

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

This chapter provides the foundation of the study by presenting the background of the research and explaining the issues that motivate the investigation of code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village. It also identifies the research problems, defines the scope and limitations of the study, formulates the research questions and objectives, and describes the theoretical and practical significance of the research. These sections establish the overall direction of the study and provide the basis for the theoretical discussion presented in the following chapter.

1.1 Background of The Research

Language is a fundamental means of communication that enables individuals to express ideas, emotions, opinions, and cultural values in social interactions. Beyond serving as a tool for exchanging information, language also reflects the identity, beliefs, and social relationships of its speakers. Since communication occurs within diverse social contexts, language use is often influenced by various sociocultural factors, such as the speakers' background, interlocutors, setting, and communicative purposes. Consequently, individuals may employ different linguistic forms or even multiple languages depending on the situation in which communication takes place. According to Wardhaugh and Fuller (2021), language and society are closely interconnected because linguistic choices are shaped by social circumstances and the relationships among speakers. Therefore,

understanding language use requires not only examining its linguistic structure but also considering the social contexts in which it is produced.

Indonesia is widely recognized as a multilingual country, where hundreds of local languages coexist with Indonesian as the national language and various foreign languages, particularly English. This linguistic diversity encourages speakers to become bilingual or multilingual, enabling them to use more than one language in their daily interactions. As a result, language contact frequently occurs when speakers communicate with individuals from different linguistic backgrounds or use different languages according to the communicative context. Baker (2011) explains that bilingualism and multilingualism are common phenomena in multilingual societies, where speakers naturally combine their linguistic repertoires to achieve effective communication. In Indonesia, the increasing influence of education, globalization, digital media, and intercultural interaction has intensified language contact, making the use of multiple languages a common feature of everyday communication, particularly among younger generations.

The frequent interaction between speakers of different languages in multilingual communities gives rise to various sociolinguistic phenomena, one of which is code-mixing. Code-mixing refers to the incorporation of linguistic elements from one language into another within a single utterance without changing the overall grammatical structure of the discourse. Muysken (2000) explains that code-mixing occurs when speakers integrate lexical items or grammatical features from different languages during communication. This phenomenon commonly emerges in informal conversations where bilingual or multilingual speakers naturally combine languages to facilitate communication, express particular

meanings, or adapt to specific social situations. Therefore, code-mixing is not merely a reflection of linguistic competence but also represents speakers' communicative strategies in multilingual settings.

Among various social groups, teenagers represent one of the most dynamic language users in multilingual communities because they are frequently exposed to diverse linguistic environments through education, social interaction, mass media, and digital technology. Their intensive engagement with multiple languages encourages them to combine linguistic elements naturally during everyday conversations. Eckert (2000) argues that adolescents actively construct and express their social identities through language, making their linguistic choices an important reflection of group membership, interpersonal relationships, and social values. In the Indonesian context, the widespread use of social media and the increasing exposure to English have further encouraged teenagers to incorporate English expressions into conversations conducted in Indonesian or regional languages. Consequently, code-mixing has become a common linguistic practice among teenagers, reflecting not only their bilingual or multilingual competence but also the influence of contemporary communication patterns and social interaction.

As one of the largest multilingual countries in the world, Indonesia is home to hundreds of regional languages that function not only as communication tools but also as symbols of cultural identity and local heritage. One of these regional languages is Balinese, which continues to play a significant role in the daily lives of Balinese people, particularly in family, community, and traditional ceremonial settings. Nevertheless, the increasing use of Indonesian as the national language, together with the growing influence of English through education, tourism,

technology, and social media, has created a multilingual environment in which Balinese speakers frequently interact with more than one language. Oktariyanti et al. (2021) argued that language use among Balinese teenagers is continuously influenced by social interaction, educational experiences, and the multilingual environment, resulting in shifts in language choice across different communicative domains. These multilingual practices indicate that Balinese speakers constantly negotiate the use of Balinese, Indonesian, and other languages according to communicative situations and social contexts. Consequently, language contact among Balinese, Indonesian, and English has become increasingly common, providing greater opportunities for the occurrence of code-mixing in everyday communication.

The multilingual situation is also evident in Bengkel Village, Buleleng Regency, Bali, where Balinese remains the primary language used in daily communication, particularly within families, neighborhood interactions, and traditional youth organization (Sekaa Teruna Teruni) activities. Although the community continues to preserve the use of Balinese as part of its cultural identity, teenagers are increasingly exposed to Indonesian and English through formal education, digital media, entertainment, and social networking platforms. This linguistic exposure has created a dynamic communicative environment in which teenagers frequently combine linguistic elements from different languages during conversations. Rather than replacing Balinese, the use of Indonesian and English often complements their speech, reflecting the natural interaction of multiple languages in everyday communication. This phenomenon demonstrates that code-mixing has become an integral part of teenagers' communicative practices and

deserves further investigation to understand how multilingual speakers negotiate their language choices while maintaining the use of Balinese in local communities.

Numerous studies have investigated code-mixing from various sociolinguistic perspectives, indicating that this phenomenon has become an increasingly important area of research in multilingual communities. Previous studies have predominantly examined code-mixing in educational settings, social media interactions, mass media discourse, and everyday communication involving Indonesian and English. For instance, Muysken (2000) established a comprehensive framework for analyzing the structural patterns of code-mixing. In the Indonesian context, Yusnida et al. (2022) found that insertion was the most frequently occurring type of code-mixing among youngsters in online communication, demonstrating that English lexical items were commonly integrated into Indonesian utterances during digital interaction. Likewise, Kurniawan (2016) reported that junior high school students frequently employed Indonesian-English code-mixing in their Facebook posts for various communicative purposes, including discussing particular topics, expressing emotions, compensating for limited vocabulary, and reflecting their bilingual language practices. In the Balinese context, Darmasetiyawan (2022) reported that Balinese speakers commonly employ Balinese, Indonesian, and English in their daily interactions, with language choice varying according to the communicative context and domain of use. These findings indicate that multilingual language practices have become an integral part of communication in Balinese society and provide a sociolinguistic context in which code-mixing naturally occurs. Collectively, these studies demonstrate that code-mixing is a natural consequence of multilingual communication and continues to

develop across different educational, digital, and sociocultural environments.

Despite the growing body of research on code-mixing, several gaps remain to be addressed. Most previous studies have focused on identifying code-mixing in classroom interactions, social media platforms, television programs, or bilingual communication involving Indonesian and English. Although these studies have provided valuable insights into the occurrence of code-mixing, limited attention has been given to code-mixing practices among teenagers who primarily communicate in Balinese within their local communities. Moreover, previous studies have generally emphasized either the structural classification of code-mixing or the sociolinguistic factors influencing language choice, rather than examining both aspects in an integrated manner. Consequently, there is still limited empirical evidence explaining not only the types of code-mixing employed by Balinese-speaking teenagers but also the factors contributing to the occurrence of code-mixing in their natural daily conversations. Addressing this gap is important to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how multilingual practices are manifested among teenagers while maintaining the use of Balinese as their primary language of communication.

To address these research gaps, this study adopts two complementary theoretical perspectives that are closely aligned with the research objectives. First, Muysken's (2000) typology of code-mixing is employed to identify and classify the forms of code-mixing found in teenagers' utterances. This framework is considered appropriate because it provides a comprehensive linguistic classification of code-mixing through three categories, namely insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization, which have been widely applied in sociolinguistic studies involving

bilingual and multilingual speakers. Second, this study employs Nababan's (1993) framework to examine the factors contributing to the occurrence of code-mixing. Understanding these contributing factors is essential because code-mixing is not merely a linguistic phenomenon but is also influenced by social interaction, communicative intentions, and speakers' multilingual experiences. By integrating these two theoretical perspectives, the present study is expected to provide a more comprehensive explanation of both the linguistic forms and the underlying factors of code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese.

Considering the multilingual characteristics of Balinese society, the increasing practice of code-mixing among teenagers, and the existing gaps identified in previous studies, further investigation into this phenomenon is necessary. Understanding both the linguistic forms and the factors underlying code-mixing practices is expected to provide a more comprehensive perspective on how multilingual communication is realized among Balinese-speaking teenagers in their everyday interactions. Furthermore, the findings of this study are expected to contribute to the development of sociolinguistic research, particularly in relation to code-mixing practices in regional language communities, while also providing insights into the dynamics of language use among younger generations in multilingual settings. Therefore, this study, entitled *An Analysis of Code-Mixing Practices Among Teenagers Speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village*, was conducted to analyze the types of code-mixing practices employed by teenagers speaking Balinese and to identify the factors contributing to the occurrence of code-mixing in their daily communication.

1.2 Problem Identification

The widespread use of multiple languages in multilingual communities has contributed to the increasing occurrence of code-mixing in everyday communication. This phenomenon is particularly evident among teenagers, who are frequently exposed to Balinese, Indonesian, and English through family interactions, formal education, social media, and digital communication. Consequently, code-mixing has become a common linguistic practice that reflects the dynamic nature of multilingual communication. However, the increasing occurrence of code-mixing also raises questions regarding the linguistic forms employed by teenagers and the factors that motivate them to combine different languages during communication.

Although previous studies have extensively investigated code-mixing in various contexts, such as classroom interactions, social media, television programs, and bilingual communication, research focusing on code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese in natural conversations remains limited. Furthermore, previous studies have generally emphasized either the structural classification of code-mixing or the sociolinguistic factors influencing language use, rather than examining both aspects within the same research framework. This limitation indicates the need for a more comprehensive investigation that identifies the types of code-mixing practices and explores the factors contributing to their occurrence among teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village.

1.3 Limitation of the Research

This study is specifically limited to the analysis of code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village, Buleleng Regency, Bali.

The participants consist of teenagers who actively use Balinese as their primary language in everyday communication and naturally produce code-mixing during spoken interactions. The study focuses on analyzing naturally occurring conversations rather than elicited speech or experimental language use. Furthermore, the analysis is confined to identifying the types of code-mixing based on Muysken's (2000) typology and examining the factors contributing to the occurrence of code-mixing using the selected sociolinguistic framework.

The present study does not investigate other language contact phenomena, such as code-switching, borrowing, language shift, language maintenance, language attitude, or language choice, because these phenomena involve different theoretical perspectives and research objectives. In addition, this study does not analyze the grammatical accuracy, communicative effectiveness, or pragmatic functions of code-mixing. The data are limited to spoken conversations obtained through observation and interviews and do not include written texts, social media interactions, or other forms of digital communication. Moreover, the findings are based solely on conversations involving teenagers and do not represent language practices among children, adults, or older members of the community.

These limitations were established to ensure that the study remained focused on addressing its research objectives and research questions. By concentrating exclusively on the types of code-mixing practices and the factors contributing to their occurrence in natural conversations among teenagers speaking Balinese, the study provides a more in-depth analysis within a clearly defined sociolinguistic context. Consequently, the findings are intended to describe the phenomenon of code-mixing in Bengkel Village and should not be generalized to other

communities, age groups, or multilingual settings with different linguistic and sociocultural characteristics.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the research background and the problems identified above, the research questions of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What types of code-mixing practices are employed by teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village?
2. What factors contribute to the occurrence of code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village?

1.5 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions, this study was conducted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify the types of code-mixing practices employed by teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village.
2. To identify the factors contributing to the occurrence of code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese in Bengkel Village.

1.6 Research Significances

1.6.1 Theoretical Significances

Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute to the advancement of sociolinguistic studies by providing a deeper understanding of code-mixing practices in multilingual communities. As sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and society, the findings of this study are expected to demonstrate how multilingual speakers negotiate language choices and combine linguistic resources in everyday communication. Consequently, this study may

enrich scholarly discussions on language variation, bilingualism, multilingualism, and language contact within contemporary sociolinguistic research.

Furthermore, this study is expected to contribute to the existing literature on code-mixing by providing empirical evidence regarding the types of code-mixing practices employed by teenagers speaking Balinese. Through the application of Muysken's (2000) typology, this study is expected to illustrate how insertion, alternation, and congruent lexicalization are manifested in natural conversations. Accordingly, the findings may strengthen the application of Muysken's framework in analyzing multilingual speech and provide additional evidence for future studies investigating similar linguistic phenomena.

In addition, this study is expected to broaden theoretical discussions concerning multilingual communication involving regional languages, particularly Balinese. While previous studies have predominantly focused on Indonesian-English code-mixing or educational and digital contexts, this study examines code-mixing practices among teenagers speaking Balinese in their natural communicative environment. Therefore, the findings are expected to contribute to the understanding of how regional, national, and international languages coexist and interact within multilingual communities, thereby enriching the theoretical discourse on language use in Indonesia.

Finally, this study is expected to provide a theoretical foundation for future linguistic research concerning multilingual language practices in local communities. The findings may serve as additional empirical evidence for studies on code-mixing, bilingualism, multilingualism, language contact, and regional language use in various sociolinguistic contexts. Moreover, this study is expected

to encourage the continued development of sociolinguistic theories through further investigations involving different participant groups, languages, and communicative settings.

1.6.2 Practical Significances

1. For Students

This study is expected to enhance students' understanding of code-mixing as a sociolinguistic phenomenon commonly found in multilingual communities. By learning about the types of code-mixing practices and the factors contributing to their occurrence, students are expected to develop greater awareness of multilingual language use in everyday communication. Furthermore, the findings may encourage students to appreciate linguistic diversity while fostering positive attitudes toward the preservation and use of Balinese as a regional language alongside Indonesian and English.

2. For English Language Education Programs

The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable contributions to English Language Education Programs, particularly in courses related to Sociolinguistics, Bilingualism, Multilingualism, and Language Contact. The authentic examples of code-mixing presented in this study may be utilized as instructional materials to help students connect sociolinguistic theories with real-life language practices. Moreover, this study is expected to support lecturers in providing contextual learning experiences that reflect multilingual communication in Indonesian society, especially within the Balinese context.

3. For Future Researchers

This study is expected to serve as a useful reference for future researchers who

intend to investigate code-mixing or other language contact phenomena in different linguistic and sociocultural settings. The findings may provide theoretical insights, methodological guidance, and empirical evidence for subsequent studies involving different participant groups, regional languages, or multilingual communities. In addition, future researchers may expand this study by employing different theoretical perspectives, research methods, or broader research settings to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of multilingual communication.

4. For Media and Communication Studies

The findings of this study are expected to contribute to the field of Media and Communication Studies by providing insights into multilingual communication practices among teenagers. As code-mixing has become increasingly prevalent in face-to-face interactions, broadcasting, social media, and other digital communication platforms, this study may serve as a valuable reference for understanding how multilingual speakers strategically combine languages to achieve effective communication. Furthermore, the findings may support future studies exploring multilingual discourse, media language, and communication practices within culturally diverse societies.