

WORD LEVEL EQUIVALENCE OF INDONESIAN–ENGLISH TRANSLATION ABBREVIATION IN *THE JAKARTA POST*

Kartika Fitri Utami, Sumani

The Department of English Teaching
The Faculty of Letters and Arts Education IKIP PGRI Madiun
sumani.ikipae@gmail.com

Abstract

The objective of the study is to identify the words level equivalence are used by the translator in translating abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post* based on the classification of word level equivalence. The researcher applies descriptive qualitative method in carrying out the research. The researcher uses documentation technique. In this study, the researcher uses data source and methodological triangulation. The researcher uses data reduction, data display, and conclusion to analyzing the data. It is in order to describe the fact in *The Jakarta Post* daily newspaper during February 2012. Some abbreviations were studied. After analyzing the strategies of Indonesian – English translation of abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post*, some points can be drawn as follows: (1) translation by more general word (super ordinate) (because of the hierarchical structure of semantic fields is not language specific), (2) translation by more neutral/less expressive word (because the target language has no direct equivalent word), (3) translation using loan or loan word plus explanation (culture specific items, modern concepts and buzz words), (4) translation by paraphrase using related words (when the concept expressed by the source item is lexicalized in the target language but in different form), (5) translation by omission (if the meaning conveyed by certain item or expression is not vital enough), (6) translation by more specific word(subordinate) the target language lacks a super ordinate), and (7) accurate translation (the closest equivalent).

Keywords: word level equivalence, translation, abbreviation, The Jakarta Post

I. Introduction

The problem of translation is very complicated, from the level of finding the most equivalent in word level until the problem of culture. From the issue, it is interesting to give attention to the one of Indonesian daily newspaper, *The Jakarta Post* which is the largest newspaper in Indonesia.

This newspaper is consumed by Indonesian readers mostly. Many articles are taken from the Indonesia issue, phenomena, incident which is translated into English. Seeing *The Jakarta post*, there are several Indonesian terms translated into English. In special case, it would be found some Indonesian abbreviation such as *POLRI* ‘*Polisi Republik Indonesia*’ whereas in *The Jakarta*

Post it is translated into 'nation police'. It misses the word 'Indonesia'. Another example is *IDT* that is translated into 'Underdevelopment Village'. *The Jakarta Post* is not translating the word 'inpres' into English. The acronym of *IDT* is translated into *underdevelopment village*.

The two cases are literally different but the translation has the same meaning with the source language. Here, the translator strives for every effort to find the closest equivalent of the target language. The translator also has to know the suitable strategies how to translate the language naturally, therefore the message can be understood correctly.

Departing on above, the researcher will analyze the translation of abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post*. The abbreviation comes from Indonesian which is translated into English. The analysis will be focused on the words level equivalence used by the translator. Therefore, the problem proposed in the research is: "How the words level equivalence in translating abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post* based on the classification of word level equivalence?"

II. Method

The researcher employs a qualitative method. By using this method, the researcher takes some steps such as observing, collecting, documenting and analyzing the data, and finally drawing a conclusion. In obtaining the purpose above, the researcher applies descriptive qualitative method in carrying out

the research. It is in order to describe the fact in *The Jakarta Post* daily newspaper during February 2012. Some abbreviations were studied. The data source of this research is *The Jakarta Post* daily newspaper. The data are found in *The Jakarta Post* daily newspaper during February 2012, there are some abbreviations as sample data under study. The object of this research is the abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post* during February 2012. It takes some data sample. From the documentation technique, the researcher gets some data of the word level equivalence of the abbreviation that translate from Indonesian to English founded in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper. Technique of analyzing data will help the researcher in conveying all description about the subject observed. Data analysis consists of three document flows of activity: data reduction, data display, and conclusion.

III. Data Description and Findings

1. Data Description

The researcher will analyze the word level equivalence of the abbreviation translated from Indonesian into English which is used by the author in his statement. The result is gained from the headlines of *The Jakarta Post* news directly. The data consist of words, phrases, and sentences which follow the word level equivalence of the abbreviation translated from Indonesian into English. The researcher gets some abbreviations based on the headlines of *The Jakarta Post* news. The

frequencies of each translation of the abbreviations that are found by the researcher over all samples are presented in the following table: Table 1. The Classification of

No	Types of Translation	Freq.	%
1.	Translation by More General Word (Superordinate)	7	10%
2.	Translation by More Neutral/Less Expressive Word	13	18.6%
3.	Translation by Using Loan or Loan Word Plus Explanation	5	7.1%
4.	Translation by Paraphrase Using Related Words	4	5.7%
5.	Translation by Omission	5	7.1%
6.	The Closest Equivalence	17	24.3%
7.	Translation by More Specific Word (Subordinate)	19	27.1%
Total		70	100%

Source: Baker (in Meryem, 2010: 9-10)

From the Table 1. given above, it can be seen that in analyzing the 70 samples as data, the most frequent the word level equivalence of the abbreviation translated from Indonesian into English found in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper is translation by more specific word (subordinate) with 19 item (27.1%). It is followed by the closest equivalence with 17 item (24.3%), translation by more neutral/less expressive word with 13 item (18.6%), translation by more general word (superordinate) with 7 item (10%). The next

are translation by using loan or loan word plus explanation and translation by omission with each of them are 5 item (7.1%). Translation by paraphrase using related words is the less frequent with 4 item (5.7%).

The distribution of the data above in the *Jakarta Post* newspaper can be seen in the figure 1 below:

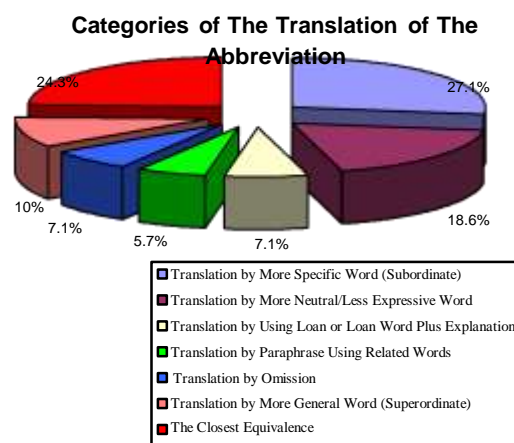


Figure 1. Categories of the Translation of the Abbreviation

2. Findings

After collecting data, the researcher got 70 data. Then, all the data were analyzed related to the strategies used by the translator in translating abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post* based on the classification of word level equivalence.

In this research, the researcher focuses on the strategies of translating abbreviation from Indonesian into English on word level equivalence. The strategies are translation by more general word (super ordinate),

translation by more specific word, translation by more neutral/less expressive word, translation by cultural substitution, translation using loan word or loan word plus explanation, translation by paraphrase using related word, translation by omission, and translation by illustration.

After analyzing the strategies of Indonesian–English translation of abbreviation found in *The Jakarta Post*, some points can be drawn as follows:

- a. Translation by more general word (*Super ordinate*) (because of the hierarchical structure of semantic fields is not specific language).
- b. Translation by more neutral/less expressive word (because the target language has no direct equivalent word).
- c. Translation using loan or loan word plus explanation (culture specific items, modern concepts, and buzz words).
- d. Translation by paraphrase using related words (when the concept expressed by the source item is lexicalized in the target language but in different form).
- e. Translation by omission (if the meaning conveyed by certain item or expression is not vital enough).
- f. Translation by more specific word (*subordinate*) (the target language lacks a *super ordinate*).
- g. Accurate translation (the closest equivalent).

Translating the first consideration is the equivalence at word level because the translator starts analyzing and exploring the meaning of the word as single units in the source language. One word may contain several elements of meaning in it. For example a word such as *retell*. There are two distinct elements of meaning *re* and *tell*, i.e. ‘to tell again’. There is no one-to-one correspondence between orthographic word and element of meaning within or across languages. For instance, *bawang putih* in Indonesia is written in one word *onion* in English; and *semangka* in Indonesia is written in two words *water melon* in English.

To differentiate the elements of meaning in words, the term *morpheme* then to be introduced to describe the minimal formal element of meaning in language. A word such as ‘unbelievable’ consists of three morphemes: ‘un’ meaning ‘not’ *believe* meaning ‘able to be’. Then it can be paraphrased as ‘cannot be believed.’

Word also has a lexical meaning, *baker* said that “the lexical meaning of a word or lexical unit may be thought of as the specific value it has in a particular linguistic system and the ‘personality’ it acquires through usage within that system”. In her quotation from *Cruse*, she distinguishes four main types of meaning in words and utterances: *proportional meaning*, *expressive meaning*, *presupposed meaning*, and *evoked meaning*.

Proportional meaning of a word arises from the relation between it and what it refers to or describes in a real or imaginary world, as conceived by the speakers of the particular language to which the word belongs. Expressive meaning relates the speaker's feeling or attitude rather than to what words refers to. Presupposed meaning arises from co-occurrence restrictions, i.e. restrictions on what other words or expressions expected to see before or after a particular lexical unit. These restrictions are of two types: selection restrictions (function of the proportional meaning of a word and collocation restrictions (semantically arbitrary restrictions which do not follow logically from the proportional meaning of a word). Evoked meaning arises from dialect and register variation. Based on those types of lexical meaning above, there are some of the more common types of non-equivalence which often pose difficulties for the translator. Non-equivalence at word level means that the target language has no direct equivalent for a word which occurs in the source text.

The following are some common types of non-equivalence at word level: First, culture specific concepts. The source-language word may express a concept which is totally unknown in the target language culture. The concept in question may be abstract or concrete; it may relate to a religious belief, a social custom, or even a type of food. Such

concepts are often referred to as 'culture specific'.

Second, the source language concept is not lexicalized in the target language. The source-language word may express a concept which is known in the target culture but simply not lexicalized, that is not 'allocated' a target language word to express it.

Third, the source language word is semantically complex. The source – language word may be semantically complex. This is a fairly common problem in translation. Words do not have to be morphologically complex to be semantically complex.

Fourth, the source and target languages make different distinctions in meaning. The target language may make more or fewer distinctions in meaning than the source language, what one language regards as an important distinction in meaning another language may not perceive as relevant.

Fifth, the target language lacks a super ordinate. The target language may have specific words (hyponyms) but no general word (super ordinate) to head the semantic field.

Sixth, the target language lacks a specific term (hyponym). More commonly, languages tend to have general words (super ordinates) but lack specific ones (hyponyms), since each language makes only those distinctions in meaning which seem relevant to its particular environment.

Seventh, there is difference in physical or interpersonal perspective. Physical perspective may be of more importance in one language than it is in another. Physical perspective has to do with where things or people are in relation to one another or place.

Eight, differences in expressive meaning. There may be target a target language word which has the same proportional meaning as the source-language word, but it may have a different expressive meaning. The difference may be considerable or it may be subtle but important enough to pose a translation problem in a given context. In other words, if the target –language equivalent is neutral compared to the source-language item, the translator can sometimes add the evaluative element by means of a modifier or adverb if necessary.

Ninth, there are differences in form. There is often no equivalent in the target language for a particular form in the source text. Certain suffixes and prefixes which convey proportional and other types of meaning in English often have no direct equivalents in other languages.

Tenth, there are differences in frequency and purpose of specific forms. Even when a particular form does have a ready equivalent in the target language, there may be a difference in the frequency with which it is used or the purpose for which it is used.

Eleventh, the use of loan words in the source text, the use of loan words in the source

text poses a special problem in translation. It is quite apart from their respective proportional meaning. This is often lost in translation because it is not always possible to find a loan word with the same meaning in the target language.

Some strategies to overcome the problems arising in the process of translation related to various types of non-equivalence. As this study is focused on two levels equivalences; word, above word, the strategies which be discussed are limited on those three levels of equivalences.

IV. Conclusion

The researcher found and analyzed the 70 samples as data. The most frequent the word level equivalence of the abbreviation translated from Indonesian into English that find in *The Jakarta Post* newspaper is translation by more specific word (subordinate) with 19 item (27. 1%). It is followed by the closest equivalence with 17 item (24. 3%), translation by more neutral/less expressive word with 13 item (18. 6%), the next are translation by using loan or loan word plus explanation and translation by omission with each of them are 5 item (7. 1%). Translation by paraphrase using related words is the less frequent with 4 item (5. 7%).

From some aspects above, the researcher concludes that in doing the translation, it is very important to evaluate the result of translation. A translation work can be said good translations if the translations works

are evaluated. In order to get the translation as accurate, clear, and natural, in doing his work, the translator should work together with the people involved in evaluating the translation; they are the consultant, tester, and reviewer.

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