THE IMPACTS OF CODE-MIXING FOR MALAY NATIVE SPEAKER

Kartini Rahmatillah
STIE MADANI Balikpapapan
kartinirahmatillah@yahoo.com

Abstract

The use of code-mixing, especially for English Code-Mixing, by Malay Kuala Lumpur Native Speaker, becomes the main issue in this research. Thus through this research, it will be found out the reasons for this language error happens, the impacts for using the code-mixing, in terms of sociolinguistic view. The sample limitation is only 10 (ten) people of Malay Kuala Lumpur native speaker, who are randomly selected. The research is a case study and descriptive qualitative research, which arises the issue of the use of code-mixing among the Malay Kuala Lumpur native speaker who are taking their study in Indonesia. Data are collected through observation to samples which are also as the population. Through the brief observation it can be concluded that the use of code-mixing because of usual habit of using English among the respondents, added by the fact that English is also their second language which is widely spoken in daily bases or in formal bases. The use of English Code-mixing is also for the need to highlight the speaker in terms of they will be looked as an intellectual and elite people. The impact of using code-mixing cannot be confirmed that it brings a negative effect, but it is not possible that the existence and even the use of Malay language can be slowly moved among their own native speaker.

Keywords: Code Mixing, Malay Speaker, English Code Mixing

INTRODUCTION

Malay and Indonesian Languages, in fact, come from one similar origin, that is Malay Language. Even Malay language in Indonesia becomes the National Language. The reason for using Malay as the national language is that Malay language can be regarded as a language that can be easily accepted by people for it is easy to use. The other reason is that, it will not discriminate any race or any language in Indonesia since there will be no other language that seemed to higher up or vice versa. Indonesia needs one language that can represent the whole race and the whole language in Indonesia. Malay is not different from Indonesia, for it consists of many islands and regions and has many languages with different dialects among each other. Between these dialects, the speaker can understand each other but many speakers do not easy to understand one another because of linguistic system of these dialects which are totally different.

Malay as one of ASEAN countries which develops quite good, has many influences from the western side. This is because Malay is England ex-territory so that the England style is still

glued to Malay, for example in terms of the youth behaving, the use of English language, and from the economic side. Especially for the use of English language in which English becomes the second language spoken in either formal or informal bases. The use of English language is widely spoken especially in big city, like Kuala Lumpur, which is also the capital city of Malay. Not only spoken from the lower institution but also in higher institution like university, English is spoken as the main spoken language. In Malay the use of English among the teenagers appears not as a new thing anymore because they speak more in English than in Malay, even though their speaking is still followed by the Malay itself. The use of dominant and intensive English in all people's aspects of life can shift or even can loss of the use Malay language. Malay people do not hesitate to speak in English language rather than Malay because English is still one of the languages that exist and officially admitted by their government, but the problems arises from this simple thing, Malay young people tend to use English more than Malay language. From the simple use of English can be used wide world as a whole English language which is likely be used in the native land.

PROBLEMS LIMITATION

Problems in this research are the use of code-mixing, in terms of English code-mixing, by Malay Kuala Lumpur native speaker. It will be searched also the impact of the use of English code-mixing, whether it can develop the Malay language will make Malay left behind.

This research limits the problems only to the use of code-mixing mode, especially for the use of code-mixing from English to Malay of the Malay Kuala Lumpur native speakers. Samples being observed are Malay Kuala Lumpur native speakers. Even though they can be said that they are not fully native speakers of Malay, they are used to speaking and interacting in their routine especially to old people, like their parents at home, using Malay language.

RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The research problems are stated as follows:

1. What are the reasons that Malay people use code-mixing? Why Malay People samples use English Code-Mixing?
2. What is the impact of using the English code-mixing towards the Malay language?

3. What is sociolinguistics view regarding the use of English Code-Mixing among the Malay Kuala Lumpur native speakers?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research is aimed to find out :

1. Why code-mixing happens.

2. The Impacts of using English Code-mixing towards the Malay Kuala Lumpur language.

3. The sociolinguistic view regarding the use of English code-mixing among the Malay Kuala Lumpur native speaker.

RESEARCH BENEFITS

It's hoped that this research will give some benefits not only to the researcher herself but also to other people who are interested in the topic being researched here and for those who are interested in the developing of Malay language. To the researcher herself, this research will give a fact related to the use of English code-mixing among the Malay Kuala Lumpur native speaker. The fact that the use of code-mixing is naturally a language problem which can happens anywhere and among any other language in the world, but with the a brief use, it will not move or even abandon any other languages that are already exist.

RIVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Language is a vital means of communication because only through language that communication can exist. Especially for the oral communication where every member of the communication itself needs media in order to delivery each message from each member to one another. As it is said by Chaer (1994: 30) language is an arbitrary sound symbolic system which is used by certain people to interact and identify them. Thus the main function of language is a tool for communication between a people to other person. What if there is no need of language in communication, in which media can be used to replace the function of language? It cannot be denied that the role or the function of language is dominant in communication. Because for any communication takes part, there should be 3 (three) elements there, such as the speaker, the listener, and the language as a means of delivering the message from the speaker to the listener, and vice versa. Here we will talk about the external aspects of language, for example any aspects

that happen outside the language itself, especially regarding the people and the culture. Like once said by Saussure that language is a social fact in which language cannot be released from the community. Here we can conclude that language is determined by the user where language can develop only if the users also develop. The developing of language cannot be separated from the role of the users because it is only the users that can develop the language itself.

During the development of technology, the community development also brings impact to the development of language. These impacts can be either negative or positive way. Negative impact of the development of language can be a language shift or the worst it can turn out to be a dead language. But the development of language can be a positive also, for example the attitude of the community towards the language is strong so that it can invite other people with different language to learn other language so that it will develop any further. It is said to be a sociologic aspect of language that develop from trimetre policy in which different language can mingle to any other language and turns out to develop into a certain culture or language.

The relation with the sociolinguistic aspect is that sociolinguistic as a social linguistic aspect studies every linguistic variation especially for study of language behavior that happens among the community. There are many language variations happen in community, one of which is dialect which, if we fully notice even in one language there are many dialects that will be different from one another.

Variation or language variations said by Hudson in Wardhaugh (1986:22) is a set of linguistics components with similar distribution. It can be said that variation refers to varied spoken patterns used by the users and can be as sound, words, grammar that can be related to language external factors like certain social community or different geographic regions. Every differentiation in each language between one speaker to another speaker, either in word, pronunciation, grammar or any differentiation, shows that language has variation.

People use language for every needs and reasons. They use language often to show their social class, age, ethnic, or even in purpose to show their social stratum or class to the others (Holmes, 1992: 133). This is what is meant by Chaer in the previous page that language is a means of personal identification. Things that already said previously are the one which can cause a rise of a certain dialect. What is meant actually by the term "dialect"? Many are confused of this term dialect and language. Many assume that these terms are similar but actually they have a different explanation. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current

English (1974: 238), dialect is "*form of a language (grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation) used in a part of a country or by a class of people*". While according to Wardhaugh (1986: 37) dialect is "*a subordinate variety of a language*". As for Bissantz (1985: 25) dialect is "*varieties of language used in different geographical and / or social areas*." The conclusion of dialect is that dialect is a language variation according to the user or speaker and also based on geographical factor in which dialect is shown as vocabulary, pronunciation, or grammar.

Between one dialect to other dialects even in similar language, often the speaker does not understand these dialect but they admit to have a same language. Like Javanese, even though all regions in Java speak Javanese but the dialect in these regions are different, and thus many can understand and many are not. Therefore we can see that there are Javanese with Banyumas, Tegal, Klaten, Yogyakarta dialect, and so on. The reason why this happens is because of geographical factor.

Study about dialect will be widely explained because the scope is complex. Inside the similar dialect often there is a differentiation between the speaker, mostly because of stratum or social class factor, age, or other social factors. For instance in Javanese with Yogyakarta dialect, the speaker is not free to use the language or the dialect because he or she will have to differentiate to factors like to whom does he or she speaks, in what kind of situation does he or she speak, and for what reason does he or she speak. The speaker is bind by some rules which have to be followed so that in Javanese there is known a language or spoken language of *ngoko*, *kromo*, and *madya*. This spoken language is especially to show which people's social status that can speak with these certain spoken language and to whom does he or she use the language. In this research the main point that will be discussed especially for the use of English code–mixing or code-mixing among the Malay Kuala Lumpur native speaker. Therefore it will be talked about reasons why the samples do code-mixing, and what sociolinguistic view that arises from the use of code-mixing towards the existence of Malay language.

ANALYSIS

In Malay there are 3 (three) terms refer to the official and formal language which is admitted by the government, such as governmental language, Malaysian language, and Malay language. These three terms are actually similar to a Malay language, but other languages like English, Indian Tamil, and Chinese are still admitted by Malaysian government. Even English

becomes the spoken language especially in higher education like university (Abdullah, 1997: xv). For Malay dialect in Kuala Lumpur itself, which is also known as Malay Basahan Standard is used also either in Kuala Lumpur or in Selangor, and other big cities in Malay.

For Malay language especially in Malaysia, there are many different dialects between one regions to another region. There are 9 (nine) state counties whose languages are also different. Often these dialects are not understood by speakers from other states, but they still think that they have the same Malay language although with different dialect. In this paper it will be discussed about the Malay dialect in Kuala Lumpur as the capital city of Malaysia where the sample being surveyed are 10 people and these people are also Malaysian students that were studying in Yogyakarta by the time this research is begun.

It cannot be denied that Malaysia as one of a successful country among other ASEAN countries, has attracted many people to stay or to visit the country especially for those people outside Malaysia. Malaysia is similar to Indonesia, there are many ethnics, not only Malay ethnic as the biggest ethnic there, but there are also Chinese, Indian or Tamil, and even foreigners or expatriate who work in Malaysia. In each ethnic has its own dialect but still the Malay dialect is the official dialect acknowledged there.

Like Indonesian language, Malay has also a formal and informal standard. For the formal dialect, it is usually used for official event, a formal thin, also used in office, school through university, or any official and formal situation. Like the following example in this dialect "*Kamu hendak pergi ke mana*?" While for informal situation the dialect is used like at home or any informal situation. Often in a formal situation, if the participants are already known each other, they use the informal Malay dialect like "*Kau nak pegi mana*?" Kinds of informal Malay dialects are often called as Bazaar Malay (Melayu Pasar) that possibly refers to the use of Malay in daily situation.

It can be concluded that a formal situation does not have to push anyone to use the formal and official language and vice versa. In informal situation, if one participant has a higher social class than the other, she/he still use the formal language to honor the position or the social status of the participants of the communication. From the fact that there are many dialects that exist in Malaysia, it is not surprising that anyone can be a bilingual or even a multilingual because they interact and communicate with other speaker who have different language and dialects also. In big cities like Kuala Lumpur, people are encouraged to comprehend many different languages in

order to make them easier to get involved or communicate with different people with different language and dialect. Actually they do not intend to learn other languages but in the end they can comprehend the language itself because they intense to use the language as the media for communication.

From the intense communication then arise what is usually called as code mixing. What is meant by code mixing? What is the relation between code mixing and dialect? Code in Wardhaugh (1986: 86) is meant as every system used by 2 (two) or mode people in communication. It can be called also as "an arbitrary system used for a secret needs…." (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English, 1974 :16). Code can be used either for some people who do not have to know what the message is being delivered or it can be rules used by people in communication which must be understood by the participants. If someone communicate he/she will choose either to use one code or another code which has to be the right code so that the partner will understand what he/she communicates. If the two participants understand the code being used in the communication, then the communication will take place. Code here also refers to any kind of language which meant that how is the language being used, either formally or informally, and some rules being followed for instance who is the participants, in what kind of situation that the communication takes place, what the topic is, and why the topic is being communicated (function) (Holmes, 1992: 12). While according to Kridalaksana in Kamus Linguistik (2001: 35) it is said that code mixing either as a interference, it is also as the use of language unit from one language to other languages to a wider language style or the language variation; including also the use of word clause, idiom, etc.

In communication we want for sure that or meaning or message can be understood by the partner. Thus at lease we use the same language or dialect to deliver the message. If the participants in the communication know each other well then the informal language or dialect can be used. In this paper the main focus is on the ten native speakers of Malay Kuala Lumpur whose ages are merely the same. These 10 samples being surveyed here are foreign students who were studying in Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, in Medicine faculty. Samples are randomly chosen and varied between female and male. The research is aimed to explore the main reason why the samples do code mixing in their almost every daily conversation.

Before we discuss more about the topic here, we will introduce shortly about the definition of code mixing. Code mixing is determined by the use of vocabulary in second

language which is assumed by the speaker or the user that there are no similar form and meaning in the first language. Code mixing often happens if the speaker or user is lack of vocabulary or do not know the exact vocabulary to be used therefore he/she uses other vocabulary from another language. Even though much of code mixing is done because the speaker or the user is more comfortable in that way. In this matter from the ten samples here, all of them do the code mixing from Malay to English language. Like the example below:

Data 1.

A : "Awak ada acarakah lepas *campus* petang nanti?"

B : "Nak ke *hospital*, awak tak ke hospital- kah, kerja exams?"

A : "Taklah, wanna go shopping with Faizal-lah."

B : "Okelah, see you then!"

A : "Bye."

From the data above, it can be seen that there are English vocabulary used by the speaker. Actually those words have the similar form in Malay but still the speaker used the English vocabulary. Another example can be seen from the below example:

Data 2 :

A : "Cantiknya bilik awak nih. Mahal tak ?"

B : "*Three hundreds and fifty per month. Expensive* tak ?"

A : "Taklah, sebanding dengan bilik awak nih. Beza sangatlah dengan bilik awak dulu."

B : "Yalah, teruk sangatlah bilik tuh. Macam manalah bisa *comfort*."

A : "Okelah, masih ada urusan lagi nak buat. *I'll see you then*!

B : "*Take care*."

The use of code mixing is not limited to foreign vocabulary use, but it can be in the form of phrase or clause (like shown from the above examples). Actually the use of code mixing either to wider language variation of the user, it can also confirm about the social status or class of the speaker or user or people who use it. Besides, code mixing is used to make it similar with the language style used by other speaker. In the samples here, they use the code mixing in their conversation as the confirmation of their status, to make it similar with the language that is used by other speakers, and also because they feel more comfortable using code mixing, in this matter using the English vocabulary. The speaker who does the code mixing mostly do not realize by

the time they use the code mixing because it happens spontaneously. Moreover, it is really unknown exactly in what kind of situation that someone does the code mixing.

From the sociolinguistic view, code mixing actually happens a lot especially for multilingual people in which they have to shift from one language to another language to adapt with other participants in order communication will take place. The use of code mixing is included the changing form of language from formal to informal in order to make the communication more friendly. According to Spolsky (1998: 49) code mixing (also the code switching) can happen between, or even in sentences, including phrase or word or any part of a certain word. The code changing which is done here is more on looking the comfortable way of communication thus the participants must choose the exact word or phrase that relates to the topic being discussed. Here the used of phrase is not limited only that it must be related to the topic being discussed but also the speaker or the participants of the communication must understand the use of phrase or words.

Often code mixing is done as a shifting from formal to informal language in order to make the situation friendlier. For bilingual or multilingual people, the code shifting from one language to another language happens a lot because they interact with people with different languages and dialects so that the code shifting cannot be abandoned.

The use of code mixing which is more intense either in spoken or written way can make the language shifting. The language shifting can happen if the use of foreign language are intentionally used and shift the previous language so that at the end it is not used more. In relation to the use of English code mixing in Malay language, the language shifting probably can exist. Added with the development of technology which used English more than the Malay itself.

The use of Malay recently is not like it used to be. The use of it is already replaced by the use of other foreign languages. Though Malay is still used but the form is more on informal language even though the use is still in the government office where it should be in the form of formal Malay language. Malay that is once be promoted by the slogan of "Bahasa Jiwa Bangsa" is not heard any more recently.

Malay or Malaysian language only can be heard when there are a poem recital, used as study material in studies centre, or as means of communication of marhaenist people. The elite and the executive will use English language more rather than using Malay language. Though Malay is still used for certain uses only, but slowly the use of Malay will shift and there is

possible that one day the Malay language will be certainly shifting to other foreign language, like English. This is the one we really avoid. Hence it is suppose to enhance the use of Malay starting in government to make it as the example to people to use the Malay in their own country.

CONCLUSION

Shifting from one language to other languages especially for multilingual community happens a lot. Code shifting can be either code mixing or code switching. Code mixing happens when the speaker mix the code which is used previously to other different code in order to make it similar with the code used by other participants. The use of code mixing is also known as shifting from formal language to informal language spoken. While the form of code mixing is not only in the form of words, but also the phrase, and even the clause. Sometimes code mixing can be the use of any certain words that is assumed can replace the use of the words the speaker used in their origin language. The use of these words happens a lot because the speaker think there is no other words in their origin language so that they use other words in different language, and this is what is called to be a code mixing. Sometimes also even if there is word in the origin language, the speakers still do code-mixing.

The use of code mixing is a phenomenon or natural thing happens in our community and through the sociolinguistic view, it is fully studied especially for reasons why some people do code mixing. From the sample being researched can be concluded that actually they do code mixing not on purpose, they even do not realize that they do code-mixing. They want to honor their friends and their partners so that it turns out to be they use code mixing their language. Other reason is that they do code mixing to change the situation from formal into informal so that the participants can be more intense to one another.

In this research the code mixing used basically between Malay and English language. English for some Malay people is regarded as basic language because English is one of their mother tongue and it is used widely in Malay. Therefore if English code mixing happens among the Malay speakers, it is assumed to be not a strange but normal thing happens there. Still it is hoped that the use of code mixing will not shift or even change the use of Malay especially since Malay is the official language that identifies the people of Malay, in this matter identifies the culture of Malay.

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