

AN ANALYSIS ON THE TRANSLATION OF REPETITIVE INDONESIAN ADJECTIVE INTO ENGLISH

Arsiwela

Faculty of Letters and Cultures, Universitas Gunadarma
Jl. Margonda Raya No. 100, Depok 16424, Jawa Barat

¹Arsiwela@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

Abstract

The function of translation is to convey meaning or message from source language text into target language text. However, in translating, the translator will face some problems, for example is the translation of repetitive Indonesian adjectives. This study investigates how repetitive Indonesian adjectives are translated into English. Indonesian has repetitive adjectives such as *tinggi-tinggi*, *cantik-cantik*, and *jauh-jauh* and the English translation of the repetition is not *tall-tall*, *beautiful-beautiful*, and *far-far* respectively. The method applied in this study is qualitative descriptive method. The data will be categorized and classified and then analyzed in accordance with the principle, translation strategies, and relevant theories. The result of the study shows that literal translation strategy and transposition strategy are the most frequent strategy used by the translator. Some of them are translated in the different form grammatically but the meaning of the message in source language is well maintained into the target language. The principle of translation employed by the translator to translate Indonesian repetitive adjective is meaning.

Keywords: *adjectives, repetitive, translation principles, translation strategy*

INTRODUCTION

In translating a text, translator must master both SL and TL, in order to achieve accuracy in transferring the meaning. One problem of the problem encounter by a translator is getting difficulties to find exact translation in the TL because different structure of every language. Investigating the translation of repetitives Indonesian adjective is a challenging topic since both English and Indonesian are different in their phonological and grammatical aspects including the forms of adjectives.

A translator must be able to translate the meaning of every word of the source text including repetitive Indonesian adjectives,

which are often found in novels, accurately in order to keep the message of the source text and produce a faithful translation. Indonesian has repetition such as *tinggi-tinggi*, *cantik-cantik*, and *kecil-kecil*. The English translation of this repetition is not **tall-tall*, **beautiful-beautiful*, and **small-small* respectively.

In this case, the translators should make an adjustment when they transfer the message of the Indonesian repetitive adjectives into English. Another example of Indonesian repetitives *Matanya berkaca-kaca*. The phrase '*berkaca-kaca*' literary means 'have glasses', but when it is attached to its collocation 'eyes' or 'eyeballs', it has a metaphorical meaning. The phrase '*Matanya*

berkaca-kaca’ means ‘her/his eyes are wet with tears’, describing the condition of the eyes after crying or the person is trying to hold back tears. The phrase functions as an adjectives which modifies the word ‘*matanya*’(eyes)

Larson (1984), stated that a good translation should be sounded natural, clear, and accurate. Natural means that a translation should not sound strange or foreign in target language, it is should not like a translation, but like someone speaking in natural or in common way. Clear means the translation in target language should be clear and understandable for the target reader. Accurate is reproducing the meaning of source language in the target language as exactly as possible, so the translator has to find out appropriate meaning of the source language that closely to the target language.

While Newmark (1988) “Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language” According to Minkova (2002), most reduplication or repetitions in English are partial repetition which involves (1) consonant ablaut or vowel alternation. For example *ping-pong, chit-chat, flip-flop, ding-dong*, (2) rhyme reduplication for example *hocus-focus* and (3) full reduplication for example *boo-boo*. English repetitions have certain from class and specific meaning. For instance *ding-dong* is the noise is made by a bell, and another

example is *chit-chat* is a noun meaning a light conversation and a verb meaning to talk informally or to gossip. According to Sneddon, (2010). similarly, Indonesian has also full repetition and partial repetition. However, the most prevailing repetition words in Indonesian are full repetitions. The meaning of Indonesian repetition may vary even though the form class is the same. may vary even though the form class is the same. For example, noun repetitions can indicate plurality (*kursi-kursi*= “chairs”) or variety (*di antara barang-barang dagangan* = “among various goods”).

This paper investigates those repetitive Indonesian adjectives which found in Andrea Hirata’s novel *Laskar Pelangi* as the source text and its translation “*The Rainbow troops*” as the target language text which is published by PT Bentang Pustaka. This novel was chosen because “*Laskar Pelangi*” has been translated into 30 languages in 100 countries. The book sold more than 5 million copies in Indonesia, making it the country’s bestselling novel. The novel won the General Fiction Category at the 2013 New York Book Festival and the “*Rainbow Troops*” tale was also released as a motion picture in 2008. Translating Indonesian repetitive adjectives into English is not easy for English users or learners. In some cases, people translate *malam-malam* and *senang-senang* into “night-night” and „happy-happy“, which are definitely unacceptable since those are the literal translation of the Indonesian

words. Larson (1998) proposes a kind of translation called meaning-based translation, which makes every effort to communicate the source language in the natural forms of the receptor language. Thus, in the case of *malam-malam* and *jalan-jalan*, they are best translated into „late at night “ and „have fun“ respectively. This kind of translation is also called idiomatic translation.

This topic was chosen because after reading the source novel and its translation, it is found many repetitive Indonesian adjectives used in the novel. Hence, this study aims to find out how repetitive Indonesian adjective are translated into English.

METHODS

Since this research proposes to describe the translation of Indonesian adjectives into English, the most suitable method of research applied here is qualitative descriptive

analytical research. The data which are Indonesian repetitive adjectives presented in form of words and sentences. This research used qualitative method. Qualitative method is method which relies on verbal and non-numerical in the same manner as the back of analyze and creative problem solving of the research. The data collected is in the form of words rather than numbers. Strauss & Corbin states that qualitative research is any kind of research that produces whose findings are not obtained from the means of statistical procedures or other means of quantification (1990). This is a documentary analysis focusing on the analysis of text while employing the descriptive analytical technique. The data will be categorized and classified and then analyzed in accordance with the relevant theories, principle, and translation strategies. The steps in analyzing the-data-were-as-follows:

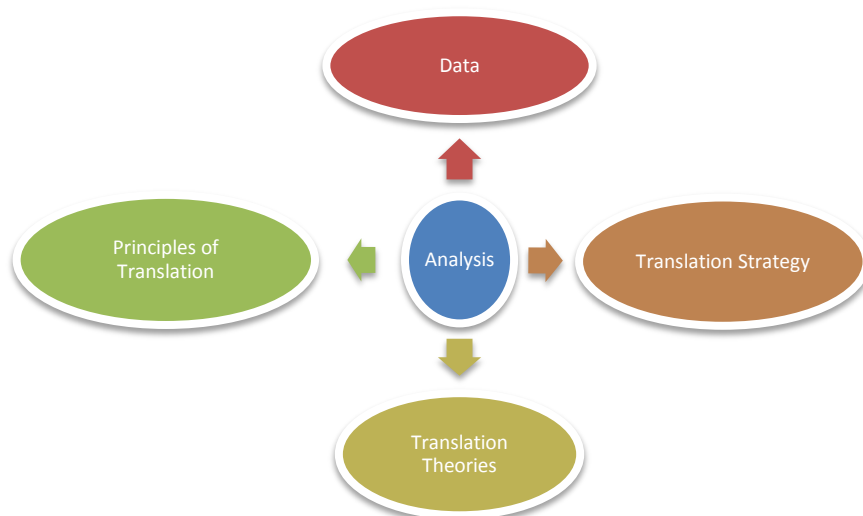


Figure 1. Steps of analyzing data

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part discusses the result of repetitive Indonesian adjective that have become a problem in the process of translating. According to the problems, the analysis is divided into three. First, the analysis done by

identifying the repetitive Indonesian adjective found in the text and the translation. Second, it was done by analyzing translation strategies applied by the translator. On the next step, the principles-of-translation-theories-of translation are revealed.

Table 1. Categories of Translation Items

No	Translation Strategy	Number of Items
1.	Transposition	8
2.	Literal Translation	7
3.	Information change	2
Total		17

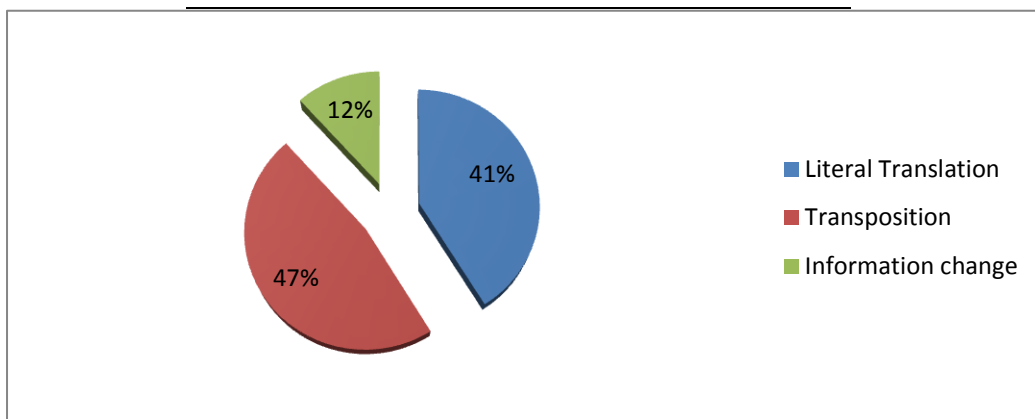


Figure 2. The Data of Repetitive Indonesian Adjectives, Their Translation, and the Translation Strategy

Based on the pie chart above, it is obvious that the most dominant strategy used in translating repetitive Indonesian adjective into English is transposition (syntactic strategy). The analysis reveals that there are 8 (47 %) data were found in transposition strategy. Based on literal translation, there 7 (41%) and in information change there are two (12 %) data. Several types of repetition can be viewed from the following-instance

Full repetition

The part discusses the data based on the principle of the translation employed by the In this article, the researcher discussed the data and analysis by using principles ranslation especially meaning from Duff (1990) The translation should reflect accurately the meaning of the original text. Nothing should be arbitrarily added or removed” Moreover, this research uses

translation strategies suggested by Chesterman (2000), in his book entitled *Memes of Translation*, pp.94-112. The first data is full repetition the word *tenang-tenang* for example: *Lintang masih tenang-tenang saja, ia tersenyum sedikit, santai sekali.* (p.241) is translated into ‘Lintang still remained **calm** and smiled a little; he was very relaxed....’(p.31).The words *tenang-tenang* is a full repetition in Indonesian. It is the repetition of *tenang* refers to a person, action, or manner not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other emotions. The accurate translation is “**calm**”. It is also an adjective in English. “*Tenang-tenang*” is translated into “*calm*” the translation version has reflected the meaning of the source text word for word.

The translation strategy that is used is Syntactic Strategy: Literal Translation. The data above according Venuti (2000) says “literal translation is the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text in which the translators’ task is limited to observing the adherence to the linguistic servitudes of the TL.”

The second data that is also full repetition the other example: *Badannya tinggi besar dan rambutnya panjang sebahu diikat seperti samurai. Lengan bajunya digulung tinggi-tinggi. Ia sengaja memperlihatkan otot-ototnya.* (p. 270) is translated into ‘He was big and tall, with shoulder-length hair tied back like a samurai’and his sleeves

rolled up.’ (p. 431). The repetitive Indonesian adjective *...tinggi-tinggi...* is translated into *...rolled up...* which is a verb in the English. The translation strategy that is used is Syntactic Strategy: Transposition (word-class change or shifting the word-class). The data above, if referring to Hatim and Munday (2004) assumed: “The method called Transposition involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message.”

The third data: *Baginya acara pembelian kapur ini adalah vakansi kecil-kecilan....*(p.131) is translated into ‘For him, the task of buying chalk was like a **little** vacation....’ (p.161) . According to KBBI the word *kecil-kecilan* means *berkecil-kecil; (secara) sedikit-sedikit (tidak secara besar-besaran)*. *Kecil-kecilan* considers as a full repetition which involves suffix –an. The translator translated *kecil-kecilan* into *little*. It is also an adjective in English. The translation strategy used is Syntactic Strategy: Literal Translation. In this data refers to Newmark (1988) said that literal translation is “the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.”(p.46).

The fourth data: *Jika dilihat sepintas, memang masih terlihat samar-samar seperti lima kawanan burung.* (p.125) is translated into: ‘If glanced at casually, it **vaguely** looked like they made up five flocks.’ (p.154). The repetitive Indonesian adjective *...samar-samar...* is

translated into **...vaguely...** which is an adverb in the English. The translation strategy that is used is Syntactic Strategy: Transposition (word-class change or shifting the word-class). In this data the translator used theory from Hatim and Munday (2004) “The method called Transposition involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message.”

The fifth data: *Jika kami sakit, sakit apa pun: diare, bengkak, batuk, flu, atau gatal-gatal...*(p.14) is translated into ‘When we were sick, whatever it was—diarrhea, swelling, cough, flu, **itching...** (p.17).’ The repetitive Indonesian adjective **...gatal-gatal...** is translated into **...itching...** which is a verb in the English. The translation strategy that is used is also Syntactic Strategy: Transposition (word-class change or shifting the word-class). In this data the theory is also from Hatim and Munday (2004) “

The method called Transposition involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message.”

Based on the five data above for full repetition, all the principle translation is meaning. It is found that the literal translation from syntactic strategies which means word by translation without changing the meaning and transposition which means the changing of word class without changing the meaning as well.

Partial Repetition

There were several partial repetition data found in the novel. The first data is: *Tuk Bayan Tula kembali hadir di mulut gua dalam keadaan terengah-engah, **compang-camping**, dan berantakan.* (p. 258) is translated into ‘Tuk Bayan Tula returned to the entrance of the cave in tatters. The cloth encircling his body was **torn**, and his face was a mess’ (p.397). According to KBBI the word **compang-camping** means *koyak-koyak memanjang*. **Compang-camping** considers as a partial repetition which involves repetition of only a part of a word. The translator translated **compang-camping** into **torn**. It is also an adjective in English which means split or cut. The translation strategy used for this data is Syntactic Strategy: Literal Translation. I define this rather loosely, as meaning “maximally close to the SL form, but nevertheless grammatical”. As Venuti (2000) says “literal translation is the direct transfer of a SL text into a grammatically and idiomatically appropriate TL text in which the translators’ task is limited to observing the adherence to the linguistic servitudes of the TL.”

The second data: *Sejenak aku benci pada hidupku yang **kacau balau**.* (p.264) is translated into ‘At that moment, I hated my **mess** of a life.’(p.416). The repetitive Indonesian adjective **kacau balau** translated into **mess** which is a noun in English. According to KBBI **kacau balau** means *sangat kacau*. The translation strategy that is used is also Syntactic Strategy: Transposition (word-class change or shifting the word-class)

According to Hatim and Munday (2004) transposition involves replacing one word class with another without changing the meaning of the message. Besides being a special translation procedure, transposition can also be applied within a language.”

Based on the two data mentioned above for partial repetition, all the principle translation is also meaning. It is also found that the literal translation from syntactic strategies which means word by word translation without changing the meaning and transposition which means the changing of word class without changing the meaning as well.

Omission

In this data it is found that the translator omitted the repetitive adjective in the target text. For example: *Mereka yang gengsian dan tak kuat mental seperti Sahara jauh-jauh hari sudah menolak berpartisipasi.* (p. 149) is translated into ‘Trapani, Sahara and Kucai suggested we not participate instead of performing and embarrassing ourselves’ (p.180). In the target text, the translator omits the repetitive adjective *jauh-jauh*. It is not translated in English target language. This is called omission. *Jauh-jauh* is the repetition of *jauh* which modifies *hari*. *Jauh-jauh hari* refers to an adverb of time which denotes that something is done long before something else happens. There are several possible translations that could be accepted, such as: many days before, long

before, days before, days apart from, very early, earlier *Jauh-jauh* is the repetition of *jauh* (far) which modifies *hari* (day), and days away. In terms of syntactic function, *jauh-jauh* in Indonesian is an adjective explaining the noun *hari*. The translation strategy that is used is Information change: Information change is the (Shaffner, 2001) “addition of new, relevant, and non-inferable, information or omission of irrelevant information; with ‘addition’ and ‘omission’ often listed as separate translation strategies in the literature and used in the annotations. This data may refer to Nida and Taber (1982) stated that “Types of reduction. There are quite naturally some expressions which are reduced in the process of transfer from one language to another”. It is also relevant to Fawcett stated (1997) “Reduction is the omission of information considered to be unnecessary, of little importance, or unlikely to make sense to the target-language reader.” Based on the data above, the principle translation used is meaning. In the target text, the translator omits the word *...jauh-jauh....* It is not translated in Indonesian target language. This is called omission.

CONCLUSION

Indonesian repetitive adjectives are not easy to translate into English since the function, meaning and form of Indonesian repetitions are different from English. This study showed that literal translation strategy and transposition strategy are the most

frequent strategy used by the translator. The principle of translation employed by the translator to translate Indonesian repetitive adjective is meaning. From the analysis it is found that all the messages in the SL are transferred in the TL. However, some of them are translated in the different form grammatically but the meaning of the message in source language is well maintained into the target language.

This paper attempts to analyze the translation of repetitive Indonesian adjectives into English, there still is a need for more comprehensive studies about this topic. Readers should also note that the data in this study was relatively small and restricted to the translation of Indonesian adjectives in *Laskar Pelangi* book. It would be desirable to replicate these findings with other novels or literary works such as short stories, poems, or plays and analyze them using different strategies and theories.

REFERENCES

- Angie Kilbane. (2009). *Rainbow Troops* (Andrea Hirata, Trans) Jogjakarta: Bentang Pustaka
- Chesterman, Andrew. (2000). *Memes of Translation*. Philadelphia: John Benjamins North America.
- Duff, Alan. (1990). *Translation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hatim and Munday. (2004). *Translation An Advance Resource Book*. New York: Routledge.
- Fawcett, Peter. 1997. *Translation and Language (Linguistic Theories Explained)*. Manchester: ST. Jerome Publishing
- Hirata, Andrea, J. K. (2005). *Laskar Pelangi*. Jogjakarta: Bentang Pustaka
- Larson, M. L. (1998). *Meaning-based translation*. Lanham: University Press of America.
- Minkova, D. (2002). Ablaut reduplication in English: Criss-crossing of prosody and verbal art. *English Language and Linguistics* 6(1), 133-169.
- Newmark, Peter. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. New York: Pergamon Press.
- Nida, Eugene A. & Charles R. Taber. (1982). *The Theory and Practice of Translation*. Netherlands: E. J. Brill, Leiden.
- Sneddon, J. (2010). *Indonesian reference grammar*. St. Leonard: Unwin and Allen.
- Venuti, L. (Ed.). (2000). *The Translation Studies Reader*. London: Routledge.