Extra-Clausal Constituents in contact situations: A case study

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The present study aims at giving an account of the discursive and pragmatic functions of extra-clausal constituents (ECCs henceforth) in a bilingual corpus of spoken language collected in Gibraltar. In this setting code-switching (CS henceforth) between English and Spanish occurs with incredibly high frequency, and at all levels of language structure. This is mainly due to the bilingual proficiency of most of the population.

CS between an ECC and the clause falls into the more general case of inter-sentential code-switching. Several studies have so far observed that this type, as opposed to intra-sentential code-mixing, is mostly relevant at a discourse level and is subject to discourse-pragmatics principles, mostly concerning a) the participants, b) the contents of the discourse, c) the organisation and management of the contents in the discourse; see *inter alia* Gumperz (1982), Auer (1995), Cerruti-Regis (2005), Berruto (2012). As far as ECCs are concerned, on one hand functional grammar has thoroughfully provided a taxonomy accounting for different pragmatic values (Dik 1997: Ch. 17). On the other hand, contact linguistics studies such as Matras (1988) have fruitfully observed that elements with a pragmatic rather than lexical value, such as discourse markers, appear to be favoured *loci* for code-switching. In this view, we discuss here three different phenomena concerning three different types of ECCs: i) nonce borrowing of coordinating conjunctions; ii) nonce borrowing of discourse markers; iii) code-switching between dislocated elements and the head-clause. Regarding coordinating conjunctions, we observe the highly frequent use of Spanish *y* for expressing a combination relation between two English sentences, and of Spanish *pero* for adversative relation. We then concentrate on the massive use of local Spanish discourse markers in bilingual discourse, which is mirrored in low frequency of English discourse-markers both in terms of type and token. Finally, we take into account Theme and Tail constituents. This case, perhaps sometimes overlooked in literature, is the most remarkable: while conjunctions and discourse-markers are in a sense easier to borrow, being syntactically light and lacking referential meaning, Theme and Tail are full NPs and have referential meaning. These features however do not make this kind of constituents less „codeswitchable". On the contrary, CS can be seen as a discourse strategy which helps conveying discourse pragmatic functions, which are easily comparable with the ones observed in studies on monolingual Spanish such as Downing (1997).

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