

## CODE-MIXING IN DISNEY'S *ENCANTO*

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### Abstract

Code-mixing in movies is used to reflect human life and modernity in today's bilingual or multilingual context. By studying the code-mixing in the movie, EFL learners can have better understanding on how language is used in different contexts and how it reflects societal norms and values. This qualitative research used content analysis to find out Hoffman's code mixing within the dialogue of Disney's *Encanto*. The result shows that code-mixing involving a change of pronunciation between Spanish and English occurs more than intra-lexical and intra-sentential code mixing. It happens because there are three characters who used Spanish accent in their dialogues. This study shows how language is used and represented in media. It also shows the media's inclusion strategy to portray a more authentic and relatable cultures and communities.

**Keywords:** Code-Mixing; Hoffman's Theory; Disney's *Encanto*

### INTRODUCTION

Code mixing in sociolinguistics refers to the practice of using multiple languages or dialects within a conversation or text to convey meaning or express identity. Code mix generally happens in bilingual or multilingual communities where speakers have proficiency in more than one language. Code mixing refers to the use of lexical items and grammatical features from two languages in a single sentence, where pieces of one language are used while the speaker is primarily using another language (Astri & Fian, 2020; Harya, 2018; Ikhsani, 2018; Kartika, Harida, & Arifin, 2020; Woon & Ho, 2007). It can involve inserting foreign words or phrases, changing pronunciation, or mixing languages at the word level (Astri & Fian, 2020; Harya, 2018; Herman, Thao, Purba, & Simanjuntak, 2022). Code mixing can be used to make speech run smoothly and be understood by the listener, as well as to express group identity and multilingual communities. Thus, code mixing is a useful tool that enables speakers to navigate the complexities of communication in diverse environments.

Code mixing allows speakers to draw from their linguistic repertoire to best convey their thoughts and emotions. It can also serve as a form of cultural expression, showcasing the unique blend of influences that shape an individual's language use. Moreover, it can also be a way for individuals to showcase their social status. Further, it can serve as a form of communication strategy to include insider references or convey complex ideas more effectively. Code mixing, as a whole, adds layers of

richness and depth to language use, reflecting the diverse and dynamic nature of human communication.

There are three types of code mixing according to Hoffman (1991). intra-sentential code mixing, intra-lexical code mixing, and involving a change of pronunciation (Harya, 2018; Pharamita, Hardiah, & Damayanti, 2021). Intra-sentential code mixing refers to the mixing of two languages within a single sentence, while intra-lexical code mixing involves the blending of words or phrases from different languages within a single clause. Pronunciation changes occur when a speaker switches between languages but maintains the pronunciation rules of one language while using vocabulary from another. Each type of code mixing adds depth and richness to the communication process, highlighting the dynamic nature of language and the diverse ways in which individuals express themselves.

Studying code-mixing in movies helps to understand the types and social factors that motivate actors to mix languages in their dialogue. Code-mixing can occur in both spoken and written language, including in movies, as a reflection of human life. Researchers have analyzed code-mixing in various Indonesian movies, focusing on types, levels, and reasons behind language mixing. Factors such as social roles, relationships, situational factors, and language attitudes influence language choice and mixing among bilinguals (Fanani & Ma'u, 2018; Mutmainnah, Rullyanti, & Putra, 2022; Novedo & Linuwih, 2018; Rahmasari & Rosita, 2022). By studying code-mixing in movies, researchers can gain insights into how language is used in different contexts and how it reflects societal norms and values. For example, the language choices made by characters in a movie can reveal information about their background, education, and social status. Additionally, analyzing code-mixing in movies can also help researchers understand how language evolves and changes over time, as well as how it is influenced by globalization and cultural exchange. Therefore, studying code-mixing in movies can provide valuable information about the complex relationship between language, identity, and society.

Code-mixing is commonly used in movies to reflect human life and modernity, with English being a dominant language for code-mixing. Researchers have studied code-mixing in movies like *My Stupid Boss Part 1* and *From London to Bali* to analyze types and levels of code-mixing. In the movie *Hanum & Rangga: The Faith & The City 2018*, intra-sentential code-mixing was found to be the most frequent type of code-mixing. Additionally, the script of the movie *Java Heat* also showcases code-mixing between English, Indonesian, and Javanese languages (Rahmasari & Rosita, 2022; Wulandari, 2021). Other researches on code mixing on the movie *Critical Eleven* based on Muysken's theory found that the prestige feeling motive was the most frequent reason of code mixing (18 data or 85,71%), whereas in *Imperfect movie: Karier, Cinta &*

*Timbangan* the most dominant type of code-mixing is insertion with the most dominant factor to do code mix is message-intrinsic factor (Agustina, Samad, & Silviyanti, 2022; Yuanita & Sumardi, 2018). This demonstrates how code-mixing is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a reflection of cultural diversity and globalization. The use of multiple languages in movies not only adds authenticity to the characters and their interactions but also allows for a more accurate representation of the linguistic landscape in which the story is set. As more researchers delve into the study of code-mixing in media, we gain a better understanding of how language functions as a tool for communication and identity construction in the modern world.

*Encanto* is a Disney animation film that shows code mixing phenomena. The characters in the film seamlessly switch between Spanish and English, reflecting the bilingual nature of many Latino communities. This code mixing adds an authentic touch to the story and allows for a more inclusive representation of language diversity. Overall, *Encanto* celebrates the richness of Latino culture and showcases the beauty of linguistic diversity. The movie provides a positive representation of Latino culture and emphasizes the importance of family and community.

## METHOD

This is qualitative research that use content analysis to study the type of code mixing within the dialogues of Disney's *Encanto*. Using the note-taking technique, the dialogues were classified into three types of code mix. Then, the data took the four stages of analysis outlined by Miles and Huberman (1994): data reduction, data display, final drawing and verification (Atkinson, 2002; Herman et al., 2022) By applying these analytical frameworks to the study of code-mixing in movies, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of how language functions

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As Disney's *Encanto* sets on the setting of a magical Colombian town, therefore code-mixing phenomena are related to the use of Spanish's language and English. The following table describes the Spanish's word that is mostly used throughout the movie:

Table 1: Mostly used Spanish's word in Disney's *Encanto*

No.	Word	Count
1	abuela	249
2	encanto	128
3	tio	70
4	casa	32

5	abuelo	10
6	que	9
7	arepa	5
8	vamo	5
9	vida	4
10	amor	3
11	señora	3

The word "abuela" means "grandmother" in Spanish, and the Madrigal family's matriarch, Abuela Alma, plays a central role in guiding and uniting her family. Through their bond with Abuela Alma, the Madrigal family discovers the strength of their love and connection to each other, which ultimately saves their home and restores harmony to their enchanted world. The word "señora" means "Mrs." in Spanish, reflecting the respect and honor given to the matriarch of the Madrigal family. This title signifies the importance of family and tradition in their culture, further emphasizing the theme of unity and strength through love and connection.

The use of the Spanish within dialogue between the characters in Disney's *Encanto* showed three code-mixing phenomena. The tabulation is as follow:

Table 2: Types of code-mixing within Disney's *Encanto*

No.	Types of code mix	Total
1	Intra-lexical code mixing	63
2	Intra-sentential code mixing	11
3	Involving a change of pronunciation	180

Based on the Table 1, there are 32 utterances that can be categorized as intra-lexical code mixing within Disney's *Encanto*. There are 45 utterances that can be categorized as intra-sentential code mixing within Disney's *Encanto*. There are 180 utterances that can be categorized as involving a change of pronunciation. These findings suggest that code mixing in Disney's *Encanto* is prevalent and occurs in various forms. Intra-lexical code mixing, intra-sentential code mixing, and changes in pronunciation all contribute to the rich linguistic diversity portrayed in the movie.

Intra-lexical code mixing refers to the mixing of elements within a single lexical item. For example, in the sentence "I need to comprar some groceries," the word "comprar" is a mix of English and Spanish within a single lexical item. This blending of languages can occur seamlessly in bilingual speakers. Example from the dialogue of Disney's *Encanto*:

Datum 1: 00.12-00.16

Young Mirabel: An Encanto....

Encanto means "charm" or "enchantment" in Spanish. Young Mirabel referred to the place her family live.

Datum 2: 01.22-01.26

Abuela Alma : The miracle grew... and our house, our casita itself, came alive to shelter us.

Casita means "little house" in Spanish. In the movie Encanto, the characters live in a magical casita.

Datum 3: 03.41-03.43

Mirabel : My tia Pepa.  
Her mood affects the weather.

My tia Pepa means "my aunt Pepa" in Spanish. In the movie Encanto, My Tia Pepa is known for her ability to control the weather.

Datum 4: 03.53-03.55

Mirabel : My tio Bruno

My tio Bruno means "my uncle Bruno" in Spanish. In the movie Encanto, My Tio Bruno is known for his strength and mysterious powers.

Intra-sentential code mixing refers to the mixing of elements from different languages within a single sentence. For instance, in the sentence "Voy a la store to buy some leche," both English and Spanish words are mixed within the same sentence. This type of code mixing is common among bilingual individuals and can enhance communication in multilingual environments.

Datum 4: 01.58-02.01

Abuela Alma : Tonight, this candle will give you your gift, mi vida.  
Strengthen our community, strengthen our home. Make your family proud.

"Mi vida" means "my life" in Spanish. This phrase is often used as a term of endearment or to express deep love and affection towards someone. The sentence shows intra sentential code mix because it combines Spanish and English languages within the same sentence, creating a unique and personalized message for the recipient. It conveys a sense of intimacy and emotional connection between the speaker and the recipient.

Datum 5: 01.01.02-01.01.04

Julieta : Ay mi amor, I was so worried... we couldn't find you.

Ay mi amor means "oh my love" in Spanish. It is a common expression used to convey strong emotions of love and passion towards a significant other. The sentence shows intra sentential code mixing because it blends two languages seamlessly to create a more heartfelt and personal message. This code mixing adds depth and cultural richness to the expression of love.

Datum 6: 04.08-04.11

Félix : Okay, okay, vamo, vamo, vamo

Okay, okay, vamo, vamo, vamo means "let's go" in Spanish. This phrase is often used to encourage someone to take action or move forward with a plan. The repetition of "vamo" adds emphasis and a sense of urgency to the message, making it more engaging and motivating. The sentence shows intra-sentential code mixing because it seamlessly combines English and Spanish to convey a sense of excitement and encouragement. This linguistic blending enhances the emotional impact of the message, making it more dynamic and memorable.

The dialogues of Abuela Alma, Tio Felix, and Tio Bruno mostly involve a change of pronunciation in Disney's *Encanto*. Abuela Alma, Tio Felix, and Tio Bruno often provide unique accents than the other characters which use standard English. Their unique accent shows a type of code mixing that reflects their cultural background and adds authenticity to the portrayal of a Colombian family. This attention to detail in the characters' accents helps to add depth to the characters in the film. It also creates a richer and more immersive viewing experience for audiences, allowing them to feel more connected to the story and its characters. The use of different accents in *Encanto* showcases the diversity and richness of Colombian culture, making the film more engaging and enjoyable for viewers of all backgrounds.

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By analyzing these different types of code mixing in *Encanto*'s dialogue, viewers can gain a greater appreciation for the careful thought and research that went into creating a truly authentic representation of Colombian culture. The use of code mixing in *Encanto* serves as a powerful tool for connecting audiences to the film's cultural roots and fostering a sense of unity and appreciation for the beauty of diversity. The use of an intra-lexical code mix in the movie provides a deeper understanding of the characters' identities and backgrounds, enhancing the overall storytelling experience. The use of an intra-sentential code mix in the movie provides a realistic portrayal of how language is naturally spoken in bilingual communities, adding depth and richness to the characters' interactions. Additionally, the incorporation of code-mixing highlights the importance of embracing and celebrating linguistic diversity in our

society. Additionally, it highlights the linguistic diversity within Colombian society, further emphasizing the importance of representation and inclusivity in the media. Overall, various accents in the film not only serve to accurately depict the diversity within Colombia but also highlight the importance of language in shaping individual and cultural identities. Overall, the use of different accents in *Encanto* elevates the storytelling and adds a layer of complexity that enhances the overall viewing experience for audiences worldwide

## CONCLUSION

Disney's *Encanto* is a movie which shows the phenomena of code-mixing between Spanish and English. Though this movie, we can gain a better understanding of how language is used and represented in media. This further demonstrates the importance of accurate representation and inclusion in media, as it allows for a more authentic and relatable portrayal of different cultures and communities. The use of various accents in *Encanto* not only adds to the overall storytelling but also serves as a tribute to the linguistic diversity present in Colombia. It is through these tones in language that the film is able to capture the essence of Colombian identity and celebrate the uniqueness of its people.

Due to the limitations of this study, the next researcher can use this movie for other linguistic and literary studies. This research also needs more constructive criticism and suggestions to gain better insight. Additionally, future studies could explore deeper into the specific language techniques used in the film and how they contribute to its overall themes and messages. Furthermore, exploring how different cultural backgrounds interpret the movie's dialogue and symbolism could provide a more comprehensive understanding of its impact.

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