

SYNTACTIC TRANSLATION STRATEGIES IN ENGLISH-INDONESIAN ASEAN CHARTER

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Abstract

This research was carried out to analyze the syntactic translation strategies applied in English-Indonesian ASEAN Charter document. This research also aimed to find out which strategy is most often used and its possible reason. This research is based on the theory of syntactic strategies by Andrew Chesterman (2016, p. 91). The researcher used a qualitative method. The data used in this research is in the form of text on the ASEAN Charter document. This research showed that there are 8 syntactic strategies used in the English-Indonesian ASEAN Charter. Those are literal translation (33%), loan and calque (31%), transposition (8%), unit shift (14%), phrase structure change (8%), clause structure change (0,38%), level shift (1%), and scheme change (5%). Literal translation is the most widely applied in this research because this strategy is an appropriate strategy to translate a legal document.

Keywords: ASEAN Charter, syntactic strategies, translation

INTRODUCTION

Language has an important role in communication. However, the languages spoken in this world are very diverse. The existence of globalization has become a door for anyone to know the outside world. People can learn many new things outside their own culture. It will be difficult if there is no translation to understand the different languages. Translation is the process of changing one language into another language. Translation has been defined by many experts. House (2018, p. 9) said that translation is a procedure where an original text, often called *the source text*, is replaced by another text in a different language, often called *the target text*. An opinion by Bell (1991, p. 6), translation is the replacement of a text in one language by a representation of an equivalent text in a second language.

Another early and classic definition, as proposed by Nida & Taber (1982, p. 12), translation consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. In other words, translation is concerned with producing a target language that in its meaning has a close and natural result of translation with the source language. In addition, Nida & Taber explained that there are two main things that the translator has to pay attention to in translating. Those are meaning and style. Meaning means the information in the source language that must be transferred well to the target language and avoid misunderstanding or ambiguities between the two languages. Meanwhile, style means the culture in the two languages that must be transferred well with adjusting their

culture and language style of the countries.

Based on this definition, it can be concluded that translation is the process of changing the source language (SL) into the target language (TL) by taking into account the equality of meaning and content in the text and the use of linguistic elements in both languages. In addition, the translators must pay attention to the naturality of their translations so the readers can understand the meaning clearly. Other than that, translators also must pay attention of some linguistics aspects in translation such as the differences of grammatical structure, lexical elements, and cultural elements between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL).

Translating is a difficult activity to do because it is related to language and cultural rules that differ from one language to another. Therefore, the role of techniques, methods, procedures, and strategies in translating is very important to know, learn, and apply by the translator. Translation strategy is a set of methods used by translators to help them translate and produce good translations. According to Jääskeläinen (1993, p. 116), translation strategies are a set of (loosely formulated) rules or principles which a translator uses to reach the goals determined by the translating situation in the most effective way. Albir (1996) in Molina & Albir (2002, p. 508) stated that strategies are the procedures (conscious or unconscious, verbal or nonverbal) used by the translator to solve problems that emerge when carrying out the

translation process with a particular objective in mind. Based on those definitions, it can be concluded that the translators always involve strategy when they translate because translation strategies help the translators to translate effectively.

Many experts have given their opinion to formulate translation strategies. One of them is Andrew Chesterman (2016, p. 90) in his book entitled *Memes of Translation*. He explained that there are three types of translation strategies. Those are syntactic strategy, semantic strategy, and pragmatic strategy. Syntactic strategy is a strategy that focuses on the syntactic aspects in translation such as units of a text. For example, word order shift, the changing in clauses or sentence structure, and change in cohesion. Semantic strategy is a strategy that attends to the meaning of a text so this type of strategy focuses on semantic aspects. For instance, the superordinate uses, alter the level of abstraction, redistribute the information over more or fewer elements. Meanwhile, pragmatic strategy is a strategy that focuses on the information of a text so this type of strategy contains about pragmatic aspects. For instance, naturalize or exoticize, alter the level of explicitness, add or omit information.

In this research, the researcher chose the syntactic translation strategies because translating is not only about understanding the meaning and information in it but also is about understanding the rules between two languages. Therefore, linguistic studies in the

translation are very essential. The syntactic translation strategies can guide the translator so the translator not only prioritizes the suitability of meaning and information but also the linguistic aspects in it. This syntactic translation strategies will be used to analyze the object of research.

Based on Chesterman (2016, pp. 91-98), there are ten types of syntactic strategy namely *literal translation, loan and calque, transposition, unit shift, phrase structure change, clause structure change, sentence structure change, cohesion change, level shift, and scheme change*. The explanation of syntactic strategies are as follows: (1) Literal translation is a strategy in which the translator follows the source text form as closely as possible in translating the target text. (2) Loan is a strategy of borrowing words that are exactly the same as the source text. The translator translates the source language by maintaining the form of source language and the translator does not change anything. Meanwhile, calque is an absorption word from the source language which is translated into the target language with slight changes. The words that are calque usually have a pronunciation similar to the source language. (3) Transposition is a strategy used by translators to translate source text by involving changes in word class. Word classes are noun, verb, adjective, adverb, and etc. (4) Unit shift is a strategy used by involving unit shifts or unit changes. Units are morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and

paragraphs. (5) Phrase structure change is a strategy used by involving certain changes in the phrase level. The changes are such as a change in the number, modification, and certainty of a noun phrase and a change in tenses and mood in the verb phrase. (6) Clause structure change is defined as a change related to the clause structure. The change includes constituent order, active vs. passive voice, finite vs. non-finite structure, and transitive vs. intransitive. (7) Sentence structure change is a change in sentence units, such as changes from compound sentences to complex sentences, simple sentences to complex sentences, and others. (8) Cohesion change is defined as something that affects intra-textual reference, the use of connectors of various kinds, substitution, ellipsis, repetition, or pronominalization. (9) Level shift is a change/shift from one level to another. The levels mean the main components of language, namely phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexis. (10) Scheme change refers to the kinds of changes that translators incorporate in the translation of rhetorical schemes such as parallelism, repetition, alliteration, metrical rhythm, etc.

The researcher chose English-Indonesian ASEAN Charter as a research object. ASEAN Charter is a document created with the aim of transforming ASEAN (*The Association of Southeast Asian Nations*) from a loose political association to an international organization that has a strong legal basis (legal personality) with clear rules and has an

effective and efficient organizational structure. The ASEAN Charter was signed by 10 ASEAN member states. The ASEAN Charter has been effective since December 15, 2008. The researcher chose English-Indonesian ASEAN Charter as an object of this research because this document is an international document. This document published in ASEAN which is the official website of the ASEAN organization. In other words, the translator of Indonesian ASEAN Charter is a qualified translator and this research will find out what strategies are used. Another reason is that the text used in this document uses formal and standard language, so research on the syntactic elements in the transfer of English to Indonesian is very good to study because formal and standard languages are the national standard languages.

The researcher used 3 previous researches as references and comparisons of this research. The researcher uses a research entitled: 1) *An Analysis of Translation Strategies Found in English-Indonesian Short Story Some Words with a Mummy* (2014) by Annisa Nurjannah Adnin from Universitas Brawijaya, 2) *Translation Strategy in Twitter Terms: English and Indonesian Version* (2014) by Stella Amanda from Gunadarma University, and 3) *Translation Analysis of Beauty Terms in Webtoon: The Secret of Angel and Make-Up Man* (2021) by Hanniarsha Alyfia and Ahmad Jum'a Khatib Nur Ali from Gunadarma University.

These three researches have a similarity

with this research. The similarity is the use of Andrew Chesterman's theory in analyzing the translation strategy of the research object. Meanwhile, the difference between this research and the three previous researches lies in the object of research. The object of the first research is in the form of a short story, the object of the second research is in the form of English terms on Twitter, and the object of the third research is in the form of a webtoon comic text. Meanwhile, the object of this research is a charter in the form of a legal document.

This research is carried out based on two problems of the research. The problems of this research are in the form of question. In this research, the problems of the research are 1) what are the syntactic translation strategies applied in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian, and 2) what is the type of strategy that is most widely applied and its possible reasons for it in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian? Those problems of the research are based on the objectives of the research. This research aims 1) to find out the syntactic translation strategies applied in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian, and 2) to identify the type of strategy that is most widely applied and its possible reasons for it in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian. In addition, as a significance of the research, this research is intended to hone the ability of the researcher to think scientifically based on the existing theories. Other than that, another researcher

can use this research as a reference in analyzing the strategies used by translator especially syntactic translation strategies in another types of text.

METHODS

According to J. W. Creswell & J. D. Creswell (2018, p. 49), research designs are types of inquiry within qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches that provide specific direction for procedures in a research study. In this research, the researcher used qualitative method. According to Pritha Bhandari (2020) in qualitative research. Qualitative research means that this type of research involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences. The non-numerical data are such as text, video, or audio. Qualitative research can be used to gather in-depth insights into a problem or generate new ideas for research.

J. W. Creswell & J. D. Creswell (2018, p. 257) furthermore explained that one of qualitative method characteristics is the researcher as key instrument. Qualitative researchers collect data themselves through examining documents, observing behavior, or interviewing participants. They may use a protocol an instrument for recording data but the researchers are the ones who actually gather the information and interpret it. They do not tend to use or rely on questionnaires or instruments developed by other researchers.

Based on those explanations, it can be

concluded that this research used a qualitative method. This is because this research aims to find out the syntactic translation strategies applied and to identify the type of strategy that is most widely applied and its possible reasons for it in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian. In other words, this research aims to study something that cannot be described numerically namely syntactic translation strategies. In addition, this research used the qualitative method because the researcher is a person who will look for the information by analyzing the data based on the theory that existed.

According to Oxford Dictionary, data means facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis. It means data can be in the form of text, numbers, images, etc. Data can be used for reference or analysis. In other words, data means the facts, statistics, or information that will be analyzed by the researcher. The data in this research is in the form of text. In this research, the data used by the researcher is a legal document named ASEAN Charter. The ASEAN Charter is published in many languages that are adapted to the languages of ASEAN member countries. In this research, the researcher focused on the original (English) file and its Indonesian translation. The ASEAN Charter contains a preamble, 55 articles, and 2 annexes. Sutopo (2006, pp. 56-57) in Nazzaratty (2021, p. 20) said that the source of data is a place where the researcher can obtain data using certain methods, such as humans, artifacts, or

documents. The source of data in this research is the ASEAN Charter site.

In collecting data, the researcher was guided by Arikunto's statement about the total data that could be used in the research. Arikunto (2013) stated that if the researcher has several hundred subjects in the population, they can determine approximately 25-30% of the total number of subjects. If the number of subject members in the population only includes between 100 to 150 people, and in collecting data the researcher uses a questionnaire, it is better if the number of subjects is taken entirely. The ASEAN Charter has 404 data in total so that the researcher only took 25% of the total data, namely 101 data used to be analyzed in this research.

Furthermore, these 101-research data were determined based on a systematic sampling technique. Sugiyono (2015, p. 123) defined systematic sampling as a sampling technique based on the sequence of population members who have been given serial numbers. This research will use 101 data from a total of 404 data with data retrieval using multiples of 4 after all data is sorted. There are several steps used by the researcher in collecting data, those are as follows: 1) downloading the ASEAN Charter document in English and Indonesian version on the ASEAN Charter site, 2) sorting all the data in the ASEAN Charter and determining the number of samples that want to be analyzed, and 3) collecting 101 data as a research sample from all data on English and Indonesian version.

After collecting the data, the researcher used the following steps in order to analyze the data that being collected. The steps are as follows: 1) finding out the types of syntactic translation strategies in 101 research samples that have been found by using systematic sampling proposed by Sugiyono (2015, p. 123), 2) analyzing the data based on each strategy by finding out the reason why the data is included in each strategy, 3) making the results of the analyses and determining the strategies that most frequently used and its possible reasons, and 4) making conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the result of this research on syntactic translation strategies used by the translator of ASEAN Charter in translating the document from English to Indonesian. The researcher found that there are 8 strategies applied from 101 data used by the translator in translating ASEAN Charter. Those are *literal translation* applied 87 times or about 33%, *loan* applied 81 times or about 31%, *transposition* applied 21 times or about 8%, *unit shift* applied 36 times or about 14%, *phrase structure change* applied 21 times or about 8%, *clause structure change* applied 1 time or about 0,38%, *level shift* applied 3 times or about 1%, and *scheme change* applied 14 times or about 5%.

This result shows that the *literal translation strategy* is the most widely applied by the translator in ASEAN Charter document. The *literal translation strategy* is

most widely applied because ASEAN Charter is a legal document that uses a formal language so that the translation also follows the context of the formal language in Indonesian. In addition, *literal translation* is a strategy where the translator follows the form of the source text as much as possible in translating. This is in accordance with the object of research which is a legal and international document. Thus, it would be better to follow the form and structure of the source text as long as the meaning and information in the text can still be conveyed properly. In addition, if this research is compared with the three previous researches before, it can be known that this research tends to resonance with the previous researches. In other words, this research shows a result that strengthen the other previous researches. The discussion of this research is as follows:

Literal translation

ST : (b) not seek or receive instructions from any government or external party outside of ASEAN; and
 TT : (b) *tidak meminta atau menerima instruksi-instruksi dari pemerintah mana pun atau dari pihak eksternal di luar ASEAN; dan*

In the example above, the target text has the same structure as the source text. This is because the translator used a literal strategy where the translator translated the source text

literally. The translator did not add or subtract anything to the translation results. Therefore, this example is included to literal translation strategy.

a. Loan

ST: Lee Hsien Loong
 TT: *Lee Hsien Loong*

The source text *Lee Hsien Loong* which is translated to the target text *Lee Hsien Loong* can be classified as loan strategy. The source text was translated into the same words in the target text. The words are fully borrowed and reused in the target text without the slightest change in the translation because *Lee Hsien Loong* is the name of a prime minister from Philippines in ASEAN. The names of people, brands, places, and organizations usually do not change. Therefore, the use of this term is including to loan strategy.

b. Calque

ST : shared commitment and *collective* responsibility in enhancing regional peace, security and prosperity.
 TT : *komitmen bersama dan tanggung jawab kolektif dalam meningkatkan perdamaian,keamanan dan kemakmuran di kawasan*

This translation uses a calque strategy because there are slight changes to the target

text related to the letters used. The word *Collective* means *done or shared by all members of a group of people; involving a whole group or society*. This word pronounced /kə'lektiv/ that means there is a similarity in the pronunciation of source text and target text. Therefore, the use of this term is including to calque strategy.

Transposition

- ST : ...the sustainability of its natural resources...
 TT : ...*sumber daya alam yang berkelanjutan*...

The source text *Sustainability* which is translated to the target text *Yang berkelanjutan* can be classified as a transposition strategy. In the sentence above, the word *Sustainability* is a noun in the source text. Meanwhile, the word *Yang berkelanjutan* is an adjective in the target text. It means, there is a change in word class from *noun* to *adjective*. Therefore, this translation is included as an example of a transposition strategy.

Unit shift

- ST : ...highly competitive and economically integrated...
 TT : ...*sangat kompetitif, dan terintegrasi secara ekonomis*...

The source text *economically* which is translated to the target text *secara ekonomis* can be classified as a unit shift strategy. In the example above, the source text *economically* is a word. Meanwhile, the target text *secara*

efektif is a phrase. It means, there is a change of unit from *word* to *phrase*. Therefore, this example is included to unit shift strategy.

Phrase structure change

- ST : ...facilitated movement of *business persons*, professionals..
 TT : ... *terfasilitasinya pergerakan pelaku usaha, pekerja profesional, pekerja berbakat*...

The source text *business persons* is translated to the target text *pelaku usaha* can be classified as a phrase structure change strategy. In the example above, there is a change in the structure of the phrase from *a plural noun phrase* to *a singular noun phrase*. If there is no nominal change in this phrase, it might be translated to *pelaku-pelaku usaha*. Therefore, this translation is included as an example of a phrase structure change strategy.

Clause structure change

- ST : ASEAN shall be the primary driving force in regional arrangements that *it initiates* and maintain its centrality in regional cooperation and community building.
 TT : *ASEAN wajib menjadi kekuatan penggerak utama dalam tatanan kawasan yang diprakasainya dan mempertahankan sentralitasnya dalam kerja sama kawasan serta pembentukan komunitas*.

The source text *...it initiates...* which is translated to the target text *...diprakarsainya...* can be classified as a clause structure

change strategy. In the example above, there is a change of clause structure where the source language is an active voice, while the target language is passive voice. Therefore, this translation is included as an example of a clause structure change strategy.

Level shift

| | |
|----|--|
| ST | : To maintain and enhance peace, security and stability and further strengthen <i>peace-oriented values</i> in the region. |
| TT | : <i>Memelihara dan meningkatkan perdamaian, keamanan, dan stabilitas serta lebih memperkuat nilai-nilai yang berorientasi pada perdamaian di kawasan.</i> |

The source text ...*peace-oriented values*... which is translated to the target text ...*nilai-nilai yang berorientasi pada perdamaian* ... can be classified as a level shift strategy. In the example above, there is a change of a compound adjective into complete sentence. It means, the form of lexis was converted into the form of syntax by the translator.

Scheme change

a. ST scheme X – TT scheme X

| | |
|----|--|
| ST | : Disputes which do not concern the <i>interpretation or application</i> of any ASEAN instrument... |
| TT | : <i>Sengketa-sengketa yang tidak berkenaan dengan penafsiran atau penerapan setiap instrumen ASEAN...</i> |

The source text ... *interpretation or application*... which is translated to the target text ... *penafsiran atau penerapan*... can be classified as a scheme change in the ST scheme X – TT scheme X pattern. In the example above, the source text has the suffix *-tion*. This pattern is translated into the confix *pe-an*. The translator followed the scheme of source language and the translation still sounds relevant and natural.

b. ST scheme X – TT scheme O

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| ST | : Purposes and Principles |
| TT | : <i>Tujuan dan Prinsip</i> |

The source text ... *Purposes and Principles*... which is translated to the target text ...*Tujuan dan Prinsip*... can be classified as a scheme change in the ST scheme X – TT scheme O pattern. In the example above, the source text has the suffix *-s* which is a plural maker as a pattern. However, there is no pattern because the scheme of source language is not relevant to the target text.

c. ST scheme O – TT scheme X

| | |
|----|--|
| ST | : Recommend <i>the appointment and termination</i> of the Deputy Secretaries-General to the ASEAN Coordinating Council for approval. |
|----|--|

TT :*Merekomendasikan pengangkatan dan pengakhiran para Deputi Sekretaris Jenderal kepada Dewan Koordinasi ASEAN Untuk mendapat persetujuan.*

The source text ...*appointment and termination...* which is translated to the target text ...*pengangkatan dan pengakhiran...* can be classified as a scheme change in the ST scheme O – TT scheme X. In the example above, the source text has no schema. The source text uses the suffix *-ment* and *-tion* where both of them is usually used for nouns in the source language. Meanwhile, the translator used confix *pe-an* in the target text where it is also usually used for nouns in the target language.

CONCLUSION

This research aims to find out the syntactic translation strategies applied in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian and identify the type of strategy that is most widely applied and its possible reasons for it in the ASEAN Charter from English to Indonesian. In analyzing the data, the researcher used (Chesterman, 2016) theory about 10 syntactic translation strategies. This research showed that from 101 data, there are 8 strategies used by the translator in translating *ASEAN Charter*. Those are *literal translation* applied 87 times or about 33%, *loan and calque* applied 81 times or about 31%, *transposition* applied 21 times or about 8%, *unit shift* applied 36 times or about 14%, *phrase structure change* applied 21 times or about 8%, *clause structure*

change applied 1 time or about 0,38%, *level shift* applied 3 times or about 1%, and *scheme change* applied 14 times or about 5%.

The results show that the researcher found 8 strategies applied with the literal translation strategy as the highest percentage. The literal translation strategy has the highest percentage because the ASEAN Charter is a legal document that uses a formal language. In translating a legal document, literal translation is an appropriate strategy to use because the target text will have a structure that is as close as possible to the source text. In addition, the meaning of source text will still be conveyed well in the target text.

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