# ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF CODE SWITCHING AMONG TECHNICAL LECTURERS IN UNIKL MSI

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UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

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THIS MASTERS PROJECT SUBMITTED TO UUM COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION (INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY)

UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA 2009

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#### ABSTRACT

This descriptive study investigates the acceptance and perceptions of UniKL MSI Technical lecturers on the use of code switching in the classroom. Data was gathered by distributing 35 questionnaire using convenient sampling among Technical lecturers. The questionnaires were divided into three parts using Likert Scale. The first part was to access the frequency of using code switching in the classroom, the second part was the attitude towards the use of code switching among Technical lecturers, and the final part was the implications of using code switching in teaching Technical subjects. Apart from the questionnaire, interview sessions with 4 selected respondents were conducted to further substantiate the findings in the questionnaire. The findings suggest that The Technical lecturers consider code switching as an acceptable linguistic behaviour in the classroom. Besides facilitating learning, code switch is also used for giving instruction, to gain feedback, to establish relationship as well as classroom management. Nevertheless, they feel that code switching should be the last resort when teaching and only use it when the situation demands. Code switching is considered as a teaching tool to help the low proficient students to understand the subject matter. At the same time, code switching is seen as hindrance in English language acquisition both to the Technical lecturers as well as the students. All ia all, code switching is acknowledged and acceptable in the context of teaching Technical subjects in UniKL MSI.

#### ABSTRAK

Kaji selidik ini bertujuan untuk menentukan tahap penerimaan dan pandangan tenaga pengajar teknikal di UniKL MSI terhadap *code switching* di dalam bilik darjah. Data dikumpul dengan mengedar 35 set soalan kaji selidik kepada tenaga pengajar teknikal. Soalan kaji selidik dibahagikan kepada 3 bahagian dan menggunakan Pengukur Likert. Bahagian pertama adalah untuk mengetahui kekerapan penggunaan code switching di dalam bilik darjah, bahagian kedua adalah untuk menilai pandangan tenaga pengajar mengenai penggunaan *code switching* di dalam bilik darjah. Manakala bahagian terakhir pula untuk mengetahui kesan penggunaan code switching terhadap pengajaran dan pembelajaran subjek teknikal. Selain daripada soalan kaji selidik, temu duga juga dilakukan bersama 4 tenaga pengajar teknikal untuk mengesahkan lagi data yang diperoleh daripada kaji selidik yang dijalankan. Keputusan kaji selidik dan temu duga mengesahkan bahawa tenaga pengajar teknikal menerima penggunaan *code switching* di dalam bilik darjah mereka. Selain dari penggunaannya sebagai bantuan mengajar, code switching juga digunakan semasa memberi arahan, untuk memperoleh respon, membina hubungan di antara pengajar dan pelajar dan untuk pengurusan bilik darjah. Walau bagaimanapun, mereka berpendapat, *code switching* adalah pilihan terakhir apabila mengajar dan hanya digunakan apabila keadaan memerlukannya. Code switching juga dianggap sebagai bantuan mengajar untuk pelajar yang mempunyai tahap pemahaman yang rendah. Pada masa yang sama, *code switching* juga dilihat sebagai penghalang bagi pelajar dan juga tenaga pengajar dalam menguasai Bahasa Inggeris. Keseluruhannya,

code switching diiktiraf dan diterima di dalam context pengajaran subjek teknikal di UniKL MSI.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### Introduction

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Code switching is generally defined as the phenomenon when a bi- or multilingual speaker shifts from one language to another language in the course of a conversation. Bilinguals, who can speak at least two languages, have the ability to code-switch or mix their languages during communication by substituting a word or phrase from one language with a phrase or word from another language. Bilinguals, who can speak at least two languages, have the ability to use elements of both languages when conversing with another bilingual.

Code switching can occur between sentences (intersentential) or within a single sentence (intrasentential). In intersentential code switching, the language switch is done at sentence boundaries. This is seem most often between fluent bilingual speakers. In intrasentential code switching, the shift is done in the middle of a sentence, with no interruption, hesitations, or pauses indicating a shift. The speaker is usually unaware of the switch (Lipski, 1985). If the latter is considered, the phenomenon is called code-mixing. Contrary to this, if the switch is across sentence boundaries, the phenomenon is considered as code switching (Poplack, 1980).

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# RESEARCH ON ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE USE OF CODE SWITCHING AMONG TECHNICAL LECTURERS/INSTRUCTORS IN UniKL MSI

Dear Lecturers/Instructors,

Thank you in advance for participating in this questionnaire.

Before proceeding, the definition below will be helpful:

Code switching refers to alternating between one or more languages such as from English to Bahasa Malaysia during teaching.

#### Section A: Personal Information

1.	Age:			
2.	Gender:	Male	Female	
3.	Race:	Malay	Chinese	Indian
		Others:		
4.	First Language:	Bahasa Malaysia	English	
5.	Education:	SPM	STPM	Certificate Diploma
		Bachelor	Master	PHD
6.	Subject(s) taught	1		
		2		
		3		
7.	Teaching experience	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-7 years More than 7 years.

## Section B: The use of code switching in the classroom

2. Frequency of code switching in the classroom.

Please indicate the scale of the following statements. (Circle the number)

		Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
a.	I use English for teaching.	5	4	3	2	1
b.	I use Bahasa Malaysia for teaching.	5	4	3	2	1
c.	I code switch from English to Bahasa Malaysia.	5	4	3	2	1

## 3. Reasons of using code switching in the classroom

Please indicate the scale of the following statements. (Circle the number)

		Extremely Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Extremely Disagree
a.	I only use English when using technical terms.	5	4	3	2	1
b.	I only use English when introducing new technical terms.	5	4	3	2	1
c.	I only use English when I feel I'm being observed.	5	4	3	2	1
d.	I only use Bahasa Malaysia when using technical terms.	5	4	3	2	1
e.	I only use Bahasa Malaysia when introducing new technical terms.	5	4	3	2	1
f.	I only use Bahasa Malaysia when my students are confused.	5	4	3	2	1

Other reasons for CS:

## Section C: Attitude towards the use of code switching

4. My attitude towards the use of code switching.

Please indicate the scale of the following statements. (Circle the number)

		Extremely Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Extremely Disagree
a.	Code switching is important in teaching any subject.	5	4	3	2	1
b.	Code switching is important in teaching technical subject.	5	4	3	2	1
c.	Code switching is necessary in Malaysian context.	5	4	3	2	1
d.	Code switching can be planned in teaching.	5	4	3	2	1
e.	Code switching ease up teaching method.	5	4	3	2	1
f.	Code switching wastes time in the classroom.	5	4	3	2	1
g.	Code switching is considered as interference while teaching technical subject.	5	4	3	2	1
h.	Code switching is the last resolution in teaching.	5	4	3	2	1
i.	Code switching should be avoided.	5	4	3	2	1

## Section D: Implications of using code switching in teaching the Technical subjects

5. The implications of using code switching in teaching the Technical subjects.

Please indicate the scale of the following statements. (Circle the number)

		Extremely Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Extremely Disagree
a.	I teach better when I code switch.	5	4	3	2	1
b.	Code switch saves time in teaching.	5	4	3	2	1
c.	Code switch simplifies teaching.	5	4	3	2	1
d.	Students understand better when I code switch.	5	4	3	2	1
e.	Students give positive feedback (participation, results, etc.) when I code switch.	5	4	3	2	1
f.	Students still get confused when I code switch.	5	4	3	2	1
g.	Code switching does not promote English speaking environment in UniKL MSI.	5	4	3	2	1
h.	I'm being asked to code switch by my students.	5	4	3	2	1
i.	Students become fully depending on code switching for better understanding.	5	4	3	2	1

- Thank you –

#### SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW

Date:		

|--|

### Questions:

- 1. How old are you?
- 2. What is your highest academic qualification?
- 3. Which section do you belong to?
- 4. How long have you been teaching (overall/in UniKL MSI)?
- 5. How many subjects do you teach in UniKL MSI this semester?
- 6. Do you code switch when you are teaching?
- 7. How often do you code switch in the classroom?
- 8. Why do you code switch?
- 9. Personally, what is your opinion on the use of code switching in teaching?
- 10. Do you think that code switching affect the teaching and learning process in your classroom?

11. What are other benefits or problems that might arise when you use of code switch in your teaching?

## **SPSS OUTPUT**

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a3	35	0	5	3.74	1.245	-1.225	.398
b3	35	0	5	3.66	1.259	-1.081	.398
c3	35	0	5	2.43	1.267	.308	.398
d3	35	0	3	1.94	.725	403	.398
e3	35	.00	4.00	2.1714	1.01419	.175	.398
f3	35	.00	5.00	4.0571	.99832	-2.189	.398
Valid N (listwise)	35						

**Descriptive Statistics** 

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Statistics	
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	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean		3.74	3.66	2.43	1.94	2.1714	4.0571
Std. De	viation	1.245	1.259	1.267	.725	1.01419	.99832
Minimur	m	0	0	0	0	.00	.00
Maximu	m	5	5	5	3	4.00	5.00

# Frequency Table

a3 Cumulative Frequency Percent Valid Percent Percent 2.9 Valid no response 1 2.9 2.9 1 Extremely Disagree 2.9 2.9 5.7 Disagree 4 11.4 11.4 17.1 Uncertain 4 11.4 11.4 28.6 42.9 Agree 15 42.9 71.4 Extremely Agree 10 28.6 28.6 100.0 100.0 100.0 Total 35

	b3								
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent				
Valid	no response	1	2.9	2.9	2.9				
	Extremely Disagree	1	2.9	2.9	5.7				
	Disagree	5	14.3	14.3	20.0				
	Uncertain	4	11.4	11.4	31.4				
	Agree	15	42.9	42.9	74.3				
	Extremely Agree	9	25.7	25.7	100.0				
	Total	35	100.0	100.0					

- 1	
C.5	
~~	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	1	2.9	2.9	2.9
	Extremely Disagree	8	22.9	22.9	25.7
	Disagree	11	31.4	31.4	57.1
	Uncertain	7	20.0	20.0	77.1
	Agree	6	17.1	17.1	94.3
	Extremely Agree	2	5.7	5.7	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

	d3								
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent				
Valid	No response	1	2.9	2.9	2.9				
	Extremely Disagree	7	20.0	20.0	22.9				
	Disagree	20	57.1	57.1	80.0				

Uncertain	7	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	35	100.0	100.0	

~

		e	5		
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	1	2.9	2.9	2.9
	Extremely Disagree	8	22.9	22.9	25.7
	Disagree	14	40.0	40.0	65.7
	Uncertain	8	22.9	22.9	88.6
	Agree	4	11.4	11.4	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

f	3
	-

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	1	2.9	2.9	2.9
	Disagree	1	2.9	2.9	5.7
	Uncertain	3	8.6	8.6	14.3
	Agree	19	54.3	54.3	68.6
	Extremely Agree	11	31.4	31.4	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

UNIANOVA frequency BY Age Gender Education Experience /METHOD=SSTYPE(3) /INTERCEPT=INCLUDE /CRITERIA=ALPHA(0.05) /DESIGN=Age Gender Education Experience Age\*Gender Age\*Education Age\*Experience Gender\*Education Gender\*Experience Education\*Exper ience Age\*Gender\*Education Age\*Gender\*Experience Age\*Education\*Experience Gender\*Education\*Experience Age\*Gender\*Education\*Experience. p{color:0;font-family:Monospaced;fontsize:14pt;font-style:normal;font-weight:normal;text-decoration:none} ONEWAY Age Gender Education Experience BY frequency /MISSING ANALYSIS.

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		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Age	Between Groups	6.329	5	1.266	.891	.500
	Within Groups	41.214	29	1.421		
	Total	47.543	34			
Gender	Between Groups	.540	5	.108	.427	.826
	Within Groups	7.345	29	.253		

	Total	7.886	34			
Education	Between Groups	3.814	5	.763	.822	.544
	Within Groups	26.929	29	.929		
	Total	30.743	34			
Experience	Between Groups	3.279	5	.656	.493	.779
	Within Groups	38.607	29	1.331		
	Total	41.886	34			

COMPUTE attitude=SUM(a4,i4). EXECUTE. COMPUTE attitude=a4+b4+c4+d4+e4+f4+g4+h4+i4. EXECUTE. ONEWAY Age Gender Education Experience BY attitude /MISSING ANALYSIS.

## Oneway

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Output Created		20-Nov-2009 12:06:28
Comments		
Input	Data	C:\Documents and Settings\user\Desktop\Project paper.sav
	Active Dataset	DataSet1
	Filter	<none></none>
	Weight	<none></none>
	Split File	<none></none>
	N of Rows in Working Data File	35
Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User-defined missing values are treated as missing.
	Cases Used	Statistics for each analysis are based on cases with no missing data for any variable in the analysis.
Syntax		ONEWAY Age Gender Education Experience BY attitude /MISSING ANALYSIS.

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Resources	Processor Time	0:00:00.016
	Elapsed Time	0:00:00.031

ANOVA									
	-	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.			
Age	Between Groups	18.281	12	1.523	1.145	.376			
	Within Groups	29.262	22	1.330					
	Total	47.543	34						
Gender	Between Groups	2.457	12	.205	.830	.621			
	Within Groups	5.429	22	.247					
	Total	7.886	34						
Education	Between Groups	9.302	12	.775	.795	.651			
	Within Groups	21.440	22	.975					
	Total	30.743	34						
Experience	Between Groups	11.088	12	.924	.660	.770			
	Within Groups	30.798	22	1.400					
	Total	41.886	34						

FREQUENC	CIES	VARI	ABLES=	=a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5	i5	/STATISTICS=STDDEV
MINIMUM	MAXI	MUM	MEAN	/ I	PIEC	CHAF	RT I	PERC	CENI	-	/OF	RDEF	R=ANALYSIS.

# Frequencies

	Not	es
Output Created		20-Nov-2009 12:07:52
Comments		
Input	Data	C:\Documents and Settings\user\Desktop\Project paper.sav
	Active Dataset	DataSet1
	Filter	<none></none>
	Weight	<none></none>
	Split File	<none></none>

	N of Rows in Working Data File	35
Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User-defined missing values are treated as missing.
	Cases Used	Statistics are based on all cases with valid data.
Syntax		FREQUENCIES VARIABLES=a5 b5 c5 d5 e5 f5 g5 h5 i5 /STATISTICS=STDDEV MINIMUM MAXIMUM MEAN /PIECHART PERCENT /ORDER=ANALYSIS.
Resources	Processor Time	0:00:04.203
	Elapsed Time	0:00:04.625

Statistics									
	a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5	i5
N Valid	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	3.5143	3.2000	3.4571	4.0286	3.8571	2.2000	3.2571	3.2571	3.6000
Std. Deviation	1.31443	1.36769	1.19663	1.20014	1.26358	1.05161	1.44187	1.37932	1.31059
Minimum	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maximum	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

# Frequency Table

	a5						
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent		
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7		
	Extremely Disagree	1	2.9	2.9	8.6		

Disagree	4	11.4	11.4	20.0
Uncertain	4	11.4	11.4	31.4
Agree	18	51.4	51.4	82.9
Extremely Agree	6	17.1	17.1	100.0
Total	35	100.0	100.0	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7
	Extremely Disagree	1	2.9	2.9	8.6
	Disagree	8	22.9	22.9	31.4
	Uncertain	7	20.0	20.0	51.4
	Agree	11	31.4	31.4	82.9
	Extremely Agree	6	17.1	17.1	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

c5

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7
	Disagree	5	14.3	14.3	20.0
	Uncertain	4	11.4	11.4	31.4
	Agree	21	60.0	60.0	91.4
	Extremely Agree	3	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

	d5							
	-	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent			
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7			
	Disagree	1	2.9	2.9	8.6			
	Uncertain	1	2.9	2.9	11.4			
	Agree	19	54.3	54.3	65.7			
	Extremely Agree	12	34.3	34.3	100.0			
	Total	35	100.0	100.0				

	e5							
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent			
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7			
	Disagree	2	5.7	5.7	11.4			
	Uncertain	4	11.4	11.4	22.9			
	Agree	16	45.7	45.7	68.6			
	Extremely Agree	11	31.4	31.4	100.0			
	Total	35	100.0	100.0				

4		
1	3	

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7
	Extremely Disagree	7	20.0	20.0	25.7
	Disagree	11	31.4	31.4	57.1
	Uncertain	12	34.3	34.3	91.4
	Agree	3	8.6	8.6	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

	g5							
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent			
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7			
	Extremely Disagree	2	5.7	5.7	11.4			
	Disagree	6	17.1	17.1	28.6			
	Uncertain	8	22.9	22.9	51.4			
	Agree	9	25.7	25.7	77.1			
	Extremely Agree	8	22.9	22.9	100.0			
	Total	35	100.0	100.0				

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No resposnse	2	5.7	5.7	5.7
	Extremely Disagree	3	8.6	8.6	14.3
	Disagree	4	11.4	11.4	25.7
	Uncertain	5	14.3	14.3	40.0
	Agree	17	48.6	48.6	88.6
	Extremely Agree	4	11.4	11.4	100.0
	Total	35	100.0	100.0	

i5					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No response	2	5.7	5.7	5.7
	Extremely Disagree	1	2.9	2.9	8.6
	Disagree	2	5.7	5.7	14.3
	Uncertain	7	20.0	20.0	34.3

Agree	15	42.9	42.9	77.1
Extremely Agree	8	22.9	22.9	100.0
Total	35	100.0	100.0	

DESCRIPTIVES VARIABLES=a4 b4 c4 d4 e4 f4 g4 h4 i4 /STATISTICS=MEAN STDDEV MIN MAX.

# Descriptives

Notes				
Output Created		25-Nov-2009 02:30:10		
Comments				
Input	Data	C:\Documents and Settings\user\Desktop\Project paper.sav		
	Active Dataset	DataSet1		
	Filter	<none></none>		
	Weight	<none></none>		
	Split File	<none></none>		
	N of Rows in Working Data File	35		
Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User defined missing values are treated as missing.		
	Cases Used	All non-missing data are used.		
Syntax		DESCRIPTIVES VARIABLES=a4 b4 c4 d4 e4 f4 g4 h4 i4 /STATISTICS=MEAN STDDEV MIN MAX.		
Resources	Processor Time	0:00:00.015		
	Elapsed Time	0:00:00.017		

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	Ν	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
a4	35	2.00	5.00	3.6571	.83817
b4	35	2.00	5.00	3.9714	.85700
c4	35	2.00	5.00	3.6571	.90563
d4	35	.00	5.00	3.0857	1.19734
e4	35	.00	5.00	3.6286	1.08697
f4	35	1.00	5.00	2.4857	1.14716
g4	35	1.00	5.00	2.6000	1.09006
h4	35	1.00	5.00	3.3143	1.18251
i4	35	1.00	5.00	2.4286	1.19523
Valid N (listwise)	35				

**Descriptive Statistics**