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CODE-SWITCHING AS THE FABRIC OF DISCOURSE

It is a truth universally acknowledged that linguistics is the scientific study of language, a complex and interdisciplinary domain whose functionalities encompass a wide range of concepts, terms and phenomena which contribute to verbal communication. Communication of feelings, thoughts, ideas and opinions, etc. can be achieved in speaking according to the speaker's contextual selection of the style and levels of language to be used in creating discourse.

Code-switching is a term in linguistics which refers to shifting back and forth between two or more different languages. One language is considered the matrix or the major language (usually, the speaker's native language), while the other is the additional or embedded language (the speaker's second language). Each time embedding occurs, the fluency of speech is blurred and the message expression becomes particularized. The conventional norms of the matrix language appear to be broken and the meaning is reconstructed according to the speaker's intentions or produced by him unconsciously

> "The point is, code-switching is apparent in all the myriad ways we interact with one another and try to feel each other out."[1] Irrespective of the context, code-switching signals a transfer which unfolds dynamically within dialogues and conversations, interviews etc., starting from simple utterances to complex ones, backed up by propositions denoting a variety of meaning exchanges"[…] the speech event is seen as the basic unit for the analysis of spoken interaction, i.e. the emphasis is on the role of the participants in constructing a discourse of verbal exchanges".[2]

In the same direction, Roman Jacobson, whose well-known linguistic research includes numerous intra and interdisciplinary coordinates, conceptualizes six functions of language within the act of communication, functions also found at the basis of other domains such as literature, sociolinguistics, communication theory, information theory etc.
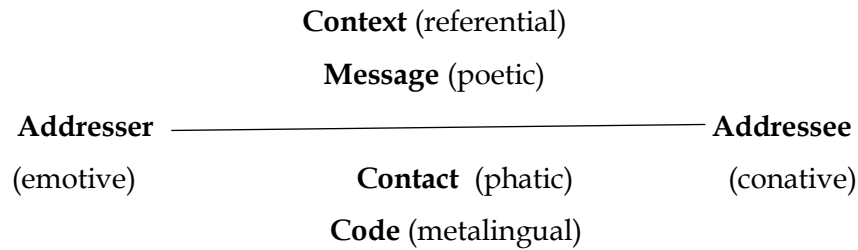
<div align="center">

Context (referential)

Message (poetic)

Addresser ————————————————— **Addressee**

(emotive)   **Contact** (phatic)   (conative)

Code (metalingual)

Figure 1: The six functions of language [3]

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Within a speech event, while code-switching, some of these functions may be identified, as it can be seen in the illustrations provided in the paper.

In related literature, code-switching has been approached from different perspectives, within overlapping domains, such as:

- linguistics, where it is discussed in connection with borrowing through linguistic contact;

- sociolinguistics, focussing on code-switching as a result of bilingualism and multilingualism:

"Bilinguals often switch between their two languages in the middle of a conversation. These code-switchers can take place between or even within sentences, involving phrases or words or even parts of words. The switching of words is the beginning of borrowing, which occurs when the new word becomes more or less integrated into the second language. One bilingual individual using a word from language A in language B is a case of switching, but when many people do, even speakers of B who don't know A are likely to pick it up. At this stage, especially if the pronunciation and morphology have been adapted, we can say the word has been adapted."[4]

- teaching foreign languages, a domain where teachers often code switch in order to provide students with a better understanding of the information theytransmit, explain and exemplify.

Code-switching can occur intra or intersententially. Intrasentential code-switching occurs at the level of clause, phrase, or word level, when the speaker alternates between two languages. Intersentential code-switching "[…] consists of language switches at phrasal, sentence, or discourse boundaries".[5]

People code-switch from various reasons: to be more convincing in what they say; to believe that the switched language is of a superior level,

socially, politically, culturally and thus, attract the addressee's attention and appreciation, to floor-hold, to reiterate etc. Gumperz lists a few examples of situations created to convey meaning when code-switching:

> "- to reiterate the message in order to clarify, amplify or emphasize what is said;
> - to mark an interjection or sentence filler;
> - to qualify constructions such as sentence and verb complements or predicates following a copula;
> - to utter statements which reflect personal opinion or knowledge, whether they refer to specific instances or have the authority of generally known fact;
> - to symbolize varying degrees of the speaker's involvement or distancing in or from the message."[6]

Speaking about code-switching in the Romanian language, in a number of works, the phenomenon is specified in relation with the presence of anglicisms both in today's Romanian vocabulary and diachronically:

> „[influența engleză asupra limbii române nu este o noutate a perioadei actuale, de după 1989. Ea are o vechime de peste un secol și jumătate, timp în care s-a exercitat la început mai puțin direct și mai mult prin intermediul altor limbi, în special franceza. Pentru secolul trecut, chiar dacă nu cercetăm presa și alte documente de epocă, avem mărturia operelor literare ale lui C. Negruzzi, Ion Ghica, și, ceva mai târziu, I.L. Caragiale, cu renumitele „High-life" și „Five o'clock." in [7]

Produced either in an authentic speech or in a piece of literary work, code-switching is motivated both linguistically, stylistically or pragmatically.

The following examples have been picked up from contemporary Romanian literature [8]:

a. Intrasentential code-switching:

> e.g. - Bună, Tim! Sunt Iasmina. […] Iasmina din Canada […]
> -Da, stiu care Iasmina, *the One and Only*, a spus într-un târziu. Ce surpriză! A adăugat."

Code-switching through a phrase, Tim expresses his real and unique love feelings for Iasmina, case in which the emotive function is at work.

e.g. - Eşti student? l-am întrebat direct, n-aveam chef să facem critică de film în avion.

- Nu, lucrez la o companie în *IT* […]

The addressee code-switches by using an acronym with the function of identifying with a group or easing the communication.

b. Intrasentential and intersentential code-switching:

e.g. - E foarte bine. Ai preferinţe culinare?

-Absolut niciuna. Mănânc ce mancaţi şi voi, a zis Lilian pe acelaşi ton vessel.

-*Ok, You're welcome*! a mai spus Glad şi a pus receptorul în furcă."

Glad code-switches in order to emphasize good will and support, to emphasize the joy of meeting Lilian.

e.g. In casă au năvălit trei prieteni de-ai lui, cheflii recunoscuţi şi tovarăşi de petreceri, un American, un francez şi un irlandez.

-*Hey, man!* Doar nu lucrai! i-a spus americanul.

- Mă odihneam un pic, a răspuns Dinu.

Code-switching is used to emphasize surprise at an unusual situation, considered as such by the addresser.

c. Intersentential code switching:

e.g. - Paco, îmi pare rău, dar trebuie să mă retrag. Mă sună mătuşa şi trebuie să răspund, am zis surescitată.

-*No problem*. Nu plec nicăieri."

Paco code-switches to ease the addressee's anxiety, to underline his support and understanding.

e.g. –Trebuie să ajung în Gladville, e un fel de recepţie, se deschide un centru de artă.

-*Wow!* Interesant! Eşti artistă?"

A range of feelings, fascination, delight, amazement, contained in only one word, topically code-switched within the discourse.

e.g. -*What?* La ora asta? Hai, la distracţie! Gata cu munca!..."

Code-switching *what* anticipates the opposition occurring further within the discourse and its persuasive nature.

e.g. -*Hello*! l-a salutat ea voioasă. Nu ne-am auzit demult!

-Hello! Aşa este, m-am luat cu treaba, a răspuns el.″

Hello is code-switched as the prototypical mark of welcoming people, anticipating or introducing the dialogue.

The samples presented indicate a more frequent occurrence of the emotive linguistic function. An interesting approach will be to analyse the frequency of code- switching in teaching Romanian to foreign students.

NOTE:

[1].Gene Demby, *Code-Switching Explains the World*, https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/04/08/176064688/how-code-switching-explains-the-world.

[2]. David Crystal, *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*, Blackwell, 2008, p. 446.

[3]. Roman Jakobson, *On Language*, Harvard University Press, 1998, p.77.

[4]. Bernard Spolski, *Sociolinguistics*, Oxford University Press, 1998, p.49.

[5]. Kelly Ann Hill Zirker, *Intrasentential VS Intersentential Code Switching in Early and Late Bilinguals,* Brigaham Young University, 2007, p.10https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1926&context=etd&httpsredir=1&referer=

[6].J. J. Gumperz, *Conversational Codeswitching. In Discourse Strategies*, Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1982, p. 79-81.

[7].Mihaela Buzatu, *Teoria contactelor dintre limbi; cu privire specială asupra contactelor între română şi engleză*, în *Interculturalia*, „Philologica Jassyensia", An III, Nr. 2, 2007, p. 155-189, p. 174-175.

[8]. Corina Ozon, *Dincolo de furtună*, Editura Herg Benet, Bucureşti, 2019, pp. 16, 20, 21, 50, 136, 160, 161 https://ro.scribd.com/read/428489960/Dincolo-de-furtun%C4%83.

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LE CHANGEMENT DE CODE DANS LA PRODUCTION DE DISCOURS

Résumé: Phénomène aux valeurs culturelles réelles, l'alternance codique est déterminée par une variété de facteurs qui peuvent être définis comme une référentialité motivationnelle du locuteur dans l'acte de communication. Fonctionnel dans le domaine de la linguistique et de la sociolinguistique en tant que moyen de construction et de reconstruction du discours, l'alternance codique est un résultat direct du contact linguistique à travers une variété de facteurs.

Mots-clés: *communication, fonctions linguistiques, changement de code, dialogue, facteurs de motivation.*

Abstract: A phenomenon with real cultural valences, code-switching is determined by a variety of factors that can be defined as a motivational referentiality of the speaker in the act of communication. Functional in the field of linguistics and sociolinguistics as a means of constructing and reconstructing discourse, code-switching is a direct result of linguistic contact through a variety of factors.

Keywords: *communication, language functions, code switching, dialog, motivational factors.*