Arabic-French Switching within the Free Morpheme and the Equivalence Constraints

TAOUFIK DJENNANE
Tlemcen University, Algeria

1. INTRODUCTION

It is commonplace that speakers who are bilinguals in the same languages often switch back and forth between the codes and use linguistic elements from the different linguistic systems available to them when they come to interact with one another. This process of swapping between languages occurs with a kind of rapidity to the extent that, sometimes, it is no easy task to decide which language they are speaking. Poplack (1980) cites three types of code switching (hereafter CS):

1. **Intersentential switching**, which occurs when a change of language happens at a clause or sentence boundary, i.e. where each clause/ sentence is in one language or the other.
2. **IntrasententiIal switching**, which takes place *within* a clause/ sentence boundary, including also word boundaries. It may be a process of inserting a bound morpheme, noun, verb, or even a phrase in a sentence.
3. **Extrasentential switching**, which refers to cases where tags, exclamations, and ready-made expressions (such as, "I mean", "you know", etc), from the donor language are inserted into the recipient language.

By the late 1970s and early 1980s, research on code switching took a new drive when the interest in the social functions of CS (e.g. Blom & Gumperz 1972) paralleled a novel track which concerned itself with the linguistic structure of CS. Here, it should be noted that focus has been always placed on