

## **Code-Switching in the Daily Conversations of University Students in Semarang**

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### Abstrak

Masyarakat Indonesia merupakan masyarakat bilingual dan multilingual, atau masyarakat yang menggunakan lebih dari satu bahasa secara bergantian dalam komunikasi sehari-hari. Bilingualisme dan multilingualisme yang terjadi pada masyarakat di Indonesia ini terjadi karena Indonesia merupakan negara yang memiliki banyak suku dan masing-masing mempunyai bahasa daerah yang berbeda. Kebanyakan dari masyarakat Indonesia menggunakan dua bahasa secara bergantian dalam komunikasinya, yaitu bahasa daerah (bahasa ibu) sebagai bahasa pertama dan bahasa Indonesia (bahasa nasional) sebagai bahasa kedua atau sebaliknya. Dalam ilmu sociolinguistik, fenomena ini disebut *code-switching* atau alih kode. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis meneliti fenomena *code-switching* atau alih kode pada percakapan sehari-hari oleh mahasiswa yang tinggal di sebuah rumah kos yang beralamat di Jalan Tirto Agung No. 4C, Banyumanik, Semarang. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis alih kode yang muncul dalam percakapan sehari-hari oleh para mahasiswa beserta faktor yang mempengaruhi kemunculan fenomena *code-switching* atau alih kode. Penelitian ini merupakan sebuah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif, yakni hasil dari penelitian berupa paparan atau deskripsi. Dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti menggunakan *Participant Observation* atau Teknik Simak Libat Cakap dengan teknik lanjutan *recording Technique* atau Teknik Rekam dan *Note-Taking Technique* atau Teknik Catat.

Penulis menemukan ada 2 jenis *code-switching* atau alih kode, yaitu *Metaphorical code-switching*, terjadi pada saat ada pergantian topik di dalam suatu percakapan dan *Situational code-switching*, terjadi tanpa ada perubahan topik tetapi karena perubahan situasi seperti kehadiran orang ketiga di mana penutur berbicara dalam bahasa tertentu dan situasi tertentu kemudian beralih ke bahasa lain dalam situasi yang lain. Adapun faktor berdasarkan teori yang mempengaruhi munculnya fenomena ini adalah *participant*, *topic*, *setting* dan *function*. Dari empat faktor yang mempengaruhi munculnya *code-switching* tersebut, faktor *participant* menjadi faktor yang paling besar angka kemunculannya di dalam data analisis fenomena *code-switching* atau alih

kode dalam percakapan sehari-hari para mahasiswa di rumah kos yang beralamat di jalan Tirta Agung No. 4C, Banyumanik, Semarang

## **1. Background of the study**

Indonesian people are bilingual and multilingual people who use more than one language in their daily communication. Bilingualism and multilingualism happened in Indonesia because Indonesia is a country that has many cultures, and every culture has different mother tongue. Many Indonesian people use more than one language in their communications. For example, people of Java mostly use their local language or mother tongue that is Javanese as their first language and Bahasa Indonesia as their second language. When people use more than one language, it is called code-switching in sociolinguistics (Hymes in Chaer and Agustina, 2004: 107). Code-switching occurs in bilingual and multilingual community when a person switches from one language, variety, or dialect to another one. People can do code-switching in any kinds of situation and domain. Social context influences someone to convey information by alternating different codes for communication. There are many cases of code-switching which happen in families, schools, offices, also houses. In houses, code-switching occurs when house members switch from one language to another in their communication. One of them is in the boarding house. In the boarding house, in this case in Tirta Agung No.4C, Banyumanik, Semarang, the house members also use certain codes when they communicate with each other. In the setting, one often found both formal and informal situations and that the codes they use are so different. There are also many factors that can influence the choice of particular code or language, such as the presence of the third person and the topic they are talking about. Interested in such a linguistic phenomenon, the writer would like to analyze the code-switching that occurs in the daily conversations of university students who live in a boarding house at Tirta Agung No.4C, Banyumanik, Semarang. This research analyzes two problems, they are: what types of code-switching occurrences in the daily conversations of university students? And what are the factors influencing the university students to use code-switching in their daily conversations?

## **2. Underlying Theory**

### **2.1. Sociolinguistics**

Code-switching as main topic of this research is part of sociolinguistics study which concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used (Holmes, 2001:1) Sociolinguistics actually focuses on how a language is used, so the role of sociolinguistics is to manage a language as its functions in society.

## **2.2. Bilingualism and Multilingualism**

Fishman (in Chaer and Agustina, 2004: 84) states that in sociolinguistics, bilingualism is defined as the usage of two languages by a speaker in his/her communication with each other. In order to speak in two languages, he/she absolutely must understand those two languages. The first one is his/her mother tongue and the second one is the other language which becomes his/her second language. People who use two languages in their daily communication are called bilinguals. Many Indonesian people speak in two languages, and they are called bilinguals. Jendra (2010: 68-69) states that monolinguals are communities who the members speak in one language in their daily communication. Then, he adds that bilinguals are not monolinguals people but they speak in two languages in their daily communications. Multilingualism is defined as the usage of more than two languages by a speaker in his/her communication with each other. The differentiation among monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual can be described as follow; when someone speaks in one language in communication, she/he is called monolingual. Then, when someone speaks in two languages in communication, she/he is called bilingual. And the last one is when someone speaks in more than two languages, she/he is called multilingual.

## **2.3. Code-Switching and Code-Mixing**

Wardhaugh (1992:95) states that code-switching is often quite subconscious. People may not be aware that they switch. As a result, when speakers of various languages converse with each other fluently, they often include words and sentences by using different languages in a single discourse, and shift from one language to the another one. Such conscious and unconscious, conversational strategy is known in linguistics as code-switching. Talking about code-switching, absolutely we will talk about code-mixing. Code-mixing found when the speaker speaks in two languages but occurs in one sentence. It means that speaker produces utterance in two languages but these two languages occur in one sentence. In one sentence, there will be pieces or some words in other language.

## **2.4. Types of Code-Switching**

### **2.4.1. Situational Code-Switching**

Wardhaugh (1986: 102-103) states that situational code-switching occurs when the speaker uses one language in one situation and different language in another situation, and it does not involved the change of the topic. However, situational code-switching is different from diglossia. In diglosic community, people are quite aware in switching their code to another code. On the other hand, in situational code-switching, people may not be aware that they have switched their code from high variety to low variety. Jendra (2010: 76) states that situational code-switching occurs

when the situation change that causes the bilingual switches from one code to another one. The following is an example of a short dialogue which describes situational code-switching occurrence from Bahasa Indonesia to English because of the presence of an English native-speaker friend.

*Agus : Menurutku, semuanya karena mereka tidak tahu persis artinya, De,...*

*Mark : Hi, Agus*

*Agus : Eh, How're you Mark?, Mark, this is Made, our friend from Mataram.*

*Made : Nice to meet you Mark.*

*Mark : Nice to meet you too.*

*What are you two talking about?*

*Agus : Nah, ini dia kita bisa...Mark, can you help us? (Jendra, 2010:77)*

From dialogue above, we can see that Agus switches from Bahasa Indonesia to English after the presence of the third person, Mark. The switching happened because there is new participant.

In conclusion, situational code-switching occurs when there is change in situation then causes the participant switches her/his code from one code in one situation and another one in another situation.

#### 2.4.2. Metaphorical Code-Switching

According to Wardhaugh (1986: 103) metaphorical code-switching happens when there is a change of the topic influencing in the using of different codes. The codes are always changing because of the topic. It depends on the perception's change; formal to informal, official to personal, serious to humorous, and politeness to solidarity. The following is the example of short dialogue which describes metaphorical code-switching occurrence from English to Bahasa Indonesia to affect a serious dialog to be a bit humorous.

*Made : We want to take it, to where...Ya itu tempat kita biasa mancing (fishing), and we are drinking, singing, having fun, ok*

*Ali : And, there we are surfing, swimming...terus, kita jadi pusing-pusing (feeling dizzy) dah...ha,ha,ha...*

*Made : Are you joining, Jim?*

*Jim : okay, then. (Jendra 2010: 77)*

From the dialogue above, the switching happens because of the changing topic. The first topic is talking about activities which can do there. Then, he switches his language to Bahasa Indonesia by saying *terus, kita jadi pusing-pusing (feeling dizzy) dah...ha,ha,ha...* to make a joke.

In conclusion, metaphorical code-switching occurs when the speaker switches from one language to another without signaling any changes in situation and the

change of topic requires a change language use. Metaphorical code-switching involves only a change in topical emphasis.

## **2.5. Factors Influencing the Occurrence of Code-Switching**

In the process of code-switching occurrences, there must be factors influencing the occurrences of code switching. There are some factors of code-switching occurrences based on Wardhaugh, Chaer and Agustina, Jendra and Holmes. According to Wardhaugh (1986:102) the factors influencing a speaker switches from variety X to variety Y or from language A to language B are the solidarity with listeners, choice of topic, and perceived of social and cultural distance. He states that motivation of the speaker is an important consideration in the choice. Moreover, such motivation needs not be at all conscious. Then, Chaer and Agustina (2004: 108) infer that the causes of code-switching occur are the speaker, interlocutor, the change of situation as a result of the presence of the third people, the change from formal to informal situation, and the change of topic being talked about.

Jendra (2010: 74) states that several reasons why bilinguals switch their code are namely; quoting someone, marking and emphasizing group identity or solidarity, including or excluding someone from conversation, raising status, and showing language expertise.

The factors influencing code-switching according to Wardhaugh, Chaer and Agustina, and Jendra can be categorize in the participants, the topic, the function, and the setting based on Holmes (1992:12). The factors influencing code-switching based on Wardhaugh are solidarity with listeners (the participants), choice of topic (the topic), and perceived of social and cultural distance (the function). Then, the factors influencing code-switching based on Chaer and Agustina are the speaker, interlocutor, the change of situation as a result of the presence of the third people (the participants), the change from formal to informal situation (the setting), and the change of topic being talked about (topic). And the factors influencing code-switching based on Jendra are marking and emphasizing group identity or solidarity, including or excluding someone from conversation (the participants), raising status, and showing language expertise, quoting someone (the function). So factors influencing the occurrences of code-switching based on Holmes can cover the other theories.

Holmes is stating that there are four main factors which influence code switching occurrences namely:

1. The participants. They are people who involved in the conversation, including speaker and interlocutor. In this factor, we also consider the solidarity and power between the speaker and interlocutor. For example, if we talk to the people who have a close relation with us, we may talk in informal way.
2. The setting or social context of the interaction. It is a place or background of conversation. For example, we may consider a formal code when talking in formal situation.

3. The topic. It is the content of conversation or what is being talked about. Different topic will influence the choosing code. For example, if we talk about serious topic, we may talk with formal code. Then when the topic is joking, we may talk with informal code.
4. The function. It is the purpose of the conversation that being talked about by the participants. A speech has different purposes like as for giving information, asking something, and many more. (1992:12)

In addition of those four factors above, it is useful to analyze the factors influencing the occurrences of code-switching with these following four different social dimensions (Holmes, 1992:12-13). They are:

1. A social distance scale. It concerns with participant relationships. The scale is useful in emphasizing how well we know someone included in conversation. The scale level is from intimate (high solidarity) to distant (low solidarity).
2. A status scale. It concerns with participants relationships and the scale level is from superior (high status) to subordinate (low status).
3. A formality scale. It relates with the setting or type of interaction and the scale level is from formal (high formality) to informal (low formality).
4. Two functional scales, the referential and affective function scales. It relates to the purpose or topic of interaction. The scale levels are from high information content to low information content for referential function scales and from low affective content to high affective content for affective function scale.

Since the research conducted in a boarding house where the participants are university students, so two of fourth social dimensions; a social distance and a status scales are not used to analyze the data because the participants have same status and social distance. The writer will analyze the data based on a formality scale and two functional scales; the referential and affective functional scales.

### **3. Research Method**

#### **3.1. Type of Research**

In conducting this research, the writer uses descriptive research with qualitative approach as a method focusing in how to manage a study descriptively. In addition, qualitative method is research which does not involve the calculation. This research provides the description of code-switching in daily conversation among university students. The writer will describe systematically and factually the language facts found in the data. In this case, the writer will describe the kinds of code switching and the factors influencing code switching that occur in daily conversations of university students.

### 3.2. Setting

The data collection was conducted in a boarding house located at Tirto Agung Street No.4C Banyumanik, Semarang. The conversation activities occurred in July-September 2012. The writer observes and records the occurrences of code-switching phenomenon within the participants' speech act in their daily communication.

### 3.3. Data, Population, Sample, and Sources of Data

According to Sevilla in Mahsun (2007: 28) population is big group which represents generalizing target. Because of that, population has to be known first. The populations in this research are utterances produced by university students who live in a boarding house located in Jl. Tirto Agung No.4C, Banyumanik, Semarang. In analyzing the sample, the writer uses purposive sampling technique because the data chosen are based on certain consideration. In other word, the chosen samples are based on some considerations that are the conversations should consist of code-switching and the types of code-switching are in accordance with the theory and scope of study. The samples are the students' utterances which contain code-switching. The subject in this research is the boarding house members in a boarding house located at Tirto Agung Street No.4C Banyumanik, Semarang. While the object of the study is the code-switching found in daily conversations. The writer reviews the daily conversations done by university students in the boarding house.

### 3.4. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting related data, the writer uses observation method called *Teknik Simak Libat Cakap* (participant observation) in which besides observing the language used by the participants, the researcher also participates in the conversation with the participants. This method is followed with some steps, which are *teknik rekam* (recording technique) and *teknik catat* (note-taking technique) (Sudaryanto, 1993:134).

### 3.5. Method of Analyzing Data

In this research, the writer uses qualitative method which emphasizes the study of the background intensively, the present status, and the interaction that happened around the language that was used by someone, groups, or certain society. It concerns with providing description of code-switching by participants. The process of the data analyzing begins when the writer collects the data from daily conversation that happened in boarding house. The steps in analyzing data are; presenting the data from the utterance recordings into conversation scripts, reading carefully the raw data from the conversation scripts, selecting any words, phrases, and sentences containing of code-switching, rewriting and translating the data into English, analyzing the data, explaining the types of code switching occurring in the data, describing the factors of code switching occurrences, drawing conclusion.

In analyze factors influencing the occurrence of code-switching, the writer uses two of four social dimension based on Holmes, these are a formality scale and two functional scales, the referential and affective function scales.

#### 4. Data Analysis

##### 4.1. Background of Participants

The participants in this study are university students who live in a boarding house located in Tirto Agung Street No.4C, Banyumanik, Semarang. The participants in this research are students from Diponegoro University and Poltekkes Kemenkes Semarang who come from different places, they are: Jakarta, Tegal, Pekalongan, Sragen, Kendal, and Rembang. So, they have different languages and dialects in communicating with each other. It means that there are many variations in utterances conversed by participants. Each participant can speak at least in two languages, those are Javanese and Bahasa Indonesia, and so they have possibility to switch their code in communicating with one another.

#### 4.2. Analysis

##### 4.2.1. Situational Code-Switching

The writer found 11 data that contain situational code-switching. Wardhaugh (1986: 102-103) states that it occurs when the speaker uses one language in one situation and different language in another situation and it does not involved the change of the topic. These are two of data which show the occurrence of situational code-switching:

##### Datum 9

- R : “Kamu mau tidur sini apa, Nes?” (Do you want to sleep in here, Nes?)
- I : “Ora, aku esuk input KRS maning.” (No, I must input KRS tomorrow)
- T : “Input? Emang belum selesai?” (Input? You haven’t finished?)
- I : “**SKS penuh gitu lho mbak. Jadi, ngambilnya pada seenaknya sendiri. Jadi ada yang enggak dapet kelas. Mau direstart ulang.**” (It is such as full SKS, mbak. So, they take it randomly then it caused some students unable get class. It will be restarted)
- I : “Ayo balik mbak, aku wes ngantuk nemen.” (Let’s go back, I am so sleepy)

The conversation started between participant R and I. In the data above, I switched her language from Tegal dialect, Javanese to Bahasa Indonesia because of the presence of new participant who become the third person, T who asked in Bahasa Indonesia and the speaker knew that T can not speak Javanese. So, she switched her language to make the listener understand her utterances. In the end of the conversation, I switched her language again to Tegal dialect when she talked to R.



The situation of conversation above was changed, at first, there are only two participants, then there is the presence of the third person, T caused occurrence of situational code-switching. When I spoke to T, she use Bahasa Indonesia in the other hand when she spoke to R, she used Tegal dialect, Javanese. From the dialogue above, it was clear that factor influencing of code-switching occurrence is the participant in which participant I switched her codes because of the presence of the third person, T. I switched her code to make her utterance clearly and T can understand her utterance.

This following dialogue is the second data which shows the occurrence of situational code-switching:

**Datum 11**

- S : “Ben rak iso tuku pulsa.” (I don’t care if I can’t buy account for my hand phone.)  
 L : “Hp loro kosong kabeh.” (Both of your hand phones are empty)  
 S : “**Mbak minta pulsa ya, minta sms aku gak punya pulsa.**” (Mbak, may I ask your account of your hand phone please. I do not have it)

The conversation above shows that there is situational code-switching occurrence. There is no topic changing in data above, the topic is same from the beginning until the end of the conversation. The switching happened because there is change of situation influenced by function factor which the speaker switched her language from Javanese to Bahasa Indonesia with certain purpose that is asking for account of Leny’s hand phone who older than her. So, she made her request more polite by using Bahasa Indonesia. Javanese which used by S is *Ngoko* level, so it is more polite if it compared with Bahasa Indonesia. According to Holmes (1992:12) (see page 20) in social dimensions, there is formality scale which relating to the setting or type of interaction. In the conversation above, S make her utterance higher in formality scale. The scale is from low formality, shows when she spoke in Javanese (*Ngoko* level) to high formality, shown when she spoke in Bahasa Indonesia.

#### **4.2.2. Metaphorical Code-Switching**

The writer found 4 data that contain metaphorical code-switching. According to Wardhaugh (1985: 103), metaphorical code-switching occurs when a change of topic requires a change in the language used. Metaphorical code-switching has an affective dimension to it: you changes the code as you redefines the situation formal to informal, official to personal, serious to humorous, and politeness to solidarity. Metaphorical code-switching also found when there is a change in the perception, or the purpose, or the topic of conversation. These are two of data which show the occurrence of metaphorical code-switching:

**Datum 10**

- I : “Sekarang lagi *ngetrend*. Orang pura-pura mati. (Nowadays, the trend is man who acts as if he died)
- .....
- I : “Eggak, jadi dia tuh pura-pura kaku kaya lempeng *ngono lho mbak*.” (No, as if he became stiffed like plate)
- N : “*Lha*, alesannya kenapa? Seru-seruan doang?” (What’s the reason? Is just for having fun?)
- I : “Iya, salah satunya itu.” (Yes, it is one of the reasons)
- I : “Dimulai” (Starting)  
 “Dimulainya sama pelawak atau siapa gitu orang Australia. Dia lagi ning pasar tiba-tiba ngelampruk, tengkurep. Pura-pura mati *ngono lho mbak*. Pas giliran pada ngrumbung ternyata tangi maning. Kaya kue.” (It starts with an Australia comedian or someone, he was in a market then falls suddenly. As if he was dead. When people come, he wakes up. Like that)
- T : “Terus hubungannya sama kita apa haha..?” (Then, what is the connection with us haha..?)
- I : “**Gue itu cuma ngasih tau ke elo ya.**” (I just give the information to you)

The writer found that metaphorical code-switching occurs in the data above. There is topic changing occurred in the conversation. The switching happened when I explained about a phenomenon that she knew from the internet to L in Bahasa Indonesia mixed in Tegal dialect. Then, T involved in the conversation by asking something that has no relation with I’s explanation that is “Terus hubungannya sama kita apa haha..?” (Then, what is the connection with us haha..?) I switched her language to Betawi language to answer question of T who come from Jakarta. The presence of the third person, T influence I changed her topic of conversation because T asking something that has no relation from I’s explanation, so I also spoke in Bahasa Indonesia to address thing clearer to T. In the conversation above, the influent factor of code-switching occurrence is the topic because there is topic changing. According to Holmes (1992:12) (see page 20) in social dimensions, there are two functional scales, the referential and affective functional scales. These scales have two features which are language can convey objective information of referential kind. Beside that, it can also express how feeling of someone. In the conversation above, I’s utterance “*Gue itu cuma ngasih tau ke elo ya.*” (I just give the information to you) simultaneously express both information about why she tells the phenomenon and also conveying her feeling of T.

This following dialogue is the second data which shows the occurrence of metaphorical code-switching:

**Datum 2**

- T : “Orang BRI banyak yang ngekos di situ tau.” (Many officers of BRI stay in that boarding house)
- .....
- T : “Kan PPS belum pegawai tetap. (PPS is not permanent officer yet)
- L : “Kaya pendidikan.” (It is like education program.)  
 “Jadi ditanggung mungkin.” (So, it is probably paid by office)
- S : “**Mbok PNS ngono yo mbak leny yo.**” (I hope PNS can be like that, is that so mbak Leny)
- T : “Milih kosannya yang bagus-bagus tau sehari 700 ribu.” (They chose the luxurios one, seven hundred thousands a day.)
- S : “Sehari?” (A day?)
- T : “Eh sehari, sebulan”. (It isn’t a day but a month)
- S : “Iya dibayarin, ngapain milih yang gak bagus” (It was paid by office, why would they choose the bad one)

The conversation held by three participants; T, L and S. In the conversation above, the occurrence of metaphorical code-switching is shown when S switched her language from Bahasa Indonesia to Javanese. It happened because of topic changing. There is a topic changing from talking about BRI officer to PNS. The first topic is about BRI officers including the facilities given to BRI officers. S suddenly switched her language by saying “*Mbok PNS ngono yo mbak leny yo.*” (I hope PNS is like that, is that so mbak Leny) to L because both of them work as PNS. S expressed her expression to L on how good it will be if their cost of boarding house is paid by office. In the end of conversation, when the first topic occurs, it is talking about BRI officers, S talked to T by switched her code to Bahasa Indonesia again. T and L keep on using her previous language. The topic is the factor which influencing code-switching occurrence in the conversation above. According to Holmes (1992:12) (see page 20) in social dimensions, there are two functional scales, the referential and affective functional scales. These scales have two features which are language can convey objective information of referential kind. Beside that, it can also express how feeling of someone. In the conversation above, S’s utterance “*Mbok PNS ngono yo mbak leny yo.*” (I hope PNS can be like that, is that so mbak Leny) simultaneously express both information about her respond after heard information and also conveying her feeling of BRI officer.

## 5. CONCLUSION

From the data analysis, the writer found that that there are two types of code-switching based on contextual and structural classification. They are situational code-switching and metaphorical code-switching. There are 15 data with the occurrences of data in this research as follows: 11 data of situational code-switching and 4 data of metaphorical code-switching. The writer concludes that university students mostly switch their code in clauses and sentences form to give more explanation and

emphasizes on what they mentioned before. From two types of code-switching, namely situational code-switching and metaphorical code-switching which occur in the data analysis, situational code-switching occurrences is more dominant than metaphorical code-switching. The participants changed their topic in the conversations infrequently. The cause of code switching occurrences mostly because of the speaker speaks in one language in one situation and then switched to other language in other situation. The presence of the third person is one of the causes of situational code-switching occurrences.

The writer also found that there are some factors of university students to switch their code. The factors are the participants, the topic, the setting and the function. There are 15 data with the occurrences of data in this research as follows: 7 data influenced by the participant, 2 data influenced by the topic, 1 data influenced by the setting, and 5 data influenced by the function factor. From the previous chapter, the writer notes that the most influent factors of code switching occurrences is the participant with occurrences of the data are 7 data of code-switching occurrences influenced by this factor.

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