

## **AN ANALYSIS OF CODE-SWITCHING IN THE MOVIE “ENCANTO”**

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### **Abstract**

Code-switching is a common event of switching from one language to another. This research is conducted with the purpose of studying code-switching sequences in the movie ‘Encanto’. The methods of research that are used in this study are data collecting and descriptive analysis. The result reveals that the movie consists of many code-switching between the language English and Spanish. There are three types of code-switching that appeared in the movie; tag-switching, intersentential switching, and intrasentential switching. The most frequently used type is intrasentential switching which is 84,61% compared to tag and intersentential switching which only have 9,25% and 6,25% respectively.

**Keywords:** Sociolinguistic, code-switching, conversation, movie, Encanto.

### **Introduction**

Language is a complex system of communication that consists of a set of sounds, words, and rules used by humans to express thoughts, ideas, emotions, and information. It can be used in many forms such as speech, writing, and gesture. Without language, humans might not be able to express their opinions or feelings. Multiple languages exist in the world. Every nation has its own language that its citizens use, some even have more than one language because of the diversity of the people. Because of this, it is not a rare sight to find people who speak more than one language.

Individuals who master two languages are often called ‘Bilingual’ whereas the term ‘Multilingual’ refers to individuals who master more than two languages. According to Webster’s dictionary (1961) bilingual is defined as ‘having or using two languages especially as spoken with the fluency characteristic of a native speaker; a person using two languages especially habitually and with control like that of a native speaker’ and bilingualism as ‘the constant oral use of two languages.’ Becoming bilingual means mastering both languages to a certain point of fluency and understanding. Most people learn their native language as their first language and learn other languages as they grow older. Bilingual is often time misunderstood as multilingual. The main difference that distinguishes the two is that multilinguals mastered more than two languages while bilinguals only mastered two languages. These people have the ability to speak, write, and understand certain languages.

‘Code-switching’ is one of the many communication techniques that a bilingual person could use during a conversation in one’s daily life. Code refers to different language varieties (Arrizki, 2020) while code-switching is a linguistic phenomenon that frequently appears in formal and informal situations (Inuwa, 2014). In short, code-switching is a process of switching from one code to another code due to a certain reason. The changes between the two codes happen because of due to many reasons. Situation, context, and topic are some of the reasons why someone might switch from one code to another. Code-switching can also be used by someone to express an idea or opinion, including or discluding a person, and showing their social status.

Based on Stockwell (2002) code-switching is divided into 3 types. The three types of code-switching consist of tag-switching, intersentential switching, and intrasentential switching. Tag switching means inserting a tag from one language to another. A tag is a linguistic element, often a word or phrase, that is added at the end of a sentence. This method of code-switching is commonly used to show one's flexibility in speaking one language to the other. On the other hand, intersentential switching means switching a language for an entire sentence. Therefore, each sentence uses one language that is different from the other. In a conversation, a pause is usually used as a way to indicate the separation between the two sentences. Last but not least, intrasentential switching is the process of changing languages within a sentence. To be more specific, it refers to the action of producing a sentence with some parts in one language and parts in another.

Code-switching is a part of sociolinguistic. Sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society (Holmes, 1992) Depending on the social setting, a person may speak differently to another. By examining it, one could receive information about an individual's relationship with the community and the way they build their own identity through their language. The social setting in which people are speaking affects the way they speak. It matters who can hear us and where we are talking, as well as how we are feeling. The same message may be expressed very differently to different people. We use different styles in different social contexts. The way we speak also gives hints to others about our true identity. It reveals our true self, our origin, and quite possibly what kind of situations we have experienced.

This rule also applies in other media such as films and movies. 'Encanto' is a musical film released in 2021 by Disney. Directed by Jared Bush and Byron Howard, this movie follows the story of the Madrigal family, a multigenerational Colombian family that is blessed by a miracle that gives them powers to use to help the village. As the magic starts disappearing slowly our main character, Mirabel Madrigal, makes it her mission to save the magic. Throughout this film, there are scenes where the characters switch from one language to another, English to Colombian. Therefore, this study will analyze different types of code-switching during the film.

## Methods

The method that the researcher used in this journal is data collecting and descriptive analyzing. Data collecting refers to the process of gathering and analyzing information or data from many sources in order to research problems, answer questions, and evaluate outcomes. Data Source refers to where the data of this study is taken from. Data Source is divided into two, primary and secondary. Primary data refers to the main data that would be used in the study, while secondary data refers to the other source of data that is also included in the study.

The source of primary data in this study is the movie Encanto by Jared Bush and Byron Howard and the movie's transcript that can be found online at <https://deadline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Encanto-Read-The-Screenplay.pdf>. The data that the movie and transcript provide will be analyzed descriptively. Descriptive analysis is like a way of studying data that helps a person to describe, show, or neatly summarize information and find patterns in the data that meet all the data's requirements. Using this method, the researcher will collect data by watching the movie while also reading the transcript in order to receive a more accurate result. The secondary data will be provided from many journal and article that has similar ideas of study.

## Result and Discussion

### Result

Type	Datum	Percentage
Tag-switching	6	9,25%

Intersentential switching	55	84,61%
Intrasentential switching	4	6,15%
	total	65

From the given data, the researcher has managed to find several data that linked directly to code-switching. The result of the research is divided and sorted into three different types of code-switching that consist of tag switching, intersentential switching, and intrasentential switching. The table above shows the number of times a switch happened on the screen.

### Tag Switching

Tag switching means inserting a tag, often a word or phrase, from one language to another. Some example of tag switching is provided in the data below

- **Data 1**

MIRABEL: That's life in the family Madrigal! Now you know the family Madrigal. Where all the people are fantastical and magical. That's who we are in the family Madrigal! **Adios!** (00:07:57)

The word '**Adios**' is a Spanish word meaning 'Goodbye'. In this scene, Mirabel finishes telling the town children about her family and is about to go back home.

- **Data 2**

AGUSTÍN: First gift ceremony since yours, lot of emotions - and I've been there --

MIRABEL (to Julieta): Bee stings.

JULIETA: **Ay**, Agustín. (00:10:59)

This conversation is taken from a scene where Agustine, whose face is covered with bruises, enters the kitchen and joins Mirabel and Julieta's conversation. The tag '**Ay**' in this conversation is used to show Julieta's tired tone as she needs to take care of her husband's bee sting.

- **Data 3**

MIRABEL: I just want to know if it was generally positive... or... like less positive or -

FÉLIX: It was a nightmare!

PEPA: Félix!

FÉLIX: **Ey**, she needs to know, Pepi. She needs to know. (00:45:56)

The tag '**Ey**' is used by many Spanish speakers. The purpose of this tag varies from showing agreement to an interjection when surprised. In this conversation, the tag '**Ey**' is used by Felix as a form of showing protest to Pepa who doesn't talk to Mirabel about a certain topic.

### Intersentential Switching

Intersentential switching means switching a language for an entire sentence which means each sentence uses one language that is different from the other. Some examples of Intersentential Switching are listed below

- **Data 1**

ABUELA ALMA: **Abre los ojos...** open your eyes... (00:00:45)

The switch in this conversation consisted of Spanish and English. At the beginning of the movie, Abuela Alma orders young Mirabel to open her eyes in Spanish. She then repeated the sentence in English to emphasize what she had said.

- **Data 2**

FÉLIX: Come on, Abuela! **Tirame un paso!** (00:26:30)

The switch used in this conversation consisted of English and Spanish. In the first part of the conversation, Felix encourages Abuela Alma to dance with the family. He then further encourages her by saying '*Tirame un paso!*' which translates to '*Take a step!*'

- **Data 3**

ABUELA ALMA: There is nothing wrong with La Casa Madrigal. The magic is strong... and so are the drinks! Please -- music! **A bailar, a bailar!** (00:27:20)

The switch used in the conversation consists of English and Spanish. In the scene, Abuela Alma is soothing the people after Mirabel panics and tells them about the house cracking down during a gift celebration, even though there are no cracks to be seen as they step out of the room they were in. The word '*A Bailar*' means '*To dance*' in Spanish which means Abuela Alma is trying to encourage people to continue enjoying the party.

### **Intrasentential Switching**

Interasentential switching refers to the process of mixing and producing a sentence with some parts in one language and parts in another. Some examples of Interasentential Switching are listed below.

- **Data 1**

YOUNG MIRABEL: How did we get a miracle?

ABUELA ALMA: Long ago, when my three babies had just been born, your **Abuelo Pedro** and I were forced to flee our home. (00:01:10)

The word '*Abuelo*' in Spanish is translated to the word Grandfather. During the scene, Abuela Alma was telling a story about how the family got their first miracle for young Mirabel who is the main character of the story. During it, she tells the story of Mirabel's grandfather, **Abuelo Pedro**, who sacrifices his life for her.

- **Data 2**

ABUELA ALMA: There is nothing wrong with **La Casa Madrigal**. The magic is strong... and so are the drinks! Please -- music! **A bailar, a bailar!** (00:27:12)

This sentence includes both English and Spanish in the mix. The word '*Casa*' means '*house*' or '*home*'. In this conversation, Abuela Alma indicates that '*La casa Madrigal*' or '*the house of the Madrigal family*' is fine since prior to the conversation Mirabel warns her about the cracks that magically disappear when checked, leaving her with no evidence of the house crumbling.

- **Data 3**

JULIETA: Mamá, you've always been too hard on Mirabel.

ABUELA ALMA: Look around. We must protect our family, our Encanto. We cannot lose our home!

*OLD ARTURO ENTERS FROM OUTSIDE (with a crowd from town)...*

OLD ARTURO: **Señora, perdón**, people in town are becoming anxious about the magic. They want to see you. (01:01:55)

Old Arturo's sentence consist of both Spanish and English. When the Madrigal family is arguing over Mirabel's prophecy and its connection to the dying magic, Old Arturo interrupts them because the townsfolk need clarification about what's happening. He interrupts the heated debate by calling out to Abuela Alma, referring to her as '*Señora*' or '*Ma'am*' while also saying how he is sorry to interrupt the family feud by saying '*Perdón*' or '*Sorry*'

### **Discussion**

Based on the data that was gathered, it is clear that tag-switching is the most used type of code-switching that appeared in the movie. From all data of code-switch combined, intrasentential switching took over 84,61% of the result data while tag and intersentential each got 9,25% and 6,15% each.

The reason why intrasentential switching has the highest usage is that the characters often refer to their older relative with their respective titles. For example, the title 'Abuela' means 'Grandmother' in English. In the movie, Abuela Alma is referred to as such by Mirabel and the rest of the grandkids because she is the grandmother of the Madrigal family. The same goes for the title 'Tia' which Mirabel used to call her aunt, Pepa, and 'Tio' which Mirabel used to refer to her uncle, Bruno. With the story background existing in Colombia, it is reasonable for the characters to refer to their relative with Spanish terms instead of using English.

Despite the high number of intrasentential switching counted in the movie, the movie itself lacks the presence of intersentential switching. Considering the movie is made by Disney, an American film producer, it makes sense for this internationally well-known film to be written in English. The existence of different types of code-switching within the movie is used to represent the ethnic origin of the character which is Colombian.

Based on the gathered data, it seems that most Disney movies that feature multiple languages have a predominant feature of intrasentential switching. *Encanto* is not the only Disney movie that uses code-switching in the character's conversations. This statement is supported by research made by Febrianti et al (2022) about the usage of code-switching in the Disney movie 'Coco' which reveals 99% of intrasentential switching is extracted from the movie. Furthermore, another research made by Anindita (2022) about the movie 'Luca' mentions about 39,72% of the results consist of intrasentential and tag switching.

Although most multi-language Disney movie seems to have a similar result, it seems like this result doesn't apply to other movies. A research from Natalia (2022) about the movie 'Ali & Ratu-ratu Queens' reveals that 52.9% of the gathered datum consists of intersentential switching while intrasentential and tag switching only consist of 17.6% of the whole result.

## Conclusion

Through this study, it is revealed that the movie 'Encanto' consists of many types of code-switching, namely tag switching, intersentential switching, and intrasentential switching. The characters in this movie use two languages to interact, English and Spanish, with English as the more dominant language of the two.

Through the analysis, it can be seen that intrasentential switching is the most dominant of out the three different types as it took over 55 datums or 84.61% of the gathered results followed by tag switching and intersentential switching with 9.25% and 6.15% respectively. The reason behind it is that the characters refer to their older relatives with their respective titles when they are talking to or about them.

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