The Difficulties of the Third Year English Department Students to Translate an Educational News Text from English into Indonesian at Bung Hatta University

Sapri Utomo[1], Fatimah Tanjung[2], Lely Refnita[2]
[1]The Student of English Department, The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta University
Email: sapriutomo@yahoo.co.id

[2]The Lecturers of English Department, The Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta University
Email: lely_refnita@ymail.com

Abstract

Translation is a process of transfering the meaning from the source language into the target language. Translation is divided into two types. literal translation (*form based translation*) and non literal translation or free translation (*meaning based translation*) This study was designed to describe and analyze the difficulties of the third year English Department students in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian in terms of lexical equivalence and grammatical adjustment. The population of this research was the third year English Department students that comprised 112 students. For choosing the sample, the writer used cluster random sampling technique. The instrument was translation test. After analyzing the data, the writer found that in average, 19 students (76%) had the difficulties in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian. Specifically, 23 students (92%) had difficulties in terms of lexical equivalence and 15 students (60%) had difficulties in terms of grammatical adjustment. Based on this study, the writer suggests the students to learn more to master vocabulary because it has contribution to find an appropriate meaning and to make the grammatical adjustment. The students should find the appropriate meaning based on the text to make the sentences more acceptable by the reader. It is expected that the lecturers give the students more exercises to improve their vocabulary mastery and to add their knowledge about translation, and develop the teaching materials to increase students' ability in translating a text from English into Indonesian.

Key Words : Translation, News Item Text, Difficulties

Introduction

Language is a tool which is used by the people in the world for communication. They need language to do interaction and to communicate each other as they are social human beings. There are many skills and components that must be mastered by students in English. The skills are listening, speaking, writing, and reading. And the components are grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. Besides, translation also has an important role in developing the skills and the components in mastering English.

Rachmadie (1988 : 3) states that it seems easier to get the Indonesian equivalent of English word in isolation, but when it comes to phrases and

sentences, the knowledge of grammar has an important role.

Translation is one of the important ways to get information and knowledge. There are many fields of knowledge that have been contributed by translation, for example; economics, social, politics, education, science, and linguistics. For those kinds of knowledge, translation has an important role in transferring the message or concept from the source language into the target language.

There are four subjects of translation which are studied by the third year English Department students in the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at Bung Hatta University, they are translation, English – Indonesian translation I, English – Indonesian translation II and Indonesian – English translation. In those subjects the students study the theory of translation and practice to translate words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs and texts.

Concerning these, translation is not an easy subject for the students. Actually, when the writer studied in English Department that there are some students still confused to translate lexicon source language into lexicon target language.

There are many kinds of news item text such as; economics, social, business, politics and education. We can find each of that news from any news paper, it is written in different pages. An educational news text is part of news item text that tells about some informations or events that happen around education.

Based on the explanations above, the formulation of the problem was "What difficulties are faced by the third year English Department students in translating an educational news text from English to Indonesian in terms of the lexical equivalence and the grammatical adjustment at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta University?"

Method

The type of this research was descriptive in nature. Gay (1987:189) states that descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer the question concerning the current status of the subject of the study. Descriptive research is aimed at describing an accurate, factual, and systematic nature of a certain condition. This study was designed to describe and analyze the difficulties of the third year English Department students in translating an educational news text

from English into Indonesian based on the lexical equivalence and the grammatical adjustment.

The population of this research was the third year English Department students in the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education at Bung Hatta University in academic year 2012/2013.

Table 1.1
The Table of Population

No	Class	Total of Populations
1.	A	30 Students
2.	B	27 Students
3.	C	30 Students
4.	D	25 Students
Total Population		112 Students

Sampling is the process of selecting a representative number of individuals out of large group. Gay (1987: 111) states that a good sample is representative of the population from which it is selected. In this study the writer used cluster random sampling technique to avoid the subjectivity. Gay (1987:110) states that the cluster random sampling is sampling in which groups are randomly selected.

The writer took the sample by using cluster random sampling technique since the students had been grouped into four classes, A, B, C and D. They were similar in term of teaching materials. Gay (1987:114) states that the minimum sample size of the population is 10%. To choose the sample, the writer wrote 4 pieces of paper, where a piece of paper was given class number A, B, C and D. They were rolled and mixed up into a box. Then, the writer chose one paper from the box. The writer got the number of class D. And all of students in class D were sample in this research.

Translation test was used as an instrument to collect the data. The students were asked to translate an educational news text from English into Indonesian. The educational news text was taken from Jakarta Post online. The writer divided the text into fiveteen sentences. The time was given 60 minutes to do it. For choosing the test, the writer discussed the test to expert (translation lecturer). To have a reliable and good test, the writer tried out the test to students out of sample and for reliability the writer used inter rater method

To collect the data, the writer used the procedures as follow:

1. The writer administered the translation test to the students.
2. The writer gave the direction to the students to do the test.
3. The writer gave 60 minutes to students to translate the educational news text from English into Indonesian.
4. The writer collected the result of the test.
5. The writer copied the students' work and gave it to the second assessor.
6. There were fifteen sentences that had to be translated by the students. The writer and the second assessor read the students' answer sentence by sentence carefully to check the difficulties of lexical equivalence and grammatical adjustment made by students.
7. The writer prepared the table of checklist to identify the difficulties.
8. The writer classified the types of difficulties made by the students based on the criteria as follow:
   a. The students had difficulties in lexical equivalence if they could not translate lexicon from source language into lexicon target language into the appropriate meaning based on the text.
   b. The students had difficulties in grammatical adjustment if they could not make the grammatical adjustment from source language into the target language correctly, Rachmadie (1988: 67) states that grammatical meaning is determined by syntax and morphology. And in translating, the grammatical adjustment must be made to make the result of translation readable and interesting.

In analyzing the data, the writer used the steps as follow:
1. The writer checked the table that indicated the difficulties of students in grammatical adjustment and lexical equivalence.
2. The students were said to have difficulties if the percentage of difficulties was above 50% and they had no difficulties if the percentage of difficulties was less than 50%.
3. The writer counted the percentage of students who had no difficulties and had difficulties by using the

formula as Sudjana (1989: 129) states as follow:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

Where:

P = Percentage of students who had or had no difficulty

N = Number of students

F = Frequency of students who had or had no difficulty

Findings and Discussions

In average, after analyzing the data the writer found 19 students (76%) who had the difficulties in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian in term of lexical equivalence and grammatical adjustment. Specifically, the writer found 23 students (92%) who had difficulties in term of lexical equivalence and There were 15 students (60%) who had difficulties in term of grammatical adjustment.

Table 1
The Frequencies of Students' Difficulties in Translating an Educational News Text from English into Indonesian

No	Aspects	Having Difficulties		Having no Difficulties	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lexical Equivalence	23	92%	2	8%
2	Grammatical Adjustment	15	60%	10	40%
Average		19	76%	6	24%

a. The Students' difficulties in Lexical Equivalence

In terms of lexical equivalence, there were 23 (92%) students who had difficulties in translanting an educational news text from English into Indonesian. It means that some students had difficulties to find the appropriate meaning of words to words or phrases to phrases. Rachmadie (1988: 20) says that most English words have more than one meaning, and translation is more than just replacing words in one language into other languages but we should consider the lexical meaning. In this problem, some students did not consider the lexical meaning. They could not find the appropriate meaning of words or phrases based in the text or sentences. For examples: in text, "vocational high school" was translated

"SMP" by the student but, the correct one is "SMK" and in text, taking the test was translated "mengambil tes" but the correct one is Mengikuti ujian.

b. The Students' Difficulties in grammatical Adjustment

There were 15 students (60%) had difficulties in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian based on grammatical adjustment. The students did not consider the grammatical adjustment. When we want to translate a text, we must be able to make grammatical adjustment in translating a text from English into Indonesian. If we do not consider it, the result of the translation will be unreadable or uninteresting and difficult to be understood. Indonesian does not have tenses marker but Indonesian has adverb of time. In English there are some tenses marker and also adverb of time. when we want to translate a sentence, we should not translate all but we can do adding, subtracting or adapting to get good translation results in a sentence.

In this research, some of students did not do the grammatical adjustment. It means they could not make the grammatical adjustment from source language into the target language. For example:

Text:
"This is incredible, this year's graduation rate is higher than last year" he told The Jakarta Post at SMA 38 in Jagakarsa, South Jakarta.
Students' translation:
"Ini luar biasa, tahun ini adalah lulusan tertinggi dari tahun sebelumnya". dia berkata di jakarta post di SMA 38 Jagakarsa, Jakarta Selatan.
The correct translation:
Ini luar biasa, tingkat kelulusan tahun ini lebih tinggi dibandingkan dengan tahun lalu," dia mengatakan kepada reporter Jakarta Post di SMA 38 Jagakarsa, Jakarta Selatan.

Conclusions

After having disscussed the findings of the research in the previous part, the writer concludes that:

1. In general, the students had difficulties in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian in term of grammatical adjustment and lexical equivalence. There were 19 students (76%) who had difficulties.

2. They had difficulties in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian in terms of grammatical adjustment. There were 15 students (60%) who had difficulties.

3. In terms of lexical equivalence, they also had difficulties to translate an

educational news text from English into Indonesian. The writer found 23 students (92%) who had difficulties in translating an educational news text from English into Indonesian.

Acknowledgement

Alhamdulillah, the writer thanks Allah S.W.T who has given time and chances to him in accomplishing his thesis. The purpose of this thesis is to fulfil one of the requirements to get S-1 degree at the English Department, the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Bung Hatta University.

The writer's deepest gratitude and appreciation are addressed to his advisors, Dra. Fatimah Tanjumg, M. Hum. and Dr. Lely Refnita, M. Pd. who have given guidance, advices, and corrections. They have given their time to help the writer in finishing this thesis. Their suggestions and supports are very valuable in finishing this task. He also wants to thank the chairwoman and the secretary of the English Department, Dra. Ernati, M. Pd. and Dra. Lisa Tavriyanti, M. Pd., Dr. Marsis, M. Pd., as the Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education and Drs. Khairudin, M. Si., as the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Bung Hatta University.

Then, the writer's special gratitude is addresed to his beloved parents, Zulkifli and Sari Ganti for their support and prays, and his beloved brother and sisters, Andika Rahman, Nur Sakinah and Ela Dira. The writer says thanks to Belinda Yunita who gave her hand for this study. The writer also says thanks to all of his lecturers who guided him during his study at the English Deparment, Bung Hatta University, And all of his friends that could not be listed one by one in this thesis.

Finally, the writer believes that this thesis may have several weaknesses. Therefore, some comments, suggestion and criticisms are expected to come up in order to make this thesis better.

References

Gay.L.R. 1987. *Educational Research.* Ohio: Merril Publishing Company.

Rachmadie, Sabrony. 1988. *Materi Pokok Translation.* Jakarta*:* Kartika Jakarta Universitas Terbuka.

Sudjana. Nana. 1989. *Penelitian dan Penilaian Pendidikan.* Bandung: Sinar Baru.