

**CODE SWITCHING AND CODE MIXING IN MBE LANGUAGE:  
A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**

**BY**

**OSANG DAVID MARK**

**ART1900762**

**DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

**BENIN CITY**

**MAY, 2024**

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**BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE  
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**APPROVAL PAGE**

I, **OSANG DAVID MARK**, a Student in the Department of Linguistics Studies, University of Benin, Benin City with Matriculation Number **ART1900762** has completed the requirements for coursework for the Bachelor of Arts degree of the University of Benin. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or whole to any other University or Institution.

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**OSANG DAVID MARK**

*(Author)*

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**Date**

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**DR. J. O. ONU**

*(Project Supervisor)*

---

**Date**

---

**PROF. M.S. AGBO**

---

**Date**

*(Head of Department)*

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**EXTERNAL EXAMINER**

**Date**

**PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATION**

I, **OSANG DAVID MARK** , with matriculation number **ART1900762** declare that this work titled “**CODE SWITCHING AND CODE MIXING IN MBE LANGUAGE: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**” has successfully passed the anti- plagiarism test (with a score of \_\_\_\_\_%) and so does not violate any copyright regulations.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**OSANG DAVID MARK**

**DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty for keeping and sustaining me all through my stay in the University of Benin.

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study examines the phenomenon of code switching and code mixing in the Mbe language, spoken in Nigeria. Through a sociolinguistic analysis of natural conversations, this research investigates the frequency, functions, and motivations of code switching and code mixing between Mbe and English. The findings reveal that code switching and code mixing are common strategies used by Mbe speakers to communicate effectively, express cultural identity, and navigate multiple languages in everyday interactions. The study highlights the importance of considering language contact and variation in language policy and planning efforts, particularly in multilingual settings like Nigeria. The research contributes to our understanding of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage, and provides insights for language documentation, language teaching, and language resource development.

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.5 INTRODUCTION**

Code switching and code mixing are two prominent linguistic phenomena that reflect the intricate interplay between languages within a given speech community. This chapter gives a proper background study of the project, it explains the methodology, the purpose of the study and the significance.

This project aims to explore the patterns, motivations, and implications of code switching and code mixing in the Mbe and English languages within the sociolinguistics context of the Mbe-speaking community. Understanding how individuals navigate between Mbe and English through code switching and code mixing provides valuable insights into the sociolinguistics dynamics of multilingual communities. This project seeks to shed light on the linguistic strategies employed by Mbe speakers to negotiate their identity, social relationships, and cultural affiliations in a linguistically diverse environment.

## 1.6 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

The importance of language in society is undeniable, as it plays a crucial role in shaping social interactions. Sociolinguistics is a widely studied branch of linguistics that focuses on analyzing language use within social contexts. This field considers various factors such as age, social status, and situational context. Sociolinguistics also explores phenomena like code mixing, diglossia, code switching, and language endangerment.

Just like in many bilingual and multilingual societies, in Nigeria, code switching and code mixing of language has always been a matter of concern to researchers and educators. This project aims to evaluate the aspect of language and communication in a multilingual society with emphasis on code switching and code mixing using the native language Mbe and English as the case study and seeks to highlight the discourse and conversational structure of language among the Mbe language speakers within the geographical area of the University of Benin.

When two or more languages come into contact, there is a tendency for the various languages to mix or shift from one language to

another. It is a common phenomenon for bilinguals to code switch and code mixing conversations. Thus the fact that people are becoming more and more bilingual and even multilingual brings the problem of code switching and code mixing as a palpable linguistic phenomenon in his days. An important motivation for the researchers is to investigate the dynamics of bilingual behavior in a natural a natural settings.

This study contributes to the collection of literature in linguistics in general and to sociolinguistics as it dwells on the interaction and its social environment thus the point of focus is on code switching and code mixing in a natural settings.

## **THE MBE LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE**

The Mbe language is spoken by the Mbube people. It is a part of the Mbube East people of Mbube clan from Ogoja local government, Cross River State. It is from Mbe Ketuen language family. It's writing system is patterned after the English language but with special punctuation marks. Like most surrounding languages, some words and Idioms are borrowed from the Efik language which is the main language of Cross River State.

The Mbe language is part of the Niger-Congo language family and is primarily spoken in the southeastern region of Nigeria. Mbe provides a rich context for examining language acquisition processes in bilingual children. By studying how children acquire and use Mbe in conjunction with another language, we can gain insights into the cognitive mechanisms and social factors that shape bilingual language development. This study aims to explore the specific strategies and experiences of bilingual children learning Mbe, as well as the impact of language contact and cultural influences on their linguistic development. By delving into the complexities of bilingualism in the context of the Mbe language, we can deepen our understanding of how children navigate multiple linguistic worlds and ultimately contribute to the broader field of language acquisition research.

## **1.7 METHODOLOGY**

This research study will focus on qualitative method of analysis which will include audio recordings, field observation and writing, the data used will be drawn and gathered from both primary and secondary sources in order to achieve its aim.

The primary source of data will be collected through field observation and audio recordings through participant observation and direct interview methods within a number of 30 Mbe language speakers in the University of Benin. The Data gotten the course of this Linguistic investigation will be further studied and presented to contribute to the study of code mixing and code switching in the Mbe people.

### **1.8 AIM OF STUDY**

The focus and purpose of this research project is set to examine the discourse analysis of code switching and code mixing in a natural settings and expose how these concepts occur. This project will also attempt to identify the motivations or causes underlying the use of code mixing and code switching among Mbe language speakers using Mbe and English as a case study.

Listed below are the specific objectives of this research work;

- i. To examine the code choice of Mbe language speakers in the University of Benin
- ii. To establish the motivation or what lead to the code switching and code mixing.

- iii. When does code switching and code mixing take place.

## **1.9 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY**

There are various importance of code switching and code mixing and one of those significance is in the area of language preference. This study will also show how often Mbe speakers code switch and code mix.

It will also show the circumstances which encourage the use of code mixing and code switching.

It is highly hoped that the knowledge required for this research will be beneficial for bilinguals and society as a whole and also contribute to additional knowledge in the field of sociolinguistics and it will be also very useful for English and Linguistics students, more so it will be beneficial to researchers and scholarships who will in later years want to carry out further research on my topic or related topics at such cases, this study will serve as a resourceful point of call to them and to the general society at large.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter basically summarizes and reviews relevant work done in the past on related research topics. Also, the basic concepts of this study will be explored and explained in this chapter. As such, this chapter is divided into two sections: (Conceptual Review), a review of the concepts of this research study and (Previous Study), a review of previous works on related studies. The first section reviews and explains basic concepts which include discourse analysis, code switching, code mixing, Pidgin, English, and the relationship between Pidgin and English; while the second section reviews relevant literature on the research study.

### **2.1 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW**

#### **2.1.1 DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

The term discourse analysis was first introduced by Zellig Harris in 1952 as a means of analyzing connected speech and text analysis in his article entitled “Discourse Analysis”. It is a collective term for a set of qualitative research approaches for analyzing language use in social contexts. Researchers apply these techniques to explore the underlying

meaning of what people say and how they say it, whether in face-to-face conversations, documents, nonverbal interactions, or images, to help us understand the world.

Discourse can simply be seen as language in use (Brown & Yule 1983; Cook 1989). It therefore follows that discourse analysis is the analysis of language in use. By “language use” we mean the set of norms, preferences and expectations that associate language with context.

The term “Discourse Analysis” is obscure in nature, in the words of Stubbs (1983:1): “The term discourse analysis is very ambiguous. I will use it in this book to refer mainly to the linguistic analysis of naturally occurring connected speech or written discourse. Roughly speaking, it refers to attempts to study the organisation of language above the sentence or above the clause, and therefore to study larger linguistic units, such as conversational exchanges or written texts. It follows that discourse analysis is also concerned with language use in social contexts, and in particular with interaction or dialogue between speakers”.

As Wodak and Krzyżanowski (2008) put it: “discourse analysis

provides a general framework to problem-oriented social research”. Fundamentally, discourse analysis helps to study the contextual use of language in various social issues (i.e., issues in society that affect individuals negatively).

According to Partridge (2006), “Discourse analysis focuses on knowledge about language beyond the word, clause, phrase and sentences that is needed for a successful communication. It looks at patterns of language across text and consider the relationship between language and the social and cultural context in which it is used.

Thus Discourse analysis is not a specific qualitative research method rather it is a general term that describes all approaches used to study and understand discourses related to social interaction, that is, it is the study of real language use by real speakers in real situations which is what this research tends to carry out the discourse analysis in real life among the Mbe People.

### **2.1.2 CODE SWITCHING**

In linguistic, language is sometimes called code. A code is a neutral term that can be used to describe a language or different

languages. A language code consists of a system and a language unit. One can create combinations to create and deliver successful messages. However these combinations follow certain rules depending on the language. Therefore in sociolinguistics, “code” we can call it the communication that individuals use to convey their messages. This means the language code is based on the language and they can however be written or oral.

In communications, a code is a rule for converting a piece of information (for example, a letter, word, or phrase) into another form or representation, not necessarily of the same sort. In communications and information processing, encoding is the process by which a source (object) performs this conversion of information into data, which is then sent to a receiver (observer), such as a data processing system (Mesthrie , 2001: 55).

Thus code switching is the process of changing from one language code (language or dialect) to another depending on the social context or conversational environment. Many scholars have attempted to define code switching among them are Atoye(1994), Hymes (1974), Richard

(2005) and many others.

According to Hymes (1974:103) defines code-switching as a term for alternate use of two or more languages or varieties of language or even speech styles.

According to Myers-Scotton (1993:47) code switching refers to the “use of two or more languages in the same conversation, usually within the same conversational turn or even within the same sentence of that turn.” Code switching is the shifting by a speaker from language A to language B.

Romaine (1992:110) state that “Code-switching is the use of more than one language, variety, or style by a speaker within an utterance or discourse, or between different interlocutors or situations”

A code switch or language change occurs when a speaker switches between two or more languages or language types in the context of a single conversation or situation. It is the process of changing from one language code (one language or one dialect) to another language code depending on the social context and context of the conversation.

Richard (2005) also affirm that in linguistics, “code-switching

occurs when a speaker alternates between two or more languages, or language varieties, in the context of a single conversation”

Code switching does not indicate a lack of language skills, a grammatical mixture of two languages. Instead, it is a phenomenon in which users express different meanings. Through code switching, which occurs most frequently in conversation, language selection alerts participants to the contextual and social aspects of interaction in which the conversation is taking place. In this research study, the phenomenon of code-switching will be studied in terms of conversational analysis and viewed as interactive exchanges between members of a bilingual language community.

### **2.1.3 CODE MIXING**

The term code-mixing is very often used interchangeably with code-switching, which essentially means intra-sentence code-switching. However, recent research has given the term a new meaning Maschler (1998:125) defines code mixing or a mixed code as “using two languages such that a third new code emerges in which elements from the two languages are incorporated into a structurally definable pattern”. In other

words, the Code Mixing hypothesis states that a code exists if two code exchange languages represent occurrences of a third code.

Meyerhoff (2006:115-116) argues that code mixing “generally refers to alternations between varieties or codes within a clause or phrase. Often elicits more strongly negative evaluation than alternation or code switching across clauses”. According to Meyerhoff, a speaker who speaks one or more languages or multiple languages, each language is generally very sensitive to language differences, the vitality of the language they use, and they are equally aware of it that in some situations, a particular variety may be better suited to their needs. While Hudson (1996:53) defined it as “a case where a fluent bilingual talking to another fluent bilingual changes language without any change at all in the situation. He also said, to get the right effect the speakers balance the two languages against each other as a kind of linguistic cocktail.”

However, Wardhaugh (2012: 103), states that code mixing occurs when a conversant use both languages together to the extent that they change from one language to the other in the course of a single utterance. This means that the interlocutor modifies only some elements of the

utterance. Code mixing is done without changing the subject and can include different language levels. E.g. Morphology and Lexical Items.

Also, Sumarsih et al. (2014,pp.1-2) states that

“Code-mixing is incorporation language in accordance with the rules by which to be heard and understood by the users of these languages and this occurs because speakers of other plan speak with a language that is not his native language so that mixing occurs naturally”.

Mixed linguistic diversity is a pervasive phenomenon in human language behavior today and it is common to acquire some knowledge and skills in a second language and become bilingual. Thus the purpose of this research was to study the code switching and code mixing of bilinguals in a multilingual society.

#### **2.1.4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THE MBE LANGUAGE**

English language, West Germanic language of the Indo-European language family that is closely related to the Frisian, German, and Dutch (called Flemish in Belgium) languages. Originating in Britain, English is the dominant language in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and several island nations in the

Caribbean and Pacific. It is also the official language of many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including India, the Philippines, Singapore, and South Africa. English is the language of choice in most other countries around the world and this status has earned it global lingua franca status. It is estimated that about 2 billion people, about one-third of the world's population, now speak English.

English is not the only language used for international communication, but it is the most commonly used. Although not universal, it is the primary language used in international trade, shipping, popular music, and sports. It is the language most commonly used at international conferences, the United Nations, and meetings of other international organizations dealing with issues such as diplomacy, science, trade, aviation, tourism, and military affairs.

Like most native speakers in Nigeria, the Mbe language speakers also speak the English language since it is the official language of the country used for general communications and trade alongside the pidgin English Creole. The Mbe language has a rich phonetic and a sizeable number of speakers who teach the next generation the language.

Although in the recent years, the number of speakers of the Mbe language has reduced like many other Nigerian native languages. We have seen a peaceful coexistence between both languages and this is also evident in the code switching and code mixing method often employed by speakers of both language.

### **2.3 PREVIOUS STUDIES**

Here in this section, previous related studies carried out on this research subject will be essentially reviewed. In other words, scholarly works that have been done related to this research topic and relevance to current studies will be explicitly highlighted. However, the focus or purpose of this review is not to refute or justify be claims and argument made by scholars and my fellow researchers on the research topic but to establish the relevance of their work to the present research.

A study of code switching and code mixing in Indonesia (2014) by Sumarsih et.al, Sriwijaya State Polytechnic, Palembang Indonesia.

They used qualitative research techniques to analyze the mix of codes occurring in Medan City, Siantar City, and Mandarin Natal Regency. The code mixing revealed by their analysis was fair. Word,

phrase and sentence level. The specific results of their study, conducted in North Sumatra, were at the word level, reaching the highest level at 57.3% of the total data, followed by the phrase level, then the sentence level which reached 40.4% and 17.3% respectively. Additionally, the study concluded that the reason people use code switching and code mixing is due to people's ignorance.

A Pragmatics Analysis of a Teacher's Code-switching in a Bilingual Classroom (2009) by Yunisrina Qismullah Yusuf. Syiah Kuala University.

Research data from university lectures includes examples of code switches from Malay to English. The surveyed classroom consisted of 114 of her students from various ethnic groups. There were 70 Malay students, 43 Chinese students, and 1 Indian student. All students were of Malaysian nationality and all spoke multiple languages.

This data demonstrates that code switching is used to perform a variety of practical language functions in a classroom setting. Most commonly, code switching took the form of loanwords inserted into the language for emphasis, language economy, and as a replacement for lack

of L1 equivalents. Less commonly, code switching is driven by the need to achieve emphasis and gain attention and efficiency from students, fulfilled by the practical function of communicating proper nouns, hesitation, citations, and unconscious markers. It was done. Other cases of code exchange demonstrate addressing, booing, message modification, numbers, brackets, repetition, and the ability to personalize and objectify. The results also showed that the most common reasons instructors switched codes were for accuracy, especially to illustrate common concepts used in the field of industrial ergonomics, and to facilitate presentation. Indicates that Technical concepts were better discussed in English, the language of learning.

## **2.4 CONCERN OF PRESENT STUDY**

This study is mainly concerned with the following; Examining the sociolinguistics implications of code mixing and code switching in the Mbe-speaking community, including how language choice influences social relationships, power dynamics, and cultural practices. This could involve investigating how language use shapes perceptions of identity, belonging, and authenticity among Mbe speakers. Exploring the impact

of language contact and variation on the linguistic features of Mbe and English in code-mixed and code-switched utterances. This could involve analyzing phonological, morphological, and syntactic changes that occur when the two languages interact in speech. Considering the implications of code mixing and code switching on language policy and planning efforts in the Mbe-speaking community. This could involve discussing the role of language maintenance, revitalization, or standardization initiatives in preserving the vitality of Mbe while acknowledging the influence of English as a global language. By addressing these concerns in the study on code mixing and code switching between the Mbe language and English, there will be a comprehensive analysis of multilingual interactions within the Mbe-speaking community.

## **CHAPTER THREE: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains the theoretical framework which will be used in the course of this study.

### **3.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

In this research, the theoretical framework that will be applied is Conversation Analysis. In sociolinguistics, conversational analysis (also called talk-in-interaction and ethnomethodology) is the study of speech that occurs during the course of normal human interaction. Sociologist Harvey Sachs from the University of California (1935-1975) is commonly credited with founding the discipline, he designed it as a means of understanding the level of social order revealed in everyday conversation. In his opinion, conversation is a structurally organized phenomenon with a specific order. After his death, his work in this area was continued by Emmanuel Shegloff, Gail Jefferson, and others. Conversation analysis (CA) is an approach to study social interactions involving both verbal and nonverbal behavior in real-life situations. CA originated as a sociological method, but has since spread to other fields.

CA initially focused on casual conversation, but later the method became more task-oriented and institutional, such as those found in clinics, courts, law enforcement, emergency services, educational institutions, and mass media. Adapted to include center interactions. Focus on non-verbal activities in interaction, such as eye gaze, body movements, and gestures. As a result, the term conversation analysis has become something of a misnomer, but it remains a term that describes a unique and successful approach to analyzing interactions.

It is a survey or a particular form of investigation. Conversation is when two or more people meet for the sake of conversation. It is a form of sociability and reflects the ability and willingness to interact with others. At a basic level, conversation analysis is considered the study of conversations. In a broader sense, speech analysis can refer to the study of people speaking to each other, verbal communication, and even language use.

The goal of conversation analysis is to determine how participants in a natural conversation would understand and respond to each other when it was their turn to speak. The focus is on how these sequences of

behavior are generated. Focus on how the language is used rather than examining the structure of the language used in social interaction, its analysis consists in identifying the links that exist between the particularities found in the details of human behavior and the generalities derived from shared organizational problems and resources.

There are two types of conversation analysis research currently being conducted. In the first type, the interacting agency is considered an independent entity. In the second type, research focuses on examining how social institutions are managed in interactions.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

### **4.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains the presentation and analysis of data collected through the course of this study. It also gives a detailed summary of the entire work

### **4.1 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

Here, data will be presented and there will be a thorough analysis of data.

### **CODE SWITCHING**

#### **DATUM 1**

A conversation between two students talking about a class they attended

Participant A: Elak! That test was not necessary oh.

Participant B: Ncheenu Ochuwe, le me nkieel aye Nnye! (: I swear guy, I did not see it coming)

Participant A: Ectecha eyeh ayah ee bobow utem. (This lecturer did not try.)

Bi cree begwal bipwal abie be ge ruom. (Question 2 was so hard.)

Mi nbwuobo arey nriki luluwe ezamision ayah. ( I don't think I passed

this test.)

Participant B: Laye mee, nbwuobo Enyi,

Wuchi aami, Kay Mma litor, Mme lea belea kukuro, Kay mior ekana  
opia

(Me neither, my guy, I'm going home. Let me eat first so I will feel  
better.)

Participant A: eyelee nten nkpo, Lalo (See you later, goodbye)

Participant B: Lalo (goodbye)

Analysis; It can be observed from the data above that the participants spoke more in their native language when trying to convey an information that seems sensitive. For example ...*Mi nbwuobo arey nriki luluwe ezamision ayah*. (I don't think I passed this test). The participants felt more comfortable using English when saying words that were vague and would require context to understand. For example; *Laye mee* (Me neither).

## **DATUM 2**

A conversation between two women buying things to in the market...

Woman 1: The prices of things in this market increase on a daily

basis..????

Woman 2: my dear sister I am also as confused as you?

Woman 1: Eyuo eyuo, oda awae elue, nkurr custard egarri omay bebam anara abibi wewel be sarr le ebor. Fenna, me nyuo che emi yeli bebam anara abibi wewel bicisarr le ebor, eruap kenini kae akwubo ayeli double!( I bought 1 custard rubber of Garri last week for for #3500 today I'm hearing it's #6500 almost times two of the former price)

Woman 2: mene ami, arre bi nyin bi makay, Ochuwe way ariki boriye le mpam Oye arr. (it's only God that will help us in this country with the way things are going)

Woman 1: Amen oooo! Mene ami, le ki Mmenkey beleer, Buan abami beriki wawa ashenu bichem le eschol (Amen oooo!! My dear let me go and cook my children would soon be back from school.)

Woman 2: Enyi eri mene ami, eyeli nten nkpo, Lalo (Alright dear...see you later ....bye....)

Woman 1: Lalo (bye)

## **ANALYSIS**

From the conversation between the two women above we can see

that even though they started conversing with English the frustrations caused by the hike in prices of goods made them switch to their native language so they could express themselves better.

### **DATUM 3**

A conversation between two men sitting under a tree in the evening

Man 1: The Premier League this season is very competitive compared to last season.

Man 2: You are right Mr Fidelis, Man City and Arsenal are at each others necks and don't want to allow any room for errors.

Man 1: Generally the league is very tough this season.

Man 2: Yes...yes, the battle for European places and the relegation battle would all go down to the final day of the season.

Man 1: Enhe , keoguelo ehm Mr Jude, wae obuobo lae lebong Kay ebaki egu eyea ayeh Manchester United. Leh nyenu me mbi aretor binyin bi makae mang, tae emaki wushoe wushoe, tae eshenu bichem bichem oh (But wait Mr Jude how about our club Manchester United.....I don't seem to understand what is going on at that club)

Man 2: kele mane ami mfikpa nbwuobo ebarki egu eyea ayanu. Lenyinu

nkpekpre obuobo wuchi wukpe kakpre oyamu (My brother thinking of what is happening at that club gives me headache every time.)

Man 1: Me eriguom guom kike lea alia le mamal, keke lea ali lefelefe ntefe ekpekper eyiam (I just want the season over so we can start again.)

Man 2: lae mechue Enyi nbwuobo chee laeba le lea ali lefelefe eriki ekpekpre eyiam and ekukulo eyiam chue. ( I just hope this time we can start well and maintain the same momentum all through the season.)

Man 1: Mene ami, wuchu wuriyor, ke nyubo nma lear belie wukuro (it's getting late my brother, let me go in for dinner.)

Man 2: Eriki enyiam, eh tani obiel oweh. Eriki chi kekel nten emkpo. (Alright my brother, my regards to the family see you some other time, goodbye.)

Man 1: Eyeli, oh eyeli chue. Tani obiel oweh okimi. (goodbye, my regards to the family.)

## **ANALYSIS**

Taking a close look at the conversation above, we can see that they intriguing nature of the English Premier League made them speak in English for sometime but when they got to a particular club which they

supported they had to switch to Mbe language so they could express their frustrations and disappointments with how the club has been playing, hoping that next season would be better.

#### **DATUM 4**

A conversation between two teachers in discussing the performances of their students in an English test

Teacher 1: Hello, how did your students do on the English test? (In English)

Teacher 2: Hi, they did quite well overall. Most of them seem to have understood their textbooks.

Teacher 1: Eriri enyiam ooh kike nyuo nyin ayanyi. Buan abue abe chea le efelefele bae pie pia eyuam bae pie lebong lae abanu? (That's great to hear. How did your top students perform?)

Teacher 2: Bae pie pia eyua yuam eyuam ooh. Wabom puat bae yuyuor aguap elulue betep benyen le bae befur. (They performed exceptionally well. Most of them scored above 90%.)

Teacher 1: Impressive! What about the students who usually struggle with English?

Teacher 2: They struggled a bit, but there was some improvement compared to previous tests. I think with more practice, they'll do better next time.

Teacher 1: That's good. It's important to see progress, no matter how small. Overall, it sounds like your class did a good job.

Teacher 2: Lae amang wushuwushu lenyinunyinu eriri enyiam. Eriki mang wushuwushu ntorkabo kike lijie kebeyebo benwerr ababo okwo. (Progress is always important, I'll keep encouraging them to study more.)

Teacher 1: Opompom ochichi. Laebanunu kike enmang, lae nyinu nri lae egu abuakwen ayikpo kike nmang tabo ntenyi. Eyeli oh, eyeli chue Lalo. (You're right, I have to run now I have another class, see you later, bye.)

Teacher 2: Lalo. (Bye)

## **ANALYSIS**

For the conversation above we see two teachers talking about the performances of their students in a test administered by them, we see they started in English and after sometime they switched to the Mbe language and then back and forth between the two languages.

## **CODE MIXING**

### **DATUM 1**

Here is a code-mixing conversation in Mbe and English between two people:

Person 1: Nde, how far na?

Person 2: Owo, how your body? My body dey okay.

Person 1: You sabi say hari ni(today) na market day? I wan go buy some things.

Person 2: Yes o, I know. I dey go market too. What you wan buy?

Person 1: I wan buy rice, beans, garri and some vegetables.

Person 2: Ah, same here! I need those things too. Let's go together.

Person 1: Okay, let's go. I dey find you since. Where you dey stay?

Person 2: I dey stay around Ekumtak town hall. You know the place?

Person 1: Yes, I know am. I go come pick you up. What time good for you?

Person 2: Anytime from 10am is fine by me. I'll be ready.

Person 1: Alright, I go come around 10:30am then. See you soon, Nkem.

Lalo.

Person 2: Okay, I'll be waiting. Lalo

### **ANALYSIS**

- The conversation starts with greetings in Mbe and Nigerian Pidgin English
- They discuss plans to go to the market and what they want to buy
- They agree to go together and Person 1 asks where Person 2 stays
- They arrange a pickup time and place
- They end with a farewell in Mbe Language

This back-and-forth dialogue demonstrates how Mbe and English can be seamlessly mixed to have a natural conversation between two people. The code-mixing allows them to communicate more expressively and efficiently.

### **DATUM 2**

A: Koh, eneh? How are you today?

B: Mee eneh okun, I'm fine, thank you. How about you?

A: "Mma okun, I'm good too. Ke ene, see you later! Lalo.

### **ANALYSIS**

In this conversation, the speakers switch between Mbe and English to

greet each other and exchange pleasantries. The use of Mbe phrases like “Koo, ene?” and “Mma okun” shows cultural familiarity and respect, while the English phrases “How are you today?” and “How about you?” facilitate clearer communication. The code mixing demonstrates the speakers’ ability to navigate multiple languages in everyday interactions.

### **DATUM 3**

A: Nteh okun Gideon, my name is Mbe, and you?

B: My name is John, Nteh okun John. Where are you from?

A: Mee from Ogoja, eneh okun. You know Ogoja?

### **ANALYSIS**

In this conversation, the speakers introduce themselves using both Mbe and English. The use of Mbe phrases like “Nte okun Mbe” and “Mi from Ogoja” reveals their cultural identity and geographical origin. The English phrases “My name is John” and “Where are you from?” facilitate clearer communication and show an attempt to build a connection. The code mixing demonstrates the speakers’ ability to navigate multiple languages and cultures.

#### **DATUM 4**

A: Koh okun, God bless your farm. How's the harvest?

B: Mee eneh okun, it was good. We got plenty of yams and cassava.

A: Ah, that's great! Mmah okun, thank you for sharing.

#### **ANALYSIS**

In this conversation, the speakers discuss farming and harvests, switching between Mbe and English. The use of Mbe phrases like “Koo okun” and “Mma okun” shows cultural familiarity and respect, while the English phrases “How's the harvest?” and “Thank you for sharing” facilitate clearer communication. The code mixing demonstrates the speakers' ability to navigate multiple languages and contexts, even in discussions about traditional practices like farming.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY**

### **5.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter talks about the summary and findings of this work.

### **5.1 SUMMARY**

Chapter one introduces the research project, which explores code switching and code mixing between the Mbe language and English in the sociolinguistic context of the Mbe-speaking community. The chapter provides background information on the importance of language in society, the phenomenon of code switching and code mixing, and the significance of this study.

The Mbe language is spoken by the Mbube people in Cross River State, Nigeria, and belongs to the Niger-Congo language family. The study aims to examine the patterns, motivations, and implications of code switching and code mixing among Mbe speakers, particularly in the University of Benin.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to the field of sociolinguistics, language preference, and bilingualism. The findings will be beneficial for bilingual individuals, English and Linguistics students,

researchers, and scholars interested in related topics.

Chapter Two provides a literature review of previous research on code switching and code mixing, discourse analysis, and the relationship between Pidgin and English. The chapter is divided into two sections: Conceptual Review and Previous Studies.

### **Conceptual Review:**

- Discourse analysis is a collective term for a set of qualitative research approaches for analyzing language use in social contexts.
- Code switching is the process of changing from one language code (language or dialect) to another depending on the social context or conversational environment.
- Code mixing is the use of two languages together to the extent that they change from one language to the other in the course of a single utterance.

### **Previous Studies:**

- A study on code switching and code mixing in Indonesia found that the reason people use code switching and code mixing is due to people's ignorance.
- A study on a teacher's code-switching in a bilingual classroom found

that code switching is used to perform a variety of practical language functions in a classroom setting.

**Concern of Present Study:**

- The study is concerned with examining the sociolinguistic implications of code mixing and code switching in the Mbe-speaking community.
- Exploring the impact of language contact and variation on the linguistic features of Mbe and English in code-mixed and code-switched utterances.
- Considering the implications of code mixing and code switching on language policy and planning efforts in the Mbe-speaking community.

Overall, this chapter provides a comprehensive review of the literature on code switching, code mixing, and discourse analysis, and sets the stage for the present study on the sociolinguistic implications of code mixing and code switching in the Mbe-speaking community.

Chapter Three outlines the theoretical framework used in the study, which is Conversation Analysis (CA). CA is a sociolinguistic approach that examines speech and interaction in everyday conversations, focusing on the structural organization and social order revealed in verbal and

non-verbal behavior. Developed by Harvey Sachs and continued by Emmanuel Schegloff, Gail Jefferson, and others, CA has expanded from casual conversations to include institutional and task-oriented interactions.

**Key aspects of Conversation Analysis:**

- Study of social interactions involving verbal and non-verbal behavior
- Focus on real-life situations and everyday conversations
- Examines how participants understand and respond to each other
- Analyzes language use and communication sequences
- Identifies links between behavioral details and shared organizational problems and resources

**Two types of CA research:**

1. Interacting agency as an independent entity
2. Examining social institutions management in interactions

By applying Conversation Analysis, this study aims to investigate the discourse analysis of code switching and code mixing in a natural setting among Mbe speakers.

Chapter Four presents the data collected and analyzed for this study. The

data consists of conversations between speakers of Mbe, showcasing code switching and code mixing between Mbe and English. The conversations are labeled as Datum 1, 2, 3, and 4 for both code switching and code mixing.

### **Code Switching Data:**

- Datum 1: Students discussing a test, switching from English to Mbe when expressing frustration.
- Datum 2: Women discussing market prices, starting in English but switching to Mbe when expressing frustration.
- Datum 3: Men discussing the English Premier League, switching from English to Mbe when discussing their favorite club.
- Datum 4: Teachers discussing students' performance, switching between English and Mbe.

### **Code Mixing Data:**

- Datum 1: A conversation between two people planning to go to the market, mixing Mbe and English.
- Datum 2: A greeting exchange between two people, switching between Mbe and English.

- Datum 3: An introduction conversation between two people, using both Mbe and English.

- Datum 4: A conversation about farming and harvests, mixing Mbe and English.

### **Analysis:**

The data demonstrates how speakers of Mbe switch between languages or mix them to communicate effectively, depending on the context and topic. Code switching and code mixing allow speakers to express themselves more efficiently and convey cultural identity and respect. The study shows that Mbe speakers navigate multiple languages in everyday interactions, showcasing linguistic flexibility and adaptability.

## **5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the data analysis and discovery from the entire work, some recommendations and findings can be highlighted:

### **Recommendations:**

1. Further research on Mbe language and culture to deepen understanding and documentation.
2. Development of language resources, such as dictionaries and

textbooks, to support language preservation and education.

3. Encouragement of code switching and code mixing as a natural part of linguistic diversity and cultural identity.

4. Investigation of language attitudes and policies to promote linguistic inclusivity and diversity.

**Findings:**

1. Code switching and code mixing are common and functional in Mbe language use.

2. Speakers use language switching to convey cultural identity, respect, and context-specific meanings.

3. Mbe language is an integral part of the community's cultural heritage and daily life.

4. Linguistic flexibility and adaptability are hallmarks of Mbe speakers' communication styles.

**Advice to others working on the Mbe language in the future:**

1. Engage with the community and respect their linguistic and cultural practices.

2. Adopt an inclusive and collaborative research approach to ensure

authentic representation.

3. Be aware of language attitudes and policies that may impact language use and preservation.

4. Embrace the complexity and diversity of Mbe language and culture.

5. Consider the potential applications of research in language education, language planning, and cultural preservation.

6. Continuously seek feedback and input from the Mbe community to ensure responsible and ethical research practices.

By following these recommendations and findings, future researchers and linguists can contribute to the preservation and promotion of the Mbe language and culture, while also advancing our understanding of linguistic diversity and cultural identity.

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