TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES FOR COMPLEX SENTENCES USING GOOGLE TRANSLATE

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Abstract

Articles can be presented in several languages. Especially articles from international journals, where most of them appear in English and there are still a few other languages. Therefore, this study aims to examine the translation techniques used by Google Translate in translating complex sentences in Catharina Van Lieshout's article (2022) and analyze which translation technique is most dominantly used by Google Translate. The researcher found 116 data of complex sentences from the article under study. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. First, the researcher read the whole content of the article, and marked the complex sentences under study. After marking, the complex sentences were translated using Google Translate and made into a table. Then, the researcher analyzed the translation techniques used by using Molina and Albir's (2002) theory. The result of the data analysis is that the researcher only found 9 out of 18 types of translation techniques according to Molina and Albir (2002). They are amplification, literal translation, modulation, explicitation, borrowing, establish equivalent, transposition, particularization, and variation. Literal translation is the most dominant technique in the translation, in which the source language is translated word by word without seeing the equivalent meaning arrangement.

Key words: Complex Sentence, Article, Google Translate, Translation Techniques

A. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, writing scientific articles that must be published is one of the requirements for final assignments at the University. An article is a work of science that presents general facts and is written according to good writing methodology (Brotowidjoyo, 2002). Articles can be presented in several languages. Especially articles from international journals, where most appear are in English and there are still several other languages. When reading an article in several different languages, it can be difficult to understand what the article is about. Therefore, it is necessary to use translation in order to understand the content of the article properly.

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In general, translation is a process of conveying the meaning, ideas or message of a text from one language to another. According to Newmark (1991), translation is translating the meaning of a text into another language in accordance with the intention of the author of the text. Similarly, Hatim and Munday (2019) define translation as "the process of transferring written text from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL)". Furthermore, there are procedures, strategies and techniques in translation. Gao et al. (2020) describe and categorize the many sorts of translation solutions using translation techniques. Later, with a slight revision by Molina and Albir (2002) who added that there are techniques in translation activities. Initially, according to Newmark (1991), there are 8 types of methods in translation, namely word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. Meanwhile, according to Molina and Albir (2002) who revised translation techniques, there are 18 types of techniques, including reduction, discursive creation, literal translation, modulation, substitution, adaptation, borrowing, establish equivalent, transposition, particularization, variation, sentence, linguistic compression, linguistic amplification, generalization, amplification, description, and compensation. Furthermore, while examining the original language, a translator can comprehend the context, meaning, and sentence structure (Volf, P, 2020).

In translation activities, especially in this modern era, there are already translations that can be done by machines called machine translation. Machine Translation (MT) is the latest technology to assist individuals in performing translation tasks. One of the most popular translation engines today is Google Translate. According to Tangpoon-Patanasorn & Griffith (2020), Google Translate is a website or application that can be used for free and can be accessed through mobile applications for iOS and Android. According to Sommerlad (2018), Google Translate is a free web-based service aimed at users developed by Google in April 2006. More than 100 languages are supported by Google Translate which is a tool that can translate written documents from one language to another (Syakur & Sulistyaningsih, 2022). Written documents can be academic texts, humor texts, state documents, and the like. With Google Translate, it makes it easier for users such as students to understand these written documents to find out what the message or intention is.

With the fact that students have to read and look for reference sources to be used as reading material as a reference in writing the final project. Therefore, articles as one of the reference sources are very important to understand. Sometimes, articles are presented in a form of language that is different from everyday language, making it difficult to understand the contents of the article. To understand the content of the article, most students use machine translation to help translate what is in the article used as a reference. One of the machine translations used is Google Translate.

In any article or reading source, it will consist of a collection of several types of sentences. In this case, it is certainly difficult for students if they cannot interpret what they read. Especially in complex sentences, where the main clause and subclause must be carefully translated (Pravitha, 2010). Therefore,

researchers are interested in studying translation using Google Translate to translate complex sentences in articles. The theory of Molina and Albir (2002) is used to examine the translation techniques used in Google Translate.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a type of descriptive qualitative research which is a research method based on the philosophy of post-positivism, designed to study objects in natural conditions (real, unspecified, or experimental conditions), with researchers as the main instrument (Sugiyono, 2021). This research focuses on the translation techniques of Google Translate in translating complex sentences. In this study, data collection was taken from one of the articles in the international journal Q1 entitled "Google as a Tool of Self-Directed Learning" written by Catharina Van Lieshout (2022).

The research data was obtained by using reading and highlighting techniques. The reading and highlighting techniques were used to collect data in the form of complex sentences. Then, the researcher collected all the data into a table. All collected data were translated from Indonesian to English using Google Translate. The collected data were then analyzed using translation techniques based on the theory of Molina and Albir (2002).

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis, 116 complex sentence data and 9 translation techniques out of 18 types of translation techniques according to Molina and Albir (2002) were obtained. The types found in Google Translate are amplification, literal translation, modulation, explicitation, borrowing, establish equivalent, transposition, particularization, and variation. Of the 9 types of translation techniques found, 48 data are literal translation. Then, the least data is variation with the amount of 1 datum. The results of the translation techniques can be seen from the following table:

Table 1. The Results of Translation Techniques

No	Types of Translation Technique	Frequency	%
1.	Amplification	7	6.04
2.	Literal Translation	48	41.38
3.	Modulation	23	19.83
4.	Variation	1	0.86
5.	Explicitation	4	3.45
6.	Borrowing	22	18.97
7.	Establish Equivalent	7	6.04
8.	Transposition	3	2.57
9.	Particularization	2	1.72
	Total	**116**	**100%**

1. Amplification

Datum 39:

SL: However, we acknowledge that in the context of GT and ***its speech-related capabilities***, the immediate feedback remains limited, as the participants must learn to interpret the orthography as feedback

TL: Namun, kami mengakui bahwa dalam konteks GT dan ***kemampuan bicaranya***, umpan balik langsung masih terbatas, karena peserta harus belajar menafsirkan ortografi sebagai umpan balik

One of the 7 complex sentence data in Catharina Van Lieshout's (2002) article that falls under the amplification technique. In this case, it can be said that amplification is because there is specify the words in the translation results which have the same meaning. The word is *"its speech-related capabilities"* which if translated literally means *"kemampuannya yang terkait dengan pidato"*, but in this case it is translated as *"kemampuan bicaranya"* in TL. From the analysis, we can conclude that GT translated the SL above into TL by using amplification technique.

2. Literal Translation

Datum 13:

SL: Du (2013) argues that self-directed learning encourages motivation, critical thinking, self-evaluation skills, and instils interest in life-long learning

TL: Du (2013) berpendapat bahwa pembelajaran mandiri mendorong motivasi, berpikir kritis, keterampilan evaluasi diri, dan menanamkan minat dalam pembelajaran seumur hidup

The grammatical construction in the sentence above has been translated literally, meaning that the translator has translated each word of the source language to its closest equivalent in the target language. This process ensures that the two language structures seem similar. The analysis leads the researcher to the conclusion that Google Translate used literal translation to convert the SL above into TL.

3. Modulation

Datum 23:

SL: When perceived motivation is high, ***learners are more likely to engage in language-enhancing activities,*** particularly outside of the learning environment

TL: Ketika motivasi yang dirasakan tinggi, ***pelajar lebih cenderung terlibat dalam aktifitas peningkatan bahasa,*** khususnya di luar lingkungan belajar

One of the 23 complex sentences in Catharina Van Lieshout's article (2022) was translated using the modulation technique. Modulation translation technique is a technique that changes the perspective of the target language. In this case, there has been a change of viewpoint and perspective that has changed the meaning of the source language, namely *"likely"* which literally means *"lebih mungkin"*, but in the target language it means *"lebih cenderung"*. From this analysis, the researcher can conclude that Google Translate uses modulation techniques.

4. Variation

Datum 82:

SL: To determine vocabulary learning, the Dutch phrases that were learned and recalled on the tests were calculated by two raters using 0 for **incorrect**, 0.5 for partially correct, and 1 for correct, for each target item.

TL: Untuk menentukan pembelajaran kosakata, frasa bahasa Belanda yang dipelajari dan diingat pada tes dihitung oleh dua penilai dengan menggunakan 0 untuk **salah**, 0,5 untuk benar sebagian, dan 1 untuk benar, untuk setiap item target.

In this data, there is a word that uses variation techniques, namely "incorrect" which means "tidak benar". However, in the target language there are variations in the word used, namely the word "salah". Therefore, translators use variation techniques so that the translation results are more appropriate and easy to understand.

5. Explicitation

Datum 5:

SL: This could potentially help learners in a self-directed language-learning context to become more efficient **with** their time and more successful in their learning endeavors

TL: Hal ini berpotensi membantu pelajar dalam konteks pembelajaran bahasa mandiri untuk menjadi lebih efisien **dalam menggunakan** waktu dan lebih berhasil dalam upaya belajar mereka

The data of explicitation translation technique can be seen in the example above. In this case, there has been an addition of words or explicit, which is an explicit that occurs in the target language part, namely: the word "dalam menggunakan", while the equivalent word of the word "dalam

menggunakan" in the source language, namely the word "dalam menggunakan" does not exist in the SL and there is only the word "with". From the analysis, the researcher can conclude that Google Translate has translated the SL into the TL by using the explicitation technique.

6. Borrowing

- **Pure Borrowing**

Datum 3:

SL: The study followed a **pre/post/delayed posttest** design that examined the participants' learning of phrases and their pronunciations in Dutch, combined with a qualitative analysis of video recordings of their interactions with GT

TL: Penelitian ini mengikuti desain **pre/post/delayed** posttest yang meneliti pembelajaran frasa dan pengucapan peserta dalam bahasa Belanda, dikombinasikan dengan analisis kualitatif rekaman video interaksi mereka dengan GT

The sentence above is deduced by the researcher using the borrowing technique. There are two types of borrowing techniques, namely pure borrowing and naturalized borrowing. The sentence above belongs to the pure borrowing technique, where pure borrowing is a technique that does not change in the target language. The word borrowed in full is *"pre/post/delayed".* Therefore, the researcher concludes that Google Translate uses the pure borrowing technique in translating the sentence above.

- **Naturalized Borrowing**

Datum 18:

SL: In a CALL *context*, learner *autonomy* (a *component* of SDL) can be defined as the learner's ability to know what is needed in terms of language learning, and their ability to accomplish these goals with the help of *technology*

TL: Dalam *konteks* CALL, *otonomi* pelajar (salah satu *komponen* SDL) dapat didefinisikan sebagai kemampuan pelajar untuk mengetahui apa yang dibutuhkan dalam pembelajaran bahasa, dan kemampuan mereka untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut dengan bantuan *teknologi*

This data contains multiple terms—"context, autonomy, component, technology"—that make use of the naturalized borrowing approach. The word "context" is translated as "konteks" because of the altered spelling

system in which the consonant "c" becomes "k" and the vowel "x" becomes "ks" in the word. Additionally, the translation to "otonomi" results from the vowel "au" changing to "o" and the consonant "y" changing to vowel "i" in the term "autonomy". The translation thereafter becomes "komponen" once the consonant "c" in the word "component" changes to the consonant "k" and the consonant "t" is eliminated. Ultimately, the term "technology" can be translated as "teknologi" since the consonants "c" and "y" become the vowel "i" and "k" and "i," respectively.

7. Establish Equivalent

Datum 55:

SL: In a study focused on ***learner's*** perceptions of TTS and ASR, Liakin et al. (2017) analyzed their data based on Dickerson's (2015) model for pronunciation teaching

TL: Dalam sebuah penelitian yang berfokus pada persepsi ***peserta didik*** tentang TTS dan ASR, Liakin dkk. (2017) menganalisis data mereka berdasarkan model pengajaran pengucapan Dickerson (2015)

The sentence above is concluded by the researcher using the established equivalent technique. The established equivalent translation technique is translating words from the source language (SL) into the colloquial language of the target language. The word that changes is *"learner"* which literally means *"pembelajar",* but in the sentence above it is translated into *"peserta didik".* Therefore, the researcher concludes that Google Translate uses the established equivalent technique in translating the sentence above.

8. Transposition

Datum 22:

SL: Accordingly, ***the research has been looked at the student's work*** outside of class time (Bahri & Mahadi, 2016; LaRocca et al., 1999) and, for this reason, cannot be classified as truly autonomous

TL: Oleh karena itu, ***penelitian sering kali melihat pekerjaan siswa*** di luar waktu kelas (Bahri & Mahadi, 2016; LaRocca et al., 1999) dan, karena alasan ini, tidak dapat diklasifikasikan sebagai benar-benar otonom

One of the complex sentences in Catharina Van Lieshout's article (2022) was translated using the transposition technique. Transposition translation technique is a technique of replacing grammatical shifts in a

sentence but still has the same meaning. In this case, there has been a change in grammar, but the meaning of the translation is still the same. The changed grammar is *"the research has often looked"* which literally means *"penelitian sudah sering dilihat"*, but in the sentence above, it is transposed into *"penelitian sering kali melihat"*. From this analysis, we can conclude that Google Translate uses the transposition technique.

9. Particularization

Datum 133:

SL: With the inclusion of sustained practice and ***spaced repetition***, as proposed by Roediger and Pyc (2012), GT could become a more effective tool for long-term learning

TL: Dengan dimasukkannya latihan berkelanjutan dan ***pengulangan dengan jarak tertentu***, seperti yang diusulkan oleh Roediger and Pyc (2012), GT dapat menjadi alat yang lebih efektif untuk pembelajaran jangka panjang

The sentence above was inferred by the researcher using the particularization technique. The particularization technique uses more concrete and specific terms. As in the sentence above, the original word is *"spaced repetition"* which if translated literally means *"pengulangan spasi"*, but translated using the particularization technique turns into *"pengulangan dengan jarak tertentu"*. With this translation, the meaning conveyed is more concrete and clear and easy to understand. Therefore, we conclude that Google Translate uses the particularization technique in translating the sentence above.

From the analysis above, the most dominant translation technique used by Google Translate is literal translation where the technique translates word by word without looking at grammar and the translation results do not see the equivalence of meaning. Thus, there are still some sentences whose meaning is not easy to understand and not conveyed. However, Google Translate can help our basic understanding in understanding readings from other languages. However, it is better to double-check the translation in order to produce an accurate and equivalent translation. As explained by Nida and Taber (1969) that from the perspective of equivalence, translation involves trying to reproduce into the recipient's language, a message from the source language that is as natural as possible and as close as possible to the source language, in terms of meaning and style. Mona Baker (1992) states that the importance of individual knowledge as a translator in the translation process. Therefore, although Google Translate's translation results can still be understood, but as readers we must understand good and

acceptable translation results so that we can understand the contents of reading from other languages.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This research proves that Google Translate produces word-for-word translations, also known as literal translations, which often result in translations that are unclear, unnatural, and sometimes nonsensical. A total of 48 out of 116 data were translated using literal translation technique with a frequency of 41.38%. In addition to this technique, other techniques are modulation (19.83%), borrowing (18.97%), transposition (2.57%), amplification (6.04%), establish equivalent (6.04%), explicitation (3.45%), particularization (1.72%), and variation (0.86%). With the frequent appearance of literal translation techniques, it means that Google Translate still has limitations like other translation tools. While it can help readers to understand the general content of a foreign language text, it does not always provide an accurate translation. Likewise with Google Translate, the English-Indonesian translation is good, this research proves that double-checking the translation results is necessary. The reader can use this machine translation to help build our basic understanding, but it is necessary to reformulate the order of sentences when translated into other languages. Therefore, for readers especially for students who are required to make final assignments such as articles, that must be carried about the translation results.

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