

## THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH PLURAL NOUN INTO INDONESIAN

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### Abstract

*English and Indonesian have different set of rules in terms of grammar and one of the differences, which is the focus of this research paper, is formations of plural noun in English and Indonesian and its relation to how to translate English plural nouns into Indonesian from points of view of morphology, syntax, and semantics. English has formal feature to indicate plural noun while Indonesian does not. This paper is meant to provide explanations of English plural noun and Indonesian plural noun formations and to explain the ways on how to translate English plural nouns into Indonesian. Data were taken from two novels: English version *One, Two, Buckle My Shoe* by Agatha Christie and Indonesian version *Satu, Dua, Pasang Gesper Sepatunya (Language switching)* by Alex Tri Kentjono W. Results showed that there are two major ways in translating English plural noun into Indonesian, namely 1) Translation of English plural noun into Indonesian in the form of reduplication; 2) Translation of English plural noun into Indonesian **not** in the form of reduplication.*

### INTRODUCTION

The essence of language throughout the world is as a means of communication. Without language, interaction between people and any kinds of activity will be paralyzed. Language is a means of communication among members of a community in the form of sound symbols produced by speech organ. Through language, people from generation to generation are able to shape and to develop their own culture. The ability of people to adjust with their environment as well as to study their habit, custom, and background is possible because of the role of language as a means of communication. (Gorys Keraf 1971).

This paper is on translation and it has an interesting point of view to see because it covers two languages from two different language-families. English comes from the language-family of Indo-European while Indonesian comes from

the language-family of Austronesian. (Kentjono, 1997). Fokker in his book *Sintaksis Indonesia* (1972) explains two reasons of why the comparison between languages that come from different language-family is needed. First, comparison of languages of different types without any regard to their genetic relations is of the greatest value for any work in concrete linguistic character-ology, for it considerably furthers the right understanding of the real nature and meaning of the analyzed linguistic facts. Second, because of it, we can study and understand the whole influence of western languages, and able to block the excess in this field of study.

The background of having a research about this is simply because the topic deals with language. Language is a system; it means that language is not a number of elements that gathers irregularly (Kentjono 1997). Language is systematic, it can be explained in limited

units which combine with fields of study; in addition, language is systemic, it is not the only system but language consists of several sub-systems of phonology, grammar and lexicon.

Sub-system of phonology covers the aspects of organization of speech sounds. Sub-system of grammar is divided into sub-system of morphology, dealing with the morphemes and how they are combined to make words and sub-system of syntax, covering wider aspects from words namely rules for building sentences. Sub-system of lexicon covers the collection of vocabulary of a language.

The topic of this paper is related to sub-system of grammar. Grammar promotes the development of all language skill. Grammar is the study or science of

rules for the combination of words into sentences (Syntax) and the forms of words (Morphology) (Hornby 1974). One of many aspects of grammar is noun which has special position in a language.

This paper aimed at defining formations of plural nouns in English and in Indonesian. Also, to get ways of translating English plural nouns from English into Indonesian.

## METHOD

There are two approaches in conducting a research, namely quantitative and qualitative approach. Terms that are commonly associated with quantitative and qualitative approaches to research are as follows: (Nunan, 1992).

### Qualitative Research

1. Advocates use of of qualitative methods
2. Concerned with understanding human behaviour from the actor's own frame of reference
3. Naturalistic and uncontrolled observation
4. Subjective
5. Close to the data: the 'insider' perspective
6. Grounded, discovery-oriented, exploratory, expansionist, descriptive and inductive
7. Process-oriented
  - Valid: 'real', 'rich', and 'deep' data
  - Ungeneralisable: single case studiesAssumes a dynamic reality

### Quantitative Research

1. Advocates use of quantitative methods
2. Seek facts or causes of social without regard to the subjective states of the individuals
3. Obtrusive and controlled measurement
4. Objective
5. Removed from the data: the 'outsider perspective'
6. Ungrounded, verification-oriented, confirmatory, reductionist, inferential, and hypothetical-deductive
7. Outcome-oriented
  - Reliable: 'hard', and replicable data
  - Generalisable: multiple case studiesAssumes a stable reality

In line with item number 6 of qualitative research of which is stated 'descriptive', this research the researcher conducted can belong to 'qualitative research' as there is a description of data from the source as well as from the product of the translation of plural noun in the novel.

One of the characteristics of qualitative research is descriptive research and a sub-category of this descriptive research is documentary analysis. Document is printed paper furnishing information. Thus, the data found in the novels can be called as document because they provide the information required for the analysis of this research. In this paper, the documentary analysis focused on texts from the novels which contain plural noun in line with the theories. The paper is employing descriptive analytical method.

The descriptive research is designed to obtain information concerning the current state of phenomenon. It is directed toward determining the nature of a situation as it exists at time of the research. There is no administration or control of a treatment as the objective is to describe 'what exists' with respect to variables or conditions in a situation.

Data for analysis were taken from novels, the English version novel *One Two Buckle My Shoe*, written by Agatha Christie and its Indonesian version *Satu, Dua Pasang Gesper Sepatunya* translated by Alex Tri Kantjono W.

After determining the appropriate theories related to this paper, the procedure of the research refers to the process of discovering the meaning of the source language text and the translated language text. The analysis of the source and the translated text will include identifying plural noun, studying formations of plural noun in English and Indonesian by employing perspectives of morphology, syntax and semantic.

The next step is evaluation. Its purpose is threefold: accuracy, clearness and naturalness. The questions to be answered are: Does the translation communicate the same meaning as the source language?; Is the form of the translation easy to read and does it use natural receptor language grammar and style?

Then, data were collected from the original English novel as well as from its translated version in line with the theories. Then the data were separated in accordance with the identification of translating English plural noun into Indonesian, namely the translation in the form of reduplication and not in the form of reduplication.

## DISCUSSION

The purposes of translation are so diverse, the texts so different, and the receptors so varied that one can readily understand how and why many distinct formulations of principles and practices of translation have been proposed. All who have written seriously on translating agree that translators should know both the source and the receptor languages, should be familiar with the subject matter, and should have some facility of expression in the receptor language (Brislin 1976). In this paper, translating English plural noun into Indonesian was investigated through formation of plural noun. This paper attempts to provide clear and accurate ways in terms of understanding plural noun from aspects of morphology, syntax and semantics. Also, how to translate English plural noun into Indonesian by considering aspects of morphology, syntax and semantics.

The first aspect in elaborating plural noun formation is seen from aspect of morphology. Morphology is the study of grammatical structures of internal words. In its observation, morphology deals with

the smallest meaningful units called morpheme (Kentjono 1997). Morphology is concerned with the forms of words. (Malmkjaer 1991).

In English, morphologically, formation of plural nouns is symbolized by plural morpheme {-s}. Even so, it does not mean that the formation of noun in English is simply by the addition of **s** to the singular nouns, because there are varieties of forms of plural nouns in English. Marcella Frank in his book *Modern English A Practical reference Guide* (1972) explains twelve forms of plural nouns in English. (1972): 1) The general rule in the plural of English nouns is to add **s** to the singular form: hand hands; 2) After a sibilant sound spelled as *s, z, ch, sh, x*, **es** is added: bus buses. However, if final *ch* is pronounced [k], only **s** is added: monarch monarchs; 3) After *y* is preceded by a consonant, the *y* is changed to *i* and **es** is added: lady ladies; 4) In one-syllable words, final *f* or *fe* becomes **ves** in the plural: wife wives. However, some such words take the regular **s** ending: chief chiefs. A few words have either form for the plural: scarf scarves or scarfs; 5) After final *o*, **es** is sometimes added, especially in some common words: hero heroes. If a vowel precedes the final *o*, or if the word is a term used in music, only **s** is added: radio radios. Sometimes the **es** alternates with a less common **s** ending: cargo cargoes or cargos; 6) Irregular plurals based on older English may take the form of: an internal change: man men. an **en** ending: child children; 7) The plural has the same form as the singular: swine swine; 8) The singular has the same form as the plural: species species; 9) Many foreign words retain their foreign plurals in English. Singular **us** ending becomes plural **i** ending: stimulus stimuli.

Singular **a** ending becomes plural **ae** ending: alga algae. Singular **um** ending becomes plural **a** ending: memorandum memoranda. Singular **is** ending becomes

plural **es** ending: axis axes. Singular **on** ending becomes plural **a** ending: criterion criteria. Singular **ex** or **ix** ending becomes plural **ices** ending: appendix appendices. Singular **eau** ending becomes plural **eaux** ending: bureau bureaux. There is an increasing tendency for regular **s** plurals to alternate with foreign plurals. The dictionary therefore also records such plurals as memorandums, vortexes, criterions, bureaus; 10) No plural is used for non-countable words such as **information, advice, clothing, and furniture**; 11) Some words ending in **s** are singular non-countable nouns, especially names of diseases and fields of study: news, billiards, mathematics, economics, measles. However, when words that name fields of study are used for practical matters, such words are often considered plural: The acoustics in this room are not good; 12) Some words ending in **s** are used chiefly as plurals: arms. In this group are words for items that have two parts: scissors, spectacles, trousers.

In Indonesian, morphologically, the commonest form in indicating plural within nouns is in the form of reduplication. There are two forms of reduplication which indicate plural noun. (Suparni 1990): 1) Dwi Lingga, a full reduplication of the base of words completely: negara-negara, burung-burung, warung-warung; 2) Dwi Purwa, reduplication of words in the first syllable of the base of words. The process of Dwi Purwa. tamu (base word) → tamu-tamu (Dwi Lingga) → tetamu (Dwi Purwa).

The second aspect is syntax. Syntax is grammar which discusses the relationship of words in narrative. (Verhaar 1996). Basically, syntax deals with the grammatical relationship of words in sentences. Relationship of words can influence the pluralizing of nouns.

In English, there is **nominal concord or agreement**. Nominal concord is an agreement of form between number

which indicates plural or other words which indicate plural of nouns (Widyamartaya 1990). Determiners as marker of nouns can be used in indicating plural nouns. Those determiners are numbers, demonstratives, and words of indefinite quantity. (Frank 1972). It means that the nouns that are preceded by these determiners must be in the plural form.

(a) Numbers

In English, number that can be used in indicating plural nouns is cardinal number such as *two, three, four, five, and so on*. (Dacamay 1963). It means that the numbers that are more than one.

e.g.: Singular : - There is a cup on the dining- table

Plural : - There are Two cups on the dining-table

(b) Demonstratives

In English, demonstratives have singular forms and plural forms. The singular forms are *this* and *that* and the plural forms are *these* and *those*. In pair, *this is singular form and its plural is these, and that is singular form which its plural form is those*. These and those are demonstratives to indicate plural nouns. (Boadi et al 1968)

e.g. : Singular : - This ball is for tomorrow's match

Plural : - These balls are for tomorrow's match

c) Words of indefinite quantity

The words of indefinite quantity are determiners that do not give a definite number of quantity like in numbers, however they are used to indicate plural within nouns. Such words are some, many, few, several, all.

e.g. : - Some students were late this morning

In Indonesian, plural nouns which indicate "many" and various with no definite quantity are stated in form of

reduplication (Muldjana 1969). However, if the nouns are preceded by numeral, there is no need to form the plural nouns in the form of reduplication, because it will cause pleonasm. (Suparni 1990). Pleonasm is instance of the use of more words than are needed to express the meaning (Hornby 1974). Numeral is word which explain the quantity of nouns. (Suwitawijaya 1989). In Indonesian there are three types of numeral which can be used in indicating plural within nouns.

1. Cardinal Numeral

Cardinal numeral is numbers that are more than one, such as *dua, tiga, empat, lima*, and so on.

e.g. : - Malam ini ada dua pertandingan sepak bola

2. Indefinite Numeral

Indefinite numeral, such as *banyak, semua, segala, beberapa, sejumlah, para, kaum* and so on.

e.g. : - Banyak bus angkutan melakukan aksi mogok minggu yang lalu.

The indefinite numeral "para" and "kaum" have special meaning. These words are usually used in indicating plural nouns of people who have the same occupation or position. (Muldjana 1969)

e.g. : - Para Jenderal sedang diperiksa oleh KPP HAM

3. Collection numeral

This numeral is formed by prefix *ke-* and *ber-* such as *kedua, keempat, kesepuluh, bertiga, berlima* and so on.

e.g. : - Kedua anaknya lelaki

The third aspect is semantics. Semantics is a linguistics branch which discusses sense or meaning (Verhaar 1996). Semantics in its far-ranging sense discusses meaning discusses meaning in morphemes, words, sentences and also discourses (Kentjono 1997).

In English, Nesfield in his book *Outline of English Grammar* (1957) explains that when you speak of one thing

at a time, the noun that you use is in the singular number. When you speak of more than one thing at a time, the noun that you use is in the plural number. It means that pluralizing within nouns means more than one. In addition, plural noun in English must always follow governed rule namely by having morphological feature of plural.

e.g. :

Singular : - There is one book in the bag

Plural : - There are some books in the bag

In Indonesian, from the aspect of syntax, it seems that in Indonesian there is no formal feature in terms of plural form of nouns. The form of reduplication in indicating plural is unnecessary if the nouns are preceded by numeral. Harimurti Kridalaksana (1996) explained that it is unwise to say that Indonesian does not have the form of plural. It is only that Indonesian does not have formal feature in indicating semantic category of "number".

e.g :

- Rumah-rumah ini akan digusur secepatnya.
- Orang kaya itu mempunyai dua rumah di kota ini.

In general, the translation of English plural noun into Indonesian is divided into two ways. First, translation of English plural nouns into Indonesian in the form of reduplication; second, translation of English plural nouns not in the form of reduplication.

There are two characteristics for English plural noun translated into Indonesian in the form of reduplication. First, it takes place within morphological level, in which the English plural noun is not preceded by any plural determiners hence to retain meaning of plural in Indonesian, the noun is translated in the form of reduplication.

English : Anyway, you wouldn't think a man would shoot himself in the middle of Business *hours*, so to speak. (OTBMS, 20)

Indonesian : Bagaimanapun, Anda tidak akan menyangka seseorang yang akan bunuh diri ditengah *jam-jam* sibuk begini. (SDPGS, 34)

Second, if the English plural noun is preceded by plural demonstratives. In English, demonstratives "these and those" are used to indicate plural within nouns. However, In Indonesian demonstratives "ini and itu" are not inflected in terms of indicating plural, so it is why in Indonesian reduplication is important to indicate plural within nouns with demonstratives.

English : "*These girls*," he said, "are all the same ! (OTBMS, 2)

Indonesian : "*Gadis-gadis ini*," keluhnya,"semua sama saja ! (SDPGS, 10)

Meanwhile, there are six characteristics for English plural noun translated into Indonesian not in the form of reduplication. This happens to avoid pleonasm so that the translation becomes clear and natural. First is when the plural noun has sense or meaning of plural.

English : A faint smile came to Poirot's *lips*. (OTBMS, 21)

Indonesian : Sebentuk senyuman tersungging di *bibir* Poirot. (SDPGS, 36)

However, if it feels necessary or important to mention the quantity of the nouns, these kinds of English plural nouns can be translated into Indonesian by using numeral. In this case, plural noun in Indonesian is indicated by plural determiner.

English : Blunt drew his *brows* together in an effort of concentration. (OTBMS, 47)

Indonesian : *Kedua alis* Blunt tampak menyatu dalam upaya memusatkan pikirannya. (SDPGS, 72 )

Second, if the English plural noun is preceded by cardinal number then the translation must retain equivalence of the cardinal number to indicate meaning of plural in Indonesian.

English : It is that I have been to the dentist and I need not go again for *six months*. (OTBMS, 15)

Indonesian : Saya baru saja ke dokter gigi dan ternyata saya tidak perlu kesana lagi sampai *enam bulan* mendatang. (SDPGS, 30)

Third, if English plural noun is preceded not only by cardinal number but also by article *the* prior to cardinal number, then the translation must use ordinal number in Indonesian

English : Tall and grim, Georgina Morley listened to what the *two men had* to say and answered their questions. (OTBMS, 25)

Indonesian : Georgina Morley, yang tinggi dan tegar, mendengarkan semua yang dikatakan oleh *kedua orang* penyidik itu dan menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan mereka. (SDPGS, 30)

Fourth, English plural noun preceded by words of indefinite quantity (plural determiners) then the translation must use equivalence of those determiners in Indonesian.

English : He lost his job *some weeks* ago and does not seem able to get another. (OTBMS, 27)

Indonesian : Ia kehilangan pekerjaannya *beberapa minggu* yang lalu dan tampaknya belum berhasil mendapatkan gantinya (SDPGS, 45)

English-Indonesia dictionary is a necessity in terms of translating English words of indefinite quantity into Indonesian indefinite numeral so that right equivalent of meaning can be accomplished.

Fifth, if English plural noun indicates persons in same position (class) then the translation must use determiner that provides condition of plural within same sense or meaning. In this case, Indonesian has such determiner namely *kaum* and *para*.

English : All the same, we *dentists* are not such devils noun as we used to be! (OTBMS, 13)

Indonesian : Demikian pula kami, *para dokter gigi*, kini tidak lagi terlalu menakutkan seperti dulu. (SDPGS, 27)

Sixth, if English plural noun is preceded by *one of ...* then the translation simply use equivalence of *one of* in Indonesian namely *salah satu or salah seorang* depends on the context.

English : *One of Mr. Reilly's patients*, I expect. (OTBMS, 30)

Indonesian : *Salah seorang pasien Mr. Reilly*, barangkali. (SDPGS, 50)

English : "I always sits in the elevator, Sir, waiting until the front door bell or *one of the buzzer goes*". (OTBMS, 37)

Indonesian : " Saya selalu duduk di lift, tuan, menunggu sampai bel pintu

depan atau *salah satu bel pemberitahuan* dari dokter berbunyi". (SDPGS, 58)

## CONCLUSION

Formation of plural noun, from the aspect of morphology, in English it is marked by the addition of plural morpheme {-s} with various forms and in terms of translating it into Indonesian, it can be translated by using reduplication. However, if the nouns are preceded by determiner that indicates plural, there is no need to reduplicate the nouns because it will cause pleonasm. It shows that English has a formal feature in indicating plural within noun while Indonesian does not.

From the aspect of syntax, in English plural noun can be preceded by determiners that indicate plural, they are numbers, plural demonstratives, and words of indefinite quantity and the noun is in the formal morphological feature of plural. In terms of translating it into Indonesian, it can be done by using appropriate equivalence of the determiners that also indicate plural and the noun is not in the form of reduplication.

From the aspect of semantics, in English if we speak of more than one thing at a time, the noun in plural number is used to indicate plural and it is marked by plural morpheme. In Indonesian, it can be indicated by reduplication; however, if the nouns are preceded by plural determiner, there is no need to reduplicate the nouns.

In short, the ways of translating English plural nouns into Indonesian are in the form of reduplication and not in the form of reduplication.

Despite many shortcomings, in a way, this paper is useful for English and Indonesian Grammar and Translation teachers as from this paper it can be

acknowledged that there are ways to form plural nouns in English and in Indonesian and there are ways how to translate English plural nouns into Indonesian and vice versa and it would be very wise and significant if the teachers explain this to students. Also, for other researchers, this paper might be a strong step to have a research in examining students ability in translating plurals nouns from English into Indonesian and vice versa.

## SUGGESTIONS

Generally, understanding formation of plural noun in English and Indonesian undoubtedly help learners in forming it correctly and cohesively. As learning language requires thorough and careful comprehension to avoid mistakes and errors, language learners should pay attention on many aspects of the language learned. In addition, understanding formation of plural noun is one of many aspects of language learning that determines one's competence of a certain language.

Specifically, from this article, it can be acknowledged that there are methods to form plural nouns in English and in Indonesian and there are methods how to translate English plural nouns into Indonesian and vice versa and it would be very wise and significant if the teachers would explain to the students these methods.

Academically, this article might be a strong step to conduct a research in examining students' ability in translating plurals nouns from English into Indonesian and vice versa.

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