



Transposition Technique in English-Indonesian Translation of Mechanical Engineering Terms

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ABSTRACT

The English language has different grammatical structures from the Indonesian language. Translation often solves the lack of English proficiency in the academic community. To faithfully convey the author's meaning in the target text, translators provide equivalence in the target language that sometimes is expressed in different linguistic forms. This research analyzed the English to Indonesian translations of mechanical engineering terms using a qualitative descriptive approach. The research collected 492 terms in English and 492 in Indonesian translations. The research found 43 terms translated using the transposition technique, categorized into structural, unit, and category shifts. The analysis found that the transposition technique is frequently applied in translations for mechanical engineering because it produces a more accurate and natural translation. This technique allows the translator to rearrange words or phrases in a sentence such that it conforms to the grammatical rules of the target language. By so doing, unnatural translation because of grammatical mistakes can be prevented.

Keywords: *Mechanical engineering, terminology, translation, transposition.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Since many literature and instructional materials are available in English, translation is needed to help students and academics understand the content (Doherty, 2016). Translation, in general, is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL) (Catford, 1965). It replicates the full text naturally, fluidly, and as accurately as possible in the target text, considering all aspects of the source text, including linguistic organization, culture, intentions, feelings, style, and time (Zhong-gang, 2006). Therefore, translators must maintain the qualities and style of the original language while accurately translating the source text into the target text to express the author's meaning. However, due to the differences between the two languages, it is frequently challenging for the literal translation to keep the message and writing style unchanged (Aresta, Nababan & Djatmika, 2018).

When a text is translated from the source language to the target language, a translator performs a series of tasks or the translating process. The procedure entails three steps: SL analysis, message switching, and reorganization (Hidayati, 2020). Various stages and aspects of the translation process must be evaluated to ensure that the translation is equal in both the source and target languages. Translation is the product of the process of transferring meaning from one language to another. All the processes or translation activities mentioned above are collectively called translating. Translating a text must use specific approaches and techniques (Majid, Ashari & Shalehoddin, 2023).

The technique of translation focuses more on identifying and analyzing the language's constituent parts to find an adequate counterpart (Molina & Albir, 2002). Amplification, borrowing, calque, compensation, description, discursive creation, establish equivalent, generalization, linguistic amplification, linguistic compression, literal translation, modulation, particularization, reduction, substitution, transposition, and variation were among the 18 translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002).

This article discusses the transposition technique. Transposition is changing a grammatical category. The shift in translation corresponds with the change in grammatical category. The research on the shift in translation focuses primarily on different forms that in two of the related languages reflect similar meanings. Catford (1965) introduces

shifts as breaks from official correspondence in the process of transitioning from the SL to the TL. He categorizes the main forms of shift into level shift and category shift.

Level shifts mean that an SL item with one degree of linguistic complexity has a TL translation equivalent with a different level of complexity. Level shifts result in bounded and unbounded translation, roughly equivalent to “normal” or “free” translation. Structure, class, and unit shifts are the four components of category shifts (Darmayanti, 2020).

In translation, structure shift can happen at any rank. The class shift in translation refers to a change in the word classes or parts of speech. On the other hand, unit shift refers to rank alterations or departures from formal correspondence, in which a unit at one rank in the SL is translated as a unit at a different rank in the TL. The change in forms as the unit of linguistics, which is one unit shift to another shift, can be used to identify the properties of unit shift (Darmayanti, 2020).

One of the issues facing translators nowadays is the translation of technical terminology. Modern society uses specialized languages as communication tools to share its accomplishments and experiences from generation to generation and person to person. The phrases and concepts to use are unambiguous and clearly stated. Together with the terms established, the vocabulary finally forms, reflecting the level of human understanding about the relevant issue (Nedobity, 1983). It can be difficult to translate special languages because different translators may have different perspectives, especially when they encounter terms that do not have a clear meaning in the target language. For instance, the word steady flow in the book *Mekanika Fluida* is translated into *aliran tunak*. The translation of the word steady, which also contains the meanings of *stabil*, *tetap*, *mantap*, and *ajek*, into *tunak*, has a slightly different connotation than the word steady itself (Farahsani, 2022).

Translation is a daunting task. Many translation initiatives have been conducted for particular fields. Each field has special terminology that may be untranslatable into the target language. Many textbooks on mechanical engineering have been translated from English to Indonesian, and used by academics, experts, and the public who are interested in studying the field. The application of transposition in translating mechanical engineering terms from English to Indonesian is worth researching. This technique involves changing the order of words or phrases in the source sentence to create a more appropriate sentence in the target language without changing the original meaning.

When translating the message's idea, a translator must separate the SL from the TL to provide a readable and understandable translation. A translator needs to understand a wide range of concepts from both languages. A translator uses appropriate phrases or sentences to translate the SL into TL so that speakers of different levels of that language can all understand the material (Xirera, Muth'im & Nasrullah, 2021). In the translation process, translators use many translation techniques and methods. The most common translation technique used by translators is based on Molina & Albir's (2002) theory which consists of 18 translation techniques. Meanwhile, the most commonly used translation methods are those based on Newmark's (1988) theory which consists of 8 translation methods.

Research on translation methods was conducted by Xirera, Muth'im, and Nasrullah (2021) who studied translation methods in book glossaries based on the theory of translation methods proposed by Newmark (1988). They categorized 50 glossary terms into words, phrases, and sentences to determine the translation strategies the translator employed. Their findings show that the translation methods used by the translators of the book are Semantic Translation (23 data), Literal Translation (22 data), Faithful Translation (13 data), Free Translation (9 data), and Communicative Translation (3 data).

Research on translation methods cannot be separated from translation techniques. The technique of translation focuses more on identifying and analyzing the language's constituent parts to find an adequate counterpart (Molina & Albir, 2002). One of the studies on translation techniques was conducted by Sundari & Febriyanti (2016). They researched to determine the techniques for translation and proficiency of Indonesian EFL students in translating educational content from English to Indonesian.

Research on translation methods and techniques continues to be relevant. Different data will produce different results. This is because every translator has different ideals in doing translation activities. Focusing on one translation technique in the analysis will produce more in-depth research results.

A study on translation techniques was conducted by Darmayanti (2020) who examined amplification and transposition techniques in novels translated from English to Indonesian. The inclusion of information in the target language (TL) is referred to as amplification. Based on the data, the translator added information by adding things (letters or letters) that were not there in the source language (SL). Transposition is defined as changing a grammatical category (Molina & Albir, 2002). The shift in translation was produced. Structure, class, and unit shifts were the three components of the shift category identified by this study's data.

A change in grammatical structure is inevitable in translating English (SL) into Indonesian (TL) since they have different structures. For instance, an English noun phrase has a modifier before the headword. On the contrary, an Indonesian noun phrase has the headword before a modifier. The types of shifts occurred because of the interaction between various linguistic elements in the source and target languages. A unit shift happens on the level of higher to lower unit, while a class shift involves a change of word class, for instance, a verb turns into an adverb, or a pronoun shifts to a noun.

Different from the previous studies, this paper focuses on transposition techniques used by translators of mechanical engineering terms.

The process of translation is strongly related to translation techniques. The translator executes translation methods during the initial stage of the translation, one of which is the reconstruction or translation stage. The translator employs translation procedures to produce a high-quality translation at this stage. The translator's linguistic proficiency is also relevant to translation methods. The translator's fundamental knowledge of both the source language's and the target language's grammar is referred to as linguistic aptitude (Putra, 2017).

From their research perspective, some academics describe the many translation styles. Molina and Albir (2002) propose translation techniques. This technique was put forth by the Molina and Albir (2002) theory and supported by Catford's (1965) idea of the shift in translation. According to Molina & Albir (2002), transposition is the alteration of a grammatical category. It caused a shift in translation. Structure shift, class shift, and unit shift were the three categories of the shift in this study, according to the data; (r) Variation is a technique of replacing linguistic or paralinguistic elements (intonation, gesture) that affect aspects of linguistic diversity.

2. METHOD

The research method used qualitative descriptive techniques. The qualitative technique entails descriptive research reports from people and observed behaviors in written or oral form (Bogdan & Biklen, 1998). Qualitative research can work with samples that are smaller than the population (Miles & Huberman, 1992). At the data collection stage, the research juxtaposed the English version of Fluid Mechanics and the Indonesian translation version. After that, it sorted out the fluid mechanic-related terms and then analyzed the translation techniques used based on Molina & Albir's (2002) theory. From the 492 terms found in the form of words and phrases, we found 43 data that used the transposition technique. The data was analyzed by dividing it into 3 categories: structural shifts, unit shifts, and category shifts.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The transposition technique that occurs in the translation of mechanical engineering terms is in the form of structure shift, unit shift, and category shift. The research findings on the transposition technique used in translating words in mechanical engineering from English to Indonesian were presented in this part. We found 34 data on structure shifts, 5 data on category shifts, and 4 data on unit shifts.

Most of the data found in mechanical engineering terminology is in the form of nouns. The shifts that occur in the transposition technique are mostly structural shifts, from plural words to singular words. The following are examples of data found and translated with the transposition technique along with the type of shift.

According to Machali (2009), the shifts in English to Indonesian translation are motivated by one, or a combination, of the following. (1) Mandatory and automatic shape shifts caused by language systems and rules, for example (a) Translation of plural pronouns in English into singular nouns in Indonesian; (b) Repetition of adjectives in Indonesian from adverbs describing subjects with plural pronouns in English; (c) Adjective + noun becomes noun + adjective; (2) Shifts in grammatical structure in the source language that do not exist in the target language; for example (a) Placing the object in the front of the Indonesian sentence which is not common in the concept of English grammatical structure, except in passive sentences, so that the sentence structure remains in the form of ordinary affirmative sentences; (b) Placing the verb in the foreground in Indonesian which is not common in English structure, except in imperative sentences. Then the equivalent uses the usual affirmative sentence structure; (3) Shift for reasons of reasonableness of expression, the source language equivalent is unnatural or rigid in the target language, for example (a) Nouns/noun phrases in the source language become verbs in the target language; (b) Adjective + noun/noun phrase in the source language becomes noun + noun in the target language, (c) Clause in participial form in the source language is expressed fully and explicitly in the target language; (d) Adjective + noun becomes noun + clause; (e) Word class shift; (4) Unit shift such as word to phrase which is often encountered in the translation of loose words. Examples of these kinds of shifts can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Data of transposition technique

| Data No. | SL | TL | Shift category |
|----------|---|--|---|
| 001 | Fluid mechanics is the study of fluids either in motion (fluid dynamics) or at rest (fluid statics) and the subsequent effects of the fluid upon the boundaries. | <i>Mekanika fluida adalah telaah tentang fluida yang bergerak atau diam dan akibat yang ditimbulkan oleh fluida tersebut pada batasnya.</i> | Structure shift |
| 007-008 | Thus, most textbooks concentrate on flat plates , circular pipes , and other easy geometries. | <i>Sehingga kebanyakan buku teks memusatkan pembahasannya pada lempeng datar, pipa bulat dan bentuk-bentuk geometris lainnya yang lebih mudah.</i> | Structure shift |
| 011 | Second, viscosity has a destabilizing effect on all fluids, giving rise, at frustratingly small velocities , to a disorderly, random phenomenon called turbulence. | <i>Kedua, kekentalan mengawampantapkan semua fluida dan, celaknya pada kecepatan yang rendah, menimbulkan gejala acak yang tak teratur yang disebut golan.</i> | Structure shift |
| 013 | The theory of turbulent flow is crude and heavily backed up by experiments, yet it can be quite serviceable as an engineering estimate. | <i>Teori aliran bergolak adalah sederhana dan disokong kuat oleh eksperimen, namun bisa juga dimanfaatkan dengan cukup baik dalam taksiran-taksiran perancangan.</i> | Category shift |
| 019-020 | Given the definition of fluid above, every layperson also knows that there are two classes of fluids, liquids , and gases . | <i>Dengan definisi fluida seperti tersebut di atas, setiap orang awam tahu bahwa ada dua macam fluida, yakni zat cair dan gas.</i> | 019 → Unit shift 020 → Structure shift |
| 022 | Again, the distinction is a technical one concerning the effect of cohesive forces . | <i>Di sini pun, perbedaan antara keduanya bersifat teknis, yaitu berhubungan dengan akibat gaya kohesif.</i> | Structure shift |
| 035 | Also, liquids and gasses can coexist in two-phase mixtures , such as a steam-water mixture or water with entrapped air bubbles. | <i>Dapat pula zat cair dan gas berada bersama-sama dalam campuran dua-fase, seperti campuran air-uap atau air dengan gelembung-gelembung udara yang terperangkap di dalamnya.</i> | Structure shift |

3.1. Structure shift

The structural shifts found in the data are the shift of plural words to singular words and noun phrases. Some data are as follows.

Data 1

SL: Thus, most textbooks concentrate on flat **plates**, circular **pipes**, and other easy geometries.

TL: *Sehingga kebanyakan buku teks memusatkan pembahasannya pada **lempeng** datar, **pipa** bulat dan bentuk-bentuk geometris lainnya yang lebih mudah.*

Data 2

SL: Second, viscosity has a destabilizing effect on all fluid, giving rise, at frustratingly small **velocities**, to a disorderly, random phenomenon called turbulence.

TL: *Kedua, kekentalan mengawampantapkan semua fluida dan, celaknya pada **kecepatan** yang rendah, menimbulkan gejala acak yang tak teratur yang disebut golan.*

Data 3

SL: Again, the distinction is a technical one concerning the effect of cohesive **forces**.

TL: *Di sini pun, perbedaan antara keduanya bersifat teknis, yaitu berhubungan dengan akibat **gaya** kohesif.*

Based on the above data, we can see plural terms are translated into singular terms, such as plates, pipes, velocities, and forces which are translated into *lempeng*, *pipa*, *kecepatan*, and *gaya*. They are not translated into *lempeng-lempeng*, *pipa-pipa*, *kecepatan-kecepatan*, and *gaya-gaya*. Translating these terms into singular forms. is to achieve the

reasonableness of the translation. The translation becomes unnatural if the term is translated as reduplication in Indonesian, which also shows the plural form.

Besides the shift from plural to singular, structure shift also occurs in translating noun phrases from English into Indonesian because the two languages have different noun phrase structures. Here are the examples:

Data 4

SL: Since the block sides are unsupported, element A has zero stress on the left and right sides and **compression stress**...

TL: *Karena balok itu bebas, unsur A tidak mengalami tegangan pada sisi dan sisi kanannya, sedang sisi atas dan sisi bawahnya mendapat tegangan mampatan...*

Data 5

SL: The limiting volume ... for all liquids and gases at **atmospheric pressure**.

TL: *Nilai batas volume ... adalah kira-kira ... untuk semua zat cair dan untuk semua gas pada tekanan atmosfer.*

Data 6

SL: Note that the use of continuum calculus does not preclude the possibility of discontinuous jumps in fluid properties across a free surface or fluid interface or across a **shock wave** in a compressible fluid.

TL: *Perlu diingat, bahwa penggunaan kalkulus kontinum tidak menghindarkan kemungkinan adanya lonjakan tak kontinum dalam sifat-sifat fluida pada permukaan bebas atau antar muka fluida, atau melintasi sebuah gelombang kejut dalam fluida termampatkan.*

In English noun phrases, the head is placed after the modifier. This is different from Indonesian noun phrases, where the head is placed before the modifier. For example, in the phrase *compression stress*, *atmospheric pressure*, and *shock wave* the words *compression*, *atmospheric*, and *shock* belong to the modifier, and *stress*, *pressure*, and *wave* belong to the head. It is different from the Indonesian word. As the result, these phrases are translated into *tegangan mampatan*, *tekanan atmosfer*, and *gelombang kejut*. The head is put before the modifier (*tegangan*, *tekanan*, and *gelombang*).

3.2. Unit shift

The unit shift found in the data is a shift from words to phrases. Some examples are presented as follows.

Data 7

SL: Given the definition of fluid above, every layperson also knows that there are two classes of fluids, **liquids**, and gases.

TL: *Dengan definisi fluida seperti tersebut di atas, setiap orang awam tahu bahwa ada dua macam fluida, yakni zat cair dan gas.*

Data 8

SL: The writer is aware from personal experience of a serious preliminary error in the **design** of an aircraft due to a missing factor of 32.2 to convert pounds of mass to slugs.

TL: *Penulis mengetahui dari pengalamannya pribadi bahwa pernah ada kesalahan yang serius dalam rancang-bangun (desain) suatu pesawat udara, sebab perancangannya lupa memasukkan faktor konversi 32,2 waktu mengubah pon menjadi slug.*

Data 9

SL: Alternately, a **pseudoplastic**, or shear-thinning, fluid decreases resistance with increasing stress.

TL: *Sebaliknya, fluida plastik semu, atau penipisgeser hambatannya akan berkurang jika tegangan yang dikenakan padanya membesar.*

Based on the above data, we can see that English words are translated into phrases in Indonesian. The translator does this to find equivalence in the target language. For example, the word *liquid* in Indonesian is translated as *cair*. However, because the translator refers to an object, the word *liquid* is translated into the phrase *zat cair*. It's the same with the word *design*. When the word is a noun category, it is usually translated as *desain*. But in the field of mechanical engineering, the word *design* is more often translated into *rancang-bangun*, so this word is translated into a phrasal form. This is because this field does a lot of designing tools.

3.3. Category shift

The category shifts that occur in the data found are adjective to verb, noun to adjective, and verb to noun. This is done to create fairness in the translation. The following are examples of category shifts in the translation of mechanical engineering terms:

Data 10

SL: For example, ... or air at standard conditions contains approximately... molecules, which is sufficient to define a nearly constant **density** according to ...

TL: *Misalnya, ... udara pada kondisi standar mengandung sekitar ... molekul, yang cukup untuk mendefinisikan **rapat** yang hampir-hampir tetap menurut persamaan ...*

Data 11

SL: The theory of **turbulent** flow is crude and heavily backed up by experiments, yet it can be quite serviceable as an engineering estimate.

TL: *Teori aliran **bergolak** adalah sederhana dan disokong kuat oleh eksperimen, namun bisa juga dimanfaatkan dengan cukup baik dalam taksiran-taksiran perengineerian.*

Data 12

SL: Begin by calculating ..., assuming a fully rough flow, and the solution for ... will **converge** with one or two iterations.

TL: *Mulailah dengan menghitung ... dengan mengandaikan bahwa alirannya kasar-sempurna, dan penyelesaiannya untuk ... akan **konvergen** dengan satu atau dua kali pengulangan.*

In the example above, we can see that density (Noun) is translated into *rapat* (Adjective), the adjective word turbulent is translated into *bergolak* (verb), and converge (verb) is translated into *konvergen* (adjective). The affix “ber-” is one of the types of affixes in Indonesian used to form verbs from base words (base words are words that do not yet have affixes). So, when you add “ber-” to a base word, you turn it into a verb that describes an action or activity performed by the subject. So, it can be concluded that the word turbulent translated into *bergolak* experiences a category shift from an adjective to a verb. Meanwhile, the word Converge is an English word that refers to the process or action when several things or elements move or converge towards a point of meeting or unity. The translated word *konvergen* is the noun form of the verb *konvergensi* in Indonesian. This word is used to describe the process or nature of convergence, which is when several elements, ideas, or things come together or move towards a point of unity or commonality. Therefore, the word converge undergoes a category shift from verb to noun.

The translator tries to find the equivalence when translating these terms into the target language, resulting in category shifts. The category shift produces translation that is natural and acceptable.

4. CONCLUSION

Translators must maintain the qualities and style of the original language while accurately translating the source text into the target text to express the author's meaning. The transposition technique produces a more accurate and natural translation. When translating concepts related to mechanical engineering, transposition techniques take the form of structure shift, unit shift, and category shift. This section included the research findings on the transposition technique used to translate words from English to Indonesian in mechanical engineering. 34 data on shifts in structure, 5 data on shifts in categories, and 4 data on shifts in units were identified. The translator tries to find the equivalence when translating these terms into the target language, resulting in category shifts. The category shift produces translation that is natural and acceptable. The majority of the information in terms used in mechanical engineering is expressed as nouns. The transposition technique mostly involves structural shifts, such as the conversion of plural nouns into singular terms.

Since English and Indonesian have different grammatical structures, the translator needs the transposition technique by changing the word order in phrases to match the grammatical structure of English in Indonesian. This helps avoid grammatical errors that cause awkward or unnatural translations.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Aris Munandar and Dr. Hendrokumoro are my dissertation research consultants. They verified the data I collected, provided feedback, comments, and suggestions in the data analysis stage, and reviewed the manuscript during the writing process.

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