REASONS OF USING CODE SWITCHING BY THE HEAD OF *UNIVERSITAS MAHAPUTERA MUHAMMAD YAMIN* IN THE SPEECHES ON GRADUATION DAY

Leli Lismay

Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Bukittinggi, Indonesia
syarliatsiilah@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The research is based on phenomenona occurs in a multilingual community that tend to use more than one language in communication. The phenomenon is called code transfer which does not only happens in informal situation but also in formal situation, like in speech of university leader, especially the head of Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin University Solok, West Sumatera. The purpose of this study was to analyze the reasons of using code switching by the leader of university in their speech during the graduation ceremony. This research used descriptive qualitative methods, where speech script was a source to be studied and analyzed. Based on the analysis, it was found that the tendency of using code switching was due to the educational background that was taken by the university leader, and also several other reasons related to language habits in multilingual community itself.

Key words: *reason, code switching, speeches*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the principal instrument of communication. It is the instrument to communicate between the speaker and the listener or the writer and the reader. By using language, people can interact each other, express their ideas, mind, and wishes. Every country usually has more than one language spoken by the society. For example, Indonesia has hundreds of local languages that are used by the societies for the regional needs (Chaer, 1994:65). Beside local languages, foreign languages also influence speaking habit in Indonesia, especially English.

Because of the condition above, many Indonesians people can speak more than one language, especially in educated society and also public figures. They tend to use more than one language to express their statement, ideas and opinions. According to Wardhaugh (2006:86), in multilingual society a speaker often switches his or her language from one language to another. In Indonesia, this condition causes the change in the use of language from *Bahasa Indonesia* to another language.

Moreover, bilingualism influences people to switch his language from one language to another in their speech. In linguistic, this phenomenon is named code switching. According to Hudson (1980:56), code switching is defined as a speaker uses different varieties at different times. The use is automatic consequence of the existence of "register", since the same speaker necessarily uses different register on different occasion. In other book, Wardhaugh (2006:102) states that code switching happens when people switched language in a conversation.

Furthermore, code switching is not only used in informal situation, but also in formal situation like in an inaugural

speech, welcoming speech, religious speech, politician's statement and even in president's speech. In Indonesia, there is an inclination of state officials to use code switching in their speech. Some of the sentences hear by the audience in many level of education. It is used to make clear the meaning that is delivered by the speaker, and have an equal meaning in *Bahasa Indonesia*. Code switching itself can be in form of intra-sentential and inter-sentential. It is used depend on the speaker's need. Because of that, the study of code switching involves the use of code switching, types of code switching, reasons to use code switching, functions of code switching, and also the equal meaning of code switching in *Bahasa Indonesia*.

Then, Holmes (1992: 41) says that a speaker may similarly switch to another language as a signal of group membership and shared ethnicity with and addressee. Even speakers who are no proficient in second language may use brief phrases and words for this purpose. The switches are often very short and they are made primarily for social reasons to signal the speaker's ethnic identity and solidarity with the addressee. It also functions as identity and relationship between participants who often express a move along the solidarity/social distance dimension. Switches often serve several functions at once, and not only emphasis the precise message content, but also ethnic identity. Finally, code switching's function is to express the idea when a speaker lacks vocabulary and knowledge in a language.

Wardhaugh (2006:106) also explains that function of code switching can be as solidarity with listeners, as a choice of topic, perceived social and cultural distance. Many speakers are not aware that they have used one particular

variety of a language rather than another. In addition, Coulmas (1997:218) code switching is a strategy to influence interpersonal relations. The major function of code switching distinguishes it from language phenomena. It is explained that the code switching adds a dimension to the socio-pragmatic force of one's "discourse personal" either through the individual lexical choices made or though the way in which code switching is patterned.

Moreover, the function of code switching is to show the expressive need of a speaker. The speaker wishes to express their education level, their roots, sincerity and also their nationality. Variations on these functions can be a reason why a speaker selects code switching. The reasons appear that speakers select a bilingual mode because it suits their intentions. That selection is often below the level of consciousness.

This research was focused to analyse reasons of using code switching by the head of *Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin*. The speech is a formal talk given by the rector and supervisor usually to a large number of people on a special occasion. In an event of ceremony, especially in a rector's and coach council's speeches have to use national language, which is *Bahasa Indonesia*. Based on a short observation, it was found that there was an inclination of rector and coach council to use elements of English as code switching in their speeches. They almost switch their language to English at certain times and then back to *Bahasa Indonesia*. As a head of university, their speeches are listened by any level of people. Because of that, each elements of language used in their speeches will influence people comprehension about the language. It needs to know the

reasons of using code switching in the

speeches.

METHOD

This research was designed as a descriptive research. It was meant that the data had been collected, analysed, and connected based on the fact as they are in the field. According to Donald (1985:322) descriptive research studies are designed to obtain information concerning the current status of phenomena. In addition, Gay (2000:189) states that one common type of the descriptive research is concerned with assessing attitude or opinion towards individuals, opinions, or procedures. This research was done by identifying and analysing the documents of rector and supervisor of *Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin's* speech. So, the aim of this research was to describe code switching in those speeches. The result of the research showed the reasons of code switching used in the speeches.

Population of this research was the rector and supervisor of *Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin's* speeches on graduation day since 2010. Gay (2000:102) states that population is a group of people or things to which the result of study would be generalized and the representation of the population is sample. So, there were 20 speeches analysed as population in this sample. This research used total sampling technique. It means that all the speeches were identified and analysed.

Then, the instrument plays an important role in a research project. Gay (2000: 160) expresses that descriptive data are usually collected through questionnaire, survey, interview or observation. In this research, one of the instrumentz used was document analysis, because this research was done by analysing the printed documentation

of rector and supervisor of *Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin's* speeches that were taken from the graduation's book. Besides that, data were also collected through recording and interview to the rector and supervisor of the university.

The data were analysed qualitatively, since the researcher probes deeply the code switching used by the rector and supervisor. The analyses of the data were conducted based on the technique of qualitative analysis which is explained by Gay (2000:239). The analysis itself requires four interactive steps, they are: reading/memoing, describing, classifying and interpreting. In the first step, the researcher read the data comprehensively in order to make them meaningful for this research. The data were about the code switching used by the rector and supervisor of *Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin Solok*. After that, the data were classified based on the instrument of the research. And the last was interpreting the data. The data were interpreted and synthesized into general understanding. The data were explained for every finding of the code switching used by the rector and supervisor. In this case, the researcher explained about the reasons of using code switching in the speeches.

After analysing the data, the researcher checked the data trustworthiness. The researcher used the technique proposed by Meleong (1990:175), they are: (1) Referential adequacy, this means that the researcher got the data as much as possible, then, the relevant data is stored to be used in another condition. (2) Triangulation;

here, the researcher should compare the sources or analyses the result that donot contradict each other. (3) Peer debriefing; the researcher minimized the bias happening in the research. It was discussed with peers, colleagues who did not involve directly in this research to get neutral opinion. It was done to get some objective inputs and possible cases which were found in doing the research.

DISCUSION

Based on the observation by analysing the printed documentation of rector and supervisor speeches, it was found that in delivering their speeches, they were not fully use *Bahasa Indonesia*. They often used certain part of English as a code switching in their speeches. In the 20 speeches that were used in this research, there were 20 code switchings found as the data of this research. All of the data displayed in this research.

The reasons of using code switching in language can also be listed according to the functions of code switching that try to accomplish. There are basically ten reasons for using code switching in communication (Malik, 1994:20); (1) lack of facility, (2) lack of register, (3) mood of the speaker, (4) to emphasize a point, (5) habitual experience, (6) semantic significance, (7) to show identity with a group, (8) pragmatic reasons, (9) to address a different audience, (10) to attract attention.

From ten indicators of reasons in using code switching in the speech, it was identified that at least there are five reasons of rector and supervisor of *Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin* to use code switching in their speeches on graduation day as explained below:

1. Lack of facility: it was explained that bilinguals and multi lingual use code switch when they cannot find an appropriate expression or vocabulary item

or when the language of conversation does not have the particular word needed to carry on the conversation smoothly. The reason for switching may, however, be culturally conditioned. Hoffman (1991:94) notes that an alien concept often happen as a speaker switch to the language from which the concept is borrowed. For example, "a distinguished person" in English means that the person is wise and has a different style in life. It is difficult to explain in *Bahasa Indonesia*, because of that he used code switching. Hence the phrase of "a distinguished person used and borrowed as an instance of phrase level mixing a s the following example:

"*didalam diri kita harus tetp bersemi daya juang untuk menjadi* a distinguish person"
(inside of ourself should be sprout to be a distinguish person)

2. Habitual experience: it was stressed that code switching often occurs in fixed phrases of greeting and parting, command and request, invitation, expressions of gratitude and discourse markers as Oyes (listen), you know or pero (but), Whereas Hoffman (1991: 46)

reports that in Puerto Rican homes, the mother gives short commands to their children in English, such as *"don't do that…."* and the rest of the mother's warning will be in Spanish. In this case, the reasons also happen because of the speaker's background education. Rector and supervisor of this university are the persons who finish the study abroad, and the supervisor spent more than ten years in his life living in the United States. He finished Master degree and doctoral program there, while rector's wife is Malaysian and their daily conversation is using English more. For example:

> *"sementara kita diposisikan orang sebagai* educated people"
> (while we are in the position of educated people)

3. Semantic significance:lexical choice conveys meaning during code switching. Malik et.al (1994:97) stress that switching at a particular moment conveys semantically significant information. It is a communicative resource that building on participant's perception of two languages. It also explains that listeners interpret code switching as an indicator of the speaker's attitude, or communicative intents and emotions as code switching is a tool for conveying appropriate linguistic and social information. For example:

> *" kuncinya ialah menjawab pertanyaan* do we have a will to conduct?*" yang harus dijawab oleh diri kita sendiri"*
> (the key is that answering the question do we have a will to conduct? That should be answered by ourself"

4. To address a different audience: code switching also used in communication to address the different audience. Malik (1994:98) states that code switching is also used when the speaker intends to address people coming from various linguistic background. For example, in India, the television annoucer often uses Hindi as it is the national language but also switches to English. Also, he often repeats the same in English for South Indians or Indian people who do not know Hindi. Similar types of situations have also been reported in some other setting. Basically, linguistic reinforcement often takes place even in society and formal places. It also can be seen in our country where counsels tend to speak to a number of different interlocutors at the same time. During such occasions abviously they mix codes or switch codes according to the ethnicity of the addressee. One reason for such use of mixed languages is to address simultaneously persons from different linguistic background. Also, the speaker clearly distinguishes whom

he/she addresses and what should be communicated. Hence, the speaker uses part of the sentence in one language and the other part in another language. The example below shows the use of code switching to address a different audience.

> "*Hari ini kita rayakan sebagai hari wisuda atau* graduation day, *adalah hari yang penuh kegembiraan*"
> (today we celebrate the graduation day, the day full of happiness)

5. To attract attention: Analysing code switching utterances in English as a second or foreign language society classifies the functions of codeswitching according to two broad categories, i.e., micro function and the macro function. It can be explained that micro functions shows how codeswitching takes place in the classroom for content transmission. On the other hand, it shows that there is an overall classroom management code switching that is better explained as macro funcion

because it accounts for a specific set of activities, namely, classroom management. In short, macro function involves classroom management whereas micro function involves content transmision. In the speeches, code switching used as macro function where the reason is to get attention from the audience like in the following example:

> " *agar universitas kita menjadi* wellknown university"
> (hope our university will become wellknown university)

Beside analysing the printed document, the reseracher also did the interview with the head of UMMY Solok. The finding found that the tendency of using code switching by the head of UMMY Solok caused by their habitual experinces and also sometimes caused by the reason to address a different audience. As known that their bacground's education has a big influence to the way of speaking. They graduate from the university that using English in daily communication. So, it becomes a habbit to use code switching in speaking for them in daily communication.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

People have many reasons of using code switching in multilingual society. It is sometime as an habbit of them. The tendency of using code switching affect the way of people in speaking on that community, from ten reasons porposed by expert in using code switching, it was found that the head of Universitas Mahaputera Muhammad Yamin have five reasons in using code switching in

their speeches, they are: lack of facility, habitual experience, semantic significance, to address a different aoudience and to attract attention. While from the direct interviews with the head of UMMY Solok, it was explained that the reasons of using code switching is becaused of the habbitual experience.

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