

# CATEGORY SHIFTS OCCURENCE IN THE INDONESIAN TRANSLATION OF LITTLE WOMEN

**Aswarini Sentana**  
Gunadarma University  
Jl. Margonda Raya 100  
aswarinisentana@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

*This is a translation study related to translation shifts occurrence in the Indonesian translation of Novel Little Women written by Louisa May Alcott. The purposes of this study are to find out what types of category shifts found in the Indonesian translation of Little Women and to find out the dominant category shift found in the translation. The method which is used by the researcher is the combination of descriptive qualitative and quantitative method. The result of the research shows that all types of category shifts which are structure shift, class shift, unit shift and-system shifts, found in the translation. It also shows that the dominant category shift found in the translation is structure shift.*

**Keywords:** *Translation, Translation shifts, Category shifts.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

Every language including English and Indonesian are different from each other both in their phonological and grammatical aspects. As Nida (1974) states that each language possesses certain distinctive characteristics which give it a special character, e.g. words, building capacities, unique patterns of phrase orders, techniques for linking clauses into sentences, discourse markers and special discourse types such as poetry, proverbs and expressions. So, in translating an English text into Indonesian, sometimes changes in

structure or position of words are needed in order to produce an equivalent meaning of the source text into the target text.

Translators use different strategies and approaches in the process of translation to create an equivalence translation toward a source language. One of these approaches is a shift in translation.

The researcher was interested in analyzing the different structure and form between the source language and the target language, especially in the case of translation shifts, as this often becomes one source of difficulties in translating text. In this research, the researcher compares a novel en-

titled *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott and its Indonesian translation with the same title by Uti Setiawati. This research then analyzes the occurrence of Catford's category shifts which are structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift in the translation of Alcott's *Little Women*.

### 1.2 Problem Formulation

Based on the research background, the writer formulates the problem of the study are:

1. What the different structure and form between the source language and the target language, especially in the case of translation shifts?
2. How the occurrence of Catford's category shifts in the translation of Alcott's *Little Women* by Uti Setiawati?

### 1.3 Aim of the Research

The aims of the study are:

1. To find out different structure and form between the source language and the target language, especially in the case of translation shifts.
2. To analyze the occurrence of Catford's category shifts in the translation of Alcott's *Little Women* by Uti Setiawati.

### 1.4 Previous Research

Several researches on translation shifts have been conducted such as by Monireh Akbari (2012) whose research was *Structural Shifts in Translation of Children's Literature* in the International Journal of Linguistics. He focused on structural shifts in literary translation from English into Persian. Rasyidie, Fridolini and Chikita (2013) conducted a research which was *Translation Shifts In the Novel "Mansfield Park" By Jane Austen Translated By Berliani Mantili Nugrahani* in *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya, Edisi Khusus Prodi Sastra Inggris, Volume: 1, Agustus 2013*. They focused on the Level Shifts,

Structure shift, and rank shifts in the translation of a novel.

### 1.5 Position of The Study

In this study, what differs previous researches and the researcher's study is that this study only focuses on the category shifts found in the translation of the novel chosen, whereas they focused on more general translation shifts.

### 1.6 Scope of The Study

Out of twenty three chapters of the novel, the researcher only took twenty five sentences which contains category shifts randomly from the first five chapters.

### 1.7 Significance of the Study

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that the result of this study can be used to provide knowledge about translation shifts, especially category shifts, and how it applies in translation.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Definition of Shifts

John Catford (1965) defines shifts as 'departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL'. There are two major types of shifts: level shifts (where an SL item at one linguistic level, for example grammar, has a TL equivalent at a different level, for instance lexis) and category shifts, which involve (a) changes of structure (structure shift), (b) changes of rank (unit shift), (c) changes of class (class shift), and (d) changes of term (intra-system shift).

### 2.2 Level Shifts

According to Catford (1965) "By a shift of level we mean that a source language item at one linguistic level has a target language translation equivalent at a different level. Thus, translation between the levels of phonology and

graphology - or between either of these levels and the level of grammar and lexis - is impossible". Therefore, level shifts between the levels of grammar and lexis has a TL translation equivalent at a different level which posits relationship to the same substance, as the necessary condition of translation equivalence. Level shifts include studies like morphology, semantics, etc.

### 2.3 Category Shifts

According to Catford in *A Linguistic Theory of Translation* (1965), category-shifts, which are departures from formal correspondence in translation, consist of structure-shift, class-shift, unit-shift (rank-changes), and intra-system-shift. Category shift can be divided into four: (1) structure shift, (2) class shift, (3) unit shift or rank-changes and (4) intra-system shift. Here the explanation as follows:

- a. **Structure-shifts.** involves a change in grammatical structure between the source language and the target language.
- b. **Class-shifts.** It occurs when the translation equivalent of a SL item is a member of a different class from the original item.
- c. **Unit-shift.** By unit-shift we mean changes of rank - that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is a unit at a different rank in the TL.
- d. **Intra-system Shift.** A departure from formal correspondence in which one system in the SL has its translation equivalent a different-non-corresponding-system in the TL.

Based on those statements, structure shift is the changing of words sequence in a sentence. Class shift occurs when the translation equivalent of a source language

item is a member of a different class from the original item. Unit shift which refers to changes of rank; that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the source language is a unit at a different rank in the target language. Intra system is a departure from formal correspondence in which one system in the SL has its translation equivalent a different-non-corresponding-system in the TL (Rica, 2017).

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Design

In this research, the researcher used the combination between descriptive qualitative and quantitative approach. Qualitative approach is used to describe the data. Meanwhile, quantitative approach is used to count the percentage of the kinds of category shifts found in the translation.

### 3.2 Source of The Data

The occurrence of shifts identified in this research was located in the English - Indonesian translation of a novel entitled "Little Women" written by Louisa May Alcott which has the same title "Little Women", translated by Uti Setiawati. This novel was chosen as there were many shifts found in the translation. In the translation, it can be found how the theory of shifts in translation influenced the transfer of meaning from English source text into Indonesian target text.

### 3.3 Data Collection Technique

The procedure of this research will be as follows:

1. The researcher read both the English novel and its translation thoroughly.
2. The source text and the translation are compared to see whether there are changes or shifts

- on the structure and the position of the words.
3. At the same time, the researcher marks down words/phrases/clauses/sentences of the translation text in which translation shifts occur.
  4. The researcher then analyzes the collected data approached by theories concerned. In this step, the researcher used the theory proposed by Catford (1965) which is Category shifts.
  5. The researcher collected 25 data in form of sentences randomly from the first five chapters of the translation in which cate-

gory shifts such as class shift, structure shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift found.

6. Those 25 data are counted to see what the dominant category shift occur in the translation of the novel.

### 3.4 Collection of the Data

While comparing the source text and the target text, the researcher collects the data being analyzed. The total of the data is 25, and below is some of them:

Table 1. Collection of the Data

No	Pg/P r	ST	Pg/P r	TT
1	8/4	"Mother didn't say anything about <b>our money</b> , and she won't wish us to give up everything."	10/5	"Ibu tidak berkata apa-apa tentang <b>uang kita</b> , dan dia tidak meminta kita melepaskan segalanya."
2	10/1	"They all drew to the fire, Mother in the <b>big chair</b> with Beth at her feet,..."	23/1	"Mereka semua mendekat ke perapian. Ibu di <b>kursi besar</b> , Beth di dekat kakinya,..."
3	15/5	"You 're a <b>regular</b> Shakespeare !" exclaimed Beth, who firmly believed that her sisters were gifted with wonderful genius in all things.	20/1	"Kau memang <b>keturunan</b> Shakespeare!" seru Beth, yakin sepenuh hati bahwa saudara-saudara perempuannya dikaruniai bakat luar biasa dalam segala bidang.
4	28/1	" <b>Funny angels in hoods</b> and mittens," said Jo, and set them to laughing .	35/3	" <b>Malaikat-malaikat lucu yang memakai tudung</b> dan sarung tangan," celetuk Jo sehingga membuat mereka tertawa"
5	59/1	We can't give up our <b>girls</b> for a dozen fortunes.	74/3	Kami tidak akan menyerahkan <b>anak perempuan</b> kami demi harta.
6	71/2	"Going out for exercise," answered Jo, with a mischievous twinkle in <b>her eyes</b> .	90/2	"Keluar untuk gerak badan," jawab Jo dengan kilat nakal di <b>matanya</b> .

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Introduction

There are four types of Catford's category shifts: class

shift, structure shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift, and these are the category shifts found in the Indonesian translation of Alcott's *Little Women*:

Table 2. Data of Structure shift

Pg/P r	ST	Pg/P r	TT
8/4	"Mother didn't say anything about <b>our money</b> , and she won't wish us to give up everything."	10/5	"Ibu tidak berkata apa-apa tentang <b>uang kita</b> , dan dia tidak meminta kita melepaskan segalanya."

(Taken from Alcott's *Little Women* and its translation by Utti Setiawati)

Analysis:

The noun phrase **...our money...** in the source language text is constructed of modifier **...our...**, followed by head **...money...**. Meanwhile, in the target language text, it becomes **...uang**

**kita...** which is constructed of head **...uang...** followed by modifier **...baru...**. The position of head and modifier in this translation is changed. It means that structure shift found.

Table 3. Data of Class Shift

ST		TT	
g/Pr		g/Pr	
5/5	"You 're a <b>regular</b> Shakespeare!" exclaimed Beth, who firmly believed that her sisters were gifted with wonderful genius in all things.	0/1	"Kau memang <b>keturunan</b> Shakes-peare!" seru Beth, yakin sepenuh hati bahwa saudara-saudara perempuannya dikaruniai bakat luar biasa dalam segala bidang.

(Taken from Alcott's *Little Women* and its translation by Utti Setiawati)

Analysis:

Class shift found in the translation above as the adjective

**...regular...** of the source text is translated into the noun **...keturunan...** in the target text.

Table 4. Data of Unit Shift

Pg/Pr	ST	Pg/Pr	TT
r		r	
28/1	" <b>Funny angels in hoods</b> and mittens," said Jo, and set them to laughing.	35/3	" <b>Malaikat-malaikat lucu yang memakai tudung</b> dan sarung tangan," celetuk Jo sehingga membuat mereka tertawa"

(Taken from Alcott's *Little Women* and its translation by Utti Setiawati)

Analysis:

**Funny angels in hoods...** is a noun phrase in the source text and is translated into **... Malaikat-malaikat lucu yang memakai tudung..**

which is a noun clause in the target text. Thus, there occurs a unit shift from phrase into clause in the translation.

Table 5. Data of Intra-system shift

Pg/Pr	ST	Pg/Pr	TT
80/1	" A fellow can't live on <b>books</b> ," said Laurie, shaking his head, as he perched on a table opposite.	101/2	"Orang tidak bisa hidup dari <b>buku</b> ," sahut Laurie, menggeleng-gelengkan kepala sambil duduk di meja di seberang Jo.

(Taken from Alcott's *Little Women* and its translation by Utti Setiawati)

Analysis:

**...books...** is a plural noun in English and it is translated into **...buku...** which is a singular noun in Indonesian language. Thus, there occurs intra-system shift in the translation.

#### 4.2 Resume of Shifts Occurrence

The result of the research is synthesized as follows. Of the 25 data found during the analysis of the translation, the researcher found that all types of category shifts found in the translation. Structure shift found in 10 data,

class shift in 2 data, unit shift in 6 data, and 7 other data contain intra-system shift. Seen from the number of each shifts occurrence from the translation, we can see that the dominant shift used by the translator is structure shift: 10 data of 25 data being analyzed.

The following table 6 shows the categories of these data and the quantity of each category both in number and percentage of the translation.

**Table 6. Data of Categories**

No.	Types of category shifts	Number of data	Percentage
1.	Structure shift	10	40
2.	Class shift	2	8
3.	Unit shift	6	24
4.	Intra-system shift	7	28
<b>Total data</b>		25	100%

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

##### 5.1 Conclusion

This research has two problems; (1) what types of Catford's category shifts found in the translation of *Little Women*? and, (2) what is the dominant category shift found in the translation of *Little Women* ?. After collecting and analyzing Alcott's *Little Women* and its Indonesian translation, all the category shifts which are structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift found in the translation text. The researcher then counted the number of each shifts and found that structure shift is the dominant shift found in the translation.

##### 5.2 Suggestion

The researcher suggests that prospective researchers who are in-

terested in conducting a similar topic are encouraged to collect more data so that the analysis can be more elaborated. If the researcher collects more data, the result of the research may be different. The researcher also recommends the next researcher to use not only category shifts to analyze the data, but also level shifts to provide complete realization of Catford's translation shifts in a translation.

#### 5. REFERENCES

- Bell, R.T. (1991), *Translation and Translating: Theory and Practice*, New York: Longman.
- Catford, J.C. (1974), *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*, London: Oxford University Press.
- Hatim, Basil, and Munday, J. (2004), *Translation: An Advance Resource Book*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Larson and Mildred L. (1998), *Meaning-based Translation: A Guide to Cross-language Equivalence*, Lanham and London: University Press of America.
- Newmark, P. (1988), *A Textbook of Translation*, London and New York: Prentice Hall.
- Nida, E.A. (1964), *Toward a Science of Translating*, Leiden: E.J. Brill.
- Nida, E.A. and Taber, C. (1974), *The Theory and Practice Translation*, Leiden: E.J. Brill
- Rica, P.S, Ni, L.P.S, and Anita. (2017), Translation Shifts In Passive Clause In Novel "The Fault In Our Stars", *Journal of Language and Literature*, 2.
- Venuti, L. (2000), *The Translation Studies Reader*, London and New York: Routledge.