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STUDENTS' MOTIVATIONS, REASONS AND ATTITUDES TO CODE-SWITCHING: A QUESTIONNAIRE STUDY

ABSTRACT

The article investigates the phenomenon of *code-switching* among bilingual speakers – Polish students studying English Philology who switch to English by inserting English words, phrases and even whole sentences while speaking their mother tongue Polish. The study is based on the questionnaire and aims at determining the various reasons and functions of code-switching (CS), the attitudes and the factors which either facilitate or impede its occurrence. The study demonstrates that code-switching constitutes an indispensable part in the respondents' daily interactions although their attitudes, functions and factors which determine the incidence of code-switching are miscellaneous and vary considerably.

KEYWORDS: code-switching, functions, attitudes, questionnaire, bilingual students

STRESZCZENIE

Artykuł przedstawia zjawisko przełączania kodów wśród polskich studentów filologii angielskiej. Badanie zostało przeprowadzone na podstawie kwestionariusza i przedstawia analizę funkcji, nastawień ankietowanych oraz czynników, które determinują występowanie tego zjawiska. Artykuł wykazuje, że przełączanie kodów odgrywa istotną rolę w interakcji respondentów, chociaż ich nastawienie, funkcje zjawiska oraz czynniki mniej lub bardziej wpływające na jego występowanie są zróżnicowane.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE: przełączanie kodów, funkcje, nastawienie, kwestionariusz, studenci dwujęzyczni

INTRODUCTION

Code-switching has constituted an interesting phenomenon for many researchers for a long time: “Codeswitching, the use of more than one language in the course of a single communicative episode, has attracted a great deal of attention over the years, [...] (Heller 1988: 1). There have been various linguistic studies of code



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switching – mostly amongst English Philology students studying at Polish universities (Niżegorodcew 2000; Gabryś-Barker 2007; Golubiewski 2012; Noińska, Golubiewski 2018), but also among Russian Philology students (Noińska, Pietraś 2020) and others.

This research study deals with the phenomenon of code-switching from a sociolinguistic perspective. Based on the responses of the Polish students studying English Philology at the University of Silesia, the study aims at determining the respondents' attitudes towards code switching, its functions and motivations. It also attempts to determine the factors which either facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching.

The research study concentrates on the speakers who use Polish which is their mother tongue and who code-switch by using English – in other words who switch from Polish to English and not vice versa. The study is based on the questionnaire that is divided into two parts: the first part is based on ten open-ended questions the informants are supposed to respond to, the second part encompasses some possible reasons for and functions of code-switching based on a 5-point Likert-type scale. The opinions have been collected from English Philology students at the University of Silesia in Katowice. The respondents' answers obtained in the questionnaire constitute the basis for findings, observations and conclusions with reference to the phenomenon of code-switching.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND LITERATURE REVIEW DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPT OF CODE-SWITCHING, TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING

Code pertains to the system of communication employed by two or more people who communicate with each other. Code-switching involves “the use of two languages in the same clause” (Myers-Scotton 2002: 3), or similarly “the alternate use of two languages or linguistic varieties within the same utterance or during the same conversation” (Hoffman 1996: 110). It occurs when languages or dialects are combined in a particular conversation by bilingual speakers (Gardner-Chloros 2009: 4) and pertains to a non-systematic process of mixing languages (Cantone 2007). However, there are also researchers who regard code-switching as a combination of languages and not language varieties or dialects (Gonzalez 2008). It occurs naturally in the speech of bilingual speakers “[...] code switching, which is the inevitable consequence of bilingualism [...]. Anyone who speaks more than one language chooses between them according to circumstances” (Hudson 1996: 51).

Nevertheless, the majority of the researchers agree that *code-switching* is based on the use of two or more languages, but also varieties, styles or registers (Hudson 1996). It refers “not only to different languages, but also to different variety of the

same language as well as style within a language” (Romaine 1989: 111). Hence, code-switching occurs at the interlingual level when alternating between two or more languages, but also the intralingual level when alternating between two or more varieties. Admittedly, “Command of only a single variety of language, whether it be a dialect, style, or register, would appear to be an extremely rare phenomenon, one likely to occasion comment (Wardhaugh 1998: 100). Hence, “The term ‘code-switching’ is preferred to ‘language-switching’ in order to accommodate other kinds of variety: dialects and registers” (Hudson 1996: 52). Muysken (2000: 1) separates the two terms – *code-switching* and *code-mixing* stressing that the former occurs between sentences (on an inter-sentential level) and the latter within sentences (on an intra-sentential level). In other words, whereas the former pertains to using two or more languages in a particular communicative setting, the latter is based on using two or more languages in a sentence.

Code-switching is associated with the ability to select the language based on certain factors, such as the interlocutor, the situational context, the topic of conversation etc. (Meisel 1994, as cited in Shay 2015: 464). Code-switching occurs purposefully and is not regarded as a random phenomenon any more. On the other hand, Bogocz, Bortliczek (2016: 214) stress that although codeswitching is done consciously and purposefully, it does not exclude spontaneity or naturalness of the phenomenon.

There are three main types of code-switching: *inter-sentential*, *intra-sentential* and *emblematic/tag switching* (Poplack 1980: 613–615; Romaine 1989: 112); *inter-sentential*, *intra-sentential* and *extra-sentential code-switching* (Harmers, Blanc 2000: 259–260). Whereas inter-sentential code-switching occurs between sentences – that is at the sentence or clause boundary where a whole sentence in another language is inserted, intra-sentential code-switching occurs within a particular sentence – in the middle of a sentence. Whereas the former refers to the insertion of the whole sentences, such as ‘Ukradli nam telefon – Shit happens’, ‘moglibyśmy się tam wybrać – what do you think?’, ‘Zdałeś prawo. Are you kidding me?’, ‘Jesteś urocza, you know that, honey’, the latter is used in order to apply single words or phrases in one particular sentence, such as ‘było awesome’, ‘to tylko taki joke’, ‘muszę na jutro napisać paper’, ‘mam full roboty’, ‘jeszcze tylko trzy tygodnie i będziemy free’ etc. (the examples provided by Golubiewski 2012: 34). The third type of code-switching – *tag switching* is based on the insertion or addition of a tag or a set phrase or a word from one language into another one (a word or a phrase), such as ‘you know’, ‘well’ etc. (Holmes 2001: 35; Hamers, Blanc 2000: 259), or ‘nice’, ‘fuck’, ‘no worries’, ‘what’s up?’, ‘great’, ‘well done’, ‘really’ (Golubiewski 2012: 33). Apart from the three types of code-switching mentioned above, McArthur (1992, as cited in Golubiewski 2012: 33–38) distinguishes the fourth type – *intra-word switching*, which occurs within a word, for instance ‘prodżekt’, ‘Mam deadlajna w piątek’, ‘Callnij do mnie’..., etc. (Golubiewski 2012: 33–38).

REASONS AND FUNCTIONS OF CODE-SWITCHING

There are also various reasons and motivations why people engage in code-switching and the reasons change according to the interlocutor, the topic and the contextual setting (Baker 2000: 34). In fact, the function constitutes a primary concern when discussing code-switching which is usually applied for a particular reason: "It is impossible to discuss code-switching without looking at its functions it performs. Code-switching normally has a specified purpose and speakers usually have good awareness of using two or more languages interchangeably" (Biedrzyńska 2012: 165). First of all, the speaker's intention should be taken into account. There are also various classifications, i.e. based on Hoffman's classification of functions of code-switching (Hoffmann 1991, as cited in Stapa and Khan 2016: 183–184), there is a list of ten functions of code-switching: discussion of a topic, quoting others, emphasis and solidarity, exclamation, repetition for clarification, group identity, clarification speech content for the people we communicate with, reduction of the force by mitigating or strengthening a request, filling the gap by compensation for lack of words in the mother tongue, and finally exclusion of others. Malik (1994) distinguishes ten functions of code-switching, which are the following: lack of facility, lack of register, mood of the speaker, to emphasize a point, habitual experience, semantic significance, to show identity with a group, to address a different audience, pragmatic reasons and to attract attention. According to Walid (2019), the most common reasons or functions of code-switching are solidarity, social status, topic, affection, persuasion, the lack of specific vocabulary in a given language.

Moreover, the linguistic competence of a speaker is insufficient at times and as a result he/ she might code-switch (Błasiak 2019). In addition, bilingual speakers have difficulty finding the right words or expressions at the time of speaking. At other times, there is no adequate equivalent or translation, which impedes communication and thus the need to find a solution to facilitate communication. As a result, the speakers tend to code-switch and insert the words or phrases from another language as it is often easier and quicker. Hence, "In the above sentence, the English substitutions of Polish equivalents were probably used for convenience reasons, i.e., it was quicker for the speaker to encode some parts of the message in English than search for Polish equivalents which additionally might be unavailable for the speaker at the time of its production" (Biedrzyńska 2012: 165). Moreover, some words or phrases are more adequate or simply more suitable in a particular contextual setting. There are also a number of words and phrases which are very difficult to translate or which cannot even be translated into the first language and as a result, code-switching is a good solution. Additionally, speakers tend to code-switch when they quote someone or something – a famous expression or an utterance, including some important historical figures whose words were translated in many languages (Appel, Muysken 2006). Furthermore, code-

switching can also be used for emphasis or persuasion. The choice of a particular topic is crucial and might determine the preference for a language as it is sometimes easier or simply more natural for bilinguals to discuss particular topics in one of the codes (Malik 1994; Walid 2019). Overall, code-switching is not associated with a lack of knowledge, lack of skills or insufficiency of linguistic competence on the part of the speaker. In fact, most speakers perceive code-switching as a positive phenomenon (Nordin *et al.* 2013). Similarly, claim Bullock and Toribio (2009: 4), “CS does not represent a breakdown in communication, but reflects the skillful manipulation of two language systems for various communicative functions”.

Speakers also engage in code-switching according to various circumstances, for instance depending on the purpose of the conversational exchange and social factors, such as social background, age etc. A particular situation might provoke code-switching – more specifically if the scenario of a situation changes. Thus, “When there is some obvious change in the situation, such as the arrival of a new person, it is easy to explain the switch” (Holmes 2001: 35). One also tends to code switch to indicate solidarity or social distance (Holmes 2001: 36), group identity (Gabryś-Barker 2007: 304), group membership or shared ethnicity (Holmes 2013: 35). In addition, code-switching may occur for educational purposes as a good strategy with a view to practising the target language Biedrzyńska 2012: 166) Sometimes speakers feel more comfortable when expressing their feelings in a language that is not the language used on a regular basis (Holmes 2001: 38; Holmes 2013). Moreover, code-switching occurs when a speaker strives to attract attention and thus maintain the floor or persuade others, which is often the case in a number of advertisements (Malik 1994; Appel, Muysken 2006). At other times, people might wish to code-switch in order to sound prestigious, classy or impressive, to show off and impress other interlocutors: “Finally, one may not rule out the possibility of switching between the codes to achieve a rather cheap effect of showing off one’s knowledge” (Biedrzyńska 2012: 166). It is also common to code-switch in order to avoid taboo language, such as swear words as it is easier to swear in the second language rather than in our mother tongue. At other times, code-switching is indispensable in order to achieve a humorous effect (including the use of swear words at times, which is the case in jokes). Furthermore, Malik (1994) stresses the importance of the mood or state of the mind of the speaker. Admittedly, emotions, such as excitement, annoyance, surprise, anger, can provoke code-switching (Appel, Muysken 2006), which can also be confirmed in the research studies. Therefore, “Both the German and the Polish survey respondents mentioned that their emotions influence their code-switching” (Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 71). Additionally, there are various fixed phrases – greetings, commands, requests, invitations, expressions of gratitude, discourse markers etc. which facilitate the incidence of code-switching (Malik 1994). Finally, code-switching (amongst the students in this respect) might occur without any justifiable reasons (Nizęgorodcew 2000, as cited in Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 70). There is another taxonomy which is worth mentioning – the six functions of code-switching distinguished by Appel

and Muysken (2006) – *referential, directive, expressive, metalinguistic and poetic*. According to Appel and Muysken (2006), code-switching has a referential function in case of the deficiency of the knowledge of one language or when one language is more suitable than the other one when choosing a particular topic to discuss, for instance due to vocabulary. Secondly, it has a directive function as it can either include or exclude potential hearers from the interaction. It has an expressive function as the occurrence of code-switching is associated with certain feelings or emotions, such as anger, sadness, disappointment which accompany us when we speak a different language, with a speech style and identity. In addition, code-switching has a phatic function due to changing the tone of the conversation with a view to highlighting the information. It is also metalinguistic involving the language and finally poetic as it might be connected with humour, for instance jokes, puns in order to achieve a humorous effect.

Taking into account the complexity of the purposes of code-switching, Baker divides them into *linguistic* and *non-linguistic* (Baker 1997). Baker (2011, as cited in Malliaroudakis 2015) divides the purposes of code-switching into two broad categories: *social uses of code-switching* and *lexical uses of codeswitching*. In terms of the former, there are the following aims: interjecting a conversation, injecting humour in a conversation, excluding someone from a conversation, relating a previous conversation, reinforcing a request, copying another's speech patterns, portraying a certain identity to shorten/lengthen social distance and bonding and changing one's attitude and relationship. The latter encompasses the following purposes: emphasizing a point in dialogue, expressing a concept with no equivalent in another language, substituting a forgotten word, repetition to clarify a point and introduce certain topics in conversation (Baker 2011, as cited in Malliaroudakis 2015).

As can be observed, there are a number of different aims and reasons for the occurrence of code-switching. This study, which concentrates on the sociolinguistic aspects of code-switching, will attempt to account for the various reasons for code-switching. Hence, for the purpose of the analysis, the most important functions, factors and motivations for code-switching have been selected with a view to verifying their validity and confronting them with the students' responses – that is, their perception, motivations, attitudes to the phenomenon of code-switching based on the responses of the informants and the factors which might provoke code-switching to occur.

STUDY DESIGN – METHODOLOGY

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Code-switching is undeniably commonly used among the students of Philology, which is not surprising due to the respondents' proficiency and linguistic competence in English (their L2) and of course their mother tongue. There have

been numerous studies which investigated code-switching from various perspectives, including Polish speakers of English (Ożańska-Ponikwia 2016) or students studying Philology (Niżegorodcew 2000; Gabryś-Barker 2007; Golubiewski 2012). Nevertheless, it seems that one should pay more attention to its functions and reasons among bilingual university students who are native speakers of Polish and at the same time fluent speakers of English. In other words, it is important and recommendable to investigate the phenomenon of code-switching more thoroughly in these contextual settings. It is necessary to stress that the research study focuses on Polish students who switch to English while using their mother tongue and not vice versa.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY, RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research study attempts to register and identify the various motivations for code-switching by the students who (for some reasons) switch from their mother tongue Polish to English. There are the following objectives to be formulated in the present study:

- To identify the functions, reasons and types of code-switching among the respondents;
- To identify the factors which either facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching;
- To identify the respondents' various attitudes to code-switching.

PARTICIPANTS

The informants of the study were 120 Polish L2 users of the English language – Polish students (40 males and 80 females) of English Philology at The University of Silesia in Katowice. Their age varied from 19 to 22 years. These were Bachelor's students – first and second-year students studying English whose majors are: business, teaching and culture-media-translation – more specifically the specializations within the English Philology program. The study is only limited to first and second-year students in order to have the basis for further research in the future encompassing Master's students. This would definitely constitute interesting materials to compare the students representing different proficiency levels in order to continue research in this respect. The students are fluent and their level of English is between B2 and C1 as they are studying English Philology. In other words, the informants are proficient in both Polish (which is their mother-tongue) and have a very good command of English – both spoken and written.

TOOLS

In the study, one tool was used – that is a questionnaire in English which consisted of two parts (see Appendix). The first part was based on ten open-ended questions, which the informants were asked to respond to. The questions touched upon the various details pertaining to code-switching, such as the frequency, the circumstances, the various reasons, the factors which either facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching, the topics, the choice of the interlocutors, the attitudes to this phenomenon and finally the types of code-switching. The choice of the questions which appeared in this part is based on all these aspects which are dealt with and described in the scholarly literature.

In the second part of the questionnaire there are some possible motivations and functions for code-switching and it was scored on a 5-point Likert-type scale asking the informants to choose from Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree and Strongly disagree. In this part, the informants' task was to decide to what extent they agree or disagree on the importance of the suggested reasons and functions for code-switching. It is important to stress that the second part of the questionnaire constitutes a compilation of various motivations and functions based on a number of research studies. Based on the literature, the author compiled all the motivations in one table in order to assess their significance.

The content of the questionnaire in both the first and the second part is strictly related to the aspects which are described and analyzed in the research studies on code-switching. To be more specific, the questions in the first part and the motivations and functions in the second part pertain to all the aspects which are constantly investigated by the linguists. Hence, the purpose of the study was to deepen the knowledge about code-switching, but also obtain the results in order to interpret them with reference to various other studies which had been conducted up till now.

PROCEDURE AND DATA GATHERING

The informants were given 20 minutes and were asked to fill in a questionnaire. They took 15–20 minutes in order to complete the questionnaire with various questions on the phenomenon of code-switching. The questionnaires were administered in paper – in class at the Department of Philology at The University of Silesia in Katowice. The first part with open-ended questions which the respondents were supposed to answer and the second part based on a 5-point Likert-type scale where they were asked to assess to what extent they agree or disagree with the given motivations and functions of code-switching. Based on the questionnaire the students' responses contribute to a better understanding of the motivations, reasons and functions of code-switching which occurs in everyday contextual settings and which the respondents engage in naturally and spontaneously.

DATA ANALYSIS – RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the informants' responses, the author analysed the data with reference to the objectives and research questions. Based on the first part of the questionnaire, the respondents' various answers were registered and later they served as the basis for further analysis and interpretation with reference to the previous studies. Similarly, the data obtained from the second part of the questionnaire pertaining to motivations and functions of code-switching and students' responses based on Likert scale enabled the author to evaluate and interpret the significance of the functions. In other words, it was possible to assess to what extent the given motivations and functions were important for the respondents and to compare the results with previous studies.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The following are the responses given by the informants:

1) **How often do you code-switch?**

- very often, pretty often, quite often, a lot, every day, almost every day, regularly, all the time, it is my routine;
- not very often, but it happens sometimes when I cannot remember a word;
- not so often – I code switch when I do not have a clue how to say something in the language I speak.

One observes that the frequency of code-switching varies – from the highest frequency until the lowest. Most of the informants admit that they code-switch often or regularly. There are only some who do not practice code-switching very often. However, there are various reasons (discussed below) why the occurrence of code-switching is variable. There are those who engage in code-switching regularly or frequently and those who do it very seldom. Taking into account the respondents who engage in code-switching less frequently, we can observe that they only code switch when it is necessary – when they lack adequate words.

2) **Where do you usually code-switch? In what situations/ circumstances do you code-switch?**

- while talking to my friends, family, in everyday conversations, if I know that they will understand me;
- when I forget the needed word;
- when joking, talking fast or casually;
- on the Internet, via a messenger;
- with people who make me feel comfortable;
- not with those who do not speak English.

We can identify a number of circumstances where code-switching takes place. These are mostly public places where we spend most of the time. There are also various circumstances where code-switching comes easily or where code-switching becomes more or less needed, such as the need to find a better word or phrase in L2, the need to express oneself better or more accurately, the choice of our interlocutors, their linguistic skills, competence, the formality of a situation etc., where the less formal or official situations facilitate the occurrence of code-switching.

3) **Why do you code-switch? For what reason? What is the purpose?**

- when I forget the word in Polish, when I lack a word in Polish or cannot find a proper word;
- it is spontaneous, natural;
- it can be funny, for a humorous effect, to make others laugh;
- it happens naturally or accidentally - to joke or for fun;
- not to show off - only to express humour;
- to express my feelings, emotions more accurately, more precisely;
- to convey a message or an idea better or easier;
- an English word or phrase is perfect or more suitable for the situation;
- some words or phrases sound better in English than in Polish;
- to show off at times;
- to express myself better because there is no word in Polish which can express what I want to say i.e. the word which I need does not exist in one language;
- to express some things better that way or when I forget the word;
- to express myself, to express things that I do not know in my native language;
- sometimes Polish equivalents do not convey the same meaning;
- because I tend to forget words at times and need to express myself;
- to express some feelings more strongly;
- to sound better or funnier, such as quotes from movies, memes, jokes etc.;
- sometimes it is easier to express some things in another language;
- to express something I cannot express in one language;
- to learn new vocabulary, it is easy to show my feelings in a foreign language;
- to express anger, annoyance, frustration.

There are many different reasons for code-switching. Code-switching enables speakers to insert the missing words which they lack and thus they compensate for the deficiency in the vocabulary. Moreover, there is always the need of conveying our thoughts, emotions and feelings fully, easily, more accurately or more precisely, which correlates with other research studies (Noińska, Pietraś 2020: 90 etc.). A lot of speakers often face the situations where we they simply lack suitable words or phrases and switching from L1 to L2 comes naturally and easily (Holmes 2001). There are some words which do not convey the same meaning in L2 – regardless of

what language we take into consideration, not only English. As a result, “Another reason very frequently mentioned by both Polish and German students is that a foreign expression better matches a given context as there is no exact equivalent in the other language” (Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 70). Based on other opinions, there are often situations where some words, phrases or whole sentences sound better, funnier, more fashionable or even more natural and spontaneous in certain exchanges. This reason is also mentioned in other research studies, since “An inserted word seems to sound better because it can fully express the message that the speaker wants to convey ... To nie będzie student-friendly sesja” (Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 70). For some respondents, code-switching leads to the formation of humour, which is also confirmed in Noińska, Golubiewski’s observations (2018: 70) or similarly in Noińska, Pietraś (2020: 87). There are also those who engage in code-switching when they are angry or frustrated. In other words, code-switching also takes place when expressing emotions and feelings (Holmes 2001: 38). As can be seen, most of the reasons provided by the informants are reflected in other studies (Gabryś-Barker 2007; Noińska, Golubiewski 2018).

4) What factors facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching and why? [participants – their status, gender, age or the situation – formal, informal]

- if you belong to the group, in informal, casual situations;
- the situation – mostly informal, with friends, with young people;
- more comfortable with the people I know;
- easier with the people of my age;
- not in formal settings or with people of “higher status”;
- when talking to my friends and I am sure that they will understand;
- when a person does not understand the language that I use – in that case it is stupid;
- the more formal the situation, the less code-switching;
- gender does not matter;
- when I am angry, frustrated.

5) What factors facilitate or impede the choice of the interlocutors you code-switch with? Does it matter who/ what kind of people you code switch with? Why?

- I need to know the people and to feel comfortable with them; with people my age;
- less with people who are not in my age group;
- the people have to understand what I am talking about;
- easier to talk to peers, friends - you feel less pressure, in casual settings;
- mostly when talking to people I know – close friends who also code switch and are quite comfortable with that, who will understand the purpose;

- with family because I am sure they will understand and will not find it odd;
- comfortable talking to close friends and strangers;
- it happens naturally, a way of expressing oneself.

Based on questions 4 and 5, there are certain conditions which facilitate and impede the use of code-switching. The formality of the situation is apparently important as the respondents stress the fact that casual settings are favourable as opposed to more formal situations which impede the incidence of code-switching and at least make code-switching less natural or inappropriate. Moreover, the choice of the interlocutors is important as code-switching is natural and successful with the people who are communicatively competent and fluent in L2 or not necessarily very fluent, who are in the same social position, who know each other well or are friends with whom they feel comfortable (Meisel 1994, as cited in Shay 2015: 464). The age of the interlocutors is also important as they feel comfortable when they code-switch with other interlocutors of the same or of similar age. Thus, the difference in the age might impede the occurrence of code-switching. It is also necessary to stress that for the respondents, code-switching occurs naturally, so they do not even need to have a particular reason, which is consistent with other studies and observations (Niżegorodcew 2000: 154–155, as cited in Noińska, Golubiewski 2018; Noińska, Pietraś 2020: 86).

6) When you code-switch, what relationship are you in with your interlocutor(s)? How close is your relationship with your interlocutor(s)? Is closeness an important factor?

- close relationship is important – friends, not strangers, to feel comfortable;
- not with people I do not know in order not to sound posh, artificial;
- close, as somebody can think that I show off;
- the closer you are with someone, the easier it is to code switch because the person understands your intentions better;
- it can be someone I barely know; the age of my interlocutor is important and the formality of our conversation;
- closeness – not important.

Based on questions 6, it is undeniable that closeness and familiarity between people are crucial factors. Code-switching with the people we do not know, seems more difficult if not impossible. The reason is that the interlocutors would feel uncomfortable while code-switching with strangers or with the people socially distanced from them, which would also cause the whole situation to be unnatural and weird. Nevertheless, there are also some respondents who do not stress the necessity of code-switching only with the people they know. As a result, we can observe that the choice of the interlocutor and also a contextual setting – that is formality of the conversation, are of great importance (Baker 2000: 34; Meisel 1994, as cited in Shay 2015: 464).

- 7) **What topics do you raise when you code-switch? Are there any topics which are more or less favourable in order to code-switch? If yes, why?**
- about intimate matters because it is easier;
 - all kinds of topics – hobbies, interests; unsophisticated, casual topics;
 - topics based on humour, jokes, not about serious matters, such as death, illnesses;
 - no specific topic – the settings are more important, the topic does not matter;
 - mostly emotions because some words are more accurate in other languages;
 - topics of everyday life, movies, hobbies, school, work, the news, culture, jokes, TV.

As we can observe, there are various topics which are raised while code-switching and most of them refer to daily life. Moreover, these are less serious topics related to daily themes and activities, such as hobbies, television, school, work, news, media, but also feelings, emotions, cultural issues etc. There are also those who claim that there are no specific topics which are needed to code switch, which is also observed in other studies (Noińska, Pietraś 2020: 88). Moreover, natural, casual settings contribute to the occurrence of code-switching, which conforms with Niżegorodcew's observations (2000: 154–155, as cited in Noińska, Golubiewski 2018). Similarly, humour and funny situations provoke and facilitate the occurrence of code-switching. Hence, "English words are used mainly as means of emphasis or as humorous elements, making the style of speaking more vivid" (Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 66).

- 8) **What attitude do you have to code-switching and why?**
- I like it – it helps me to express myself better;
 - good, positive, funny, helpful, nice;
 - acceptable if not overused – if used from time to time;
 - I do not like it – I feel insecure;
 - positive – it makes communication fun, it allows me to learn foreign words;
 - all right unless it is pretentious and posh, but for fun;
 - good for training your mind and developing your level, competence;
 - cool – you can show off;
 - nice, but when people overuse it, they want to show off;
 - alright if used naturally, not if you want to impress people or seem more intelligent;
 - all right in informal, casual conversations;
 - I have nothing against code-switching;
 - neutral attitude, no attitude – it happens.

9) **How is code-switching regarded amongst your friends?**

- as funny, hilarious, enjoyable, all right, appropriate, normal, needed (to express our thoughts more accurately and thoroughly), well-regarded, natural, spontaneous;
- normal, acceptable; with strangers or people of higher position – unnecessary, artificial, embarrassing;
- nice if there is not too much of it, cool as long as someone does not overuse it;
- some do not care; others frown upon any instances of code-switching;
- annoying when there is too much of it or if you are not understood.

Based on the responses to questions 8 and 9, the respondents view code-switching rather positively. Based on the responses, it can be pleasant, enjoyable, educational and hilarious. It is natural and even spontaneous. This confirms that although code-switching is done with consciousness and purposefully, according to the respondents it is a natural and spontaneous phenomenon (Bogocz, Bortliczek 2016: 214). It is also suitable and positive provided that it is used appropriately, which means at the right moment with the right interlocutors, with the suitable amount and for the right purpose. Thus, it is viewed positively as long as it is not overused. Similarly, Noińska, Pietraś (2020: 90) observe that “Many respondents regard code-switching as a positive phenomenon provided that it is not overused or used with a view to showing off with the language competence” (the translation is mine). Moreover, code-switching is successful and positively valued in informal settings and with close friends or people they know. It serves many functions, such as the chance to express oneself in a better way or more accurately, to learn, to be more communicative, to express one’s thoughts more accurately. Code-switching is also used by the informants to evoke humour. These motivations correlate with the answers obtained in other research studies (Gabryś-Barker 2007; Noińska, Golubiewski 2018).

It would definitely be unsuccessful, unnatural and even embarrassing with those whose English is not good enough to communicate fluently, with strangers, with those whose social position is higher and finally with those who show off or overuse it.

10) **What type of code-switching do you mostly use and why? Intra-sentential (within a sentence) or inter-sentential (at either end of the sentence)?**

- intra-sentential – more sense to change words with the flow of the sentence;
- mostly intra-sentential – adjectives or nouns;
- intra-sentential – when I forget words in Polish;
- intra-sentential code-switching because I forget basic words and fill them without losing the flow of the conversation;
- intra-sentential – usually a word that I do not know how to express in my language;

- mostly intra-sentential because some words or phrases sound better in L2;
- at the end or they are just pushed into a conversation like single words;
- inter-sentential because it sounds more natural than within a sentence;
- both types – when I miss the word in Polish (intra-sentential) or to express my feelings, opinions, or to fuel the sarcasm (inter-sentential);
- both types – it depends on a situation or on my mood.

Most of the respondents admit to intra-sentential code-switching which is based on the insertion of words or phrases in the middle of the sentences (Golubiewski 2012). The respondents often mention the problem of lacking adequate words when they are unable to find the right word or expression at a particular time or they have a better equivalent of the word or phrase in L2. Another reason is that some of them simply sound better or more pleasant. However, there are also some respondents who use inter-sentential code-switching for sarcastic reasons or simply because it is unnatural to insert words or phrases within sentences. There are also those who are in favour of both intra-sentential and inter-sentential code-switching.

Table 1. Motivations and functions of code-switching and students' responses based on Likert scale

I code switch in order to:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. express oneself, compensate for the deficiency, "fill the gap" when lacking the necessary lexicon, to use a more proper word / expression	71 59.1%	35 29.1%	12 10%	1 0.8%	1 0.8%
2. express my feelings more accurately	54 45%	46 38.3%	14 11.6%	5 4.1%	1 0.8%
3. express my emotions more accurately	53 44.1%	44 36.6%	17 14.1%	5 4.1%	1 0.9%
4. express or convey an idea or a thought more accurately or more effectively	49 40.8%	52 43.3%	11 9.1%	8 6.6%	0 0%
5. express unity, group membership	10 8.3%	30 25%	60 50%	14 11.6%	6 5%
6. communicate solidarity or affiliation, belonging	7 5.83%	24 20%	60 50%	22 18.3%	7 5.83%
7. fit in, talk like others in a group, not to stand out	8 6.6%	16 13.3%	32 26.6%	37 30.8%	26 21.6%
8. express humour, cause a humorous effect or laughter	63 52.5%	44 36.6%	11 9.1%	2 1.6%	0 0%

I code switch in order to:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
9. sound classy, prestigious, show off sometimes	7 5.83%	24 20%	32 26.6%	30 25%	27 22.5%
10. feel more comfortable when using taboo words or raising taboo topics	24 20%	48 40%	27 22.5%	14 11.6%	7 5.83%
11. attract attention, maintain the floor	4 3.33%	20 16.6%	33 27.5%	31 25.8%	32 26.6%
12. persuade others, sound more reliable, credible, trust-worthy	3 2.5%	22 18.3%	41 34.1%	36 30%	18 15%

Based on the results from the second part of the questionnaire, 71 informants (59.1%) strongly agree whereas 35 informants (29.1%) agree with the first statement. As many as 54 informants (45%) strongly agree and 46 students (38.3%) agree with the second statement regarding feelings. Similarly, 53 students (44.1%) strongly agree and 44 (36.6%) agree with the third statement referring to emotions. 49 informants (40.8%) strongly agree and 52 students (43.3%) agree with the fourth statement pertaining to expressing ideas or thoughts more accurately or effectively. However, only 10 informants (8.3%) strongly agree and 30 (25%) agree with the statement that code-switching enables them to express unity or group membership. 60 informants (50%) have a neutral attitude to this aspect. Similarly, 60 informants (50%) have a neutral attitude with reference to solidarity or affiliation to a group. 7 respondents (5.83%) strongly agree and 24 agree (20%) with the statement that by code-switching one expresses solidarity and belonging. However, 22 informants (18.3%) disagree and 7 informants (5.83%) strongly disagree with this statement. 32 informants (26.6%) have a neutral attitude, 37 informants (30.8%) disagree and 26 (21.6%) strongly disagree with the seventh statement. On contrary, 63 informants (52.5%) strongly agree and 44 informants (36.6%) agree with the statement that code-switching can bring a humorous effect. 24 informants (20%) agree that code-switching facilitates showing off. However, at the same time, 32 informants (26.6%) have a neutral attitude to it and 30 respondents (25%) disagree with the statement. 48 informants (40%) agree that thanks to code-switching, one feels more comfortable when using taboo words or raising taboo topics, 24 informants (20%) strongly agree with this statement and 27 informants (22.5%) have a neutral attitude. 20 respondents (16.6%) agree, 33 informants (27.5%) have a neutral attitude and 31 informants (25.8%) disagree with the statement that code-switching helps us to attract attention and maintain the floor. Finally, 41 informants (34.1%) have a neutral attitude, 22 informants (18.3%) agree and 36 informants (30%) disagree with the last statement regarding persuasion, credibility and trustworthiness.

Based on the table, there are certain functions which seem to be more favourable and more appreciated by the informants and as a result more significant. However,

there are also those functions which are not valued or judged so well by the respondents and thus considered to be much less important than others. It can be observed that the function of expressing is definitely favoured by the respondents - regardless of the circumstances. More specifically, there are a lot of respondents who admit to code-switching because it facilitates communication. Similarly, the need to achieve a humorous effect is apparently significant for the respondents and as a result they code-switch in order to do that. However, there are also some other functions which are definitely less important for the informants, such as unity, solidarity, affiliation etc.

The respondents admit that code-switching compensates for the deficiency in the vocabulary, which is reflected in other research studies (Gabryś-Barker 2007). In other words, code-switching is a good technique in order to keep the flow of the speech smooth and uninterrupted. It is not surprising that many times we lack adequate words when we talk naturally and there is a need to find the right word right away. Hence, code-switching is one of the techniques which can facilitate the smooth flow of the speech.

The respondents also claim that code-switching contributes to the accurate expression of feelings and emotions. Similarly, we are often faced with the problem of accuracy when expressing feelings and emotions. It often happens that we are unable to express what we really feel or what emotions we have. In other words, switching from L1 to L2 is also used in order to express our feelings or emotions better than we would in our native language. Similarly, the respondents are of the opinion that, thanks to code-switching, it is easier to express an idea or a thought. We can also risk the statement that sometimes there is no such word or phrase which would encompass all the things we have in our mind. Therefore, code-switching helps us express things more adequately and accurately. It is also evident that the respondents associate code-switching with humour. This motivation is also reflected in the scholarly literature with reference to other languages as well (Noińska, Pietraś 2020: 87; Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 71). According to the informants' responses, one can achieve a humorous effect by engaging in code-switching. Finally, the informants also admit that by using the second language, they feel more comfortable when using taboo words or raising taboo topics. Thus, the use of the second language somehow alleviates or reduces the possible risk of offending other interlocutors.

Nevertheless, there are also several aspects which are not that significant according to the responses. Solidarity, affiliation or belonging are not associated with code-switching. Moreover, according to the respondents, fitting in or adjusting speech to our interlocutors are not the functions which are served by code-switching. Similarly, the informants do not associate code-switching with prestige or the desire to demonstrate one's linguistic competence or communicative skills in the second language. Finally, there are also other functions which they regard as unimportant with reference to code-switching, such as attracting attention, maintaining the floor, persuasion and credibility.

OBSERVATIONS

Based on the data obtained in the first part of the questionnaire, we can make several observations. Albeit there are various motivations and functions of code-switching, only some of them are of primary importance for the informants. Hence, code-switching is used with a view to compensating for the lack in the lexicon, expressing oneself, one's thoughts and ideas easier, more accurately, more precisely or more effectively, bringing forth humour or making a situation safer when using taboo words and discussing topics; this can be observed in other research studies (Gabryś-Barker 2007; Noińska, Golubiewski 2018, Noińska, Pietraś 2020). The other functions mentioned above are apparently less important. As far as the type of code-switching is concerned, the respondents use both intra-sentential and inter-sentential code-switching although the former is definitely more common. They show the preference for the intra-sentential code-switching justifying that it is mostly associated with inserting particular words or phrases.

Similarly, there are many factors which either facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching. Those favourable factors are closeness or familiarity with the interlocutors, casual situations, natural circumstances, the purpose of the interaction and good intentions, humour, relatively similar age etc.

Finally, the attitudes of the respondents towards code-switching are rather positive (agree or strongly agree). However, there are circumstances which definitely facilitate and even encourage them to code-switch. Similarly, if the circumstances are not favourable, the attitudes to code-switching are less positive if not actually negative or simply neutral.

Based on the given data in the second part of the questionnaire (the table) which is based on Likert-type scale, several interesting observations can be made. The respondents engage in code-switching for several reasons - to compensate for the deficiency in the lexicon, to express one's feelings, emotions and thoughts more accurately and precisely. Moreover, code-switching is used with a view to generating humour as "English words are used mainly as means of emphasis or as humorous elements, making the style of speaking more vivid" (Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 66). Similarly, "A humorous use of code-switching and the desire "to embellish the utterances" [...] indicate a high level of linguistic awareness and eloquence" (Noińska, Pietraś 2020: 87). In addition, code-switching makes people feel relatively comfortable when using swearwords or dealing with certain taboo topics. The other motivations for code-switching are less important or unimportant, such as expressing unity, solidarity, prestige, attracting attention, maintaining the floor, persuasion or reliability. These motivations have not been mentioned by the informants in this study. Nevertheless, taking into account the fact that code-switching is so common among the students, it constitutes a group identification marker as this group is characterized by the use of code-switching. Similarly, "Moreover, it serves as a group identification marker since code-

switching is characteristic of most English Philology students' idiolects" (Noińska, Golubiewski 2018: 66). Similarly, this particular group is characterized by the high incidence of code-switching for a number of reasons, which indicates group identity (Gabryś-Barker 2007: 304) or group membership (Holmes 2013: 35).

CONCLUSIONS

The present study attempts to stress and verify the functions of code-switching based on the students' attitudes to code-switching and the factors which either facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching in daily communicative exchanges amongst the respondents. All these aspects were based on the questionnaire and the responses were analysed with reference to the theoretical background and the current state of the research provided in the theoretical overview (Hoffmann 1991; McArthur 1992; Meisel 1994; Baker 2000, 2011; Muysken 2000; Holmes 2001; Malik 2004; Bogocz, Bortliczek 2016 etc.).

- There were three objectives of the study: To identify the functions, reasons and types of code-switching among the respondents .
- To identify the factors which either facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching.
- To identify the respondents' various attitudes to code-switching.

The data from the analysis of the study indicates the importance of certain functions and types of code-switching according to the opinions, the attitudes and the perception of the informants. It also indicates what factors facilitate or impede the occurrence of code-switching and finally what attitudes the respondents have towards this phenomenon. Based on the responses from the questionnaires, the analysis – the discussion and the observations, one can draw the following conclusions.

In the study, it has been indicated which functions and motivations of code-switching are the most important for the respondents. Code-switching serves a number of functions, such as expressing oneself better, more precisely, expressing one's feelings, emotions and thoughts more accurately and effectively, stressing solidarity, bringing forth humour or finally when using swearwords or raising taboo topics. On the other hand, there are a few functions which are not that important for the respondents and as a result, they do not code-switch due to these motivations, such as expressing unity, group membership, solidarity or belonging to a group.

The respondents tend to use both intra-sentential and inter-sentential code-switching even though the latter is less common. It is associated with the need to insert the missing words where necessary – mainly to maintain the flow of the conversation.

Moreover, there are a number of advantages which are definitely favourable and which facilitate the use of code-switching, such as relative closeness with the interlocutors – for instance family members, friends. Apart from that, the informal settings facilitate the phenomenon of code-switching, such as a casual, informal conversation. Moreover, the age of the interlocutor is significant as the more similar the age, the more willing the respondents are to code-switch. Finally, the topic and the purpose of the conversation are also important. However, there are also some factors which impede the occurrence of code-switching. Thus, the less favourable factors for code-switching are: the relatively high level of formality, the age difference and the unjustified purpose of the conversation.

As far as the attitudes of the informants towards code-switching are concerned, they depend on various factors, such as the function, formality of the situation, the gender, the age of the interlocutors, the social status and distance between them, the topic. As a result, it is necessary to take into account all these factors with a view to determining the attitudes to this phenomenon. The attitudes are rather positive on the assumption that the factors facilitate the occurrence of code-switching, such as the appropriate function of code-switching, the informal contextual setting, the right interlocutors, the age, the relative informality of the situation, the right topic and the purpose of the conversation.

LIMITATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

It is undeniable that there are some limitations in the study. First of all, it would be much more natural and interesting to obtain the data from students' real conversations by observing them and registering the real exchanges with code-switching. Furthermore, although there were 120 respondents, they were only first and second year students. Admittedly, it would be recommendable to increase the number of the informants and encompass Master's students in order to have a wider group of informants. It would definitely be interesting to identify some differences in the attitudes to code-switching taking into account different age groups and different groups in terms of language proficiency. Moreover, in order to continue research on code-switching, it would be advisable to encompass the informants from other universities, do the research on a larger scale and as a result obtain more data, which would definitely lead to interesting observations and conclusions.

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