

## The practice and primary function of code-switching among selected interviews of Philippines rational politicians

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### ABSTRACT

In political discourses like debate, speeches and hearings, these need a clear communicative relay. Language have also been influenced in terms of their usage and practices. Code-Switching, the alternate use of more than one language in a discourse, is one of the language phenomena where such changes can be traced. This research investigated the occurrences of code-switching in selected previously recorded interviews of the Philippines National Politicians by taking approach in examining the various types, functions and reasons of code-switching. The data consisted of previously recorded interviews of five (5) currently running politicians. Data was then analyzed based on the integration of Poplack's (2013) Types of Code- Switching, Appel and Muysken's (2006) Six Function of Code-Switchng, and Malik's (1994) Ten Reasons for Code-Switching. Findings suggested that code-switching occurs in interviews of politicians mainly to serve referential, expressive and phatic functions. For more substantial results in the future, researchers may consider large numbers of participants to observe the occurrences of code-switching in interviews.

*Keywords: practice, primary function, code-switching, rational politicians*

## INTRODUCTION

Philippines is a nation with diverse dialect. It is a home for various languages, hence making it a country with bilinguals as majority. Filipinos learned different languages either from inside and/or outside the country and with that much knowledge in language, they are able to code-switch, may it be in political discourses like debates, speeches, hearings, multimedia like television, advertisement, social networks or even in real life.

Code-Switch as introduced by Myers-Scotton and Urry (1997) is the “use of two or more linguistic varieties in the same conversation or interaction”. Thus, code-switching can be defined as the alternative usage of two or more language by bilinguals in a given conversation or topic.

The subject Code-Switch has been a hot topic for language researchers because it is a wide spread phenomenon used by bilinguals and multilinguals unconsciously but there were only few researchers conducted about it thus, it is still a growing research. Though there were a number of researchers conducted concerning code-switching with various participants like universities students, teacher-student conversations, classroom setting scenarios, Facebook comments and post, making the participants compose only of the common folks-the public. However, the rampant usage of code switch does not only limit itself with common folks, or the public. Code switching is also a phenomenon used by our honorable national officials, the politicians.

Furthermore, with the election fast approaching and the candidates for the national officials set are filling their candidacies, the information about each runner and their influence are slowly gaining significance to the people in order to choose whom to vote. Thus, each is followed and criticized based upon the answer and move they take. Running politicians shall undergo series of thorough examination in order to verify whether they are worthy of the seat they have aspired. They entertain interviews, attend social gathering and even propose solutions to issues at hand putting them in a situation which they can unconsciously utilize code-switch. Their exposure to various multimedia and unconscious usage of code-switching will make them good participants to know the practice and primary function of code switching in terms of the usage of hopeful national officials-the politicians.

Ergo, to contribute to the research of code-switching, this study is concerned on subject Code-Switch which is anchored in the theory of Appel and Muysken’s

(2006) Six Functions of Code-switching, Malik's (1994) ten reasons for code switching and Poplack (1980) types of Code Switching among the selected among the selected interviews of national politicians.

## METHOD

The study answers the research questions through qualitative data that is collected based on the occurrence of code-switching and then analyzed in terms of the types, functions and reasons that they serve in the selected interviews of the Philippine national politicians. As this research paper aims to study in phenomenon of code-switching, data was analyzed qualitatively and not calculated and tabulated. Each example that is used for discussion is followed by an English translation while words and phrases that were switched are indicated with underline.

The Philippine national politicians' exposure to various multimedia and unconscious usage of code-switching made them good participants to know the practice and primary function of code switching in terms of usage in their previously recorded interviews. There are five (5) chosen participants from the Philippine national politicians. To qualify as participants, they must be currently running for a position in the Philippines national level government for the upcoming 2016 elections.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Occurrences of Code-Switching*

From the collected data, majority or seventy (70) out of one hundred ten (110) code-switch that accrued in the previously recorded interviews by the Philippines National Politicians were Filipino with the insertion of English. The remaining forty (40) code-switch that occurred were in English with the insertion of Filipino.

Apart from that, Filipino was usually inserted as phrases into English sentences such as "*It was diplomatic war **kasi dapat alam niya ito***". "*So if didn't do what I did then, I would have gone against the **tuwid na daan***" that he would." On the contrary, English was generally inserted as single words into sentences of Filipino such as accountability, treasure, monopoly, centralized, ghost, and show.

### *Types of Code-Switching*

There are three types of code-switching and all the three types occurred in the previously recorded interviews of the Philippines National Politicians. The type that was used more frequently was the Intrasentential which was used fifty-five (55) times out of one hundred ten (110). Then followed by intersentential which was used forty-eight (48) times out of one hundred ten (110) and the least used type istag-switching which was used seven (7) times out of one hundred ten (110).

### *Functions and Reasons for Code-Switching*

The three functions that were mainly found in the occurrence of code-switching by the Philippines National Politicians in the previously recorded interviews were Phatic, referential and expressive function.

Phatic function accounted for the largest number of code-switching. One of the main reasons is due to amplify and emphasize point. This can be observed when participants switch from Filipino to English for terms that can leave emphasis to the listeners or viewers. Additionally, there are also instances that the participants would repeat the switch word to add more highlight for the point to be received.

Code Switching also serves as phatic function when the participants switched to another language because of the mood of the speaker such as angry, anxious or nervous and though the terms are available in both languages, the participant may code-switch to show emotion as well as to take less effort and time to be used at that particular moment.

The second function that resulted in most occurrences of code-switching is the expressive function mainly because of the following, first; participants might switch code for habitual expressions to connote different meanings or intent. For instance, when used in greeting and farewells, it can modify the formality of the sentences. Second, they might code-switch for semantic significance or to convey important and meaningful information to the audience or listeners through famous phrases or sayings. Lastly, speaker's mood might also trigger code-switching as it affects the state of mind of speaker and makes one language more accessible at that moment.

For the referential function, one of the main reasons is due to participant's lack of facility in the language such as English which serves as the second language. This can be observed when participants switch Filipino to English for certain terms that are not commonly used in daily conversation. Code-Switching also served as

referential function when participants switch to another language to discuss about concepts or words that are not available in the language.

*Poplack's (1980) Types of Code-Switching, Appel and Muysken's (2006) Six Functions of Code, Switching and Malik's (1994) Ten Reasons for Code-Switching*

*Poplack's (1980) Types of Code-Switching.* Findings have indicated that all three (100%) of the types of code-switching were used during the interview of the selected Philippine National Politicians. Out of one hundred ten (110) occurrences of code-switching, fifty-five (50%) are categorized under the Intrasentential type. Forty-eight (44%) occurrences fall under Intersentential type and seven (6%) fall under the tag-switching type

Table 1. *Microsoft Excel Output shows the number and percentage of code-switching occurrences based on Poplack's (1980) Types of Code-Switching.*

| <b>Types of Code-Switching</b> | <b>Number of Occurrences</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Intrasentential                | 55                           | 50                    |
| Intersentential                | 48                           | 44                    |
| Tag-Switching                  | 7                            | 6                     |
| Total                          | 110                          | 100                   |

*Appel and Muysken's (2006) Six Functions of Code Switching.* Findings have indicated that three (50%) of the six functions (100%) can be used to explain to occurrence of code-switching in the previously recorded interview of the Philippines National Politicians. Out of 100 occurrences of code-switching sixty-two (56%) are categorized as Phatic Function. Twenty-seven (25%) occurrences fall under the Expressive Function and the remaining twenty-one (19%) fall under the referential function. Thus, living three functions not accounted for any occurrences which are namely: metalinguistic function, directive function and poetic function.

Table 2. *Microsoft Excel output shows the number and percentage code-switching occurrences based on Appel and Muysken's (2006) Six Functions of Code-Switching*

| <b>Functions of Code-Switching</b> | <b>Number of Occurrences</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Phatic                             | 62                           | 56                    |
| Expressive                         | 27                           | 25                    |

Table 2. *Microsoft Excel output shows the number and percentage code-switching occurrences based on Appel and Muysken's (2006) Six Functions of Code-Switching (cont.)*

| <b>Functions of Code-Switching</b> | <b>Number of Occurrences</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Referential                        | 21                           | 19                    |
| Metalinguistic                     | 0                            | 0                     |
| Directive                          | 0                            | 0                     |
| Poetic                             | 0                            | 0                     |
| Total                              | 110                          | 100                   |

Malik's (1994) ten reason for code-switching. Five (50%) out of the ten reasons can be applied to the occurrence of code-switching in the selected previously recorded interview in the Philippines National Politicians. Out of one hundred ten occurrences of code-switching, 68 occurrences (62%) fit into the category of to amplify and emphasize a point. Lack of facility accounted for 20 occurrences (15%). Lastly, habitual expressions and semantic significance each accounted for 3 occurrences (2.5%). The remaining five categories which are lack of registrat competence, to show identity with a group, to address different audience, pragmatic reasons and to attract attention have not accounted for any occurrence.

Table 3. *Microsoft Excel output shows the number and percentage of code-switching occurrences based on Malik's (1994) Ten Reasons*

| <b>Reasons of Code-Switching</b> | <b>Number of Occurrences</b> | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| To amplify and emphasize a point | 68                           | 62                    |
| Lack of Facility                 | 20                           | 18                    |
| Mood of the Speaker              | 16                           | 15                    |
| Semantic Significance            | 3                            | 2.5                   |
| Habitual Expressions             | 3                            | 2.5                   |
| Lack of Registrat Competence     | 0                            | 0                     |
| To show identity with a group    | 0                            | 0                     |
| To address different audience    | 0                            | 0                     |
| Pragmatic Reasons                | 0                            | 0                     |
| To attract attention             | 0                            | 0                     |
| Total                            | 110                          | 100                   |

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The phatic, expressive and referential for the function, intersentential, intersentential and tag-switching for types of codeswitching and to amplify and emphasize a point, mood of the speaker, semantic significance, lack of facility and habitual expressions for reasons for code-switching can be evidently observed from the data and were defined in this chapter. The findings examined in this chapter were supported with the analyzed data detailed explanation in the next chapter while limitations and recommendation for future research topics are given as a conclusion to this study.

In this study, the phenomenon of code-switching in the selected previously recorded interview of the Philippines national politicians was analyzed using Appel and Muysken's (2006) six functions of code switching for spoken discourse, Malik's (1994) review on ten reasons for code-switching and Poplack (1980) types of code-switching. The type, functions and reasons for code-switching were identified and classified based on a framework adapted from Poplack (1980), Appel and Muysken (2006) and Malik (1994). Findings suggested that code-switching does occur in the selected previously recorded interview of the Philippines national politicians and the type, functions and reasons for switching codes have different frequency depending on the types, function and reason it serves.

For the results of type of code-switching proposed by Poplack (1980), all the types are used in all the selected previously recorded interviews of the Philippines national politicians, however the Intrasentential was the most frequently used type of code switching having the reason that we Filipinos are bilingual by nature and interchangeably used both language in a sentence is much easier than either type of code-switching. Then it was followed by intersentential which was used frequently also because of the form it has, which makes the sentence easier to create, starting with a code or language and ending it with another language. Finally, tag-switching is the least commonly used type, might be because of the lack of usage of tags in the other language other than the first language.

For the results of the six functions of code-switching proposed by Appel and Muysken (2006), three functions can be used to categorize the occurrence of code-switching in the selected previously recorded interviews of the Philippines national politicians having phatic function as the most frequently used function because politicians were making sure that the point or important is highlighted and taken into consideration for people or audience/viewers to contemplate upon

that is why when they want to highlight something important in their sentence they tend to code-switch just to make sure that the message they wanted to send is being pointed out.

The second function frequently used is expressive function which is used in the interviews whenever they feel frustrated and when they wish to point out something, they unconsciously code-switch out of pure emotion. Lastly, referential function was used in times when they used terms that have no equivalent meaning in the first language.

With regard to the other types of functions, none of the occurrence can be categorized under the metalinguistic function because the topic of the interviews was not about the issue of the Philippines. Directive function was not used also since Filipinos are bilinguals. Lastly, poetic function did not occur because it was not for artistic purpose but rather to rather to inform. Thus, the code-switching is straight forward and direct to the point.

For Malik's (1994) ten reasons for code-switching, five of the reasons can be used to explain the phenomenon of code-switching and these are as follow: to amplify and emphasize a point is the most frequently used reason why they used to code-switch. This is mainly because the interviews primary purpose is to inform the people about the important occurrence in and out of the country at the same time to give their standing in the issues. It is followed by lack of facility because of the lack of terms or word with the same meaning to that of the other language. Next is the mood and unconsciously show it through their way of speaking, then, semantic significance was also used because it's a strategy that can convey certain social information through code-switching and habitual expressions which are in words or phrases and is usually used to greet and bid others.

The remaining five reason were not applicable to the selected previously recorded interviews of the Philippines national politicians and these are as follow: lack of registral competence was not used mainly because the set of chosen politicians are competent enough to use two languages. To show identity anymore since their life has been broadcasted nationally. So, most of the viewers or audience already knew where they came from and who they are in the Philippines. To address different audience was also not used as reason for code-switching because politicians are prone to attend interviews. And lastly, to attract attention did not occur mainly because their interviews were broadcasted nationally so they do not have attract any attention. People will catch or listen to it naturally and using code-

switching to gain viewers is less significant because audience are already exposed to it.

The result gained from the collected analyzed data will help provide insights on how and why code-switching occurs in interviews of prominent people. It is very important for the citizens to know and be aware of the code-switching that occurs during the interview which are broadcasted nationally. As a result, code-switching can be used to obtain additional information for the viewers or listeners. Hence, results are revealed as follow:

All the type of code-switching that was introduced by Poplack (1980) were utilized with intrasentential as the most commonly used, followed by intersentential and tag-switching in the selected previously recorded interview of the Philippines national politician, however, half of the functions of code-switching that were proposed by Appel and Muysken (2006) can be applied in the selected previously recorded interview of the Philippines national politicians such as the phatic function, expressive function and referential function. There are also functions that are not relevant such as the poetic function, metalinguistic function and directive function. Same with Malik's (1994) where half of the reasons for code-switching can be applied in the selected previously recorded interview of the Philippines national politicians such as to amplify and emphasize a point, lack of facility, mood of the speaker, semantic significance and habitual expressions. There are also reasons that are not relevant such as lack of registral competence, to show identity with a group, to address different audiences, pragmatic reasons and to attract attention.

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