THE IMPACT OF CODE-SWITCHING ON LANGUAGE EVOLUTION AND CULTURE

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Abstract. *Code-switching is switching between languages within the same conversation and is an important medium for connection, constructing identities and coining new language varieties in today's multicultural society. This paper highlights how code-switching has an impact on the way we structure our language, leading to the creation of the linguistic hybrid known as "Spanglish." Code-switching also has usage in education, where it promotes student engagement and inclusion. As a whole, code-switching instigates change in language development and serves as a conduit for negotiating multiple cultural and personal identities.*

Keywords: *Code-switching, bilingualism, linguistic evolution, social identity, multicultural education.*

Code-switching is a common feature in multilingual communities where speakers alternate between using different languages and/or dialects within a single conversation. The practice of code-switching, however, extends beyond being simply a convenient means of communication — it is a product of the socio-cultural context in which it is utilized. In multi-lingual communities, code-switching exemplifies the relationship between a speaker's bilingual

abilities and the dynamic processes through which multiple languages interact, borrow from one another, and develop over time.

Grammatical Innovation and Evolution due to Code-switching can result in the development of many grammatical innovations that do not conform to the rules of either single language. For example, communities that speak both Spanish and English often encounter instances of "Spanglish", where there exist grammatical structures, or "spanglish" syntax, which allow a speaker to use elements from both languages to create new grammatical constructions and a new set of vocabulary. Such structures reflect a "dynamic mixture" — resulting from the co-existence of two sets of grammatical rules and contributing to the development of new languages and the disintegration of established rules (Han X., Li W., Filippi R., 2022).

- Combination Structures: "Spanglish" highlights unique constructions that are representative of how Spanish-speaking and English-speaking communities combine parts of both languages into hybrid formats, creating something completely new (Junaidi A. M., 2019).
- Transformation of Language: These unique ways of combining two or more languages influence how we think about the structure of the language and promotes modification of the language's grammatical rules.
- Ending the Lines of Division Between Languages: As global fluctuations and increased opportunities for travel continue, the ability to combine languages through code-switching is contributing to the gradual disappearance of strict divisions between languages.

Influences on Communication and Education

The ability to code-switch has a significant effect on the ability to share and understand communications because it depends on the mutual understanding of both communicators. If one person is proficient in both languages and the other is only proficient in one language, code-switching may

cause a communication breakdown. However, if both communicators are equally proficient in both languages, code-switching creates an environment where both communicators are better able to understand each other and build a sense of familiarity (Kaushanskaya M., Crespo K., 2019).

In educational settings, the most pronounced influence of code-switching is the use of a student's native language to build a more inclusive environment and greater commitment to their learning through inclusion of the student in a classroom community (Kharkhurin A. V., Wei L., 2015).

- Supporting Student Understanding: When a teacher incorporates a student's native language with the teaching of difficult subjects (e.g., math), it allows the student to better understand the subject matter and retain what they have learned.
- Promoting Student Interest: In particular studies of Thailand, researchers found that students were much more engaged in class and willing to participate when they felt that they were able to speak multiple languages (Rauf A., 2018).

Identity and Belongingness

Languages and dialects are one of the key ways for individuals and groups to demonstrate an individual's or a group of individuals' cultural identity.

- The Social Identity Markers reflected in a person's code-switching grammatical structure represent a very important aspect of social identity and social identity cohesion.
- Cognitive Flexibility and Creativity – Individuals who are frequent code-switchers demonstrate that they have a number of different aspects to their identity, depending upon the context or the individual(s) with whom they are communicating.

- Higher Executive Functioning – Frequent code-switchers demonstrate that they have greater executive functioning than average; they have more cognitive ability to manage two or more languages simultaneously (Schmidt A., 2014).

Conclusion.

Code-switching is more than just a means of communication; code-switching can create new forms of expression through the combination of grammatical structures, as well as provide insight into the complex relationship between language, identity and culture within an increasingly multicultural society. Code-switching enables researchers to better understand how individuals and groups create new forms of identity, language, and communication.

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