

Code Switching in Utterances of Korean Multilingual Child

(A Case Study of A Korean Multilingual Child Who Lives in Semarang)

Muhamad Syihabuddin Naufal

&

Joseph Herudjati Purwoko, Ph.D.

English Department, The Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang 50275

Saat ini akan lebih baik apabila seseorang memiliki kemampuan multi bahasa (*multilingual*) sebagai alat komunikasi dalam berbagai situasi. Ditemukan di Semarang, para imigran akan membutuhkan kemampuan berbahasa Indonesia untuk berkomunikasi dengan orang lokal. Salah satu faktor bahasa terjadi pada seseorang anak laki-laki yang berasal dari keluarga warga negara Korea yang sudah lama hidup di Indonesia. Menjalani kehidupan di Indonesia dalam waktu yang cukup lama membuat anak tersebut memiliki kemampuan bahasa yang cukup beragam seperti bahasa Korea, Indonesia, Inggris, dan bahkan bahasa Jawa. Sudah pasti anak tersebut melakukan alih kode (*code switching*) dalam percakapan sehari-harinya. Berdasarkan peristiwa bahasa tersebut peneliti tertarik untuk mengamati dan mengidentifikasi alih kode yang terjadi dalam percakapan anak tersebut. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis alih kode dan juga faktor penyebab yang mempengaruhi alih kode yang dilakukan oleh anak tersebut. Peneliti menggunakan metode simak dan juga metode cakap untuk mengumpulkan data. Data yang dianalisis adalah percakapan anak tersebut yang mengandung unsur alih kode. Peneliti menggunakan teori dari Sudaryanto yaitu metode padan untuk menganalisis data. Dari hasil analisis yang dilakukan, peneliti menemukan bahwa ada beberapa jenis alih kode yang ditemukan yaitu delapan (11) *situational code switching* dan tiga (3) *intra-sentential code switching*. Sedangkan faktor-faktor penyebab alih kode yang di temukan dalam percakapan anak tersebut adalah *participants* dan *setting*. Faktor terbanyak yang mempengaruhi adalah faktor *participant* karena ditemukan di semua data dengan faktor tersebut.

Keywords: code switching, multilingualism, types, factors, Korean child.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, mastering second language (L2) or even third language (L3) becomes compulsion for everyone to communicate with people in particular condition. For instance, exchange students or immigrants need to acquire local

language of the country where they are living if the country is not an English speaking country like Indonesia. Every foreigner, who is living in Indonesia, needs to learn Indonesian language or even local languages as their device to socialize with the surrounding local people.

Indonesia is one of potential countries to develop business especially for foreign companies. It is not surprising that many immigrants have come to Indonesia. We can see now that was number of foreigner in Indonesia is increasing. Lately, the researcher has met some Korean families who live in Semarang. Some of them are developing their own business and the others are working in a company. Therefore, they must live alongside with local people.

As the researcher said before, there is a Korean community in Semarang. From that community, the researcher has met a Korean family who has been living in Indonesia for more than 20 years. Now they live and develop their business in Semarang. This family grows up their children in Indonesia; even two out of three children from this family were born in Jakarta. It is not surprising that they adapt to Indonesian culture and environment. They knew how to compromise and communicate well with Indonesian people such as the housekeeper, neighborhood, and coworkers. Some of family members also use English to communicate in particular place and condition. Even local language like Javanese is also used in their daily conversation sometimes. Those conditions have been causing multilingual environment in this family.

The researcher is interested in language phenomenon that happens to the last child of this family. He is currently twelve years old. He studies at an international school in Semarang. It is surprising to know that the boy could use more than two languages in his daily

conversation. The languages that the boy uses are Korean, English, Indonesian, and a bit of Javanese. This phenomenon catches the researcher's attention to conduct a research based on the language fact. Therefore, the researcher brought the phenomenon as a sociolinguistic research entitled "Code Switching in Utterances of Korean Multilingual Child (A Case Study of Korean Multilingual Child Who Living in Semarang)".

2. Multilingualism

In development of modern era today, multilingualism is one of important assets in global competition. Having more than one language, especially foreign language, becomes a good point of personal quality. The meaning of multilingualism is skill of someone who could use more than two languages in daily life. Nowadays, many people use their language skill in many activities such as international business relationship, diplomatic matter, and even just for international friendship. That is why, multilingual skill has important role in this modern world.

According to Meyerhoff, in multilingualism community, the use of different language variation will continuously happen and be influenced by some factors such as environment in an instance, social environment, and geographic (2006; p. 130). In multilingual environment, speaker is enforced to interact and send a message in particular situation based on who is the interlocutor. A language is used in social context as social function; meanwhile other languages are used in

different context and purpose (Meyerhoff, 2006, p.13).

3. Code

People will choose a language or variation of language as a code when they talk to their interlocutor. According to Wardhaugh (1986), code is a system in communication between two or more people as a particular dialect or language chosen in particular condition. Moreover, he said that whenever we open our mouth to speak, we have to choose a language, dialect, style, register, or even variation of language.

4. Code Switching

It is unavoidable that multilingual community absolutely has a tight relation with code switching due to their language skill. Based on Meyerhoff statement, code switching is a phenomenon when a person moves his/ her language from one variety to other variety of language (2006, p.116). Aslinda added that code switching is a tendency of transition in using language because of particular situation. The changes happen in the language or style in a language (2010, p.85). Multilingual community will consider which language is suitable with the condition; because a speaker will definitely choose a language that can be understood by his/her interlocutor (Hudson, 1996, p.51). The following subchapter will explain about some types of code switching.

5. Type of Code Switching

According to some experts of sociolinguistics, there are some types of code switching based on their point of view.

Therefore, the types of code switching are categorized depending on experts' opinion such as follows:

5.1 Situational Code Switching

In this type of code switching the topic within the conversation does not change. The speakers change their code depending on the situation. They speak one language in a situation and another language in other situation without changing the point of the talk (Wardhaugh, 2005, p. 104).

5.2 Metaphorical Code Switching

In contrast, the topic in this type of code switching is requiring to be changed. Metaphorical switch of language changes the subject matter or the topic rather than the social situation (Wei, 2001, p. 117). Some topics may be conveyed in either code, but the code chosen adds different sense to the conversation based on the topic is talked. The code chosen implies certain social values (Wardhaugh, 2005, p. 104). Jendra also added in his book that a metaphorical code switching is a changing of perception, or the purpose, or the topic of the conversation (2012, p.77). In Jendra's book, there is an example of metaphorical code switching that describe some Indonesian students switched their code from English to Indonesian to make a joke and affect the conversation from serious talk into a bit funny.

5.3 Tag Switching

Tag switching happens when speaker inserts a tag, interjection, or a sentence filler in different language (Holmes, 1992, p. 35). Moreover, Jendra (2012, p. 75) said that tag code switching is an ability of a bilingual to insert a tag from different language at the end of his/her utterances.

5.4 Inter-sentential Switching

Inter-sentential switching is a type of code switches when someone changes the code from one to another in different sentences (Kebeya, 2013, p.228). The speaker uses one language in a sentence and use different language in another sentence.

5.5 Intra-sentential Switching

Jendra (2012, p.76) said that intra-sentential code switching is found when speaker insert a word, phrase, or a clause of foreign language inside his/her base language. According to Kebeya (2013, p. 229), the main language of code switched utterance is called Matrix Language (ML), and the less dominant language in code switched utterance is called Embedded Language (EL). EL plays lesser role than ML, and it can be seen from the quantity of the words.

Kebaya (2013, p. 230) mentioned in her journal that some of scholars such as Kachru (1992) and Bokamba (1988) define intra-sentential code switching as code mixing since it is a code switching that takes place in word level. However, other scholars agreed with term of intra-

sentential switching such as Gumperz (1982) and Myers-Scotton (1993b).

6. Factors Causing Code Switching

Some experts have their point of view about the reasons for code switching such as below:

6.1 Participants

The participants here mean the speaker, interlocutor, and a new participant (third person). The appearance of third person could influence code switching happen in conversation (Holmes, 1992, p.35).

6.2 Topic

A change of topic could be a trigger of code switching because some particular contents are more suitable to be explained in different language (Holmes, 2001, p.37).

6.3 Function

The objective of making affective intention also could make the code switched. People who want to make a joke, anger, insult, disapproval, solidarity and another emotional expression may switch the code of their language (Holmes, 2001, p.38-41).

6.4 Setting

The setting also plays role in changing code of language because people will determine their language depending on where and when the conversation takes place. People may choose formal language instead of

informal when they are talking in office (Jendra, 2012, p.71).

7. Background of the Object

The object in this research is a Korean kid (K) who lives in Jl. Bukit Tirta No.4, Semarang. He was born in Jakarta 11 October 2004, so now he is twelve years old. He lived in Jakarta before he moved to Semarang. He moved to Semarang when he was in kindergarten. K lives with his parents, uncle, aunty, cousin and the nannies. Therefore, multilingual environment happened in his home because of the different language skill of each person.

K needs to use some languages in his daily communication. There are some people with different language skill living in his house. His parents speak Korean and a bit Indonesian language. His cousin speaks English, Korean, and a bit Indonesian language. Meanwhile, his nannies mostly use Indonesian and Javanese language. Those people apparently make K need to adapt to his environment. Therefore, K tends to switch the language depending on whom he speaks to. Based on interview that researcher conducted to the boy, he said that English is the most comfortable language to speak.

8. Analysis

In this sub-chapter, the researcher is going to analyze those data above based on research questions of the research. Therefore, the researcher divided the analysis into two parts, which are the types of code switching and the factors that influenced the code switching.

8.1 The types of code switching in K's utterances

The researcher found some types of code switching in K's utterances. The code switching happened when K has conversation with several interlocutors that were recorded by researcher.

1. Situational Code Switching

Situational code switching happened without changing of topic required (Wardough, 2005, p. 104). The researcher found all data that indicate situational code switching in K utterances. The explanations of some data are below.

Datum 1

- I-4 : How was your school today?
K : Don't go to school.
I-4 : Oh really, why?
K : Holiday,
I-4 : Oneul?(Today?)
K : Heem.
I-4 : But I think yesterday is the holiday.
K : Yaaschool is today holiday.
I-4 : Ahh because your school is kind of Chinese school also right? So how many days it will be?
K : Tomorrow will go to school.
I-4 : Aahh only two days? Hmm three days right? Sunday..hmm four days? Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday?

- K : (He showed five fingers, means five)
- I-4 : Five days?Friday?Since Friday? Okay. So, it is supposed to be you have homework, am I right?
- K : Maybe..kak air? (Maybe. I-1, Could you please take me a glass of water?)
- I-1 : Iya.(Yes.)
- I-4 : So how was your holiday going?
- K : Bad.
- I-4 : Why?
- K : Still have lesson.

In this datum, situational code switching occurred between K, I-1, and I-4. There is no change of topic here because K and I-4 are talking about school holiday, but then K feels thirsty in the middle of conversation and asking for a glass of water to I-1. He asked using Indonesian language because I-1 does not speaks English.

2. Intra-sentential Code Switching

Intra-sentential code switching could happen in word, phrase, or a clause level. The speaker could insert the code switching from one language to another language within a sentence. According to Kebeya (2013, p. 229), the main language of code switched utterances is called Matrix Language (ML), and the less dominant language in code switched utterance is called Embedded Language (EL). EL plays lesser role than ML that can be seen from the quantity of the words. The researcher found that K

applied intra-sentential code switching in his utterance.

Datum 11

- K : Kakbukapintu!Itu jus apa to? (I-1, open the door please! What kind of juice it was?)
- I-1 : Mango
- I-4 : Yaa, what I'm saying. It is mango.
- K : Itubau-e ora kayak mango lo. (The smell does not like mango though.)
- I-1 : Kayak apa? Kayak durian? (What does the smell like? Does it like durian?)
- K : Itu kayak buah-e aneh. (The fruit seems weird)
- I-1 : Nggak, itubotolanbesar K. (No, it was in a big bottle, K.)
- K : Haa?
- I-1 : Botolnyabesar. (The bottle is big)
- K : Ahaa.

The conversation of Datum 11 happened at the kitchen when K asked I-1 to open the door for I-4. While K asked I-1 to open the door, he also asked about the juice that he and I-4 had drunk at lesson time in the same time. K was wondering of what kind of juice it was. After K asked to I-1, then he got the answer. I-1 said that it was mango, but K was arguing that it was not. K argued with I-1 using Indonesian language at first. Then in the middle of conversation, he inserted Javanese language in his utterance. The researcher knows that I-1 is Javanese, so she could understand

Javanese language as well. The researcher analyzed the code switching in the following explanation:

Itubau-e ora kayak mango lho

1 2 3 4 5 6

(The smell of it does not like mango though)

In the sentence above, three and a half words out of six are in Indonesia, one and a half words out of six are in Javanese, and then the last one word out of six is in English. The first part of switching is in word number 2. The word 'bau-e' are the combination of Indonesian and Javanese, 'bau' means smell in English and '-e' is an article in Javanese language. Then the second one is Javanese word 'ora', which means does not in English, was inserted in the middle of sentence. Therefore, the researcher found that the sentence above shows that Indonesia is ML, meanwhile Javanese and English is EL.

8.2 The factors of code switching in K's utterances

The researcher found some factors that become reasons for K to applied code switching in his utterances. The researcher has found the reasons from the analysis he did. These are the reasons that the researcher found:

1. Participants

The participants become the most influential reasons for code switching.

The existence of interlocutors with different language skill will determine the language of the speaker. The researcher found many data that are influenced by participants. The participants can influence the code switching because of the ethnic background, language skill, the social relationship and distance, age, occupation and education as well (Holmes, 1992, p. 44).

For instance in Datum 2, the participants influenced K to switch his code.

Datum 2

K : No, we do the question here.
 I-4 : what?
 K : you ask me the question here.
 I-4 : Then?
 K : wait, I have a call.
Yeoboseyo?(Hallo?)
 (the child get a call from his father)
 I-3 : ...
 K : *Jigeum* lesson *isoyeo*. (Now I have lesson).
 I-3 : ...
 K : Hmm..odie? (where?)
 I-3 : ...
 K : *kereomyon, waemogkyokhae?* (Then, why should I take a bath?)
 I-3 : *Mogkyokhaenendae...*(I took a bath but...)

In Datum 2, participants in the conversation are K, I-3, and I-4. The conversation began with K and I-4, who are talking about lesson thing. Suddenly, I-3 as third person called K by phone. K

knew that I-3 would speak Korean, so K directly switched the code from English to Korean. K always speaks Korean to I-3, because they

2. Setting

Setting also plays role to influence the speakers to switch the code when they are talking to their interlocutor.

Datum 4

- I-3 : ...
K : Annhejullyo...jullyo, appaoneulnetkewa? (No, I am sleepy...sleepy. Daddy, will you come late today?)
I-3 : ...
K : Ohhthat's great.
I-4 : Nuguseyo? (Who is it?)
K : My dad. C'mon let's do it.
I-4 : Your dad will come late?
K : Maybe.

In Datum 4, K spoke to his father (I-3) in the middle of English lesson by phone. The researcher found that K switched from Korean to English. In this case, the researcher (I-4) attempted to speak Korean to K in order to practice his Korean language skill. However, K constantly spoke English to I-4 since it was in English lesson time.

9. Conclusion.

Based on the research analysis in previous chapter, the researcher found the types and reasons for code switching in the Korean boy's (K) utterances. The researcher determines the type based on two aspects, which are contextual classification and grammatical classification. Based on contextual classification, the utterances that researcher found in K's conversations are

situational code switching. Meanwhile, based on grammatical classification, the researcher found three data are intra-sentential code switching.

Based on the number of occurrences, all the data could be categorized in contextual classification. However, the researcher only found three data that could be categorized in grammatical classification.

The researcher found some factors that influence K to switch his code in his utterances. The factors are participants and setting. The occurrences of the factors can be seen in the following explanation: all data are influenced by the participants and two of them are also influenced by the setting. From 11 data, some of the data are influenced by more than one factor. Based on the explanation, the researcher concludes that the most influencing factor of code switching in K's utterances is the participant.

10. References

- Arikunto, S. (1998). *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta
- Aslinda, Leni S. (2010). *PengantarSosiolinguistik*. Bandung: PT RefikaAditama.
- Chaer, A., Leonie A. (2010). *SosiolinguistikPerkenalanAwal*. Jakarta: RinekaCipta.
- Holmes, J. (2001). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (2nd ed.). London: Longman Group UK
- Hudson, R. A. (1996). *Sociolinguistics*(2nd ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Jendra, M. I. I. (2012). *Sociolinguistics: The Study of Societies' Languages*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu.
- Kebeaya, H. (2013). Inter- and Intra-sentential Switching: Are They Really Comparable?. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Vol. 3 (5), 228-230.
- Kim, J. H. (2014). Analysis of Code Switching between Korean Course Student and Korean Natives in FIB UI. *Project*. Depok: Universitas Indonesia.
- Meyerhoff, M. (2006). *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. New York: Routledge.
- Moleong, L. J. (2005). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif (edisi revisi)*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Sari, H. P. (2013). Code Switching in The Daily Conversations of University Students in Semarang. *Thesis*. Semarang: Universitas Diponegoro
- Sudaryanto. (1985). *Metode dan Teknik Analisis Bahasa*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Susenda, R. T. (2012). Code Switching within Bajawanese People in Semarang. *Thesis*. Semarang: Universitas Diponegoro.
- Veronica. (2011). Code Switching on Chinese Descendants Conversation. *Thesis*. Semarang: Universitas Diponegoro.
- Wardhaugh, R. (1986). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. New York: Basil Blackwell.
- Wei, L. (2001). *The Bilingualism Reader*. New York: Routledge.