

Grammatical Features in Fante-English Radio Broadcast in Ghana: Code-Switching in Sekondi-Takoradi in the Western Region

Joseph Amonoo Sekyi^{1*}, Solomon Dadzie¹, Irene Forson¹

¹ Department of Languages, Komenda College of Education, Komenda, Ghana

Email Address

bordohlity@yahoo.co.uk (Joseph Amonoo. Sekyi)

*Correspondence: bordohlity@yahoo.co.uk

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Abstract:

The purpose of the study was to investigate the grammatical features deploy in Fante-English code-switching in radio broadcast and the extent to which the occurrences of these switches tally in other code-switching structures. The population of the study included all the fifty-five radio presenters in four (4) radio stations in Twin-City of Sekondi-Takoradi. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the four (4) Frequency Modulation (FM) stations. The instruments employed for collecting data were audio recorder and questionnaire. The study established that Fante-English switches in radio broadcast occur at the morpheme, word, phrase and clause boundaries. The study also revealed that code-switching in the context of radio broadcast is motivated by factors such as shift of topic of discussion, difficulty in translation and momentary forgetting of words.

Keywords:

Grammatical Features, Code-Switching, Radio Stations, Media, Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana

1. Introduction

The role language plays in our daily lives cannot be underestimated. Language is the medium used by society to exchange or explain the understandings and standpoints of one section of the society to another section [1]. Apart from its function in giving information, language plays an important role by way of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. If one way of defining sociolinguistics is the study of speakers' socially motivated linguistic choices, then one of the fundamental questions within the discipline is which language(s) varieties are spoken by members of different speech communities in different situations and why? Day in day out, we are faced with the problem of choice of code in a specific situation that we find ourselves [2]. Usually, people with two or more languages face the problem of which language(s) to use in a particular situation. The situations include the language(s) of the interlocutors, the age, socio-economic factors, sex and level of education. Another area of situation with respect to language is the subject-matter. There are many fields with their own registers or lexicons. Different kinds of subject-

matter, particularly the various technical specialties, may show language preferences [3].

In bilingual and multilingual communities, sometimes the situation determines the choice of code. In this instance, interlocutors, for that matter, radio presenters, speak one language in one situation and another in a different one. People are nearly always faced with choosing a code when they speak and they may switch from one code to another or mix-codes. Being part of a linguistic community, radio stations use a mixture of different codes in their presentations; be it news, panel discussions, interviews, talks or adverts [2]. It is not uncommon to hear presenters say “Afie na yɛbestarte programme no”, (meaning, ‘We are yet to start the programme’), or “Call dem number yi do na kyere w’adwen”, (meaning, ‘Call on this number and express your views’). In the contributions of radio commentators and phone-in participants on Ghanaian language radio, it is rare to hear solely a Ghanaian language as the medium of expression. The medium of expression is largely a mixture of Fante (a Ghanaian language) and English, particularly in the discussion of current affairs [4].

However, in the context of describing the register of radio language in Gaelic, Lamb (1998) comments that there are several reasons for studying language on radio. For one, many Gaelic speakers must go through a day hearing substantially more Gaelic on the radio than they do in their physical vicinity [5]. In Ghana, for example, radio broadcasting is heard from all corners of the country. The advent of FM stations after the liberalisation of the airwaves in 1992 and accessibility of portable radio sets have contributed immensely to the explosion of radio broadcast. To date, almost every district in Ghana has one or more FM station(s), not to mention numerous ones found in the regional capitals. In addition, many people have access to radio broadcasts through radio phones and computer-mediated broadcast.

But language can also be seen as a functional system – a system in use, that is, a discourse system. The case of understanding and analysing media language outside the traditional framework of grammatical or linguistic structures has also been pointed out by [6]. The author further stated that, to think of radio or television programmes as texts and audiences as readers is to mistake the communicative character of much of the output of radio and television. In particular, it fails to recognise the liveliness of radio and television, their embeddedness in the here and now (their particularity) and the cardinal importance of context and audiences. All programmes have an audience-oriented communicative intentionality which is embodied in the organisation of their setting (context) down to the smallest detail: there is nothing in the discourses of radio and television that is not motivated, that is not intended to generate inferences about what is being said by virtue of how it is being said. Most importantly, all broadcast output is, wittingly, public. That is, it is a self-conscious, self-reflexive performance produced for audiences who are situated elsewhere. From the above discussion, the language of radio broadcast has been seen as a self-conscious and speaker’s intents communicative discourse [6].

The language used in some of the programmes in radio stations in Sekondi-Takoradi is a mixture of different codes. It is realised that code-switching is functionally motivated and that it is not a random phenomenon. The grammatical features of code-switching are primarily tied to the foreknowledge of linguistic repertoire available to the interlocutors. If code-switching is functionally motivated, a study that investigates the functions of code-switching occurring in radio stations in Sekondi-Takoradi will, therefore, be helpful toward the understanding of this

phenomenon. The current study, therefore, investigates the use of code-switching as a device to achieve the grammatical features in Fante-English radio discourse. The study seeks to answer this research question- What grammatical features are identified in Fante-English code-switching in radio broadcast?

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. The Research Design

The research method chosen for this study was qualitative. This design helped the researchers to both examine Fante-English code-switching grammar and motivation associated with it in the context of radio broadcast.

2.2. Population

The population for the study included all the fifty-five (55) programme presenters in the four (4) FM radio stations (Twin-City Radio, Skyy Power, Melody FM and GoodNews FM) in Sekondi-Takoradi-the twin-city, the capital town of Western Region. The choice of the population was appropriate because despite their heterogeneous background, most of them were able to speak Fante and English, the two languages the researchers focused in the study.

2.3. Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling technique was used to select Twin-City Radio, Skyy Power, Melody FM and GoodNews FM that transmit their programmes, using 40 percent and 60 percent Fante and English respectively. These stations were chosen because of their popularity and the number of listeners they have. Another reason for choosing these stations is that they all have language policies that favour about 30 – 50 percent use of Fante. The chosen stations are well noted for code-switching in their Fante broadcast sessions. Finally, the choice of the stations is motivated by their proximity and their easy accessibility to the researchers.

2.4. Instruments and Data Collection

The instruments used to collect data were the audio recorder and questionnaire. These instruments and how they were administered are described in detail below.

2.4.1. Audio Recording

The researcher also used good quality audio recorder for clear recording. The researchers recorded a total of 16 different programmes from presenters in the selected radio stations. These included 5 programmes of Twin-City FM, 4 programmes of Skyy Power FM, 3 programmes of GoodNews FM and 4 programmes of Melody FM. The unequal numbers of programmes recorded from each station were influenced by the number of presenters of each station and this was done in the ratio 3:1. It should, however, be noted that the 1:3 ratio was slightly modified due to fractions involved. The programmes recorded include Newspaper Review, News in Fante and Sports Highlight.

2.4.2. Questionnaire

This section on the other hand gathered information about the respondents' motivations for code-switching in radio broadcast. The remaining questionnaires were

given to informants through the public relation officers of the selected radio stations. The researchers used this strategy because they found it difficult meeting all the presenters personally since most of them did not come to the stations when they were off duty. The questionnaires were given to only the radio programme presenters.

2.5. Analysis of Audio Recording Data

Audio recordings of radio broadcast were used as the tool to answer the research question the study sought to answer. The audio recorded were first transcribed, edited and coded into themes. The qualitative data was analysed by the use of the interpretative technique based on the themes arrived at, during the recordings at various radio stations. The themes were related to the research question.

3. Results and Discussions on Grammatical Features Identified in Fante-English Code-Switching

This section presents results and discussions of grammatical structure in Fante-English code-switching across the radio stations in Sekondi-Takoradi in the Western Region of Ghana. Switch junctions are the syntactic points in a code-switched structure at which switches are allowed, though it is not obligatory that switches occur on all occasions. The switch junction can occur at different places such as morpheme, word, phrasal or clausal boundaries. Taking the morpheme as the smallest unit for purposes of grammatical analysis, the researchers discuss, first, the features which are common to morphemic switches before proceeding to other features.

3.1. Switches at the Morpheme Boundary

The switches at the morpheme boundary are subdivided into two groups, prefixes and suffixes.

3.1.1. Switch Boundaries at the Prefix Level

1(a) a+clarify == affix + clarify [to + clarify]

(b) e+grade == affix + grade [to + grade]

In Example 1 the switch occurs after Fante bound morpheme ‘a-’ affixed itself to ‘-clarify’. In Fante, if ‘a-’ or ‘e-’ is affixed to a verb it means the action will take place in a near future or it is in a past perfect form.

2. +n+sign == affix + affix + sign [s/he + should + sign]

In extract 2 the switch occurs after two bound morphemes ɔ- and n- to the word – sign ‘ ɔnsign ’. The morpheme ‘ ɔ- ’ and ‘ o- ’ are variants performing the same function but their choice depends on the phonological environment of the base word. The other prefix, ‘ n- ’ or its variant ‘ m- ’ attached to a verb signifies indirect command (imperative). The duplication of ‘ n- ’ or ‘ m- ’ indicates negative command.

3. ye + bo + lose == affix + affix + lose [we + will + lose]

The third example has a switch occurring in-between prefix ‘yebo-’ and the base word ‘-lose’. The prefix ‘yebo-’ is made up of two bound morphemes ‘-ye-’ and ‘bo-’. The former, ‘ye-’ or its variant ‘ yε- ’, is a first-person plural always attached to a verb and the latter, ‘-bo-’ or its other variants ‘- bɔ- ’, ‘-be-’, ‘- bε- ’, denotes future action.

4. o + go == affix + go [it + goes]

Example 4 has two bound morphemes, 'wo-' and '-e-', attached to release, just like that of example 3. The switch junction is located between the third person singular, 'o-', and the English verb, '-go'. Unlike Example 3, however, 'wo-' is a third person plural and '-e-' is a present perfect.

5. o + bo + go == affix + affix + go [it + will + go]

In example 5, the bound morpheme 'o-' is prefixed to the word '-go'. The prefix 'o-' or 'ɔ-' is a third person singular and '-bo-' is a future marker. The example shows that a switch occurs between the modal marker, '-bo-' and the main verb, '-go'.

6(a) wo + release == affix + release [they + release]

(b) wo + trace == affix + trace [they + trace]

The examples 6(a) and (b) reveal that switches are allowed between third person plural and simple present verb phrase. It is very similar to that of Example 5, except that the former has an infix '-bo-' in-between the first morpheme 'o-' and the word '-go'. As indicated in Example 3, '-bo-' or 'bɔ-', is a future tense.

7(a) ɔ + a + clarify == affix + affix + clarify [s/he + has + clarified]

(b) ɔ + a + dry == affix + affix + dry [s/he + has + dried]

The two examples above depict switch boundaries occurring between present perfect markers, 'a', and the verbs 'clarify' and 'dry'. Example 7(a) has two bound morphemes 'ɔ-' and '-a-' preceded by '-clarify'. The 'ɔ-' indicates third person singular whereas '-a-' is a future marker. The 7(b) has the same structure as 7(a). It must be noted, however, that not all present perfect markers may permit switches between them and other verbs.

8. wo + e + release == affix + affix + release [they + have + released]

Another example, 8, is made up of two morphemes, 'wo-' and '-e-', and a stem, '-release'. The first morpheme 'wo-' is third person plural marker and the second -e- present perfect marker. In Example 8 the bound morpheme 'wo-' is affixed to -release and -trace respectively. The morpheme, 'wo-', is a third person plural used as simple present affix.

9. yε+a + approve == affix + affix + approve [we have approved]

In Example 9 the bound morphemes, are 'yε-' and '-a-'. The morpheme, 'yε-' or 'ye-', is a first-person plural and '-a-' is a perfective past. A careful look at the example reveals that there is vowel elision at the switch junction. The segmented yε + a + approve word becomes 'yεapprove'. It becomes clear that the second affix '-a-' is elided because it precedes another '-a-' which is at the beginning of the base word, '-approve'.

10. w' + aggregate == affix + aggregate [your aggregate]

Another characteristic seen in Fante-English switch junction at the morpheme level is possessive marker. This is identified in Example 10 where the morpheme 'w-' and '-aggregate' are fixed together. In Fante, anytime the first person singular, 'me-' or second person singular, 'wo-' precedes a noun word which starts with a vowel, the vowel attached to the first person singular or the second person singular is elided. In this case the possessive marker, (') is used to show possession.

11. o +e +bo+coach == affix+affix+affix+coach [s/he+will+come to+coach]

Example 11 contains three bound morphemes, ‘o-’, ‘-e-’, and ‘-bo-’, followed by the base word ‘-coach’. The first prefix, ‘o-’ is a third person singular. The second and the third prefixes to the base word, ‘-e-’ and ‘-bo-’ respectively are all future markers in Fante but the former is a near future whereas the latter relates to distant future.

The evidence provided from extracts 1 – 11 shows switch boundary occurring at the morpheme level. The switches are identified in-between pronouns in Fante and verbs in English. Some of the pronouns identified are first person plural, second person singular and third person singular and third person plural. It is also evident that switches occur in-between all tense and aspect markers in Fante and verbs in English. Switch boundaries can occur in-between possessive markers in Fante and English nouns words beginning with vowels.

It is obvious from the data that, Fante-English switches follow certain patterns. At the morpheme boundary level switches occur between Fante bound morpheme and English free morpheme. The bound morphemes are grouped into three categories: pronoun affixes, tense and aspect affixes and plural affixes. In most cases all these bound morphemes are in Fante. The pronoun affixes found at the switched junction are first person singular (me-, mi-, mo-, mu-) and plural (ye-, ye-), second person singular (i-, e-) and third person singular (o-, o-) and plural (wo-, wo-). The tense bound morpheme include future (be-, be-, bo-, bo-). It is essential to note that in Fante-English code-switching at morpheme level, the switch junctions are found between bound morphemes and free morphemes. In most cases the bound morphemes are in Fante while the free morphemes are in English. The bound morphemes which are pronouns, tense and plural affixes are mostly functional words. In a similar research work on Switch junctions in Yoruba-English code-switching, published in California Linguistic Notes found out that there are functional items in switch boundaries in Yoruba-English code-switch [7].

3.1.2. Switch Boundaries at the Suffix Level

12. wɔapprovee == wɔ + a + approve + ee [when they approved]

In this very example, there are three bound morphemes. Two of the morphemes are prefixes but elision has taken place in the second morpheme, ‘-a-’, as explained in Example 9. The third morpheme is a suffix. Example 12 has an English verb, ‘-approve’, followed by a Fante bound morpheme (suffix), ‘-ee’, which is a past tense marker. Another vowel elision has occurred at the switched boundary where one of the two ‘-ee’ suffix is elided because of the ‘e’ which ends the base word ‘approve’.

13(a) railwaysfo [railway workers]

(b) tailorfo [tailors]

(c) Kindergartenfo [kindergarten pupils]

(d) committeefo [committee members]

Examples 13(a)–(d) are made up of the same suffix structure. The Fante morpheme, ‘-fo’, is attached to English common nouns, ‘railways-’, ‘tailor-’, ‘Kindergarten-’ and ‘committee-’. The suffix -fo, in most cases, denotes plurality when it is attached to a noun. It is observed that in Fante-English code-switching, morpheme level switch boundaries can occur in-between English base word and Fante suffix. Fante suffixes

which denote past can be added to some English verbs. Also, most of the English nouns can take -fo as suffix.

Fante-English switches at the morpheme level are similar to a study on Yoruba-English code-switching at the morpheme boundary stated that switches can occur at the morpheme level [7, 8]. The Fante-English code-switching at morpheme boundary is in contrast to findings in Spanish-English code-switching where switches are not allowed at the morpheme level [9]. An interesting phenomenon is that all the bound morphemes, whether they are prefix or suffix, are in Fante and the only lexical item found in the structure is in English. Fante-English code-switching at the morpheme level is permitted by the affixation of one or more of the following bound morphemes in Fante: pronoun, tense, aspect, plural and negative markers: to the two major word classes in English – nouns and verbs. Thus, nouns and verbs affixes switch boundary have the following formulae:

fm bm

Fante-English Noun affixes switch boundary => En + Fs/plm

bm bm fm bm fm bm

Fante-English Verb affixes switch boundary => Fpr + Ftm(s) + Ev OR Fpr +

Ev + Ftm

KEY: bm => bound morpheme, E => English, F => Fante, fm => free morpheme, m => marker, n => noun, pl => plural, pr => pronoun, s => singular, tm => time marker(s), v => verb

3.2. *Switches at the Word Boundary*

The word can be described as the categorical elements of which phrase, sentences and texts are composed [7]. Words in grammar have been categorised along the line of parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections and verbs. In transformational grammar, they have also been classified as lexical and functional items. Lexical items are those which can be generally understood to convey a single meaning, much as a lexeme, but are not limited to single words. Lexical items are like semes in that they are "natural units" translating between languages, or in learning a new language. Function words or grammatical words or auto-semantic words, on the other hand, are words that have little lexical meaning or have ambiguous meaning, but instead serve to express grammatical relationships with other words within a sentence, or specify the attitude or mood of the speaker. They signal the structural relationships that words have with one another and are the glue that holds sentences together. Thus, they serve as important elements to the structures of sentences.

A study on Yoruba-English switches affirmed that functional heads usually occur in Yoruba while lexical heads may be in either Yoruba or English [7, 10]. Fante-English switches seem to confirm this assertion as portrayed by the following sentences found in the present data below:

14. Players a wɔyɛ likely dɛ wobotum aba [players who are likely to come]
15. Ongyina n'anana mu na ɛnsign dem letter no. [He should sign that letter on his behalf]
16. ɛmfama mma dem players dɛ wɛdze hɛn egu transfer.... [He should give to those

players that they on transfer list...]

17. Me mebelieve dɛ beebi a yedu no sɛ yeannyɛ careful ...a yɛbɔtwe club no asan.

[I believe that the level we have reached, if we are not careful... our behaviour
Can negatively affect the club.]

18. Yɛpɛ sika a dze asesa club no. [We need money to change the club]

19. Western Regionfo wɔyɛ discerning paa.

[Western region citizens are very discerning]

Sentences 14–19 show that nouns ‘players’, ‘letter’, ‘club’, ‘paper’, verbs ‘sign’, ‘believe’, ‘discerning’, ‘give’, adverbs ‘likely’, ‘careful’, may be in either Fante or English, and switches may occur before and after them but pronouns, tense, aspect, negative marker, modals usually occur in Fante language. From the sentences above, sometimes more English words are inserted but the overall morpho-syntactic structure remains Fante. Most of the linguistic evidences in this study are consistent with the findings in [11]. English verbs are usually in the infinitives without any tense or agreement markers, and they are often inflected by Fante aspect markers. Most of these former items fall under the class of lexical gambits whereas those in the latter group are referred to as functional words or closed class words. It is also observed that where functional items occur at the same time in the same sentence, example, pronoun + negative as in sentence 17, switches are usually not permitted between them. However, switches are allowed between lexical and functional items as depicted in extract sentences 15 and 17.

The switch boundary at the word level is similar to that of the morpheme in a number of ways. Like the switches at the morpheme level, the functional words in word boundary switches are mostly in Fante but the lexical words may be either Fante or English. Most of the linguistic evidences in this study reveal that the English verb is usually in the infinitive without any tense or agreement markers, and it is often inflected by Fante time markers. Another important feature in Fante-English code-switch is that when two functional words occur at juxtapositions switch junction is not allowed between them, otherwise the construction is adjudged ungrammatical.

3.3. *Switches at the Phrase Boundary*

Switches are also found in various types of phrase. Some of these are noun phrase, appositive phrase, gerund phrase, infinitive phrase, verb phrase, adverbial phrase, adjectival phrase, participial phrase, prepositional phrase or absolute phrase. For want of time and space very few of these phrase type switches are analyzed.

20(a) obogo [will go]

(b) woinspectee [was inspected]

The above examples from the audio recording indicate that Fante-English code-switching occurs within phrase levels. In Example 20 there is a switch in the verb phrase. Despite being the bound morpheme of the main verb, a switch is allowed between the modal verb ‘bo’ in Fante and the main verb ‘go’ in English. Example 20(b) also shows verb phrase switches permitted within Fante-English code-switching. Here, the Fante simple past suffix ‘ee’ is bounded to the verb ‘inspect’. From these examples it can be deduced that switches are permitted the verb phrase in Fante-English code-switching and can either precede or proceed the main verb.

21(a) time a cheque no bɛyɛ ready [time that the cheque will be ready]

(b) wɔ junction no do [at the junction]

Example 21(a) has an interesting switching pattern. In the adverb of time phrase structure, the word *time* is in English and its modifier, 'a', is in Fante. The word 'cheque', as usual, maintains its English identity while the definite article 'no', is also in Fante. The main verb 'do' and its auxiliary 'will' are all in Fante. This structure also unveils an exception to switches between modal verbs and main verbs. Switches are not allowed between pronouns or any of the auxiliary verbs. Switches are always not allowed in relative pronoun 'a'. Example 21(b) shows switches in a phrase 'wɔ junction no do'. With exception of the only lexical word 'junction' written in English, all other words in the phrase are in Fante. It is noted in Examples 21(a) and (b) that in Fante-English switches in adverb phrase, lexical words are mostly in English while functional items are in Fante.

22(a) Mike Mahma a ɔno na ɔyɛ minister [Mike Mahma, who is the minister...]

(b) obiara a ɔbɛyɛ successful no [anyone who will be successful]

In Examples 22, there is a switch between a pronoun 'ɔ' (s/he) affix to a copula 'yɛ' (is) and its complement 'minister'. It is also observed that the relative pronoun *who* (a in Fante) is usually in Fante. Switches are not permitted between nouns and relative pronouns.

23. mara me best friend Kuntu Blankson [my own best friend, Kuntu Blankson]

Switches are also made manifest in Example 23. The appositive phrase 'Kuntu Blankson, my own best friend' has two switch formula Fante-English. There is a switch junction between a possessive pronoun 'my' in Fante (*me*) and an adjective 'best' in English. It is also noted that there are two successive possessives first person pronouns in Fante 'mara me' before the switch. In this regard Fante-English switch is not allowed between two consecutive pronouns.

24. Esuafo a wɔaqualify [students who have qualified]

From the above example (24), there is a switch junction in-between the third person plural 'wɔ' in Fante and the English verb 'qualify'. It becomes evident that in Fante-English code-switching, switch is almost always permitted at pronouns and verbs boundaries. However, a switch between noun and relative pronoun is not permitted in Fante-English code-switching as shown from the 'esuafo a'.

The various Fante-English switch junctions at the phrasal level reveal grammatical locations where switches are allowed and other areas where they are not allowed. In the Fante-English switches at the verb phrase level the main verbs are always in English while the auxiliary verbs and tense markers are in Fante. From the analysis it becomes evident that switches are allowed between possessive pronouns in Fante (*mara, noara, hom ara, woara*) and English adjectives. However, in most cases, switches are not permitted between Fante adjectives preceding English nouns because such a structure is considered ungrammatical as shown in the examples below:

25(a)* Kɛse man [big man]

(b)* fufuw shirt [white shirt]

(c)* tsentsen tree [tall tree]

It is noteworthy that the reverse structures where Fante adjectives post-modify English nouns are permitted in some cases. The following examples attest to the claim:

26(a) man kese [man big]

(b) shirt fufuw [shirt white]

(c) bag tsentsen [bag long]

From the above examples, it is obvious that Fante-English code-switching takes Fante grammatical structure where nouns precede their qualifying adjectives. It is also illuminating that Fante nouns can be post-modified by English adjectives in most cases. The example below confirms this fact:

27. ne ba crazy bi no [that crazy child of his]

The most common switch junction in Fante-English switches is between Fante pronouns and English verbs. This is probably because in Fante grammatical structure pronouns are almost always prefixed to verbs as if they are single words. The only pronoun in Fante which is free morpheme is ‘hom’. It is essential to note that switches are sometimes permitted between nouns and the only relative pronoun *a* as shown by the examples below:

28(a) Esuafo a wɔaqualify [students who have qualified]

(b) players a wɔye likely [players who are likely]

The examples above show that the Fante noun ‘esuafo’ and the English nouns ‘players’ are all followed by ‘a’, also a relative pronoun in Fante. There is no way the noun will be Fante and the relative pronoun will be in English. When there are two or more modal verbs in close succession, switch is not allowed between them. In such a situation the all models will in mostly cases be in Fante.

3.4. Switches at the Clause Boundary

Switches in the form of clauses are also permitted in Fante-English code-switching. There are two types of clause: the main clause and the subordinate clause. These are illustrated by the following examples from the transcription of the audio recordings:

29. ɔno na ɔmaa Charles Osei Sibuhokwan dɛ ɔn sign on his behalf.

[He mandated Charles Osei Sibuhokwan to sign on his behalf.]

Example 29 is a sentence containing a main clause and a subordinate clause. From the example above the first part of the sentence ‘ɔno na ɔmaa Charles Osei Sibuhokwan dɛ’ is rendered in Fante while the other part “ɔn-‘sign on his behalf’” is rendered in English. An interesting aspect of this clause structure is that the verb ‘sign’ still retains a bound morpheme, ‘ɔn-’, where the clausal switch boundary occurs. This bound morpheme is a pronoun referring to Charles Osei Sibuhokwan, the noun in the first clause of the sentence. However, the main clause, ‘sign on his behalf’, can still be meaningful without the pronoun and indirect command markers, ‘ɔn-’, since imperative sentences normally have implied subjects.

30. Woelect regional interim executives na woetum ahwɛ ekyitafo no do.

[They will elect regional interim executives so that they can organize the supporters]

Example 30 also has two main clauses. The first one is ‘Woelect regional interim executives’ and the second clause is ‘woetum ahwɛ ekyitafo no do’. These two

clauses are joined together by a coordinating conjunction, ‘na’. With the exception of the Fante morpheme, ‘wo-’, the remaining part of the first clause is in English. The second clause, together with the conjunction, on the other hand, is rendered in Fante. The switch boundary is located between the object, ‘executives’, of the first clause and the conjunction, ‘na’. Again, the third person plural ‘wo-’ is affixed to the English verb, ‘elect’.

The Fante-English code-switching at the clause junction exhibits illuminating grammatical characteristics worth noting. There are two switch boundaries in most of these clauses: a minor switch and a major one. The minor switch is mostly found between pronouns and verbs, as already noted that Fante pronouns are attached to verbs. When Fante pronouns are removed, the remaining English clauses can stand on their own as Examples 31 and 32 repeated below show:

31. ɔno na ɔmaa Charles Osei Sibuhokwan de ɔnɔsign on his behalf.

32. Woelect regional interim executives na woetum ahwe ekyitaafonodo.

Example 31 shows that the English clause is meaningful with or without the pronoun affix ‘ɔ-’ and the indirect command affix ‘n-’. Example 32 can also work out perfectly as a clause without the third person pronoun ‘wo-’. The main switch junction is located at the place where the two switching clauses meet – the conjunction. The conjunction can either be Fante or English. Sometimes the two main switched clauses can all be Fante but the conjunction will be English. The example below illustrates it:

33. ɔbae but ɔammbɔto wo. [S/he came but s/he did not meet you.]

The example shows that the two clauses in Fante are brought together by the English conjunction ‘but’.

The foregoing discussions on the grammatical structure and various switch boundaries of Fante-English code-switch have unveiled a lot of constraints. The transcribed data of the study revealed that code-switching can occur at the various boundaries within a sentence. Some of the switches identified are at the morpheme boundary, switches at the word boundary, switches at the phrase boundary and switches at the clause boundary. It has also come to light that switches at the morpheme level are mono-directional, that is it always has Fante as the bound morpheme and English as the free morpheme but not other way round.

Concerning the switch pattern of Fante-English code-switching, it is obvious that there are both similarities and differences in Fante-English code-switching and that of other code-switching structures. Most of the code-switching structures follow the syntactic patterns of the switching communities’ mother tongues [7, 11-12]. The Fante-English code-switching similarly follows Fante syntactic pattern because all the English switched words are lexical items. A research study on Language maintenance in pervasive code-switching: Insight from Ghana published in Language Centre Journal postulated that code-switchers are deploying certain mother tongue language maintenance mechanisms which they have built into the principles that guide them in code-switching [13]. The content words, such as determiners, auxiliary verbs, emphasizees and the affixes such as pronouns, tense, aspect, negative and plural markers, which determine the structure of any language, are in Fante. Again, the directions of the switches in code-switching varieties are unique. Really, switch direction affects grammaticality of the code-switching structure. The Fante-English

code-switching is both mono-directional and bidirectional. It can be from Fante to English as the following examples show:

34(a) *hɛn nsa aka chief executive officer for ...*

[We have got the chief executive officer for ...]

(b)... *yɛbɔhwɛ top four akansi a ndeda otum na ...*

[We will take a look at the top four competitions which were played yesterday]

As examples 34(a) and (b) show, the switch direction is from Fante to English. The switch direction can also be from English to Fante as shown in the examples below.

35(a) *within a week, hɛn nsa kaa two press release*

[Within a week we got two press releases]

(b) *Last season yɛbrɛɛ, ndzɛmba bebree annkɔ yie.*

[We were exhausted last season; many things did not go well]

However, the switch junction in noun phrase is always mono-directional – English to Fante direction. This is confirmed by the data:

36. *Doctor no dwen ayarfo ho papa.* [The doctor has patients at heart]

A study on Spanish-English code-switching, affirmed that switches are allowed at all possible switch junctions, except where affixes are merged with root word [14]. Contrary Spanish-English code-switching findings, Fante-English code-switching has switch junction at the morpheme level. Another study on Constraints on language mixing: Intrasentential code-switching and borrowing in Spanish/English argued that, with regard to Spanish-English code-switching that adjectives modifying nouns must occur in the same language as the noun [15]. Fante-English code-switching can be bidirectional with regard to noun-adjective structure. The switch pattern can be English to Fante. In such a situation, the noun will be in English and it will be followed by the Fante adjective. The following data attest to this claim:

37(a) *man kese* [man big]

(b) *shirt fufuw* [shirt white]

(c) *bag tsentsen* [bag long]

(d) *ne boyfriend kwasea no* [that stupid boyfriend of her]

From the above examples, it is obvious that Fante-English code-switching takes Fante grammatical structure where nouns precede their qualifying adjectives. Similarly, certain Fante nouns can be post-modified by English adjectives. The data below demonstrate this fact:

38(a) *atar white no* [that white shirt]

(b) *ne ba crazy bi no* [that crazy child of his]

This is in line with Ewe-English code-switching, where certain attributive adjectives in English can post-qualify Ewe nouns [13]. It is, however, not the case that all nouns in Ewe can take English attributive adjectives in Ewe-English code-switching structure. In Ewe-English code-switching some names of colours in English and a handful of English adjectives can post-modify Ewe nouns as attributive adjectives [13]. Deliberating on why some of the Ewe nouns cannot take English

adjectives in Ewe-English switch boundary and how bilinguals ‘construct’ congruence across categories of different languages, quoted:

Congruence categories are categories of the grammar which are treated as ‘the same’ in L1 and L2 by bilinguals... congruence is not just a function of the syntax of the languages involved. The locus of congruence is the mind of the speaker, but community norms determine, by and large, the behaviour of individual speakers. Bilinguals ‘create congruent categories by finding common grounds between the languages concerned [13].

Here, the researcher pointed out that the congruence of categories across bilinguals’ languages is a function of the bilinguals’ perception of the degree of linguistic similarities among those categories [13]. In this case, the Ewe-English bilinguals choose about the degree of compatibility that exists between some English attributive adjectives and the post-modifier adjective slot in the noun phrase so that they can use those adjectives in that slot. However, bilinguals are not free to use English adjectives that are not members of the close class of ‘congruent’ adjectives in the post modifier slot. The congruent category constraints identified in a study titled Language maintenance in pervasive code-switching: Insight from Ghana published in Language Centre Journal not identified in Fante-English code-switching [13]. In Fante-English code-switching Fante nouns can be modified by English adjectives and vice versa.

The findings of study established that in a Fante-English code-switching structure two clauses which are in Fante can be joined together by an English conjunction. This finding is not in support of a study on Code-switching as a communicative strategy in India, postulated that when conjunctions occur in code-switched structures, the conjunctions occur in the language of the second clause [16]. As example 31 shows, the second clause is in Fante but the conjunction ‘but’ is in English. A similar study analyzing Yoruba-English code-switched structure noted that, it is not always that conjunctions occur in the language of the second clause [7].

In discussing grammatical constraints in Ewe-English code-switching noted that Ewe, unlike English, has two types of indefinite entities [13]. In the bid to distinguish between indefinite nouns that make generic reference and those that make specific reference, findings on consonance with Fante-English code-switching clearly showed that, generic nouns do not take overt indefinite articles [13]. The following example from the transcription illustrates it:

(39). Host: Opanyin, mepa wo kyew egua wɔ hɔ, please have a seat.

[Host: Old man, please, there is seat for you, please, have a seat]

From the example above, Fante generic noun ‘egua’ (chair) has no article but its English counterpart ‘seat’ has ‘a’, an indefinite article preceding it. The discussion of some aspects of Fante-English code-switching grammatical structure in the data set revealed another phenomenon worth discussing. Two types of verbs are identified. Some of the English verbs can occur successfully as fully integrated single- occurring verbs, though Fante morphemes attached, whereas others are not acceptable as single-occurring forms in mixed verb phrase. Certain English verbs like ‘release’, ‘approve’, ‘believe’, ‘clarify’, ‘lose’, ‘sign’, ‘trace’, ‘dry’, ‘coach’, ‘swear’ and ‘qualify’ can easily be integrated as single-occurring verbs in mixed verb phrase. On the other hand, certain English verbs, such as ‘come’, ‘go’, ‘eat’ ‘give’, ‘buy’, ‘say’ and ‘want’ can only occur when they are used with other English words to form expressions. The following examples demonstrate these expressions:

4. Conclusion

Grammatical features considered in Fante-English code-switching include morpheme, word, phrase and clause boundaries. The researchers investigated the structures where switch boundaries occur, where switch junctions are not allowed and the switch directions in Fante-English code-switching. The following findings emerged from the analysis.

At the morpheme boundary level switches occur between Fante bound morphemes and English free morphemes. The bound morphemes are grouped into five categories; pronoun, tense and aspect, negative, indirect command and plural affixes. In most cases, all these bound morphemes are in Fante. The pronoun affixes found at the switched junction are first person singular and plural, second person singular and third person singular and plural. The tense bound morphemes include future, present perfect and past tense. Another bound morpheme found in Fante is the plural affix.

The switch boundary at the word level is similar to that of the morpheme in a number of ways. Like the switches at the morpheme level, the functional words in word boundary switches are mostly in Fante but the lexical words may be either Fante or English. The syntactic structure of Fante-English code-switching remains Fante. Most of the linguistic evidences in this study reveal that the English verb is usually in the infinitive without tense or agreement markers, and it is often inflected with Fante tense, aspect or agreement markers. Another important feature in Fante-English code-switch is that when two functional words occur at juxtapositions switch junction is not allowed between them, otherwise the construction is adjudged ungrammatical.

The various Fante-English switch junctions at the phrasal level reveal grammatical locations where switches are allowed and other areas where they are not allowed. The research revealed that switches are allowed between possessive pronouns in Fante and English adjectives. However, in most cases, switches are not permitted between Fante adjectives preceding English nouns because such a structure is considered ungrammatical. It is noteworthy that the reverse structure where English noun comes before Fante adjective is permitted in code-switching structure.

The most commonly switch junction is between Fante pronouns and English verbs. This is probably because in Fante grammatical structure, pronouns are almost always prefixed to verbs as if they are single words. The only pronoun in Fante which is free morpheme is the second person plural 'hom'. It is essential to note that switches are not permitted between nouns in English and the only Fante relative pronoun 'a'. When there are two or more modal verbs in close succession, switch is not allowed between them. In such a situation all the modals will, in mostly cases, be in Fante.

There are two switch boundaries in most of Fante-English switching clauses: a minor switch and a major one. The minor switch is mostly found between pronouns and verbs as already noted that Fante pronouns are attached to verbs. When Fante pronoun is removed, the remaining English clause can stand on its own. The main switch junction is located at the place where the two switching clauses meet – the conjunction. The conjunction can either be Fante or English. Sometimes the two main switched clauses can all be Fante but the conjunction will be English.

There are both similarities and peculiarities in Fante-English code-switching and that of other code-switching structures found around the world. Some of these similarities and the differences are highlighted here. Fante-English code-switching, like other bilingual switching structures, follow the syntactic patterns of the switching

communities' mother tongue. This is made evident by the fact that all the English switched words are lexical items. The content words such as determiners, auxiliary verbs, emphasize and the affixes such as pronouns, tense, aspect, negative and plural markers are in Fante.

Another established similarity found between Fante-English code-switching and that of Ewe-English code-switching is the switch boundary in-between noun and adjective. In both structures, English adjectives can post-modify nouns in mother tongues. It must be noted, however, that this feature is not possible in all bilingual switches. As acknowledged by Pfaff (1980), adjectives modifying nouns must occur in the same language as the noun in Spanish-English code-switching.

The study revealed that conjunctions in code-switched structures can occur in any of the two languages but not necessarily the language of the second clause. It is also essential to note another Fante-English code-switching occurrence that tallies with Ewe-English switched structure. Like Ewe-English code-switching grammatical structure, Fante-English switched structure has two types of verbs. Some English verbs can occur successfully as fully integrated single-occurring verbs whereas others are not acceptable as single-occurring forms in mixed verb phrase.

Despite numerous similarities found between Fante-English switched structures and other bilingual switched structures, there are also some traits peculiar to only Fante-English mixed structures. Firstly, some of the English nuclear (generic) verbs occur as single-occurring verbs in Fante-English code-switching. Another peculiar characteristic of Fante-English code-switching is its ability to occur at the morpheme level. This is mostly attributed to pronouns which are always affixed to verbs, except 'hom'. Finally, another unique feature of Fante-English code-switching is that Fante noun can be modified by English adjective and vice versa.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: S.D.; Methodology: S.D.; Software: I.F.; Validation: I.F.; Formal analysis: J.A.S.; Investigation: S.D.; Resources: I.F.; Data Curation: J.A.S.; Writing – original draft preparation: S.D.; Writing: J.A.S.; S.D.; I.F.; Visualization: S.D.; Supervision: J.A.S.; Project administration: J.A.S.; Funding acquisition: J.A.S.; S.D.; I.F.

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