Dagaare-English Code Switching: An Analytical Survey

The study focuses on code-switching among panellists on radio talk shows in semi-formal conversations. The rationale behind this is basically to examine the nature of code-switching within the semi-formal setting and largely to study the structure of the code-switched utterance among educated Dagaare speakers of Northern Ghana. The analysis involves a survey of the occurrence of code-switching among educated Ghanaians within a partially formal environment, namely a radio talk show on news review. More precisely, the nature of code switching is what the study seeks to examine: the type of code switching engaged in most, the dominant code category in Dagaare-English code switching and the language which serves as the matrix language in Dagaare-English code switching. The theoretical framework that is used for the analysis is Myers-Scotton (2002)’s 4-M model.

Keywords: Code-switching, semi-formal conversations, Dagaare-English code-switching, matrix language, Myers-Scotton 4-M Model.

Background And Introduction

Amuzu & Singler (2014) report that there is intense intra-sentential code-switching in West Africa. This is mainly because, as Dakubu (1997) observes, polyglottism is a major characteristic of West African cities (Amuzu & Singler, 2014). Moreover, Amuzu & Singler (2014) lament the fact that in spite of encouraging numbers of studies of CS in the region, the studies mostly involve language pairs of a majority language and a colonial language. Studies involving language pairs of a minority language and a majority language are scarce while those of a minority language and a colonial language are scarcer (Amuzu & Singler, 2014).

This study seeks to survey the occurrence of Dagaare-English code-switching as engaged in by educated native speakers of Dagaare. The term educated speakers was first used by Sey (1973).

In this study, however, Amuzu (2005a)’s definition is adopted. Amuzu (2005a) uses “educated Ghanaians” to refer to Ghanaians who have acquired at least secondary school education. In this study, all panellists including those who call into the programme have attained at least senior high school education, therefore it is appropriate to go by Amuzu(2005a)’s definition. The good mix of English and Dagaare by the in-studio panellists made it difficult for a caller who does not understand basic English to understand what is being discussed and hence try calling in.
Literature Review

In contrast to choosing only one code (from their repertoire) to use in an interaction, bilinguals may opt to “mix” two or more codes in the course of an interaction (Savic 1995). Several concepts have been proposed for this linguistic behavior. Agheysi (1977), for example calls it “language interlarding” while Scotton & Ury (1977) term it “code switching.” Bokamba (1988) prefers to call it “code mixing” and Haugen (1953) calls it “integration.” However, code switching, is no doubt, the most preferred term in current sociolinguistic study (Wardhaugh 2010), hence the term used in this study.

Although, Haugen (1953) is accredited for the original coinage of the term “code switching,” his definition is no longer in use. In his work, Haugen distinguished between the terms switching, code switching and integration. Whereas switching was used to refer to the alternate use of two languages by bilinguals, code switching referred to a linguistic situation where bilinguals introduced a single unassimilated word from one language into another by bilinguals (Haugen 1953). The third term integration was used in reference to the overlapping of two languages.

It is evident that Haugen’s definition of code switching was perhaps too simplistic, as he chose to associate code switching with only “single words”. Such a micro-view of code switching cannot adequately guide any study; for a lot of data, which deserves to be included as code-switched material may end up being overlooked. For instance, cases where speakers engage in intersentential switching may not end up being left out.

Different scholars have different definitions for the term “code switching.” These definitions are motivated by the approach (pragmatic or grammatical) adopted in analyzing code switched utterances. Myers-Scotton (1993a: vii), for example, defines code switching (hereafter CS) as the use of two or more languages in the same conversation, usually within the same conversational turn, or even within the same sentence of that turn.

For Bokamba (1988), code switching is the embedding of various linguistic units such as affixes and clauses from two distinct (sub) systems within the same sentence or speech event. Additionally, Myers-Scotton (1993b:3) views code switching as the selection by bilinguals/multilinguals of forms from an embedded variety (or varieties) in utterances of a matrix variety during the same conversation. Myers-Scotton (1993a) takes a pragmatic approach while Bokamba (1988) and Myers-Scotton (1993b) take a purely grammatical approach hence their different perceptions of Code Switching. This study takes a pragmatic view hence adopts MyersScotton’s (1993a) definition of CS. To this extend, the study is fundamentally a survey of the nature of code switching in a naturally occurring environment among educated Dagaare natives.

Code-switching (CS) is appraised one of the central issues in bilingualism research; one that has received tremendous attention, and continue to excite scholars in the field (Milroy & Muysken, 1995; Thomason, 2001; Dadzie,
It is defined by Milroy and Muysken (1995:7) as the alternative use by bilinguals of two or more languages in the same conversation.

Thomason (2001: 133) similarly defines it as the use of material from two (or more) languages by a single speaker in the same conversation. Several manifestations of code-switching exist, such as, switching between turns of speakers; switching between utterances of one’s turn; and even, switching within a single utterance. These differences have led to distinctions in descriptive terms for the phenomenon such as codeswitching, code-mixing, code alternation, borrowing etc. The main point however is that it has been discovered that the bilingual uses his/her two codes interchangeably, sometimes moving from one to another, other times substituting words in one for another within the same speech effort (Dadzie, 2004). In this study, code-switching (CS) is used to describe any of the manifestations mentioned above without any distinction.

Interest in the study of CS began in the 1950s when scholars like Weinreich (1953) and Haugen (1953) dwelt on aspects of it in their publications (Milroy & Muysken, 1995:5; Clyne, 2003:70). The term code-switching’ was however introduced by Gumperz (1964) ‘for switching with a discourse function’ (Clyne, 2003:70); but with time it has been increasingly used for all kinds of switching (Clyne, 2003:70). According to Myers-Scotton (1993:19), subsequent studies of CS (Gumperz, 1982; Heller, 1988; Myers-Scotton, 1993b) mainly focused on its social motivations.

However, it soon became apparent that intra-sentential CS is not done haphazardly, but may be structured. The search for structural constraints thus began. Notable among these researchers are, Timm (1975), Pfaff (1979), Gumperz (1982), Poplack (1981) and Myers-Scotton (1993a).

At the moment, studies of CS are generally approached from three main perspectives – Psycholinguistic, Sociolinguistic and Structural.

- Psycholinguistic researchers are concerned with the cognitive aspects of CS. Some studies are Grosjean (1982; 1995), etc.
- Structural studies are investigations into the grammatical structure of the CSed utterances. Scholars in this field include Poplack (1980), Myers-Scotton (1993a, 2002) and, Myers-Scotton and Jake (1995). The structural perspective is dealt with in detail in the next section.

**Types of code switching**

1. Inter-Sentential

In inter-sentential code switching, the language switch is done at sentence boundaries—words or phrases at the beginning or end of a sentence. This type
is seen most often in fluent bilingual speakers. For example: *If you are late for the job interview, foo yiir a yeɛ (you forget it :Dagaare).*

2. Intra-Sentential

In intra-sentential code switching, the shift is done in the middle of a sentence, with no interruptions, hesitations, or pauses to indicate a shift. The speaker is usually unaware of the shift. For example: *You are sleepy ana nɛkkuu (like a sick fowl: Dagaare), because you spend a lot of fanga (energy:Dagaare) in your bed.* Different types of switches occur within the clause level and within the word level.

3. Extra-Sentential or Tag Switching

This is the switching of either a single word or a tag phrase (or both) from one language to another. This type is common in intra-sentential switches. It involves the insertion of a tag from one language into an utterance in another language. For example: *"Fo kung le gonno, if you know what I mean."* Another example is how Dagaare students use some boundary words like *ka le* (then) or *tɛɛ* (well) while speaking English.

**Problem Statement**

Dagaare speakers of the Queen’s language have for a long time been engaged in Dagaare-English code switching. This is easily noticed when one interacts with Dagaare English literates at various levels of education and social status. Indeed, Dakubu (1997) confirms this claim as he avers that polyglottism is a key linguistic characteristic of West African settlements, particularly cities. Similarly, Amuzu & Singler (2014) agree with Dakubu on that claim, adding that most code switching studies in West Africa always involve majority languages and a colonial. Dagaare is a minority language and its pairing with the colonial language of English makes the study all the more worthwhile.

Generally, not much linguistic exploration has been done on Dagaare as a language. Reading of available literature in Dagaare research reveals this fact and many Dagaare researchers corroborate this fact. (Dakubu 1997 & 2009; Kyoore 2012; Dannabang 2011; etc.).

To this end, this study will be a novelty as it will be the first recorded investigation of code switching involving Dagaare (a minority language) and the English language (a colonial, majority language).

Fundamentally, the study focuses on what characterises the process as the educated Dagaare user of English engages in Dagaare-English code switching.
Research Questions

1. What is the nature of the switch in code between Dagaare and English among educated Dagaabas: intra or inter-sentential?
2. Dagaare-only, English-only and Dagaare-English: Which code category dominates in conversations involving Dagaare-English code-switching among educated Dagaabas?
3. In Dagaare-English code-switched utterances, which of the two languages operates as the matrix language in the linguistic structure among educated Dagaabas?

Methodology

Data is in the form of recorded conversations. Radio talk shows on news review forms the data for this study. Selected recordings are transcribed and used for the analysis. The quantitative method of data analysis is what is employed here as the study is a survey.

Data collection and processing is carried out in the following steps: First, five separate pre-recorded radio talk shows lasting an average of 1 hour 30 minutes each are used as primary data. Recording 1 took place on 14/01/2019 and it is 1 hour, 55 minutes, 07 seconds (1:55:07) long. Recording 2 happened on 15/01/2019 and it took 1 hour,48 minutes,04 seconds (1:48:04).Recording 3 was done on 09/01/2019, lasting 1 hour,46 minutes,00 seconds (1:46:00).Recording 4 occurred on 16/01/2019 and lasted 2 hours,4 minutes,06 seconds (2:04:06).Recording 5 was done on 04/01/2019 and it also lasted 1 hour,36 minutes,15 seconds (1:36:15).

From these 5 recordings, 4 were selected at random and 50 sentences from each tape were selected at random jump-play intervals, giving the total of 200 sentences which are used as the primary working data for this survey. Please find attached the 200 sentences in Appendices 1,2,3 and 4 and the recordings on a CD. The CD contains the original primary data of this study. Analysis is done using tables and charts.

Theoretical Underpinning

Aspects of Carol Myers-Scotton’s (2002) 4-M model primarily underpins this research theoretically. It is a theory that attempts to catalogue the distribution of morphemes in what is called the Matrix Language Frame (MLF) model, a framework developed by Myers-Scotton (1993). This is a model which explains the distribution of linguistic structures in intra-sentential code switching using bilingual data.

The Matrix Language Framework is used in this study. It must be noted however that the morpheme distribution angle of the theory is not employed in the analysis in this study. A general survey as the study is, there isn’t focus on
the internal structure of the sentences parsed. The study focuses rather largely on what characterises the process as the educated Dagaare user of English engages in Dagaare-English code switching.

This theory is complemented by the Conversation Analysis theory. Conversation analysis (CA) is an approach to the study of social interaction. It embodies both verbal and non-verbal daily life social interactions. Inspired by Harold Garfinkel’s ethnomethodology and Erving Goffman’s conception of the interaction order, CA was developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s principally by the sociologist Harvey Sacks and his close associates Emanuel Schegloff and Gail Jefferson.

The rudiments of analysing spontaneous conversation is employed in the parsing of sentences from the four recordings. As the conversations in these recordings are largely informal, ramifying it into coded data for the survey needs the use of techniques in CA, hence the need for it in the study.

Analysis

Research Question 1:

What is the nature of the switch in code between Dagaare and English among educated Dagaabas: intra or inter-sentential?

As has already been explained in the literature above, code switching may involve one or all of intra, inter or extra-sentential code switching. Whilst intra-sentential code switching involves the introduction of a different variety of language into a matrix language at the sentence level, inter-sentential code switching deals with the switch over of language from one sentence to another either within the same sentence of more than one clause or from one sentence to another. Extra-sentential code switching deals with switch of single words or tag phrases. Since extra-sentential code switching is a form of intra-sentential code switching, only intra-sentential and inter-sentential code switching would be used in the analysis in this study.

Having established the various dimensions code switching may take, may we now turn to the data under study here. This data includes Dagaare-only, English-only and Dagaare-English code classifications. To answer Research Question 1, the Dagaare-English code switched utterances will be the appropriate data to use. The distribution of sentences in the data with regards to the nature or kind of code switching that educated Dagaare natives engage in is captured in Table 1 below.
From the table above, a total of 118 sentences across the four recordings are involved in intra-sentential code switching, representing 85.5% of the total of 138 sentences involving Dagaare-English code switching used in the survey. Sixty two (62) sentences in the data are distributed between Dagaare-only and English-only sentences. That clearly indicates that educated Dagaare natives are very heavy on intra-sentential code switching when they engage in code switching generally. Only 20 sentences of the 138, representing 14.5% are involved in inter-sentential code switching. From this therefore, one could comfortably conclude that when educated Dagaabas engage in code switching, they use intra-sentential code switching generally. This is further diagrammatically represented in the Pie Chart in Figure 1 as follows.

### Table 1: Sentence Distribution According to Type of Code Switching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Switching</th>
<th>R1 Sentences</th>
<th>R2 Sentences</th>
<th>R3 Sentences</th>
<th>R4 Sentences</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intra-Sentential Code Switching</td>
<td>1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 35, 36, 39, 41, 42, 43, 45, 48</td>
<td>3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 39, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50</td>
<td>2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50</td>
<td>1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 29, 32, 35, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Sentential Code Switching</td>
<td>36, 46</td>
<td>8, 18, 27, 30, 38</td>
<td>3, 9, 16, 17, 22, 28, 35, 36</td>
<td>9, 15, 31, 39, 45</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 1: Pie Chart showing nature/kind of Code Switching engaged in by educated Dagaabas

Research Question 2:
Dagaare-only, English-only and Dagaare-English: Which code category dominates in Dagaare-English code-switched utterances among educated Dagaabas?

This research question surveys the balance of languages as the Dagaare bilingual embarks on informal conversation involving code switching. The data under consideration includes Dagaare-only, English-only and Dagaare-English sentences and the analysis here seeks to survey which of these categories is employed more in the code switch conversation of educated Dagaabas. See the statistical representation of this in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Sentence Distribution According to Code Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Category</th>
<th>R1 Sentences</th>
<th>R2 Sentences</th>
<th>R3 Sentences</th>
<th>R4 Sentences</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dagaare-Only Sentences</td>
<td>2, 4, 31, 32, 34, 44, 47, 50</td>
<td>6, 22, 31, 32, 41, 45, 48</td>
<td>32, 45</td>
<td>14, 16, 24, 25, 33, 34, 36, 40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English-Only Sentences</td>
<td>5, 14, 18, 22, 24, 30, 37, 38, 40, 49</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 17, 24, 33, 37, 40, 42</td>
<td>1, 11, 13, 14, 18, 34, 39, 44</td>
<td>2, 4, 17, 22, 23, 28, 30, 46</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the table above, it is manifestly clear that indeed, educated Dagaabas indulge heavily in code switching in semi-formal conversations. Out of the 200 total number of sentences used in the study, 138 are involved in Dagaare-English code switching whilst 62 are shared between Dagaare-only and English-only, confirming the afore-mentioned claim. This represents 69% of total number of sentences used in the survey. Emphatically therefore, it is demonstrated by these statistics that when educated Dagaabas are involved in code switching, they use more of code switched structures than mono-lingual structures. For further clarity, this statistical information is pictorially captured in the Pie Chart in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: Pie Chart showing the Code Category distribution of sentences**
Research Question 3:
In Dagaare-English code-switched utterances, which of the two languages operates as the matrix language in the linguistic structure among educated Dagaabas?

In 1993, Myers-Scotton proposed the Matrix Language Frame (MLF) as a model to account for the structures in intrasentential code-switching (Myers-Scotton 1993:5; 2002:12). The MLF is a —production-based model which sees CS as set by processes which operate well before the positional level at which surface orders and structures are realized (Myers-Scotton, 1993a:6). The MLF model takes its cue from psycholinguistic models of monolingual language production and processing; whose basic premise is that, production proceeds by accessing various grammatical procedures to build a sentence frame. Another premise is that a sentence is assembled incrementally, but with different procedures operating simultaneously. Motivated by these two views of language production, the MLF model has as its premise:

- In bilingual speech production, a frame also is built.
- Key hierarchies in the way frame-building procedures apply have the effect of constraining selections of the languages of CS utterances. (Myers-Scotton, 1993a:76)

In the light of this premise set my Myers-Scotton, the analysis in this section looks at the language that operates as the matrix language in each sentence. That is, which language forms the framework within which the other language is embedded? Table 3 below represents the statistics in the survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Matrix Distribution of Dagaare and English Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dagaare Matrix Sentences</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 25, 27, 28, 29, 35, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>English Matrix Sentences</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 33, 36, 42, 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is abundantly clear from the statistics above that Dagaare operates as the matrix language in this survey. 104 out of the total of 140 sentences that involve the use of both English and Dagaare indicate that Dagaare forms the Matrix Language Framework with English as the embedded language. This figure represents 74.3% of the 140 sentences that involve the use of both languages. Only 36 out of the 140 sentences have English operating as the Matrix Language. From this analysis therefore, may conclude that educated Dagaabas use Dagaare as the MLF when engaged in code switching. Diagrammatically, this is represented in the chart in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Pie Chart showing the MLF distribution of English and Dagaare

Still in support of the Matrix language distribution of sentences, the monolingual sentences in the data also helps. In the table below, we see the distribution of Dagaare-only and English-only sentences which gives a sense of which language the speakers were more endeared to in the conversation. See Table 4 below.

Table 4: Sentence Distribution of Dagaare - Only and English - Only Sentences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>R1 Sentences</th>
<th>R2 Sentences</th>
<th>R3 Sentences</th>
<th>R4 Sentences</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dagaare-Only</td>
<td>2, 4, 31, 32, 34, 44, 47, 48, 50</td>
<td>6, 22, 31, 32, 41, 45, 48</td>
<td>32, 45</td>
<td>14, 16, 24, 25, 33, 34, 36, 40</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English-Only</td>
<td>5, 14, 18, 22, 24, 30, 37, 38, 40, 49</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 7, 13, 17, 24, 33, 37, 40, 42</td>
<td>1, 11, 13, 14, 18, 34, 39, 44</td>
<td>2, 4, 17, 22, 23, 28, 30, 46</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>59.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The information in the table above is represented in the Pie Chart in Figure 4 below.

**Figure 4: Pie Chart showing the Mono-lingual distribution of sentences**

As can be seen above, the English-only sentences dominate the total of 62 mono-lingual sentences with 37 sentences, representing 59.7% as against 25 Dagaare-only sentences which represent 40.3%. Clearly, the gap is not that wide and the picture becomes clearer when the statistics on mono-lingual sentences are merged with the statistics on Matrix language distribution. That is, combining the information from Table 3 and Table 4 which both seek to assert the dominance of each language in the conversation.

To this end, the statistics in tables 3 and 4 will suffice:

I.e., 74.3% + 40.3% = 114.6% ÷ 200% = 0.573 × 100 = 57.3%

Also, 25.7% + 59.7% = 85.4% ÷ 200% = 0.427 × 100 = 42.7%

Therefore:

Dagaare Matrix Sentences (Table 3) = 74.3% 57.3%

Dagaare Only Sentences (Table 4) = 40.3% 42.7%

Also; English Matrix Sentences (Table 3) = 25.7%

English – Only Sentences (Table 4) = 59.7%

Conclusively therefore, Dagaare is the Matrix Language Framework (MLF) in this study with an overall total of 57.3% matrixity over English with 42.7%. The difference is 14.6% and that indicates that the matrixity of Dagaare over English in this survey is reasonably substantial.
Findings and Conclusion

Research question one seeks to find out the nature of the switch in code between Dagaare and English among educated Dagaabas; whether it is intra or inter-sentential. The analysis of data clearly reveals that there is higher intra-sentential CS (85.5%) than inter-sentential CS (14.5%) as captured in Figure 1.

Research question two also enquires about which code category dominates in Dagaare-English code-switched utterances among educated Dagaabas. The analysis shows that Dagaare-English CS dominates (69%). English-only (18.5%) CS comes second, whilst Dagaare-only (12.5%) CS comes last in terms of dominance. Figure 2 summarises this graphically.

Finally, research question three finds out which of the two languages operates as the matrix language in the linguistic structure among educated Dagaabas in Dagaare-English code-switched utterances. The findings show unequivocally that Dagaare operates as the Matrix language with a total percentage of 74.3% and 25.7% for English. See Figure 3 for the details.

All in all, in code-switched utterances among educated Dagaabas, there is a very high intra-sentential code switching as Dagaare-English code switch dominates with Dagaare being the Matrix language.

Bibliography


Accra: Bureau of Ghana Languages.


APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Sentences Transcribed From RECORDING 1 (1:55:07 HOURS)

1. A station nga la gyie teng dang kongbang disappoint e gyaa.
2. Era yela ang na veng k’i gara nimitoori.
3. Ta di assumptions a di eng e gyung.
4. TEO segha a sesoo ngmankuori nga.
5. The dial is 105.5 and the station is MAK Fm.
6. Gaa Radio station gyaa ang be te Wa Naa paalong kyε.
7. Maa e menga a downloadi ana application nga.
8. A scratch card biebe eng na bang da.
9. Maa e menga a gaa ana category ne.
10. Ka enang wa selecti Ida Nakaar,k’I diu vote.
11. Ka enang buora k’i voti ku mma Ida, diu vote.
12. Te na ku eng a list.
13. Gaa google play store.
15. A ena mε ona bε pay heed to that a.
16. Two of a bibiir bε tuo enrole.
17. A school account was given for them to pay a libie inside.
18. The secretariat was called again.
19. Maurice, according to NASSOBA, on these grounds na so Rev. Bro. Naa is facing the punishment.
20. I think be na enne later admission.
21. I think a school account was given for them to pay a libie in.
22. He was only able to provide a phone number.
23. According to a regional minister be dang na bo χle a regional director.
24. I’m trying to read that portion.
25. O be tuo ko te any answer e.
26. On the grounds that o ba bang a act, yes there is no problem.
27. Duoho ang yire GES headquarters la bila.
28. One person yela la kaba gyaa gycora.
29. O nyiibu eε very difficult.
30. Ida, we want to hear from the horse’s own mouth.
31. O daa εri a εro tebetebe le.
32. Te ba bang buo ang yela yelmenga.
33. I think we will have to go and learn about a act nga.
34. Be ko yel yele ko fo ε.
35. O le te be a Ghana ka by this time te bε nyong e?
36. According to sources, she was murdered.
37. Tanε na bε wobr yangnε te nimie po χ.
38. Aaa, o ba tare idea.
39. Did you use Motorola?.
40. Vodafone better sit up.
41. N kyaa kps paa te select.
42. I used that phone.
43. Ka ba te nyεε, Ida, kuo sasaalong o engang.
44. Tenε na be wobr yangnε te nimie po χ.
45. You should have spared us all those details.
46. Twenty eight against fifty one, buong e gyamaa?
47. Nεl ka we don’t condone wrongdoing.
48. A complainant nga, o meng ε a citizen of United Arab Emirate.
49. Regional minister ta me erε a lε e.
50. But he came to talk to us.
51. He was virtually in tears.
52. According to a regional minister be dang na bo χle a regional director.
53. Maurice, according to NASSOBA, on these grounds na so Rev. Bro. Naa is facing the punishment.
54. Two of a bibiir bε tuo enrole.
55. According to sources, she was murdered.
In the process of a struggling, he cut.

A similar thing has happened with JB Danquah.

But as a houseboy, he cut a gidigidi anga za na era a?

O nnu mi po ne a crime nga po o.

My brother and the wife were in the room, he cut a le e.

Maurice, everything is possible.

How will you kyiiri?

Ba murder ni nba a pare JB Danquah.

A houseboy gan a be wone a gidigidi anga za na era a?

O nuu mi po ς ne a crime nga po ς.

Maurice, it is sad!

Ghana government buorang k’o piili processes.

So bele bawo agree boonu be na e o?

O yel ka he is not going down alone.

O tes be nna tuo na protect o.

Maurice, a na surprise ne na.

According to n ba Adams Bonaa, o yeleng ka NAM1 can be tried in absentia.

Kanga gyaa ba nyira libiri beng.

Ba gaa te gyaaali.

They should stop that hypocrisy.

Evidence ba kyibe.

A mang gying ka probe.

Probe gyaa ba kyebe.

There is not going to be any probe.

Anas video ne ong wa e ne is a test case.

Evidence kyibe.

I’m just asking a harmless question.

Who is NAM1?

Confidence trickster nu.

Ida bo ς Ghc 300.00.

Ida, a yeli nga te yelang.

A yinee wo two-party system teng tare Ghana kyeng.

A taraf sori k’aba tare constituency offices.

NDC ane NPP yon na te tèr a Ghana bi?

O bè tèr office i ?

Yeng ka grandma office be?

Maurice, these are some of the things.
There are certain basic things.

A police officers yεlyεng ka they found stray bullets.

As a human institution, te ko toɔ nyε a le e.

They should make them independent.

Politicians lεbε a mi de bε yang.

Tome za tεri hazards.

A traffic incident nga n na wa cite a be e mistake e.

Granted that a nibe enne armed robbers, were they supposed to kill?

Ba toma ne puong ba tarɔ rules and regulations.

Ba na bang ngmɛɛ nɛɛ gbɛre kɛ k’o nang open fire.

A first time be ni anga a yele nga na e oo.

Similar things be happen here in Wa e?

A yele is that, a nibe be nga taabe be na nyɛg boonu be ibɛ?

A headmaster a ku a Nandom SHS, Mr. Joachim, has been interdicted.

Ba sco ye gbangu a ku a regional director.

Headmaster of SHS, k’o lɛo gaa te teach basic school.

Ana illegal charges of fees nga downgrade a free SHS.

Tung faare la ong tung.

O benefitɛɛ, yire Free SHS.

But it won’t affect your salary.

I don’t think a report yela whether they are going to take the same salary or not.

Brother Joachim ne a o taa ne they will still teach.

N ba yel k’o ba e teacher.

Ba kong gaa a classroom.

What will you recommend?

Maa ba bang a GES Code of Ethics.

Ka neɛ kanga tʊng criminality kɛ e free.

Ba kyɛɛ na free.

Rev. Brother Naa ne a o nibe be nga bɛɛɛ e lucky e.

You think GES didn’t give them a fair hearing?

A erang toro.

K’o te teachire kɛɛ deɛra ba salary.

Ka this parliament is not doing bila ne ang seng ne.

Ana substandard yɛla ne bang yɛla ne, wala eng nyɛ a puo?

Ba mɛɛ mi kyɛn na te ta a grounds and tables turn.

Even a te namine mi lobby na.

Appendix 4: Sentences Transcribed From RECORDING 4 (2:04:06 HOURS)

1. Neem ne na erɛ ne education on this.
2. Ida, you can say things oo.
3. Vɛnɡ a fo text messages a zɛɛɛɛ waar.
4. Issues were raised regarding the Oti region.
5. A be yi kon ku a governmenti.
6. Te Ghana constitution die sikpiengaa kanga a ko president.
7. N ba Nana da gaa la nansaari tenge ka neɛ kanga te approach oo.
8. Te zaa Dagaaba tradition la.
9. Ka foo yɛl ka boundaries don’t mean anything you are not being sincere.
10. Anang so bang te de colours waana neng.
11. Te ten regions teng tare a Ghana puong, wala teng kyene nea?
12. Politicians mang taa la sikpiengaa.
13. Ka foo kaak te regions, wala ang kyene?
15. We cannot also deny that zie yuofo ko toɔ wa a zie.
16. Fo mang gaa teng kanga ka ko ḣeng ba kyibe.
17. And yet we want to buy drones.
18. Ida, nyɛ te drones yeltare nga fo nang waneng, wala an na bang tung a sung a paaloo?
19. A zie ba e zie plane ang na bang wa sigi.
20. They didn’t do any piero.
22. The RTI bill is still there.
23. We love our political parties, we love our people.
25. A yaga zaa ba mang ang to ɛ peli a ku noba.
26. Sometimes, a plans mang ying.
27. Today, ka banang la noba gba ang mang wa be kyɛ a ton ate asibiting.
28. But we are going beyond aid!
29. Ba dash te ne libie ws.
30. You have to do things the radical way.
31. Because he is not a native of the UWR, te kong sage.
32. Most of these youth na mi ere a le, bc mi bang ne gan.
33. Fo bang fo yideme nang be ziiri a ton toma?
34. A niba neng ba zu mang le wa call ɛ police ɛ yel ka ba bari ba.
35. A nobie na na feedire fo, fo bc: dunɛ a e.
36. Tung faa tungbo mang nomang.
37. Vang a fo text messages a zɛ kpier te.
38. Government announce na e te ber galamsay.
39. They are ever ready because kɛn kpe bc na.
40. Aisha Chang bi i kɛ Aisha Hung nea le.
41. Bɛ yel kc o laa piili a illegal mining.
42. K’o soba da mang bang safety yong gba, a danaa mang seɛng.
43. Government yel k’o na de bc na kyen ne University of Mines, Tarkwa.
44. Bamine ‘class notri’ la kye bana la a leaders.
45. Bɛ na wana awa speak big English.
46. They use drones in fighting it already.
47. Ba ba to ḣeng a honour a invitation.
48. If you can’t trust your Naa, then you can’t trust any leader again.
49. Te wideɛriba ne mang bo ɒrang ka cooperate entities nyo nɛ ḣna gang a yideme menga.
50. Azuma Resources bo ɒrang ka ba wuli ka ba ganga Upper West Region gyaa gbuli.

Appendix 5: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS
A/a = Dagaare word (the), pronounced like the English vowel 12 [^].
R1 = Recording 1
R2 = Recording 2
R3 = Recording 3
R4 = Recording 4
CS= Code switching
CSed= Code Switched

Appendix 6: Original Recording of Five (5) Conversations
NB: Please find attached to this work, the original audio recordings of five Radio Talk Show programmes from which the 200 sentences were transcribed and used for this survey. The dialects of Dagaare in these recordings are Waalee, Nandomee and Jirbalee (Wa Dagaare, Nandom Dagaare & Jirapa Dagaare).