

Code Switching in PCIT

Marta M. Shinn, Ph.D.

- What is Code?
- “Any kind of system that two or more people employ for communication” (Wardhaugh, 2006 as cited in Younas et. al., 2014).
 - Morse Code
 - Math
 - Music
 - Traffic Signs & Signals
 - Computer Programming (e.g. Python, Java, C++)
 - Written, Spoken, & Signed Language (e.g. ASL)
 - Affect & Non-Verbal Gestures
- What is Code Switching?
- **Formal and Informal Communication CS:**
 - English formal greeting “good morning” vs casual “what’s up”
 - Talking to your boss vs. your BFF
 - Spanish use of formal “usted” vs. informal “tu”
- **Cross-Cultural Code Switching:** norms, practices, & manners of a culture (e.g. handshaking vs. bowing – fork vs. chopsticks) (Molinsky, 2007).
 - *When in Rome, act like the Romans (St. Ambrose)*
- **Linguistic Code Switching (CS):** using two or more languages to communicate while retaining the syntax (sentence structure) & grammar (i.e. conjugation & word usage) of each language.

Example:

- I sent out a birthday RSVP email to all my friends

Other Types of Code Switches:

- $2 + y = 5$
- Passwords with various character/code types: upper & lower case letter, number, symbol
- Types of Linguistic Code Switching
- **Intra Sentential:** *inside the same sentence*
 - *She went to the tienda.*
- **Intre Sentential:** *different sentences*
 - *Voy a comprar papitas. It costs 99 cents.*

When do we Code Switch?

- Conversational context/pragmatics guide CS (Wei, 2003)

What is Code Mixing?

- It is another term linguistic researchers use to refer to Code Switching.
- They are often used interchangeably by linguists.
- What is Spanglish? ¿Que es Espanglés?

Spanglish/Espanglés is a mixing of the English & Spanish language in a way that violates the syntax & grammar of either or both languages.

Examples of Spanglish & Espanglés?

- **Use of Non-Words, Hybrid Words, & Slangs/Vernaculars**
 - “Roofo”
 - “Linkear”
 - “Lonche”
 - “Conflei”
 - “Biles”
 - “El Parea”

Adjective & Noun Reversals (Barrett, 2006)

- Correct English: A new car (adjective → noun)
- Correct Spanish: Un carro nuevo (noun → adjective)
- Spanglish that violates both rules: *A car nuevo*
- **Incorrect Suffix Usage** (Barrett, 2006)
 - Eat-*iendo*
 - Boil-*ando*
- **Anglo Slang – Mock Spanish** (Barrett, 2006)
 - Addition of Spanish suffix “o” to nouns
 - The bathroom-o
 - The chair-o
 - Addition of Spanish definite article “el” or “la”
 - El bathroom
 - La school
- **Use of False Cognates** (Montelongo, Hernandez, Herter, & Cuello, 2011)
- **Cognate**: are words that have the same origin (e.g. Latin) so they look and sound similar across languages
 - True Cognate: Curious = Curioso (*Latin: Curiosus*)
 - False Cognate: To hang out ≠ Janguiar
 - False Cognate: To park ≠ Parquear

U.S. Latino’s Views on Code Switching & Spanglish/ Espanglés (Toribio, 2002)

- Some Love it and Embrace it Fully
- Some Code Switch between situations only (e.g. code switch with friends/family, but not in professional role).
- Some believe in pure use of languages (e.g. all English or all Spanish, but NO mixing).
- Some associate code switching with degree of acculturation & English/Spanish language fluency.
 - ↑ code switching = ↓ English & Spanish fluency
- Some believe it influences other’s perception of their intelligence.
 - ↑ code switching = ↓ Intelligence

What Does the Research Say about CS?

- Code-switching is common in multilingual contexts and can be used effectively to enhance communication (Singo, 2014).
- Effective communication in healthcare provision is crucial (Singo, 2014)
 - To establish a caring relationship & build trust
 - To gather clinical information
 - To make accurate diagnoses
 - To counsel appropriately
 - To give therapeutic instructions
 - (e.g. parent coaching – Shinn, 2015)

Research: Receptive & Expressive Language

- Ribot & Hoff (2014) conducted a study of 115, 2 ½ -year-old Spanish-English bilingual children in the U.S.
- Children were more likely to code-switch in response to Spanish than English.
- Children’s Expressive vocabulary scores were higher in English than in Spanish.
- English and Spanish Receptive language scores were not different
- CS reflects expressive language dominance
- Receptive skills → understand both languages
- Expressive skills → answer best in one language over another
- Can Code Switching be a Problem?
- According to Singo (2014):

- From a sociolinguistic perspective, all code-switching is good and promotes linguistic enrichment & communication effectiveness between speakers.
- Research on CS demonstrates that it is an effective communicative resource in the classroom, in Sunday school, in church, on Facebook and in everyday conversation (Chitiga, 1994; 1996; Sun –Yung, 2010; Chen, 2013; Waifong, 2011; Viriri & Viriri, 2013).

Additive & Subtractive Bilingualism

- Cummins (2015)
 - **Additive Bilingualism:** the first language continues to be developed and the first culture to be valued while the second language is added.
 - **Subtractive Bilingualism:** the second language is added at the expense of the first language and culture, which diminish as a consequence.
 - Cummins states that students in additive bilingual environments succeed to a greater extent than those whose first language and culture are devalued.
 - Code Switching is.... Additive Bilingualism

Formal & Informal Communication CS in PCIT

- Deciding.. to Switch or *Not* to Switch?
- Keep your eyes on the prize: PCIT = ***Parent Coaching for Relationship Enhancement and Behavioral Compliance!!***
- **Ask yourself:**
 - What are the caregiver’s views on CS & Spanglish/Espanglés?
 - Does CS promote coaching flow?
 - Can you code switch effectively?
 - Can the parent follow & lead using code switches?
 - Does the child understand & respond to code switches?
 - Does CS help enhance the relationship?
 - Does CS facilitate improved behavioral compliance?

Basic Approaches for Using CS & Spanglish

- Use your “Linguistic Manners”
 - Assess family’s views/attitude toward code alternation
 - Listen & watch for CS in parent-child communication
 - Mirror the family (e.g. speak as they speak)

When in Doubt:

- Ask the caregiver before you code switch, use Spanglish or Espanglés
- Ask if you can CS to “tutear” / informal Spanish verb conjugation
- Discussion and Questions.

References

- Barrett, R. (2006). Language ideology and racial inequality: competing functions of Spanish in Anglo-owned Mexican restaurant. *Linguistics Faculty Publications*, Paper 10.
- Molinsky, A. (2007). Cross-cultural code-switching: psychological challenges of adapting behavior in foreign cultural interactions. *Academy of Management Review*, 32(2), 622-640.
- Montelongo, J. A., Hernandez, A. C., Herter, R. J., & Cuello, J. (2011). *The Reading Teacher*, 64(6), 429-434.
- Singo, J. (2014). Code-switching in doctor-patient communication. *Nova Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 8(1), 48-56.
- Singo, J. (2014). Code-switching in doctor-patient communication. *Nova Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, 8(1), 48-56.
- Ribot, K. M., & Hoff, E. (2014). “¿Cómo estas? “I’m good.” Conversational code-switching is related to profiles of expressive and receptive proficiency in Spanish-English bilingual toddlers. *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, 38(4), 333-341.
- Toribio, A. J. (2002). Spanish-English code-switching among US Latinos. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*, 158(2002), 89-119.
- Younas, M., Arshad, S., Akram, K., Faisal, M., Akhtar, M., Sarfraz, M., & Umar, A. (2014). Code switching and code mixing, a case of EFL teachers affecting L2 learners’ learning. *Language In India*, 14(6), 516-530.
- Wei, L. (2005). “How can you tell?” Towards a common sense explanation of conversational code-switching. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 37(2005), 375-389