

The Equivalence and Shift in the Indonesian Translation of English Adjective Phrases

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Abstract

The aims of this study are investigating and analyzing the equivalence and shift found in Indonesian translation of English adjective phrases in magazine articles. This study employed descriptive qualitative method. There are 50 data as the sample of the study. From the data, there are 72% data of equivalence and 28% data of shift. The dominant equivalence is textual equivalence (70%) while dynamic equivalence is only 2%. There is only one kind of shift found in this study, i.e. class shift which is subcategorized into two: SL phrase is translated into TL word with 6 data or 12% and SL phrase is translated into TL three words with 8 data or 16%. From the result of the study, it can be concluded that textual equivalence indicates the similarities of function of the adjective phrase in both English and Indonesia. However, the occurring shift indicates the translators to get natural translated text in TL by made linguistic changes without changed the meaning.

Keywords: Equivalence, Shift, Adjective phrases, Translation

1. Introduction

Translation, according to Larson (1998:3), is simply defined as a process to transfer meaning of a source language (SL) into meaning in a target language (TL). He further describes that translation involves studying lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of a SL text, analyzing the meaning of those aspects, and then reconstructing the meaning in appropriate form in TL.

In a similar vein, Nida and Taber (1982:12) propose another definition of translation. According to the two experts, "Translating consisting of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style."

The definition proposed by Larson has an implication that in translating, translators should bear in mind that they not only transfer a message but also reconstruct meaning in TL. Meanwhile, the definition proposed by Nida and Taber contains some elements that should be taken into account by translators in performing their task namely reproducing the natural message, closest equivalence, meaning priority and also translation style.

From the above explanation, it can be inferred that the core of translation lies on form and meaning. Consequently, translators have the main task to achieve translation equivalence of SL text message in TL texts. However, sometimes, due to the difference of structure and culture between SL and TL, translation results in shifts.

The writer conducts this study to find out the equivalence and shift in the Indonesian translation of English adjective phrases. It focuses on identifying the equivalence and shift in the Indonesian translation of English adjective phrases found in *National Geographic Magazine* articles.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Translation Concept

Many linguists have defined translation in their own way. Newmark (1988:7) defines translation as "a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language." In line with Newmark, Larson (1998:3) states, "translation is basically a change of form. In translation, the form of the source language is replaced by the form of receptor (target) language".

Hatim and Munday (2004:6) define translation as "the process of transferring a written text from source language (SL) to target language (TL)". In this definition, they emphasize translation as a process.

In regards to translation types, Larson (1998:15) divides translation two types: literal translation and idiomatic translation. Literal translation refers to a form-based translation attempting to follow the form of the SL. On the other hand, idiomatic translation refers to a meaning-based translation that makes every effort to communicate the meaning of the SL text in the natural form of the TL.

2.2 Equivalence

In relation to equivalence in translation, Baker (1992:77) used the notion of equivalence for the sake of convenience and it is variously regarded as a necessary condition for translations, an obstacle to a progress in translation studies, or a useful category for describing translation. Vinay and Darbelnet (as cited in Munday, 2010:58) state, "equivalence refers to cases where languages describe the same situation by different stylistic or

structural means”.

Popovic (as cited in Bassnett, 2005: 33) proposes the classification of equivalence. According to him, there are four types of equivalence as follow.

1. Linguistic equivalence, where there is homogeneity on the linguistic level of both SL and TL texts, i.e. word for word translation.
2. Paradigmatic equivalence, where there is equivalence of ‘the elements of a paradigmatic expressive axis’, i.e. elements of grammar.
3. Stylistic (translational) equivalence, where there is ‘functional equivalence of elements in both original and translation aiming at an expressive identity with an invariant of identical meaning’.
4. Textual (syntagmatic) equivalence, where there is equivalence of the syntagmatic structuring of a text, i.e. equivalence of form and shape.

Furthermore, Nida (as cited in Munday, 2010:42) divides equivalence into formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. Formal equivalence focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content ... one is concerned that the message in the receptor language should match as closely as possible the different elements in the source language. By dynamic equivalence, it means that the relation between receptor and message should be substantially the same as that which existed between the original receptors and the message.

2.3 Shift

Catford (as cited in Venuti and Baker, 2004: 141) stated that ‘shifts’, is departures from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL. Catford divides shifts into two major types: level shifts and category shifts.

1. Level shift is SL item at one linguistic level has a TL translation equivalent at a different level. It would be something which is expressed by grammar in one language and lexis in another.
2. Category shift is a departure from formal correspondence in translation. Category shift occurs if the source language (SL) has different forms from the target language (TL). This shift is subdivided into four kinds:
 - a. Structure shift is to be the most common form of shift and involve mostly a shift in grammatical structure.
 - b. Class shift occurs when the translation equivalent of SL item is a member of a different class from the original item. This comprises shift from one part of speech to another.
 - c. Unit-shift means change of rank – that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL, is a unit at a different rank in the TL. ‘Rank’ here refers to the hierarchical linguistic units of sentence, clause, group, word and morpheme.
 - d. Intra-system shift is a departure from formal correspondence in which (a term operating in) one system in the SL has as its translation equivalent (a term operating in) a different – non-corresponding-system in the TL.

2.4 Adjective Phrase

Adjective phrase (AP) is a phrase which the head word is an adjective. For example, in the phrase *very important*, the head word is *important* (an adjective). This is in line with Greenbaum’s (1996:288) definition that “the adjective phrase has as its head an adjective, which may be preceded by premodifiers and followed by postmodifiers”. Moreover, Greenbaum (1996:290) lists the functions of adjective phrases as follow.

1. Premodifier of a noun
Well, it's a *much less popular* route.
2. Subject predicative
I mean Auden was *extraordinarily ugly*.
3. Object predicative
He's opening his mouth *very wide* just now.
4. Postmodifier of a pronoun
There would still be eyes watching and wondering from a distance but, briefly, there was no one *close*.
5. Postmodifier of a noun
To outsiders London seems one of the most vibrant cultural capitals of the world, a city *bright with theatres cinemas ballet opera art galleries and great museums*.
6. Nominal adjective
Tonight I hope you'll not mind if I eschew *the academic* and pursue a more earthy albeit reflective tack analyzing the soil within which citizenship can root and thrive.
7. Complement of a preposition
Kaye doesn't finish till *late*.

Brinton (2000:172) describes the expansion of adjective phrase as can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Expansion of Adjective Phrase (AP)

AP →	A	fierce
	Deg A	very pierce
	Adv A	fiercely barking
	Deg Adv A	very fiercely barking
	A PP	dear to me, tired of him, glad about that

For Indonesian adjective phrase, Alwi, et al. (2003:178) describe adjective phrase as a phrase in which the head of the phrase is an adjective. The adjective, as the head of the phrase, can be bounded by various markers such as modality marker as in *sudah harus tenang* (*sudah harus* is a modality marker to the adjective *tenang*). The Indonesian adjective phrases are also marked by degree of quality or intensity and degree of comparison. The markers like *benar, sangat, terlalu, agak, and makin* express degree of quality. Meanwhile, the markers like *lebih, kurang, and paling* state the degree of comparison.

3. Methodology

This study is a qualitative descriptive study. It describes the equivalence and shift in the Indonesian translation of English adjective phrases.

As stated earlier, the data for this study are adjective phrases taken from *National Geographic* Magazine articles both in English and Indonesian editions (March and April 2014 editions). The English articles are the source texts, meanwhile the target texts are their Indonesian translations.

The procedures of collecting the data are identifying the SL data consist of English adjective phrases. Next, identifying the TL data consists of Indonesian translated adjective phrases from English (TL). The last is putting together the data of the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) side by side in a list.

After collecting the data, the writer analyzes the data by classifying them into equivalence category and shift category. The writer uses Popovic's and Nida's model of equivalence. For analyzing shifts, the writer employs Catford's classification of translation shifts.

4. Data and Analysis

In line with the focus of this study, there are two main categories used in analyzing the data. The equivalent category is subcategorized into:

1. Textual equivalence dividing into two sub-categories:
 - a. SL AP subject predicative is translated into TL AP subject predicative.
 - b. SL AP postmodifier of a noun is translated into TL AP postmodifier of a noun.
2. Dynamic equivalence

There only one type of shift found in this study, i.e. unit shift which is subdivided into:

- a. SL phrase is translated into TL word.
- b. SL phrase is translated into TL clause.

In this study, there are 50 data, consisting of equivalence and shift. There are 36 data of equivalence or 72% and 14 data of shift or 28%. It shows that the equivalences occur more often in the articles than the shifts.

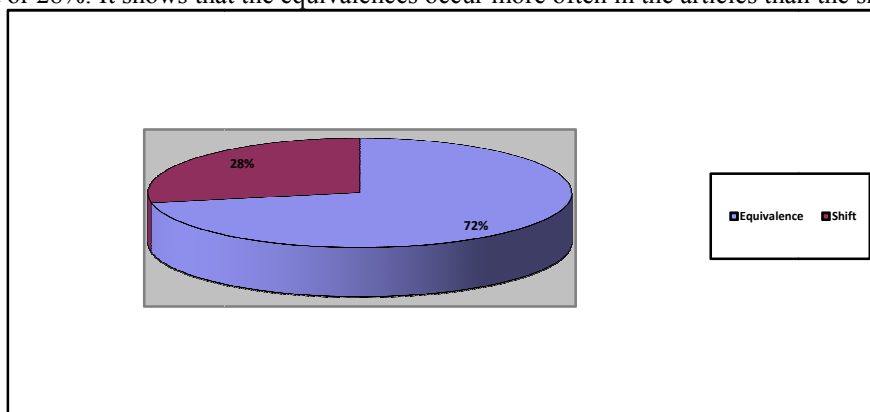


Figure 1. The Main Categories of Equivalence and Shift in the Indonesian Translation of English Adjective Phrases

4.1 The Analysis of Equivalence

Table 2. The Equivalence in the Indonesian Translation of English Adjective Phrases and its Subcategories

No	The Equivalence and Its Subcategories	Number of Data	%
1	Textual Equivalence		
	a. SL AP subject predicative is translated into TL AP subject predicative.	33	66
	b. SL AP postmodifier of a noun is translated into TL AP postmodifier of a noun.	2	4
2	Dynamic Equivalence	1	2
	TOTAL	36	72

From the table 2, there are 36 or 72% data of Textual Equivalence which is divided into two subcategories namely SL AP subject predicative is translated into TL AP subject predicative with 33 data or 66% and SL AP postmodifier of a noun is translated into TL AP postmodifier of a noun with 2 data or 4%. There is also 1 or 2% data of Dynamic Equivalence.

4.1.1 Textual Equivalence

SL AP subject predicative is translated into TL AP subject predicative

- | | |
|--|--|
| SL | TL |
| (1) The barge was <i>almost intact</i> . | (1) Tongkang itu boleh dikatakan <i>masih utuh</i> . |

Sentence (1), SL adjective phrase ‘almost intact’ is translated into TL adjective phrase ‘masih utuh’. Here, the word ‘almost’ is the degree marker (adverb) modifying the English adjective ‘intact’. In the TL, the word ‘masih’ is the degree marker modifying the Indonesian adjective ‘utuh’. SL ‘almost intact’ and TL ‘masih utuh’ are adjective phrases function as subject predicative. Since they have the same function, then, it can be concluded that this textual equivalence, i.e. equivalence of form and shape.

SL AP postmodifier of a noun is translated into TL AP postmodifier of a noun

- | | |
|---|---|
| SL | TL |
| (2) ... a black hole, a collapsed star <i>so dense</i> that even light could not escape its thrall, ... | (2) ... lubang hitam, bintang runtuh <i>yang begitu padat</i> sehingga cahaya pun tak lolos dari cengkramannya, ... |

Sentence (2), SL adjective phrase ‘so dense’ is translated into TL adjective phrase ‘yang begitu padat’. In the SL, ‘so dense’ modifies ‘a black hole’ and in the TL ‘yang begitu padat’ modifies ‘lubang hitam’. The two phrases function as postmodifier of noun. Thus, they have the same function in the same position and it can be considered as textual equivalence.

4.1.2 Dynamic Equivalence

- | | |
|--|--|
| SL | TL |
| (3) Venting CO ₂ from a smokestack is <i>usually free</i> . | (3) Membuang CO ₂ dari cerobong asap <i>biasanya gratis</i> . |

Sentence (3), SL adjective phrase ‘usually free’ is translated into TL adjective phrase ‘biasanya gratis’. It can be seen that they are dynamic equivalence because the word ‘free’ is translated into ‘gratis’. The word ‘gratis’ in Indonesian concept has the same meaning with ‘free’. Both of them mean ‘without paying anything’. If the translator translated ‘free’ literally as ‘bebas’, it will change the meaning and it sounds unnatural in Indonesian context.

4.2 The Analysis of Shift

Table 3. The Shift in the Indonesian Translation of English Adjective Phrases and its Subcategories

No	The Shift and Its Subcategories	Number of Data	%
1	Unit Shift		
	a. SL phrase is translated into TL word.	6	12
	b. SL phrase is translated into TL three words.	8	16
	TOTAL	14	28

From the table 3, there are 14 or 28% data of the shift which is divided into two subcategories namely SL phrase is translated into TL word with 6 data or 12% and SL phrase is translated into TL three words with 8 data or 16%.

4.2.1 Unit Shift

SL AP is translated into TL word

SL

TL

- (4) Time and black holes have a ***very strange*** relationship.
(4) Waktu dan lubang hitam memiliki hubungan yang ***aneh***.

Sentence (4), SL adjective phrase ‘very strange’ consists of two words. It is translated into TL word ‘aneh’ which is an adjective. Here, there is a shift namely *unit shift* means a change of rank which is a unit at one rank in the SL, is a unit at a different rank in the TL, for example from ‘a phrase’ to ‘a word’. In the example, the unit shift occurs from an adjective phrase in SL into a word in TL.

SL phrase is translated into TL three words (Addition of a word in TL AP)

SL

TL

- (5) Something not just small but also ***imaginably heavy***.
(5) Sesuatu yang bukan hanya kecil tetapi juga ***amat sangat berat***.

Sentence (5), SL adjective phrase ‘imaginably heavy’ consists of two words. It is translated into TL three words ‘amat sangat berat’. In this example, the unit shift occurs from an adjective phrase consist of two words in SL into three words in TL with addition of a word in TL adjective phrase.

5. Conclusion

This research found that in the translation of English adjective phrases into Indonesian in the National Geographic magazine articles the equivalence is more dominant than the shift. It is because there are similarities of function of the phrase both in English and in Indonesia. Both in English and Indonesian, the AP can function as subject predicative and postmodifier of a noun. However, in order to get natural translated text in TL, the translators made small linguistic changes known as shift. Those shifts can be accepted because they do not change the meaning.

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