
A multidisciplinary & interactional approach to codeswitching in Cabo Verdean bilinguals

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Conversation Analysis (CA) considers codeswitching inseparable from the conversational context in which it occurs: each utterance must be considered in relation to what precedes and follows it (Auer 1984a; Wei 2002). Relying heavily on this ‘sequential implicativeness of language,’ CA often analyzes *points of alternation* between speakers e.g. determining whether there was a shift or maintenance in the language of interaction (LOI) across speaker turns (Auer 1984a; Dahmen 2022). Emulating recent psycholinguistic work (Fricke & Kootstra 2016), this study examines sequential implications in codeswitching and in priming.

In an effort to paint a more holistic picture of the interactional nature of bilingual speech, the present paper brings both cognitive and conversational perspectives to the analysis of bilingual data. Broadly, the research question is: What are the factors conditioning the interactional choices of bilingual interlocutors?

To explore this question, I analyzed 1.5 hours of conversations between Cabo Verdean Creole-English bilinguals, with a focus on points of speaker alternation during codeswitching. To examine cognitive influence, I calculated the rate of inter-speaker LOI shift (Fricke & Kootstra 2016). Then, I examined the conversational context of a sample of these data points (Auer 1984a; Dahmen 2022).

Results of the cognitive analysis showed variation between the conversations, but that speakers had a broad preference for maintaining the LOI. The conversational analysis showed that both language shift *and* maintenance could serve conversational goals. Through novel integration of quantitative and qualitative analyses to conversational codeswitching, this paper shows the LOI is governed by both social and cognitive factors.

References: • Auer, P. (1984a). *Bilingual conversation*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. • Dahmen, J. (2022). Bilingual speech in Jaru–Kriol conversations: Codeswitching, codemixing, and grammatical fusion. *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 26(2), 198–226. • Fricke, M., & Kootstra, G. J. (2016). Primed codeswitching in spontaneous bilingual dialogue. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 91, 181–201. • Wei, L. (2002). ‘What do you want me to say?’ On the Conversation Analysis approach to bilingual interaction. *Language in Society*, 31(2), 159–180.