

Code-Mixing of English in the Entertainment News of Chinese Newspapers in Malaysia

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Abstract

Code-mixing occurs when lexical items and grammatical features of two or more languages exist in the same sentence (Muysken, 2000). Code-mixing is a phenomenon that often ensues in Malaysia's multilingual society, which produces mixed languages or *rojak* language. It has already been found that the phenomenon of code-mixing not only exists in conversations among language users in Malaysia but also occurs in sentences used in the entertainment news of Malaysian Chinese dailies. As such, this study concerns the identification of the features of English lexical items that were code-mixed into Chinese entertainment news from the linguistic perspective. A maximum of 1,000 sentences that were code-mixed in Chinese entertainment news were collected from (a) China Press, (b) Mun Sang Poh, and (c) Guang Ming Daily from January to May, 2007. The features of English words and abbreviations that were code-mixed were analysed and discussed qualitatively. In order to achieve the objective of the current study, the questionnaire survey was also administered to 200 respondents to find out their opinions on the features of some English lexical items code-mixed into the sentences of Chinese entertainment news. It was identified that English abbreviations such as "CD", "DVD", "MV", "SMS", "KTV", "VIP", and "DJ" were inserted into Chinese entertainment news, making the sentences simpler and easier to understand. In addition, English adjectives such as "high", "cool", "in", and "hot" were inserted to generate a sense of stylishness and to put forth some sense of modernity. Another interesting highspot from the findings of the study is the incorrect usage of English grammar, such as "sweet sweet", "high high", and "cute-cute" in Chinese entertainment news. This form of reduplication is grammatically correct in the Chinese language, and somehow, it is applied in Chinese entertainment news through the reduplication of English words. Certain

English nouns and verbs change their functions to adjectives when they are code-mixed into Chinese entertainment news. Besides, English words frequently code-mixed in conversations are also used in Chinese entertainment news. As well, entertainment artists are often quoted during interviews, which brings about the popularity of code-mixing in Chinese entertainment news.

Keywords: Code-mixing, English, Entertainment news, Chinese, Malaysia, Features

1. Introduction

Code-mixing is a phenomenon that frequently occurs in Malaysia's multilingual and pluralistic society. It has been found that Malaysians who have a good command of English often code-mix English into Malay, Chinese or Tamil. This phenomenon not only exists in conversations but is also presented in entertainment news in Malaysian Chinese dailies.

Entertainment news in Malaysian Chinese dailies is often related to the entertainment industry in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, to name a few. These entertainment pieces of news describe the current state of the artists or bands, movies, drama series that are currently shown on local television channels, love affairs of artists, upcoming entertainment activities, and others.

Many Malaysian journalists have no opportunities to interview international artists from other countries or attend functions in the entertainment industry in Hong Kong or Taiwan, so information on the current state of entertainment arena would be downloaded from the Internet beforehand. Then, news content is reorganised by entertainment news journalists in Malaysian Chinese dailies. Most entertainment news is reported from what has been gathered through interviews and conversations with artists. Although most entertainment news is unrelated to the entertainment industry in Malaysia, it is edited, modified, and printed in Malaysia. These news items are regularly read by some readers in Malaysia.

Entertainment news is a form of register which is not so formal as language used in administration, economy, religion, academic, science, and technology. According to Nik (1988), register is defined as a style of how a language is used. Additionally, it is a social convention, which is used for a particular situation. The register of entertainment news is more often than not elaborated on and seldom standard. If observed closely, it can be seen that new lexical items are stylishly created and exert some sense of modernity. Also, informal entertainment news allows the phenomenon of code-mixing to exist. What is most noticeable is the prevailing application of English words that are often code-mixed with the Chinese language in Chinese entertainment news, but rare English phrases and clauses.

2. Purpose of the Study

This study focuses on code-mixing as well as examining the phenomenon of code-mixing that exists in the entertainment news of Malaysian Chinese dailies, hoping to identify the features of English words that have been code-mixed in the sentences of entertainment news. The research question that this study hopes to answer is "What are the linguistic features of English lexical items that have been code-mixed in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia?" Through this research, it is also hoped that readers can see the patterns of the Chinese language used in Malaysian entertainment news from printed media.

3. Review of Literature and Previous Research

According to Myers-Scotton (1993), Boeschoten (1998), and Azuma (1998) (cited in Ho, 2007), code-mixing is the change of one language to another in the same oral or written text. It is a common phenomenon in the society where two or more languages are used together. Studies of code-mixing enable us to understand the constraints of language. In accordance with Muysken (2000), code-mixing means the lexical items and grammatical features of two languages that exist in the same sentence. Muysken (2000, cited in Liu, 2008) establishes three major categories of code-mixing: "(a) Insertion: the insertion of well defined chunks of language B into a sentence that otherwise belongs to language A; (b) Alternation: the succession of fragments in language A and B in a sentence, which is overall not identifiable as belonging to either A or B; (c) Congruent lexicalization: the use of elements from either language in a structure that is wholly or partly shared by language A and B" (p. 6).

Nik (1988) defines code-mixing as a situation where language users code-mix two or more languages. McLaughlin (1984, cited in Hoffman, 1991) claims code-mixing occurs within the sentential level and usually involves the use of lexical items. Additionally, Maschler (1998) defines a mixed code or code-mixing as "using two languages such that a third, new code emerges, in which elements from the two languages are incorporated into a structurally definable pattern" (p.125). In addition, Bhatia and Ritchie (1999) define code-mixing as follows:

Code-mixing refers to the mixing of various linguistic units (words, phrases, clauses, and sentences) primarily from two participating grammatical systems across sentence boundaries within a speech event. In other words, code-mixing is inter-sentential and may be subject to some discourse principles. It is motivated by social and psychological factors. (p. 244)

Furthermore, according to Kachru (1978, p.28), code-mixing refers to “the use of one or more languages for consistent transfer of linguistic units from one language into another, and by such a language mixture developing a new restricted or not so restricted code of linguistic interaction.”

In this research, code-mixing refers to English lexical items (words and abbreviations) that are added into the Chinese language, but the components of phonology and morphology remain the same.

As regards China, the phenomenon of code-mixing is also popular in Canton since the Cantonese are greatly influenced by the foreignism of Hong Kong dialects. For instance, the Cantonese are frequently heard to say as follows: “Wo qu *copy* yixia.” (I go to make copy.), “Wo zuo *part-time*.” (I am working part-time.), “Mintian zai jia gao *party*.” (I will hold a party in my house tomorrow.), “Wo jiang ziliao *fax* gei ta.” (I fax materials to him.), “*U zai U nv*” (male and female undergraduates), and “*ha wu happy?* (happy or not?). The Chinese and English languages merge together in the above sentences and expressions, and even there exist deviations in grammatical structures in some of the examples (Chen, 1999).

In the West of China, these non-Sino and non-alien mixed words are attributed to the need of doing business. For example, farmers in Xi’an selling earthenware pots to foreign tourists by saying “liang yuan *one*” (two dollars each one) and “san *dollar two*” (three dollars for two). This kind of mixed language is really the language user’s verbal communicative tool, which is likewise the specific embodiment of the lively language diversification under such circumstances (Chen, 1999).

According to Awang (2004), terms such as code-switching and code-mixing in the sociolinguistic field are the application of elements of a specific foreign language, in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences in a discourse. In the Malay language, code-switching and code-mixing not only frequently occur in conversations but also take place in speeches, meetings, lectures, and utterances in both verbal and non-verbal language applied in advertisements and other formal discourses. English is also regularly code-mixed with the Malay language. Awang (2004) perceives this informal language or *rojak* language used informally, such as in conversations or idle jokes. Therefore, *rojak* language (mixed language) with the phenomenon of code-mixing can be viewed as a colloquial language which is appropriate to be adopted in informal situations.

Malay-English switching and mixing are well received in Malaysia. In actual fact, these phenomena constitute part and parcel of the living linguistic application in offices, institutions, and other public places in Malaysia. Even though Malaysians are unable to speak English well, English expressions come virtually to them when they speak the national language or their own ethnic languages. Better speakers of English are found to be switching from the national language to English. On the other hand, those with low level proficiency in English resort to the device of “mixing”, which centers on speakers’ interlacement of the national language with English terms (Asmah, 1992).

Lau (2007) studies the phenomenon of code-mixing in Chinese business advertisements in Malaysia. His research shows that English lexical items used in Chinese business advertisements are predominantly nouns, adjectives, and verbs. He has also found that the majority of proper nouns in English are maintained and that they are not translated in the forms of sounds and meanings in Chinese. A good number of English verbs and adjectives involved are not only short, precise, and easy to pronounce, but also regularly used in conversations among the users of the Chinese language in Malaysia. In addition, some English adjectives such as “in”, “hit”, “hot”, and “cool” that are deliberately inserted into Chinese business advertisements to exert some sense of modernity and youthfulness. Abbreviations used in English such as “CD”, “DVD”, “VCD”, and “SMS” are also inserted into Chinese business advertisements to make advertisement sentences simpler, shorter, and conciser in meaning.

Lau’s (2007) research also reveals features like “No.1”, which is often code-mixed in Malaysian Chinese business advertisements as a way of demonstrating the quality of products or services. It has also become one of the formats of written advertisements accepted. Nonetheless, there has been no research in Malaysia that focuses on code-mixing in the entertainment news, which seems to be a stimulus to push the researchers to conduct this study.

4. Methodology

One thousand sentences that are code-mixed into the entertainment news were selected from three Chinese dailies in Malaysia. The sentences were then analysed and further discussed. The Chinese newspapers are (a) China Press, (b) Mun Sang Poh, and (c) Guang Ming Daily, which were taken from January to May, 2007. Although much of the selected entertainment news was sourced from the Internet in terms of entertainment news in Hong Kong and Taiwan, the entertainment news in Malaysian Chinese newspapers was edited by Malaysian editors, published in Malaysia, and mainly read by Malaysians.

In order to achieve the objective of the present research, the features of the English lexical items inserted into the sentences of Chinese entertainment news were observed. Further, questionnaires were administered to 200 respondents from different age groups, levels of education qualifications, background, and professions. The respondents were the users of the Chinese language, and they also read Malaysian Chinese newspapers. The questionnaires are aimed at identifying the views of the respondents on the features of some English lexical items mixed into the Chinese entertainment news.

The questionnaires were then analysed quantitatively. Besides, the features of the English words inserted into the Chinese entertainment news were discussed using a descriptive approach by highlighting the relevant examples from the sentences used in the Chinese entertainment news.

5. Language of Entertainment News

As mentioned before, language of entertainment news is not the same genre used in academic, religion, education, administration, medicine, science and law. Hence, lexical items, sentences and the style of the language used to form sentences do not necessarily conform to the standard variety. In other words, code-mixing allows the reporters to incorporate some “differences” into their entertainment news and this will help to attract the attention of the readers.

The concept of adding the lexis of another language into entertainment news in Chinese is not a rare phenomenon because it has been accepted by the majority of Chinese users in Malaysia. This is supported by the lack of readers writing in to complain about such a “mix” of languages seen in entertainment news. As a matter of fact, observations indicate that code-mixing is a distinctive feature of the genre used in Chinese entertainment news in multilingual Malaysia. This shows that the genre in entertainment news is dissimilar from other genres.

6. Findings

From the 1,000 sentences applied in the entertainment news of the Chinese newspapers in Malaysia, it was found that 281 various English words were mixed into the sentences in Chinese. The most commonly used parts of speech in the sentences are 99 common nouns, followed by 72 proper nouns, 47 adjectives, 38 verbs, and 19 abbreviations. In other words, more than 60% of the lexical items that have been code-mixed in the Malaysian Chinese entertainment news are noun. Nevertheless, such function words as adverbs and interjections are hardly added into the Chinese entertainment news. On the other hand, the English pronoun, conjunction, imperative as well as preposition are not mixed in the Chinese entertainment news. Table 1 shows the categories and examples of English lexical items that were added into the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia.

Insert Table 1 Here

From 281 various English lexical items code-mixed in the Malaysian Chinese entertainment news, the most common English word used in the Chinese entertainment news is “fans”. This particular word was inserted 336 times. The second most frequently used word is “high”, which came up to 48 times, followed by “look” with a total of 34 times. Table 2 illustrates the top 10 English lexical items and abbreviations code-mixed in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia.

Insert Table 2 Here

Next, the researchers will discuss the linguistic features of the English lexical items that were inserted into the sentences of the entertainment news in Malaysian Chinese dailies.

6.1 Proper nouns in English not translated into Chinese

From the data analysis, it was discovered that most of the English proper nouns that were mixed into the sentences in the Chinese entertainment news do not have their equivalent meanings in Chinese. Among these proper nouns, involved are the names of the artists, actors, music bands, animals, and vehicles.

- i. Jinguan youjiao shoushang, buguo *Vanness* haishi jiaochu chao shuizhun de yanchu, rang

quanchang gemi *High* fan tian.

Although her foot was injured, **Vanness** performed extremely well, which made her fans *high* (excited). (*Guang Ming Daily*, 5/3/2007)

- ii. Ta pobujidai jiashi qi heise **Harrier** zuojia, zhiben Guo Xianni de Xigong Zaoheju yusuo.

He (Michael Tao) drove the black **Harrier** in a hurry, heading towards the home of Sonija Kwok. (*China Press*, 20/4/2007)

In the above two examples, proper nouns in English for artists and vehicles such as “Vanness” and “Harrier” were not translated into Chinese according to the sound. This has led to the use of the proper nouns in English to be code-mixed into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news.

- iii. **Rain** renqi wang dao buxing, jinnian xiabannian qianjin meiguo fa zhuanji, ye you keneng pai dianying.

Rain is exceptionally popular, and after June this year, he will launch his album in America and he may also venture into the movie industry. (*China Press*, 28/3/2007)

- iv. Dang zhong **Twins** de A Sa yi shi mingpai aihao zhe.

One of the members of **Twins**, A Sa is a brand follower. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 15/3/2007)

- v. Kuang Meiyun dai zhe chongwu **Cash** yiqi chuxi <zhu shi yuanman foda jianianhua>, hai shuo **Cash** he ta yiyang ai chi zhaicai.

Kuang Meiyun attended Buddhist religious activities with her cat, **Cash**. She stated that **Cash** also ate vegetarian food like she did. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 28/5/2007)

The interesting aspect in the above examples is that the proper nouns used to refer to the names of the artist, a music band, and an animal could not be translated into Chinese. For instance, “*Rain*”, “*Twins*”, and “*Cash*” in examples (iii) to (v) could not be translated since “rain” would amount to “yu”, “twin” would amount to “shuangbaotai”, and “cash” would be “xiankuan” in Chinese. Any form of translation would sound awkward and may confuse Chinese entertainment news readers. Take for example the name of the Korean artist “Rain”, whose Chinese name “Zheng Zhixun” is not used. This has caused his English name to be more popular and better known in comparison with his name in Chinese.

Due to the fact that English proper nouns could not be translated into Chinese in the forms of sounds and meanings, this has rendered English names to be inserted into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news. It can be presumed for code-mixing to occur on account of unavoidable reasons.

6.2 English words with their Chinese version but frequently code-mixed in conversations

Numbers of English words that were mixed into the Chinese entertainment news have their equivalent meanings in Chinese. Nonetheless, if English words are repeatedly used, the Chinese version is often ignored. The examples are illustrated below.

- i. Duiyu **Fans** bei pian, Chen Jianfeng shen gan xintong, dan “bei pian” **Fans** que zai wangshang liuyan tongqing.

Sammuel Chan was upset that his **fans** were cheated, but his **fans** explained that they were not cheated on-line. (*Mun Sang Poh*, 3/3/2007)

- ii. **Party** wei kaishi, yijing jingtun pijiu, kanlai Zheng Zhongji de jiuyin you qi le.

Before the **party** started, Ronald Cheng had already consumed alcoholic drinks, and she seemed to be addicted to alcohol. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 26/3/2007)

“Fans” and “party” in the examples given are commonly inserted into the entertainment news of Malaysian Chinese dailies. The two words, “fans” and “party” were translated in the form of sound to become “fensi” (fans) and “paidui” (party) in Chinese. Nevertheless, the translated Chinese words were not used. Instead, “fans” and “party” were retained and mixed into the sentences in examples (i) and (ii).

- iii. Ta bu xihuan chongfu ziji, **creative** yidian hui bijiao hao.

He does not like to repeat what he has done, and he feels that it is better to be **creative**. (*China Press*, 6/2/2007)

- iv. Ta chuan de diaodai songshen qun, jiandan de lai you xinggan, jiashang ta de fuse hen jiankang, ganjue **sexy** you buhui juede **cheap**.

She wore a simple and sexy skirt, and her healthy skin made her look *sexy* and not *cheap*. (*China Press*, 13/5/2007)

It was found that English adjectives such as “creative”, “sexy”, and “cheap” were mixed into examples (iii) and (iv). These adjectives do have their equivalent meanings in Chinese, which are “you chuangyi” (creative), “xinggan” (sexy), and “dijian” (cheap). In spite of this, the Chinese words were disregarded. Instead, the English lexical items were code-mixed into the sentences in Chinese, and they became adjectives.

- v. Xu Haoying (A Xu) zicong jiagei Chen Yixun dang xingfu shaonainai hou, you kong jiu hui dao chu *shopping*.

Since Hilary Tsui got married to Eason Chan, she has become a blissful wife, and she will go *shopping* when she has free time. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 4/4/2007)

- vi. She Shiman zhi suoyi ba shencai *keep* de name hao, wanquan shi yinwei ta diyizhili jianqiang.

Charmaine Sheh was able to *keep* her body in shape due to her strong determination. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 20/4/2007)

English verbs were also inserted into the Chinese entertainment news. With reference to examples (v) and (vi), it was found that the equivalent meanings of Chinese verbs such as “gouwu” (shopping) and “baochi” (keep) were not used. Instead, English words that have the same meanings, which are “shopping” and “keep”, were code-mixed into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news.

- vii. Dan a B zenme dou bu ken ba nüer jiaogei ta bao, jianchi ziji bao zai shou shang, hai bao zhu ta he *uncle, auntie* zhuge feiwen jiang *bye bye*.

Kenny Bee carried her daughter, while her child kissed her *uncle* and *auntie* and said *bye bye* to them. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 21/5/2007)

In excusing oneself, the expression “bye-bye” was translated in the form of sound to become “baibai” (bye-bye). Nevertheless, the expression of excusing oneself in Chinese was not used. Instead, “bye-bye” was maintained and added into the sentence in example (vii).

In terms of addressing an elder, “uncle” and “auntie” were added into example (vii), in which, however, the Chinese terms “bofu” (uncle) and “bomu” (aunt) were not used.

As such, it was generally found that English words that were inserted in examples (i) to (vii) such as “fans”, “party”, “creative”, “sexy”, “shopping”, “keep”, “bye-bye”, “uncle”, and “auntie” were often added in conversations conducted in both Chinese and Cantonese. A total of 86.5% out of the Malaysian Chinese respondents admitted they frequently mixed those English words into their conversations in Chinese and Cantonese.

6.3 English abbreviations with two of three letters better known

Lau (2007) discovered English abbreviations such as “CD”, “DVD”, “VCD”, and “SMS” were frequently mixed into the Chinese business advertisements in Malaysia. It was revealed that English abbreviations with two or three letters were also inserted into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news. The following illustrates the examples.

- i. Yin Yan Chengxu buken tuoxie, *CD* ji *DVD* deng suoyou yanchanghui chanpin dou buneng tuichu, re lai 3 zi buman, geng sunshi le shu baiwan de banquan shouru.

Due to Jerry Yan’s unwillingness to compromise, the *CD* and *DVD* of the concert could not be produced, causing dissatisfaction among the other three members and loss of millions of ringgit. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 7/3/2007)

- ii. Xu Wenyou zuijin tuichu le <shenqi de ma> *MV, VCD*.

Recently, Xu Youwen has produced *MV* and *VCD* with the theme “A Miracle Horse”. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 19/1/2007)

- iii. Ta suiran bu shuo mingzi, dan chengren he zhe nü geshou hezuo guo, hai yiqi chang guo *KTV*.

Although he did not disclose the name, he admitted he had worked with the female singer and sung *KTV* with her. (*China Press*, 5/1/2007)

With reference to examples (i) to (iii), the Chinese lexical items “shuzihua shipin guangdie” (the same meaning as DVD), “yinyue luyingdai” (MV), “shipin gaomi guangdie” (VCD), and “kala ok baojian” (KTV) have long

morphemes, and they are difficult to remember. Hence, the Chinese version was not used in above examples. Rather, the English abbreviations such as “DVD”, “MV”, “VCD”, and “KTV” were mixed into example (i) to (iii).

- iv. Gouzai zaoqian zai **TVB** jiandao zhe ge nianqing ren, yi ge ren zuo zai **canteen** du juben.

Before this, the journalist had seen the young man in **TVB** who was sitting alone while reading the scripts in the canteen. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 16/5/2007)

In example (iv), the proper noun, “TVB”, also an English abbreviation, was inserted into the sentence. However, its Chinese name, “xianggang wuxian dianshi” (the same meaning as TVB) has a long morpheme and was thus not used.

Further, based on the interviews, it was found that 95.5% of the respondents were familiar with the meanings of the English abbreviations “DVD”, “MV”, “VCD”, “KTV”, and “TVB”. Nonetheless, they did not know the equivalent meaning of the abbreviations in Chinese. This also illustrates that the English abbreviations code-mixed into the Chinese entertainment news were better known and understood by the users of the Chinese language in Malaysia. We also found that the Malaysian Chinese prefer to code-mix the English abbreviations in their utterances which are using Chinese.

From the research, it was likewise brought out that English abbreviations were shorter, conciser, and more commonly used in the Chinese entertainment news. The Chinese lexical items with long morphemes are not easy to remember and less known by many, though. Moreover, the insertion of English abbreviations have made the sentences in the Chinese entertainment news simpler and easier to understand.

6.4 English adjectives concise with a sense of modernity

In Lau’s (2007) research, it was revealed that English adjectives with some sense of stylishness and modernity like “cool”, “hit”, “hot”, and “in” were deliberately inserted into the Chinese business advertisements in Malaysia. English adjectives such as “cool”, “in”, and “hit” were also frequently applied in the entertainment news in Chinese dailies. The adjectives used were short as they consist of only a syllable each. The English adjectives used seem to cater for the younger generation as they create a sense of stylishness and exert some sense of modernity. Below are some examples of sentences in the entertainment news in the Chinese newspapers applying some of the trendy mono-syllabic English adjectives.

- i. Songshan jingchang doushi meiyou shenme xiaorong, **cool** dao bao, dan qishi ta he yiban nianqing ren meiyou fenbie.

The unsmiling Songshan looks extremely **cool**, but there is no difference between him and other guys. (*Mun Sang Poh*, 2/5/2007)

Referring to example (i), the English adjective “cool” was used to describe the unsmiling but stylish male artist. The adjective “cool” was translated in the form of sound in Chinese, which is “ku”. However, “ku”, with the same sound as “cool”, was not commonly used in the Chinese entertainment news. Rather, “cool” was maintained and code-mixed into the sentence, thus creating the clause “*cool* dao bao” (extremely cool).

- ii. Qingchun keen de Xue Kaiqi, daban yixiang dou man **in**.

The young Fiona Sit is **in** all this while with the way she dressed up. (*China Press*, 13/5/2007)

- iii. Yange shuo qilai, liang ren de **Hit** ge busuan duo.

In reality, there are not many **hit** songs by them. (*China Press*, 16/4/2007)

Moreover, it was found that the adjectives “in” and “hit”, which were concise with some sense of stylishness and modernity, were inserted into examples (ii) and (iii). The equivalent meanings in Chinese of “rushu” (the same meaning as “in”) and “fengmi” (the same meaning as “hit”) were not used as they were usually used in the formal context.

A total of 79.5% of the respondents felt that “in” and “hit” sounded more modern compared to their respective equivalent meanings in Chinese. Since many of the readers of the entertainment news consist of youth, the insertion of trendy and modern English adjectives caters to the younger generation. Simultaneously, the discourse of entertainment news is not so formal as the one used in academic, administration, medical, and religious sectors. Thus, the application of the code-mixing of one or two English adjectives is feasible according to the discourse.

6.5 Reduplications of English words influenced by Chinese

From the data analysis, it was revealed that reduplications of English words, which are grammatically incorrect, were also mixed into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news. Below are several examples.

- i. Xiaorong *sweet sweet* de Liao Bier qian zhenzi fagaoshao xutuo, buguo dedao “hao pengyou” Chen Hao de xuhan wennuan.

Although *sweet sweet* smiling Bernice Jan Liu had fever before this, she was well taken care of by her close friend, Moses Chan. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 18/2/2007)

- ii. He dao *high high* de A Du zou dao menkou fujin, kanjian jizhe, ji baocu shuo: “hejiu la, bie paizhao la!”

After drinking, A-do, who became *high high*, walked towards the front door after noticing a journalist there and said in a rough manner, “I’m drinking, don’t take any photos!” (*Guang Ming Daily*, 25/4/2007)

- iii. Jingguo shijian de xidi, xiri zou *cute-cute* luxian de Zhang Shaohan, yijing zhanxian ling yi gu qizhi, shi yaoyan de fumei.

After a long period of absence, Angela Chang, who was *cute-cute* looking before this, has become someone who is beautiful and sexy. (*Mun Sang Poh*, 30/5/2007)

“Sweet sweet” was inserted into example (i) to describe Liao Bier’s smile. Conversely, the reduplication of the Chinese word, “tian tian” (sweet) was not employed. Moreover, “sweet sweet” is a reduplication that is grammatically incorrect. The use is influenced by the Chinese reduplicated word “sweet sweet”, with the pattern “AA”.

The English adjective “high” was reduplicated to become “high high”, and it was mixed into example (ii) to describe A Du’s behaviour when he was drunk. The reduplicated English word “cute-cute” in example (iii) is also grammatically incorrect. Nonetheless, the reduplicated English words were still mixed into the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia due to the reason that many users of the Chinese language are familiar with how the words are used in this way.

- iv. Jinnianlai Cheng Long dage yulaiyu you “lao” de weidao, dage zai bu haohao *keep yi keep*, hen kuai jiu hui he “gancao” huashang denghao le.

Recently, Jackie Chan looks older, and if Jackie does not *keep keep* (takes care of himself), he will become old in no time. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 4/3/2007)

What is interesting here is the word “keep” in example (iv), which was reduplicated and added before and after “yi” (one), making it become “keep yi keep”. The pattern of how the word is used is influenced by the reduplicated structure in Chinese, “A yi A”, which is “verb yi verb”. However, this pattern of reduplication which is also grammatically incorrect rarely occurs in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia. Due to the language used in entertainment news is informal, the phenomenon of code-mixing and incorrect grammar naturally appears in sentences.

6.6 Quotes from artists

Quotes from artists also result in the phenomenon of code-mixing occurring in the sentences of Chinese entertainment news. The following are a few examples.

- i. Zhiyu Jessie ze da de shen haipa: “pen you eryi, ta haiyou hen duo hen *close* de pengyou !”

Jessie answered defensively: “We are merely friends, but she has many other *close* friends!” (*China Press*, 28/1/2007)

- ii. Ta shuo: “wo jingguo le hen duo hen duo de *Test* qu shitan wo geren de meili, biru wo cengjing qu *Pub* kan you meiyou nanren kan wo...”

She said: “I’ve performed all kinds of *test* to see whether I still attract people’s attention. For instance, I went to the *pub* to find out whether the men would look at me...” (*China Press*, 12/2/2007)

- iii. Tan Yonglin shuo: “bubi name mafan la, zheyang chang ye *OK* o, bubi gai la, wo Tan Yonglin chang de jiushi *Original* la.”

Alan Tam said: “There’s no reason to go through hassle, the way it has been sung is *OK*, and

there's no need to change it as what I'm singing is the **original**." (*Guang Ming Daily*, 18/3/2007)

- iv. Angela xiao shuo: "wo yeshi kan baozhi cai zhidao, dangshi wo hai man **surprise** de, dan you ren xinshang wo yeshi haoshi a."

Angela laughed and said: "I've just got to know this after reading the newspapers. I was also **surprised**, but it is a good thing that there are people who are interested in me and amazed by me." (*Guang Ming Daily*, 13/3/2007)

From examples (i) to (iv), it was noted that the artists from Hong Kong and Taiwan had code-mixed the English words like "close", "test", "pub", "ok", "original", and "surprise" in their statements in Chinese or the Cantonese dialect. This indicates how the language users in Hong Kong and Taiwan are also prone to insert English words into their conversations in Chinese or the Cantonese dialect. The Chinese entertainment news editors cited the artists' statements without amendments, and the English words used were maintained in the sentences in the Chinese entertainment news. In consequence, it can be said that code-mixing in this manner is inevitable.

6.7 English words that have changed in meaning and functions

It was also found that some English words have changed in meaning or "expanded" their meanings when inserted into the Chinese entertainment news. Below are some examples that illustrate the point.

- i. Wo de yisi bushi shuo ta zhang de niangniangqiang, ershi shuyu mei nanzi, gei ren ganjue haishi hen **MAN** de.

I don't mean to say that he looks like a transvestite although he is a "gorgeous" man, but his attitude still portrays that he is very **man**. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 1/4/2007)

- ii. Suiran xingrong de hen tieqie, dan *Ella* hen bu fuqi, pin hanyuan shuo Sun Yanzi ganjue cuowu, hai guyi bai chu liaoren de zitai, shuo ziji qishi hen **lady**, yinqi fensi yi zhen hongtang.

Ella affirmed that she was actually very **lady**, which made her fans laugh. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 30/1/2007)

- iii. Ta he gongzuo renyuan he yanyuan bushi tai he de lai, gao dao bushi hen kaixin, houlai liaojie duo le, xianzai keshi hen **friend**.

Before this, he could not work with other actors, but after they tried to understand one another, they are very **friend** now. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 11/1/2007)

The words, "man", "lady", and "friend" were mixed into examples (i), (ii), and (iii). It can be seen that the three English words were inserted at the end of the Chinese adverb "hen", which means "very". In other terms, "man", "lady", and "friend" which function as nouns originally have changed to adjectives when code-mixed into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news. For instance, "lady" is an English noun, but it has changed into an adjective which describes the feminine characteristics of the artist when inserted into example (ii).

- iv. Wo benshen man xihuan Taiwan, xihuan dangdi de wenhua, juede Taiwan ren shenghuo hao **relax**.

I like Taiwan very much including its local cultures, perceiving that the life of the Taiwanese is very **relax**. (*Mun Sang Poh*, 21/4/2007)

- v. Weile meili, nvshi men chu jin fabao, qianti sushen yijing *out*, jinqi zui **hit** shi zhengrong.

Ladies have already been at their wits' end for the purpose of beauty since slimming is out. Rather, face-lifting is supposed to be most **hit** for the time being. (*Mun Sang Poh*, 24/2/2007)

For example (iv), "relax" is originally a verb in English, but it was observed to have changed into an adjective when code-mixed into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news. At this point, the verb "relax" is often located behind degree adverbs such as "hao" and "hen" (very), similarly like an adjective. As such, in the long run, future language users may tend to mistake "relax" for an adjective eventually if the users of the Chinese language proceed to view "relax" as an adjective.

As shown in example (v), another English verb "hit" has become an adjective when inserted and code-mixed into the sentences in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia. Also, it has been found that more and more Chinese advertisements in Malaysia are code-mixing the term "hit" which is viewed as an adjective eventually.

6.8 English words used together with their equivalent meaning in Chinese

Another sign of the influence of English in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia is that English words are sometimes used together with their equivalent meaning in Chinese. This happens mainly because the writer assumes that the majority of the readers may not know the meanings of the English words that have been inserted, so the Chinese words are placed in brackets to illustrate the meanings of the English words.

- i. Wu Zun ai jianshen, ta cheng ziji chi de yuanze shi “zhonglei duo” fei “liang da”, suoyi te ai chi **buffet** (zizhucan).

Wu Zun, who likes going to gym, says that because he likes to eat various types of food, his favourite is **buffet**. (*Guang Ming Daily*, 30/5/2007)

- ii. Ta changfa jian cheng ji jian xin zaoxing, shi jinnian zui “**in**” (liuxing) de changdu.

Her long hair has been cut short, which is the most **in** style of the year. (*China Press*, 26/4/2007)

- iii. Wang Mingquan: “Xianzai buhui, yinwei wo jiang shiye fang zai diyi wei, shiye shi wo keyi **Handle** (zhangwo) de...”

Liza Wang said: “I no longer want to be in a relationship because career is my priority. It is something that I can **handle**...” (*Guang Ming Daily*, 12/2/2007)

In example (i) above, the English word “buffet” was followed by the Chinese equivalent “zizhucan” (serve-yourself food) in brackets to explain its meaning in Chinese.

In the same way in example (iii), the interviewed artist (Liza Wang) added the English word “handle” in her utterance. The entertainment writer quoted what the artist had said, and at the same time, the meaning of the word “handle” was provided in Chinese. The way the meaning has been interpreted indirectly encourages the phenomenon of code-mixing to come about, although it is not commonly used.

7. Conclusion

As discussed above, English words most commonly inserted into the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia are common nouns, followed by proper nouns, adjectives, verbs, and abbreviations.

Most proper nouns are used to refer to the names of artists, music bands, vehicles, and animals that have not been translated in the forms of sounds and meanings into Chinese. English nouns, adjectives, verbs, abbreviations, adverbs and interjections are also inserted into the Chinese entertainment news although there are corresponding meanings in Chinese which are not applied. Instead, the English words are maintained and mixed into the sentences in the entertainment news.

In addition, English abbreviations with two or three letters such as “CD”, “DVD”, “MV”, “VCD”, “KTV”, and “TVB” are also code-mixed into the sentences of Chinese entertainment news whereas the Chinese lexical items with long morphemes are not employed.

Besides, English adjectives like “cool”, “in”, “hit”, and “hot” are also mixed into the sentences of the Chinese entertainment news to attract the attention of the readers. The reduplications of English words that are grammatically incorrect, for example, “sweet sweet”, “high high”, “cute-cute”, and “keep yi keep” are also inserted.

Statements from artists who tend to code-mix also contribute to the phenomenon of code-mixing in the printed entertainment news.

Another interesting fact found from the data is that English nouns and verbs are added into the Chinese entertainment news and change their functions to adjectives. English words used in this manner are “man”, “lady”, “friend”, “relax”, and “hit”.

Also, one other phenomenon of code-mixing in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia is the existence of English words together with Chinese words which are equivalent in meaning. However, they are hardly used in this manner.

The language used in entertainment news is informal, so it allows code-mixing to exist in the sentences. English proper nouns that cannot be translated into Chinese are used without changing their original names. Furthermore, English abbreviations that are short allow the sentences in the Chinese entertainment news to be conciser and easier to understand. Code-mixing in the Chinese entertainment news in Malaysia likewise depicts the special features of the Chinese language in Malaysia.

As a consequence, we recommend that future researchers should make a study of the phenomenon of

code-mixing in entertainment news in Chinese and Malay magazines in Malaysia. The phenomenon of code-mixing English in entertainment news in Chinese and Malay television and radio stations is also likely to be observed. Not only may potential researchers therefore proceed to probe into the linguistic features of English lexical items that are code-mixed, but also attempt to identify the factors that will instigate code-mixing in entertainment news to come about.

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Table 1. Categories and Examples of English Lexical Items Code-mixed in Malaysian Chinese Entertainment News

Category of English lexical items	Examples	Number of words (%)
common noun	auntie, baby, blog, buffet, cafe, camera, canteen, catwalk, concept, concert, cutting, deadline, disco, facial, fans, feel, gay, idea, image, job, key, leggings, level, look, mail, model, money, partner, party, pub, rap, ringtone, sales, size, spa, studio, style, taxi, test, tips, uncle, van	99 (35.23%)
proper noun	Amanda, Bobby, Eason, Cash, Cathay, Cinderella, Danny, Fiona, Gary, Harrier, Helen, Hotlink, Janice, Joey, Jolin, Kelly, Leon, Michael, Milo, Moviestar, Paul, Penny, Rain, Ron, Sammi, Sammuell, Twins, Vanness, Westlife	72 (25.62%)
adjective	active, casual, cheap, close, cool, creative, cute, easy, fair, fit, free, *friend, friendly, funny, happy, high, *hit, hot, in, interesting, *lady, *man, nice, original, perfect, *relax, sad, sexy, slim, smart, sociable, sweet, warm, young	47 (16.73%)
verb	buy, call, care, check, cut, edit, emphasize, enjoy, feel, handle, keep, key, label, play, promote, ready, run, sell, send, set, shopping, sing, stop, take, update	38 (13.52%)
abbreviation	BB, BBQ, BMW, CD, CEO, DJ, DVD, EQ, HVD, IQ, KTV, MSN, MV, SARS, S.H.E, SMS, TVB, VCD, VIP	19 (6.76%)
adverb	anywhere, yes, no	3 (1.07%)
interjection	bye, bye-bye, yeah	3 (1.07%)
Total:		281 (100%)

* The function of the words had been changed to adjectives when they are code-mixed into Chinese entertainment news.

Table 2. Top 10 English Lexical Items and Abbreviations Code-mixed in Malaysian Chinese Entertainment News

English word and abbreviation	Usage frequency (times)
fans (noun)	336
high (adjective)	48
look (noun)	34
Rain (proper noun)	33
MV (abbreviation)	27
shopping (verb)	21
blog (noun)	19
Eason (proper noun)	16
DVD (abbreviation)	16
feel (noun and verb)	14