



TRANSLATION SHIFTS OF NOUN PHRASES IN STUDENTS' NARRATIVE TEXT

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate the types of translations shifts occurring in noun phrases within students' narrative texts, as well as to identify the most dominant shift categories. This study also focuses on describing how students modify noun phrase structures when translating meaning between Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL). Furthermore, this study employed a descriptive qualitative method. Data were collected through purposive sampling and involved 20 students of Midfery students at Kusuma Husada University. Then, data were analyzed by content analysis, using classification of translation shifts frameworks. The findings reveal that structure shifts are the most dominant types of translations shifts in students' narrative texts, followed by class shift. The discussion also indicates that translation shifts do not reduce meaning of accuracy; rather than they contribute to greater naturalness, accuracy, and readability in translation. This study offers a focused and systemic analysis of noun phrase translation shifts in students' narrative texts. It also contributes to advance existing knowledge by revealing how translation shifts are necessary strategies to maintain equivalence, clarity, naturalness in Target Language (TL).

Keywords: Translation, Shift, Narrative text, Translation Studies

A. INTRODUCTION

The ability to translate also plays an important role. Students' lack of understanding in compiling Indonesian translation texts into English, difficulties in conveying meaning from the source language to the target language are a problem in translation work. Studying noun phrases is considered one way to improve students' ability in translating text. Idea of this research stems from the observation that structure and meaning of a noun phrase in Indonesia undergo changes when translated into English. In addition, this study focuses on analyzing the translation shift used by students in translating noun phrases in Indonesia to English. Specifically, it aims to determine the types of shifts, describing dominant types of shifts while theoretically this study is expected to enrich the translation studies especially related to noun phrase translation.

Translation involves transferring meaning from one language to another language. The transfer included not only the form of the language, but also its meaning, which is incorporated within

it. Thus, it is mentioned that translating cannot be considered as an easy task (Ratna and Suyudi 2022). According to Catford, (1965), translation is the process of replacing textual material in one language (SL) with equivalent material in another language (TL). In line with Catford, translation is the replacement of a text in the source language by an equivalent text in the target language (Bell 1991). This process of replacing language will be simple if the Source Language (SL) and the Target Language (TL) have similar forms in terms of language structures. Some concepts of translation also described as follow. First, translating consists of reproducing the closest natural equivalent of the source language in the receptor language, firstly in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida & Taber, 1974).

In addition, translation is a craft that attempts to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message or statement in another language (Newmark 1987). Next, translation is a process involving the negotiation of meaning between producers and receivers of the text (Hatim and Mason 2005). From these opinions, it can be concluded that translation is a process of transferring messages which involved a source language and a target language. However, not all languages share the same form of language structures (Sugianti 2017).

Since different linguistic systems differ from one language to another, they do not necessarily have the same equivalent. One of the most prominent phenomena in translation studies is translation shift. Shift in translation studies is introduced by Catford. He explained that shift in translation is “the departure from formal correspondence in the process of transferring from the source text to the target text.” (Catford 1965) Another statement about translation shifts is also stated by (Bell 1991) where “to shift from one language to another is to alter the forms”. Moreover, translation shift is used for explaining the grammatical changes which occurred between source text and target text (Ratna and Suyudi 2022). After all, translation shift is a process to address linguistics gaps from the source language to target language. Shifts are not necessarily errors but rather natural outcomes differences between linguistics system and cultural frameworks. Therefore, understanding the concept of shifting can help us how to bring a unit of a different level can be brought down to create structures (I Made Juliarta and I Gede Nika Wirawan 2022)

Translation shifts between Indonesian and English are common in noun phrase since the two language differ greatly in terms of syntactic structure. Generally, there are some concepts about noun phrase. Eastwood defined that noun phrase is a noun which combined with other words, there are determiners, quantifiers, and modifiers place before noun (Eastwood, 1994). The known itself is known as the head, and the other words or even word groups are modifiers. This statement is also supported by Sneddon (1996) who stated that a noun phrase is a series of words which functions as a noun in the same way. Moreover, it is also explained that a noun consists of a noun or a pronoun as the head and includes modifiers that come before or after the head (Arsad et al, 2022)

A noun phrase in English generally follows the formula *modifier + head* (e.g big house) while Indonesian follows *head + modifier* formula (e.g *rumah besar*). To achieve a natural sounding translation in TL, a translator have to frequently modify word order and grammatical realtions due to structural contrast. In this case, differences in the use of articles, determiners, and plural makers in English and Indonesian also influence how students translate noun phrase effectively. As stated by (Alfani et al (2022), noun phrases from the SL if translated into TL will experience changes in the phrase itself or structure, sometimes changes in the meaning.

This study will elaborate the types of translation shift according to (Catford 1965). He classifies two major types of shifts in translation, namely level shift and category shift. Level shifts occur when an SL item at one linguistics level has translation equivalent at different or another level in TL whereas category shifts refer to the terms *unbounded* and *rank bound* translation rank. Furthermore, Catford also ensures that there are four types in Category shifts, they are structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra-system shift.

B. METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. As stated by (Moleong, 2010) that a descriptive qualitative focuses on attitudes, motivation, and actions experienced by the research subject. He also said that these phenomena are examined holistically through linguistic descriptions within specific contexts using established methods. Therefore, by using descriptive qualitative, this study will describe the translation shifts found.

In addition, this study used students' narrative texts in both Indonesian (SL) and English (TL) as the data sources. Meanwhile, the data consist of all sentences containing noun phrases found in their narrative texts. Students were requested to write their achievements during their time in school and college as their narrative text. Data were collected through purposive sampling by involving 20 students' translation work.

After that, data were analyzed throyh content analysis. Further, data analysis based on Spradely's concept referring to domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, and componential analysis (Spradely 1980). Content analysis has done by marking all the data in term of noun phrases in SL and TL, then analysing the realization of noun phrases in each language, and classifying the types of translation shifts. Moreover, to ensure the validity of data, we use theoretical triangulation techniques, by comparing the results of analysis using a variety of linguistic theories approach specifically in noun phrases and the translation shift. Besides, peer debriefing is done through discussions with fellow researchers in the field of translation to avoid subjectivity.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This study found only category shifts, one of the types of proposed by Catford (1965). Analysis then revealed three types of category shifts: structure shifts, class shifts, and intra-system shifts. The findings are described on the table below:

Table 1. Translation Shifts in Students' Narrative Text

No	Types of Category Shifts	Total
1	Structure shifts	125
2	Class Shift	52
3	Intra-system shifts	17

Table 1 above shows that the most dominant translations shift is structure shifts. It is due to the differences in the grammatical systems between SL and TL. This grammatical difference

systems also results the structural shifts. The following paragraphs will be elaborated types of the translation shifts found in this research.

Structure Shifts

This structural shift occurs due to changes in the grammatical structure or order of words in the sentence. This shift can occur because of grammatical demands so that it is mandatory, but it also be arbitrary because of the translator's taste or because she/he follows a certain writing style. The findings of this type are explained as follows:

- 1) SL: Saya akan menceritakan tentang **prestasi saya** selama saya sekolah dari TK, SD, SMP, dan selama 2 semester kuliah.”
TL: “*I will tell you about **my achievements** during school from Kindergarten, SD, SMP, SMA, and during 2 semester of college.*”

In SL, the noun phrase “pencapaian saya” is a noun phrase formed from the Head and premodifier which translated “my achievements” in TL. This results a shift of noun phrase in TL where the Head + Post modifier changes to pre modifier + head. It is because SL and TL differs in sentence structures. Moreover, in SL, a pronoun structurally comes after a noun while in TL a pronoun functions as a post modifier which appears before a noun.

- 2) SL: “*Setidaknya saya mendapatkan **pengetahuan baru***”
TL: “At least I get **new knowledge**”
- 3) SL: “*Mendapatkan **nilai tertinggi** dalam ujian Farmakognisi*”
TL: “Get **the highest score** on the pharmacognosy”

As can be seen on data 2 and 3, they also show a structural shift in noun phrases translation. Data 2, the noun phrase in SL “pengetahuan baru” is a Head + post modifier which is realized through a noun (head) and an adjective (post modifier) whereas the noun phrase in TL “new knowledge” is realized in a pre-modifier (adjective) + head (noun). Furthermore, on data 3 shows that noun phrase in SL “nilai tertinggi” consists of a head (a noun) + post modifier (an adjective) however in TL, the noun phrase consists of Determiner + pre modifier + head. Another structure shifts are also shown on these findings:

- 4) SL: “*tetapi di balik semua itu, ada **doa yang kuat** dari ibu dan ayah saya untuk anak-anak mereka*”
TL: “but behind all that there is **a strong prayer** from my mother and father for their children.”

Like the previous data, in SL “doa yang kuat” is a noun phrase which consists of head (noun) + post modifier (adjective) while in TL “**a strong prayer**” becomes Determiner (article) + pre-modifier (adjective) + head (noun).

Class shifts

A class shift occurs if there is a shift in the word class (type of words) in the translation. These word classes can vary from one language to another. The following data presents the class shifts translation.

- 1) SL: “Di semester 1, saya mendapat **IPK 3,65**”
TL: “In semester 1, I got **a GPA of 3.65**”

In SL, the noun phrase IPK 3.65 consists of Noun + noun. However, when translated into ST, it becomes a Determiner + head + post modifier which is successively realized into article + noun + prepositional phrase. The post modifier, which was originally realized with a noun which shifts to a prepositional phrase. Nevertheless, this shift doesn't change the meaning in SL because it adapts to the expression that commonly used in TL.

- 2) SL: "Saya pernah menjadi **pembawa acara**"
TL: "I used to **the master of ceremonies**"

This finding also shows a class shift from a noun class to prepositional phrase. The noun phrase "pembawa acara" is a realization of noun + noun in SL. Meanwhile, when transferred in TL, it becomes Determiner + Head + + Postmodifier which is realized by article + noun + prepositional phrase. Nevertheless, these shifts do not change the meaning in SL because it adapts to the expression that commonly used in TL.

Intra-System Shifts

Catford (1965) used the term intra-system shifts for cases where the shifts occur due to different grammars of the two languages involved. On the other hand, both SL and TL actually have systems that are formally equivalent to each other, but the translation required a shift due to the prevalence of expression. The finding of this shift is shown in the following data:

- 1) SL: "Saya pergi ke **sekolah swasta** di Karanganyar."
TL: "I went to **a private school** in Karanganyar."

Sekolah swasta in SL is a noun phrase, consists of a Head (noun) + post modifier (adjective). When translated in TL, the noun phrase is added with a pre modifier to the noun phrase becomes "a private school." In TL, the pre modifier which is realized as an article "a" has extra meaning that it is a specific private school. However, in SL it doesn't specifically show which private school is it. This happened because of the different grammar between SL and TL. Furthermore, this following finding also describes the intra system shift.

- 2) SL: "Meskipun ada banyak hambatan yang sangat pahit, misalnya **cedera kaki** dan keseleo."
TL: "although there wer many very bitter obstacles, for example **leg injuries** and sprains"

This finding also shows an intra system shift. It is because the noun phrase "cedera kaki" in SL with the realization of noun + noun (singular) shifts its form with the form of pre modifier + head (noun plural). The head in SL is a singular noun while in TL it becomes plural noun. It is known that the noun "injuries" has a formal correspondence with "cedera" in TL.

- 3) SL: "Saya mulai berpikir bahwa saya ingin mencapai **tujuan saya**."
TL: "I started to think that I wanted to achieve **my goals**."

Another one of intra system shift is shown in this data. The noun phrase "**tujuan saya**" becomes "**my goals**" It can be seen that in SL, the Head is a singular noun where in TL it changes to plural noun.

Discussion

The findings of this study are supported by a number of recent studies that investigate translation shifts in noun phrase particularly between Indonesian and English. These studies also confirm that the most dominant shift is structure shifts. The discussion is presented below: First, structure shifts as the most dominant shift are in line with several recent findings. A study conducted by Agustawan (2022) revealed that structure shifts frequently occur in noun phrase translation due to differences in grammatical patterns between languages, specifically in bilingual texts. Similarly, Dahlan & Latif (2020) found that the most frequent shifts in English-Indonesian translation is structure shifts since it gives a change in grammatical structure from the source language to Indonesian as the target language. Translation shifts particularly structural adjustments are inevitable due to grammatical differences and it aimed to produced natural and understandable translations in the target language. These findings reinforce the present study that structural differences, such as the shifts from Head + Modifier in Indonesian (SL) to Modifier + Head in English (TL).

Second, the occurrence of class shifts in this study is also supported by previous studies. Ondok, Maria Gratia; Tambunsaribu, G (2020) found out various types of class shifts, such as noun to adjective, noun to prepositional phrase, which were used to achieve an equivalent and natural translation. This finding is consistent with the current study, where class shifts such as noun to prepositional phrase are applied to adapt expressions into form, to be more acceptable in the target language.

Third, although intra-system shifts appear less frequently, their occurrence is still supported by recent researches such as Topan (2019); Ondok, Maria Gratia; Tambunsaribu (2020); Maharani Kristina Kattu et al., (2023). Topan revealed that intra-system is the less frequent shift found in noun phrase translation in English-Indonesia. Moreover, Ondok, Maria Gratia; Tambunsaribu, (2020), intra system shifts commonly involve adjustments withing corresponding grammatical systems to ensure equivalent with the target language. Meanwhile, Maharani Kristina Kattu et al., (2023) highlighted that intra-system shifts often occur even though language has the same numbers system. These results align with this present study, where shifts such as *tujuan saya* becomes my goals; *cedera kaki* becomes leg injuries demonstrate how English tend to mark plurality more explicitly than Indonesian so that this confirms that intra-system shifts are influenced by differences in linguistic conventions rather than merely structural incompatibility.

Therefore, findings from various recent studies consistently indicate that translation shifts do not reduce meaning of accuracy; rather they contribute to greater, naturalness, accuracy and readability in translation.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the elaboration before, it can be concluded some points. First, only one type of translation shift that found in this study, which is Category shift. Second, it is found that three out of four types of Category shift, namely structure shift, class shift, and intra-system shift. Third, Structure shifts are the most dominant type due to grammatical differences between languages. Fourth, class shifts are frequently used to achieve natural and contextually appropriate translations. Finally, Intra-system shifts occur due to differences in grammatical

conventions, such as numbers and article usage. Therefore, it can be said that translation shifts are necessary strategies to maintain equivalence, clarity, and naturalness in the target language. The findings also provide valuable insight for readers in improving translation strategies and enhancing grammatical knowledge that emphasize natural rendering of noun phrase translation.

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