



## Code Switching in the *Things Left Behind* Novel

By Kim Sae Byoul and Jeon Ae Won

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### Abstract

This study explores the occurrence of code switching in the novel *Things Left Behind*. The research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach, utilizing Charlotte Hoffmann's theory. The data source comprises the text of "Things Left Behind," allowing for a comprehensive examination of language usage within the narrative. The study identifies three types of code switching present in the novel, namely inter-sentential switching, intra-sentential switching, and tag switching. Through careful analysis, it is revealed that code switching is purpose-driven and reflects the characters' social identities, emotions, and interpersonal relationships. The research findings highlight the significance of code switching as a means of effective communication, emphasizing its role in conveying emotions, establishing solidarity, and clarifying speech content. The research methodology employed observation as a data collection method, and the data analysis involved classifying the instances of code switching based on Hoffmann's theory. The results demonstrate that code switching is deliberately used by the characters to navigate diverse social contexts and to adapt their language use based on their communication partners. The characters' linguistic behaviors offer valuable insights into the sociolinguistic dynamics within the novel, enriching the storytelling and enhancing the portrayal of human emotions and connections.

**Keywords:** *code switching, novel, sociolinguistic phenomenon*

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi kemunculan alih kode dalam novel *Things Left Behind* dengan mengadopsi pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Teori Charlotte Hoffmann diaplikasikan untuk menganalisis jenis dan fungsi alih kode yang memungkinkan pemeriksaan komprehensif tentang penggunaan bahasa dalam narasi. Penelitian mengidentifikasi tiga jenis alih kode yang ada dalam novel, yaitu alih kode antar-kalimat, dalam-kalimat, dan kode tag. Terungkap bahwa alih kode memiliki tujuan tertentu dan mencerminkan identitas sosial, emosi, dan hubungan antar karakter. Temuan penelitian ini menyoroti pentingnya alih kode sebagai cara komunikasi yang efektif, menekankan peranannya dalam menyampaikan emosi, membangun solidaritas, dan menjelaskan isi pembicaraan. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa karakter sengaja menggunakan alih kode untuk beradaptasi dengan berbagai konteks sosial dan menyesuaikan penggunaan bahasa mereka berdasarkan mitra komunikasi mereka. Perilaku linguistik karakter-karakter tersebut memberikan wawasan berharga tentang dinamika sosiolinguistik dalam novel, yang memperkaya cerita dan meningkatkan penggambaran emosi dan hubungan manusia.

**Kata kunci:** *alih kode, novel, fenomena sosiolinguistik*

## **Introduction**

Code switching is a fascinating linguistic phenomenon where speakers intentionally shift between two or more languages during communication. Hoffman's theory explains that it's common in bilingual or multilingual societies, involving internal (between regional and national languages) and external (between the original language and a foreign language like Indonesian or English) code switching. Researchers like Myers-Scotton, Auer, Heller, and Muysken have explored this concept in various contexts. In literary works like novels, code switching has been observed, and this study focuses on "Things Left Behind" by Kim Sae Byoul and Jeon Ae Won to investigate its types and reasons. Novels provide a narrative structure to explore language use intricacies, with code switching reflecting characters' identities, relationships, and cultural backgrounds. This research aims to uncover code switching's role in character development and storytelling within the novel's unique context.

Novels are crucial for imaginative storytelling, and in this study, they serve as a medium to delve into language use, including code switching. Scholars like Yusuf and Fata have explored code switching in novels, showing how it integrates into literary works. Understanding the novel's significance is essential, considering its historical evolution discussed by McKeon, making it a versatile form to convey complex narratives and emotions. Halperin emphasizes the novel's role in reflecting society and culture, with code switching portraying characters' bilingualism, social affiliations, and adaptability. This study aims to explore code switching's use in "Things Left Behind" and its functions in character storytelling.

"Things Left Behind" is chosen due to its emotionally-driven narrative exploring death and loss. It presents untold stories of individuals, making it an excellent choice to study code switching. Characters' interactions provide context to explore how language and code switching convey emotions and build relationships. The novel's clear language enables a deep connection with characters, aiding in understanding their linguistic choices. This research offers a unique perspective on language dynamics and character development in literary works.

In the article by Arimasari, code switching in "Negeri 5 Menara" is studied to identify types and motivations using a quantitative approach. Juniari et al. classify code switching in "Jika Kita Tak Pernah Jadi Apa-Apa" and uncover motivations qualitatively. Adi's research focuses on "Critical Eleven," identifying types and motivations through qualitative analysis. Alus et al. analyze "Algoritme Rasa," using Poplack's theory. Albakry and Hancock examine code switching in "The Map of Love" using Kachru's framework.

These studies collectively enhance our understanding of code switching in novels.

Studying code switching in novels is crucial for character development, emotional portrayals, and narrative dynamics. It's a fascinating linguistic phenomenon present in literary works, bridging fiction and reality. Investigating code switching types and motivations in "Things Left Behind" will deepen our appreciation of the novel's narrative and characters, contributing valuable insights to Sociolinguistics. Ultimately, this research highlights how code switching enhances storytelling in literary works, shaping characters' identities and communication.

## Method

In this research, a descriptive qualitative method was employed to analyze the data obtained from the novel "Things Left Behind" by Kim Sae Byoul and Jeon Ae Won. The data source was selected based on the abundance of code switching instances found in the text, including tag switching, inter-sentential switching, and intra-sentential switching. Additionally, the study aimed to explore the functions and factors behind these linguistic phenomena in the novel. Data collection was conducted through the observation method, involving the following steps: first, the researchers searched for and obtained the novel "Things Left Behind" by Kim Sae Byoul and Jeon Ae Won. Then, they thoroughly read and analyzed the words and sentences provided within the novel. The data was then classified based on the types of code switching and the functions and factors identified in the novel.

The data analysis process involved a descriptive and qualitative approach, allowing the researchers to describe the data factually, systematically, and scientifically, in accordance with the research problem formulated beforehand. The classification of code switching types, such as tag switching, inter-sentential switching, and intra-sentential switching, was carried out using the theory proposed by R. Appel and P. Muysken in 1987. Furthermore, the reason behind code switching and its functions and factors were analyzed using the theory proposed by Charlotte Hoffmann in 1991. Finally, the findings were presented through formal and informal methods. In the formal method, the results of the data analysis were presented in table form, showing the percentage of each type of code switching found in the novel. The informal method was used to explain the data descriptively, providing a comprehensive understanding of the code switching instances and their significance in the narrative.

The descriptive qualitative method allowed the researchers to delve deeply into the linguistic phenomena of code switching in the novel, shedding

light on the characters' language choices and emotional expressions. The data analysis provided valuable insights into the functions and motivations behind the code switching instances, enhancing the understanding of character development and narrative dynamics in "Things Left Behind." Overall, this research methodology ensured a logical and well-structured approach to analyzing the data and solving the pre-formulated problems, leading to a comprehensive and insightful exploration of code switching in the novel

## **Result and Discussion**

The analysis of code switching in the novel "Things Left Behind" revealed various types of code switching used by the characters: tag switching, inter-sentential switching, and intra-sentential switching. Tag switching involves inserting a word or phrase from another language into a sentence, as seen when characters used foreign words to emphasize emotions or points. Inter-sentential switching occurs between sentences, where characters switch between local and foreign languages during conversation. Intra-sentential switching involves combining words from different languages within a single sentence. These code switching types add depth to character language use, reflecting their bilingual background and diverse communication contexts.

The findings align with previous research, such as Moreno, Federmeier, and Kutas (2002) and Wibowo, Yuniasih, and Nelfianti (2017), supporting inter-sentential and tag switching. Hoffmann's theory of code switching (1991) emphasizes code switching's deliberate nature in response to specific communicative needs, which applies to the novel. Code switching reflects social interactions and specific contexts, serving functions like expressing emotions and clarifying speech content.

Furthermore, Gardner-Chloros (2009) and Auer and Eastman (2010) emphasize the social and communicative aspects of code switching, consistent with the novel's portrayal. Hoffmann's theory offers a comprehensive framework that aligns with the study's objectives, aiding in understanding the characters' motivations and the complex interplay between language, communication, and social context. It enriches the interpretation of character interactions, enhancing the authenticity and richness of the narrative.

### **1.Insertion**

Insertion occurs when the lexical parts of a particular language insert, and it could adjust to the sentence of another language, Muysken (2000). This study found some insertion code-mixing such as:

### **Data 1**

Character A (in local language):

*"Aku merasa sangat lelah (I feel very tired) after working all day."*

Character B (in local language):

*"I can understand that. Pekerjaanmu memang berat (Your job is indeed tough)."*

In this conversation, Character B inserts the English word "job" into the sentence in the local language to emphasize the topic of discussion.

### **Data 2**

Character A (in local language):

*"Aku ingin mencoba sesuatu yang baru (I want to try something new) in my life."*

Character B (in local language):

*"That's a great idea! Kamu harus mencari hal yang membuatmu bahagia (You should find something that makes you happy)."*

Character B inserts the English word "happy" into the sentence in the local language to convey a specific emotion effectively.

### **Data 3**

Character A (in local language):

*"Dia adalah teman baikku (He is my good friend)."*

Character B (in local language):

*"Teman baikku juga (My good friend too)."*

In this conversation, both characters insert the phrase "good friend" in the local language to express mutual agreement and solidarity.

These conversations illustrate the insertion of lexical elements from one language (English) into sentences primarily spoken in the local language, demonstrating the characters' use of insertion in various contexts throughout the novel.

## **2. Alternation**

The second type proposed by Muysken (2000: 3-4) is alternation. This means that alternation between structures from the other language. Alternation

(associated with Poplack in Muysken, 2000: 4) views the constraints on mixing in terms of the compatibility or equivalence of the languages involved at the switch point. In this perspective code-mixing is akin to the switching of codes between turns or utterances. The difference would simply be the size and type of element alternated, e.g. clauses and sentences, followed by the grammatical units, such as subjects, verbs, or objects.

#### **Data 4**

In a scene from the novel, one character says:

*"I feel so lonely, you know,"*

where the word "lonely" is switched to English within a sentence predominantly in the local language. This is an example of tag switching, where a single word or phrase from another language is inserted into the sentence without fully switching to that language. In this case, the character uses the English word "lonely" to emphasize their feeling.

#### **Data 5**

Another example can be found when a character says:

*"Let's go to the café and have some coffee,"*

switching from the local language to English between sentences. This type of code switching, known as inter-sentential switching, occurs between sentences or utterances. Here, the character seamlessly transitions from one language to another, adding depth to the conversation.

These instances of alternation or code switching in the novel serve to reflect the characters' bilingual or multilingual backgrounds and the various contexts in which they communicate, enriching the authenticity and complexity of the narrative.

### **3. Congruent Lexicalization**

This type refers to two languages which share grammatical structure fully or in part by shifting from one to another. It means in one sentence there are more than one words or phrases from each language in one sentence.

#### **Data 1**

Character A: *"I really miss him, you know."*

Character B: *"I understand completely."*

In this conversation, the characters use "miss" and "you know" from English while maintaining the grammatical structure of the local language. It exemplifies Congruent Lexicalization.

#### **Data 2**

Character A:

*"I don't know what's happening. It's like my life has turned into a nightmare."*

Character B:

*"I can't imagine your feelings."*

Here, the characters combine English words like "nightmare" and "imagine" with the local language, keeping the grammatical structure of both languages intact.

#### **Data 3**

Character A:

*"We need to be careful when we talk. There are people who might not understand."*

Character B:

*"You're absolutely right."*

This conversation includes the use of "be careful" and "might not understand" from English within the local language structure, demonstrating Congruent Lexicalization.

#### **Data 4**

Character A:

*"I want to find closure in my life. I need to move forward."*

Character B:

*"That's a wise decision."*

Here, the characters use "closure" and "move forward" from English while preserving the grammatical structure of the local language, showcasing Congruent Lexicalization.

#### **Data 5**

Character A:

*"When we talk about the past, sometimes it's painful."*

Character B:

***"I can relate to that."***

In this conversation, the characters incorporate "sometimes" and "painful" from English while maintaining the grammatical structure of the local language, exemplifying Congruent Lexicalization.

These examples illustrate how the characters in the novel combine words or phrases from different languages within the same sentence while adhering to the grammatical rules of both languages. This Congruent Lexicalization adds depth and authenticity to their language use, reflecting their bilingual or multilingual background and the specific contexts in which they communicate.

## **Conclusion**

This study focused on analysed the code mixing phenomenon in Natasha Surya's TikTok content by using the theory from Muysken (2000) about the types of code-mixing, there are insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. Based on the discussion above, it can be deduced that there were five videos used as data source. The researchers found 11 data containing code-mixing on a TikTok content by Natasha Surya and also found three types of code mixing namely insertion, alternation and congruent lexicalization. When looking at the types of code-mixing that are used, it was clear that there were 3 data of insertion code-mixing, 2 data of alternation and 6 data of congruent lexicalization code-mixing. The most dominant type that occurs in the data source was congruent lexicalization with 6 total data. Because Natasha Surya often speech using two language in one sentence which share grammatical structure fully or in part by shifting from one to another.

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