

CODE-SWITCHING: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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This article examines code-switching, where speakers alternate between languages in a conversation, focusing on its types and social motivations. It discusses inter-sentential and intra-sentential switches, with examples from bilingual communities, especially in educational contexts. The research highlights how code-switching serves purposes like identity expression, clarification, and bridging lexical gaps. It also explores its role in social interactions, where speakers switch languages to foster solidarity or adapt to context and audience. The article concludes by emphasizing code-switching as a tool for cultural expression and effective communication in multilingual settings.

Key words: *Code-Switching; Sociolinguistics; Inter-Sentential Code-Switching; Intra-Sentential Code-Switching; Bilingual Communities; Language Alternation; Identity Expression; Lexical Gaps; Clarification; Multilingual Settings; Social Interaction; Cultural Expression; Educational Contexts*

ПЕРЕКЛЮЧЕНИЕ КОДОВ: СОЦИОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ПЕРСПЕКТИВА

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В этой статье рассматривается кодовое переключение, когда говорящие чередуют языки в разговоре, с акцентом на его видах и социальных мотивах. В статье рассматриваются межсентенциальные и внутрисентенциальные переключения, приводятся примеры из двуязычных сообществ, особенно в образовательных контекстах. В исследовании подчеркивается, что переключение кодов служит таким целям, как выражение идентичности, уточнение и преодоление лексических пробелов. Также исследуется его роль в социальном взаимодействии, когда говорящие переходят на другой язык для укрепления солидарности или адаптации к контексту и аудитории. В заключение статьи подчеркивается, что кодовые переключения являются инструментом культурного самовыражения и эффективной коммуникации в многоязычной среде.

Ключевые слова: *переключение кодов; социолингвистика; переключение между предложениями; переключение внутри предложения; двуязычные сообщества; чередование языков; выражение идентичности; лексические пробелы; разъяснение; многоязычные настройки; социальное взаимодействие; культурное самовыражение; образовательные контексты*

What is code-switching?

In multilingual communities, people often switch between languages in a single conversation. This phenomenon is called **code-switching**, and it happens for various reasons—sometimes consciously, sometimes without even realizing it. Imagine a classroom where students are discussing a lesson in English, but when they struggle to find the right word, they quickly switch to Uzbek or Russian to express their thoughts. This natural shift between languages is a key part of how multilingual people communicate.

The types of code -switching

There are different ways people code-switch in everyday life. **Inter-sentential code-switching** happens when someone changes languages between sentences. For

example, a person might say, “I really enjoyed the movie. Но он был слишком длинный.” (“But it was too long.”). On the other hand, **intra-sentential code-switching** occurs within a single sentence, like saying, “My mom bought non and молоко from the store.” (“bread and milk”). Many people in Uzbekistan experience both types daily, switching between Uzbek, Russian, and English depending on the situation.

The Reason to do Code-Switching

Hoffman (1991) classified the reasons to do code switching into seven points, they are as follow:

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a. Talking about a particular topic

People sometimes prefer to talk about a particular topic in one language rather than in another. Sometimes, a speaker feels free and more comfortable to express their emotions, excitements, or even anger in a language that is not their mother tongue (Hidayat, 2012).

b. Quoting somebody else

Hoffman (1991) suggested that “people sometimes like to quote a famous expression or saying of some well-known figures”. People often switch their language when quoting someone especially quotation from their different native language.

c. Being emphatic about something

Someone who suddenly wants to be emphatic about something while talking using a language that is not his native tongue, he or she, either intentionally or unintentionally, will switch from his second language to his first language.

d. Repetition used for clarification

Sometimes a bilingual who wants to clarify his speech to be more understood by the listener, he will tend to use both of the languages that he masters saying the same utterance.

e. Speaker’s personal involvement and desire to be well understood

When a bilingual talks to another bilingual, it was mentioned that there will be lots of code switching and code mixing that occur. It means making the content of his speech runs smoothly and can be understood by the hearer (Hoffman, 1991).

f. Expressing group identity

Code switching and code mixing can also be used to express group identity. The way of communication of academic people in their disciplinary groupings, are obviously different from other groups (Hoffman, 1991).

There are many reasons. Some do it to express their **identity**, using their native language when talking to family or close friends to show a sense of belonging. Others code-switch because they forget a word in one language and use another to **fill lexical gaps**. Sometimes, switching languages helps to **emphasize a point** — for instance, using a Russian or English phrase in an Uzbek conversation to make something sound stronger or more serious. Teachers often code-switch in classrooms for **clarification**, making difficult lessons easier for students to understand. It can also be a way to **adjust the tone** of a conversation, shifting between formal and informal speech, or even to **include or exclude certain people from a discussion**.

Example in real life

During my practicum at a school, I saw code-switching in action. Many students spoke Uzbek at home but used Russian words when discussing topics they often talked about with their families. In English lessons, when they didn't understand a rule, the teacher would briefly explain it in Uzbek to make sure everyone grasped the concept before continuing in English. Some students even used Russian slang like “**мужик**” when joking with friends in Uzbek. This showed how naturally languages blended in their daily conversations.

In conclusion, Code-switching is more than just mixing languages — it's a practical tool that helps people communicate effectively in multilingual settings. In education, it can make learning easier, though overusing it might slow down fluency in a new language. Still, for most bilingual and multilingual speakers, it's an essential part of their everyday interactions, helping them connect with different people and express themselves in the best way possible.

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