# Egyptian Arabic-English Code-Switching in Egyptian female vlogs

Natalia Siereda[1]
[1]Tallinn University, natalia.siereda@tlu.ee

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Code-Switching as a result of language contact has been studied for a few decades already, however applying a usage-based method in this context is still considered a novelty. In this qualitative study concerning code-switching between Egyptian Arabic and English in Egyptian female vlogs, the video content from five different lifestyle bloggers was analysed with the help of usage-based method, combined with the typology of code-switching proposed by Muysken. The study was conducted as part of a PhD research in Linguistics, School of Humanities, at Tallinn University.

The material collected for this study has been published by the authors on YouTube in 2022. All the authors are young Egyptian women with proficiency in English. The study aimed to investigate their language choices while performing video blogs. Five hours - approximately one per author - were analysed and the fragments containing phenomena in question were transcribed manually for the analysis.

Vlogging, seen as a form of recorded performance, contains elements from spontaneous speech but most probably also carefully thought out phrases on a chosen topic. Because of earlier preparation, the language choices of the authors may not be as natural and spontaneous, as they would be in the case of an informal and not recorded conversation. Therefore, the results of this study may not resemble similar research outcomes on spontaneous speech or semi-structured interviews with informants within the same language pair. A comparison with studies previously done on this language pair but in different settings (not in a vlogging performance) may be attempted in order to show possibly different language choices in these settings.

The research focuses specifically on the Egyptian dialect of Arabic (Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, ECA), a dialect that evolves very quickly and has a history of Ottoman and English influences which have affected its contemporary shape. Therefore, the question of whether a word is an existing in the dialect borrowing or code-switching is not always to be answered easily here. The role of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), being the official language of all Arab states, including Egypt, as well as the difference between MSA and ECA and its influence on the vloggers' speech is also one of the focus points in this study, seen as necessary to fully understand the phenomenon of multilingual speech of Egyptian vloggers.

Arabic and English being two typologically different languages, their merging may possibly result in new forms being a mix of stem from L1 and ending from L2. Whether this phenomenon happens or not and whether a successful production of such mixed forms using two typologically different languages is possible, is a question that this study aims to provide an extended answer to.