

## **Code-switching and code-blending types and subtypes: towards a shared taxonomy**

Code-blending is defined as a phenomenon occurring in bimodal bilingual communication where signs in a sign language and words in a vocal language are simultaneously produced (Emmorrey et al., 2005). It seems like bimodal bilinguals tend to prefer code-blending to code-switching (simple alternation) between their two languages, as, in several studies on the phenomenon, 94-95% of the language mixing cases were simultaneous (Petitto et al., 2001; Emmorrey et al., 2005). Subjects of the studies taken into account were all bimodal bilingual children who could be defined or defined themselves as “CODAs” (i.e. Children of Deaf Adults), who acquired a spoken language and a signed language almost at the same time, like unimodal bilingual children acquire their spoken languages.

Since code-switching study has a much longer history, more has been done in order to define terms for a unified classification of its types. After reviewing works by several authors (Alfonzetti, Berruto, Myers-Scotton, Poplack, Romaine and Sankoff) the three main types of code-switching identified by Romaine (1989), who substantially follows Poplack (1980) can be assumed as a summary taxonomy, based on the extent of the switching. This taxonomy consists of: “extrasentential switching” (also called “tag-switching” elsewhere), involving interjections, fillers and discursive markers; “intrasentential switching” (or “code-mixing”), involving words within a sentence or a clause; “intersentential switching” (or “code-switching”) occurring outside the clause level.

Code-blending taxonomies are more various and difficult to unify, as every researcher focuses on different aspects of blending and therefore divides the types on the basis of how independent the strings in the two languages are (Branchini, 2012), what order the words occurring in each of the two languages follow (Donati et al., 2009) or the number of signs involved (identifying the type of blending as either “single-sign” or “multi-sign code-blends”, as in Emmorrey et al., 2008).

This paper is to be intended in the spirit of proposal for a taxonomy of code-blending that could highlight the important similarities between the two phenomena, using a shared vocabulary for the classification of the types, and underline the extent of the blending, provided that, in the case of code-blending, what is “extrasentential”, “intrasentential” and “intersentential” is not the border between the two languages, but the boundaries of their simultaneity. We can therefore define:

- (1) “extrasentential blending” what Branchini (2012) calls “non-independent dominant blending”, as signs are simultaneously produced without adding any significant meaning to the sentence in the vocal language (this type of blending is usually composed of what Emmorrey calls “single signs”);
- (2) “intrasentential blending” what Branchini defines as “(non-independent) blended blending”, where the simultaneous production would not be understandable by monolinguals in any of the two languages (just like intrasentential switching), because the constituents are divided between the two codes;
- (3) “intersentential blending” what Branchini labels “independent blending” as the two clauses or sentences are independent from one another and understandable for monolinguals too (just like intersentential switching, although in the case of the blending it is possible to actually say the whole sentence or period in both languages simultaneously, whilst intersentential switching only allows monolinguals to understand the part of the sentence which is said in their language); this third type can be divided into three subtypes according to the classification suggested by Donati et al. (2009), depending on the order followed by the constituents, that can be: (a) that of the sign language for both sentences, (b) that of the vocal language for both sentences, (c) that of the language in which the two sentences are produced, for each of them.

<b>(1) Extrasentential switching</b>	
Switching of interjections, fillers and discourse markers.	“Él es de México y así los criaron a ellos, <u>you know</u> .” “He is from Mexico, they raise them like that, you know.” (Winford, 2003: 127)
<b>(1) Non-independent dominant blending - Extrasentential blending</b>	
The non-dominant code is used just for a few elements, and it does not add to the semantic content of the utterance.	it: La regina dice LIS: SAY SAY “The queen says.” (Branchini, 2012: 228)

<b>(2) Intrasentential switching</b>	
Switching within a sentence, occurring in words and phrases.	“El <u>flight</u> que sale de Chicago <u>around three o’clock</u> ...” “The flight departing from Chicago <u>around three o’clock</u> ...” (Pfaff, 1979: 310)
<b>(2) Blended blending - Intrasentential blending</b>	
Constituents of the utterance are more or less equally divided between the two codes.	it: Io LIS: WIN “I win.” (Branchini, 2012: 229)

<b>(3) Intersentential switching</b>	
Switching at sentence or clause boundaries, the next sentence after the previous one is completed starts in the other language.	“Sometimes I’ll start a sentence in English <u>y terminó in Español</u> .” “Sometimes I’ll start a sentence in English <u>and I finish it in Spanish</u> .” (Romaine, 1989: 113)
<b>(3) Independent blending - Intersentential blending</b>	
The meaning of the utterances is comprehensible for monolingual speakers of each of the two languages, too.	it: Non ho capito LIS: UNDERSTAND NOT “I didn’t understand.” (Branchini, 2012: 231)

Type (3) can be divided into three subtypes according to the classification suggested by Donati et al. (2009), depending on the order followed by the constituents:

Type (a): simultaneously uttered sentences both follow Italian’s word order.	it: Una bambina va allo zoo LIS: CHILD GO ZOO “A child goes to the zoo.” (Branchini, Donati, 2015: 154)
Type (b): simultaneously uttered sentences both follow LIS (Italian Sign Language) word order.	it: Zio zia vero Roma abita LIS: UNCLE AUNT REALLY ROME LIVE “My uncle and aunt really live in Rome.” (Branchini, Donati, 2015: 154)
Type (c): each of the simultaneously uttered sentences follow the basic word order of the language in which they are uttered.	it: Parla con Biancaneve LIS: TALK HUNTER “The hunter talks with Snow White.” (Branchini, Donati, 2015: 155)