Week 7

Code-Switching

Definition of Code-Switching

- ***Code*** refers to the particular dialect or language one chooses to use on any given occasion.

- ***Code-switching*** describes any switch among languages or dialects in the course of a conversation, whether at the level of words, sentences, or blocks of speech. These switches are motivated by personal or social conditions of the communication (Baker & Jones, 1998).

- ***Styleshifting*** refers to how a speaker moves in and out of linguistic styles, between varieties of the same language (Alim and Smitherman, 2012).

New Zealand

The participants are in a meeting.

Example 8

[*The Māori is in italics.* THE TRANSLATION IS IN SMALL CAPITALS.]

Sarah: I think everyone's here except Mere.

John: She said she might be a bit late but actually I think that's her arriving now.

Sarah: You're right. *Kia ora Mere. Haere mai. Kei te pehea koe?*

               [HI MERE.   COME IN.   HOW ARE YOU?]

Mere: *Kia ora e hoa. Kei te pai.* Have you started yet?

             [HELLO MY FRIEND. I'M FINE]

Norway

Jan and Peter are neighbors. Bokmal is the

Official language whereas ranamal is the dialect.

Example 10

[BOKMÅL IS IN SMALL CAPITALS. Ranamål in lower case.]

Jan: Hello Petter. How is your wife now?

Petter: Oh she's much better thank you Jan. She's out of hospital and convalescing well.

Jan: That's good I'm pleased to hear it. DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HELP ME WITH THIS PESKY FORM? I AM HAVING A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFICULTY WITH IT.

Petter: OF COURSE. GIVE IT HERE . . .

What type of code-switching will happen in the following scenario?

Exercise 10

When people switch from one code to another for reasons which can be clearly identified, it is sometimes called *situational switching*. If we knew the relevant situational or social factors in advance in such cases, we could usually predict the switches. Which code would you predict the speaker will switch from and which code will they switch to in the following situations and why?

(a) A Hemnesberget resident chatting to a friend in the queue at the community administration office gets to the counter and speaks to the clerk.

(b) Three students from the Chinese province of Guangdong are sharing a flat together in London. They are discussing the ingredients of the stir-fry vegetable dish they are cooking. One of them starts to discuss the chemical composition of the different ingredients.

Proverbs and colloquial expressions

Example 12

[*The Mandarin Chinese is in italics.* THE TRANSLATION IS IN SMALL CAPITALS.]
A group of Chinese students from Beijing are discussing Chinese customs.

Li: People here get divorced too easily. Like exchanging faulty goods. In China it's not the same. *Jià goǔ súi goǔ, jià jī súi jī.* [IF YOU HAVE MARRIED A DOG, YOU FOLLOW A DOG, IF YOU'VE MARRIED A CHICKEN, YOU FOLLOW A CHICKEN.]

Code-Switching to show authority

In Oberwart, German i
families, Hungarian is

Example 15

[*The German is in italic*
In the town of Oberw
woodshed and knock
walked in and said in

'Szo! ide dzüni! jesz
[WELL COME HERE!
When they did not
'Kum her!'
[COME HERE!]

Map 2.2 Oberwart, Austria

In Samoa, English

Example 18

[THE WORDS ORI...

Alf is 55 and ove...

on a diet.

My doctor told m...

HARD. I'D KEEP T...

bed at night I'D GET DESPERATE. I COULDN'T GET TO SLEEP. So I'd get up and RAID THE
FRIDGE. THEN I'D FEEL GUILTY AND SICK AND WHEN I WOKE UP NEXT DAY I WOULD BE SO
DEPRESSED because I had to start the diet all over again. The doctor wasn't sympathetic.
She just shrugged and said 'well it's your funeral!'

Key and Peele - Styleshifting

http://www.cc.com/video-clips/qvrhhj/key-and-peele-phone-call

Alim and Smitherman (2012)

1. What kind of data were collected and analyzed?
2. What are examples showing that Obama is a "master code-mixer"?
3. Below are the some of the keywords in the book chapter. What do they mean?
   a. Signifying
   b. Copula absence
   c. Code-switching and styleshifting

"Nah we straight" - Ben's Chili Bowl

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30-IYueJivk

0:18

What are features of "Black Language" in this extract?

Instead of "no," he uses "nah"

"Straight" → commonly used to mean "okay," "fine", or "alright" among youth.

Nah we straight

The copula (i.e., 'be' verb) is missing.

Copula Absence (Bailey, 1987)
- Dropping "be" (i.e., is/am/are/was/were)

	____ Noun Phrase	___Locative	___ Adjective	___ Verb+ing	___ gonna
Example	He ___ a man	He ___ in a car	She ___ mad	He ____walking	She ___ gon tell him
Percentage of absence	12%	15%	27%	71%	100%

Noun Phrase< Location < Adjective < Verb-ing < gonna
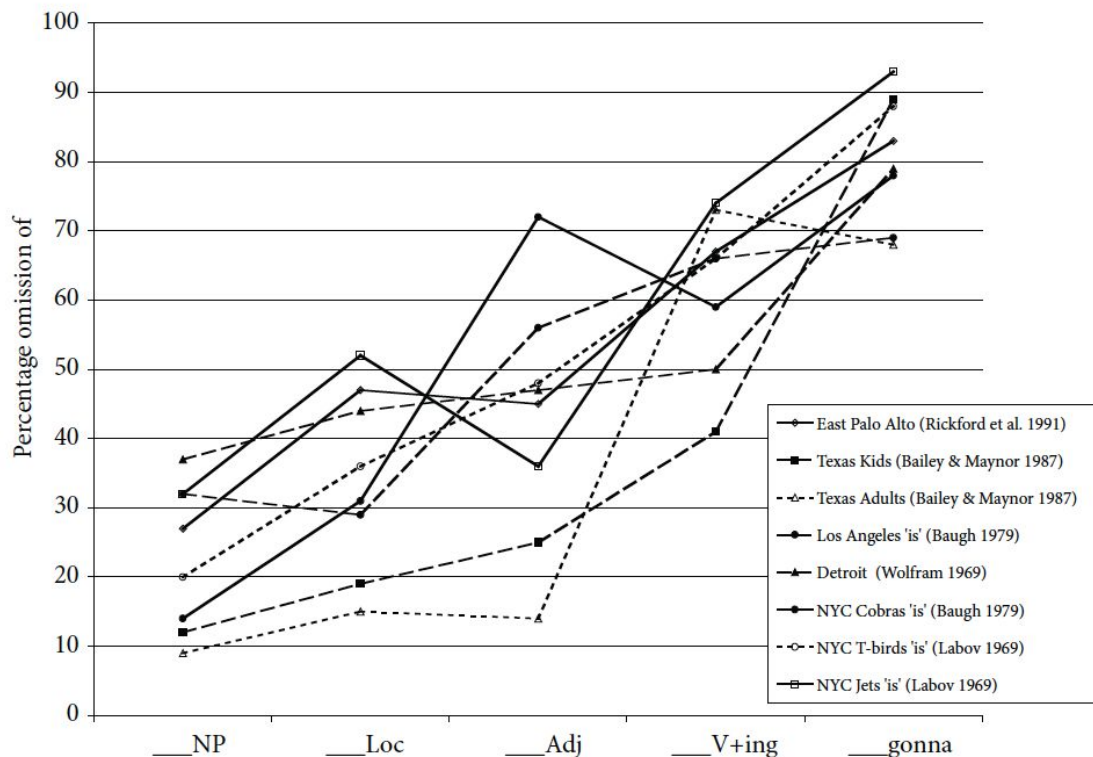
Sharma and Rickford (2009)

Figure 1. Copula Absence in Contemporary AAVE (based on Table 6.16 in Rickford 1998:190).

Signifying (and Talking Trash)
(Gates, 1988; Mitchell-Kernan, 1972)

- Wordplay; a double-voiced message
- A way of encoding messages or meanings which involves, in most cases, indirection.
- It is a folk notion that dictionary entries for words are not always sufficient for interpreting meanings or messages, or that meaning goes beyond such interpretations.
- Interlocutors need to look for **context** for meaning.
- What the youth culture called "Subbing"

P. Diddy interviewing Obama

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ne_87Kw35pE

7:00

What are examples of "signifying" and where does the switch of style begin?

Obama speaking in Sumter, South Carolina

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh69Zi2rV-U

1:30

Once again, how does Obama adopt his speaking style, and for what purpose?

Preacher-like Speech / Call and Response

"Like a coded verbal game of catch, Barack threw it out, the Black audience caught it, and then threw it back for him to catch. It wasn't that White audience members didn't approve of what was being said; it was that they were simply unable to play the game." (p. 20)

BARACK'S CALL: They're tryna bamboozle you. [Pause]

CROWD'S RESPONSE: [Black woman seen waving her sign like a fan, Black men shaking their heads in recognition; crowd laughter] Yes!

BARACK'S CALL: It's the same old okey-doke. [Pause]

CROWD'S RESPONSE: [Laughter, agreement] That's right!

BARACK'S CALL: [Looking out to audience with a half smile] Y'all know about okey-doke, right? [Pause]

CROWD'S RESPONSE: Yeahhh! Yes! [Laughter]

BARACK'S CALL: It's the same old stuff!

CROWD'S RESPONSE: Yeahhh!

BARACK'S CALL: Just like if anybody starts gettin one of these emails sayin, "Obama is a *Muzlim*." [Pause]

CROWD'S RESPONSE: Yes! They do it!

BARACK'S CALL: I've, I've been a member of the same church for almost twenty years. [Pause]

CROWD'S RESPONSE: C'mon now! Alright!

BARACK'S CALL: Prayin to Jesus!

CROWD'S RESPONSE: [Hits a climax with uproarious shouts and applause]

BARACK'S CALL: Wit mah—wit mah Bible [pronounced *Bahble*]. [Pause]

CROWD'S RESPONSE: Amen! [Continued applause]