ERRORS MADE BY *GOOGLE TRANSLATE* IN THE TRANSLATION OF ABSTRACTS IN BAHASA INDONESIA INTO ENGLISH

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Abstract This Translation Tool or Machine Translation (MT) had become commonly used nowadays. This program provided a fast translation from one language into another language. There were many kinds of Trans Tool, but the most commonly used, and easily accessed is "Google Translate", an online Translation Tool. Though it was very convenient to use, Trans Tool was not flawless. Therefore, in this study the writer tried to analyze the translation result provided by "Google Translate" to find out the problems with the translation result provided by the Trans Tool. The writer tried to figure out the effectiveness of "Google Translate" in translating Bahasa Indonesia sentence into English sentence. This became problem, since the translation result that seem to be correct at the first glance, might still contain a problem. This study used qualitative approach. The data collection technique of this research was selecting sentences, translating the sentences, and analysing the sentences. This study was conducted based on five parameters: word-level equivalence, above word-level equivalence, grammatical equivalence, textual equivalence, cohession equivalent. Those were the data analysis technique. As the result, "Google Translate" had a low effectiveness in translating English sentence into Indonesian sentence, with the highest probability of 18.75% which is only achieved when translating Academic complex sentence. The result of this study was shown that the accuracy of "Google Translate" in translating Bahasa Indonesia-English translation was very low.

Key Words: Translation, Machine Translation (MT), Google Translate, Sentence.

INTRODUCTION

In this globalization era, English has become an international language. English plays an important role in the world. But several people in Indonesia still use *Bahasa Indonesia* in their daily activities both spoken and written. In fact, much information is delivered in English. It can be found that many textbooks, journals, news, films and etc. are presented in English. It is a problem faced by several people in Indonesia to understand the information which is delivered in English. Regarding on that condition, translation plays an important role for us as Indonesian people to get information from written English. According to Weber (1984, p.3), translation is the process of transposition of a text which written in a source language into target language. With regard to this, there are most Indonesians who do not understand English so they may not get information from English texts. Automatically, several people need translating products in order to fulfill their needs such as getting information or news about education, business, personal life and ,etc. To get information from a source language, the products of translation should be good translation.

Nowadays, technology works in the fields of translation to create a facility named "*machine translation*". According to Craciunescu, Gerding-Salas and Stringer-O'Keefie. (2010), they assume that machine translator is the idea of making translation as a new marketable product to earn profits, while they define translation as an art which has nothing to do with profit and loss, but it is related to creativity and the power of imagination. There are some machine translator programs that can be accessed easily as online applications which can be found on internet such as *Google Translate, Babylon 10, Tialsoft, Systran*, etc. Several people know that Google is as popular as search engine that the name is synonymous with Web search. Not only does *Google* search for standard Web pages, but it also can search for images, patents, products, videos, stock reports, and more. On May 26, 2011 Google announced that the *Google Translate* (GT) had been launched (Wikipedia, 2013). Therefore, now several people can translate from a source language into a target language by using GT. Based on the article via official blog of Google posted by Shawn Knight (April 27, 2012), he stated that "Today we have

more than 200 million monthly active users on translate.google.com". It means that almost many people in the world are using GT to translate written texts. Therefore, the products of GT should be translated well, clearly with the original one without changing the meaning in order to give a clear understanding to both readers and users. However, there will be several risks if the translation products of GT are not clear. According to Barnwell (1980) as cited in Larson (1984), a good translation should be clear and understandable in order to make it makes sense in the TL. Therefore good translation procedures and methods are very important in the process of translation. If the products of GT are not clear, it can make the users feel difficult to understand the text and the information is not delivered.

A research conducted by Nuroni (2013) entitled "Google Translate's" problems and its post-editing techniques of an English short story translation into "*Bahasa Indonesia*", has compared GT to human translator. The researcher has analyzed types of translation problem encountered by GT and identified the strategies applied by human translator. Nuroni (2013, p. 85) said that *Google Translate* faces various problems in translating the short story *Charles* by Shirley Jackson such as GT is not sensitive to cultural words and GT mostly translates idioms and also seems confused in translating collocations. Based on Nuroni (2013, p. 86) conveys that when translating the same text, human translator his or her superiority. Human translator can apply several translation strategies in translating text by making the information meaningful and the sounds natural in the target text.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This research used a qualitative research design to find out the errors in the translation of abstracts produced by Google Translate. According to Fraenkel, et al., 2012, p. 426), the qualitative research is a research study that focuses the materials, situation, activities, or relationship qualities which has holistic description emphasis and mostly delivered in detail. In addition, qualitative research was chosen because it is uses subjective information and participant observation to describe

the context, or natural setting, of the variables under consideration, as well as the interactions of the different variables in the context (Key, 1997).

In presenting the data, the researcher used a descriptive method. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (1993: 23), descriptive method is a method used to explain, analyze and classify something through various techniques, survey, interview, questionnaire, observations, and text. Descriptive method allows the researcher to describe, analyze, to categorize and to interpret the data.

Object of study

This study seeks to investigate of errors in the translation of abstracts produced by Google Translate with reference to Baker (1992) model of error analysis. Totals of 15 abstracts were randomly selected from Magister degree, department of Islamic Education in IAIN KEDIRI. All abstracts were in fact translated using machine translate, that is Google Translate

Research Instrument

Qualitative research is interpretative research, so in conducting this study, the main instrument is the writer's error analysis knowledge. Also the writer is supported by some references related to errors in the translation. The writer uses some books that discuss about errors in the translation. Those references are expected to support in analyzing the occurrences of errors in the translation of abstracts produced by *Google Translate*.

Data Collection

To answer the research questions, this study employed procedures of data collection including several steps:

1. First, the researcher collected the abstracts and translated it by *Google Translate*.
2. Second, the researcher reads and observes the translation of abstracts produced by *Google Translate* thoroughly, from word to word, sentence to sentence, and the whole paragraph.

3. Third, the researcher selects and marks the data which contains the error. The researcher underlines the erroneous phrases and clauses that found in the translation of abstracts produced by *Google Translate*.

Data Analysis

Analyzing the data is the following step conducted by the researcher after the data is collected. The following were the steps in analyzing the data:

1. The Parameters

The parameters used in this study are based on the compilation of parameter by many experts in translation field, which is compiled in by Baker (1992):

    a. Equivalence at Word Level

    b. Equivalence above Word Level

    c. Grammatical Equivalence

    d. Textual Equivalence: Thematic and Information Structures

    e. Textual Equivalence: Cohesion

2. Correction of error

The errors in the translation of abstracts produced by Google Translate will be corrected with using related sources such as English Grammar book as the reference. The researcher provides the correct clauses that should be used in the text as the correction of the erroneous clauses. It is done to make sure that the words and structures are containing the errors.

3. The Evaluation of Translation Result

The translation result of the "Google Translate" analyzed using the parameters compiled by Baker (1992). Every sentence is analyzed using

every parameter. After the sentences have been analyzed, the writer tried to find where 'Google Translate' made a mistake.

The writer counted percentages of the sentences translated Error in Word Order correctly. The Percentage of sentences is formulated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Number of correctly translated sentences (Total score)}}{\text{Total Number of Sentences (High skor)}} \times 100\%$$

There are no fixed standard for translation. Newmark states that "Ultimately standards are relative, however much one tries to base them on criteria rather than norms".

So, in order to score the effectiveness of "Google Translate" the writer determined the percentage based on Likert Scale that has interval formula.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
In this study, the researcher only found 4 types of errors.
Below are some examples of errors found in the translation of abstract

1. Equivalence at Word Level
Upaya menentang segala bentuk radikalisme merupakan bagian dari reaksi anti radikalisme. =Efforts against any form of radicalism is part of the anti-radical reactions.

At the first glance this sentence was correctly translated, each word was translated correctly, except for one word; the word *upaya* was translated as efforts. The word *upaya* was a singular word while the word efforts in English was a plural word. Alwi states that even though usually the form of plural and singular words were different in Indonesian, mostly the form differences were not used if it had connection with certain verb. Hasan Alwi (1998:311) states that even though the form of singular and plural word was not applied, the sentence should at least, show that the

noun was not a singular but plural . So the translation result should be effort or in other word we leave the "s" which indicates plural in English.

2. Equivalence above Word Level

Penelitian ini mengulas tentang peranan pelajaran Aswaja dalam usaha deradikalisasi. = This study reviewed the role Aswaja lesson in de-radicalization efforts.

The translation of the object, which was "the role Aswaja lesson" was strange, because there were two English nouns located next to each other ("role" as a noun and "Aswaja lesson" as noun phrase). According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2008), to make it better in translation, the phrase could be translated as the role of Aswaja lesson.

3. Grammatical Equivalence

Pendidikan agama Islam di sekolah secara substantif memiliki peran yang sangat penting. = Religious education in schools substantively Islam has a very important role.

According to M. Frank (1972: 161), the word "substantively" cleaves the phrase, which explained in the equivalent above word became "Islamic education religious", that caused the translation grammatically strange. "Substantively" should be before the verb since this sentence was with no auxiliaries. Thus, the best translation is "Islam religion education in schools substantively had a very important role".

4. Textual Equivalence: Thematic

Melalui praktik budaya Pondok Tremas yang meliputi: budaya keilmuan, budaya keagamaan, budaya sosial dan politik, benih-benih deradikalisasi agama Islam disemikan = Through cultural practices cottage Tremas including: scientific culture, a culture of religious, cultural, social and political culture of the seeds sown the de-radicalization of Islam.

In this case *benih-benih* was not small round or oval object produced by a plant and from which, when it is planted, a new plant can grow as the meaning of "seed" but it was *benih-benih* as the reason why something

happened. By all mean, it was better using "cause" word to translate *benih-benih* than "seed".

After conducting this study, the writer found many mistakes was done by "Google Translate". The some types of sentences had been translated ineffectively and the success rate was close to zero percent. The table below was the complete list of the translation success rate:

Table 4.1

Translation success rate of "Google Translate"

Sentence Type	∑Sentence	∑Correctly Translated	Rate
Simple Sentence	48	6	12.5%
Compound Sentence	2	0	0%
Complex Sentence	16	3	18.75%
Compound Complex-Sentence	3	0	0%
Overall	73	9	12.3%

Out of all Academic Compound Sentences, Academic compound – complex which used in this study, there was none which was correctly translated. Therefore these types of sentences had 0% successful translation percentage. While Academic Complex Sentences had two out of the sixteen sentences correctly translated so (3/16) X 100% = 18.75%. The highest successful translation percentage is achieved by Academic Simple Sentences. It has four correctly translated sentences, out of forty-four material sentences. Therefore (6/48) X 100% = 12.5%. Overall, out of seventy three sentences which used as the material, "Google Translate" only able to translate six sentences correctly, while the other sentences has problem in the translation, so (9/73) X 100% = 12.3%. Therefore, the writer assumes that the effectiveness of "Google translate" is very low.

The writer also found the mistakes made by "Google Translate" in each parameter that is used for analyzing the sentences; they are as follows:

1. **Equivalence at Word Level**

a. Translating Plural word into singular word

There are many cases of the plural word, which is as upset translated as plural word, is translated as singular word.

b. The translation result has different meaning after translation

This is the most basic form of the mistake in translation. If the translated word has a different meaning from the original sentence, the information which should be delivered will be wrong.

c. Inconsistency of translation result

The word which should be translated is not translated in the translation result. The word still exists in the translation result, but it retained its original form. There is an exception where the word cannot be translated, but it mostly occurs on proper noun.

2. **Equivalence above Word Level**

a. Using word per word translation

Phrase and clause should be translated as a phrase and clause, not as a set of word. Translating phrase or clause by word per word translation would cause the phrase or clause has a strange meaning in the translation result. This mistake happens to:

b. Random word order

A random translation result in a phrase is not only when a phrase translated into word per word translation but also the function and the structure is weird.

c. Agreement the word order in a phrase

The structure of some word connected to others whether after or before the word in a phrase has the role. It is called agreement. Every word in a sentence does not stand by itself but it should consider the function or the form of other word building a complete sentence

3. **Grammatical Equivalence**

a. Problem of verb

A complete sentence or clause is when it has a main subject and a main verb. The verb in a sentence is not only verb as its form but

also as its function. Afterwards, it can not called as a sentence when it does not have. Furthermore, it happens in whether a passive sentence, active sentence or even getting added-word at the verb. The sentence will be not only an uncompleted sentence but also change the meaning intended to convey. It happens to some sentences in these translation result.

b. Random word order

A random translation result in grammar part is not only when a clause or sentence translated into word per word translation but also the function and the structure in the clause or sentence is weird.

c. Agreement on each phrase and clause

The structure of some word connected to others whether after or before the word has the role. It is called agreement. Every word in a sentence does not stand by itself but it should consider the function or the form of other word building a complete sentence.

d. Unable to identify singular and plural verb

Grammatically, every verb in a sentence or clause has to agree with the subject. When the subject is a singular noun or noun phrase, the verb must be also in a singular form. Yet, the sentence or clause is incorrectly translated since it does not happen.

e. Wrong word order

Wrong word order is when a word is translated not in its original function. Then, it makes the form of the word not as the proper form.

f. Unable to identify present or past tense

English has its own role in using it, grammatically. Especially about tense, it has different role in every tense to present every action happened in different time whether it is present or past. When a sentence does not use the correct tense in presenting the action in the sentence with considering some indication in every tense, the sentence will fail in translation process.

g. Unable to identify positive or negative sentence

The difference between positive or negative sentence is very clear. In English it shows by adverb "not". While the negative sentence

does not have "not" it will be positive sentence and exactly has the opposite meaning.

h. Omitted word

The word which supposed to be translated is omitted from the translation result. Emittance of any word from the source sentence mostly makes the translation result has different meaning.

4. Textual Equivalence: Thematic

It cannot match the translation result with the context. Aside from correctly translating a word, phrase, or clause, translation should also correctly match to the context, in order to convey the right information. There are some mistakes where the translation result does not match with the context of the sentence.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After analyzing and interpreting the data, the writer comes to the conclusion that the effectiveness of "Google Translate" in translating Indonesian sentences to English sentences is very low (12.3%). Most of the sentences, which are used as the data, are translated incorrectly. Based on chapter 4 (table 4.1), the highest percentage of correct translation is at Academic complex sentences (18.75%), while most of the other sentences percentage are very low (≤ 12.5%). The mistakes found in the translation result mostly are mistakes at minor detail, so the translation mistakes are not too serious. But, the writer also finds a case where the mistake is very serious. Moreover, the writer finds that there are some cases where the "Google Translate" often makes mistake. Each parameter has at least one case in which "Google Translate" often makes mistake.

From the result of the study, the writer suggests:

1. For the lecturer of Bahasa Indonesia-English Translation. This thesis is hoped as reference to improve knowledge about the material of Bahasa Indonesia-English Translation subject.
2. For students of Bahasa Indonesia-English Translation class. Students can identify how the correct translation result is and what one of parameters actually must be used.

3. For further studies, the writer suggests some points that can be used as consideration. The next researcher can conduct the deeper study related to use another theory of translation, in order to make a comparison with this study. Also, the next researcher can take other fields of study to be the materials. The next researcher can also compare "Google Translate" machine translation to others whether using the same theory or different one.

4. For the users. They can use "Google Translate" only for translating a for register sentence. The writer also does not suggest to use the "Google Translate" as a primary translation tool, but as a translation aid. Because the mistakes that "Google Translate" makes are not too serious, it can still be used, but it must be accompanied by Human Translator, who should edit the post-translation result.

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