WHEN IT'S "COOL" TO SWITCH: MORPHOSYNTACTIC CODE-SWITCHING PATTERNS IN SPANISH-ENGLISH RADIO PODCAST
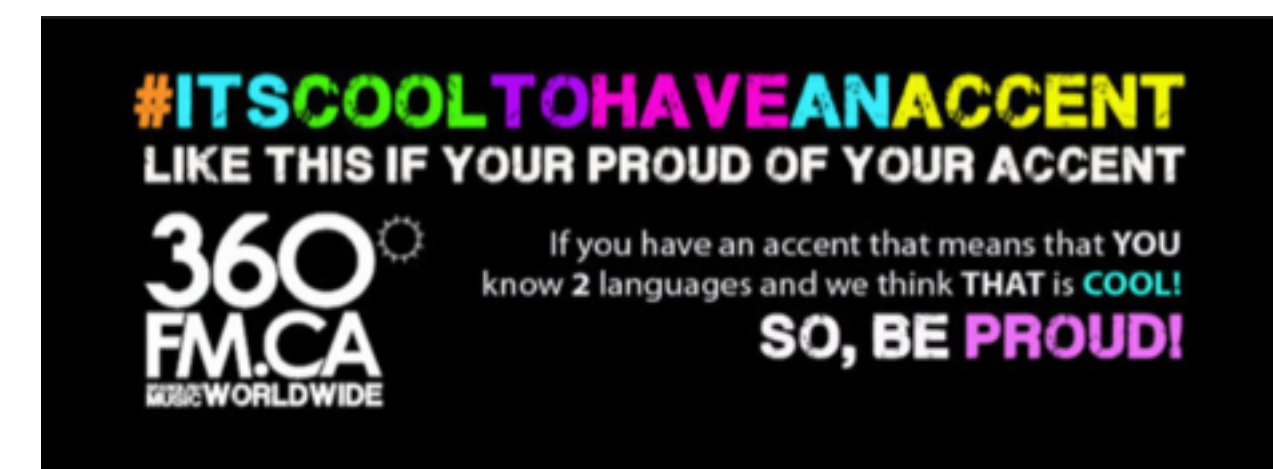
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Is code-switching (CS) in the media not the "real kind" of CS?

- It is often regarded as not the same as spontaneous bilingual speech, especially if it is used to promote bilingualism
- Structural aspects of CS in the media have largely been ignored
- Most analyses focus on sociolinguistic or pragmatic aspects

Research Goal

- To offer a morphosyntactic analysis of Spanish-English CS on the Canadian radio show 360 FM [1]

We aren't 50% Spanish y No somos 50% en Ingles We are 100% Spanglish!

#ITSCOOLTOHAVEANACCENT LIKE THIS IF YOUR PROUD OF YOUR ACCENT. If you have an accent that means that YOU know 2 languages and we think THAT is COOL! SO, BE PROUD!
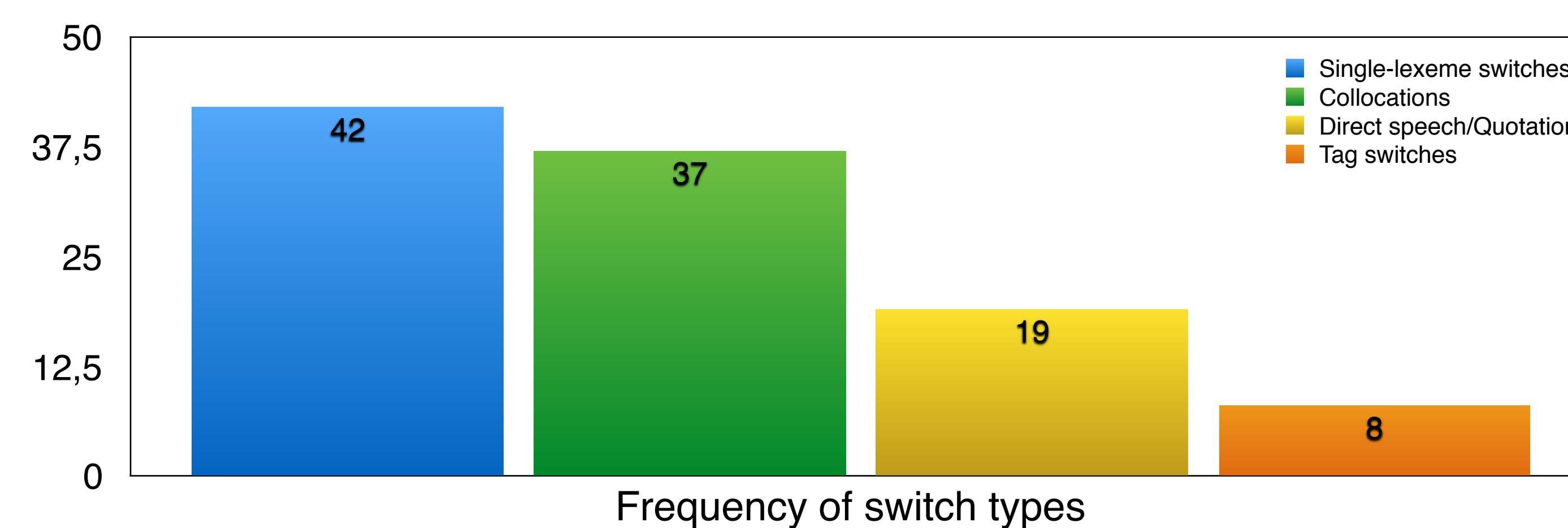
The Matrix-Language Frame (MLF) Model [5, 6]

- Focus on intra-sentential CS, where two languages interact directly
- **Matrix Language (ML)**: The conceptually higher activated language, the preferred phrase structure in bilingual speech, an optimal abstract "skeleton" with a dynamic structure not necessarily identical with the morpho-syntax of its source; not equivalent to the dominant language in a given discourse
- **Embedded Language (EL)**: Fills content-morpheme slots in mixed constituents or in EL-phrase-level constituents (islands), meeting EL well-formedness conditions
- **Content Morphemes**: Receive/assign thematic roles
- **System Morphemes**:
  a) Early SM: build semantic structure (e.g. articles, plural markers)
  b) Late SM: build syntactic structure (e.g. SV-agreement, possessive 's)
- **System Morpheme Principle**: All system morphemes in mixed constituents, which have grammatical relations external to their head constituents, will come from the ML

Previous Studies

- EL often limited to a single N or NP [8]
- Spontaneous Spanish-English CS has been shown to employ mainly masculine gender determiners to embed English nouns in the Spanish ML [e.g. 2, 3, 7]

Does CS on the radio conform to the same structural requirements as spontaneous CS?

Frequency of switch types
(Single-lexeme switches: 42, Collocations: 37, Direct speech/Quotation: 19, Tag switches: 8)

Corpus

- 98 minutes of conversation: 190 intersentential, 93 intrasentential switches
- Online podcasts of the Canadian radio show 360 FM [1]

Single-lexeme switches

- 78% nouns, most embedded in Spanish ML with masculine gender determiner [e.g. 2, 3, 7]
- Other switches appear to be holistic forms

(1) **Eres** Spanglish or French-Chinese?
(2) **Úsalo** wisely.
(3) **Te sientes** overwhelmed.
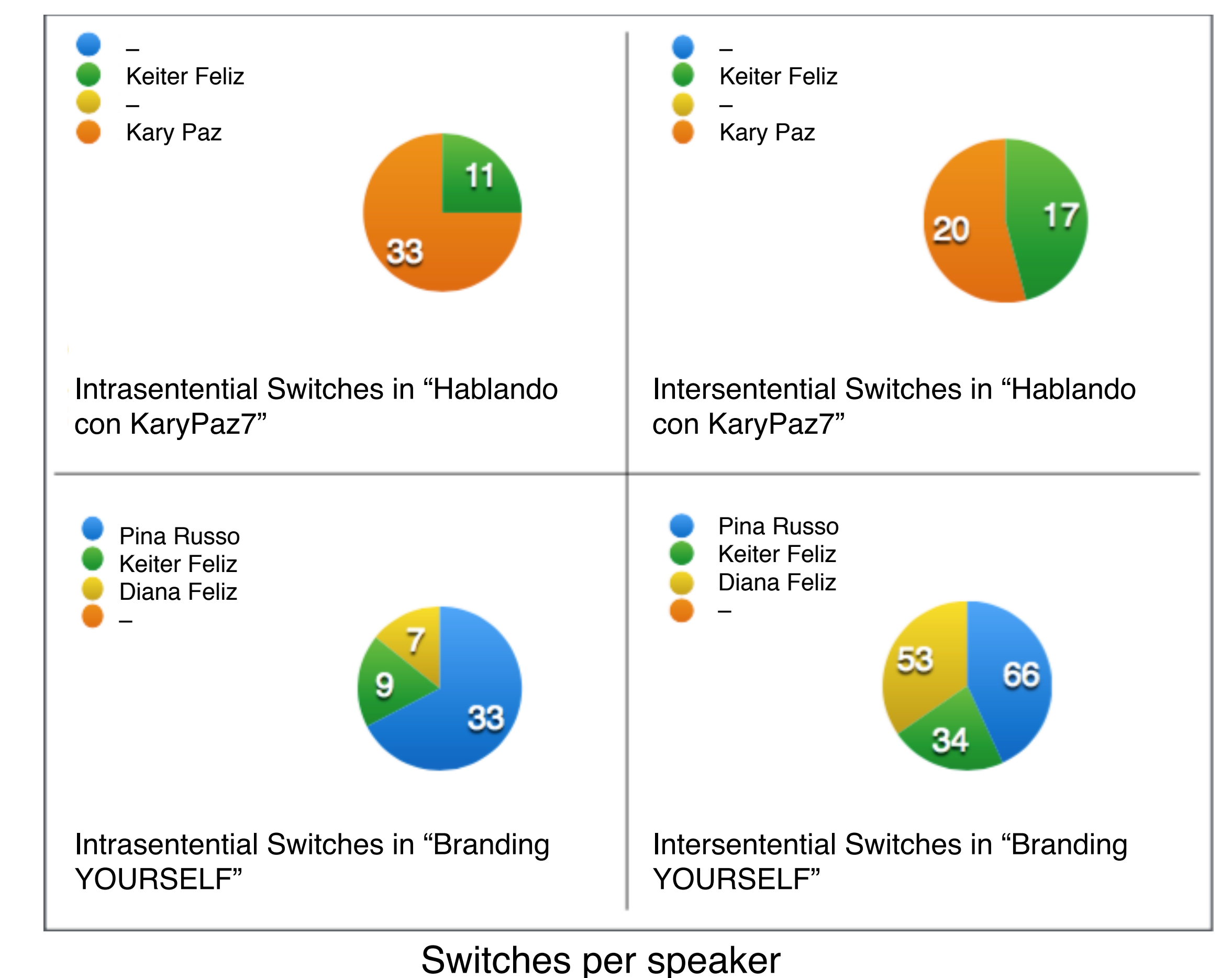(4) **Lo llevábamos impreso en un** folder **amarillo.**

Collocations

- Occur in EL islands and show dependency relations
- Consistent with the EL Island Trigger Hypothesis [5]

(5) **Ya tengo suficiente** on my plate.
(6) **Todo aquel que quiera comenzar** to build a personal brand.
(7) **Los** key messages **son muy importantes.**
(8) **Pero siempre lo tienes** in the back of the mind.

Tag switches as metalinguistic bracketing [4]

(9) **Fue como que** like the best lunch.

Intrasentential Switches in "Hablando con KaryPaz7"

Intersentential Switches in "Hablando con KaryPaz7"

Intrasentential Switches in "Branding YOURSELF"

Intersentential Switches in "Branding YOURSELF"

Switches per speaker

Conclusions

- Majority of CS in this corpus occur with Spanish as ML
- High rate of masculine gender determiners to embed English nouns
- EL islands often function as supplements
- System Morpheme Principle readily identifies the ML in typologically similar languages, such as Spanish and English
- Presence of English-dominant speakers in conversations can lead to adaptation of switching preferences for Spanish-dominant speakers and speaker alignment

CS in the media may follow the same morpho-syntactic patterns predicted for spontaneous corpora of classic CS.

References
[1] 360 FM.ca. <http://www.360fm.ca> January 25, 2015.
[2] Clegg, Jens H. and Mark Waltermire. 2009. "Gender Assignment to English-Origin Nouns in the Spanish of the Southwestern United States (Report)."
[3] Jake, Janice L., Carol Myers-Scotton and Steven Gross. 2002. "Making a minimalist approach to codeswitching work: Adding the Matrix Language."
[4] Lipski, John M. 2005. "Code-switching or Borrowing? No sé so no puedo decir, you know."
[5] Myers-Scotton, Carol. 1993. *Duelling Languages: Grammatical Structure in Codeswitching.*
[6] Myers-Scotton, Carol. 2012. "A universal model of code-switching and bilingual language processing and production."
[7] Pfaff, Carol W. 1979. "Constraints on Language Mixing: Intersentential Code-Switching and Borrowing in Spanish/English."
[8] Poplack, Shana. 1980. "Sometimes I'll start a sentence in Spanish Y TERMINO EN ESPAÑOL: Toward a typology of code-switching."