THE TRANSLATOR’S VIEWPOINTS, THE TRANSLATION PROCESS, AND THE TRANSLATION PRODUCTS

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Abstract
A translator’s viewpoints about the accuracy, acceptability, and readability of translation are assumed to affect the translation process and products. The purpose of this study was, therefore, (1) to prove the relationship among the three things, namely translator’s viewpoints, translation processes, and translation quality and (2) to figure out if there was any mismatch. To confirm the translator’s viewpoints, the researcher conducted an interview with the translator. Furthermore, to verify the effect of the translator’s viewpoints on the process, the translator was assigned to translate a given text and to be interviewed as soon as the translator finished doing the assignment. Finally, the translation products especially their accuracy, acceptability, and readability were analyzed in order to know their relationship with the two things previously mentioned. The result showed that translator’s viewpoints really matched translation process and, in the following turn, matched the product of translation. Any less qualified translations were caused by the lack of knowledge, limited sources, and time pressure—not because of the mismatch. Accordingly, the sum was not significant. Most of of the products were accurate, acceptable, and readable.

Keywords: translator, viewpoints, process, translation

Introduction
Finding the relationship between the translator’s viewpoints, the translation process, and the translation product is very interesting. If a translator believes that the quality of translation is determined by the three main pillars, namely accuracy, acceptability, and readability. The translator’s viewpoints must have an effect on the translation process, and the translation process ultimately results in high quality translation as well. Nababan (2008: 2-3) states that if a translation is qualified, the process undertaken by the translator to produce the translation must be qualified too. If there is any mismatch, there must be some plausible explanation.

Methodology
This research was qualitative because of fitting the part of the epistemological principle of qualitative research, namely “the understanding of complex relationship, such as’ cause and effect” (Flick, Kardoff, Steinke 2000: 8). This qualitative research combined experimentation with document analysis. There were genetic data and objective data. Genetic data were derived from the translator obtained through pre-assigned translation interviews, observations during translation assignments, and post-translation assignment interviews. The objective data were derived from the translation product obtained through document analysis.

The analysis of the relationship among the translator’s viewpoints, the translation process, and the translation results is done based on (1) the previous interviews, (2) the observations of the subject working on translation, (3) the translation product, and (4) the later interviews.

Finding and Discussion
Based on the pre-assignment interview, the translator believed the importance of accuracy, acceptability, and readability of translation. The subject had the viewpoints and the capability to actualize his. He was an S-2 graduate majoring in linguistics with interest in translation study; he had been tens of years teaching some subjects related to translation theories and practices. He revised some lecturers’ research abstracts, became a rater on some translation researches, and translated some proposals, speeches, et cetera.
The translator spent 118 minutes translating one paragraph from English into Indonesian; it was an abstract consisting of 10 sentences or 315 words entitled “The Babelian Status of Method: The Case of Research in Translation Studies” written by Daniel Simeoni. He consulted the English-Indonesian dictionary 48 times, the English-English dictionary 12 times, and the Indonesian-Indonesian dictionary 2 times.

Finding and analysis in the following were based on the observations of the subject working on translation, the translation product, and the later interviews. Consider the following:


“Babelian” referred to the gospel story; the arrogant Babelian made God angry so that God made them not understand each others by confusing their language. Therefore, “The Babelian Status of Method” should be translated into “Metode yang kacau balau (confusing method)” that was more accurate, acceptable, and readable, not “Status Metode Babel (Babelian Method Status)” In the interview, it seemed that he was aware of his mistakes and regreted for not being able to reach other helpful references and consult with relevant experts to overcome them.

SL: Research in Translation Studies raises inevitably the question of method. TL: Penelitian dalam Kajian Penerjemahan tentu memunculkan permasalahan metode.

The translator knew that “inevitably” could be translated as “tidak bisa dihindarkan (inevitably),” but when it had to collocate with “memunculkan,” it became less natural, so that he converted into “tentu memunculkan (necessarily arises)” to make more acceptable and readable without harming accuracy. The translator’s viewpoints on accuracy, acceptability, and readability took effect on the process, and, finally, manifested in the product. The translation was like his expectation due to his perfect knowledge.

SL: Although orderly approaches to translational phenomena abound, it is only in the latest decade that issues of method have become topics of interest for the field. TL: Meskipun pendekatan-pendekatan yang logis terhadap gejala penerjemahan begitu beragam, baru pada dekade terakhir inilah persoalan metode menjadi topik yang menarik dalam Kajian Penerjemahan. The translator did not translate "orderly" with "sesuai dengan urutan (orderly),” but "logis (logical)." He also translated the word "the field" by making the message explicit so that his translation became "Kajian Penerjemahan (Translation Studies)” not "bidang itu (the field)." This showed his awareness of presenting an acceptable translation without sacrificing any meaning.

SL: The most detailed and useful propositions so far have focused on the methodological aspects of research (Pym 1998; Williams & Chesterman 2002). TL: Sejauh ini gagasan yang rinci dan penting terfokus pada aspek metodologi riset (Pym 1998; William & Chesterman 2002). The superlative "most" was lost in translation; the translator acknowledged that this deletion was wrong because of time pressure, being careless, and getting tired. However, the translation of "useful" with "penting (important)" in place of "berguna (useful)" was his decision; it did not literally translate that because it would reduce its acceptability in the target language. The translation, therefore, was contextually more acceptable while the meaning of "useful" was not lost in translation.

SL: Given the unprecedented expansion of Translation Studies worldwide, the time has come to consider the cultural dimensions of method building. TL: Mengingat perkembangan baru tentang Kajian Penerjemahan di seluruh dunia, sudah saatnya dimensi kultural pengembangan metode mendapat perhatian.

The translator decided that the word "unprecedented" in the dictionary did not fit the context but he could not consult the unavailable encyclopedia or ask friends knowing better because of the limited time. Therefore, in order to reach the target with the existing conditions, he translated the phrase "unprecedented expansion" into "perkembangan baru (new development).” Further, he translated "the time has come" not into "waktunya telah tiba (the time has arrived)" but into "sudah saatnya (having been its time) to catch more acceptable translation. After
reviewing the source text and capturing its meaning, he also communicatively translated the word "to consider" into "mendapat perhatian (get attention)." Finally, he reversed the structure of the source language so that the object "cultural dimensions of method building" in the source text was transferred to the subject of "dimensi kultural pengembangan metode (cultural dimension of method development)" in the target text.

**SL:** Certainly, the field as it exists today is overwhelmingly dominated by the use of English as koine, thus inviting a convergence of purposes and practices. **TL:** Tentu saja, Kajian Penerjemahan sebagaimana terjadi saat ini sangat didominasi oleh penggunaan Bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa perantara, sehingga perhatian terpusat pada tujuan dan pelaksanaan. The translator’s viewpoints on the importance of the translation that was accurate, acceptable, and readable was seen in the translation process. For example, after seeing the dictionary "convergence" means "mengerucut (conical)" and synchronizing it with the context, the translator decided to translate "inviting a convergence" into "perhatian terpusat pada (attention focused on)."

**SL:** However, the diversity of possible approaches to translational phenomena far exceeds the array of methods classically conveyed in English through the usual binary oppositions of quantitative/qualitative; nomothetic/idiosyncratic; analytic/hermeneutic, empirical/postmodern etc. **TL:** Namun, keanekaragaman pendekatan yang tepat terhadap fenomena penerjemahan jauh melebihi aturan metode yang secara klasik disampaikan dalam Bahasa Inggris secara dikotomis, yakni kuantitatif/kualitatif, nomotetis/ideografis, analisis/hermeneutis, empiris/postmoderen, dan lain-lain.

The translator seemed so strongly motivated by his standpoint that he performed some actions really related to his belief. In translating "possible approaches," he showed that he was not a novice translator. He did not satisfactorily translate into "pendekatan yang memungkinkan (possible approaches)." Instead, he explored some possibilities and found the better phrase "pendekatan yang tepat (accurate approach)." He also bravely and cleverly translated "through the usual binary oppositions" into "secara dikotomis (dichotomically)" meaning eliminating the word "usual" for readability and borrowing a foreign term but more acceptable in the academic world. The translator, therefore, did not use pure borrowing "melalui opsi biner (through binary options)" which was low in term of readability.

**SL:** It matters in the present configuration of Translation Studies to consider method, not only as an exercise in the application of proven, past or existing models in the disciplines of the social sciences and the humanities, but potentially, as manifestations of culturally habituated modes of thinking. **TL:** Pertimbangan tentang metode berhubungan erat dengan konfigurasi Kajian Penerjemahan masa kini, tidak hanya sebagai latihan penerapan model-model yang berlaku sekarang atau pun masa lalu dalam bidang ilmu social dan humaniora, tetapi juga kemungkinan besar sebagai manifestasi cara berfikir yang sudah terbiasa.

The meaning of the clause was found by altering the structure of the original text clause from "It matters in the present configuration of Translation Studies to consider method" into "To consider method matters in the present configuration of Translation Studies." As a result, the word "matters" was easily translated into "berhubungan erat dengan (closely related to)."

In the process, there were also attempts to present acceptable and readable expressions that ended in a wise decision for translating "potentially" to "kemungkinan besar (big possibilities)" and eliminate the word "culturally" in translating from "culturally habituated" to "terbiasa (habituated/accustomed)." Up to this point, it seemed that everything ran on the right track: the translator’s belief affected the process and in the following turn resulted in the outcome. However, there was little anomaly when the translator omitted the word "proven" which was important.

**SL:** Equally valid yet differentiated worldwide, alternative modes of thinking and doing research need to be sought after and positively recruited. **TL:** Sebagai cara yang sama-sama sahih tetapi berbeda di seluruh dunia, cara berfikir alternative dan cara melakukan penelitian perlu dicari dan sungguh didapatkan.

The word "mode" that appeared once in the source text was translated into "cara (way)" and seen three times because the translator wanted to increase readability level by making the implicit...
information explicit. Similarly, he proceeded in such a way with alternative translations before arriving at a decision to translate "positively recruited" into "sungguh-sungguh didapatkan (earnestly acquired)" that was not only accurate but also readable. Fighting hard in the translation process was caused by the firm stance on the importance of the translation quality so that the results were appropriate.

SL: Spivak’s famous critique (1992) ―that ‘epistemes’ (ways of constructing objects of knowledge) should not have national names‖ is a salutary reminder — such correlations entail a reduction of autonomous, agentive thinking — but it is difficult also to ignore that the social sciences grew out of Europe in the 19th century in a climate of intense nationalistic fever, or to overlook the fact that the postcolonial emergence of new scholarships in Asia and in Africa could not be expected to indulge in method-building in the usual terms. TL: Kupasan Spivak (1992) yang termashyur bahwa “epipistemess” (cara-cara membangun objek pengetahuan) tidak harus memiliki tokoh-tokoh nasional” merupakan peringatan yang bermanfaat. Korelasi tersebut membawa akibat penurunan dalam berfikir secara otomatis dan agentif. Tetapi, juga sulit dipungkiri bahwa aliran-aliran sosial tumbuh di Eropa pada abad ke-19 dalam iklim rasa kebangsaan yang tinggi. Atau sulit mengabaikan kenyataan bahwa munculnya kajian-kajian akademis baru pada masa pascakolonial di Asia dan Afrika tidak dapat diharapkan mengimbangi pengembangan metode pada masa-masa biasa.

The translator cut off a very long sentence into four short sentences to increase the level of readability. The translator also made the translation more explicit in order to elevate the readability level so that "difficult ... to ignore ... or to overlook" was translated into "sulit dipungkiri ... atau sulit mengabaikan (hard to be denied ... or difficult to ignore)." Afterward, the translator was aware of the missing parallelism so that he accepted the proposed alternatives and translated the phrase into "sulit dipungkiri ... atau sulit diabaikan (hard to be denied ... or hard to be ignored)" and omitted “the facts” in the translation. This indicated that his stance on the importance of readability was so strong that he received whatever brought the improvements of readability level. Furthermore, while claiming to be a gambler when translating "scholarship," he had worked hard to review the source text and mapped out its meaning by examining the various dictionaries and contexts available. His decision to translate into “kajian-kajian akademis (academic studies)” was wise since it was accurate and readable translation.

SL: Neither can European practices be reduced to the types of binary choices cited above. TL: Juga, kebiasaan-kebiasaan kajian akademis di Eropa tidak dapat ditempatkan pada tipe-tipe pilihan dikotomis sebagaimana disebutkan di atas.

The translator was not trapped to translate "European practices" literally into less readable “European practices.” He produced "kebiasaan-kebiasaan kajian akademis di Eropa (academic analysis habits in Europe)” that is contextual and easy to read. When translating incorrectly from "reduced" to "ditempatkan (placed)" rather than "dikurangi (reduced)," he actually pursued acceptability. In the interview, he realized that the translation was not accurate and offered the word “dibatasi (restricted)” as a correction.

References