

## ABSTRACT

This study termed code switching as using two or more languages within gender and inter-gender speech and it is fairly common between two of the most used languages in this country which are the national language (Bahasa Malaysia) and the international language (English). The term code switching here looks at Gumperz (1982)'s work which suggests that code switching has important discourse functions for bilinguals. They construct social meanings in their interactions and in particular during inter gender interactions as in this study. Men and women have different styles of communicating with one another where they decode same things differently. Hence, this study sets out to explore the inter-gender code switching among upper primary learners in a school in Malaysia and also look into a linguistic feature which is the speech acts of Searle (1975)'s theory used by both genders. A total of eight participants comprising four males and four females were selected for this study. They were given topics for discussion which were divided to cater single gender interaction and mixed gender interaction. This study presents data on code switching occurrences where it is categorized and quantified based on Gumperz (1982) according to the inter-gender frequency and functions as well as the speech acts by Searle (1975). Switches by the male participants were more frequent and were deployed for wide variety of functions compared to the female participants. The results yield 10 functions of code switching. The directives were found to be popular among the males while the declaratives were prominent with the females. In addition to that, the results also show that while code switching is being used as a function to extend communicative competence during interactions, it is also identified as being used due to lack of proficiency by participants. Finally this study discusses the role and effect of code switching in a modern bilingual community such as Malaysia and offers information that could be useful in future research.

## ABSTRAK

Laporan penyelidikan ini mengkaji penukaran kod sebagai penggunaan dua atau lebih bahasa dalam satu rangkap perbualan yang biasanya terjadi dalam penggunaan antara bahasa kebangsaan, Bahasa Malaysia dan Bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia. Penukaran kod di sini mengambil kira intipati kajian Gumperz (1982) yang menyarankan penukaran kod sebagai mempunyai fungsi dan peranan penting dalam penggunaan bahasa oleh penutur dwi bahasa. Penutur dwi bahasa membina maksud sosial dalam interaksi mereka terutamanya sewaktu berinteraksi di antara gender (qqq). Kaum lelaki dan perempuan mempunyai gaya yang berbeza apabila berkomunikasi antara satu sama lain dalam mana mereka 'dekod' perkara yang sama secara berlainan. Oleh itu kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji penukaran kod dalam kalangan sekumpulan pelajar sekolah rendah. Ia juga meneliti fitur linguistic menurut Teori Tingkah Laku Perbualan Searle (1975) yang digunakan oleh kedua-dua gender. Seramai 8 orang peserta yang terdiri dari 4 peserta lelaki dan 4 peserta perempuan dipilih. Mereka diberikan topik yang berbeza untuk perbualan secara kumpulan dengan gender yang sama dan antara gender yang berbeza. Kajian ini membentangkan dapatan berdasarkan data penukaran kod dan fungsi berdasarkan Gumperz (1982) dan Teori Searle (1975). Sebanyak 10 fungsi penukaran kod dapat dikesan dari data analisis yang telah diperolehi. Penukaran kod lebih kerap dilihat dalam kalangan pelajar lelaki yang menggunakannya untuk pelbagai fungsi berbanding dengan pelajar perempuan. Peserta lelaki didapati menggunakan lebih banyak ayat perintah manakala peserta perempuan pula lebih banyak menggunakan ayat penyata di sepanjang perbualan. Walaupun penukaran kod secara amnya dilihat berfungsi untuk memanjangkan perbualan, ia juga dilihat berlaku akibat dari kelemahan kecekapan bahasa. Dengan ini, keputusan kajian serba sedikit dapat membantu menambah pengetahuan tentang kepentingan dan peranan penukaran kod dalam komuniti dwi bahasa di Malaysia.

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