Workshop 1

Course: Sociolinguistics

1. Class topic: Code switching

2. *Objectives:* Students should be able to:

- Get familiar with code switching concepts
- Analyze elements of code switching present in an excerpt.

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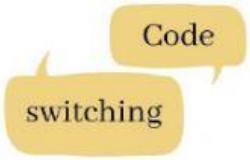
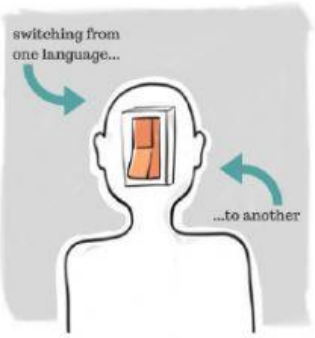
ACTIVITY 1 NOT MANDATORY

Watch the video or read the definitions and take the quick test. If you feel so, share ideas with the class next session.





ctrl + click to follow link

https://youtu.be/nqCJOtKoEsY

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Definition 1

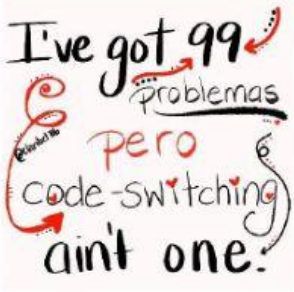
Hymes (1971) defines code switching as "a common term for alternative use of two or more languages, varieties of a language or even speech styles."

Definition 2

According to Myers-Scotton (1993:47) code switching refers to the "use of two or more languages in the same conversation." Code switching is the shifting by a speaker from language A to language B.

Definition 3

Auer (1998) "alternating use of two or more codes within one conversational episode". In this case, "codes" refer to distinct language varieties or dialect.



Definition 4

Van der Walt (2001) Code switching is a natural phenomenon in bilingual and multilingual communities. It is a sign of the dynamic nature of language and the way in which people make language to serve their needs. Code switching shows a high degree of cognitive and effective control over the grammatical, syntactic and semantic elements of various languages simultaneously, specifically in inter-sentential code switching.

Definition 5

Bokamba (1989:278) "Code switching is the mixing of words, phrases and sentences from distinct grammatical (sub) systems across sentence boundaries within the same speech event…code mixing is the embedding of various linguistic units such as affixes (bound morphemes), words (unbound morphemes), phrases and clauses from cooperative activity where the participants, in order to infer what is intended, must reconcile what they hear with what they understand.

Quit test. Read the statements and click on the A or B chart ☐. To pass the test you need 3 corrcet answers at least. If you feel so, share ideas with the class next session. **NOT MANDATORY**

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✓ Correct ☐ Wrong **NOT MANDATORY**

Question 1

Code switching means…

A ☐ Natural phenomenon of alternating two or more languages in bilingual communities.

B ☐ Mastery of grammatical, syntactic and semantic elements of a language.

Question 2

When code-switching bilinguals can switch…

A ☐ Varieties of a language, dialects and speech styles.

B ☐ Conversations and speech events.

Question 3

Codes refers to…

A ☐ Mixing of words, phrases and sentences.

B ☐ Distinct language varieties or dialect.

Question 4

Code switching shows a degree of effective control over…

A ☐ Grammatical, syntactic and semantic of one language.

B ☐ Grammatical, syntactic and semantic of various languages simultaneously.

ACTIVITY 2 **NOT MANDATORY**

Based on your understanding and interpretation, write (an average 40-50 words) definition of code switching. If you feel so, share ideas with the class next session.

For me, code switching means…

References or further reading

Mabule, D. (2015) What is this? Is It Code Switching, Code Mixing or Language Alternating?. Journal of Educational and Social Research.

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