THE USE OF CODE-SWITCHING OF THE SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS (L2) DURING ENGLISH CLASS

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In every society, language plays a vital role in terms of communicating with other people as it allows the speaker and the receiver of the message meet the needs of each other. It is helpful in delivering ideas, thoughts and opinions, and even feelings in the society. Since English is the lingua franca of the world, it is a big help for every people to communicate with other nationality having different mother tongues (L1). In bilingual countries all over the world, speakers switch from one language to another to meet the communication demands. Thus, it is a big help if people will use a switching method of communication most especially those L2 learners who will acquire the said language.

Code-Switching is said to be the use of two or more languages within a sentence or discourse of the L2 speakers in one conversation, (Esen, 2019). In a classroom setting where there are students who have different native languages most especially in our country, it is hard for them to use the second language since they were born using their mother tongues as their language in their everyday communication.

There are subjects that require English as the medium of instruction. Though we are used to this kind of instruction, still the preparedness of the students to embrace the said language is not that firm yet. Since it is not the language they used to utilize as they were growing up, there are students who see speaking in English as a hindrance to their learning most especially in the English subject. They probably know the answers in every question that a teacher have but the problem is that, they cannot express their thoughts and ideas completely with the use of this language. Also, there are students who are
asking their teachers to translate the questions into their native language and their answers into the English language. In this case, the process of communication and learning is delayed because it has a barrier to have an interaction completely.

In addition, since English is not the first language we acquire when we are growing up, it could be the reason of the L2 speakers to have anxiety and fear in performing effectively inside the class most especially in their English subject so perhaps bilingual speakers may code-switch during the communication. So, the teachers have no choice but to code switch to have an interaction and communication inside the class. It is in order for them to clarify instructions and discussions for the students to have an efficient comprehension (Wei, 2000).

Code-switching may be used by the students for self-expression, communicate with others effectively and to build a good relationship with others (Aljoundi, 2013). Thus, performing very well inside the class has a higher chance of percentage if the students will code-switch their mother tongues to the first language and vice versa.

References:
