An Error Analysis of Indonesian to English Translation on Public Place Signboard in Bengkalis

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Abstract—**This research aimed at finding out the error translation of words, phrases, or sentence written on Public places from Indonesian as source text into English as the target text and to map the types of text translation strategy on public places Sign in Bengkalis. This descriptive research used data sources in the form of documents and persons; The written text on public places were documented in the form of photos and Interview were applied as the methods to collect the data of public place sign source text. As a result, there are 64 signboards showing names of place and directions which have been analysed by the types of errors on each translation. Most of the translation were categorized as word for word translation strategy. The highest number of Errors was at Grammar-lexical confusion.**

Keywords—translation, signboard, public place

I. INTRODUCTION

English is a language which can connect people around the world. It makes the language used in public places in many countries, including Indonesia. In public places in Indonesia bilingual are used on sign boards and many public signs, such as: banner, public signboards etc. they are used to deliver information accurately to Indonesian and foreigners.

The use of English is applied on some signboard in public places, such as Airport, shopping centre, school, market, etc. it is used to inform the message of the signs to foreigners who visit the places. In other word, the signs should contain understandable information for the readers.

However, the errors are often found in the translation. It is a result of message translation errors from Source Language to Target Language. A translation error is a grammatical or spelling mistake or an incorrect word choice given the original words' meaning or the document's target audience.

Translation is a process to change language form from one to another language. According to Bell [1] "Translation is the expression in another language (or target language) of what has been expressed in another, source language, preserving semantic and stylistic equivalent" In addition Newmark [2] states that "it is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that author intended the text." In Short, it can be concluded that translation is expressing a message of one language to another language.

Larson in Simatupang [3] states that translation has three important components; they are: Target language (Bsa) should be genuine, The message transferred to target language (BaSa) readers should focus on what the native speaker of Source Language (Bsu) meant to. and Both of the Source and target language impression should be similar.

Larson [4] states that when translating a text, the purpose of translation is to achieve idiomatic translation in such a way, trying to communicate the meaning of the source language text into the natural form of the target language.

Newmark [2] categorizes translations into eight types. They can be seen from the source language and target language side. Eighth type of translation, these are:

A. Classification of Translations Oriented to the Source Language

1) Word for word translation: The source language is very emphasized in this translation. This can be seen from the source language text that maintains word order, words that are translated based on their basic meaning out of context.

2) Literal translation: The emphasis on this type of translation is seen in the grammatical source language that is converted into its equivalent in the target language, while words are translated out of context.

3) Faithful translation: In this type of translation the method used is to reproduce contextual meaning even though it is still bound by the grammatical structure of the source language.

4) Semantic translation: This translation takes into account the aesthetic elements of the source language text, and is creative within the limits of reasonableness. This translation strategy looks more flexible.

B. Classification of Translations Oriented to the Target Language

1) Translation of adaptation (adaptation): This translation is the type of translation that is considered the most free and closest to the target language. Especially for drama and poetry translation types, themes, characters and plot are usually maintained.

2) Free translation (free trantation): Free translation is a translation that is rewritten without looking without the original. This method is also a paraphrase that can be shorter or longer than the original source.

3) Idiomatic translation (idiomatic translation): The source language message in this type of translation is conveyed again despite the deviation of nuances of meaning because it prioritizes everyday vocabulary and idioms and does not exist in the source language but can be used in the target language.

4) Communicative translation (communicative translation): In this translation the contextual meaning of the source language tries to be conveyed in such a way that the contents and language are acceptable and can be easily understood by the target audience. This translation is an ideal translation.

There were several researches have been conducted on error analysis on translation with public signs, such as the application of communicative translation approach in translating public sign from Chinese to English [5], Research on translation errors of Public signs from Chinese to English by Guo [6], Research on the Translation of Public Signs by Qiannan [7] and The English Translation of Public Signs in Qingdao—From the Perspective of Eco-thanatology by Ma [8].

However, there was still rarely found in Indonesia similar study to these Studies. One of the similar studies to this research was a translation Study on School signboards in Surakarta by Nuraini [9]. But it was limited to the sign boards in the Small scale (elementary and Secondary School in Surakarta). Therefore, for this reason the researcher considered to conduct this research in a bigger scale which is in Bengkalis Island.

The purpose of this research was to describe the translation errors occurring in the public signboard. Then, the improvement of the public signs are expected done by the local government or the people in charge to make the public signs better. One of them to help the foreigners getting the information correctly. So, the result of this research would be submitted as the recommendation for the improvement of the Public signs.

II. METHODS

This is a qualitative descriptive research with words, phrases and sentences written in Public Places in Bengkalis Island. The texts were documented by using photos and analysed based on the Errors occurred on each text. The texts of translation errors were taken as the data of this study.

The main object of this study was words, phrases and sentences written on public Places. They were used to give information for the people, especially the foreigners. But there were still some translation errors found on them. They make the message of the signs hard to understand and leading to misunderstanding. The public places were Schools, Government Institutions, City Parks, Shops and market and harbour.

There were two steps used in this research; to find out the error translation of words, phrases, or sentences written on Public places from source text into target text and to map the types of text translation errors to assess the translation quality.

To find answer to the research questions, the types of errors indicated in the table 1:

TABLE I.   ERROR CODES [10]

Error Code	Type of Error
GSO	Grammar –subject omission
GCA	Grammar – continuous aspect
GVT	Grammar – verb tense
GST	Grammar – sequence of tense
GIF	Grammar – conditional clauses
WO	Word order
GUN	Grammar – uncountable nouns
GP	Grammar – propositions
GNEG	Grammar – double negation
GIA	Grammar – indefinite articles
GDA	Grammar – definite articles
WOM	Word omissions
VLC	Vocabulary – lexical confusion

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The texts were taken from some public places in Bengkalis which have and display signboards; they were Schools, Government Institutions, City Parks, Shops and market and harbour in Bengkalis Island. The data were collected for two months.

There were totally 64 data of Indonesian-English signboards. Most of them have informative function. From the data, it was divided into two types of informative function. Two types of signboards have these informative functions are found in signboards showing names of place and those showing the condition of a particular place.

The analysis to the signboard translation quality discusses the accuracy level of the translation product. As Bell [1] states, one of general laws of translation is that "translation should give a complete transcript of the ideas of the original work". Dealing with the faithfulness of message transferring, the finding reveals that the English version of the signboards tends to be not accurate since, out of 64 data taken, all the data are rated as inaccurate translation. The errors were divided into 13 categories.

The result of the quantitative analysis were shown in the Table 2:

TABLE II. NUMBER OF ERRORS

No	Error Code	Type of Error	Number of errors	Percentage
1	VLC	Vocabulary–lexical confusion	64	20%
2	WOM	Word omissions	60	18%
3	GDA	Grammar–definite articles	50	15%
4	WO	Word order	50	14%
5	GSO	Grammar–subject omission	40	12%
6	GVT	Grammar–verb tense	18	6%
7	GUN	Grammar–uncountable nouns	15	5%
8	GST	Grammar–sequence of tense	10	3%
9	GIF	Grammar–conditional clauses	6	2%
10	GIA	Grammar–indefinite articles	5	2%
11	GCA	Grammar–continuous aspect	4	1%
12	GP	Grammar–prepositions	2	1%
13	GNEG	Grammar–double negation	2	1%
Total number of Errors			326	100%

Based on the data, most of the errors occurred on the translation was at vocabulary- lexical confusion. It was 20 % of total errors. For instance, it was found that "*ayam goreng"* in Bahasa Indonesia was translated to *"friend chicken".* another example for this error was the sign in Bengkalis International harbour *"mohon antri"* was translated to *"Entry please"* which is incorrect in meaning.

The least number of errors occurred on grammar-prepositions and double negation (1% of the total errors).

They are examples showed the translation errors:

Fig. 1. A gate at senior high school in Bengkalis.

- Source Text : *Pintu Keluar*
- Target Text : Out Door

The sign in Figure 1 uses word by word translation method which only focus on translating the words without consider the context of the meaning. The word out door seems confusing for the readers.

Based on the interview to the teacher at the school, it was the translation for the Pintu Keluar. So, it was concluded that this sign translation was categorised as word for word translation. Newmark [2] states word for translation are

translated without considering the context. This error was included as Vocabulary – lexica l confusion.

Fig. 2. Vendor cart.

- Source text : *Ayam Goreng*
- Target Language : Friend Chicken

The sign in Figure 2 used by a vendor. Based on the interview to the owner, it was the translation for ayam goreng as product was displayed on his cart. The translation was done by himself. The result of translation was inaccurate since the words were translation incorrectly. The target language for Goreng was translated to Friend instead of fried. This sign error is categorised as spelling mistake or lexical confusion.

Fig. 3. Shop.

- Source Text: Lucy Kosmetik
- Target Text: Lucy Cosmetik

The sign in Figure 3 is Shop sign. It seems confusing for the readers. Based on the interview to the owner, it was the translation for the Luci Kosmetik which means Shop for Make-up tools. This sign seemed confusing since it did not follow the foreign nation strategy. Moreover, the translation of the sign still need improvement in spelling.

So, it was concluded that this sign translation was categorised as spelling error and it did not follow the foreignization strategy [11]. Entails choosing a foreign text and developing a translation method along lines which are excluded by dominant cultural values in the target language.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that there were 64 signboards showing names of place and the condition of place and directions which have been analysed by the strategy applied on each translation. The errors occurrence on the translation mostly Vocabulary- lexical confusion (20% of the total Errors). word omissions 18%, Grammar – verb tense 15%, Word order14%, Grammar –subject omission 12%, Grammar – definite articles 6%, Grammar – uncountable nouns 5%, Grammar – sequence of tense 3%, Grammar – conditional clauses 2%, Grammar – indefinite articles2%, Grammar – continuous aspect1%, Grammar – prepositions 1%, Grammar – double negation 1% of the total Errors.

Besides, the strategies are also identified as the problem in this translation error; most of the translations were categorized as word for word translation strategy. Some of the signboard ignored the signboard translation principals since many texts are still transferred using literal translation and word-for-word translation technique resulting low level of acceptability.

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