

## CODE SWITCHING IN *EASTERN PROMISES* FILM

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### ABSTRACT

Code switching is one of interesting topics to be discussed nowadays as it is often encountered by anyone and anywhere in the present time. Code switching appears in many literary works, and one of them is in *Eastern Promises* film. *Eastern Promises* film contains code switching of three different languages including English, Russian, and Turkish, and there is also evidence that code switching phenomenon exists in crime film. In criminal situation, the language user performs code switching for particular purposes. This research focused on analyzing the types of code switching and the social factors triggering the characters in performing code switching through descriptive qualitative research. The result of this research showed that there were eighty-one types of code switching found by the researcher in *Eastern Promises* film. The researcher found three types of code switching performed by ten characters, those types are *inter-sentential code switching*, *tag switching*, and *intra-sentential code switching*. In addition, the researcher also found four social factors in every code switching practices, those social factors are *participant*, *setting*, *topic*, and *function*. The social factors triggering the ten characters in performing code switching in their utterances show that language variety of the ten characters is a result of relationship between language and social factors that occurs in society.

**Keywords:** code switching, *Eastern Promises* film

### ABSTRAK

*Alih kode adalah salah satu topik yang menarik untuk dibahas dewasa ini sebagaimana alih kode sering ditemui oleh siapapun dan dimanapun di masa sekarang. Alih kode muncul di banyak karya sastra, dan salah satunya adalah di film Eastern Promises. Film Eastern Promises mengandung alih kode dari tiga bahasa berbeda termasuk Bahasa Inggris, Bahasa Rusia, dan Bahasa Turki, dan juga terdapat bukti bahwa fenomena alih kode dapat dijumpai di film yang bertemakan kejahatan. Dalam situasi kriminal, pengguna bahasa melakukan alih kode untuk tujuan-tujuan tertentu. Penelitian ini berfokus pada analisa jenis alih kode dan faktor-faktor sosial yang memicu para tokoh dalam melakukan alih kode melalui penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada delapan puluh satu jenis alih kode yang ditemukan peneliti di dalam film Eastern Promises. Peneliti menemukan tiga jenis alih kode yang digunakan oleh sepuluh tokoh, jenis-jenis tersebut adalah alih kode inter-sentential, alih kode tag, dan alih kode intra-sentential. Sebagai tambahan, peneliti juga menemukan empat faktor sosial di setiap peristiwa alih kode, faktor-faktor sosial tersebut adalah peserta, latar, topik, dan fungsi. Faktor-faktor sosial yang memicu kesepuluh tokoh dalam melakukan alih kode di dalam tuturan-tuturan mereka menunjukkan bahwa varietas bahasa dari sepuluh tokoh tersebut merupakan hasil dari hubungan antara bahasa dan faktor sosial yang terjadi di dalam masyarakat.*

**Kata kunci:** alih kode, film *Eastern Promises*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Language as tool of communication takes important role in human interaction. The study of language is widely known as linguistics. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the study of language in society. Sociolinguistics covers many topics such as dialect, language variety, language repertoire, language community, bilingualism, and etc. Code switching as part of bilingualism is the use of more than one language by a bilingual or multilingual which speaks by choosing one of codes followed by the social situation of the speaker (Hudson, 1980).

As we know, basically every person in this world are able to speak two or more languages. They master the local language and the national language as well, even the foreign languages which are usually studied in educational institutions. Speakers often use two languages that are controlled directly, spontaneously, and unintentionally. This phenomenon can be explained as a code switching practice that is commonly found in verbal communication. Code switching has become an interesting study to be learned because this phenomenon is often encountered anywhere in the present time.

Code switching appears in many literary works, and one of them is in *Eastern Promises* film. *Eastern Promises* film tells about a female Russian teenager who dies giving birth leaves clues in a form of diary to a midwife that could tie her child in to a rape involving a violent Russian mob family. *Eastern Promises* film contains code switching of three different languages including English, Russian, and Turkish and there is also evidence in this film that code switching phenomenon exists in crime film. In criminal situation, the language user performs code switching for particular purposes.

Hence, the researcher intends to do an analysis of code switching types performed by ten characters through all ten characters' utterances spoken in *Eastern Promises* film and also find the social factors triggering the ten characters in performing code switching in their utterances. At last, the researcher hopes that this research is able to inspire others to be more aware about code switching phenomenon which in the present time is often occurred anytime and anywhere in our surroundings.

## B. REVIEW AND RELATED THEORIES

### 1. Code

According to Wardaugh (1986), code is a communication system between two or more speakers across language. The main instrument of the communication is language, both written and spoken, which could not be separated from human's daily life. An almost similar opinion was also stated by Stockwell (2002), who said that code is a system agreed which is used by at least two persons.

In our daily life, people usually use different code for different situation. It all depends on will and needs. One may choose whatever code to be used concerning it make easier to establish communication among group or community.

Based on what experts have pointed out above, code may refer to different accent, dialect, tone, grammatical change, word change, and etc. Code can be defined as a medium which is used to apply several means inside a single communication. However, code is usually considered as a variant of language that is used to build a clearer means in communication of human.

## 2. Code Switching

As a matter of the accepted paradigm nowadays, code switching becomes one of the most discussed topics in Sociolinguistics (Ramadhani, 2015). Code switching can be defined as the use of more than one language, variety, or style by a speaker within an utterance or discourse, or between different interlocutors or situations (Romaine, 1995). Therefore, Hoffman (1991) defined code switching as the strategy of using two or more language in the same utterance.

Lately, code switching is used in all aspect of human life. It may transcend all context of speech. For instances, code switching is used in many Television programs, printed and electronic media, and even inside a classroom for learning and teaching process. Thus in short, as what experts have highlighted, the researcher concluded that code switching is alternation of two or more languages in a single discourse, both oral form and written form. People who have tendency in doing such code switching usually master the two languages or almost as well.

## 3. Types of Code Switching

In this research, the researcher used categorization of code switching types based on Poplack's (1980) theory. Poplack identified the following types such as inter-sentential code switching, tag switching, and intra-sentential code switching.

### a. Inter-sentential Code Switching

According to Poplack (1980), the first type of code switching is inter-sentential code switching. It took place between clauses or sentences, e.g. the switch occurs at a clause or sentence boundary where each clause or sentence is in a different language (Romaine, 1995). Poplack (1980) in her book gave an example of inter-sentential switching as inserted in the following sentence, "*Sometimes I'll start a sentence in Spanish y terminó en español [and finish it in Spanish]*".

The speakers who choose this type of code switching usually utter his or her speech in fully one-form of language earlier and later switch into another language between clauses or sentences. This type of code switching is not limited by alternation of one or two words.

### b. Tag Switching

The second type of code switching is tag switching, which requires only a little compounding of the two languages. Tag switching is the switching of either a tag phrase or a word, or even both from one language into another language, or insertion of a tag from one language into an utterance that is in another language. Several English examples of tags are, "*you know*" and "*you mean*". An example in Poplack's book is "*Se sininen talo [That blue house], you know.*"

### c. Intra-sentential Code Switching

The third type of code switching is intra-sentential code switching which requires a lot of integration and is usually associated with the most fluent bilinguals (Poplack 1980). Intra-sentential code switching refers to alternation in a single discourse between two languages or more, where the switch occurs within a clause or sentence. Poplack (1980) gave an example of intra-sentential switching between English and Spanish in her book as inserted in the following sentence, "*Why make Carol sentarse atras pa'que [sit in the back so] everybody has to move pa'que se salga [for her to get out]?*"

#### 4. Social Factors of Code Switching

Holmes (2001) in his book *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* stated a term of social factors which consist of participant factor of the conversation, conversation setting, the topic of the conversation, and the function of the conversation.

##### a. Participant

The first social factor is participants. Participants are people who play role in the unfolding of events. Specifically, participants are people who participate in a speech act, which in this case performs within conversation. According to Chaer and Agustina (2004), participants are people involved in a speech act such as speaker and hearer. Two people in a speech act are able to change the roles in the conversation, someone can be a speaker or hearer in reverse. Social status also determines language variety or style of the language used.

##### b. Setting

The second social factor is setting. Setting refers to place and time (hence, condition and situation are also involved) which be held in a film, drama, or novel. In this point, it is where a speaker does not aware that different place, time, and situation determine the way people speak. According to Chaer and Agustina (2004), different time, place, and situation may cause different variety of language used in a conversation.

##### c. Topic

The third social factor is topic. Topic is an issue dealt with inside a text, conversation, or even discourse. According to Chaer and Agustina (2004), different topic may cause different variety of language used in a conversation.

##### d. Function

The last factor is function. Function is the aim of chosen topic of matter or person that is being discussed. This is meant to reveal out purposes from a conversation or disclosure concerning to a particular case. Further, function is divided into six types as described in the following section.

##### 1) Direct versus reported speech, or quotations

In this function, often the speech of another person is different from what the reported one. They switch their language so they can assert the statement as identical as possible with the original statement that was uttered in particular language which is different from the language that the speakers use before quoting.

##### 2) To mark injections or to serve as sentence fillers

This function is similar to the second type of code switching which is tag switching that has been explained before.

##### 3) To clarify or emphasize a message

In order to emphasize a message, sometimes people make a repetition of the meaning of the message. The referential value of a message is not really

important, but the switch itself, because the same thing is already said in both language.

4) **To qualify a message**

For this function, Holmes (2001) did not give any explanation in terms of the motions topic and comment, but Holmes (2001) gave example of this which involves Spanish-English switching. The speaker says: “*We’ve got . . . all these kids here right now. Los que estan ya criados aqui, no los que estan recién venidos de Mexico* [those that have been born here, not the ones that have just arrived from Mexico]. They all understood English.” In this example, the children are introduced first in English and clarified in Spanish before being further elaborated in English.

5) **To specify an addressee as the recipient of the message**

By employing code switching, a person can deliver his/her message to one of possible addressees. This function is to draw attention to the fact that the addressee is being invited to participate in a conversation by the speaker.

6) **Making personalization versus objectivization**

Holmes says that this contrast relates to things such as the distinction between talk about action and talk as action, the degree of speaker involvement in, or distance from a message, whether a statement reflects personal opinion or knowledge, whether it refers to specific instances or has the authority of generally known fact.

### C. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method as the research method in this research, as the researcher generates words than number in analyzing the data. The researcher is descriptively describe the types of code switching performed by the characters in the characters’ utterances and social factors triggering the characters in performing code switching that occurs in their utterances in *Eastern Promises* film.

The data source of this research is *Eastern Promises* film itself directed by David Cronenberg from a screenplay written by Steven Knight. Through the data source, the researcher then got the data. All phrases, clauses, and sentences determined as code switching phenomenon are conducted from the whole utterances related to the characters as the object in this research.

As the key instrument in this research, the researcher collects the data through the data collection technique. The researcher is firstly downloading then watching *Eastern Promises* film. Then, the researcher pays attention only on code switching practices inside the film of characters’ utterances. The researcher takes notes of the phrases, clauses, or even sentences that belongs to data of the research and then categorize them by making list of groups to distinguish the types of code switching which later known that those are done by only ten characters in this film. After finding the types of the code switching, the researcher then investigates the social factors triggering the ten characters in performing code switching.

The data that has been collected then analyzed using Miles and Huberman’s (1994) analysis technique which is divided into three steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The first step in analysis technique is data reduction. The data found

inside the film are sorted and organized into categories to determine the types of code switching and social factors of code switching. After that the data are analyzed further using the current theories that have explained in the previous chapter. Then, the conclusions are being drawn based on the analysis and findings that are credible and able to withstand to alternative explanations in this research.

In addition, the researcher applied two basic types of four triangulation types proposed by Denzin in 1970 which are data triangulation and investigator triangulation in this research. The data triangulation applied is to validate the accurateness of data findings, which are the film subtitle that triangulated and synchronized with utterances spoken by ten characters inside *Eastern Promises* film. Moreover, the investigator triangulation applied is because while doing the research, the researcher has no background knowledge of Russian language. In case of that, the researcher is helped by a reputable respondent who is fluently speaking Russian. Thus, the translation of Russian language in the subtitle of the film is triangulated and synchronized with utterances spoken by ten characters inside the film by a reputable respondent who is fluently speaking Russian.

## D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Findings

In this section, the researcher presents the data findings and the researcher's analysis of the data findings. To answer the research question, the researcher shows the data in groups considering to each type of code switching and also the analysis of code switching types. Furthermore, the analysis of the social factors is following next after the analysis of types.

#### a. Types of Code Switching

In this research, the researcher found 81 code switching types in *Eastern Promises* film. According to Poplack (1980), code switching types consist of inter-sentential code switching, tag switching, and intra-sentential code switching.

##### 1) Inter-sentential Code Switching

According to Poplack (1980), the first type of code switching is inter-sentential code switching. It takes place between sentences, e.g. the switch occurs at a clause or sentence boundary where each clause or sentence is in a different language (Romaine, 1995).

Further, the researcher found 45 code switching practices identified as inter-sentential type in *Eastern Promises* film. However, the researcher only points out a data of this type randomly in this section.

**Kolya:** No. If you want to dump body, this is the best place. *Здесь самое место утопить жмура! Ну поехали. [This is the best point to throw away the bodies! Come on.]*

Based on the data above, this utterance belonged to inter-sentential code switching because according to Poplack (1980) this type of code switching requires the least compounding as code switching happens between clauses or sentences, as in this utterance, the switch occurred at a sentence boundary where each sentence was in a different language, from English (L2) to Russian (L1). Kirill performed code switching to clarify the previous sentence. The

speaker performed a repetition in the message he tried to deliver so that there might be no mistakes in receiving the message and also to emphasize the purpose that was being expressed.

## 2) Tag Switching

The second type of code switching is tag switching, which requires only a little compounding of the two languages. Tag switching is the switching of either a tag phrase or a word, or even both from one language into another language, or insertion of a tag from one language into another language. This definition is supported by Romaine (1995) that stated tag switching involved inserting a tag in one language to an utterance which is otherwise in another language.

Further, the researcher found 9 code switching practices identified as inter-sentential type in *Eastern Promises* film. However, the researcher only points out a data of this type randomly in this section.

**Ekrem:** Uncle Azim...

**Azim:** (Pointing at Ekrem) This is him. The kid I am talking about.

**Soyka:** (Looking at Ekrem) He looks okay to me. (Speak to Ekrem as he reaching out) *Как дела?* Ekrem, how you doing?

**Azim:** (Looking at Ekrem) He looks okay, yes, but he won't do one lousy thing for me. Here. Look, Ekrem. Take this.

**Ekrem:** Azim, *lütfen [please]*.

Based on the data above, this utterance belonged to tag switching because according to Romaine (1995) that stated tag switching involved inserting a tag in one language to an utterance which is otherwise in another language, as in this utterance, there is a presence of "please" tag as a result of an interruption by Ekrem to Azim, from English (L2) to Turkish (L1). Ekrem switched the code because he did not want to do what Azim ordered Ekrem to do, therefore to refuse the order gently he switched the code in his utterance. Further, Ekrem switched the languages from English (L2) to Turkish (L1) to mean if the message is aimed only to Azim.

## 3) Intra-sentential Code Switching

The third type of code switching is intra-sentential code switching which requires a lot of integration and is usually associated with the most fluent bilinguals (Poplack, 1980). Intra-sentential code switching refers to alternation in a single discourse between two languages or more, where the switch occurs within a clause or sentence.

Further, the researcher found 27 code switching practices identified as intra-sentential type in *Eastern Promises* film. However, the researcher only points out a data of this type randomly in this section.

**Kolya:** *Крытой мотор [Nice bike]*. Nice bike. Ural. You don't see them anymore.

Based on the data above, this utterance belonged to intra-sentential code switching because according to Poplack (1980) intra-sentential code switching refers to alternation in a single discourse between two languages or more, where the switch occurs within a clause or sentence, as in this utterance, the switch occurred at a phrase boundary where each phrase was in a different language, from Russian (L1) to English (L2). Kolya performed such repetition in the message he delivered in order to avoid errors for the hearer (Anna) in receiving the message, considering Anna is British.

## b. Social Factors of Code Switching

After the researcher categorizes types of code switching, then it continues to analyze the social factors of code switching. As mentioned above that researcher has found 81 code switching practices in *Eastern Promises* film, then there also be 81 data identified as social factors in this research.

According to Holmes (2001) social factors consisted of participant factor of the conversation (people who play role in the unfolding of events), conversation setting (place, time, and situation which be held in this film), the topic of the conversation (issue dealt with inside a conversation), and the function of the conversation (the aim of chosen topic of matter or person that is being discussed). Furthermore, function is divided into six types such as direct versus reported speech or quotations, to mark injections or to serve as sentence fillers, to clarify or emphasize a message, to qualify a message, to specify an addressee as the recipient of the message, and making personalization versus objectivization.

**Soyka:** (Looking at Ekrem) He looks okay to me. (Speak to Ekrem as he reaching out) *Как дела?* [*How you doing?*] Ekrem, how you doing?

### 1) Participants

In this utterance, the participants consisted of Azim, Soyka, and Ekrem. Azim is an old man who owned a hair shop. He is a Turkish citizen who is capable to speak three languages, which are Turkish (L1), English (L2), and Russian (L3). Soyka is a visitor in Azim hair shop, it can be seen by the conversation that they had already known each other well. Soyka is a Russian adult who lives in London. Soyka mastered two languages that are Russian (L1) and English (L2). Ekrem is Azim's cousin who lived together with Azim. Based on the film, Ekrem is described as a 16 year-old teenager. He is a Turkish citizen who is able to speak Turkish (L1) and English (L2). The three participants are all male.

### 2) Setting

In this utterance, the scene was in Azim hair shop, London, England. The time took place at night and it could also be seen that it was raining outside. The situation when the conversation be held was when Azim cut Soyka's hair while Soyka responded the conversation with Azim and read newspaper at the same time.

### 3) Topic

In this utterance, the topics talked by the participants were about Ekrem's behavior toward the upcoming Christmas and about to establish a close relationship, especially Soyka and Ekrem.

#### 4) Function

In this utterance, the function Soyka performed code switching from Russian (L1) to English (L2) was to clarify or emphasize the message he tried to deliver to Ekrem by doing a repetition, considering Ekrem is Turkish.

## 2. Discussion

As what described in findings, there are total of 81 data of code switching practices that has been found by the researcher. Among 81 data of code switching, the majority type that appears in *Eastern Promises* film is **inter-sentential code switching** (55.6%), followed by **intra-sentential code switching** (33.3%), and the remaining amount belongs to **tag switching** (11.1%).

As what the researcher has explained in scope and limitation that the data in this research would be in the form of utterances (phrases, clauses, and sentences) of ten characters performing code switching. Later on, it is known that the 10 characters performed code switching that appear in *Eastern Promises* film are Kolya, Kirill, Anna, Azim, Semyon, Ekrem, Stepan, Soyka, Policeman, and Maria.

The analysis of code switching in *Eastern Promises* film does not stop in categorizing the types of code switching, however, the researcher is also doing an analysis upon social factors of the characters performing code switching. According to the description in findings, the amount of social factors is following the code switching itself. From 81 utterances, Kolya is the most participated **participant** of utterances identified as data in this film (32.2%) rather than other participants.

The other factor is **setting** of the conversation. From a total of 81 code switching utterances, Siberian Restaurant which owned by Semyon is the most frequent place that occurred while the conversation be held in this film as ten characters' utterances occurred 53% in this place. The third factor is **topic** of the conversation. The researcher found that the topics in 81 utterances above are vary greatly, different from one another. Based on the data findings, the most frequent topic occurred in characters' utterances are the importance of family (6.17%) and to fuck one of Soviet girls (6.17%).

The last factor is **function**. The unique thing is the researcher found several code switching practices which almost have more than one function each. Based on the findings, it showed that *to mark injections or to serve as sentence fillers* became the mostly used of function of characters in performing the code switching as the characters used this function 34.6% in this film, followed by *to qualify a message* 27.2%, *to specify an addressee as the recipient of the message* 22.2%, *to clarify or emphasize message* 12.3%, *direct versus reported speech or quotation* 3.7%. However, from the beginning until the end of the film, the researcher found no code switching which indicated the function of *making personalization versus objectivization*.

## E. CONCLUSION

Code switching is alternation of two or more languages in a single discourse, both oral form and written form. Code switching is appeared in many literary works such as in *Eastern Promises* film which contains code switching of three different languages including English, Russian, and Turkish. In *Eastern Promises* film, there are ten characters performing code switching. In this film, the ten characters perform code switching because they meet people who have similar language background, in reverse they tend not to show their language variety with native English due to the differences of language background.

Furthermore in this film, code switching is placed in intimate proximity to the casual barbarism of everyday life in communicating among thieves and murderers.

The tendency of why the ten characters perform code switching are influenced by social factors that occurs in the ten characters themselves. Those social factors are participant factor of the conversation, conversation settings, the topic of the conversation, and the function of the conversation. The social factors triggering the ten characters in performing code switching in their utterances show that language variety of the ten characters is the result of relationship between language and social factors that occur in society as explained in sociolinguistics study.

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