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CODE SWITCHING IN ARATA KIM'S NOVEL *ASMARALOKA*

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**Abstrak**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisa jenis-jenis alih kode (code-switching) yang ditemukan dalam novel Asmaraloka serta mengetahui alasan para tokoh utama menggunakan berbagai jenis alih kode. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, dengan novel Asmaraloka sebagai sumber data. Sebanyak 60 tuturan dipilih sebagai sampel representatif untuk mencerminkan jenis-jenis alih kode berdasarkan teori Hoffmann (1991). Tuturan-tuturan ini menggambarkan bagaimana fenomena alih kode terjadi secara alami dalam percakapan dan narasi para karakter dalam karya sastra terkait. Kesimpulannya, meskipun tidak semua jenis alih kode muncul, semua alasan alih kode menurut Hoffmann ditemukan dalam percakapan sehari-hari para tokoh dalam Asmaraloka.*

**Kata Kunci:** *Alih kode, Jenis, Alasan, Asmaraloka, Karakter Dominan*

**Abstract**

This study aims to identify and analyze the types of code-switching found in *Asmaraloka* novel and to find out the reasons why the characters use various types of code switching. This study uses a qualitative-descriptive method, with the novel *Asmaraloka* as the data source. A total of 60 utterances were selected as representative samples to reflect the types of code switching based on Hoffmann's (1991) theory. These utterances illustrate how code switching occurs naturally in the characters' speech and narratives in related literature. In conclusion, while not all types of code-switching appeared, all the reasons described by Hoffmann are found in the characters' everyday speech in *Asmaraloka*.

**Keywords:** *Code switching, Types, Reasons, Asmaraloka, Dominant Characters*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential communication tool used in society to represent notions, ideas, or arguments to people. That way, language becomes a useful aspect for the success of the communication process in society. Communication is the process of conveying ideas from one individual to another. Chaer and Agustina (2014, p. 72) state that in our daily lives, language is used in both spoken and written forms in our communication process. Therefore, whether through speaking, writing, or reading, language is the primary medium for expressing ourselves and connecting with others.

This interaction forms the relationship between language and society, which is the focus of one branch of macrolinguistics, sociolinguistics, which describes the relationship between language and society according to the context in which it is used. Sociolinguistics is the study of the interaction between language and society in order to better understand the structure of language and its function in communication (Wardhaugh, 2015, p. 15). Social identity can be expressed by an individual through the language they use. Nowadays, as a linguistic phenomenon that occurs in social life, bilingualism takes a part in the process of communication in society (Wei, 2016, p. 5).

The birth of bilingualism is explained by Uriel Weinreich in *Languages in Contact*. He states that “The practice of alternately using two languages will be called bilingualism.” (Weinreich, in Hoffmann, 1991, p.15). According to William Mackey, the definition of bilingualism is the alternate use of two or more languages by the same individuals (Mackey, in Hoffmann 1991, p.16). One interesting aspect in bilingualism is code switching.

The concept of code switching as the practice of switching between two or more languages or language varieties within a single conversation or interaction (Hoffmann, 1991, p.115). The spread of the use of code switching cannot be separated from the role of globalization. It is well known that in Indonesia, for instance, the foreign language that dominates the most is English. It has been explained that English is believed to be spoken by one-third of the world's population, or around two billion people, making it the global lingua franca (Mackenzie, 2015, p. 5).

Since Indonesia is one of the countries affected by bilingualism, people tend to code-switch. The practice of code switching occurs a lot in Indonesia, not only in conversation but also in some literary works. As in an Indonesian novel titled *Asmaraloka* by Arata Kim,

the author used so much code switching in the writing, both in the monologues and in the dialogues.

In the process of reading this novel, an interesting phenomenon in the use of language was found, that is the frequent use of code switching. This phenomenon shows that the use of code switching is increasing in everyday life. Although sociolinguistics mainly focuses on analyzing language used in real-life social settings, fictional works particularly novels can also serve as valid and valuable sources of data. According to Mittal, Vashist, and Chaudhary (2024, p. 2642), literary narratives reflect cultural identities, power structures, and social interactions through language, making them effective for analyzing sociolinguistic elements like code-switching.

In examining the types and reasons for code switching, this study uses the theory implemented by Charlotte Hoffmann. This study focuses on analyzing the data from the monologues and dialogues of the novel as it has code switching utterances by conducting the research entitled **CODE SWITCHING IN ARATA KIM'S NOVEL ASMARALOKA**.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a qualitative research method to explore the topic in depth. Qualitative research, also known as the descriptive method, focuses on data such as written or spoken words and observable behavior. By emphasizing context and meaning, this method helps researchers uncover deeper insights, understand social settings, and interpret participants' perspectives. As Yin (2016, p. 45) explains, qualitative research explores the "how" and "why" of human behavior, offering patterns and meanings that may not surface in more rigid research models.

One of the advantages of qualitative research is its flexibility. Unlike structured methods, it allows researchers to adapt when new themes or unexpected phenomena arise. Patton (2015, p. 54) states that "the open-ended nature of qualitative inquiry allows for the discovery of unexpected events," making it effective for analyzing complex or shifting social situations. Nevertheless, the success of qualitative research depends heavily on the researcher's skill and the credibility of the data analysis. As Denzin and Lincoln (2018, p. 23) emphasize, strategies to ensure trustworthiness are crucial for drawing accurate conclusions.

This study identifies code switching in the monologues and dialogues of the dominant characters in *Asmaraloka* by Arata Kim. The data are analyzed using Charlotte Hoffmann's theory of code switching, which is widely applied in literary studies. Hoffmann (1991) categorizes code switching into five types: emblematic, inter-sentential, intra-sentential, establishing continuity with the previous speaker, and involving a change in pronunciation. This framework is used to classify the types and understand the reasons behind language alternation, providing a structured examination of how bilingual characters communicate within the narrative.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### A. Types and Reasons for Code Switching in *Asmaraloka*

Charlotte Hoffmann (1991, p. 112) outlined five types of code switching based on how the language changes occur. These types include emblematic, inter-sentential, intra-sentential, establishing continuity with the previous speaker, and involving a change in pronunciation. In this study, this classification is used to identify and analyze code switching in Arata Kim's novel *Asmaraloka*. A total of 60 data have been selected as representative samples to reflect types and reasons for code switching based on Hoffmann's theory.

#### 1. Emblematic Code Switching for Interjection

Datum 4

Isa : "Yeay! Jadi long weekend!" (Kim, p. 31)

In this monologue, the speaker is expressing her excitement about the upcoming long weekend. The sentence begins with the exclamation "Yeay!" followed by the Indonesian phrase "So long weekend!". The use of the word "Yeay" is Isa's way of expressing excitement and enthusiasm. The word is commonly used in English as an expression of joy or celebration, which is why it stands out as an Emblematic part of the sentence. By using this English exclamation, the speaker immediately communicates their positive emotional reaction to the long weekend, which sets the tone for the rest of the statement.

According to Hoffmann (1991), Interjections are often used in code-switching to convey immediate emotional reactions, which fits the situation perfectly here. Hoffmann (1991, p. 115) explains that code-switching through interjections helps to express strong emotions more effectively. After expressing this excitement, the speaker switches to Indonesian to provide additional context, making the sentence both emotionally expressive and informative at the same time.

## 2. Intra-sentential Code Switching for Being Emphatic about Something

Datum 18

Isa : “Saya punya SIM kok. Mungkin nggak sejago Bapak, tapi  
*better option* kan daripada Bapak bawa mobil dengan keadaan begitu?”

Ethan : “Iya, iya deh. Kalau begitu tolong ya, Sa.” (Kim, p. 88)

The sentence begins in Indonesian with "Saya punya SIM kok" (I have a driver's license), and then switches to English with "better option" (a better option). The sentence then continues in Indonesian with "kan daripada Bapak bawa mobil dengan keadaan begitu?" (right, rather than you driving the car in that condition?). The shift from Indonesian to English happens naturally in the middle of the sentence, fitting the definition of Intra-sentential code-switching.

Isa uses the English phrase "better option" to emphasize her point more strongly. As Hoffmann (1991, p. 115) explains, code-switching can be used to emphasize a point, especially when one language can make a concept stand out more effectively. By using English, the speaker draws attention to the importance of the choice being discussed and makes their argument seem more convincing. Hoffmann (1991, p. 115) notes that emphatic switching can occur when a speaker wants to make a statement or point more forcefully. In this case, the switch to English highlights the speaker's intent to emphasize the practical advantage of their suggestion (that they should drive instead). The use of English adds weight to the argument, making it seem more certain and convincing. Thus, Isa is using code switching for Being Emphatic about Something.

## 3. Inter-sentential Code Switching for Talking about a Particular Topics

Datum 2

Isa : “Kalau jadi AI, mungkin akan jadi Siri atau Google Assistant sekarang. I was dating an AI-human for 3 years.” (Kim, p. 18)

In this monologue of Isa, she jokes in Indonesian about how if she were an AI, she would probably be Siri or Google Assistant. She then switches to English, saying, “I was dating an AI-human for 3 years.” This switch is not just a casual phrase or identity marker, but a complete sentence that introduces a new idea, which fits the definition of Inter-sentential

code switching. Isa switches by using Indonesian and then switches to English. Isa's use of English shows her identity as part of a bilingual and tech-savvy generation.

According to Hoffmann (1991, p. 112), one of the reasons people switch languages is to talk about a particular topic that is more appropriately or comfortably expressed in the second language. In this case, Isa switches to English when referring to her past relationship with Ethan as an “AI-human,” a topic that is strongly connected to digital and futuristic themes often discussed in English. Therefore, Isa uses code switching to talk about a particular topic that aligns better with English vocabulary and expression.

#### **4. Involving a Change in Pronunciation for Being Emphatic about Something**

Datum 26

Ethan : “Saya jadi merepotkan, *Sori*.”

Isa : “Makan dulu deh, Pak!” (Kim, p. 105)

This utterance happens when Ethan apologizes to Isa, feeling guilty for being a burden. He says, “Saya jadi merepotkan,” which means “I’m being troublesome,” and follows it with “Sori.” Ethan's use of “Sori” shows a spontaneous emotional response, yet he pronounces it in a way that reflects Indonesian phonetic influence, a softer “r” and lighter ending than the native English “Sorry.”

The code-switching above is Involving a Change in Pronunciation. According to Hoffmann (1991, p. 112), this type occurs when speakers borrow a word from another language but adjust its pronunciation to match their own linguistic background. Ethan does not use the native English pronunciation of “Sorry” but adapts it into Indonesian pronunciation, resulting in “Sori.” This subtle shift highlights bilingual interaction where pronunciation naturally adjusts in everyday speech.

Ethan chooses the English word to express his genuine regret. Using English here, instead of the more formal Indonesian “maaf,” gives a softer, more personal feeling to his apology. It lightens the emotional tone, showing closeness and casualness between him and Isa. Therefore, Ethan is using code switching for Being Emphatic About Something.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **Conclusion**

The study found 60 cases of code switching in the novel. Based on Hoffmann's five types, four were identified: Inter-sentential (26 times), Intra-sentential (24 times), Emblematic (8 times), and Involving a Change in Pronunciation (2 times). Inter-sentential was the most frequently used, while the least found type was Involving a Change in Pronunciation.

All seven reasons for code switching from Hoffmann's theory were found in the data: Being Emphatic about Something (16 times), Talking about a Particular Topic (14), Interjection (10), Clarifying for Interlocutor (9), Expressing Group Identity (7), Quoting Somebody Else (2), and Repetition for Clarification (2). The most common reason was Being Emphatic about Something.

The findings reveal that *Asmaraloka* realistically portrays the speech of bilingual, educated, urban Indonesians. The novel reflects how young professionals blend Indonesian and English. This study shows literature not only as artistic expression but also as a rich source of sociolinguistic data, contributing to both literary and linguistic research in Indonesia.

### **Suggestions**

This study found all the reasons for code switching in Charlotte Hoffmann's theory. However, the study still needs to be expanded in several ways. Therefore, this study provides several suggestions for further research. First, this study only focuses on the main character in the novel, so further research can consider examining other characters in the novel. Second, this study suggests conducting a deeper study on code switching in the novel regarding the influence of code switching used by the character. Finally, other literary works or real-life interactions can be used as data samples in further research to identify the types and reasons for code switching.

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