

## **COMPARING TRANSLATION PRODUCED BY GOOGLE TRANSLATION TOOL TO TRANSLATION PRODUCED BY TRANSLATOR**

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### **Abstract**

*Translation, as defined by many scholars, is a message-transferring process from one language or source language (SL) into another language or target language (TL). Thus, it refers to the process that a translator does in conveying the messages which is also called a decision-making process. It means a translator must decide the words s/he is going to use in translation activity, because a word might have more than one equivalents; one word might represent more than one meaning. To produce an accurate, acceptable, and readable translation, a translator must have one of translation competences called transfer competence. This competence cannot be fulfilled by translation machine like Google translation and any other translation tools because a machine does not have linguistic sense as translators do. However, along with the development of information technology, people are spoiled with google translator that results in low-quality translation. This paper is aimed at comparing translation produced by Google Translate to translation produced by translator.*

*Keywords: acceptable, accurate, readable, translation, translation competences*

### **INTRODUCTION**

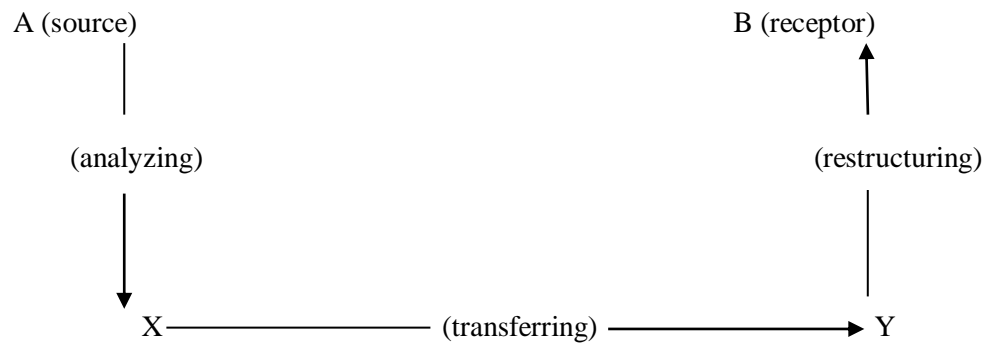
Along with the need of a borderless global communication, translation has been a new academic discipline that is relatively successful in attracting both academicians and practitioners to conduct researches on it. Researches on translation are conducted in various ways; some researchers are concerned on the results, while some others are concerned more on the process. The former is much simpler because the researcher only focuses on the written form, while the latter is more complex because the researcher needs to observe the process in which a translator does the activity. This paper focuses on the comparison between Google Translate translation to translation produce by translator. The researcher is interested in this topic because of the existence of Google Translate as the development of the previous translation machine like translation tools. Google Translate does help those who want to have a quick translation, but it also has some limitations which will be discussed further in the analysis part of this paper.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### *Definitions and Process of Translation*

Many definitions of translation come from many experts variously. Catford (1965) defines translation as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). Catford's definition of translation is obviously still at the level of textual material. Whereas it is not only the textual material that needs to be replaced.

The other contexts that are covered in the translated text need to be transferred too such as the cultural value of the text, the semantic features, and also the hidden meaning that may appear in the text. Larson (1984) states that translation consists of transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language. This is done by going from the form of the first language to the form of a second language by way of semantic structure. In short, translation is a means of communication that can bridge the target readers to access the information contained in the text they read. Translation is a series of activities that can be described in the following diagram:



Nida and Taber's Translation Process (1982:33)

In the first step, the translator reads the text thoroughly and pays attention to the grammatical and lexical structure of the text. By doing this, the translator will be able to catch the content or message of the text, as well as recognize the style and genre of the text. After getting a clear description of the text that has to be translated, the translator can start working on the next process; transferring the source text to the equivalent target text language. The word equivalent is not similar to the same; it refers to the equivalence of the form and content of the SL text and the TL text. The last step or process is restructuring; in this process, the translator has come to the last step of translating. Restructuring refers to reanalyzing the translated text, or sometimes refers to evaluating process. To do restructuring process, the translator can do it her/himself, or ask for others a help to read the translation.

Restructuring is related to three criteria of a good translation; accurate, acceptable, and readable. A translation has to be accurate in terms of message contained in the text. The translator has to convey the message as accurate as possible without unimportant additions, reductions, or any other changes that can distort the message. A translation also has to be acceptable for the target readers, especially for cultural and sensitive texts. The terms and words used in the translation have to be acceptable for the target readers. The third criterion is readability; a translation has to be readable for the target readers. It means the target readers can read the translation smoothly and naturally.

*Translation Competence*

PACTE (*Proceso de Aprendizaje en la Competencia Traductora y Evaluación*) works with a translation competence model that is divided into six sub-competencies: communicative competence in two languages, extra-linguistic competence, transfer competence, instrumental and professional competence, psycho physiological competence and strategic competence. The sub-components of translation competence as defined by PACTE in Beeby (2004: 44-45) are as follows:

- a. **Communicative Competence** in two languages can be defined in general terms as the system of underlying knowledge and skills necessary for linguistic communication. Following Canale (1983), we distinguish linguistic, discourse and socio-linguistic components. Of course, for translators, this competence should be separated into understanding in the SL and production in the TL.
- b. **Extra-linguistic Competence** is composed of general world knowledge and specialist knowledge that can be activated according to the needs of each translation situation. The sub-components may include explicit or implicit knowledge about translation, bicultural, encyclopedic and subject knowledge.
- c. **Instrumental-Professional Competence** is composed of knowledge and skills related both to the tools of the trade and the profession. The subcomponents may be very diverse: knowledge and use of all kinds of documentation sources and new technologies, knowledge of the work market (**translation briefs**, etc.) and how to behave as a professional translator, especially in relation to professional ethics.
- d. **Psycho-physiological Competence** can be defined as the ability to use all kinds of psychomotor, cognitive and attitudinal resources. The most important of these may be psychomotor skills for reading and writing; cognitive skills (e.g. memory, attention span, creativity and logical reasoning); psychological attitudes (e.g. intellectual curiosity, perseverance, rigor, a critical spirit, and self-confidence).
- e. **Transfer Competence** is the central competence that integrates all the others. It is the ability to complete the transfer process from the ST to the TT. That is to understand the ST and re-express it in the TL, taking into account the translation's function and the characteristics of the receptor. The sub-components include (1) comprehension competence (the ability to analyze, synthesize and activate extra-linguistic knowledge so as to capture the sense of a text), (2) the ability to "deverbalise" and to maintain the SL and the TL in separate compartments (that is to control interference), (3) re-expression competence (textual organization, creativity in the TL), (4) competence in carrying out the translation project (the choice of the most adequate method).
- f. **Strategic Competence** includes all the individual procedures, conscious and

unconscious, verbal and non-verbal, used to solve the problems found during the translation process. The problem-solving process can be described as a series of acts or recursive, complex acts that lead from an initial state to an objective. There are several stages in this process, the first of which is recognizing there is a problem (Sternberg 1996). Examples of strategies are: distinguishing between main and secondary ideas, establishing conceptual relationships, searching for information, paraphrasing, back translating, translating out loud, and establishing an order for documentation.

#### *Google Translation Tool (Google Translate)*

Google Translate is a multilingual service provided by Google Inc. to translate written text from one language into another. Before October 2007, for languages other than Arabic, Chinese and Russian, Google Translate was based on SYSTRAN, a software engine which is still used by several other online translation services such as Yahoo! Babel Fish, AOL, and Yahoo. Since October 2007, Google Translate has used proprietary, in-house technology based on statistical machine translation instead. Google Translate offers a web interface, mobile interfaces for Android and iOS, and an API that developers can use to build browser extensions, applications, and other software. For some languages, Google Translate can pronounce translated text, highlight corresponding words and phrases in the source and target text, and act as a simple dictionary for single-word input. If "Detect language" is selected, text in an unknown language can be identified. In the web interface, users can suggest alternate translations, such as for technical terms, or correct mistakes. These suggestions are included in future updates to the translation process. If a user enters a URL in the source text, Google Translate will produce a hyperlink to a machine translation of the website. For some languages, text can be entered via an on-screen keyboard, handwriting recognition, or speech recognition.

Google Translate, like other automatic translation tools, has its limitations. The service limits the number of paragraphs and the range of technical terms that can be translated, and while it can help the reader to understand the general content of a foreign language text, it does not always deliver accurate translations. Some languages produce better results than others. Google Translate performs well especially when English is the target language and the source language is one of the languages of the European Union. A 2010 analysis indicated that French to English translation is relatively accurate, and 2011 and 2012 analyses showed that Italian to English translation is relatively accurate as well. However, if the source text is shorter, rule-based machine translations often perform better; this effect is particularly evident in Chinese to English translations. While edits of translations may be submitted, in Chinese specifically one is not able to edit sentences as a whole. Those limitations are due to the fact that Google Translate is a machine that can only perform procedurally and literally. It does not have the translation

competences, while human translator has those competences.

## METHODOLOGY

This research takes a descriptive qualitative research which focuses on the comparison of translation produced by Google Translation tool to the one produced by human translator. The data is taken through translation-product specimens made by a professional translation as published online at <http://penerjemahonline.wordpress.com/contoh-terjemahan/>. The specimens of text cover different types of discipline texts ranging from education, economics to science texts. Then, these human-made translation products are retranslated through a google-translation facility in order to see the different. Having received these two documents, the two translated versions are then compared and contrasted for the analysis proses.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As has been discussed in the previous part, a translator must have translation competences, namely communicative competence in two languages, extra-linguistic competence, transfer competence, instrumental and professional competence, psycho physiological competence and strategic competence. Translation machines, including Google Translate do not have those competences. Therefore, sometimes certain terms or words are not well-transferred into the target language. Here are some examples of various texts translated by using Google Translation tool:

### Source Language

The hydrocarbons become harder to ignite as the molecules get bigger. This is because the bigger molecules don't vaporize so easily – the reaction is much better if the oxygen and the hydrocarbon are well mixed as gases. If the liquid isn't very volatile, only those molecules on the surface can react with the oxygen. Bigger molecules have greater Van der Waals attractions which makes it more difficult for them to break away from their neighbors and turn to a gas. Provided the combustion is complete, all the hydrocarbons will burn with a blue flame. However, combustion tends to be less complete as the number of carbon atoms in the molecules rises. That means that the bigger the hydrocarbon, the more likely you are to get a yellow, smoky flame.

### Target Language

*Hidrokarbon menjadi lebih sulit untuk menyalakan sebagai molekul menjadi lebih besar. Hal ini karena molekul yang lebih besar tidak mudah menguap - reaksi akan jauh lebih baik jika oksigen dan hidrokarbon bercampur sebagai gas. Jika cairan tidak mudah menguap, hanya molekul-molekul di permukaan dapat bereaksi dengan oksigen. Molekul yang lebih besar memiliki atraksi besar Van der Waals yang membuatnya lebih sulit bagi mereka untuk melepaskan diri dari tetangga mereka dan berbalik kepada gas. Jika pembakaran berlangsung sempurna, semua hidrokarbon akan terbakar dengan nyala biru. Namun, pembakaran cenderung kurang lengkap karena jumlah atom karbon dalam molekul meningkat. Itu berarti bahwa semakin besar hidrokarbon, semakin besar kemungkinan Anda untuk mendapatkan kuning, api*

Incomplete combustion (where there isn't enough oxygen present) can lead to the formation of carbon or carbon monoxide. As a simple way of thinking about it, the hydrogen in the hydrocarbon gets the first chance at the oxygen, and the carbon gets whatever is left over! The presence of glowing carbon particles in a flame turns it yellow, and black carbon is often visible in the smoke. Carbon monoxide is produced as a colorless poisonous gas.

berasap.

*Pembakaran tidak sempurna (di mana tidak ada cukup oksigen) bisa menyebabkan pembentukan karbon atau karbon monoksida. Sebagai cara yang mudah untuk berpikir tentang hal itu, hidrogen dalam hidrokarbon mendapatkan kesempatan pertama di oksigen, dan karbon hanya mendapatkan apa pun yang tersisa! Kehadiran bersinar partikel karbon dalam nyala api berubah menjadi warna kuning, dan karbon hitam sering terlihat dalam asap. Karbon monoksida diproduksi sebagai gas beracun tak berwarna.*

*Type of text discipline: Chemistry*

The text above shows that some source language words are translated unsuitably into the target language. For example, the words **ignite** and **as** in **The hydrocarbons become harder to ignite as the molecules get bigger** is translated into *menyalakan* and *sebagai*. They should be translated into *terbakar* and *karena*, because the word **ignite** in that sentence has a passive meaning, and the word **as** here means *karena*. Therefore, the suggested translation for this sentence is *Hidrokarbon menjadi lebih sulit terbakar karena molekul-molekul di dalamnya menjadi semakin besar*.

Another example can be seen in the following sentence “**Bigger molecules have greater Van der Waals attractions which makes it more difficult for them to break away from their neighbors and turn to a gas.**” The phrase **greater Van der Waals attractions** is translated into *atraksi besar Van der Waals*, and it is unsuitable because **attractions** here means *gaya Tarik*. Another error can be seen in the phrase **turn to gas**. The word **turn** lexically means *berbalik*, yet in this context, it refers to a process in which something changes into another thing, and in Bahasa Indonesia it means *berubah*. Therefore, the sentence should be translated into *Molekul-molekul yang lebih besar memiliki gaya Tarik Van der Waals yang lebih besar, yang dapat membuat molekul-molekul tersebut semakin sulit untuk melepaskan diri dari molekul-molekul tetangga dan untuk berubah menjadi gas*.

The next example is seen in the following sentence “**As a simple way of thinking about it, the hydrogen in the hydrocarbon gets the first chance at the oxygen, and the carbon gets whatever is left over!**” In this sentence, the phrase **as a simple way of thinking about it** is translated into *sebagai cara yang mudah untuk berpikir tentang hal itu*. Literally, the translation is correct, but it is not readable, because the target readers are not familiar with such

phrase. The phrase is used to state there is a simpler way to think about something, and in Bahasa Indonesia, the suitable phrase to express the similar meaning is *untuk lebih singkatnya* or *pada intinya*. Therefore, the suggested translation for the sentence is: *Untuk lebih singkatnya, hidrogen dalam hidrokarbon mendapatkan kesempatan pertama di oksigen, dan karbon hanya mendapatkan sisanya.*

#### Source Language

It has long been known that malnutrition undermines economic growth and perpetuates poverty. Yet the international community and most governments in developing countries have failed to tackle malnutrition over the past decades, even though well-tested approaches for doing so exist. The consequences of this failure to act are now evident in the world's inadequate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and toward poverty reduction more generally. Persistent malnutrition is contributing not only to widespread failure to meet the first MDG "to halve poverty and hunger" but to meet other goals in maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, education, and gender equity. The unequivocal choice now is between continuing to fail, as the global community did with HIV/AIDS for more than a decade, or to finally make nutrition central to development so that a wide range of economic and social improvements that depend on nutrition can be realized.

#### Target Language

*Telah lama diketahui bahwa kekurangan gizi melemahkan pertumbuhan ekonomi dan melanggengkan kemiskinan . Namun masyarakat internasional dan kebanyakan pemerintah di negara-negara berkembang telah gagal untuk mengatasi masalah malnutrisi selama beberapa dekade terakhir , meskipun pendekatan untuk melakukannya ada teruji . Konsekuensi dari kegagalan ini untuk bertindak sekarang jelas dalam kemajuan memadai dunia menuju Millenium Development Goals ( MDGs ) dan ke arah pengurangan kemiskinan lebih umum . Malnutrisi gigih memberikan kontribusi tidak hanya untuk kegagalan luas untuk memenuhi MDG pertama "untuk mengurangi separuh kemiskinan dan kelaparan " tetapi untuk memenuhi tujuan lain dalam kesehatan ibu dan anak , HIV / AIDS , pendidikan , dan kesetaraan gender . Pilihan tegas sekarang adalah antara terus gagal , sebagai komunitas global lakukan dengan HIV / AIDS selama lebih dari satu dekade , atau menjadikan gizi sebagai sentral bagi pembangunan sehingga berbagai perbaikan ekonomi dan sosial yang bergantung pada gizi bisa direalisasikan .*

*Type of text discipline: Health*

In the text above, there are some unnatural translations that we can see in the translation produced by google translate. The first example is in the following sentence "**Yet the international community and most governments in developing countries have failed to tackle malnutrition over the past decades, even though well-tested approaches for doing so exist.**" The translation of the phrase **well-tested approaches for doing so exist** is unnatural

because it is translated word-by-word without adjustment towards the phrase construction in Indonesian. Indonesian grammatical structure does not have compound adjective construction like *well-tested*, and when it is translated and put at the end of the sentence, it sounds unnatural. The compound adjective **well-tested** functioning as modifier for the noun **approaches** means *teruji* in Indonesian, and based on Indonesian grammatical structure, it should be placed after the noun, so the phrase should be translated into *pendekatan-pendekatan yang teruji*. As a result, the sentence containing that phrase should be translated into: *Namun masyarakat internasional dan kebanyakan pemerintah di negara-negara berkembang telah gagal untuk mengatasi masalah malnutrisi selama beberapa dekade terakhir, meskipun pendekatan-pendekatan yang teruji untuk melakukannya ada.*

The second example of the unnatural translation is shown in the following sentence “**The consequences of this failure to act are now evident in the world’s inadequate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and toward poverty reduction more generally.**” The translation is translated literally by google translate, and the translation of the phrase **the consequences of this failure to act** is unnatural if it is translated into *konsekuensi dari kegagalan ini untuk bertindak*. If it is simply seen from textual and grammatical point of view, the translation is correct and accurate; yet, the construction is not suitable and less communicative in Bahasa Indonesia. It should be translated into *konsekuensi dari gagalnya tindakan tersebut*. Another mistake found in the translation is the phrase **inadequate progress** that is translated into *kemajuan memadai*. It should be translated into *kemajuan/ perkembangan yang tidak memadai*. The suggested translation is as follows:

*Konsekuensi dari gagalnya tindakan tersebut terlihat jelas dengan tidak memadainya perkembangan dunia ke arah Sasaran Pembangunan Milenium (MDG) dan ke arah pengurangan kemiskinan pada umumnya.*

The next example is found in the following sentence “**Persistent malnutrition is contributing not only to widespread failure to meet the first MDG “to halve poverty and hunger” but to meet other goals in maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, education, and gender equity.**” The unnatural and unacceptable translation is shown in the translation of **persistent malnutrition** into *malnutrisi gigih*. The word *gigih* is not suitable, because in Bahasa Indonesia, the word *gigih* refers to man’s positive character. It should be translated into *malnutrisi yang berlangsung terus-menerus* to emphasize that **malnutrition** is something bad to happen for a long period of time. The suggested translation is: *Malnutrisi yang berlangsung terus-menerus tidak hanya berkontribusi terhadap kegagalan yang meluas dalam mencapai Sasaran Pembangunan Millennium pertama untuk mengurangi kemiskinan dan kelaparan, tetapi juga dalam mencapai sasaran-sasaran lain seperti kelahiran dan kesehatan anak, HIV/AIDS, pendidikan, dan kesetaraan gender.*



The last example is shown in the following sentence “**The unequivocal choice now is between continuing to fail, as the global community did with HIV/AIDS for more than a decade, or to finally make nutrition central to development so that a wide range of economic and social improvements that depend on nutrition can be realized.**” The word *as* is translated into *sebagai*; if we look at the context, the translation is not suitable because *as* here functions to give further illustration on the failure. The word *as* in the sentence is more acceptable if it is translated into *sebagaimana*. Therefore, the sentence should be translated into:

*Pilihan yang tegas sekarang adalah antara terus gagal, sebagaimana yang dilakukan oleh komunitas global terhadap HIV/AIDS selama lebih dari satu dekade, atau menjadikan nutrisi sebagai sentral dalam pembangunan agar berbagai peningkatan di bidang sosial dan ekonomi yang bergantung pada nutrisi dapat diwujudkan.*

## CONCLUSION

Google Translate does have positive sides and it is quite helpful for some people who need a quick translation process. However, as a machine, it cannot maximally result accurate, acceptable, and readable translation because it does not have translation competences which are very important in translating a text. Google Translate is actually functioned to help the reader decode the meaning of the target text. Meanwhile, a translator has those competences that can help him/her decide and construct the message in the target language.

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