CODE SWITCHING AND CODE MIXING IN RELATION TO POLITENESS PRINCIPLE

(A Case study on the Reader’s Opinion Column in Kedaulatan Rakyat from July to September 2008)

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Abstract


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I. Introduction

Everybody, certainly, has different language because language is multilingual. It is undoubted if a person can speak two languages or even more in his daily speech. This is called bilingualism. It usually occurs in a society where the people of the community want to learn a second language besides their native language. In a bilingual or multilingual society like Indonesian people, there is a tendency for them to shift or select a particular code whenever they choose to speak or even mix the code. Code, here, refers to particular dialect, language, style and register (Wardhaugh,1986:86).

People do not only switch and mix a code in spoken but also in written communication, such as printed media. It is not really different with spoken language, when people express their mind, they sometimes use more than one code and use another code for another purpose. The code they choose may regularly depends on the ethnic background, sex, age, level of education, topic, the person addressed and many more.

The writer took the Reader’s opinion column in Kedaulatan Rakyat as the research object because two kinds of code switching, external and internal code switching, are found in this newspaper. There are many people expressing their idea in
this column who have different backgrounds such as dialect, education and social status. These backgrounds cause language variety on choice of word, phonological and morphological variation, grammar and another code. Therefore, the writer is interested in finding out factors that influence people in applying code switching and code mixing.

2. Underlying Theory

The writer used some theories such as Ho, Myerhoff’s theory of code switching and code mixing, and Leech’s theory of politeness principle. Beside those, the writer also used other theories that support this concept that are theories from Fasold, Yule, Austin, Searle, Vanderveken, etc.

Chidambaram (2000) divided types of code switching: a. Internal code switching occurs between a native language with its varieties, b. External code switching occurs when there is a switching of a foreign language with a native language. According to Wardhaugh (2006:104-110), there are several factors that influence a speaker switches his language:

a. The speakers do not use code switching in their contact before they know something about the listener’s background and attitude in order not make a misunderstanding.
b. the speakers switch their language to show solidarity in a specific group.
c. a particular language used is determined by choice of topic.
d. the speakers can not express himself adequately in one language, then switches to another to make good the deficiency.
e. the speakers choose the right language to use according to a particular situation or occasion.
f. the speakers switch their language to assert their power and to show the speaker’s identity.

While, Fasold (1984:180) stated pieces of one language (including word and phrase) are used when a speaker is basically using another language, code mixing occurred. Ho (2007:2) divided code mixing into seven types, a) Letters of alphabet e.g. GPA for Grade Point Average, b) Short form e.g. transla for translation, c) Proper noun e.g. names of brands, d) Lexical word e.g. the adding of prefix and suffix, e) Phrase e.g. Chinese Phonology, f) Incomplete sentence e.g. Hello, Bye-bye, g) Single full sentence and two sentence unit containing a subject and a verb in a statement. Meyerhoff (2006:120-125) stated the kinds of factors that play a role in determining why speakers mix their language:

a. to show a speaker’s competence or a sign of their lack of competence.
b. to show their solidarity and identity marker.
c. a given attitude of the speaker toward the listener.

While doing a communication, politeness is also needed to minimize the threatening of another’s face. Politeness consists of the recognition of the listener and his or her right in a situation. Politeness Principle (PP) is caused by the violation of cooperative principle. Leech (1983:132) proposed five maxims of the PP namely Tact Maxim, Generosity Maxim, Approbation Maxim, Modesty Maxim, Agreement Maxim and Sympathy Maxim. According to Leech in Mey’s book (1993:69), the point of politeness as a principle, is to minimize the effects of impolite statements or expressions (negative politeness) and to maximize the politeness of polite illocutions (positive politeness).
3. Research Method

The methodology of the research can be classified into three steps:

1. The method of collecting data is library or documentary study and note taking technique.
2. The method of analyzing data is pragmatic identity method and pragmatic competence in dividing.
3. The method of presenting data is formal and informal presentation method because the writer uses ordinary words and sign, that is an arrow, in presenting the data (Sudaryanto.1993:145).

4. Analysing Data

In this section, the writer only took one example of code switching and code mixing as a description of how to analyze the form and the factor influencing the occurrence of code switching and code mixing and its relation to Politeness Maxims.

A. Code Switching

There are two kinds of code switching found in the data. They are internal and external code switching. The writer only took internal code switching. It is indicated by the switch between one local language or its variety to a foreign language. Of the data, the writer only found 1 kind of internal code switching, that is, switching from Indonesian to Javanese such as follows.

(56) Selamat jalan Pak Madi…! Mugi krida migunani (Good Bye Mr.Soemadi)...! Wish your deed in real life tumraping liyan ingkang sampun panjenengan could be worth for many people tindakaken ing tataran kasunyatan saged hanggampilaken anggen panjenengan marak sowan dumateng and it can make you easy to face Pangeran ingkang maha welas lan maha asih. The All-Loving and Forgiving of God). [Kedaulatan Rakyat, (Wednesday, 10 September 2008)].

Of the discourse above, the writer of KR uses Indonesian first and then he switches into regional language, that is, Javanese in the second sentence. In this case, the writer of KR switches into high level variety of Javanese, krama. He does it because he already knows the reader’s background of this newspaper, Kedaulatan Rakyat in which it is mainly purposed for Javanese people so that the writer of KR wants to show his identity marker and solidarity in the same ethnic group with the readers of KR as a Javanese people.

The illocution of Javanese sentence above is an expressive illocution, that is, a speaker’s expressing to condole over the loss of Mr.Soemadi. In this case, the writer of KR condoes and wishes that Mr.Soemadi can get the best place inside the All-Loving of God. It is categorized as convivial because it tends to please other. The Javanese sentence is also called 8o. “O” is the sequence of the types of code switching and code mixing found in the eight heading. The Pattern of Politeness Maxim on the Last Sentence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Switching</th>
<th>Politeness Maxim</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8o</td>
<td>Sympathy Maxim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8o</td>
<td>Tact Maxim</td>
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<tr>
<td>8o</td>
<td>Approbation Maxim</td>
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<tr>
<td>8o</td>
<td>Modesty Maxim</td>
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<tr>
<td>8o</td>
<td>Generosity Maxim</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: _____ ➝ obeys.
B. Code Mixing

From the data, the writer found seven types of code mixing which occur in the Reader’s opinion column of Kedaulatan Rakyat. Of the total number of code mixing (89), the writer found that the insertion of phrase occurs more often (34) than the insertion of lexical word. Here is the analysis.


The writer of KR inserts 2 Javanese in the middle of Indonesian sentence. The Javanese ‘gojek kere’ is a phrase and ‘mung rembugan kulit’ is an incomplete sentence having no a subject. Both of them are, actually, Javanese idioms which can not be translated literally. The writer of KR inserts Javanese idioms in his sentence to show his identity marker and solidarity in the same ethnic group with the readers’ background.

The illocution of the last sentence ‘Istilah ‘gojek kere’ nya adalah ‘mung rembugan kulit’’ is an assertive illocution, that is, a criticizing. The writer of KR states his own opinion that is actually he criticizes the architectural magazines of house that only expose the outside point of a house as a residential place without looking at the concept and culture idea. The sentence is also called 6c and 6d. “C” and “D” is the sequence of the types code switching and code mixing found in the six heading. If it is related to Politeness Maxim, the 6c and 6d sentence is considered as a polite utterance because it obeys Tact Maxim; minimizes cost to other. Actually, the writer of KR’s statement is impolite because he gives bad opinion to the architectural magazines. However, he uses indirect illocution that tends to be more polite because the utterance increases the degree of indirectness to the attended meaning by using an idiom; the architectural magazines only expose the outside point of a house as a residential place. The Pattern of Politeness Maxim on the Last Sentence

| 6c & 6d | Tact Maxim |

Note: ➔ = obeys.

5. Conclusion

Code switching phenomena in this paper involves the switching of a sentence, such as external and internal code switching. The external code switching found in the data is switching from Indonesian to English and switching from Indonesian to Arabic. Meanwhile, the internal code switching found in the data is switching from Indonesian to Javanese. From the analyses, the writers of KR switch their language because they already know the reader’s background to show solidarity and identity marker in the same ethnic group and there is a choice of topic that the writers of KR choose a certain language to use.

Code mixing phenomena in this paper refers to smaller units such as the insertion of alphabet letter, short form, proper noun, lexical word, phrase, incomplete sentence, and
the insertion of single full sentence and two sentence units. Code mixing is motivated by several factors such as the writers of KR mix their language as a sign of their competence, the writers of KR want to show solidarity at once to show their identity marker, and they give an attitude toward the reader. Of the data analyses, there is no violation of one Politeness Maxims. In addition, there are two types of illocutionary acts in the data analyses. They are assertive illocation (such as a stating, a reporting and a critizising) and expressive illocation (such as a condoling).

References
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