Chapter 5

Language Choice & Code Switching
It’s All About...

‘Who speaks what language to whom and when...’

Fishman 1965
It’s not *what* you say, it’s *how*...

“Listeners are prepared to evaluate people on the basis of their language variety...”

*Lambert, et al., 1960*
Language Purity...?
Key Vocab

- Accommodation
- Convergence
- Divergence
- Domains
- Turn
- Bilingual
- Language Variety

“Gina is by lingual... that means she can say the same thing twice, but you can only understand it once.”
Accommodation Junction...

- Accommodation by stereotype
- Status & power
- Identity management
- ‘A’ for effort (accommodation) ...
- Sarcasm alert...
Force of Habit…?

- Language in bilingual communities
  - Setting
  - Topic
  - Addressees (*Interlocutors*)
  - Etc.
Multilingual Hierarchy *(typical)*

1. Native language *(mother tongue)*
2. Lingua franca
3. Alien ‘official language’

You Tell Me...

*What are the primary functions of each?*
Whaddya Think?

“...far from being anomolous, bilingual communities are salient instances of a universal phenomenon: the multiplicity and functional distinctiveness of language varieties in speech communities.”

Gal, 1979
**Immigrants’ Home**

- Grandparents
  - Monolingual – ‘home’ language
- Parents
  - Bilingual
  - But cf. ‘stay-at-home-Moms’
- Kids
  - ‘Host’ language dominant bilinguals
What do you think?

- If you want to learn to speak another language, especially an ‘exotic’ one, you may find it hard to practice on others. People in your target language may prefer to speak English... Why? How might you work around this issue?

Wardhaugh 2000: 99
How to Transcribe...

- yeo  hou  do  yeo  CONTACT
  have  very  many  have  contact
  *We have a lot of contacts*

- Top line = romanization of speech
- 2nd line = word for word translation
- 3rd line = idiomatic translation
“Contact”

- In the example above, is "contact" codeswitching or borrowing? Why?
For Tomorrow

- Read pages 164 – 183 (Chapter End)
- Section 5.4 - End
Codeswitching

- Definition?
  - Mixing two or more “codes” into a single conversation

- Can be used to:
  - Interpersonal relationships
    - Distance, boundaries, solidarity (W/T), power
  - Topic

- Awareness of....?

- Vs. Diglossia?
Key Point

- Codeswitching is “not just a haphazard mixing of two languages brought about by laziness or ignorance or some combination of these...”

- It *is* people “with a sophisticated knowledge of both languages who are also acutely aware of community norms.”

  *Wardhaugh 2000*
Less is More...?!?

- Bilingualism is like a Trojan horse...
  Attractive, but fatal... WDYT?

Wardhaugh 2000: 99
Soapbox points

- “If we can comfortably control a number of codes, then we would appear to have an advantage over those who lack such control.”

- “Codeswitching allows a speaker to meet someone else half-way, establish common ground, and show flexibility and openness.”
CS: Social Motivations \( (in\ interactions) \)

- Maintaining/negotiating identity
- Switches/Switching Overall = meaning
- Marked or Unmarked
  - Marked = initiate interactional change
Video Clip

American Chinese back in China

(Father is a computer engineer, lost his job... may move back home: Mother and Son speak little or no Chinese...)
Variation Revisited…

- Labov & Trudgil:
  - \( \leftarrow \) attention = \( \rightarrow \) vernacular
  - Single continuum Formal \( \leftrightarrow \) Informal

- CS Researchers:
  - Languages/language varieties
    - Different groups of people
    - Different value sets
    - Identity Management (inclusion // exclusion)
Bilingual Example

- Yuan (My wife)
  - Native Mandarin Chinese Speaker
  - Worked in Japanese business for 6 years
  - Living in US for >10 years
- What language would she use w/me:
  - Speaking about her family back home?
  - Discussing International business issues?
  - Talking about church friends?
- When might she deviate from the norm?
Whaddya Say ‘bout This?

“Males may drink in Guaraní but use more and more Spanish as they feel the influence of alcohol, for Spanish is the language of power”

Wardhaugh 2000 p. 98
Group Activity

- When do you codeswitch?
  - Come up with an example of codeswitching within your group (1-2 minute sketch).
  - Present for us... Let us analyze the interactions...
  - Remember codes switched may be:
    - Language  *(prototypical definition)*
    - Dialect  *(allows us all to participate)*
Pulling It Together

- Can codeswitching be used in a single speech community?
  - Yes: How?
  - No: Why not?
- Both Sapir and Whorf were long dead before codeswitching was noticed.
  - If they were alive today, what do you suppose they would say about it?
Up Next...

Chapter 9
Through page 297
(Finish section 9.3)