MANIFESTATIONS OF CODE SWITCHING WITHIN THE SPONTANEOUS CONVERSATION OF HAUSA BILINGUALS

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Abstract

The survey reported in this article focuses on the manifestation ofcode switching phenomena within the spontaneous conversation of Hausa-English bilinguals studying at University Utara Malaysia. Information for the investigation was gathered using a set of questionnairesdistributed to 80 bilinguals, who filled them. The datawere discussed under the summary of previous studies (Li (2000); Woolard (2004) and Auer (2010)). The conclusion of the research establishedthat alternating between two or more languagesis a natural and subconscious bilingual behavior.Moreover, the bilingualspeakers usually employ code switching as discourse strategiesto communicate effectivelyduring conversation.

Keywords: Hausa, code switching, bilingual, manifestation, spontaneous conversation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Due tothe persistentmanifestation ofcode switching phenomena in various formal and informal contacts of multilingualspeakers,the bilingual acts turned out to be the most widely investigated language contact phenomenain applied linguistics (Lin & Li, 2012). The social contexts in which the phenomenon recurrently appearsduring bilingual discourses consist of official gatherings,formal speeches, classroom instructions, religious lectures, peer group discussions,conversation betweenhousehold members, news casting and a host to mention. However, most of the proficientbilingualsin two or more languagesnormally engage in code switchingwithin a single utterance or statement to efficiently express their thoughts. In most of the conversations, the bilinguals may not feasibly describe the code they have chosenduring the speech acts (Wardhaugh, 2011). As sometimes they may not be consciouslyaware that they repeatedly switch between the accessible languages (Milroy & Gordon, 2003). Accordingly, several explanationshave been offered by various linguists and language experts in their attempts to define code switching over the time. In a nutshell,code switching can be defined as the bilingual ability to alternate between two or more languages within the same speech during conversations. Other related linguistic definitions of code switching are: Auer (2010), Ariffen and Rafik-Galea (2009),Woolard (2004), Essien (2000), Eldridge (1996), Heller (1988) andGal (1988).

On the other hand, Hausais the commonly spoken language in Africa apart from Swahili. The language is a member of a Chadic group of languages in the Afrosiatic language families. It is dominantly spoken in Nigeria and the Republic of Niger (Abubakar, 2001). Moreover, Jaggar (2011)advocated that in Sub-Saharan Africa,Hausa is morerelatedto Arabic and Hebrew languages than any other language within the Afrosiatic group.In recent times, the language has been estimated the first language of nearly one hundred million speakers, and reasonablymore than one hundred million nonnative speakers who exhibit a varied degree of aptitude in the language (Yusuf, 20011). Essentially, natural languages must be in contact with one another, since a language may not develop in isolation, and through this relation one language normallyexerted its influence over another language.

By coming into relations with other distance and neighboringlanguages over time, Ahmed and Daura (1970) termedHausa as a language into classical Hausa and modern Hausa. *Theclassical*

*Hausa*symbolizes the language and literary styles that have been highly influenced by Islamic belief and Arabic language.*Themodern Hausa*on the other hand, refers to the language which has been evidently inclined to western civilization and moralsvia the English languageactivities. Consequently, differentlanguage contact phenomena like interference, borrowing, code switching, etc.,are persistently manifesting within the communicative exchanges of Hausa bilingualspeakers in Nigeria and in overseas.This situation reached the point that Hausa bilinguals can hardlypartake in any conversation without switching back and forth between Hausa, and other languages, especiallyArabic and English languages. So, the main aim of this sociolinguistic study of code switching is to survey the manifestation of code switching as well as disclosing the code switchers' views about the frequency and attitudes of alternating between Hausa and English languages during a spontaneous conversation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.Manifestations of Code switching Phenomena

Code switching is not an identical bilinguals'behavior.That is, its norms vary from one speaker to another, from a community to another, as well as froma particular situation to another (Wardhaugh, 2011). Likewise, the investigation into the phenomena varies from time to time and from researcher to researcherfor some decades ago. Studies in language and linguisticsfrom 1950s downwards consistently viewed the actsof code switching as a sub-standard usage of two or more languages (Weinreich, 1983). That is to say, they consider the practice of code switching as partial control of the two languages. Nevertheless, contemporarystudiesrevealedotherwise, theyperceived bilingual act of code switching as a normal behaviorof using two or more languages (cf. Ariffen and Rafik-Galea, 2009; and Jagero & Odongo, 2011). The bilingual trait has also been observed as a subconscious behavior (cf. Auer, 2010; Woolard, 2004; Caron, 2002; and Li, 2000). In the same vein, it is viewed as a natural language contact phenomena (Obiamalu & Mbagwu, 2009). Furthermore, Eldridge (1996) argued that code switching happens with reasonsand naturally. In a nutshell, substituting between two or more languages manifested naturally and unconsciously within the communicative exchange of the bilingual speakers. In addition, Essien (2000)specified that code switching among bilinguals such as Nigerians have to be considered as a normal linguistic peculiarityin a particular society,in which its inhabitants spoke more than one language or dialects.

The manifestations of code switching have been extensively studied in various aspects of everyday lives of bilinguals. The studies have been extended widely to classroom interactions, formal speeches, official meetings, among householdmembers, movies,public media as well associal networks. Equally,Bollinger (1975) viewedcode switching as a discourse strategy which is commonly used by bilingualspeakers to disregard any conversational difficulty that may arise in the course of communication. Koban (2013) discusses the manifestationof code switching within the discourse of Turkish-English bilinguals in the United State of America in an attempt to investigate the influence of language proficiency on intra-sentential code switching. The investigator disputed that intra-sentential code switching occurred at a greater frequency than its inter-sentential counterpart. Further, Singh (2012) studies the influence of the first language and gender of the bilinguals in the manifestation of code switching during the conversation of the military cadet officers in the Malaysia Defense Academy. The study discovered that both the gender and the native language of the participants have a significant impact on the use of code-switching.

2.2.Previous Hausa Code Switching Studies

Abubakar (1993) studied the syntax of Hausa-English code switching among Hausa bilinguals in the Kano state metropolis in Nigeria. The research discovers that code switching as a conversational strategy happen to be a normal habit of Hausa bilingual elites as it appears to be natural and normal to other bilingual speakers.Amin (2011) looks into the appearance of code switchingduring the assembly sittings of the Kano State LegislativeChamber.The study findsthat socio-political factors and formality of the sittings often motivated code switching between the Hausa and English languages.Furthermore, Chamo(2012) observes the nature of code switching in the modern Hausa films (Kanywood). The researcher argues that the manifestation of code switching within the communicative exchanges of the Hausa-English bilingual characters in the films are conscious behavior and situational, which is motivated by emotional circumstances and sharing group identity or solidarity with other bilingual members.

Quite a number of studies around the world examined the bilingual act of code switching between two or more languages. Particularly between English and other languages, whichmostly replicates the spread of the language in the teaching and learning activities, the trainingsthat the investigators received and the popularity of the language as a second or third language in severalnation states (Swann and Sinka, 2007).Even with the present-dayprominence of code

switching as unique features of the speech acts of bilingualspeakers, the code switching study concerning its manifestation between Hausa-English bilinguals inside or outside a classroom seemsvery limitedor there is nothing in place per se based on the investigator'sinformation. And so, this study aimed at surveying the manifestation and attitudes of bilinguals on code switching during the spontaneous conversation of Hausa-English bilinguals studying at University Utara Malaysia, where many bilinguals are undertaking postgraduate and undergraduatestudies in various colleges.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Design

Aconcise analysis of linguistic data is an essential processof ascertaining the manifestation of code switchingwithin the spontaneous conversation of bilinguals (Gumperz, 1982). Therefore,thissociolinguistic survey of code switching, employ a quantitative technique for the data collection and analysis to examine the manifestation of Hausa-English code switching amongthe bilinguals. As a number of the Hausa bilinguals live in the same university grounds, others also study the same courses at various schools.Consequently, thestatus quomotivated a recurrent manifestation of code switching duringtheir informal conversation outside classroom in the research setting.

3.2. Participants

The survey sample involved 80 participants, 12 femalesand 68 males respectively. Fluctuating in age between 19 to 54 years and carefully selected to represent the Hausa bilinguals. The respondents were decisivelychosenaccording to their outlining characteristics of the subgroup associates of Hausa bilinguals (Creswell, 2014). The bilinguals participated during the study start to become bilingualsright from their elementaryeducation in Nigeria. Nearly all the bilinguals that played parts in the survey were very proficient in both the Hausa and English languages. There were emanatedfrom various careers and major Hausa dialects in northern Nigeria, specifically: Bausanci, Guddiranci,Kanonci, Katsinanci, Sakkwatanci and Zazzaganci.

3.3. Instrument

The questionnaire, which is a survey instrument that presents a series of questions to the bilinguals in order for them to respond, is employed to gather a lot of information within a short period of time.The questionnaire is aneffective operationaltool in collecting a huge amount of responses from the participantsat a reasonably very short time(Milroy and Gordon, 2003). Therefore, an existing questionnairedeveloped and tested by Van Dulm (2007) in investigative the manifestation of English-Afrikaans code switching in South Africa within the sketch of feature checking theory was traced and adapted. The tool was piloted as pretest, main test and also use in post-teststeps to ascertain its reliability by the author (Van Dam). In the same vein, the modifiedversion of the questionnaire was piloted with 30 bilinguals prior to the main project. The outcomespresented in table 1 and figure 2 show a relative validity of the instrument.

Milroy and Gordon (2003) recommend that 20-30 minutes maximum will be an adequate time for collecting a useful linguistic data. So, every questionnaire is expected to take a respondent at most 30 minutes. So, the four sections questionnaire set was organized which covers twenty seven (27) questions. Primarily, section A contains ten demographic questions. Section B encompasses four questions which are planned to assess the aptitude of the bilinguals in the languages. Further, Section C consists ofeight questions which stand forthe functions of code switching. The respondents are requested to deliberateon the sentences presented,whether are:(1) acceptable or (2) unacceptable in the casual conversation between fluent bilinguals. Finally, Section D entails five questions, which were aimed at gathering information concerning attitude and the manifestation of code switching between the bilinguals.

3.4. Data Collection

The investigator disseminated 90 questionnaires to all the within reachnative Hausa speakers in the research site who filled them, and capablyreceived 80copies in December 2013 which were used for analysis. As the researcher sets out in distributing the questionnaires, he equally took charge in gathering the completed copies from the respondents. The Hausa bilinguals at the research settings have similar linguistic skillsinsubstituting between the two languages during conversation; therefore, there are no any criteria that have been fixed in issuing the questionnaires to the respective bilingual participants.Due to the fact that any respondent found in the sample frame has the linguistic ability of representing the targeted population.

3.5. Data Analysis

Afterassembling the necessary information for scrutiny, descriptive analysis was employed in order to accomplish the research objectives. According to Creswell (2014), the descriptive analysis is anin depthexplanation of the behavior or attitude of the individual participantswithin a particular research setting. Therefore, the assembled data were exploited in a descriptive approachtowards identifying the attitudes and manifestationsof code switching during a spontaneous conversation of Hausa-English bilinguals. However, certain steps which relate with one another were run in formulating and shaping the data for analysis.

Primarily, the collected hard copies of the questionnaires have beenordered in figures(from 1-80), thenrecording the scores into the computer software (SPSS Version 18). A particular item score is apportioned to any participant to provide a detailed analysis of the participant's response to every question. Questionsthat require two answers have been given 1 and 2 numerals. Like question 2 that requested the sex of the respondents, 1 assigned to male and 2 apportioned to female. However, the statements that questioned the participants, if they considered the sentences offered as acceptable or unacceptable. Thus, any question with this order, 1 is allocated to acceptable and 2 to the unacceptable. Moreover, 1 = Yes, 2 = No, and 3 = some time was apportioned to certain questions that want three answers of such kind. Secondly, Code of related nature was brought together to examine the manifestation of Hausa-English code switching during the spontaneous conversation of Hausa bilinguals. For instance, the demographic questions were coded: DM1-DM10. The fivevariables concerning the attitude and the manifestation of the phenomena are coded as: CP1-CP5= Code switching phenomena.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

As already mentioned the main aim of the survey is to examine the manifestation of code switching as well as to disclose the views of code switchers concerning the frequent substituting between Hausa and English languages during conversation. Therefore, this section will present the results and discuss its outcome based on the collected data.

4.1 Profiles of the Respondents

The results presentedhere are based on the demographic questions issued in the questionnaire, which were meant to gatherdetailsconcerningbackgroundsof the bilingual participants such as

age and gender, first language, second language, years and place of acquisition of the second language.Occupations as well as the educational qualification of the 80 Hausa bilinguals, who participated in the survey, are all presented.

Table 1 the Profiles of the Bilingual Respondents

Demographic variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage%
Age	19-36 Years	53	67.9
	37- Above	25	32.1
Gender	Male	68	85.0
	Female	12	15.5
Place of Birth	North West	49	72.1
	North East	11	16.2
	North Central	8	11.8
First Language (L1)	Hausa	77	96.3
	Others	3	3.8
Second Language (L2)	English	77	96.3
	Hausa	3	3.8
Age of L2 Learning	Before 5 Years	20	25.0
	After 5 Years	60	75.0
L2 Learning Place	At Home	10	12.5
	At School	70	87.5
Occupation	Teacher	55	69.6
	Students	18	22.8
	Others	6	7.6
Level of Education	Ph. D	18	22.5
	Masters	46	57.5
	Others	16	20.0
Regular language	Hausa	60	75.0
	English	20	25.0

It is found in the *table 1* thatthe majority of the bilinguals that participated in the survey were in their middle-ages. As 53 (66.7%) out of the80 respondents fall between 19-36 years old, while

25 (32.1%) of them descent between 37-55 years of age, whereby 68 (85.0%) males and 12 (15.0%) femalesparticipated. Most of the bilinguals 49 (61.3%) emanated from the northwest, where the leading Hausa dialects are commonly found; namely:Kanonci Katsinanci Sakkwatanci, Zamfaranci, Zazzaganci.11 (13.8%) of the participants hailed fromnortheast (Bausanci, Guddiranci), and only 8 (10.0%) respondents emerged from north central.

Concerning vernaculars of the respondents, it is found that 77 (96.3%) of the respondents spoke Hausa as a first language (L1), while 3 (3.8%) out of them spoke Hausa as a second language (L2) in an everyday interaction. Equally, 77 (93.3%) spoke English as a second language, whereby 3 (3.8%) of the bilingual participants spoke the language as third language respectively. Nevertheless, 20 (25.0%) of the bilinguals started acquiring the English language before the age of 5, while 60 (75.0%) of respondents began learning the second language after 5 years. It is also revealed that many bilinguals started learning the second language right from elementary school. Since 70 (87.5%) respondents learned the language at school, while 10 (12.5%) participants began acquiring the language at home between family members.

Furthermore, it is found that a certain number of the bilinguals were civil servants. As 55 (68.8%) drop to the working class clique or lecturers, 18 (22.5%) respondents upheld of being students. And only 6 (7.5%) descend to the category of others as well. Still, a large number of the bilinguals have master degrees or are at this time pursuing the program, as 46 (57.5%) of them revealed masters as their present academic qualification, whereas 18 (46%) of them have a doctorate degree or are now hunting and 16 (20%) fall within others, i.e. most of them are pursuing undergraduate study and a small number of them indicate a diploma or its equivalent as a qualification they obtained. In turn, the Hausa bilinguals replied that they regularly spoke their native language on a day to day interaction, because 60 (75.0%) of them prepare to spoke Hausa over English on a regular basis, and 20 (25.0%) claimed that they frequently spoke English instead of the first language.

4.2. The Appearance of Code SwitchingWithin the Bilinguals Conversations

Thecode-switchers were asked about how they view the act of alternating between the two languages as they repeatedly involve in the code switching practice within the spontaneous conversations.The bar chart below presentsthe responsesof the bilinguals regardingthe behavior of code switching.
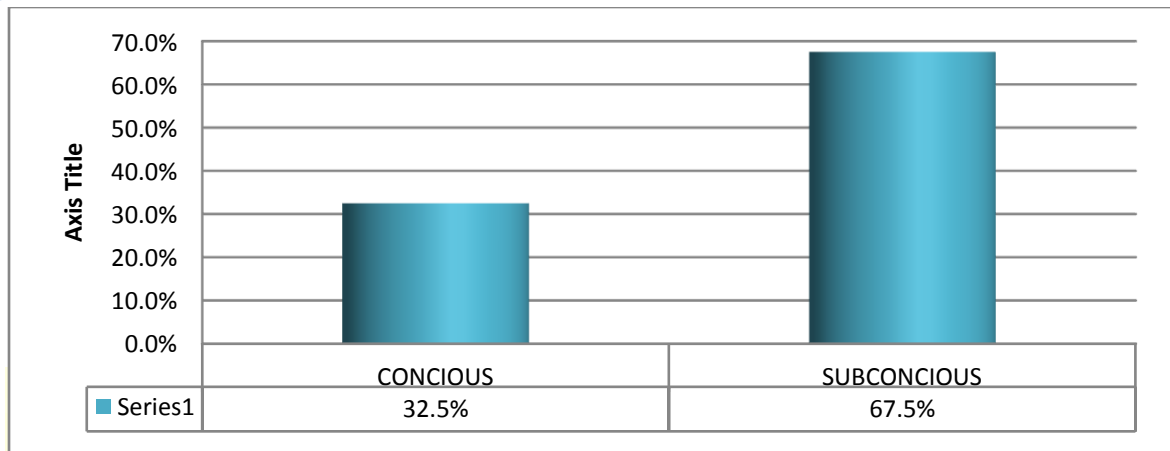
Figure 1 Bar Chart Showing the Manifestation of Code Switching

Hausa-English bilinguals were questioned whether the common appearances of code switching within the spontaneous conversationsof fluent bilinguals is conscious (intentional) or unconscious(unintentional) behavior as it persistently occurs during their discourse? The outcomes of their responses established that 54 respondents (67.5%) out of 80 reported that theirengagement in code switching between Hausa-Englishis subconscious, but 26 participants (32.5%) argued that they consciously code switched between the two language varieties during conversation. Thefinding signifies that recurrent manifestation of code switching amongmost of the Hausa-English bilinguals isa subconscious practice. This result correlates with Wardhaugh (2011),who underlined that the bilingualsat times may not possibly report the code they have selected in an interactive discourse.

4.3. The Frequency and Attitude of the Bilinguals on the Manifestation of Code Switching

This section meant topresentthe survey outcome from the code switchers'perceptions about the frequency, contentment, and their attitude in the act of Hausa-English code switching during conversations.
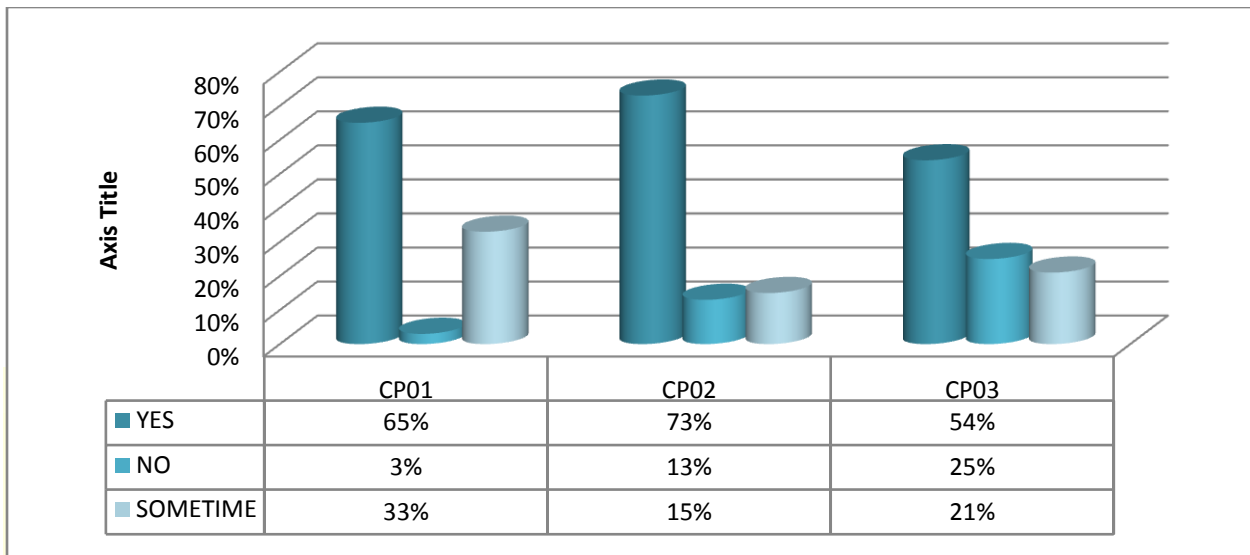
	CP01	CP02	CP03
■ YES	65%	73%	54%
■ NO	3%	13%	25%
■ SOMETIME	33%	15%	21%

Figure 2 Bar Chart Displays the Attitudes of Code SwitchingBetween the Bilinguals

4.3.1. Code Switching Phenomena (CP01)

Bilingual speakers were asked concerning the frequency of the consistentoccurrence or useof code switching during social dealings with other colleagues and friends. The outcome establishes that 52 respondents (65.0%) report that they regularlycode switched between Hausa and English in mutual interactions with other bilingual colleagues, 2 of the participants (2.5%) rejected the notion that they are repeatedlyusing code switching act, and 26 bilinguals (32.5%) claimed that they sometimesemploy code switching whenever they interact with bilingual friends. Thefindingsindicated that most of the Hausa-English bilinguals are frequently engaged in code switching during the spontaneous conversation withother friends.

4.3.2. Code Switching Phenomena (CP02)

Hausa bilinguals were required to respond concerning how comfortable they usually feltin the course ofcode switching from Hausa-English and vice versa amongthe associates of the same mother tongue (first language).It is established that 58 bilinguals (72.5%) replied positively to the fact that they normally used code switching contentedlyamongsome friends or colleagues they shared the same mother tongue with. 10 of the respondents (12%) reported that they are not using code switching act during social interaction with friends of the same mother tongue, and 12 participants (15.0%) reasoned that they engage in code switching in certainrare circumstances. This signifies that majority of the bilinguals involve in the normal act of code switching whileconversing with other speakers of similarfirst and second languages.

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4.3.3. Code Switching Phenomena (CP03)

The bilingual participants were also questions about how contented theynormally feltwhile swappingbetween Hausa and English amongother bilingual speakers of different gender. To which 43 bilinguals (53.8%) gave positive responses, 20 (25.0%) reported the discomfort in using code switching act during the conversation that involve various friends of different gender, and 17 respondents (21.3%) claimed that theysometimes felt comfortable but not always. This outcomeconfirms that most of the Hausa-English bilinguals feel at ease whenever they engage in code switching amongthe friends of dissimilar genders.

5. CONCLUSION

The studydiscusses the appearance ofcode switching in the course of a spontaneous conversation between Hausa bilinguals studying at University Utara Malaysia. Even though, thesurvey found a frequent occurrence of code switching to English within the speech exchanges of the majority of the Hausa bilinguals; but the phenomena manifested unconsciously as it happens to be with other bilinguals. This is why most of the bilinguals engage in code switching acts comfortably with fellow native speakers and friends of different gender.In conclusion, theoutcomeestablishes that normal persistentmanifestation of code switching actsamong the majorityof Hausa-English bilingualsarenatural and subconscious use of language.

Besides, thearticle focuses on the manifestation of code switching within the social contacts of Hausa bilinguals outside a classroom context. So, future studies may have to extend their investigations into a particular classroom where Hausa bilinguals are instructed in English or where the English language serves as a secondor foreign language.Moreover, the study recommends the need for investigating the grammatical constraints of the two or more languages in the occurrence of code switching, the factors motivating the occurrence of code switching as well as social functions of code switching between bilingual speakers. Forthcoming researches may also employ qualitative techniques and procedure to extensively examine the code switching phenomena by observing and conducting a face to face interview with the same respondents used in the present survey and the location.

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