



English-French Code Mixing in *The Chocolate Thief* Novel

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Abstract. Nowadays in the era of globalization, many people use two languages in communication and it is called bilingualism. Bilingualism occurs when speakers and listeners mix languages. This situation is known as code mixing. Code mixing is the use of more than one language in one sentence. Code mixing is not only used in direct communication but also in writing, for example in literature and especially in novels. The phenomenon of code mixing occurs in the novel *The Chocolate Thief* by Laura Florand. The aims of this study to identify the types of code-mixing and to find out the factors of code mixing used by Laura Florand in *The Chocolate Thief* novel. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected through documentation and note-taking techniques, focusing on narration and utterance of the characters in the novel which contain English France code mixing. The collected data were analyzed by applying Muysken's theory about the types of code mixing, which includes insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. It also applies Bathia and Ritchie's theory to find out the factors for code mixing, which includes participants roles and relationship, situational factors, message intrinsic factors, and language attitude, dominance, and security. The finding of this study, there are three types and four factors of code mixing. This novel was used code mixing in narration and character utterances. There are three types used, namely insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. Insertion is the most frequently used type. The factors for using code-mixing can be determined from the types of code-mixing used by Laura Florand. From the research findings, four factors were identified, participants roles and relationships, situational factors, message intrinsic factors, and language attitudes, dominance, and security.

Keywords: Bilingualism, Code Mixing, Novel, Sociolinguistics, *The Chocolate Thief*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is methodical way of communicating, built on grammar, vocabulary and an agreed set of sound signals. This structure allows language to function as an effective communication tool. It makes it easier for people to communicate and understand each other well. According to Edward Sapir (1921), Language is a wholly human and non-instinctive technique of communicating ideas, emotions, and wants via deliberately formed symbols. In language there are several elements that are interrelated and affect how language is used in communication. One of the elements of language is sociolinguistics, which studies how language is used in a social context.

According to Wardaugh (1986), sociolinguistics is the study of stylistic and social variations of language. Sociolinguistics is concerned with determining the social purpose of language and how language is used to express social meaning, as well as analyzing how people use language in various social situations. This field of study provides a wide range of information about how language operates in society, as well as the social relations associated with language use. Based on sociolinguistics, people can understand that language can vary in various social contexts. In sociolinguistics, there are phenomena related to society in language

use. One of them is the ability of some people to understand two or more languages, known as bilingualism.

Bilingualism refers to the ability to speak two languages. In addition, a bilingual also has the ability to understand two languages in various contexts. Bilingualism can arise from the moment a person learns and knows another language other than his or her mother tongue or first language. Bilingualism occurs when speakers and listeners mix languages or codes. This situation is known as code mixing.

Code mixing is the use of more than one language in one sentence. Wardaugh (2010, p. 98) “code mixing happens when the conversant uses both languages together to the extent that they change from one language to the other in the course of a single utterance”. So, if the speaker uses more than one language in one utterance, it can be said as code mixing. If not in one utterance, then it is not code mixing. This phenomenon does not only occur in oral communication, but also in writing including literary works, such as novels, poetry, or drama. In novels, code mixing can be used to create stylistic effects. According to Verdonk (2002, p. 4) stylistics can be defined as the analysis of distinctive expression in language and the description of its purpose and effect.

A novel is a work of fiction that presents a universe, a world that contains an idealised picture of life, an imaginary world, which is formed through numerous inherent aspects such as events, storyline, characters, setting, point of view, and others that are also imaginative. (Nurgiantoro, 2012, p. 4). In novels, there are several types of novels such as contemporary novels, romantic novels, and historical novels. For now, contemporary novels are more in demand by the public because of their relevance to everyday life. An example of a contemporary novel is “The Chocolate Thief” by Laura Florand. This novel shows an effective use of code-mixing. It can be said to be effective because it uses two or more languages in one text.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary science that combines sociology with linguistics, two fields of empirical science with strong connections. To understand what sociolinguistics is, first consider what the terms 'sociology' and 'linguistics' mean. Sociologists have imposed a wide range of constraints on sociology. What matters is that sociology is an objective and scientific study of human people in society, including the institutions and social processes that exist. Sociology seeks to understand how the community formed, continues, and persists. The

study of social institutions and all social problems in a society will explain how humans adapt to their surroundings, socialize, and position themselves within society. According to Holmes (2013), sociolinguistics research seeks to understand why people talk differently in different social circumstances and how social characteristics such as social distance, social status, age, gender, and class influence the language types spoken. Sociolinguistics research is also interested with the identification that might lead to diverse social roles of language, as well as how language is used to express social meaning. Sociolinguistics examines language use and development in bilingual and multilingual societies, including code switching and code mixing.

Code Mixing

Muysken defines code mixing as the combination of words and grammatical structures from two different languages in a single sentence. Code mixing occurs when speakers consciously use the languages spoken in a community for a specific goal. In code mixing there are several types and factors.

Types of Code Mixing

1. Insertion

The process of inserting material from one language into other language is called insertion. Muysken (2000, p. 3) stated “insertion was insertion of material (lexical items or entire constituents) from one language into a structure from to other languages”. Insertion usually consists a single, morphologically integrated content word (such an adjective or noun).

2. Alternation

Alternation is the mixing of structures from one language into another and presented in the form of a clause. In the alternation feature, two languages are presented in one clause but relatively separately. According to Muysken (2000, p. 96), the process of alternation happens more frequently in stable bilingual societies with a history of linguistic separation than it does in many other communities.

3. Congruent Lexicalization

Muysken (2000, p. 122) suggests that congruent lexicalisation is more likely among bilingual speakers of closely related languages who have roughly equal status and no history of overt linguistic separation. These groups may include second-generation migrants, dialects, and multilingual speakers.

Factors of Code Mixing

1. Participants Roles and Relationship

Bilingual unconscious agreement and disagreement over language choice are heavily influenced by participant roles and relationships. Bilinguals may or may not use code switching, depending on who they are speaking with. Language choice in multilingual conversations is heavily influenced by who is speaking, the level of familiarity, social standing, and the formal environment. Age, gender, socioeconomic class, and religion all influence a person's predisposition to combine languages.

2. Situational Factors

Languages generally do not overlap in their domains of discourse. The language used by speakers is often influenced by the context of the situation and the theme of the conversation. As a result, some languages are considered more suitable for certain groups of participants or social groups, environments, or topics than others.

3. Message Intrinsic Factors

This factor arises from considerations related to the content or form of the message itself. Code-mixing can be caused by various factors, including questions, repetitions, topical comments, relative clauses, emphases, interjections, idioms order to achieve clarity of meaning.

4. Language Attitude, Dominance, and Security

Regarding attitudes, the frequency of code mixing by bilinguals depends on how positively or negatively a society views the practice. Language security as an effort to keep the language alive, relevant, and used in society, especially in the face of threats from the wider dominant language. Factors such as language attitudes, language dominance, and linguistic security significantly influence the frequency and fluency of language mixing in bilingual communities. Positive language attitudes, balanced mastery of both languages, and confidence in their use will encourage speakers to engage in language mixing more frequently and naturally. Conversely, negative language attitudes insecurity can inhibit language mixing.

3. METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. The source of data in this study is *The Chocolate Thief* novel written by Laura Florand. It was published in New York, 1st August 2011, by Kensington Publishing Corporation. Data to be analyzed are the narration and utterance of the characters in the novel which contain English France code mixing. This study collected

data using a documentation method supported by note-taking techniques. The data collection process involved several steps: first, reading a whole *The Chocolate Thief* novel to understand the storyline; second, finding the data in accordance with the research problem, namely English-France code mixing; third, collecting the data by highlighting the writing in the novel and then note-taking it along with its page; fourth, putting all the collected data into a table.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

After the data were collected, the analysis revealed that three types and four factors of code mixing identified. This novel was used code-mixing in narration and character utterances. There are three types used, namely insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. Insertion is the most frequently used type. The factors for using code-mixing can be determined from the types of code-mixing used by Laura Florand. From the research findings, four factors were identified, participants roles and relationships, situational factors, message intrinsic factors, and language attitudes, dominance, and security. Explained in detail in the following sections.

Types of Code Mixing

1. Insertion

a) Data 1

“But in his *laboratoire*, he brought his chocolate to the temperature he wanted it, smooth and luxurious.”

Source: *The Chocolate Thief Novel*, 2011, p. 1

This sentence is categorized as an insertion because of the insertion of the word *laboratoire* into the English sentence structure. According to Cambridge Dictionary (2025), *laboratoire* is defined as laboratory. Referring to the theory proposed by Muysken (2000), the basic structure of the sentence remains in English, with only one element from French inserted. In this sentence, English functions as the matrix language, providing the entire syntactic framework, while the French word *laboratoire* is inserted into that position, function as a lexical addition without changing the overall grammar.

b) Data 2

Every single element of this *décor* emphasized the raw, beautiful nature of chocolate and thus the triumph of its ultimate refinement.

Source: *The Chocolate Thief Novel*, 2011, p. 5

This sentence is classified as an insertion due to the addition of the word *décor* to the English sentence structure. According to Cambridge Dictionary (2025), *décor* is

defined as decor. Muysken's (2000) hypothesis, the sentence's essential structure remains English, with only one French part incorporated. This insertion makes no changes to the sentence's grammatical structure. English remains the dominant language, while the French portion functions as a lexical addition without altering the general grammar.

2. Alternation

a) Data 3

About to put *la cerise sur le gateau* of the whole new line she was planning for the company.

Source: *The Chocolate Thief Novel*, 2011, p. 6

This sentence is classified alternation category since it transitions between two languages in a single utterance. The speaker does not simply introduce one word or phrase into the sentence, but rather transitions from English to French structure. In Reverso Context (2025), *la cerise sur le gateau* is translated as the cherry on the cake. According to Muysken's (2000) theory, alternation is defined as language switching, which entails modifying the syntactic structure based on the norms of each language. The French section of the phrase stands alone syntactically and varies from the English structure, suggesting that the two languages may be employed interchangeably without impacting each other's grammar. This alternation indicates the speakers' linguistic flexibility in mixing two language systems in a single communication context.

b) Data 4

Dominique Richard? Was she trying to imply that Dominique Richard was as good as he was? Or even nearly as good? *Imbécile de capitaliste américaine*.

Source: *The Chocolate Thief Novel*, 2011, p. 29

This sentence is characterized as alternation because the language switch from English to French occurs at the phrase boundary. In Reverso Context (2025), *imbécile de capitaliste américaine* is translated as American capitalist fool. The speaker does not merely insert a single word or phrase into the sentence, but rather shifts from English to French syntax. Alternation is described as language switching, which requires changing the syntactic structure depending on the rules of the respective languages. The French component of the sentence stands alone syntactically and differs from the English structure, implying that the two languages may be used interchangeably without affecting one another's grammar. This alternation demonstrates the speakers' linguistic versatility in combining two languages in a single communication setting.

3. Congruent Lexicalization

a) Data 5

“A *croissant aux amandes*”

Source: The Chocolate Thief Novel, 2011, p. 26

This sentence is of the congruent lexicalization kind. In Reverso Context (2025) *croissant aux amandes* is translated as almond croissant. The article "A" comes from English, and the noun phrase *croissant aux amandes* has French structure. Grammatically, “a” equivalent to “un” in French. The phrase *un croissant aux amandes* is a nominal group that follows the pattern [Determiner + Noun + Complement of The Noun]. The element *un* functions as an indefinite article (déterminant indéfini), *croissant* as a singular masculine noun (nom masculin singulier), and *aux amandes* as a noun complement (complément du nom) that describes the type of croissant. This structure means “almond croissant” and is parallel to English pattern [Article + Noun + Prepositional Phrase], so that in the mixed form a *croissant aux amandes*, both languages share the same syntactic structure. This combination demonstrates how both languages contribute lexical items while maintaining the overall syntactic frame, making it impossible to identify a dominating matrix language. This is consistent with Muysken's (2000) concept of congruent lexicalization, in which two languages have the same grammatical structure, allowing lexical components from both to be absorbed concurrently.

b) Data 6

“Last night had been bad, with that *crème au basilic*.”

Source: The Chocolate Thief Novel, 2011, p. 81

This sentence is of the congruent lexicalization. In Reverso Context (2025), *crème au basilic* is translated as basilic cream. The phrase “with that *crème au basilic*” shows a combination of two language that share a similar syntactic structure. In English, this phrase follows the pattern [Preposition + Determiner + Noun Phrase] where “with” functions as a preposition, “that” as a demonstrative determiner, and “crème au basilic” as a noun phrase. This pattern parallels its counterpart in French, *avec cette crème au basilic*, which has the structure [Préposition + Déterminant + Groupe nominal] with the same grammatical functions. *Avec* as a preposition, *cette* as a feminine singular determiner, and *crème au basilic* as a noun phrase. As for *crème au basilic*, it is groupe nominal that follows the pattern [Noun + Preposition + Complement of The Noun] where *crème* is the core of the phrase, *au* functions as a connector, and *basilic* is the complement of the noun. The syntactic structures

of the two languages are parallel, French elements can be incorporated naturally into the English sentence without changing the grammatical order.

Factors of Code Mixing

1. Participant Roles and Relationship

a) Data 7

Have you met Papa yet? Cade, *je te présente Hervé, mon père.*

Source: *The Chocolate Thief Novel*, 2011, p. 327

This sentence belongs to the reason of participant roles and relationship. In Reverso Context (2025), *je te présente Hervé, mon père* is translated as I present to you Hervé, my father. The speaker asks a general question in English before switching to French to introduce someone who is important to him in this context, namely his father. In this context, the speaker is talking to two participants who have different social relationships, namely a friend (Cade) and a father (Hervé). The use of English in the first sentence reflects an intimate and informal interaction with a friend, while the switch to French when introducing the father shows greater respect and formality. This shows that code-mixing is not only intended to convey information, but also to develop and highlight the social bonds between the speaker, the person being introduced, and the interlocutor. Therefore, Bathia and Ritchie's description of the role and relationship components of the participants supports the use of code-mixing in this statement. Thus, Bathia and Ritchie's description of the participant roles and connections component supports the use of code mixing in this statement.

2. Situational Factor

a) Data 8

No dessert? *Mais, madame, vous avez le prix fix.*

Source: *The Chocolate Thief Novel*, 2011, p. 58

This sentence belongs to the reason of situational factor. In Reverso Context (2025), *mais, madame, vous avez le prix fix* is translated as but, madam, you have the fixed price. "No dessert? *Mais, madame, vous avez le prix fix.*" there is a changeover from English to French in one discussion, and this occurs as a result of the ongoing social and cultural environment, which is a conversation in a French restaurant. In this conversation, there is a shift from English to French because the context of the conversation takes place in a French restaurant. The use of French in the phrase *Mais, madame, vous avez le prix fix* relates to the specific topic of conversation, namely the

menu and fixed price system, which are terms specific to French cuisine. This change in language serves to adapt the language to the situation and topic of conversation.

3. Message Intrinsic Factor

a) Data 9

It was a long way to come for a boy who had grown up *en banlieue*, whose rural parents had wanted him to apprentice to a farmer.

Source: The Chocolate Thief Novel, 2011, p. 29

This sentence belongs to the reason of situational factor. According to Cambridge Dictionary (2025), *en banlieue* is defined as in the suburbs. In this phrase, the French term "en banlieue," which means "in the suburbs," appears in the context of an English statement. The usage of French in this line does not refer to a specific social interaction or conversational scenario, but rather to communicate a more distinctive and culturally authentic sense. In French, the term *banlieue* has a specific sociological meaning, frequently referring to suburban districts populated by working-class or immigrant families. As a result, it is difficult to precisely translate into English without losing subtlety. As a result, the blending of languages preserves the original meaning and complexity of the topic being discussed.

4. Language Attitude, Dominance, and Security

a) Data 10

She was *gonflée*, Sylvain thought, with a dismissive move of his lips, dumping all his chocolate back into the bain-marie and reheating it.

Source: The Chocolate Thief Novel, 2011, p. 15

This sentence belongs to the reason of language attitude, dominance, and security. The word *gonflée*, which in this context has a pejorative meaning, is used by Sylvain's character to express his emotional judgment in his mother tongue, French. using French, shows a sense of confidence and comfort. this shows a positive attitude towards the French language as a more accurate and cultured means of self-expression.

5. CONCLUSION

After analyzing and getting the results, the phenomenon of code mixing in *The Chocolate Thief* shows several conclusions can be drawn from this study. This study aims, to analyze the use of English French code mixing in Laura Florand's novel *The Chocolate Thief*, focusing on two main issues: the types of code-mixing based on Muysken's (2000) theory and the factors causing code-mixing according to Bhatia and Ritchie (2004).

The analysis results show, the types of code mixing found include insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. Of the three types, insertion is the most dominant form, characterized by the insertion of French words or phrases into English sentences. This dominance of insertion emphasizes how the author presents a natural bilingual feel while highlighting French culture, particularly in the culinary aspects, traditions, and distinctive expressions that form the novel's setting.

Furthermore, the factors of code mixing identified based on Bhatia and Ritchie's (2004) include participant roles and relationships, situational factor, message intrinsic factor, and language attitude, dominance, and security. Of the four, the message-intrinsic factor appears to be the most dominant, as language shifts are frequently used to emphasize meaning, emphasize style, and convey cultural authenticity in the narrative. Thus, the use of code mixing in this novel is not merely a linguistic ornament, but rather a narrative strategy that enriches meaning.

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