

# A Case Study of a Writer Using Code Switching

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## Abstract

This research is intended to find out the types of code switching that is used in short stories and to describe the reasons why a writer does code switching in her short stories. It is a case study involving a writer of short story. Three short stories as document analysis and interview served as the data collection method.

The result of this research indicated that the intra-sentential type of code switching occurs mostly in her short stories, followed by inter-sentential code switching. In addition, the reasons why code switching occurs are firstly, that certain notions or concepts are simply better expressed in the other language; secondly, code switching is used as a communicative or social strategy to show speaker involvement, mark group identity, exclude someone, raise one's status, show expertise, and so on; thirdly, it is used to refill a linguistic need for a word or an expression; and finally, the last reason is to strengthen command.

### Keywords:

*Code switching, short stories.*

## 1. Introduction

Many researchers define bilinguals as individuals who have various degrees of proficiency in both languages (Hakuta, 1986; Macnamara, 1967; Mohanty and Perregaux, 1997). Related to speech community, Hamers and Blanc (2000: 6) define bilingualism as the state of a linguistic community in which two languages are in contact with the result that codes can be used in the same interaction and that a number of individuals are bilinguals. In short, bilinguals can choose what language they are going to use. In other words, bilinguals can vary their choice of language to suit the existing situation and condition in order to communicate effectively. This leads to alternating two languages within the same utterance, or what is commonly called code switching.

## 1.1 Background

Research into code switching has been carried into many perspectives. Some studies have been performed on the types of code switching and the reasons for code switching in various occasions.

In 2011, a research by Dias Astuti Cakrawati entitled ‘Analysis of Code Switching and Code Mixing in the teenlit Canting Cantiq by Dyan Nuranindya,’ explored six types of code switching namely intra sentential switching, inter-sentential switching, emblematic switching, intra-lexical code, establishing, continuity with the previous speaker, and involving a change of pronunciation. In this research, she also mentioned that the most dominant type of code switching is intra-sentential code switching because in this teenlit, there are a lot of English words as well as regional language words.

Meanwhile, a research on code switching in term of reasons was conducted by Kim. In his research, ‘Reasons and Motivations for Code Mixing and Code Switching,’ he investigated why bilinguals mix languages and switch back and forth between two languages, Korean and English. These bilingual phenomena are ordinary phenomena in the area of bilingualism. Furthermore, he quoted Hamers and Blanc (2000), ‘code mixing and code switching were considered as signs of incompetence.’ However, Khner, Yim, Nett, Kan and Duran (2005) remark that an alternative view is to recognize the cultural, social, and communicative validity of the mixing of two traditionally isolated linguistic codes as a third legitimate code. Thus, these phenomena influence bilingual’s language positively. In other words, it indicated the positive factors of code mixing and code switching for language education by discussing societal factors related to the reasons and motivation for these phenomena.

Based on those previous studies, this paper tries to investigate how code switching is used by a writer in her short stories and what her reasons are in using code switching.

## **1.2 Purposes**

The purposes of this research on code switching are:

1. To find out the types of code switching that is used in her short stories.
2. To describe the reasons why the writer does code switching in her short stories.

## **1.3 Methodology**

The writer applies the qualitative method for this research because qualitative research is considered the most appropriate method to identify meaning that refers to the participant's perspective. It is in accordance with what Maxwell (1996) conveyed, "In qualitative research, not only in the physical events and behavior that is taking place, but also how the participants in the study make sense of this and how their understanding influence their behavior."

## **1.4 Respondent**

The respondent of this research is only one respondent. She is a student of the English Department – State Institute for Islamic Studies Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin, in Banten. In addition, she is part of the NGO 'Rumah Dunia', which focuses on literacy program, and she is a chief of FLP (Forum Lingkar Pena) Pandeglang. Furthermore, she has got a scholarship for joining IEOSP (Intensive English and Orientation Program) – IELSP (Indonesia English Language Study Program) conducted by IIEF (Indonesia International Education program), a Full scholarship from US government. Therefore, for 2 months (February – April 2011) she has experience studying at IOWA State University (ISU), Ames, IOWA USA.

Up to now, she has written 6 short stories that has been published. In this research, she just focuses on three short stories, namely Karena Aku Bukan Anna Althofunnisa (in Gilalova, 2010), May be Married (in Terror Married, 2011) and Bayang-bayang Hitam (in Kado untuk Ratu, 2011). The first short story was written before she went to the USA and the second and third were written after she went to the USA.

## 1.5 Research Instrument

In conducting this research, the writer uses two kinds of instrument, namely document analysis and interview. First, from the document analysis, the writer analyzes three short stories that the respondent has written dealing with the types of code switching. Second, the writer interviews the respondent to find out the reason and motivation for why she uses code switching in her three short stories. To keep the validity for the data, the writer does member checking by contacting the respondent to check whether the result of the transcript of the interview is appropriate to what she has conveyed during interview.

## 2. Literature Review

Different definitions for code switching are suggested by several researchers, for example; code switching is defined as the alternation of two languages within a single discourse, sentence or constituent (Grosjean, 2010, Poplack, 2000). Gumperz as quoted in Romaine (2000), said that code switching is the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passage of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems or subsystem. Meanwhile, Macswan (2006) gives a clear definition as the alternate use of two or more languages within the same utterance, as illustrated below:

- 1a. This morning mi hermano y yo fuimos a comprar some milk  
This morning my brother and I went to buy some milk
- 1b. The student brought the homework para le profesora  
The student brought the homework for the teacher

Code switching in which an alternation occurs below sentential boundaries is known as intrasentential code switching (1a), whereas switching between sentences is known as intersentential code switching.

In short, it can be said that code switching is the alternative use of two languages, either within a sentence or between sentences.

## 2.1 Type of Code Switching

Poplack as quoted in Romaine (2000) divided code switching into three types, they are:

- Tag switching; it involves the insertion of a tag in one language into an utterance which is otherwise entirely in the other language. For example: you know, I mean.
- Inter-sentential switching; it involves a switch at a clause or sentence boundary, where each clause or sentence is in one language or another. In addition, it requires greater fluency in both languages than tag switching since major portions of the utterance must conform to the rules of both language.
- Intra-sentential switching; switching in the middle of sentences or clauses or even words. Syntactically risky – it indicates competence in both languages

Meanwhile Blom and Gumperz (in Hamer and Blank, p 258) distinguished code switching based on the style shifting into 2 types:

- Situational code switching; It occurs when the language used change according to the situation in which the conversant find themselves; they speak one language in one situation and another in a different one. No topic change is involved.
- Metaphorical code switching; when a change in topic requires a change in language used, it occurs within a single situation but adding some meaning to such component.

A similar idea is proposed by Hoffman (1991). He differentiates the type of code switching based on the juncture or the scope of switching where languages take place. They are:

- Intra-sentential switching; it occurs within a sentence.
- Inter-sentential switching; it occurs between clause or sentence boundary, where each clause or sentence is in a language or other. For example, *tenia zapatos blancos, un poco* (Spanish English) they were off – white, you know

- Emblematic switching; it is a tag, exclamation, and certain set of phrases as an emblem of the bilingual character. For example, (English Panjabi) it's a nice day, hana? Hai n? isn't it?
- Intra – lexical code switching; it occurs within a word boundary. For example, shoppa (English shop with the Panjabi).
- Establishing continuity with previous speaker; this kind of code switching occurs to continue the utterance of the previous speaker, as when one Indonesian speaks in English and then the other speaker tries to respond in English too.
 

Speaker 1: I can't get leave him coz I love him so much

Speaker 2: Correct! You got the point! Kata banget itulah letak permasalahanmu sekarang
- Involving a change of pronunciation (the switching occurs at the phonological level). For example; strawberry is pronounced stroberi by Indonesian people.

## 2.2 Reasons and Motivation for Code Switching

Grosjean (2010) suggests some reasons for code switching:

- Some bilinguals mix two languages when they cannot find proper words or expressions or when there is no appropriate translations for the language being used.
- Certain notion or concepts are simply better expressed in the other language.
- To fill a linguistic need for a word or an expression.
- Used as a communicative or social strategy to show speaker involvement, mark group identity, exclude someone, raise one's status, or show expertise.
- Quoting what someone has said (and thereby emphasizing one's group identity).
- Specifying the addressee (switching to the usual language of a particular person in a group will show that one is addressing that person).
- Qualifying what has been said or talking about past events.

Meanwhile, Hoffman (1991) proposed that there are a number of reasons for bilinguals to switch their language. They are:

- talking about a particular topic
- quoting somebody else
- being emphatic about something (express solidarity)
- interjection
- repetition used for clarification
- intention of clarifying the speech content for interlocutor
- expressing group identity
- to soften or strengthen a request or command
- because of real lexical need
- to exclude other people when a comment is intended for only a limited audience

### **3. Discussion**

The data consists of analysis related to the purposes of this research. The first is to find out the types of code switching. The second is to identify the writer's motivation in doing code switching in her short stories.

#### **3.1 Types of Code Switching**

The writer code switches her language from Indonesian language to English, Arabic, or to a regional language. These mostly belong to the type of intra-sentential code switching (see Appendix 2), because in the short stories many utterances are inserted with English, Arabic and Sundanese / Javanese words.

1. Short story: Karena Aku Bukan Anna Althofunnisa

There are 7 English words, 4 Arabic words, 1 Sundanese word, and 1 Javanese word.

2. Short story: May be Married

There are 22 English words which are inserted into the sentences.

3. Short story: Bayang-bayang Hitam

There are 29 English words which are inserted into the sentences.

Intersentential code switching is also found in:

1. Short story: Karena Aku Bukan Anna Althofunnisa;

There are 2 occurrences of intersentential code switching

A: *Assalamu 'alaikum, Ukhti? Sapanya,*

B: *Wa'alaikumssalam, jawabku*

A: *Afwan, betul namamu Camelia Munaf? Ana mencari-cari nama antum...*

A: Eh, mbak! *Sampeyan* itu ndak sopan ya!....

B: Aku tak mau kalah, '*Maneh nu teu sopan!* Saya itu menyapa Anda dari tadi...

2. Short story: May be Married;

There is only one occurrence of intersentential code switching

A: *Kapan married?*

B: (paling aku pasang muka *innocent* Agus Ringgo) *and say May (keep smile) may be yes may be no (and go ahead)*

3. Short story: Bayang-bayang Hitam

There are 2 times of intersentential code switching

Emak tidak ingin kamu terjebak pada politik praktis,  
*anak cilaka emak kabawa-bawa Neng!"*

*Hi Lin, you look so serious...staring at grass!"*

logat khas English spanyol Roger mengagetkanku

### 3.2 Reason for Code Switching

Bilinguals code switch for many reasons, one primary reason is that certain notions or concepts are simply better expressed in the other language (Grosjean, 2010: 53). Data from the interview shows that:

Padanan kata yang pas yang mewakili apa yang Lia pikir ya bahasa Inggris, cth lebih enak bilang finansial daripada keuangan, (December 7, 2011)



besides, it is supported by data from the document analysis (short story).

Sepeninggal Bapak, emaklah yang mengatur kehidupanku dan ketiga adikku, dari urusan *financial* sampai urusan kehidupan kami yang lain.  
(D#1KABAA)

Code switching is also used as a communicative or social strategy to show speaker involvement, mark group identity, exclude someone, raise one's status, show expertise and so on, Grosjean (2010: 54). It is in line with what L said in the interview:

Sebetulnya ya Lia pikir yang cocoknya pake bahasa Inggris ketika kita menggunakannya dalam tulisan kita, jadi sebetulnya lebih ke eksistensi pribadi penulis sendiri, *show* that bahwa kita bisa bahasa lain selain bahasa Indonesia *we can use English* terus terkait dengan padanan kata kalo kita *pure* pakai bahasa Indonesia, bisa saja kita cari tapi ya tidak *attractive*. Jadi kalau ingin tulisan kita *attractive* ya sisipkan bahasa yang lain, sebenarnya bukan hanya bahasa Inggris tapi bahasa Sunda atau Jawa. Jadi kita menjual nama daerah kita, jadi lebih *colourful...Identity* bahwa Lia adalah bahasa Sunda (December 7, 2011).

Data from the document analysis (short story) also showed that she uses Sundanese:

Aku tak mau kalah, '*Maneh nu teu sopan!* Saya itu menyapa Anda dari tadi (D#1 KABAA)

Code switching is also used to fill a linguistic need for a word or an expression. It is supported by what L says:

Ya, ada bu...like *spring break*, susah Lia cari padanannya  
(December 7, 2011).

Another reason that the writer does code switching is to strengthen a command. Data from document analysis (short story) supports this:

A : Eh, mbak! *Sampeyan* itu ndak sopan ya!....

B : Aku tak mau kalah, '*Maneh nu teu sopan!* Saya itu menyapa Anda dari tadi...

#### **4. Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the research, it can be concluded that there are only two types of code switching that the writer uses in her short stories, namely intrasentential code switching and intersentential code switching. In addition, the reason why bilinguals do code switching is in accordance with Grosjean's statement. Finally, similar to Poplack as quoted in Grosjean (2010):

Code switching is a verbal skill requiring a large degree of linguistic competence in more than one language, rather than a defect arising from insufficient knowledge of one or the other. (R)ather than representing deviant behavior, it is actually a suggestive indicator of degree of bilingual competence.

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