
Code Mixing as a Communication Style Among South Jakarta Teenagers in Social Media

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Abstract

The main concern of this study is to explore the trend of code mixing as a communication style in south Jakarta. This study is highly outline the why and how the use of code mixing among south Jakarta teenagers. To gain a powerful discussion, this study employs descriptive study which is the data were taken from research, journal, book, and other relevant sources. The conclusion reports that the appearance of code mixing among south Jakarta teenagers is influenced by 1) the use social media, 2) social environments, and 3) self-identity and recognition from community. Additionally, this trend can be positive for teenagers' language and communication development but negative if this code mixing is potentially arise a misinterpretation.

Keywords: Code Mixing; Communication Style; South Jakarta Teenagers.

INTRODUCTION

In the last decade the social media has become a very popular media in the world. It almost covers all the aspects of communication among people. They use the social media as the main tool of communication, to interact digitally, and to fulfill the satisfaction of themselves, as well as the social media can be said as a support system for the social interaction (Yohanna, 2020). The social media has transformed the real meeting into digital interaction which has the same capacity for developing the real relationship. Transforming verbal and nonverbal communication into text, pictures, and video is a current trend nowadays. In the traditional communication which offers the direct interaction and printed media for the sharing information, then the social media offers an open feedback for all the available information. Thus, the social media becomes the top communication mass media for all generations.

According to the current survey which is released by Pew Research Center, most of the social media are used by the teenagers. They consider that social media is an inseparable part of their lives, as well as the social media is seen as a lifestyle by them (Wojdan et al., 2021). Additionally, using the social media is a way to show their existence among them. That is why the social media is dominated by the teenagers, rather than children or adults.

In the world of social media, communication has an important role in building relationships between human beings. For now, the use of social media has given birth to a variety of different language communication styles. This communication style differs between individuals, small children, adolescents and adults have different communication styles depending on the purpose of the communication. According to Norton and Pettegrew (1977) communication style can be said as an interaction between individuals which is manifested through verbal and nonverbal forms that are different for each individual. In addition, Kirtley and Weaver (1999) argue that communication style is a cognitive and psychological process that is conveyed by individuals as a form of macro and micro expression in the form of feelings and needs that are conveyed directly and openly. Therefore, it can be concluded that communication style is a form of psychological and cognitive interaction to convey thoughts and feelings either directly or indirectly.

In the context of social media, communication styles can vary and take various forms. A new communication trend has emerged recently. This trend of communication is popular in Indonesia as the teenager's language of South Jakarta, or the language of South Jakarta teenagers. Simply, the form of communication for South Jakarta teenagers combine Bahasa Indonesia with English in communicating on social media or directly (Jimmi & Davistasya, 2019). In linguistics this situation is called code mixing or combining two different types of languages in the communication process. According to Risyad (2019), code mixing is combining two languages without changing the topic of conversation. In addition, according to Indriyani (2018), code mixing is a phenomenon of mixing languages from one language to another to show the diversity of languages. Therefore, based on this definition, it can be said that the trend that is developing is a code-mixed communication style among teenagers in South Jakarta which is not only used in everyday language, or in social language, but in social media, this communication style tends to be used frequently. Based on these emerging trend, this study will try to examine the current phenomenon of why Jakarta south teenagers use code mixing as a communication style in social media.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method in this study is a descriptive study using a literature review. Descriptive study is research that examines information by not manipulating any variables. The purpose of this study is simply to explore a phenomenon descriptively through data from various sources such as journals, books, as well as documents and digital footprints on social media. In addition, this study tries to explore various points of view on the object of study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As some sociolinguists have said, code-mixing communication behavior is a natural thing. Additionally, Indonesia is a country with various languages, so code-mixing behavior is quite natural. In a more specific context, code-mixing is practiced by various groups, for example, the fifth president of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in his speeches often uses code-mixing as a form of his communication style. Not only that, the minister of tourism and creative economy Sandiaga Uno also often mixes code in his tweets and direct speeches. Additionally, some Indonesian celebrities tend to use code mixing in their speech or social media captions (Yuliana et al., 2015). So it can be said that communication style and code mixing are two things that are closely related to one another (Waris, 2012). This includes the language style of teenagers in south Jakarta.

As a result of the wide reach of communication on social media, this code mixing culture between English and Indonesian greatly affects young people in Jakarta as far away as possible. Related to this particular trend, the main reason for South Jakarta teenagers use code mixing is the form of influence from the internet and social media. This led to the rapid dissemination of information and indirect education about international communication styles. In general, it is very common to find youth in South Jakarta on social media mixing Indonesian and English codes, such as *which is, literally, even, around, actually, etc.* It can be found easily in social media such as Twitter, Facebook, or Intagram (See table 2). All of those code mixing are used for the purpose of making captions on their posts or just replying comments. As stated above, some sociolinguists consider this to be normal, but in Indonesia itself it is considered strange and unusual (Jimmi & Davistasya, 2019).

One of the reasons behind the use of code-mixing in among South Jakarta teenagers is environment. In the social environment of teenagers in South Jakarta, it is not only influenced by the rapid dissemination of information but also the supportive environments, direct and digital environment include. The supportive environments here are work, social media, and direct social environment. In the view of speakers in the South Jakarta area, code-mixing is a common thing and is considered normal. In a positive view, in South Jakarta, many people often use code mixing as a communication style in various field including and commonly in social media. So that this style of communication spreads very quickly among teenagers in South Jakarta (Hjavar, 2004; Shah & Lohar, 2016; Widawati, 2021).

The last thing to be the reason why South Jakarta teenagers tend to mix code in communicating is as a form of self-identity. Displaying a language by mixing code is









considered something up to date and cool, because it is considered capable of using two languages simultaneously (Ridwan, 2018; Sari et al., 2018; Zenker, 2018). Therefore, it is often encountered and is a very common thing when South Jakarta teenagers are very intense in using code-mixing in almost every activity, such as at school, at hangouts, or in the work, and more using the code-mixing in social media for making captions or text. The following are some common vocabularies that are often used by South Jakarta teenagers in communicating with code-mixing.

Table 1. Common Mixed Vocabulary among South Jakarta Teenagers

| No | Vocabulary | Meaning in Bahasa Indonesia | Example |
|----|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Literally | Secara harfiah | “Gue <i>literally</i> nggak suka sama dia, soalnya dia tuh <i>like</i> cari perhatian banget” (I literally do not really like him, because he is like an attention seeker) |
| 2 | Normally | Biasanya | “Normally gue tuh sukanya makan yang spicy” (Normally, I prefer spicy food) |
| 3 | Actually | Sebenarnya | “ <i>Actually</i> gue tuh udah kayak <i>lost respect</i> gitu ama dia” (Actually, I am already lost respect to her) |
| 4 | Prefer | Lebih suka | “Sekarang gue <i>prefer</i> pergi ke coffee shop sih dari pada <i>hang out</i> di <i>park</i> gitu” (Now I prefer go to the coffee shop than hang out at the park) |
| 5 | Which is | Yang mana | “Tugas sekolah gue banyak banget, <i>which is</i> bikin pusing aja ngerjainnya, meding <i>hang out</i> yuk” (I have a lot of school assignment, which is make me dizzy, let us just hang out) |
| 6 | Probably | Mungkin | “Gue lagi ada aplikasi baru nih yang cool gitu, probably lo suka” (I have new application, it is cool, probably you like it) |

| | | | |
|----|-----------|---------------|---|
| 7 | Around | Sekitar | “Kalau lo cari gue, gue <i>around</i> sekolah ya” (If you are looking for me, I am around school) |
| 8 | Honestly | Jujur | “ <i>Honestly</i> gue kecewa banget, lo udah <i>cheating</i> di belakang gue” (Honestly I am really disappointed, you are cheating behind me) |
| 9 | Whatever | Terserah | “Whatever lah, gue udah muak, selama ini lo gak ada effort sama sekali” (Whatever, I’m sick of you, after all of this you do not have effort at all) |
| 10 | You know | Kamu tau? | “Eh you know gak? Bapaknya dia rich banget” (Do you know? His father is so rich) |
| 11 | Confuse | Membingungkan | “Gue <i>confuse</i> banget ama sikap lo yang gak jelas” (I am really confuse on your obscure attitude) |
| 12 | While | Sementara | “Lo udah berusaha keras while dia nggak ngapa-ngapain” (You have worked hard while he do nothing) |
| 13 | The point | Intinya | “Dari tadi gue jelasin lo nggak ngerti mulu, the point is gue tuh udah done ngerjain semua. (I have explained but you do not understand, the point is I have done all of this) |
| 14 | Surely | Pastinya | “ <i>Perhaps</i> gue bakalan terlambat dating, <i>surely</i> lo duluan aja” (Perhaps I will be late, surely you go first) |

Table 2. Examples of Code Mixing in Social Media

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>Adelio @yzhuio · Feb 4</p> <p>technically i bisa banget ya bahasa jaksel. but sometimes, i takut orang-orang pusing baca typing i which is yaa gitu deh</p> <p>@convomf · Feb 4</p> <p>Boleh tau your reasons kenapa you gak bisa bahasa Jaksel?</p> |  <p>Lia @didwellurs · Feb 4</p> <p>Replying to @convomf</p> <p>i bisa bahasa jaksel but when i start talking with jaksel accent i harus berpikir keras, itu make my brain berkerja lebih extra so i decide to not taking with jaksel accent bcoz mrepotkan myself</p> |
|  <p>KDBB♡ Wisy-Body~ @men... · Feb 5</p> <p>Replying to @niyelnoona</p> <p>I guess dia should try pake jaksel language first, it will help dia a lot to learn bahasa soale lebih gampang kwkwkw</p> <p>Keknua tertarik belajar b indo</p> |  <p>rsky @rskuy_ · Feb 6</p> <p>Replying to @akutaurifky</p> <p>dimulai dengan pake bahasa jaksel dulu aja dimana literally even itu which is kalo lu ga try you cant do it</p> |
|  <p>Not gonna disclose anythi... · Feb 4</p> <p>Replying to @convomf</p> <p>Bahasa jaksel gmn sih. Kalo inggris, gue langsung komprehensif nih kwkw. Tetep pake literally sih, but still use it within the context</p> |  <p>RUTO @HARUTOE · 22h</p> <p>Replying to @Yuddivng</p> <p>I think you udah pro talk like a jaksel people alias lu liat lah diri lu ini, ngobrol udah using english sat set sat set and mixed it with bahasa. Kayaknya you can nih mixed it too with korean. Coba deh, noneun ngomong using korea.</p> |
|  <p>Ale @Vacillieav3nca · 10h</p> <p>wuw it's midnight where I suddenly kepikiran topik skripsi pengaruh trend "bahasa jaksel" terhadap motivasi belajar bahasa Inggris murid 😊🌟</p> |  <p>vya @dietsney · 2h</p> <p>banyak anak minor biasin atau simp idol yg tua tua, atau aktor tua and they be like ok then sebuah mfs yang bilang punya feeling ke cewe yg udah legal they be like gross. iyaa emg beda dan gak apple to apple antara seleb dan asli but still.</p> <p>Show this thread</p> |

Based on some examples of vocabulary and tweet on social media by South Jakarta teenagers above, it can be clearly seen that there are various forms of code mixing that are carried out. In general, this style only refers to the use of English as a filler in communication. Still, the Indonesian language used is more than English which is involved in the communication style of South Jakarta teenagers. There are many factors behind the use of code mixing in this context, for example intra linguistics and situational factors. However, in the context of the communication style of South Jakarta teenagers, this code-mixing is based on the trends in social media and social factors in their environment.

After knowing the reason of using code mixing in communication in South Jakarta, a question arose. The question is whether this communication style endangers Indonesian as the national language?. This question is very important to answer considering that Indonesian plays an important role in Indonesia as a unifying language.

This trend can be seen from two sides, namely the positive side and the negative side. Both sides have the same level of viewing the context of code-mixing among teenagers in South Jakarta. Various kinds of speculations arise from various parties related to this phenomenon, there are speculations that support it. But not a few who do not agree with this.

The positive side of using code-mixing among South Jakarta teenagers is to increase their confidence in using English (Boyle et al., 2018; Ogunyemi & Olagbaju, 2020; Sobirova, 2021). In general, in Indonesia, English is still an obstacle for some people to communicate in foreign languages. The underlying thing is the lack of courage and lack of confidence in using a foreign language or English. So with the trend of code mixing in South Jakarta, it can directly make some people, especially South Jakarta more confident in communicating.

Another point that is considered important in this code-mixing trend is the trend be able to develop language skills (Poeste et al., 2019). Not only improving foreign language skills as mentioned in the previous paragraph, but this trend is also able to make a person more capable of doing many things at one time. In this context, code mixing can make people more proficient in multitasking. Several studies have shown that people who are good at code mixing in communication are better able to do several jobs at once (Ernawati, 2019; Prabowo, 2019). Hence, this code mixing is beneficial for the teenagers who are improving their language skills and other capabilities.

Like two sides of a coin, the negative side of the code-mixing trend in South Jakarta is no less important to be discussed. This trend then becomes a challenge for Indonesian as an official and unifying language. Code mixing behavior in this context can lead to

misunderstandings between speakers and interlocutors. Some people may easily understand the South Jakarta language mixed with English, but not all Indonesian citizens understand English. As a result, there will be a misinterpretation between the speaker and the interlocutor which leads to the failure of a good form of communication. So using this code mixing is should be careful to whom it spoken.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a conclusion from some of the discussions above, it can be concluded that the language phenomenon in South Jakarta is a form of trend. This trend was born and grew up due to the influence of social media. In addition, the social and digital environment is also very influential on the formation of code-mixing in the communication style of South Jakarta teenagers on social media. In addition, self-identity and recognition from the community in social media are one of the reasons for the use of code-mixing in the language style of South Jakarta teenagers. The positive thing about this trend is that code mixing can make teenagers better in speaking and motivates them to be proficient in switch and mix the language. Meanwhile, the negative thing about this trend is that the use of code mixing tends to give rise to misinterpretation when it is not used to the right people.

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