GOOGLE TRANSLATE IMPACTS ON STUDENTS’ TRANSLATION OF ECONOMICS TEXT: ACCURACY AND ACCEPTABILITY

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Abstract
Google Translate has become a very popular translation tool. This research aims to find out the impacts of Google Translate on students’ translation and to explain the translation quality of the students. This research used qualitative method. The data were taken from students’ works in translating Economic texts from English into Bahasa Indonesia. The students were asked to translate the text while the researcher observed the applied strategy during the translation process. The translation results were then analyzed to find out the translation strategy applied by the students and the quality of the translation. The results show that most students rely on Google Translate to find out the words meaning, especially words related to Economics. Viewed from translation quality, most students translated the Economic terminologies correctly, but wrote the sentences inappropriately. It happened because they translated the text using Google Translate, but they didn’t check the translation result. It can be concluded that most students still have high dependency on Google Translate when translating English texts to find out the words meaning, but they failed to recognize the context of the text when arranging the sentences.

Keywords: translation quality, Economics text, translation tool, Google Translate

Introduction
As an international language, English has a very important role for international business. English is a subject that is taught in all education levels, from elementary up to higher education. Moreover, it is not only given to students of English department, but also for all study programs such as Economics, Law, Science, and so on. The increasing importance of English as an international language has resulted in the expansion of one particular aspect of English Language Teaching, namely the teaching of English for Specific Purposes (Popescu, 2014). For that reason, English education has a branch of study called English for Specific Purpose (ESP) to accommodate the use of English in many fields, including academic and/or professional needs.

Tarone (cited in Song, 2012) suggested that second language learners have a series of overlapping mental grammar which correspond to different contexts in which the second language is used. Teaching English for students of non-English department needs some comprehensive studies to meet the requirements and to fulfill the objectives of the learning activity. This study is conducted as part of research on English teaching for Economics students. The researcher identified some problems in teaching English for Economics students. Firstly, the materials for English for Economics are still overlapped with General English or even Basic English. As stated before, English for Economics belongs to English for Specific Purpose which is different from General English. It should be more specific to teach English for the use of Economics science. Secondly, the English competency of the students is still low. This can be a problem as when most of the students have not understood Basic English yet, the lecturer has to begin the lesson from basic. In learning English, most students have high dependency
on Google Translate whenever they find difficulty, for example in writing English sentence. As the result, they only know the words meaning literally, and when they have to write or translate English sentence, they would be grammatically and contextually inappropriate. Using Google Translate is not always bad, but it should be realized that Google Translate can only translate a word in its literal meaning. When it comes to a full sentence or even a text, the context cannot be detached from the text.

This paper is presented as part of research in optimizing students’ skill in translating Economics text from English into Bahasa Indonesia. The research is aimed to find out the impacts of Google Translate on students’ translation and to explain the translation quality of the students. It is conducted as a pilot project in teaching English for Economics using Translation approach and to design a method for teaching English for Economics based on contextual translation skill.

Translation
Translation is an activity which involves at least two different languages and culture as well. The first language is called source language and the second one is called target language. As stated by Newmark (1988), translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. Moreover, translation consists of transferring without distortion the meaning of the source language into the target language and it is the meaning which must be held constant (Larson, 1998). Therefore, in order to translate appropriately, translator must understand the source language and the target language as well as the knowledge of the given text (subject matter).

There are some processes in translation: analysis, transfer, restructuring (Nida and Taber 1982), also evaluation and revision (Suryawinata and Haryanto, 2003). All the process is carried out by the translator to understand the source text and to be able to transfer the meaning into the target language that can be understood by the target readers.

**Google Translate as Translation Strategy**

The term strategy connotes a teleological course of action undertaken by the language user to achieve a particular goal in an optimal way (Inghilleri, 2009). In translation, strategy is the way how the translators overcome the difficulty or the problem they face during the translation process.

Baker (2005) explained some translation strategies for dealing with various types of non-equivalence. At the word level, translators can apply some strategies such as translation by a more general word, translation by a more neutral/less expressive word, translation by cultural substitution, translation using a loan or loan word plus explanation, translation by paraphrase, translation by illustration, and translation by omission. It goes without saying that words rarely occur on their own (Baker, 2005). Translation does not mean to replace words from one language into another language. Therefore, translators cannot translate only at word level, but also the sentences and the whole text.

Dictionary is a very important tool when doing translation since it deals with at least two different languages. Hence, using dictionary is also a strategy for the translators to overcome the problems during translation process, especially when they have to deal with meanings. This kind of dictionary can be conventional, online dictionary, or even machine translation such as Google Translate. Google Translate is a free multilingual machine translation service developed by Google, to translate text from one language into another. Most people are familiar with Google Translate to help them in anything deal with foreign language.
As cited from Wikipedia, Google Translate was launched in April 2006 as a statistical machine translation service by using United Nations and European Parliament transcripts to gather linguistics data. When it is used in translation, its accuracy has been criticized and ridiculed on several occasions because Google Translate does not apply grammatical rules since its algorithms are based on statistical analysis rather than traditional rule-based analysis. The translated text can often include apparently nonsensical and obvious errors, sometimes swapping common terms for similar but nonequivalent common terms in the other language, or inverting sentence meaning. Google Translate does not translate from one language into another (L1 → L2). Instead, it often translates first to English and then to the target language (L1 → EN → L2).

In November 2016, Google announced that Google Translate would switch to a neural machine translation engine called GNMT (Google Neural Machine Translation) which translates whole sentences at a time rather than just piece by piece. It also uses broader context to help it figure out the most relevant translation, rearranges and adjusts with proper grammar. GNMT is gradually being used for more languages and supports over one hundred languages at various levels.

Methodology
This study is qualitative descriptive research which describes the problems found in translating English Economics text and explains the impacts of Google Translate as translation strategy. The process of qualitative research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant’s setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data (Creswell, 2014). This study is also an embedded-case study because the problem and the focus of the research have been decided by the researcher.

Cases are bounded by time and activity, and researchers collect detailed information using a variety of data collection procedures over a sustained period of time (Stake; Yin, as cited in Creswell: 2014). The data were taken from students’ work in translating Economics text from English into Bahasa Indonesia. The text consists of short paragraphs, taken from an article related to Economics.

Creswell (2012) stated that there are five interrelated steps in the process of qualitative data collection. The first is to identify participant and sites to be studied and to engage in sampling strategy. Second, is to gain access to these individuals and sites. Third, is to consider types of information that will best for research questions. Fourth, is to design protocols or instruments for collecting and recording the information. Finally, the fifth is to administer the data collection with special attention to potential ethical issues that may arise. In this research, the students were asked to translate the text while the researcher observed the applied strategy during the translation process. The translation results were then analyzed to find out the translation strategy applied by the students and the quality of the translation.

Finding and Discussion
Translation Strategy Applied
Dictionary is an essential tool in translation; whether it is online dictionary or offline/conventional dictionary. Using dictionary is one of the strategies applied by translators. It can be monolingual and bilingual dictionary. Based on the analysis, most students (70%) use Google Translate to help them translating the Economics text from English into Bahasa Indonesia. They rely on Google Translate to find out the words meaning, especially words related to Economics such as single market, regional trade, commodity prices, also some particular terms like ASEAN Economic
Community, Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Translating Economics Terms at Word Level

In this research, the students were asked to translate Economics short text from English into Bahasa Indonesia. The Economics terminologies found in the text is presented as follows:

Table 1. Translating Economics Terminologies Using Google Translate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL (English)</th>
<th>TL (Indonesian)</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN Single Market</td>
<td>Pasar Tunggal ASEAN</td>
<td>Integrasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economist</td>
<td>Ekonom/Ahli Ekonomi</td>
<td>Integrasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)</td>
<td>Kemitraan Trans Pasifik</td>
<td>ASEAN harus dijelaskan secara rinci kepada masyarakat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional trade</td>
<td>Perdagangan regional</td>
<td>Asia Tenggara dalam rangka mempercepat terciptanya pasar tunggal dengan potensi untuk menjadi sebesar Kemitraan Trans-Pasifik (TPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodity prices</td>
<td>Harga komoditas</td>
<td>ASEAN harus dijelaskan kepada masyarakat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World trade</td>
<td>Perdagangan dunia</td>
<td>Asia Tenggara dalam rangka mempercepat terciptanya pasar tunggal dengan potensi untuk menjadi sebesar Kemitraan Trans-Pasifik (TPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN Economic Community</td>
<td>Masyarakat Ekonomi ASIA</td>
<td>ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World exports</td>
<td>Export dunia</td>
<td>ASEAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)</td>
<td>Kemitraan Ekonomi Komprehensif Regional</td>
<td>ASEAN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The result on Table 1 shows that most Economics terminologies are translated correctly by using Google Translate. Most students produce the same translation in terms of Economics terminologies because they use Google Translate to help them finding the equivalent terms. It can be said that Google Translate works well in translating words or terminologies at word level.

Translating Sentences Using Google Translate

As it is explained previously, most students translate the Economics terminologies properly using Google Translate. However, when it comes to translate sentences, the students fail to produce appropriate sentences using Google Translate. The results can be seen on the following table:

Table 2. Translating Sentence Using Google Translate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL (ENG)</th>
<th>TL (BI)</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The integration of ASEAN ought to be more thoroughly explained to the people of Southeast Asia in order to speed up the creation of a single-market with the potential to be as large as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)</td>
<td>Integrasi ASEAN harus lebih teliti dijelaskan kepada masyarakat Asia Tenggara dalam rangka mempercepat terciptanya pasar tunggal dengan potensi untuk menjadi sebesar Kemitraan Trans-Pasifik (TPP)</td>
<td>Integrasi ASEAN harus dijelaskan secara rinci kepada masyarakat Asia Tenggara dalam rangka mempercepat terciptanya pasar tunggal dengan potensi untuk menjadi sebesar Kemitraan Trans-Pasifik (TPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the universities, there are no subjects dealing with ASEAN’s integration. In 2011, there was a presidential instruction on the issue, but later political conditions confused the issue</td>
<td>Di universitas, tidak ada subyek yang membahas integrasi ASEAN. Pada tahun 2011, ada instruksi presiden mengenai masalah ini, namun kemudian kondisi politik membingungkan masalah tersebut</td>
<td>Di (berbagai) universitas, tidak ada mata kuliah yang membahas/ pembahasan tentang integrasi ASEAN. Pada tahun 2011, ada instruksi presiden mengenai masalah ini, tetapi menjadi tidak jelas karena kondisi politik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results on Table 2 show the translation of sentences using Google Translate. In sentence 1, the clause ‘The integration of ASEAN ought to be more thoroughly explained to the people of Southeast Asia’ is better translated into Integrasi ASEAN harus dijelaskan secara rinci kepada masyarakat Asia Tenggara to make it more sensible in the target language.

Meanwhile, in sentence 2, the problem is on the last part of the sentence in which most students translate ‘... but later political conditions confused the issue’ into namun
kemudian kondisi politik membingungkan masalah tersebut that is not acceptable in Bahasa Indonesia. The clause is more acceptable if it is translated into tetapi menjadi tidak jelas karena kondisi politik.

**Translation Quality**

The translation quality can be analyzed from three aspects: accuracy, acceptability, and readability (Nababan, et.al, 2012). In this study, the researcher focuses on two aspects: accuracy and acceptability. Viewed from accuracy level, the quality of students’ translation is high. Most students tend to translate the Economics terms correctly. Meanwhile, from acceptability level, the quality of students’ translation is medium. In arranging the sentences, most students tend to be literally written the target language as the same as the source language. They do not aware that Bahasa Indonesia and English have different grammar rules. Therefore, it is important for the translator to pay attention to the grammar rules when translating from one language into another language—in this case from English into Bahasa Indonesia.

**Conclusions**

From the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that most students still have high dependency on Google Translate when translating English texts to find out the words meaning, but they fail to recognize the context of the text when arranging the sentences. It should be emphasized to the students to not rely too much on Google Translate. They have to understand the text and the context when translating text. They may use Google to search for parallel or similar texts as comprehensive reference.

**References**


