

**THE SYNTACTIC CONSTRAINTS OF MALAY-ENGLISH
CODE SWITCHING**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Ruang lingkup penelitian ini difokuskan pada penemuan batasan-batasan (*constraints*) secara sintaksis yang ditemukan dalam alih kode yang terjadi dalam kalimat (*intrasentential code switching*) antara bahasa Malaysia dan Inggris. Data yang dianalisis diperoleh dari film Malaysia berjudul *Evolusi: KL Drift*. Dalam menganalisis data, penulis menggunakan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Gumperz (1982) dan Wardaugh (1977).

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 10 batasan (*constraints*) dalam alih kode bahasa Malaysia dan Inggris, yaitu terjadi antara (1) kata ganti benda (S) dan kata kerja (P), (2) kata kerja bantu (*auxiliary*) dan kata kerja, (3) kata kerja (P) dan kata benda (O), (4) kata depan dan kata benda, (5) kata ganti benda dan frasa kata depan, (6) frasa kerja dan kata benda, (7) kata yang menentukan sifat dan kata benda, (8) L 2 morfem bebas (*free morpheme*) dan L1 penanda kepemilikan, (9) kata tanya apa dan kata benda, dan (10) kata kerja dan Malaysia partikel *-lah*. Dalam hal ini alih kode bahasa Malaysia dan Inggris cenderung terjadi pada unsur yang lebih kecil, seperti kata. Kata kerja adalah unsur alih kode yang paling banyak ditemukan, kemudian diikuti oleh kata benda.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 The Background of the Study

Every country in the world may have more than one language, such as Malaysia. Malaysia is known as multilingual country. They have four official languages that are used for different purposes. English is promoted as trade language, Malay as national language, Mandarin as the international Chinese language, and Tamil as the language of one of the important ethnic groups in the republic. Hence switching or mixing the languages is regarded as an usual phenomenon. As stated by Wardaugh (1988, p. 103), "The ability to shift from one language to another is accepted as quite normal".

Malaysian tends to switch or mix the languages. Code switching is considered as a creative strategy to communicate among bilingual speakers. It is only the one way to use both languages during the same conversation. The use of two languages by alternating them in the same utterances is called code switching (Hoffmann, 1991, p. 110).

Recently code switching is regarded as a growing trend in the modern world, It is a kind of unique phenomenon. This situation does not only integrate bilingual speakers but also integrate the structures of both languages. Every language has different structures. Therefore, when the language is switched to the other language, the structure of both languages should be integrated. The integration of two grammatical systems of languages creates a new constraint. Syntatically code switching has its own rules. As Wentz, McClure and Pfaff stated

“Code switching behavior like other linguistic behavior was rule governed” (Macswan cited by Bhatia and William, 2004, p. 285).

The constraints of Malay-English code switching will be analyzed. It will cover the rules of each language. The constraints make code switching become meaningful. By relying on it, code switching can be understood more easily among bilingual speakers in Malaysia. Hence the writer is interested in finding the constraints of Malay-English code switching.

1. 2 The Identification of the Problem

As already mentioned, code switching is a creative strategy in using two languages in the same conversation. Somehow, when switching the languages, the structures of both languages need to be integrated. It creates a new constraint that controls the use of code switching. Some linguists have proposed the constraints of Spanish-English code switching. Timm (Macswan cited by Bhatia and William, 2004, p. 285) proposed 5 constraints as below:

- Switching does not occur within NPs containing nouns and modifying adjectives
- Switching does not occur between negation and the verb
- Switching does not occur between a verb and its auxiliary
- Switching does not occur between finite verbs and infinitival complements
- Switching does not occur between pronominal subject and the verb

The writer is interested to find the constraints of Malay-English code switching used by Malay speakers.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis in chapter 3, the writer finds out the finding. The switching of Malay-English occurs in some syntactic categories, namely verb phrase, noun phrase, prepositional phrase, single noun, and single verb. The most frequent switched segments fall under single verb. It represents 16 out of the 32 samples, while single noun 7 data, prepositional phrase 3 data, subject noun phrase (possession) 4 data, and only 2 data for verb phrase. Most of the switched constituent occurs in the free morpheme. However, some bound morpheme constituents are also found.

Ten constraints are concluded to be the constraint of Malay-English code switching. They occur between (1) pronoun (S) and verb (P), (2) auxiliary and verb, (3) verb (P) and noun (O), (4) preposition and noun, (5) pronoun and preposition phrase, (6) verb phrase and noun, (7) modifier and noun (8) L 2 free morpheme and L1 possessor, and last (9) interrogator and noun (10) verb and Malay particle -lah.

From the ten constraints above, pronoun (S) and verb (P) construction is almost similar to (1) subject predicate construction and (2) verbs of propositional attitudes proposed by Gumperz (1982). While other nine constraints are writer's findings, they are: (1) auxiliary and verb, (2) verb (P) and noun (O), (3) preposition and noun, (4) pronoun and preposition phrase, (5) verb phrase and noun, (6) modifier and noun (7) L 2 free morpheme and L1 possessor, and last (8) interrogator and noun (9) verb and particle -la.

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