The User, the Switch and the SMS

Reported and Observed Code-Switching Behaviour in Swiss German CMC

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“Although people who live in bilingual communities are, generally, aware of the existence of CS and of the fact that they themselves sometimes switch, their level of awareness of their own CS behaviour seems to lag far behind their practice.” (Gardner-Chloros 2009: 15)
Overview

• Language Situation in Switzerland
• Corpus Data
• Corpus Metadata
• Results
• Discussion

SMS Users
1. What they say.
2. What they do.
3. Linking what they say with what they do.
Language Situation in Switzerland

Official in CH
63.7 % DEU
20.4 % FRA
6.5 % ITA

+ National in CH & Official in CH-GR
0.5 % ROH

9.0% other

Lüdi & Werlen (2005: 12)
Diglossia in German-Speaking Switzerland

- Swiss-German (GSW) & StandardGerman (DEU)

- Classical diglossic situation (Weinreich 1953)
- Medial diglossia (Kolde 1981) with few exceptions in oral communication
- Altered medial diglossia with a new dialectal literacy in CMC
  - mainly informal use of written dialect
  - no orthographic standard
  - regional and even local dialects can be distinguished in written dialects (Siebenhaar 2003, 2005)
Corpus Data
www.sms4science.ch

• data collected: November 2009 – January 2010 (–July 2011)
• 25'947 SMS
• ~517'557 tokens
• 2'784 users
• 80% of SMS with metadata
• 47% of users with metadata
• Basic language of the SMS
  – GSW: 10'734
  – DEU: 7'254
  – FRA: 4'650
  – ITA: 1'524
  – ROH: 1'120
  – ENG: 538
  – Other languages: 66
Our GSW with CS-Subcorpus

- 1'771 SMS
- 2'473 code-switches ("CS")
- 53'907 tokens
- 521 users
Code-Switching ("CS")

• alternations ("ALT")
  – between utterances in a turn or between turns
  – change of matrix language

• insertions ("INS")
  – embedding of a word or a phrase into the morphosyntactic structure of a matrix language
  – no change of the matrix language

(Muysken 2000, Poplack 2004)
Examples of CS in the SMS

ALT
Ja hani, na rechtviel. Danke also, I try to write you a Postcard honey! Und du pass auf dich auf und bis i 3 Wuche. (SMS ID 3933)
(Yes I have, pretty much. So thank you, I try to write you a postcard honey! And you take care and see you in 3 weeks.)

INS
He wemmer öpis choche oder hesch scho gesse? Mini parents sind au weg (SMS ID 1393)
(Hey, do we want to cook something or have you already eaten? My parents are also away)
## Metadata

- **Age**
- **Gender**
- **Mother Tongues**
- **Other Languages Spoken**
- **Education**
- **Occupation**
- **Postcode**
- **SMS Usage**
- **CMC Usage**
- **Reading & Writing Habits**
- **Switching and Mixing Languages**
Research Questions

1. What do they do?
   observed CS

2. What do they say?
   reported CS

3. Do they do what they say?
   comparing observed with reported CS
What they do
Use of the German varieties differs significantly by age

Percentage of SMS with DEU/GSW as main language of the user by age of the user
What they do

No significant differences of use of CS with education, occupation, and gender

Use of CS differs significantly by age

Percentage of SMS with CS of the user by age of the user
What they do

Use of alternations does not show differences
Use of insertions differs significantly by age

Insertions in SMS with CS of the user by age of the user
What they do

Use of alternations differs by language and age

Alternations into German

Alternations into English

Alternations into xxx in SMS with CS of the user by age of the user

Alternations into German sub-/nonstandard
What they do

Use of insertions differs by language and age

Insertions of English

Insertions of xxx in SMS with CS of the user by age of the user

Insertions of German sub-/nonstandard
What they do
other aspects almost don't show significant influence on variation

Gender is significant for alternations and insertions into Italian (women do use more Italian than men)
Gender is significant for alternations to English (men do use more English alternations than women)

Education: no effect
Occupation: no effect
What they say 1
Almost 30% of the users in our subcorpus claim they do not code-switch. Even though they do indeed code-switch!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you CS?</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no answer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Linking what they say with they do
Users who claim code-switching use more CS than those saying they don’t code-switch.

Percentage of SMS with CS of the user by Claim to Switching in SMS
What they say 2
We asked:

| Könnten Sie die Art und Weise, wie Sie Ihre SMS gestalten, kurz kommentieren (Sonderzeichen, Abkürzungen, konventionelle Schreibung usw.)? | Could you comment on the manner how you write your sms (codes, abbreviations, conventional spelling, etc.)? |
| [Wechseln Sie die Sprache in Abhängigkeit vom Adressaten?] Falls ja, präzisieren Sie bitte die für die Adressaten verwendete(n) Sprache(n): | [Do you switch language depending on the addressee?] If so, please comment on the languages used for the addressees: |
### What they say 2
#### their replies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meistens Mundart und mit Smiles [sic]</th>
<th>Mainly in dialect and with smileys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ich schaue audf [sic] die Gross- und Kleinschreibung und die allg. Gramtik [sic]. Ich schreibe die SMS meist auf Züri-Dütsch.</td>
<td>I stick to the capitalization rules and to the general grammar. I write SMS mainly in Zürich German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alles klein geschrieben, abkrüzungen [sic], mundart meishtens [sic] lushtiig [sic] ... Und ohni sch sondern nur sh, bruucht weniger platz</td>
<td>All lowercase letters, abbreviations, dialect. Usually funny … <em>And without sch but only with sh, needs less space</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**What they say 2 categorisation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text, meist Mundart (Züridütsch), Smileys, Abkürzungen nur bei Grussformeln, wie etwa hdl oder Ig Schriftsprache, oder dann Englisch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GWS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>immer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manchmal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>erwähnt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nicht erw.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonstiges...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Kontrolle | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Lebenspartner | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Eltern | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Kinder | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Grosseltern | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Geschwister | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Familie | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Freunde | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Kumpel | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Arbeitskollegen | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Chef | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Geschäftspartner | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| Beruf | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| ältere | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| jüngere | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| gleichaltige | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
| nach_Adressat | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA | Oj On 0kA |
What they say 2
mention of the languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSW</th>
<th>DEU</th>
<th>ENG</th>
<th>FRA</th>
<th>ITAL</th>
<th>SPA</th>
<th>ROH</th>
<th>OTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What they say 2 clustering:

1. Mention ENG or FRA with adressee
2. Mention ENG, FRA
3. Differenciate adressee for GSW
4. Mention DEU & GSW
5. Give short answers, no differenciation of adressee
Linking what they say with what they do however:

- There is no correlation of the clusters to the use of CS
  - not with general use of alternations
  - not with general use of insertions
  - not with use of alternations of a specific language
  - not with use of insertions of a specific language

- There is a slight correlation with age (cluster 1, users mentioning ENG and FR depending on addressee are slightly older)

- Users of cluster 1 sent us more SMS in ENG and their percentage of GSW SMS is lower than for the other clusters
• In our SMS corpus dialect use is more common amongst younger users, so CMC is a attractive field for dialectology.
• CS is not affected by socio-demographic factors
• Alternations into standard German, into English, and into German sub-/nonstandard vary by age group, insertions are less correlated with age.
• 3 SMS users out of 10 are not aware of their own CS
• Awareness of CS correlates with producing CS
Discussion 2/3

What are the reasons of non-awareness?

- Negative attitudes towards mixing languages?
- Integration of words
- CS-Mode in its own right?
  - Users perceive no CS when languages flow into another
  - Researchers perceive/annotate distinct CS/Codes
(Non-) awareness in written CMC
• Asynchronous CMC allows more planning
• Does CS always correlate with more planning, drafting and rewording?
• Is CS part of a SMS style?
• Looking at language use in CMC gives new insights into dialect use, because dialects are used in a different way than in spoken use.
Bedankt – Thank you

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What’s up, Switzerland?
since 01 June 2014:
www.whatsup-switzerland.ch

What’s up, Deutschland?
Project Launch:
December 2014