IS THIS CODE MIXING OR CODE SWITCHING? REVIEWING KF 205 COURSE
OFFERED BY INSTITUTE OF KISWAHILI STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM

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Abstract:

According to Bokamba (1989), Code-switching is the mixing of words, phrases and sentences from two distinct grammatical (sub) systems across sentence boundaries within the same speech event... while code-mixing is the embedding of various linguistic units such as affixes (bound morphemes), words (unbound morphemes), phrases and clauses from a co-operative activity where the participants, in order to infer what is intended, must reconcile what they hear with what they understand. 'KF 205 Uandishi wa Kubuni: Nadharia na Vitendo' is a course offered by The Institute of Kiswahili Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam. This is a Swahili course that teaches creative writing. It is an on line course offered to second year students during the semester two 2011/2012. The language of instructions within Learning Management System (LMS) is English while the language of instructions of the course is Swahili. What shall we call it? Is this code mixing or code switching? This paper is going to review KF 205 course so as to find the answers and solutions to this question.

Introduction

Bokamba (1989) defines code-switching as the mixing of words, phrases and sentences from two distinct grammatical (sub) systems across sentence boundaries within the same speech event... while code-mixing is the embedding of various linguistic units such as affixes (bound morphemes), words (unbound morphemes), phrases and clauses from a co-operative activity where the participants, in order to infer what is intended, must reconcile what they hear with what they understand.

Another person (Ho, 2007) defines code mixing as a change of one language to another within the same utterance or in the same oral or written text. This is a common phenomenon in societies in which two or more languages are used. For example, in Tanzania, the use of Swahili and English within the same utterance.

Many researches show that, there are many reasons for using code-mixing and code-switching. Some of these reasons are: status, integrity, self-pride, comfortability and prestige (Akere, 1977; Bokamba, 1989; Hymes, 1962; Kachru, 1989; Kamwangalu, 1989). Other reasons are: modernisation, westernization, efficiency, professionalism, and social advancement (Kachru, 1989; Kamwangalu, 1989) as quoted in Ayeomoni (2006).

From these definitions, one can say that, code-mixing and code-switching are things that involve mixing or switching one language to another. With our case in Tanzania, it is switching or mixing from English to Swahili or to mother tongues and vice versa.

2.0 Reviewing KF 205 Course

'KF 205 Uandishi wa Kubuni: Nadharia na Vitendo' is a course offered by The Institute of Kiswahili Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam. This is a Swahili course that teaches creative writing. It is an on line course offered to second year students during semester two 2011/2012. The language of instructions within Learning Management System (LMS) is English while, the language of instructions of the KF 205 course is Swahili.

Let us consider the following examples:

1.1 My courses > kozi zangu

1.2 Assignment > mazoezi

1.3 Due date: Friday, 6 May 2011, 2:25 p.m > tarehe ya mwisho: Ijumaa, tarehe 6 mwezi wa Mei mwaka 2011, saa 8 na dakika 25 mchana.

1.4 Edit this page > hariri ukurasa huu

1.5 Good afternoon > habari za mchana

1.6 Good morning > habari za asubuhi

1.7 Good evening > habari za jioni

1.8 Logout > toka mtandaoni
1.9 Login > ingia mtandaoni

1.10 Update profile > hariri wasifu

1.11 Thur, 2 Feb 2012, 07:54 p.m (5 days 17 hrs) > Alh, tarehe 2 mwezi wa Februari mwaka 2012, saa 1 na dakika 54 usiku ( siku 5 na saa 17) 1.12 Calender > kalenda

1.13 February 2012 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat > Februari mwaka 2012 Jumapili Jumatatu Jumanne Jumatano Alhamis Ijumaa Jumamosi 1.14 Upcoming events > mambo yatakayotukia

1.15 There are no upcoming events > hakuna matukio yoyote yaliyotukia 1.16 Go to calender > Rudi kwenye kalenda

1.17 New event > tukio jipya

1.18 You are logged in as Elizabeth Godwin Mahenge > umeingia mtandaoni kama Elizabeth Godwin Mahenge 1.19 People > watu

1.20 Online users > watumiaji wa mtandaoni

1.21 Add a new discussion topic > Foramu hii ni kwa ajili ya wanafunzi kufahamiana. Kila mmoja ajitambulishe anaitwa nani, amesoma wapi na maelezo mengine utakayopenda kuyatoa. Karibuni sana! Unachotakiwa kufanya ni kubofya mahali palipoandikwa "add a new discussion topic"; kisha andika maelezo yako. Mwishoni kuna mahali pameandikwa "post to a forum".

1.22 Full name > Uandishi wa Kubuni Kwa Kiswahili: Nadharia na Vitendo (Vigezo)

1.23 Short name > KF 205

**3.0 Is it Code Switching or Code Mixing?**

From the definitions given to regarding code-mixing and code-switching, what happens in KF 205 Uandishi wa Kubuni: Nadharia na Vitendo course is neither of the two. It is something different. As the one who uses English language is the system administrator while the one who uses Swahili language is
the course instructor. These are two different people. There is no way you can cut across. In order for it to be code switching or code mixing, it should be the utterance by same speaker. These are two different speakers who are independent. No one depends on the other. So this is neither of the two. It is not code-mixing or code-switching.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

From this experience, we recommend that Learning Management System of the University of Dar es Salaam should give different language options within a module system. In this setting of the language, it reads “Force language” whereby there are two options only. These options are: Do not force and English (en). Whatever option you choose, nothing will take place. It will remain in English language. In order to remove this problem, there must be different language options in which the course instructor may choose the language of his or her preference.

References


