

Bilingual Language Mixing

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Introduction

Bilingual
Balanced and fluent bilingual

Language Mixing

- Mixing and integrating two linguistic systems
- widespread if not universal among bilinguals
- 1/3 discourse of in Gurindji (aboriginal language of Australia) is mixed

Examples

Spanish-English

Su hija hace teach alla en San Jose.

His daughter teaches there in San Jose.

The professor said *que el estudiante había recibido una A.*

The professor said that the student had received an A.

Introduction II

- Mixing of two languages is rule governed.
- Linguists' attempt to define those rules or find a theoretical model.
- “Not only did these attempts [to define rules for language mixing] change fundamental assumptions about the verbal behaviour of bilinguals, but they also altered a certain out-moded conception of bilinguals as individuals with “split personality”.”

Code-Mixing and Code-Switching

- **Code-mixing (CM)** refers to the mixing of various linguistic units (morphemes, words, modifiers, phrases, clauses, and sentences) from two participating grammatical systems **within a sentence**. CM is **intrasentential** and is constrained by grammatical principles and motivated by **sociopsychological motivations**.
- **Code-Switching (CS)** refers to the mixing of various linguistic units (words, phrases, clauses, and sentences) from two participating grammatical systems **across sentence boundaries** within a speech event. CS is **intersentential** and subject to some discourse principles. It is motivated by **social and psychological motivations**.

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Examples of CM and CS

Spanish-English

- CM ⇨ „*La consulta era eight dollars.*“
The office visit was eight dollars.
- CS ⇨ „*Well, I keep starting some. Como por un mes todos los días escribo y ya dejo.*“
Well, I keep starting some. For about a month I write everything and then I stop.

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Matrix and Embedded Languages

- The matrix language is the language that gives the sentence its basic character.
- The embedded language is the language that contributes the „imported“ material.

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Examples of Matrix and Embedded Language

Matrix Language - **Embedded Language**

- „*La consulta era* **eight dollars**.“
(The office visit was eight dollars.)
- **Train** *mê seat mil jaae to ...* (*Hindi-English*)
(If one gets a seat in the train, then ...)

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The Free Morpheme Constraint (FMC)

“A switch may not occur between a bound morpheme and a lexical form unless the latter has been phonologically integrated into the language of the bound morpheme.”

e.g. * *run-eando* (English-Spanish)

Problem: both agglutinative and nonagglutinative languages violate the FMC

e.g. *Nairobi Swahili-English*

Vile vitu zake zi-me-spoil-iw-a (Those things of hers were spoiled.)

Those things her they-perf.-spoil-passiv

The equivalence constraint (EC)

“Code-switches will tend to occur at points in discourse where the juxtaposition of L1 and L2 elements does not violate a syntactic rule of either language (i.e. at points around which the surface structures of the two languages map on to each other).”

e.g. **el viejo man*, **the old hombre*
el old man, *the hombre viejo*

Problem: Categories have to be taken into account as well.

e.g. **the buuRaa aadmii* (the old man)

but ⇨ *old aadmii* or *vo old aadmii* (That old man)

The clitic pronoun constraint

“Clitic pronoun objects are realized in the same language as the verb to which they are cliticized and in the position required by the syntactic rule of that language.”

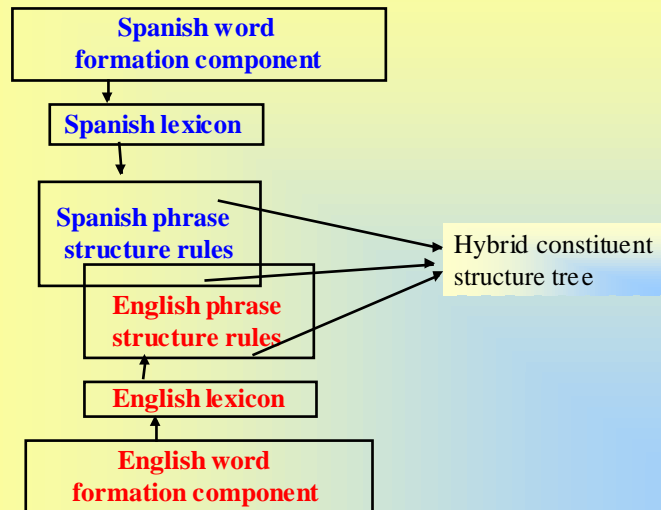
e.g. * *she sees lo.* (she sees him)

⇒ should be possible according to EC, because English and Spanish SVO.

Constraints vs. Theoretical Models

- Constraints are inadequate, fail to make correct cross-linguistic predictions.
- Attempt to make deeper claims about human language in general and bilinguals' mixing competence ⇒ Theoretical Models.

Woolford's Model of code-mixing



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Woolford's Model of code-mixing II

Problem: there are incidents of CM where new structures emerge which are not part of either grammar.

e.g. verb formation

Hindi stem + stem-formation + English derivational suffix *-fy* attachment

Mask (N 'joke') + **o** + **fy** ⇒ *maskofy* (to joke/flatter)

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Semantics

Hindi - *English*

Yatraa karnaa ⇨ travel with religious overtones

safar karnaa ⇨ ordinary travel

New: *tour* karnaa ⇨ business travel

Linguistic and Pragmatic Functions

- Quotations

She doesn't speak English, so, dice que la reganan: „Si se les va olvidar el idioma a las criaturas“

(So, she says they would scold her: „The children are surely going to forget their language.“)

- Addressee Specification

- Reiteration (for emphasis or clarification)

English - *Hindi*

Father: Keep Straight. [louder] *siidhe jao.* (Go Straight)

Sociopsychological Functions

- Personalisation vs. Objectivisation ⇔ give authority
 A: *Vigele ma ye sa amrice.* (Wigele got them from America)
 B: *kanada pride.* (It comes from Canada)
 A: *Kanada mus i sagn nit.* (I would not say Canada.)
- Repair Strategies ⇔ Omission, insertion, repetition
 Dutch-English
 En dan je realize dat **this** dat farmleven ...
 And then you realize that this, that farm life
- Discourse Allocation and Mixing ⇔ In Advertising

<u>Language</u>	<u>Audience</u>	<u>Appeal</u>	<u>Product/discourse domain</u>
English	Male/female	Modern	Fashion, science
Hindi	Female	Emotional	Domestic
Persian	Male	Luxury	Cigarettes, sports, fashion

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CM & CS and Language Acquisition

- Tests with learners of second languages through grammaticality judgements
 - Advance pupils acquire competence in CS & CM ⇔ principles of UG are accessible

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Stages

Bilinguals go through stages of acquiring the mixed linguistic system:

- Borrowing takes place, but borrowed as well as native lexicon is treated as one lexical storage.
- Two lexicons firmly grounded, process of translation or reinterpretation from L1 becomes part of language processing.
- Period of duality, functional domains of two participating linguistic systems begin to separate.
- Emergence of UG constraints: FHC takes effect.

Conclusion

- Role of UG not taken into account enough so far.
- CM primarily analysed in terms of the grammars of the two languages involved.
- BUT: Mounting evidence that there might be a third grammatical system.