MIXING AND SWITCHING LANGUAGES IN SMS MESSAGES

Aulia Apriana

Abstract: This study aims at investigating language mixing and switching found in the language of the messages (i.e., Indonesian and English) sent through SMS. This research is focused on the factors influencing and the reasons causing language mixing and switching. The research design of this study is descriptive qualitative and the data of the research are 100 messages received by the cell phone of the researcher within four months. The results show that there are five influential factors and nine reasons accounting for language mixing and switching when people are writing a message through SMS. The five factors are: (1) the conversation content, (2) the formality of verbal interaction, (3) the nature of relationship between participants, (4) message effectiveness, and (5) space limitation; and the nine reasons are: (1) talking about a particular topic, (2) being emphatic about something, (3) using sentence fillers or connectors, (4) doing repetition for clarification, (5) clarifying the speech content for the interlocutor, (6) expressing group identity, (7) softening or strengthening request or command, (8) real lexical need, and (9) communication efficiency.

Key words: short message service (SMS), language mixing, language switching.

Among cell phone users, the most popular feature offered by cell phones is the SMS or Short Message Service. There are some reasons for that. First of all, it is mainly because of the cost that is much lower than the cost of calling. Secondly, this SMS normally allows the sender to write up to 160 char-

Aulia Apriana adalah dosen Jurusan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Sastra Universitas Negeri Malang

acters per message. It is sufficient for a short greeting, content, and closing. Third, the message is sent instantly to the receiver, much faster than the fastest letter. Consequently, the phenomenon of sending messages through SMS is getting more and more popular.

Since the message sent through SMS is basically a medium of verbal communication, it is of course open for linguistic analysis. The most obvious linguistic features found in SMS language is the use of language mixing and switching. It seems that people who often send messages through the SMS of their cell phones are fond of mixing their *Bahasa Indonesia* with English. Moreover, in some cases, they even switch their *Bahasa Indonesia* into English.

Language mixing and switching can actually happen only in the language of a bilingual (Rochayah-Djamil, 1993:78). The definition of a bilingual itself is given by Spolsky (1998:45) namely "a person who has some functional ability in the second language". Hamers and Blanc (1987:265) define bilingual as "an individual who has an access to two or more different codes or languages". In addition, Macnamara (1967), as quoted by Hamers and Blanc (1987:6) also proposed another definition of a bilingual, that is, "anyone who possesses a minimal competence in one of the four language skills, i.e. listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing in a language other than his mother tongue". A bilingual is, therefore, always able to present his ideas either in his first or second language.

Those Indonesian people who use both English and *Bahasa Indonesia* in their SMS messages actually cannot be considered bilinguals since they are not yet filling the requirements to be bilinguals as mentioned by Spolsky, Macnamara, and Hamers and Blanc. Spolsky defines bilingual as a person who has some functional ability in the second language, while English is not the second language of Indonesian people. Also, if Macnamara defines bilingual as anyone who possesses a minimal competence in one of the four language skills, the term "minimal" here is questionable. Macnamara does not mention how minimal is the language competence required by somebody to be called a bilingual.

However, though those people who use both English and *Bahasa Indonesia* in their SMS messages cannot be considered bilinguals, by mixing and switching their languages in their messages, they act as if they were bilinguals. Moreover, since the references about SMS messages, SMS senders, or SMS activity is not available, the references used for the discussions are

taken from the references of bilingualism. Therefore, this research can also show that the references of bilingualism can also explain the phenomenon of language mixing and switching in the SMS messages.

In addition, language mixing and switching are also closely related to the phenomenon of diglossia, in which one language is considered higher than another (Fishman, 1972:136). Then, according to Syafi'ie (1981:40), the language situation in Indonesia is in a diglossic situation, in which *Bahasa Indonesia* is considered higher than the local languages and English is considered higher in prestige and social status than *Bahasa Indonesia*.

However, though language mixing and switching are closely related to the phenomena of bilingualism and diglossia, still there must be some factors that can influence people in mixing and switching their languages when they are writing messages through SMS. Also, there must be some reasons for these people to mix or switch their languages when they are writing messages through their SMS. One thing that should be noted here is that normally, the capacity of the SMS is only 160 characters. There is one possibility that people may mix and switch their languages for the sake of efficiency, meaning that the senders want to save the space so that it can contain a longer message. For example, the word 'saya' needs four characters while 'I' will only need one character. Therefore, it can save the space. On the other hand, while some people type the word '*untuk*' with '*utk*,' some others switch it into 'for.' In this case, the characters needed by both words are actually the same. However, still it is found more people who type the word "*untuk*" with "for" rather than '*utk*.' Therefore, there must be some other factors and reasons for people to mix and switch their languages when they are writing messages through SMS besides only for the sake of efficiency.

According to Hoffmann (1991:115) and Hamers and Blanc (1987:148), there are some factors that can influence the occurrence of language mixing and switching. They are: (1) the content of the conversation, (2) the formality of the conversation, (3) the participants, and (4) the effectiveness of the message. However, in SMS messages the occurrence of language mixing and switching can also be influenced by (5) the limitation of the space. Then, according to Hoffman (1991:116) and Savile-Troike (1986:69), there are ten reasons why people mix or switch their languages. They are: (1) talking about a particular topic, (2) quoting somebody else, (3) being emphatic about something, (4) sentence fillers or sentence connectors, (5) repetition used for clarification, (6) intention of clarifying the speech content for interlocutor,

(7) expressing group identity, (8) softening or strengthening request or command, and (9) real lexical need. In SMS messages, one reason of language mixing and switching that cannot be excluded is (10) for the sake of efficiency. All those factors and reasons are used in the analysis.

RESEARCH METHOD

The most common technique to be used in descriptive qualitative research is the observation technique since it can exactly describe how people act and how the things are like (Fraenkel and Wallen, 1993:384). They also state that in observing the activities of a certain group, the researcher is not a participant. Therefore, all messages sent by the researcher, no matter they also contain some code mixing and code switching in the language, are not considered as some of the data.

There is only one kind of source of data in this research, that is the messages received by the cell phone of the researcher. There are 100 messages sent through SMS received by the cell phone of the researcher containing several forms of language mixing and switching, that is in the form of words, phrases, or sentences. Those messages are sent by people between 20 to 25 years of age, with various educational backgrounds. Most of them are college students of Malang State University, and the others are students of Brawijaya University, Muhammadiyah University of Malang, and some other universities in Malang, East Java, Indonesia. There are also some people that have graduated from the colleges or the Universities. Some of the students are English Department students while some others are the students of the Departments of Engineering, Management, Indonesian Literature, and Arabic Literature. All of these people are Indonesian youth who are fluent in English since some of them are English Department students while most of the others are members of some English conversation clubs.

The main instrument of this research is the researcher herself as the-key human-instrument. To collect the data, the researcher first chooses the messages received in her cell phone that contain some forms of language mixing and switching in the messages. Some other messages that are in *Bahasa Indonesia* only or in English only are excluded because they do not contain language mixing and switching. Because the researcher wants to have natural data and avoid elicited data, she never tells the senders that their messages will be used for research. In the process of the data collection, the re-

searcher also never sends messages containing language mixing and switching in order that the receivers will reply her messages in a similar way. Sometimes, the researcher, as the receiver, does reply the messages using language mixing and switching, but they are not used as some of the data. The duration of the data collection is quite long, from November 1st, 2002 until February 28th, 2003. Those messages are written in a field note and all the language mixing and switching are marked until they reach 100 messages. This amount is expected to be able to represent the characteristics of all SMS language.

After all the data are collected, they are analyzed using some steps. They are: (1) coding the marked expressions (data) based on the five factors and ten reasons of language mixing and switching, (2) classifying and tabulating the classified data to find out the percentages of the mixed and switched expressions, and (3) discussing and summarizing the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Factors that Influence People to Mix or Switch Their *Bahasa Indonesia* and English

As it has been mentioned previously, there are five factors that influence people to mix or switch languages. Each of the data has been analyzed to find out which of the five factors that can be found in the language of the SMS messages.

The Content of the Conversation

(1) *Eh, D telp aku. Katanya dia lagi* **broken-hearted** *tuh. Kaciaaaaan deh…!!* (Data:19).
(*D* has just called me and said that he's been broken-hearted. Poor him!)

(2) *Nggak papa, biar langsing dikit. Pasti tambah cakep deh.* **I miss you**! (Data:21).
(Never mind, you can be a little bit slimmer then you'll be more beautiful. I miss you).

(3) *Li, kamu libur sampai kapan? Aku kangen banget sama kamu.* **It's true, I miss you every second**! (Data:35).
(How long is your holiday? I miss you so much. It's true, I miss you

every second!).

(4) *Nggak papa*, **I miss you too**..!! (Data:59).

(Never mind, I miss you too!).

(5) *Aku lagi hepi nih. Tadi siang aku* chatting *sama dia, berdua aja, dan… Aku baru sadar kalo ternyata* **smile***nya tuh* **sweet** *banget..* (Data:69).

(6) *Li*, **I'm jealous**. *Aku baru sadar kalo dia* recently *sering ngobrol sama teman kerjaku yang lain. Gimana nih*? (Data:89).

(I'm jealous. I've just realized that recently he often talks to my col-league. What am I supposed to do?).

All the messages here are about love, feelings, jealousy, boyfriends and girlfriends, and dating. It is very obvious that the senders feel free, and more comfortable to express their emotional feeling in a language that is not their ordinary language. Though their confessions are in the form of written mes-sages, which means that no one can interfere, they still tend to switch some "personal" words into English so that they don't sound so melancholic. In example no.1 (Data:19), for example, instead of writing the word "*patah-hati*", the sender mix the English words for this term, that is "broken-hearted" in her statement. Similarly, in example no.5 (Data:69) and no.6 (Data:89), the sender would choose the expressions "smile*nya* sweet *sekali*" and the word "jealous" rather than "*senyumnya manis sekali*" and "*cem-buru*".

For the example no.2 (Data:21), no.3 (Data 35), and no.4 (Data:59), the senders express their feelings using English because of a cultural reason. In *Bahasa Indonesia*, the statement "*Aku cinta kamu*" or *"Aku rindu kamu*" can only be said by a person to his/her lover. On the other hand, in most of the English speaking countries, saying "I love you" or "I miss you" to a Dad, Mom, brother or sister, a friend, or even to a teacher is very common. In other words, there are some expressions under a certain topic that are "inex-pressible" in *Bahasa Indonesia* but are "expressible" in English. Therefore, since the senders are actually not the receiver's special friends, but they want to express their affection to the receiver, they prefer to express their feelings in English.

The Formality of the Conversation

Since all of the messages received by the researcher are all from her friends, none of the messages are in a formal language. Therefore, all of the language mixing and switching found in the messages are under the influence of this factor. For example:

(1) *Siapa dia*? **Tell me** *ya*! (Data:1).
     (Who is he? Please tell me!).
(2) *Oke deh*, **I'll call him after this. Btw**, *jangan lupa bawain novelnya ya mbak*, **thanks**… (Data:12).
     (Ok, I'll call him after this. By the way, don't forget to bring the novel, thanks…).
(3) *Gue* **stay** *di Batu* **till tomorrow. What's up**? (Data:14).
     (I'm staying in *Batu* till tomorrow. What's up?).
(4) **Hello** *Lia. Lama* **I** *nggak* **contact** U. *Apa kabar*? **Btw, this's my new number**. (Data:48).
     (Hello Lia. I haven't contacted you for a long time. How are you? By the way, this is my new number.).
(5) *Tadi I ke rmhmu? Sebenarnya aku mau ikut tapi lagi sibuk nih, jadi nggak bisa. Met* **weekend** *aja ya*… (Data:54).
     (Did I come you your house? Actually I want to go with her but I'm quite busy at the moment so I can't. Just have a nice weekend.).

The formality and the informality of a situation also determine the choice of including the mixing and the switching of those languages. The more formal the situation is, the less language mixing and switching can be found since the speaker tends to make himself as clear as possible while the use of language mixing and switching can sometimes confuse the listeners.

The Participants

(1) *Telpon aku sore aja, soalnya aku seharian nggak ada di rmh*. **Sorry** *ya*! (Data:2).
     (Call me in the afternoon because I won't be home all day. Sorry!).
(2) *Aku lagi mempersiapkan diri buat ujian*. **Thanks for asking**! (Data:6).
     (I'm preparing myself for the test. Thanks for asking!).

(3) *Tolong bawain buku cara nulis proposal. Mau ta'* copy. **Thanks banget**! (Data:7).
(Please bring the book on how to write a proposal. I want to copy it. Thanks.).

(4) *Oke deh*, **I'll call him after this**. **Btw**, *jangan lupa bawain novelnya ya mbak*. **Thanks**! (Data:12).
(Ok, I'll call him after this. By the way, don't forget to bring the novel. Thanks!).

(5) *Gue* **stay** *di Batu* **till tomorrow. What's up**? (Data:14).
(I'm staying in Batu till tomorrow. What's up?).

(6) *Aku lagi hepi nih. Tadi siang aku* **chatting** *sama dia, berdua aja, dan… Aku baru sadar kalo ternyata* smile*nya tuh* sweet *banget*! (Data:69).
(I feel very happy. This afternoon I chatted with him. Just the two of us, and… I just realized that his smile is so sweet).

(7) *Boleh dong. Ini udah* **valid** *kok. Wkt kupakai* miscall *tadi, nomorku nggak nggak muncul sih*. **Thanks a lot**! (Data:72).
(Of course. It's valid now. When I miscalled a friend, my number didn't display on my friend's cell phone).

In all of the messages shown here, the senders mix or switch their languages just because they feel that they have quite a close relationship with the researcher as the receiver and they know that both of them are quite good in English. Sometimes, those mixed and switched expressions just come unintentionally and very naturally.

Sometimes, the number of the characters of the switched word, which is in English, is just quite the same as it is in *Bahasa Indonesia*, or even longer. For example, there are a lot of "thanks" and "sorry" expressions in the messages, like in the example no. 1 (Data:2), no.2 (Data:6), no.3 (Data:7), no.4 (Data:12) and many more. The word "thanks" takes six characters while the word "*makasih*" takes seven characters. However, the word "sorry" needs five characters while the word "*maaf*" needs only four characters. Also, the word "chatting" in the example no.6 (Data 69) is a little bit longer than "*ngobrol*", and the word "valid" the example no.7 (Data:72) is obviously longer than the word "*sah*" in *Bahasa Indonesia*.

Another proof can be seen from the example no.4 (Data:12). In her message, the sender writes "I'll call him after this", while actually it would not be wasteful at all to write "*Aku telp dia stl ini*." Also, in example no.5

(Data:14), instead of writing "till tomorrow", which needs thirteen characters, the sender could actually write "*sampai besok*", which needs twelve characters. Moreover, in writing messages through SMS, most people now like to shorten the word "*sampai*" to "*smp*" and "*besok*" to "*bsk*". Then, the words "*smp bsk*" will need only seven characters.

The Effectiveness of the Message

(1) *Apa kita disuruh cari bahan dari* **prose/poetry/play**? (Data:3)
    (Do we have to get the examples from prose, poetry, or a play?)
(2) **Pokoknya,** tell her that I love her, **please.. please**.. *Jangan lupa lho*! (Data:40)
    (Just tell her that I love her, please.. please.. Don't forget!)
(3) *Aku lagi banyak pikiran* **and they make me dizzy**… (Data:81)
    (I've got a lot of things to think about and they make me dizzy.)

In all of the examples here, it can be seen obviously that the senders sometimes feel that the use of one language is more effective than another. Like in example no. 1 (Data:3), the sender wants to ask whether they have to get the example from an English prose, poetry, or play. It really makes sense because the sender and the receiver are both English Department students who belong to the same class and all of their assignments are in English. In this case, they have to deal with English prose, poems, and dramas. Therefore, the sender feels that it is more effective to write "prose/poetry/play" rather than "*prosa/puisi/drama*".

In the example no.2 (Data:40), there is one word in *Bahasa Indonesia* that is considered more effective than it is in English, that is the word "*pokoknya*". There is no word in English that can satisfactorily substitute this word. The closest meaning for this word is "just do it". Therefore, although the sender then switches his personal request into English, he still feels that the word "*pokoknya*" cannot be abandoned.

In *Bahasa Indonesia*, such pronouns as "*ia*" (he/she/it), and "*mereka*" (they) can only refer to human beings. However, in English, those words can also refer to some inanimate things. Therefore, in example no.3 (Data:81), the sender switches her *Bahasa Indonesia* into English because she wants to say that "they (the problems) make her dizzy."

The Limitation of the Space

(1) *Siapa dia*? **Tell me** *ya*? (Data:1).
(Who is he? Tell me!).

(2) Sorry *aku udah di Kalimantan*, **so I can't come**. *Memangnya ada* **meeting** *apa*? (Data:24).
(Sorry I've been in Kalimantan, so I can't come. What meeting is it actually?).

(3) **I** *think kamu yakinin dulu apa* feeling*mu itu, ntar baru dipikirin apa* **next step***nya*, ok? (Data:45).
(I think you'd better think first what feeling that you have, then you can think of the next step that you should take.).

(4) *Tadi I ke rmhmu? Sebenarnya aku mau ikut tapi lagi sibuk nih, jadi nggak bisa. Met* **weekend** *aja ya..* (Data:54).
(Did *I* come to your house? Actually I wanted to come with her but I was still very busy, so I couldn't make it. Just have a nice weekend).

(5) *Sama2. Yang penting kamu* **happy** *aja*. (Data:87).
(Never mind. As long as you are happy).

(6) *Sama2, yang penting* **U** **happy**. *Eh, gimana* **weekend***nya*? *Banyak acara*? (Data:97).
(Never mind, as long as you are happy. By the way, how is your weekend? Have many plans?).

It can obviously be seen that all of the language mixing and switching found here are under the influence of the limitation of the space. For example, in the example no.1 (Data:1), the expression "tell me *ya*?", is obviously shorter than "*beritahu aku ya*?". Also, the word "meeting" in the example no.2 (Data:24) is shorter than the word "*pertemuan*". The words "next step" in the example no.3 (Data:45) is shorter than the words "*langkah berikutnya*". The word "weekend" in the example no.4 (Data:54) and no.6 (Data:97) is of course shorter than "*akhir pekan*", and the word "happy" in the example no.5 (Data:87) and no.6 (Data:97) is obviously shorter than "*bahagia*".

Moreover, in many cases, the senders prefer to use abbreviations or a number of letters that can represent a word. From the data, there can be found several cases where the senders like to use the letter "U" to represent "you", "C" to represent "see", and the number "2" and "4" to represent "to"

and "for". Therefore, the characters "C U" will mean "see you", "2 U" will mean "to you" and "4 U" will mean "for you".

Table 1. The Frequency of the Occurrence of the Factors that Influence People to Mix or Switch Their Languages

No.	Factors	Frequency	Percentages
1.	The content of the conversation	16	5.0 %
2.	The formality of the conversation	192	60.6 %
3.	The participants	66	20.8 %
4.	The effectiveness of the message	19	6.0 %
5.	The limitation of the space	24	7.6 %
	TOTAL	**317**	**100 %**

The table shows that most people mix or switch their codes or languages under the influence of the formality of the conversation. This factor occurs 192 times (60.6 %). Then, in the second place is the third factor, the participants, which occurs 66 times (20.8 %). The last factor, the limitation of the messages, occurs 24 times (7.6 %) and the fourth factor, the limitation of the messages, occurs nineteen times (6.0 %). At last, sixteen people (5.0 %) mix or switch their codes or languages under the influence of the content of the conversation.

Reasons Why People Mix their *Bahasa Indonesia* with English or Switch their *Bahasa Indonesia* into English, or the other way around in SMS Messages

The factors that are discussed previously can only influence people to mix or switch their codes or languages. Actually, there are still some specific reasons why people mix their *Bahasa Indonesia* with English or switch their *Bahasa Indonesia* into English, or the other way around when they are writing SMS messages. As it has been discussed in earlier, there are ten reasons why people mix their *Bahasa Indonesia* with English or switch their *Bahasa Indonesia* into English, or the other way around.

Talking about a Particular Topic

This reason is very much under the influence of the first factor of language mixing and switching, which is the content of the conversation. Therefore, the data that are taken from the messages to exemplify this reason are also similar to the data for the content of the conversation. They are:

(1) *Eh, D telp aku. Katanya dia lagi* **broken-hearted** *tuh. Kaciaaaaan deh…*!! (Data:19).
(*D* has just called me and said that he's been broken-hearted. Poor him!).

(2) *Nggak papa, biar langsing dikit. Pasti tambah cakep deh*. **I miss you**! (Data:21).
(Never mind, you can be a little bit slimmer then you'll be more beautiful. I miss you).

(3) *Li, kamu libur sampai kapan? Aku kangen banget sama kamu*. **It's true, I miss you every second**! (Data:35).
(How long is your holiday? I miss you so much. It's true, I miss you every second!).

(4) *Nggak papa*, **I miss you too**..!! (Data:59).
(Never mind, I miss you too!).

(5) *Aku lagi hepi nih. Tadi siang aku* chatting *sama dia, berdua aja, dan… Aku baru sadar kalo ternyata* **smile***nya tuh* **sweet** *banget..* (Data:69).

(6) *Li*, **I'm jealous**. *Aku baru sadar kalo dia* recently *sering ngobrol sama teman kerjaku yang lain. Gimana nih*? (Data:89).
(I'm jealous. I've just realized that recently he often talks to my colleague. What am I supposed to do?).

Just like the discussion for the first factor, which is the content of the conversation, it is absolutely clear that the senders sometimes feel free, and more comfortable to express their emotional feelings in a language that is not their everyday language. Therefore, all the messages here can be the evidence of how often people mix or switch their languages just to avoid being so melancholic in admitting their personal problems.

Quoting Somebody Else

People sometimes like to quote a famous expression or saying of some well-known figures. In Indonesian, those well-known figures are mostly from some English-speaking countries. Then, because many of the Indonesian people nowadays are good in English, those famous expressions or sayings can be quoted intact in their original language.

However, since all of the messages in this research are in daily and informal language, none of the messages include famous expressions or sayings. The senders prefer to write as efficiently as possible, while sayings are usually long and cannot be understood instantly.

Being Emphatic about Something

(1) *Gimana sih si K, kerjanya nggak profesional. Aku sdh korban banyak* **but I get nothing** *malah sakit hati*. (Data:80).
(I don't understand *K*. Her work is not professional. I have sacrificed a lot of thing but I get nothing, and my heart hurts).

(2) *Jangan* down *gitu dong*! **Be happy girl, I will always be your best friend**. (Data:91).
(Don't feel down like that, be happy girl, I will always be your best friend).

In the example no.1 (Data:80), by mixing an English phrase in her message, the sender actually wants to express her emphatic feeling toward somebody. Sometimes, Indonesian people who are fluent in English feel more powerful if they express their anger in English rather than in *Bahasa Indonesia*. It is believed that by showing their mastery in English to the people who are not good in English, they can say that they are smarter than them.

In contrast, the example no.2 (Data:91) shows that language mixing and switching can also express an emphatic feeling which is not anger. In this message, the sender wants to encourage the receiver so that she doesn't feel down and desperate. By switching her sentence into English, the sender, who is good in English, wants to show that they both are good in English. It is their similarity and it can show how close their relationship is. Therefore, the receiver will feel more comfortable.

Sentence Fillers or Sentence Connectors

(1) *Kamu baik banget*. **Anyway**, thanks a lot. (Data:8).
     (You are so kind. Anyway, thanks a lot.).
(2) *Oke deh*, I'll call him after this. **Btw**, *jangan lupa bawain novelnya ya mbak* thanks… (Data:12).
     (Ok, I'll call him after this. By the way, don't forget to bring the novel, thanks..).
(3) Ok *deh*, thanks a lot *ya*! **Btw**, *minal aidin, maafin kalo aku ada salah*. (Data:47).
     (Ok, thanks a lot. By the way, please forgive me if I have any mistake).
(4) Hello *Lia*. *Lama* I nggak contact U. *Apa kabar*? **Btw,** this's my new number. (Data:48).
     (Hello Lia, I haven't contacted you for a long time. How are you? By the way, this is my new number).
(5) *Ntar dia kalo kesitu, bilang aku sdh di rmh*. Thanks. **Btw**, *kok lama ngangkatnya*? (Data:52).
     (If he gets there, tell him that I'm already home. Thanks. By the way, what take you so long to pick up the phone?).
(6) *Bukannya ngambek, tadi aku lagi kerja*. **Btw**, *skrng* boyfriend *kamu siapa*? (Data:90).
     (I'm not sulking, I was working. By the way, who is your boyfriend now?).

All the examples here show only two kinds of sentence filler or connector, "anyway" in the example no.1 (Data:8) and "btw" in the examples no.2 (Data:12) ,no.3 (Data:47), no.4 (Data:48), no.5 (Data:52), and no.6 (Data:90). As it is explained previously, the senders can sometimes mix these English sentence filler or connector very naturally just because they have been familiar with them.

Repetition Used for Clarification

Li, aku kok miss him *ya*? ***Nggak papa ya*** *kalo aku* sms *dia*, **is that ok**? *Soalnya dia kan* iceberg *banget*. (Data:58).
(I think I miss him. Is that ok if I send him a message? Is that ok? Because he's really like an iceberg).

In this example, the sender repeats her question to make the receiver understands her question. Moreover, she repeats her question in English so that the receiver gets one question in two languages and it is hoped to make the receiver understand her question well. Just like all the previous reasons, the sender has known that both the receiver and her are good in English. So, although she is switching her code from Bahasa Indonesia into English or the way round, the receiver will be able to understand her message well.

Intention of Clarifying the Speech Content for the Interlocutor

(1) *Tolong bawain buku cara nulis proposal. Mau ta'* **copy**. Thanks *banget*. (Data:7).
(Please bring the book on how to write a proposal. I want to copy it. Thanks a lot.).

(2) *Mbak, nanti* RM-*nya* **midterm** *ya*? Please tell me 'cos I need to know. Thanks! (Data:20).
(Will we have a midterm-test for RM class? Please tell me because I need to know. Thanks!).

(3) *Artikel utk* **Mid**-*nya* RM *yang mana*? (Data:57).
(Which RM's article are we going to discuss for the midterm-test?).

In the example no.1 (Data:7), the meaning of the word "copy" is to "photo copy". In this message, the sender wants to clarify that she wants to ask for a permission to photo copy the book. By using the English word photo copy, the sender hopes that the receiver will instantly understand that she doesn't want to rewrite the book but to photo copy it.

In example no.2 (Data:20) and no.3 (Data:57), the use of the word "midterm" and "mid" is expected to clarify that both the sender and the receiver are going to have a mid-term test for their RM (Research Method) class. On the other hand, if the sender replaces the expressions "midterm" and "mid" with the expressions "*tengah semester*" and "*tengah*", it may be impossible for the receiver to understand the message that is sent by the sender.

Expressing Group Identity

(1) **It's me** R, dBS FM *BJM. Ingat nggak sama teman lama*? (Data:13).
(It's me *R*, dBS FM Banjarmasin. Remember an old friend?).

(2) Late reply, sorry! *Nggak papa kok*. **I'll call** *pak A* **later. C U on Sunday.** (Data:23).
(Late reply, sorry. That's fine. I'll call Mr.*A* later. See you on Sunday.).

(3) *Skrng aku mau ke Mlg*. **What's up? Call me tonight if U want to**. (Data:31).
(I want to go to Malang now. What's up? Call me tonight if you want to..).

(4) **Morning** *Li. Mau nanya nih, kita masuk kapan*? **Silent week***nya kapan*? **And Final** *kapan*? **Thank U very much**. (Data:46).
(Morning, I want to ask something. When do we start school? When is the silent week, and when is the final week? Thank you very much!).

(5) *Aku lagi* **waiting 4 a friend. Maybe I'll be there around 11.** *Salam buat N ya..* C U! (Data:55).
(I'm still waiting for a friend. Maybe I'll be there around 11. Just say hi to *N*, see you..).

In example no.1 (Data:13), the sender could actually write "Ini aku" instead of "It's me" since both of the expressions need seven characters. However, by writing "It's me", the sender can also show his ability in English. Similarly, in examples no.2 (Data:23), no.3 (Data:31), no.4 (Data:46), or no.5 (Data:55), the senders could actually write their messages using *Bahasa Indonesia*, which are obviously not longer than their English translation. However, the expressions "I can call *Pak A* later", "What's up?", "Morning" and "I'm still waiting 4 a friend" are more preferable than "*Aku bisa telp Pak A nanti*", "*Ada apa*?", "*Pagi*", and "*Aku lagi nunggu teman*", because those English expressions can show the senders' ability in English.

Softening or Strengthening Request or Command

(1) *Telpon aku sore aja, soalnya aku seharian nggak ada di rumah*. **Sorry ya**! (Data:2).
(Call me in the afternoon because I won't be home all day. Sorry!).

(2) **Late reply, sorry**! *Nggak papa kok*. I'll call pak A later. C U on Sunday. (Data:23).
(Late reply, sorry. That's fine. I'll call Mr.*A* later. See you on Sunday).

(3) **I'm sorry** I nggak bisa ke rmhmu. I've got some things to do. *Please bilang Minal Aidin Wal Faidzin* to Om, Tante, A, Y, and J. (Data:32).
(I'm sorry I can't come to your house. I've got some things to do. Please say an apology to Uncle, Aunt, A, Y, and J.).

(4) *Pokoknya*, tell her that I love her, **please…please**… *Jangan lupa lho*! (Data:40).
(Just tell her that I love her, please.. please.. Don't forget!).

(5) *Lihat aja di katalog, kalo nggak*, ask *N*. **Sorry**, *aku lagi nggak di rmh*. (Data:62).
(Just look at the catalog. If not, ask *N*. Sorry, I'm not at home.)

(6) *Li, pulsa kamu abis? Atau marah sama aku*? Reply *dong*! **Please…Please**… *Kangen nih.* (Data:67).
(Are you running out of call-credit? Or you are mad of me? Please reply! Please..please.. I really miss you.).

(7) *Lia,* **sorry** *ya aku lama nggak nulis surat. Tunggu aja ya*! (Data:88).
(Sorry I haven't written you a letter for a long time. Just wait?).

In the discussion of the seventh reason why people mix or switch their languages, it has already been mentioned that most of the words "thanks" and "sorry" are used to express their group identity. However, in this discussion, the word "sorry" sometimes can also soften a request of apology. Like in the examples no.1 (Data:2), no.2 (Data:23), No.3 (Data:32), no.5 (Data:62), and no.7 (Data:88), all of the word "sorry" in those messages are used to soften an apology from the senders to the receiver.

Also, the word "please" in the example no.4 (Data:40) and no.6 (Data:67) is actually not used to express the senders' ability in English, but they really mean to soften the senders' request. Many people believe that a language that is not their native languages usually can effectively carry their soft requests or strong commands because their native languages have already become their everyday languages; therefore, their emotional impact is not as strong as a foreign language.

Real Lexical Need

(1) Ok ***deh***, I can tell them that I'll be late. (Data:18).
      (Ok, I can tell them that I'll be late.).
(2) *Minal Aidin Wal Faidzin. Maaf lahir bathin.* **Have a nice Lebaran**!
      (Data:28).
      (Please forgive me and have a nice Idul Fitri.).
(3) Hi *Li*, sorry *ngganggu*. **I'm wondering if U have bu *N*'s phone num-
      ber**. *Boleh minta*? (Data:64).
      (Hi, sorry for disturbing. I'm wondering if you have Ms.*N*'s phone
      number. Can I have it?).

The word "*deh*" used in the example no.1 (Data:18) can be used to
show the membership of the sender in the community whose members are
able to use "*Bahasa Jakarta*". However, the sender actually cannot get rid of
the word "*deh*" in her message because there is no word in English which
has an equivalent meaning with this word. Therefore, though the rest of her
message is in English, the sender still needs to mix the Indonesian word
"*deh*" in her message since she cannot translate it into English.

In example no.2 (Data:28), the content of the message is "*Minal Aidin
Wal Faidzin. Maaf lahir bathin*. Have a nice *Lebaran*". In this message, the
sender actually uses three different languages, Arabic, *Bahasa Indonesia*,
and English. However, since the analysis in this research is limited to Eng-
lish-Indonesian's language mixing and switching, the function of the Arabic
expressions will not be discussed. In her message, the sender switches her
language from *Bahasa Indonesia* into English in "*Maaf lahir bathin*" into
"Have a nice *Lebaran*", because there is no expression in Bahasa Indonesia
that has an equivalent meaning with "Have a nice day", "Have a nice birth-
day", or "Have a nice *lebaran*". Therefore, the sender prefers to use an Eng-
lish expression to carry her message effectively.

Similarly, in example no.3 (Data:64), the sender switches her previous
expressions, which are in *Bahasa Indonesia*, into "I'm wondering if U have
bu N's phone number" because there is no such an expression in *Bahasa In-
donesia* that has an equivalent meaning with "I'm wondering if (some-
thing)".

For the Sake of Efficiency

(1) *Siapa dia*? **Tell me** *ya*! (Data:1).
    (Who is he? Tell me!).
(2) Sorry *aku lagi di Kalimantan*, so I can't come. *Memangnya ada* **meeting** *apa*? (Data:24).
    (Sorry I'm still in Kalimantan, so I can't some. Actually, what meeting is it?).
(3) I think *kamu yakinin dulu apa* **feeling***mu itu, ntar baru dipikirin apa* **next step***nya*, ok? (Data:45).
    (I think you'd better think first what feeling that you have, then you can think of the next step that you should take.).
(4) *Tadi I ke rmhmu? Sebenarnya aku mau ikut tapi lagi sibuk nih, jadi nggak bisa. Met* **weekend** *aja ya…* (Data:54).
    (Did *I* come to your house? Actually I wanted to come with her but I was still very busy, so I couldn't make it. Just have a nice weekend..).
(5) *Sama2. Yang penting kamu* **happy** *aja*. (Data:87).
    (You are welcome, as long as you are happy.).
(6) *Sama2 yang penting* **U happy.** Eh, *gimana* **weekend***nya*? *Banyak acara*? (Data:97).
    (Never mind, as long as you are happy. By the way, how is your weekend? Have many plans?).

Because of the close relationship between the last factor and the last reason of language mixing and switching in this research, the data analyzed are also similar. For example, in the example no.1 (Data:1), the expression "tell me *ya*?", is obviously shorter than "*beritahu aku ya*?". Also, the word "meeting" in the example no.2 (Data:24) is shorter than the word "*pertemuan*". The words "next step" in the example no.3 (Data:45) is shorter than the words "*langkah berikutnya*". The word "weekend" in the example no.4 (Data:54) and no.6 (Data:97) is of course shorter than "*akhir pekan*", and the word "happy" in the example no.5 (Data:87) and no.6 (Data:97) is obviously shorter than "*bahagia*".

Also, as it has been mentioned previously, the SMS senders like to use abbreviations, like "btw" (by the way) or "TQ" (thank you), and the symbols "I", "U", "C", and numbers "2", and "4" to replace the words "saya (I)", "kamu (you)", "ketemu (see)", "untuk (to)", dan "untuk (for)".

Table 2. The Frequency of the Occurrence of the Reasons Why People Mix or Switch Their Languages.

No.	Reasons	Frequency	Percentages
1.	Talking about a particular topic	15	11.0 %
2.	Quoting somebody else	0	0.0 %
3.	Being emphatic about something	2	1.5 %
4.	Sentence fillers or sentence connectors	6	4.4 %
5.	Repetition used for clarification	1	0.8 %
6.	Intention of clarifying the speech content for the interlocuter	5	3.7 %
7.	Expressing group identity	60	44.1 %
8.	Softening or strengthening request of command	7	5.1 %
9.	Real lexical need	15	11.0 %
10.	For the sake of efficiency	25	18.4 %
	TOTAL	**136**	**100 %**

From the table, it is seen that the reason of expressing group identity occurs the most, which is 60 times (44.1 %). On the other hand, the last reason, for the sake of efficiency, occurs 25 times (18.4 %). Both the first and the ninth reasons, talking about a particular topic and the real lexical need, occurs fifteen times (11.0 %). The reason to soften or strengthen a request or command occurs seven times (5.1 %) while the interjection occurs six times (4.4 %). The intention of clarifying the speech content for the interlocuter occurs five times (3.7 %), the reason to be emphatic about something occurs twice (1.5 %), and the repetition used for clarification occurs once (0.8 %). However, no one mixes or switches his codes or languages under the reason of quoting somebody else (0.0 %).

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Most people mix or switch their languages under the influence of the formality of the conversation. This factor occurs the most. Accordingly, it can be concluded that many Indonesian young people nowadays, especially

those who are fluent in English, like to mix or switch their languages when they are writing a message through SMS as long as the conversation is not really formal. In other words, though some people used to think that people mix or switch their *Bahasa Indonesia* into English just because they want to shorten their messages, it is found out later that they actually like to mix or switch their languages in any occasion as long as the setting is informal. On the other hand, the factor that occurs the least is the content of the conversation. Since only some people prefer to mix or switch their languages when they are talking about their personal matter, it cannot be concluded that all people like to mix or switch their languages when they are talking about their personal matter. Only a few people are not brave enough to make personal confession using their everyday languages, while the others are quite confident to write their personal matter using their everyday language.

Then, most of the SMS senders seem to mix or switch their languages in order to express their group identity, which means that they belong to a particular speech community, of which the members are able to use both English and *Bahasa Indonesia* in their messages. This conclusion is closely related to Syafi'ie (1981:40)'s statement that the language situation in Indonesia is in a diglossic situation, in which English is considered higher in prestige and social status than *Bahasa Indonesia*. Therefore, by showing their abilty in English, those young Indonesian SMS senders feel that they are higher in prestige and social status than the other Indonesians who can use *Bahasa Indonesia* only in their messages. On the other hand, none of the senders mix or switch their languages in order to quote a saying from somebody else. It is mainly because the senders prefer to write their messages as efficiently as possible, while sayings are usually quite long and cannot be understood instantly.

Since this study has not involved all aspects of language mixing and switching, and especially about the language of SMS messages, it is hoped that the future researchers can develop this research by including all related aspects of language mixing and switching, and especially about the language of SMS messages. Moreover, since the references about the language of SMS messages are not yet available so far, the future researchers are hoped to be able to find more related references about the language of SMS messages. They are also expected to explore and investigate some other phenomena of language mixing and switching in any speech community in order to reveal some other factors and reasons of language mixing and switching.

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