

TRANSLATION STRATEGY APPLICATION ON THE INDONESIAN WEBSITE-BASED TEXTS INTO THE ENGLISH WEBSITE-BASED TEXTS

Kristianto Setiawan

setiawankristianto@yahoo.com

Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jenderal Soedirman Purwokerto

Abstract

This research discusses two of the strategies proposed by Machali which are applied by the translators in translating the Indonesian news texts on the official website of The Indonesian Republic Government Secretariat into the English news texts on the same website. The strategies are transposition and modulation. Research statements of this research are (1) how is the transposition strategy in translating the texts on the official website of The Indonesian Republic Government Secretariat Ministry (2) how is the modulation strategy in translating the texts on the official website of The Indonesian Republic Government Secretariat Ministry. The data collection method in this research are reading and note taking methods that are reading and taking notes the data based on Machali's strategies. Then, the collected data are analyzed by identifying the transposition and modulation strategies applied by the translators and described them in words. From the analysis of the data the researcher concludes that in translating the Indonesian source texts into the English target texts, the translators apply the two strategies or procedures among the five strategies proposed by Machali. They are transposition and modulation. Transposition strategy is more dominant than modulation strategy.

Keywords: strategy, translation, transposition, modulation, accuracy

Translating is simply an effort to transfer a certain language form in one language into another language by maintaining the source language aspects in it. They are phrases, clauses, paragraphs, etc., orally or written. In other words, translation is an effort to transfer messages in source language into messages in target language (Newmark, 1988:5).

Research on translation can be based on translation functions, products, or processes. From some aspects of translation we can take as a research, research methodology needs to be considered. However, it needs to be understood that a research on translation should be directed to the process of translation for translation phenomena can be discovered comprehensively and holistically through the research of translation process.

This research tries to describe the strategy of translator in translating news texts in Indonesian into English on the official website of Ministry of State

Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia. Appropriate strategies taken by the translator will result in text high readability for the readers. In contrast, inappropriate strategies taken by the translator will result in text low readability.

The problems in this research are: (1) how is the transposition strategy in translating news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia www.setneg.go.id, (2) how is the modulation strategy in translating news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia www.setneg.go.id.

The research has two purposes: (1) to describe the transposition strategy in translating the news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia www.setneg.go.id, (2) to describe the modulation strategy in translating the news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia www.setneg.go.id.

The applications of these shifts are based on the concept below. First, translation is always characterized by the collaboration of two languages; they are source and target languages. The source and target languages are commonly different one to another the structures and or cultures. In this case, structural change is needed. Second, in the context of accuracy, the translators are not always able to reach one to one correspondence as a result of differences in expressing meanings or messages between the source and target languages. In this condition, unit shift is needed. Third, translation is understood as a process of decision making which is influenced by some factors like the competence, creativity and stylistic preferences of the translators and the readers.

Based on the definitions of translation strategies and procedures by experts, the researcher decided to apply the translation strategies and procedures by Machali (2009). In this research, the researcher only focuses on the strategy of transposition and modulation.

1. Transposition

1. Obligatory and automatic transposition which is caused by the language system and rule. In this case, the translators do not have any choices but transposition.
2. Transposition when the grammatical structure of the source language does

not exist in the target language.

3. Transposition with the reason of the nature of expression; sometimes, even a lexical translation is grammatically and structurally possible; the result of the translation is not natural.
4. Transposition to fill the emptiness of vocabulary (including textual equipment like /-pun/ in the language of Indonesia) by using the grammatical structure.

2. Meaning Shift or Modulation

Structural shifts like in transposition sometimes involve meaning shift or modulation since perspective, point of view, and meaning shifts also happen. The meaning shift of this type is called modulation.

According to Machali, there are two types of modulations, obligatory and free modulations. Obligatory modulation occurs when words, phrases or other grammatical structures do not have similarity in the target language. Obligatory modulation can also happen in word translation of which only some meaning parts of the source language words are expressed in the target language, from specific into general meaning. The second modulation is free modulation which is done for nonlinguistic reasons like making the meaning clearer, making coherence and naturalness in the target language. In translation world, it is called explicatory, making the meaning clearer.

METHODS

Method in linguistic research include framework determination, hypothesis of problem formulation, population and sample determination, data, technic of data gaining, and data analysis (Subroto, 2007:33). Therefore, a linguistic research needs some steps to solve the problems. They are: (1) data supply; (2) data analysis; and (3) data analysis presentation.

This research was done using a descriptive qualitative approach. This is done to describe the use of translation strategies applied by the translators in translating the news texts on the official website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Indonesian Republic from Indonesian into English. This is in line with Singarimbun (1982: 4) that the purpose of a descriptive research is explaining or describing objects or facts. Subroto (2007: 33) says that descriptive

linguistics is to explain certain systemic aspects of languages as in reality.

Data are in reality the objects of the research along with the context (Sudaryanto, 1988: 10). In this research, data collection was done by recording technique. This is done since the data in this research are news texts in Indonesian (source texts) and in English (target texts).

At the data supply phase, the researcher collected the data in the forms of words, phrases, clauses, and or sentences which have translation strategies proposed by Machali. Data collection is based on the translation strategies by Machali.

The sources of data in this research are the news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Indonesian Republic both the Indonesian and English versions. To get the data, the researcher downloaded the texts from the website.

In this research, the researcher took four texts of Indonesian version and four translated texts of the English version as the data to be analyzed. The data were chosen randomly since the researcher thought that each texts has similar value to be analyzed.

After the data were collected, data identification was done to know the strategies occupied by the translators in translating the texts. The researcher described the strategies occupied by the translators in relation with the two procedures proposed by Machali, transposition and modulation.

In this research, data analysis presentation was done formally and informally. Formally, the researcher presented the data analysis in the forms of tables. Informally, the researcher presented the data analysis by means of words to describe the result of analysis to make the readers easy to understand.

The research was descriptively and qualitatively presented since the purpose of the research is to provide description and explanation without any dichotomy of “right” or “wrong” like in the prescriptive research. A qualitative research is a research which describes the research in the form of words not in statistic form to answer and explain the problem statement.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Transposition in The Text Translation Strategy of The Website of The Ministry of State Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia

Machali (2009: 93) states that transposition is a translation procedure or strategy which involves grammatical shifts from the source language into the target language which is divided into four categories. Each category is explained related to the result of the news translation in the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Indonesian Republic.

Transposition Type One

Transposition type one is an obligatory and automatic transposition caused by the language rule system. In this case, the translators do not have any choices but apply it. This type of transposition is in the levels of words, phrases, clauses and sentences.

Here is the example of this type of transposition at the levels of words and phrases.

- 3a. Kementerian Pertanian akan memberikan **kompensasi** bagi **peternak** itik yang terserang virus flu burung. (TEKS 2)
- 3b. The Ministry of Agriculture is expected to give **compensations** for **breeders** whose ducks are infected by bird flu virus.

The translator decided to translate the word “kompensasi” and “peternak” which are singular forms in Indonesian into “compensations” and “breeders” which are plural in English. It is not common in Indonesian as the source language to have the words “kompensasi” and “peternak” in plural forms as stated below:

- 3c. *Kementerian Pertanian akan memberikan **kompensasi-kompensasi** bagi **peternak-peternak** itik yang terserang virus flu burung.

Transposition Type Two

Transposition type two is obligatory for the translators when the grammatical structure of the source language does not exist in the target language. This type of transposition always implies choices (target language versions of

accuracy is more than one). One of the characteristics of English is that there is no object at the front position while in Indonesian object in front position is common. It is common for Indonesian sentences to have front positions for objects as passive sentences.

Below are the examples of the applications of this type of transposition in translating the news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Indonesian Republic.

19a. Menurut Rusman, **kompensasi diberikan** bagi peternak itik yang bersedia memusnahkan ternaknya untuk mengantisipasi penyebaran flu burung atau H5N1 clade 2.32. (TEKS 2)

19b. According to Rusman, **government will give compensation** to duck breeders who are willing to destroy their ducks to anticipate the spread of bird flu or H5N1 virus.

The translator applied transposition strategy of type two in translating sentence (19a) into its translation in (19b). The construction of objects at the front position is not common in English that it does not produce high readability. Therefore, the translator has the obligation to have transposition in grammatical structure. As seen in sentence (19b), the translator made the subject explicit while in (19a), the subject is implicit in the source text.

Transposition Type Three

This type of transposition is applied for the reason of the expression fittingness. Although there is a possibility literal translation based on the grammatical structure, the accuracy is considered clumsy in the target language. Indonesian and English have different grammatical structures based on the differences of ways of thinking and cultures. Therefore, the constructions of sentence makings in grammars of the two languages are different. This makes the translators apply the translation strategy of transposition type three to make the result of the translation natural and have a high level of readability in the target language.

Here is a sentence which is translated using transposition type three on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of the Indonesian Republic

21a. Kementerian Pertanian akan **memberikan kompensasi** bagi peternak itik yang terserang virus flu burung. (TEKS 2)

21b. The Ministry of Agriculture will **compensate** the duck breeders whose ducks are infected by the bird flu virus.

As seen in the sentence above, in sentence (9a) the words which are printed in bold are parts of a verbal phrase consisting of “memberikan” + a noun “kompensasi”. Here, the translator prefers to the phrase into a verb “compensate” then a phrase of “give compensation” to apply transposition type 3. This is done by the translator since the noun “compensation” in English can change into the word class of verb “compensate”. To make the translated sentences effective, the translator applied this type of transposition. Therefore, the readability aspect of the translated sentence is high and the result of the translation is natural.

MODULATION IN THE TEXT TRANSLATION STRATEGY OF THE WEBSITE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECRETARIAT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Structural shifts, like in transposition sometimes involves meaning shifts or modulation since shifts of perspective, point of view and meaning aspect also occur. This kind of shift is called modulation by Machali (2009).

Two types of modulations found in the translations of news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia are described below.

Obligatory Modulation

Obligatory modulation is applied when words, phrases, or other structures do not have their parable in the target language. Therefore, they need to be made explicit. One of the modulation translation strategy found in the news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia is active and passive structural shift.

Here is the example of the application of modulation strategy in the text of translation.

22a. Menurut Rusman, **kompensasi diberikan** bagi peternak itik yang bersedia memusnahkan ternaknya untuk mengantisipasi penyebaran

flu burung atau H5N1 clade 2.32. (TEKS 2)

22b. According to Rusman, **government will give compensation** to duck breeders who are willing to destroy their ducks to anticipate the spread of bird flu or H5N1 virus.

In the discussion of transposition type two, construction shift of active into passive also belongs to the strategy of meaning shift or modulation. Active and passive constructions are closely related to semantic aspects in source and target languages. Therefore, form shift or transposition of the two involves meanings. Passive construction by emphasizing object in the front parts of the sentence or clause seems to be less natural and can result in the low readability in English. Therefore, the translator feels the obligation of applying transposition in grammatical structure. Seen in sentence (22b), the translator makes the subject of the sentence implicit by applying the active sentence in the translation. The subject is implicit in the source sentence of (22a).

Free Modulation

Free modulation is a translation procedure applied for non-linguistic reasons, like clarity in meaning, coherence in the target language, and natural accuracy in the target language.

Translation procedure of modulation is clearly seen in text 1. In the text, the translator dominantly applied translation procedure of this type. This is done by the translator at the level of paragraph. The translator applied this procedure in three of four paragraphs of the text. This procedure was applied by the translator to make the meaning clearer, to have coherence, to make the target text natural for the readers. The application of this procedure makes the target text easy to read. The writing mistakes of writer are easily seen and the translator makes corrections of the mistakes.

CONCLUSIONS

From the result of data analysis, some conclusions can be drawn as follows:

1. In this research, the strategy or procedure of form shift or transposition was found in all texts of translation (target texts). The procedure or

strategy of transposition of all types is very dominant in this research. It refers to the two characteristics of journalism language of communicative and specific. Therefore, the translators tend to apply the strategy of transposition of all types in translating the news texts on the website of the Ministry of State Secretariat of The Republic of Indonesia.

2. Although it is not dominant in comparison with the transposition strategy, meaning shift or modulation strategy was found in this research. Modulation was found in text 1 only. The translator applied meaning shift or modulation for the reason that the source text was not effective and too flowery. We need to know that translators also take the role as the writers or editors. For this reason, the translators sometimes take the role of editors by modifying the texts in the target texts for the sake of readability.

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