



You are invited to attend the upcoming session of the Forksville Philological Society, an online discussion forum for any and all topics related to languages, linguistics, and literatures.

Dr. Luca Iezzi will be the featured session leader and will be talking about
Instagrammers as Language Innovators: Indonesian-English Contact Online:

Code-switching – here defined as the use of two or more language varieties within the same communicative event (Myers-Scotton 2006) – is often examined in the context of spoken communication. In every community, especially in today's globalised and superdiverse world, situations involving language mixture are the norm rather than the exception (Thomason, 2013). Over the past two decades, however, increased attention has also been given to language use online, which occupies a space at the intersection of written and spoken language. This medium transcends traditional boundaries between the written-formal and spoken-informal dichotomies (Coseriu 1981, Mioni 1983). Moreover, virtual communication has the potential to shed light on linguistic aspects of contemporary societies (Androutsopoulos 2006). The growing academic interest in social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok has led sociolinguists to gather data in order to describe and categorise contact phenomena online, employing both qualitative and quantitative methods from macro- and micro-sociolinguistic perspectives. This talk specifically focuses on contact phenomena on Instagram, a platform predominantly used by young adults and teenagers – groups whose language use has long been characterised by dynamism, ephemeral forms, playful or cryptic colloquial elements, and a blending of local and international traits. The study centres on Instagram story captions written by Indonesian young adults born in the 1990s – the first generation for whom English has represented a vital tool for achieving success, securing better employment opportunities, and enhancing social status. In particular, I will examine the functional use of English discourse markers within an Indonesian linguistic frame. Discourse markers – also referred to as connectors – are defined here as elements that are partially emptied of their original lexical meaning and acquire additional pragmatic functions. These include structuring discourse, linking sentence elements, and expressing the interpersonal dimension of utterances (Bazzanella, 2001).

Accordingly, the research questions this study seeks to address can be summarised as

follows:

- ❖ What are the structural features of Indonesian-English code switching on Instagram?
- ❖ What are the motivations behind the use of English discourse markers within an Indonesian linguistic frame?
- ❖ How does this usage influence the reception of the message by Instagram users?

The data presented in this talk are drawn from a corpus of over 4,000 screenshots collected over a two-year period (2022-2024).

Dr. Luca Iezzi is a post-doctoral researcher in the department of languages, literatures, and cultures at the University of Chieti-Pescara. His 2024 book, *Multilingualism in Italian Migrant Settings*, is available from Taylor & Francis Group. He is an excellent presenter whose research touches on not only the phenomena of code-switching online but on issues of self-presentation, how and why languages change, and the ways in which people manage orality and literacy and what happens cognitively, linguistically, and socially between orality and literacy.

Saturday, 23 August, 2025, at 0800 Eastern Time (1200 GMT), via Google Meet

General instructions:

- Entire this URL into your browser: <https://meet.google.com>
- Enter this meeting code into the box next to the blue, "New Meeting" box: <https://meet.google.com/pzp-qgdo-saz>. If your computer is set up for other video-conference programs, Google will be able to access your speaker and microphone. If not, you might need to configure your video and speaker settings to be accessible for online conferencing.
- If the link doesn't work, please await further instructions at the time of the meeting; I will send out a new link if necessary.

This invitation can also be found on the FPS website at <https://forksphil.org>. Any other questions/comments should be sent to Marla Perkins, Ph.D., at forksphil@gmail.com.

Please feel free to send this invitation to your language-loving friends and colleagues.