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**Module:** Linguistics

**Course Title:** Code Switching Defined

Bilinguals, multilinguals or speakers of differing languages or varieties can exhibit some linguistic outcomes shown in their performance: one of which is code switching. The phenomenon of code switching is an obvious result of language contact. It generally refers to the speaker’s ability to use two (or more) linguistic components alternatively. This juxtaposition can occur between varieties of the same language (H and L) as it can occur between completely distinct languages. Whereas the former is referred to as internal code switching (within the same language), the latter is known as external (cross-linguistic) code switching. There are different types of code switching:

* **Situational CS:** the use of different language varieties in different social situations
* **Metaphorical CS:** alternating codes in order to discuss a topic that belongs to another conversational domain.
* **Intersentential CS:** change at sentence boundary (each sentence is in one language)
* **Intrasentential CS:** within a sentence boundary (words, morphemes, nouns, verbs, etc.)
* **Extrasentential CS:** empty words (of a language) inserted in the recipient language

There are many reasons that motivate speakers to code switch between languages. Among those causes and objectives are: lexical needs (words found in one language but not in the other), quoting (direct citation), accommodation (converging or diverging), language skill showing (prestige or education), euphemism (to avoid cultural embarrassment).