Code Switching and Code Mixing in Connie Wong's Astrolobitch: A Sociolinguistic Analysis

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Abstract

This study analyzes code switching and code mixing in the novel Astrolobitch by Connie Wong by applying Poplack's theory and Muysken' theory. The research is motivated by the increasing use of multiple languages in modern communication, especially among bilingual speakers, which is also reflected in literary works. Code switching and code mixing are important aspects of sociolinguistics as they represent language variation, identity, and communication style. The objective of this study is to identify and classify the types of code switching and code mixing found in the Astrolobitch novel.This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, as the data are presented in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. The data source is the novel Astrolobitch, particularly the dialogues containing mixed language use. The data are collected through several steps, including reading the novel thoroughly and noting the occurrences of code switching and code mixing. The collected data are then analyzed using Poplack's (1980) theory to classify types of code switching and Muysken's(2000) theory to classify types of code mixing.The result of this research found 79 data which include code switching and code mixing, in code switching, inter-sentential switching is the most dominant type with 18 (45%), followed by intra-sentential switching with 16 (40%), and tag switching with 6 (15%) and In code mixing, insertion becomes the most dominant type with 27 (69%), followed by alternation with 8 (21%), and congruent lexicalization with 4 (10%). In conclusion, this research contributes to the field of sociolinguistics by providing a clearer understanding of language variation in literary works and reflecting contemporary bilingual communication styles.

Keywords: code mixing, code switching, novel, sociolinguistics, variation

INTRODUCTION

Language is a primary tool for human to communicate with others. In every region in the whole world, people have their own language to interact, to work together and to fulfill their needs (Octavita, 2017). This condition causes the appearance of code switching and code mixing, which are common phenomena in sociolinguistics. The scientific study of language and social called sociolinguistics. Sociolinguists look at how language and society are connected. They want to explain why we talk differently in various social situations, and they are focused on figuring out the social purposes of language and how it is used to express social meaning (Holmes, 1994). When individuals in society are doing a discussion, they continuously utilize more than one dialect and language. In this kind of circumstance they some of the time person/people talk by blending dialects or codes.

According to (Wardhaugh, 1986) states the code is the language or dialect that the speaker specifies to use at every opportunity, depends on the hearer. Language and code as a way

of providing information by means of communication can make people's lives longer and comfortable. Code switching is part of the phenomenon which only happens in a bilingual community. Code switching happens when a speaker changes from one language to another, while code mixing occurs when elements of one language are inserted into another language. Code switching and code-mixing do not only happen in oral communication but also occur in literary work such as a short story, poem, poetry and especially novel.

A. Code-Switching According to Poplack (1980)

(Poplack, 1980)divides the phenomenon of code-switching into three main types based on the position of the shift within the sentence:

1. Inter-sentential Switching: Code-switching that occurs across sentence or clause boundaries. One full sentence in Language A, the next in Language B.
2. Intra-sentential Switching: Code-switching that occurs within the same sentence or clause.
3. Tag-switching: The insertion of a phrase or interjection from one language into another.

B. Code-Mixing According to Muysken (2000)

Pieter Muysken (2000) defines code-mixing as all cases in which elements from two languages are used within a single sentence (utterance), and divides it into three main patterns:

1. Insertion: The insertion of lexical elements or phrases from another language into the structure of the base language (matrix language).
2. Alternation: Alternation refers to a switch between structures from different languages within a sentence.
3. Congruent Lexicalization: Both languages share the same grammatical structure, and elements from both languages are used interchangeably.

Key Differences Between Poplack and Muysken:

- Poplack tends to view code-switching as a more conscious shift between languages that occurs at sentence boundaries, often regarded as a communication strategy.
- Muysken views code-mixing more in terms of how two languages interact structurally within a single sentence, often in a less conscious manner.

The novel Astrolobitch by Connie Wong is one of the literary works that shows the use of bilingual language. The characters in the novel frequently use Indonesian and English in their dialogues and narration. This makes the novel interesting to analyze because it reflects modern language use among young people and urban society. Therefore, this study focuses on identifying the types of code switching and code mixing in the novel based on Poplack’s theory and Muysken’s theory. The researcher chooses this topic because studies

about this novel are still limited, and the analysis may provide a clearer understanding of language variation in literary texts.

Several previous research have examined code switching and code mixing in Indonesian-English Bilingual conversation, novel, and classroom communication. (Febrianitha & Gusthini, 2025) Code-Switching and Code-Mixing Phenomena in Indonesian-English Bilingual Conversation: A Case Study of FYC Agency. The previous study conducted by Febrianitha and Gusthini (2025) analyzed code-switching and code-mixing in workplace communication at FYC Agency. However, their research focused on professional interactions rather than literary texts. To date, studies examining code-switching and code-mixing in *Astrolobitch* by Connie Wong remain limited. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the types of code-switching and code-mixing in the novel using Poplack's (1980) and Muysken's (2000) theories.

(Octavita, 2017)Code Mixing and Code Switching in Novel 'The Devil Wears Prada." The previous study by Octavita (2016) examined code switching and code mixing in *The Devil Wears Prada* novel. However, the study used Suwito's classification of code mixing (inner and outer code mixing) and did not apply Muysken's (2000) framework of insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. In addition, the study focused on a Western novel, whereas the present study investigates a contemporary Indonesian novel, *Astrolobitch* by Connie Wong. Therefore, this study offers a more comprehensive analysis of code mixing and code switching in Indonesian literary discourse.

(Devi Rafika Sari et al., 2025)Code Switching and Code Mixing in the Communication of Arabic Language Education Master Students UIN Malang: A Sociolinguistic Study. Previous research conducted by Sari et al. (2025) examined code switching and code mixing in the communication of Arabic Language Education Master students at UIN Malang. The study focused on Indonesian-Arabic bilingual communication in academic settings and analyzed the forms and factors of code switching and code mixing. However, the study did not investigate code switching and code mixing in literary works, particularly contemporary Indonesian novels. Furthermore, the study employed the classifications of internal-external code switching and inner-outer code mixing, whereas the present study applies Poplack's (1980) and Muysken's (2000) frameworks. Therefore, this study fills the gap by analyzing the types of code switching and code mixing in *Astrolobitch* by Connie Wong, providing a more detailed description of bilingual language use in contemporary Indonesian literature.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research is intended to explore and interpret social and linguistic phenomena within their natural contexts (Creswell, 2014). The data source of this study is the novel Astrolobitch by Connie Wong. The data are words, phrases, clauses, and sentences containing code switching and code mixing found in the dialogues of the novel.

The data collection techniques are reading the novel carefully, identifying the expressions that contain code switching and code mixing, and taking notes of the relevant data. After that, the data are classified based on Poplack's theory for code switching and Muysken's theory for code mixing. The data analysis is conducted through several steps: identifying the data, classifying them into types, analyzing each example based on the theories, and drawing conclusions from the results. This method is used to describe the language phenomena found in the novel systematically and clearly.

FINDINGS

A. CODE SWITCHING BASED ON POPLACK (1980)

Table 1. Data Analysis of Code Switching

NO	TYPE OF CODE SWITCHING	FREQUENTLY	PRESENTANCE
1.	Inter-sentential Switching	18	45%
2.	Intra-sentential Switching	16	40%
3.	Tag Switching	6	15%
	TOTAL	40	100%

The researcher found 40 occurrences of code switching in *Astrolobitch* by Connie Wong. Based on Poplack's (1980) theory, the data are classified into three types: inter-sentential switching, intra-sentential switching, and tag switching.

1. Inter-sentential Switching

Inter-sentential switching occurs when the language shift happens between sentences or clauses.

Data 1

"OH NO. BIG NO NO. JANGAN PERNAH JODOHIN GUE SAMA SAGITARIUS!"

This datum is categorized as inter-sentential switching because the speaker uses English expressions ("OH NO. BIG NO NO.") before switching to an Indonesian sentence ("JANGAN PERNAH JODOHIN GUE SAMA SAGITARIUS!"). The switch occurs at the

sentence boundary, which is a characteristic of inter-sentential switching according to Poplack (1980).

Data 2

"Please, Kinara. Let me take care of you."

This datum belongs to inter-sentential switching because the utterance is delivered as a complete English sentence that appears within a conversation dominated by Indonesian. The switch occurs between complete linguistic units.

Data 3

"Aku tidak ingin membahasnya lagi. Let's end this conversation."

This datum is classified as inter-sentential switching because the speaker changes from an Indonesian sentence to a complete English sentence. The language shift occurs across sentence boundaries.

The analysis found 18 occurrences (45%) of inter-sentential switching, making it the most dominant type of code switching in the novel.

2. Intra-sentential Switching

Intra-sentential switching occurs when language switching takes place within the same sentence.

Data 1

"Bawel banget ya lo? Gue cinta sama kerjaan gue dan gue menghayatinya, bukan lebay. I do what I preach to other people! Udah ya, gue nggak mau berantem sama lo."

This datum is categorized as intra-sentential switching because English and Indonesian elements appear within the same discourse sequence. The speaker inserts an English sentence between Indonesian utterances without changing the topic.

Data 2

"Masih ingat nggak sama aku?... Aku jalanin sarannya Astrolobitch, and guess what, he is my boyfriend now! Thank you so much, Astrolobitch!"

This datum is classified as intra-sentential switching because English clauses are inserted within an Indonesian utterance. The switch occurs within the flow of a single communicative event.

Data 3

"Nggak, bukan salah kamu kok. Salah bintang kamu. Makanya, I don't believe that people change."

This datum belongs to intra-sentential switching because the speaker switches from Indonesian to English within the same discourse context and utterance.

The researcher found 16 occurrences (40%) of intra-sentential switching.

3. Tag Switching

Tag switching occurs when a tag, interjection, or short expression from one language is inserted into another language.

Data 1

"See you soon, Kinara..."

This datum is categorized as tag switching because the English expression "See you soon" functions as a fixed phrase inserted into a conversation that predominantly uses Indonesian.

Data 2

"One of? Yang lainnya apa? Kamu abis diputusin sama cewek kamu gara-gara hal yang sama?"

This datum is classified as tag switching because the short English phrase "One of?" is inserted into an Indonesian sentence structure without affecting the grammatical structure of the main language.

The researcher identified 6 occurrences (15%) of tag switching, making it the least frequent type.

B. CODE MIXING BASED ON MUYSKEN (2000)

Table 2. Data Analysis of Code Mixing

NO.	TYPE OF CODE MIXING	FREQUENTLY	PRESENTANCE
1.	Insertion	27	69%
2.	Alternation	8	21%
3.	Congruent Lexicalization	4	10%
	TOTAL	39	100%

The researcher found 39 occurrences of code mixing in the novel. Based on Muysken's (2000) theory, the data are classified into insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization.

1. Insertion

Insertion occurs when words or phrases from one language are inserted into the grammatical structure of another language.

Data 1

"Gue masih ada deadline nih."

This datum is categorized as insertion because the English word *deadline* is inserted into an Indonesian sentence structure.

Data 2

"Kan udah lama kita nggak dinner bareng, Nar."

This datum belongs to insertion because the English lexical item *dinner* is embedded into an Indonesian grammatical structure.

Data 3

"Mas, minta bill-nya dong."

This datum is classified as insertion because the English noun *bill* is inserted into an Indonesian sentence and receives the Indonesian suffix "-nya."

Data 4

"Weekend kok masih kerja, Nar?"

This datum is categorized as insertion because the English word *weekend* functions as a lexical insertion within an Indonesian utterance.

The researcher found 27 occurrences (69%) of insertion, making it the most dominant type of code mixing.

2. Alternation

Alternation occurs when speakers alternate between structures from different languages within the same utterance.

Data 1

"Sure. Tapi lo jangan gitu lagi ya?"

This datum is categorized as alternation because the speaker begins with an English expression and then continues with an Indonesian clause, showing a shift between two language structures.

Data 2

"Thanks ya, udah ngajakin gue ke sini."

This datum belongs to alternation because the English expression "Thanks" alternates with an Indonesian clause in the same utterance.

Data 3

"Kinar, I'm on my way ke rumahmu ya sekarang."

This datum is classified as alternation because the utterance combines English and Indonesian structures that remain grammatically independent.

The researcher found 8 occurrences (21%) of alternation.

3. Congruent Lexicalization

Congruent lexicalization occurs when elements from two languages are integrated into a shared grammatical structure.

Data 1

"Iya, soalnya istilah 'nih yeee' is so last century deh!"

This datum is categorized as congruent lexicalization because Indonesian and English elements are blended within a single grammatical structure.

Data 2

"Guys, please. Kalian ngomongin gue seolah-olah gue nggak di sini. Hello? Hai?"

This datum belongs to congruent lexicalization because multiple English lexical items are integrated naturally into Indonesian discourse.

Data 3

"Sense of humor kamu itu luar biasa!"

This datum is classified as congruent lexicalization because the English phrase *sense of humor* functions naturally within the Indonesian sentence structure.

The researcher identified 4 occurrences (10%) of congruent lexicalization.

DISCUSSION

The findings reveal that all types of code switching proposed by Poplack (1980) and all types of code mixing proposed by Muysken (2000) are present in *Astrolobitch* by Connie Wong. The results indicate that bilingual language use is an important feature of the novel, reflecting the communication style of contemporary Indonesian urban society.

Among the types of code switching, **inter-sentential switching** is the most dominant type with 18 occurrences (45%). This finding suggests that the characters tend to switch

languages between sentences rather than within sentence boundaries. The frequent use of complete English sentences may function to emphasize meaning, express emotions, or construct a modern and educated identity. This finding supports Poplack's (1980) argument that inter-sentential switching commonly occurs among bilingual speakers who possess adequate competence in both languages.

The findings are consistent with the study conducted by **Febrianitha and Gusthini (2025)**, who found that Indonesian-English bilingual speakers frequently switch between languages during communication. Their research showed that code switching and code mixing are commonly used to facilitate interaction and express social identity. However, while their study focused on workplace communication in FYC Agency, the present study examines bilingual language use in a literary work. Therefore, this research extends the discussion of bilingual language practices from professional settings to literary discourse.

In terms of code mixing, **insertion** is the most dominant type with 27 occurrences (69%). This finding indicates that English lexical items are frequently incorporated into Indonesian sentence structures. The dominance of insertion suggests that English vocabulary has become familiar and widely accepted in everyday communication among bilingual speakers. This phenomenon reflects the influence of globalization and the increasing exposure of Indonesian speakers to English in education, media, and digital communication.

The present findings are also in line with **Octavita (2017)**, who found that code switching and code mixing frequently occur in *The Devil Wears Prada*. Both studies demonstrate that bilingual language use contributes to characterization and creates a more realistic representation of contemporary social interaction. However, unlike Octavita's study, which applied Suwito's classification of code mixing, the present research employs Muysken's (2000) framework consisting of insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. Consequently, this study provides a more detailed structural analysis of code mixing patterns.

Furthermore, the findings support the study conducted by **Sari et al. (2025)**, which found that insertion was one of the dominant forms of bilingual language use among Arabic Language Education students at UIN Malang. Both studies indicate that bilingual speakers tend to insert words or phrases from another language into their primary language because it is more practical and natural in communication. Nevertheless, while Sari et al. investigated academic communication, the present study focuses on a contemporary Indonesian novel. This difference demonstrates that insertion is a common linguistic phenomenon across different communicative contexts, including educational and literary settings.

Overall, the findings suggest that code switching and code mixing serve not only as communication strategies but also as markers of social identity and modern bilingual culture. The frequent use of Indonesian and English in *Astrolobitch* enhances the authenticity of the dialogues and reflects the language practices commonly found among young bilingual speakers in contemporary Indonesian society. Through the application of

Poplack's (1980) and Muysken's (2000) frameworks, this study contributes to sociolinguistic research by providing a comprehensive description of code switching and code mixing in contemporary Indonesian literary discourse.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the novel *Astrolobitch* by Connie Wong contains all types of code switching proposed by Poplack (1980) and all types of code mixing proposed by Muysken (2000).

In code switching, inter-sentential switching is the most dominant type with 18 occurrences (45%), followed by intra-sentential switching with 16 occurrences (40%), and tag switching with 6 occurrences (15%). These results indicate that the characters frequently change languages during conversations, especially between sentences.

In code mixing, insertion becomes the most dominant type with 27 occurrences (69%), followed by alternation with 8 occurrences (21%), and congruent lexicalization with 4 occurrences (10%). This finding shows that English words and phrases are commonly inserted into Indonesian sentence structures throughout the novel.

The study reveals that code switching and code mixing are used naturally by the characters as part of bilingual communication. Therefore, the novel successfully represents sociolinguistic phenomena that are commonly found in modern bilingual communities.

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