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## THE USE OF CODE MIXING IN TWEETS BY KPOP FANS IN TWITTER

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### Abstract

Code mixing is spreading all over the world because of the influence of globalization and social media. One of social media that takes role in code mixing daily use is Twitter. The writer conducted a research about code mixing in tweets by KPOP fans in twitter which shows the use of code mixing. The writer found out three types and six functions of code mixing that were used by KPOP fans in their tweets. The types were insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. Meanwhile, the functions that were applied by KPOP fans in their tweets were to build social situation, to communicate with particular participant, to share ethnicity, to express idea easily, to create sense of humor, and to express disapproval.

**Keywords:** *code mixing, types, function, tweets, KPOP fans.*

### I. Introduction

Language has many variations and has its own structure. One of the ways to make listeners or readers understand the language more is by using code mixing. Korean Pop also known as KPOP is a phenomenon nowadays. It is spreading because of Korean Wave known as *Hallyu* (한류). The term was first given by

the Chinese press in the late of 1990s because at that time Korean pop culture was growing in China. As a result of Korean Wave, there are many people who begin to like Korean pop music and become fans of it. KPOP fans often chat or communicate by twitter. By using twitter, they will meet their fellows, and other people who have the same interest in certain bias, they can talk and share their experience or even their

personal preference in twitter and often mix their mother tongue with Korean. They usually put one word or phrase in Korean in their tweets. Hence, twitter is a good medium for KPOP fans to use code mixing, for example, “Don’t call me *noona*”. There is a combination of English language and Korean language in previous sentence. The word “noona” means older sister. Perhaps the user does not want to be called that way because she is not older than the other user. The writer was interested in analyzing this code mixing used by KPOP fans in order to find out the kinds of code mixing type mostly used by KPOP fans and the functions of code mixing for KPOP fans.

## II. Review Of Related Literature

### Code Mixing

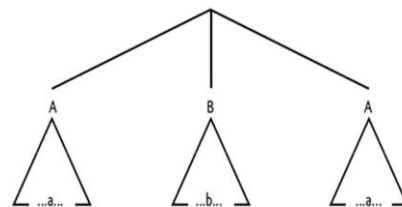
Code mixing is a mix of oral or written languages by someone. This phenomenon frequently occurs in informal situation. According to Sumarsih, et.al (2014), code mixing exists because of the influence of linguistic diversity in community and the mixture of two or more languages that will be understood by the community people. In other way, code mixing is a mixing of two or more languages of someone’s statement that happens in informal situation. Additionally, this research analyzes written code mixing in tweets.

### Types of Code Mixing

Code mixing is one of issue in linguistic topic and it also has its types and functions. According to Muysken (2000), intra sentential code mixing has different patterns or types. At least, there are three patterns explained by Muysken. The three patterns are insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. To support all the explanation before, there will be some examples to understand more the theories taken from Cárdenas-Carlos & Isharyanti (2009) from their case study.

#### 1. Insertion

Insertion is a process of inserting lexical items or materials of first language ( $L_1$ ) in a sentence which also has the second language ( $L_2$ ). It can be words or phrases. Muysken (2000) also appends that insertional code mixing is the constituent that is inserted; the constituent can be any syntactic unit like a lexical items or phrase.



**Figure. 1 Insertion concept**

(Source: Cárdenas-Carlos & Isharyanti’ journal; P.69)

The figure 1 is a structure of insertion works. Language A produces *a* in the beginning, afterwards *b* appears from language B, and then it is closed by *a* from language A. We can say that the concept of insertion is borrowing. It borrows a word or a phrase to complete the sentence, like:

1. Pero bueno creo que basta con que incluya la pregunta de **enhanced output** más todas las demás. (Spanish)

(Well, I think it is enough if I just include the question of enhanced output.) (English)

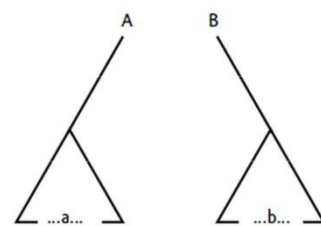
**Enhanced output** is a phrase taken from English included in Spanish. Sample 1 uses insertion pattern in his statement by mixing Spanish-English. There is also another example of insertion:

2. Tergantung **team**, terus juga tergantung **event**. (Indonesian) (It depends on the team and on the event.) (English)

Sample 2 uses Indonesian as his major language and inserts **team** and **event** in his statement. He used insertion pattern by mixing Indonesian-English. In conclusion, insertion is inserting a lexical item (e.g noun) or phrase within a sentence.

### 2.1.2.2 Alternation

Alternation occurs when two languages with different grammatical structure and lexical items alternated appearing in one sentence. Alternation is a common strategy of code mixing; the two languages appear in the clause relatively separate. It means that a clause from  $L_1$  is then followed by clause  $L_2$ .



**Figure. 2 Alternation concept**

(Source: Cárdenas-Carlos & Isharyanti' jornal; p 70)

The figure 2 shows the pattern for alternation; language A produces clause *a*, and then language B produces clause *b* following the language A. In short, alternation pattern allows a phrase or clause in  $L_1$  followed by  $L_2$ . It is really different from insertion, like:

3. I just have it in my room like a **niña bonita como debe ser**. (Spanish)

(I just have it in my room like a girl pretty as it should be.) (English)

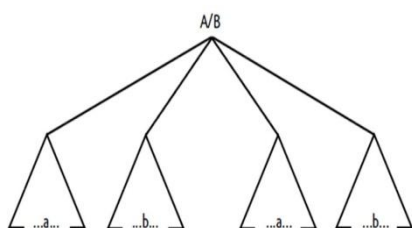
**Niña bonita como debe ser** is a clause from Spanish. Sample 3 uses Spanish to end his statement.

4. I mean, **ganti ke kalimat laen.**  
(Indonesian)  
(I mean, change it to another sentence.) (English).

This example uses English phrase and then mixes it with Indonesian.

### 2.1.2.3 Congruent Lexicalization

This pattern refers to two languages which share grammatical structure fully or in part by shifting from one to another. It can be seen as following:



**Figure. 3 Congruent lexicalization concept**  
(Source: Cárdenas-Carlos & Isharyanti' journal; p 71)

In figure 3, language A and B produce words or phrases after one to another. It is like language A which produces *a*, then it is followed by *b* from language B, and then again *a* ends with *b*. It means in one sentence there are two words or phrases from each language. It can be seen as the following example.

5. Gw **konek** pake **cellp** gw.  
(Indonesian) (I connected using my cellphone.) (English)  
**Konek** is taken from 'connect' in English; the word **konek** itself is

pronunciation of 'connect', while **cellp** is more like abbreviation of 'cellphone'. In conclusion, sample 5 uses *unofficial* English to express his statement.

6. **Software** gua buat **convert wav file**  
jadi mp3 gua udah  
**expired.**(Indonesian)  
(My software for converting wav file to mp3s has expired.) (English)

Sample 6 uses the correct English this time, but he mixes it with Indonesian one to another. This example is different from before since it uses correct English and mixes it with Indonesian, while the other one uses abbreviation and pronouncing sound of English words and mixes it with Indonesian.

## III. Research Methods

This research used a qualitative research because the data were written. The writer collected every tweet that was found in twitter. However, only tweets that were related to this research were analyzed. Based on the title, the writer analyzed about the types and functions of code mixing by KPOP fans.

The data for this research were taken from social media twitter. To be more specific, the writer sorted the data

which were tweets by KPOP fans found in twitter. Twitter was chosen because it was easy to use and had code mixing that the writer analyzed. All of the data were in English and were mixed with Korean, whether it is in Romanization or Hangul.

#### IV. Findings

Code mixing is used in daily life even it is used in social media. Code mixing itself has several types; Muysken (2000) states that code mixing has three types. The types are insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. These types can be found in tweets by KPOP fans.

##### 4.1 Insertion

Insertion is a condition that inserts one word or phrase in a sentence or statement. In this case, the tweets contained one word or phrases in Korean. It can be seen as the as the following example.

1. “Big 3 Idols don’t have to work as hard”. They work harder than *nugus* to pass the audition, keep up with training demands and debut. (Tweeted by Oniontaker, May 27)  
This tweet consisted of one word in Korean which was *nugus*. *Nugus* is from 누구 which means **who**. *Nugus* in this tweet did not mean

questioning someone or group but it implied **unknown** or **not popular** as the meaning. It was frequently used in bad situation for KPOP fans. Occasionally, KPOP fans used *nugu* term as anger expression and put other groups down in other word mock other groups.

2. The first time of the *maknae* to turn into adult. (Tweeted by AvyBautista, May 27)

The example above was also another example of insertion. *Maknae* is from 막내 which means **youngest**.

Aside from translation, the meaning of the tweet could be guessed by looking at the end of the sentence: adult. *Maknae* is used for calling someone in adoring expression based on the meaning of the tweet.

3. Wow youngmin fans are *jinjja daebak!!!* They are the kindest (Tweeted by defdanielpeach July 2)

Another example of insertion by KPOP fans tweet is *jinjja daebak* which means **really the best**. Generally, he was expressing his surprise with the act of youngmin fans here. In Korean, it would be 진짜대박 (*jinjjadaebak*). In literal translation 진짜 (*jinjja*) means **real** and 대박 (*daebak*) means **jackpot**

or **hit**. *Daebak* (대박) is used for expressing something big or praising something or someone. KPOP fans often used *daebak* (daebak) to praise while *진짜* (jinjja) was often used for expressing surprise. Basically this term is used for positive thing and expressing gratitude. Based on those data, it can be said that KPOP fans used insertion in their tweets. They inserted simple Korean words in their statements. The Korean words which were being inserted were in Romanization.

#### 4.1.2 Alternation

Alternation is a condition where the speaker uses one phrase from L<sub>1</sub> and then alternates to L<sub>2</sub>. In other word, one phrase from L<sub>1</sub> is followed by one phrase from L<sub>2</sub>. The example is in the following.

4. *Neomu yeppeo. Neomu yeppeo.*  
Ohmaigadh :’( :’( in love with sulli.  
(Tweeted by ssulchwan, April 6)  
This tweet consisted of a phrase in Korean, and then it is followed by English. *Neomu yeppeo* is from 너무예뻐 in Hangul which means **so pretty**. 너무 (neomu) or

means **so, very**. It indicates something extraordinary.

예뻐 (yeppeo) means **pretty**. The tweet implied throwing compliment.

5. *Bogosipgo, gomapgo, saranghaeyo*  
TT\_\_TT we miss you too  
amber (Tweeted by AvyBautista, May 27)

As it could be seen, it was not fully a phrase but continuously words in Korean. There were three words *bogosipgo* (보고싶고), *gomapgo* (고맙고), and *saranghaeyo* (사랑해요). *Bogosipgo* (보고싶고) means **I want to see or miss you**. *Gomapgo* (고맙고) means **thank you**. *Saranghaeyo* (사랑해요) means **I love you**. The tweet expressed feeling missing someone, gratitude, and love.

6. Luna only had 1 song & didn't even appear during the ending/encore  
왜우리애들한테만그러냐

(Tweeted by hamsoonie, July 8)

The example above was different from other examples. The tweet consisted of English and Korean Hangul. As it stated, the fan alternated English with Korean. If it was interpreted one by one, 왜 (wae)

means **why**, 우리 (*uri*) means **our** or **us**, 애들 (*aedeul*) means **kids**, 한테만 (*hanteman*) means **only**, and그러냐(*geuleonya*) means **yes**.

After knowing one by one the meaning of the word of the sentence, the meaning of the whole sentence was **why is it only your kids**. This tweet described pity. Hamsoonie expressed her pity to Luna in her tweet. The alternation in those explanations was combined with insertion and alternation. Like example 5, the speaker used three phrases in Korean as continuity and they were followed by English. This showed KPOP fans used alternation type in their tweets.

#### 4.1.3 Congruent

##### Lexicalization

Congruent lexicalization is a condition where the sentence turns into L<sub>1</sub>,L<sub>2</sub>,L<sub>1</sub>,L<sub>2</sub>. This type is a combination of two types before which are insertion and alternation. We can see the example as the following.

7. The *unnie* phase went away now here we come *ahjumma* phase. (Tweeted by 9reicia, June 13)

*Unnie* and *ahjumma* are pronouns for **sister** and **aunt**. *Unnie* (언니) means **sister**. It is applied to call older girls.

Romanization is actually *eonni* while *ahjumma* (아줌마)

means **auntie**. Romanization is actually *ajumma*. The tweet implied the phase of getting older as a girl.

8. A protective *sangnamja* don't ever ever touch his *chagiya* only big boss can touch her lol ctto (Tweeted by whiterose8989, July 6)

*Sangnamja* (상남자) and *chagiya* (자기야) are Korean phrases that were found in this tweet. However, the correct Romanization of this is *jagiya*. 상남자 (*sangnamja*) which means **manly men** and 자기야 (*jagiya*) which means **honey** or **darling**; it is addressed to the beloved one.

9. *Mwo?* Jongki hoho *wae* you do this to me?! Hahaha jk support support#SongSongCouple (Tweeted by shanghai022, July 2)

Another example of congruent lexicalization contained two question phrases in Korean. *Mwo* and *wae* are question phrases in Korean. *Mwo* (뭐) means **what** and *wae* (왜) means

**why.** This tweet began with Korean, and was followed by English.

## V. Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the writer found that KPOP fans had applied three types of code mixing in their tweets. There are insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. These types are common to be found in KPOP fans tweets. As mentioned before in the previous chapter, insertion is inserting phrase of L<sub>2</sub> in statement of L<sub>1</sub>. For example, English was mixed with Korean. Occasionally, insertion is inserting only a phrase or a word. Alternation is alternating from L<sub>1</sub> to L<sub>2</sub>. For example, “I don’t know him *najinja molla.*” The example used English and Korean. A phrase in English was alternated with Korean. Congruent lexicalization uses two languages regularly from L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>. It means that the speaker used English, then Korean, then English, and then Korean in one statement only. Those were conclusion of code mixing types. These findings were in line with the three types of code mixing stated by Muysken. The most common type that was used by KPOP fans was insertion.

This research also found out six functions of code mixing which are applied by KPOP

fans. The six functions of code mixing are to build social situation, to communicate with particular participant, to share ethnicity, to express idea easily, to create sense of humor, and to express disapproval. Those are functions of code mixing that are found in KPOP fans tweet in twitter. The most common function found in KPOP fans tweets is expressing idea easily. These six functions are in line with the functions of code mixing stated by Holmes.

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