English in the 21st Century
Code Switching in Context
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Read the following extract of an interview between Russell Brand and Jeremy Paxman.

- What do you notice about their language use?
- Identify examples of code switching and explore the reasons for these linguistic choices.

Jeremy Paxman: Russell Brand, who are you to edit a political magazine?

Russell Brand: Well, I suppose like a person who's been politely asked by an attractive woman. I don't know what the typical criteria is. I don't know many people that edit political magazines. Boris [*London mayor Boris Johnson*], he used to do one, didn't he? So I'm a kind of a person with crazy hair, quite a good sense of humour, don't know much about politics – I'm ideal.

Jeremy Paxman: But is it true you don't even vote?

Russell Brand: Yeah, no, I don't vote.

Jeremy Paxman: Well, how do you have any authority to talk about politics then?

Russell Brand: Well, I don't get my authority from this pre-existing paradigm which is quite narrow and only serves a few people. I look elsewhere for alternatives that might be of service to humanity. Alternate means, alternate political systems.

Jeremy Paxman: They being?

Russell Brand: Well, I've not invented it yet, Jeremy. I had to do a magazine last week. I've had a lot on me plate. But I say, but here's the thing you shouldn't do. Shouldn't destroy the planet, shouldn't create massive economic disparity, shouldn't ignore the needs of the people. The burden of proof is on the people with the power, not people like doing a magazine for a novelty.

Jeremy Paxman: How do you imagine that people get power?

Russell Brand: Well, I imagine there are sort of hierarchical systems that have been preserved through generations –

Jeremy Paxman: They get power by being voted in, that's how they get power.

Russell Brand: Well, you say that, Jeremy, but –

Jeremy Paxman: You can't even be arsed to vote.

Russell Brand: It's quite narrow, quite a narrow prescriptive parameter that changes within the –

Jeremy Paxman: In a democracy, that's how it works.

Russell Brand: Well, I don't think it's working very well, Jeremy, given that the planet is being destroyed, given that there is economic disparity of a huge degree. What are you saying, there's no alternative? There's no alternative? Just this system?

Read the full conversation
http://www.correntewire.com/russell_brand_vs_jeremy_paxman_the_full_transcript