



THE AWARENESS OF USING CODE-SWITCHING BETWEEN INDONESIAN AND ENGLISH TOWARDS YOUTHS' DAILY LIVES

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Abstract

All Indonesians have received English lessons from elementary school to high school or vocational school. They can also choose to learn English in college if they are really interested in that major and want to know more deeply about that. From this opportunity, it can allow two different languages to be used as one in a conversation. If this situation is repeated, it will form a new habit for youths that we know as code-switching. This research will find out whether youths are aware of the use of code-switching. Then, as well as examining whether the use of code-switching has several positive impacts on its users. Using the qualitative technique and involved seven respondents who are willing to answer around six questions related to the topic that is being discussed. As a result, those two objectives can be achieved. Youths become aware of the use of code-switching and also benefit from its use in daily life.

Keywords: awareness, code-switching, impact

Introduction

Research background

From the beginning of life, humans create a language that can be used to make their life easier. Language can help them to understand each other's intentions and communicate with other people without worrying if the interlocutor does not understand the topic being discussed. However without language, humans cannot interact or connect with others better and are isolated from this rapidly changing era. Then, language is part of a culture that is inherited from the previous generation to the next generation. Before using the language we know today, humans have used sign language to communicate. However now, humans have used the languages that are commonly used in the society where they live. For example, we have often encountered that there are some people who use two different languages at the same time like Indonesian and English in the fields of education, politics, economics, social, and culture.

All Indonesians have received English lessons from elementary school to high school or vocational school. They can also choose to learn English in college if they are really interested in that major and want to know more deeply about that. From this, the example of using English in everyday life is a form of application of the knowledge that has been obtained while being a student and also stay up to date

with the new trend. In addition, with globalization which allows the exchange of information and the advances of developing technology, Indonesians, especially youths can easily learn a new language. They can learn from trusted websites or applications like *Duolingo* and *Cakes* that focus on language learning like English. They can also learn from films or video series on *YouTube* that use a second language as the intermediate language. They can improve their reading, writing, listening, speaking, and the other skills that they need recently. Furthermore, it is a good thing for Indonesians to learn another language nowadays because they should be able to master two languages, Indonesian and English. Then, as the final result of learning the language, at least they should be able to speak and write the language being studied in their daily lives. From that action, they can expand their critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity skills when facing the new issues around them (Prat & Stocco, 2018).

In using a language, there are two types of language that need to be considered, namely informal and formal language. In using the informal language, youths should use it with their peers or the person that is younger than them. There are also no special rules that must be followed by them and they can adjust the function of the language easily. So, they are completely free to speak and write the languages that they find comfortable to use. On the other hand, in using the formal language, there are terms and conditions that must be followed such as using it to talk to older people and also in formal situations. In conclusion, there are many people, especially youths who prefer to use informal language rather than formal language in their daily conversations to gain effective communication (Muslimawati, 2022).

After that, because of the frequent use of informal language in everyday life, an opportunity can arise that allows two different languages to be used as one in a conversation. If this situation is repeated, it will form a new habit for youths that we know as code-switching. For example, in an interview on an Indonesian tv show, it was seen that Cinta Laura as a young person who can speak two languages, especially Indonesian and English, used English when interviewing Chris Hemsworth who is an Australian actor who plays the role of Thor. In the interview, it was also seen that there was a direct use of two different languages when Chris Hemsworth responded to Cinta Laura's statement in Indonesian and vice versa. From this example, it also shows that one of the uses of code-switching is to show solidarity with the addressee. Then as we know in this example, code-switching is used when the people who are involved in the conversation can listen and speak the languages that are being used.

According to Nilep (2006), "Code-switching is defined as the practice of selecting or altering linguistic elements so as to contextualize talk in interaction." From this definition, the function of using languages in code-switching is to help the users to explain or give information about something or the event that happened and build the social interaction (Sert, 2005). So, if in a conversation there are two different languages used, it is not a big problem. The most important thing is that the people involved in the conversation understand about the languages that are being used and the topic being discussed. However, do other people, especially youths who see the acts that Cinta Laura do and so on, know and realize that it is a process in sociolinguistics, namely code-switching.

People who can use two languages or are bilingual, sometimes do not realize the change in use between the two languages they master because it has become their habit and occurs spontaneously in their daily lives (Martínez, 2014). From that, the brain cells of the people who speak two languages or more can quickly respond when it is necessary to use two languages at once in a conversation with the other person. However, it should also be considered that the use of code-switching can be done and beneficial if the addressee also knows and understands the language used by the speaker. If the addressee does not understand the language, it is not recommended to use code-switching because it will make it impractical and then the speaker will need to explain what he or she means twice or more.

Research Questions

In composing this research, the researcher will get the data from the interviewees. So, this research is qualitative research. After that, through this research, the researcher wants to find out whether youths are aware of the use of code-switching. As well as examining whether the use of code-switching has several positive impacts on its users, especially for youths who use code-switching more often. This research also attempted to answer the following research questions:

- (1) Are youths aware of the use of code-switching?
- (2) What are the students' reasons for using code-switching?
- (3) How can the use of code-switching have several positive impacts for the youths?

Method

In collecting data to compile this research, the researcher uses the qualitative technique. The researcher conducts interviews one by one with the participants directly and uses the media conference that is *WhatsApp* video calls. In the process of each interview, there are six questions that each of the participants should answer. The participants should give the answers based on their understanding and experiences. However, before the interview of each interviewee begins, the researcher has determined the criteria for the participants that can participate in this research. There are two criteria that become the basis for consideration. First, the participants are youths in the range of ages 18 years old until 27 years old or still have youth spirit. Lastly, the participants at least have used code-switching once that is Indonesian and English and vice versa. After that, the researcher conducts interviews randomly with seven interviewees that pass the requirements that have been made.

Then, in this research, the researcher also takes data using random sampling. So, the researcher asks randomly several of her friends or people who pass by to become the interviewees for this research. All of those researcher friends and the people who pass by are Indonesians and have the ability to listen, speak, read, and write English as their second language. From this action, each sample or in this case the researchers' interviewees has the same possibility to be selected or interviewed to fulfill the data needs of this research.

After that, in analyzing the data gathered, the researcher uses narrative analysis. The researcher will describe the results of the interviews based on the research questions in the form of paragraphs. Each paragraph will contain answers and also the interviewees' experiences regarding the use of code-switching in their

daily lives. Using this data analyzing technique, it can help the researcher and the readers compare the data obtained from each interviewee and get new insights from it.

Findings and Discussion

As explained in the background of this research, we will discuss the results of interviews with interviewees related to the research questions that have been formulated. The data were obtained through interviews that was conducted on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 with seven interviewees by exploring data regarding awareness of code switching. The data will be presented in two parts. The first part discusses youth awareness and reasons for using code-switching and the second part discusses the positive impacts of using code-switching.

Youth awareness and reasons for using code-switching)

From the seven interviewees, there were four people who knew what it meant by code switching and there were three people who didn't know the term. However, after being explained by the researchers about the meaning of code-switching, most of them said that they always use code-switching in their daily lives. According to respondent one, she said that she uses code switching because there are certain sentences that are more comfortable to use in English. She usually uses code switching when talking to her friends, younger sister, and close relatives. Then, for respondent two, the use of code-switching has become a habit for him when talking to friends, co-workers, and parents. So no wonder he always uses code-switching in a conversation. Next, respondent three, she does not use code-switching too much, only sometimes to help her explain things to the other person. Respondent four often uses code-switching because she is a student who is studying the foreign languages. The use of code-switching is a demand for her learning and has influenced her habits too. After that, respondent six sometimes uses code-switching to express herself. Respondent seven often uses it, according to him a few words in English can help him to communicate verbally or in the writing form. Then, he also uses code switching to make his conversation become more efficient than using the other language that is Indonesian. He will perform code-switching when talking to friends and other people who understand the use of English better. On the other hand, respondent five rarely uses code-switching, but she sometimes uses code-switching in the writing form or when chatting with her friends in the social media.

Positive impact of using code-switching)

From the results of interviews that have been conducted, there are six respondents who say that the use of code-switching is important to implement and also has some positive impacts in their daily lives when interacting with other people. However, there was one respondent, which is respondent five who said that the use of code-switching did not have much impact on his life because she preferred to use only one language when communicating. So, the use of code-switching is not really important for her life.

Here are some discussions about the answers from each respondent. Respondent one said that the use of code-switching can increase her vocabulary, make communication more flow, and be able to express herself more. Furthermore, respondent two claimed that there are many terms that really need to be in English.

So using code-switching makes him realize the functions of using several words in the languages that he uses. Respondent three said that she feels that code switching is necessary to use, especially if youths want to learn English and get closer when talking with their friends. Then, respondent four said that using code switching is useful for increasing language knowledge and also raising social status. The other positive impact is that it can help to explain in detail about what the respondent six think towards the issues around her. The last, code-switching is beneficial for the respondent seven because it gives advantage to make his conversation more efficient.

Conclusion

From the data presented, it can be concluded that youths already have an awareness of the use of code-switching in their daily lives. They can use two languages at once, for example Indonesian and English in a conversation. They also understand that in using code-switching the important thing that should be considered is that the other can easily get to know the main topic that is being discussed. So that there was no miscommunication between the two parties involved in the communication. After that, code-switching can also have a positive impact for youths or the people who use it. It can help to increase vocabulary, express themselves in a unique way, explain things more clearly, and so on.

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