Classifier *ix*: A case of code switching in Q'anjob'al Maya
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Code switching is understood as a speech style in which fluent bilinguals move in and out of two or more languages (MacSwan, 1997). Although many teachers in the US believe that children who code switch do speak neither English nor Spanish (Valdes-Fallis, 1978), MacSwan (1997) argues that fluent bilinguals who code switch have the same rich linguistic competence as monolinguals for the languages they use. However, the phenomenon of code switching has been explored primarily in bilingual contexts, e.g. Spanish-Nahuatl (MacSwan, 1997), Quechua-Spanish (Sánchez, 2011). So, little is known of code switching within dialects of a same language.

In this talk, extending Mateo Pedro (2004) and Duncan (2011)'s work on the acquisition of noun classifiers in Q'anjob'al, I propose that the extension of *ix* (she) to *naq* (he) as well as to other noun classifiers, can be understood as an instance of code switching in the Q'anjob'al of Santa Eulalia. As evidence of code switching, I evaluate the acquisition of noun classifiers in their regular uses in contrast to the extension of *ix* to other classifiers. For this purpose I explore longitudinal data of a Q'anjob'al child from the Mayan Language Acquisition Project (www.almaya.org).