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The Use of Code-Switching and Code-Mixing by Speakers of Emirati Arabic (EA)

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Abstract
This study investigates the usage of code-switching and code-mixing by Arabic speakers of Emirati dialect. It also examines the extent to which the age and gender of the participants may affect this usage. For the purpose of the study, twenty Arabic speakers of Emirati dialect were interviewed to answer simple questions that may direct them to code-switch and/or code-mix in their speech. They were divided into two groups according to their gender and age. The results revealed that Arabic speakers of Emirati dialect code-switch and code-mix while answering the target questions. The results also showed that the social variables, namely, age and gender had a substantial impact on their use of these phenomena.
Keywords: code-switching, code-mixing, social variables, age, gender
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1. Introduction

In sociolinguistics, 'code' simply refers to a language or a language variety. Both code-switching and code-mixing occur when two or more languages, in one way or another, come together. These two phenomena take place mainly as a result of language contact, which refers to situations when two or more languages or communities that speak those languages come in contact with each other. This coming together usually yields bilingualism within the communities or its members. One can imagine that in this age of widespread global communication; a speech community can rarely be monolingual. This suggests that code-switching and code-mixing are universal phenomena which are used all around the world. As a result, bilingual and multilingual communities are familiar with these phenomena unlike monolingual communities. According to Myers-Scotton (1993), code-switching and code-mixing are considered as a standard tool of communication in multilingual and bilingual societies or multiracial countries, such as China.

Lately, the use of code-switching and code-mixing has started to dominate the world and numerous studies have been conducted to examine these two phenomena and their use by speakers who belong to different linguistic backgrounds. An example of such studies is that of Riehl (2005), which is entitled "Code-switching in Bilinguals: Impacts of Mental Processes and Language". Yet, little attention has been directed towards speakers of Arabic, in general, and speakers of Emirati Arabic (henceforth EA), in particular. Therefore, this study aims to investigate how often speakers of EA code-mix and/or code-switch between English and Arabic in their daily life, the reasons that drive them to do so, and the effect of the social variables age and gender on the usage of these phenomena .

2. Literature Review

2.1 Overview

Many researchers in sociolinguistics provided definitions for code-switching and code-mixing. For instance, David (2003) defined code-switching as a communication tool that people use to decompensate a linguistic lack. Additionally, Milroy and Muysken (1995) viewed code-switching as an alternative way used by bilinguals of two or more languages within an utterance. An example of code-switching is the following: I lost my home during the war, but rab daraten nafea`a, which means in English (every cloud has a silver lining). However, according to Rohmadi (2000), "Code-mixing is the use of two or more languages by entering the pieces of one language to another while the pieces of a language which are inserts, it do not have their function". Whardhaugh (2002) provided the following example of code-mixing between Spanish and English: "Estaba training para pelear", which means in English 'Estaba was training to fight'.

Reviewing the related literature, it appears that code-switching and code-mixing are widely used and there are many reasons that drive people to code-switch and code-mix in their utterances and conversations. According to Iftikhar.A.C, Misbah.A.K, and Misbah.R.K (2016) `s study, the participants employ code-switching and code-mixing to effectively communicate and make their massages easier to get across. Additionally, they switch and mix to fill the lack of vocabularies in their language. Moreover, some participant see that English language is better than their language because it dominants the world and globally used which can help them in gaining a high social class in their society. However, there are some participants switch and mix by force of their work environment. In this respect, Gumperz (1982) argued that code-switching and code-mixing help in clarifying and emphasizing a certain massage. From another perspective, Crystal (1987) suggested that code-switching and code-mixing can be used to compensate for a linguistic deficiency. Specifically, when a speaker cannot define

him/herself in a particular language, s/he switches to another language that gives him/her the medium to provide a better definition of them.

2.2 Code-switching, code-mixing and age

It has been suggested that age has an impact on individual's tendency to code-switch and code-mix (Ayeomoni 2006). So, numerous studies have examined the effect and implications of this social variable. One of the most relevant studies that explores the use of loanwords from English and Turkish by speakers of Urban Meccan Hijazi Dialect was Alahmadi`s (2015) study. The results of Alahmdi's study (2015) revealed that young individuals use loanwords more than older people. This was ascribed to the fact that young people do not know the origin of the loanwords and they think of them as an original part of their own language. Consequently, since old people perceive of Turkish loanwords as part of the Arabic variety they speak, Alahmdi noted that old uneducated people know more Turkish loanwords than educated young people. This is attributed to the fact that old people like to identify themselves as original speakers of Urban Meccan Hijazi Dialect. Additionally, in the observation of the two diphthongs /au/ as in house and /ai/ as rain in Martha's Vineyard study which was conducted by Labov (1963). For the purpose of Labov's (1963) study, an interview was conducted with people from different age, ethnic and social group and the participants were observed secretly to obtain their natural speech. Labov found that younger people tend to centralize the two diphthongs more than older people. In another study that investigated age, Altakhaineh and Alnemer (2018) distributed a questionnaire and employed an interview to discover the reasons that let many Facebookers to share negative posts on Facebook accordance with their gender and age. This study asserted that young people use the Facebook more than old people and it can be a reason for them to code-switch and code-mix in their posts and comments.

2.3 Code-switching, code-mixing and gender

Other studies have demonstrated the ways in which gender drives some individuals to code-switch and code-mix, e.g. Patterns and Motivations of Code Switching among Male and Female in Different Ranks and Age Groups in Nairobi Kenya by Jagero and Odongo (2011). The results of Jagero and Odongo`s study (2011) showed that they mixed from both genders within mixed conversations to study they participants' attitude in the appearance of each other's. The two researchers claimed that gender plays a major role in this phenomenon. The finding also emphasizes their claims which were the following: Females tend to be formal in the appearance of males; however, they tend to be informal in the appearance of females (the same gender). By contrast, males tend to be formal with other males, while informal with the opposite gender. The results of Alahmadi`s study discussed in the previous section (2015) revealed that gender does have an impact on the integration of English loanwords in Arabic. Alahmadi concluded that males used loanwords more than females, which can be due to the fluency these males have when they speak Turkish and Persian. In addition, due to the conservative nature of the Saudi society, males have a better chance to meet and form relationships with pilgrims. Note, here, that Saudi women tend to use English loanwords in order to imitate the speech of young women in Jeddah. In another study, Karim and Kanwal (2013) discussed the use of code-switching by less educated people in Pakistan and the relationship between language, power and gender. Karim and Kanwal found that women tend to code-switch using a powerful language more than men. As a result, they switch to Urdu more than men do. According to Shogren (2002), in a study that analyzes the code-switching and code-mixing among bilingual children, boys have greater tendency to code-switch in their speech. By contrast, girls prefer to code-mix rather than code-switch. However, the results of Mushtaq and Rabbani's study (2016) stated that the use of code-switching and code-mixing by both genders was approximately equal.

Exploring the relevant literature, it appears that several studies have investigated various linguistic phenomena in relation to Arabic-speaking EFL learners, such as metaphorical expressions (Zibin, 2016a, 2016b), collocations (Alotaibi, 2014), and euphemistic expressions (Altakhaineh and Rahrouh, 2015). However, the use of code-switching and code-mixing by speakers of Arabic has been given little attention. It can also be observed that numerous studies have investigated code-switching and code-mixing in different languages and few of them were conducted to examine these phenomena in an Arabic language community. In particular, to the best of our knowledge, no study has examined the use of code-switching and code-mixing by speakers of EA. As a result, this study attempts to bridge this gap by answering the
following research questions:

1) How often do speakers of Emirati Arabic code-switch and/or code-mix in their daily conversations?
2) To what extent do age and gender affect the use of code-switching and code-mixing by these speakers?
3) What are the reasons behind using code-switching and code-mixing?

3. Methodology

3.1 The sample

The participants of this study were twenty speakers (10 males and 10 females) of Emirati Arabic (EA). They

were originally from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The ages of 11 participants were between 20 and 25, while the ages of the others (9 participants) were between 26 and 40, so the mean age of the participants was 30 years old. Furthermore, 30% of the participants were chosen randomly using simple-random sampling from Abu Dhabi, at Yas Mall, 25% from Al Ain, at Al Jimi Mall, and the other 45% participants were chosen from friends and family. Participants were divided into groups. In particular, they were divided into two groups according to their age and gender. We assured the participants that their data will be handled confidentially. Tables 1 and Table 2 show the distribution of the participants according to their age and gender in the current study.

It should be noted here that male participants were interviewed by a male interviewer, to collect a natural speech. We used this technique because males speaking attitude may change when interacting with the opposite gender. Females' interviews were conducted by a female interviewer for the same reason.

Table 1. the distribution of the participants based on their age

Number of participants (Twenty)	Age
11	20-39
9	40 and older

Table 2. The distribution of the participants based on their gender

Number of participants (Twenty)	Gender
10	Female (F)
10	Male (M)

3.2 Data elicitation tool

The data was collected through conducting interviews with the participants. This technique was inspired from the study of William Labov that took place in New York in 1962, when he used an interview technique to try and capture natural speech. Many researchers employed an interview technique (see Altakhaineh and Rahrouh, 2017). This data elicitation tool was employed because of its usefulness in obtaining the participants perceptions' and opinions. It has a high response rate, and it allows more detailed questions to be asked. We chose this method because of our beliefs that it is the best technique to trigger code-switching and code-mixing throughout the interview. The interviews were tape-recorded and later transcribed to be analyzed.

3.3 The questions

The following questions were asked in Arabic to the participants in order to capture any instances of code-switching and/or code-mixing. We believed that the following questions may trigger code-switching and/or code-mixing based on our experience as speakers of EA.

- How do you usually spend your free time?
- How do you keep up with the world news?
- What colors you consider to be feminine?
- What is your favorite kind of food?
- What kind of movies do you like to watch?
- When was the last time you visited the doctor? And what was the visit for?
- What is your educational level?
- What do you do when you go to the saloon, or to the barber shop?

3.4 Interview duration

The duration of each interview varied from one participant to another depending on the participants' age and gender. However, the interviews of younger and older females took longer than those of their male counterparts. On average, each interview took between 20-38 minutes. The interview questions were asked in a way to attempt to drive the participants to code-switch and/or code-mix. Moreover, the questions were mainly about activities they do in their daily lives. We endeavored to build a friendly atmosphere to capture natural speech from the participants.

4. Results and discussion

The collected data in the current study has succeeded in answering the research questions. We found out that the two target phenomena are used among speakers of EA. However, the results vary according to the social variables, specifically, age and gender, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Code-Mixing and code-switching results according to age by male participants

Males	Age	Code-Mix	Code-Switch
2	20-25	50%	0%
3	26-31	35%	0%
1	32-39	15%	0%
4	40 and above	0%	0%

In terms of age as shown in Table 3, we found that code-mixing and code-switching are used more among younger people, while older people may not be familiar with these phenomena, because older people, possibly, were more proud of their dialect as a part of their identity and to show people where they really belong. Table 3 shows that younger people showed more usage of code-mixing. Since younger participants are exposed to English in their schools, so they are more familiar to it. However, code-switching was not used among all male participants from the age sample because based on their answers during the interview; they consider it a feminine feature. However, there is a prospect to be appeared in the new generation from the age 5-16. Table 4 below shows the code-Mixing and code-switching results according to age by female participants.

Table 4. Code-Mixing and code-switching results according to age by female participants

Female	Age	Code-Mix	Code-Switch
2	20-25	85%	70%
2	26-31	75%	50%
3	32-39	45%	20%
3	40 and above	10%	0%

Table 4 demonstrates that in terms of age, the results show that females use code-mixing and code-switching more than males. As we mentioned above, unlike females, males did not use code-switching at all. This phenomenon was highly used by female participants whose ages were between 20-39 years old. Based on their point of view, it is a sign of prestige, which makes them look more feminine. While the rest of the sample did not use code-switching, probably, because of their background, lack of educational experience, and their old traditions. This discussion has provided answers to the three research questions mentioned in section 2.3.

5. Conclusion

This study has investigated the use of code-switching and code-mixing by speakers of Emirati Arabic dialect. It has also examined the extent to which the participants' age and gender may affect the usage of these two phenomena by the speakers. To this end, twenty participants from various age groups and both genders were chosen randomly to be interviewed. Based on the participants' responses, the results show that the social variables age and gender played a noticeable role in this study. It can be also observed based on the results that that women tend to code-switch and code-mix more than men and in terms of age, the results have shown that the younger people use these phenomena more than the older ones. Taking into account that there is a lack of such studies in Arab countries which could be due to the little attention that is given to the investigation of Arabic dialects; thus, it is recommended that more studies are needed to explore more Arabic dialects pertaining to whether the speakers of these dialects code-switch and/or code-mix.

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