

FINDING EQUIVALENCE LEVEL BETWEEN SOURCE LANGUAGE AND TARGET LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This research study aims to investigate and identify the equivalence level of translation from textbooks using a qualitative approach with content analysis. As qualitative research, this study presented an analysis of the strategy made by the translator on how English text (Pretext for Mass Murder) was translated into Indonesian. The research study was started through observation of the source language that involved reading, identifying, classifying and evaluating the data. The collected data were analyzed descriptively under four main headings of equivalence level proposed by Mona Baker, namely in word level, above word level, grammatical level, and textual level equivalence. The sampling data of this research study is 150 sentences taken randomly, which are classified as word level (N=58, 39%), above word level (N=45, 30%), grammatical level (N=35, 30%), and textual level (N=12,8%). The findings demonstrated that the translator used different strategies creatively to find out the closest meaning of translation between the source language and the target language. In addition, word level equivalence was found to be the most dominant data compared to others.

Keywords: *translation, equivalence, the source language and target language.*

INTRODUCTION

Translation studies have been concerned with equivalency. It is closely related to both the definitional and practical aspects of translation. Finding an equivalent meaning for a text in a targeted language is the translation's goal. As a creative activity, translation is changing the language from one language into another by providing the closest meaning without changing the meaning. Changing the form from the source language into the target language sometimes runs poorly due to the different systems for both languages. The translation is a form of cross-cultural communication that accurately conveys the text's original meaning while also paying

attention to the cultural and historical context (Bravo, 2021). When translating between two written languages, modifications are made to the original or source text in the source languages' verbal texts and then transferred to the target text (Munday, 2008). However, in practice, it might be difficult for translators to determine the closest equivalent of the translation from the source language into the target language. To translate as accepted and natural-sounding as feasible, the translator must have the necessary skills and put in additional effort to determine the closest meaning

The process of translation is complicated. It takes a long process and requires the translator's precision and patience. As Bell (1991) elaborated, the translator will do syntactical analysis to identify the part form of the clause and semantic analysis to determine the meaning contained in the part that makes up the clause. To get proper meaning must be associated with the context. The translator's next step is pragmatic analysis to find out the purpose of the source language text, the thematic structure of the source language, and the style of the text of the source language. The exact process of analyses (syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic) applied to the target language. The translation cycle might continue until the translator is confident that they have found a match for the source language's text in the target language.

In determining the quality of translation, Nababan in (Umam, 2018) proposes three aspects of assessment; accuracy, acceptability and readability. Accuracy is related to the equivalence of meaning between the source and target languages. Accuracy here means that a quality translation is a translation that conveys information or messages from the source language in a correct, precise, and honest manner according to the intent of the SL author. The acceptability aspect is closely related to the degree of fairness of a translated text against the target language's norms, rules and culture. Translations with a high level of acceptability produce natural, flexible and not rigid translations. In comparison, the aspect of readability in evaluating a translation is related to whether or not a translated text can be understood. A high level of readability is measured when a translated text can be understood and understood by target language readers. Usually, the factors that affect

readability include the average length of sentences, the number of new words, and the grammatical complexity of the language used. These aspects of assessment have an essential role in determining the quality of a translation.

It is generally understood that one of the most challenging works in translation is finding the equivalence between the source text and the target text. It is considered a central problem of translation practice (Catford, 1965). So, it is essential to look for equivalents in target languages that have the broadest possible situational range rather than just the "sameness of meaning" (Machali, 2000: 3). As a result, equivalence in translation should not be viewed as a quest for sameness since sameness of meaning cannot readily exist between the source language and the destination language. Nida in (Panou, 2013), there are two basic types of equivalence: formal and dynamic. The similarity between the target text and the source text, both in form and context, characterizes formal equivalence. Meanwhile, the dynamic equivalence is made by conveying the message of the source text in the target text as naturally as possible. In these two models of equivalence, Nida is more likely to support the second translation by considering it more effective and having the same impact on the readers, although they do not read the first sources. Moreover, the second model goes beyond the proper communication of information.

Finding and making the right equivalence decision in translation practice for translators becomes the main task. Here, equivalence is defined as the most appropriate meaning between the source language and the target language. According to Bell (1991), texts in different languages can be equivalent to varying degrees (totally or partially), to varying levels of presentation (equivalent to varying degrees of context, semantics, syntax, lexis, etc.), and varying degrees of rank (word-for-word, phrase-for-phrase, sentence-for-sentence). The meaning in the target text can be stated to be equivalent to the meaning in the source text, even if there are occasions when the meaning in the source text cannot be fully or partially translated into the target text because they serve different communicative purposes. Meaning plays an essential part in translation work.

As Baker proposed, translation equivalence is divided into five types; equivalence at the word level, above word level, grammatical level, textual, and pragmatic equivalence level (Baker, 2011). All these types commonly lead to challenges for the translator in finding the equivalences in the translation process. In this study, the researcher investigates translation equivalence made by the translator for the textbook (English and Indonesian) using Baker's outlines except for the last one, pragmatic equivalence. A brief description of translation equivalence is well elaborated as follows

a. Word Level Equivalence

In translation practice, the translator usually starts analyzing the word's meaning as a single unit of the source language. Bollinger and Sears (Baker, 2011) defined the word as "the smallest unit of language that can be used by itself". One word may have several elements of meaning; for example, a word such as rebuild has two distinct elements: re and build, i.e. 'to build again'. So, to distinguish the elements of meaning in words, the term morpheme is introduced to describe the minimal formal element of meaning in a language such as 'inconceivable' is written as one word but consists of three morphemes: *in*, meaning 'not', 'conceive' meaning 'think of imagining', and *able* meaning 'able to be, fit to be'. A suitable paraphrase for inconceivable would be 'cannot conceive/imagined'.

b. Above word level equivalence

In addition to having a distinct meaning, words nearly always appear with other words to create meaning. Translators frequently encounter challenges when trying to convey meaning because of the disparities between the linguistic patterns of the source and target languages. Collocation, idiom, and fixed expression are all dealt with in lexical patterning. Generally speaking, collocation is a relatively flexible language pattern that allows several variations in form (Baker, 2011). Examples of appropriate collocations are deliver a letter, delivery of a letter, a letter has been delivered, and having delivered a letter. Idioms like "burying the hatchet" (resuming amicable relations after a dispute or argument) or "the long and

the short of it" (the essential details of the situation) don't normally allow for form variations. Fixed phrases like "having said," "in fact," "Ladies and gentlemen," and "all the best," as well as adages like "practice what you preach" and "waste not, want not," permit little to no form modification. Fixed phrases and proverbs, in contrast to idioms, frequently have pretty obvious meanings.

c. Grammatical Equivalence

According to Baker, grammar is a set of rules that define the types of information that must be made explicit in utterances on a regular basis and the ways in which linguistic elements, such as words and phrases, can be joined (Baker, 2011). Different grammatical systems exist in every language. Language has a distinct and diverse grammatical structure. In addition, Baker concentrates on five grammatical categories: number, gender, person, tense and aspect, and voice. These are areas where translators frequently struggle.

d. Textual Equivalence

Textual equivalence refers to the equivalence between a source language text and a target language text regarding information and cohesion. The network of lexical, grammatical, and other relationships that connect the various elements of a text is known as cohesion. These connections or links help to structure and, to some extent, build a text by asking the reader to interpret certain words and phrases in light of others in the preceding sentences and paragraphs. The words and expressions we can see or hear are connected by a superficial relationship called cohesion (Baker, 2011).

METHODOLOGY

This research employs a content analysis method and is descriptive-qualitative. The qualitative analysis employs a word arranged in the text expanded (Miles & Huberman, 1994). As descriptive qualitative research, this study describes a phenomenon that arises spontaneously without using an experiment or an intentionally fabricated treatment (Bogdan & Biklen, 1992).

The data comes from the Pretext for Mass Murder: The September 30th Movement and Suharto's Coup d'Etat in Indonesia (New Perspectives in SE Asian Studies) by John Roosa, which was published in 2006, and Hersri Setiawan's translation, which was released in 2008. In the process of collecting the data, the researcher used some methods like observation, gathering, revising, categorizing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from the data are the steps taken to complete this research. After collecting data, the data were analyzed by following the steps: 1) Finding and classifying the equivalence level, 2) Describing how the equivalence level is realized in source language text, 3). Explain why equivalence is used in the translation work, and 4) conclude. A sample of analysis data is described in the finding and discussion part.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the sampling data of 150 data samples from the textbook entitled Pretext for Mass Murder, the researcher found various translation equivalence levels that have been carried out by the translator as summarized as follows; 110 data (67%) using word-level translation, in the good category, 33 (20%) less acceptable, and 21 (13%) unacceptable. In general, the quality of translation for the book from the source text (English) and target text (Indonesian) is good enough. This translation indicates that most of the translated texts are acceptable and the translated text feels natural, and the researcher can easily understand it. The summary result of an assessment of the translation can be seen in table 1. The researcher calculated the percentage of each type of grammatical equivalence to find out the most dominant grammatical equivalence as follows:

Table 1.
The Frequent of Equivalence Level

Equivalence	
Word Level	8
Above Word Level	5
Grammatical	

atrical Level	5
Textual	
Level	2
Total	50

As seen from Table 1, the frequency of equivalence level for each classification was as follows; there were 58 (39 %) for word level, 45 (30 %) for above word level, 35 (23%) for grammatical level, and 12 (12 %) for textual level. From these data, it is evident that the frequency equivalent of translation at the word level is dominant compared to other categories. This shows that the translation from the source text into the target language pays more attention to the acceptability at the word level than others. In general, the result of the translation is good, meaning the readers easily understand the text well, and the sense of the translation reading is not rigid.

The following is an analysis of each type of equivalence taken randomly from the translation data in Tables 2, 3, and 4.

Table 2.
Word Level Translation

	Source Language	Target Language
0	We must <u>see</u> that it is	Kita harus <u>memastikan</u> bahwa kebenaran itu
1	The abductors <u>revealed</u> the name of their leaders	Mereka <u>menyebut</u> nama pemimpin mereka
1	In Central Java the <u>movement</u> did not last beyond October 3.	Di Jawa Tengah, <u>G-30-S</u> hanya bertahan sampai 3 Oktober.
0	There I found, near the end of the last volume of the tribunal's records, in a section marked "Items of Evidence," <u>an analysis</u> that he had written about the movement's failure.	Di situlah, hampir pada ujung bundel terakhir dokumen pengadilan, pada bagian yang ditandai "Barang-Barang Bukti," saya menemukan <u>analisis</u> yang ditulisnya mengenai kegagalan G-30-S.

In sentence (5), the word 'see' is translated into '*memastikan*'. If we look at the dictionary (www.meriam-webster.com), the word 'see' is equal to 'perceive by the eye', 'perceive or detect as if by sight'. In the example above, the translator is assumed to use more specific words in translation and be more expressive (superordinate). In sentence (11), the word revealed is translated into the Indonesian word '*menyebut*'. 'Revealed' has meaning 'to make known through divine inspiration or to make (something secret or hidden) publicly or generally known'. Awhile '*menyebut*' means 'call'. Possibly to avoid conveying the wrong meaning, the translator chose a more neutral word. Therefore, the TL readers understand. Revealed has yet to get an exact equivalent in TL.

In sentence (21), the word 'movement' is translated into 'G-30'. Let's look at the dictionary (www.meriam-webster.com). The word 'movement' is equal to 1. 'the act or process of moving, especially: change of place or position or posture //studying the movement of planets. 2. a tactical or strategic shifting of a military unit //manoeuvre 3. a particular instance or manner of moving //was entranced by her graceful movement. The advance of a military unit // the steady movement of troops across the border. In the example above, the translator is assumed to use more specific words **in** translation. In a sentence, analysis is just translated as 'analysis' instead of 'sebuah analisis'. The translator omitted the article an.

Table 3.
Above Word Level

	Source Language	Target Language
o		
3	Suharto's incremental <u>takeover</u> of state power, what can be called a creeping coup d'état, was disguised	<u>Pengambilalihan</u> kekuasaan negara oleh Suharto secara bertahap, yang dapat disebut sebagai kudeta merangkak, dilakukannya di bawah selubung usaha untuk mencegah kudeta.
3	How could civilians order military personnel to <u>carry out</u> their bidding?	memerintah personil militer untuk <u>melaksanakan</u> keinginan mereka?
	Their stated aim	Adapun tujuan

2	was to protect the president from a clique of <u>right-wing army generals</u> who were plotting a coup d'état.	aksi yang mereka umumkan ialah untuk melindungi Presiden dari <u>komplotan jenderal kanan</u> yang akan melancarkan kudeta..
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In Sentence (33), the ‘takeover’ is translated ‘pengambilalihan’. The word ‘take’ can be collocated with some words and create different meanings. The collocation of ‘takeover’ has a similar meaning and form in TL, ‘pengambilalihan’. The followings are the collocation of the verb ‘take’ quoted from www.grammarist.com: Take over means to take control of something or someone or become responsible for something or someone. The takeover may also mean partaking in one company and buying out another. The takeover is a phrasal verb; related words are taking over, took over, taken over, and taking over. In Sentence (43), the ‘carry out’ is translated ‘melaksanakan’. The word carry can be collocated with some words and create a different meaning. The collocation of ‘carry out’ has a similar meaning and form in TL, ‘melaksanakan’. The followings are some of the collocations of the verb ‘carry’ quoted from www.wordreference.com

- Carry out (a transaction, an assessment, his plan)
- Carry around a (purse, backpack, and water bottle)
- Carry off on a (stretcher or buggy)

Right-wing army in Sentence (12) is a common idiom in English. ‘Jenderal kanan’ is very equivalent to ‘right-wing’. Here, the translator has translated the idiom without changing the meaning and form.

Table 4.
Grammatical Level

o	Source Language	Target Language
7	The <u>prosecutors and judges</u> were not concerned about resolving the many contradictions in their testimonies; the trials were not intended to get at the truth of the event.	Baik <u>penuntut umum maupun hakim</u> tidak ambil pusing untuk mengorek kesaksian-kesaksian mereka yang saling bertentangan-tentangan; pengadilan memang tidak

		dimaksudkan untuk menyelidiki kebenaran atas peristiwa tersebut.
9	What was his response to this information?	Apa tanggapan Suharto terhadap informasi itu?
1	A lieutenant, <u>grabbed</u> by mistake from the home of a seventh general, suffered the same watery subterranean end.	Seorang letnan, <u>yang salah tangkap</u> dari rumah jenderal ketujuh yang lolos dari penculikan, menemui nasib dilempar ke dasar sumur yang sama

The plural form has been changed into a singular form in a sentence (67). The translator chose ‘penuntut umum maupun hakim’ instead of ‘para penuntut maupun para hakim’. Those words are not marked for number in any way, and the TL readers can only guess whether the writer/translator is talking about one or several prosecutors/judges.

Sentence (59) What was... is translated ‘apa tanggapan’. The source language is simple past tense, while the target language is simple present. In source language time aspect is indicated by the form of to be ‘was’, while in TL the ‘to be was’ not available or kept it blank. Sentence (11) is not translated ‘ditangkap’. Here, the translator has changed the voice, SL passive voice, into target language active voice. This may be done to make the translation smooth and sound natural. In sentence (11), the subject in source language becomes an object in target language, so the voice changes from passive to active. It can be seen from the verb, A lieutenant, grabbed by mistake Seorang letnan, yang salah tangkap.

Table 4.
Textual Level

	Source Language	Target Language
7	The motivation seems absent.	Agaknya tak ada alasan ke arah sana.

In sentence (47), there is a shift in thematic structure. The translation modifies the point of view by shifting the structure to get a natural translation. Here, the

translator interprets the text according to the existing context after understanding the message as a whole from the topic of conversation. Here the text cannot stand alone, meaning that the meaning presented by the translator is based on the cohesion between the text and the context so that the text cannot be translated word for word so that the reader can easily understand the message

CONCLUSION

Analyzing the translation of the textbook *Pretext for Mass Murder: The September 30th Movement and Suharto's Coup d'Etat in Indonesia* written by John Roosa and translated by Hersri Setiawan, it can be concluded that the equivalence level of translation is mainly dominated by word level. In general, the target language's text is readable and easily understandable by the readers. The message of translation of the textbook *Pretext for Mass Murder* is acceptable. The translator can convey the meaning accurately and naturally.

As a process that produce a product, the translation must be understood as an activity carried out by the internal knowledge perception (angle of view of the translator). From this point of view, the translator, know how the translation should be done. Moreover, the translator used strategies to deal with the non-equivalence problems. For instance, in word level equivalence, the translator used strategies by using more neutral/ less expressive word, using the more general word, using more specific word, using loan word paraphrasing using the related word, paraphrasing using unrelated word and omission. In the above word level equivalence, the translator used collocation and idiom to find out similar meaning between source language and target language. In grammatical level equivalence, the translator used strategies such as omitting the relevant information on the number, using the dimension of formality and familiarity, changing the tenses from future into the present tense and changing the voice form active into passive. While in the textual level, the translator applied common strategies using cohesion, reference and understanding the context.

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