

**Code-Switching as a Means of Staking the Claims of Identities:  
A Case study of the Media in the Viet Diaspora**

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ABSTRACT

The influence of a donor language on a receiving one has always been permanent and become increasingly frequent in most Diasporas. Code-switching, a term used in many different meanings in the literature of bilingual discourses, is a way to construct characteristic of a given ethnic category and at the same time, to claim category memberships for both addressers and addressees in their languaging process. This paper addresses the question how code-switching is used to express and negotiate identity in the Viet diasporas. Besides, it is a study of how identities are constructed through discourses and vary across interactions rather than such social addresses of speakers as ethnicity, sex, age etc. Further, with qualitative analyses on the media in Viet diasporas, the paper shows how specific language choices may be tied to diasporic norms to perform pre-existing identity categories of interlocutors in various geographical areas.