**Abstract**

The way bilinguals switch between their languages may depend on the context. In a voluntary context, bilinguals are free to decide when to switch, whereas in a cued context, they are instructed which language to use and when to switch. Previous studies looking at cued switching have found a mixing cost, reflecting that using two languages is more costly than using one. In contrast, in a voluntary context, bilinguals may be faster when using two languages compared to one (‘mixing benefit’). In the current study we first tested highly proficient Spanish-Basque bilinguals on a voluntary language switching task and replicated the mixing benefit found by de Bruin, Samuel, and Duñabeitia (2018). Previous studies have examined cued and voluntary contexts separately, thus making it more difficult to directly compare the two. Next, we therefore directly compared the cued and voluntary switching task within the same paradigm with more similar overall task demands, in order to assess whether they differ in terms of mixing effects as well as switching costs. The results show overall slower responses in the cued than voluntary task, as well as a larger mixing effect in the cued task, confirming that using two languages was more costly in a cued than voluntary context. Switching costs were also larger in the cued task compared to the voluntary task, but only for Basque. These findings suggest that even when cued and voluntary switching are made more comparable, voluntarily using two languages is less effortful than cued language use.

*Keywords:* bilingualism, language control, cued language switching, voluntary language switching