

## STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF INDONESIAN-ENGLISH CODE-SWITCHING IN THE ENDGAME PODCAST WITH BASKARA PUTRA

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**Abstract.** This study investigates the structural patterns of Indonesian-English code-switching in the Endgame podcast featuring host Gita Wirjawan and guest Baskara Putra. Code-switching, long observed in bilingual communities, is increasingly salient in digital media where it shapes public discourse and identity. The objective of this study is to identify the types, distribution, and grammatical integration of code-switching in a semi-formal podcast setting. Using a qualitative descriptive design with corpus-based elements, a purposive sample of 100 utterances containing switches from the Endgame video podcast was transcribed and analyzed. Guided by Poplack's typology and Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame model, the results show that intra-sentential switching dominates, with English insertions clustering around abstract or globalized topics such as mental health and dystopia. English elements were consistently embedded into Indonesian grammar, sometimes morphologically adapted. These findings demonstrate that podcast code-switching is both structurally systematic and symbolically meaningful, highlighting its role in indexing cosmopolitan identities in contemporary Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Code-Switching, Bilingualism, Podcast-Discourse

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini menganalisis pola struktural alih kode bahasa Indonesia–Inggris dalam podcast Endgame bersama Gita Wirjawan dan Baskara Putra. Alih kode, yang sejak lama diamati dalam komunitas dwibahasa, semakin menonjol di media digital karena membentuk wacana publik dan identitas. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi jenis, distribusi, dan integrasi gramatikal alih kode dalam konteks semi-formal podcast. Dengan menggunakan desain deskriptif kualitatif dengan elemen berbasis korpus, sampel purposif yang terdiri atas 100 ujaran yang mengandung alih kode dari video podcast Endgame ditranskripsi dan dianalisis. Analisis dilakukan dengan kerangka tipologi Poplack dan Matrix Language Frame dari Myers-Scotton. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa alih kode intra-kalimat mendominasi, dengan sisipan bahasa Inggris yang berpusat pada topik abstrak atau global seperti kesehatan mental dan distopia. Unsur bahasa Inggris secara konsisten diintegrasikan ke dalam tata bahasa Indonesia, bahkan kadang mengalami adaptasi morfologis. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa alih kode dalam podcast bersifat sistematis sekaligus bermakna simbolis, mencerminkan identitas kosmopolitan di Indonesia kontemporer.

**Keywords:** Code-Switching, Bilingualism, Podcast-Discourse

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is never a neutral tool of communication; it is a social practice that indexes identity, power, and belonging (Bourdieu, 1991; Heller, 2007). In multilingual societies, speakers frequently navigate more than one linguistic code, weaving them together in ways that reflect cultural positioning and interactional goals. Among the most visible of these practices is code-switching, a phenomenon where speakers alternate between two or more languages in a single conversation, utterance, or discourse event (Gumperz, 1982). While code-switching has long been documented in face-to-face interactions across diasporic and bilingual communities, its manifestation in digital and broadcast media has attracted increasing scholarly attention (Androutsopoulos, 2015). This is not simply because of its linguistic creativity but because media language reaches mass audiences, potentially shaping perceptions of multilingualism, cultural prestige, and even ideological stances.

Podcasts, a rapidly expanding form of digital broadcasting, have emerged as vibrant sites for observing how bilingual and multilingual practices operate in semi-formal yet widely circulated conversations. Unlike scripted television or news broadcasts, podcasts often combine elements of casual conversation, intellectual debate, and personal narrative, making them fertile ground for spontaneous code-switching. In contexts like Indonesia, where English has become an increasingly salient resource in education, media, and youth identity (Djenar et al., 2018; Lowenberg, 1991), the ways in which public figures switch between Bahasa Indonesia and English on podcasts carry both linguistic and symbolic weight. This dual significance, i.e., communicative and sociocultural, makes the study of code-switching in podcasts not just timely but essential.

The study of code-switching has historically been grounded in both *structuralist* and *sociolinguistic* traditions. Early models, such as Poplack's (1980) grammatical constraints approach, sought to explain the structural rules governing how and where switches could occur in bilingual discourse. Poplack argued for constraints like the "equivalence constraint" and the "free morpheme constraint," which suggested that switching is not random but systematically aligned with the syntactic compatibilities of the involved languages (Poplack, 1980). Later work by Myers-Scotton (1993, 2002) advanced the *Matrix Language Frame (MLF)* model, proposing that one language typically provides the morphosyntactic frame (the matrix language), while the other is embedded within it (Myers-Scotton, 1993, 2002). This model highlights how switches are integrated grammatically, offering tools for analyzing the morphosyntactic dimensions of bilingual speech.

In parallel, interactional and discourse-oriented frameworks (Auer, 1999; Gumperz, 1982) emphasize that code-switching is not merely about grammar but also about meaning, identity, and context. From this perspective, switches may index shifts in footing, appeal to authority, signal stance, or align with an audience. In mediated contexts like podcasts, this dual dimension of structural and interactional becomes particularly relevant. Hosts and guests may switch codes not only for linguistic economy but also to project cosmopolitan identities, establish credibility, or connect with both local and global audiences. This study builds on this dual grounding, combining structural analysis of code-switching with attention to the discursive practices of podcasting as a communicative genre.

Indonesia offers a unique backdrop for examining media code-switching. While Bahasa Indonesia functions as the national language and symbol of unity, English holds significant symbolic capital as a marker of education, cosmopolitanism, and global connectedness (Kirkpatrick, 2007; Sneddon, 2003). Within urban, educated milieus, especially in Jakarta, the blending of Indonesian and English has become commonplace in everyday speech, social media interactions, and popular culture. Podcasting as a platform magnifies this phenomenon. Unlike formal television programs, podcasts are often conversational, lightly scripted, and aimed at younger, educated demographics who are already familiar with code-switching as part of their linguistic repertoire.

The Endgame Podcast, hosted by Gita Wirjawan and broadcast on YouTube, is an exemplar of this communicative ecology. Positioned as a space for intellectual exchange with public figures, it navigates between the demands of accessibility to a broad Indonesian audience and the aspiration toward cosmopolitan intellectual discourse. In this environment, code-switching is not incidental but integral: it enables the host and guest to move between local grounding in the Indonesian cultural context and global positioning via English. This framing positions the podcast as a fertile arena for analyzing both the mechanics and the meanings of code-switching.

The specific episode chosen for this study, “Dunia Distopia Baskara Putra,” provides a particularly illuminating case. Baskara Putra, widely known as a musician and public intellectual figure, represents a younger generation of Indonesians who are deeply rooted in local cultural production yet simultaneously attuned to global discourses. In his conversation with Gita Wirjawan, code-switching emerges not merely as a stylistic flourish but as an embodied practice reflecting his dual orientation: engaging in critical commentary about dystopian imaginaries, while also situating himself within a globally intelligible discourse community. This episode thus offers a case where code-switching is likely to appear in nuanced

forms, i.e., lexical insertions, intra-sentential switches, and shifts in register, that can reveal both structural and symbolic patterns. This case is selected not only because of its representative value of urban Indonesian bilingualism but also because of its relevance to the growing trend of intellectual podcasts in Southeast Asia. By focusing on this single episode, the study achieves a manageable scope while also capturing the layered interplay of language, identity, and media format.

The significance of this study lies in its convergence of theoretical, methodological, and sociocultural contributions. Theoretically, it revisits long-standing debates about the structural constraints of code-switching (Myers-Scotton, 1993; Poplack, 1980) by testing them in the relatively underexplored domain of podcast discourse. Methodologically, it demonstrates how structural analysis can be adapted to mediated conversation, where spontaneity interacts with the affordances of recording and broadcasting. Socioculturally, it sheds light on the symbolic role of English in contemporary Indonesian intellectual life, showing how code-switching indexes prestige, authority, and cosmopolitanism in public discourse (Djenar et al., 2018; Lowenberg, 1991).

At a broader level, this study is timely. As podcasts gain popularity in Indonesia and beyond, the linguistic practices displayed therein will increasingly shape public perceptions of bilingualism. By analyzing how prominent figures like Baskara Putra engage in code-switching, we not only document a contemporary linguistic trend but also contribute to understanding how media figures construct multilingual identities in the digital era. In doing so, this research adds to both the sociolinguistics of globalization (Blommaert, 2010) and the emerging scholarship on digital discourse practices (Androutsopoulos, 2015; Seargeant & Tagg, 2014).

This article aims to conduct a structural analysis of code-switching in the selected Endgame Podcast episode, with a focus on identifying patterns, distributions, and grammatical integrations of Indonesian-English alternations. The central research questions guiding this inquiry are: What types of code-switching occur in the conversation between Gita Wirjawan and Baskara Putra? How are these switches distributed across the interactional flow of the podcast? And to what extent are the English insertions and alternations grammatically integrated within the Indonesian matrix.?

The objective of the study, therefore, is not only descriptive but also explanatory: it seeks to map the structural dimensions of bilingual alternation while situating them within the communicative ecology of podcasting in Indonesia. By addressing these questions, the study hopes to clarify how structural models of code-switching apply to contemporary mediated

speech, while also providing insight into how language users navigate bilingual repertoires in high-visibility, digitally mediated settings.

## METHODS

This study employs a qualitative descriptive design with elements of corpus-based discourse analysis. The design is qualitative in nature because the study seeks to identify, categorize, and interpret instances of code-switching in a specific discourse setting rather than to test statistical hypotheses. At the same time, it draws on corpus techniques insofar as it systematically collects and codes linguistic data from a bounded dataset. This design is appropriate because the research objectives focus on the structural features of code-switching: its types, distributions, and grammatical integration, as they appear in naturalistic media discourse. By adopting this approach, the study balances the close, interpretive analysis typical of sociolinguistics with the systematic rigor expected of structural linguistic research (Miles et al., 2014).

The data for this study were drawn from an episode of the Endgame podcast, titled “Dunia Distopia Baskara Putra”, which was broadcast on YouTube. The participants were host Gita Wirjawan and guest Baskara Putra. From the full transcript, a sample of 100 utterances was selected for analysis. Sampling followed a purposive strategy, focusing on stretches of conversation where Indonesian-English alternation occurred. This ensured that the data were sufficiently rich for identifying different structural types of code-switching while remaining manageable for detailed qualitative coding.

Two complementary structural frameworks guide the analysis. First, Poplack’s (1980) typology provides the categories for identifying code-switching: (a) inter-sentential switching, (b) intra-sentential switching, and (c) tag-switching. Second, Myers-Scotton’s (1993) Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model is used to examine grammatical integration, particularly how Indonesian functions as the matrix language and how English elements are embedded within it. Coding was conducted deductively, since categories and definitions were drawn directly from established theoretical models. However, inductive refinement was allowed where data revealed borderline cases or hybrid forms. For example, instances of English verbs with Indonesian affixes (e.g., *nge-invite*, *di-release*) were coded under intra-sentential switching with morphological integration, expanding Poplack’s categories to reflect Indonesian usage better.

The podcast episode was first transcribed into written form, after which the transcript was segmented into individual utterances (speaker turns or complete clauses). From this transcript, 100 utterances that contained instances of code-switching were extracted. Data were organized in a table containing the utterance, speaker, and preliminary classification. Microsoft Word and Excel were used for annotation, while coding was conducted manually by the researcher to ensure accuracy in identifying boundaries and integration of switches.

The analysis proceeded in several stages: First, *identification*: All English words, phrases, or sentences appearing within Indonesian discourse (and vice versa) were marked. Second, *categorization*: Each instance was classified according to Poplack's typology (inter-sentential, intra-sentential, tag-switching). Third, *integration analysis*: Following Myers-Scotton's MLF model, each instance was analyzed for its grammatical relationship to the surrounding Indonesian frame. This included identifying morphological adaptation (e.g., affixation) and syntactic embedding. Fourth, *distributional mapping*: The frequency and distribution of different types of code-switching were calculated across the dataset, noting clustering around particular themes or stretches of talk. Fifth, *interpretation*: Findings were interpreted in relation to the podcast genre, considering how structural patterns align with communicative functions in media discourse. This stepwise process ensured systematic treatment of the data while maintaining openness to context-sensitive interpretation.

## RESULTS

### Types of Code-Switching

Analysis of the 100 utterances revealed the presence of all three of Poplack's (1980) categories of code-switching: inter-sentential, intra-sentential, and tag-switching. The majority of instances involved intra-sentential switching, where English words or phrases were embedded within Indonesian clauses. Inter-sentential switches occurred less frequently, typically at moments of emphasis or when delivering complete statements in English. Tag-switching, consisting of short discourse markers or phrases, was present but least frequent.

**Table 1.** Frequency of code-switching types (N=100 utterances)

<b>Types of Code-Switching</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Intra-sentential	58	58%
Inter-sentential	29	29%
Tag-switching	13	13%

Representative excerpts illustrate each type:

*Intra-sentential*

“*Saya nggak merasa saya bilang saya ngomongin mental health. Saya bilang yang saya bicarakan adalah my mental health.*” [36–37]

Here, the English noun phrase *my mental health* is embedded in Indonesian syntax.

*Inter-sentential*

“*Itu jadi berat saja pak menurut saya melihat segala macam yang terjadi di sekitar kita and actually feel okay...*” [66]

The utterance shifts from Indonesian into a full English clause.

*Tag-switching*

“*So far, so good?*” [26]

A short English expression used as a conversational check-in.

These examples demonstrate that intra-sentential switching dominates, but all three types are active in the podcast discourse.

### Distribution of Code-Switching

The 100 utterances showed that code-switching was not evenly distributed across the conversation. Instead, it clustered in particular segments, often aligning with shifts in topic or register. Specifically, English appeared more frequently in stretches where speakers discussed:

- Professional or institutional experiences (e.g., education abroad, work at British Council).
- Abstract or theoretical concepts (e.g., dystopia, mental health, political correctness).
- Personal reflections framed in global discourse (e.g., describing emotions, generational challenges).

**Table 2.** Distribution of code-switching by conversational theme

Conversational Theme	Number of Instances	Example Utterance
Education & career trajectory	17	“ <i>I worked for a few years in British Council juga waktu itu.</i> ” [7]
Music & artistic influences	21	“ <i>Jadi banyak musical influence saya juga apa yang Ibu saya dengar, saya dengar dari kecil.</i> ” [14]
Mental health & personal state	34	“ <i>Saya bilang yang saya bicarakan adalah my mental health.</i> ” [37]
Social & political commentary	19	“ <i>Kayak ingin ngomongin ini lebih dalam, I am afraid I might get too political.</i> ” [80]
General discourse management	9	“ <i>So far, so good?</i> ” [26]

This distribution indicates that code-switching was most prevalent when discussing personal experiences tied to global discourses (e.g., mental health, political correctness), and least frequent in stretches of casual conversational management.

### Grammatical Integration of English Insertions

A closer look at intra-sentential switches revealed several patterns of grammatical integration, consistent with Myers-Scotton's (1993) Matrix Language Frame model. Bahasa Indonesia consistently functioned as the matrix language, providing the morphosyntactic frame, while English served as the embedded language, contributing lexical or phrasal material. Three significant forms of integration were identified:

- **Direct Lexical Insertions:** English nouns, adjectives, or short phrases embedded in Indonesian syntax without morphological adaptation. Example:

“Saya fokus banget kayak ngomongin segala macam *ups and downs young adults* gitu, *living in a big city* di Indonesia.” [39]

- **Morphological Adaptations:** English roots attached to Indonesian affixes, demonstrating grammatical assimilation. Example:

“Jadi kayak ada semacam budaya di kampus kami yang suka *nge-invite* anak-anak mahasiswanya.” [9]

- **Clause-Level Embedding:** English clauses inserted into Indonesian discourse, but syntactically independent. Example:

“Itu jadi berat saja pak menurut saya melihat segala macam yang terjadi di sekitar kita *and actually feel okay...*” [66]

**Table 3.** Patterns of grammatical integration

<b>Integration Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Example</b>
Direct lexical insertion	41	<i>my mental health</i> [37]
Morphological adaptation	9	<i>nge-invite</i> [9]
Clause-level embedding	20	<i>and actually feel okay</i> [66]

The findings confirm that English elements are consistently embedded within Indonesian grammatical structures, with lexical insertions forming the dominant pattern. Morphological adaptation was less common but illustrates productive bilingual creativity in integrating English verbs into Indonesian morphology.

## DISCUSSION

The predominance of intra-sentential switching is significant because it suggests a high degree of bilingual competence among the speakers (Kharkhurin & Wei, 2015; Yow et al., 2018), particularly the ability to weave English elements into Indonesian grammar without disruption. This pattern indicates that code-switching in this context is not a compensatory strategy for lexical gaps but a deliberate stylistic resource (Yow et al., 2018). The ability to integrate English phrases such as *my mental health* or *young adults* into Indonesian discourse reflects a normalized bilingual repertoire in which English serves as a ready reservoir of terms, especially for abstract concepts and cultural categories that circulate globally.

The clustering of code-switching around specific topics further underscores this point. When discussing specific topics, speakers turned to English more frequently (Zhong et al., 2024), such as education, mental health, or dystopian imaginaries. By contrast, stretches of casual or interpersonal talk, such as recalling family life or narrating daily routines, remained largely in Indonesian. This thematic distribution suggests that code-switching operates as a contextual cue (Zhong et al., 2024), in this case, Indonesian grounds the conversation in local and personal experience, while English indexes global relevance, intellectual authority, or alignment with transnational conversations.

Grammatical integration patterns reinforce this interpretation. English items were most often borrowed as lexical insertions, conforming to Indonesian syntax without morphological change. However, the presence of morphologically adapted forms such as *nge-invite* highlights not only structural flexibility but also linguistic creativity (Kharkhurin, 2025). These hybrid forms indicate that English is not merely imported but actively indigenized (Anwar et al., 2020), in this context into Indonesian morphology, producing a distinctive bilingual register that is specific to Indonesian sociolinguistic conditions.

These findings resonate with and extend previous scholarship on code-switching in Indonesian and global contexts. Poplack's (1980) typology confirms that all three categories—inter-sentential, intra-sentential, and tag-switching—were present. However, the dominance of intra-sentential switches in this dataset extends her observations, showing how bilingual speakers in media contexts prefer highly integrated forms that demand advanced competence. This supports Muysken's (2000) observation that insertion is a typical pattern in bilingual speech, while also demonstrating that insertion may dominate in genres like podcasts where intellectual content is foregrounded.

Similarly, Myers-Scotton's (1993) Matrix Language Frame model is largely upheld: Indonesian clearly functioned as the matrix language, while English provided embedded elements. However, the data also suggest extensions to the model. The productivity of Indonesian affixation with English roots (e.g., *nge-invite*) illustrates how embedded language items can be absorbed so thoroughly that they behave like native lexical material. This challenges the strict dichotomy between matrix and embedded language, suggesting instead a more dynamic interaction in which English elements are partially domesticated into Indonesian morphology. In relation to Indonesian bilingualism studies (Djenar et al., 2018; Myers-Scotton, 1993; Sneddon, 2003), the findings align with the view that English functions as a prestige code in educated urban discourse. Previous studies have documented code-switching in classrooms, youth slang, and social media, but few have examined podcasts as a genre. By showing that intellectual podcasts reproduce similar patterns while tailoring them to a semi-formal audience, this study extends the domain of inquiry. It highlights podcasts as new spaces where elite bilingual practices are performed and normalized.

One unexpected finding was the relatively low frequency of tag-switching compared to intra-sentential and inter-sentential switching. Previous studies in casual conversation often report high rates of English discourse markers (you know, actually, anyway) in Indonesian bilingual speech (Djenar, 2015). In this dataset, such markers were present but limited, suggesting that the semi-formal style of the podcast constrained the overuse of tags. Another surprising observation was the productivity of morphological adaptation, which, while less frequent overall, reveals the extent to which English verbs are being naturalized into Indonesian colloquial usage. This phenomenon deserves further attention, as it points toward longer-term processes of borrowing and lexical innovation that may outlast the immediate context of code-switching.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study set out to examine the structural features of Indonesian-English code-switching in the Endgame podcast episode "Dunia Distopia Baskara Putra." The aim was to understand how bilingual practices unfold in the semi-formal, intellectual space of podcasting, with particular attention to the types of code-switching, their distribution across the conversation, and the grammatical integration of English into Indonesian discourse. By narrowing the focus to a single episode while engaging with established frameworks, the research has highlighted the ways in which bilingualism is systematically and creatively mobilized in Indonesian media contexts.

The analysis revealed three main insights. First, intra-sentential switching was the dominant pattern, demonstrating the speakers' ability to integrate English phrases seamlessly into Indonesian grammar. Second, code-switching clustered around specific themes, particularly abstract or globally inflected topics such as mental health and dystopia, while remaining less frequent in stretches of casual or personal talk. Third, English elements were consistently embedded into Indonesian as the matrix language, with lexical insertions forming the majority, alongside occasional morphological adaptations and clause-level embeddings. Together, these findings portray code-switching in this podcast not as random alternation, but as a patterned and context-sensitive linguistic practice.

The contribution of this study lies in extending structural models of code-switching to the underexplored genre of podcasts. The findings confirm the relevance of frameworks like Poplack's typology and Myers-Scotton's Matrix Language Frame model, while also suggesting refinements to account for the hybrid morphological forms that emerge in Indonesian-English bilingual speech. Methodologically, the study demonstrates how qualitative corpus analysis can be applied to media transcripts, offering a replicable approach for future research on digital discourse. Conceptually, it highlights how podcasts function as new arenas for bilingual performance, where language practices simultaneously anchor speakers in local identities and position them within global conversations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Future research on code-switching in Indonesian media should expand beyond a single podcast episode to include a comparative analysis across different genres (e.g., educational podcasts, entertainment talk shows, political discussions) to identify whether similar structural patterns persist or vary according to audience, topic, and speaker background. In addition, incorporating larger corpora and quantitative tools could strengthen generalizability, while combining structural analysis with audience reception studies would illuminate not only how code-switching is produced but also how it is perceived. Finally, given the creativity observed in morphologically adapted forms, future studies should pay closer attention to these hybrid innovations as potential indicators of long-term lexical borrowing and language change in Indonesian bilingual practice.

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