

# **Code switching in its social contexts**

# introduction

- Bilingualism > active role in the kinds of structural diffusion that lead to convergence of linguistic systems
  - Hows the performance of bilinguals who exploit the resources of the languages they command in various ways?
  - Bilinguals achieve this by alternating between their languages,, or by mixing them in different ways

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  - Hows the performance of bilinguals who exploit the resources of the languages they command in various ways?
  - Bilinguals achieve this by alternating between their languages,, or by mixing them in different ways
    - **AKA CODE SWITCHING**

# SOCIOLINGUISTIC SITUATIONS IN CODE-SWITCHING

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  - SITUATIONS IN WHICH SPEAKERS OF NON-STANDARD DIALECTS ARE REQUIRED TO LEARN THE STANDARD VARIETY OF THEIR LANGUAGE FOR PURPOSES OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT >>>> BI-DIALECTALISM
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jguyvVsmnLY>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo3hRq2RnNI>

# code-switching

## Exolingual and Endolingual

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  - EXOLINGUAL interaction involves speakers of different languages
  - ENDOLINGUAL interaction involves speakers with the same language background
    - Either type may involve BILINGUALISM or UNILINGUALISM

# code-switching

## Exolingual and Endolingual

	<b>BILINGUAL</b>	<b>UNILINGUAL</b>
<b>EXOLINGUAL</b>	Interaction among speakers with different languages	Interaction between native and non-native speakers of the same language
<b>ENDOLINGUAL</b>	Interaction among bilinguals	Interaction among monolinguals

# Defining code switching

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  - DRAMA! Researchers dont agree on precisely what kinds of alternation should be included under the designation “code-switching”
  - Scholars would exclude the use of different languages in different situations or activities
  - Some researchers also exclude cases involving “non-contiguous stretches of talk, for example, one occurring at the beginning, other at the end of the conversation”

# Defining code switching

- BASICALLY, CODE SWITCHING IS TAKEN AS REFERRING ONLY TO THOSE CASES WHERE BILINGUAL SPEAKERS ALTERNATE BETWEEN CODES WITHIN THE SAME SPEECH EVENT, SWITCH CODES WITHIN A SINGLE TURN OR MIX ELEMENTS FROM TWO CODES WITHIN THE SAME UTTERANCE

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  - AUER (1995): Four patterns of code switching

# Patterns of code switching

## **PATTERN 1: switches from code 1 to code 2**

- These types of switching often mark a shift in topic, role-relationship or activity. Auer refers to this pattern as “discourse-related” code-switching or “conversational” code-switching.

# Patterns of code switching

## PATTERN 1: switches from code 1 to code 2

- EXAMPLE: bus conductor switches from Swahili to English in an exchange with a passenger
  - Conductor: *Umelipa nauli ya basi?* (Have you paid the bus fare?)
  - Passenger: ...
  - Conductor: *where are you going?*
  - Passenger: *Nafika Jerusalem* (im going to Jerusalem [housing state])
  - Conductor: *You must always say clearly and loudly where you are going to alight, ok?*

# Patterns of code switching

## PATTERN 1: switches from code 1 to code 2

- EXAMPLE: a market-vendor and a customer alternate between Swahili and English as they negotiate prices
  - Vendor: *Habari, mhewshimwa. Have some vegetables* (Hello, respected sir...)
  - Customer: *Mboga gani? Nipe kabeji hizi. How much is that?* (Which vegetables?. Give me these cabbages...)
  - Vendor: *Five shillings only*
  - Customer: *Thats too much. Sina pesa.* (... I dont have much money)

# Patterns of code switching

## **PATTERN 2: negotiation of language of interaction**

- Participants switch from one code to another until consensus is reached on the medium of exchange
  - Mother: *Finished homework?*
  - Son: ... (no response)
  - Mother: *Steve, yiu mo wan sue?* (Steve, do you want to review your lesson?)
  - Son: (1.5 secs) I've finished

# Patterns of code switching

## PATTERN 3: no single language can be identified as the base language

- Referred to as “unmarked choice” and used to express “strategic ambiguity” or a strategy of neutrality.
- Speaker may switch from sentence to sentence leaving language choice open
  - Interviewer: *Unapenda kufanya kazi yako lini? Mchana au usiku?* (When do you like to do your work, days or nights?)
  - Nurse: *As I told you, I like my job. Sina ubaguzi wo wote kuhusu wakati ninapofanya kazi. I enjoy working either during the day au usiku note ni sawa kwangu. Hata family members wangu wamezoea mtindo huu. There is no quarrel at all. Obubi bubulaho.* ([...] I have no difficulty at all regarding when I do work. [...] or at night. [...] there is no badness)

# Patterns of code switching

## PATTERN 3: no single language can be identified as the base language

- *There was a guy, you know, **que he se montó**. He started playing with congas, you know, and **se montó** and **empezó a brincar** and all that shit. ([...] **that he got up [...]** got up and started to jump [...])*
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ez5F2PSUDyg>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgWQoZz6nEk>

# Patterns of code switching

## PATTERN 4: momentary switches

- The kind of alteration is referred to as intra-sentential, or more accurately, intra-clause code-switching.
- It produces utterances which have most of their lexicon as well as morpho-syntactic apparatus from one language, referred to as the matrix language, with insertion of single words or phrases from the other languages, referred to as the embedded language.
  - **BASICALLY:** Mixed constituents in the sentence. English stem “decide” with French suffixes “-er”: DECIDE > DECIDER (Canadian French)

# SOCIAL MOTIVATIONS FOR CODE SWITCHING

- Sociology of Language, Linguistic Anthropology and Social Psychology of Language Choice have contributed to our understanding of social motivations for code switching, and their insights complement one another in providing a comprehensive picture how macro-level societal norms interact with micro-level factors to constrain the linguistic behaviour of bilinguals.
  - **SOCIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE:** provides insight on how macro-level social institutions and group relationships influence patterns of code switching.
  - **ANTHROPOLOGY** investigates how micro-level interpersonal relationships, participant goals and types of interaction affects behaviour in specific encounters
  - **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**, communication accommodation theory sheds light on how attitudes and groups consciousness influence individuals to accommodate to one another through linguistic compromises.

# SOCIAL MOTIVATIONS FOR CODE SWITCHING

- Sociolinguistic Domains: contexts of interaction into which social life is organised and which influence the language of interaction
  - Family
  - Work
  - Religion
  - Friendship
  - Education
  - ...

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Such domains are associated with specific language varieties which are seen as appropriate for a particular interaction.

Domains are “institutional contexts and their congruent behavioural co-occurrences”

# SOCIAL MOTIVATIONS FOR CODE SWITCHING

- Selected domains of language choice among NYC Puerto Ricans. (Greenfield and Fishman 1968)

<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>ROLE RELATIONSHIP</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>LANGUAGE</b>
FAMILY	PARENT/CHILD	HOME	FAMILY MATTERS	SPANISH
WORK	EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE	WORKPLACE	JOB PERFORMANCE	ENGLISH
EDUCATION	TEACHER / STUDENT	SCHOOL	HOMEWORK	ENGLISH

# SOCIAL MOTIVATIONS FOR CODE SWITCHING

- Selected domains of language choice among NYC Puerto Ricans. (Greenfield and Fishman 1968)

- Components do not always correspond so neatly to the configuration shown on the table

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# SOCIAL MOTIVATIONS FOR CODE SWITCHING

- Discussion of a work-related topic in the home setting may lead to conflicting language choice, as do other mismatches among the components of a domain. In such cases, the neat compartmentalization of language choice by domain often breaks down, leading to code switching proper

# DIGLOSSIA

- Diglossia > In diglossic communities, one of the varieties, designated the HIGH language, is employed in more official, public domains such as government, education, literature, etc., while the LOW language is used in more private and informal domains such as the family, friendship, neighbourhood. >>>>> **two related language varieties**

# DIGLOSSIA

- EXAMPLE: KELLER'S (1982) ACCOUNT OF LANGUAGE USE IN GERMAN-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND, WHERE THE DIGLOSSIA IS STABLE AND EVERYONE IS AWARE OF ITS EXISTENCE.
- H: *Sie konnten jenes Häuschen dort drüben nicht kaufen. Es war ihnen zu teuer.* (they can (past) that house (dimin.) over there not buy. It be (past) for-them too expensive)
- L: *Si händ säb Hüüsli deet äne nid chöne chauffe. S isch ene z tüür gsy* (they have that house (dim.) over there not can buy. It is for-them too expensive be)

# CODE SWITCHING AS ACCOMMODATION

- Exclusive use of a language may signal commitment to national identity, while the use of another language may indicate resistance to national identity.
- CANADA: ENGLISH/FRENCH > The use of French in Québec may signal commitment to Quebec national identity, while the use of English may indicate resistance to that nationalism.
- Such choices may simply be due to monolingualism.
- Inter-ethnic interactions can proceed only when interlocutors have determined each other's ethnic affiliation, language ability and language preference, and particularly the values they associate with different language choices.

# CODE SWITCHING AS ACCOMMODATION

- EXAMPLE > CANADA
  - MAN: *could you tell me where the French test is?*
  - RECEPTIONIST (IN FRENCH): *pardon?*
  - MAN: *could you tell me where the French test is?*
  - RECEPTIONIST: *en français?*
  - MAN: *I have the right to be addressed in English by the government of Quebec*
  - RECEPTIONIST: *Qu'est-ce qui'l dit?*

# CODE SWITCHING AS ACCOMMODATION

- In other cases, speakers continually switch languages until some consensus on one or the other is reached, as in the following example:
- CLERK: *central booking, may I help you?*
- PATIENT: *oui, allo?*
- CLERK: *bureau de rendez-vous, est-ce que je peux vous aider?*
- [...] ALTERNATION FRENCH-ENGLISH
- PATIENT: *êtes-vous français ou anglaise?*
- CLERK: *n'importe j'suis ni l'une ni l'autre*
- PATIENT: *mais...*
- CLERK: *ç ne fait rien*

# CODE SWITCHING AS ACCOMMODATION

- Code switching becomes a strategy of neutrality by which speakers avoid committing themselves to a distinct ethnic identity, choosing a middle path instead.
- Situation in Quebec represents one way in which code alteration is linked to social processes and interactions between groups, and becomes a means of expressing relationships of power or solidarity.

# CONCLUSION

- TENDENCY TO RESTRICT THE DEFINITION OF CODE SWITCHING ONLY TO THOSE KINDS OF LANGUAGE MIXTURE PRACTISED BY SKILLED BILINGUALS. HENCE THOSE KINDS OF MIXING THAT CHARACTERIZE THE INTERLANGUAGE OF LEARNERS ACQUIRING A SECOND LANGUAGE TEND TO BE TREATED AS DISTINCT PHENOMENA.
- Code switching is a continuum of language behaviors, and there are no sharp boundaries between it and other kinds of language mixture
- This kind of language performance is a reflection of the way speakers perceive their social identities and relationships to one another, in the broader context of their community's social structure
- Code switching can often be an act of identity by which speakers locate themselves in social space and in relation to their interlocutors
- It is the interplay between social and structural factors that determines the actual types of code switching practised by individuals and groups.

- THE ROLE THAT STRUCTURAL FACTORS PLAY IS SUBJECT OF THE FOLLOWING LESSON