Portmanteau sentences in code-switching

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The present study examines “portmanteau sentences” or “doubling” in code-switching, as shown in (1). The so-called portmanteau sentences in code-switching involve a language pair with contrasting head-complement order, for instance English (head-initial) and Korean (head-final) in (1). In addition, there is a shared element (in the squared bracket), sandwiched between the strings lexically spelled out by two languages (bold-faced), exhibiting a structurally mirror construction. Despite the fact that such portmanteau sentences have been attested in various language pairs, their structural patterns are poorly understood, calling for an analysis (Nishimura 1985; English-Japanese, Park 1990; English-Korean, Sankoff et al. 1990; English-Tamil, Backus 1996; Dutch-Turkish, Chan 1998; English-Cantonese, Hicks 2010; English-Marathi).

(1) a. One day my friend brought [two watch] kaci-ko wass-eyo
              have-COMP come.PST-DECL (=brought)
   ‘One day my friend brought two watches’

b. Everybody think that [nay-ka yenge-lul cal han-ta]-ko sayngkakhay-yo
       I-NOM English-ACC well do.PRE-DECL-COMP think-DECL
   ‘Everybody thinks that I’m a good English speaker’

c. Many people told (me) that [cey-ka hankwukcek-i-ta]-ko malhayss-eyo
        I-NOM Korean-oriented-be-DECL-COMP tell.PST-DECL
   ‘Many people told me that I am Korean-oriented’ (Park 1990; English-Korean)

Assuming that both monolingual and bilingual grammars are subject to the UG, in this talk I will go over the portmanteau sentences of the type in (1), in which DP and CP complements are shared by the two languages of switching. Refuting the claim that the peculiar word order exhibited in portmanteau sentences is not derived in the syntax but obtained in processing (cf. Hicks 2010, Chan 2015), I will argue that syntax plays a pivotal role in deriving portmanteau sentences in code-switching, comparing doubling patterns in monolingual and bilingual grammar.