

Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics 37

Katja F. Cantone

Code-switching in Bilingual Children

The goal of this volume is to prove that mixed utterances in young bilinguals can be analyzed in the same way as adult code-switching. Analyzing a rich corpus of spontaneous child data, the author provides detailed empirical evidence for latest minimalist assumptions on the architecture of mind and confirms that code-switching is only constrained by the two grammars of the languages involved. The data show that the quantity of mixing in children depends on an individual choice rather than on language development, language dominance, or other factors. Besides critically reviewing the literature on language mixing in children and adults, this work offers a thorough grammatical analysis of the code-switching data of five Italian/German children. The book provides new insights not only in the field of code-switching and of language mixing in young bilinguals, but also in issues concerning general questions on linguistic theory which are difficult to be answered with monolingual data.

ISBN 978-1-4020-5783-0



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Springer

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STUDIES IN THEORETICAL PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

VOLUME 37

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CODE-SWITCHING IN BILINGUAL CHILDREN

by

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 Springer

A C.I.P. Catalogue record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN 978-1-4020-5783-0 (HB)

ISBN 978-1-4020-5784-7 (e-book)

Published by Springer,
P.O. Box 17, 3300 AA Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

www.springer.com

Printed on acid-free paper

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CONTENTS

List of Tables	ix	
List of Figures	xi	
Acknowledgements	xiii	
Note to the reader	xv	
Introduction	xvii	
Chapter 1	Bilingualism and Bilingual First	
	Language Acquisition	1
	1.1 Definitions	2
	1.2 Bilingualism	4
	1.3 Overview of studies on bilingual first language acquisition	6
	1.4 Conclusions	11
Chapter 2	Early mixing	13
	2.1 Definitions	14
	2.2 Mixing and the idea of a single language system	17
	2.3 Mixing and the development of the two languages	21
	2.4 Mixing and language dominance or imbalance	25
	2.5 Conclusions	34

Chapter 3	The theoretical framework	37
	3.1 Generative grammar and the minimalist program	38
	3.2 Specific notions	40
	3.3 Language acquisition	44
	3.4 Conclusions	50
Chapter 4	Code-switching	53
	4.1 Definitions	54
	4.2 Brief overview of socio-linguistic issues concerning code-switching	59
	4.3 Grammatical issues concerning code-switching	61
	4.3.1 Linear order in CS	62
	4.3.2 Government in CS	64
	4.3.3 Functional Heads and CS	65
	4.3.4 Matrix Language and CS	67
	4.3.5 Three processes in the study of CS	69
	4.4 Summary	71
	4.5 The architecture of the bilingual mind	73
	4.6 The fascination of applying MacSwan's model to bilingual children	80
Chapter 5	Data	83
	5.1 Research design and main hypotheses	84
	5.2 Languages involved	86
	5.3 The children	87
	5.3.1 Carlotta	88
	5.3.2 Lukas	89
	5.3.3 Jan	90
	5.3.4 Aurelio	91
	5.3.5 Marta	91
	5.3.6 Summary	92
	5.4 Methodology	93
	5.4.1 Recordings	93

	5.4.2	Transcriptions	93
	5.4.3	Data analysis	94
	5.5	Other studies	97
	5.6	Base language	101
	5.7	Reactions towards mixing	102
	5.8	Conclusions	110
Chapter 6		The analysis of early mixing	111
	6.1	Quantitative analysis of the early stage	113
	6.1.1	Carlotta	116
	6.1.2	Lukas	118
	6.1.3	Jan	120
	6.1.4	Aurelio	120
	6.1.5	Marta	120
	6.1.6	Summary	122
	6.2	Qualitative analysis of the early stage	128
	6.2.1	Mixing into Italian	130
	6.2.2	Mixing into German	134
	6.2.3	Equivalents to mixed elements	138
	6.3	Translation equivalents and the two monolingual lexicons	141
	6.4	Is mixing due to an unequal grammatical development?	149
	6.5	An alternative explanation: Select	154
	6.6	Conclusions	156
Chapter 7		The analysis of code-switching	159
	7.1	Quantitative analysis	162
	7.1.1	Carlotta	163
	7.1.2	Lukas	164
	7.1.3	Jan	166
	7.1.4	Aurelio	167
	7.1.5	Marta	168
	7.1.6	Conclusions	168

7.2	Qualitative analysis	170
7.2.1	CS between a subject/object/clitic or negator and a verb	174
7.2.2	CS between a main clause and an embedded clause	177
7.2.3	CS between to have/to be/modal and a verb	178
7.2.4	CS between a determiner/adjective and a noun	179
7.2.5	Conclusions	182
7.3	Ungrammaticality of some switches?	183
7.3.1	Licensing null-subjects in German	183
7.3.2	CS involving the CP	188
7.3.3	CS involving the TP	201
7.3.4	CS involving the DP	215
7.4	Conclusions	225
Chapter 8	Findings and conclusions	229
8.1	Mixing in young bilingual children	229
8.2	Code-switching and the need to constrain it	231
8.3	The analysis of specific domains	231
8.4	Proposals for further studies	234
	References	237
	Appendix	249
	Index	267

LIST OF TABLES

4.1.	Word order and the strength of features	78
5.1.	The five bilingual children and the period studied	94
5.2.	Adult strategies towards child language mixing	103
5.3.	Discourse strategies (Lanza 1992) revised and applied to the data	108
6.1.	Early stage	124
6.2.	Mixing into Italian	131
6.3.	German elements mixed into Italian	132
6.4.	Mixing into German	134
6.5.	Italian elements mixed into German	135
6.6.	Equivalents of the words mixed – Time of acquisition/appearance	140
6.7.	Translation equivalents	142
6.8.	Equivalents in the so-called <i>bilingual lexicon</i>	148
6.9.	Emergence of DP and IP	151
7.1.	Main findings on CS compared to the present data	171
7.2.	Mixes divided by domains – tokens	173
7.3.	Main predictions about possible mixings	196
7.4.	Findings of word order analysis	215
7.5.	Gender in mixed DPs	219
A.1.	Carlotta – The Italian data analyzed	249
A.2.	Carlotta – The German data analyzed	252
A.3.	Lukas – The Italian data analyzed	254
A.4.	Lukas – The German data analyzed	256
A.5.	Jan – The Italian data analyzed	258
A.6.	Jan – The German data analyzed	259

A.7. Aurelio – The Italian data analyzed	260
A.8. Aurelio – The German data analyzed	261
A.9. Marta – The Italian data analyzed	262
A.10. Marta – The German data analyzed	264

LIST OF FIGURES

4.1	The bilingual language faculty	75
5.1	Italian MLU	100
5.2	German MLU	101
6.1	(a) Carlotta – Italian context; (b) Carlotta – German context	117
6.2	(a) Lukas – Italian context; (b) Lukas – German context	118
6.3	(a) Jan – Italian context; (b) Jan – German context	119
6.4	(a) Aurelio – Italian context; (b) Aurelio – German context	121
6.5	(a) Marta – Italian Context; (b) Marta – German context	122
6.6	(a) Carlotta – language use in the Italian context; (b) Carlotta – language use in the German Context	126
6.7	(a) Lukas – language use in the Italian context; (b) Lukas – language use in the German Context	126
6.8	(a) Jan – language use in the Italian context; (b) Jan – language use in the German context	127
6.9	(a) Aurelio – language use in the Italian Context; (b) Aurelio – language use in the German Context	127
6.10	(a) Marta – language use in the Italian Context; (b) Marta – language use in the German Context	128
6.11	(a) Carlotta’s <i>two lexicons</i> ; (b) Lukas’ <i>two lexicons</i> ; (c) Jan’s <i>two lexicons</i> ; (d) Aurelio’s <i>two lexicons</i> (e) Marta’s <i>two lexicons</i>	147
7.1	(a) Carlotta – Utterances in the Italian context; (b) Carlotta – Utterances in the German context	164
7.2	(a) Lukas – Utterances in the Italian context; (b) Lukas – Utterances in the German context	165

7.3	(a) Jan – Utterances in the Italian context;	
	(b) Jan – Utterances in the German context	166
7.4	(a) Aurelio – Utterances in the Italian context;	
	(b) Aurelio – Utterances in the German context	167
7.5	(a) Marta – Utterances in the Italian context;	
	(b) Marta – Mixings in German context	169

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On April 14th in 1997, a phone call opened up great new perspectives for me: *Natascha Müller* asked me to work in her new research project on bilingualism. Thank you, Natascha, for calling me that day, for introducing me to the world of research in bilingual language acquisition, and for being my supervisor.

I am very much indebted to *Jeff MacSwan*. First of all, I want to thank him for his assistance, for bringing to my attention several important theoretical topics regarding code-switching and for discussing with me child and adult CS data. Plus, thank you, Jeff, for tons of fruitful and helpful discussions via email (Hamburg-USA) and for your visit to Hamburg in December 2004. Thanks for supporting me and being my supervisor!

I want to thank *Hans-Joachim Roth*, for introducing me into a more educational viewpoint with respect to child data, for being a member of my committee, and for useful comments on the data.

I am really grateful to *Leonardo Boschetti*, who played a significant role in my decision to do linguistics: He was the teacher who made generative grammar interesting to me! Thank you, Leonardo, for encouraging me and following all my steps as a student.

Many thanks to *Gisella Ferraresi* for introducing me to Minimalism & for exchanging literature books, since linguistics is not everything.

The first book I read on bilingual research was *Regina Köppe's* work, which made me curious about code-switching. Regina, thanks for inspiring me.

Thank you to all those who worked with me, in particular my project colleagues *Katrin & Tanja* and everyone who contributed to data collection.

Thanks to *Linda Reams-Behboud*, for chats in and on English, for your helpful comments & for reviewing all previous manuscripts!

My gratitude goes to Springer, to the editors of the series *Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics*: *Lynn Frazier*, *Tom Roeper*, and *Kenneth Wexler*. Special thanks to *Jolanda Voogd* and *Helen van der Stelt* for helping me in publishing this book.

Thanks to everyone I met at the SFB (Research Center on Multilingualism) and at all the conferences I was able to attend in these years, and thank you to all who inspired my work.

I would like to warmly thank all children who participated at the Italian part of the research project: *Carlotta*, *Lukas*, *Jan*, *Aurelio*, *Franziska*, *Antonio*, *Lilli*, *Marta*, and *Luca-Daniele*.

Un grazie speciale a **Carlotta**, **Lukas**, **Jan**, **Aurelio** e **Marta** per aver giocato con noi, e grazie infinite alle loro famiglie per la loro cooperazione e disponibilità ☺

Last but not least, thanks to all those who are always with me, in happy and in difficult times: my boy-friend, my long-time friends, and my family. I want to particularly thank my Mother, who always supports me: This book is dedicated to her.

voglio essere la hexe del rathaus (Carlotta, 4;1,0)

vogliamo il il pirati la angel klauen (Lukas, 3;7,15)

**e aladin è andato con suo ehm ehm con suo teppich volante
(Jan, 4;10,6)**

queste sono le füße e questo pah pah! (Aurelio, 3;6,14)

gleich wenn ich so mach werd ich ein tricheco (Marta, 3;8,4)

**Maybe in doing research you only understand what you were
doing LATER...**

**first you do it and later, if you are lucky,
you understand what you were trying to do and
these questions become sort of clarified through time.**

Noam Chomsky,

An Interview on Minimalism (in Belletti & Rizzi (eds.)2001:155)