

CHAPTER 2

Characteristics of multilingual speech

2.1. Defining code switching and code mixing

Hans Vogt (1954) was the first one to introduce the term “code-switching”, while he was reviewing Uriel Weinreich’s “Languages in Contact” (1953). Fano (1950) pointed out that Weinreich borrowed the phrase “switching codes” from information theory. This notion was developed by the linguists Roman Jakobson (1953) and Einar Haugen (1956) as early as the 1950s.

The terms code switching and code mixing have been the subject of research into language contact for more than fifty years, and they have been defined by Haugen (1956) and Gumperz (1982) as the alternating use of two languages. Code switching and code mixing have often been used vice versa; code switching (see e.g. Poplack, 1980; Sankoff and Poplack, 1981; Zentella, 1997; Bullock and Toribio, 2009: 2–5 and work cited therein) is a structurally constrained combination of two (or more) languages and can take place either in a single sentence (“intrasentential”) or from one sentence to another within a conversation (“intersentential”). Meisel (1995) argued that the term “language-mixing”, in general terms, refers to all occasions where elements of two languages are mixed within a clause or across a clausal boundary, and on the other hand “code-switching” is a specific subdivision of mixing that relates to the