



Linguistic Equivalence in The Translation of German and Indonesian Prepositions: A Case Study on Novels “Herr der Diebe” and its Indonesian Translation “Pangeran Pencuri”

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Abstract. The results of a good translation should be able to be understood by readers as well as readers reading the original language. In a case, sometimes there is a translation whose meaning cannot be well understood. This occurs because of inadequate or even inappropriate translation. So, equivalence in translation plays a very important role. The equivalence means a balance between ideas and the structure of the language used to translate those ideas. Equivalence translation theory is a concept in translation studies that explores how to achieve the closest possible translation between source and target languages while maintaining the meaning, style, tone, and context of the original text.

Keywords: Translation, German Word Order, Indonesian Word Order, Contrastive Analysis.

1 Introduction

Prepositions are extremely important in language, as they serve to connect words and phrases within a sentence. However, translating prepositions presents unique challenges due to their context-dependent nature and varying usage across languages. For German learners and speakers, as well as novice translators, prepositions are among the most difficult words to grasp. Their meanings are challenging to understand because they have diverse and irregular usage patterns with numerous exceptions. This complexity is due to the unique nature of German prepositions, which must always be followed by a noun or pronoun and cannot stand alone [1]. Here's an example sentence that illustrates this:

Meine Schwester studiert in der Universität
My sister studies in the university

That sentence is unacceptable due to an error, namely the incorrect preposition that correlates with the noun *Universität*. The noun *Universität* should correlate with the preposition *an* not *in* so that it becomes a correct statement sentence.

Meine Schwester studiert an der Uni
My sister studies on the university

The correct preposition is as in the second sentence, namely *an der Uni* which is a combination of the preposition *an* ', the definite article *die* which correlates with the preposition *an* changes to *der*. The statement sentence above shows a description of the place or location of an event, which is known in German terms as *Lokalangaben*. The use of the preposition *an* with different grammatical rules can also be observed in the following sentence.

Jan hängt da Foto an die Wand
Jan hangs the photo on the wall

The prepositional phrase contained in sentence above is *an die Wand* which is a combination of the preposition *an*, the definite article *die* which correlates with the preposition *an* ' and the noun *Wand*. The words *an die Wand* which appear in the sentence indicate the complementary direction/position of an object or what is usually referred to in German terms as *Direktivergänzung*.

Verbs in German also sometimes have to be accompanied by a preposition, as for verbs that correlate with the preposition *an*, such as: *denken an*, *teilnehmen an* and *sich erinnern an*. Verbs that correlate with prepositions are known as *Verben mit Präposition* (prepositional verbs) [3].

Based on this explanation, it's clear that the rules for using prepositions in German are fundamentally different from those in Indonesian. Therefore, for German language learners and translators, it's very important to understand prepositions in the context of sentences to grasp their meaning.

In order to accurately and appropriately translate prepositions, it is essential to have an understanding of how prepositions operate within sentences and the context in which they are used. This understanding forms the basis for a translator to find the correct equivalent of specific prepositions in Indonesian based on their proper function and context. Translation requires a combination of linguistic, transfer, and cultural knowledge. These three types of knowledge are crucial for translators to produce translations that are precise, acceptable, and easily understandable [15].

A translator must possess linguistic knowledge to comprehend the language structure of the source language in order to grasp its intended meaning through the grammar and vocabulary, and then effectively convey that meaning into the target language using its own grammar and vocabulary [4]. Additionally, transfer knowledge is essential for understanding the fundamental principles of translation, adhering to specific rules, and employing techniques and strategies when encountering challenging texts. Cultural knowledge is equally crucial, encompassing an understanding of societal values, normative systems, and various aspects of life within both the source and target cultures.

In the process of translation, two codes are at play. Translation is essentially the act of conveying messages from one code to another, involving the simultaneous use of both codes. This duality means that translation serves as a bridge between distinct systems – grammatical systems within language and cultural systems beyond it. These two codes, each representing different systems, are linked by a deep element or deep structure, which is then transformed into a different form of code, known as the surface structure [5].

The translation process commences with the analysis of the elements in a text, encompassing an understanding of lexis, grammar, and the source language text. Subsequently, utilizing the system of lexis, grammar, and the target language text, the translator materializes the message's internal structure into words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and the target language text. The translator seeks to comprehend the intent of the native speaker or writer producing a source language text for source language readers, and then recreates the text in the target language for target language readers [7].

Message transfer constitutes the fundamental process in translation. To convey messages or meanings, it is essential to employ tools to grasp the meaning inherent in the source language text. Consequently, as an applied science, translation draws on other scientific disciplines to aid in comprehending the meaning of the source language text. The scientific disciplines involved in this comprehension process encompass linguistics, which elucidates language processes at the morphological, syntactic, and discourse levels, serving as a link between the comprehension of source language texts and target language texts [8].

1.1 Equivalence in Translation

Equivalence theory is an important concept in translation studies. It provides a framework for understanding the complexities and challenges of translating texts across languages and cultures. The theory encourages translators to consider multiple factors in order to achieve accurate, meaningful, and effective translations in their new context.

It's often difficult to achieve perfect equivalence in translation due to differences in language and culture. Instead, translators strive for optimal equivalence, aiming to make the translated text as close as possible to the original in terms of meaning, tone, and impact while ensuring that it is suitable for the target audience and context.

Equivalence theory in translation is a fundamental concept that deals with the relationship between a source text (ST) and its translated text (TT) [7]. The main idea is to achieve a balance or equivalence between the ST and TT in terms of meaning, style, tone, and impact [16].

1.2 German Prepositions

Prepositions play a crucial role in language, including in German. German prepositions can be challenging due to their varied usage with different cases, such as accusative and dative. Unlike most German prepositions that are limited to one case, two-way prepositions in German can take both accusative and dative cases [6]. Understanding the correct case to use with each preposition is essential for achieving grammatical accuracy in German.

Additionally, the positioning of prepositional phrases in German may be affected by language transfer. This has been observed in native German speakers residing in the Netherlands, who may carry over their preferences for prepositional phrase structures from Dutch to German [2]. This transfer phenomenon highlights the influence of language background on using prepositions in a second language.

Linguistic researchers have delved into the annotation and analysis of preposition senses in German to gain insight into the semantic intricacies and usage trends of prepositions [14]. Furthermore, studies have delved into the relationship between language and spatial cognition by examining tasks involving German spatial prepositions, shedding light on the cognitive aspects of preposition usage in language processing [6].

The prepositions in German and Indonesian can be classified into two categories based on their structures: primary, basic, or pure prepositions, and secondary or derivative prepositions. Primary prepositions are prepositions that are independent and not derived from other types of words or combinations of words [13]. In German and Indonesian, primary prepositions are single words, similar to prepositions in German that only have one case (*Präpositionen mit festem Kasus* or prepositions followed by one case). Single word prepositions in German include [6] :

- a. Preposition followed by accusative cases *durch, für, gegen, ohne, um, entlang*
- b. Prepositions followed by dative cases *aus, außer, bei, gegenüber, mit, nach, seit, von, zu*
- c. Prepositions followed by accusative or dative cases *an, auf, hinter, in, neben, unter, über, vor, zwischen*
- d. Prepositions followed by genitive cases (*an*) *statt, trotz, außerhalb, innerhalb, and während*.

German has primary and secondary prepositions. Secondary prepositions are either derived from primary prepositions or they are not original forms because they receive additions from other elements. Examples of secondary or derivative prepositions are "*anfangs*" (start), "*inmitten*" (in the middle), "*zuliebe*" (for), as well as nouns that receive suffixes such as *-s* or *-lich*, for example "*anfangs*" (at the beginning), "*gelegentlich*" (sometimes), etc. [9] categorize secondary prepositions into:

- a. Prepositions that share their word structure with other words. Despite their similar characteristics or forms, they are identifiable as prepositions based on their sentence structure. Examples of secondary prepositions include: *kraft, lang ausgenommen, nahe, dank, laut, entsprechend*, etc.
- b. Prepositions derived from other types of words, which are characterized with the suffix *-s* or *-lich*, for example. *längs, betreffs, mangels, mittels, namens, seitens, zwecks, dies-, abzüglich, einschließlich, hinsichtlich*, etc.
- c. Compound words consisting of preposition + noun without an article. These prepositions are derived from the combination of preposition and noun without article. The examples of prepositions of this kind are *aufgrund, anhand, anstatt/anstelle, inmitten, mithilfe, infolge, zufolge, zugunsten*. Some compound words are written in word groups: *mit Hilfe, an Stelle, von Seiten, auf Grund, zugunsten*.

- d. Word groups consisting of preposition + definite noun or without article these prepositions are the combination of a preposition and a definite noun or with- out article. The examples of prepositions of this type include *auf der Basis*, *auf Kosten*, *auf dem Wege*, *aus Anlass*, *aus Richtung*, *aus der Sicht*, *in Anbetracht*, *im Ergebnis*, *im Interesse*, *mit Ausnahme*, *mit dem Ziel*, *unter Beachtung*, *unter Einfluss*, *zum Nachteil*, *zum Preis*.

Most secondary prepositions in German are followed by genitive cases. Some prepositions, such as *dank*, *entsprechend*, *laut*, *nahe*, *zufolge*, *zuliebe*, are followed by dative cases, while others, such as *ausgenommen* and *lang*, take accusative cases.

1.3 Indonesian Prepositions

Prepositions are included in the closed class of words, meaning they are limited in number. Even though it is limited, its use sometimes causes difficulties. Prepositions are always followed by words/phrases, in contrast to conjunctions which are followed by clauses, especially unequal conjunctions [10]

Moreover, from a semantic perspective, prepositions indicate various types of relationships between the element that follows the preposition and the element that precedes it [17]. Take for example, in the phrase 'go to the market', the preposition that expresses the directional meaning the relationship between go and market. In the Linguistic Dictionary, a preposition is defined as a particle which in VO type languages is usually located in front of a noun and connects it with another word in an exocentric bond, for example in, to, from [11].

Kridalaksana [12] defines prepositions as categories that are located in front of other categories (especially nouns) so that directive exocentric phrases are formed. According to him, there are 3 types of prepositions, namely; (1) Basic prepositions, which as prepositions cannot undergo morphological processes; (2) derivative prepositions, which are divided into: (a) a combination of prepositions and prepositions, (b) a combination of prepositions and non-prepositions.

Prepositions that come from other categories, for example *lain*, *pada*, *tanpa* and so on. Including several prepositions that come from other classes that have the prefix *se*, for example *selain*, *sejak*, *selama*, *sepanjang*, *sebagaimana*, and so on. When viewed in terms of syntactic behavior, prepositions are in front of nouns, adjectives or adverbs so that prepositional phrases are formed such as *ke pasar*, *sampai penuh*, and *dengan segera*.

Prepositions serve to indicate the semantic relationship between the words or phrases that follow them and other elements in the sentence. Based on their function as markers of semantic relationships, prepositions can be categorized into twelve groups: 1) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'existence'; 2) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'origin'; 3) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'direction'; 4) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'tools'; 5) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'participants'; 6) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'way'; 7) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'designation'; 8) Prepositions that indicate the

semantic relationship of 'cause/reason'; 9) Prepositions that indicate the semantic relationship of 'comparison'; 10) Prepositions that indicate 'agentive' semantic relationships; 11) Prepositions that indicate other semantic relationships.

Different from German, Indonesian secondary prepositions or compound prepositions are divided into:

- a. Two-word prepositions, prepositions that consist of two words one after the other. For examples: *dari pada* 'instead', *oleh karena* 'because of', *sampai ke* 'until' *Kami berlari sampai ke tepi laut* 'We run off until the edge of the sea.
- b. Correlated prepositions, prepositions that consist of two elements used as a pair, but separated by another word or phrase. For examples: *antara ... dengan...* (between ... and ...), *dari ... hingga ...* (from ... until ...) and *dari ... ke ...* (from ... to ...). *Orang itu bekerja dari pagi hingga petang* 'The man works from morning until evening.'
- c. Prepositions and locative nouns, prepositions that can be combined with two nouns if the first noun is locative. For examples: *di atas meja* 'on the table', *ke dalam rumah* 'into the house'.

2 Methods

The research method employed in this study was descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative involves the collection of non-numerical data from sources such as documentation. This study aimed to provide a comprehensive description of the usage of German and Indonesian prepositions from a comparative perspective. The data used were from the novel "Herr der Diebe" and "Pangeran Pencuri." The researcher created a table to categorize sentences with prepositions, a process crucial in qualitative data analysis. Subsequently, the researcher parsed the prepositions in both German and Indonesian found in the data, examining the structure of word order. Finally, the data will be analysed by comparing the prepositions in German with their translations in Indonesian found in the data.

3 Results and Discussion

The discussion will be started with the description of frequency of the primarily prepositions equivalence in German and Indonesian.

Table 1. Frequency of the primarily prepositions equivalence in German and Indonesian.

Prepositions		Frequency
German	Indonesian	
in	<i>di, ke</i>	
an	<i>di, pada</i>	

nach	<i>ke, berdasarkan</i>	
auf	<i>di atas, (-)</i>	
aus	<i>dari, (-)</i>	
bei	<i>di, oleh, pada, (-)</i>	
mit	<i>dengan, bersama</i>	
seit	<i>sejak</i>	
von	<i>dari, oleh, (-)</i>	
zu	<i>ke, (-)</i>	
durch	<i>melalui</i>	
ohne	<i>tanpa</i>	
gegen	<i>melawan,(-)</i>	
für	<i>untuk, (-)</i>	
wegen	<i>karena, oleh</i>	
jenseits		
um	<i>(-)</i>	

Table 2. Description of Frequency of the primarily prepositions equivalence.

Preposition	Sentence	Explanation
auf	Die Einzigen, die gut geschlafen hatten, waren Bo und Mosca, der so lange friedlich auf seinem Wachtposten geschnarcht hatte, bis Riccio gekommen war, um ihn abzulösen. <i>Yang bisa tertidur pulas hanya Bo dan Mosca, mereka mengorok di pos jaga hingga Riccio harus menggantikan mereka.</i>	Preposition "auf" is translated as "di". The preposition "auf" functions as a locational marker in a sentence. Therefore, in the Indonesian version, the preposition "auf" is translated as "di".
	Wenn sie auf die Insel wollten, blieb ihnen wohl nichts anderes übrig <i>Jika mereka ingin sampai ke pulau itu, mereka mungkin tidak punya pilihan lain.</i>	The preposition "auf" corresponds to "ke" in Indonesian, which is a single preposition. In the given context, "auf" is used with the accusative case, indicating a movement process. As a result, the appropriate translation in Indonesian would be "ke."
	Erzähl das Scipio«, unterbrach Wespe ihn	Within this paragraph, the preposition "auf"

	ungeduldig und sah auf ihre Uhr. <i>“Katakan itu pada Scipio,” Wespe menyela tidak sabar dan memandang (-) jam tangannya.</i>	remains untranslated. Specifically, the preposition "auf" is used in an explanatory sentence describing the condition or situation being carried out by Wespe in the text. When literally translated into Indonesian, this results in a sentence structure like "... Wespe menyela tidak sabar dan memandang (-) jam tangannya." Due to the effectiveness of the sentence structure in the Indonesian version, the preposition "auf" is intentionally left untranslated.
in	Stimmt doch!« Riccios Stimme wurde schrill vor Wut. Tränen standen ihm in den Augen. <i>“Benar juga!” Suara Riccio makin sarat akan murka. Air mata menggenang di pelupuknya.</i>	Preposition "in" translates to "di". This preposition indicates a location and is followed by the dative case.
	Ihr müsst den Schnüffler nicht in den Kanal werfen, um hierbleiben zu können«, sagte er stockend. <i>“Kau tidak harus membuang si penyusup ke kanal demi tinggal disini,” jelasnya terbata.</i>	The preposition "in" can be translated into "ke." Prepositions typically indicate location or direction in a sentence, and they are followed by the accusative case.

4 Conclusion

Upon analyzing the findings, it can be concluded that variations in the translation of German prepositions into Indonesian result from differences in morphological and syntactic structures. For instance, the German preposition "in" can be translated into "di" and "ke" depending on the attached case, while "auf" can be translated into "di", "ke", and "pada". These diverse translation outcomes stem not only from the distinction between dative and accusative cases, but also from contextual adjustments in the translation process.

Acknowledgments. We are grateful to the Universitas Negeri Surabaya for providing financial support for our research. Their generous funding allowed us to conduct our study and complete our work. Finally, we would like to thank our family and friends for their love and support throughout the research process. Without their encouragement and support, we would not have been able to complete this research.

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