

## **The Use of Code-Switching and Code-Mixing to Express Social Identity in the Novel *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez**

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### ***Abstract***

*This research analyzed code-switching and code-mixing to express social identity in the novel How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez. The studies aim to find the types of code-switching and code-mixing and how it is used to express the social identity in the novel. The theory that used in this research is the code-switching and code-mixing theory by Suzanne Romaine and the social identity theory by John J. Gumperz to find the data used to express social identity in the novel. The source of data was collected from the character's quotations and narrations of the story in the novel. The result of this research, based on the theory used, the researcher found that the intra-sentential type of CS and CM are frequently used for 23% to express the social identity gender in the novel, followed by the other types of CS and CM in another expression of social identity. The social identity gender shown in the novel for CS and CM are most use by the women character for expressing their social identity, as the story has more women characters than the opposite gender.*

***Keywords:*** Code-switching, Code-mixing, Social identity

### **INTRODUCTION**

Code-switching and code-mixing is a new codes in a communication system used between two or more participants appearing by the decisions of the speaker to switch or mix code

even in short utterances. As Wardhaugh stated, this phenomenon is used due to the need of an individual to mark a group the speaker is in.

The term of code-switching and code-mixing also has an interesting point of view since there are many researcher that are agree to use both term or having a similar definition of code-switching and code-mixing, but there are also some researcher that find it difficult that cannot agree to use of one the term or defining the term as a quite similar language phenomenon. Wardhaugh (2010), Kim (2006) and Tay (1989) agree to use both term as the inter-sentential and intra-sentential switching, where the ISS happen when speaker choose to switch or mix code in words, clause, or between sentences while the intra-sentential is the switch or mix code in any grammatical system within a sentence. Some other researcher are choosing to use just one of the both term but also did no showing any disagreement to the other term and even acknowledge both term. Romaine (1991) stated that she uses the tems code-switching based on the Gumperz (1982) as she stated:

“I will use the term ‘code-switching’ in the sense in which Gumperz (1982: 52) has defined it, as ‘the juxtaposition within the same speech exchange of passage of speech belonging the two different grammatical systems or subsystems’” (Romaine, 1991, p.111).

Meanwhile, Mclaughlin (as cited in Kim 2006) defines “code-mixing” to refer to other related phenomena such as borrowing interference, transfer, or switching. Technically, code-switching and code-mixing is a similar language phenomena where bilingual speakers tend to use more than one language in their communication. This sociolinguistic phenomenon has its own function or reason of ISS used, Romaine (1982, p.116) explain several reasons of why the speaker chooses to switch or mix their language in the middle of conversation. There are talking about particular topic, quoting somebody else, interjection, repetition used for clarification, to show empathy about something and to express group identity. Expressing group identity has been acknowledgedg by several researchers such as Grosjean (1982) argues that the reason of bilingual speaker to choose switch or mix the language it to emphasize group identity or to show solidarity. Wardhaugh (2010) also stated the use of code-switch or code-mix can caused by the urge to mark a group of speakers, they intended show their social identity of the group.

The social identity is a knowledge of how a person can acknowledge their belonging in a group, wether its their ethnicity, gender, or nationality. The social identity is an identity of a person linking to their group or how they categorized themselves. Social identity can be seen from the background of the speaker and the speaker use language to show it to the other. A status of person related to their background is a social identity, Wardhaugh (2010), for example there is a Colombian man, the identity of the man Itself can be he is a father, he is a man, he is a 30 years old men, but when it comes to his social identity, it come to the conclusion that he is a son of a Colombian family, an entrepreneur and also the head of a Colombian community. The social identity of a person can be identify from such process of social contacts passing comments, show greetings, ask or did a simple request, or through

instruction. The social identity given the gender, ethnic and class in its parameter to create speaker's social identity.

In this research, the researcher discussed the code-switching and code-mixing that occurred in one of Julia Alvarez's novels entitled *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*. The novel tells about a Dominican immigrant family in the United States and in the Dominican Republic where the communication between the characters is found using view languages.

These studies aim to find the types of code-switching and code-mixing used in the novel and how it is use to express social identity in English to Spanish and vice versa. The types of code-switching and code-mixing are found as the inter-sentential, intra-sentential, and tag-switching and it is used to express each of social identity based on the gender, ethnicity and class of the speaker.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The type of code-switching and code-mixing are found using the theory stated by Romaine (1989) and also related to the reason behind the use of the language and expression of the social identity are found using the theory describe in Gumperz (1982).

### **CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING**

Code-switching and Code-mixing, a language phenomenon where the speaker did a switching or mixing language from one language to another different language, in a sentences, words, phrases, clauses or across sentence boundaries. Although code-switching and code-mixing are having a quite similar characteristics, there are a view points describes the distinction between the two language phenomenon.

### **TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING**

The type of code-switching as well as code-mixing has been introduced by Suzanne Romaine. The type of code-switching and code-mixing divides the terminology of code-switching and code-mixing Itself between inter-sentential and intra-sentential, the other type of this language phenomenon is tag switching.

#### **Inter-sentential**

Inter-sentential (can also called code-switching) happens when the speakers talking with two different language an occurs between sentences, words, phrases, clauses or sentence boundaries. Inter-sentential code-switching also can happen between the speakers turn and a conversation can only be consider as a inter-sentential or code-switching language phenomenon if the both parties are having a highly fluency and knowledge in both language they are using.

#### **Intra-sentential**

Intra-sentential is a language mixing believed by some researcher as the code-mixing. The intra-sentential mixing happens when the speakers choose two speak in two different language but did a mix language which occur within a sentence or clause boundaries.

### **Tag-switching**

Tag switching is a switch or mix language with an insertion of a tag in a language to an utterance in another different language. Tag switching can be very easy to use to add a few point even into a monolingual utterance since it has a minimal restriction.

### **SOCIAL IDENTITY**

Language as speaking practices creates and did an identifications for a social group membership, this explained of how a speaker shows their social identity through the language they are choosing. This social identity will, of course link to their community since they have their own language or code to communicate and what can be considered as group to identify the social identity can come from genders, ethnicity and a class. The language that the people are using in every day live can become dependent as the need of the other people to socialized with the people from different language and cultural background. In the society where major and minor group will have an activity together such as in a workplace, neighborhood, a special event or public service, they sometimes find it hard to communicate to each other and can arise things such misunderstanding, misevaluations, or misinterpretations

### **Gender**

Gender is divided into men and women in conversation. The speech of men and women in the conversation described by several researchers and both have different features. The women in conversation are likely to take control of the flow of the conversation which made the other interlocutor need to respond to their speech. Women have a big tendency in their speech to ask questions or even jump into a question-answer conversation with the other men speaker. The features created by woman in the conversation is considered as positive reaction such as solidarity, tension release, agreeing. such as “mm hmm”. Woman also tend to project a silent protest to the other speaker as a response to the attitude of the other speaker such as being interrupted or received only a minimal response and the use of words “you” and “we” also are likely employ by women speakers to show the existance of the other speaker.

Different from the women speakers, the men speakers are likely to be the one whose interrupting the female speakers in the conversations, their speech are likely contains a trigger of challenge to dispute the other speaker of the conversations. In response, the men are likely given a minimal response, slowly respond, or ignore the speech of the other speaker.

### **Ethnic**

Ethnicity divide into two kinds, the old ethnicity and the new ethnicity. First the researcher will dig into the old ethnicity, the old ethnicity is claimed as a kind of ethnicity which is supported both interpersonally and regionally through reinforced social networks, this type of ethnicity hold people from clusters of the occupational, political ties, families, and neighborhood. The people whose come from the same ethnicity usually lived near to each other within their political groups work groups, marriage, and families. The new ethnicity

focuses more on the differences that exist from one group to the other group, this new ethnicity does not depend on the geographic proximity and shared occupations like the old one. In this research, the second process which produces the new ethnicity will be the parameter used to analyze the data found in the novel as the object of this research.

### **Class**

The boundary of study which creates the social identity by the way the speaker speaks into three parts. Gender, Ethnicity, and class, social class to be exact, is the parameter to define someone's or group social identity which is based on power and status in the society that can be measured from the speaker's education, occupation, place of residence and income. Status can be seen from the speaker's image to the others, depends on how the speaker is being respected, deferred, or being ignored in the society. Meanwhile, power means the speaker's ability to make decisions, command or influence others in the society. The way a scientist does not speak as an athlete speaks, as men and women speak differently, it differs them to one another as a person or group.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In this chapter, the researcher describes the research methodology. It consists of research design, data and data sources, data collecting method, the technique of data verification and data analysis, and the synopsis of the novel *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez. The researcher concludes the research methodology is a way or method to prepare and complete the research to reach the goal of the research. In this study, the researcher used descriptive qualitative research to find and describe the type of CS and CM through the second theory of social identity.

The researcher divided the data source into primary and secondary sources. The primary data source for the analysis was acquired from the novel "How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents" by Julia Alvarez. Then, the secondary data was taken from any kinds of books of literature theories, books of linguistics, sociolinguistics, and social psychology journal, articles from the internet, and PDF. States that in qualitative research, the data may be from novel, linguistic books, sociolinguistic books, social psychology books, journals. Thus, the writer collected data by choosing the novel, reading the novel, identifying the code-switching and code-mixing to find the related data, classifying and selecting the relevant data. The writer also conducted library research to get information about the code-switching and code-mixing.

## **FINDINGS**

### **TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING**

The type of Intra-Sentential or code-mixing are frequently used rather than the Inter-Sentential and the Tag Switching type in the novel. Intra-Sentential code-mixing shows about 67% are shown in the novel. This research revealed the ISM has been used for 27, ISS with 12 data, while the researcher has 1 data showing the TS shown in the novel.

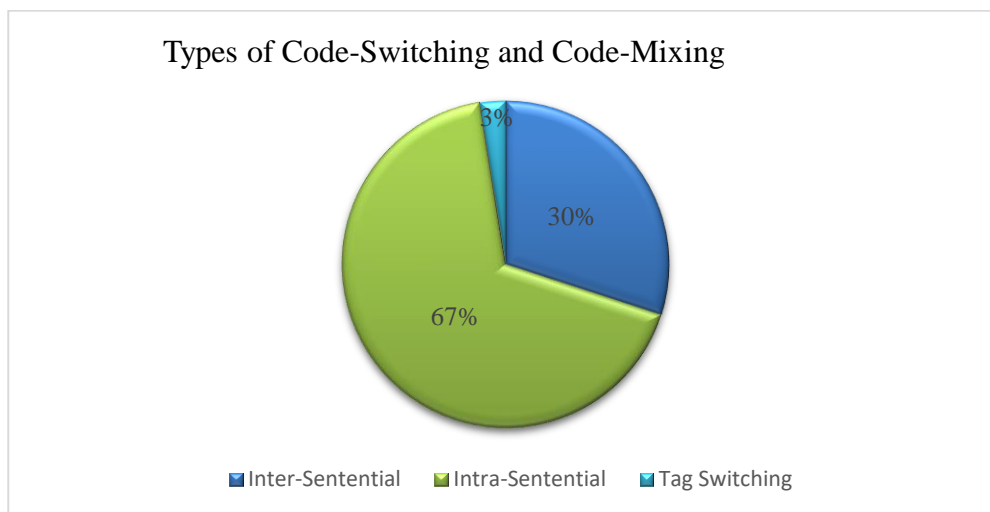


Chart 1: Types of Code-switching and Code-mixing

As seen in the data above, ISM are commonly happens because this type of mixing only requires just a snip of words, it can be a phrase, clause, or even a couple of words happens in a sentence. Meanwhile, ISS has less amount of usage since than ISM in the novel. Nevertheless, ISS and ISM have the same position in ISS used in the novel. Some of the utterances also given ISS types in a forming a sentence, and describing it's status of a sentence, it is to be clarified that not all data can be signified as the types and status of a sentence.

### **TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING TO EXPRESS SOCIAL IDENTITY**

The Types of CS and CM to express social identity in the novel showed in Figure 4.1.2 is dominated by the gender social identity in ISS with 6 excerpts and 7 excerpts for the ISM and the insertion of a tag with 1 excerpt, followed by the class in ISS with 4 excerpts and ISM with 3 excerpts and the insertion of a tag with 1 excerpt. Ethnic identity shows in type of ISM with total 4 excerpts and the type of ISS also with 5 excerpt. Types of CS and CM use to express social identity found in total with 31 excerpts.

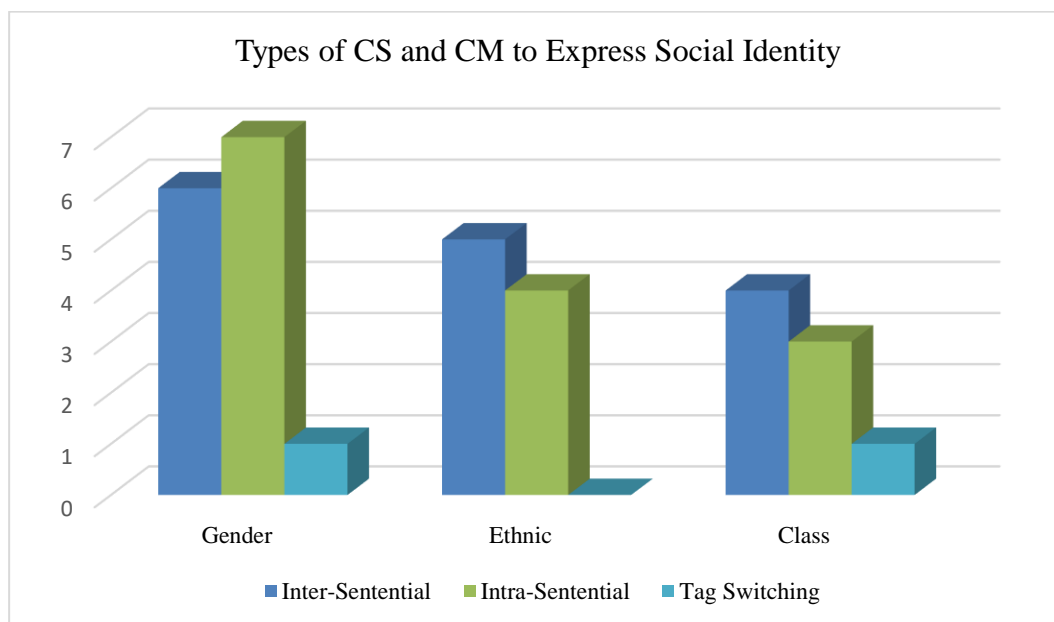


Chart 2: Code-Switching and Code-Mixing to Express Social Identity

## DISCUSSION

### TYPES OF CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING

These type of code-switching and code-mixing will discussed the Inter-Sentential, Intra-Sentential and Tag Switching found in the novel *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*.

#### Inter-sentential

The code-switching happens in this sentence occur in the words of *camioneta* and *campesinos* where the words are includes in an English utterance.

*"Yolanda, mi amor, you have been gone long"*. Lucinda teases. "Can't you see it?" She laughs. *"Yoyo climbing into an old camioneta with all the campesinos and their fighting lock and their goats and their pigs!"* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 9)

In the conversation, Lucinda speaks to Yolanda about the Yolanda's existence in the island, Lucinda expressing her affection to Yolanda while she speaks using their native language in an utterance as "*Yolanda, mi amor, you have been gone long*" the code-switching happen in the sentence as Lucinda uses the term '*mi amor*' means 'my dear' to express her love to Yolanda and then she change the language into English. Another sentence from Lucinda describing Yolanda's childhood where she uses a couple of their native language in her sentence is shown in the utterance "*Yoyo climbing into an old camioneta with all the campesinos and their fighting lock and their goats and their pigs*".

### **Intra-sentential**

The mixing language happens only in a sentence but it is a compound sentence since there are found double subject and verb from “she reverts” and she is scolded”, the sentence is a affirmative sentence since there is no evidence of any negative form of words.

When she reverts to English, *she is scolded, "En Espanol!"* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 7)

The excerpt above shows a code-mixing happens in one sentence, from English to Spanish as the author is quoting the character.

“The more she practices, the sooner she’ll be back into her native tongue ... and when she returns to the state, she’ll find herself suddenly going blank over some word in English or like her mother, mixing up some common phrase.” (Alvarez. 1991, p. 7)

As the quotation above strengthen the use of two languages as code-mixing in the excerpt above to express their group identity. The family needs Yolanda to use her native language while with the family to emphasize a strong sign of her identity as a Dominican girl.

### **Tag-switching**

The use of the different language in the excerpt is found in the first line of the utterance. The situation of this sentence is that The Garcia Family are having a dinner with the father’s friend and family in a Spanish restaurant.

*"Por favor, Sandi, you're a big girl now."* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 182)

The conversation above is between Papi and one of the girl Sandi, Papi expressing how Sandi trying to be playfull seeing her mother drunk. Papi added a tag in Spanish which “por favor” and then switch the language in English, this utterance is includes in a tag switching category. Surrounding by their native community and culture, also the utterance in the excerpt above is a conversation between Mr. Garcia and Sandi, his daughter, all shared the same culture and language so the code-switching happens caused they are tend to show their social identity around the same community as they are, the tag that has been added in a native language happens as they chose to use the language in the same community is to express the group identity around them.



## **CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING USE TO EXPRESS SOCIAL IDENTITY**

### **Gender Intra-sentential**

The mixing language only happens in a very short utterance, even the use of the different language only happens in a word.

*"But Senorita Miss Carla could not be bothered with white sneakers, she wanted red sneakers, red sneakers."* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 44)

The objection from the character can be seen in the first word of the passage by using the word "but" and the suggestion in the end of the utterance. The utterance by the character can be found that the speaker trying to made the speech get a respond from the other speaker by showing disagreement. The speaker also shows some suggestion of the thing that should be done. The features that can be seen in the utterance is reflecting the woman's feature in expressing their social identity gender by the way the speaks in the conversation. In expressing group identity, the speaker chose to refer the other speaker as senora rather than refer her with the same language as she use before The excerpt above is find as the ISM use in expressing group identity and also to express the speaker social identity gender as a woman.

### **Gender Inter-sentential**

The use of the different language from Dona Flor can be seen in the first passage of the utterance.

*I don't know, Dona Flor. A nice man stops to help checks it all-and-says, why senora you're out of gas, out of gas! Can you imagine?.* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 5)

In the last passage, Dona Flor tends to use the word "you" and repeating the words to the other speaker.

Tia Flor greeted them at the door with the smile and "How delightful of you to stop by!"

"Let me tell you about the latest at my house!" Tia Flor goes on, "The Chauffeur was driving me to my novena ..."

 (Alvarez. 1991, p. 5)

It can be seen that Dona Flor didn't let the other speaker to speak or to let them reply to her greetings. Dona Flor was controlling and dominating the conversation while there are happens to be the changed of topic and cause a code-switch in the utterance. The features in a conversation that Dona Flor did, shows the features of a gender identity as a woman. The excerpt above is found as the ISS use in talking about particular topic to express Dona Flor social identity as a woman.

### **Gender Tag-switching**

*"Por favor Sandi, you're a big girl now"* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 182)

The excerpt above shows the use of two different language in the same sentence that are likely very short as it is only use one of the different language as an insertion. The excerpt above shows the feature of a gender social identity where the speaker tend to do a tension release by pleasing to the other speaker. Also the use of the word “you’re” in the middle of the utterance is one of the women’s gender feature to express their social identity as to acknowledge the other speaker. The excerpt above is considered as the ISM use in expressing group identity as a Dominican by choosing the native language that they understand and to show the gender social identity.

### **Ethnic Inter-sentential**

The use of two different language in a sentence. It can be seen that the language the speaker chose is both the language that the other speaker can understand, it is the other speaker native language too.

*"The guardia hit me. He said I was telling stories. No dominicana with a car would be out at this hour getting guayabas." (Alvarez. 1991, p. 22)*

The speaker utterance shows a beg for support after presumed as criminal by the other stranger character. The use of the native language of the speaker defined as the way of the speaker to gain social support from the othe speaker as they shared the same culture and the importance in the situation. The excerpt above is found as the ISS use in expressing the group identity and also the ethnic social identity.

### **Ethnic Intra-sentential**

When she reverts to English, she is scolded, *"En Espanol!"* (Alvarez. 1991, p 7)

The code-mixing happens in a short utterance where the speaker forced the othe speaker to speak in the same language as they are.

*"The more she practices, the sooner she’ll be back into her native tongue ... and when she returns to the state, she’ll find herself suddenly going blank over some word in English or like her mother, mixing up some common phrase.” (Alvarez. 1991, p. 7)*

The utterance above explained the language reality between Yolanda and her Dominican Family. It shows the characteristic of ethnic identity where there are the need to be the same with the whole groups as they are shared the same language and nationality. This excerpt is found as the ISM to express ethnic identity of the speaker.

### **Class Inter-sentential**

The utterance is come from the conversation between the old woman in a small village, Altamira and Yolanda as a newcomer in her island after years. The old woman seems try to beg an apology from Yolanda for what happens between them, while the problem was not that serious.

*"You must excuse him, Dona"* the woman apologizes. (Alvarez. 1991, p. 15)

The kind of attitude that the old woman shows as the owner of the canteen for Yolanda as the customer is shows the different class by their position in the situation between them. The excerpt above is found as the ISS use to express the class of social identity of the old woman.

### **Class Intra-sentential**

The excerpt explained a situations where a character described a group of workers whose lived in the edge of the island as the ones who are lived with their old sense.

*In fact, the countryside, you'll still find some campesinos using the word in the old sense.* Altagracia! (Alvarez. 1991, p. 8)

The mixing utterance with the native language of the story in referring “farmers” with “campesinos”. The excerpt above did pointing some location in the place of the story and a group of workers to explained the social reality among them. In the excerpt, it is shows the social identity of the speakers, and what they are speaking about. The speakers shows a different social class between them, it can be seen from the occupation that the speaker mention about the other groups and the way they think in a modern days. Farmers in this excerpt is considered as a lower social class than the speakers since it shows the status of the topic being underestimated.

### **Class Tag-switching**

An utterance from the character Papi in a conversation with his daughter, Sandi, during an occational family dinner with Papi’s friend family.

*"Por favor, Sandi, you're a big girl now."* (Alvarez. 1991, p. 182)

The utterance above shows the character Papi was trying to give a command to Sandi. The father as the head of the family has the power to give suggestion or command like in the excerpt to the daughter whose has lesser power in controlling the situation than the father.

“Where is she?” he whispered...

“That woman is drunk,” he whispered, crouching down beside Sandi. “But I can’t insult her, imagine, our chance in this country.” ... “Por favor, Sandi, you’re a big girl now. Not a word of this to your mother. You know how she is these days.” (Alvarez. 1991, p. 182)

The utterance above shows the previous and the next utterance gives by the father to Sandi. The father gives direct order to Sandi as he don’t want to ruin the chance for the family. The excerpt above shows power in the father since he is capable of control and give the daughter whose in the lower status in the family a direct command. In case of that the excerpt above is found as ISM used to express social identity as the father used their native language to rise the tension between them and force the daughter to follow the command.

## CONCLUSION

The result of this research according to the data analysis are found that the intra-sentential type is the most expressive to depict social identity especially in expressing the gender social identity. It is influenced by the society's prespective. In other words, gender social identity refers to men and women speech, in this research the women speech are dominating the data as it is expressing in a form of questions, the use of the word "you" and "we", critic, suggestions or disagreement. The women speech arise in the data caused by the main story of the novel is refer to the story of a women in the family. The Code-switching and Code-mixing in the novel found that the intra-sentential type of CS and CM used for expressing social identity gender is dominating the result of the research for 23%, the other type of CS and CM in gender social identity showed 19% in the type of inter-sentential and the tag switching showed for 3%. The types of CS and CM showed to express social identity by Ethnic is found that the inter-sentential type of CS and CM is dominating the ethnicity for appeared in 16% of the data and the intra-sentential in 13%. Meanwhile, the last social identity that appeared in the use of the types of CS and CM has shown that the class social identity frequently use in the type of intra-sentential in 13%, the intra-sentential for 10% and tag switching for 3%. As the result shows the intra-sentential type of CS and CM are frequently found in the use of CS of CM to express the social identity gender in the novel *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents* by Julia Alvarez. The use of ISM in expressing the social identity gender in the novel is conclude by the most frequent character and story appeared in the novel. The four main character, and the other supporting character are much to be found in the story of the novel, and also in expressing their social identity gender as women in the use of CS and CM in any types.

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