

**CODE SWITCHING USED BY ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT STUDENTS OF
PANCASAKTI UNIVERSITY ON
FACEBOOK**

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Abstract

This study particularly focuses on code switching on the Facebook wall of a group of Facebook of English Department Student in Pancasakti University in Tegal because Facebook becomes a phenomenon among site communities in this world. The objectives of the study are to find out types and functions of code switching on students' posting on facebook wall of a group discussion of English Department students at Pancasakti University in Tegal. Situational code-switching is the most frequently occurs (4 occurrences or 66%) of the 6 postings and metaphorical code-switching is the least only 33% or 2 occurrences of the 6 postings. The functions of code-switching found are interjection (2 occurrences or 9,5%), repetition (3 occurrences or 14%), address specification

(6 occurrences or 28,5%), message qualification (9 occurrences or 43%), personalization and objectification (1 occurrence or 5%). The result shows that message qualification is the most significant function. It means the shift of the language mainly to qualify a previous message which the commentator or the writer believes it would be better understood.

Keywords: code switching, types, functions

A. Introduction

Computer-mediated communication is a comparatively new means of communication. It is faster than written exchanges but much slower than spoken exchanges (Herring, 2001: 614); it is a kind of communication which sometimes involves an unknown audience, while simultaneously creating direct and even private exchanges (King, 1996). There are seven types of computer-mediated communication for language usage: electronic mail (e-mail), synchronous chatgroups, asynchronous chatgroups, virtual worlds, world wide web (www), instant messaging and blogging Crystal (2006: 11-15). The languages used in these situations are different, but they are not mutually exclusive.

English is globally used on the internet (Herring, 2001; Graddol, 2006), but, some researchers state that first language of the users become more popular than English (Graddol, 2006). The linguistic structures used in on line communication are various. For instance, synchronicity exerts a significant influence on the structural complexity of computer-mediated language (Herring, 2001: 617). Variation in structural complexity on the on line communication indicates the change in the level of formality which is

determined by different social situational factors (Herring, 2001: 618).

The goal of communication affects language use on the internet such as recreational, professional, pedagogical, creative, etc (Herring, 2001: 622). Consequently, various informal linguistic structures such as contractions frequently are used in humorous topics than serious topic discussion (Herring, 1999). The issue of identity in the domain of computer-mediated communication has been studied by a number of scholars.

Internet-users apply different strategies in the construction of their identity. For example, code-switching is a strategy applied by bilingual internet-users. In their study on the language uses of Egyptian young professionals on the Internet, Warschauer et al. (2002) state that in computer mediated communication such as private emails and online chats the users are highly possible to switch language composed of English and Egyptian Arabic, which, according to the authors, is a product of the internet-users' 'localness' and 'globalness'. Another example of code-switching on the Internet is Su's (2003) observation of the blend of stylized English, stylized Taiwanese-accented Mandarin and stylized Taiwanese in the Chinese writing system on college-affiliated BBSs.

This study particularly focuses on code switching on Facebook of English Department Student of Pancasakti University in Tegal because Facebook becomes a phenomenon among site communities in this world. The way they deliver the message on walls has many variations, referring to its uniqueness in regards to their feelings. They use different language patterns, which are then replied by others using the same pattern of language. Facebook users tend to use code switching in their message on the wall post.

It is important to state clearly here that the spread of code switching on Facebook is not mainly caused by people's consciousness toward this phenomenon of code switching. However, code switching is a norm among bilinguals and often occurs even though the speaker or the writer does not intend to do so (Gumperz, 1982: 198). Studies report that people spontaneously switch the language use by mixing it. They use code-switching subconsciously in a conversation for a particular topic (Wardhaugh, 1998).

B. Literature Review

The practice of code-switching itself does not indicate a deficiency of language knowledge (Heller, 1988; Reyes, 2004; Schieffelin, 1994); rather, it seems to serve a communicative function in conversation. Code-switching as a conversational resource has been studied by several sociolinguists (Gumperz, 1982; Li & Milroy, 1995). Blom and Gumperz (1972) identify two types of code switching: 'situational code switching' and 'metaphorical code switching.' 'Metaphorical code-switching' is later known as 'conversational code-switching (Gumperz: 1982). Situational code switching occurs when there is a change in the conversation topic or setting when a new participant joins. On the other hand, metaphorical code-switching is often used as a conversational strategy to enrich or simplify conversational acts such as requests, denials, topic shifts, elaborations or clarifications. Gumperz (1982) later re-labels 'metaphorical code-switching' as 'conversational code-switching.'

Other functions of code-switching are also proposed by Marasigan (1983:120), which are (1) "quotation", (2) "interjection", (3) "repetition", (4)

“addressee specification”, (5) “message qualification”, (6) “personalization and objectification”, and (7) “facility of expression”. The first function of code-switching is a quotation, served as a proof that what they are saying are facts and that the addressees have to believe them. Second the function of interjection based is to express strong feelings or emotions. Repetition may serve to clarify what is said, amplify or emphasize a message, or mark a joke. Addressee specification serves to direct the message to a specific person. Message qualification serves mainly to qualify a previous message which the speakers believe would be better understood in the other code. The functions of personalization and objectification are divided into: “objective marks that the speaker gives about the fact” and “subjective argument from the speaker as personalize marks”. The last one is facility of expression which is a function where the shift can only be interpreted as difficulty in finding the right words at the time of speaking or writing or merely as a sign of the subject’s lack of familiarity with the style he is using.

There are some studies related to code-switching, including some final projects and thesis of English Department of Semarang State University: (1) Permatasari (2003) writes *The Functions of English Indonesia Code Switching the Case of Sunday Morning Radio Broadcast on RCT FM*. She tries to describe code-switching in Sunday Morning Radio Broadcast on RCT FM; (2) Sugestiningrum (2002) conducts her research entitled *An Analysis on Factors Causing Code Switching Spoken by Announcers of Gajah Mada 1026 FM in Gama Fans Program*. Her research is aimed at determining the factors causing code-switching spoken by announcers of Gajah Mada 102,6 FM in Gama Fans Program; (3) Surati (2003)

proposes *An Analysis on the Use of Code Switching in Casual Conversations among the Seventh Semester Students of English Department of UNNES in the Academic Year 2002/2003*. Her research is aimed at describing and analyzing the reasons of the use of code-switching in casual conversation among the seventh semester students of English Department of UNNES in academic year 2002/2003 based on Hyme's framework of Speaking. Some studies above are the final projects of English Department of Semarang State University related to this study.

Such journal articles are taken for their relevance to this current study in which focuses on code-switching. Another similarity is all studies use a qualitative approach or descriptive study. Instead of the similarities, some differences are also found in research articles. The previous studies focus on code-switching in spoken language, on the other hand, the current study focuses on the written form. The source of data in the current study is also different, students'posting on the facebook wall of a group discussion of English Department students of Pancasakti University in Tegal is used. Gumperz theory is used in categorizing code-switching types and Marasigan theory for the function of code-switching.

C. Method of Investigation

This study is qualitative because it is conducted in natural setting using interpretive analysis in which the key instrument of data collection is the researcher (Nunan, 1992:4). The objective of the study is to find out types and functions of code-switching on facebook wall of a group discussion of English Department students of Pancasakti University in Tegal. The participants of the study are 13 students of English

Department who join a group of Facebook namely ESA (English Department Students Association). The members of the group are English Department students of all semesters. Participant demographics are presented in Table 1. To ensure anonymity, they are referred to in this study as Participants 1-13.

Table. 1. Participants of the Study

No	Name	Class
1	Participant 1	6C
2	Participant 2	4A
3	Participant 3	4A
4	Participant 4	4D
5	Participant 5	4E
6	Participant 6	4D
7	Participant 7	4D
8	Participant 8	6C
9	Participant 9	4E
10	Participant 10	6E
11	Participant 11	4D
12	Participant 12	4D
13	Participant 13	8F

The source of data is 6 students' posting and 31 comments on Facebook wall of ESA. 5 postings are written in English and one posting uses mixed languages English, and Bahasa Indonesia which are commented by 21 comments written in *Bahasa Indonesia* and Tegalnese, and 10 comments of 6 postings are in English.

Data analysis is obtained by identifying and categorizing the types and function of code-switching written by the participants in facebook wall. The data derived are analyzed by using descriptive statistical methods. Frequencies and percentages for all items of code-switching are obtained.

D. Findings and Discussion

The findings on the analysis are presented in the following table:

Table.2. Types of Code-Switching

No	Types	Frequency	Percentage
1	Metaphorical Code-Switching	2	33%
2	Situational Code-Switching	4	66%
Total		6	100%

Here is the example of metaphorical code-switching taken from students' posting and comments of Facebook wall in ESA (English Department Students Association).

Participant 1: *Do a mistake? Sometimes we need to do a mistake to live a life, because life will never changes when you won 't.*

Participant 2: *Maju terus pantang mundur*

Participant 3: *beres wes mba perubahan.com*

The data above can be categorized as metaphorical code-switching because they do not contain the changing situation and topic.

The following is the example of situational code-switching:

Participant 11: *burying in the deep hole like a morgue*

Participant 13: *gon kuliah ka malah up date status*

Participant 12: *cie kue Miftahudin Ahmad sapa kue mba.....?????*

Participant 11: *biasa nok,....ngakune tha mahasiswa.*

The data above can be categorized as situational code-switching because the change of the topic occurs there as Blom and Gumperz's criteria (1972:409), a situational code-switching happens when a language shift by the existing if topic change. The

comments above are totally different with the topic of Participant 11 posting.

Table. 3. Function of Code-Switching

No	Function of Code-Switching	Frequency	Percentage
1	Quotation	0	0
2	Interjection	2	9,5%
3	Repetition	3	14%
4	Addresse Specification	6	28,5%
5	Message Qualification	9	43%
6	Personalization and objectification	1	5%
7	Facility Expression	0	0
	Total	21	100 %

The following example is Participant 1's posting and the comments on it:

Participant 1: *Dear Pancarwengi Kristal,...When is the exactly time for English contest conducted?*

Participant 8: *Wong'e lagi sumeng mba, sangkin mumete*

Participant 9: *njooo rah sharing-sharing mba enake kpn? Oleh tanggal sing jelas terus proposal e ben cepet digarap rah ngapunten 'didn't use English, he*

Participant 1: *Doesn't matter ...kalau sharingnya di kost saiiia saja bagaimana? Lebih nyaman dan santai... kalo di kampus hawane sumpeeeekz....*

The dialog above shows that the function of code-switching used by participant 8 is *personalization and objectification* because it is used to express Participant 8's personal opinion that Participant 9 is in fact having headache or she is in bad mood. The speaker gives about the fact and subjective argument from the speaker as personalize marks.

Code-switching both in *Bahasa Indonesia* and Tegalnese used by participant 9 in responding Participant 1 has a function as *message qualification*. It is served mainly to qualify a previous message which the speaker believes it is better understood in the other code. Message qualification can be used whether the addressees understand or not with the message given. The same function occurs on Participant 1 in responding Participant 9's comment.

Let us see Participant 4's second posting:

Participant 4: *first experience translate english to tegals....haha..laka-laka..Cuma linguistic tok yang bisa seperti itu*

Participant 6: *ader Had?*

Participant 4: *ya Ci...dadine kaya entus ndalanghaha*

Participant 7: *apa lagi punya qm yah tyus lgsg qm yg ngmg, dr tdi aq..a nulis sambil ngakak tuh...*

Participant 6: *ngakak gimana nok?*

Participant 4: *Ngakak apa mlongo karena terpesona...haha*

The function of switching in Tegalnese '*laka-laka..haha.....Cuma linguistic tok yang bisa seperti itu*' is interjection. It is expected that speakers use their native languages to express strong feelings, which *interjections* are. As the interjections are entirely foreign, one can hazard a guess that perhaps the writer is using them consciously to impress. The same function also occurs for Participant 6's respond *ader Had?* She expresses her strong feeling in Tegalnese language. She is confirming as she does not believe what Participant 4's posting. It is doubtful for her.

The switch done by Participant 4 when saying *ya Ci...dadine kaya entus ndalanghaha* serves to direct the message to a specific person. It means that code-switching is used to personalize the message to

be delivered. Moreover, Marasigan (1983) argues that this type of switching, *addressee specification* recognizes not only the interacting members of the speech events but it also recognizes that their language behaviour may be more than merely a matter of individual preference or facility, but also a matter of role relations. Besides its function as an individual preference of facility, “addressee specification” (Marasigan, 1983) also indicates a matter of role relations within conversation. In this case Participant 4 directs the message to Participant 6 as his friend and he also directs his message to dalang entus who is very popular dalang in Tegal. Participant 4 thinks that the language is used in Tegalnese like what Entus does in his performance.

When the word *ngakak* is repeated by Participant 4 and Participant 6 responding to Rika Maulana’s comment, it serves *repetition* to clarify what is said, amplify or emphasize a message or mark. Therefore, the use of repetition actually depends on the context itself. In the second repetition, Participant 4 asks Participant 6 clarifying the reasons why Participant 6 says so he gets intention in repeating his message is to heard rather than to be understood.

E. Conclusion

It can be concluded from the result of the study that situational code-switching is the most frequently occurs (4 occurrences or 66%) of the 6 postings and metaphorical code-switching is the least only 33% or 2 occurrences of the 6 postings. There are only 5 functions of code-switching found in students’ 6 postings and 21 comments namely, interjection (2 occurrences or 9,5%), repetition (3 occurrences or 14%), addressee specification (6 occurrences or 28,5%), message qualification (9 occurrences or 43%),

personalization and objectification (1 occurrences or 5%). The result shows that message qualification is the most significant function. It means the shift of the language mainly to qualify a previous message which the commentator or the writer believes it would be better understood.

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