

Constraints on Bimodal Code-switching and -blending

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Bilinguals are famously "not two monolinguals in one person" (Grosjean 1989). Bilingual linguistic phenomena such as code-switching show that the languages of a bilingual can interact but such interaction is constrained in linguistically interesting ways. Bimodal bilinguals use a spoken language and a sign language; while they also code-switch they furthermore engage in an additional bilingual phenomenon: code-blending, the simultaneous production of (parts of) an utterance in both speech and sign. I will discuss the patterns of code-switching and especially code-blending that we have observed in bimodal bilingual children and adults, and how these patterns bear on a proposed model of bilingual linguistic phenomena we call Language Synthesis.