Code Switching in Bilingual Society: A Case of Bima Family

Hidayaturrohman

English Graduate Department, Mataram University, Indonesia

Abstract

This research was aimed to find the use code switching in bilingual family, the reason motivating the family members do code switching in daily conversation and to find out the types of code switching. In collecting the data, I used a recording device to record the family conversation in natural setting. The collected data from the recorded conversation are transcribed into written form then I classified them into each type of code switching. Based on the data finding, I found that the factor triggering code switching in the family are, the speakers, interlocutors, and the presence of 3rd person. Moreover, there are three types of code switching found in the family conversation namely, tag switches, inter-sentential code switching, and intra-sentential code switching.

Keywords: Code Switching; Bilingual Family; Bilingualism

Introduction

As a tool of human communication language has some important roles in life. One of that and the most obvious is to interact with others in society because human is social creature and live communally. Siahaan (2008) pointed out to Language itself also known as a unique human inheritance that plays the very important role in human's life, such as thinking, communicating ideas, and negotiating with others (cited in Ayeomoni, 2006). Language also has function as a media to express ideas and feelings through spoken or written term. Concerning to the language, in multilingual country like Indonesia there are many ethnics and tribes and they have their own language. One of them is *Mbojo* tribe which is located in West Nusa Tenggara, in Bima the first language is the Bima/Mbojo language or in common well-known as *Nggahi Mbojo*. Moreover, *Nggahi Mbojo* is not only has a function as a tool of communicating to each other but also as a local identity for *Bima* people which cannot be separated each other. In Bima, not all people use it as the first language which means there are some people use others. This situation triggers the occurrence of common cases in bilingual community such as code switching.

According to Skiba (1997) code-switching is the communicative exchange between two language codes among people who contribute to those specific codes. In this exchange, a number of social and linguistic factors direct the way code-switching manifests itself. In natural conversations between two bilinguals, code-switching includes eighty-four percent single word switches, ten percent phrase switches, and six percent clause switching (cited in Moghadam et al. 2012).

The phenomenon of code switching is not only happens between the first and second but also with the foreign language, in this study the foreign language is English. There are some reasons of code

switching, such as a person hard to translate the similar or equal meaning of first language on the second, as Holmes (2013:35) stated that even speakers who are not very proficient in a second language may use brief phrases and words for this purpose.

In this case, this research is about the use of code switching by my family members. A brief description about my family, both of my parents are Bima people who lived and stayed in Lombok. They learned and acquired *Sasak Language* which the indigenous language of Sasak people for many years. Until now, they are able to speak in *Sasak language* as well as *Mbojo language*. This condition make the use of code switching in their daily life cannot be avoided. Base on the case stated above, I intend to find the types of code switching that are used by the Bimanese family members.

Bilingualism

Monolingualism is the ability to use only one language and bilingualism is the ability to use two languages, while bilingual is a person who speaks two languages. Moreover, Rajimwale (2006) stated that bilingualism exist where people readily acquire a second language 'if they need one; and if they have access to its speakers. Other term called multilingualism is ability to speak more than one language. The terms bilingualism and multilingualism refer to knowledge or use of more than one language.

From all those bilingualism is the ability to speak two languages. While, multilingualism is the ability to speak many languages, it is possible a person to know three, four, or even more languages fluently. Multilingualism and bilingualism such as mentioned above that may found in multiple ethnic backgrounds. It can be assumed that bilingual family is a family with most of the family members master or able to speak in more than one language.

Code Switching

Code switching is a social phenomenon in multicultural community which people usually switch or shift their language, whereas it conscious or unconscious. As stated above, code switching is commonly occurred in bilingual or multilingual society. This phenomenon gained a big attention of many linguists over the last century, Harding-Esch and Riley (2003:63) defined that code switching is a phenomenon that is limited to bilingual situations, where bilinguals talk to other bilinguals and where they can call upon the full communicative resources of both language. Further Syahdan (1996) defined that code switching as switch from one language to another or a switch from one variety of language to another within a communicative event (cited in Rizal, 2011:13). It can be concluded that code switching is not only occur between languages but also between language varieties, for example the switch of formal language into informal or in the case of Indonesian society is the switch from *ragam santai* into *ragam baku*.

Types of Code switching

These are the brief explanation of types of code-switching based on Appel and Muysken (2005)

a. **Tag-switches** involve an exclamation, a tag, or a parenthetical in another language than the rest of the sentence. An example is "OYE, when..." at the beginning of the text. The tag etc. serve as an emblem of the bilingual character of an otherwise monolingual sentence. That is why Poplack (1980) has named this type of switching *emblematic* switching.

b. **Intra-sentential Switches** occur in the middle of a sentence, as in "I started acting real CURIOSA.". This type of intimate switching is often called *code mixing*.

c. **Inter-sentential Switches** occur between sentences, as their name indicates.

So based on the three types of code switching explained by Appel and Muysken above I emphasized that code mixing is the unit of code switching, that is intra-sentential switches. In the other word, both code switching and mixing are united and impinging each other.

Reasons for Code Switching

Because of code switching is the case that happened in communication whether it spoken or written, it can be related with the well-known ethnography of communication by Dell Hymes:

(S) Setting including the time and place, physical aspects of the situation such as arrangement of furniture in the classroom; **(P) Participant** identity including personal characteristics such as age and sex, social status, relationship with each other; **(E) Ends** including the purpose of the event itself as well as the individual goals of the participants; **(A) Act**, sequence or how speech acts are organized within a speech event and what topic/s are addressed; **(K) Key** or the tone and manner in which something is said or written; **(I) Instrumentalities** or the linguistic code i.e. language, dialect, variety and channel i.e. speech or writing; **(N) Norm** or the standard socio-cultural rules of interaction and interpretation; and **(G) Genre** or type of event such as lecture, poem, letter. (Farah in Johnston and Marcellino, 2010). Specifically this concept of communication is close related with the reasons for people to switch code, as mentioned by Chaer and Agustina (2010) here are number of reasons why do code switching from one language to another.

   a. *Speakers*

Speakers often do code-switching to get advantages and benefits from what he/she code-switched. Some speakers code-switch because of their habits.

   b. *Listeners/Interlocutors*

Partners can cause to do code-switching, for example, a speaker wants to balance the interlocutor's language capability. Interlocutors can be an individual or a group.

   c. *The Presence of 3rd Person*

The Presence of 3rd person which comes from different backgrounds from the speaker can cause to code-switch because the 3rd person status also determine which language that shall be used.

   d. *Changing from formal to informal situation or informal to formal situation*

The formal to informal situation happens in the class and out the class, in the office and out the office, etc. which depends on the language background of the speakers and partners.

   e. *Changing of topic*

Discussing from one topic to others topic can cause to do code-switch.

Bilingual Family's code switching

The bilingual is regarded as 'someone who speaks two languages perfectly' (Harding-Esch and Riley, 2003:33). This statement closes relevant with the relationship between family members and their language mastery. Most of the families who live in multicultural community with the bilingual or multilingual situation are able to shift between languages consciously. In the other hand, the family members have their own control to select which language they want to use.

Methodology

The method of this mini research is a case study, which means I observe the case about code switching in bilingual family. The result of the data analyzed is in descriptive forms such as words, sentences, and utterances because in this mini research I described the types of code switching and some reasons triggering the family members do code switching.

Participant

The participants of this mini research were almost all of my family members. I also involved myself in the conversation with them to gather the data by asking or just casual chit-chat. By involving myself in the conversation, I can also observe some reasons for my family members do code switching.

Data Collecting

The data of this mini research is collected by audio recording through the recording device. The data is collected randomly, there is no specific time to record the conversation because whole of the conversations are recorded naturally.

Data Analysis

I did some steps of analyzing data. The first one, transcribe the utterances which contain code switching of family members. It helped to classify the form and type of code switching. After the data are collected, they put down in the written form through three steps as follow:

1. Listened carefully the conversation in the recorded data.

2. Transcribed the recorded data as accurate as possible and arrange them as series of written conversation.

3. Classified the data which contain code switching and each type. The data which contain code switching used as the data of investigation.

No.	Type of code switching	Utterances in conversation	
		1	2
1.	*Tag-switches*		
2.	*Intra-sentential Switches*		
3.	*Inter-sentential Switches*		

Appel and Muysken (2005)

Result

The result of this mini research found that almost all of family members are able to speak more than one language fluently. The reasons of code switching in the family are caused by the speakers. The speakers' habit is the main factor to do code switching the second one is the interlocutors. The speakers need to balance the interlocutor's language ability. The changing of the topic also influences the code switching. In this case, there is also a presence of the third person but she does not involve into the conversation. Again, the factor of the speaker who wants to adjust or balance himself to the third person is triggering the code switching.

Discussion

Code switching in Family Conversation

From the observation, I found that all types of code switching were used by the family members while the conversation. All types of code switching appeared in conversation can be analyzed one by one as follow:

a. Tag Switches

Tag Switches is a type of code switching when a family member used an exclamation, a tag, or a parenthetical in another language than the rest of the sentence.

No.	Type of code switching	Family member's Utterances	
		1	2
1.	Tag Switches	*Maeh* bawa sini habis pulsa	*Give it back* the bala used up.
2.		*Ndekko* makan mau jajan.	*I don't want* to eat some snack.

Both tag switches consist of a parenthetic or embedded word in *Sasak* language then the rests of the sentence is in Indonesian. The tag is marked with bold and italic word. The first sentence the tag is word *Maeh* which means to ask someone to give something back. In line with word *Maeh*, the second sentence also contains a tag *Ndekko*, the basic terms of this word is *Ndek* then *ko* is corresponds to the speaker or it also can be like a possessive pronoun which means *No* or *Do not*.

b. Intra-sentential Switches

Intra-sentential Switches occur when a word, a phrase, or a clause of another language is found within the sentence in a base language. These are the samples.

No.	Type of code switching	Family member's Utterances	
		1	2
1.	Intra-sentential Switches	… kasih nonton *video* yan di *download* itu mak.	…mom, let her watc downloaded video
2.		November, bulan desemb Oww ni desember. Pen menarik Axis...	November, now is Dec Oww this is December special offers…
3.		Ya keropos *noh* gara-ga sih *selung-selung* hancur.	Just Porous, it suddenly up.
4.		Arah *buat jajan* sakit marak apah jage.	How to make some while I get a toothache
5.		Gimana *side* bawa kota malem tu?	How did you bring th last night?
6.		Sampe *level* lima belas. It *finish*. Ausi ma *muni mur* ke. Kenapa dia, edee tira ba nahu akana re.	Until the level 15. finished. What sound keep ringing on. Why I forgot to turn it off.

From the examples above, most of the base languages are in Indonesian except the data number 4. In the data number 1, the language is switch into English terms that are words *video* and *download*. Then,

the data number 2 there is a shift of Indonesian into The *Bim*a language term. The word *Ake* means *this, now,* or *present* (depends on the context of conversation). Moreover, both data number 3 and 5 are shift into The *Sasak* language whereas the base language is Indonesian. Word *Noh* is the exclamation of *Sasak* language, then the word *selung-selung* means suddenly. In line with the word *Noh*, the word *Side* in the data number 5 means you in *Sasak* language, it used to show our politeness with the elder people. In contrast, the data number 4 rather different with the others. The base language in the *Sasak* language and it switch into Indonesian, the words *buat jajan* mean to make some cakes.

c. *Inter-sentential Switches*

Inter-sentential Switches occur when an utterance in base language uttered between sentences in the others. These are samples.

No.	Type of code switching	Family member's Utterances	
		1	2
1.	Inter-sentential Switches	Auku, na hanuku pulsa ɾ elina? *Lagi segini pu gitu?*	
2.		Gulem lek luah nu, uja breh sore ni parapanke *pagi aja mendung kay mungkin. Coba buka j ni, gorden.*	It is cloudy outside now that this afternoon will l This morning also ext cloud. Open the window, The curtain.
3.		Kan ndak dikasih sa dokter, *aloh beli aloh mele sakit belong*	The doctor banned you just buy it if you want t sore in your throat.
4.		Nane juluk… *mai wal woiku eeeee*	Hold on… my tooth relapse.

Those four code switching are switch from *Bima* language into Indonesian, *Sasak* language into Indonesian, Indonesian into *Sasak* language, and *Sasak* language into *Bima* language.

Those three examples of code switching from each type show that there are shift between languages, this situation are influenced by parents' mother tongue and children's first language are different. Both parents used *Bima* language when they talk to each other but mostly used Indonesian when they talk to their children. For the children, Indonesian is the most dominant language to used but by the time they acquire more *Bima* language when they listen to their parents in communication. While, the social factor makes the family members are able to speak in *Sasak* language.

Finally, from a brief discussion above the most possible reasons for code switching are the speakers and partners. A speaker switched code because he/she wanted to balance his/her speaking with the others ability and it also occurs by his/her habits. In concluding, code switching is a natural phenomenon which hard to avoid by some bilinguals but sometimes it is necessary to do depends on the typical situations and also the context.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion in above, it can be concluded that:

1. In the bilingual family conversation, all types of code switching are used by the family members.

The types are tag switches, intra-sentential switches, and inter-sentential switches.

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