...
• in get then

• ‘If one gets a seat in the train, then...’

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• b. *Third Class* kaa *Dibbaa*...
• of compartment

• ‘a third class compartment...’ (lit.: compartment of third class)

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• c. buund-ify kar-naa
• liquid-ify do-to
• ‘to liquefy’

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• d. ye maamlaa naazuk hai *Let’s not talk about it.*
• This delicate matter is

• ‘This is a delicate matter, let’s not talk about it.’

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• e. main kah rahaa huun ki *one in hand is two in the bush.*
• I say ing am that

• ‘I am saying that one in hand two in the bush.’

Definitions

- **Code-mixing and code-switching**
- **Code-mixing** : People incorporate small units (words or short phrases) from one language or dialect to another one. It is often unintentional and is on word level (intra-sentential).

Code-mixing refers to the mixing of various linguistic units (morphemes, words, modifiers, phrases, clauses and sentences) primarily from two participating grammatical systems within a sentence. In other words, CM is *intrasentential* and is constrained by grammatical principles and may be motivated by social psychological motivations

- *Code-switching*
- People (particularly bilinguals or multilinguals) intentionally switch from one language or dialect to another due to factors such as situations, subject, feeling and sense of belonging. It is often well-motivated and is on phrase or sentence level (intersentential).

Code-switching refers to the mixing of various linguistic units (words, phrases, clauses and sentences) primarily from two participating grammatical systems across sentence boundaries within a speech event. In other words, CS is *intersentential* and may be subject to some discourse principles. It is motivated by social and psychological motivations.

Some questions

- What kinds of elements (linguistic) can be mixed?
- Is Code-mixing (henceforth, CM) random/arbitrary? or Is there a grammar of CM?
- Why do bilinguals employ mixed speech any way?
- what is the social evaluation of code-mixed languages?

- *Is Code-Mixing a random phenomenon?*

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- *Hindi-English*

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- *I told him that* ram bahut bimaar hai

- Ram very sick is

- ‘I told him that Ram was very sick.’

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**I told him* ki ram bahut bimaar hai

- that Ram very sick is

- ‘I told him that Ram was very sick.’

- Please Note: *= Ungrammatical sentence

Socio-Psychological and Linguistic/Pragmatic Motivations for Code-Mixing and Code-Switching

- *Linguistic and Pragmatic Functions*

A.1 *Quotations*

From a conversation two Chicano professionals. While referring to her baby sitter, the speaker says the following:

She doesn't speak English, so, dice que la reganan: "Si se les va olvidar el idioma a las criaturas."

'She does not speak English. So, she says they would scold her: "the children are surely going to forget their language.'

A.2. Addressee specification:

Another function of mixing or switching is to direct the message to one of the several possible addressees. Consider the following interaction in a typical multilingual educated Kashmiri family:

English-Kashmiri-Hindi [Kachru 1990: 63]

A: Hello, *how are you kaul Sahib?*

B: vaaray mahraj

‘Well, sir.’

A: valiv bihiv

‘Come in, sit down.’

A.3. Interjections

English-Hokkien [Tay 1989: 416]

D: *Do what?*

A: *System analyst* la

‘System analyst, what else?’

C: hà

‘Is that so?’

A: Programmer la.

A. 4 Reiteration

Reiteration or paraphrasing marks another function of mixing. The message expressed in one language is either repeated in the other language literally or with some modification to signify emphasis or clarification. The following examples illustrate the emphatic and clarificatory role of mixing, respectively.

English-Spanish: Chicano professionals [Gumperz 1982: 78]

A: *The three old ones spoke nothing but Spanish.* No hablaban ingles.

‘The three old ones spoke nothing but Spanish. They did not speak English.’

English-Hindi: Father calling his small son while walking through a train compartment. [Gumperz 1982: 78]

Father: *Keep straight.* [louder] siidhe jaao

‘Keep straight. Go straight.’

Nonlinguistic (Socio-psychological) Functions

- Social meaning in code switching:

Situational switching: Norway (case of Bokamal and Ranamal): B & R have distinct status and usage to indicate cues.

- As indexical of social negotiation:

Sometimes code switching takes place to signal personal rights and obligations relative to the other participants in the exchange, sometimes considering probable consequences, sometimes to signal multiple identities etc.. A case reported by Myers Scotton: Entrance to IBM Nairobi head office. A visitor, who is a school principal in Luyia area of Western Kenya approaches the guard and speaks Swahili, English and Luyia dialect fluently.

- Social network :

Studies on Chinese community in Tyneside in eastern England focuses on the language choice as opted by the various groups within this community. The Chinese community, as reported, does not live in identifiable settlements like other migrant groups. Instead, they are scattered around the city and generally maintain a low public profile. The first generation and the sponsored migrants are busy in a family owned catering business and do not develop social ties with non Chinese groups. However, the third group, i.e. the British born generation has a much wider social network. However, the family is the primary social unit, with a very strong internal authority structure. Language choice: between members of the first or sponsored generation of migrants, it is Chinese, with some English borrowings. Between the above two groups and the last generation, it is often a code switched variety depending on the task at hand