

## A Study of Google Translate Translations: An Error Analysis of Indonesian -to-English Texts

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### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, internet technology allows everyone to access information from all corners of the world anytime and anywhere. One of the tool that helps internet users to find information effectively is Google. Google currently offers a variety of applications, one of which is Google-Translate. Google-Translate is used to translate from the source language to the target language. However, the results of the translation are often inappropriate or have some errors. The error analysis always occurs in grammar and selection of inappropriate words. Therefore, the objective of this research is to find out whether there are translation errors and to find out the types of translation errors that occur in the translation results in Kompas.com news text. The data analyzed are the news text of Kompas.com in Indonesian translates into English by Google-Translate. This study used the descriptive qualitative method. To examine the validity of this research the researchers use triangulation. From the data analyzed, there are 25 translation errors in Kompas.com news text. The dominance of translation error occurs in translation errors on the deviation of meaning where the number of translation errors is 16.

### 1- INTRODUCTION

In this century, information technology has developed very rapidly. One of the information technology that has developed significantly which affects patterns of life and way of communicating humans in this global era is information technology known as the internet. By using the internet everyone can search and obtain information what they need quickly without having to leave their seats. Pibriana dan Riccoida (105: 2017) states that internet is the connecting tool between the organization and its customers, so it will create a virtual organization. This organization has a role in communication online. In other words, internet enables an individual to connect to the others, accept or give the information.

Santoso (2014) states that in searching the information in internet, there is a popular machine called Google. This machine was first developed by Larry Page dan Sergey Brin in 1996. In its development, Google does not only help the user to find the link in one web to the other, it also provides the translate tool. The translate tool of Google recently can translate more than fifty languages, one of which is from Indonesian to English and vice versa. Brislin (1976) defined translation as a

complicated process of exchange of thoughts and ideas from one language to another, whether the languages are written or oral forms. It is backed by Nida and Taber (1974) who state that the process of translation is multiply in the structure language the closest natural equivalence of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Catford (1974) has a different definition of translation. According to him, the translation is the substitution of textual material in one language by the equivalent textual material in another language. Newmark (1988) has another definition of translation, "It is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text."

To conclude, translation is the process of multiply message from one language (SL) with the closest natural equivalence of another language (TL), in written or in oral form, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. The translation results from the translator machine such as Google-Translation need to be studied further, especially to see errors that occur in the language, because there are many people who are uncertain about the quality of the translator machine such as Google-Translation. The results of the translations analyzed in this

research are in Kompas.com news text which consists of two titles. In light of the explanation above, the researchers are interested in finding the error of language that occur using Google Translate. From the problems mentioned above, the researchers are interested in analyzing the grammatical and phrase errors of the translation and also examining the types of errors which occur in the translation results in Kompas.com news text.

## 2- LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Definition of Translation

According to Brislin (1976), translation is defined as a complicated process of displace thoughts and ideas from one language to another language, both in oral and written language. This statement is also backed by Nida and Taber (1974) who state that duplicating in the receiving language in terms of meaning and style, which the closest natural equivalence of the source of language message is the process of translation. Catford (1974) has a different definition of translation. He stated that the translation is the replacement of textual material in one language by the equivalent textual material in another language. Catford (1974) has a different definition of translation. According to him, the translation is the substitution of textual material in one language by the equivalent textual material in another language. Newmark (1988) has another definition of translation, "It is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text."

### 2.2 Process of Translation by Google Translate Machine

Google Translate is a website where you type something in English then the site shows you the word in another language. Languages never match each other word for word. For example, think about the word "honeymoon." It doesn't mean that the moon is made of honey. If you want to say "honeymoon" in another language, you first have to think about what it really means: A trip people take after their wedding. That's why the way you say "honeymoon" in French is "voyage de noces"—literally, "wedding trip."

### 2.3 The Classification of Translation Errors

If a translation error is defined as a failure to carry out the instructions implied in the translation brief and as inadequate solutions to a translation problem, then translation errors can be classified into four categories (Nord, 1997; 75):

1. Pragmatic translation errors, caused by inadequate solutions to pragmatic translation problems such as a lack of receiver orientations
2. Cultural translation errors, due to an inadequate decision with regard to reproduction or adaptation of culture-specific conventions
3. Linguistics translations errors, caused by an inadequate translation when the focus is on language structures
4. Text-specific translation errors, which are related to a text-specific translation problem and, like the corresponding translation problems, can usually be evaluated from a functional or pragmatic point of view

## 3- METHODOLOGY

In this research the researchers use descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative research is a research that describes phenomena in words instead of number or measure (Wiersima, 1995:12). There are no participants in this research because the source of data is taken from news text that is translated into English using the Google Translate engine and the study of error analysis in the translation results. Therefore, the data analyzed is a document in the form of a translation of Kompas.com news.

The data processing technique is a document analysis by using triangulation technique. Triangulation as a method can be used by qualitative researchers to check and define validity in their studies. Several scholars have aimed at defining triangulation. Some of them are Cohen and Manion (2000) who define triangulation as an "attempt to map out, or explain more fully, the richness and complexity of human behavior by studying it from more than one standpoint; Altrichter et al. (2008) contend that triangulation "gives a more detailed and balanced picture of the situation." According to O'Donoghue and Punch (2003), triangulation is a "method of cross-checking data from multiple sources to search for regularities in the research data". Creswell (2008) argues that researchers triangulate among different sources of data to enhance accuracy of their study.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Result

From the data that has been researched there are 25 translation errors available in in Kompas.com. The data consists of two texts in the form of source language (Indonesia) to the target language (English) that has been translated by Google-Translate tool. The two texts titles are “Cara Berhemat dan Tak Kalap Saat Belanja di Supermarket” or called text A, and “Soto Ayam, Sate, dan Rendang Goyang Lidah Orang Argentina” or called text B. These articles has been aired on Kompas.com on April 11, 2019.

### 4.2. The Discussion of the Result

The source of research data in this research consists of translations from the source language (SL) (Indonesia) to the target language (English) which is translated by using Google-Translate engine. The data identified are phrases and sentences. In the results of the news text translation there are several translation variations of translation errors found, such as:

#### 4.2.1 Translation Errors on the Omission of Meaning

The omission of meaning is the erasing errors marked by the absence of an item that should be present in the phrase or sentence, so that the purpose of the source language is not entirely transferred. There were 3 translation errors on omission of meaning in text B, meanwhile in text A there is no error on omission meaning found. For instance in text B:

SLT : Berbelanja di supermarket **memang** menyenangkan.

TLT : Shopping in a supermarket **is fun**.

TL-Key : Shopping in a supermarket **indeed is fun**.

In the example above, The google-translation does not translate the word "memang" into English, which means "indeed" in English. The google-translation omitted the word "memang" in the result of the translation. So the appropriate translation should be "Shopping in a supermarket indeed is fun".

#### 4.2.2 Translation Errors on the Addition of Meaning

Addition of meaning is the inclusion of intentions or ideas which are not mentioned or implied in the source language. In text A there is no error on addition meaning found. Meanwhile, in text B there

were 2 translation errors on addition of meaning. For instance:

SLT : Belum muncul ide **mau masak**

**apa**

TLT : There is no idea *what you want to cook*

TL-Key : There is no idea *about what to cook*

In the example above, the Google-translate added the idea of "you" which is not mentioned in the source language into the target language. In order to make the translation convey the original intention of the source language, the appropriate translation should be "There is no idea about what to cook".

#### 4.2.3 Translation Errors on the Deviation of Meaning

Deviation of meaning is the recreation of the purpose of the source language to other notions.

There were 4 translation errors on deviation of meaning in text A, and 12 translation errors on deviation of meaning in text B. For instance:

In text A

SLT : **Nikmatnya** masakan Indonesia...

TLT : **The pleasure** of Indonesian cuisine...

TL-Key : **The luscious** of Indonesian cuisine...

In the example above, the idea of "nikmatnya masakan Indonesia" in the source language is changed into "kenikmatan masakan Indonesia" by using sentence "The pleasure of Indonesian cuisine" in the target language. The phrase "nikmatnya masakan Indonesia" has the equal meaning with "the luscious of Indonesian cuisine" in the target language. The use of the word "luscious" is more suitable and appropriate to use in order to describe the deliciousness of a food rather than the word "pleasure". Therefore, the appropriate translation should be "The luscious of Indonesian cuisine".

In text B

SLT : Anda tak perlu **gengsi**

TLT : You don't need to be **proud**

TL-Key : You don't need to be **prestige**

The idea of "anda tak perlu gengsi" in the source language in the example above is changed into "anda

tak perlu bangga” by using sentence “You don’t need to be proud” in the target language. The phrase “anda tak perlu gengsi” has the equal meaning with “You don’t need to be prestige” in the target language. The use of the word “prestige” is more suitable to use rather than the word “proud”. Therefore, the appropriate translation should be “You don’t need to be prestige”.

#### 4.2.4 Translation Errors on the Diction of Meaning

Diction is the selection of words in proper language use language. If the word selection is not correct then the meaning of the sentence in the source language cannot be conveyed in the target language. There is no error on diction in text A, but there are 4 translation error on diction in text B. For instance:

SLT : Sebelum **menginjakkan kaki** di supermarket..

TLT : Before **setting foot** in the supermarket.

TL-Key : Before **entering** the supermarket..

In the example above, the Google-translate translated “menginjakkan kaki” into “setting food” in the target language, where the word “menginjakkan kaki” should be translated into “entering”. The grammatical error that occurs is the selection of the word “entering” that is more precise in meaning to replace the word “setting food”. In order to make the translation convey the original intention of the source language, so the appropriate translation should be “Before entering the supermarket”.

From the results of the analysis of translation errors in the news text above, the chart below describes the frequency of translation errors on the target language texts made by Google-translate:

The chart shows that from 25 translations errors made by Google-translate, the most frequent error is in translation errors on the deviation of meaning as many as 16 translation errors, while the translation errors on the diction of meaning are as many as 4, the omission of meaning 3 and the addition of meaning 2. Therefore, because the dominant kind of translation error made by the Google- translate were on deviation of meaning. This finding is in line with Setiawan who found in his study (2014). that failure in choosing proper words dominates the incident of errors in translation. The failure can engender deviation of meaning in the target language text.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of data analysis and research findings stated above, the results of this research can be summarized as follows. The type of translations errors occurs in the two news texts divided into four categories of translation errors, there are translation errors on the omission of meaning, translation errors on the addition of meaning, translation errors on the deviation of meaning, translation errors on the diction of meaning. According to the research findings, the researchers found that the the dominance of translation error occurs in translation errors on the deviation of meaning where the number of translation errors is 16.

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My name is Mia Rahmannia, I was born in the city of Mataram, West Lombok, precisely on May 27, 1994. Right now I am a graduate student at Yogyakarta State University in the first semester. I am an alumni of the Indonesian Islamic University who graduated in 2017 in English Education major. After graduating from college, I am currently still actively teaching in non-formal institutions such as in several tutoring places, namely PerfectA + and Start Private Jogja. I was also given the opportunity to become an extracurricular teacher for English subjects at SDN Maguwoharjo 1. Not only active outside campus, I am also active in joining organization on campus. One of the organization in postgraduate program UNY called KMP UNY (Keluarga Mahasiswa Pascasarjana) UNY. My phone number is 087865384104 my e-mail address is miarahmannia.2018@student.uny.ac.id.

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