

**CODE-SWITCHING OF BILINGUAL TWITTER USERS IN PRIVATE
SPEECH: A SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY**



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences of Hasanuddin University in
Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements to Obtain Bachelor's Degree
in English Department*

WRITTEN BY

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THESIS

CODE-SWITCHING OF BILINGUAL TWITTER USERS IN
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On 26 April 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Nurmawaddah (F041201040) entitled *Code-Switching of Bilingual Twitter Users in Private Speech: A Sociolinguistics Study* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

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APPROVAL FORM

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Makassar, 26 April 2024

Best Regards,

Nurmawaddah



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ABSTRACT

Nurmawaddah. *Code-Switching of Bilingual Twitter Users in Private Speech: A Sociolinguistics Study* (supervised by Kamsinah and Simon Sitoto)

This study aims to: (1) find out the various types of code-switching used by bilingual Twitter users and (2) to determine the function of code-switching in their private speech.

The descriptive qualitative study approach was used, using 34 data sources taken from the tweets of bilingual Twitter users who performed English-Indonesian code-switching in private speech. The writer collected the data by doing observation and documentation, giving questionnaires, and conducting interviews to get more detailed information. The writer began by categorizing the tweets data to identify the types of code-switching based on Poplack and Yassi's concepts and then sorting the questionnaire and interview data to reveal the specific functions of code-switching using the adapted theories from Appel & Muysken, Hoffmann, and Gumperz.

The findings of this research show that there are five types of code-switching found in the 34 data: tag switching, intra-sentential switching (intraclausal, intraphrasal, and intralexical switching), and inter-sentential switching. The most common type of code-switching is inter-sentential switching, which makes up to 35.5% of the data, showing that most of the users are quite fluent in both languages. The writer also discovered that bilingual Twitter users apply nine code-switching functions: referential, directive, expressive, phatic, repetition, quotation, interjection, clarification, and poetic functions. The referential, expressive, and poetic function are the most often functions applied by the users, implying that bilingual Twitter users utilize code-switching as a strategy to communicate their mind and expressing their feelings on private speech. However, according to the theories presented, some of the data cannot be classified into any of the function categories. The writer then categorized them as shortening words or sentences, improving English language skills, and indicating sociability.

Keywords: code-switching , bilingual twitter user , private speech



ABSTRAK

Nurmawaddah. *Alih Kode Pengguna Twitter Dwibahasa dalam Tuturan Pribadi: Sebuah Studi Sociolinguistik* (dibimbing oleh Kamsinah dan Simon Sitoto)

Studi ini bertujuan untuk: (1) mengidentifikasi berbagai jenis alih kode yang digunakan oleh pengguna Twitter dwibahasa dan (2) menentukan fungsi alih kode dalam ujaran pribadi mereka.

Pendekatan studi deskriptif kualitatif digunakan, dengan menggunakan 34 sumber data yang diambil dari cuitan pengguna Twitter dwibahasa yang melakukan alih kode antara bahasa Inggris-Indonesia dalam ujaran pribadi. Penulis mengumpulkan data dengan melakukan observasi dan dokumentasi, memberikan kuesioner, dan melakukan wawancara untuk mendapatkan informasi yang lebih rinci. Penulis memulai dengan mengategorikan data cuitan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis alih kode berdasarkan konsep Poplack dan Yassi, kemudian memilah data kuesioner dan wawancara untuk mengungkap fungsi spesifik alih kode menggunakan teori yang diadaptasi dari Appel & Muysken, Hoffmann, dan Gumperz.

Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada lima jenis alih kode yang ditemukan dalam 34 data: *tag switching*, *intra-sentential switching* (*intraclausal*, *intraphrasal*, dan *intralexical switching*), dan *inter-sentential switching*. Jenis alih kode yang paling umum adalah *inter-sentential switching*, yang mencapai 35.5% dari data, menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar pengguna cukup fasih dalam kedua bahasa. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa pengguna Twitter dwibahasa menerapkan sembilan fungsi alih kode: referensial, direktif, ekspresif, fatis, repetisi, kutipan, interjeksi, klarifikasi, dan fungsi puitis. Fungsi referensial, ekspresif, dan puitis adalah fungsi yang paling sering digunakan oleh pengguna, menunjukkan bahwa pengguna Twitter dwibahasa menggunakan alih kode sebagai strategi untuk menyampaikan pikiran dan mengekspresikan perasaan dalam ujaran pribadi mereka. Namun, menurut teori yang disajikan, beberapa data tidak dapat diklasifikasikan ke dalam kategori fungsi apapun. Penulis kemudian mengelompokkannya sebagai pemendekan kata atau kalimat, meningkatkan kemampuan berbahasa Inggris, dan menunjukkan sifat sosial.

Kata kunci: alih kode , pengguna twitter dwibahasa , ujaran pribadi



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The human ability to speak always develops over time as part of human social activities. A multicultural environment with many speakers of various languages causes people to have to master the language inevitably so that the communication process can go well. In linguistics, bilingualism and multilingualism have become topics that cannot be separated from sociolinguistic studies. Sociolinguistics has a role to study language and society in order to obtain a better understanding of the structure of language and the function of language in conversation.

Indonesian, English, and regional languages are the dominant languages used by Indonesian people, causing the emergence of bilinguals or trilinguals. A person can be called bilingual if he masters two languages. Bilinguals frequently switch languages within the same sentence. This type of behavior is commonly referred as code-switching. Code-switching takes several forms, including a tag in a specific language and a phrase or sentence between utterances. Code-switching is used as a strategy in communicating and can occur anywhere in a variety of situations, be it in formal or informal situations, and offline or online.

Over time, bilinguals continue to perform code-switching for certain reasons and purposes according to the code-switching function itself. Code-

is used as a method of communication to include or exclude others, to



display identity, to emphasize something, and for a variety of other purposes. Code-switching can occur not only in face-to-face communication but also in written form, such as letters or smartphone messaging. Smartphones have become a popular communication tool in the current era, and they come with lots of programs that make it easier for users to trade news and search for information on the internet.

There are various online media on smartphones that are used for socializing, which are commonly known as social media. Twitter is one of the social media platform that is widely used in Indonesia and has a lot of bilingual users. With its various features, Twitter allows users to make their account a place to express feelings like a journal diary, but the presence of followers on Twitter allows for private interaction between one user and another.

The usage of various types of code-switching in the context of social media, and also how users use code-switching strategies, is an interesting field of research because a greater amount of bilinguals are employing this strategy on the Twitter platform. Not only that, this is worth researching because of the reply and quote features, the private account feature, and the limited words in a tweet post which makes it different from other social media. The writer was inspired by this to investigate the types of code-switching and the functions of code-switching by bilingual Twitter users in their private conversations. As a result, the writer is interested in conducting research titled "CODE-SWITCHING OF BILINGUAL

R USERS IN PRIVATE SPEECH: A SOCIOLINGUISTICS STUDY".



B. Identification of The Problems

Based on the points above, the writer formulates the problem statements that may occur as follows:

1. Bilingual Twitter users found problems in using different types of code-switching based on their functions.
2. There are potentially new and specific functions for the use of code-switching by bilingual Twitter users in private speech.
3. Bilingual users may have difficulty communicating with other non-bilingual users, which may cause misunderstandings.
4. The emergence of new terms created by bilingual Twitter users that cannot yet be found in English or Indonesian dictionaries

C. Scope of the Problems

In this research, the writer focused on analyzing the types of code-switching and the functions of code-switching from Twitter users who are bilingual in English-Indonesian language in their private speech.

D. Research Questions

Based on the scope of problems, the writer formulated the research questions as follows.

1. What are the types of code-switching used by the bilingual Twitter users in private speech?
2. Why do the bilingual Twitter users use code-switching as a strategy of communication in private speech?



E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are summarized as follows:

1. To find out the types of code-switching used by the bilingual Twitter users in private speech.
2. To reveal the functions of code-switching used by the bilingual Twitter users as a strategy of communication in private speech

F. Significance of the Research

For the theoretical significance, this research is expected to enrich sociolinguistics theory regarding the function of code-switching as a strategy for communication, especially on social media Twitter.

As for practical significance, this research is expected to provide an understanding of the code-switching used by bilingual Twitter users and can utilize the correct use of code-switching according to its functions. Moreover, the research results will be useful for those interested in understanding the use of code-switching by bilinguals on social media Twitter and make it a reference for further research.



CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Study

Regarding code-switching as a communication strategy in social media platform, many studies that are relevant to this study have been carried out.

In relation to code-switching on social media Instagram, Aprilianti et al., (2022) did the study entitled “*English Education Students’ Use of Indonesian-English Code-switching on Instagram.*” This study discusses the different types, functions, and reasons for code-switching on Instagram by English Education Department students. They collected captions and comments on their Instagram accounts and used documentation, questionnaires, and interviews as resources. Based on analysis using the theory of Appel and Muysken (2006) and Malik (1994), the results obtained are that tag-switching is the most common type of code-switching used, and directive, poetic, and expressive functions are the most common functions. They also found that other functions and reasons for code-switching are to attract attention, show habitual expressions, greet different audiences, and show the speaker's mood.

The next related study was from Mohamad (2022), who carried out a study about “*Functions of Code-Switching in Youth WhatsApp Chats.*” Her article ethnic Malaysian youths. A qualitative methodology was used here, which included an online interview. She collects WhatsApp chats from a total of 24 its from various backgrounds, primarily Malay, Chinese, and Indian



ethnic groups, and analyzed the data using the theories of Hoffman (1991) and Appel and Muysken (2005). The results propose that the participants in her study predominantly do code-switching for emphatic function and interjections.

Another study is conducted by Banowati & Hendar (2022) with the title "*Code-switching in Twitter Jerome Polin: Sociolinguistics Study*." The purpose of their study is to specifically analyze the various types of code-switching found in the Twitter account of user Jerome Polin, as well as the functions of each type using the theory of Poplack (1995) and Zentella (1985). The writers carried out the study using a descriptive analysis method and took Jerome Polin's tweets as the data. From their study, it is revealed that three types of code-switching are adopted: inter-sentential 2 (40%), intra-sentential 2 (40%), and tag switching 1 (20%). Moreover, they found that the functions of code-switching are bilingual 5 (31%), jokes 1 (6%), building solidarity 3 (19%), emphasizing what is important 2 (12%), attracting attention 3 (19%), and trend words 2 (13%).

The topic of this study differs from other studies as it focuses on personal or private talks between bilingual English and Indonesian users on social media Twitter. In terms of theory, the writer used Appel & Muysken's (2006) theory, which was also used in the first and second studies above, to determine the function of code-switching, but then the writer combined and adapted it with Hoffman's (1992) and Gumperz's (1977) theories to get a detail categorization and deepen the analysis of each existing function based on the available data.



B. Theoretical Background

1. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics, as defined by Chambers (2002, p.3) in Wardhaugh & Fuller (2021, p.14), is the study of the social functions of language, and the most beneficial studies in over four decades of sociolinguistic research have resulted from establishing the social value of linguistic varieties. In sociolinguistic studies, language is viewed not only as a structure, but also as a social system, a communication system, and a component of a society's culture. Furthermore, sociolinguistics is the study of how we live every day –how we use language in our daily interactions and the media we face, as well as the presence of norms in society, regulations, and laws addressing language. Wardhaugh & Fuller (2014, p.1) stimulate people to think of sociolinguistics as an approach to observing the world around them, rather than as a collection of facts. In sociolinguistics, we attempt to analyze data in order generalizing language in society, but we also try to question both our findings and the research process itself.

2. Bilingualism and Multilingualism

The multicultural environment consists of multilingual speakers who can converse in more than one language. Wardhaugh (2006, p.113) refers to this phenomenon as bilingualism. People who can speak more than two languages are referred to as multilingual. According to Mackey (1968, p.555) as referenced in Yassi (2016, p.23), bilingual is an alternative term for speakers of two or more

s, including multilingualism.



The individuals become bilingual when they are proficient in one language and can produce full meaningful utterances in the other language (Romanie, 1995, p.11 in Rianda, 2017, p.9). Hoffmann (1991, p.3) stated that membership, education, and administration are the three reasons why people become bilingual. Added to that, Hoffmann provides an example of a membership reason in the use of French by European aristocracy to indicate elite membership. The use of English by people of Indonesia, Scandinavia, Germany, and Dutch in speaking about their technologies, academics, or business is an example of education and administration. Bilingualism is a normal essential for everyday interaction in many countries and communities, not a symptom of any specific cause.

According to a survey from Swiftkey, 27.5% of the world's human population is multilingual who are fluent in at least two languages or more, and Indonesia ranks first with 17.4% of the population who are trilingual (Wallace, 2015).

3. Code-Switching

Code-switching is the process of switching from one language to another while speaking. Gumperz (1982, p.59) defines code-switching in conversation as a "juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems or subsystems." Such employment is the logical result of a culture with multiple languages, such as Indonesia (Yassi, 2016,

a strategy of communication, code-switching is one of a number of



methods that speakers use to convey their intended meanings. This preference is the result of their interaction 'colored' by all kinds of motivations. According to Alfonzetti (1998, p.207 as cited in Yassi, 2016, p.5), code-switching is a communicative strategy that can be used for a variety of purposes.

In sociolinguistics, code-switching as an interpersonal approach in particular situations is referred to as a language context. Gumperz (1982, p.13) underlines the notion that social and cultural variables influence cognition and language. Slembrouk as cited in Alba-Juez (2009, p.65) goes into much detail on the definition of context that the information is not simply supplied as such in interaction, but it is made available in the course of interaction. Then the interpretation is dependent on inferential procedures by conventions that communicators may or may not convey.

4. Types of Code-Switching

Poplack (1980, in Yassi, 2016, p.35) categorized code-switching into three: tag-switching, intra-sentential, and inter-sentential.

a. Tag switching

Tag-switching means placing a tag in one language, such as *you know*, *I mean*, and *so on*, as instances in English. Given that tags are subject to minimal syntactic restriction, they can be easily added at a variety of positions in a monolingual utterance without breaking any syntactic rules (Romaine, 1991, p.112).



A study on Tagalog-English code-switching by Bautista (1980), “*THE PROCEEDING WENT SMOOTHLY, ba (Tagalog tag)? ‘The proceedings went smoothly, didn’t they?’*”

b. Intra-sentential switching

The switch within a clause or sentence boundary is referred to as intra-sentential. According to Romaine (1991, in Yassi, 2016, p.36), intra-sentential switching poses the greatest syntactic risk and ought to be avoided by all unless the most skilled bilinguals.

An example from Tok Pisin-English, “*WHAT’S SO FUNNY? COME, BE GOOD. OTHERWISE, yu bai go long kot. ‘What’s so funny? Come, be good, otherwise, you’ll go to court.’*”

Yassi (2016) in Sahib et al. (2021, p.7) stated that based on the sentence boundary, intrasentential code-switching is further classified into three types: clauses, phrases, and lexis.

1) Intraclausal switching

Intraclausal switching is a switch that happens within a clause boundary.

“Menurut pembicara, banyaknya PLANNING RESEARCH, kurangnya MARKETING ECONOMIC RESEARCH dan lain sebagainya tidak terlepas dari aspek INTEREST (S025/sp1).”

2) Intraphrasal switching

Intraphrasal switching is a switch that occurs within a phrase boundary.

Bagaimana kita bisa menDEVELOP suatu PRODUCT (S011/sp2).



3) Intralexical switching

Intralexical switching is a switch that arises within a word boundary.

*“Untuk kursus ini, Pak S sebagai COURSE COORDINATORnya
(A002/sp2).”*

c. Inter-sentential switching

This switching occurs at a clause or sentence boundary, where each clause or sentence is in a different language, or at the first form of code-switching discussed above. Inter-sentential switching requires more fluency in both languages than tag-switching because large parts of the speech must correspond to what is needed in both languages.

An example of Puerto Rican bilingual Spanish/English speech by Poplack (1980), *“SOMETIME I’LL START A SENTENCE IN ENGLISH y termino in espanol. ‘Sometime I’ll start a sentence in English and finish it in Spanish’.”*

5. Functions of Code-Switching

Appel and Muysken (2006, as cited in Rusli et al., 2018, p.188) listed six main functions of code-switching: referential, directive, expressive, phatic, metalinguistic, and poetic:

a. Referential function

When there is a lack of language understanding, this function is applied. A language is chosen for its suitability to be employed for a particular problem, most



frequently when what is being discussed is not available in the user's mother tongue.

b. Directive function

Speakers use directive function as a communication method to build or remain solidarity. This function can also be used to include or eliminate people from a conversation.

c. Expressive function

Speakers employ more than one language for this function to empower their identity or communicate their feelings toward others. By employing a foreign language, any possibly inappropriate terms in the native tongue can be omitted.

d. Phatic function

This function is used to show a change in tone and to emphasize certain points in a conversation.

e. Metalinguistic function

Metalinguistic function includes quotations, phrases and metaphors. People frequently quote words, sentences, and expressions that they admire from well-known people. Occasionally, people quote from various languages, such as English wise words. They utilize it to express and highlight things in order to appear more professional.



f. Poetic function

Poetic function arises when words, funny phrases, or jokes are employed for enjoyment in multiple languages. When words in different languages rhyme with each other and generate a harmony sound, code-switching is said to operate as a poetic device.

Gumperz (1977) in Yassi (2016, p.68) identified six types of social meanings of code-switching in collaboration with Blom (1970) and Hernandez (1971).

a. To distinguish between direct quotation and reported speech

People code switch to directly or indirectly quote themselves and others, or simply communicate a slogan or maxim.

b. To specify addressee

The purpose of code-switching is to direct the message to a certain person.

c. To repeat a message

Occasionally, a message is replicated in the other code, either literally or slightly modified. Repetition can be used to explain what is being stated, to highlight or emphasize a message, or to identify a joke.

d. To mark an interjection

In some circumstances, code-switching is used to indicate an interjection or a sentence filler. The changeover to indicate an interjection might be from '*we*' to '*they*' or vice versa.



e. To qualify messages

Another big group of code-switching is made up of qualifying structures such as sentences, clauses, and phrases that are verb and noun complements.

f. To mark personalization and objectivization

Code-switching is used to indicate a speaker's involvement in, or distance from, a message or an addressee; whether something said reflects a personal opinion, feeling, or knowledge; if it refers to specific occurrences, or whether it has the status of a common reality.

Meanwhile, Hoffmann (1992, p.116) as cited in Rahmaniah (2016, p.12) argued there are seven functions of code-switching that motivate bilingual people to change their language: quoting, expressing solidarity or group identity, expressing empathy, interjections, repetition, clarification, and talking about a particular topic.

a. Quoting

Participants employ code-switching to quote a famous saying, proverb, or statement of a famous person.

b. Expressing solidarity or group identity

A person who speaks in a language other than his native language intends to be more serious or committed to something. As a result, the individual either takes to or has to move from the second language to the native language, or that person can switch from their native language to the second language.



c. Expressing empathy

When expressing empathy for something, people frequently change the words they use. In certain circumstances, adopting another language, such as English, is more convenient than using their primary language, such as Indonesian, to express empathy. Furthermore, suitable language usage can strengthen the meaning the individual intends to say.

d. Interjections

Interjections are phrases or statements used to show surprise, intense emotions, or to draw attention. It takes the form of a quick exclamation, such as *Hey! Well! Look...etc.* They are used more in speaking than in writing.

e. Repetition

If the bilingual individual wishes to add additional clarity and certainty to his or her speech, he or she will transition between codes and varieties.

f. Clarification

There will be a lot of code-switching when one bilingual or multilingual person talks to another bilingual or multilingual person. The purpose is to make the speech flow smoothly and understandable to the audience. A message in one code is slightly modified and repeated in the other code.

g. Talking about a particular topic

In certain cases, participants choose to use other codes rather than their original ones. These codes are used to represent many things such as emotions, insults, and so on.

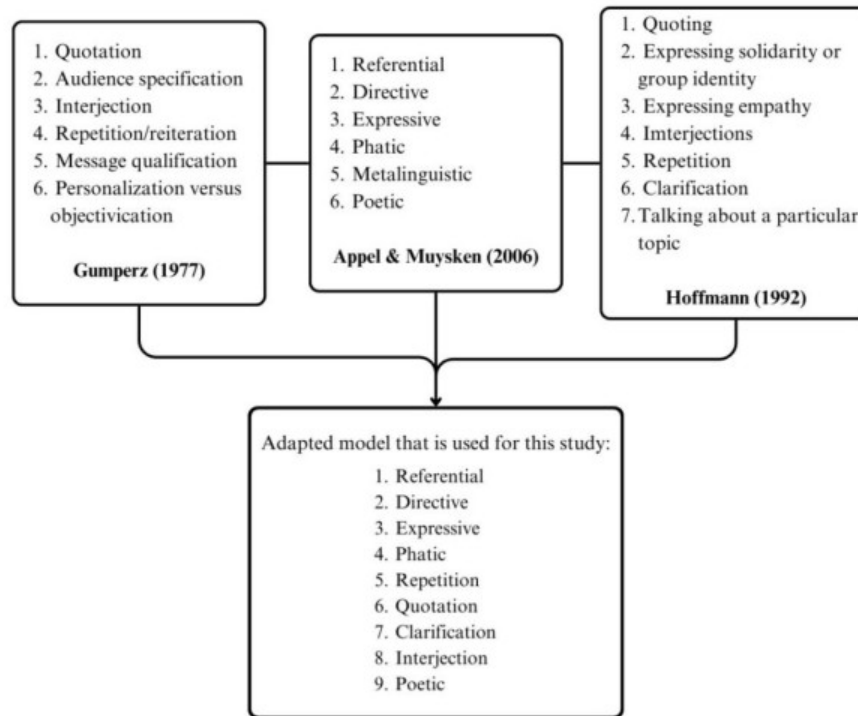


In this study, the writer adopt Appel & Muysken's theory (2006) considering the similarities in several points from Hoffmann's (1992) and Gumperz's (1977), then adapt it to a more written research object, that is Twitter user tweets.

- 1) The referential function and expressive function contained in Appel & Muysken's theory are the same as Hoffmann's theory in talking about a particular topic.
- 2) The directive function of Appel & Muysken is the same as the function of expressing solidarity or group identity by Hoffmann, and to specify addressee function by Gumperz .
- 3) The quoting function in Hoffmann's theory and quotation in Gumperz's theory has been covered as a part of the metalinguistic function in Appel & Muysken's theory.
- 4) The expressive function in Appel & Muysken's theory is the same as the expressing empathy function in Hoffmann's theory.
- 5) The phatic function which can be identified through the tone of speech in verbal communication, will be classified into the use of the writing method which is written in uppercase (caps lock) or lowercase.
- 6) The poetic function in Appel & Muysken is identified in verbal communication includes the use of jokes or funny words, and is similar to personalization and objectivization by Gumperz. In this study, the poetic function also includes the use of emoticons in user tweets.



Figure 1. Adapted Theory for Functions of Code-Switching

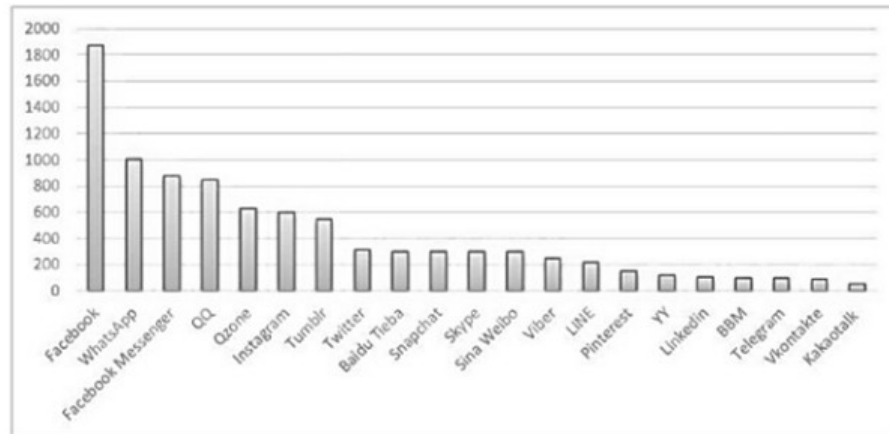


6. About Twitter

According to Ahmed (2015, p.2), the popularity of using Twitter for social media research remains high in both educational institutions and industry; no other platform has attracted as much attention from academics. However, in terms of monthly active users, Twitter is rated seventh (see Figure 2). The top two are Facebook and WhatsApp. Yet, many of the sites with the most monthly active users do not make their data as widely available as Twitter does.



Figure 2. Monthly Active Users in Every Platform



It may be claimed that no other social media platform has the infrastructure that Twitter offers. Twitter is unique in that it has an infrastructure that allows any user to follow another user, and it gives practically all of its data via APIs. Twitter is projected to stay popular for social media and industrial research due to its enormous number of monthly active users.

Twitter user account can be classified into several types according to their use, namely personal accounts, business accounts, cyber accounts, fan accounts, and rant accounts.

a. Personal account (PA)

Personal account (PA) is a type of account with a personal identity that corresponds to the user's reality. Therefore, PA account owners generally post tweets related to their personal lives.



b. Business account (BA)

Business account (BA) is a type of account that uses the Twitter network to conduct business, either through promotions or through buying and selling activities.

c. Cyber account (CA)

Cyber account (CA) is a more arbitrary sort of account that can employ a personal identity, such as a PA, or an anonymous identity. Posts made by CAs are often the same as those made by PAs, hence Twitter users frequently declare themselves as CA/PA users.

d. Fan account (FA)

Fan account (FA) is an account that created by Twitter users to engage in fangirling/fanboying activities. Fans who are male are referred to as fanboys, while female fans are referred to as fangirls. This term is commonly used as a pronoun for fans of South Korean boy or girl groups, although it also applies to members of other fandoms. Fandom is defined as "a group of fans or big fans for artists, sports clubs, singers, films, and so on" in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI).

e. Rant account (Rant)

Rant account (Rant) is a sort of account that allows Twitter users to communicate whatever is on their minds. It typically comprises rants and is more expressive about its contents than PA.



Users of the various sorts of Twitter accounts mentioned above can choose to secure (lock) their accounts. Other people who are not followers cannot see posts from a locked Twitter account. A rant account is a type of account that is usually locked by account users so that their tweet posts are not seen by the public due to its more private aspect. Some users utilize the code PA/BA/CA/FA/Rant in the bio section of their Twitter profile to indicate their account type. This is intended to notify other users about the contents of their accounts and filter out those who are permitted to follow them

C. Conceptual Framework

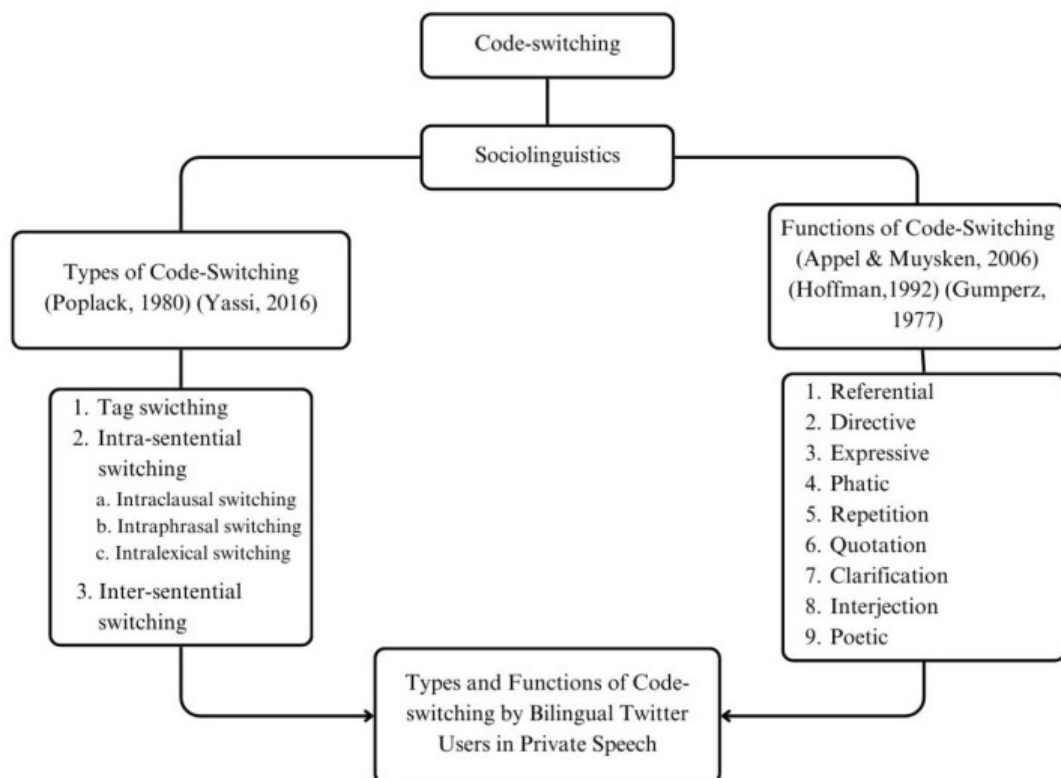


Figure 3. Conceptual Framework

