

## English Code-mixing in the Thai Television Series

### “The Diary Tootsies the Series Season 2”

#### การปนภาษาอังกฤษในละครโทรทัศน์ไทย เรื่อง “ไดอารี่ตุ๊ดซี่ส์ เดอะซีรีส์ ซีซั่น 2”

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#### Abstract

This research aims to investigate the most frequently used types of English code-mixing found in *The Diary Tootsies the Series Season 2*, a Thai television series winning many awards such as Line TV Top Most Viewed Award 2018, along with the study of the nativized features of English code-mixing. There are 12 episodes in the series. The analysis was based on six-classification frameworks applied by Kannaokun and Gunther (2003) presenting Truncation, Hybridization, Conversion, Semantic shift, Reduplication, and Word Order respectively. From 256 words found, the results showed that noun (55.08%) was used the most in the intra-sentential code-mixing. As regards the nativized features, the findings revealed that truncation was found the most at 27 words (30.68%), followed by 26 words (29.55%) of hybridization, 20 words (22.73%) of semantic shift, ten words (11.36%) of reduplication, three words (3.41%) of word order, and two words (2.27%) of conversion.

**Keywords:** TV Series, Code-mixing, Nativized Features

#### บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยนี้เป็นการศึกษาการปนภาษาอังกฤษในละครชุดทางโทรทัศน์เรื่อง ไดอารี่ตุ๊ดซี่ส์ เดอะซีรีส์ ซีซั่น 2 ที่ได้รับรางวัลต่าง ๆ มากมาย เช่น รายการที่มีผู้ชมสูงสุดทางไลน์โทรทัศน์ปี 2018 ทั้งหมด 12 ตอน มีจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อศึกษาประเภทการปนภาษาที่ตัวละครในเรื่องไดอารี่ตุ๊ดซี่ส์ เดอะซีรีส์ ซีซั่น 2 ใช้มากที่สุดและศึกษาประเภทการปนภาษาอังกฤษกับภาษาไทย ทั้งนี้ผู้วิจัยยังได้เน้นการวิเคราะห์การปนภาษาภายในประโยคระหว่างภาษาไทยและภาษาอังกฤษในระดับคำและกลุ่มคำ โดยข้อมูลจะแบ่งตามหน้าที่ของคำ การวิเคราะห์

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ข้อมูลดำเนินการโดยใช้กรอบแนวคิดการแบ่งประเภทการปนภาษาอังกฤษกับภาษาไทย ของปรารธนา กาลนวกุลและกันเธอร์ (2003) ซึ่งประกอบด้วยการตัดคำ การรวมคำของสองภาษา การเปลี่ยนหน้าที่คำ การเปลี่ยนความหมายคำ การซ้ำคำ และการเปลี่ยนการเรียงลำดับคำ จากการศึกษาพบว่า จำนวนคำปนภาษาอังกฤษกับภาษาไทย ที่พบทั้งหมดมี 256 รายการ การปนภาษาอังกฤษภายในประโยคนั้น หน้าที่ของคำที่พบมากที่สุด คือ คำนาม (55.08%) ส่วนประเภทการปนภาษา พบว่ามีการตัดคำมากที่สุด จำนวน 27 คำ (30.68%) รองลงมาคือการรวมคำของสองภาษา จำนวน 26 คำ (29.55%) การเปลี่ยนความหมายคำ จำนวน 20 คำ (22.73%) การซ้ำคำ จำนวน 10 คำ (11.36%) และสองประเภทสุดท้ายคือการเปลี่ยนการเรียงลำดับคำ จำนวน 3 คำ (3.41%) และการเปลี่ยนหน้าที่คำ จำนวน 2 คำ (2.27%) ตามลำดับ

**คำสำคัญ:** ละครชุดโทรทัศน์, การปนภาษา, ประเภทการปนภาษา

## Introduction

A language achieves global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country and that this special status can be achieved either by making it an official language of the country or giving special priority to English where its people are requested to study it as a second or a foreign language. English is considered as one of the most important languages. Moreover, it is regarded as an international language. Globalization is one of the significant factors resulting in the increased spread of English language which has been greatly used across the world (Crystal, 1997; Crystal, 2000); thereby, a great number of products from various countries could reach the global market, contributing to the world economic development. Furthermore, English dominates in several important areas such as international relations, mass media, international travel, safety, education and communication (Crystal, 1997; Brutt-Griffler, 2002; McKay, 2002).

Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) states that English language has been considerably used by Thai people in daily life; nevertheless, it is neither a national language nor an official language in Thailand. The domain of English has gradually expanded to daily interactions among Thai people and plays a significant role in the communication in various fields and areas, such as international trade, science, technology, medication, diplomacy and tourism, etc. In many countries where people use English as a second or a foreign language, people tend to use English language in some daily life activities, listen and watch foreign media, these behaviors have also originated in Thailand, which leads to an increase in the use of Thai-English code-mixing or the insertion of English words, phrases, and sentences in Thai.

As indicated in the research studies on English code-mixing, English words are prominently found in various mass media, such as, magazines, newspapers, social media, advertisement, songs, movies, TV series, etc. For example, Chairat (2014) and Likhitphongsathorn and Sappapan (2013) studies English code-Mixing and code-switching in Thai songs; Kunarawong (2014), and Kumtanit and Srisakorn (2016) investigated Thai-English code mixing and code switching in Thai printed media; Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003); Papijit (2013); Ruanglertsilp (2018); Tanabut and Tipayasuparat (2018); and Yuthayotin and Tipayasuparat (2018) explored English Code-Mixing in Thai television programs.

Among these mass media, TV series is one of the most prominent sources to observe the characteristics of English code-Mixing, especially comedy TV series which could typically reflect the use of English code-mixing through communication of the characters. *Diary Tootsies the Series* is one of the most famous comedy TV series in Thailand, receiving a number of awards and earning the considerable reputation as a phenomenon portraying the language used among LGBT individuals who play key roles in various Thai mass media at the present time. Consequently, the researchers are interested in studying English code-mixing in *Diary Tootsie the Series* season 2.

### **Objectives of the study**

- 1) To investigate English code-mixing used in *Diary Tootsies the Series* season 2
- 2) To study the nativized features of English code-mixing used in *Diary Tootsies the Series* Season 2

### **Literature Review**

Code-mixing is a phenomenon taking place when a bilingual speaker talks to another bilingual in the same language and changes from one language to another automatically in the course of communication. Due to this process, code-mixing arises when speakers mix two or more different languages to coin a new code in a speech in both bilingual and multilingual situations, and mainly concerns the situation where one language is mixed with another language without a need of mixing of language. Therefore, it is possible that there is no rule in mixing a second language in communication. The mixing of language can be in word, phrase, clause and sentence form. (Crystal, 1997; Holmes, 2001; Wardhaugh, 2006).

With respect to Bokamba (1989), code mixing is an embedding of foreign codes within the native language of the speakers at the level of word and phrase within the same sentence. Moreover, Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) states that code-mixing involves intrasentential switching, and code switching intersentential switching relating to linguistic

units above the clause level. Ho (2007) defines code-mixing as the change of a language to another inside the border of sentence at the levels of phonology, lexicon, grammar and orthography in the same utterance.

As pointed out by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), when English words are embedded into the native language of the speakers, they have undergone some modification. In other words, English words can be nativized into Thai context. There are six types of the classifications of code-mixed items based on the nativized feature. The classifications are as follows:

1) Truncation: The process occurs when an English word is borrowed and truncated to a shorter form. For example, “เบอร์” (-ber) is shortened from the English word “number.”

2) Hybridization: The combination of an English word with a Thai word. For example, นักฟุตบอล (football player) is a combination of a Thai word “นัก” and an English word “football.”

3) Conversion: This occurs when a word changes from one class to another. For example, a noun “ปาร์ตี้” (party) is converted into a verb “to party.”

4) Semantic shift: Many English words are brought into Thai context with a semantic shift. For example, When the English word “พรีตตี้” (Pretty) is used in Thai context, it can be defined as a female presenter who promotes products or services, such as car, motorcycle, etc.

5) Reduplication: It refers to repeating of an English word consecutively. For example, “sure sure” in the Thai context “เอาชัวร์ ๆ” (getting it for sure) was reduplicated in meaning.

6) Word order: This process is a syntactical change or a change in word order. In Thai, the modifier comes after the noun it modifies whereas in English, the modifier comes before. For example, “ทีมฟุตบอล” (team football) is used in Thai instead of a correct word order “football team.”

### Research Methodology

The study is a qualitative research focusing on investigating English code-mixing in Thai Television Series Diary Tootsies the Series Season 2. This series is considered a phenomenon winning many awards such as Line TV Top Most Viewed Award 2018. There are a great number of English words used by four main LGBT characters in this series, consisting of Gus, Kim, Golf, and Natty. English code-mixing words as the data are collected from all 12 episodes of the series.

In this study, the researcher focuses on an analysis of intra-sentential code-mixing which refers to code-mixing as switching between Thai and English within an utterance as a word or a phrase. The data from the series were categorized into their parts of speech. Moreover, the analysis framework of nativisation by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) was used as a guideline to conduct this study. There are six types of code mixing with nativized features comprising truncation, hybridization, semantic shift, reduplication, conversion and word order. Code-mixing items were investigated, analyzed and counted manually. After that, the frequency of each classification was calculated as a percentage.

### Results

The collected data related to English code mixing in Thai Television Series Diary Tootsies the Series season 2 were classified based on the parts of speech and the classification framework of the nativized features by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003). There are six types of nativized features consisting truncation, hybridization, semantic shift, reduplication, conversion and word order.

**Table 1. Classification of English units**

Types of English units	Frequency	Percentage
Words	245	95.70
Phrase	11	4.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 1 shows the classification of English units from the total of 256 items. The first type was found in words for 245 times (95.70%), followed by phrases for 11 times (4.30%).

Table 2. Classification of English word classes

English word classes	Frequency	Percentage
Noun	141	55.08
Verb	63	24.61
Adjective	42	16.41
Interjection	6	2.34
Adverb	3	1.17
Pronoun	1	0.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 2 indicates the parts of speech established for each word. Noun was found the most for 141 times (55.08%), followed by 63 verbs (24.61%), 42 adjectives (16.41%), 6 interjections (2.34%), 3 adverbs (1.17%), and one pronoun (0.39%).

Table 3. Classification of Code-mixing words with nativized features

Nativized features	Frequency	Percentage
Truncation	27	30.68
Hybridization	26	29.55
Semantic shift	20	22.73
Reduplication	10	11.36
Word order	3	3.41
Conversion	2	2.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 clarifies the number of code-mixing words with six types of nativized features from the total of 88 words. Truncation was found the most at 27 words (30.68%), followed by 26 words (29.55%) of hybridization, 20 words (22.73%) of semantic shift, 10 words (11.36%) of reduplication, 3 words (3.41%) of word order, and 2 words (2.27%) of conversion.

Table 4. Examples of truncation

Truncation	Full word	Code-Mixing in the Conversation
<b>1) Retaining the last syllable of the word</b>		
Light	highlight	ไลท์ ไวเก็บน้ำ
Ver	Over	เผ็ด เวอร์
Noid	Paranoid	ผ่านรอบแรกเข้าไปก่อนนะคะแล้วค่อยนอยด์
Ber	Number	อยากได้เบอร์หก
<b>2) Retaining the first syllable</b>		
Sis	Sister	สวัสดีค่ะ ซิส
Cap	Capture	แคปหน้าจอไปด่า
Up	Upload	อัปลง
Air	air-hostess	รุ่นพี่แอร์
<b>3) Retaining the first and last syllable</b>		
Suptar	superstar	ซูปตาร์สาวพรมแดง

Table 4 illustrates the truncation type which was used most highly in this Thai series. The truncation of words was divided into three forms. The first one was to retain the last syllable of the word. An example is in the word “เวอร์” in “เผ็ดเวอร์” which is shortened from the word “over.” Another one is “นอยด์” (Noid) which is shortened from “Paranoid” as in the Thai context of “ผ่านรอบแรกเข้าไปก่อนนะคะแล้วค่อยนอยด์” (Let yourself pass through the first round, then, be paranoid later on.)

The second form is to retain the first syllable of the word. Some examples are given as in “ซิส” (Sis) which is shortened from “sister” in the context of “สวัสดีค่ะ ซิส” (Hello, sis.)

Next is an example of “แคป” (Cap) which is shortened from “capture” as in the Thai context of แคปหน้าจอไปด่า (Capture the screen to scold them.)

For the last form of truncation is to retain the first and last syllable of the word. This can be seen in the example of “ซูปตาร์” (Suptar) which is maintaining the first syllable and the last syllable of the word “superstar” as shown in the Thai context of “ซูปตาร์สาวพรมแดง” (the red-carpet superstar).

Table 5. Examples of hybridization

Hybridization	English word	Code-Mixing in the Conversation
<b>1) A hybridization made by retaining English word at the first syllable</b>		
Tissue เปียก	Wet wipes	อันนี้กระดาษทิชชูเปียกครับ
Buffet หมูกระทะ	Thai barbecue buffet	โอย่ ภูปิดร้านบุฟเฟต์หมูกระทะ นางก็ตีใจ ตายแล้ว
<b>2) A hybridization made by retaining English word at the ending syllable</b>		
การ Vote	Vote	การโหวตหาผู้ชนะ
ความ Grand	Grand	เดี๋ยวมึงรับในความ แกรนด์ของกูไม่ได้
เครื่อง Printer	Printer	เครื่องปริ้นเตอร์มึงขนมาเองเลยหรือ?
รถ Sport	Sport car	ก็กำลังมีความสุขกับรถสปอร์ตคันโก้

Table 5 explains the feature of hybridization which was found the second highest frequency. An English word was blended with a Thai word to form a new word while conserving the former meaning. There are two forms of hybridization in this research, the first one of which is a hybridization made by retaining English word at the first syllable. For example, Buffet หมูกระทะ (Thai barbecue buffet) is from the Thai context of “โอย่ ภูปิดร้านบุฟเฟต์หมูกระทะ นางก็ตีใจตายแล้ว” (Oh! If I only close this Thai barbecue buffet, she will be more than happy.). To clarify, buffet is an English word spoken for the first syllable while หมูกระทะ is a Thai word spoken for the last syllable.

The second form of hybridization is made by retaining the English word at the ending syllable. Some of the examples are การ Vote (Vote), ความ Grand (Grand), เครื่อง Printer (Printer), and รถ Sport (Sport car).



Table 6. Examples of semantic shift

Semantic shift	English word	Code-Mixing in the Conversation
mouth	Gossip	ส่งมาเม้าท์
Spec	A type	ไม่ใช่สเปกนี้
Lock	Fix	ล็อคผลประกวด
Pretty	Model	กลับเข้าสู่วงการพริตตี้ เงินล้านอยู่นะ

Table 6 indicates the results of the semantically shifted words. For example, the English word “spec” which is shortened from “specification” was changed in meaning from a type of how something is designed or made to the appearance of the opposite preferred gender, that is to say – boyfriend or girlfriend, when used by the character. The second word “lock” literally means to fasten something or to make a building safe by locking the door and windows or to make something become fixed in one position and unable to move. On the other hand, in the Thai context, this word was used to mean unfairly making somebody to win a beauty contest.

Table 7. Examples of reduplication

Reduplication	English word	Code-Mixing in the Conversation
Sure Sure	Sure	เอาชัวร์ ๆ
Nude Nude	Nude	ขอู้ด ๆ
Pure Pure	Pure	เพียว ๆ เลยเนอะ
Bae Bae	Basic	แค่นี้เองหรือวิน เบ ๆ

Table 7 displays that there were some words in reduplication forms. Ten were found in this research and one example is “sure sure” in the Thai context “เอาชัวร์ ๆ” (getting it for sure). This item “sure sure” was reduplicated in meaning. Likewise, “nude nude” and “pure pure” were reduplications of precisely the same word with the same meaning. However, the reduplication of “bae bae” was different from the previous words. “Bae bae” was shortened from the full word of “basic,” but it still maintains the same meaning in the Thai context “แค่นี้เองหรือวิน เบ ๆ” (Just this only, Win? So basic.)

Table 8. Examples of word order

Word order	English word	Code-Mixing in the Conversation
Theme Water World	Water World Theme	ใน Theme Water World (ep 10)
Party private	Private party	นี่มัน 파티ที่ไพรเวทนะ(ep 10)
Cup E	E cup	จากคัพอี

Table 8 shows three examples of word order shift. In the above examples, there was a shift in word order of the English code when mixed with the Thai code. The first example of the Thai context, the phrase “theme water world” was used instead of “water world theme” which was the correct word order in the English structure. The same shift of word order also appeared in the other two Thai contexts. “Party private” was used instead of “Private party” and “Cup E” was shifted instead of “E cup.” In the Thai language structure, the head noun always comes before its modifiers. As a result, when the English code was mixed with the Thai code, a word order shift in the mixing process occurs.

Table 9. Examples of conversion

Conversion	Form (Original Form to Code-Mixing)	Code-Mixing in the Conversation
He	Subject pronoun to object pronoun	ได้กับอี
Man	Noun to verb	ก๊สแมน ๆ หน่อย

Table 9 reveals the examples of the change in the part of speech of the English code when mixed with the Thai code. For example, in the statement “ได้กับอี” (in relation with him), the part of speech of the English word “He” is a noun; however when it is used in this context the part of speech was converted into an object pronoun. Likewise, in “ก๊สแมน ๆ หน่อย” (Gus, act like a man.), the word “man” used as a code mixing word in the Thai context is a verb, not a noun as its original English part of speech.

## Discussions

The findings of English code-mixing in Thai Television Series *The Diary Tootsies* the Series Season 2 were presented as the intrasentential code-mixing words and the code-mixing words with nativized features.

With reference to intrasentential code-mixing words regarding English items within an utterance as a word or a phrase, the findings showed that in the series there were six English word classes based on their parts of speech consisting of noun, verb, adjective, interjection, adverb and pronoun. Noun was found the most for 141 times (55.08%). Moreover, the classification of English units from the total of 256 items was the most frequently found in words for 245 times (95.70%). The results are in line with the research studies conducted by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), Papijit (2013), Ruanglertsilp (2018), and Tanabut and Tipayasuparat (2018) who studied English Code-Mixing in Thai television programs. According to the results, it could be concluded that English code-mixing items in the form of noun were the most commonly used in Thai television programs.

As regards intrasentential code-mixing in Thai mass media, Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), Papijit (2013) and Kunarawong (2014), besides, pointed out that the majority of the occurrences of English code-mixing is English words used without modification of the original features or nativisation. In other words, Thai people might usually add English words into their conversations with the utilization of their original meanings and parts of speech. Besides, owing to the fact that the four main LGBT characters in this series, Gus, Kim, Golf, and Natty, are inevitably involved with entertainment industry and fashion industry, English code-mixing may occur considerably. According to Ruanglertsilp (2018), English words could be substantially used when the contents are associated with the modeling and international fashion trends. Furthermore, female and gay male individuals working in this industry may deliver English code-mixing rather than male individuals since these typical groups of people are probably educated and bilinguals; therefore, they are able to harness their English skills excellently.

In terms of code-mixing words with nativized features, the majority of the occurrences of nativisation were truncation (30.68%) and hybridization (29.55%). The findings were consistent with the studies by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), Papijit (2013), Tanabut and Tipayasuparat (2018) and Yuthayotin and Tipayasuparat (2018) who found that the two most frequent types of code-mixing words with nativized features fell into truncation and hybridization in Thai Television programs.

Truncation was used most highly in this Thai series. It could be plausible to explain that owing to the convenience of pronunciation and retention, Thai people commonly shorten words into shorter forms without changing the meaning and part of speech of truncated words. After truncated, a new English word is recognized and used by Thai people. These truncated English words, however, might be meaningless in English (Cakrawarti as cited in Kunarawong, 2014). According to the findings, there were three forms of truncation including retaining the last syllable of the word. (“นอยด์” (Noid) shortened from “Paranoid”), retaining the first syllable (“แค็ป” (Cap) shortened from “Capture”) and retaining the first and last syllable (“ซูปตาร์” (Suptar) shortened from “Superstar”).

Furthermore, hybridization is the second highest frequent occurrences of nativisation. The potential reason of the use of truncation by the characters is to fulfill real lexical need (Cakrawarti as cited in Kunarawong, 2014). The characters possibly mix their Thai language with English due to the lack of equivalent lexicon in Thai language. Therefore, the characters took English words and blend them with Thai words. For example, “Tissue เปี้ยก” (Wet wipes) in the Thai context “อันนี้กระดาษทิชชูเปี้ยกครับ” (This is the wet wipes, sir.) results from a mixing of the two codes, English and Thai. To elaborate, “tissue” is an English word spoken for the first syllable while “เปี้ยก” is a Thai word spoken for the last syllable. To shed light on the example “รถ Sport” (Sport car), “รถ” is a Thai word and “sport” is an English word. This mixing of the two codes still retains the meaning of each part which it has prior to the combination of the two codes.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

A study of English code mixing in the Thai Television Series “The Diary Tootsies the Series Season 2” was conducted to investigate the English code-mixing used in the series and to study the characteristics of the nativized features of English code-mixing. The data were gathered from twelve episodes of the series released in 2017. The study focuses on intrasentential code-mixing and features of nativisation. The theoretical framework by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) is applied to analyze English code-mixing in the series.

Apart from the development of technology, economy and politics, the globalization also contributes to a change of language. In Thailand, it is apparent that Thai people usually insert English words in their speech and use them in their daily life. We could see the concrete evidence through various mass media, especially television series. Currently, a number of Thai language-based television series reflect the characteristics and patterns of English code-mixing inserted in conversations by Thai people. That is to say, this language

phenomenon significantly portrays the lifestyle of Thai people especially on a great use of English language in Thai society. With respect to the findings focusing on intrasentential code-mixing level, it could be assumed that Thai people tend to use English code-mixing without modification relating to both meaning and form. In addition, in case of some modifications arising, Thais commonly nativize English language by shortening words, blending English words and Thai words together.

For further studies, the research on code-mixing in Thai TV series may focus on the different genders of the actors. This would be helpful for us to have an insight as to the significant features of English code-mixing uttered by different genders. In addition to gender differences, a study of code-mixing in various genres of TV series or movies could be conducted to shed light on more lucid language characteristics of English code-mixing.

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