

**Methodological problems in
studying the grammatical
types of code-switching
(Erzya–Russian bilinguals)**

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- definitions of code-switching: terminology problems
- **Grosjean**: the alternating use of two or more languages in the same utterance or discourse” (1982: 145)
- vague definition
- **Gumperz**: the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passages of speech belonging to two different grammatical systems or subsystems” (1982: 59)
- **Lanstyák**: a typical bilingual language mode, in which “speakers use two different languages or elements belonging to two different languages, and in which sequences are not identical in content” (2005: 85)

- differentiating code-switching and borrowing (Mahootian 2006)
 - equivalent in the recipient language (standard, dialect?)
 - borrowings are used by monolingual speakers as well
 - frequency of use: bigger corpus is needed
 - acceptability
 - integration:
 - phonological: similar phonological systems, generational differences, younger speakers with a phonological system modified by L2
 - morphological: length: switching can be longer than a word or a phrase
 - nonce loans: not loans, only used by bilinguals
 - no clear-cut distinction, especially on the single-word level (adverb, uninflected word)

- differentiation between borrowing and code-switching (one-word switches in the nominative case):

(1) *avam* *prodav'ec*
mother-PxSg1 shop-assistant
'my mother is *a shop-assistant*'

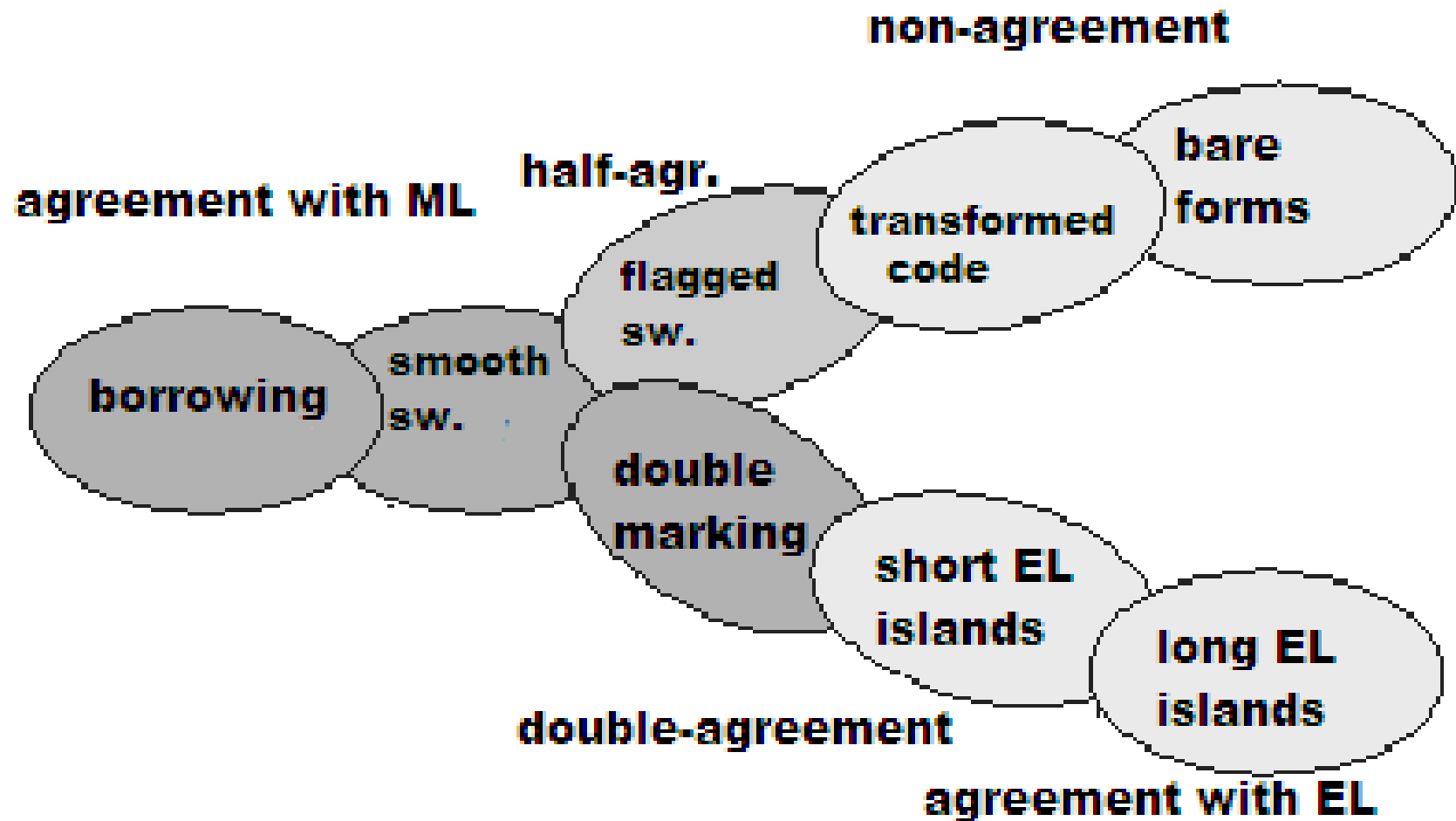
(2) *živ* *tol'ko avam*
alive only mother-PxSg1
'only my mother is alive'

- models applied:
- Matrix Language Frame Model (Myers-Scotton 1993, 2002):
- on the basis of the morphosyntactic structure of the CPs
- matrix (or base) language: sets the structure of the CP and provides the system morphemes in the utterance
- embedded (or guest) language: guest lang. sequences embedded in the matrix (base) language utterances

constantly base-changing = (difficult to identify the matrix language)

(3) **i mejle čerez nedelj-u t'et'a-ś sa-ś miń-eńek**
and after through week-ACC father-DET come-PERF1.S3 we-ALL.PxPI1
gost'-ks, t'ese vstreča-li-s', obscha-li-ś,
guest-TRANSL here meet-PERF.PL-REFL talk-PERF.PL-REFL
mejle t'et'a-nzo maro tu-ś Tynda-v,
after father-PXSg3 with go-PERF1.S3 Tynda-LAT
Tynda-so era-ś god, mejle karma-ś skuča-t'
Tynda-INESS live-PERF1.S3 year after start-PERF1.S3 long-INF
moń kise i mer-ś, mama, mon toso ne vyderža-l
me-GEN for and say-PERF1.S3 mother I there no stand-
PERF.MAS

‘and then *a week after* his father visited us, they *met* here, *socialized*, then he left for Tynda with his father, he lived in Tynda *for a year*, then he started *to miss* me, and he said: „mum, I *couldn't live* there”



Distance-based continuum model of CS (Kovács 2001: 210)

- mixed structures (frequent EL-islands) may lead to a new composite matrix (Kovács 2001: 211)
- the most frequent EL-island types in my data:
- **verbs**, especially modal verbs, verbs related to certain semantic fields (e.g. the school, army, etc.), but also basic words like ‘meet’

(4) **mon uže vishka ping-ste ho'e-la u'e-ms**
 I already small age-ELAT want-PERF.FEM be-INF
uchit'el'-aks
 teacher-TRANSL
 ‘I have wanted to be a teacher since I was small.’

(5) **moń śemija-m sostoj-it nile lomań-t'ńe-ste**
 my family-PxS1 consist-S3 four person-PL-ELAT
 ‘My family *consists of* four people.’

(6) **každij lomań-eś imej-et piře**
 every person-DET.NOM have-S3 garden
 ‘Everybody has a garden.’

- **comparative adjectives:** (a combination of the analytic Erzya structure and the Russian suffix forms)

(7) **še vřemja-ńt' sed'e m'eńše karma-št'**
 this time-DET.GEN less less begin-PERF.PI3
 'nowadays there are *less and less*'

- **numbers** (especially over 10)

(8) **moń sorok četiře god**
 me forty four year
 'I am forty-four years old'

(9) **šem'd'ešat vošem' l'et t'e-nze**
 seventy eight years he.DAT-PxSg3
 'he is seventy eight years old'

(10) **vejke brat i ňil'e sazor-t**
 one brother and four sister-PL
 'one brother and four sisters'

- examples for **nominal phrases** switched: (e.g. *po kontraktu*)

(11) **robot-i** *prépodavat'el'-em*, *uńiv'eńsit'et-se* **robot-i**
 work-S3 teacher-INSTR university-INESS work-S3
 'he works as a teacher, he works at the university'

(12) **t'e** *ve'e-se-ńt'* **mi-ńek** **u'-i** **značit ozero kov**
 this village-INESS-DET we-PxPI1 be-S3 so lake where
loma-t' **jak-it'** *otdiha-t'* **i** *příjezža-jut iz drugih* *ve'e-v*
 people-PI go-PI3 rest-INF and arrive-PL3 from other village-PL.GEN
 'So we have a lake in this village where people come to have a rest and arrive from other villages.'

(13) **mon tozo** *ustroilaś* **robotamo**, **robotiń toso** *god-dva*, **mej'le**
mužčina toso molodoj ležal, **angina maro** *bolńicaso*, **miń**
poznakomiliś, **son u'ńeś apak urvaž**, **i min** *požeńiliś*

'I started to work there, I worked there one or two years, then there was a young man with pharyngitis in the hospital, we became acquainted, he was a bachelor, we got married'

problems: in relatively stable bilingual situations the model cannot be applied successfully (Kovács 2001: 18)

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