

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How ELF couples **talk** their **coupleness**...
- What kind of **double voicing** technique ELF couples **exercise**...
- What **contextual and pretextual factors** ELF couples **activate** and **ratify**...

...BY THE USAGE OF HYBRID FORMS

BACKGROUND

- Widdowson's (2004) proposal for discourse analysis.
- Bakhtin's linguistic hybridity as **polyphony** with **vari-directional** (henceforth **VDDV**) and **uni-directional double voicing** (henceforth **UDDV**) relations.
- Focus on hybrid forms as a linguistic resource for **contextualization** (Gumperz 1982) and **pretextualisation** (Widdowson 2004).

METHOD

- Qualitative, discourse analytical study
- Questionnaires
- Recording, synchronizing and transcribing data (about **840 minutes** of **naturally occurring couple talk**)
- Interview on partners' language background and linguistic practices (in process)
- Retrospective participant commentary on extracts of recorded interaction (in process)

TABLE 1. Participants' portfolio

COUPLES	1		2		3	
	Nana	Dan	Sandy	Peter	Sue	Henry
FIRST LANGUAGE/S	Russian	French	Italian	German	Hebrew	German
PARTNERS' AGE	36	46	25	31	30	37
OCCUPATION	designer	psychologist	architect	engineer	English student	diving instructor
COUNTRY OF BIRTH	Moldova	France	Italy	Austria	Israel	Austria
PLACE OF RESIDENCE	France		Austria		Austria	
LENGTH OF RELATIONSHIP	1 year 2 months		3 ½ years		2 years	

EXAMPLES

1. Schatzi can I was say?

Henry: i have a déjà vu?
Sue: <Lnde> schatzi. {treasure} </Lnde> no can i <LNde> **was** {something} </LNde> say in a second?
Henry: i'm aware of it.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

- German structure – mixed vocabulary.
- The linguistic trace of partners' common reality?

POSSIBLE CONTEXTUAL CORRELATES

- Sue addresses their common history through the endearment form performed in their other than English common language (Henry's L1).
- Sue goes along with her husband's reality.

POSSIBLE PRETEXTUAL CORRELATES

- Sue indirectly criticizes Henry for lack of patience and attention.
- Sue appeals for attention and togetherness.
- Henry appeals for Sue's support and understanding by using his L1 voice.

2. He is fanatic. Enthusiastic. Jedenfalls.

Sue: but he IS like this. he is fanatic.
Henry: enthusiastic.
Sue: @@@@ enthusiastic. yeah.
Henry: <L1de> **jedenfalls. also** {anyway. well} </L1de> it's not (.) it's not something bad.
Sue: (i mean.) (.) enthusiastic is good. fanatic is bad. ...
Henry: well if he's doing things properly? (.) he's doing them properly.

- Code switching, whole constituent insertion.
- The linguistic trace of Henry's reality and/or partners' common reality?

- Henry claims his cultural (contextual) assumptions.
- Partners bring different assumptions to their conversation.

- Henry indirectly criticizes Sue for failure to accept and support his expectations.

3. Lust is a sin? I don't know the Second Testament.

Sue: bu:t more than that you know i don't know the new testament. [...] i told him sorry who said that these are sins. @@@ a:nd then one student she said <imitating> the bible. </imitating> and i was like you mean what bible. **the second testament** right? and well he looked puzzled like and he said yes. **the second testament**. and i said sorry i don't know **the second testament**. although we have other sins @@@ in old testament. and then he started you know listing the sins?
Henry: yeah.
Sue: and then he said LUST. and i was shocked? really? lust is a sin? [...] and then he said <imitating> it's time to reform sue. @@@@

- There is no obvious code-mixing.
- The word combination is unusual at least for English.
- The linguistic trace of Sue's reality?

- Sue indirectly refuses to see things Henry's (Christian) way.
- Sue claims her difference.

- Sue retells a funny anecdote to make Henry laugh.
- Sue aims at creating humorous effect.
- Sue indirectly distances herself from her husband's world (Catholic conceptual world).
- Pretext of domestic intimacy and togetherness.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- The data demonstrate:
 - that linguistic hybridity is a salient element of ELF couples' discourse;
 - that ELF hybridity is of **dynamic character**, shaped by partners' **conceptual** and **pretextual factors** where the interrelationship of languages-voices can change drastically or be both **UDDV** or **VDDV**;
 - that partners' hybrid utterances can be understood as complex and subtle combinations of **VDDV maneuvers** (struggle for independence and difference) and **UDDV maneuvers** (struggle for the intimate connection and togetherness).

Interview and retrospective discussions are needed to see what contextual and pretextual correlates I have read into the couples' text are relevant to the partners-participants.

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