



The reasons and functions of doing code-switch by bilinguals.

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What is code-switching

- code-switching refers to the alternate use of two languages by bilinguals in the same conversation.
- The code-switching process includes not only words but also phrases and sentences.
- Therefore, alternating between languages is an extremely common feature in bilinguals and is one of the crucial aspects of bilingualism.

Types Of Code Switching

Code switching can be classified as follows:

1. Inter-Sentential

In inter-sentential code switching, the language switch is done at sentence boundaries. This is seen most often between fluent bilingual speakers.

2. Intra-Sentential

In intra-sentential code switching, the shift is done in the middle of a sentence, with no interruptions, hesitations or pauses indicating a shift. The speaker is usually unaware of the shift. Different types of switch occur within the clause level including within the word level. Some researchers call it also code mixing.

The functions of Code Switching

1. **To show identity** with a group to stress the fact that they all belong to this group
2. **Lack of Facility** ; switch when they cannot find an appropriate expression or vocabulary item .
3. **Lack of Register**; When speakers are not equally competent in two languages .
4. **To attract attention**; shows that in advertisements (in both, written as well as in spoken) in those countries that English used as a second language, code switching is used to attract the attention of the readers/ listeners

5. Used for **amusement** and dramatic a fact by telling joke for expressing emotions.

6. **Explaining situations and discussing** matters in multicultural society for sending the aimed messages.

7. **For requesting help:** when students have questions form their instructors inside classes.

Why bilinguals do code switch?

- **Globalization** has had a reasonable impact on most languages in societies. Through the connections between individual bilinguals, cultural relationships have improved because language is an effective feature that can produce strong connections between nations.

Crowcroft (2012: 787)

- The natural **mental systems** in human mind support human ability to react with one particular language or two languages in speaking. It is difficult for human to access languages easily without getting instructions from their minds.

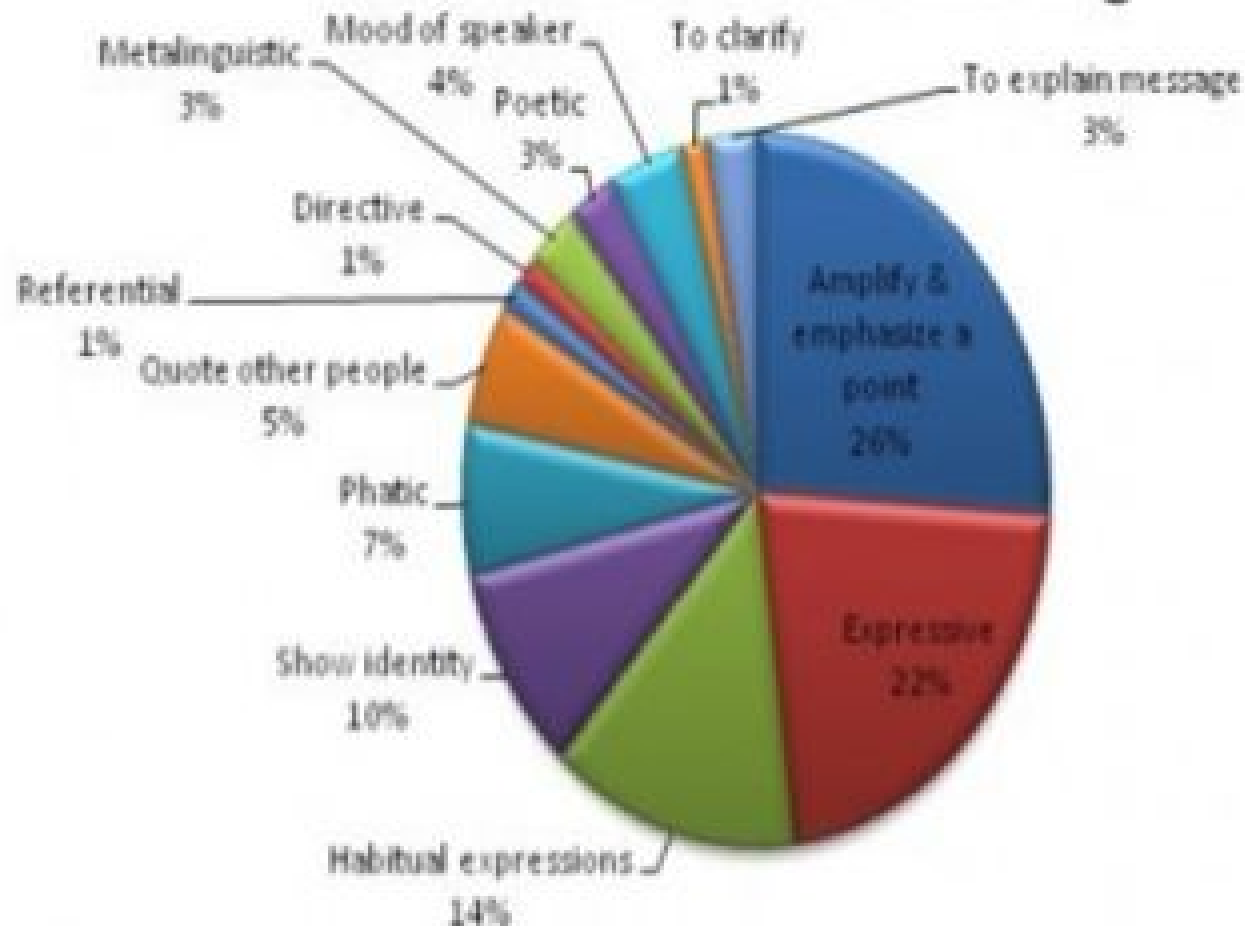
> **Proficiency** in the second language is crucial for bilingual speakers; if bilingual speakers lack this ability they will try to utilize the word in the other language that they are more familiar with, like Spanish and English speakers when they do not have formal knowledge about a particular language.

- **Immigrant groups** in various countries in the world do code switching as well because refugees are not fully familiar with the first language of the nations that they settle in after immigration.



- Bilinguals find it difficult to **organize two languages** in their memory, which causes them to mix the two languages in the communicative process.

Reasons for Code Switching



> Many **words or expressions that have foreign origins** are used by bilinguals; these transferred words are more integrated with bilinguals speech.

This integration simply reflects in bilingual utterances because they feel more confident when speaking in a conversational group.

“code-switching is an unconscious action that is used by most bilinguals because they feel that alternating languages is the best way to achieve their aim in speaking.”

Wei (1998: 156)



Where bilinguals do code switch?

- **Bilingual families**
- **Multicultural schools or classes**
- **Hospitals (between patient's relatives and doctors)**
- **In group discussions so as to include or exclude other speakers from the conversation group.**

-The **borrowing of terms** is another device that is used by bilinguals and this makes bilinguals feel more confident when they code-switch.

Code Switching



Switching between two languages back and forth in the same sentence. Just like the squirrel jumps between two trees.

Mixing Languages or Borrowing



It means using one primary language, but mixing in words or ideas from another. Just like if the squirrel would sit on one tree, but will eat an acorn from another.



Do you have any
questions? Thank you
for your attention