Code-Switching Serves a Euphemism

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Abstract: Euphemism exists in code-switching, it is used by the Indonesian speakers. The objective of this research is to investigate euphemisms used by the Indonesian speakers in their utterances in Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian language), local languages, and foreign languages (English and Arabic). The research was descriptive by collecting data from the original speech of the speakers’ utterances, through recording, and note-taking. The result of the research indicates that there are 30 euphemism in words or phrases found in the Indonesian speakers, they are (datum no. 6), five euphemisms from Bahasa Indonesia (data no. 2, 4, 13, 15, 25), 11 euphemisms from English language (data no. 5, 7, 9, 12, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30) and 13 euphemisms in Buginese language (data no. 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29).

Keywords: euphemism, code-switching

1. Background

Language is an intimate part of social identity. Any language varieties used by speakers during natural communication takes place as a legitimate form of expression. In all school settings, language always becomes the medium and sometimes the object of formal study. Often, teachers have a particular responsibility for certain aspects of language instruction, which includes teaching native language literacy skills and skills in a second language.

In many of the world’s bilingual communities, and the accepted paradigm nowadays for the linguistic study of bilingualism is code-switching. When two or more languages exist in a community, speakers sometimes switch from one language to another. This phenomenon known as code-switching (Sridhar in McKay and Hornberger, 1998:47). Many scholars have studied extensively about the patterns of code switching and the reasons for code switching.

We can find that in Asia, many countries use two languages, for example Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, even Indonesia which use two even more languages to communicate. People who use two or more languages are called the agent of two languages based on the research of bilingualism. Linguists found that the use of two different languages together would automatically influence one another.

The second language learning environment encompasses everything the language learner hears and sees in the new language. It may include a wide variety of situations such as exchanges in restaurants and stores, conversations with friends, reading street signs and newspapers, classroom activities, as well as in broadcast, etc.

This characterization of language learning entails the successful mastery of steadily accumulating structural entities and organizing this knowledge into coherent structures which lead to effective communication in the target language. If this is the case, then we would expect that well-formed accurate and complete target language structures would, one after another, emerge on the learner’s path towards eventual mastery of the language. If the learner went on to master the language, we could, in principle, tabulate the expansion of his/her repertoire up to the point where all of the well-formed structures of the target language had been accounted for (Hoffman, 1991:17).

In the modern world, and particularly in the focus on most scholarship discussion, code-switching appears as a largerly oral phenomenon. Such discussion can emphasize how code-switching often occurs when bilinguals shift topic of conversations, for example, or introduce new interlocutor to their conversation, or exercise self-expression and creativity.

From earlier and more recent research we know that code-switching is related to and indicative of group membership in particular types of bilingual speech communities, such that the regularities of the alternating use of two or more languages within one conversation may vary to a considerable degree between speech communities. We also know that intrasentential code-switching, where it occurs, is constrained by syntactic and morphosyntactic considerations which may not be of a universal kind.

We frequently find that many Indonesian speakers switch their English into Bahasa Indonesia, or vice versa even to local languages. These phenomenon occur because language as a symbol of important human behaviour and component in group identity. Code-switching is not only a phenomenon in a society, in which use more than one language, but is a need in this society as well. Speaker switches his/her code to clarify, emphasize, translate the meaning, to quote, to be more understand, can’t be able to say in the language is being used, to be more understand, etc.

2. Literature Survey

Code-switching, which may be briefly defined as the alternation between two (or more) languages, has been receiving growing attention in recent years. Far from being viewed as a random phenomenon, it has come to be seen as a highly purposeful activity. However, the majority of extant studies have been conducted in authentic bilingual speech communities. Grosjen’s theory (in Surbakti and Anggraini, 2013) about perspective of functions of code-switching are: code-switching serves referential function, directive function, expressive function, phatic function, metalinguistic function and poetic function. The use of euphemism has traditionally been common in subject areas in which people do not like talking directly. According to Fujita in Nilawati
According to Ruth Wajnryb that Euphemisms have a short self-life—one of the stigma of the original catch up to them, the battery that runs the euphemistic device goes flat. (Expletive Deleted: A Good Look at Bad Language, 2005).

R.W. Holder in his Dictionary of Euphemisms (2007) notes that in speech or writing, we use euphemism for dealing with taboo or sensitive subjects. It is therefore the language evasion, hypocrisy, prudery, and deceit.

Fromkin (1990:269) defines euphemism as a word or phrase that replaces a taboo word or serves to avoid frightening or unpleasant subject. He also says that euphemism in used because there is a prohibition on the use of, mention of, or association with particular objects or person.

3. Methods

The subject of the research covered Indonesian speaker, which are elected randomly. The population is the formal and non-formal conversations taken from the speakers. To determine the sample, the researcher took fifty euphemism in code-switching by using purposive sampling technique.

The data were collected through recording, note-taking, and questionnaires. Most of the data had been collected through recording the original speech from the speaker. The researcher also wrote down directly of euphemism in their code-switching.

Data had been analysed by using descriptive method. It aimed to find and describe The extent to which speakers used euphemisms in their code-switching. The procedure of analysing data: (1) the recording speech is firstly transcribed and then sorted out the euphemisms in code-switching from these transcribed data (2) the euphemisms in code-switching discourses are then put in a table.

4. Results and Discussion

Euphemisms in code-switching are found in the speakers’ utterances are in formal and informal situation. The utterances are in Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian language), local (Buginese and Makassarese language) and English language. The following are the extent to which speaker used euphemisms in their code-switching:

1) Our boss CLEANS the people who are malas, that’s right?
   Translation: Our boss CLEANS the people who are lazy, that’s right doesn’t he?

2) Excuse me mom, KE BELAKANG sebentar.
   Translation: Excuse me mom, I am going to go back just for a minute

3) Kenapa tidak barengan masuk ke masjid, MACAREPA ki kah?
   Translation: Why don’t you get in to the mosque together, you get your period, don’t you? are you DIRTY, aren’t you?

4) Our boss MEMBERSIH-BERSIHKAN orang yang malas, that’s right?
   That’s right?
   Translation: Our boss CLEANS the people who are lazy, that’s right doesn’t he?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Euphemism</th>
<th>Denotation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pass away</td>
<td>die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indisposed</td>
<td>sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economically deprived</td>
<td>poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>low-income dresses</td>
<td>cheap clothes</td>
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<tr>
<td>dignified marion</td>
<td>old woman</td>
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<tr>
<td>negative savings</td>
<td>debts</td>
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<tr>
<td>disabled</td>
<td>cripple</td>
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<tr>
<td>retirement pension</td>
<td>old-age pension</td>
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<tr>
<td>unemployment benefit</td>
<td>go on strike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>take industrial action</td>
<td>duty addiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chemical dependency</td>
<td>ill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under the weather</td>
<td>stupid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>low iq/slow</td>
<td>pet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>companion animal</td>
<td>dustman/</td>
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<tr>
<td>disposal officer/</td>
<td>cleaning service</td>
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<tr>
<td>sanitation engineer</td>
<td>prison</td>
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<tr>
<td>correctional facility</td>
<td>prison camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>relocation centre</td>
<td>lazy</td>
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<tr>
<td>unmotivated</td>
<td>the urge of to urinate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the call of nature</td>
<td>rebels</td>
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<tr>
<td>freedom fighters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5) Tidak masalah ma, DRESS CODE nya pada acara kawinan ini warna merah
Translation: There is no problem mam, its DRESS CODE at this wedding is red
6) Jangan ditarak itu tali kuat-kuat AKLAMPAI SALLANG Do not be pull that rope strongly GO AFTERSADS
Translation: Don’t pull that rope strongly, it will GO AFTERSADS
7) Jurnal-jurnal yang kualitas nya merupakan jurnal QUESTIONABLE
Translation: The journals with questionable quality
8) KalaulDiibisa melakukan itu maka akan terjadi bias pada standarinternasional.
Translation: If you do that, it could biased the international standards
9) Kita mau sekali agar mahasiswa-mahasiswa mempunyai STANDARD
Translation: We really dream that that students could have LITERACY STANDARD
10) Mampirki sejenak MABBURA-BURA di rumah ku walapun sedikit, ajak teman-teman
Translation: Please call atto my house for MABBURA-BURA “TO EAT” sometimes, although a little, take your friends with you!
11) Jangan selalu memuji dia akan MALOPPO ULUma
Translation: Do not always commend her, she will feel BIGGER HEAD
12) Semua jurnal akan memilikiTRADE MARK untuk bisa berterima
Translation: All journals will have TRADE MARK in order to be accepted
13) Bahasa Jawa nya NGEGANG begitulah seperti itu.
Translation: It’s Javanese language GANK is like that
14) Kalau kalian kuliah belajar yang tekun, jangan seperti "maloppo ulu".
Translation: To be patient honey, our business will become GOLDEN PEARL
15) Masussa memeng i kasina apa elo di AMPUTASIjane na
Translation: It is truly pitiful for him because his legs will be amputated
16) Please tell him that he must be serious, DIPIKUL semua itu tanggungjawab yang ada padanya
Translation: Please tell him that he must be serious, he need to be responsible for all duties he had.
17) Eye contact itu tidak melihat di mana hidup kita penuh dengan tantangan
Translation: That EYE CONTACT does not see where our lives are full with challenges
18) Sebaiknya memang harus kita antisipasi sebelum banyak beredar ADULT MOVIE
Translation: It is better to quickly anticipate the spreading of the ADULT MOVIE
19) The third agenda is speeches, the first speech will be delivered by BAPAKProf.Dr.
Translation: The third agenda is speeches, the first speech will be delivered by Bapak Prof.Dr.
5. Conclusion

The research concludes that there are 30 euphemisms found in the speakers’ code-switching, they are consist of: one euphemism from Makassarese language (datum no. 6), five euphemisms from Bahasa Indonesia (data no. 2, 4, 13, 15, 25), 11 euphemisms from English language (data no. 5, 7, 9, 12, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30) and 13 euphemisms in Buginese language (data no. 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29).

References


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**Rusdiah** is an English teacher at Muslim University of Indonesia Makassar since 1993. She finished his bachelor degree (Dra.) on English Department of Faculty of Letters at Muslim University of Indonesia Makassar, Indonesia. In 2004 He got his magister degree on Magister of Humaniora (M.Hum) on English Language Studies at Hasanuddin University, in Makassar, Indonesia, and in 2010 He continued to study Linguistics with special interest on Sociolinguistics. Now she is writing his dissertation entitled „Euphemism as Motivating Factor in Code-Switching“ under the supervisors of Prof. Dr. Abdul Hakim Yassi, Dipl.TESL, M.A and Prof. Dr. H. Hamzah A. Machmoed, M.A.