

The Translation of Durative Aspect of French into Indonesian

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Abstract— Translation is the process of transferring messages of the source language text into the target language text. The transfer of messages in the translation process is always characterized by differences in the culture of the source language and the target language. Language is part of culture, and culture is manifested through linguistic behavior, which can occur in translation. One of these differences is the aspect, especially the durative aspect. The durative aspect is the aspect that states the continuity of an event. The data were taken from French novels, as the source texts, and Indonesian translation novels, as the target texts. The data were analyzed by using the descriptive-comparative method. The results of the analysis show that in French the aspects are expressed through *imparfait/imperfect* tense while in Indonesian translation the aspects are expressed in the form of lexical verbs, *me* (N) - affixes, and *di-lah* affixes.

Keywords— translation; aspect; *imparfait*; affixes

I. INTRODUCTION

Every language all around the world has its characters and characteristics which are different from each other. One of the factors that distinguish is the difference in the culture, habits, and nature of the group using the language. Sapir (1931) and Whorf (1965) put forward the theory of linguistic relativity and the theory of linguistic determinism. The theory of linguistic relativity states that every culture conceptualizes the world differently, and the difference is encoded in the language. Perceptual differences can be seen in the language because the language speakers must explain how they perceive the world, thus the difference in worldviews will be reflected in their language. Whereas, the theory of linguistic determinism states that it is not only our perception toward the world that influences our language but the language we use also influences the way we think deeply. Language can be considered as our framework of thinking, and according to the theory of linguistic determinism, people will find it difficult to think beyond that framework (Thomas and Wareing, 2007: 37). This difference is reflected in translation. When someone translates a text, they transfer not only the message but also the culture. The process of transferring source language text messages is influenced by the translator's culture. This can be seen in the way they understand, view, and express the message through the language they use. The transfer of messages in the translation process is always characterized by differences in the culture of the source language and the target language (Hoed, 2006). The concept of that language is culture, and culture is realized through linguistic behavior, applies in the field of translation. It is because translation is also an act of interlingual communication, which manifestation is strongly influenced by the culture of the language users. This difference in language directly places the translator in a dilemmatic position. On the one hand, they must translate source language text messages into the target language accurately. On the other hand, in many cases, they must find the equivalents which may not fit in the target language. One of the language differences occurred in the translation of aspects. Comrie (1985: 3) suggests that aspects are "different ways of viewing the internal temporal constituency of a situation." Aspect is another form of the internal element of time in a situation or an event. These internal elements are punctual-durative, telic-atelic, and static-dynamic. Whereas, Wijana (2010: 100-111) presents more detailed types of aspect, namely the generic-non-generic, static-dynamic, durative-punctual, telic-atelic, ingressive-continuative-egressive, prospective-retrospective, perfective-progressive aspects. This research focused on translating durative aspects. In French, the durative or imperfective aspects are characterized by *imparfait/imperfect* tense (Check Hoed, 1992: 45-49). Imperfect tense is one of the past tense forms in French which describes past events related to situation, duration, and repetition (Ollivier, 1988: 97-99). As exemplified in the sentence *Il faisait un panier - Ia membuat keranjang* (She/he made a basket), the verb *faisait* (made) has imperative or durative meaning, which is characterized by imperfect tense. Research about the translation of aspect has been carried out by several researchers, such as Arum Sari, et al. (2018), who examined the Translation of Imperfective Aspects in the Qur'an, Al-Qasas; and Sumitro (2018), with his research of The Translation Mistakes of time aspect in Japanese into Indonesian (UNJ.ac.id Journal). However, research in the translation of the

durative aspects in French into Indonesian, so far, has not been done. This study took the data from French novels, as the source texts, and Indonesian translation novels, as the target texts. For the translation analysis, this study employed Descriptive-Comparative method. The following is the analysis of the translation of durative aspects in French into Indonesian.

II. DISCUSSION

There are two types of durative verbs, the first is a verb that lexically contains durative aspects; and the second is the verbs characterized by certain markers (imperfect tense in French and affixes in Indonesian). The first type of durative verbs is seen in the example (1) below.

- (1) *La guerre **dura** cent ans*
*Perang itu **berlangsung** seratus tahun*
 The war **lasted** for a hundred years

The verb *dura* (derived from *durer* infinitive which means “last”), lexically has the durative aspect and does not require imperfect tense. In Indonesian, the verb is translated as **berlangsung** which lexically contains the durative aspect.

Unlike the sentence (1) above, the verb *dansaient* (from the word *danser* meaning “dance”) in the sentence (2) uses imperfect tense showing that the past activity was in progress without indicating the end of the activity. In other words, the event is atelic. As a comparison, we can see the sentence (2a) which shows that the dancing event is completely done or telic and is not durative anymore. Therefore, the verb *danser* (dance), uses *passé composé* tense, namely *ont dansé*. In Indonesian, the dancing event, either telic or atelic, is translated as **berdansa**.

- (2) *a. Des couples **dansaient** noblement autour d'une table chargée de vaisselle d'or et cristal. (VVS, 27)*
*a. Beberapa pasangan **berdansa** dengan anggunnya di sekeliling sebuah meja yang sarat dengan piring mangkok terbuat dari emas dan kristal.*
 “Some couples **danced** gracefully around a table full of gold and crystal tableware.”

- (2a) *Des couples **ont dansé** noblement autour d'une table chargée de vaisselle d'or et cristal. (VVS, 27)*

In the data (3) below, the verb *se chauffait* (warm) has a durative meaning and uses imperfect tense. In Indonesian, it is translated as *menghangatkan*, which is marked by *me-/-kan* affixes.

- (3) *Un homme en pantoufles de peau verte, quelque peu marqué du petite vérole et coiffé 'un bonnet de velours à gland d'or, **se chauffait** le dos contre la cheminée. (MB, 112)*
*Seorang laki-laki yang agak bopeng bekas cacar, bersandal kulit hijau dan bertopi beludru berkuncir emas, **menghangatkan** punggungnya di perapian. (MB, 90)*
 “A man in slippers of green leather, somehow marked with smallpox and wearing a velvet hat with a golden tassel, **warmed** his back against the chimney.”

Meanwhile, in the data (4) the verb *faisait aller* (rotate), and (5) *pâlissaient* (fade), have a durative aspect and use imperfect tense. In Indonesian, they are translated as (4) *memutar* and (5) *memudar*, which both are using *me-* affixes.

- (4) *L'homme **faisait aller** sa manivelle, regardant à droite, à gauche et vers les fenêtres. (MB, 100)*
*Laki-laki itu **memutar** gagang orgelnya sambil melihat ke kanan, ke kiri dan ke jendela-jendela. (MB, 82)*
 “The man **rotated** the handle while looking to the right, left, and the windows.”
- (5) *Les lampes **pâlissaient**. On **refluait** dans la salle de billard. Un domestique **monta** sur une chaise et **cassa** deux vitres. (MB, 85)*
*Lampu-lampu **memudar**. Mereka kembali memasuki ruang billard. (NB, 67)*
 “Lights **faded**. They re-entered the billard room.”

The following translation analysis is not at the sentence level (lexically or grammatically) but at the discourse level. Durative aspects analysis at the discourse level, especially narrative discourse, is related with grounding. In a discourse, there are two or more events. Based on the sequence of how the events are told, one event is narrated at the beginning and then followed by others. One event underlies another event. In other words, there is an event that becomes the foreground, and there is an event that becomes the background. Events can be an activity/action, a process, or a situation.

Several experts have discussed grounding in discourse. Grounding consists of foreground and background. Hopper (1979: 213) suggests that in the text, “the language of the actual storyline” is distinguished from “the language of sporting material which does not itself narrate the main events.” Thus, there is an event acting as the foreground, and another event as the background. Barthes

(1966: 10-13) states that the foreground event is called *catalyst*, which main function is to form the framework of the story. Whereas, the background event is called *indices*, the ground that supports, gives colors or atmospheres to the foreground. Further, Hopper argues that foreground events happen in a sequence and chronological order, and the verbs are active, punctual, and dynamic. Whereas, background is a series of events used to develop or answer the foreground. Hopper (1979: 213-241) explains that there are three types of grounding strategy in the discourse, especially the narrative discourse, namely (i) time markers, (ii) sequence patterns, and (iii) diathesis. Languages which have grounding strategy with time markers are Swahili, French, and Russian. In these languages, the verbs with perfective or punctual aspect mark the foreground, while the verbs with imperfective aspect mark the background. In French, imperfect tense is used to mark the background event (Sajarwa, 2013). One language that uses sequence patterns as the grounding strategy is Old English. One language that uses diathesis is Malay. In Malay, ergative diathesis is used to express the foreground, while active or passive diathesis is used to express the background. Ergative diathesis serves as foregrounding while active and passive diathesis serve as backgrounding (In Baryadi, 2002: 96-98). This study shows that the durative aspect can occur in background and foreground events. Look at the following example. In the discourse below, (sentence a-d) the verbs use imperfect tense, i.e. *s'approchait/mendekati* (approach), *respirait/menaburkan* (pour), *s'élevait/membubung* (rise) *se tounait/membalikan* (turn), *revenait/kembali* (return). The events in the discourse are background events that refer to the meaning of 'continuous process activities' using imperfect tense, whereas in Indonesian translation the verbal affixes *me(N)-* is employed. The characteristic of inherent aspectual 'dynamic-durative' verb (See Sajarwa, 2015: 178).

- (6) a. Elle **s'approchait** du feu, y jetait une poignée de poudre, et **respirait** avidement la lourde fumée blanche qui **s'élevait** aussitôt.
b. Puis Elle **se tounait** vers les Indiens immobiles,
c. et elle paraissait les passer en revue, pas à pas, s'arrêtant devant celui-ci, puis devant celui-là.
d. Ensuite elle **revenait** près du foyer. (VVS: 40)

- a. Dia **mendekati** api, **menaburkan** segenggam bubuk ke dalamnya, dan dengan rakus menghirup asap putih tebal yang segera **membubung** ke atas.
b. Lalu, dia **membalikan** badan ke arah orang-orang Indian yang tak bergerak itu.
c. Ia melewati mereka sambil memeriksa, selangkah demi selangkah, seraya berhenti di muka seseorang, kemudian di muka yang lain.
d. Kemudian dia **kembali** ke dekat perapian.

- a. "She **approached** the fire, **threw** in a handful of gunpowder, and eagerly inhaled the heavy white smoke which rose at once.
b. "Then, she **turned to** the Indians who did not move."
c. "She **passed** them while checking them, step by step, and stopping in front of someone, and then in front of the other ones".
d. "Then she **returned** to the fireplace."

Different from the examples above, the following examples (7) are discourses of foreground events. In French, the events of the foreground are marked by *passé simple*/simple past tense. The verb *eut* (derived from the verb *avoir*/'to have'), *vinrent* (derived from the verb *venir*/'to come'), *resta* (from *rester*/'to hold'), and *recommença* (derived from the verb *recommencer*/'to resume/continue'). In the example (7) below, the event is perfective but the meaning is durative. Such events are called actionality (Tadjuddin, 1993: 28) or action patterns (Hoed, 1992: 47). In Indonesian, the passive form *di-* is used together with particle *-lah*, such as *dilangsungkanlah* and *dilanjutkanlah*. The particle *-lah* is added to strengthen the foreground effect. According to Wijana, the particle *-lah* also indicates the ingressive aspect (2010: 105).

- (7) a. Emma **eût**, au contraire, désiré se mairier à minuit, aux flambeaux; mais le père Rouault ne **comprit** rien à cette idée.
b. Il y **eut** donc une noce, où **vinrent** quarante trois personnes, où l'on **resta** seize heures à table qui **recommença** le lendemain et quelque peu les jours suivants (MB, 51)

- a. Emma sebaliknya **ingin** mengikat perkawinan pada tengah malam, diterangi cahaya obor. Namun Bapak Rouault tidak mengerti pikiran semacam itu.
b. Maka **dilangsungkanlah** pesta perkawinan yang dihadiri oleh empat puluh tiga undangan. Enam belas jam mereka dijamu di meja makan. **Dilanjutkanlah** esok harinya. Dan masih juga sedikit-sedikit pada hari-hari berikutnya (NB, 37)

- a. "Emma, instead, **wanted** to tie the marriage in the middle of night, lit by torchlight. However, Mr Rouault did not understand such idea."

- b. "So a wedding party **was organized**, which was attended by forty-three people, was held. For sixteen hours, they were served at the dining table. It **was continued** on the following day, and on the few days after (NB, 37)"

What makes the data (6) and (7) above interesting is the use of time in French (imperfect and *passé simple*/simple past tense). Tenses have temporal and non-temporal functions. The temporal functions consist of time, aspect, and existential status of events. On the other hand, non-temporal function acts as the discourse marker. Related to the existential status of events, an event can be historical and nonhistorical. An event with historical status is an event that has happened; whereas, a non-historical event is an event that has not yet occurred and is expected to occur (Hoed, 1992: 68:79). The events in (7) above are historical and definite. Therefore, *passé simple* tense is used even though, semantically, the verbs *eut*, *vinrent*, *resta* and *recommença* have "perfective" and "durative" meaning or actionality. In Indonesian translation, the verbs *dilangsungkanlah* and *dilanjutkanlah* also have "perfective" and "durative" meaning. Thus, in Indonesian, the affixes *di-* emphasized with particle *-lah* is used to express the foreground events with "actionality" (See Sajarwa, 2015: 173).

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III. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, we can see that, grammatically, the affixes *ber-*, *me-*, and *di-* are used to express durative aspects in Indonesian. However, there is no other option for affix *ber-* as, for example, in the verb *berdansa* (dance). That is, the verb *berdansa* must only use affix *ber-*, different from affixes *me(N)-* and *di-*. Therefore, we can conclude that the durative aspect in French is grammatically expressed by using imperfect tense, while In Indonesian translation, the durative aspect is expressed by using affixes *me-*, *me-/-kan*, *di-*, and *di-/-lah*.

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