

**THE ANALYSIS OF ERRORS MADE BY THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS  
OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IN TRANSLATING NARRATIVE TEXT**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain*

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## ABSTRACT

**Adelia, Vioksana Bonita (2020). “The Analysis of Errors Made by the Third Year Students of English Department in Translating Narrative Text”. Thesis: Padang: English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

This study aims at finding out the errors made by the third year English Department students of Universitas Negeri Padang in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia. This study used a descriptive method. The data were the translation of the narrative text entitled Snow White done by the third year English Department students of Universitas Negeri Padang. The data were collected using a test and were analyzed using the error analysis. The results of the study indicate semantic error is the error frequently committed by the students in their translation with the frequency of 72 times (59%). Pragmatic error (29%) is the second most frequent error, while morphological error and syntactical error are seldom found in the students' translation. In conclusion, the errors made by the students are mainly motivated by their tendency to follow the meaning of the dictionary (word for word translation).

**Key words:** *Translation, Error in translation, Linguistics errors, Narrative translation*

## ABSTRAK

**Adelia, Vioksana Bonita (2020). “The Analysis of Errors Made by the Third Year Students of English Department in Translating Narrative Text”. Tesis: Padang: Jurusan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kesalahan yang dilakukan oleh mahasiswa Jurusan Bahasa Inggris tahun ketiga Universitas Negeri Padang dalam menerjemahkan teks naratif dari bahasa Inggris ke bahasa Indonesia. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif. Data tersebut merupakan hasil terjemahan teks naratif berjudul Putri Salju yang dikerjakan oleh mahasiswa Jurusan Bahasa Inggris tahun ketiga Universitas Negeri Padang. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan tes dan dianalisis menggunakan analisis kesalahan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan kesalahan semantik merupakan kesalahan yang sering dilakukan siswa dalam menerjemahkan dengan frekuensi sebanyak 72 kali (59%). Kesalahan pragmatis (29%) adalah kesalahan kedua yang paling sering terjadi, sedangkan kesalahan morfologi dan kesalahan sintaksis jarang ditemukan dalam terjemahan siswa. Kesimpulannya, kesalahan yang dilakukan siswa terutama dimotivasi oleh kecenderungan mereka untuk mengikuti arti kamus (terjemahan kata demi kata).

**Kata kunci:** *Terjemahan, Kesalahan dalam terjemahan, Kesalahan linguistik, Terjemahan naratif*


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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

**SL:** Source Language

**TL:** Target Language

**ST:** Source Text

**TT:** Target Text

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background of the Problem.**

Translation is the activity of reproducing a text in another different language. It has an important role not only in transferring information across different languages but also in transferring the communication and culture between individuals, groups, different communities, nations and countries. This activity is used to convey an idea or topic with the same meaning or the closest meaning that approaches in both languages. This is in line with Hatim (2004: 122) who says that translation is a type of activity which naturally involves two languages and two cultural traditions.

English has an important role in the world that bears the title as an international language related to its function. In this era, the latest information or inventions in the world of education, business, technology and etc tend to be served in English. This is where translation plays a very big role as a link between English to other languages. Therefore, a student translator who already takes translation course should have comprehends both the source language (SL) and target language (TL).

However, in transferring the same meaning into the TL, a number of difficulties may be found which leads to an error. The term “error” is a mistake in scientifically speaking which is unsystematically performance (Goff-Kfour, 2004). An error reflects a gap in translator’s knowledge. Also, it is about the function of target text (TT) to fulfill the expectation of the TL reader. Moreover,

the purpose of a functional concept of errors that occur in translation becomes the response to the concept of any distortion of the equivalence.

There are various cases influence translation errors. In general, it usually motivated by cultural differences. In this case, it refers to the existence of language interference. According to Dulay, Burt and Krashen (1982), interference is a habit which becomes into an automatic transfer of the surface structure in the first language to the target language. It shows that language interference exists when somebody, especially foreign language learners, still use their culture while learning another culture.

Numerous studies have addressed the analysis of translation errors in the different field. Some studies analyzed errors in the translation of tourism brochure, public sign, and the structure of language itself. For instance, in tourism, Merino(2014) analyzed errors in Chilean tourist text translations. The main focus of this research is to describe and explain the translation errors present in Chilean tourist texts such as in menu, notice, brochure, and others. Guo (2012) analyzed the English translation errors of public signs. Mwendu (2017) analyzed focused on analyzing error translation in translating telecommunication electronic information from English into Kiswahili. Also, Mazni (2016) focused on error analysis in translating song lyric from bahasa Indonesia into English at the tenth grade students of SMA Negeri 4 in Tanjungpinang.

However, from the explanation above, it can be seen that there is no error translation research that pertains to the narrative text yet. In addition, some researchers discuss more about translation errors that occur in professional translators rather than the analysis of translation errors in student translators

which is still minimal. The students of English Department who take translation course must be able to comprehend English by translating properly. The more students make errors in translation, the worse their translation product will be (Na Pham, 2005). In an attempt to realize how the reality of the ability of student translators, this research is conducted to analyze the existence of translation errors committed by the students of English Department who become translators in the future. Then, the reason why the researcher chooses the third year students of English Department is because they have studied the translation course at that stage.

The researcher chooses narrative text because it is one of the important texts that are often found in educational institutions and in daily life. Films, novels and others are forms of the development of a narrative text.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Translation product can be studied through several different points of view. First, it can be studied based on the technique used by translators in introducing a translated text. Second, it can be studied based on the translation shift used in the target text. Third, the study may focus on the quality of the target text. Fourth, the study can also focus on the errors in the translation. Error in translation is the problem that is going to be identified in this research.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

The problem of this research is limited to the translation error. The writer analyzes the errors translation found in student English Department by

transferring the meaning of a narrative text from English as the source language into Indonesia as the target language.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem, the problem of this research is formulated into the following question: “What are the linguistic errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia?”

#### **1.5 Research Questions**

The problem that has been formulated is elaborated into the following research questions:

1. What are the semantic errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia?
2. What are the pragmatic errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia?
3. What are the morphological errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia?
4. What are the syntactical errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia?

## **1.6 Purposes of the Research**

Based on the research questions above, this study aims at:

1. Finding out the semantic errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia
2. Finding out the pragmatic errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia
3. Finding out the morphological errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia
4. Finding out the syntactical errors made by the third year students of English Department in translating a narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia

## **1.7 Significance of the Research**

The results of this research are expected to be able to present necessary information about the existence of language interference or errors in translation. These errors will become lessons that contribute to linguistics field theoretically and practically in studies of translation.

## **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

- Translation: Find out the most equivalent and the closest meaning from source language (SL) to target language (Target Language).
- Error translation: Inaccurate decision in translation made by student translation.
- Student translators: The students of English Department who takes translation as their elective course.
- Language interference: The changes in a language due to the influence of other languages.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

Based on the data which has been analyzed, some conclusions are drawn as the following:

There are four types of linguistic error that is analyzed in the error translation in narrative text from English into bahasa Indonesia. There are semantic, pragmatic, morphological and syntactical errors. The data analysis showed that the total of the data which contain translation errors are 122 data. There are 72 semantic errors, 36 pragmatic errors, 7 morphological errors, and 7 syntactical errors.

Semantic error is a type of linguistic error that is mostly found in this study. This is because the results of the student translators tend to follow the meaning of the dictionary (word for word translation). Meanwhile, one word in the dictionary can produce several meanings. In semantic, a word will be meaningful depends on the other words in a phrase, clause or sentence which fits the context. There are many translation results of student translators that match the meaning in the dictionary but do not match the meaning to be conveyed in the source text.

On the other hand, there is little morphological and syntactical error were found in this study. One of the reasons is because student translators translate text from foreign language (English) into their mother tongue (bahasa Indonesia). When there are few errors in morphological and syntactical error found, it indicates that the student translators have a proper knowledge in word choice and structure of

the mother tongue. Moreover, narrative text has unlimited word choices because it contains few culture terms such as idioms.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

After conducting this research, the researcher suggests, as follows:

### 1. To the other researcher

This research analyzed translation error in narrative text. For other researchers who want to conduct the study about translation error, it will be better to choose another type of text.

### 2. To the student translator

It is very important for the student translator to be more careful in translating a text and pay attention to the linguistic error. Moreover, in translation studies addition and omission techniques are needed so that ST and TT are equivalent. However, when addition, reduction and omission of meaning can cause ST and TT not equivalence, so that indicates an error. The student translators have to be careful in adding/omitting/reduction of meaning of the Source Language into the Target Language because the grammatical between the two languages are different. They have to consider the grammatical structure of both languages which are related to the process of translation.

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