



## The Types of Code Mixing in Balinese Language Used by Teenager in Bengkel Village

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**Abstract.** *This study investigates the types and causes of code-mixing used by teenagers in Bengkel Village when speaking Balinese within a multilingual context. The research is grounded in the sociolinguistic reality that Balinese, Indonesian, and English coexist in daily communication, particularly among younger speakers. The objective of this study is to identify the dominant types of code-mixing and to analyze the underlying factors influencing its use. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, using observation and interviews with five participants. The data were analyzed based on Muysken's (2000) classification of code-mixing, which includes insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. The findings reveal that all three types are present, with insertion emerging as the most dominant form, followed by alternation and congruent lexicalization. This indicates that speakers tend to maintain a primary grammatical structure while embedding lexical elements from other languages. Furthermore, the study identifies several interconnected causes of code-mixing, including linguistic limitations, habitual use and language environment, social identity and group solidarity, communicative purposes, and situational factors. These findings demonstrate that code-mixing is not random but serves functional and social purposes in communication. The study implies that while code-mixing reflects linguistic flexibility and adaptability, it also highlights the need to maintain the use of Balinese as a marker of local identity. Overall, this research contributes to understanding multilingual practices among teenagers and emphasizes the dynamic interaction between language, culture, and communication.*

**Keywords:** *Balinese Language; Code-Mixing; Communication; Multilingualism; Sociolinguistics*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental aspect of human life, functioning not only as a tool for communication but also as a carrier of cultural identity, social values, and cognitive processes. As Sapir (1921) states, language is a uniquely human system used to express ideas, emotions, and desires through symbolic forms. This system is inseparable from culture, as language both shapes and is shaped by the cultural context in which it is used. Scholars such as Wardhaugh (2006), Damen (1987) & Fishman (1972) emphasize that language plays a crucial role in transmitting and maintaining culture, while Halliday (1978) highlights its multifunctional role in constructing meaning within social contexts. In multilingual societies like Indonesia, the interaction between local languages, the national language (*Bahasa Indonesia*), and global languages such as English creates a dynamic linguistic environment where language contact phenomena frequently occur.

One of the most prominent outcomes of language contact is code-mixing, which refers to the embedding of linguistic elements from one language into another within a single utterance. Unlike code-switching, which involves shifting between languages at clause or sentence boundaries, code-mixing occurs within the same sentence and reflects a more integrated use of multiple languages. Muysken (2000) categorizes code-mixing into three main

types: insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization. These categories provide a theoretical framework for understanding how speakers combine linguistic resources in multilingual communication. From a sociolinguistic perspective, code-mixing is not random but influenced by various factors, including linguistic competence, social context, and communicative intentions. Holmes (2013) & Grosjean (1982) argues that code-mixing can serve functions such as expressing identity, signaling group membership, reducing social distance, and enhancing expressiveness.

In the Indonesian context, code-mixing is particularly prevalent among teenagers, who are frequently exposed to multiple languages through education, digital media, and peer interaction. Previous studies have shown that teenagers often use code-mixing as a way to express modern identity, align with peer groups, and adapt to contemporary communication styles. For example, Puspitasari & Listyorini (2017) found that Indonesian teenagers frequently insert English lexical items into Indonesian sentences, especially in social media contexts, to convey a sense of modernity and prestige. Similarly, Adesti, et. al., (2019) & Crystal (2003) reported that high school students commonly engage in code-mixing in informal conversations, particularly when discussing topics related to technology, entertainment, and school life.

In Bali, the phenomenon of code-mixing is further enriched by the presence of the Balinese language, which holds strong cultural and social significance. Balinese is characterized by its speech level system (*sor singgih basa*), which reflects social hierarchy and cultural norms. However, in everyday communication, especially among younger speakers, Balinese is often used alongside Indonesian and English. Research by Darmawan & Arka (2022) & Labov (1972) in urban areas such as Denpasar shows that teenagers frequently engage in trilingual code-mixing, where Indonesian serves as the base language, English represents modernity and global influence, and Balinese functions as a marker of local identity and cultural intimacy. This indicates that code-mixing is not a sign of language decline, but rather a reflection of linguistic adaptability in a multilingual setting.

Despite the growing body of research on code-mixing in Indonesia, most studies have focused on urban environments, particularly in relation to social media or formal educational contexts. This creates a research gap in understanding how code-mixing operates in semi-rural areas, where traditional cultural values remain strong while exposure to external influences continues to increase. Bengkel Village represents such a context, where teenagers are influenced by local traditions, family interactions, schooling, tourism, and digital communication simultaneously. The sociolinguistic dynamics in this setting are unique, as they

involve the negotiation between maintaining local identity through the use of Balinese and adapting to broader linguistic trends through Indonesian and English.

The lack of research in semi-rural Balinese communities highlights the urgency of this study. Understanding how teenagers in Bengkel Village use code-mixing can provide deeper insights into the relationship between language, identity, and social change in multilingual societies. It also contributes to discussions on language maintenance, particularly regarding the role of Balinese in contemporary communication among younger generations.

Therefore, this study aims to investigate the types of code-mixing used by teenagers in speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village and to analyze the factors that influence their use of code-mixing. By examining both linguistic patterns and underlying motivations, this research seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of code-mixing as a dynamic and context-dependent phenomenon. Furthermore, the study is expected to contribute to sociolinguistic research by offering insights into multilingual practices in semi-rural contexts and highlighting the ongoing relevance of local languages in the face of globalization.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

This study is grounded in sociolinguistic theory, which views language as a social practice shaped by interaction, context, and identity (Lauring, J. 2008). In multilingual communities, speakers often combine languages flexibly, resulting in code-mixing, a common phenomenon especially among teenagers.

Code-mixing refers to the use of elements from different languages within a single utterance. Muysken's (2000) classification covering insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization remains widely applied in recent studies. Current research shows that insertion is the most frequent type, particularly in informal and youth communication (Azimah, et. al., 2022).

Functionally, code-mixing is used to express identity, build group solidarity, and enhance communication (Rahman, et.al., 2025). Its occurrence is influenced by factors such as language environment, habitual use, peer interaction, and media exposure (Putri, et.,al 2025). In Indonesia, code-mixing reflects the interaction between local languages, *Bahasa Indonesia*, and English, with each language serving different social functions (Lauring, J. 2008).

Previous studies indicate that code-mixing is dominant among teenagers, particularly in informal contexts. However, most research focuses on urban areas, leaving limited attention to semi-rural settings. Therefore, this study examines code-mixing among teenagers in Bengkel

Village, emphasizing its types and underlying causes within a multilingual and culturally rooted context.

### 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design to explore the types and causes of code-mixing used by teenagers in Bengkel Village. Qualitative research was chosen because it allows for an in-depth understanding of language use in natural settings without relying on statistical procedures (Moleong, 2010). The study was conducted in Bengkel Village, Buleleng, Bali, a setting where Balinese is still actively used in daily communication, particularly among teenagers.

The subjects of this study consisted of five teenagers who were born and raised in Bengkel Village and actively use Balinese in their daily interactions, especially within youth organization activities (*Sekaa Truna Truni*). The object of the research focused on identifying the types of code-mixing based on Muysken's (2000) framework and analyzing the underlying causes of code-mixing in their speech.

The primary instrument of this study was the researcher, supported by several tools including an interview guide, observation sheet, audio recording devices, and a phone camera. The interview guide was designed to obtain in-depth information regarding the participants' language use and motivations, while the observation sheet was used to record naturally occurring conversations. Recording tools were used to ensure accurate data capture and facilitate transcription.

Data were collected through observation and semi-structured interviews. The researcher observed natural conversations among participants in informal settings and recorded relevant utterances. Subsequently, interviews were conducted to explore the participants' perspectives on their use of code-mixing. All collected data were then transcribed and organized for analysis.

The data analysis followed the qualitative analysis model proposed by Miles and Huberman (1994), which consists of three stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, the researcher selected and categorized relevant data related to code-mixing types and causes. The data were then presented in the form of tables and descriptions to facilitate interpretation. Finally, conclusions were drawn based on the patterns identified in the data and their relation to the theoretical framework.

To ensure the trustworthiness of the data, triangulation was applied by combining multiple data sources and methods, including observation and interviews. This approach enhanced the credibility and consistency of the findings by allowing cross-verification of the data obtained from different sources.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study was conducted in Bengkel Village, Buleleng, Bali, over the period of data collection through observation and interviews with five teenage participants. The data were collected from natural conversations in informal settings such as peer interactions and youth organization activities, as well as semi-structured interviews. The analysis focuses on identifying the types and causes of code-mixing used by teenagers when speaking Balinese.

##### Results

##### *Types of Code-Mixing*

The findings reveal that all three types of code-mixing proposed by Muysken (2000)—insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization—are present in the data. However, they occur with different frequencies.

**Table 1.** Types of Code-Mixing Used by Teenagers in Bengkel Village

Type of Code-Mixing	Frequency	Description
Insertion	Dominant	English or Balinese lexical items inserted into Indonesian structure
Alternation	Moderate	Switching between clauses in different languages
Congruent Lexicalization	Least	Blending of Balinese and Indonesian within shared structure

(Source: Research Data, 2026)

As shown in Table 1, insertion is the most dominant type. Teenagers tend to maintain Indonesian or Balinese as the base language while inserting English lexical items such as *hangout*, *deadline*, or *bad mood*. This pattern indicates that English is mainly used to enrich vocabulary and express modern concepts, while the grammatical structure remains stable.

Alternation appears less frequently and is characterized by clear shifts between clauses, such as from Balinese to English within a single utterance. This type reflects a higher level of linguistic competence, as speakers manage multiple grammatical systems simultaneously.

Meanwhile, congruent lexicalization is the least frequent type. It involves a more integrated blending of Balinese and Indonesian within a single structure, making it difficult to distinguish clear language boundaries. This type reflects habitual bilingual use and a deeper level of linguistic integration

### ***Causes of Code-Mixing***

The analysis of interview data identifies several interconnected causes of code-mixing among teenagers. (a) Linguistic Factors: code-mixing occurs due to limited vocabulary in Balinese, especially for modern or abstract terms. Teenagers tend to use Indonesian or English to maintain fluency and avoid communication breakdown. (b) Habitual Use and Language Environment: frequent exposure to mixed language use in peer groups leads to the normalization of code-mixing, where teenagers often mix languages unconsciously as part of their daily communication patterns. (c) Social Identity and Group Solidarity: code-mixing functions as a marker of identity and group belonging, as teenagers use mixed language to create a relaxed atmosphere and align with their peers. (d) Communicative Purposes: mixing languages enhances clarity, efficiency, and expressiveness because certain meanings or emotions are better conveyed using specific languages. (e) Situational Factors: the use of code-mixing varies depending on context, being more frequent in informal settings such as conversations with friends or social media, and less frequent in formal or family interactions.

### **Discussion**

The findings confirm that the types of code-mixing proposed by Muysken (2000) are applicable in this context. The dominance of insertion supports previous studies, which suggest that speakers prefer simpler forms of code-mixing that maintain a stable grammatical structure. This also aligns with sociolinguistic theories stating that language use in informal contexts tends to prioritize efficiency and familiarity.

The presence of alternation, although less frequent, indicates that teenagers possess the ability to switch between languages strategically. This supports the view that code-mixing reflects linguistic competence rather than deficiency. Meanwhile, the occurrence of congruent lexicalization, though limited, demonstrates a natural blending of languages shaped by habitual bilingual interaction.

In terms of causes, the findings are consistent with previous research emphasizing the role of linguistic limitations, social environment, and identity in shaping code-mixing behavior. However, this study highlights that in a semi-rural context like Bengkel Village, local language (Balinese) remains actively used within code-mixing practices. This differs slightly from urban-focused studies, where English often dominates.

The results suggest that code-mixing is a dynamic and context-dependent phenomenon influenced by multiple interacting factors. Theoretically, this study reinforces sociolinguistic perspectives that view language as a flexible and socially embedded practice. Practically, the

findings imply that while code-mixing reflects linguistic adaptability, efforts to maintain and strengthen the use of Balinese remain important, especially among younger generations.

Overall, this study demonstrates that code-mixing among teenagers in Bengkel Village is not merely a linguistic trend but a meaningful practice that reflects identity, social interaction, and adaptation to a multilingual environment.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

This study examined the types and causes of code-mixing used by teenagers in Bengkel Village when speaking Balinese. The findings show that all three types of code-mixing proposed by Muysken (2000) insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization are present, with insertion emerging as the most dominant form. This indicates that teenagers tend to maintain a primary grammatical structure while embedding lexical elements from other languages, particularly Indonesian and English. In addition, the study reveals that code-mixing is influenced by multiple interconnected factors, including linguistic limitations, habitual language use and environment, social identity and group solidarity, communicative purposes, and situational context. These findings confirm that code-mixing is not a random phenomenon, but a systematic and meaningful linguistic practice that reflects speakers' ability to adapt to a multilingual environment while expressing identity and maintaining social interaction.

However, this study is limited by its small number of participants and its focus on a single semi-rural setting, which may not fully represent broader patterns of code-mixing in different regions or social groups. Therefore, the generalization of these findings should be approached with caution. Future research is recommended to explore code-mixing in more diverse contexts, including comparisons between urban and rural areas, different age groups, or digital communication settings. Further studies could also investigate the long-term impact of code-mixing on the maintenance of local languages such as Balinese.

In terms of practical implications, the findings highlight the importance of maintaining the use of Balinese among younger generations. While code-mixing reflects linguistic flexibility and modern communication practices, efforts from families, communities, and educational institutions are needed to ensure that Balinese continues to be actively used and preserved. Encouraging balanced multilingualism may help sustain local identity while allowing speakers to engage effectively in a globalized linguistic environment.

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