THE TRANSLATION OF ARTICLES “A/AN” AND “THE” INTO INDONESIAN

ABSTRAK

Many novice translators face the difficulties to translate articles “a/an” and “the”. This research was conducted to answer the question: What are the translations of articles “a/an” and “the” into Indonesian? The aims of the research are to find out the translations of articles “a/an” and “the”. The source of the data is “The 8th Habit” by Covey, Stephen R and its translation version “Kebiasaan Keedipan” by Benja, Vandi Soera dan Isae Zen. This research uses a qualitative method. In this case, the researcher collected, identified, data concerning with the translation of articles “a/an” and “the”. Then, the researcher calculated the percentage of the categorizations of the translation of articles “a/an” and “the”. The result of the research showed that there are two categories of translating articles “a/an” and “the”, namely “translated and untranslated”. Article “a/an” is translated into seorang, sebuh, semacam, sesuatu, sesorang, satu, sebaik, satu, and the rest are not translated. Article “the” is translated into nya, tersebut, itu, ini, kita, yang, di sana, di sini, di sana, and untranslated.

Keywords: Translated, Untranslated, Article “a/an”, Article “the”.

INTRODUCTION

In translating English into Indonesian, there are some problems that a translator has to face. One of them is the difference in grammatical structure in SL and TL such as how to translate the articles “a/an” and “the” into Indonesian. In case of the translating articles “a/an” and “the”, the writer encounter problems how to translate them well.

In this research, the researcher tries to find out the translation of the articles “a/an” and “the” into Indonesian. In fact, there are so many adjustments or shifts in translating them. For example, the translator translated the article “a/an” into: seorang, sebuh, “suatu”, sebagai, “satu” and “nil translation”; and the article “the” into: nya, tersebut, “itu”, “ini”, “sang”, “yang”, “si”, “di sana”, “di sini”, and “nil translation”. That is why this topic is very interesting to be discussed.

Because of that consideration, the researcher chooses “The Translation of Articles “A/An” and “The” into Indonesian” as the title of the research. The researcher chooses the book “The 8th Habit” by Covey, Stephen R and its translated version “Kebiasaan Keedipan” by Brata, Vandi S and Isae Zen. The reason I choose this book as the source of the data for my research because this book consists of many articles “A/An” and “The”.

According to Carford’s book, A Linguistic Theory of Translation (1965:1) sees that translation as an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another. Based on Larson (1984:3), translation is basically a change of form. When we speak of the form of a language, we are referring to the actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraph etc., which are spoken/written. Nida in Widayamartaya (1989:11) defines translation consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of the SL message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Meanwhile based on Newmark on Machali (1990:5) gives definition of translation as follow: Rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. From the theories above, that in translation, we can change the form of a text from one language (SL) to another language (TL), but we must keep the meaning that is intended by the author. Therefore, in the translation the meaning is important to keep constantly rather than the form. In translation from one language into another language, we also transform one language into another language that is called Transformation Theory. In truth, it is occurred the transformation of structure and semantics when we transform the meaning from one language to another language.

According to Hasibuan, Sofia Rangkuti in Terjemahan dan Kaitannya dengan Tata Bahasa Inggris (1991:113-120), there are four kinds of Transformation theory, i.e. theory of edition, theory of deletion, paraphrase, and structural change. Since only theory of addition and theory of deletion that have relation to the research, the researcher will only explain both theory of addition and theory of deletion. Theory of Addition emphasizes an addition of the aim of the translation. This addition occurs because accuracy of meaning consideration. Addition of word in TL is needed because of structure and it is necessary.

Examples: 1. Itu buku
2. Sebaliknya

On the contrary

Theory of Deletion means omission of an element in the TL structure and it is a must to reproduce an appropriate structure of the TL. Hasibuan, Sofia Rangkuti (1991:113-120). Furthermore, Newmark (1981:149) states that theoretically, the translator has to account for every portion and aspect of cognitive and pragmatic sense in the SL text. However, a translator is justified in pruning or eliminating redundancy provided it is not used for emphasis.

In addition, Widayamartaya (1989:16-48), states that indefinite (a/an) and definite articles (the) are not always translated.

Examples:
1. A dog is an intelligent animal = Sebatang bows yang cerdas
   Article “a” is not translated
2. Some of the man = Dari mereka ada yang
   Article “the” in that sentence is not translated.

In Indonesian, definite article (the) is not a must. Moreover, much of the time definite article should not be used if the context is already clear.

English Articles

According to Krohn, Robert (1975:4), the words “a/an” and “the” are called articles. In general, we use “a/an” (the indefinite article) when an unidentified specimen is introduced, and we use “the” (the definite article) when the noun which follows names an identified specimen: that is, when we believe that the hearer knows which person, place, or thing the noun refers to.

Indonesian Articles

According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, article is a word that has function to change a word into noun. Kinds of Indonesian articles are “si, sang, para, bang, yang, nya, ini, itu, suatu, seorang, sebuh”.

For examples:
- Si kancil
- Sang kekasih
- Yang elok

Meanwhile, based on Sudjarwo and Sukardi (2005:15), there three categories of articles:
1. Singular meaning: “sang, sri, dang, hang”. It is used to pay honor to someone or a unique thing. For example:
- Kehadiran Sang juara disambut dengan meriah.
- Sang Saka Merah Putih berkilah dengan gaganha.
2. Plural meaning: “para”. To mention a group of men who have same characteristic activities or position. For example:
Para ekonom berkumpul membicarakan masalah devisa bangsa.

3. Neutral meaning: "si". It depends on the sentence context: "si" has singular or plural meaning. We use "si" before someone's name and adjective. For examples:
Sisik pelatih belum ditemukan jejaknya. Itu dia si Hasan.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses qualitative method. The purpose of the research is to find out the translation of articles "a/an" and "the" into Indonesian. The data are from "the 8th Habitat" book the original and translated versions, "Kebijakan Kelembup" by Brata, Wandi S and Issa Zain. According to Gao (1996:208), qualitative research is the collection and analysis of extensive narrative data in order to gain insights into a situation of interest not possible using other types of research. This approach is led to the background and the individuals themselves holistically. Therefore, this research does not permit isolation of individual or organization into variable, but individual or organization must be included into one complete package.

In collecting data, the researcher identifies articles "a/an" and "the", then identifies the translation of article "a/an" and "the". Those data are classified into two categories: "Translated" and "Untranslated"

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of the analysis shows that articles "a/an" and "the" can be both translated and not translated from English to Indonesian. The translator generally translates article "a/an" into Indonesian as follows: se; such as seorang, sebuah, semacam sesuatu (56%), untranslated (36%), and other translations are suatu, satu, sebagain, sedekar, itu (8%). Article "the" is generally translated into Indonesian as follows: untranslated (90%), nya (2%), tertentu (12%), others: sang, yang, kita, di sana, di situ, di sini, itu (6%), and into ini (8%) from total numbers of data that is 100.

The Translation of "A/An"

Translated into: seorang, sebuah, semacam, sesuatu, dan sesuorg

1) SL: The boss, who was married, was having an affair with an employee. (p. 147)
TL: Bos kepalanya yang telah menikah itu bersetikah dengan seorang karyawati. (p. 215)
2) SL: There is a man in Uganda who beautifully illustrates the power of allowing conscience to purely direct our vision, discipline and passion. (p. 82)
TL: Ada seorang di Uganda yang dengan indahnya mengamalkan betapa kebebasan pengaruh yang ditimbulkan bila kita membiarkan niat kita secara bijaksana mengarahkan visi, disiplin dan gairah kita. (p. 123)
3) SL: Another time when I was working at a university, I had the privilege of hosting a prominent psychologist who was the former president of a national psychological association. (p. 170)
TL: Pada kesempatan lain, ketika bekerja di sebuah universitas, saya mendapat kehormatan untuk menjadi tuan rumah bagi seorang ahli psikologi ternama yang merupakan mantan presiden sebuah asosiasi psikolog nasional. (p. 251)
4) SL: I completed graduate school and began teaching at a historically black college in Little Rock, Arkansas. (p. 91)
TL: Saya lulus S2, saya mulai mengajar di sebuah kampus, khusus untuk warganya khatam hitam, di Little Rock. (p. 185)
5) SL: Every evening I spend with my mother is a peaceful oasis in my busy life. (p. 91)
TL: Setiap sore saya lakukan dengan ibu saya menjadi sebuah oasis yang menenangkan dalam kehidupan saya yang sibuk. (p. 136)
6) SL: I remember once having an unpleasant confrontation with an individual on a very juridical issue. (p. 85)
TL: Saya pernah mengalami konflik yang tidak menyenangkan dengan sesorang mengenai sesuatu yang benar-benar menjengkelkan. (p. 206)

"A/An" is translated into seorang, sebuah, semacam, sesuorg, sesuatu when "a/an" precedes a singular noun with countable (see i.e. no. 1,2,3,4,6) and adjective phrase (see i.e. no. 3,5,6).

Percentage of Translation of Articles "A/An"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Translated</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Se (seorang, sebuah, semacam, sesuatu)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Untranslated</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Others (muat, satu, sebuah)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Translation of Article "The"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Translated</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Untranslated</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nya</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tersebut</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Others (sang, yang, kita, di sana, di situ, si)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Itu</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ini</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article "an" is translated into seorang, sebuah, semacam, sesuorg, sesuatu when "an" precedes a singular noun with countable (see i.e. no. 1,2,3,4,6) and adjective phrase (see i.e. no. 3,5,6).

Simanjuntak, The Translation of...
Article "a/an" is not translated when "a/an" precedes a singular noun with countable (see i.e. no. 1,3) and adjectival phrase (see i.e. no. 2,4,5).

Translating into: satu, sebagian, suatu, sekedar, itu

1) SL: You will find that if you will actually seek to apply what you learn in each chapter for a month. (p.33)
TL: Anda akan menemukan bahwa jika Anda pelajari dalam masa-masa belajar satu bulan. (p.52)

2) SL: He said further, that up until that experience with his father, he had knowingly taken the easier road, acting basically in a custodial role in the traditions of the past. (p.29)
TL: Dia katakan lebih lanjut, bahwa sebelum sampai pada pengalaman-pengalamannya dengan ayahnya itu, ia secara amat sengaja memilih jalan yang lebih mudah, dan pada dasarnya hanya bertindak sebagai penjaga tradisi masa lampau. (p.46)

3) SL: Now imagine someone comes up to you and tries to persuade you to become what he calls a ‘farmer’. (p.12)
TL: Sekarang bayangkan, ada seseorang mendatangi Anda dan merencanakan membantu Anda untuk menjadi seorang yang diatur sebagian petani. (p.22)

4) SL: It has no need to censor information and is open to an awareness of reality from every direction. (p.78)
TL: Dia tidak merasa perlu menyensor informasi, dan terbuka terhadap suatu pemahaman terhadap realitas dari arah mana pun. (p.117)

5) SL: Most people think of leadership as a position and therefore don’t see themselves as leaders. (p.16)
TL: Sebagian orang merah multiplikasi sebagai suatu posisi dan karena itu tidak memandang dari mereka sebagai pemimpin. (p.28)

6) SL: When all you want is a person’s body and you don’t really want their mind, heart or spirit (all inhibitors to the free-flowing process of the machine age), you have reduced a person to a thing. (p.15)
TL: Yang Anda perlukan hanya tubuh orang-orang itu, dan bukan pikiran, hati atau jiwa (yang semuanya merupakan penghalang bagi kekuatan proses zaman mesini); dan dengan demikian Anda menurunkan diraih manusia menjadi sekedar benda. (p.26)

The Translation of "The"

"The" is not translated

1) SL: When you study the lives of all great achievers-those who have had the greatest influence on others, those who have made significant contributions in their fields-you will find a pattern. (p.63)
SL: The modern president would not make any significant moves without Ben’s blessing. (p.142)
TL: Reform tersebut tidak akan membuat keputusan penting apa pun tanpa persetujuan Ben. (p.26)
TL: But below you’ll find a brief summary of the 7 habits. (p.152)
TL: Cukup kalau di sink dink secara singkat 7 kebiasaan tersebut. (p.223)
TL: The problems arise because of a lack of system or structure. (p.235)
TL: Masalah tersebut muncul karena sistem dan struktur. (p.343)

Article "the" is translated into "tersebut" when "the" precedes a singular or plural noun with countable (see i.e. no. 1,2,3).

Translating into: itu

1) SL: I’ll guarantee the loan. I’ll sign whatever they want me to sign. (p.8)
TL: Saya akan menandatangani semua pinjaman itu. Saya akan menandatangani alokasi yang pun yang harus saya tanda agar. (p.53)

2) SL: The introduction of system isn’t the same as the introduction of something else. (p.20)
TL: Infeksi tenggorokan itu adalah gejala dari suatu penyakit yang lain. (p.33)
TL: One word expresses the pathway to greatness. (p.26)
TL: Satu kata bisa menyatakan jalan keagungan itu. (p.44)

Article "the" is translated into "itu" when "the" precedes a singular noun with countable (see i.e. 1,2,3).

Translating into: ini

1) SL: The foundation of seeking for Third Alternatives. (p.195)
TL: Ini merupakan dasar dari pencarian Alternatif Ketiga. (p.288)

2) SL: The key to creating passion in your life is to find your unique Most of the world’s work is done in and through organizations. (p.99)
TL: Kunci untuk menciptakan gairah dalam hidup anda adalah menemukan bakal untuk permen dan tujuan khusus Anda di dunia ini. (p.33)

3) SL: Early in the book I made the statement “To know and not to do is really not to know.” (p.274)
TL: Di bagian awal buku ini saya membuat pernyataan, “Mengetahui namun tidak melakukan itu sama dengan tidak mengetahui.” (p.409)

Article "the" is translated into ini when "the" precedes a singular noun with countable (see i.e. 1,2,3).

Translating into: "yang, yang, kita, di sana, di situ, di sini, si"

1) SL: Later the Colonel told me privately that he had been planning to retire and relax. (p.29)
TL: Belakangan sang kolonel secara pribadi menceritakan kepada saya bahwa sebenarnya dia telah
All activities for the students were planned. The teacher informed them, “Which of these activities could be done by the juniors?” (p.263)

**Conclusion and Suggestion**

The researcher found two categories of translating articles “a/an” and “the”, namely translated and untranslated.

a. The translation of article “a/an” are “seorang, sebuah, semacam, sesuatu, seseorang, satu, sebuah, suatu, dan nil translation”.

b. Article “a/an” is translated into “seorang, sebuah, semacam, sesuatu, seseorang, most of the time (56%)”.

c. Article “a/an” is untranslated some of the time (36%).

d. Very seldom (8%) is article “a/an” translated into “suatu, sebuah, and suatu.”

e. The translations of article “the” are “nil translation, nya, tersebut, itu, ini, and other (sang, yang, kita, di, di sana, di situ, di sini)”.

f. Article “the” is untranslated some of the time (30%).

g. Article “the” is translated into “nya” some of the time (27%).

h. Seldom and very seldom is article “the” translated into “tessebut” (14%), into “itu” (9%), and into “ini” (8%), as well other translation, i.e. “sang, yang, kita, di sana, di situ, di sini (12%).

**Suggestion**

Since the sample of this research is still very limited, it is suggested that other research be conducted with bigger samples to produce a more convincing result. In addition, this research has not answered when articles “a/an” and “the” translated or not translated. Therefore, it is suggested that another be conducted dealing with this problem.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


