

Enabling tool: Estonian-English code-mixing of a 2-year-old with even input

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Usage-based theory

Lexically fixed combinations



slot and frame patterns



abstract patterns

I want candy



I want X



noun-verb-object



Usage-based theory

.Entrenchment

.How to bilingual children's languages interplay as the children produce speech?

.Quick et al (2018, 2020) and Gaskins (2019) have found:

.MLU follows input patterns

.MLU is higher for code-mixed utterances

.Code-mixed utterances are syntactically more complex

Participant and data

.Case study

.2;4-2;10

.Estonian-English simultaneous bilingual

.Language separated by time and on an average week fairly balanced

.35h of data

Monday	EST
Tuesday	ENG
Wednesday	EST
Thursday	ENG
Friday	EST
Saturday	ENG
Sunday	ENG

Methodology

- 6853 utterances coded:
 - Monolingual Estonian
 - Monolingual English
 - Code-mixed
- 3 analyses:
 - Language proportions
 - MLU for monolingual and code-mixed utterances for 3 periods
 - Complexity analysis (sentences, phrases, fragments)

Results: language proportions

	Estonian days	English days
CM utterances	42%	40%
EST utterances	44%	15%
ENG utterances	14%	45%

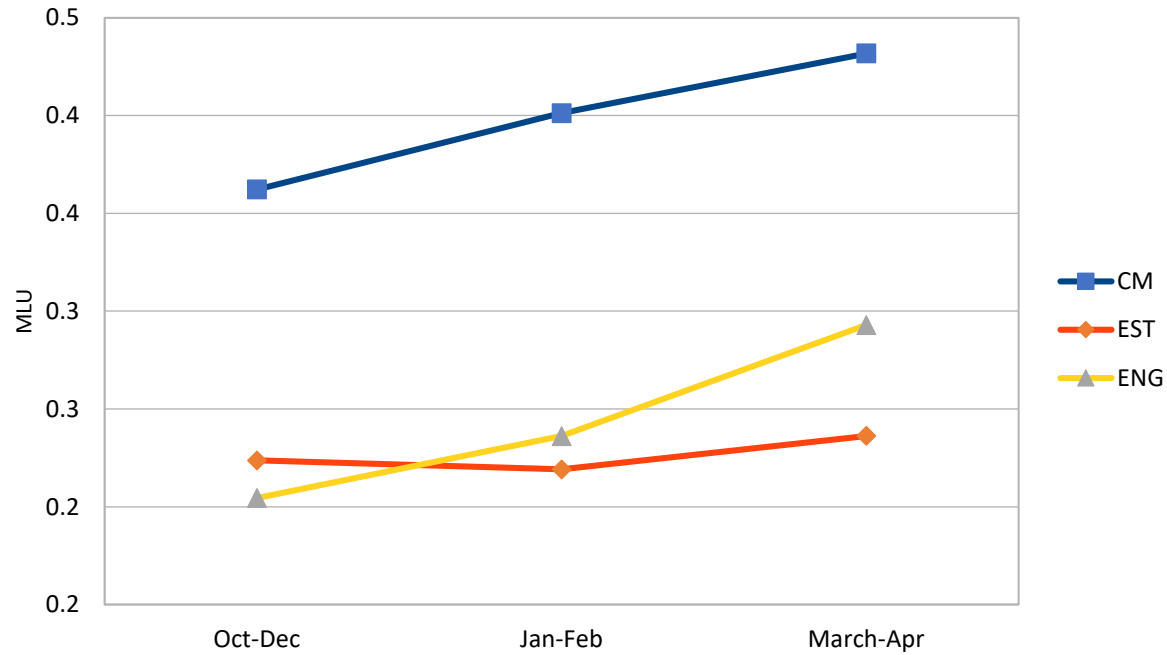
Other studies with similar aged children:

Quick et al. (2018): 7%, 9%, 10%

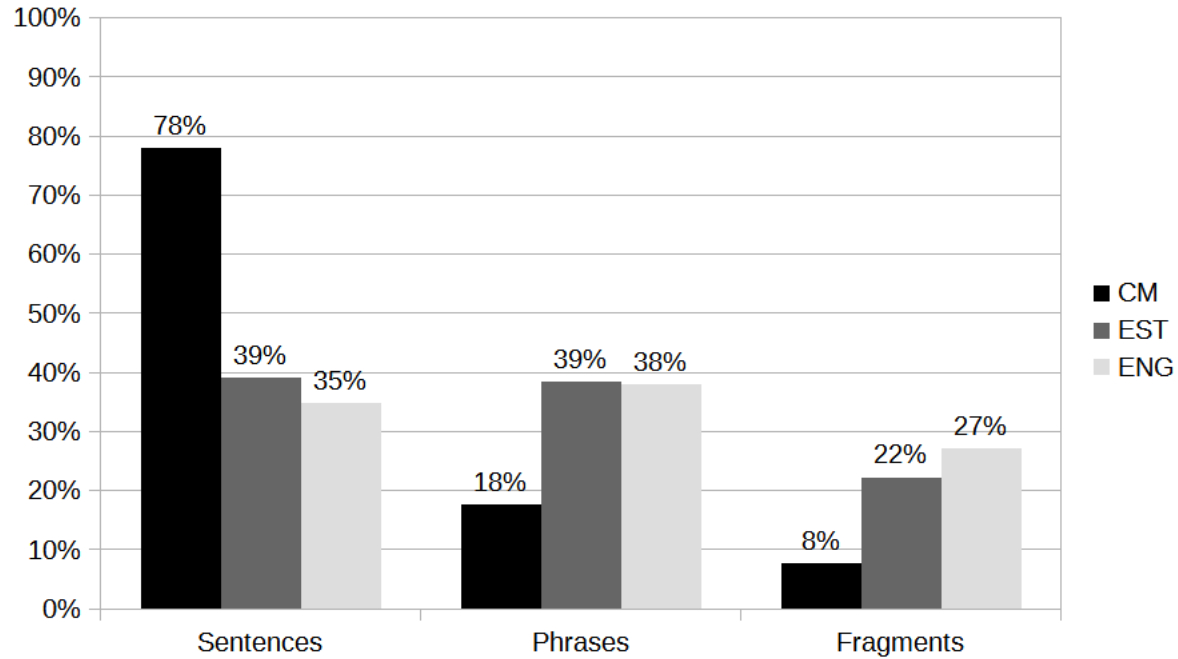
Gaskins et al (20xx): 9%, 11%, 40%*

*(2h of data)

Results: MLU scores



Results: Complexity analysis



Discussion

Language proportions and MLU reflected the input pattern

Why so many code-mixed utterances?

Why did the code-mixed utterances have the highest MLU?

Code-mixing as an enabling tool

Thank you for listening!