

## AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION SHIFTS IN THE INDONESIAN TRANSLATION OF TOWARDS ZERO

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### ABSTRACT

This is linguistic research of translation that presents an analysis of translation shifts in the novel entitled “Menuju Titik Nol,” which is the Indonesian translation of an English novel “Towards Zero.” The purpose of this research is to find out the types of translation shifts and the most frequent type of translation shifts that occur in the translation. The method that is used in this research is a descriptive qualitative research method. From the translation, the researcher takes the first 100 data of translation shifts and then analyzes the data to identify the types and the most frequent translation shifts in the target text using related translation shifts theories. The results of this research show that the types of shifts found in the Indonesian translation of Towards Zero are level shifts and all types of category shifts, which are structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. The occurrence of all types of translation shifts in the translation is due to the difference in some linguistic systems of both languages. The most frequent shifts that occur in the translation is structure shifts. The structure shifts are found in the translation of noun phrases and the translation of active sentences into passive or vice versa.

**Keywords:** Class, Intra-System, Level, Shifts, Structure, Unit.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Every language, including English and Indonesian, has its own morphological, phonological, and grammatical characteristics. Nida and Taber stated that “each language possesses certain distinctive characteristics which give it a special character, e.g., words, building capacities, unique patterns of phrase orders, and techniques for linking clauses into sentences, discourse markers and special discourse types such as poetry, proverbs, and expressions (1982, p.3).” Thus, in the translation of an English text into Indonesian, or vice versa, sometimes changes in language structure, unit, or system occur.

The researcher is interested in analyzing the changes or shifts that may occur in the translation of an English source text into the Indonesian language, as these languages have some different characteristics. In addition, the researcher is curious about how the differences in language or linguistic systems of English and Indonesian affect the translation process involving both languages. In this research, the researcher wants to find out the types of translation shifts and the most frequent translation shifts that occur in the Indonesian translation of Agatha Christie’s *Towards Zero*, which is *Menuju Titik Nol*. She analyzes the translation shifts found in the target text by referring to relevant theories of translation shifts.

There has been some research conducted on translation shifts. The relevant research is used by the researcher to guide her in arranging this research. Yuwandani et al. (2016) conducted research that analyzed the occurrence of shifts in the translation of Balinese text into English at the word and phrase level. They used the theory, which used the term “transposition” and “modulation” to refer to the changes or shifts in translation. These changes or shifts occur because of the different grammatical structures and points of view of both languages. The result of this research showed that grammatical structure shifts (transposition), and and point of view shifts (modulation), were applied to the translation. In addition, Denny (2018) conducted research on the same topic. His research investigates translation shift occurrence in the translation of Museum Macan’s Instagram posts’ captions and the accuracy of the translation. The finding of his research is that the use of shifts helps the translator produce equivalent target text from the source text.

This research is relevant to the previous research, but some research gap also differentiates it. Like Yuwandani's research, this research intends to investigate the occurrence of translation shifts in a target text. What makes it different is the languages of the research object and the theory used. The theory used in this research is the same as that used by Denny (2018), which is Catford's theory of Translation Shifts. However, this research differs from his research in the type of research object. In addition, translation shifts in the previous research are seen not only as the changes that occur in translation but also as one of the translation strategies.

This research focuses on the occurrence of the types of translation shifts that were proposed by Catford (1965), which are level shifts and category shifts as the major types, as well as structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts under the categorization of category shifts, in the Indonesian translation of *Towards Zero*. It also focuses on the most frequent shifts in the target text.

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that the results will provide knowledge on translation shifts to prospective researchers who intend to research a similar topic. It is also expected to be beneficial to students of translation who need the information, examples, and reference related to translation shifts.

### 1.1. Translation

There are many definitions of translation put forward by linguists and language theorists. Ghazala stated that "translation refers to all the process and methods used to render and/or transfer the meaning of the source language text into the target language as closely, completely, and accurately as possible (2008, p.1)." He emphasized that meaning is an essential element in translation. Meanwhile, Hatim and Munday defined translation as "the process of transferring a written text from the source language (SL) to target language (TL) (2004, p.6)." They did not state explicitly that meaning or message is the translated object. Instead, they emphasized the term translation as a process. In addition, translation was defined as "an activity that aims at conveying meaning or meanings of a given linguistic discourse from one language to another (Malmkjaer, 2012, p.1)". Slightly different from the previous definition, which emphasizes the translation of the meaning element, Ulanska (2015) stated that "the process of translation is a language act in which a text from one language is substituted with an equivalent text from another, by making that substitution in accordance with the regulations of both languages systems." This definition emphasizes translation to the linguistic-oriented approach or concept.

From the definitions stated in the previous paragraph, it can be concluded that the term translation refers to a process or activity of rendering the meaning of a source-language text into the target language by considering the regulation of both languages. The meaning in translation becomes the essential element as it is the meaning which is translated from the source language text into the target language. However, a translator should also pay attention to the components of the languages concerned (the SL and TL). This is because meaning is a network of language components. Meaning can also be said as the product of different language components that are taken together in a certain type of text and context, for a certain kind of readership (Ghazala, 2008). In translation, translators account for a language component of its role in shaping meaning. Figure 1 is the illustration of the relationship between language, language components, meaning, and translation.

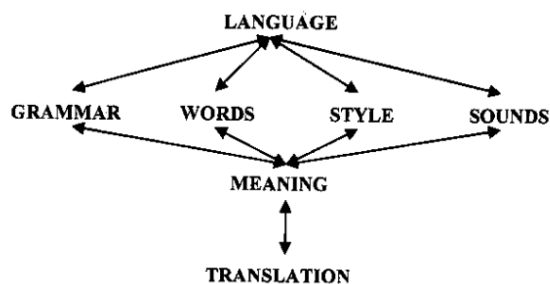


Figure 1. The Relationship between Language, Language Components, Meaning, and Translation Source: Ghazala, 2008, p. 3

As illustrated in Figure 1, grammar, words, style, and sounds are the components of language that produce meaning. Thus, in translating the meaning of a source-language into the target language, a translator should consider the language components, for example, the grammar and the style of the text. It is done in order to result a translation that is most appropriate and understood by the readers of the target language as the source language is understood by readers of the source language.

In the translation process, translators often find difficulties or problems. According to Ghazala A problem of translation, according to Ghazala, "is any difficulty we (translators) come across in translating, that invites us to stop translating in order to check, recheck, reconsider or rewrite it, or use a dictionary, or reference of some kinds to overcome it and make sense of it (2008, p. 17)." He added that problems of translation are grammatical problems, lexical problems, stylistic problems, and phonological problems. In other words, the language components such as grammar, words, style, and sounds can cause problems of translation. It is especially when the components of a source language are different from the components of the target language.

Due to the differences in language systems and characteristics between languages, it seems impossible to produce a translation that perfectly matches the formal elements like language components as well as the meaning of the source language. Instead, the linguistic system's incommensurability can cause translation shifts, which "result from attempts to deal with systemic differences (Cyrus, 2009)." In addition, "so many theories of translation at the time also included a systematization of such translation shifts (p.88)."

## **1.2. Translation Shifts**

The term "Translation Shifts" was proposed by Catford (1965). He stated that translation shifts are "departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL (p.73)." What is meant by a formal correspondence here is "any TL category which may be said to occupy, as nearly as possible, the 'same' place in the economy of the TL as the given SL category occupies in the SL (p.32)." For instance, English and French have five ranks of grammatical units (sentence, clause, group, word, and morpheme). It means that there is a formal correspondence between the orders of grammatical units in both languages. Another example, English has a word class called "preposition," and in the Indonesian language, it is called "preposisi." It means that there is a formal correspondence between "preposition" word class in the English and Indonesian language.

The formal correspondence concept is useful in translation. Catford (1965, p. 33) stated that "it is an essential basis for the discussion of problems which are important to translation theory and necessary for its application."

Translation shifts are divided into two major types; level shifts and structure shifts. Level shifts occur when "a SL item at one linguistic level has the equivalent in the TL at a different level (Catford, 1965. P.73). For instance, grammar as an item of a source language (SL) is translated into lexis as its equivalence in the target text, which is at a different level from the SL item. Meanwhile, category shifts involve changes in language structures (structure shifts), changes in rank (unit shifts), changes in word class (class shifts), and changes in terms (intra-system shifts).

### **1.2.1. Level Shifts**

As stated in the previous paragraph, level shifts occur when an item in the source language is translated into a target language equivalence at a different linguistic level. The only possible shifts of level in translation, according to Catford (1965), are shifts between the level of grammar and lexis. For example, English has rules on tenses, which are forms of a verb that indicate the time of an action, such as past, present, and future tense. Meanwhile, in Indonesian, verbs do not show the time of actions. Thus, to transfer English tenses into the Indonesian language, translators usually use lexis as the equivalence.

### **1.2.2. Category Shifts**

Category shifts refer to "unbounded and rank-bound translation: the first being approximately 'normal' or 'free' translation in which SL-TL equivalences are set up at whatever rank is appropriate (Catford, 1965, p.75)." There are four types of category shifts; structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts.

#### **1.2.2.1. Structure Shifts**

Structure shifts occur at all ranks in translation; in phonological, graphological, and total translation. The structure itself, according to Catford (1965), is "an arrangement of elements (subject, predicator, object, complement, adjunct) (p.77)." Thus, structure shifts can be indicated in a translation when the target language has different structure elements from the source language. Structure Shifts occur, for example, when translating an English noun phrase into the Indonesian Language. In this case, there is a formal correspondence as both languages have "noun phrases" as one kind of language unit. However, structure shifts occur when translating a noun phrase, whether from English into Indonesia or vice versa. It is because

the sequence of noun phrase elements in both languages is different. In English, a noun phrase begins with a modifier, followed by a noun (as the head). Meanwhile, in the Indonesian language, a noun (as the head) comes first before a modifier.

#### **1.2.2.2. Class Shifts**

According to Catford (1965), class shifts can occur when a source language item of one class is transferred into a target language equivalence in a different class. These shifts or changes can occur, for example, from a noun to an adjective, an adjective to a verb, a verb to an adverb, and vice versa, and other grammatical forms.

#### **1.2.2.3. Unit Shifts**

In unit shifts, changes in rank are involved. "It departs from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is the unit at a different rank in the TL (Catford, 1965, p.79)." These shifts occur, for instance, when a source language word is translated into a phrase in the target text, or a phrase is translated into a clause or vice versa.

#### **1.2.2.4. Intra-system Shifts**

Intra-system shifts refer to those cases where translation shifts occur internally within the system of both the source language (SL) and the target language (TL). It means that there is "a departure from formal correspondence in which one system in the source language has a different (non-corresponding) system in the target language (Catford, 1965, p.80)." These shifts include the changing from a singular noun to a plural noun or vice versa in the translation as the source and target text language. It might happen because even though both languages have systems related to singularity and plurality, there are differences in the application.

## **2. METHODS**

The present research is conducted using a descriptive qualitative method which is through library research. The researcher does library research by taking and collecting sources from related books and journals for the data and theories of analysis. The results of her analysis, then, are described and elaborated in this article.

There are some steps that are done by the researcher in doing this research. First, she reads Agatha Christie's novel entitled *Towards Zero* and its Indonesian translation—*Menuju Titik Nol (2013)* — which Windarti Selby has translated. Second, she compares every single source language sentence with its translation to see if there any shifts that occur in target text. Third, she takes the first 100 data of translation shifts that occur in the translation for analysis. All the 100 data are put in the table of data.

The researcher analyzes all the data taken to determine the types of translation shifts that occur in the Indonesian target text. In this phase, she uses the categorization of translation shifts that is proposed by Catford (1965). The translation shifts are level shifts and category shifts (structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts). The researcher determines the type of each translation shift found and fill it into the table of data. After determining the types of translation shifts of all data taken, the researcher checks them again to ensure that all the data and analysis are valid. Finally, she counts the results of categorization and determines the most frequent translation shifts that occur in the target text.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In this chapter, the researcher will discuss the types of translation shifts that occur in the Indonesian translation of Agatha Christie's *Towards Zero*. The researcher will also discuss the most frequent shifts in the translation.

The discussion will be based on the theory used, which is the theory of translation shifts by Catford (1965). Several data of translation shifts are presented in Tables 1-5, followed by the elaboration of analysis results.

Table 1. Level Shifts

No	Pg/Pr	Source Text	Pg/Pr	Target Text
1	8/2	“The prosecution <b>had made</b> a mistake in relying on one of its witnesses—old Depleach ought to have realized what an opening he was giving to the defense.”	12/4	“Pihak penuntut <b>telah membuat</b> kesalahan dengan mengandalkannya pada satu dari saksi-saksinya— <i>Mr. Depleach tua itu seharusnya menyadari ia telah memberikan peluang besar kepada pihak pembela.</i> ”
2	9/1	“Gradually it became apparent that the company <b>were waiting</b> for a final word from their most respected colleague.”	13/1	“Makin lama makin jelas bahwa semuanya <b>tengah menantikan</b> pendapat akhir dari sejawat mereka yang paling dihormati itu.”

The occurrence of level shifts is shown in Table 1. English has a language system like tense. It is a verb-based method to indicate time. Therefore, the structure of sentences in the present time differs from those in the past or future. Meanwhile, in the Indonesian language, there is no such system; sentence structure does not show time. Thus, in the translation of English grammatical forms like tenses, the lexical item is provided in the Indonesian target language so that the translation will be equivalent. In this case, level shifts occur. In datum 1, “had made” is a grammatical form of past perfect tense as there is auxiliary “had” and past participle verb “made.” It shows an action that was completed before some point in the past. To make it equivalent in the Indonesian language, “had” is translated into the lexical item “telah,” which shows actions that are completed, and the word “made” is translated into “membuat,” meaning “make” as in the Indonesian language form of the verb does not connect to time; there is no present or past form of the verb. In datum number 2, there is a grammatical form of past continuous tense “were waiting.” It contains the past tense of to be “were” followed by the present participle verb “waiting.” Past continuous tense is used to show actions in progress or happening at some point in the past. The word “were” is translated into “tengah,” meaning “in the progress of doing something,” and “waiting” is translated into “menanti,” meaning “wait.”

Table 2. Structure Shifts

No	Pg/Pr	Source Text	Pg/Pr	Target Text
1	7/1	“He <b>had settled innumerable delicate cases out of court</b> , he was said to know more of backstairs history than any man in England and he <i>was</i> a specialist on criminology.”	11/1	“ <i>Kasus-kasus rumit yang telah ditanganinya di pengadilan tak terhitung banyaknya. Kata orang, ia mengetahui lebih banyak rahasia-rahasia di balik sejarah daripada siapa pun di Inggris, dan ia juga spesialis kriminologi.</i> ”
2	9/4	“ <b>Young Lewis</b> spoke: “We <b>were talking</b> , sir, about the Lamorne case.”	13/4	“ <i>Si Lewis muda</i> berkata, “Kami sedang membicarakan kasus Lamorne, Sir.”

When an active form is translated into passive or vice versa, it means that there occurs a structure shift in the translation. For example, in datum number 1 above, an active statement “He had settled innumerable delicate cases out of court,…” is translated into a passive sentence “Kasus-kasus rumit yang telah ditanganinya di pengadilan tak terhitung banyaknya.” which means “complicated cases that he had handled in court were countless” The object of the source text “cases” becomes the subject “Kasus-kasus” in the target text. It means that there is no object in the target text, which makes the structure of the target language text different from the source text.

Datum number 2 of Table 2 also shows the occurrence of structure shifts. The noun phrase in datum 2, “Young Lewis,” which is constructed by “Young” as the modifier and followed by the head “Lewis,” is translated into “Lewis Muda,” which is constructed by the head “Lewis” and followed by Modifier “Muda.” The position of the Head and Modifier in the target language text is changed from the source language. It follows the rule of the Indonesian language in terms of noun phrases where Head always comes before Modifier.

Thus, in translating English noun phrases into Indonesian, the structure shifts strategy is applied to produce grammatical and equivalent TL.

Table 3. Class Shifts

No	Pg/Pr	Source Text	Pg/Pr	Target Text
1	7/2	“Mr Treves <b>knew</b> better.”	12/1	“Akan tetapi, Mr. Treves cukup <b>arif</b> . “
2	7/2	“Whenever his thin, precise, little voice was raised there was always a respectful <b>silence</b> .”	12/2	“Manakala ia mengangkat suaranya yang kecil dan tegas itu, semuanya langsung <b>diam</b> penuh hormat.”

Data 1 and 2 in Table 3 show the occurrence of Class Shifts where a part of speech or word class of the source language text is translated into a different class of words in the target language text.

The word “knew,” which is a verb in the source text of datum 1, is translated into the adjective “arif,” meaning “wise” in the target language text. Therefore, it seems that there is an explicitation in the translation, and it is acceptable as the character mentioned was a wise person.

In addition, the clause “there was always a respectful silence” is translated into “semuanya langsung diam penuh hormat,” meaning “all suddenly be silent respectfully” here, the noun “silence” is translated into “diam,” meaning “be silent,” which is a verb in the target language text. This shift is applied to make the target text sounds natural. On the other hand, if the clause “there was always a respectful silence” is translated literally into “selalu ada keheningan yang penuh hormat,” this sounds unnatural in the target text.

Table 4. Unit Shifts

No	Pg/Pr	Source Text	Pg/Pr	Target Text
1	7/1	“The group <b>round</b> the fireplace was nearly all composed of lawyers or those who had an interest in the law.”	11/1	“Kelompok yang <b>duduk di sekeliling</b> perapian itu hampir seluruhnya terdiri atas ahli hukum atau orang-orang yang <b>tertarik pada hukum</b> .”
2	10/6	“I was thinking, as I say, not of the points of law but of the—well, of the people in the case.”	14/5	“Seperti saya katakan tadi, saya sedang memikirkan, bukan tentang segi-segi hukumnya, tetapi tentang... yah, tentang <b>orang-orang yang terlibat dalam kasus itu</b> .”

In datum 1, the word “round” is translated into clause “yang duduk di sekeliling” meaning “who sit around”. Meanwhile, in datum 2, “the people in the case” which is a noun phrase has been translated into a noun clause “orang-orang yang terlibat dalam kasus itu” meaning “the people who are involved in the case”. The data show that unit shift occur in the translation; a language unit of a source language text is translated into different language unit in the target language text.

Unit shift is applied by the translator, if we see from the data in Table 3, to make the target text clearer. The word “round” have the Indonesian equivalence in the same unit like “sekeliling”, “sekitar” and “mengelilingi”, but neither of them will sound natural if used in the translation. In addition, in the second datum, “orang-orang yang terlibat dalam kasus itu” meaning “the people who are involved in the case” is clearer than just “the people in the case”.

Table 5. Intra-system Shifts

No	Pg/Pr	Source Text	Pg/Pr	Target Text
1	7/2	“Unthinking <b>people</b> said Mr Treves ought to write <b>his memoirs</b> .”	12/1	“ <b>Orang</b> yang berpikiran pendek sering mengatakan bahwa semestinya Mr. treves menulis <b>memoarnya</b> .”
2	8/3	“ <b>The medical evidence</b> had been a bit above <b>their heads</b> .”	12/4	“ <b>Fakta-fakta medis</b> agak terlalu rumit bagi <b>otak mereka</b> .”

In datum 1, there are two intra-system shifts found. First, the word “people,” which in English is considered plural, is translated into “orang,” which is a singular form—the plural form is “orang-orang.” However, it is acceptable in the target text as the word “orang” also has a general meaning—not only for a specific person. In addition, the plural form “his memoirs” is translated into “memoarnya,” a singular form.

In datum 2, there are also two intra-system shifts found. First, the singular form “evidence” is translated into “Fakta-fakta,” meaning “facts,” which is plural. The word “evidence” is an uncountable noun, so it does not have a plural form whether the meaning is plural. However, it is translated into plural form “fakta-fakta” based on the story in the source text, which shows that there is some evidence, not only one. The other intra-system shift is the plural form “their heads,” which is translated into “otak mereka,” meaning “their brain,” where the noun is in a singular form. It is done as the pronoun “mereka” has already shown plurality that the addition of plural nouns is incorrect in the target text.

Several data of this research have been provided in Table 1 to Table 5, along with the elaboration. Below in Table 6, the numbers of data taken, translation shift occurrence, and their percentage will be provided.

In the present study, the researcher takes 100 data of translation shifts that occur in the Indonesian translation of Agatha Christie’s *Towards Zero*. Based on two translation shifts categorization proposed by Catford (1965), the researcher found both Level Shifts (21%) and Category shifts (79%) in the Indonesian translation of the studied novel. In Category shifts, all the types, which are Structure Shifts (34%), Class Shifts (9%), Unit Shifts (25%), and Intra-system Shifts (10%), are also found. As seen in the results of the research, it is known that the most frequent shifts found in the translation are Structure Shifts (34%) from Category Shifts. See Table 6 for the results of the present research in number and percentage.

Table 6. Results of the Research

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From the research results above, we can see that all types of translation shifts occur in the Indonesian translation of Agatha Christie’s *Towards Zero*. It shows that in the process of translation from an English text into the Indonesian language, shifts in language level, structure, unit, word class, and language system, can not be avoided. It is because both languages possess their own systems and characteristics, although there are also some formal correspondence between the languages. These shifts are acceptable as long as the translation of the SL are equivalent, grammatical, natural, and clear so that the translation is understandable well by the readers of the target text.

Out of 100 data of translation shifts taken in the research, the most frequent shifts in the translation are Structure Shifts which are 34 data or 34%. The Structure Shifts are found in the translation of noun phrases where in the target text, the position of the head and modifier is changed, and in the translation of active sentences into passive or vice versa. It shows that in the Indonesian translation of English text, structure changes tend to produce grammatical and equivalent translation since the language construction of both languages is somewhat different.

The researcher suggests that prospective researchers interested in researching similar topics are encouraged to use another subject of analysis and collect more data. The researcher also recommends that future researchers use other theories on shifts in translation to analyze their data so that their result research provides more information and knowledge about translation shifts.

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