

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**LANGUAGE MIXING AMONG MALAY-ENGLISH
BILINGUAL CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY IN AN
INFORMAL ART CLASS**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
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Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

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Abstract

There have been many studies conducted regarding the use of code-switching in language contact. However, case studies on the communicative intents of switchers and the ends to which these speakers seek in a particular setting are few and far between, especially with regards to childhood bilingualism in Malaysia. Therefore this research was conducted to explore the functions of code-switching among Malay-English bilingual children as described by Gumperz (1982), Halliday (1975), Kow (2003) and Malik (1994), via the discourse analysis of two Malay-English bilingual children and identifying the communicative strategies employed by these children in discourse. All the findings of this study which were obtained through qualitative means (discourse analysis) showed that children employed language mixing (with particularly interest in code-switching) to fulfill several communicative functions such as to facilitate expression, to communicate meaning when there is a lack of register, to emphasize a point, to imply semantic significance, in response to habitual experience and as repetition. However there are limitations to this research in that it could present generalized findings since the study will focus on a limited number of children in a specific setting. The implications of this study should provide educators with insight on their role in the development of bilingual curriculum materials and construction of bilingual instructional methodology implicit in second language learning.

Abstrak

Banyak kajian telah dijalankan mengenai pengalihan kod di dalam fenomena pertembungan bahasa. Bagaimanapun, kajian kes berkenaan niat komunikatif bagi pengalih dan makna yang ingin disampaikan oleh penutur di dalam satu persekitaran khusus adalah kurang, terutamanya berhubung kedwibahasaan kanak-kanak di Malaysia. Lantaran penyelidikan ini dijalankan untuk menerokai fungsi-fungsi alih kod antara kanak-kanak dwibahasa Melayu-Inggeris sebagaimana yang telah diterangkan oleh Gumperz (1982), Halliday (1975), Kow (2003) dan Malik (1994), melalui analisis wacana dua kanak-kanak dwibahasa Melayu-Inggeris dan mengenal pasti strategi-strategi komunikatif yang digunakan oleh kanak-kanak ini dalam wacana. Kesemua penemuan kajian ini telah diperolehi melalui cara kualitatif (analisis wacana) menunjukkan pengadunan bahasa (dengan fokus utama pada pengalihan kod) memenuhi beberapa peranan-peranan komunikasi seperti memudahkan pernyataan, menyampaikan makna apabila terdapat kekurangan daftar kata, menegaskan sesuatu maksud, mengimplikasikan kepentingan semantik, sebagai tindak balas kepada pengalaman kebiasaan dan sebagai pengulangan. Bagaimanapun terdapat had-had bagi penyelidikan ini di mana ia mungkin memberikan penemuan secara umum memandangkan kajian ini hanya tertumpu kepada bilangan kanak-kanak yang terhad di dalam suatu persekitaran yang khusus. Implikasi-implikasi kajian ini dapat memberikan para pengajar suatu wawasan terhadap peranan mereka dalam pembangunan bahan-bahan kurikulum dwibahasa dan pembinaan kaedah pengajaran dwibahasa tersirat dalam pembelajaran bahasa kedua.

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