

<b>Title:</b>	A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Cantonese-English Code-Switching in Hong Kong WhatsApp Conversations
<b>Name:</b>	Tsang Yuen Man (Mary)
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Professor Wilkinson Daniel Wong GONZALES

## Abstract

Language and culture are inseparably intertwined and cannot be disentangled from one another since each has a significant impact on the other. Because of the mutual effect that occurs when different languages communicate, linguistic variation and change are inevitable results of such interactions. Code-switching is the consequence of linguistic interaction and is a defining attribute of a culture that makes use of more than one language. The subject of this study is Cantonese-English code-switching, specifically focusing on the following three key areas: The first section is dedicated to research on the linguistic conditions of code-switched items. The objective of the second section is to examine code-switching behavior in relation to Gender, English Major Status, and EMI/ CMI Status. In the final section, we will look into the possible causes and motives for Cantonese-English code-switching in Hong Kong. The study will be conducted by constructing a corpus of modern WhatsApp conversations, assisted with the use of a sociolinguistic survey. Participants are given questions regarding the reasons, motives, and functions of code-switching, as well as the attitude toward particular opinions. According to the findings of the research, code-switching is more prevalent in nouns. And English Major Status is the most important element determining a person's propensity to use English code-switches. It reveals that students who study English and of high English proficiency prefer using pure English and do not necessarily employ English code-switches more. It is also discovered that social and socio-psychological motivations induce code-switching, and that code-switching serves a variety of roles when exploited as a language resource and strategy.



## Reflection

"Bilingual language play and local originality" has always been something that has piqued my interest, and thus researching code-switching was immensely exciting for me. Processing and analyzing the corpus consisting of text messages comprising approximately 308,550 words was an exceptionally demanding endeavor, but one that has been fruitful. For my academic development, this study is a milestone in which I gain the capability to assimilate, integrate, and synthesize the knowledge I have acquired. The four years of university study have been a profoundly fascinating deep dive into the realms of human language, culture, values, and even identity construction. The sensitivity cultivated by studying various literary and linguistic works has empowered me to observe occurrences in everyday life and perceive the world from different perspectives. Lastly, I'd like to express my gratitude to Professor Gonzales for supervising my research and, more significantly, for his unwavering support of my efforts.