

TRANSLATION PROCESS AND PRODUCT OF GOOGLE TRANSLATE IN TRANSLATING HEALTH ARTICLES FROM ENGLISH INTO INDONESIAN

Dian Zelina Fitriyani
Linguistics Programme
University of Sumatera Utara
Medan, Indonesia
dianzelinaf@gmail.com

Abstract - Google Translate is the most popular machine translation used by most people in the world. It, then, makes the translation quality of Google Translate very important. This study is a qualitative research which aims to describe the translation errors found in the translation process of Google Translate in translating health articles from English into Indonesian, and the quality of the translation product in target language. This study applies Keshavarz's (1999) and Vilar et al.'s (2006) framework of errors analysis in translation. The data are two articles about the treatment using herbal products which are gained from Medical News Today website. The result of the analysis shows that the process of Google Translate translation still needs some improvements in translating words which are related to the culture and the language system of the TL, which gives impact to the quality of the translation product. This study attempts to give inputs as a contribution to make a better translation for Google Translate, in order to avoid the same mistakes of translation which might happen in the future.

Keywords: translation error, translation process, translation product, google translate

I. INTRODUCTION

Google Translate has been used to help people in translating words, phrases, clauses, or paragraphs from source language (SL) into target language (TL) for several years when professional translation is unavailable. Google Translate becomes the most popular machine translation used by most people in the world. Kroulek (2016) claims that more than 500 million people use Google Translate, and it translates more than 100 billion words per day as Google Translate now supports 103 languages. It, then, makes the translation quality of Google Translate very important.

Nowadays, most people use traditional medicine or herbal treatment in curing health problems. As stated in Dr. Axe (2016), plants are being used to treat a number of health concerns and conditions, including allergies, arthritis, migraines, fatigue, skin infections, wounds, burns, and even cancer. These herbals are less expensive and they are a safer means of treatment than conventional medications, that is why so many people come back to this traditional idea of medicine. In line with that, people seek for the information about herbal treatment not only from doctors but also from medical websites or health article that they can get easily.

One of the credible medical sites which is available for everybody is Medical News Today (MNT). Medical News Today (MNT) is owned and operated by Healthline Media UK Ltd., a leading healthcare publishing company which has offices in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Taiwan. MNT is in the top 260 United States sites and top 75 United Kingdom sites, as reported by Quantcast in 2017, and receives more than 15 million monthly visits, 13 million monthly unique visitors, and 20 million monthly page views. MNT produces original, timely and authoritative information from respected, credible sources. The MNT leadership team has an enormous depth of knowledge and understanding of their respective fields, with over 100 years' combined experience of the online health content industry.

Accordingly, the readers of MNT are from all over the world, including Indonesia. Since the health articles published in MNT are in English, the Indonesian readers need to translate the articles into Indonesian to understand them more easily. Here, Google Translate plays an important role in translating the text from English into Indonesian. If there is an error in Google Translate's translation,

then the meaning and message are not delivered properly in TL, in which it will give impact to the understanding of the readers about the content of the article.

The current researches about Google Translate's translation offer an analysis in journal abstract, text book, and economic text (Ulfah, 2015; Nadhianti, 2016; Nila and Susanto, 2017). Therefore, this research tries to describe the translation errors found in the translation process of Google Translate in translating health articles from English into Indonesian, and the quality of the translation product in the TL. Also, this research attempts to give inputs as a contribution to make a better translation for Google Translate, in order to avoid the same mistake of translation which might happen in the future.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research is a qualitative research which aims to describe the translation errors found in the translation process of Google Translate in translating health articles from English into

Indonesian, and the quality of the translation product of Google Translate. As stated by Creswell (2012:16), qualitative research is best suited to address a research problem in which you do not know the variables and need to explore. The data are clauses in the two articles about the herbal treatment entitled "*Nine herbal teas for constipation*" and "*Which treatments work for stretch marks?*", which are gained from Medical News Today website. This research applies Keshavarz's (1999) and Vilar et al.'s (2006) framework of errors analysis in translation which has been used in other studies too (Eftekhar and Nouraey, 2013; Hossein and Saleh, 2013; Hadis and Mahmood, 2016).

After the data had been collected, the data were translated into Indonesian by using Google Translate. Then, the data in SL and the translated data in TL were compared and analysed by applying Keshavarz's (1999) and Vilar et al.'s (2006) framework of errors analysis which classifies each of the categories with specific errors which are presented in the following table.

Table 1. A Hybrid Model of Error Categorisation
(adapted from Keshavarz's (1999) and Vilar et al.'s (2006) framework of error analysis)

No	Errors Category	Details
1	Lexical Errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wrong word choices - different word choices
2	Grammatical (Syntactic) Errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tenses - prepositions - articles - plural/singular morpheme(s) - wrong word order (gerund, conjunction, word from) - subject-verb-agreement (SVA) - word reference
3	Semantic Errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - errors in meaning - collocations

As a contribution, the correct translation is suggested to Google Translate by clicking the option "Suggest an edit" in Google Translate. After that, click "Contribute" to save the suggested translation, so that Google Translate will not mistranslate the same words or terms if they appear in the future.

III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

As stated before, after collecting the data and doing the data transformation, then the data were

displayed and a further explanation related to the data display is given. Keshavarz's (1999) and Vilar et al.'s (2006) framework of errors analysis are applied to classify the errors found into each categorisation. Based on the data analysis on the text 1 entitled "*Nine herbal teas for constipation*" and the text 2 entitled "*Which treatments work for stretch marks?*", the followings are the findings which are presented in the two tables below.

Table 2. Errors Found in the Google Translate Translation in Text 1

No	Source Text (English)	Target Text (Indonesian)	Errors Category
1	Constipation is when someone has fewer than three <i>bowel movements</i> in a week.	Sembelit adalah ketika seseorang memiliki kurang dari tiga <i>gerakan usus</i> dalam seminggu	Semantic error: errors in meaning

2	The stool may be hard, dry, and difficult <i>to pass</i> .	Tinja mungkin keras, kering, dan sulit <i>untuk dilewati</i> .	Grammatical error: word form
3	Extra water in the stool makes it softer and helps it <i>to pass</i> more smoothly.	Air ekstra dalam tinja membuatnya lebih lembut dan membantunya <i>agar</i> lebih lancar	Lexical error: wrong word choices
4	<i>The senna plant</i> contains compounds called glycosides that stimulate the digestive system	<i>Senna tanaman</i> mengandung senyawa yang disebut glikosida yang merangsang sistem pencernaan	Grammatical error: wrong word order
5	These pills can be highly effective in relieving <i>constipation</i>	Pil ini bisa sangat efektif dalam menghilangkan <i>konstipasi</i>	Lexical error: different word choices
6	They are often <i>stocked</i> in health food stores and some supermarkets	Mereka sering <i>ditebar</i> di toko makanan kesehatan dan beberapa supermarket	- Lexical error: wrong word choices - Semantic error: errors in meaning

Table 3. Errors Found in the Google Translate Translation in Text 2

No	Source Text (English)	Target Text (Indonesian)	Errors Category
1	What causes <i>stretch marks</i> ?	Apa yang menyebabkan <i>stretch mark</i> ?	Lexical error: different word choices
2	<i>They</i> are sometimes itchy and may have a different texture from the surrounding skin.	<i>Mereka</i> kadang-kadang gatal dan mungkin memiliki tekstur yang berbeda dari kulit di sekitarnya.	Lexical error: wrong word choices
3	<i>Dermatologists</i> can use several techniques to reduce the appearance of stretch marks.	<i>Dermatologists</i> dapat menggunakan beberapa teknik untuk mengurangi munculnya stretch mark.	Lexical error: different word choices
4	<i>The skin</i> is elastic,	<i>Kulitnya</i> elastis,	Grammatical error: articles
5	this can interrupt the <i>body's</i> production of two important proteins: collagen and elastin.	ini dapat mengganggu produksi dua protein penting: kolagen dan elastin.	Grammatical error: word reference (missing possessive marker)

The data contained in the tables above show that the three errors categories appeared in the Google Translate's translation in text 1. First, lexical error, contains errors that are related to wrong word choices and different word choices, in which to some degree will affect the meaning of the text. Example 3 in table 2 shows the lexical error in wrong word choices which translates "*to pass*" into "*agar*" in Indonesian. The word class of "*to pass*" is verb and translated into "*agar*" which has the word class as conjunction. The suitable translation for "*to pass*" in Indonesian is "*untuk keluar*". Example 5 in table 2 shows the lexical error in different word choices which translates "*constipation*" into "*konstipasi*" in Indonesian. The translation is not wrong, however, it is different

from the previous translation, "*sembelit*" which is more suitable in Indonesian.

Second, grammatical error, contains errors that are related to wrong word order and word form, in which it is related to the structure of the sentence where it can affect the meaning of the output as well. Example 2 in table 2 shows the grammatical error in word form which translates "*to pass*" into "*untuk dilewati*" in Indonesian. "*Untuk dilewati*" is a passive structure in which there is a doer behind it, but in this sentence the doer is the stool which has to move and pass the bowel. Therefore, the suitable translation for "*to pass*" in Indonesian is "*untuk keluar*". Example 4 in table 2 shows the grammatical error in wrong word order which translates "*The senna plant*" into "*Senna tanaman*"

in Indonesian. The correct translation is “*tanaman senna*” as in Indonesian phrase, the pattern is DM (*Diterangkan Menerangkan*) and in English phrase, the pattern is MD (*Menerangkan Diterangkan*).

The last is semantic error which contains errors that are related to errors in meaning and provide a wrong definition or message in the TL. Example 1 and 6 in table 2 show the semantic error which

translate “*bowel movements*” into “*gerakan usus*” in Indonesian, and “*stocked*” into “*ditebar*” in Indonesian. The meaning or message is not delivered properly in TL as the translation is not correct. The suitable translation for “*bowel movements*” in Indonesian is “*buang air besar*” or “*defecate*” in English, and for “*stocked*” is “*tersedia*” in Indonesian.

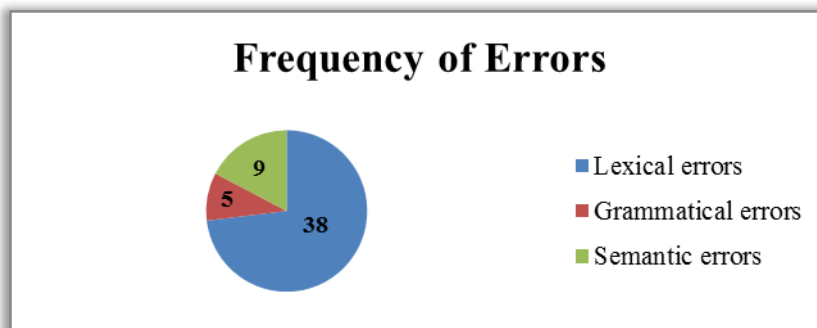


Figure 1. Frequency of Errors in Text 1 and Text 2

From the data analysis, it can be seen that lexical errors take the highest occurrence in both of the texts, with 38 occurrences. Followed by semantic errors as the second biggest number with 9 occurrences, and the last one is grammatical errors with 5 occurrences.

Lexical errors mean that when Google Translate produced the raw output of the source text by using wrong word choices or different word choices. The use of wrong word choices somehow affected the meaning of the text. On the other hand, different word choices are when Google Translate did not find the equivalent words as in the source text. It happens due to the inability of Google Translate to translate the word which is related to the culture

and the language system of the TL, which gives impact to the quality of translation product. Google Translate still holds on to the culture and the language system of English.

In order to make a better translation for Google Translate, the followings are the steps of how to submit the correct translation in Google Translate. For example, the phrase “*the senna plant*” in English into the correct translation “*tanaman senna*” in Indonesian (example 4 in text 1). After entering the clause which is translating into Indonesian, click the option “Suggest an edit” at the bottom right of the translation text box. See the figure 2 below.



Figure 2. Suggest An Edit in Google Translate

After that, replace the phrase “*senna tanaman*” in translation text box into “*tanaman senna*”, then click “Contribute” to save the suggested

translation. Therefore, Google Translate will not mistranslate the same words or terms if they appear in the future. See the figure 3 below.



Figure 3. Contribute An Edit in Google Translate



Figure 4. The Correct Translation of Google Translate

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that the process of Google Translate's translation still needs some improvements in translating the word which is related to the culture and the language system of the TL, which gives impact to the quality of the translation product.

As a user of Google Translate, it's better to give inputs as a contribution if there is a mistake in the translation of Google Translate. Simply, the correct translation is suggested to Google Translate by clicking the option "Suggest an edit" in Google Translate. After that, click "Contribute" to save the suggested translation. Therefore, Google Translate will not mistranslate the same words or terms if they appear in the future.

References

- [1] Babcock, C. 2016. *Herbal Medicine Benefits & the Top Medicinal Herbs More People Are Using*. Dr.Axe Website. Retrieved at August 29, 2018 from <http://draxe.com/herbal-medicine/>.
- [2] Creswell, J.W. 2012. *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research*. Boston: Pearson Education.
- [3] Eftekhar, M. & Nouracy, P. 2013. "Commercial Translation Error Analysis: A Case Study of Iranian Products". *Linguistics and Literature Studies*. Vol 1(2): 55-60.
- [4] Hadis, G. and Mahmood, H. 2016. "A Comparative Study of Google Translate Translations: An Error Analysis of English-to-Persian and Persian-to-English Translations". *English Language Teaching*. Vol 9(3): 13-17.
- [5] Hossein, V. and Saleh, D. 2012. "A Study of Translation Problems of Tourism Industry Guidebooks: An Error Analysis Perspective". *Foreign Language Teaching and Research*. Vol 1(1): 71-82.
- [6] Keshavarz, M.H. 1999. *Contrastive Analysis and Error Analysis*. Tehran: Rahnama Press.
- [7] Kroulek, A. 2016. *11 Google Translate Facts You Should Know*. K-International Website. Retrieved at August 29, 2018 from <http://www.k-international.com/blog/google-translate-facts/>.
- [8] Nadhianti, M. 2016. "An Analysis of Accuracy Level of Google Translate in English-Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Indonesia-English Translations". *Quill Electronic Journal*. Vol 5(4): 296-303.
- [9] Nila, S.F. and Susanto, T. 2017. "Google Translate Impacts on Students' Translation of Economic Texts: Accuracy and Acceptability". *6th ELTLT International Conference Proceedings October 2017*. Page: 487-491.
- [10] Ulfah, M. 2015. *An Accuracy Analysis in Indonesian-English Translation Using "Google Translate" Machine Translation* [Master Thesis]. Semarang: Walisongo State Islamic University.
- [11] Vilar, D., D'Haro, L.F., and Ney, H. 2006. "Error Analysis of Statistical Machine Translation Output". *International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation*. Page: 697-702.