SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF CODE-SWITCHING IN THE INDONESIAN FILM SERIES "MY NERD GIRL"

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Abstract

This research focuses on code-switching in the film series "My Nerd Girl," directed by Kuntz Agus. The study aims to achieve two main objectives: (1) to identify the types of code-switching used in the film and (2) to uncover the hidden meanings behind the code-switching functions in the dialogue. The research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach, with primary data sourced directly from the film series "My Nerd Girl." The study relies on human instruments, library research, and small data sources. The content of the text was analyzed through a systematic technique involving data collection, selection, display, and conclusion drawing. Data validation was achieved through triangulation, ensuring the reliability and accuracy of the findings. The results revealed a total of 37 instances of code-switching in the film, which was categorized into three types: (1) tag switching, with 2 instances; (2) inter-sentential switching, with 0 instances; and (3) intra-sentential switching, with 35 instances. The study highlights that intra-sentential switching is the film's most prevalent form of code-switching. The research also identifies three key factors that influence code-switching: social aspects, cultural factors, and individual factors. Additionally, the study points out that the primary characters involved in the code-switching instances are male and female, emphasizing the role of gender dynamics in language use within the film.
Keywords: *Code-Switching, Film Analysis, Intra-Sentential Switching, Social Factors*

Introduction

Language is one way of interacting with other people. Language has become the primary means of communication for individuals. Therefore, (Herman, 2019) states that language is a communication tool that plays a vital role in establishing communication. Even though language is one of the communication systems for humans, languages are also diverse. According to (Fernandez, 2011), although language is the primary communication system for humans, language can be distinguished from communication in general because language is not the only type of communication, such as code-switching language.

Furthermore, various languages create bilingualism (Wardhaugh, 2006). The prefix "bi-" means "two," and "lingual" means her language, so bilingual means her two languages. Then, it can be interpreted that bilingualism is communication used by speakers of two languages. The use of this language is due to the large number of tribes and countries, resulting in many different languages and even hundreds of languages being created. Finally, many existing languages generate a phenomenon called code-switching that occurs in communication.

Then, code-switching can happen between sentences, even part of the sentences, involving a phrase or word or even part of a word (Walianggen, 2012). Code-switching is the alternating use of two languages in the same part of a discourse by a bilingual speaker and the ability of a bilingual to switch effortlessly between her two languages. Sometimes, the speaker deliberately changes the code by switching to another code. According to (Chloros, 2009), code-switching is one of the possible outcomes of contact between two (or more) varieties, often co-existing and overlapping with other outcomes. In addition, code-switching is widespread in bilingual communities, where speakers use their native tongue (L_1) and second language (L2) in different domains. Code-switching occurs when conversants use both languages together, often switching from one language to another within a single utterance (Ulfiah et al., 2021).

Code-switching events often occur in society among children, teenagers, adults, and parents. In addition, code-switching also often occurs in electronic entertainment, such as films. The reason given by Chaer (Alimin, 2016) regarding code-switching is that code-switching is

determined by the linguistic components that accompany it. Although code-switching is a frequent linguistic result of language contact, most bilingual communities disapprove of the practice due to prevalent ideas of linguistic purity. It is considered a chaotic practice, and many linguists think this indicates a lack of mastery of both languages.

Bilingual speakers switching from one language to another during conversational engagement is a recurring issue in bilingual studies. Most sociolinguists who researched code-switching before the 1980s focused on extra-linguistic elements like topic, context, interaction between participants, community norms and values, and socioeconomic, political, and ideological developments, with rare exceptions.

The use of language in the "My Nerd Girl" Film series by Kuntz Agus turns it into a varied language form. The film "My Nerd Girl" has the whole meaning of the language in every dialogue spoken by the actors; thus, the language used in the movie can be analyzed linguistically. Several things that can be analyzed from the content of My Nerd Girl film series actors' speeches are the language in the sentence, which refers to the code-switching description. The language in the movie contains bilingualism, involving Indonesian language and English. Therefore, this research aims to describe code-switching in the "My Nerd Girl" film series by Kuntz Agus.

Code-switching is a language phenomenon that often occurs and is frequently used in films or storybooks. This also happened in the film series "My Nerd Girl," where previous researchers who studied the movie "My Nerd Girl" focused more on the type of code-switching and its function, whereas to differentiate this research from other research, the focus of the study was determining the type of speaker and looking for hidden meaning in the data obtained.

Previous research on code-switching and code-mixing has been conducted by several literary commentators and academics (Tanjung, 2021). It is concluded that code-switching occurs in films because the author can use code language outside of his language, thus producing variation. Wanda (2022) also stated that the setting is mostly in rural areas and different training locations, so code-switching often occurs. In addition, according to Damayanti, Y.R. (2020), using local languages causes code-switching. Then, this research aims to bridge this gap by exploring the nuances of how the characters in the web series use code-switching in conversation and the potential language variations used in the narrative and audience interpretation.

Method

The study was conducted using a descriptive qualitative design. A descriptive qualitative design simply describes what is happening and what the data shows. This means that this study does not aim to discover a new theory but rather to find new evidence that proves the facts of that theory. This research seeks to describe code-switching in the "My Nerd Girl" film series by Kuntz Agus. In this research, the researcher acted as an instrument for data collection. The researcher acted as a data collector as the researcher played a direct role in the data collection by determining data sources, listening to and recording data, studying data, and drawing conclusions. This research's data and data sources are related to the research objectives to describe code-switching in the My Nerd Girl film series. The research data is in the form of code-switching. The data source of this research is the "My Nerd Girl" film series.

Findings and Discussions

The researcher watched the whole film series entitled "My Nerd Girl" by Kuntz Agus and examined the code-switching in the series. As a result, the researchers found 37 code-switching throughout the entire series. The characters from "My Nerd Girl'' film series often use Indonesian - English Code-switching in their conversations. Code-switching occurs in this series because of the influence of Western culture. The series took place in Jakarta, and as we

all know, these days, "*Bahasa Jaksel*" is very popular among teenagers, especially those who live in Jakarta. *Bahasa Jaksel* is known for mixing Indonesian and English. The researchers assume that the show tries to be relevant to the trend by switching some language throughout the series.

Type Code Switching

The table categorizes instances of code-switching into three types: intra-sentential switching, inter-sentential switching, and tag switching. It shows 35 cases of intra-sentential switching, 0 instances of inter-sentential switching, and 2 instances of tag switching. The table organizes the data by domain and then sums up the total occurrences of each type in the final column, providing a detailed overview of the frequency of each kind of code-switching used across different contexts.

The data presented shows the results from 37 instances of code-switching involving two primary domains: male and female. Most code-switching occurred within intra-sentential switching, with a total of 35 cases. Specifically, 32 were attributed to the female domain and 3 to the male domain. No instances of inter-sentential switching were recorded, indicating that the speakers did not utilize this type of code-switching.

Lastly, there were 2 instances of tag switching, both of which occurred in the female domain. Overall, the female domain exhibited significantly more code-switching activity, with 34 cases, compared to just 3 instances in the male domain. This data highlights the predominance of code-switching in the female domain across the types analyzed.

Intra-Sentential Switching.

Intra-sentential switching occurs when a sentence from another language appears in a sentence in the source language. There were 7 instances of intra-sentential switching used by the characters in "My Nerd Girl" Film series. The examples of intra-sentential switching found in the data are presented in conversation (01).

Rea: *kok jadi kamu yang repot sih* I told you one again this is not a dinner date *ini aku mau introgasi lo.*

Data (01) is considered intra-sentential code-switching because the transition occurred in the middle of a sentence. Rea (the perpetrator) spoke Indonesian but switched to English before finishing his sentence. Hence, it was considered Intra-sentential switching.

The examples of Intra Sentential Switching found in the data were presented in conversation (02).

Ela: *loo gak bisa berhenti gitu aja* you are the who kick started this whole thing of is Fara telling the truth and don't forget, you are literally the one who told us to break into Fara's locker, *jadi kita ga bisa berhenti disini.*

As seen in Data (02) above, the character named Ela started her sentence using English, then switched to Indonesian after one sentence. She continued her sentence with several sentences in Indonesian. All these transitions occurred in just one sentence and are automatically considered intra-sentence transitions.

Tag Switching

The examples of Tag Switching found in the data were presented in conversation (03).

Rea: You are not wrong, *terus?*

In Data (03), the character uses English in his conversation and then adds the word *"terus?"* which is Indonesian at the end of the sentence. Hence, this is considered a type of code-switching called tag switching.

Hidden Meaning of Code Switching

Then, most of the data obtained for male and female domains was obtained for a female domain with 34 data, while only 3 data were obtained for the male domain. With the results obtained, it can be concluded that dominant girls come out more. This means that gender differences in language use are caused by various interaction activities and roles that often arise. This statement is supported by (Puspitawati, 2013). The word "gender" can be interpreted as differences in roles, functions, status, and responsibilities for men and women due to socio-cultural formations (constructions) embedded through the socialization process of one generation.

Furthermore, the results of the research state that code-switching carried out by women and men gives examples of different impressions. Apart from that, the way men and women pronounce is also different. In 2006, a popular science book by Louann Brizendine, The Female Brain, stated that the average woman says 20,000 words a day while the average man only says 7,000. The research results obtained show that women mean that communication is more important for women than men because women talk more often than men.

Apart from gender, there are other influences, such as the many uses of intra-sentential switching, obtained from 35 data from 37. Intra-sentential switching data acquisition allows speakers to switch languages in one sentence without disrupting the flow or smoothness of communication. This keeps the conversation smooth and natural. The use of two languages in one sentence allows speakers to utilize words or phrases that are more precise or have richer nuances of meaning from the other language, which may not be able to be expressed well in one language alone, which is supported by (Crystal, 1997), this theory states that in every language, some particular words or phrases may not have an exact equivalent in another language. Bilingual or multilingual speakers often use code-switching to fill these "lexical gaps." In other words, they switch languages to use words or phrases that are more precise or have richer nuances of meaning that may not be able to be expressed effectively in one language alone.

Furthermore, the type of transition that rarely appears is the type of tag transition from the data obtained, only getting 2 data out of 37 data. The use of Tag switching is influenced by the limited use of tags, interjections, or short phrases, such as "you know," "I mean," or "right." Due to its limited function, its use is less frequent than code-switching involving part of a sentence or an entire sentence. Not only that, tag switching appears more often in informal contexts or casual conversations. In more formal situations or written texts, switching tags are usually minimized. This statement is supported by (Hasan, 1989), which states that speakers tend to use a more formal and structured language style to show seriousness and professionalism in formal contexts or written texts. Using tag switching in this situation is considered inappropriate because it can reduce the desired impression of formality and professionalism.

Further, in this film series, a switching code is not used in conversations between characters where none of the 37 types of intersentential switching data comes out. Transitions between sentences usually require an apparent change of context or topic between sentences. This does not always happen in everyday conversations, which tend to be smoother and more continuous. Switching between sentences can make comprehension difficult for listeners who are not fully bilingual because they have to switch their thinking from one language to another between sentences. This can reduce the effectiveness of communication. Transitions between sentences may be less acceptable or impolite in some cultures or communities. These social preferences can limit the frequency of use. This statement follows (Hymes, 1986), which states that in some cultures or communities, unwritten rules regarding language use determine when and how specific languages should be used. Inter-sentential switching may be considered impolite or

inconsistent with these norms because it can cause confusion, be seen as lacking consistency, or not understanding more formal language or situations.

Conclusion

In this research, the researchers found code-switching occurrences have a few different types. Other than various types of code-switching, the hidden meaning also revealed the reasons behind all the code-switching throughout the entire "My Nerd Girl" movie series. The researchers found 37 code-switching occurrences spoken by several series of characters.

After the researchers had completed the classification, the results showed that the most widely used code-switching type was intra-sentential code-switching, with a total of 35 occurrences. The following kind of code-switching is most commonly used. The last one is Tag Switching, with the fewest number of appearances. It only has 2 occurrences out of the entire 8 Episodes. These types of code-switching are actualized according to the reasons for the code itself, based on the conversations used by characters to convey a hidden meaning. There are several reasons why code-switching occurs. By using the same data to classify the types of code-switching, researchers carry out a classification to classify the reasons why code-switching occurs. The researchers found that the most influential reason behind the occurrence of code-switching in this series is Discussing gender differences in using this type of code-switching with different results.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the characters in the "My Nerd Girl" film series use Inter-Sentential code-switching the most in their conversations. The main reason behind code-switching is that they feel more comfortable using particular language when discussing specific topics.

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