

A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF CODE-MIXING TYPES USED BY YOUNGSTERS IN ONLINE COMMUNICATION

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Abstract

Online communication through social media platforms has been mushroomed with billions of users is engaging with the devices to show their existence. The tendency to use more than one language while communicating through online sites is greatly noticed among youngster users. To fill the gap from previous studies, the recent research was aimed at investigating kinds of code-mixing used on social media and the factors behind the phenomena among Acehese youngsters. Descriptive qualitative method was magnified in which the data was collected from the documentation of respondents' older statuses, captions, and comments on Instagram (IG) and WhatsApp (WA). Fifty respondents were selected by using purposive sampling tied up by several criteria: Acehese native, bi/multilingual, having WhatsApp and Instagram account, and adolescent aged (18-21 years old). A set of mixed questionnaires was also applied to all respondents to investigate the factor or reasons behind the code-mixing usage. The result reveals that phrase level is the dominant code-mixing level used among those youngsters (30%). Phrase level is as a group of words that stand together as a grammatical unit without subject and verb. From the result of the research, it was revealed that those phrase levels were inserted by the Acehese youngsters within a sentence. On contrary, none of the samples used idiom level (0%) on their social media. For the type of code-mixing which used on the platforms, the form of phonetic typing turns to be the most dominant one. Based on the questionnaire result, being able to learn and understand new words is the biggest reason behind the use of code-mixing among the samples on the online communication networking.

Keywords: Code-mixing, Social Media, Youngsters, Bilingual, Multilingual

1. Introduction

Social media, such as Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter, are interactive technologies which visibly can assist their users to share their ideas, interest, information and many others through digital devices and networks (Kietzmann et al., 2011; Obar & Wildman, 2015). The use of the platforms has been gaining more and more spot among human beings across the globe nowadays. The rapid growth of convenience internet access even make them spill their endless popularity with billions of people are now surfing on them. One of the basis reasons behind the fame lies in the fact that people are able to show their presence through the applications. For instance, users can upload, share, and edit their photos and videos, create captions, write statuses, comments, and many others that seems quite interesting to do all the time.

Since the social media helps the development of online social networks by connecting a user's profile with other individuals or groups, they, then, leave their track records on those internet-based applications. When they do such activities, they basically use language for many purposes; creating statuses, writing comments, explaining what the photos or videos are about, and sharing information. Precisely, the use of language does not merely fall to one language but also varieties of different languages are applied at the same time while surfing on the applications.

The phenomenon of using more than one language while exploring the online devices is not a new topic in sociolinguistics after all since more and more people nowadays are bilingual – an ability to speak two languages- and multilingual – a proficiency to speak more than two languages (Francis, 2007). This bilingualism could be noticed from the use of those languages at the same time at any occasion. It means that code-mixing is massively happening recently during that time.

Similarly, code-mixing is one of the most frequently used languages in social media compared to the formal speech text (Das and Gamback, 2013). According to Kim, 2006 such phenomenon occurs due to several reasons; bilingualism, mutual understanding between speaker and the interlocutor, social community, situation, vocabulary, and prestige.

Code-mixing is simply defined as mixing or using two or more different varieties of speech at the same time within a single utterance (Das & Gamback, 2013). Additionally, the main characteristic of code-mixing is laid in the informal situation usage. In such situation, code-mixing happens oftentimes when native speakers mix their native language with other languages within a sentence during online communication. The most frequently use language in code-mixing cases is English where it is officially known as the international language, increasing the self-value of the speakers who use it.

Nowadays, it is quietly easy to find bilingual or multilingual speakers in Indonesia who use code-mixing both in direct speech and online speech, such as communication in social media platforms. The majority of Indonesian speakers are bilingual and multilingual who are capable enough in speaking at least two languages – regional and Indonesian language, for instance. Since most of them are bilingual and multilingual using two different languages at the same time is plausible to do. Unsurprisingly, it is now happening overwhelmingly among younger generations across the globe, nation, and even local areas, including Acehnese adolescents in which they use varieties of code-mixing during online communication.

Furthermore, in code-mixing, there is a dominant language used by the speakers. In Indonesian context, the dominant one is Indonesian language which is mixed with English to show off their ability in it. For instance, it is frequently found among Indonesian teenagers this kind of sentence on a social media “*Happy birthday, semoga semua keinginannya tercapai*” [happy birthday, [may all of your dreams come true]. Another example is “*kamu sakit ya? Get well soon*” [are you unwell? Get well soon]. From both sentences it can be noticed that the dominant language used by the user is Indonesian language, yet, there are phrase insertions within the sentence; ‘happy birthday’ and ‘get well soon’ which are originally English words.

Since code-mixing is quite flourished and rooted among social media users, some researchers across the globe have been interested to explore it. For example, Al Abdely et al., (2016) were interested in analyzing the English language used by Iraqi doctors in formal setting and identifying the types of code mixing produced. Moreover, Samhan (2017) carried out research in Jordan. The research investigated code mixing and code switching used in twitter based on social aspect; age, gender and education level. (Rashid, 2020) did his research in Saudi Arabia. He analyzed the use of Arabic language and its levels among diverse groups with multiple cultures and age stages.

Narrowing down to Indonesian context, Kurniawan, (2016) run a study related to code-mixing on Facebook among junior high school students in Tangerang, province of Banten. Result of the research

compromised that those participants were frequently used code-mixing in their status, hashtag, caption, and comments. There were several reasons behind the used of the code-mixing such as dragging about certain topic, quoting other's utterances, being empathic about something, interjection, self-prestige, and limited words.

In addition, Kasyulita, 2017 carried on her study on analysis of student code-mixing in Facebook social networking. She examined the fifth semester students of English Study Program in University of Pasir Pengaraian, Riau Province. Its result unveiled that those students used code-mixing on Facebook which was in forms of word, phrases, hybrids, idioms, and reduplications.

Next, Nuraeni and Farid, 2018 run a study related to code – mxing on instagram captions. They investigated the use of code – mixing on instagram users in their caption and to find out how many code – mixing code used by instagram users in their caption by Suwito's theory and Hockett's theory.

Later, Tsamratul'aeni, 2019 did her research under the same topic. She investigated sixth-semester students of English Language Education in Palopo University, South Sulawesi Province. Those students, as the result of the research, showed that they used four kinds of code-mixing on Instagram and Whatsapp in which word insertion came up as the dominant domain.

To be exact, there are no researches conducted in Aceh Province under the scope of using code-mixing on social media among Acehnese youngsters. The most relevant studies are done by (Khairunnisa, 2016), (Moetia et al., 2018) & (Siregar, 2019) who devoted their studies in teaching-learning context. Indeed, it is actually novel research which comprises salient to be done since the using of social media among Acehnese adolescents has been gradually and significantly increasing a couple of years ago. Still, the research was devoted to youngster users because they are markedly as a susceptible age that tends to be easily affected by the wave of globalization in many ways, including language (Muliawati et al., 2019). Therefore, the recent research is expected to be a novelty in bringing a new research data result under the topic of code-mixing among Acehnese adolescent users of social media. In addition, the novelty can be magnified as additional reference for other researchers who are interested in this field of study to examine more about the language change and choice among youngsters in the modern era. Another research objective is to investigate factors or reasons behind the use. The objective would give a more valid and concrete data from research result. Finally, the research is run under the umbrella of sociolinguistics which has an objective to examine what kinds of code-mixing frequently used by those youngsters and their motives to use it.

2. Literature Review

Language plays a vital role in both direct and indirect communication. Through the use of language, the mutual understanding between speakers and interlocutors runs fluently and smoothly. Language itself is not only concentrated on the verbal sentences produced from articulator organs but also it is linked strictly to indirect speech such as sign language, body language and gestures used as the other alterative in communication. Moreover, there is always a fundamental goal emerged from the use of language in direct and indirect communication; it is basically used to transfer ideas, thoughts, information, and show identity.

In speaking or communication, speakers do not use one language for most of the time. There is always a strong tendency from people who are capable enough in mastering more than one language to mix their language in communication. This phenomenon is formally known as code-mixing. According to Richards (2002) code mixing is a mixing of two codes or languages, usually without a change of topic. The other linguist Kridalaksana in Nurliana (2017) cites code mixing is the use of one to other units of

language to extend the language variety style and includes word usage, clause and so forth. Code mixing usage depends on what language speakers master and what the aim of the speaker suitable terms to be used.

The code-mixing recently can be easily found in social media communication which billions of users are engaging on it. The greater use of the platforms has been leading it to be the most frequently device of the day to deliver communication with the benefit of more time saving compared to face-to-face communication. Various kinds of tools within the networking even make it more popular among youngsters' day by day in this millennium era. WhatsApp and Instagram, for instance, are two most popular social media sites who provide many creative tools to communicate, bringing their users hilarious time to enjoy their conversation.

Since many users find it more interesting to share ideas with others through the social media platforms, the trend over the use of code-mixing occurs oftentimes to show off proficiency and also to make any fun among friends. English, then, is recognized as the mostly used language in code-mixing case among Indonesian adolescents on online communication.

In addition, there are several levels of the insertion in code-mixing, starting from word until clause level. According to Suwito in Nuraeni et al., (2018) there are kinds of code mixing which are frequently used by Indonesia youngsters in engaging communication through social media networking's.

- a. Word level. It is remarked as the smallest unit of a language consists of a morpheme or more, such as "di *invite* ya" [it is invited]. The word 'invite', originally coming from English vocabulary, is inserted in the Indonesian sentence.
- b. Phrase level. It is noted as a group of words that stand together as a grammatical unit without subject and verb, such as "*see you*". It is frequently inserted in the Indonesian sentence like "saya pergi dulu ya, *see you*" [I have got to go, see you].
- c. Clause level known is a group of words that has at least a subject and a verb. The following sentence shows the clause level used in code-mixing, "kamu seharusnya tahu bahwa *health is important*". [You must know that health is important].
- d. Baster level is best known as coercion form in which two lexicons in two languages are formed together forcefully yet it has acceptable meaning (Wijayanti, 2019), such as "aku tau dia *nge-repost* berita itu" [I know she reposts that news].
- e. Repetition, a reduplication formed words, such as "Terima kasih. *Same-same*" [Thank you. You are welcome].
- f. Idiom level is a group of words, phrase, or expression which has figurative meaning such as "*by the way* dimana kamu tinggal sekarang?" [by the way, where do you live now?].

Das and Gamback in Kurniawan, 2016, explained that code mixing came as the result of the evaluation of social media text which has created many new opportunities but often characterized by having high percentage of spelling errors and other unconventional characteristics. The types of code-mixing which are frequently error are:

- a. Creative Spelling is greatly known as an abbreviated spelling which has a combination of letter and number; the number is used to replace the sound of the letter within the word; so it is a different spelling variant from the common spelling such as 'gr8' for 'great', b4 for 'before'. Nowadays, along with the popularity of social media usage, this kind of spelling is quiet familiar among youngsters while texting with their friends because it could save time to text and show the creativity.

- b. Phonetic Typing is pronunciation which has the same spelling but different typing, like dunno for 'don't know', luv for 'love'.
- c. Word Play is a technique which intended amusement, like verry for 'very', profill for 'profil'
- d. Abbreviation is a short part of the word or phrase, like LOL for 'Laugh out loud', GBY for 'God bless you', ILY for 'I love you'
- e. Meta tags is a tag of the web contents, like URLs Hashtag.

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3. Research Method

This research study used a descriptive qualitative method in which the concentration of the data is devoted on its quality (Hudia et al., 2019; Husna et al., 2020; Muliawati & Ismail, 2017; Muliawati et al., 2019; Muliawati & Yusnida, 2019; Yusnida et al., 2017) and focused on code mixing used by the youngsters since the researchers intended to describe kinds of code-mixing on social media, especially Instagram and WhatsApp, and their factor or reasons behind the code-mixing used. It consists of the sentences that containing code-mixing. The researchers magnified documentation of respondents' older statuses, captions, comments, as well as feeds and a set of questionnaires. The questionnaire of this research is in form of mixed questionnaire in which closed as well as opened-ended questions presented in Bahasa Indonesia to make it more effective and efficient to fill out. The questionnaire was adopted from previous studies, such as Lee et.al (2014); Anastassiou and Anreou (2017); Bailey (2011); O'Hallorant et.al (2011); Halsted et.al (2015) in Ezzati (2020).

50 youngsters in Banda Aceh selected by purposive sampling were being the samples of this research based on some criterias; Acehnese native, bi/multilingual, having WhatsApp and Instagram account, and adolescent aged (18-21 years old). The data were collected from the statues, caption, story, comment or hashtag in Indonesian language-English code mixings on social media's application, Instagram (IG) and WhatsApp (WA). The researchers' assistant, an English department student of Universitas Iskandar Muda who was participated in this research, collected all of those data. In analyzing data, the researchers used theory of Suwito about the forms of code-mixing level; word, phrase, clause, idiom, baster, and reduplication, and Das and Gamback theory in Kurniawan, 2016 about the types of code-mixing; creative spelling, phonetic typing, world play, abbreviation and meta tags. Data analysis was undertaken by using editing, coding, scoring, and tabulating (Celik, 2003). In identifying the study, the researcher needed some instruments for collecting the data.

4. Results and Discussion

Types of Code-Mixing Used on Social Media

In this sub section, the results of this work are presented. The data shown in the finding indicate that the Acehnese youngsters used code-mixing from the status and story of Instagram and WhatsApp on their social media. The research found 68 statements of code mixing in six level and 12 statements of code-mixing in five types which frequently have spelling errors on social networking which are from fifty samples.

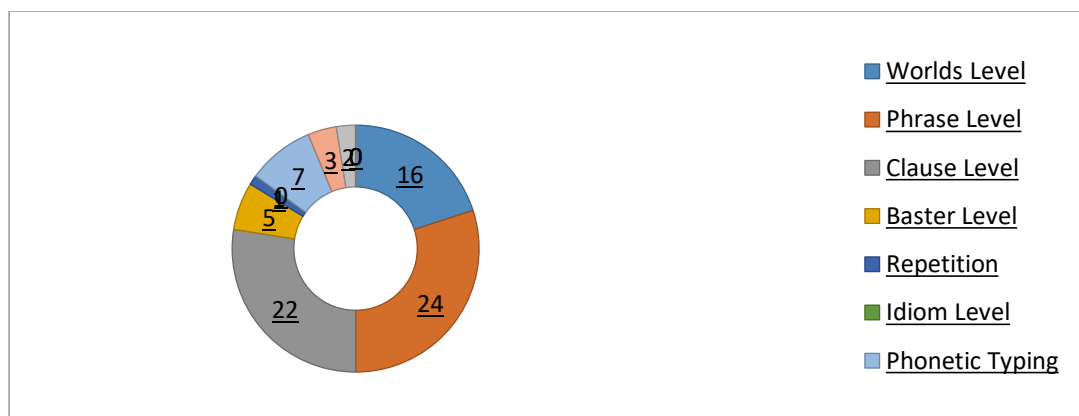


Figure 1. Level and type of code-mixing on social media

There are 16 code-mixing in the form of words level, 24 code-mixing in the form of phrase level, 22 code-mixing in the form of clause level, 5 code-mixing in the form of baster level, there is only 1 code-mixing in the form of repetition and there is no code-mixing in the form of idiom level. For the type of code-mixing in social-media, there are 7 code-mixing in the form of phonetic typing, 3 code-mixing in the form of world play, 2 code-mixing in the form of abbreviation and there is no code-mixing in creative spelling and meta tags.

Word Level

In this section, the researcher found 16 words of code mixing in Instagram and WhatsApp social networking which were from fifty samples. The data of this research took from the timelines and stories which were posted by Acehnese youngsters. Example of word insertion based on the findings is “Jadi tunguin aja info selanjutnya, *honey*”. The respondent inserted word “honey” at the end of her statements. The word “honey” is noun. It can be classified into word insertion. The meaning of word “honey” is a name that you call someone you love or like very much.

Phrase Level

In this section, the researcher found 24 words of code mixing in social networking which were from fifty samples. Example of phrase insertion based on the findings is “*proud of you* dek..masih tahan banting”. (proud of you the little brother..you can sustain it) The respondent inserted word “proud of you” here included category of phrase based on noun phrase.

Clause Level

In this section, the researcher found 22 words of code mixing in social networking. Example of clause insertion based on the findings is “*Jatuh mungkin juga mundur. But... akan tetap ada titik kita akan bangkit bahkan maju. So, believe in yourself and those who take care of you*”. (Fall might as well retreat. But there will still be a point where we will rise and even move forward). The sentence “*So, believe in yourself and those who take care of you*” is code-mixing of clause level.

Baster Level

In this section, the researcher found 5 words of code mixing. Example of baster level based on the findings is “Maaf banget karena sebulan ga *ngepost* foto barang”. The respondent inserted word “nge-post” here included category of baster base on hybrid of affixation. This was the example of code mixing. The word “nge-post” instead of sending or upload the picture is very famous to the since that English word had been popular among Indonesian people. Other example is “Seseorang *terlove* di heart (someone that I love him so much in my heart). The word “ter-love” is code-mixing of baster level.

Next example is “*Insecure* ku sekarang bukan lagi tentang fisik ataupun wajah, tapi tentang wanita2 hebat cerdas pintar ber*attitude* baik dan pendidikan mereka yang tinggi. (my insecurity now is no longer about physical or facial features, but about women who are intelligent, good on in character and have high education). Here, the word “ber-*attitude*” is example of code-mixing of baster level.

Repetition

In this section, the researcher found 1 word of code mixing in Instagram and WhatsApp social networking which were from fifty samples. Example of repetition level based on the findings is “*Kid nowadays* mana tau *skill-skill* yang anak jaman *old* main botol kecap”. The respondent inserted word “*skill-skill*” here included category of reduplication base on noun- noun. The word “*skill-skill*” mean ability to do something and this word is example of code-mixing of repetition.

The Level of Code-Mixing

The type of code mixing occurred by having high percentage of spelling errors and other unconventional characteristics, they are;

Phonetic Typing

Another interesting form of code-mixing found in the timeline and story Instagram and WhatssApp, how the English word is read according to the phonology system of *Bahasa Indonesia*. There were 7 code-mixing in the form of phonetic typing, such as *Thanks bby* satu kerja, (thank you baby in a team). Other response is “*Babay* anak Medan. *Wish you luck my bro*”. (Bye-bye Medan people. Wish you luck my brother). The word “*bby* and *babay* are the example of phonetic typing of code-mixing.

Word Play

World play is another form of code-mixing found in their Instagram and WhatsApp timeline and story. There were 3 code-mixing found in the form of world play. The participants crated a unique word by adding some letters while posting snap or stories in their social networking. One example is “Tetap semangat and never give up ya. *Fightinggg...*” (keep spirit and never give up, Fighting!). The word “*Fightinggg*” is a part of world play of code-mixing.

Abbreviation

The other variety of Acehnese youngsters’ posting is abbreviation. There were 2 code-mixing in the form of abbreviations. They also create the abbreviation that they have been used among the Instagram and WhatsApp user in their own circle of friends. The example is “*HBD* Far” (Happy birthday Far). HBD that stands for Happy Birthday. The word “*HBD*” is the example of abbreviation of code-mixing.

The number of the use of code mixing in social networking was the result of bilingualism which happens in Indonesia as stated by Jendra (2010). He states that the phenomenon of bilingualism results in the occurrence of code switching and code-mixing. Recently, in line with the great development of the technology of communication, language contact has expanded to be more modern and various. Conversation is not only done face-to-face but also by magnifying social media networking, thus online communication is more popular nowadays compared to the first one.

Since the languages spoken among those Acehnese adolescents’ users on social media younger are also varied, ranging from local, national, and international language, they, later, tend to mix those languages at the same time. They used three kinds of speech to communicate with others on the platforms; using their mother tongue language, Bahasa Indonesia and English. Definitely, they speak

those three different languages due to some reasons; Acehnese language is their heritage language, a symbol of self-identity, Indonesian language is their national language as a symbol of unity, and English is the global language or lingua franca used to show modernity.

Result from the Questionnaire

This following chart represents the percentage result of questionnaire distributed to the samples of the research. The questionnaire was magnified to dig deeply over the factors or reasons behind the use of code-mixing on social media among Acehnese youngsters. Therefore, a more comprehensive research result is gained through the questions within the questionnaire.

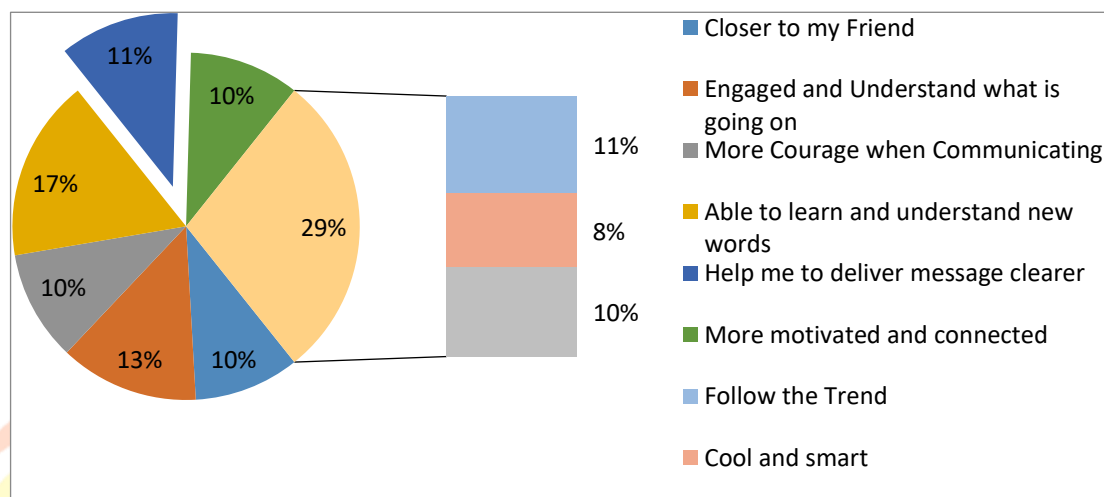


Figure 2. Acehnese youngster factor in using code-mixing on social media networking

In this research, the researcher found Acehnese youngster motivation to use code-mixing in social networking. Being able to learn and understand new words was the highest percentages (17%) with 38 Acehnese youngsters chose it as the reason what factors to use code-mixing. Next, 29 Acehnese youngsters chose engaged and understand what is going on as the second motivation with 13%. There were 25 Acehnese youngsters (11%) chose help them to deliver message clearer, 24 Acehnese youngster (11%) chose follow the trend, 23 Acehnese youngster (10%) chose more courage and communicating and 23 Acehnese youngster (10%) chose more motivated and connected. 22 people (10%) also chose challenge in the era 4.0 and closer to my friends (10%). The lower percentage was 8% with 18 Acehnese youngster chose to be cool and smart as the motivation to use code-mixing for communication in social media.

Discussion

Based on the result, the Acehnese youngsters usually use code mixing on WhatsApp and Instagram as their social networking platforms. They put together linguistic elements from two different languages; Indonesia and English language. It is in line with the theory of code mixing proposed by Jendra (2010) who claims that code-mixing occurs only among bilingual or multilingual speakers. From the utterances that have been analyzed, it can be parted according to the linguistic unit such as words, sentence, phrase, and clause. Eventually, the researcher found the dominant code-mixing type is the mixing of code in the form of phrase level (30%) where there are some phrases which were inserted by the Acehnese youngsters within a sentence. Based on the data, the researcher found 24 phrases in timelines and comments. This finding is supported by Ling et.al in (Ezzati, 2020) who state that the tendency among bilinguals to combine or blend one language and another while

conversing is caused by finding more appropriate words or phrases to express their thoughts or ideas. However, it is contrast with Tsamratul'aeni's research (2019). She found that the word level is the highest percentage of using code-mixing in social networking. It is used unconsciously because it is easy to use in chatting in social media.

Next, it is followed by 22 code-mixing in the form of clause level, 16 code-mixing in the form of words level, 5 code-mixing in the form of baster level, there is only 1 code-mixing in the form of a repetition and there is no code-mixing in the form of idiom level. For the type of code-mixing in social-media, there are 7 code-mixing in the form of phonetic typing, 3 code-mixing in the form of word play, and 2 code-mixing in the form of abbreviation.

There are abundant reasons which could motivate Acehnese youngsters to use English code-mixing. In other words, they are likely to mix English and Indonesia when they communicate on social media. According to Hashim, Soopar and Hamid in Ezzati, 2020 online communication can be influenced by the first language, code-mixing, code switching and the use of certainly borrowed words.

Moreover, finding from the questionnaire reveals that the dominant factor motivated code-mixing usage among Acehnese adolescents. Firstly, there are 38 samples (17%) chose the option 'being able to learn and understand new word' as the reason to use code-mixing. This finding supported the research which has been conducted by Celik, 2003. He states that using code-mixing to introduce new vocabulary can be an efficient and effective method for nonnative English speakers and it is such a good way to Acehnese youngsters to improve their English mastery.

On contrary, there are 18 samples (8%) selected the option 'cool and smart look'. It is in line with the study done by Harahap (2014) who states that for many young people code mixing becomes awn style which is hoped to be modern and educational one.

5. Conclusion

It can be concluded that Acehnese youngster's interest in using English code-mixing in their postings on Instagram and WhatsApp. The dominant code-mixing level used is in the form of phrase level, meanwhile the type of code-mixing which possess the dominant error is in the form of phonetic typing. The use of code-mixing among Acehnese youngsters is influenced by some factors; being able to learn and understand new words, desiring to engage and understand what is going on a certain occasion, making the message clearer, and following the trend.

The implication of this research is that the result of this study is supposed to be used as additional information for sociolinguistic subject. The material can be used as consideration in preparing, selecting and constructing for sociolinguistic classes. Furthermore, considering to the important function of language in society, English lecturers are recommended to get some inspirations to sociolinguistic subject. After this research the next researcher can conduct some of methods or techniques to increase students speaking skill.

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