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The Mode Switching by Bimodal Children

Eiji TAIRA

(Kawansei Gakuin University, Japan)

ABSTRACT

The targets of this presentation are five families where hearing parents raise deaf children in Japanese sign language. The hearing children who have deaf siblings that grow up in the family are bilingual in Japanese and Japanese sign language. In Japan, the oral method of education has long been recommended. At present, Signed Japanese with audio modality is often used. There are still few families that raise deaf children in Japanese sign language without audio modality. Parents recognize deaf children's native language as Japanese sign language. However, parents are worried about the influence on language acquisition and language use for hearing children.

In this presentation, I will study the language usage of seven hearing children (chart1). The bimodal feature is that it has three modes: audio mode (J-mode), sign mode (S-mode), and simultaneous communication mode (SimCom; W-mode). And, bimodal children have conversation while switching between these modes. I will bring the mode switching into focus.

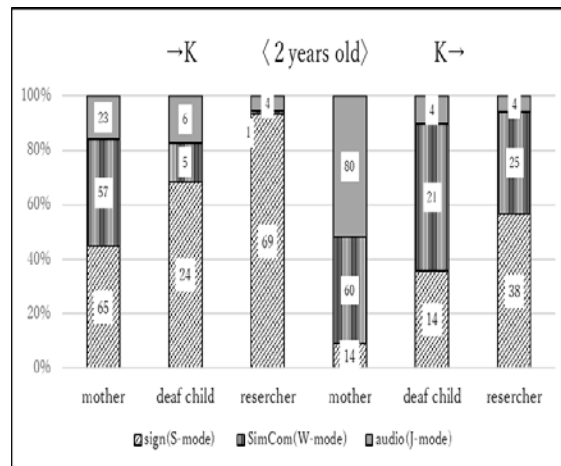
In a bilingual study with two spoken languages, it is said that a bilingual child chooses a language based on language ability, topic, and language usage of the other party (Fishman

1965). In bilingual research of two spoken languages, there is modeling theory (Comeau et al. 2003). The theory is, "Bilingual children try to match the language usage of other party". I analyze whether the modeling hypothesis holds good for the selection of three modes, the relevance to the other mode use. For example, the use of the sign mode of

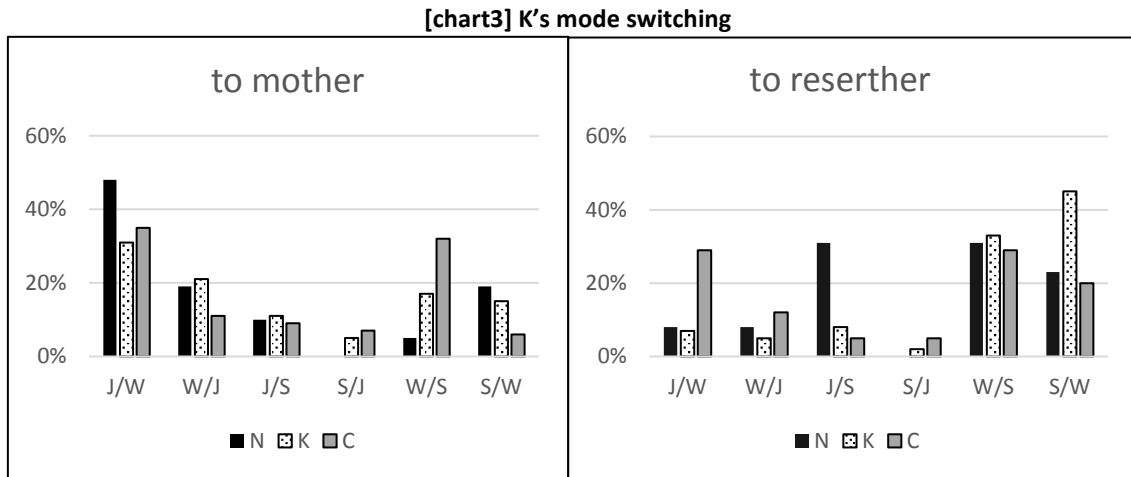
[chart1] Seven hearing children and 21date

7 bimodal children date				
Date No.	Bimodal Children (Birth Day)	Age	Deaf Child' s Birth Day	Hearing people
1	N(1999.5)	8	2002.8	Mother, Father, Researcher
2				Mother, Researcher
3	K(2007.10)	2		Mother, Researcher
4				Mother
5		3		Mother, Researcher
6				Mother
7		4		Mother, Researcher
8				Mother
9	C(2012.1)	1	2006.1	Mother, Researcher
10		2		
11		3		
12		4		
13		5		
14	R(2010.11)	2	2008.10	Mother, Father
15				Mother, Researcher
16		4		Mother, Researcher
17	T(2012.11)	3-4	2008.7	Mother, Researcher
18	M(2005.9)	8	2002.6	Mother, m
19				Mother, m, Researcher
20	m(2007.8)	6		Mother, M
21				Mother, M, Researcher

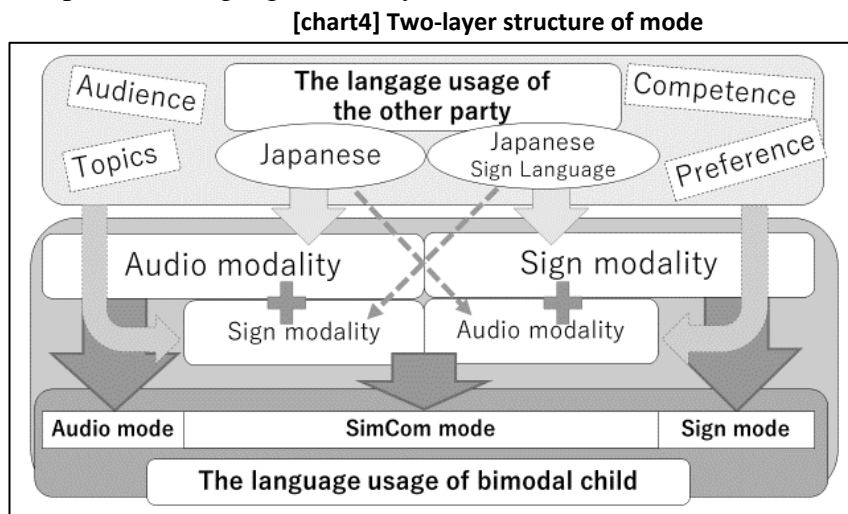
[chart2] The language usage of other party and K



bimodal child “K” corresponds to the use of the sign mode of the other party (chart2). I assume in Sign mode and Audio mode, modeling theory holds good, but in SimCom mode, it does not. I confirm that the mode switching pattern varies depending on the partner(chart3).



Next, I will consider the mode switching function in view of the code switching function described by the bilingual with two spoken languages. It is told that code switching has functions such as citations and listener’s attention. I recognize mode switching has also similar functions as an advanced language strategy utilizing the characteristics of the two languages. In addition, SimCom, in particular, may be the result of adding another modality due to the influence of the audience design in addition to the use of the partner's language modality(chart4).



REFERENCE

Comeau, L., Genesee, F. and Lapaquette, L. (2003). The Modeling Hypothesis and Child Bilingual Codemixing. *The International Journal of Bilingualism*, 7(2),pp.113-126.

Fishman, J.A. (1965) Who speaks what language to whom and when? *La Linguistique*, 2, pp.67-88.