



University of Pannonia

Faculty of Humanities

Response to the review by Prof. Ürmösné Simon Gabriella

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I sincerely appreciate the time and effort **Prof. Gabriella** dedicated to evaluating my dissertation. She provided a comprehensive and insightful assessment of my thesis, highlighting its contributions to the field of multilingualism. The reviewer described it as *“exemplary, supplementary, and unique in terms of the choice of three languages, pragmatic and semantic functions, and the hiatus of multilingual research.”* Her constructive feedback and positive evaluation reaffirm my research efforts and encourage me to maintain high standards in future research projects.

In what follows, I address the specific questions raised by the reviewer, with the aim of clarifying key aspects of the dissertation.

1. Was it possible to derive more data from the spontaneous speech sequences or from the questionnaire?

Yes, it was indeed possible to extract additional data from the analyzed recorded speech. For instance, patterns such as the frequency of intra-sentential versus intersentential CS, the proportion of bilingual versus trilingual CS, and the potential correlation between gender and these patterns could have been examined. However, the decision not to pursue these lines of analysis was a deliberate methodological choice, made to preserve analytical depth and clarity rather than broaden

the scope at the expense of interpretive precision. These dimensions remain valuable avenues for future research.

As for the questionnaire, it was primarily used to select suitable participants by collecting data on their language history, use, proficiency, and attitudes—factors widely recognized in the literature as influencing CS patterns and language choice. While a more detailed quantitative analysis of these components could have explored their relationship to the frequency and types of CS in participants' speech, this fell outside the scope of the present thesis.

2. Was the questionnaire self-compiled or based on an existing questionnaire?

As explained in Section 3.4.2.1, the questionnaire was adapted from the Bilingual Language Profile (BLP), with modifications to suit the multilingual focus of this study. The adapted version, referred to as the Multilingual Language Profile (MLP), extended the original BLP modules on language history and proficiency to include three languages instead of two. Additionally, the BLP's modules on language use and language attitudes were replaced with components adapted from the Bilingual Code-Switching Profile (BCSP), which emphasize language switching behavior and attitudes toward CS rather than individual languages. These adjustments were essential to align the questionnaire with the study's objectives, particularly the need to assess participants' engagement with CS.

3. Why was it necessary to list topics for the respondents instead of starting the discourse on their own?

The decision to provide participants with a list of topics, as explained in Section 3.2 (Context of the research), was essential for several reasons. First, it ensured consistency across the data, allowing for meaningful comparisons of CS behaviors among participants. Second, engaging participants in familiar and relevant topics encouraged natural language use, as they focused more on content than form. This approach also minimized the risk of participants avoiding CS, particularly when they were unaware that multilingual language use was central to the research. Additionally, the use of predefined topics helped maintain the flow of conversation and prevented long pauses. Accordingly, the researcher and the supervisor carefully selected elicitation topics that would be engaging and relevant to the participants, with the aim to trigger language shifts in different types of contexts.

4. Why did you consider it important to ask in the questionnaire about the language shift of the participants while counting?

The question about language use while counting was included as part of the original Bilingual Code-Switching Profile (BCSP), from which the use of language switching component of the questionnaire was adapted. This item was not added independently but retained to align with the BCSP's established framework. As noted by Olson (2023) and Treffers-Daller (2019), language use across specific domains—like counting—is a key indicator of bilinguals' linguistic patterns and is closely linked to their CS behavior.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Gabriella for her thorough review and insightful questions, which have prompted me to reflect more deeply on my methodological choices. Her thoughtful engagement with my research has not only validated the significance of this thesis but also opened new perspectives for future investigations in the field of multilingualism. The reviewer's comments have reinforced my commitment to methodological rigor and theoretical depth in my ongoing scholarly endeavours. I am particularly appreciative of how her questions have highlighted both the strengths of the current approach and potential directions for expanding this research in the future.

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