

## GRAMMATICAL AND TEXTUAL EQUIVALENTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSLATIONS STRATEGIES

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**Abstract:** Translation is not just divert the messages away, but also should pay attention to choice appropriate words to achieve the equivalence, whether grammatically and textually. Since the equivalence itself is closely related to the concept of translatable and untranslatable. Furthermore, each language has its own rules which may be difficult or even cannot be translated into other languages. Therefore, the translator must know the right manners to achieve grammatical and textual equivalence. At this time, this research raised the issues that often encountered by the translator during the translation processing, such as to achieve grammatical and textual equivalence between source language and target language, and some strategies that can be applied by translator to reach that goals.

**Key words:** Translation Strategies, Grammatical and Textual  
Equivalence

Linguistic rules that had by the reflective languages are very different each other, although there are some specific rules to which every language has something in common. This factor should really consider by the translator in carrying out their work in translation, so they can translate a text truly and correctly. For the example, Indonesian linguistic rules are different from the rules that exist in English, especially from grammatical structure.

*Indonesian* : Murid-murid berdiri di lapangan.

*English* : The students stand in the yard.

The words in italics and underlined (read “*murid-murid*” and students”) showed that the patterns indicate the quantity in English and Indonesian languages are different. In Indonesian language, plural is expressed in basic word repetition. Meanwhile, plural in English is expressed by adding –s/-es in the end of the nouns. The translators must be observant, meticulous, and careful when translating a text because of grammatical differences both two languages.

Furthermore, the translators must also observe and understand the context of the text because translation does not merely transfer the message from source language to target language but also the existing of cultural and situation contexts that appear in the text, so it can minimize some errors when transferring the source text into target text. It means that if in the translation processing, the translator defined the words in source language that do not have same meaning in target language, as much as possible the translator must find

the words in target language that almost the same with source language. As in the following example

Indonesian : *Rujak petis*  
English : Black Salad

“*Rujak petis*” is a typical food Surabaya containing vegetables with black sauce, furthermore this type of food does not find in British. However, British have a similar food. It is the vegetables with mayonnaise called salad. Therefore, the translator tries to find the appropriate word and close to the meaning of source language to translate “*rujak petis*” to be “black salad”.

The equivalence meaning above is very important in translation because it is one element that is used to assess the quality of translation. In this case, the author will discuss about grammatical equivalents include the number, sex, person, and tense; textual equivalents that can be seen from cohesion and coherence; and translation strategies that can be used by the translator to obtain the correct equivalent, so the meaning in target language not deviate from the meaning in the source language.

## DEFINITIONS OF EQUIVALENCE

Nowadays, the term of equivalence has opposition because the meaning of equivalence itself is “same”. In fact, each language has different rules so it is difficult to find the same meaning.

Equivalence is an essential element in translation because a good translation must have three specific conditions equivalence, closest, and natural. As presented by Nida (1969) that translation consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of the source language message, first in term of meaning and secondly in term of style.

Many linguists interpret and understand the meaning of equivalence in different concepts. Reiss and Vermeer (1997) saw the equivalence into two sides namely the function and the effects of communication, so that equivalence can be achieved if it has the same communicative function. In other words, between the source language and target language must have the same effect in terms of communicative meaning in order to reach a high level of equivalence. While Newman in Baker (2001) defines equivalence as a common form used to describe the ideal relationship between the original text and the target text.

Furthermore, Shuttleworth and Cowie in Catford and Snell-Hornby (1997) argues that to obtain equivalence, the translator only can choose one word that is close to the source language of a few words in the target language. Such as in the Indonesian language there is the term “*penginapan/losmen*”, and in English it could be “hotel, inn, villa, or cottage”. The translators determine the proper term in English that has a closest meaning of “*penginapan/losmen*” in Indonesian. Moreover, Snell-Hornby (1997) argues that in translation processing, a translator must consider several thing such as culture, situational factors, and textual factors, because these factors play an important role in translation.

## GRAMMATICAL EQUIVALENCE

Grammatical equivalence arises because of differences in grammatical structure of every language. This equivalence is intended to express the grammatical form of the source language into target language (Jacobson in Baker, 2001).

Furthermore, Mona Baker (2001) saw the grammatical equivalent is the nearest grammatical system such as number (singular or plural) or pronouns in English. In addition, each language has its own grammatical forms to express certain categories like number, sex, and the system of time (tense).

As the result of differences in grammatical structure that owned by the respective languages (such as Indonesian grammatical structure different from English grammatical structure), then the difference can be seen as a factor that can cause problems in translation, as follow (Baker, 2001):

### Number

Indonesian and English languages have differences in naming the number form. In Indonesian language, plural is not revealed by putting the qualifier at the beginning and then repeated its nominalization, as the following examples:

*Dua buku-buku*

*Tiga ekor kucing-kucing*

Moreover, plural also expressed in the term of repetition (reduplication) and sometimes preceded by a qualifier or amount of numbers that indicated multiple number (more than one), as follow

*Banyak buku*

*Tiga ekor kucing*

In contrast to the plural which showed by the Indonesian language, English has its own rules to express plural by adding *-s/-es* in the end of nominal forms.

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
House	Houses
Box	Boxes

In addition, there are the other plural forms in English that are basically changing the words

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
Mouse	Mice
Child	Children

The other plural form in English is preceded by a qualifier then its nominalization must be in plural form

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
One rabbit	Five rabbits
A room	Many rooms

## Sex

In this case, the term sex refers to the classification based on male or female who has masculine or feminine in both noun and pronoun (Baker, 2001). Both in English and Indonesian languages have the distinction of each to show the existence of sexuality. In English, the word has meaning sexuality is marked by the addition of the suffix *-ess*, which means that the word has meaning feminine.

Waitress (P)    Waiter (L)  
Stewardess (P) Steward (L)  
Actress (P)    Actor (L)

But not all words which indicate feminine is marked by the suffix *-ess* but change the words, such as the following examples

Female (P)                      Male (L)  
Hen (P)                        Cock (L)  
Sow (P)                        Boar (L)

Likewise in Indonesian language also has some naming that indicate the presence of sexuality classification, like the examples below

Mahasiswa (P)    Mahasiswa (L)  
Pramugari (P)    Pramugara (L)  
Janda (P)            Duda (L)  
Betina (P)            Jantan (L)

But there are significant differences seen between Indonesian and English, as “he” and “she” in English, could be mean “*dia laki-laki*” dan “*dia perempuan*” in Indonesia. However, In Indonesian language those words are almost never encountered in writing, for example as this sentence “She goes to school every day” if translated into Indonesia, it would be *Dia pergi ke sekolah setiap hari*. From this example, in Indonesian language, it is clear that there is no special distinction that shows “he” means *dia laki-laki* dan “she” means *dia perempuan*.

## Person

Personal is usually presented by a system group of pronouns (Baker, 1992). System of pronouns is referring to the grammatical distinctions of each language. Both Indonesian and English languages have different pronouns system. The English pronouns are classified into five groups

<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Objects</i>	<i>Possessive Pronouns</i>	<i>Adjective Pronouns</i>	<i>Reflexive Pronouns</i>
I	Me	Mine	My	Mine
You	You	Yours	Your	Yourself
They	Them	Theirs	Their	Themselves
We	Us	Ours	Our	Ourselves
He	Him	His	His	Himself
She	Her	Hers	Her	Herself
It	It	-	Its	Itself

While in Indonesian language, pronouns only categorized into three groups and there is no distinction between subject and object

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Pronominal Possessive Adjective</i>
Saya	Saya	-ku
Kamu	Kamu	-mu
Dia/Ia/Beliau (P/L)	Dia/Ia/Beliau/-nya (P/L)	-nya
Kami	Kami	Kami
Kita	Kita	Kita
Mereka	Mereka	Mereka

But there is a special word in Indonesian language that is “*mereka*”. Can “*mereka*” be used to replace noun that have plural meaning? Apparently “*mereka*” can be used as a substitute for a noun plural. There is an example to proof that statement above “*Saya membeli 5 buku. Mereka, saya letakkan di atas meja*” compared with the sentence “*Saya membeli 5 buku. Buku-buku tersebut saya letakkan di atas meja*”.

Generally, the second sentence is the common sentence used in Indonesia by performing reduplication books to replaced “*5 buku*”. Although almost the linguists in Indonesia still debated this word, but “*mereka*” is usually more appropriate to replace people than objects.

### **Tense**

In English the system of time is called tense. It is one of grammatical structure factors that can cause problems in translation. In English, the verb will vary in applicable time such as yesterday, today, and tomorrow. As the verb “wear” to showed present time. It will change “wore” to indicated past time and “worn” for perfect time, as the following examples

*He **wears** uniform today*

*He **wore** the same uniform*

*He has **worn** uniform since two days ago*

However, Indonesian language is not familiar with the system of time (tense) that changed the verbs. It uses adverbs of time to show the system of time in Indonesia like “the day after (*lusa*), yesterday (*kemarin*), tomorrow (*besok*), being (*sedang*), been (*telah*), etc.

Dia memakai seragam **sekarang**

Dia memaikai seragam yang sama **kemarin**

Dia **telah** memakai seragam sejak dua hari yang lalu

### **TEXTUAL EQUIVALENCE**

As Hornby in Shuttleworth, Mark and Maria Cowie (1997) said before that in translation processing, a translator must consider several thing such as culture, situational and textual factors. They have an important role in equivalence achievement in order contextual. Further, Mona Baker (1992) asserted that

*A good translator does not begin to translate until s/he has read the text at least once and got a “gist” of the overall message. But this is only the first step. Once the source text is understood, the translator*

*then has to tackle the task of producing a target version which can be accepted as a text in its own right*

It means that a translator would not translate the text before reading a whole of the text and understand the text means. After doing the procedure, a translation can start the translation process, so it can produce a good translation. Hence, the translator not only translates a text but also understand the context of the text that will be translated.

In addition, each language has its own patterns to convey the interrelationships of persons and events; in no language may these patterns be ignored, if the translation is to be understood by its readers (Callow in Baker, 1992). In other words, the translation can be understood by readers if a translator notices linguistic structures that the languages have.

To achieve a textual equivalent, a translator should pay attention to two elements, namely cohesion and coherence.

### **Cohesion**

Cohesion is as a lexical and grammatical network related to the text (Baker, 1992). In line with that statement, cohesion also has definition as the relationship between source and target texts with its components (Bell, 1991). In translation processing, a translator must be careful and thorough in looking at cohesion markers in source text consisting of lexical and grammatical cohesion. Cohesion can be classified into two groups, they are lexical and grammatical (Halliday and Ruqaya Hasan, 1976).

#### ***Lexical***

The function of lexical cohesion is describing the relationship among the use of various lexical items such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs by speakers and writers to the events. Lexical cohesion includes repetitions, synonyms, superordinates, and general words (Eggin, 1994).

- **Repetitions**

That is repeated words or word-phrases of the text.

It was **chrysanthemums** when I married him and **chrysanthemum** when you were born, and the first time they ever brought him home drunk, he'd got brown **chrysanthemums** in his button-hole.

- **Synonyms**

Synonym is a speaker or writer can use another word that means the same or almost the same

- **Superordinates**

The superordinates is such as 'bird' includes 'blackbird, seagull'

- **General words**

The general words are a higher level superordinate. They can be general nouns as in 'thing, pace, person' or general verbs as in 'do'

#### ***Grammatical***

Grammatical cohesion is the writer or the speaker introduces the participants in a text (Eggin, 1994). Grammatical cohesion includes references, substitution, and ellipsis.

- **Reference**

It is the act of using language to refer to entities in the context. It means that the speaker uses linguistic expressions or forms to enable the hearer to identify something.

A: I went with Francesca and David

B: Uhuh

A: Francesca roommate and a friend of Alice's from London

There were six of **us**. Yeah **we** did a lot of hill walking

In this case, it has said that **us** actually point to **we** that they refer to. Then, it is known as personal deixis.

- **Substitution**

A term of words is replaced with a sentence or other terms, as sentences below:

He has a coat of hair

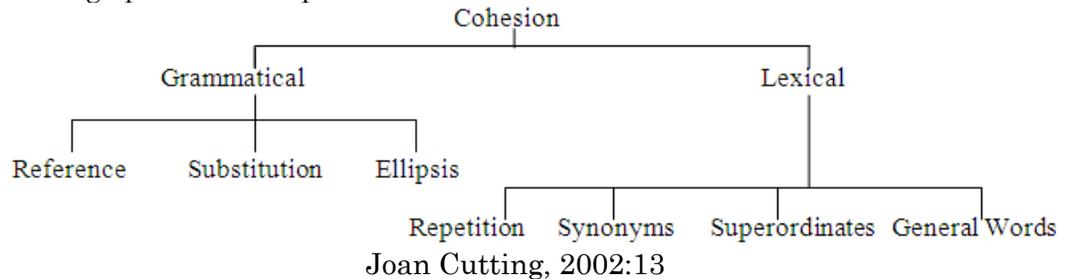
I wish I had **one** too

From the co-text, we know that the 'one' replaces 'a coat of hair'

- **Ellipsis**

It has a function to avoid repetition and it depends on the hearer being able to retrieve the missing words from the surrounding co-text, for example

**Hercule Poirot** sat on the white sand and looked out across the sparkling blue water. **He** was carefully dressed in a dandified fashion in white flannels and a large panama had protected **his** head.



### Coherence

Coherence refers to the way a group of clauses or sentences relate to the context; context of culture and context of situation (Halliday and Ruqaya Hasan, 1976). Coherence related to the existing context both cultural and situation contexts and both contexts cannot be separated from the text.

### Situation

A situation where is the clauses or sentences occurred in text.

### Generic

Generic is associated with genre, as the example taken from Eggin (1994) below:

S: yes please

C: can I have these two like that

S: yes

S: one's forty-five

S: one's twenty-five

C: and have you got ... the ... first day covers of ...

To translate a conversation above, a translator must understand the context of the text because if a translator did not understand the text, some mistakes will be occurred in the translation. It means that the readers cannot get the text means. Genre of the example above is "buying and selling stamps at the post office".

### **TRANSLATION STRATEGIES**

It is not easy to obtain the equivalent when the translation processing like we are turning back of the hands. Some various problems will be faced by the translator. To cover the problems such as grammatical problems, the translator can use structural strategies, as follow (Suryawinata, 2003):

#### **Addition**

Additional is adding several words in the target language because of different structure between target language and source language. Addition has the function to achieve equivalence because if the several words do not added in the target language, the translation may be difficult to understand, for example  
BSu: *Geogory Benford makes the case that among reviewers, 'speculation' is a word mostly deployed as a pejorative*

BSa: Geogory Benford menyatakan bahwa dikalangan para pengulas, 'spekulasi' merupakan kata yang sering digunakan sebagai **kata** berkonotasi negative.

In target language, there is adding "*kata*" to explain "*berkonotasi negative*".

#### **Subtraction**

In this case, subtraction has the same purpose with the addition that is due to differences in structures. Then, if the sentence translates word by word, it will seem less strange and incomprehensible. Consider to the example below

BSu: *each of its molecules contains of 2 hydrogen atoms and 1 oxygen atom and nothing else*

BSa: tiap-tiap molekul air hanya tersusun atas 2 atom hidrogen dan satu atom oksigen

#### **Transposition**

This strategy is one type of strategy that can be used by the translator when define difficulties. This strategy is actually used to convert the structure of source text into target text; hence the translation looks so natural (Newmark, 1988). The change such as conversion from plural to singular, position of adjectives, change the whole sentence for example active sentence converted into passive sentence or the separation of one sentence into two sentences.

### **CONCLUSION**

Equivalence is one element that can be used to assess the quality of translation. Furthermore, when translation processing, a translator must have been dealing with a text that certainly has grammatical structure distinction between source text and target text, including differences in number, sexuality, pronoun, and system of time (tense). In addition, the text cannot be separated from its context, so the translator must consider the context that is characterized by cohesion and coherence markers. Therefore, the translator should pay attention to achieving the appropriate translation and use some appropriate strategies to produce a good translation.

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