

The Analysis of Indonesian Transitive and Intransitive Verbs Found in the Translation of *Possum Magic - An Australian Classic* by BIPA Students of La Denpasar

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Abstract— Languages in the world have its own system, specifically in verbs classification. Indonesian has two classifications in verbs, transitive and intransitive verbs. It is similar to English that there are transitive and intransitive verbs. Therefore the translation of transitive and intransitive from English into Indonesian can be done. Thus, this research is designed to analyze the Indonesian transitive and intransitive found in the translation of an Australian classic entitled *Possum Magic* done by BIPA (Indonesian for Non-Native Speaker) students, the translation technique used by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs in the narrative text, and the problems faced by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs. The data focused on the translation of *Possum Magic- An Australian Classic* from English to Indonesian done by ten students of BIPA at La Denpasar BIPA School. The method of collecting the data in this research was direct observation method. There were two techniques used in collecting the data. The first is reading the English version of *Possum Magic - An Australian Classic* and the translation done by BIPA students. The second technique is choosing the sentences that represent the use of transitive and intransitive verbs in Indonesian. After the data collected, they were analyzed. The techniques of analyzing the data followed three steps. First, the categorization of the verbs classification was done. Then, the translation techniques used by BIPA students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs in the narrative text were identified. Last, the problems faced by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs were analyzed. The result of the research was shown that there were variations of the English transitive and intransitive verbs translation into Indonesian done by the students, those are the English transitive (ET) translated into Indonesian transitive (IT) verbs, English transitive (ET) translated into Indonesian intransitive (II), and English intransitive (EI) translated into Indonesian intransitive (II). There were two techniques used by the students to translate the transitive and intransitive verbs from English to Indonesian, they are literal technique and adaptation technique. Most of the translations were acceptable in Indonesian, but still there are some problems faced by the students in the process of translating the transitive and intransitive verbs. The problems found in this research were categorized as linguistic untranslatability that proposed by Catford (1965).

Keywords: *transitive verbs, intransitive verbs, translation, narrative text*

1. Introduction

Languages, syntactically, or perhaps semantically, are different from one another. As Bell argues that language are different from each other; they are different in form of having distinct codes and rules regulating the construction of grammatical stretches of language (1991:6). But some languages have similarity such as verbs classification in English and Indonesian. Both of them have transitive and intransitive verbs. According to Sneddon

(2000) transitive verb is a verb which occurs in a transitive clause. Transitive clause is a verbal clause which has an object and which contains a transitive verb. It is the opposite of the intransitive verbs. Intransitive verb is a verb which occurs in an intransitive clause (2000:xiii). Intransitive clause is a verbal clause which does not have an object and which contains an intransitive verb.

Because of their similarity in terms of verbs classification, the translation of transitive and intransitive verbs in English and Indonesian is possible to do. Translation could be defined as converting one language (Source Language) to another (Target Language) so that the target language could convey the intended message in source language. As Larson (1998) stated that in translation the form of the source language (SL) is replaced by the form of the receptor language (RL).

Considering the possibility of the translation of transitive and intransitive verbs in English and Indonesian, this research was attempted to; (1) examine how Indonesian transitive and intransitive verbs in the translation of *Possum Magic – An Australian Classic* are done by BIPA students, (2) identify which translation techniques are used by the students to translate the transitive and intransitive verbs in the narrative text, and (3) analyze the problems faced by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs. The data on this research was taken from an Australian classic entitled *Possum Magic*.

2. Research Methods

The methods in this research covered four points of discussion, namely research approach, the data source, method and technique of collecting data, and method and technique of analyzing data.

The technique of analyzing data in this research used qualitative approach. In qualitative research, inquirers employ theory as a broad explanation (Creswell, 2009). Some qualitative studies present descriptive research of the central phenomenon. Qualitative approach is used because it deals with explaining data descriptively. In addition, the goal of this research is examining the entity of the data and giving explanation verbally. For instance, the collected data classified according to the Indonesian verbs classifications, transitive or intransitive verbs.



The data in this study was taken from the BIPA (Indonesian for Non-Native Speaker) students' translation of English narrative text entitled *Possum Magic*. *Possum Magic* is an Australian classic written by Australian Author Mem Fox. It is about two main characters, they are Grandma Poss and Hush. Hush has been made invisible by Grandma to protect her from Australian bush dangers. The story details the duo's adventures as they tour across Australia searching for the magic food that will make Hush visible once more. The narrative text is in English and it was translated into Indonesian by ten BIPA students. The students are still studying Indonesian in BIPA school namely La Denpasar. It is located in Jl. Panglima Besar Sudirman, Kompleks Pertokoan Sudirman Agung, Blok A37, Dauh Puri Klod, West Denpasar-Bali. Ten students were chosen to translate the narrative text in order to examine the Indonesian transitive and intransitive found in their translations, to identify the translation technique used by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs in the narrative text, and to analyze the problems faced by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs. The ten students chosen were the students who have got Indonesian grammar subject in the class. In this case, their level is Intermediate Mid-Intermediate High (based on ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines).

Method and technique of collecting the data in this study deals with two things, the method and the technique. The data of this study is collected through qualitative observation method. Qualitative observations are those in which the researcher takes field notes on the behavior and activities of individuals at the research site (Creswell, 2009:181). It observes written material based on printed-out texts. It is observed directly through the BIPA students' translation. There were two techniques used in collecting the data. They are:

1. Reading. To read the English version of *Possum Magic - An Australian Classic* and the translation done by BIPA students.
2. Choosing. To choose the sentences represented the use of transitive and intransitive verbs in Indonesian.

After the data collected, they were analyzed. The data which analyzed also deals with the method and the technique. The method used in analyzing the data is descriptive qualitative method. Data analysis involves collecting open-ended data, based on asking



general questions and developing an analysis from the information supplied by participants (Creswell, 2009:184). The techniques of analyzing the data followed three steps.

1. Categorizing. The categorization of the verbs classification was done, whether it belongs to transitive or intransitive and why
2. Identifying. The translation techniques used by BIPA students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs in the narrative text were identified
3. Analyzing. The problems faced by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs were analyzed.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Indonesian Transitive and Intransitive Verbs Found in the Translation of *Possum Magic - An Australian Classic*

In this section, the translation of *Possum Magic* done by those ten students of BIPA at La Denpasar BIPA School is analysed. There are thirty data found in the students' translation, but there are only four data used as the representative data in this research. In each data the translation of transitive and intransitive verbs from English to Indonesian was analysed. Then the translation techniques used in translating those verbs were identified. Last, the problems faced by the students in translating the transitive and intransitive verbs were analysed.

- (1) Once upon a time, but not very long ago, deep in the Australian bush
Satu di atas waktu tapi tidak terlalu lama dalam di Australia semak-semak
'*Suatu hari, yang belum lama lewat, dua kus kus **hidup** di pedalaman hutan
lived two possums.
hidup-TRANSITIVE-VERB dua kus kus
Australia.*'

(Alexander Weber, 2017)

The verb *lived* in data 1 belongs to transitive verb in English. It is because the verb *lived* used with an object *two possums* that refers to the Australian bush that is affected by the action of the verb. However, it is translated into intransitive in Indonesian. It becomes *hidup*. The verb *hidup* is followed by preposition *di* which is a sign of intransitive. Also, there is no object or patient following the verb. This translation is acceptable since it succeeds to get the closest natural equivalent in the target language, although the translator changes the sentence



structure. In this case is changing the English transitive verb into Indonesian intransitive verb. The word *lived* in the data 1 is translated into *hidup*. The translation technique used in this translation is literal translation. It is because it considered as word per word translation. The translator did not get any problems in translating the verbs since his translation is acceptable in the target language. Based on London Institute of Linguistic (in Hasnawi, 2003), this is happened because the translator has practical experience in translating from related fields which is beneficial in avoiding the problems.

- (2) All night long Grandma Poss **thought** and **thought**.
Semua malam panjang Nenek Poss berpikir –INTRANSITIVE dan berpikir -
INTRANSITIVE
'*Sepanjang malam Nenek Poss berpikir-pikir.*'

(Javier Bustos, 2017)

The verb *thought* in data 2 is not followed by an object, so that it belongs to intransitive verb in English. It is translated into intransitive in Indonesian, *berpikir-pikir*. *Berpikir-pikir* is intransitive verb with prefix *ber-* and has base reduplication. The verb *berpikir-pikir* does not have an object or patient, so it categorized as intransitive verb in Indonesian. The translator used the translation technique of adaptation in translating verb. Based on Molina and Albir (2000), he replaced the source language cultural element with one from the target culture. In English culture the verb *thought and thought* means to act completely in thinking of something. It is translated into *berpikir-pikir* which has *ber-* base reduplication form in Indonesian. In Indonesian, *ber-* base reduplication means a manner of action or circumstances to form verbs which mean totally under the influence of the conditions which exist. It has similar concept both in source language and target language, so that the translation is acceptable due to adaptation technique. The translator did not get any problems in translating the verbs since his translation is acceptable in the target language. Based on London Institute of Linguistic (in Hasnawi, 2003), this is happened because the translator has practical experience in translating from related fields which is beneficial in avoiding the problems.

- (3) "It's worked! It's worked!" she **cried**.
Itu berhasil itu berhasil dia berteriak-INTRANSITIVE
'*Berhasil! Berhasil!" diteriaki oleh dia.*'

(Christian Colbert, 2017)



The verb *cried* in data 3 doesn't have an object. It categorized as intransitive verb in English. However, the translator translated the verb *cried* into *diteriaki* in Indonesian, which belongs to transitive verb with affix *di-...-I*. Verb with affix *di-...-I* in Indonesian mostly categorized as transitive verb, because it is followed by an object or a patient. In his translation the structure is passive, which followed by agent *dia*. Yet, this translation is not acceptable in the target language, because the translator fails to transfer the same concept from the source language to the target language. The better translation for the data 3 is '*Berhasil! Berhasil!*' *teriaknya. Teriaknya* has the same concept with *she cried*. The translator used the literal technique, because it is word per word translation, but he fails to present the translatability of the verb. The inability of the translator in presenting the linguistic translatability of the verb is also called as linguistic untranslatability. According to London Institute of Linguistics, it is caused by the translator doesn't have a sense of discrimination in order to decide the most suitable equivalent term from the literature of the field or from dictionaries.

- (4) They both **danced** "Here We Go Round the Lamington Plate"
Mereka berdua menarikan-TRANSITIVE disini kita pergi keliling Lamington piring
'Mereka berdua **bernari** "Here We Go Round the Lamington Plate" sampai pagi.'
till early in the morning.
sampai awal di pagi

(Grant Weber, 2017)

The verb *danced* in data 4 belongs to transitive verb in English. It is because the verb *danced* used with an object *Here We Go Round the Lamington Plate* which is a song title that refers to the word *they* (Grandma Poss and Hush) that is affected by the action of the verb. However, it is translated into intransitive with prefix *ber-* in Indonesian. It becomes *bernari*. Yet, it has object or patient following the verb that is the song title *Here We Go Round the Lamington Plate*. This translation is not acceptable in the target language because the translator fails to transfer the same concept from the source language to the target language. The better translation for the data 4 is '*Mereka berdua menarikan lagu Here We Go Round the Lamington Plate sampai pagi.*' *Menarikan* has the same concept with *danced*, because they both are transitive verbs. The translator used the literal technique, because it is word per word translation, but he fails to present the translatability of the verb. The inability of the translator in



presenting the concept in the target language in this data belongs to linguistic untranslatability. According to London Institute of Linguistics, it is caused by the translator who hasn't wide knowledge of the subject matter of the source language text.

4. Novelties

It is found an empirical novelty in this research. It contributes to the development of the translation studies in applied linguistics. The empirical novelty found in this research is the new variation of transitive and intransitive translation from English into Indonesian. The new variation is English transitive (ET) translated into Indonesian intransitive (II). This translation is acceptable since it succeeds to get the closest natural equivalent in the target language, although the translator changes the sentence structure. This statement was supported by the theory from Nida and Taber (1982) whose stated that translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. The texts in different languages can be equivalent in different degree in respect of context, semantics, grammar, lexis, etc. In addition, the equivalence occurred at different ranks. Based on London Institute of Linguistic (in Hasnawi, 2003), this is happened because the translator has practical experience in translating from related fields which is beneficial in avoiding the problems.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

The result of the research was shown that there were variations of the English transitive and intransitive verbs translation into Indonesian done by the students, those are the English transitive (ET) translated into Indonesian transitive (IT) verbs, English transitive (ET) translated into Indonesian intransitive (II), and English intransitive (EI) translated into Indonesian intransitive (II). There were two techniques used by the students to translate the transitive and intransitive verbs from English to Indonesian, they are literal technique and adaptation technique. Most of the translations were acceptable in Indonesian, but still there are some problems faced by the students in the process of translating the transitive and intransitive verbs. The problems found in this research were categorized as linguistic



untranslatability that proposed by Catford (1965). Based on London Institute of Linguistic (in Hasnawi, 2003), this is happened because the translator doesn't have a sense of discrimination in order to decide the most suitable equivalent term from the literature of the field or from dictionaries and by the translator who hasn't wide knowledge of the subject matter of the source language text. Also in order to present the acceptable translation it is suggested that translator does practical experience in translating from related fields which is beneficial in avoiding the problems.

5.2 Recommendation

Translations give contribution in enriching the natural equivalent meaning of a certain language. The translations process may lead to the obstacle. This study is only concerned with translation of English fable entitled *Possum Magic- An Australian Classic* into Indonesian. According to the result of analysis of this study, it may consider that this study should be continued by the researcher in the future, since the Indonesian transitive and intransitive verbs form are rich in many details and variations to analyze. The results of other researches can also contribute to the development of linguistics in general and translation studies in particular.

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