

INTERSECTION OF LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY

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Annotation: This article explores the concepts of bilingualism and code-mixing, highlighting their significance in communication and cultural expression. Bilingualism, defined as the ability to use two languages, offers benefits such as broader communication, cultural understanding, and adaptability in different situations. The discussion underscores the importance of appreciating bilingualism and code-mixing as integral parts of linguistic diversity.

Key words: Bilingualism, code-mixing, mixing languages, benefits of second language.

Language plays crucial role in the life of the people. Language is used for delivered messages from the speaker to the listener. So that, the most fundamental language function is to serve as medium of communication, socialization and relationship from one to another. The communication process within people does not correspond of only one language but also two languages or indeed more. In some countries for example in Indonesia, there are people who speak further than one language both in the cities and in the countryside. They use various varieties, local and vernacular language, Bahasa Indonesia, and even until foreign language. The use of more than one language usually takes place in the learning process of foreign language especially English. The use of the two languages in Linguistics is called as bilingualism.



Bilingualism is the ability to speak and understand two languages. Many people around the world are bilingual. They may learn a second language at home, in school, or through friends. Being bilingual has many benefits. It allows people to communicate with a wider range of people and understand different cultures. Bilingual individuals can switch between languages depending on the situation, which is a useful skill. The individuals





usually use the model of the code switching or code mixing in using those languages. Code-mixing and code-switching are extensive phenomena in bilingual societies where people speak their native language and their second language in different places. The “code-switching “ and “code-mixing” are normal phenomena in the area of bilingualism. These phenomena happens when bilinguals replace a word or phrase from one language to another one.

What is code-switching? Every day we do not know which language to use in various places. The language we use in school or in our workplace may be different than the language we use in our home. The ability to choose which language you can use based on the place you are in is called code-switching. According to professors code-switching describes the process of switching from one language to another language during the oral communication. Similarly, Thelander in Chaer & Agustina state that code switching is the use of two language (or more) by a individual during the communication. The researchs indicate that code_switching is the language which is consists of two language or more spoken by society at the same time in communication event.

There are also plenty of reasons as well as functions why people use code-switching. First one is expressive function. It is used to express feelings, ideas, desires and opinions. Next reason can be poetic it means that it emphasize, express solidarity with others. The little-known function of language consists in saying something only to preserve the contact with the person we are speaking to. Our purpose is primarily to maintain the communication.

Reaserchs show that in advertisements in India, code-switching is used to attract the attention of the listeners. In addition to it also used in the lack of facility it means switch when they can not find any expression or suitable vocabulary . Another thing is it also used in lack of register. When speakers can not equal speak in two languages. In relation to code-mixing refers to the mixture between two different words in one sentence that represents an uncertainty upon which word or phrase should be used. Code-mixing is when a bilingual person mixes two languages in their speech or writing. In order to get effective attention during communication speaker will mix the words. For example, someone might start a sentence in one language and finish it in another. This often happens naturally, especially among friends who share the same languages. For instance, a person might say, "I am going to the tienda (store) later." Here, "tienda" is Spanish, mixed into an English sentence.

There are several reasons why people code-mixing . First, it can make communication easier. Sometimes, there are words or phrases in one language that do not have an exact translation in another. Using both languages can help express ideas more clearly. Second,





code-mixing can show a person's identity. For many bilinguals, mixing languages reflects their cultural background and experiences.

However, some people believe that code-mixing is a sign of poor language skills. They argue that it can confuse listeners or readers who may not understand both languages. Others think it is a natural part of being bilingual and should be accepted. Language is always changing, and code-mixing is part of that change.

In conclusion, bilingualism and code-mixing are important aspects of communication for many people. Bilingual individuals enjoy the advantages of knowing two languages, while code-mixing allows them to express themselves in unique ways. Understanding these concepts helps us appreciate the rich diversity of language in our world.

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