

Immigrant English - Code-Switching

a presentation by

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Outline

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Introduction

- Main topic of presentation:
Principles of code-switching of Polish immigrants living in the USA and Germany
- Bilinguals who regularly use two languages in their environment make use of code-switching
- Code-Switching:
“the change back and forth between languages [styles], is frequent where there is bilingualism”

Generation Discrepancies

- There is a difference in code-switching: depending on which generation the immigrant is, the language is constructed differently...

Generation Discrepancies

- → First generation:
”inserts grammatically and phonologically modified lexical elements from the embedded language (EL = AmE or German) into the morphosyntactic frame of the matrix language (ML = Polish)”
- → Second generation:
does the same but without modifying pronunciation. “It also tends to insert ‘islands’ (morphemes or phrases) from the [embedded language] more than the first generation.”

Fieldwork Study

- Morphosyntactical and phonological principles of Polish-AmE and Polish-German CS in the areas of activity (domains)...
 - ...home, family, work and education.
- Type of speech data obtained is spontaneous speech collected in the following locations:
New York City, Clifton, New Jersey and Chicago as well as in Bielefeld.
- Speakers were selected from among first and second generation bilingual Polish immigrants, mainly family and friends.

Fieldwork Study

- US group (19 speakers):
8 males, 11 females
12 speakers (1st gen.), 7 speakers (2nd gen.)
Age: from 4 - 63 years of age
- German Group (24 speakers):
5 males, 19 females
17 speakers (1st gen.), 7 speakers (2nd gen.)
Age: from 19 - 30 years of age

Inter-Clause / Intra-Clause Switching

Inter-Sentential (Inter-Clause Switching)

- switching between languages from sentence to sentence (clause to clause) so that neither language can be identified as the ML
- The following example illustrates inter-clause switching in the performance of a Spanish/English bilingual in New York city (Spanish is in italics):

“There was a guy, you know, *que* [that] he *se montó* [got up]. He started playing with *congas*, you know, and *se montó y empezó a brincar* [got up and started to jump] and all that shit.”

(Winford 2003: 105)

Intra-Sentential (Intra-Clause Switching)

- momentary switches producing utterances with lexicon and morpho-syntax from the ML
- with insertions of single words/phrases from the EL

- **Example:**

Ja cię abholuję.
 /ap'xɔluje/ vs. /ap'ho:lən/
 Ger. Ich werde dich abholen.
 Pol. Odbiorę cię.

Morphosyntactical analysis	Phonological analysis
{-uję} in <i>abholuję</i> marks in Polish 1 st person singular imperfective aspect	Comparison of /ap'xɔluje/ vs. /ap'ho:lən/ indicates phonological integration of the following Polish phonemic features:
simple tense active voice indicative mood {ab} + {hol} + {uję} has German prefix and stem Polish suffix	Polish short vowel /ɔ/ instead of German long one /o:/; Polish fricative velar /x/ instead of German fricative glottal /h/

Intra-Sentential (Intra-Clause Switching)

- Islands

The following example can be provided in which the switch does not undergo ML integration, but remains an island from the EL:

*Azyl jest kiedy jesteś **Flüchtling**, na przykład.*

/'flyhtlink/

Ger. Das Asyl ist wenn du ein Flüchtling bist, zum Beispiel.

Pol. Azyl jest wtedy, kiedy jest się uciekinierem, na przykład.

Models

Equivalence-Based Constraints Model

- analyzes structural constraints on CS
- discusses two or more interacting grammars
- focuses on multi-word switches

Here we deal with “the juxtaposition of sentences or sentence fragments, each of which is internally consistent with the morphological and syntactic (and optionally phonological) rules of its lexifier language” (Poplack 1995: 200).

- no switch is allowed between a lexical stem and a bound morpheme (except in phonology)
- switches occur at points where the surface structure of the two languages coincide

Matrix-Language Frame (MLF) Model

- analyzes switched constituents
- postulates one dominant grammar in CS
- focuses on single-morpheme EL switches

Grammar

ML Hypothesis

Muszę wyprintować formę.

S (VP (VP (V) + V) + NP (NP (N)))

/vɨprin'tɔvatɕ/ vs. /print/ /'fɔrme/ vs. /fɔ:rm/

Eng. I have to print out the form.

Pol. Muszę wydrukować formularz.

- ML sets grammatical frame for both the ML & EL constituents
- grammatical word and morpheme principle requires all syntactically relevant grammatical words and morphemes to be derived from the ML

Morphosyntactical analysis	Phonological analysis
<p>{wy-} and {-ować} in <i>wyprintować</i> mark perfective aspect infinitive</p> <p>{wy} + {print} + {ować} have Polish prefix and suffix English stem</p>	<p>Comparison of /vɨprin'tɔvatɕ/ vs. /print/ indicates phonological integration of the following Polish phonemic features: Polish alveolar trill [ɾ] instead of AmE alveolar approximant [ɹ] Polish penultimate accentual pattern</p>
<p>{-e} in <i>formę</i> marks in Polish accusative</p>	<p>Comparison of /'fɔrme/ vs. /fɔ:rm/ indicates phonological integration</p>

Blocking Hypothesis

- “Switching is blocked where there is a mismatch in constituency between the two languages” (Winford 2003: 129)
- Since the ordering (linear order) of nouns and adjectives in Spanish and English differs, the model predicts that no switch is possible at the boundary between them. This rules out cases like “the casa white” or “the blanca house” as ungrammatical combinations in one or the other language.

EL Island Trigger Hypothesis

- Whenever an EL morpheme appears which is not permitted under either the ML Hypothesis or the Blocking Hypothesis, the constituent containing it must be completed as an island
- *Blocking Hypothesis:*
ML blocks the appearance of any EL content morphemes which do not meet certain grammatical agreement conditions with ML counterparts

Dziadziu! Thomas jedzie tym thru the bridge!

S1 (NP (N))

S2 (NP (NP (N)) + VP (VP (V) + DET + PP (PP (P) + NP (DET + NP (N))))))

/θru: ðə brɪdʒ/

Eng. Grandpa! Thomas is driving this thru the bridge.

Pol. Dziadziu, Tomasz / Tomas jedzie tym przez most.

EL Implicational Hierarchy Hypothesis

- Optional EL islands occur in case these constituents are either idiomatic or peripheral to the main grammatical arguments of the sentence.

As an example, the switch of an adverb can be provided:

Anyway, musimy tam pojechać.

S (AdvP (AdvP (Adv)) + VP (VP (VP (V)) + VP (P + VP (V))))

/ˈeniwaj/ vs. /ˈeniweɪ/

Eng. Anyway, we have to go there.

Pol. W każdym bądź razie, musimy tam pojechać.

Phonology

- In terms of phonological principles switches are modified a) phonologically or b) not as the examples below show.

(a) Przy **in**siurach robie.

/in¹s¹urax/ vs. /in¹ʃuərəns/

Eng. I work in area of insurance.

Pol. Przy ubezpieczeniach robie.

(b) *Mój teacher jest bardzo fajny.*

/¹ti:ʃəɪ/

Eng. My teacher is very nice.

Pol. Mój nauczyciel jest bardzo fajny.

Sociolinguistics

- In terms of the sociolinguistic principles of CS, the domain is the driving force in CS.

Domain is an area of activity which is tied to a certain code. It motivates which language is used for which topic while talking to which interlocutor.

Domain	Role relationship	Location	Topic	Language
Family	Parent-child	Home	Family matters	Polish
Work	Employer-employee	Workplace	Job performance	English / German
Education	Teacher-student	School	Homework	English / German

Motivation for Code-Switching

- Proficiency motivated
 - people “are (or feel they are) insufficiently competent in a particular language to communicate fluently.”
- Domain-driven
 - there is “a complementary distribution of languages between *domains*:“

area of work, education,... (language of power)

VS.

area of solidarity, friends, family, ... (domains of the other language)

→ older “immigrant generation may use the L1 in more domains [...] than the second or third generation in an immigrant family.“

Motivation for Code-Switching

- Context motivated
 - “association of one language with formality and power and the other with informality of style and solidarity.”
 - often one language seems more suitable to a speaker for telling jokes
- Identity-driven
 - “in the case of bilingual communities the variety of language which people speak depends on their social identities“ (family, peer group, wider community, institutions, ...)

(Gramley 2008: 318-320)

Immigrant Generations Thesis

- Differences in the morpho-syntactic and phonological nature of CS between the first and the second immigrant generations...

Immigrant Generations Thesis

- The first generation inserts grammatically and phonologically modified lexical elements from the EL into the morphosyntactic frame of the ML according to the MLF Model.

Racoony są u naszych sąsiadów.

/ra'kuni/ vs. /ræ'ku:ns/

Eng. Racoons are at our neighbors'.

Pol. Szopy są u naszych sąsiadów.

Morphosyntactical analysis	Phonological analysis
<p>-y in <i>racoony</i> marks in Polish: nominative plural masculine {raccoon} + {y} has English stem Polish suffix</p>	<p>Comparison of /ra'kuni/ vs. /ræ'ku:n/ indicates phonological integration of the following Polish phonemic features: Polish central open rounded vowel /a/ for AmE front half-open unrounded /æ/ Polish short vowel /u/ instead of AmE long /u:/</p>

Immigrant Generations Thesis

- Second generation switches are made in the same manner but without modifying the pronunciation. Further, this generation tends to insert 'islands' incorporated from the EL more frequently but still according to the MLF Model.

Ja chcem <i>shrimpsy</i> . /ʃrɪmpsi/	I jego stop było. /stɑ:p/
Eng. I want shrimps.	Eng. And there was his stop.
Pol. Ja chcę krewetki.	Pol. I tam był jego przystanek.

Morphosyntactical analysis	Phonological analysis
-y in <i>shrimpsy</i> marks in Polish: accusative plural masculine {shrimps} + {y} has English stem and suffix Polish suffix	/ʃrɪmpsi/ indicates: no phonological integration
/stɑ:p/ indicates: no morpho- syntactical integration	/stɑ:p/ indicates: no phonological integration

Literature

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Thank you for your attention !