

AN ANALYZING STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE IN TRANSLATING ABSTRACT FROM INDONESIA INTO ENGLISH

**(Case Study: Grammatical Error and Translation Method Used in Translating
Abstract Indonesian-English Made by the Students of STMIK Mardira Indonesia)**

Anie Susany Soemantri, Marjito
STMIK Mardira Indonesia, Bandung

Abstract

One of the contents in academic writing (thesis, paper, and the like) is abstract and it is commonly put before table of contents. The purpose of abstract is to give general view of the thesis, paper, etc. for the readers. However, those whose educational background are not English department, it would be a problem to translate abstract Indonesian – English, either in terms of grammar or method used. And most of the students make grammatical error in connection with verb agreement, conjunction, missing verb, causative, redundancy, preposition, adverb of manner and tenses. Further, most of them use literal translation method in translating abstract Indonesian-English

Keywords: Academic Writing, Translating Abstract

Abstrak

Salah satu isi dalam menulis akademik (skripsi, paper, dan sejenisnya) adalah abstrak yang umumnya diletakkan sebelum daftar isi. Tujuan abstrak adalah untuk memberikan pandangan umum dari tesis, paper, dll untuk pembaca. Namun mereka yang latar belakang pendidikan yang bukan dari jurusan bahasa Inggris akan menjadi masalah dalam menerjemahkan abstrak Indonesia - Inggris, baik dari segi tata bahasa atau metode yang digunakan. Dan sebagian besar siswa membuat kesalahan tata bahasa dalam kaitannya dengan verb agreement, conjunction, missing verb, causative, redundancy, preposition, adverb of manner dan tenses. Selanjutnya, sebagian besar dari mereka menggunakan metode terjemahan harfiah dalam menerjemahkan abstrak Indonesia-Inggris.

Kata Kunci: Academic Writing, Translating Abstract

A. Background

One of the contents in academic writing (thesis, paper and the like) is abstract and it is commonly put before table of contents. The purpose of abstract is to give general view of the thesis, paper, etc for readers. However, those whose educational background are not English department, it would be a problem. Finally, there's a few of them who make a mistakes in terms of grammar and their translation are far from being 'idiomatic translation'. Basically, translating abstract from Indonesia – English, the translator should be good at either structure or the technique of translating. In addition, it means that it doesn't sound like translation in order to have a good translation but it sounds like it was written originally in the receptor language.

It is widely believed that translating from source language into target language (or vice versa) is very difficult for those whose background is not English department. Few of them, want to or not, use 'Transtool' as a means of translating as they find difficulties translate them. It might be realized that they don't have the

knowledge how to translate from Indonesian into English or vice versa. Finally, their outcome is far from being expected. Translating English texts into Indonesian requires good skills in translation. These skills are required to exchange information and knowledge contained in the texts. (Mulyono, 1993).

Regarding the translation, there are many aspects should be understood, it could be linguistics system use for both languages and cultural knowledge of two languages. The translator is demanded to search for the words that equivalent in both linguistics systems (Nababan, 1999:30).

B. Discussion

Having analyzed three abstracts, either Indonesia or English written, they could draw the conclusion that research shows there are some grammatical mistakes made by the students, she doesn't keep structure and the translator seems focus on the message conveyed. To find out as far as the grammatical mistakes made and translation method used, as the following table.

Abstract 1: Grammatical Mistakes Made and Translation Methods Used

NO	Source Language	Target Language	Grammatical Mistakes	Translation Method
1	Era globalisasi telah menuntut adanya perubahan dalam segala bidang, <i>salah satunya</i> adalah bidang pemasaran.	Globalization era has claimed the changing of all aspect, one of the <i>aspect</i> is in marketing.	verb agreement redundancy	literal
2	Semakin tingginya tingkat persaingan <u>di</u> <u>bisnis</u> <u>lokal</u> <u>maupun</u> <u>global</u> dan kondisi ketidakpastian memaksa perusahaan untuk mencapai keunggulan ompetitif agar mampu memenangkan	The higher the competition level <u>in</u> <u>local</u> <u>and</u> <u>global</u> <u>business</u> and uncertainty forced the company to reach competitive advantage in order to win the global business	conjunction	Literal

	persaingan di bisms global.	competition.		
3	Seiring perkembangan tersebut masyarakat dihadapkan pada berbagai pilihan dalam mengkonsumsi sehari-hari. <u>Dengan perkembangan teknologi dan informasi, perkembangan industri semakin tinggi dan kompleks.</u>	Along with those changing, the society faced many option to consume daily needs. <u>Development in technology and information made industries also developed highly and complex.</u>	causative make	literal
4	<i>Salah satu industri yang mengalamiperkembangan cukup pesat adalah jenis industri makanan dan minuman kategori kecap.</i>	One of the industries that has a quick growth are foods and drinks industries in soy sauce category.		Semantic

Data from abstract 1, the researcher attempts to analyze of each grammatical mistakes made by the translator and translation method used by them. Having analyzed grammatical mistakes, then, he gives the solution by correcting them into the right ones.

In terms of grammatical mistakes made, there are three mistakes: (1) verb agreement and redundancy, the translator seem not be aware of verb agreement and repeating the same object as indicated in no.1 "...the changing of all aspect, one of the *aspect* is in marketing". It is apparent that *one of* should be followed by plural not singular and the word "aspect" in "one of the aspect" should be replaced by "them". In this case, therefore, the right one is " ... "...the changing of all aspect, one of the *them* is in marketing", (2) conjunction, as far as conjunction is concerned, she made mistake in combining words or phrase. "... in local and global business ..." it should use coordinating conjunction (both .. and... , or either ... or...). So it should be "...either local or global..." Scrampher (1999:353) when two subject are

connected by *not only ... but also, either... or, or neither ... nor* the subject that is closer to the verb determiners whether the verb is singular or plural. She, further argues that the parallel structure in the same grammatical form should follow each part of the paired conjunctions, and (3) causative make, to look into a grammatical mistake in connection with *causative make*, it could be convinced that the translator is not good at causative as indicated in the sentence "Development in technology and information made industries also developed highly and complex". Base on the formula causative *make*, S + make + something + verb word, it must be wrong due to the word "developed". Therefore, the right one is "Development in technology and information made industries also develop highly and complex ". *make* can be used as a causative where in causative, a person does not perform an action directly. The person causes it to happen by forcing another person to do it (Barron's, 2000:101)

While, in line with translation method used, there are two translation

methods performed in abstract 1: (1) literal translation, Newmark (1988:69) literal procedure is normally effective for only brief simple neutral sentences. The following are translation use literal method.

referring the sentence below:

"Era globalisasi telah menuntut adanya perubahan dalam segala bidang, *salah satunya* adalah bidang pemasaran". (SL)
 "Globalization era has claimed the changing of all aspect, one of the aspect is in marketing". (TL)

"... persaingan di bisnis lokal maupun global dan kondisi ..."

"... the competition level in local and global business ..."

In the above sentences, the translator uses literal translation for the sentence above as grammatical construction (SL) are converted to the nearest target language equivalent but the lexical words are again translated single, out of context. (Newmark, 1988: 46). For example "*di bisnis lokal maupun global*" he translated it by *literal method*. However, the rest of them is translated by using literal method, Literal translation is source language grammatical constructions are converted to the their nearest Target Language equivalents but the lexical words are again translated single, out of context. (Newmark, 1988: 46), (2) semantic translation, in this method, a translator must be faithful with the

message which conveyed and it can be added or lessen the word without changing the original meaning which conveyed. Data from abstract 1:

"Salah satu industri yang *mengalami perkembangan cukup pesat* adalah jenis industri makanan dan minuman kategori kecap."

"One of the industries that *has a quick growth* are foods and drinks industries in soy sauce category".

As sentences aforementioned, the translator uses semantic translation for translating "...mengalami perkembangan cukup pesat..." into target language "...has a quick growth." In this case, translator must be faithful with the message which conveyed and it can be added or lessen the word without changing the original meaning.

Having analyzed data from abstract 1, it could be drawn the conclusion, basically, the translator is good enough in dealing with grammar as indicated by his mistakes. Although, he made grammatical mistakes as far as conjunction, verb agreement, redundancy, and causative *have*, they are not too significant. It could be when he was typing, he was not concern, especially in connection with 'verb agreement'. However, in terms of translation method used, he used literal and semantic translation but literal dominated in this translation.

Abstract2: Grammatical Mistakes Made and Translation Theory Used

NO	Source Language	Target Language	Grammatical Mistakes	Translation Theory
1	Berdasarkan fakta yang terjadi bahwa jumlah restoran yang semakin meningkat di Kawasan Cillideung, membuat <i>swicthing entry</i> terhadap restoran lain	Based on the fact that the number of restaurant in Cihideung <i>area in</i> increasing rapidly, switching entry toward other restaurant is also	missing main verb preposition	Literal

	<p>sangat besar. Akibatnya, mudah bagi pelanggan berpindah ke restoran lain atau loyalitas mereka cenderung lemah. Berdasarkan data yang diperoleh dari Kampung Daun terjadi penurunan jumlah pengunjung selama dua triwulan <i>secara berturut-turut</i> tahun 2006, hal ini mengindikasikan adanya penurunan loyalitas pelanggan. Penurunan tingkat loyalitas pelanggan yang terjadi diduga <i>disebabkan</i> oleh pelayanan yang diberikan Kampung Daun tidak dapat memenuhi harapan pelanggan.</p>	<p>getting higher. Therefore, it is easy for a customer to switch to other restaurant. It means that she / he has a low loyalty. Based on the data provided in Kampung Daun 'there has been declining guest in two 'quarter period in the year 2006, <i>respectively</i> this indicates the declining of Kampung Daun Customer loyalty which presumably <i>because</i> by service quality provided by Kampung Daun .</p>	Adverb of manner	
2	<p>Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui: (1) persepsi pelanggan Kampung Daun terhadap kualitas pelayanan Kampung Daun, (2) gambaran loyalitas pelanggan Kampung Daun, serta (3) pengaruh kualitas pelayanan terhadap loyalitas pelanggan Kampung Daun.</p>	<p>The objectives of this research are to know: (1) description of Kampung Daun service quality, (2) description of Kampung Daun customers loyalty, and (3) the influence of service quality.</p>		Literal
3	<p>Variabel bebas dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitas pelayanan (X) dengan lima dimensi: bukti fisik, reliabilitas, daya tanggap,</p>	<p>This research consists of independent variable which is service quality (x) that has five dimensions: tangible, reliability, responsiveness,</p>		Literal

	<p>jaminan kepastian dan empati, sedangkan variabel terikat pada penelitian ini adalah loyalitas pelanggan (Y). Jenis penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif verifikatif, karena itu metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah survei explanatori dengan teknik <i>systematic random sampling</i>. Sampel pada penelitian ini adalah 100 pengunjung Kampung Daun. Analisis data dalam penelitian ini regresi linier ganda.</p>	<p>assurance and empathy. Where as the dependent variable is customer loyalty (y). Type of the research used is descriptive verifcative, therefore research method used is explanation survey, using systematic random sampling technique . Sample 100 Kampung Daun customers was taken. Data analysis in this research is multiple regressions.</p>		
4	<p>Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengaruh kualitas pelayanan secara bersama-sama terhadap loyalitas pelanggan adalah 88,9%, sedangkan sisanya dipengaruhi oleh faktor-faktor lain (c). Dimensi reliabilitas mempunyai pengaruh yang paling besar diantara lima dimensi lainnya, yaitu 31, 1 %. Akan tetapi kinerja yang buruk pada indikator ini membuat gap sebesar 286,67 dan merupakan gap terbesar dibandingkan gap pada dimensi lainnya.</p>	<p>The research shows that service quality influences customer loyalty by 88,9%. The rest of it influenced by other factors, reliability dimension has the highest influence among 4 other dimensions which is 31, 1 %. However, low performance in this indicator creates the biggest gap compare with other dimensions.</p>		Literal Semantic
	<p>Untuk itu perlu diadakan pelatihan karyawan Kampung Daun agar karyawan lebih cekatan dalam</p>	<p>Therefore Kampung Daun employee training is needed in order to increase the responsiveness in</p>		

	<p>melayani tamu. Karena jika Karyawan tedatih dengan bailk maka akan memperlancar <i>operating system</i> pelayanan yang diberikan. Selain itu sebaiknya Kampung Daun terus menambah variasi menu baru tiap bulannya dan meningkat rasa dari makanan. Untulk mengilkat pelanggan agar loyal terhadap perusahaan pedu diadakan program <i>member club, gathering</i> peduli lingkungan dan <i>event</i> budaya asli bangsa Indonesia.</p>	<p>serving guest. <i>This could smoothened</i> Kampung Daun service operating system. More ever, Kampung Daun should increase new menu variation monthly and improved the taste of the food. To create customer loyalty it is necessary to hold programs such as member club, environmental awareness gathering and Indonesian cultural event.</p>	tenses	
--	---	--	--------	--

Referring the data from abstract 2, there are grammatical mistakes as abstract 1 did. They are missing main verb, conjunction, verb, tenses, and adverb of manner.

In terms of grammatical mistakes made, the translator seem are not aware of keeping structure when he translated. It could be convinced that he tends to focus on transferring message from SL to TL than keeping grammar. For example “... in Cihedeung area in increasing rapidly.” In this case, there is missing main verb. Barron's (2000:81) every English sentence must have a subject and a main verb. While preposition *in* “in increasing” is not appropriate and doesn't make sense. Therefore, the sentence should be “.. in Cihedeung area **is** creasing rapidly.” While the translation method used is faithful translation as indicated in phrase (SL) “.. semakin meningkat..” and “resoaran lain sangat besar ..”. Two phrases are translated respectively “... increasing rapidly..” and “...other

restaurant is also getting higher...”. It is obvious that .the translator be aware of contextual meaning of source language to be translated into target language of the equivalent grammatical construction and meaning. It goes with Newmark (1988: 46) “a faithful translation attempt to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraint of the TL grammatical structure.”

Referring the next sentence of target language “...there has been declining guest in two 'quarter period in the year 2006, respectively...” there is mistake in terms of adverb of manner “respectively”. It should be placed after the word “quarter”. In addition , there is also mistake in connection with *conjunction* (because) used as the third verb (becaused). It is absolutely wrong because the word *because* is categorized as *conjunction* not verb. the word *becaused* , therefore, should be replaced by *caused*. However, regarding the

translation method used, the translator used “literal translation”.

Regarding no 2, there is no grammatical mistake while translation method used is faithful translation. While for no.3, there is grammatical mistake as indicated in the sentence “Sample 100 Kampung Daun customers was taken” in this case, neither the subject nor object is clear. So the sentence should be “ There was 100 sample of Kampung Daun customer taken”. While, the translation method used is literal but the translator doesn’t fully translate the word from source language. He didn’t translate the word “pada penelitian ini” he tries to omit it without paying attention of the meaning whether it makes sense or not.

Translating consist in reproducing in the receptor language the closet natural equivalent

of a source language message, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. In this opinion, a good translation is a translation that doesn't feel like translation (Nida, 1982:12).

In terms of analyzing abstract 2, there are conclusion drawn. Regarding the grammatical mistakes, he makes mistakes in line with missing main verb, preposition, adverb of manner, tenses, and verb. However, there is no dominant mistake. While, translation method used, there are literal and semantic translation. In this case, literal translation dominate

Abstract 3: Grammatical Mistakes Made and Translation Theory Used

NO	Source Language	Target Language	Grammatical Mistakes	Translation Theory
1	Fenomena globalisasi telah memicu perkembangan industri telekomunikasi secara pesat di Indonesia. Hal tersebut telah menciptakan peluang bisnis sekafigus menciptakan Wim atau situasi yang kompetitif pada industri telekomunikasi di Indonesia. Pada tahun 2003, hadir teknologi telekomunikasi berbasis CDMA yang merupakan generasi teknologi kedua (2G). Teknologi CDMA mempunyai banyak keunggulan dan salah	Globalization Phenomenon has triggered rapid development of telecommunication industry in Indonesia. It has created business opportunity <u>and</u> , at the same time triggered competitive telecommunication Industry in Indonesia. In 2003, CDMA-base telecommunication technology <u>was introduce</u> : as second generation technology (2G). CDMA technology gives many advantages, <u>such as</u> low price that can be	Auxiliary verb	Literal Semantic translation

	<u>satunya</u> adalah layanan telekomunikasi dengan tarif yang terjangkau bagi masyarakat.	afforded by public.		
2	<p>Perkembangan teknologi telekomunikasi berbasis CDMA, <i>menjadikan banyaknya bermunculan</i> operator telekomunikasi CDMA seperti Telkom Flexi yang menjadi pelopor, <i>selanjutnya Fren dan kemudian Esia</i>. Pangsa Pasar untuk untuk CDMA secara umum masih dikuasai oleh Telkom Flexy sebesar 45%, kemudian Fren sebesar 25% dan yang terakhir Esia sebesar 20%. Jika kita lihat dari penguasaan pangsa pasar, Esia masih tertinggal di bawah kompetitornya. Kondisi tersebut telah mendorong operator telekomunikasi CDMA Esia untuk melakukan serangkaian program pemasaran yang lebih kreatif dan selalu up to date, salah satunya melalui periklanan (X,) dan promosi penjualan (X2) untuk mempengaruhi konsumen agar menggunakan atau tetap menggunakan operator telekomunikasi CDMA Esia.</p>	<p>The Development of CDMA-base telecommunication tech <i>has grow the occurrence</i> of CDMA telecommunication provider such as Telkorn Flexi that became a pioneer, <i>fren and Esia</i>. Most of CDMA market share are still dominated by Telkorn flexy (45%), Freni, (25%) and Esia (205yo). According to the data, Esia is under its competitors. <i>This have</i> encouraged Esia CDMA telecommunication provider to launch more creative and up to date program, <i>one of them through vertising and sales promotion</i> to influence customers to be Esia customers</p>	<p>Participle</p> <p>Verb agreement</p> <p>Verb agreement</p>	<p>Literal Words for words</p>
	Hal tersebutlah yang mendorong	The above mentioned idea has supported this		

3	<p>dilakukannya penelitian ini, yaitu mengenai pengaruh periklanan dan promosi penjualan terhadap proses keputusan menggunakan operator telekomunikasi CDMA Esia. Adapun yang menjadi objek penelitian ini adalah Pengguna Esia di Bandung Electronic Centre. Variabel bebas dalam penelitian ini adalah periklanan (X₁) dan promosi penjualan (X₂) sedangkan untuk variabel terikat adalah proses keputusan menggunakan (Y).</p>	<p>research, that is, the influence of advertising and sales promotion towards the <i>buyer decision process of Esia base CDMA telecommunication</i> provider. The object for this research is Esia users at Bandung Electronic Centre. Independent variables for this research are advertising (X₁) and sales promotion (X₂), while the dependent variable is buying decision process (Y).</p>		
4	<p>Jenis penelitian ini adalah deskriptif verifikatif dengan metode <i>Explanatory survey</i>. Jumlah sampel dalam penelitian ini adalah 120 orang, diperoleh melalui teknik <i>Accidental Sampling</i>. Analisis data dan uji hipotesis menggunakan analisis jalur (<i>Path Analysis</i>) dengan bantuan software komputer SPSS 13, teknik analisis jalur ini digunakan untuk mengetahui pengaruh langsung maupun tidak langsung dari setiap variabel bebas terhadap variabel terikat.</p>	<p>The type of this research is verificative descriptive, using the method of <i>Explanatory Survey</i>. The number of samples used in this research is 120 people, and this is done through the <i>Accidental Sampling</i> technique. The data analysis and the hypothesis is test use <i>Path Analysis</i> with <i>guidence</i> from SPSS 13 software computer, this technique used to know the direct and indirect influence of each independent variable to dependent variable</p>		
	<p>Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pengaruh periklanan dan promosi penjualan</p>	<p>The result of this research shows that the influence of advertising and sales</p>		

	terhadap proses keputusan menggunakan operator telekomunikasi CDMA Esia cukup signifikan. <i>Pengaruh terbesar adalah melalui periklanan dan kemudian diikuti oleh promosi penjualan.</i>	promotion towards the buying decision process establishment of Esia base CDMA telecommunication provider are significant. <i>The biggest influence is through advertising followed by sales promotion.</i>		
--	---	--	--	--

Referring the abstract 3, there are some grammatical mistakes made and various of translation methods used. In term of grammatical mistake, as indicated in no. 1 "In 2003, CDMA-base telecommunication technology *was* introduce ... ", He was not aware of verb pattern where after subject plus the first verb, so there is not necessary to insert auxiliary verb to be (are, am, is) between subject and the first verb, except it is for passive voice (S + are, am, is + Veb3). The right one, therefore, is " ... technology introduced .. ", or "...technology was introduced ...". While for no.2 "The Development of CDMA-base telecommunication tech *has grow the occurrence* of CDMA telecommunication provider such as Telkorn Flexi that became a pioneer, *fren and Esia*", doesn't make a good sense. Base on the formula that after the words "have, has, had" are able to followed by "noun, verb3, or to infinitive". Referring, then, the sentence as aforementioned, the right one is "... has grown ..". in addition, there is also grammatical error in terms of verb agreement as indicated in the lat sentence of no.2 " *This have ...*" and " *one of them through advertising and sales promotion ..*" base on the formula, if subject (singular) followed by main verb (singular) and vice versa. So the right ones are "This has... or These have ..." and " two of them through advertising and sales promotion .."

Regarding the translation method used in abstract, there are various ones used that one paragraph might consist of mixing translation methods applied are as follow:

"... telah memicu perkembangan industri telekomunikasi secara pesat di Indonesia.

"... has triggered rapid development of telecommunication industry in Indonesia.

" ... Teknologi CDMA mempunyai banyak keunggulan dan salah satunya adalah layanan telekomunikasi dengan tarif yang terjangkau bagi masyarakat.

" Technology (2G). CDMA technology gives many advantages, such as low price that can be afforded by public.

In the above example, the translator uses faithful translation as he pays fully attention of the equivalent grammatical construction and meaning. While for the second one, he use semantic translation where he add and omit the word without any changes.

C. Conclusion

It is believed that most of the students, whose background is not English Dept, find difficulty to translate abstract Indonesian-English. It is

proved, three translator are not aware of making mistake in terms of the use of verb agreement, auxiliary verb, tenses, conjunction, causative, to be, and adverb of manner. Further, they are poor of translating method strategies applied as "literal" translation method is dominated by them.

References

- Brown, H Douglas. 1994. Teaching By principles : An Interactive Approach to Language *Merancang dan Melakukan Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: Pustaka Jaya.
- Scrampher. 1999. Understanding and Using English Grammar, High-Intermediate-Advanced. Pearson ESL.
- Newmark,. 1988. A Textbook of Translation. New York: Prentice-Hall International.
- Nida, Eugene A and Taber. 1969. The Theory and Practice of translation. Leiden: E.J. Brill.