**Code-switching in 2L1 children (French, Italian, Spanish, German)**

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About 40 years ago, linguists became interested in intra-sentential code-switching, trying to determine at what points in the clause it can occur and where it is excluded and what type of category figures most in code-switching data. The result after 40 years of research was that there are no constraints allotted to code-switching and that any type of category can be switched, although there are categories which outrank all other categories in code-switching data, like nouns. Linguists acknowledged the important role of functional categories in code-switching. At the same time, acquisitionists became interested in code-switching data from young children, trying to show that bilingual first language acquisition is characteristic of a mixing stage if the bilingual is unbalanced; in this case, mixing will occur from the stronger into the weaker language. Today’s result is that mixing is an individual choice, rather than a developmental stage and that children who mix a lot of functional categories have a weaker language which often is the target of mixing. The reverse does not hold, namely that unbalanced bilingual children necessarily mix their languages and more so than balanced bilinguals. Acquisitionists appreciated the outstanding role of functional categories.

Linguist theory advanced during the last years and with it came the locus of cross-linguistic variation as the make-up of functional categories. Under a particular definition of intra-sentential code-switching as the alternation from one language to the other, involving the grammar and the lexicon, one can make the prediction that bilingual speakers can use a German T-system together with a French v-system, for example, when they use the bilingual mode and engage in code-switching. The present study will present longitudinal data of 18 children (age 1;6 - about 5) who are bilingual from birth with the languages German and French/Italian/Spanish. German and the Romance languages differ with respect to word order and by this serve as a starting point for a discussion of what determines word order in code mixing. At the clausal level, it will present all instances of German OV and Romance VO in mixed clauses. A database of about 213,000 monolingual utterances contrasts with 161 relevant utterances which can be analyzed for OV/VO order. The data prove the prominent role of the (overt or covert) functional category C in determining word order in intra-sentential mixing.

The huge database of 12 of the bilingual children contained 129 relevant cases of mixing within the DP between an adjective and a noun. All cases of German AN and Romance AN/NA are compatible with the above view about the prominent role of one functional category determining the word order of mixed DPs. An extremely interesting assumption which would fit the bilingual children’s mixing data in both domains, at the level of the clause and the level of the noun phrase, is that the underlying functional skeleton is provided by one language, with the consequence that code-switching as an alternation which also involves the grammar does neither exist within the clause nor within the noun phrase. It will be discussed whether language dominance has a role to play in determining the source language.