

PATTERNS OF INDONESIAN-ENGLISH CODE-SWITCHING IN BROADCAST MEDIA: EVIDENCE FROM NET TV BREAKOUT

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ABSTRACT

This study examines patterns of Indonesian-English code-switching in selected episodes of NET TV BREAKOUT. Using a descriptive qualitative approach supported by frequency analysis, 54 code-switching occurrences were identified and classified based on their structural characteristics. The findings revealed four types of code-switching: intra-sentential, inter-sentential, tag, and intra-lexical switching. Intra-sentential switching was the most frequent type, accounting for 59.26% of the occurrences, followed by inter-sentential (18.52%), tag (14.81%), and intra-lexical switching (7.41%). Linguistically, switching occurred through lexical items, phrases, clauses, discourse markers, and morphologically integrated forms. The findings indicate that Indonesian remained the principal language of interaction, while English was predominantly incorporated within Indonesian linguistic structures. This study provides further evidence of patterned bilingual language use in Indonesian television entertainment discourse.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language use is closely related to social interaction because speakers use language not only to communicate information but also to interact within particular social and cultural contexts. In bilingual and multilingual communities, speakers may use more than one language in the same communicative situation. One common phenomenon resulting from this bilingual practice is code-switching, which generally refers to the alternation between two or more languages within communication (Auer, 1999; Gardner-Chloros, 2009). Code-switching is not simply a random mixture of languages but a common linguistic practice among speakers who have access to more than one linguistic code. From a sociolinguistic perspective, the choice and alternation of languages can be understood in relation to both linguistic organization and the social context in which communication takes place (Gumperz, 1982; Myers-Scotton, 1993).

Code-switching can occur in several structural forms. Poplack (1980) classifies code-switching into three main types: tag-switching, inter-sentential switching, and intra-sentential switching. Tag-switching involves the insertion of a tag or short expression from another language, while inter-sentential switching occurs when speakers change languages between sentences or clauses. Intra-sentential switching occurs when elements from different languages appear within the same sentence. Bilingual language use may also involve switching at smaller linguistic levels, including words and morphological forms (Romaine, 1995). These classifications provide a useful basis for identifying how speakers alternate languages and where switching occurs within their utterances.

Recent studies have identified similar patterns of code-switching across different communicative contexts. Studies examining Indonesian-English interaction, educational communication, podcasts, and vodcasts have commonly identified intra-sentential, inter-sentential, and tag-switching. Across several of these studies, intra-sentential switching was found to be the most frequently occurring type, indicating that speakers commonly insert elements of another language within an ongoing sentence rather than completely changing languages between sentences (Fasah et al., 2025; Hanafiah et al., 2021; Lau et al., 2025; Putranta & Punto, 2025; Sahib et al., 2021). Although different analytical frameworks may produce somewhat different classifications, recent research generally shows that bilingual speakers combine languages in identifiable and recurring patterns (Treffers-Daller et al., 2022).

Previous studies have also shown that switching can involve different linguistic units. In Indonesian-English communication, speakers may switch individual words, phrases, discourse markers, or complete clauses. Nouns and noun phrases have been frequently identified among the switched elements, while conversational expressions and tags, such as greetings, exclamations, and discourse markers, also occur in bilingual interaction (Fasah et al., 2025; Lau et al., 2025; Putranta & Punto, 2025; Sahib et al., 2021). This indicates that examining code-switching involves more than identifying its general types. Attention to the linguistic elements being switched can also show how two languages are combined within actual utterances.

Code-switching is also increasingly visible in contemporary media communication. Studies of podcasts, vodcasts, social media, and other audiovisual content show that Indonesian speakers frequently combine Indonesian and English when communicating with public audiences. Such switching appears in discussions of entertainment, professional matters, popular culture, and everyday topics. Previous research has associated the use of English in Indonesian media discourse with several communicative and social functions, including expressing ideas more clearly, using familiar English terminology, engaging audiences, and presenting identities associated with contemporary or internationally oriented communication (Fasah et al., 2025; Foster & Welsh, 2021; Lau et al., 2025; Putranta & Punto, 2025). These studies demonstrate that Indonesian-English code-switching has become a noticeable feature of contemporary mediated communication.

Several recent studies have specifically examined code-switching in audiovisual media and have reported broadly similar patterns. Research on *The Indah G Show*, the *Ngobrol Sore Semaunya* program on CXO Media, and a YouTube vodcast involving Indonesian public figures found the use of intra-sentential, inter-sentential, and tag-switching, with intra-sentential switching generally occurring most frequently (Fasah et al., 2025; Lau et al., 2025; Putranta & Punto, 2025). These studies provide useful evidence about bilingual language practices in contemporary media. However, code-switching may differ across programs because speakers, topics, and communicative settings vary. Television entertainment programs, particularly those dealing with international music and popular culture, therefore provide another relevant setting for examining Indonesian-English code-switching.

NET TV BREAKOUT is an Indonesian television entertainment program that focuses largely on music and popular culture. Its hosts discuss songs, musicians, entertainment news, and international artists, primarily in Indonesian. Because many topics discussed in the program are

closely connected to international popular culture, Indonesian and English are frequently used within the same communicative setting. This makes the program relevant for examining how the two languages are used together in television entertainment discourse. While previous studies have examined code-switching in podcasts, vodcasts, educational interaction, and other forms of communication, the patterns found in NET TV BREAKOUT have received limited attention, particularly regarding the types of switching, their frequency, and the linguistic forms in which they occur.

Therefore, this study examines Indonesian-English code-switching in selected episodes of NET TV BREAKOUT. Specifically, the study aims to identify the types of code-switching used by the hosts, determine the distribution of each type, and describe the linguistic patterns through which Indonesian and English are combined in their utterances. By examining these aspects, the study provides a description of code-switching patterns in Indonesian television entertainment discourse.

2. METHOD

2.1. Research Design

This study employed a descriptive qualitative design to examine patterns of Indonesian-English code-switching in television entertainment discourse. The qualitative approach was used to identify and describe the structural forms of code-switching found in the hosts' utterances, while simple frequency counts were used to show the distribution of each type. The analysis focused on naturally occurring spoken language as represented in selected episodes of NET TV BREAKOUT.

2.2. Data Source

The data were obtained from two episodes of NET TV BREAKOUT, an Indonesian television entertainment program focusing primarily on music, musicians, and popular culture. The selected episodes were Update Musik-Musik Sekarang, Special Guest, Jamiroquai 2017, and BREAKOUT with Vidi Aldiano. These episodes were selected because they contained frequent interactions in which the hosts used Indonesian and English within the same communicative setting.

The primary data consisted of hosts' utterances containing Indonesian-English code-switching. Only utterances in which a clear alternation between Indonesian and English could be identified were included in the analysis. Other linguistic phenomena that did not constitute code-switching according to the analytical framework were excluded.

2.3. Data Collection

The data were collected through documentation and transcription. The selected episodes were observed repeatedly to identify utterances containing Indonesian-English code-switching. Relevant utterances were transcribed and checked against the audiovisual recordings to maintain accuracy. Each identified instance was then recorded as a data unit for classification and analysis.

The data collection process involved three main stages: identifying utterances containing Indonesian-English alternations, transcribing the relevant utterances, and organizing the identified instances by linguistic characteristics. The analysis focused exclusively on the program's spoken data; no questionnaire or audience-response data were included because the present study was concerned with observable linguistic patterns rather than speakers' motivations or audience perceptions.

2.4. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed by classifying each occurrence of code-switching according to its structural characteristics. The main classification followed Poplack's (1980) typology, consisting of tag-switching, inter-sentential switching, and intra-sentential switching. In addition, intra-lexical switching was included to account for cases in which linguistic elements from Indonesian and English occurred within a single lexical construction.

The analysis was conducted in three stages corresponding to the research questions. First, each code-switching occurrence was identified and classified by type. Second, the frequency of each type was calculated to determine its distribution and identify the most frequently occurring pattern. Third, the utterances were examined more closely to describe how Indonesian and English were linguistically combined, including whether switching occurred through lexical items, phrases, clauses, discourse markers, or word-internal forms. Representative excerpts from the data were selected to illustrate each pattern. The frequency of each type was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage} = (\text{Frequency of a code-switching type} / \text{Total number of code-switching occurrences}) \times 100$$

The frequency calculation was used descriptively and was not intended as an inferential statistical analysis. The qualitative interpretation remained focused on the structural characteristics of the code-switching found in the hosts' utterances.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Findings

The analysis of the selected NET TV BREAKOUT episodes identified four patterns of Indonesian-English code-switching in the hosts' utterances: intra-sentential switching, inter-sentential switching, tag-switching, and intra-lexical switching. A total of 54 code-switching occurrences were identified. The findings are presented by type of code-switching, distribution, and the linguistic patterns through which Indonesian and English were combined.

3.1.1. Types of Indonesian-English Code-Switching

Four types of code-switching were identified in the data. The classification was based primarily on the structural position at which switching occurred: within a sentence, between sentences or clauses, through independent tags or expressions, and within lexical constructions.

3.1.1.1 Intra-sentential Switching

Intra-sentential switching occurred when Indonesian and English elements appeared within the same sentence or clause. This type was frequently achieved by inserting English words or phrases into utterances predominantly structured in Indonesian. For example:

"Tapi dia cover pake piano."

The utterance is primarily structured in Indonesian, while the English lexical item *cover* occurs within the sentence. The switch, therefore, takes place without a complete change from one sentence-level language structure to another. Another example occurred in:

"Kita bakalan ngasih kalian banyak banget update tentang musik-musik sekarang."

The English word *update* appears as part of an otherwise Indonesian utterance. These examples show that intra-sentential switching commonly involves English lexical material occurring within Indonesian sentence structures.

3.1.1.2 Inter-sentential Switching

Inter-sentential switching occurred when the hosts changed languages across sentence or clause boundaries. In these instances, an Indonesian sentence or clause was followed by an English construction, or vice versa. An example is:

"Dia bakalan datang ke Indonesia. How exciting is that?"

The first sentence is in Indonesian, while the second is entirely in English. The language alternation therefore occurs between two complete sentence-level constructions. A similar pattern appears in:

"They were so young. Mereka masih kecil banget."

The speaker first produces a complete English sentence and subsequently continues in Indonesian. Unlike intra-sentential switching, the two languages remain structurally

separated at the sentence boundary. These instances demonstrate that inter-sentential switching involved a more complete transition between Indonesian and English than the switches occurring within individual sentences.

3.1.1.3 Tag-Switching

Tag-switching involved the insertion of short expressions, discourse markers, or independent linguistic elements from one language into discourse predominantly conducted in another language. For example:

"Alright! Tadi kita udah lihat..."

The English expression *alright* occurs independently before the speaker continues in Indonesian. Because the inserted element does not substantially affect the grammatical structure of the following sentence, it functions as a tag-like element. Another example is:

"Anyway, kita masih akan kasih kalian informasi lainnya."

The English discourse marker *anyway* introduces an Indonesian utterance. Similar instances included short expressions such as *'okay'* and *'well,'* as well as other conversational markers, occurring at the boundaries of Indonesian discourse. The data therefore show that tag-switching primarily occurred through short English expressions used independently from the grammatical structure of the surrounding Indonesian utterance.

3.1.1.4 Intra-lexical Switching

The fourth pattern identified was intra-lexical switching, in which elements associated with Indonesian and English occurred within a single lexical construction. An example is:

"Imagenya gitu kira-kira."

The English lexical base *image* is combined with the Indonesian suffix *-nya*. Rather than switching between complete sentences or separate phrases, the two linguistic systems interact within a single word-level construction. A similar pattern occurs in forms where an English lexical base receives an Indonesian grammatical element. These occurrences were less frequent than the other types but demonstrate that Indonesian-English alternation could extend below the sentence and phrase levels into morphological construction.

3.1.2. Distribution of Code-Switching Types

The four types occurred with different frequencies. Table 1 presents their distribution across the 54 identified occurrences.

Table 1. Distribution of Indonesian-English Code-Switching Types

Type of Code-switching	Frequency	Percentage
Intra-sentential switching	32	59.26%
Inter-sentential switching	10	18.52%
Tag-switching	8	14.81%
Intra-lexical switching	4	7.41%
Total	54	100%

As shown in Table 1, intra-sentential switching was the most frequently identified type, accounting for 32 of the 54 occurrences (59.26%). Inter-sentential switching was the second most frequent, with 10 occurrences (18.52%), followed by tag-switching with 8 occurrences (14.81%). Intra-lexical switching occurred least frequently, with 4 occurrences (7.41%). The distribution indicates that most instances of language alternation occurred

within sentence boundaries rather than through complete shifts between sentences or through independent tags.

3.1.3. Linguistic Patterns of Indonesian-English Code-Switching

Beyond the four general types, closer examination of the utterances showed several ways in which Indonesian and English were linguistically combined. The observed patterns can be summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Linguistic Realization of Code-Switching in the Hosts' Utterances

Linguistic pattern	General characteristics	Illustrative form
Lexical switching	English lexical items embedded in Indonesian utterances.	<i>cover, update, soundtrack</i>
Phrasal switching	English multi-word expressions occurring within Indonesian discourse	English phrases embedded within Indonesian sentences
Clausal/sentential switching	A complete clause or sentence changes from Indonesian to English or vice versa	<i>"Dia bakalan datang ke Indonesia. How exciting is that?"</i>
Discourse-marker switching	Short English markers occur independently within Indonesian discourse	<i>alright, anyway, okay</i>
Morphologically integrated switching	English lexical bases combine with Indonesian grammatical elements	<i>image + -nya</i>

3.1.3.1 Lexical and Phrasal Integration

A prominent linguistic pattern involved English lexical items occurring within predominantly Indonesian sentences. Words associated with entertainment and popular culture, such as *cover*, *soundtrack*, *update*, and *image*, appeared within Indonesian grammatical structures. In these constructions, the surrounding sentence remained predominantly Indonesian while particular lexical elements were expressed in English.

Switching was not limited to isolated words. English phrases could also occur within longer Indonesian utterances, creating switches at the phrase level without requiring the speaker to shift completely into English. Both lexical and phrasal integration were structurally associated mainly with intra-sentential switching.

3.1.3.2 Switching across Clauses and Sentences

A second pattern involved more extended stretches of English. In these cases, speakers moved from an Indonesian clause or sentence to an English clause or sentence, as illustrated by:

"Dia bakalan datang ke Indonesia. How exciting is that?" and: *"They were so young. Mereka masih kecil banget."*

These examples show bidirectional switching: Indonesian could precede English, while English could also precede Indonesian. The switching boundary was clearer than in lexical or phrasal integration because each language occupied a relatively independent clause or sentence.

3.1.3.3 Discourse Markers and Short Expressions

English also appeared through short conversational expressions such as *'alright'*, *'anyway'*, and similar markers. These elements generally occurred at the beginning or

boundary of Indonesian utterances and could be removed without substantially changing the grammatical structure of the main sentence. For example:

"Alright! Tadi kita udah lihat..."

In this construction, alright functions independently before the Indonesian utterance begins. This pattern characterized the instances classified as tag-switching.

3.1.3.4 Morphological Integration

The data also contained cases in which English lexical material was integrated directly with Indonesian morphology. The form *"Imagenya gitu kira-kira."* illustrates this pattern through the combination of the English-derived lexical base image and the Indonesian suffix *-nya*. This differs from the simple insertion of an English word because elements from the two languages occur within the same lexical construction.

Although this was the least frequent pattern, it represents the most structurally integrated form of Indonesian-English combination identified in the data.

3.2. Discussion

The findings show that Indonesian-English code-switching in NET TV BREAKOUT occurred in four forms: intra-sentential, inter-sentential, tag, and intra-lexical switching. Among these, intra-sentential switching was clearly dominant, accounting for 59.26% of all identified occurrences. This pattern indicates that the hosts more commonly incorporated English elements within Indonesian utterances than shifted completely from Indonesian to English across sentence boundaries. Indonesian remained the main language of interaction, while English was frequently embedded within its surrounding linguistic structure.

The predominance of intra-sentential switching is consistent with findings from recent studies conducted in different Indonesian bilingual contexts. Studies of academic interaction and contemporary audiovisual media have similarly reported that intra-sentential switching occurs more frequently than inter-sentential and tag-switching (Fasah et al., 2025; Hanafiah et al., 2021; Lau et al., 2025; Putranta & Punto, 2025; Sahib et al., 2021). Putranta & Punto (2025), for example, found a particularly strong dominance of intra-sentential switching in an Indonesian YouTube vodcast. Although these studies involve different speakers and communicative settings, their findings point to a similar tendency: Indonesian-English bilingual interaction often takes the form of English elements being incorporated into otherwise Indonesian discourse. The present findings extend this recurring pattern to television entertainment discourse.

This tendency becomes clearer when the linguistic forms of the switches are considered. English appeared through lexical items and phrases embedded within Indonesian sentences, including forms such as cover, soundtrack, and update. Previous research has likewise identified words, particularly nouns and noun phrases, as common sites of Indonesian-English switching (Fasah et al., 2025; Lau et al., 2025; Sahib et al., 2021). Such patterns suggest that the interaction between Indonesian and English often occurs at relatively small linguistic units rather than through prolonged alternation between two complete language systems. In NET TV BREAKOUT, English elements could therefore be incorporated while the overall grammatical organization of the utterance remained predominantly Indonesian.

The program's context is relevant to understanding this pattern. NET TV BREAKOUT centers on music, musicians, entertainment news, and popular culture, areas in which English terminology and international cultural references are common. Recent research has shown that Indonesian-English switching frequently occurs in mediated communication involving entertainment, professional terminology, and globally circulating concepts (Fasah et al., 2025; Foster & Welsh, 2021; Putranta & Punto, 2025). In this sense, the occurrence of English expressions in BREAKOUT reflects a communicative environment in which Indonesian discourse regularly comes into contact with English-language cultural and lexical resources. This does not necessarily establish why individual hosts chose to switch languages, but it helps explain the broader linguistic context in which such switching occurs.

The less frequent types further demonstrate that Indonesian and English were combined at different structural levels. Inter-sentential switching accounted for 18.52% of the occurrences and involved clearer transitions between complete Indonesian and English clauses or sentences. Tag-switching, accounting for 14.81%, was typically realized through short expressions and discourse markers such as *alright* and *anyway*. Similar uses of English tags, interjections, and conversational markers have also been identified in recent studies of Indonesian audiovisual discourse (Fasah et al., 2025; Lau et al., 2025; Putranta & Punto, 2025). Their presence indicates that English was used not only for content-bearing vocabulary but also within the conversational organization of the hosts' speech.

Intra-lexical switching was the least frequent pattern, accounting for 7.41% of the data, but it showed a higher level of linguistic integration. Forms such as *imaganya*, in which an English lexical base occurs together with an Indonesian grammatical element, demonstrate that contact between the two languages may extend to the internal structure of individual words. Similar word-level combinations have been observed in studies of bilingual language practices, in which elements from different linguistic systems can be integrated into a single lexical construction (Treffers-Daller et al., 2022). Although such forms were relatively uncommon in the present data, they demonstrate that Indonesian-English switching in the program was not limited to sentence or clause boundaries.

These findings reveal a continuum in the way Indonesian and English were combined. Inter-sentential switching involved relatively separate stretches of the two languages, while tag-switching introduced short independent English expressions. Intra-sentential switching produced closer integration by embedding English words or phrases within Indonesian sentences, and intra-lexical switching extended this integration to the word level. The strong predominance of intra-sentential switching therefore suggests that the characteristic bilingual pattern of NET TV BREAKOUT was not an extensive alternation between Indonesian and English, but rather the flexible incorporation of English elements into predominantly Indonesian discourse.

This pattern corresponds with broader findings concerning bilingual practices in contemporary Indonesian media. Recent studies of podcasts, vodcasts, and other digital audiovisual platforms have similarly documented frequent Indonesian-English switching and have associated these practices with contemporary media communication, global cultural references, audience engagement, and public identity. However, the present study does not attempt to determine the hosts' motivations for individual switches. Its findings, instead, demonstrate that Indonesian-English code-switching in the program is structurally patterned, occurs at several linguistic levels, and is dominated by the integration of English elements into Indonesian utterances.

4. CONCLUSION

This study shows that Indonesian-English code-switching in NET TV BREAKOUT occurs through intra-sentential, inter-sentential, tag, and intra-lexical switching, with intra-sentential switching emerging as the dominant pattern. The findings indicate that bilingual language use in the program is characterized primarily by the integration of English elements into predominantly Indonesian utterances rather than by complete shifts between the two languages. English appears at different linguistic levels, including lexical items, phrases, discourse markers, complete clauses or sentences, and morphologically integrated forms. These patterns demonstrate that Indonesian remains the principal language of interaction, while English serves as an additional linguistic resource in television entertainment discourse.

Empirically, the study provides further evidence that the predominance of intra-sentential switching previously observed in other Indonesian bilingual and audiovisual contexts also occurs in television entertainment discourse. Theoretically, the findings support the view of code-switching as a structurally patterned form of bilingual language use that can occur at different

linguistic boundaries. The study also highlights the relevance of entertainment media as a context for observing contact between Indonesian and English, particularly in programs closely connected with music, popular culture, and internationally circulating terminology.

The findings should nevertheless be interpreted within the scope of the study. The data were limited to two selected episodes of one television program and therefore cannot represent Indonesian television discourse more broadly. This limitation results primarily from the restricted corpus rather than from an error in the analytical method; a larger dataset could reveal different distributions or additional patterns of switching. Furthermore, because the study focused exclusively on observable linguistic forms, it does not establish the hosts' motivations for using particular switches. Future research could examine a larger number of episodes, compare different television genres and media platforms, and investigate how code-switching patterns vary across topics, speakers, and communicative settings. Such studies would provide a broader understanding of the changing relationship between Indonesian and English in contemporary media communication.

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