

أصوات متعددي اللغات: كيف يُشكّل التبدّل اللغوي القوة والهوية في الرواية

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Multilingual Voices: How Code-Switching Shapes Power and Identity in the Novel

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المستخلص

تستكشف هذه الدراسة التحوّل اللغوي كأداة أدبية ديناميكية في الروايات الإنجليزية، مُسلّطة الضوء على دوره في الكشف عن الهوية الثقافية والعلاقات الاجتماعية ومدى تعقيد الشخصيات. من خلال التناوب بين اللغات أو اللهجات، يُمثّل الكُتّاب المجتمعات متعددة اللغات تمثيلاً دقيقاً، ويُسلّطون الضوء على قضايا السلطة والشمول والإقصاء والتحاور الثقافي. حيث يُعزّز التحوّل اللغوي واقعية الحوار، مع كشفه الأبعاد العاطفية والنفسية للتواصل. وهو يُؤدّي وظائف سردية متعددة - كالتعبير عن التضامن، وإخفاء المعنى، وتأكيد المقاومة، أو وضع حدود اجتماعية - مُوضّحاً بذلك التفاعل بين اللغة والسلطة والهوية. تُؤكد هذه الورقة البحثية بأنّ

التحوّل اللغوي الأدبي يُثري السرد القصصي من خلال إبراز التنوع اللغوي كإعكاس للتجربة الثقافية المعاشة. وتُركّز الدراسة على كيفية تعميق التحوّل اللغوي تفاعل القراء وفهمهم للفروق الثقافية والنفسية الكامنة في السرديات متعددة اللغات.

Abstract:

This study explores code-switching as a dynamic literary device in English novels, highlighting its role in revealing cultural identity, social relations, and character complexity. By alternating between languages or dialects, authors authentically represent multilingual societies and illuminate issues of power, inclusion, exclusion, and cultural negotiation. Code-switching enhances the realism of dialogue while exposing the emotional and psychological dimensions of communication. It serves multiple narrative functions—expressing solidarity, concealing meaning, asserting resistance, or marking social boundaries—thereby illustrating the interplay between language, power, and identity. This paper argues that literary code-switching enriches storytelling by foregrounding linguistic diversity as a reflection of lived multicultural experience. The study emphasizes how code-switching deepens readers' engagement and understanding of the cultural and psychological nuances embedded in multilingual narratives.

Chapter One

1. Introduction

Language evolves over time. The term "evolution" refers to changes in the social and cultural movements of humans. The dynamic nature of language stems from its association with humans. Language undergoes changes and modifications over time. Language shift refers to the replacement of one language by another in a community's linguistic repertoire. Language shift occurs when people move from one language community to another. When a language community moves, it comes into contact with other communities, resulting in language contact.





Multilingual Voices: How Code-Switching Shapes Power and Identity in the Novel



Language interaction can lead to a variety of linguistic events, including bilingualism, diglossia, code-switching, language mixing, interference, and integration. In English fiction, code-switching often refers to the strategic use of multiple languages or dialects within a narrative to reflect cultural identity, societal dynamics, or emotional nuances. This technique enriches storytelling by highlighting characters' backgrounds, bridging cultural gaps, and adding authenticity to dialogue. For example, writers may use "language exchange" to highlight moments of familiarity and conflict, or to express cultural pride or alienation. (Supriastutik & Rudianto, 2014, p. 87)

1.1 Definition of Code-Switching

Sociolinguists have proposed several definitions for code-switching. Mui's ken described code-switching as the employment of multiple languages during a single communication event Meyerhoff described code-switching as "the alternation of varieties, or codes, across sentences or clause boundaries" She continued by mentioning "code switching often used as a cover term including code mixing as well" Code mixing differs from code-switching in various dimensions. Code-switching is claimed to necessitate multilingual proficiency, but code-mixing does not. Some authors use code-switching to indicate alternation between bigger units, such as clauses, while code-mixing refers to alternation inside an utterance or clause. (Appel, & Muysken, 2006, p. 97)

There are various properties of code-switching. Code-switching happens through language contact and reliance. Code-switching is viable for bilingual or multilingual communities and speakers. In code-switching, language or code remains relevant to its environment. The role of each language or code is modified based on speech content changes. Code-switching occurs owing to background demands, including those of the first and second speakers, as well as the context of the discourse. (Appel, & Muysken, 2006, p. 55)

1.2 Importance of code-switching in literature

Code-switching is crucial in literature for authentic voice, cultural identity, and thematic depth. It involves moving between multiple languages or dialects throughout speech or text. In short, code-switching in literature enriches narratives by adding authenticity, conveying cultural identity, and providing a better understanding of social dynamics and character development. It is also an effective technique for delving into complicated issues and engaging readers. (Holmes, 2008, p. 77)

1.3 Overview of its use in English Novels

In English-language literature, "code-switching" occurs when characters or the narrative switch between different languages or dialects. This linguistic phenomenon is commonly employed to reflect cultural realities and deepen character development. The following is an overview of its use, cultural context, and instances of true dialogue in literature. Notable English-language books that use code-switching include Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* combines Spanish and English to depict the protagonist's Dominican origin, while Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americana* explores race and identity through Nigerian languages Pidgin and Igbo, respectively. (Ariffin, & Galea, 2009, p.14)

In brief, code-switching in English-language fiction improves character development, adds cultural context, and delves into questions of identity and social relationships. It also contributes to the plot by depicting the realities of multilingualism and the intricacies of cultural exchanges in modern society. (Ariffin, & Galea, 2009, p. 19)

1.4 Purpose and scope of the paper

The goals of this study are to identify the forms of code switching used in *The Map of Love* and to explain the factors that influence the use of code switching in the book. This study used the descriptive qualitative approach, which was used to clearly describe the fact of code switching, the form, and the reasons, based on the data gathered from reading the entire novel. The study focuses on three types of code switching (inter-





sentential switching, intra-sentential switching, and tag-switching) and the motivations for code switching. The study found that this novel relied heavily on inter-sentential flipping of utterances. (Grosjean, 1981, p. 66)

Chapter Two

2.1 Code-Switching in Linguistics

Code-Switching is a term in Linguistics that describes how people with two or more languages bilinguals and multilinguals often blend languages together in a dialogue without changing the subject. So, at any level of language structure, mixing can happen at any time. Yet, the main linguistic attention has been on the times when it takes place within the boundaries of a single sentence, a word or constituent.

Many issues arise when combining more than a language together. Several incompatibilities occur in a single sentence and mainly those issues arise from the difference in the order of their syntactic constituents. A question arises, when and what conditions that the switch time happens at these points. There are also possible challenges such as mismatch in grammar, morphology, subcategorization patterns, and idiomatic expressions. However, studies on different linguistic communities or individuals reveal that speakers naturally tend to avoid this type of these switches in their conversations. (Poplack, 2001, p.1)

2.2 Types of Code-Switching:

2.2.1 Functional Classification

Situational (Transactional) Code-Switching Bilinguals speak different languages in a different linguistic community. For example, at work, they speak a different language from that of home. Therefore, it requires separate language for them to speak at work. The process of shifting languages is called Situational Code-Switching. This type of switching

depends on the place or the environment they are in. These two languages remain separate from each other, meaning that one language is for its own setting. These language rules are passed down by communities, shaping how speakers use languages daily in their life. (Grosjean, 1981, p. 72)

2.2.2 Metaphorical Code-Switching Metaphorical Code-Switching

Unlike the situational Code Switching does not emphasize the practical communication. It is mainly concerned with the symbolic or emotional meaning. Different languages and dialects are employed to express cultural identity, ideas and feelings that are beyond the literal meaning of words. As an example for that, language user may shift language to embody positive cultural representation of pride and humor or in solidarity with a community. The term “metaphorical”, captures the reflection of how switching in language is tied to its deeper symbolic associations such as its connection to a specific community. Usually, this type of Code-Switching takes place when an individual wants to convey social message or meaning such as showing group identity (local or outsider) or even in the context (formal or informal). Metaphorical type works on the shared cultural knowledge of people about the ideas in language and its symbolism. For example, the speaker switches to a minority language in a different linguistic community to signal closeness to the minority community, while using the language of the larger community to emphasize cultural authority or formality. (Poplack, 2001, p. 13)

2.2.3 Structural Classification Inter-Sentential Code-Switching

This type is common among bilingual communities who often shift languages at sentence boundaries in their conversations. They speak one language for one sentence and use another different language to other next sentences. Changing language in conversation serves different





functions such as concentrating on some points or for pragmatic purposes (Poplack, 1980, p. 580). Example: I am going for shopping. Quieres Algo? Spanish sentence for Do you want anything? Here, the speaker completes the sentence, then changes language from English to Spanish. Inter Sentential Code Switching is employed to either serve as emphasis or address someone with their preferred language.

2.2.4 Intra-Sentential Code-Switching In many bilingual communities, speakers

Often use more than one language within an utterance or in a sentence. The practice of switching between different languages is called Intra-Sentential Code-Switching. This type is more complex; it blends grammar or a word of two languages together (Poplack, 1980). Example: I am going to the masjid after work. “Masjid” means “mosque” in Arabic. In this sentence, the matrix language is predominantly in English which determines the morphosyntactic frame. The speaker uses transliterated Arabic word (masjid), but maintains the syntactic rules of the matrix language. The speaker inserts the Arabic word as a marker for cultural relevance or to emphasize a point which itself functions pragmatically. (Myers-Scotton, 1993, p. 65)

2.2.5 Tag-Switching

It is the process in which bilinguals or multilingual people produce tag phrase or a word in their discourse from one language to another. The speaker uses tag question and append it to the matrix language that doesn't require any structural change. It's often fixed expression and doesn't affect the main language grammatical rules. In other words, Tag-Switching is a short question attached at the end of a sentence. For example, she is good at English ? English is the main language in the provided example, it doesn't need change in its grammatical structure for

adding the tag. Neither the appended tag at the end of the Iraqi Arabic dialect, requires the matrix language to make some adjustments. This expression is fixed and light in terms of syntax. (Gross, 2019, p. 142)

2.3 Relevance to Literary Analysis

Code-Switching is mainly studied in sociolinguistics. It holds the same significance for the study of literary analysis, particularly in English Novels (Callahan, 2004, p. 33). This technique enables the creation of realistic characters in narration, to capture cultural details and explore themes in depth. It provides the reader better understanding of the psychological and social experiences of multilingual people.

The main roles behind the use of Code-Switching in literary text is to make the dialogue of the characters feels more authentic and real (Callahan, 2004, p. 37). Many writers' resort to Code-Switching to reveal cultural truths; how bilinguals stay true to their cultural background. When a character in a literary work switches a language, it reflects its identity and social background. This approach adds more layers and depth to the character and captures the essence of power dynamics in the story. Code-Switching can also reveal the sense of belonging and identity (Callahan, 2004, p. 40). In many short stories, Code-Switching is used to emphasize the movement of a character across cultures, dealing with challenges such as diaspora, migration or integration in the new society. Writers tend to highlight the conflicts between traditional roots and the new adaptation of society environment through the use of two different languages.

Code-Switching works as a stylistic and thematic technique to add depth layer (Callahan, 2004, p. 41). Authors employ Code-Switching to a text in order to introduce alienation, irony or humor sense, relying on the





Multilingual Voices: How Code-Switching Shapes Power and Identity in the Novel



linguistic familiarity of the reader. By capturing layers of depth in the experience, this approach creates suspension that invites the reader to reflect upon the text. In addition to that, it may depict the power dynamics in switching languages that include or exclude characters. It ultimately leads to utilizing the theme of insider versus outsider. In short stories, the study of Code-Switching resonates with notions of post-structuralism theories on how meaning can be constructed and how language can shape identity (Callahan, 2004, p. 44). For example, Foucault's power theories capture how language choices in Novels challenges the dominant beliefs. Researchers with analyzing Code-Switching in text, explore how authors use language and can cross cultural boundaries. They show language as both, a limitation and a method to break rules in literature.

Chapter Three

3.1 Examples of Novels where Code Switching is Prominent

In many novels where characters navigate multilingual or multicultural environments, code-switching (i.e., switching between languages or dialects during conversation) is a frequent occurrence. Here are some examples:

1. "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Waugha" by Juno Diaz. The novel explores the lives of Dominican-American characters, artfully blending Spanish and English. The characters' biculturalism is evident in the code-switching, highlighting the influence of the American environment and Dominican culture.
2. Rudolfo Anaya's "Bless Me, Ultima" There is code-switching between Spanish and English in this Chicano book. In a bilingual and bicultural society, it mirrors the protagonist's battles with identity, cultural heritage, and belonging.

3- Helena María Viramontes' "Their Dogs Came with Them" Characters in this East Los Angeles-set book jump between Spanish and English, a technique known as code-switching. It draws attention to the tenacity and cultural conflict of a community dealing with structural issues and displacement.

4- Jhumpa Lahiri's "The Namesake" Although this book is less about language, it does examine cultural code-switching. The characters' journey between Bengali and American traditions reflects their experience as immigrants and their quest for self-identity.

5- Pam Muñoz Ryan's "Esperanza Rising" This book, which is aimed at young readers, follows a young Mexican girl named Esperanza as she adapts to life in California by code-switching. (Jendra, 2010, p. 88)

3.2 Analysis of the Characters or Narrators who Use Code-Switching.

The act of switching between two or more languages or dialects during a conversation is known as "code-switching," and it frequently reflects intricate social, cultural, and individual factors. Because their linguistic choices frequently emphasize issues like identity, power, or belonging, characters or narrators who employ code-switching in literature offer an intriguing analytical perspective. (Eldin, 2014, p. 78) The following are Important considerations when examining these characters or narrators:

3.2.1 Duality and Identity:

Code-switching frequently highlights a character's dual or complex identity. For example: To communicate facets of their identity that one language cannot adequately convey or to traverse various cultural contexts, a bilingual character may flip between languages. It could represent a character's internal conflict as they alternate between two





different realities or social standards. (Camaria &Ambalijin, 2019, p. 259)

3.2.2 Relationships and Power Dynamics:

Power dynamics in interactions can be revealed through language choices:

Characters may acquiesce to social conventions or assert dominance by using a dominating language.

Changing to a native or less dominant tongue could be interpreted as a sign of resistance, intimacy, or solidarity.

3.2.3 Cultural Expression:

Code-switching is frequently used to preserve cultural heritage: Authors emphasize the diversity and tenacity of cultural traditions by incorporating other languages into conversations. Additionally, it enables characters to convey feelings or concepts that are specific to their cultural perspective.

3.2.4. Social Analysis:

Code-switching allows writers to comment on structural or societal problems:

Emphasizing assimilation pressures or prejudice when characters are forced to repress aspects of their linguistic identities.

Dispelling misconceptions or conflicts that occur in multicultural or multilingual environments.

3.2.5. Narration's Linguistic Fluidity:

Code-switching by narrators frequently transports readers to the emotional or cultural setting:



In order to portray authenticity or a personal connection to the story, a first-person narrator may flip between languages.

In order to engage the reader more fully, authors may also employ code-switching, which involves gently requesting that they negotiate language and cultural quirks.

3.3 Contexts in which Code-Switching Occurs

The dynamic interaction between language, culture, and identity is reflected in the variety of circumstances in which code-switching takes place. The following are some typical situations where code-switching occurs. (Poplack, 1980, p. 581).

3.3.1 Bilingual Settings

Conversations can naturally switch between languages in settings where speakers are fluent in two or more languages. This could occur between friends and relatives who have similar linguistic backgrounds or in places where many languages are spoken. (Anatoliy and Li, 2015, p. 153)

3.3.2 Identity of Culture

People may change their language in order to connect with a particular group or to reflect their cultural identity. Members of a cultural community, for instance, may confirm their identity in social situations by using their heritage language, particularly when surrounded by people from the same background. (Atkinson and Kelly, 2010, p. 251)

3.3.3 Situations that are informal versus formal

Code-switching is a useful strategy for navigating various social contexts. For example, when communicating with friends, a speaker may employ colloquialisms or casual language, but when speaking to superiors or in a professional situation, they may adopt a more official register.





3.3.4. Stressing Feelings

There may be phrases or expressions in some languages that are more effective at expressing particular feelings or emotions. To convey emotions more honestly or to increase the impact of their message, speakers may move between languages. Humor and Play.

Chapter Four

4.1 Functions of Code-Switching in Novels.

In novels, code-switching the act of switching between languages or dialects during a conversation can fulfill a number of crucial purposes. These are the main roles representing multiculturalism and linguistic diversity in fiction often provides a powerful lens through which readers can explore the challenges of identity, community, and communication in diverse societies. Below are some important factors to consider when exploring these themes in fiction. (Long, 2014, p. 575).

4.1.1 Through diverse characters

Novels that address multiculturalism typically feature characters of diverse ethnic origins. Their encounters may highlight the richness of different traditions, beliefs, and values.

4.1.2 Character Development

A character's identity, background, and social standing can all be revealed through code-switching. It can reveal information about their interpersonal interactions or cultural affinities.

4.1.3 Social Dynamics

It can reveal power dynamics among characters, particularly in hierarchical relationships. During encounters, a character may switch languages to exert dominance or show deference.



4.1.4 Narrative Voice

Authors may use code-switching to connect with a specific audience or to establish a distinctive voice that represents the story's cultural background.

4.1.5 Emphasis and Nuance

Changing codes can help emphasize points or communicate subtleties that could be difficult to convey in a single language. In one language, some idioms or phrases may have more emotional weight or particular connotations than others. Theme Exploration Writers may employ code-switching to delve into issues of cultural conflict, identity, and belonging. It can be used as a strategy to deal with the challenges of coexisting with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

All things considered, code-switching in novels can improve thematic depth, character interactions, and narrative richness, all of which add to a more captivating reading experience. (John, 1997, p. 65)

4.2 The code-switching in *The Map of Love*

1. Conversational Arabic within English sentences:

"Daktohra! Ya Daktohra!" (Doctor! Oh Doctor!)

"Away," I shouted back, "Yes,"

"Ifaddali" (Please, come in.)

"Haraam ya Daktora," (It's forbidden, oh Doctor.)

"Izzay el-sehha?" (How is your health?)

"Salamu 'aleikum." (Peace be upon you.)

1. Arabic cultural expressions and idioms within English narration:





Multilingual Voices: How Code-Switching Shapes Power and Identity in the Novel

"By God I never wanted to," (reflecting Arabic speech patterns.)

"It's God's command, what can we do?"

"Yakhti, laugh," I say, "What do we take from it all?" (Yakhti is a common Egyptian exclamation.)

"Man is destined for his God."

1. Explanation of Arabic language concepts in English:

The protagonist explains how Arabic words derive from a three-consonant root system using qalb (heart) and its related forms (qalab, maqlab, maqloub, mutaqallib, inqilab).

The code-switching serves multiple purposes:

It highlights the bilingual and cross-cultural setting of the novel.

It immerses the reader in the Egyptian cultural and linguistic atmosphere.

It reflects the characters' identities, especially in interactions between Egyptian and Western characters.

Chapter Five

5.1 Case Studies/Examples

These few Novels by multilingual or multicultural authors, concentrating on how code-switching affects the topics and reader engagement.

1- Jhumpa Lahiri's "Interpreter of Maladies"

This collection of Novels frequently highlights characters navigating the intricacies of their Indian-American identities. Lahiri frequently uses code-switching to emphasize the cultural and language gaps that her characters face.



Analysis. In pieces like "Mrs. Sen's," code-switching takes place between English and Bengali, highlighting the immigrant experience. Mrs. Sen, the protagonist, frequently uses Bengali to communicate strong emotions or cultural references that are important to her identity. This technique underlines her longing for home and her sense of isolation in America.

Influence on themes. Code-switching explores topics of alienation and cultural dislocation. It emphasizes the conflict between assimilation and the desire to preserve one's roots. For readers, the usage of various languages enhances authenticity and creates empathy for Mrs. Sen's situation, allowing them to feel her duality firsthand. (Anggraeni& Dewi, 2020, p. 132)

2. "Drown" by Junot Diaz.

Díaz's collection, "Drown," highlights personalities from the Dominican-American community, exploring themes of identity and belonging.

Analysis. In "Drown," code-switching is significant, with characters fluidly transitioning between English and Spanish. This highlights their cultural hybridity and the difficulty of living in two cultures. For example, the protagonist may communicate in Spanish with his family and in English with Americans. *The story explores issues such as masculinity, immigration, and personal struggle. Code-switching reinforces the characters' struggles to balance their dual identities. Highlighting the conflict between their Dominican ancestry and American cultural norms. The linguistic variations captivate readers and prompt them to reflect on their own experiences with language and identity.





3. "The Arrangements" by David Charlady

Charlady's stories about immigrant families in Canada address issues of race, identity, and belonging.

Analysis. In "The Arrangements," characters frequently switch between English and their native language.

Reflecting on their cultural history. The code-switching adds authenticity to the dialogue and emphasizes the characters' internal conflicts over identity and assimilation pressures.

Influence on themes. Code-switching emphasizes themes of identity and belonging, exposing how individuals navigate their dual identities. The characters' intricate language choices elicit empathy as they navigate their responsibilities in both cultural environments. Readers can discover how language can act as both a barrier and a link to their heritage.

4. Heather O'Neill's "Lullabies for Little Criminals"

O'Neill's novel-in-stories follows the lives of a little girl growing up in a rough neighborhood of Montreal, using a combination of English and French.

Analysis. This work's code-switching portrays the metropolitan bilingual setting and the characters' cultural flexibility. The protagonist, Baby, adapts to her surroundings and people by often switching between languages.

Influence on Themes. The usage of code-switching highlights themes of survival and vulnerability in challenging environments. It emphasizes the fragmentation of identity while fostering a sense of solidarity. The dynamic use of language in Baby's story produces a vivid and immersive



experience for readers, increasing emotional engagement. (Sudaryanto ,2015, p. 73)

Conclusion

In English novels, code-switching is a complex and versatile literary method that provides deeper insights into cultural identity, social dynamics, and character development. By switching between languages or dialects, authors effectively portray the intricacies of multilingual society, emphasizing topics such as power dynamics, inclusion, exclusion, and the conflicts that come with negotiating many cultural identities.

Code-switching not only improves authenticity, but it also underlines the social and emotional aspects of language, making relationships feel more genuine and complex. It enables authors to illustrate characters' inner problems, represent social hierarchies, or emphasize unity and resistance. Characters may code-switch to demonstrate belonging, retain secret, or question authority, demonstrating the fluid interaction of language, power, and identity.

Finally, the use of code-switching in literature emphasizes the value of linguistic diversity as a storytelling tool, depicting the complex lives of persons who live in multicultural and multilingual environments. This literary strategy increases the reader's engagement by inviting them to investigate the social, historical, and psychological qualities that language represents.

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Multilingual Voices: How Code-Switching Shapes Power and Identity in the Novel



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