

English as a Threat for Indigenous Language among Middle Low-Class Society in Java Rural Area: Evidence of Code-Mixing

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Abstract

The occurrence of Javanese-Indonesian-English code-switching among people in cities is common since the cities are the melting pot of heterogeneous people from different linguistic backgrounds. However, it is alarming when code-switching is performed by middle-class society in rural areas in their daily communication. The fact indicate that rural dwellers are relatively homogenous communities. Given the aforementioned context related to code-switching, this study, therefore, aims to reveal its types, to seek its factors, and to get informants' understanding of the English terms used. This study used a qualitative method by applying interviews and a simple test to get the data. The finding showed that there are three types of code-switching they are inter-sentential, intra-sentential, and extra-sentential but the intra-sentential one was mostly used by the villagers. Regarding to factors triggering the occurrences of code-switching, the rural dwellers reported that their action was influenced by the interlocutor, topic, setting, and function when the conversation took place. Even though the villagers used some English terms in daily communication, they confessed that they are still lack of English understanding. The use of English term was for a practical purpose as the terms were ready use instead of looking for their Indonesian equivalent. In addition, the English expressions were easily understood by the involved parties in a communication. When this phenomenon goes on and on and is passed to successor generations, it is not impossible that English language emerges to be the threat of ethnic language in the rural area.

Keyword: code-switching, language variation, language change, middle-low class, rural area.

1. INTRODUCTION

Learning a second language occurs for different reasons: immigration, commerce, and research requirements, and schooling as well (Adipramono, 2016). Particular consideration has been granted to the English Language in Indonesia because, in the modern era, people are becoming more mindful of the value of English as the primary medium of communication. Language learning is an association between internal and external variables. The association must represent the clarification between mistakes or issues using English (Nurhayati, Djatmika, Santosa, & Wiratno, 2016). English has

become a familiar language in the world (Mappiasse & Bin Sihes, 2014), especially among even Indonesian middle to lower classes. This middle-low class society usually lives in rural area. They are also well-known for inadequate education, financial, and economic resources (Amanah & Fatchiya, 2018). But how can English easily enter into this spectrum of society? They unconsciously use English in everyday conversations with others. Besides, they use English to make the meaning of their sentence clear and easy to understand by the addressee. The word that they commonly turn in English is like; "charge," "error," "upload," "tag," etc.

This phenomenon is known as code-switching. Code-switching happens when the speaker wants to explain specific particular topics or events or make their sentences easy to understand (Wardhaugh, 2006). From this phenomenon, several possible factors influence the choice of words created by middle low-class society and the factor why this code-switching happens. They use these words because they often hear these words from the conversation done by other people who live in town, or even from several social media, or they want to talk about a particular topic. Sometimes they speak this word in English without knowing if the word is not an Indonesian or Javanese original word. Furthermore, since Javanese is only taught up to junior high school level and for two hours a week, people do not study it optimally in school. Furthermore, they also do not speak Javanese in the classroom because Javanese is no longer a popular subject at all levels of education (Setiawan, 2013).

On the other hand, they also rarely hear these words spoken in the Javanese language, so that they are not accustomed to pronounce these words into Javanese. Language is far more than the color of your skin or the origin of your ethnicity. Language needs a set of cultural references, education, and another literature aspect, knowing that Javanese is the largest ethnic in Indonesia and socio-politically the most dominant. But the fact, English nowadays has significantly replaced their native Language (Shaw, 2001). This research is used to analyze the type of code-switching, a factor that influences the code-switching, and how far the subject understands the English Language.

2. REVIEW RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Language Variety

According to Latifah, Saddhono & Wardhani (2017), cultural gaps arise in a geographic area in bilingual or multilingual cultures, so there is a cultural deviation. Only if there is communication would this happen. Current social interaction is related to the practice of communicating between speakers and others in speech. The social business activities described above take place in different contexts, including social domains such as stores, schools, clinics, groceries, and unique locations such as houses.

According to the theory of Wardhaugh (2006), he stated that language varies widely. One way to describe these differences is to suggest that sometimes speakers of a common language speak a different dialect of that language. In this way, both regional dialects and a language's social dialects could be explored. Just as a regional dialect

which distinguishes the inhabitants of one area from those of other places, a social dialect could be a variety related to a particular social class or group, distinguishing which class or community apart from other community or groups.

2.2. Regional Dialect

Dialect is the subdivision of a particular language and an asymmetric language variety (Malihah, 2017). When different linguistic variations accumulate in a specific geographic area (e.g., the city of Boston or the southern part of the United States), the spoken language has its character. A regional dialect is spoken in one specific country of a country, as it contradicts a national dialect. It means that the dialect of the speaker is based on the geographical area or where the speaker lives; therefore, it must be different the dialect used by a speaker who lived in town and the speaker who lived in a rural area (Fromkin, Rodman & Hyams, 2014).

2.3. Social Dialect

Social dialect is that the variation of language or language change is occurring based on the social background of the speaker. Individuals from multiple social backgrounds speak differently. The most apparent differences in vocabulary are in many ways the least illuminating from a sociolinguistic point of view, though they capture the public imagination (Holmes, 1992). Based on tradition, every community has its way of interacting with each other. It can be a conversation or even a symbol and gesture (Rohaniyah, 2016). Throughout dialect social research, this is the social class primarily used to describe speaker communities as having something in common.

In general, the two main classes are classified as "middle class," those with more years of learning and performing non-manual work, and "working class," those with fewer years of education and performing any kind of manual work. We were concerned about a social dialect while we were referring to "working-class speech. The words "upper" and "lower" can be used to further subdivide the classes, primarily on an economic basis, thus creating another form of social dialect or socio-elect "upper-middle-class speech." As in all dialect analyses, the study of social dialects considers certain aspects of language use as essential.

2.4. Code-Switching

Code-switching can also be described as the alternation in the speech of a speaker between two or more languages, occurring naturally in the bilingual system. As a result of their ability to use more than one language, some persons may unintentionally perform code-switching. In contrast, others may perform code-switching to repeat what has been uttered before (Retnawati & Mujiyanto, 2015). According to Meyerhoff (2001), People who talk more than a language, or who have authority over more than one variety of any language, are usually susceptible to the variations in the vitality of the languages they use and are equally conscious that in some instances, one type suits their needs better than another. This can cause them to change their variation

based on where they are. This shifting phenomenon among distinct varieties is recognized as code-switching. It can be called domain-based or situational code-switching when code-switching is limited by where speakers happen to be. It can be called addressee-based when it is limited by whom a speaker happens to be talking to. The domain and addressee aspects often pile up on each other, and they felt that one decision preceded another until they concluded which variation to use. Suppose it's the conversation domain that decides what linguistic variety a speaker should select or whether the person they're talking to is what decides their choice. In that case, it is often difficult to say. The styles of code-switching that we have studied at this point given the option of languages or varieties as something like a 'either – or' question. In action, during a single exchange or even during the turn of a single speaker, there can be a lot of mixing of codes.

Poplack (2001) said that Code-switching (CS) relates to the mixing of two or more languages in a conversation by bilinguals (or multilingual), often with no addressee or topic shift. Such mixing might happen at any level of linguistic pattern, but its existence within the boundaries of a single phrase, constituent, or even word, has drawn the most linguistic attention.

Holmes (1992) notes that four significant factors impact code-switching, namely:

1. The participants. They are persons who, including speakers and interlocutors, are interested in the dialogue. We also consider the unity and strength between the speaker and the interlocutor in this aspect. For example, if we speak to people who have a close friendship with us, we might talk casually.
2. The setting or social context. It is a conversational position or background. For example, in formal situations, we can assume a proper code while communicating.
3. The topic. That is the subject of the discussion or what is being discussed. The selection code would be affected by different issues.
4. The function. This is the intent of the discussion that the participants are concerned about. A speech has numerous purposes, such as giving information, something to inquire about, and much more.

2.5. Type of Code-Switching

Hamers & Blanc (2002) classified code-switching into three types

a. Inter-sentential switching

Inter-sentential code-switching occurs where a clause in one language is spoken by the speaker and then followed by a new clause in a different language. The sentences consist of two distinct clauses in two other languages. For example, “*baju kamu bagus, I like it.*” This sentence is allocated into inter-sentential code-switching. The speaker switches Indonesian to English in a different clause.

b. Intra-sentential switching

Intra-sentential switching refers to A switch inside the same sentence or word, which then includes elements of the two languages. The change in the middle of a sentence, with no interruptions, or pauses, is performed intra-sentential code-switching. Typically, the speaker is unaware of the change. Within the clause level, various types of switches exist, even within the word level.

For example, the sentence *'eh sorry ya? aku terlambat nih'* is an Intra-sentential code switching. The word 'sorry' is an adjective English Language. It is common to apologize to some Indonesian people when they communicate in a non-formal situation. In Intra-sentential code-switching, both speakers no need to be bilinguals. It is only put a single common word or phrase in a different language,

c. Extra-sentential Code-Switching or Tag-switching

Extra-sentential code-switching can be described as putting a tag from one language into a sentence that is in a different language. The extra-sentential usually occurs when the speaker inserts a different language into the utterance spoken in their language. For example, *'By the way, kita selesai jam berapa?'* The word 'by the way' is the Extra-sentential Code Switching. The Extra-sentential Code Switching is not only at the beginning of the utterance, but it can also at the end of the utterance. Another example is *'Tenang aja semua akan baik-baik saja, O.K?'* This example is the final tag because the tag occurs at the end of the utterance.

2.6. Words, Sentences, and Dictionaries

According to the theory of Carstairs-Mccarthy (2002), It is claimed that it is possible to sort and identify words on their own, outside words in different ways. A thesaurus is a systematic classification of English words according to context. But the kind of traditional grouping that we probably refer to most frequently is a dictionary in which words are mentioned in alphabetical order according to their pronunciation and to check how to spell them. In truth, that is what a dictionary entry essentially consists of an alphabetically specified association of a word with a description of what it means, and maybe even some grammar knowledge (the word class or section of expression to which the word belongs) its pronunciation. Yeung & Qiao (2019) stated that Spelling a word requires integrating different aspects of linguistic information about the word, including phonological, orthographic, morphological, and semantic information.

3. METHOD

In this study, the data was collected from the utterances obtained from the direct interview to the informants, and the utterance is the result of the data. The analysis of how they maintain the use of language in daily communication and deals with language identity. So, the way they maintain the Javanese Language due to keeping their identity, the type of code-switching, the factors which influence the language change, and the level of understanding their English language morphologically and semantically will be

analyzed using the theory of Poplack (2001), (Holmes, 1992), (Hamers & Blanc, 2002), and Carstairs-Mccarthy (2002)

There are ten informants in this research and it uses an unstructured interview as a data collection technique for analyzing the informant's utterance. This research also uses a simple test to analyze the level of English understanding from the informants.

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Word Switched in English and Type of Code -Switching

The phenomenon of code-mixing in daily conversation done by the middle-low class society in Java rural is most likely to appear. The words switched in English are various. Yet, this study would like to identify the word class that mostly spoken in English by the subject in their daily conversation, whether it is a noun, adjective, and verb, and what type of code-switching occurred based on the theory of (Hamers & Blanc, 2002)

Tabel 1. The Data of Word Switched in English And Type of Code -Switching

No	Utterance	Words	Analysis			Type of Code-Switching
			Verb	Adjective	Noun	
1.	“Pesenanku wingi tak cancel sek yo, aku durung di transfer .” “I think I’ll cancel my order because I have not transferred yet.”	Cancel Transfer	✓ ✓			Intra-sentential
2.	“Wingi sms e wes tak screenshot .” “I have screenshotted the messages.”	Screenshot			✓	Intra-sentential
3.	“Aku gak isok telfon, hp ku error .” “I am unable to make a phone call, my phone was error.”	Error		✓		Intra-sentential
4.	“Sek aku isih nge charge hp.” “I am still charging my phone.”	Charge	✓			Intra-sentential
5.	“Aku gak iso update aplikasi wa, memory ku gak cukup.” “I am unable to update my	Update Memory	✓		✓	Intra-sentential

	Whatsapp apps. I run out of memory.”					
6.	“Wingi aku video call an ambek mbak ku.” “I did a video call with my sister yesterday.”	Video call			✓	Intra-sentential
7.	“Aku gak iso online gak nduwe paketan.” “I am unable to online. I have no data package.”	Online			✓	Intra-sentential
8.	“Yoopo se carane download lagu nang internet iku?” “how to download the song through the internet?.”	Download	✓			Intra-sentential
9.	“Omahmu nang endi shareloc ae aku tak nggawe google maps .” “could you please shareloc your address? I’ll find it on google maps.”	Shareloc (abbreviated from “Share Location”) Google Maps			✓ ✓	Intra-sentential
10.	“Masalah wingi iku simple sakjane, tapi digede gedeno makane tukaran.” “that actually a simple problem, but they make it complicated and lead them in a fight.”	Simple		✓		Intra-sentential

Based on the data in table 1. there are various words that informants switch in English. The various words are classified as a verb, adjective, and noun. According to the theory of Hamers & Blanc (2002), the type of code-switching that occurs based on table 1. from each utterance is Intra-sentential code-switching because it only happens in one sentence and one word but consists of two languages. The subject used the Javanese Language as a dominant language and tried to insert the English language in certain words. According to the research for this problem, the most type of code-switching that occurred is intra-sentential.

4.2. Factor of Code-Switching

This part is presented to answer the second problem about why they used the English language in several words during their communication based on the theory of

(Holmes, 1992). This theory also related with what factor influences their language choices.

4.2.1. The Participants

Table 2. The Data of Factor of Code-Switching Classified as “The Participant”

No	Subject	Utterance	The Factor
1.	Informant 1	<p>“<i>biasane ngomong ambek wong kutho, makane bahasane ngunu.</i>”</p> <p>“I usually speak to the urban society; that is why I used that language.”</p>	The participant

Based on Table 2 the answer by informant one due to the theory of Holmes (1992), the reason why the informant speaks several words in English while making conversation is classified as The Participant because they speak certain words in English is influenced by the interlocutor the subject talking to.

4.2.2. The Setting or Social Context

Table 3. The Data of Factor of Code-Switching Classified as “The Setting and Social Context”

No	Subject	Utterance	The Factor
1.	Informant 1	<p>“<i>Soal e konco-koncoku biasane ngomong ngunu, dadi aku ngerti.</i>”</p> <p>“My friends usually say so; that is why I understand.”</p>	Setting and Social Context
2.	Informant 2	<p>“<i>Biasane akeh sing ngomong.</i>”</p> <p>“People mostly said so.”</p>	Setting and Social Context
3.	Informant 3	<p>“<i>wes dadi trend.</i>”</p> <p>“It has become a trend already.”</p>	Setting and Social Context
4.	Informant 4	<p>“<i>Akeh sing nggawe soale uwong-uwong.</i>”</p> <p>“People are most likely to use it.”</p>	Setting and Social Context

According to the answer by informants in Table 3. based on the theory of Holmes (1992), the reason why they speak several words in English while making conversation is classified as setting and social context because they speak certain words

in English is influenced by people around them who speak that words in English too. So, they imitate it.

4.2.3. The Function

Table 4. The Data of Factor of Code-Switching Classified as “The Function”

No.	Subject	Utterance	The Factor
1.	Informant 1	“cek gampang ae.” “to make it easy.”	The Function
2.	Informant 3	“nek gak ngunu mengko bingung sing tak jak omong.” “it will confuse my opponent if I did not say so.”	The Function
3.	Informant 4	“ben gak kesuwen soal e kabeh wong wes paham.” “It will not take too much time because everyone is understood.”	The Function
4.	Informant 5	“soale nek di omongno nggawe Bahasa jawa malah gak paham.” “Because it is not clear if it said in the Javanese language.”	The Function

Due to the answer by informants in Table 4. based on the theory of Holmes (1992), the reason why they speak several words in English while making conversation is classified as The Function because they speak certain words in English is based on its various purpose such as make their utterance understandable by the opponent, make their conversation more effective, and many more.

4.2.4. The Topic

Table 5. The Data of Factor of Code-Switching Classified as “The Topic”

No.	Subject	Utterance	The Factor
1.	Informant 1	“soale lagi ngomongno sosmed koyok wa, Instagram, kan mesti sing dibahas upload, download, tag, ngunu.” “because we are discussing social media such as WhatsApp, Instagram which usually use English terms like upload,	The Topic

	download, and tag.”	
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According to the answer by informants in Table 5. based on the theory of Holmes (1992), the reason why they speak several words in English while making conversation is classified as “The Topic” because they speak certain words in English is based on the subject of the discussion or what is being discussed. The selection code would be affected by different topics.

4.3 The Data of English Understanding’s Level of The Subject

This part is presented to answer the second research question about the English understanding’s level based on the theory (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002). This theory is also related to the understanding of the speaker about the word which they switch in English during communication in terms of semantically (meaning) and morphologically (spelling). The data is used to determine the level of understanding their English language morphologically and semantically by analyzing the *typo* in spelling the words and the meaning in Indonesia Language. If the mistakes are less than 30%, it is still classified as “good,” if the mistakes are about 40% - 50%, it is classified as “enough,” and if the mistakes are more than 50%, it is classified as “less.”

Table 6. The Data of English Understanding’s Level

No	Subject	Level of Understanding		
		Less	Enough	Good
1.	Informant 1	✓		
2.	Informant 2	✓		
3.	Informant 3		✓	
4.	Informant 4			✓
5.	Informant 5			✓
6.	Informant 6	✓		
7.	Informant 7	✓		
8.	Informant 8		✓	
9.	Informant 9	✓		
10.	Informant 10	✓		

Table 6. shows that most of the people who live in a rural area are not exactly understand the English Language that they are talking to the interlocutor. It is proven that most of the Test results show that only two informants, which is categorized as “good,” means that their mistakes in writing down the word spelling and meaning in Indonesia Language are less than three words. There are two informants categorized as “enough,” which means that their mistakes in writing down the word spelling and meaning in Indonesia Language are about four to five words. The last is that six

informants categorized as “less” means that their mistakes in writing down the word spelling and meaning in Indonesia Language are more than five words.

5. CONCLUSION

Code-switching phenomenon of Javanese and English language which occur among Middle-low class society in Java rural area happens due to several factors. Due to the research, the aspect that impacts the way the Middle-low class society in Java rural area does code-switching is they get used to the word spoken in English; the subject wants to make sure that the interlocutors understand what the speaker talk about. Therefore, they used English to speak several words. Moreover, several words are a trend among Middle-low class society in Java rural areas, such as the words used in social media. But some of them are still lack English knowledge even for spelling the English words which they usually speak in daily communication.

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