

Code Mixing In Denny Sumargo's Podcast Study: Sociolinguistics

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Abstract

This research is motivated by the widespread use of code-mixing in digital communication, particularly in podcast content on YouTube. This phenomenon indicates the use of two or more languages in a single utterance, influenced by the speaker's bilingual abilities. This study aims to describe the forms, causal factors, and functions of code-mixing in Denny Sumargo's podcast with Raline Shah and Dilan Janiyar. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The research population consists of all utterances in Denny Sumargo's podcast, while the research sample consists of utterances containing code-mixing in two podcast episodes. The research instrument was the researcher himself with the help of free listening and note-taking techniques. Data were analyzed using the matching method with the connecting and comparing and differentiating technique. The results of the study indicate two forms of code-mixing: internal code-mixing and external code-mixing. The main factor causing code-mixing is the identification of language varieties in relaxed and informal situations. The functions of code-mixing include emphasizing meaning, familiarizing the conversational situation, and adjusting the topic of conversation. The conclusion of this study shows that code-mixing in podcasts is a form of bilingual communication strategy that reflects social identity and modern communication styles in digital media.

Keywords : Bilingualism, Code Mixing, Digital Communication, Sociolinguistics, YouTube Podcast

INTRODUCTION

Language is a social communication tool in the form of symbols of human speech sounds (Keraf 2004: 1). In accordance with this statement, language is understood as the primary tool used by humans to interact and convey ideas, feelings, and information to others. Language is

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an important aspect of human life, not only functioning as a means of communication, but also as a cultural identity and a means to express thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Basically, each person has different language abilities, and the languages used are also different. In Indonesia, there are three languages that are generally used: Indonesian as the main language, regional languages as local languages, and foreign languages as international languages. With these three languages, a person can master two or more different languages.

The ability to master two or more languages is called bilingualism. Bilingualism is a general term for speaking two or more languages (Mesthrie *et al.*, 2009: 37). With bilingualism, speakers often unconsciously use and mix two different languages in communication. This results in the phenomena of code-switching and code-mixing.

Code switching is known as the phenomenon of shifting between different languages (Mayerhoff, 2006: 116). In a linguistic context, code switching is a phenomenon that occurs when a speaker switches from one language to another within a single conversation or sentence. Code switching can occur in bilingual or multilingual communities if the speaker has the ability to use more than one language. In code switching, the speaker can switch between languages fluently and according to communication needs.

In communication, code-switching isn't the only event; bilingual communities also frequently mix languages. This phenomenon is called code-mixing. Code-mixing is defined as the use of two or more languages by inserting elements of different languages into the language being used (Rokhman, 2013: 39). Code-mixing refers to the blending of language varieties in the form of clauses or phrases.

Code-mixing can occur for a variety of complex and interrelated reasons. One of the main reasons is social or group identity, as speakers use a particular language to indicate their background or identity within a particular group. Furthermore, the context or communication situation can also influence the occurrence of code-mixing, such as when speakers switch languages to adapt to their interlocutors or a particular situation. Fathurrohman and Sumarwati (2013) explain the functions of code-switching and code-mixing, namely: (1) to emphasize something, (2) to familiarize the conversation situation, (3) to respect, (4) to increase prestige, and (5) to adjust the topic or material of the conversation.

The phenomenon of code-mixing is also frequently encountered on various social media platforms. YouTube is one of the fastest-growing and widely used social media platforms. YouTube has become a popular platform, hosting millions of videos with a variety of educational content. Public figures often use YouTube to attract more fans by uploading videos. Many public figures also create podcasts by inviting fellow public figures or even individuals who want to



share their stories or experiences. Some creators, including public figures with podcasts like Raditya Dika, Deddy Corbuzier, Denny Sumargo, and several other Indonesian content creators, not only invite fellow celebrities to share their experiences but also capitalize on trending news by inviting the news creators directly.

In this study, the content used as the object of research is a podcast from an Indonesian content creator, namely Denny Sumargo's podcast called "Curhat Bang Denny Sumargo". This study uses two objects, the first is Denny Sumargo's podcast that invited Dilan Janiyar (a content creator) aired on November 8, 2025 and the second aired on April 29, 2025 with guest star Raline Shah (Indonesian celebrity). The reason the author used these two podcasts is because in their communication besides using Indonesian, they also use English and Javanese several times. Likewise, Denny can balance both in the use of English. So they can be said to be bilingual because they master more than one language. Therefore, the two podcast contents uploaded by Denny Sumargo are related to the phenomenon of code mixing which is the focus of this study.

Based on the background description, this study focuses on the forms, causal factors, and functions of code-mixing in Denny Sumargo's podcast. Therefore, the aim of this study is to describe the forms, causal factors, and functions of code-mixing in Denny Sumargo's podcast.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach. The data used in the study comes from a podcast conversation hosted by Denny Sumargo, Raline Shah, and Dilan Janiyar, uploaded to YouTube. The collected data consists of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that reflect the phenomena of code-switching and code-mixing.

The data collection technique in this study was free listening and note-taking. The researcher listened to the conversation in the podcast, then transcribed and recorded the information obtained. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the matching method, which applied the connecting and differentiating (HBB) technique. Data were analyzed based on structure, influencing factors, and the role of code-switching and code-mixing. To ensure data validity, this study implemented a credibility test by increasing accuracy and selecting appropriate references.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study are dialogues between speakers in Denny Sumargo's podcast that demonstrate the phenomena of code switching and code mixing. Data were taken from





transcripts of the speech in the podcast. Two podcasts were used as data sources: (1) Denny Sumargo's podcast with guest star Raline Shah, and (2) Denny Sumargo's podcast with guest star Dilan Janiyar. This section will explain the forms, factors, and functions of code mixing. The following is an analysis of the data found.

Code-mixing form

In code-mixing, two forms were found: internal code-mixing and external code-mixing. The following forms of code-mixing were found:

1. Internal code mixing

D1/SD2/CK

Dilan: "Then he said no need. Okay, whatever you want, I said. In Javanese, whatever you want means."

The utterance "then he said no need. yowes sekarepmu I said. karepmu means whatever in Javanese" shows the phenomenon of internal code mixing. Internal code mixing occurs because the speaker inserts regional language elements into the main language being used, in this case Indonesian. In this utterance, the speaker initially uses Indonesian, then inserts Javanese elements, namely the words "yowes sekarepmu" and "karepmu". The words "yowes sekarepmu" in Javanese mean 'well, it's up to you', while "karepmu" means 'up to you'. The insertion of Javanese elements does not change the main language of the conversation, which remains in Indonesian.

D2/SD2/CK

Dilan: ".... I'm nervous, you know, bro, I'm shaking like that."

The utterance "... I'm nderedeg, you know, I'm like trembling" demonstrates the phenomenon of internal code mixing. Internal code mixing occurs when a speaker inserts regional language elements into a speech that is essentially in Indonesian. In this speech, the speaker uses Indonesian as the primary language, then inserts the word "nderedeg" which comes from Javanese. The word nderedeg in Javanese means 'trembling' or 'shaking due to certain feelings such as nervousness or fear'. The insertion of Javanese elements is done to clarify or emphasize the condition felt by the speaker. Although there are Javanese elements, the main structure of the sentence still uses Indonesian.

2. Mix external code

D3/SD1/CK

Denny: "You were rumored to be married. What happened? Did you know?"





The utterance "You could be rumored to be married, what happened? Did you know?" demonstrates the phenomenon of external code mixing. External code mixing is the insertion of foreign language elements into speech that uses a particular primary language. In this utterance, Indonesian is used as the basic language of the conversation, but the speaker inserts English elements, namely the word "you" and the phrase "what happened." The word "you" is used to refer to the interlocutor, meaning 'you', while the phrase "what happened" means 'what happened'. The insertion of these English elements does not change the main structure of the sentence, which remains dominated by Indonesian.

D4/SD1/CK

Raline: "So it becomes celebrity status, so what I mean is, we just have to be responsible as celebrities."

The utterance "so it becomes celebrity status, right? So what I mean is, well, we just take responsibility as celebrities" demonstrates the phenomenon of external code mixing. External code mixing is the insertion of foreign language elements into speech that uses a particular primary language. In this utterance, the speaker uses Indonesian as the primary language in conveying his statement. However, in this utterance, there are insertions of English elements, namely the phrases "celebrity status" and "what I mean." The phrase "celebrity status" is used to refer to status as a celebrity, while the phrase "what I mean" is used by the speaker to clarify the meaning of the statement he conveyed. The insertion of English elements does not change the main structure of the sentence, which remains dominated by Indonesian.

Code mixing factors

Among the factors causing code-mixing, the influencing factor found is variety identification. The following are the factors causing code-mixing that were found:

1. Identification of variety

D3/SD1/CK

Denny: "You were rumored to be married. What happened? Did you know?"

Denny's utterance above is code-mixing. This is evident in the use of the English elements "you" and "what happened" within the Indonesian sentence structure. This utterance is a factor in identifying variety. The use of these English elements is not intended to translate or





explain a specific meaning, but rather demonstrates a relaxed style of language often used in informal conversations.

D5/SD1/CKDenny: "But do you have any plans? Will you suddenly appear and get married or what?"

The utterance "But do you have any plans? Will you suddenly show up and get married or something?" contains code mixing, inserting the English words "you" and "planning" into the Indonesian sentence. This use of English elements demonstrates a casual style of language often used in informal conversations. The speaker does not intend to explain a specific meaning, but rather uses English elements as a style that reflects a close affinity with bilingualism.

Code mixing function

In code-mixing, three functions were found: to emphasize a point, to familiarize the conversation situation, and to adjust the topic or material of the conversation. The following are the code-mixing functions found:

1. To emphasize something

D6/SD1/CK

Denny: "As a Raline, relationships are something that has quite a lot of obstacles."

The utterance "jadinya status celebrity kan, jadi what I mean yaudah kita aja tanggung jawab sebagai selebriti" demonstrates code-switching from Indonesian to English. The speaker uses the phrases "celebrity status" and "what I mean" to emphasize the idea that their status as celebrities carries certain responsibilities. This code-switching emphasizes the intended meaning, making the message clearer. Thus, the function of code-switching in this utterance is to emphasize a point.

D7/SD2/CK

Dilan: "He doesn't have any glove to dampen it, tone it down like that."

Denny: "Oh yeah, I understand."

The utterance "he doesn't have any gentle manners to calm down, he tones down like that" demonstrates code-switching from Indonesian to English. The speaker uses the terms "gentle-gantle" and "tone down" to describe actions or ways of defusing situations that are difficult to describe with precise Indonesian equivalents. The use of these English terms adapts the language to the topic of conversation and helps convey meaning more





specifically. Thus, the function of code-switching in this utterance is to adapt the topic or material of the conversation.

2. To familiarize the conversation situation

D8/SD1/CK

Denny: "Okay, now you act like you're crying."

Raline: "Yes, okay, I will at the end of this show"

The utterance "anyway, public displays of affection are only around me" demonstrates code-switching from Indonesian to English. The speaker uses the phrase "public display of affection" to refer to the act of showing affection to a partner in a public place. The use of this English term relates to the topic of conversation regarding styles or forms of expression in romantic relationships. Thus, the function of code-switching in this utterance is to adapt to the topic or subject of the conversation.

3. To adjust the topic or material of discussion

D9/SD1/CK

Raline: "Anyway, public displays of affection are only around me."

The utterance "anyway, public displays of affection are only around me" demonstrates code-switching from Indonesian to English. The speaker uses the phrase "public display of affection" to refer to the act of showing affection to a partner in a public place. The use of this English term relates to the topic of conversation regarding styles or forms of expression in romantic relationships. Thus, the function of code-switching in this utterance is to adapt to the topic or subject of the conversation.

D10/SD1/CK

Raline: "So I'm a fairly hyper-vigilant person when it comes to making big decisions.

Denny: "Are you really overthinking it?"

Raline: "You're really overthinking, you're a dependant"

The utterance "So, I'm quite a hyper-vigilant person when making big decisions" and the use of the word "overthinking" indicate code-switching from Indonesian to English. These terms are used when the speaker discusses his or her own tendencies in thinking and decision-making. The use of English relates to the topic of conversation regarding a person's psychological state and way of thinking. Thus, the function of code-switching in these utterances is to adapt to the topic or subject of the conversation.

D11/SD1/CK





Denny: "Have you ever received any underestimating attitudes or rejection or perhaps a bit of being belittled, perhaps not considered, that's how you feel?"

The utterance "Have you ever received any underestimation or rejection, or perhaps a bit of a downplaying, perhaps not considered that way, do you feel?" demonstrates code-switching from Indonesian to English. The speaker uses the terms "underestimate," "rejection," and the phrase "you feel" to discuss experiences facing negative treatment or rejection. This use of English is relevant to the topic being discussed and helps convey concepts more precisely. Thus, the function of code-switching in this utterance is to adapt to the topic or material of the conversation.

In Denny Sumargo's podcast, 11 utterances exhibited code-mixing. Code-mixing in the podcast can be seen when speakers insert English elements into Indonesian. These language elements are inserted in the form of specific words, phrases, or expressions used in the middle of Indonesian sentences. This code-mixing occurs because the speakers in the podcast are bilingual. They do this with the intention of conveying their speech in their native language.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, the code-mixing phenomenon in Denny Sumargo's podcast shows that speakers actively use internal and external code-mixing in the communication process. Internal code-mixing is characterized by the insertion of regional language elements, especially Javanese, into Indonesian, while external code-mixing occurs through the insertion of English elements in the form of certain words, phrases, or expressions. The main factor behind the use of code-mixing is the identification of language varieties in casual and informal communication situations. In addition, code-mixing functions to emphasize a point, familiarize the conversation situation, and adjust the topic or material of the conversation. The findings of this study indicate that the code-mixing phenomenon in podcasts is not only a form of language variation, but also reflects social identity, bilingual communication styles, and interaction strategies used by speakers in digital media. Practically, this research can be a reference for teachers, linguistic researchers, and content creators in understanding the use of bilingual language in social media and its influence on communication patterns in modern society.

This study still has limitations because it only used two podcast episodes as data sources, so the data coverage does not represent the entire phenomenon of code-mixing in digital podcast content in Indonesia. Furthermore, this study only focused on the forms, factors, and



functions of code-mixing without examining the pragmatic aspects, the speakers' social identities, or the audience's responses to the use of mixed languages in more depth. Therefore, further research is recommended to use broader data sources involving various types of podcasts, social media platforms, or other public figures for more comprehensive research results. Future research can also expand the study on aspects of code-switching, bilingual identity, pragmatic analysis, and the influence of code-mixing on the effectiveness of digital communication and the development of the Indonesian language in social media.

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