What’s the difference between translanguaging + codeswitching?

Scholars who study translanguaging see the mind as an integrated whole, in which the person doesn’t really separate different languages they know or different modalities (written, oral, kinesthetic) to communicate with others or to draw meaning from multilingual, multimodal input (García, 2009; Li, 2017).

In contrast, scholars who study codeswitching are not trying to explain what’s going on in the person’s mind. Rather, they examine how shifts in code (language, dialect, register) signal shifts in topic, task, or the person being addressed (Auer, 1998). People speaking a single language can also codeswitch, for example by clearing their throat or changing the tone of voice.

For this reason, translanguaging is sociocognitive (social + cognitive), while codeswitching is sociolinguistic (social + linguistic). The difference between the two can be seen in this conversation between two 9th grade ESL students (first language, Ilokano) and their Ilokano-speaking substitute teacher...

References

