



# Compensation in News Translation

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**Abstract**—Compensation is one of translation technique applied to overcome certain problems in translation process. Study on compensation technique was usually done on literary translation. However, it is worthy to note that in news translation, compensation is one of the most frequently used translation techniques. It triggers curiosity to know more about the use of compensation technique in news translation, and how it impacts translation quality. A study was carried out on the translation of international news in one of Indonesian news site. Data collecting technique was done through document analysis and focus group discussion. The results of the research showed that compensation used in news translation is compensation in place. From the analysis, it can be concluded that the technique of compensation was done deliberately for certain reasons, rather than adapting to the grammatical rules of the target language. The use of compensation gives bad impact on the quality of news translation since it caused some translation shifts which reduce the accuracy of the translation.

**Keywords**—*compensation; news translation; translation quality*

## I. INTRODUCTION

On one of the pages on an online news site in Indonesia, there is a page specifically used to display news from other countries which is often called international news. Indonesian read international news in the same way as reading national or local news in terms of the news format. It is not usually widely known that the international news they read comes from different process from the national and local ones, and that it is a translation product. International news is a translation product whose readers are mostly lay person who usually do not have access to the original text.

Not written by journalists as a reportage from the spot of the event, international news is a finished news taken from international news wires which is then translated into the language of the target reader. News translation is a complex process involving several parties with different interests. Fairclough in (Schaffner & Bassnet, 2010) states that when an event is reported in a news narrative, the form and meaning will be transformed according to the genre conventions of the news text. News translation is generally characterized by the main goal of transmitting information to readers quickly in a clear and effective manner, and the need to adapt to the prevailing style, rules and practices of the target reader's language (Mialet, 2010).

International news that reaches its readers after going through a series of processes rarely remains unchanged. The changes are there and can obviously be observed. Translating news with the characteristics previously explained opens up opportunities for significant changes to the translated text, far greater than the changes that usually occur in the translation of other types of text. This is true in the context of the research conducted by the author. The results of the analysis of a number of translated news texts show several significant changes that have occurred in the translated texts. One of them is the change in the arrangement of elements in a clause, as well as the arrangement of clauses in a text. These changes can be traced back to the use of the technique of compensation. It is a technique of replacing the position of information elements or stylistic effects in the source text in other parts of the target text, because they cannot be realized in the same part of the target text (Molina & Albir, 2002).

It is quite interesting to find out that compensation is in the top three of the most frequently used translation techniques in translating news. It triggers some questions such as, is compensation in news translation similar with that in literary translation, and how compensation impact the translation. Therefore, this research attempts to explain kinds of compensation used in the news translation. It also aims at investigating the impact of the use of compensation on the quality of the translation.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### A. *Compensation as A Translation Technique*

Compensation is a term used by some experts when talking about translation strategy or technique. Besides the one from Molina & Albir (2002) mentioned in the Introduction, Newmark (1988) conveys various translation strategies, which he calls "translation procedures", one of which is compensation. It is defined as the procedure which in the last resort ensures that translation is possible. Baker (1992) stated that compensation is a technique to deal with any loss of meaning, emotional force, or stylistic effect which may not be possible to reproduce directly at a given point in the target text. Hervey and Higgins (1992: 34-40) distinguish four categories of compensation. They are: compensation in kind, where different linguistic devices are employed in the target text in order to re-create an effect in the source text; compensation in place, where the effect in the target text is at a different place from that in the source; compensation by merging, where source text features are condensed in the target text; and compensation by splitting, where the meaning of a source text word has to be expanded into a longer stretch of the target text.

Compensation as a kind of translation technique has been the focus of interest of some researchers such as: Putra (2016) who investigated about compensation in the translation of idiom in a novel, Nasution (2019) who did a research on the compensation in a film series, Nasser (2018) who did a research on the compensation in the translation of English literary text to Arabic, Mohammed (2018) who dug out about the impact of compensation in translating Arabic poetry into English, and many other researchers. The existing researches on compensation as translation strategy were mostly done in literary translation while this research is done in news translation.

### B. *Translation Technique and Translation Quality*

The study of translation techniques is often linked to the quality of translation because these two things are related, as stated by Molina & Albir (2002) that one of the main characteristics of translation techniques is that it influences the translation results. As the main purpose of translation is to produce an equivalent text with equivalent message, it is always important to know whether this purpose is achieved. Equivalence in translation represents the quality of translation although it is not the only indicator. Nababan et al.'s Translation Quality Assessment Model (2012) uses three parameters, namely accuracy, acceptability and readability. The assessment of these three things is carried out separately. However, determining equivalents cannot be separated from the context, so accuracy will always be related to acceptability and readability.

## III. METHOD

This research uses a case study mode which aims to analyze the translation practices carried out by translation journalists in the international news production process on a news site. This research is a product-oriented research that analyzes translation products in the form of news to illustrate one of the trends in the translation.

### A. *Research Site*

The location in this research is the news on the international page of the *cnnindonesia.com* news site which presents reports of events from various parts of the world, which includes the location of the news incident, the people involved in the news, and the events reported.

### B. *Data Source and Data*

The data source in this research is 12 hard news on the *International* page of the *cnnindonesia.com* news site, and also 12 news texts on international news wires including Agence France Presse (AFP), Associated Press (AP); Cable News Network (CNN), and Middle East Monitor, as the source news text. The data in this research is the description of compensation as one of the translation techniques used to translate news from source text into target text, with reference to Molina & Albir (2012).

### C. *Sampling*

Data in the form of documents were selected based on the following criteria: one translated news text is taken from one source news text making it possible to compare the text structure; international news about political and ideological content having an emotional connection with Indonesian readers; the news from a variety of issues and profiles related to ideology or discursive power. Data in the form of informants are three raters having following criteria: good command of English and Indonesian; mastering linguistic; having knowledge and experience in the field of translation; having research experience in the field of linguistics and translation; having experience as a rater.

#### D. Data Collecting Techniques

Data collecting techniques used in this research were: document analysis and Focus Group Discussion.

#### E. Data Validity Test

The validity test in this research were source triangulation and method triangulation. Source triangulation was carried out by providing documents from several data sources, such as the AFP news site is set in France, AP and CNN are set in the United States, and Middle East Monitor is set in the Middle East but is headquartered in London. Data sources were obtained in the form of news texts with different participants. For example, there are news stories that show Muslim groups as victims, and news stories that show non-Muslim groups as victims. Method triangulation was carried out using document analysis for data sources in the form of documents, as well as Focus Group Discussions (FGD) for data sources in the form of informants.

#### F. Data Analysis Technique

Data analysis was carried out using data analysis techniques suggested by Spradley (1980) with modifications by Santosa (2017), which includes 4 stages, namely: 1) Domain Analysis; 2) Taxonomic Analysis; 3) Componential Analysis; and 4) Cultural Theme Analysis.

### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Overall, Compensation techniques rank second as the most widely used techniques, after Established Equivalence techniques. The Established Equivalence technique is usually the most widely used technique that shows the translator's ability to find the right equivalent. However, the position of the second most widely used translation technique, by the compensation technique, is an interesting fact to study in more depth. The use of translation techniques is displayed on the following table:

TABLE I. TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES

No.	Translation Techniques	Frequency	Percentage
1	Established Equivalence	199	49,50
2	<b>Compensation</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8,46</b>
3	Reduction	33	8,21
4	Transposition	28	6,96
5	Addition	23	5,72
6	Discursive Creation	21	5,22
7	Amplification (Explicitation)	20	4,97
8	Pure Borrowing	17	4,23
9	Paraphrase	14	3,48
10	Modulation	7	1,74
11	Implication	3	0,75
12	Generalisation	2	0,50
13	Naturalized Borrowing	1	0,25
	Total	402	100

#### A. Compensation in The News Translation

The results of data analysis showed that 34 (8.46%) use of compensation technique was carried out as a form of adjustment to the grammar rules of the TL, as well as deliberately used by translators for certain purposes. The second type of compensation technique is more often used by translators. This technique can be classified into two types, namely transfers within one clause, which will be studied at the micro level, and transfers between clauses, to between parts of the text (for example from lead to body) which will be studied at the macro level.

In the headline, there are 2 clauses which are translated using compensation techniques, which is done at clause level, namely headlines news 8 and news 11 as explained below:

SL: Iran summons French diplomat over Macron's remarks

TL: Protes Pernyataan Macron, Iran Panggil Diplomat Prancis

BT: Protesting Macron's Statement, Iran Summons French Diplomat

SL: Not in our name: French Muslim leaders slam anti-French boycott

TL: Para Pemimpin Muslim Prancis Kutuk Aksi Boikot Produk

BT: French Muslim Leaders Condemn Product Boycott

From example 1, it can be seen that there is a move of clause elements, where the theme in the ST is moved to a rheme in the TT. Whereas in example 2, the rheme of the ST is moved to become the theme of the TT.

In the lead, there is no use of compensation techniques. This technique was found again 32 times on the body, with some examples as follows:

SL: No weapon was found at the scene after the area was searched," the statement said.

TL: Tidak ditemukan senjata di sekitar lokasi," kata pernyataan itu.

BT: No weapons were found in the area," the statement said.

SL: There has been an uptick in violence in east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank in recent days...

TL: Beberapa hari belakangan terjadi peningkatan kekerasan di Jerusalem timur dan Tepi Barat yang diduduki...

BT: In recent days there has been an increase in violence in East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank...

In these two examples, the compensation technique is carried out by moving elements in one clause, and as a form of adjustment to the linguistic rules of the TT. Meanwhile, in a large number of other examples, the compensation technique is carried out by moving one or more clauses from one part of the text to another, as seen in the following example:

SL: The US, Japan and many EU nations joined a call on Tuesday urging China to respect the human rights of minority Uighurs, and also expressing concern about the situation in Hong Kong.

"We call on China to respect human rights, particularly the rights of persons belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, especially in Xinjiang and Tibet," said German UN ambassador Christoph Heusgen, who led the initiative during of a meeting on human rights.

Among the 39 signatory countries were the United States, most of the EU member states including Albania and Bosnia, as well as Canada, Haiti, Honduras, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

TL: Amerika Serikat, Jepang dan negara-negara Uni Eropa mendesak China untuk menghormati hak asasi manusia etnis minoritas Uighur.

Mereka juga mengungkapkan keprihatinan atas situasi di Hong Kong.

Di antara 39 negara penandatangan meliputi AS, sebagian besar negara anggota UE termasuk Albania dan Bosnia, Kanada, Haiti, Honduras, Jepang, Australia, dan Selandia Baru.

"Kami menyerukan kepada China untuk menghormati HAM, terutama hak orang-orang yang termasuk dalam agama dan etnis minoritas, terutama di Xinjiang dan Tibet," kata Duta Besar Jerman untuk Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa, Christoph Heusgen, yang memimpin inisiatif dalam pertemuan tentang HAM seperti mengutip AFP.

It can be seen from the example that there is a movement in the position of the second sentence of source text, which was moved to the third sentence of the target text, while the third sentence of the source text was moved to the second sentence of the target text. It is an inter-clause movement which was quite common in the translation. In some data, the clause is moved to another part of the text which is quite far from its initial position in the source text. For example, the first clause in the body is moved to the end of the body. And it was common in the translation.

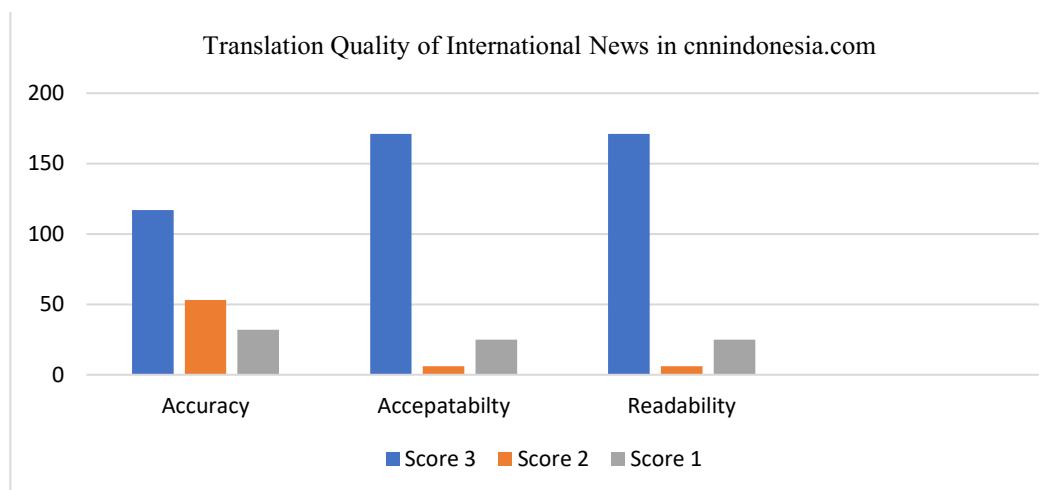
From the analysis of the forms of compensation used in the news translation, it can be concluded that the compensation commonly found in the news translation come under the category of compensation in place (in the concept of Hervey and Higgins (1992). The effect in the target text is at a different place from that in the source text. There is no compensation in kind, compensation by splitting, and compensation by merging in the data since those kinds of compensation were categorized under different concept of translation technique. For example, compensation by splitting in this research was categorized under the technique of transposition.

The movement of the elements of the clause, or the clauses was deliberately done by the translator at most. It can be seen from the clauses which actually do not require moving to fulfill grammatical rules. When these clauses are in the initial position in the source text, they already fulfill grammatical rules, and their meaning can be understood. Thus, compensation was done to highlight or conceal certain meaning according to the translator's consideration. How do these kinds of compensation impact the quality of the translation?

## B. Compensation and The Quality of News Translation

Translation technique which is a practical action taken by the translator to overcome problems found when translating can have a good or bad impact on the quality of the translation. From the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that compensation has a bad impact on the quality of translation. The results of data analysis show that in the thematic structure that experienced a shift, it was found that there was a lot of use of compensation technique, and also transposition. The use of compensation technique mostly caused translation shift, which is in the case of this research is in terms of the thematic structure. The shift of thematic structure means the shift in the accuracy of message conveyed. Part of a clause which is highlighted in the source text has its message obscured in the target text. On the contrary, the message of the clause which should have been disguised is instead made clear.

Results of analysis also showed that compensation impacts more on accuracy than the other two indicators, that is, acceptability and readability. However, compensation impact the acceptability and readability when the movement caused discontinuance of the flow of information in one clause with the clause before or after it, or it caused unclearness of information delivery. The influence of translation techniques on translation quality can be seen in the following figure:



It can be explained from the figure that accuracy is the indicator of translation quality which is much impacted by the use of translation technique, including compensation. From the figure, the translation quality measured using translation assessment parameters by Nababan et.al (2012) showed an accuracy value of 2.42; acceptance value of 2.72; and a readability value of 2.72. With these values, the final average translation quality score was 2.57.

## V. CONCLUSION

Compensation technique used in news translation is different from the one used in literary translation in some aspects. First, the form of compensation is different. In news translation the form of compensation is compensation in place, while in literary translation it was usually compensation in kind, compensation by splitting, and compensation by merging. Second, the reason of doing compensation is different. In news translation, compensation is mostly done deliberately, while in literary translation it is usually done obligatorily. Third, the impact of compensation on the quality of translation is bigger in news translation than in literary translation, since it was done not to fulfill certain grammatical rule of the target text, rather it is part of the efforts to highlight or conceal certain message.

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