TRANSLANGUAGING PRACTICES FOUND IN FACEBOOK POSTS AND INSTAGRAM CAPTIONS: "TALKING WITHOUT BOUNDARIES"

Umi Yawisah[1], Ridhwan Zaki[2], Yesica Melvin[3]
[1,2,3]Universitas Islam Negeri Jurai Siwo Lampung, Prodi Tadris Bahasa Inggris
umiyawisah@metrouniv.ac.id., ridhwanzaky9@gmail.com., yesicamelvin25@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

In the digital communication age, social media sites have emerged as vibrant sites where linguistic boundaries are constantly being negotiated and reconfigured. Facebook posts and Instagram captions, for instance, show how individuals, through the deployment of different languages, are able to communicate their thoughts, emotions, and identities creatively. The study, "Translanguaging Practices Found in Facebook Posts and Instagram Captions: Talking Without Boundaries," aims to explore the ways by which the concept of translanguaging naturally occurs as a humanistic form of communication. Instead of seeing languages as separate entities, the study seeks to understand the concept of translanguaging as a dynamic construct that mirrors the reality of the lives of multilingual speakers.
The primary objective of conducting this research is to identify the different types of translanguaging that occur in Facebook posts and Instagram captions, as well as the communicative purposes behind such translanguaging. More specifically, the research objectives of this study are to understand how users of social media sites combine languages to communicate personal identity, cultural affiliation, humor, intimacy, and connectivity, and how such language use challenges traditional notions of language boundaries and reflects the fluidity of communication in the digital age
This research used a qualitative netnography technique.In the collection of the data, the sources used included twenty selected Facebook posts and Instagram captions where there was an incidence of translanguaging. This was ensured by the use of a sampling technique that ensured the data was relevant to the research. In the analysis of the data, the technique used was qualitative coding, which provided an interpretation of the data and the significance of the social function of the posts and captions. This provided an interpretation of the significance of the function of translanguaging as a reflection of identity construction.
Overall, the data demonstrate that translanguaging serves as a multifunctional communicative practice in Facebook posts and Instagram captions. The use of Indonesian -- Englis and English – Javanese combinations enables users to express emotions, emphasize ideas, construct identity, and create a modern and engaging style. Therefore, translanguaging reflects not only linguistic flexibility but also the ways young people negotiate meaning, identity, and self-expression in digital communication.
In this way, through method of focusing on the human study within the returned of virtual communication, this check contributes to a deeper data of multilingual practices in virtual settings and confirms that, within the virtual international, human beings certainly interact in "speak me without boundaries."
Keywords: *translanguaging, social media, facebook, Instagram, multilingualism*.

ABSTRAK

Di era komunikasi digital, platform media sosial telah muncul sebagai ruang yang dinamis di mana batas-batas linguistik terus-menerus dinegosiasikan dan dikonfigurasi ulang. Postingan Facebook dan keterangan foto Instagram, misalnya, menunjukkan bagaimana individu, melalui penggunaan berbagai bahasa, mampu mengkomunikasikan pemikiran, emosi, dan identitas mereka secara kreatif. Penelitian berjudul ""Translanguaging Practices Found in Facebook Posts and Instagram Captions: Talking Without Boundaries," bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi cara-cara di mana konsep translanguaging terjadi secara alami sebagai bentuk komunikasi yang humanis. Alih-alih memandang bahasa sebagai entitas yang terpisah, penelitian ini berupaya memahami konsep translanguaging sebagai konstruksi dinamis yang mencerminkan realitas kehidupan penutur multibahasa. Tujuan utama pelaksanaan penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi berbagai jenis translanguaging yang terjadi dalam postingan Facebook dan keterangan foto Instagram, serta tujuan komunikatif di balik translanguaging tersebut. Lebih spesifiknya, tujuan penelitian ini adalah memahami bagaimana pengguna platform media sosial menggabungkan bahasa untuk mengkomunikasikan identitas pribadi, afiliasi budaya, humor, keintiman, dan konektivitas, serta bagaimana penggunaan bahasa tersebut menantang gagasan tradisional mengenai batas-batas bahasa dan mencerminkan fluiditas komunikasi di era digital. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain kualitatif netnografi. Dalam pengumpulan data, sumber yang digunakan meliputi dua puluh postingan Facebook dan keterangan foto Instagram terpilih yang menunjukkan adanya translanguaging. Hal ini dipastikan melalui penggunaan teknik pengambilan sampel yang menjamin relevansi data dengan penelitian. Dalam analisis data, teknik yang digunakan adalah pengkodean kualitatif, yang memberikan interpretasi terhadap data serta signifikansi fungsi sosial dari postingan dan keterangan tersebut. Hal ini memberikan interpretasi mengenai signifikansi fungsi translanguaging sebagai cerminan konstruksi identitas. Secara keseluruhan, data tersebut menunjukkan bahwa translanguaging berfungsi sebagai praktik komunikatif multifungsi dalam keterangan di media sosial. Penggunaan kombinasi bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa Inggris, serta bahasa Inggris -- bahasa Jawa memungkinkan pengguna untuk mengekspresikan emosi, menekankan gagasan, membangun identitas, serta menciptakan gaya yang modern dan menarik. Oleh karena itu, translanguaging tidak hanya mencerminkan fleksibilitas linguistik, tetapi juga cara kaum muda menegosiasikan makna, identitas, dan ekspresi diri dalam

komunikasi digital.Dengan demikian, melalui pendekatan yang berfokus pada studi manusia dalam konteks komunikasi virtual, penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi terhadap pemahaman yang lebih mendalam mengenai praktik multibahasa di lingkungan virtual dan menegaskan bahwa, di dunia maya, manusia memang berinteraksi dengan "berbicara tanpa batas."
Kata kunci: *translanguaging, media sosial, Facebook, Instagram, multibahasa.*

INTRODUCTION

Social media has end up an important area for ordinary verbal exchange. Facebook posts and Instagram captions, as an I nstance, are not best used to percentage pics and videos, but additionally to deliver reports, feelings, identification, and social relationships thru captions and remarks. In a multilingual society like Indonesia, customers regularly combine Indonesian, English, nearby languages, slang, abbreviations, and diverse semiotic factors within a single message.

This practice can be understood through the idea of translanguaging. García (2009) describes bilingual practices as the flexible use of linguistic assets to speak and construct meaning. Li Wei (2018) further perspectives translanguaging as a dynamic language practice in which users mobilize numerous linguistic and semiotic resources without having to adhere to rigid language barriers. as a consequence, translanguaging is not best approximately switching among languages but additionally about how these various sources are used to produce which means.

Previous multilingual research have largely relied on the idea of code-switching. Gumperz (1982) considered code-switching as a discourse approach with social and interactional capabilities, while Myers-Scotton (1993) discussed the social motivations behind language use in code-switching. these perspectives continue to be applicable, but translanguaging gives a broader awareness on the use of an individual's complete linguistic repertoire. studies on translanguaging also demonstrates its use in various contexts. Pinho Feller (2022) shows that translanguaging can help communique and interplay in bilingual school rooms. Hamman-Ortiz (2024) discusses "important translanguaging spaces" in bilingual training. but, studies specializing in translanguaging practices in social media verbal exchange—especially on Instagram—nevertheless desires to be advanced. Instagram is an thrilling platform to study as it gives a conversation area that is both multilingual and multimodal. users can combine languages, emojis, hashtags, pix, and casual writing patterns to assemble messages. therefore, this have a look at targets to (1) become aware of varieties of translanguaging in Instagram captions and (2) analyze their communicative and social features.

Social media has come to be an vital area for ordinary conversation. Facebook posts and Instagram captions, for instance, aren't simplest used to proportion pix and motion pictures, but also to carry studies, feelings, identity, and social relationships thru captions and remarks. In a multilingual society like Indonesia, customers regularly combination Indonesian, English, nearby languages, slang, abbreviations, and diverse semiotic assets into a single message.

This practice can be understood via the concept of translanguaging. García (2009) describes bilingual practices as the flexible use of linguistic resources to talk and assemble that means. Li Wei (2018) finally perspectives translanguaging as a dynamic language exercise, in which users mobilize diverse linguistic and semiotic sources without having to adhere to inflexible language barriers. as a consequence, translanguaging is not merely about language switching but approximately how numerous resources are used to provide that means.

Preceding multilingual research have in large part trusted the idea of code-switching. Gumperz (1982) viewed code-switching as a discourse approach with social and interactional functions, even as Myers-Scotton (1993) mentioned the social motivations at the back of language use in code-switching. those perspectives remain relevant, however translanguaging offers a broader awareness on the usage of an individual's complete linguistic repertoire.

Studies on translanguaging additionally highlights its use in various contexts. Pinho Feller (2022) demonstrates that translanguaging can assist communication and interaction in bilingual classrooms. Hamman-Ortiz (2024) discusses the "critical translanguaging space" in bilingual education. but, research that specialize in translanguaging practices in social media verbal exchange—especially on Instagram—still needs to be evolved. Instagram is an exciting platform to have a look at because it offers a communique area that is each multilingual and multimodal. users can integrate languages, emojis, hashtags, pics, and informal writing styles to construct messages. therefore, this look at targets to (1) identify types of translanguaging in Instagram captions and (2) analyze their communicative and social functions.

RESEARCH METHOD

This examine employs a qualitative technique using the netnography technique. Kozinets (2010) defines netnography as an ethnographic technique to analyzing social interactions and practices in on-line environments. This approach turned into selected because the research records have been derived from communication practices that arise certainly on social media.

The data consist of twenty Facebook posts and Instagram captions that display the use of or greater linguistic sources. The information were selected purposefully based totally on the presence of an aggregate of Indonesian, English, and Javanese inside the captions. To maintain research ethics, account identities were anonymized the use of the codes D1 – D20.

The analysis was conducted in three steps: (1) identification of the linguistic resources used; (2) category of translanguaging bureaucracy and their communicative capabilities; and (3) interpretation of social that means primarily based on the ideas of translanguaging by using García (2009) and Li Wei (2018). Gumperz (1982) and Myers-Scotton (1993) had been used as supporting perspectives to recognize the social functions of language choice.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of twenty posts and captions shows that translanguaging primarily takes two forms: Indonesian–English and English–Javanese combinations. It can be seen on the following table.

Table 1: Forms of Translanguaging

Data Nos.	Examples	Combinations	Main Functions
D1	"Aku bertanya-tanya, *what should I do*"	Indonesian – English	*Emotion*
D2	*"I'm Javanese, we say 'alon-alon asal kelakon,' so take it slow but keep going."*	English – Javanese	*Identity*
D3	*"maybe you're not tired, you're just overwhelmed."* Kadang capek itu bukan karena aktivitas, tapi karena isi kepala sendiri terlalu penuh. *Take a rest, you deserve it."*	English – Indonesian	*Emotion*
D4	*"Everyone needs this friend that calls and says 'get dressed, we're going on an adventure. See u on top,* sahabattt, semangat di jalan masing-masinggg."	English – Indonesian	*Solidarity*
D5	Sedikit menengok ke belakang untuk belajar sebuah pengalaman. *Not bad PPDQ #memories"* Dalam Bahasa Indonesia: "Sedikit melihat kembali masa lalu untuk belajar dari pengalaman."	Indonesian – English	*Evaluation*
D6	*At least we're under the same sky,* walaupun ya gitu lah*."*	English – Indonesian	*Emotion*
D7	*Enjoy your day,.. dilakoni, dinikmati, disyukuri, mergo bedo dino bedo cerito.*	English – Javanese	*Identity*
D8	Buka laptop and *do nothing.* Buka laptop= muter *music*= udah*."*	Indonesian – English	*Humor*
D9	*Smart finance* bukan soal berapa besar penghasilanmu, tapi seberapa bertanggung jawab kamu mengelolanya."	English – Indonesian	*Emphasis*
D10	*"Stop stressing about what you can control.* Seringkali kita terjebak dalam kecemasan tentang hal-hal yang berada di luar kendali kita. Entah itu karena ekspektasi orang lain, situasi yang nggak terduga, atau bahkan hal-hal kecil yang tidak berjalan sesuai rencana. Padahal*, your peace of mind is too valuable to waste on things you can change."*	English – Indonesian	*Advice*

D11	*"Child and free sunset time:* Abadikan atau tidak selamanya."	English + Indonesian	*Aesthetic/ stylistic*
D12	"In English: *'Wish you luck'."* In Sastra Indonesia: "Semoga semesta selalu memberimu kemudahan atas segala usaha, setiap langkahmu selalu ditemani takdir yang bersahabat dan dikelilingi orang-orang baik di mana pun kamu berada."	English + Indonesian	*Expressive & stylistic*
D13	"Semua akan baik-baik saja, *just trust the process*."	Indonesian + English	*Emphatic/ motivational function*
D14	"*When* jiwa ambis lo yang mati sekarang mulai balik lagi."	English connector + Indonesian slang	*Stylistic/ identity function.*
D15	"*How it feel* udah jadi mahasiswa kepala 2 tapi jiwa masih anak 15 tahun."	English phrase + Indonesian	*Expressive & humorous function*
D16	"*You don't need to be perfect, you need to be you. Be yourself!!* 'Kamu tidak perlu sempurna…'"	English quotation + Indonesian translation	*Emphatic/expressive function*
D17	Cara Tuhan nunjukin busuknya orang tuh seru, deh. *The timing, the coincidences*, bisa ga ada angin ga ada ujan ya ada aja jalannya kebongkar, walaupun hal tersebut ga ngenakin, mau gimana pun tetep harus disyukuri. *Being grateful to be saved from the worst is the least thing we could do*."	Indonesian + English phrases	*Emotional & emphatic function*
D18	"*Don't expect too much*, manusia itu gampang berubah."	English + Indonesian	*Emphatic/advisory function*
D19	"2 kata favorit gue setelah belajar Islam adalah melepas kemelekatan. Wah gue cinta banget. *That's why my favourite book* adalah 'Janji,' dan lagu favorit gue itu adalah 'Membasuh.' *Aldi Taher was right, guys.* Semua hal di dunia ini punya Allah dan kita bakalan kembali kepada Allah. ***So,*** sebagai manusia *we actually own nothing,* gitu loh.	Indonesian + English clauses/connectors	*Expressive, emphatic & discourse-organizing functions*
D20	Ternyata benar ya, hidup itu akan jauh lebih tenang ketika kita tau batasan, *not everything needs your attention, not everything deserves your energy.* Ada hal-hal buruk..biarkan berlalu tanpa harus kita dengar, lihat, dan bahas. ***Sometimes***, yang bikin kita capek bukan hidup itu sendiri, tapi kebiasaan kita yang terlalu ingin tau, terlalu ingin terlibat, terlalu mengontrol sesuatu yang sebenarnya nggak perlu sama sekali	Indonesian + English parallel expression	*Emphatic & stylistic function*

Combination of Indonesian and English

The most common forms are mixtures of Indonesian and English. An instance may be determined in D1: *"Aku bertanya-tanya, what should I do."* English appears in the middle of an Indonesian sentence. the usage of *"what should I do"* does not turn the whole message into English. Alternatively, this expression will become part of a message that is normally constructed in Indonesian. A comparable sample is discovered in D8: *"Buka laptop and do nothing."* In this case, Indonesian is used to describe the action, while English is used in the phrase *"and do nothing."* In D13, "Semua akan baik-baik saja, *just trust the process*," the English has a *motivational function.* Those combinations create a concise, casual fashion that aligns with the character of social media communication.

English and Javanese as Identity

Two data points illustrate the combination of English and Javanese. D2 reads: *"I'm Javanese; we say 'alon-alon asal kelakon,'* so take it slow but keep going." The use of *"alon-alon asal kelakon*" is not simply a linguistic preference but carries a connection with Javanese culture. English is used as the primary language to convey a message to a broader target audience, while the Javanese expression serves as a marker of cultural identity. D7 shows a similar pattern: "*Enjoy your day ..dilakoni, dinikmati..."* The use of English at the beginning, followed by a Javanese element, creates a blend of global expression and local identity.

Emotional and Interpersonal Functions

Some data suggest that translanguaging is used to express emotions and construct interpersonal relationships. D3, for example, combines: "*Maybe you're not tired... Kadang capek..."* with an explanation in Indonesian: *"Sometimes you're tired not because of your activities, but because your mind is too full."* The caption then concludes with: *"Take a rest, you deserve it."* The same goes for the D13: "Semua akan baik-baik saja, *just trust the process*." The use of both English and Indonesian creates a message that is both reflective and supportive. English serves as part of the expressive style, while Indonesian provides a more direct explanation that resonates closely with the reader. D4 also demonstrates an interpersonal function: *"Everyone needs this friend who calls and says, 'Get dressed, we're going on an adventure.. See u on top,* sahabattt.. semangat di jalan masing-masinggg." Similarly with the data D16 "*You don't need to be perfect, you need to be you. Be yourself!!* 'Kamu tidak perlu sempurna…" In this two examples, translanguaging is used to foster a sense of familiarity and solidarity.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study shows that translanguaging is a common practice in digital communication on Instagram. Of the twenty Facebook posts and Instagram captions analyzed, the dominant forms were combinations of Indonesian–English and English–Javanese. Translanguaging is used to express emotions, construct cultural identity, create humor, emphasize points, offer advice, and foster solidarity.

The use of Javanese in some captions indicates that translanguaging can also serve as a means of preserving and showcasing local identity in the digital space. Thus, Instagram can be understood as a digital translanguaging space, where users draw on various linguistic resources to construct meaning, identity, and social relationships.

The analysis of twenty data shows that translanguaging in social-media captions is not merely the mixing of Indonesian and English. Rather, speakers strategically use their linguistic resources to express feelings, emphasize particular messages, create an attractive and contemporary style, construct their identities, and connect ideas. English expressions are often inserted to make certain messages sound more striking, concise, emotional, or memorable, while Indonesian generally provides the main context and meaning. Thus, translanguaging functions as a flexible communicative strategy through which social-media users express meaning, emotion, identity, and personal style in digital communication.

Overall, the data demonstrate that translanguaging serves as a multifunctional communicative practice in social-media captions. The use of Indonesian and English enables users to express emotions, emphasize ideas, construct identity, and create a modern and engaging style. Therefore, translanguaging reflects not only linguistic flexibility but also the ways young people negotiate meaning, identity, and self-expression in digital communication**.**

Future research could increase the scope of this study by analyzing larger and more diverse social media datasets, as well as comparing translanguaging practices across other digital platforms, such as TikTok, X, or YouTube. Subsequent research could also investigate users' motivations for switching between Indonesian and English—or Javanese—particularly as they relate to identity formation and self-expression. In addition, research could explore audience responses to translanguaging and analyze other functions, such as humor, solidarity, persuasion, creativity, and self-image formation. Such studies would provide a broader understanding of how translanguaging operates as a dynamic linguistic practice in contemporary digital communication.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Complete Name	Institution	Education	Research Interests
Umi Yawisah	UIN Jurai Siwo Lampung	English Education	Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, English Language Teaching.
Ridhwan Zaki	UIN Jurai Siwo Lampung	English Education	English Teaching.
Yesica Melvin	UIN Jurai Siwo Lampung	English Education	English Teaching.