

TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING IN IBAN RADIO PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

- **Iban is the largest ethnic group in Sarawak** (28.2%), followed by Malay (23.7%), Chinese (24.2%), and Bidayuh (7.7%) (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2021). The population is 2.56 million.
- The **Iban language is strong:**
 - taught as a subject in **primary school since 1968**
 - introduced as an elective subject in **secondary school since 2007**
 - offered as a language minor in **university since 2010**



INTRODUCTION



- **Other institutional support for the use of Iban** are religious bodies, NGOs like Tun Jugah Foundation, and the media.
- Several Sarawak-based **newspapers have an Iban language section**, for example, Utusan Malaysia and The Borneo Post (Ting et al., 2021).
- The Pegari **magazine** is published regularly (Philip 2017).
- There is also an **Iban broadcast** over RTM WaiFM, TVi RTM Sarawak, and Cats Radio.



INTRODUCTION

- **Radio** enables people of varying cultural background to **interact and communicate**. Radio programmes also serve to **maintain use of indigenous languages** in the community.
- However, studies on radio programmes in other languages show that **intra-sentential code-switching** is happening and may affect the purity of the language.
 - Ilmari (2018) in **America**
 - Marzuki et al. (2019) and Nahombang's (2020) in **Indonesia**
 - Sambanthan (2019), Tamil radio programme, **Malaysia**
- However, little is known on **code-switching in Iban radio programmes in Sarawak**.



Code switching is the alternate use of two or more languages in the same speech regardless of as a word, a phrase, or a sentence (Grosjean, 1982).

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The study investigated **the types of code-switching in an Iban radio programme.**

The specific objectives of the study were to determine:

1. the frequency of **tag switching;**
2. the frequency of **intra-sentential switching; and**
3. the frequency of **inter-sentential switching.**

This study on code-switching is important because the Iban language may be influenced by other languages, especially considering the multiracial community in Malaysia.

THEORETICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

- Most studies were on **standardised major languages** in their respective countries, such as **Spanish** (Bocanegra, 2012), **Finnish** (Ilmari, 2018), **Korean** (Proborini, 2018), **Indonesian** (Prabandanu, 2017), as well as **Tamil** (Sambanthan, 2019).
- There is a **lack of code-switching studies on indigenous languages**. Therefore, this study on occurrences and types of code-switching in Iban will add to what is known about the **code switching phenomenon in radio programmes**. This study will add to the empirical findings on code-switching in the Malay Archipelago.
- Iban has been standardised for six decades and has undergone advancements in vocabulary. This study will reveal the **severity of the code-switching phenomenon in formal use of Iban in the media**. The insights will contribute to **sociolinguistics studies on indigenous languages undergoing change**.

PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

- The study will reveal **whether language shift is taking place** in the media, which is a public space for the formal use of Iban. At the moment, there are already public opinions that Iban is similar to Malay. If extensive code-switching happens in radio programmes, this may indicate affect how the younger Iban will speak the language.
- The findings will **alert the Iban community** to the adequacy of the Iban language for media and modern use. The community can take measures such as **teaching proper terms or creating new Iban terms to minimise code switching**. Those measures may **contribute towards preserving the original features and uniqueness of Iban language**.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Iban Language (*Jaku Iban*)**

An Austronesian language with the language code **iba** (Iban, n.d.). The Iban language is the **most dominant Malayic language** which is spoken by a large ethnolinguistic group (Mis, 2010).

- **Iban Radio Programme**

In this research, Iban radio programme refers to **Wai FM Iban, 101.3FM, Kuching, Sarawak broadcasted** by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM), which can be accessed by listeners statewide (Limping, as cited in Raphael, 2020).

- **Code-switching**

A mixing of two or more languages in a discourse which **does not change the interlocutor or topic**, often used by the bilinguals or multilinguals (Poplack, 2001), which may happen within any given linguistic structure.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Types of Code-switching** based on Poplack's (1980) typology. Examples are given later in the Analysis Framework section.

Tag Switching:

Insertion of a tag from a language into an utterance of another language.
E.g., “eh”, “oh”.

Intra-sentential Switching:

Insertion of words or phrase in a language into an utterance which is in an **entirely different language**.

Inter-sentential Switching:

Occurs **between two clauses or on a sentence boundary** where **each clause or sentence** is in different languages.



LITERATURE REVIEW

USAGE OF ENGLISH IN RADIO CONVERSATIONS BY FINNS IN FINNISH RADIO SHOW (ILMARI, 2018)

Method:

1. Analysed utterances of 3 main announcers in 5 recorded radio broadcasts: **Anni Hautala, Jari Linnonmaa and Juha Perälä.**
2. Transcribed radio broadcasts, identified types of code-switching, and counted frequencies.
3. Framework of code-switching: **Milroy and Musyken (1995)**

Results:

1. **223 code-switching occurrences** in the 6 hours 22 minutes and 6 seconds of broadcast.
2. Approximately **0.59 occurrences per minute.**
3. The most common type of code-switching was **intra-sentential code-switching.**

Ilmari (2018) found that intra-sentential code-switching was the most common in Finnish radio shows, with one time of code-switching every two minutes.



FUNCTIONS OF ENGLISH-KOREAN CODE SWITCHING IN SUPER K-POP PROGRAMME (PROBORINI, 2018)

Method:

1. Analysed utterances of **radio announcer, 1KYNE** and **guests, U-KISS** (Korean band).
2. Transcribed radio interview on 9 June 2014 in YouTube.
3. Code switching framework: **Poplack (1980)**

Results:

1. 99 occurrences of code-switching in radio announcer's utterances in 41 minutes and 12 seconds of broadcast.
2. The most dominant type of code-switching was **inter-sentential switching**.

Proborini (2018) found that inter-sentential code-switching was the most common in a Super K-pop programme, almost two instances of code-switching per minute.



CODE SWITCHING OF ISTAKALISTA RADIO ANNOUNCER IN CHATVILLE PROGRAMME, INDONESIA (PRABANDANU, 2017)

Method:

1. Recorded and transcribed conversation in **Indonesian-speaking radio programme for English language learning, Chatville**, 1 hour broadcast every Tuesday between 10-24 May 2016.
2. Focused on the **2 radio announcers' utterances** because the English language instructor was expected to use minimal code-switching.
3. Framework for types of code-switching: **McCormick (1994)**.



Results:

Prabandanu (2017) found that the most dominant type of code-switching used by the Istakalista radio announcers was phrase conversational switching, which is a form of intra-sentential code-switching. 158 instances in 2 hours, more than once per minute.

CODE-SWITCHING IN THR RAAGA BROADCASTING IN TAMIL RADIO PROGRAMME, MALAYSIA (SAMBANTHAN, 2019)

Method:

1. 10 segments out of 15 "*Itu Eppadi Irukku*" clips from *THR Raaga* radio; around 36 minutes.
2. Analysed conversations between **radio announcers and its audiences**.
3. Framework for types of code-switching: **Poplack (1980)**



Thr Raaga Online
Radio Tamil
Malaysia Thr
Raaga Fm APK

apkcombo.com

Results:

In Malaysia, Sambanthan (2019) reported that the most dominant type of code-switching in a Tamil radio programme was intra-sentential switching, which accounted for 80% (126 out of 158 tokens) of code-switching occurrences. About four instances per minute.

METHOD OF STUDY

Descriptive research design to analyse **qualitative data** on code-switching occurrences in Iban-speaking radio programmes through **textual analysis**.

Data analysed:

- **Announcers on Iban radio programme** broadcasted from Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) Kuching, on **WaiFM Iban, 101.3MHz Kuching**.

Selection criteria:

- A segment with the most conversations/interactions whereby **code-switching is most likely to happen**.
- Segment is determined through frequency analysis.
- Targets **as many announcers as possible** to create data variation.

INSTRUMENT: ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK FOR TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING

| Types of Code-Switching | Definition | Examples |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Tag Switching | The insertion of a tag in a language into an utterance of another language (Poplack, 1980). | In the following Indonesian utterances, code-switching occurred by the insertion of English tags. <i>Oh my God, semua-semua diakuin tante lo.</i> <i>Eh, anyway, gimana nih hari ini dari pagi mungkin sudah bersibuk-sibuk.</i> |
| Intra-sentential Switching | The insertion of words or phrase in a language into an utterance which is in an entirely different language (Poplack, 1980). | The following example shows the insertion of English word and phrase into the utterances which otherwise would entirely be uttered in Indonesian: Word: <i>Atau kamu bisa mention di OZ Radio Lampung ya.</i> Phrase: <i>OZers di depan telpon kamu karena kita bakalan buka request on the air sebentar lagi.</i> |
| Inter-sentential Switching | Inter-sentential switching occurs between a clause or sentence boundary, where each clause or sentence is in one language or the other (Poplack, 1980). | The following utterance contain two clauses where one sentence is in Indonesian, and the other in English. This occurrence is known as inter-sentential code-switching. <i>That was the nice one. Itu tadi lagu Pamungkas kita.</i> <i>Hai OZers gimana kabarnya OZers. I am not too good.</i> **Note: OZer is the name of the radio programme listeners. |

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

1. **Watched 5 minutes of each Iban radio programme** to find segment with more code-switching on 21 Nov 2021. Two evening segments (Sada Lemai & Pemerindang Malam) were omitted, considering little to no interactions between announcers and listeners, therefore less possibilities of code-switching.
2. **Selected WaiFM Iban, 101.3MHz Kuching.**
3. **Recorded** *Ngela Tengahari* broadcast session from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a week using cellphone.
4. **Transferred recorded files** into computer or laptop for analysis.

DATA ANALYSIS PROCEDURES

To analyse 240 minutes of radio broadcasts, the following procedures were done.

1. **Listened** to recorded files and **transcribed into text form** for analysis.
2. **Bolded** the parts in transcription where code-switching occurred.
3. **Copied and tabulated** each extracted data on code-switching.
4. **Translated** data from Iban to English.
5. **Identified the context** of conversation.
6. **Referred to Poplack's (1980) typology** to analyse types of code-switching.
7. **Calculated the frequency and percentage** of each code-switching types to determine which is more dominant.

RESULTS: TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING

- 187 instances of code-switching detected from 240 minutes of radio broadcasts in Iban, **less than once per minute.**
- The most dominant is **intra-sentential switching** (82.89%).
- Sometimes there are **two different types of code-switching within the same utterance.**

Table 1. *Frequency and Percentage of Types of Code-switching by Announcers of Iban-speaking Radio Programme, Ngela Tengahari WaiFM*

| Types of code-switching | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Intra-sentential switching | 155 | 82.89 |
| Inter-sentential switching | 23 | 12.30 |
| Tag switching | 9 | 4.81 |
| Total | 187 | 100 |

RESULTS: (1) TAG SWITCHING

- **Least frequent** type of code-switching with only nine occurrences (**4.81%**).
- Three codes involved: **Chinese tag (ho)**, **English (Bye-bye)**, and **Malay clause (ya)**.

MS: Bekaul enggau penyakit cirit-birit. Nama kebuah **(ho)** anak-anak kalau dia sudah sakit cirit-birit, kalau dia minum susu, memang dia akan kena cirit-birit lagi. Macam mana?

*Regarding diarrhoea. Why **ho** if children have had diarrhoea, if they drink milk, the diarrhoea will definitely reoccur. **How** [do we deal with this]?*

"Ho", Cantonese interjection similar to the English interjection "eh" (Tang, 2015).

Two types of code-switching in one utterance:

- *Inter-sentential – underlined*
- *Tag – circled*

RESULTS: (2) INTRA-SENTENTIAL CODE-SWITCHING



82.89% of code-switching were **single word switching** because of several reasons.

1. Lack or absence of equivalent terms in Iban language

SL: ... Pia mega sedia ke semua sida pen, **pembaris**, serta perengka ke bukai dalam kotak pinsil kita.

*... Also ready your pen, **ruler**, and other **stationery** in your pencil box.*

“*Pembaris*”, **commonly used Malay word in Iban community** yet **not recorded as entry in the Iban dictionary**; **no known or exclusive Iban term** for the word meaning “ruler”. Another example is “kluster” – there is no Iban word for it.

RESULTS: (2) INTRA-SENTENTIAL CODE-SWITCHING



2. Existence of more familiar terms in another language

DS: Bala anak mit, ya, bala anak-anak kitai pun udah **standby**, udah besedia deka talipon ngagai konti WaiFM di Miri.

*The children, yes, our children listeners are on **standby**, ready to call WaiFM broadcasting station in Miri.*

“Standby”, a familiar English verb especially in broadcasting, used instead of **“besedia”** in Iban language which means "ready".

Code-switched language is usually Malay, but once Kenyah was used.

RESULTS: (3) INTER-SENTENTIAL CODE-SWITCHING



- **12.3%** of Iban radio announcers' code-switching were inter-sentential.
- Reasons for inter-sentential code-switching seems to be different.

1. Indigenising universal concepts

- May involve phrasal or clausal switching, but these words are NOT in the middle of an utterance. They are a different utterance.
- In this example, an Iban translation is provided first, followed by the original slogan for World Radio Day, which was in English and used worldwide.

DS: Bisi bala minta lagu tu, ya. Sebedau aku mutar ke lagu bukai, aaa tu beserimbai enggau Ari
Radio Sedunia: Radio Enggau Pengarap. **Radio and Trust, okay?**

*There are people requesting songs, ya. Before I play other songs, aaa this is in line with
World Radio Day: Radio and Trust. **Radio and Trust, okay?***

RESULTS: (3) INTER-SENTENTIAL CODE-SWITCHING

2. To effectively convey messages

DS: Agi meri Selamat Ari Radio Sedunia ngagai semua peninga. Mupok dulu aku. Salam Keluarga Malaysia. Bye-bye.

I would like to wish Happy World Radio Day to all listeners. Excuse me. Salam Keluarga Malaysia. Bye-bye.

- "Salam Keluarga Malaysia" → "*Salam Malaysia Sebilik*" in Iban (**Greetings to the Malaysian family**)
- This translation **distorts the idea of "Keluarga Malaysia" notion**: *togetherness regardless of political, racial, and religious differences*. Therefore, inter-sentential **switching is needed to convey the whole meaning** of the tagline.

Two types of code-switching in one utterance:

- *Inter-sentential – underlined*
- *Tag – circled*

RESULTS: (3) INTER-SENTENTIAL CODE-SWITCHING



3. To accommodate to the interlocutors' language preference

In an interview with a medical doctor, an Iban announcer began by speaking Iban, but eventually **fully switched to Malay language**, after **noticing the doctor answering in Malay**.

In the Malaysian context, accommodation to the interlocutor's language preference often occurs. The interlocutors may choose to use another language because of proficiency or identity reasons.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- **Intra-sentential is dominant type of code switching** in Iban radio programmes. The results concur with **Sambanthan's (2019)** findings on code switching in a Tamil Malaysian radio programme, **Marzuki et al.'s (2019)** findings involving radio stations in East Kalimantan, and **Ilmari's (2018)** study on a Finnish radio show.
- Most **intra-sentential switching is for conveying meanings effectively**. The announcers also code-switched to another language **to compensate for the absence of equivalent terms in *Jaku Iban* or the absence of certain concepts in the Iban culture**.
- It is **possible for two types of code-switching to occur within a single utterance**. This was also found by **Proborini (2018)**, where multiple types of code-switching occurred in 95% of 99 code-switching occurrences.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- **The study showed minimal code-switching in the Iban radio programme (less than once per minute)**, compared to radio programmes in East Kalimantan (Marzuki et al., 2019) and South Korea (Proborini, 2018) and a radio programme in Malaysia (Sambanthan, 2019). However, the code-switching in the Iban radio programme is more frequent than in Finland (Ilmari, 2018).
- WaiFM Iban is an exclusive radio channel established for the Iban community, and the radio announcers made an effort to **stick to the use of Iban to preserve the unique features of the indigenous language**.
- Furthermore, radio is one of the **formal and reliable sources of information**. Hence, **radio announcers need to speak in formal language**. For WaiFM Iban, the official language to use on air is Iban.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- The findings of this study has implications on the Iban vocabulary. **The Iban language can be considered as one of the more established ethnic languages in Malaysia, and it has been taught in school for over half a century.**
- Iban language has undergone advancement through the years. Modern terms have been coined, and other terms have been adapted from other languages **such that the speakers need not to switch codes frequently** (Lintan et al., 2020).
- **However, this study shows that the Iban language is still lacking in vocabulary**, and the radio announcers switched when they used jargon. One measure is to use Iban equivalents of the jargon. However, it is not certain whether Iban translations of jargon will catch on with the Iban community. **Future studies should investigate how certain “imported” words are used over time, because there could be changes in the form and meanings of the words.**