

# The Category Shifts in English–Indonesian Translation

Suratman Dahlan  
*English Language Education Study Program*  
*University of Khairun*  
 Ternate, Indonesia  
 suratmandahlan@unkhair.ac.id

Saiful Latif  
*English Language Education Study Program*  
*University of Khairun*  
 Ternate, Indonesia

**Abstract**—This study aims to identify and to classify shifts in English-Indonesian translation. This research employed a descriptive qualitative method. The research was conducted at the fourth-semester students of English Language Education Study Program, Khairun University which consists of two classes, 78 students. The data were collected through tests and interviews. The researcher classifies the data into five categories of shifts based on Catford's classification. That involves level shift, and category shifts which consist of structure shifts, unit shifts, intra-system shifts, and class shifts. The English-Indonesian translation which is analyzed through descriptive analysis technique showed the results, with the percentage of Structure Shifts (SS) 73.06%, Unit Shift (US) 7.69%, Class Shifts (CS) 8.97%, Intra System Shifts (ISS) 5.76%, and Level Shifts (LS) 4.48%.

**Keywords:** *shifts, English–Indonesian, translation*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, English is used as a foreign language (EFL) which is taught in formal education. This is expected to encourage students at junior high school up to the university level, to develop their English language skills competences.

Furthermore, the students of the English education department who are learning English at university hoped to have many certainly ideas and opinions which are transferred from mother tongue or source language (SL) into a target language (TL) that need a competence which is called translation. As far as translation is concerned, Larson [1] defined that translation as a process to transfer the meaning of a source language into meaning in a target language. Moreover, Farrokh [2] stated that translation is written for new situations, purposes, recipients, and cultures.

In translation, translators need two languages to find an equivalence in SL or TL. To find the equivalences between two language, shifts may occur in source and target language text. The shifts in translation are a very important in translation process because it will be considered by translators to find equivalences in formal correspondence. Farrokh [2] states that shifts can minimize the inevitable loss of

meaning when rendering a text from one language into another language. The shifts are appearing in the translation are, among shifts in lexical meaning. According to Catford [3] the term shift describes translation shift as the small linguistic changes in the translation of source language into the target language.

The researcher conducts this study to identify and to classify the shifts in English-Indonesian translation made by students in translating English into Indonesian. The text is a piece of health news that was published in Jakarta Post.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. Translation

According to Brislin [4](1976), translation is the general term referring to the transfer of thoughts and ideas from one language to another, whether the languages are in written or oral form; the languages have established orthographies or both languages is based on signs, as with sign language of the deaf.

Moreover, Catford [5] states that translation is the replacement of textual material in one language by equivalent textual material in other languages. Principally, translation is rendering a written text into another language in the way that the author intended the text. While translators are concerned with the written word by constructing meaning and message in the target language.

In the following definition, Nida and Taber [6], translation consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style. Relating to the definition, Pinchuck [7], (cited in Kardimin 2013:4) stated that translation is a process of finding a target language equivalent to a source language utterance.

### B. The Shifts of Translation

As far as translation shifts are concerned, Catford [3] distinguishes two major types of shifts: level shifts and category shifts.

Level shifts (where the source language item at one linguistic level for example grammar has a target language equivalent at a different level “lexis”). Catford [3], level shift as a shift from grammatical unit in source language to a lexical unit in target language (for example: SL in English: *John has completed an assignment*. TL in Indonesian: *John telah mengumpulkan tugas*), in the example, the SL grammatical form ‘has completed’ is translated into TL Indonesian (lexis) ‘sudah’, its change, then, is called level shifts.

Category shifts are a departure from formal correspondence in translation. Catford [3], the category shifts are divided into four types which involve:

1) *Structure Shifts (SS)*

SS which involves a grammatical change between the structure of the SL and that of the TL, Leonardi [8]. It encloses a change in grammatical structure between source language into the target language. Moreover, Catford [3] stated that SS occurs when TL elements of the unit are different of they are the same but arranged differently. For example: (SL in English: *New book*. TL in Indonesian: *buku baru*).

2) *Class Shifts (CS)*

A class shift means the grouping of the constituents of a unit according to the way they operate in the structure of another unit next higher in rank. In other words, a class refers to any set of items having the same possibilities of operation in the structure of a particular unit. The class shift occurs when the translation equivalence of a source language item is a member of a different class from the original item. It is a change in word class. Catford [3], class occurs when there is a change in the word class in the translation process. For example: (SL in English: *Medical student*. TL in Indonesian: *Mahasiswa kedokteran*). The shift occurs because the word ‘medical’ (adjective) is translated into ‘kedokteran’ (noun).

3) *Unit Shifts (US)*

The descriptive units of the grammar of any language are arranged into meaningful stretches or patterns. One single instance of these patterns is called unit. Unit shifts occur when the translation equivalent of a source text unit at one rank is a unit at a different rank in the target language. It includes shifts from morpheme to a word, word to a phrase, clause to sentence, and vice versa, for example, a phrase into a word, (SL in English: *Saturday*. TL in Indonesian: *Hari Sabtu*).

4) *Intra-System Shifts (ISS)*

A system refers to the closed number of elements among which a choice must be made. The terms available in each system in one language can show

fundamental differences from the terms of the same system in another language.

This can be considered a major source of shifts at this level of language description. In other words, ISS to those changes that occur internally within a system. Catford [3], intrasystem shift happens when the source language singular nouns translated as plural nouns in the target language. For example: (SL in Indonesian: *celana*. TL in English: *trousers*). The word “*celana*” in the source language is a singular noun that is translated into “trousers” in the target language in a plural noun

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research was collected through tests and interviews. This research gained the data to be analyzed qualitatively which producing descriptive data in the form of words written, especially the issues encountered by the sixth semester students of English education department of Khairun University.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE I. CLASSIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE

No	Types of Shifts	Frequencies	Percentage
1	Structure Shifts (SS)	114	73.07%
2	Class Shifts (CS)	14	8.97%
3	Unit Shift (US)	12	7.69%
4	Intra System Shifts (ISS)	9	5.76%
5	Level Shifts (LS)	7	4.48%
Total		156	100

Based on the Table 1, there are five types of students’ translation shifts in translating English text into Indonesian. It shows that the analysis revealed there are 156 total of each shift. The percentage of Structure Shifts (SS) is 73.06%, Unit Shift (US) is 7.69, Class Shifts (CS) is 8.97, Intra System Shifts (ISS) is 5.76, and Level Shifts (LS) is 4.48. Those shifts are categorized by Catford [3].

Based on the classification of shifts and the total percentages are concluded that, the grammatical structure is the most frequent shift for students in translating English as SL into Indonesian as TL. Based on data, each of students’ most frequent shifts of English-Indonesian is explicated as follows:

A. Structure Shifts (SS)

Structure shift is the most frequent category shifts in English-Indonesian translation. It is a change in grammatical structure from source language into Indonesian as target language. Based on data of students' translation in TL, the students created shifts in translating phrase (Modifier and Head) in sentence from source text into target text. For example:

Student 1 translated **regular consumption** became **substansi dari pengkonsumsi**. The student could not adjust the text that caused misinterpretation how to place modifier and head in target language, for instance head **consumption**= **pekonsumsi** and modifier **regular**= **substansi**.

Student 3 translated the phrase **regular consumption pengguna konsumsi** into target text. Head (**regular**= **pengguna**) and Modifier (**consumption**= **konsumsi**).

Student 5 translated **regular consumption** as source text into **mengonsumsi dengan beraturan** as student's target text. The student translated as Head (**consumption**= **mengonsumsi** and Modifier (**regular**= **dengan beraturan**) as student's target text.

Based on students' target language text, it was apparently also espoused of interview data as follows:

.... "kadang-kadang terkendala pada **struktur bahasa dalam bahasa target maupun bahasa sasaran. Misalnya jika saya mau menerjemahkan sebuah frasa maupun klausa. Dan masih banyak lagi yang lain**".

To find the equivalence of English text and Indonesian, the source text (...**regular consumption of the substance could contribute to the risk of developing heart disease**), should be translated into: (...**pengkonsumsi kafein secara rutin dapat menyebabkan resiko berkembangnya penyakit jantung**, in Indonesian as target language text). Catford [3], the shifts in source and target are categorized as Structure Shifts (SS).

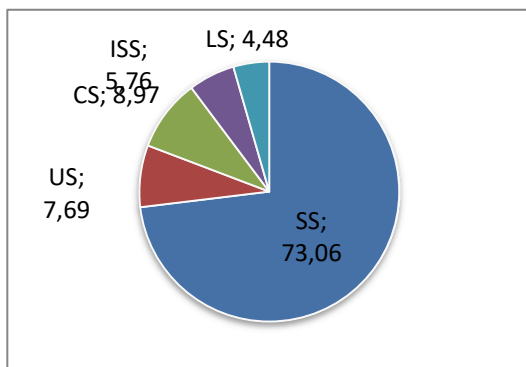


Fig. 1. The percentage of shifts

There are five types of students' translation shifts in translating English text into Indonesian. The diagram shows that the analysis revealed SS is a

dominant shift in English-Indonesian translation with percentage 73.06%.

TABLE II. THE CATEGORY SHIFTS IN ENGLISH-INDONESIAN TRANSLATION

No	Shifts	Source language	Students' Target language	Target text
1	Structure shifts	developin g heart disease:	<i>penyakit jantung akan berkembang</i>	berkembangnya penyakit jantung.
2	Class Shifts (CS)	US researcher s report	<i>para peniliti US melaporka n</i>	peneliti Amerika Serikat melaporkan
3	Unit Shift (US)	people	<i>orang-orang</i>	orang-orang
4	Intra System Shifts (ISS)	the effects of caffeine	<i>efek kafein</i>	dampak kafein
5	Level Shifts (LS)	have found that the effects	<i>menemuka n bahwa pengaruh-pengaruh kafein</i>	telah menemukan bahwa pengaruh kafein

V. CONCLUSION

The percentage of students' translation shifts in English into Indonesian show that Structure Shifts (SS) is the highest and Level Shifts (LS) is the lowest. Total of the percentage of SS is 73.07% and the total percentage of LS is 4.48%. Based on the analysis of structure shifts, English and Indonesian have difference gramatical structure. Therefore, it becomes a crucial problem for each of university students and translator, to learn many therories specially shifts in translation, in order they can identify, classify and to avoid shifts in English-Indonesian translation to find out the source language equivalences.

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