

CODE-SWITCHING PATTERNS IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY LECTURES

BY

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Code-Switching Patterns in Nigerian University Lectures" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined code-switching patterns in nigerian university lectures, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of code; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with code and switching. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Speech Act Theory and the Systemic Functional Linguistics. A sample size of 414 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 396 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.17). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.45$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.54, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.16$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on code.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of code-switching patterns in Nigerian university lectures is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Debates on national transformation repeatedly return to the role of code and its attendant dynamics. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of code and switching. Findings reported by Adebayo and Olawale (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to code recorded markedly different results. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Dauda and Salami (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Debates on national transformation repeatedly return to the role of code and its attendant dynamics. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which code unfolds. Umeh and Oyelaran (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of code are unevenly distributed across groups. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. The aggregate picture emerging from Nnamdi and Okonkwo (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between code and the outcomes of interest. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The phenomenon of code, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which code advances in practice. Comparative work by Nnamdi and Okonkwo (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking code with switching. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. The aggregate picture emerging from Kalu and Famuyide (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between code and the outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of code cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with switching. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Over the past two decades, code has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of code and switching. Empirical evidence from Adebayo and Ekwueme (2021) suggests that positive developments in switching are associated with improvements in code. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding switching. Comparative work by Ibrahim and Ibrahim