

## STUDENTS' ABILITY TO TRANSLATE A SCIENTIFIC DISCOURSE TEXT FROM ENGLISH INTO INDONESIAN

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to describe the university students' ability in applying grammatical adjustment and lexical equivalence to translate a scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian. The design of this research was descriptive. The researcher used total sampling technique and the sample was 26 students. The instrument for collecting the data in this research was translation test of scientific discourse text about Biology. To make the test reliable the researcher used inter-rater technique. The result of analysis showed that the test was reliable. It was supported by the fact that the coefficient correlation was 0.93. It was categorized as very high correlation. Then the test was valid in terms of content because it covered the material that students had learnt. The research found that generally, all of the students have been able to translate scientific discourse text. In general 61.54% students got excellent ability and 38.46 % students got good ability. In applying lexical equivalence 84.62% students got excellent ability, 15.38% got good ability. In applying grammatical adjustment 3.85% got excellent ability, 73.08% got good ability, 19.23% got fair ability and 3.85% got poor ability.

Keywords : scientific discourse text, grammatical adjustment, lexical equivalence.

### INTRODUCTION

In this recent period, there are many aspects of knowledge that have been contributed by translation, such as: social, economic, linguistic, politic, education, science and religion (Ramadhani, *et al.*: 1 : 2014). Then, Melyani, *et al* (2014:1) state that people use language to share everything such as ideas, messages, information and explain about anything that they want to explain. As the result translation knowledge is useful to help people to get ideas, messages and information.

Translation from English into Indonesian is important. Melyani, *et al* (2014: 2) state that translation from English into Indonesian helps other people to understand about the meaning of word, meaning of sentence and meaning of text. Furthermore, Fikra, *et al* (2014: 1) state that there are many kinds of text that can be translated such as economic, social, politic, affairs, education, and science. In a nutshell, this knowledge is useful for society. The scientific discourse texts are

texts about biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. The humanity texts are texts about debate and letters. The newspaper texts are texts about government, politic, and economic).

According to Fikra, *et al* (2014: 2), translation is a process of transferring idea from one language into another language. The translator should deliver the thought or idea into the target language based on the text of source language without changing the meaning. In other words, the translator should transform the meaning without changing the sense. He/she should be able to render the sense of the text of source language to the text of target language. Awadalbari (2015: 947) adds that translation is a transposition of a text from one language into another language that consist similarities. The translator should give attention to find the similarities when translating the text. The meaning of similarities is in context of both languages because both of languages are different language at all. In other words the similarities are not explicit meaning but, the implicit meaning. The translators would have trouble to translate a text without comprehending the context of both languages. Because of that reason they should also enrich their knowledge about both languages before they translate.

In translation there are some problems that often happen. Rahayu, *et al* (2017) state that there are two major problems that influence meaning of translation. They are problem about lexical equivalence and grammatical adjustment. Besides, Melyani, *et al* (2014) state that, in translation the translators may not only depend on transferring meaning, but they should also consider the lexical equivalence and grammatical adjustment.

According to Suriadi, *et al* (2014: 3), lexical equivalence is something about vocabularies or words that should be given attention by a translator when translating a text. Words have no structure, but have different context when a translator does the translation. Hatim and Munday, (2004) states that lexical equivalent are produced using a technique called transliteration, defined as the letter-by-letter rendering of the source language name or term in the target language when the two languages have distinct scripts. For example “*Federal Bureau of Investigation*” (FBI) cannot be translated into “*Biro Investigasi Federal*”.

Grammatical adjustment is something about grammar or syntax that should be given attention by a translator when translating a text. Generally grammar is only exists on phrases and sentences. A phrase consists of two words or more that has meaning. A phrase has the structure that builds it and there are some kinds of phrase like verb phrase, noun phrase, adjective phrase etc. Sentence also has structure that builds it. It comprises subject, predicate, object, and adverb. According to Nababan, *et al* (2012: 44) a translator should pay attention to accuracy,

acceptability and readability. (1) Accuracy is a technical term that is used to evaluate translation test. This technical term assesses how accurate the source language when it is translated into target language. (2) Acceptability is a technical term that applied to assesses the principle, norm, culture of both languages. (3) Readability is a technical term that used to assesses the readability. Rachmadie, (in Utomo 2013: 3) states that in translation it seems easier to get the Indonesian equivalence of English word in isolation, but when it comes to phrases and sentences, the knowledge of grammar has an important role.

In addition, kind of discourse text is also a problem in translation. According to Baryadi, (2015), there are two kinds of discourse that can be translated. They are scientific discourse and nonscientific discourse text. According to Abidin, *et al* (2017: 159) scientific discourse should be written systematically such as thesis, books, paper etc. while nonscientific discourse does not written scientifically such as banner, pamphlet, billboard, etc.

This research was limited the researching translating scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian at the English Department of Bung Hatta University. The researcher focused on the students' ability to translate scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian based on lexical equivalence and grammatical adjustment. This study focused on translating content of words and syntax. There were two research question raised :

- 1) How was the third year students' ability in applying lexical equivalence to translate scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?
- 2) How was the third year students' ability in applying grammatical adjustment to translate scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian at the English Department of Bung Hatta University?

## **METHOD**

This research used descriptive research. According to Refnita (2018: 12), descriptive research is a research that involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or answer questions that related with the current status of the subject of the study. In this case, the aim of this study was to know students' ability to translate scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian at the English Department of Bung Hatta University. The population of this research was the third year students of English Department of Bung Hatta University. The number of population was 26 students, and they were only distributed in one class. Due to the limited number of the population

members, all members of the population was selected as the sample of this study. In other words, the researcher used total sampling.

The instrumentation that was used was a translation test of scientific discourse text. The researcher gave a topic about Biology. The text consisted of two paragraphs of result and discussion with more and less 150 words. The students were given 45 minutes to translate the text. To maintain the content validity, the researcher gave the students the topic about Biology based on the Syllabus of Translation Class at English Department. Then, the researcher used inter-rater technique to maintain the reliability. So there were two scorers.

The researcher used Pearson Product Moment formula (Arikunto, 2012: 87) to find out the reliability index of the test as follows:

$$R_{xy} = \frac{n \sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{\{n \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2\} \{n \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2\}}}$$

The researcher used Arikunto's idea (2012: 89) to classify the degree of coefficient correlation of the test.

.81 – 1.00	= very high correlation
.61 - .80	= high correlation
.41 – 60	= fair correlation
.21 – 40	= low correlation
.01 - .20	= very low correlation

After the researcher did the test and calculated the scores between scorer 1 and scorer 2 he found the test was reliable. Coefficient correlation was found 0.93 and it was reliable test. The coefficient correlation belongs to very high correlation.

The researcher collected the data using Google form. In order to collect the data the researcher used the procedures as follows:

- 1) The researcher made a group of Whatsapp.
- 2) The researcher shared link of Google form through Whatsapp group.
- 3) The researcher explained the instruction of the test to the students.
- 4) The researcher asked the students to do the test in 45 minutes.
- 5) The researcher collected students' answers by asking the students to send the translation test via Google Form.

- 6) The researcher (first scorer) and second scorer checked the answers that have been done by students in Google form.
- 7) The researcher and the second scorer gave the score based on the criteria of Universitas Bung Hatta:

Table 1. Criterion Reference Used at Bung Hatta University

Score	Grade	Ability
85-100	A	Excellent
80-84,99	A-	
75-79,99	B+	Good
70-74,99	B	
65-69,99	B-	
60-64,99	C+	Moderate
55-59,99	C	
45-54,99	D	Low
0-44,99	E	

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research found that in general the ability of the third year students' in translating scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian at English Department of Bung Hatta University was excellent. In order to make it clear, the result can be seen in the Table 2:

Table 2

The Percentage of Students in Translating Scientific Discourse from English into Indonesian

Grade	Number of Students	The Percentage
Excellent	16	61.54%
Good	10	38.46%
Fair	0	0%
Poor	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

Here is given the detail of the finding. The students' ability in applying lexical equivalence in translating scientific discourse text was excellent since there were to 22 students (84.62%)

having excellent result. In term of grammatical adjustment, the students' ability was good because there were 19 students (73,08%) having good ability.

English language has many synonymous words. A translator should understand the context of the text that she/he is translated. In this research there were many students who made error to translate words. They translated the words that did not depend on the context. For example, "The server allows the theoretical estimation of several parameters. The meaning of word "allows" in Indonesian means "membolehkan", but in the context of the sentence above the closest meaning of word "allows" means "menyediakan".

As already discussed previously, it was found that in applying the lexical equivalence, there were 22 students (86.62%) who had excellent ability in translating scientific discourse from English into Indonesian. However, there were still some students who made error in translating certain words. Some significant errors of students' translation can be seen in the Table 4.4:

**Table 3**  
**Incorrect Translation of Lexical Equivalence**

Words	Students translation	Correct Translation
Allows	Membolehkan	Menyediakan
negatively and positively	Negatif dan positif	Secara negative dan secara positif
Screening	Menyaring	Penyaringan

Dealing with this finding, Thurina (2014: 19) states that translation that involves merely replacing words in one language with words in another language is probably the most common one held by general public.

Based on the finding, the researcher found that there were 19 students (73.08%) had good ability in translating scientific discourse from English into Indonesian in term of grammatical adjustment. It means that the students can translate scientific discourse text using good grammar. It is supported by Nababan, *et al* (2012: 44) that accuracy, acceptability and readability should also be give attention. All of the criteria above were also influenced by grammatical adjustment.

Another finding of this research was that were still 23.08% students who had fair and poor ability in translating scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian in term of grammatical adjustment. It means that some students still had problems in translating scientific discourse text from English into Indonesian in term of grammatical adjustment. Being unable to make a grammatical adjustment can make the translation have different meanings from the original

text. Even there are many students that have been able to translate the text well in term of the grammatical adjustment from the source language into the target language there are also error translation on it. There a significance of incorrect translation is in the sentence as follow:

Sentence:

- the researcher used (Gasteiger, et al., 2005)

Students' Translation:

- penelitian menggunakan Gasteiger, et al., 2005

The Correct Translation:

- Peneliti telah menggunakan ide dari (gasteiger et al, 2005)

In the example above the students used Simple present tense. That was error grammar. The correct answer should use simple past tense because the text is one of a research. The research has been done. So students shouldn't use simple present in this context. That is the example of the error of grammatical adjustment. It can influence accuracy, acceptability and readability if a translator doesn't give attention in adjusting the grammar.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results in chapter IV, the researcher draws some conclusions as follows:

1. Generally the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University have excellent ability in translating scientific discourse from English into Indonesian. It can be seen from the result of the finding. There was 61.54% of students who had excellent grade.
2. Specifically the ability of the third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University have also excellent ability in translating scientific discourse from English into Indonesian in term of lexical equivalence. It can be seen at the result of finding was 84,62% of students who got excellent grade in applying lexical equivalence.
3. The third year students at English Department of Bung Hatta University have good ability in translating scientific discourse from English into Indonesian in term of grammatical adjustment. There were 73.08% of students who had good ability in applying grammatical adjustment.

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