

Abstract

Code switching is an essential tool to help student learn and improve their foreign language in the multilingual class environment of migrant areas. The teacher should understand her students' language background especially in the migrant context where the language is very complicated. This study investigated teachers' code switching in the EFL classes of two Myanmar migrant schools. It aimed to find out under what context teacher engaged in code switching. In addition, it sought to find out the reason for this and how the teacher explored code switching in the EFL classroom.

The subject of the study of EFL in two Myanmar migrant schools, MLC and BEAM, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The main data source consisted of classroom video recording over 4 days. A questionnaire was also used to obtain the class profile and the students' language and educational background. The interviews with teachers were conducted in the class on the last day of data collecting. Then the classroom video recording was transcribed and analyzed using ten categories of classroom functions in term of code switching. An extract from the transcription was produced from procedures for analyzing as data and included lesson plans.

The results show that the teacher of BEAM School engaged in code switching under three general contexts; namely when the students could not answer her questions during pre or post reading activity. When she explained complex grammar rules and when the students did not show interest in the lesson because the students did not completely understand the reading comprehension. The teacher from MLC School, exploring code switching between Thai, Shan, Burmese and English because the students' education background was very low and she did not use other methods or approaches to deal with these limitations except the students' L1 source.

Thus code switching is a beneficial technique to apply in the EFL classroom to help teachers teaching foreign language in the migrant areas. Additionally the language policy maker should realize this in implementing school language policy and directing class instruction.

