

English Code-Mixing in the Series, “The Gifted”

การปนภาษาอังกฤษในภาษาไทยในละครซีรีส์เรื่อง “นักเรียนพลังกิฟต์ (The Gifted)”

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Abstract

This study aimed to investigate English-Thai code-mixing found in all episodes of the series, “The Gifted” (2018), episode 1 to 13, produced by GMMTV, and available on Netflix. This study emphasized only English words, phrases, and sentences as data which were analyzed using two frameworks: Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)’s nativized features and Ho (2007)’s classification strategies. In terms of nativization of English based on Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), there were 23 English code-mixing items that embraced nativized features. The highest frequency was displayed by hybridization (43.47%), followed by truncation (30.43%) and semantic shift (13.03%), respectively. According to the result based on Ho (2007)’s framework, a total of 106 items were found. The majority was displayed by lexical words (68.86%), followed by proper nouns (16.03%) and short forms (5.66%), respectively. The study discloses the impact of English on Thai communication as a reference for further research on English code-mixing.

Keywords: English code-mixing, Nativization of English, Series, The Gifted**บทคัดย่อ**

การศึกษาค้นคว้าครั้งนี้มุ่งศึกษาการปนภาษาอังกฤษในภาษาไทยในละครซีรีส์เรื่อง “นักเรียนพลังกิฟต์ (The Gifted)” ตอนที่ 1 – 13 ซึ่งผลิตโดยจีเอ็มเอ็มทีวี และออกอากาศทางเน็ตฟลิกซ์ (Netflix) ตัวอย่างที่ใช้ในการศึกษาคือ คำ วลี และประโยคภาษาอังกฤษที่พบในละคร โดยนำมาวิเคราะห์การปนภาษาอังกฤษภายในประโยคภาษาไทย โดยใช้ทฤษฎีการปรับภาษาอังกฤษตามภาษาแม่ของปรารธนา กาลนวกุลและกันเธอร์ (2003) และทฤษฎีการปนภาษาอังกฤษตามหน่วยทางภาษาศาสตร์ของโฮ (2007) ผลการศึกษาพบว่า มีการปรับภาษาอังกฤษตามภาษาแม่ตามทฤษฎีของปรารธนา กาลนวกุลและกันเธอร์ (2003) จำนวน 23 ครั้ง โดยพบว่ามีกรรวมคำของสองภาษา

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(hybridization) มากที่สุดคือร้อยละ 43.47 รองลงมาคือการตัดคำให้สั้น (truncation) ร้อยละ 30.43 และ การเปลี่ยนหน้าที่คำ (semantic shift) ร้อยละ 13.03 ตามลำดับ เมื่อวิเคราะห์ตัวอย่างตามทฤษฎีของโฮ (2007) พบการปนภาษาอังกฤษ 106 ครั้ง โดยพบการทับศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษ (lexical words) มากที่สุดคือ ร้อยละ 68.86 รองลงมาคือ การใช้คำนามชื่อเฉพาะ (proper nouns) ร้อยละ 16.03 และ การตัดคำให้สั้นลง (short forms) ร้อยละ 5.66 ตามลำดับ ผลที่ได้จากการศึกษานี้ทำให้ทราบถึงอิทธิพลของภาษาอังกฤษที่มีต่อการสื่อสารภาษาไทยซึ่งสามารถนำไปต่อยอดงานวิจัยด้านการปนภาษาอังกฤษในอนาคตต่อไป

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1. Background of the Study

Today, the impact of the globalized world and technological advancement result in dynamic changes. One of those changes is that we live in a globalized world and use digitalized communication channels. However, we still exchange messages using a code or language. Shannon and Weaver (1949) mentioned the terms ‘encoder’ and ‘decoder’ in the process of communication, stating that the encoder and the decoder needed to share the same code to achieve the communication goal. A message always requires a carrier or ‘code’ shared by the sender and the receiver.

Code is language. Wardhaugh (2000) briefly defined it as the language commonly shared by the sender and the receiver. Likewise, Berlo (1960) defines ‘code’ as the language categorized into verbal or nonverbal. Consequently, the message to be sent is carried by the code or language filtered and finalized by the sender. However, the term was differently defined by Ellis (1992) as a system of signs interactively relevant to contexts, appropriateness, genres, and situations. That is, the use of code is influenced by those surrounding factors. For instance, to ask for permission to leave from work, a staff tends to say “May I take a leave for two days?” rather than “I will be absent from work for two days.” Noticeably, the staff considers appropriateness and politeness when encoding the message sent.

Despite the existence of a great number of languages, the most people agree to use in their communication is English. English, hence, has become more and more significant for people in the modern era. According to Putra (2020), the importance of learning English in today’s times cannot be underestimated or ignored seeing English as the language spoken in most parts of the world. The significance of English has been intensified after the 20th century since the cultures of English-speaking nations started to spread over the world, and English has conquered its place over other languages since then (Dutta, 2019). The importance of English for the global population was

also supported by Nishanthi (2008) identifying that English is ‘the major window on the world’ allowing us to view different progress in the world. Likewise, Putra (2020) viewed English as the language spoken in most parts of the world that helps people to adapt to the present and future environment and work. Due to such importance, English has become a significant language for the global population.

In Thailand, English is considered significant as it plays roles in several areas including education, business, science, technology, etc. It is also a compulsory course in all educational levels, and students are expected to be skilled at English. According to Hirunburana (2017), English is a vital medium required for professional advancement in Thailand. That is why English is the second important language Thai people should know after their mother tongue. Nowadays, Thai people are exposed to English through education, work, technology as well as media such as movies, songs, and television programs. Due to its significant roles in Thai society, English has slowly crawled into Thai via different channels. Consequently, Thai has continuously been influenced by English. Thai people knowing English sometimes use English when communicating in Thai, making some linguistic adjustments or changes when exchanging with each other in Thai. The effects of English on the Thai language are noticeable in many levels: phonologically, morphologically, or syntactically. A remarkable influence is the insertion or mixing of English words in the Thai language or linguistically called English “code-mixing”.

English code-mixing is frequently found in informal communicative settings. One of the forms of informalities in communication always picked up by Thai speakers is English code-mixing, mixing English words as well as English linguistic features in Thai. Nowadays, more Thai people use English code-mixing, especially when Thai words cannot substitute English words, or when they are found less convenient to use compared to their English counterparts. Using English code-mixing in the Thai language seems to be a normal linguistic phenomenon. This may be due to its popularity and significance as a language of Thai people who are knowledgeable and educated. This factor was supported by Gunesch (2009) who identified that knowledge of languages can facilitate people to have a broader world view; consequently, many languages as well as English have become popular for people to learn. In addition, according to Yiamkamnuan (2011), its popularity and significant status in Thailand results in the occurrence of code mixing.

A number of previous studies attempted to discover causes of this sociolinguistic phenomenon. A study by Waris (2012) revealed that most people borrowed or used pieces of foreign languages adjusted to meet their mother tongues’ linguistic features. Also, the studies conducted by Li (2000) and San (2009) revealed that linguistic motivations caused the increasing

use of code-mixing. The phenomenon of English code-mixing among Thai speakers is supported by the study by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) revealing that code-mixing is commonly found in daily Thai conversations and all media including TV, radio, as well as online media.

Through media, Thai people receive general information, news, and movies, music, etc. Among all media, entertainment media are very common for Thai people, especially teenagers and young adults who always listen to music or watch movies or series in their leisure time. Adolescents or teenagers are considered an effective target as they spend almost of their time checking updates and watching media on their digital devices. To serve the increasing demand, many series are launched on TV and online entertainment applications, and their producers try to produce series that meet the demand of their target groups. Noticeably, series are a form of entertainment that gains ground and popularity.

Among the series that are popular among Thai teens, “The Gifted,” or in Thai, “นักเรียนพลังกิฟต์ (Nakrian Phalang Gift)” launched in 2018 is one. “The Gifted” tells the story about the “Gifted Program” of a school that does not accept students with academic excellence but supernatural or superhuman abilities. The series is very interesting in terms of English code-mixing because most characters are Thai students who tend to mix English in Thai as supported by Field (2004) stating that the knowledge of other languages could possibly influence the use of one language. That is, high school students learn English; therefore, their Thai language may be affected by English. It is possible that they use English code-mixing when talking with their classmates and friends.

The key lexical unit of this term ‘code’ which refers to the language used in the communication process. Generally, code-mixing are terms frequently found in the bilingual or multilingual communication process. The term ‘code-mixing’ is defined by Muysken (2000) as the co-occurrence of lexical items and grammatical features from two languages in one sentence. Wardhaugh (2000) points out that it occurs when conversant uses both languages at the same time to show that they change from one language to the other in the course of a single utterance.” Similarly, Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) define it as the appearance of at least two linguistic systems within the same sentence. This is also supported by Dhitiwattana (1997) who defines the term as a combination of two languages appearing in one sentence. In conclusion, the definitions of code-mixing given by theorists and pervious researchers are not much different. However, Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) add that code-mixing is limited to occur at the clause level within the same sentence (intra-sentential).

Code-mixing is also called ‘language contact’. According to Krachu and Nelson (2006), in language contact, linguistic features of one language are adapted to suit the other. In addition, it

indicates that can result in a number of linguistic phenomena (Weinreich, 1953). Code-mixing is one example of those phenomena, especially when a speaker has knowledge of more than two languages, one of which affects the other. That is, when a Thai speaker mixes English codes in Thai, it is possible that those English codes are adapted to meet Thai linguistic features. Such adaptation is called ‘nativization.’ Originally, the term “nativization” explains the process of language acquisition. In English code-mixing, it is considered as a linguistic phenomenon caused by the appearance of English codes in another language (Sik and Anping, 2004). Sankoff and Laberge (1974) also define it as the process through which a native speaker acquires the language. In the circle of sociolinguistics and world Englishes, this term explains how English is nativized by non-native speakers. This is supported by Kachru and Nelson (2006) who view nativization as the adaptation of English by non-native speakers.

Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) classify English code-mixing into six types based on nativized features including:

1. Truncation: the omission of a part of an English code; for example, two types of truncations can generally be found: omission of the first syllable – e.g. ‘download’ shorted to ‘โหลด (load)’ – and omission of the final syllable – e.g. ‘international’ shorted to ‘อินเตอร์ (inter)’.

2. Hybridization: a combination of an English code and a Thai code; for instance, the term ‘plug’ is widely used by Thai people as ปลั๊กไฟ (ปลั๊ก is transliterated from ‘plug’ and ‘ไฟ’ shortened from ไฟฟ้า (electricity) is added in the final position).

3. Conversion: a shift in the part of speech; for example, the term “selfie” is a noun; however, Thai speakers use it as a verb, e.g. “selfie กันเถอะ” (translation: Let’s selfie.).

4. Semantic shift: a shift in meaning; for example, ‘fan’ meaning a person who admires somebody or something in English but a girlfriend or a boyfriend in Thai. For example, ‘มี fan แล้วค่ะ’ (translation: I have a fan.) The word ‘fan’ in the example refers to a boyfriend.

5. Reduplication: the repetition of a word or a morpheme (for example, “ผมเป็นคนชิลชิล” (Back translation: I am a chill chill person.)); the repetition of “chill” reflects a linguistic feature in which words, especially adjectives and adverbs, can be repeated for different purposes.

6. Word order: the rearrangement of the word order; for example, “เค้กช็อกโกแลต” (cake chocolate) is used in place of ‘chocolate cake’ to meet the Thai grammatical structure in which an adjective always appears after a noun.

Another classification of English code-mixing proposed by Ho (2007) divides code-mixing into seven types based on linguistic units as follows:

1. **Letters of the alphabet:** the use of English alphabets instead of a word; for example, “คนไข้อยู่ในไอซียู” (ไอซียู (ICU) is an acronym standing for intensive care unit.).

2. **Short forms:** the shortening of a word which is similar to truncation proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003); for example, “เชอตู hi มากเลย,” ‘hi’ is shortened from “high class”.

3. **Proper nouns:** the use of names of a specific person, place, organization, thing, etc.; for example, MRT (the Underground system in Thailand), Biden (a US president), etc.

4. **Lexical words:** the insertion of English nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs in Thai contexts; for example, in the sentence, “บริเวณนี้ built in ทั้งหมด”, “built in” is inserted in the sentence.

5. **Phrases:** a combination of at least two English codes in a Thai sentence. For example, in the Thai sentence, “เขาเรียน master degree อยู่ที่อเมริกา”, a phrase composed of two English words is used.

6. **Incomplete sentences:** the use of an incomplete sentence as a part of the whole sentence or a clause; for example, in the Thai sentence, “If it is good ผู้บริโภคจะมากขึ้น” (back translation: If it is good, there will be more consumers), “If it is good” as a subordinate clause of the whole sentence is used.

7. **Single full sentences:** a group of words with a subject and a predicate; for example, “ไปละนะ See you.” (back translation: I am leaving right now. See you).

These two frameworks propose different classifications; however, they have some in common. Truncation proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) is consistent with short forms proposed by Ho (2007). To fulfill the objective of this study, the analysis of data was carried out based on these two frameworks.

2. Objective of the Study

To analyze the use of English-Thai code-mixing in the series based on the frameworks of Kannaovakun and Gunther’s (2003) nativized features and Ho (2007)’s classification strategies.

3. Scope of the Study

This study aimed at investigating English-Thai code-mixing found in all episodes of the series, “The Gifted” (2018), episode 1 to 13, produced by GMMTV, and available on Netflix. This sci-fi series directed Patha Thongpan, Dhammarong Sermrittirong, Waasuthep Ketpetch, and Jarupat Kannula is based on the short film, “The Gifted” (2015), and the novel “The Gifted: Secret Mission

of the Gifted Students written by Thamrong Sermrithirong. “The Gifted,” or in Thai, “นักเรียนพลังกิฟต์ (Nakrian Phalang Gift)” was first launched in 2018 on CMM TV channel. Later, it has been launched on Netflix, an American subscription video on-demand over-the-top streaming service. This study emphasized only English words, phrases, and sentences which were classified into types of nativized features suggested by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) and classification strategies suggested by Ho (2007).

4. Significance of the Study

This study contributes to further research related to communication and sociolinguistics how Thai people communicate in Thai in globalized society as it explores how Thai teenagers mix English in their Thai communication. In addition, it enhances understanding of the adaptation of English codes to meet Thai linguistic features when they are mixed in Thai by Thai speakers, presenting the effect of English considered by most Thai people as a language of modernity and globalization on Thai communication.

5. Methodology

5.1 Data Collection

The main source of data was from episodes 1-13 of the series, “The Gifted,” available on Netflix as of May 2021. Data were Thai dialogues delivered by all characters in the series. The research focused on the investigation of nativized features and Thai linguistic units applied to the English codes used in the dialogues to achieve the research objective.

5.2 Data Analysis

Data analysis was conducted to investigate the use of English code-mixing in 13 episodes. All the dialogues were scanned for English words, phrases, and sentences which were then analyzed based on the theoretical framework of nativization of English proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) and the classification of English code-mixing proposed by Ho (2007). These two frameworks were popularly employed to analyze data in previous studies on English-Thai code-mixing. Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)’s nativization of English can give a clearer picture of how Thai speakers adapt English codes to meet Thai linguistic features. However, only their theory cannot be used to analyze some English codes mixed in Thai; therefore, Ho (2007)’s linguistic features were then employed to fulfill the research objectives.

To understand the meanings of all English code-mixing items, their English definitions were obtained from online Oxford Dictionary (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>). In addition, to cross check the Thai meanings of English code-mixing terms, the researchers checked the definitions of Thai words meant by the English code-mixing items on the official dictionary website of the Royal Society (<https://dictionary.orst.go.th/>).

6. Results

6.1 Results based on Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)

The result revealed that there were a total of 23 English code-mixing items according to the nativization of English proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003).

Table 6.1.1 Results Based on Nativization

Nativized features	Number of Items	Percentage
1) Hybridization	10	43.47
2) Truncation	7	30.43
3) Semantic shift	3	13.03
4) Conversion	2	8.69
5) Reduplication	1	4.34
6) Word order	0	0
Total	23	100

Table 6.1.1 presents Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)'s six English code-mixing types found in the series. The highest frequency was displayed by hybridization (43.47%), followed by truncation (30.43%), semantic shift (13.03%), conversion (8.69%), and reduplication (4.34%), respectively. Word order was not found in the series (0%). To illustrate the use of each of those types, some examples are illustrated in the order of frequency.

Table 6.1.2 Examples of Hybridization

No.	Appearance of code-mixing in texts	Meaning
1	พวกเขาทุกคนต้องมาเรียน <u>คลาสพิเศษ</u>	special class
2	โรงเรียน <u>ระดับท็อป</u> ของประเทศ	top level
3	มันมันคือ <u>รหัสมอร์ส</u>	Morse code

Table 6.1.2 shows three examples in hybridization. For instance, ‘พิเศษ’ (special) was combined with ‘class.’ The word ‘รหัสมอร์ส’ was a combination of a Thai word, ‘รหัส’ (code), and an English word ‘Morse’.

Table 6.1.3 Examples of Truncation

Sample No.	Appearance of code-mixing in texts	Truncated forms	Full forms
1	<u>เมนส์</u> มาหรือวะ	mens	menstruation
2	เราจะได้มี <u>แชมป์</u> ติดไม้ติดมือมาบ้าง	champ	champion
3	นี่มัน <u>คอม</u> เวฟเปล่าเนี่ย	com	computer

Table 6.1.3 shows three examples of truncation. For instance, ‘เมนส์ (remote)’ was truncated or shortened from ‘menstruation,’ and the word ‘com’ was a shortened from computer. Obviously, the full terms were truncated by retaining their first syllables and cutting the syllables that followed.

Table 6.1.4 Examples of Semantic Shift

Sample No.	English terms	Appearance of code-mixing in texts	Original meanings
1	แฟน (fan)	มีงบอก <u>แฟน</u> มีงด้วย	fan (N.): a person who admires somebody/something or enjoys watching or listening to somebody/something very much
2	โฟลว์ (flow)	ช่วงแรกๆ มันยังไม่ค่อย <u>โฟลว์</u> อะ	flow (V.): to move steadily and continuously in one direction
3	เมา (mouth)	ต่อไปเข้าสู่ช่วง <u>เมา</u> ปลายแกรี...	mouth (N.): the opening in the face used for speaking, eating, etc.; the area inside the head behind this opening

Table 6.1.4 displays three samples in semantic shift. For instance, the meaning of the term ‘flow’ was shifted from ‘to move steadily and continuously in one direction’ to ‘to run smoothly without problems’. In addition, ‘mouth’ used in the text means the act of chatting or talking; however, its original meaning is an organ used for speaking or eating.

Table 6.1.5 Examples of Conversion

No.	English terms	Appearance of code-mixing in texts	Part of speech in texts
1	message (N)	เมื่อก็เจ้าหน้าที่เขา แอสเสจ มาให้มิ่งไปทำเรื่องอะ รู้งไม่ นำเคลียร์ กับแม่ให้เลย	Verb
2	clear (Adj)		Verb

Table 6.1.5 presents two examples in conversion. The word, “แอสเสจ” (message) was not used as a noun but a verb, and the word “เคลียร์” (clear) was not used as an adjective but a verb.

Table 6.1.6 Examples of Reduplication

No.	English terms	Appearance of code-mixing in texts
1	free	ทำให้แก่ได้ในสิ่งที่มีความที่สุดในชีวิตคนไป ฟรี ๆ เลยนะ

In Table 6.1.6, only one finding in reduplication was found. The word ‘free’ was reduplicated to intensify the degree of the meaning expressed by the speaker.

Finally, word order was not found in the series.

6.2 Results Based on Ho (2007)

Apart from the analysis based on Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), the data were analyzed based on Ho’s (2007) classification of code-mixing of which types are divided according to linguistic units.

Table 6.2.1 English Code-Mixing Based on Ho’s (2007) Classification

English Code-Mixing Types	Number of Items	Percentage
1) Lexical word	73	68.86
2) Proper noun	17	16.03
3) Short form	6	5.66
4) Letters of the alphabet	5	4.71
5) Single full sentence	3	2.83
6) Incomplete sentence	1	0.94
7) Phrase	1	0.94
Total	106	100

Table 6.2.1 presents the findings based on Ho’s (2007) classification. The highest frequency was displayed by lexical word (68.86%), followed by proper noun (16.03%), short form (5.66%), letters of the alphabet (4.71%), single full sentence and incomplete sentence (1.88% each), and phrase (0.94%), respectively.

To illustrate the findings in each type, some examples are illustrated in the order of frequency.

Table 6.2.2 Examples of lexical word

No.	Appearance of code-mixing in texts	English code-mixing terms
1	เดี๋ยวนี้ แอดวานซ์ นะมึงเนี่ย	advance
2	ไหน โชว์ ให้ดูหน่อยสิ	show
3	เรา แมนะจ ให้เอง	manage

Table 6.2.2 shows three lexical words. For instance, the English term, ‘advance,’ was transliterated into Thai and used as a verb in the dialogue.

Table 5.2.3 Examples of proper noun

No.	Thai Transliteration	Proper Noun	Appearance of code-mixing in texts
1	ดาร์กคิงดอม	Dark Kingdom (a villain gang in a Japanese comic)	อย่างแกก็เป็นได้แค่กลุ่มตัวร้าย ดาร์กคิงดอม เท่านั้นแหละ
2	สก๊อตช์ไบรท์	Scotch Brite (a fiber scrub product brand) Line (a chat application)	อ้อ๊ย นี่ก็ชอบจัดจรงเลยเป็น สก๊อตช์ไบรท์ เหรอ
3	ไลน์	application)	ครูปอมส่งข้อความมาใน ไลน์ กรุ๊ป

Table 6.2.3 presents three proper nouns. For instance, the English term ‘Scotch Brite’ refers to a brand of cleaning fiber scrub products that most Thai people are familiar with. ‘Line’, is the number one chat application Thai people use.

Table 6.2.4 Examples of short form

No.	Short forms	Appearance of code-mixing in texts	Full forms
1	wave	เพราะพนักงานถามว่า เวฟ ไหม	microwave
2	sync	เราสองคน ซิงค์ กันมากๆครับ	synchronize
3	in	ก็ดูจากสีหน้าและแววตาเวลาเล่า อิน ซะขนาดนั้นนะ	(to be) into

Table 6.2.4 shows three short forms. This type is similar to truncation proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003). ‘เวฟ’ (wave) was shortened from ‘microwave.’ ‘ซิงค์’ was shortened from ‘synchronize.’

Table 6.2.5 Examples of single full sentence

No.	English sentences	Appearance of code-mixing in texts
1	Thank you.	แต๊งกิ้วนะ
2	I love you.	ที่บอกไง ไอเลิฟยู
3	Hello.	เฮลโล่ เวฟ

Table 5.2.5 displays the only three samples of single full sentences found in the series. ‘Thank you.’ was used instead of ‘ขอบคุณ’ or ‘ชอบใจ.’ ‘I love you.’ substituted ‘ผมรักคุณ.’

Table 6.2.6 Examples of Incomplete Sentence

No.	English sentences	Appearance of code-mixing in texts
1	OK	โอเค ถ้าไม่yakตอบก็ไม่เป็นไร

Table 6.2.6 displays the only one incomplete sentence found in the series. ‘Ok’ which is an exclamation was used as an incomplete sentence in the Thai sentence.

Table 5.2.7 Examples of phrase

No.	English phrases	Appearance of code-mixing in texts
1	deep question	พวกเธอเคยตั้งคำถามดิทเควชั่นกับตัวเองบ้างไหม

Table 6.2.7 displays the only one English phrase found in the series. The phrase ‘deep question’ was used in the Thai sentence.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

This research was carried out to explore the use of English code-mixing in the Thai series, “The Gifted” (2018), episode 1 to 13, produced by GMMTV, and available on Netflix, emphasizing English words, phrases, and sentences. Data analysis followed two frameworks: 1) Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)’s nativization of English and 2) Ho (2007)’s classification strategies.

The results based on the framework of nativization of English proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) revealed that the total number of the findings was twenty-three (23), and the highest frequency was performed by hybridization, followed by truncation, semantic shift, conversion, and reduplication, respectively. Word order was not found in the series. According to the result based on the nativized features proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), the reason why hybridization was mostly used may be due to the fact that Thai people always

combine a Thai morpheme or word to an English word. For example, in the sample, ‘คลาสพิเศษ,’ the English word ‘class’ was combined with a Thai word ‘พิเศษ.’ It is noticeable that, in this combination, ‘class’ was used as the head noun modified by the Thai word which means ‘special.’ Hybridization is used when an English word is not enough to provide a complete meaning when used without the help of a Thai word. The second majority of the findings were truncated forms. This finding was supported by the result proposed by Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003) that Thai people always shortened a long word. The findings of this study are consistent with the findings of the study on English code-mixing in the Thai series, “Hormones” by Papajit (2013) revealing that truncation and hybridization displayed the highest frequencies among all nativized features since Thai people prefer communicating through easy and simple messages. These two nativized features then were used. However, they are inconsistent with Likhitphongsathorn (2013)’s study on English code-mixing in Thai pop songs revealing that truncation was the majority. It is possible that songs and talks are different. In songs, the relationship between word syllables and melodic notes or musical prosody is necessary, so lyricists need ensure that the words in a verse’s rhyme scheme are well aligned with the song melody while the number of words in a conversation or talk is not limited by interlocutors but varies according to the conversation topic and what interlocutors mean to convey.

The result based on Ho’s (2007) classification revealed a total of 106 items, and lexical words were mostly found. The reason why lexical words were mostly used may be due to the convenience of pronunciation and the fact that they express the meanings directly defined by the original English words. In addition, the main characters in the series are teen students who are familiar with English.

The findings revealed an interesting finding that Thai people sometimes mix English codes in Thai communication. However, using the framework of Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003), the research found a lower number of findings when compared against Ho (2007)’s. This is probably due to the fact that Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)’s nativization of English emphasizes how English words or codes are nativized to meet Thai linguistic features. Consequently, some words, especially transliterations, were not counted despite the existence of a great number of English words in the series resulting in the research finding only 23 items. Following the framework of Ho (2007), in contrast, the research found 106 items because Ho (2003)’s framework focus on the forms of English code-mixing. Therefore, using only one framework cannot completely figure out how Thai people mix English words in their daily communication and what forms of English words they use.

The research also found an interesting finding; that is, some Thai-English codes incorporated more than one linguistic feature in one time. For example, ‘ตีพเควสชั้น’ (deep question) in the sentence, “พวกเธอเคยตั้งคำถามตีพเควสชั้นกับตัวเองบ้างไหม” share two features. The sample was a phrase; however, considering the sentence, it follows the word “คำถาม” which means ‘question.’ That means, the second word in the phrase is repeatedly used (reduplication). In addition, some items were found to share features from both frameworks. For example, items in conversion in Kannaovakun and Gunther (2003)’s framework were similar to Ho (2003)’s lexical words. In conversion, the word classes of the items were changed by the characters while, in lexical words, Ho (2003) only considers their forms. These two frameworks are still insufficient for researching all phenomena of the mixing of English in Thai communication. Seeking new framework that can better discover all aspects of use of English code-mixing in Thai is a challenge. In conclusion, the increasing use of English corresponds with the growth of globalized society and the unstoppable progress of technology. Teenagers directly affected by the advancement of technology consider English as a language of modernity. Those who do not know or use it may feel as if they belong to their group. Mixing English in their Thai communication, especially with their friends, allows them to feel comfortable, belonging to the group. Apart from this, there are many reasons of use. Therefore, reasons of using English code-mixing can be discovered by further qualitative research which can disclose a variety of aspects of this sociolinguistic phenomenon.

8. Recommendations

1. Further studies may investigate the reasons of the use of English-code mixing.
2. It is possible for further studies to explore English code-mixing in other languages.

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