

**AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION QUALITY AND CHALLENGES
FACED BY ENGLISH STUDENTS OF UNP IN TRANSLATING
ENGLISH-INDONESIAN ONOMATOPOEIA**

THESIS

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Bachelor of
Education (B.Ed) in English Language Education*



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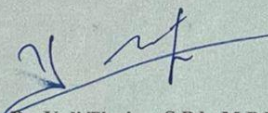
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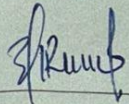
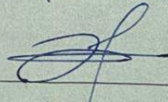
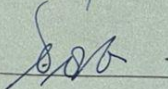
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ABSTRACT

Syukrina, Dinda (2025). *An Analysis of Translation Quality and Challenges Faced by English Students of UNP in Translating English-Indonesian Onomatopoeia*. Thesis, English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Language and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang

This study aims to analyze the translation quality and challenges faced by English Department students at Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP) in translating onomatopoeia from English into Indonesian. The research focuses on two key aspects of translation quality: accuracy and acceptability, as well as the common challenges encountered during the translation process. A descriptive qualitative method was used, employing a translation test and a questionnaire as instruments, with 20 students from the 2022 Translation class serving as participants. The findings show that the students' translations were generally categorized as less accurate and less acceptable. The study also revealed several key challenges, including subjectivity in interpretation, phonological differences, and differences in register and style between the source and target languages. These results suggest that translating onomatopoeia requires not only linguistic competence but also cultural awareness and creative strategy use. The study is expected to contribute to improving translation pedagogy and serve as a reference for future research focusing on translation strategies for onomatopoeia.

Key word: *Onomatopoeia, translation, accuracy, acceptability, challenges, UNP students*

ABSTRAK

Syukrina, Dinda (2025). *An Analysis of Translation Quality and Challenges Faced by English Students of UNP in Translating English-Indonesian Onomatopoeia*. Skripsi, Program Studi Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kualitas penerjemahan dan tantangan yang dihadapi oleh mahasiswa Jurusan Bahasa Inggris Universitas Negeri Padang (UNP) dalam menerjemahkan onomatope dari Bahasa Inggris ke Bahasa Indonesia. Penelitian ini berfokus pada dua aspek kunci kualitas penerjemahan: akurasi dan akseptabilitas, serta tantangan umum yang dihadapi selama proses penerjemahan. Metode kualitatif deskriptif digunakan, menggunakan tes penerjemahan dan kuesioner sebagai instrumen, dengan 20 mahasiswa dari kelas Penerjemahan angkatan 2022 sebagai partisipan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa terjemahan mahasiswa secara umum dikategorikan kurang akurat dan kurang dapat diterima. Penelitian ini juga mengungkapkan beberapa tantangan utama, termasuk subjektivitas dalam interpretasi, perbedaan fonologis, dan perbedaan register dan gaya bahasa antara bahasa sumber dan bahasa target. Hasil ini menunjukkan bahwa menerjemahkan onomatope tidak hanya membutuhkan kompetensi linguistik tetapi juga kesadaran budaya dan penggunaan strategi kreatif. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat berkontribusi untuk meningkatkan pedagogi penerjemahan dan menjadi referensi untuk penelitian mendatang yang berfokus pada strategi penerjemahan untuk onomatope.

Kata kunci: Onomatope, penerjemahan, akurasi, akseptabilitas, tantangan, mahasiswa UNP

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Translation is the creation of a text intended for a specific audience and purpose in a target language, derived from an original source text (Pym, 2010). Translation can consist of translating words, sentences, texts, songs, movie and even literary works such as poetry, novels, comics, et cetera. Translation is more than just word-for-word replacement; it focuses on preserving the intended meaning in the target language. Of course, skills are needed in translating one language into another so that there is no deviation in meaning.

Translation is an essential skill in learning English and taught as part of the curriculum for English department students in universities across the world. It cannot be separated from English lecture material because helps them develop their language abilities and prepares them for future opportunities. In English education, one of the items that must be understood by students is translation quality. It is because students must learn not only how to translate but also how well a translation conveys meaning to prepare them to be able to become a good translator.

According to Nababan et al., (2012), translation quality is determined by how the accuracy of the content, appropriate with the target language's rules, and easy to understand by target reader. Understanding this can equip students with the ability to critically evaluate their own and others' work, encouraging them to consider whether the message, tone, and intent of the original text are expressed

effectively and naturally in the target language. Developing this awareness also helps students avoid common translation errors, which are not only faithful to the source but also function smoothly and meaningfully in the target culture. In the translation process, there are sometimes challenges because there is not always a direct equivalent in the target language, and often cultural or contextual such as translating onomatopoeia.

Onomatopoeia, defined as words that imitate natural sounds (Yule, 2006), presents unique challenges in translation due to its strong connection to sensory experience and cultural interpretation. Onomatopoeia has an active, rhythmic, and musical nature, so it also plays a role as a stylistic or poetic element. Onomatopoeia can make readers imagine and feel the sound of the word being expressed. Therefore, it is natural that onomatopoeia often appears in various contexts and genres of text, including literary works (Casas-Tost, 2012). Accuracy, acceptability and readability had close relationship and affected one another on translating onomatopoeia and it used to measure the quality of translation. According to House (1997), the accuracy is not just about word-for-word, but also how the function and communicative purpose of the text are translated. Further, acceptability indicates how well a translation fits the habits and expectations of readers in the target language (House, 2015). Moreover, readability depends on how well the translator adapts the text to the target audience's expectations and knowledge (Sperber & Wilson, 1986; Gutt, 1991).

Translation of onomatopoeia requires a deep understanding of the phonetic and cultural context, making it more complex than simple lexical substitution.

Rosalina (2009) stated that the fundamental differences in onomatopoeic structure between Indonesian and English cause the translation results to be dissimilar. It shows that translating English onomatopoeia can cause some problems for students of English department at university in Indonesia. Indonesian has unique phonetic and cultural characteristics, which pose unique challenges when translating English onomatopoeia.

According to Flyxe (2002), onomatopoeia can be a challenge in interlanguage communication, including for language learners and translators, because onomatopoeia is closely related to sensory experience and conveys meanings that are not clear. For example, the onomatopoeic Indonesian word "kring" (the sound of a telephone ringing) may not evoke the same acoustic and cultural associations when translated directly into English. This differences highlight the complexity of the two languages and the importance of understanding the creative strategies required to convey the same sensory and emotional impact. Soemarno (1988) said that if a translator encounters a word or term that is related to socio-culture in the source language text, and the word or term does not exist in the cultural context of the target language, then he must determine whether to look for the closest equivalent or use the original term with annotations. Those are the things that make a distinct challenge for students learning English as a foreign language, especially in translating onomatopoeia.

There is no doubt that there are a lot of research on onomatopoeia. Fazlaini et al., (2020) state that the study of onomatopoeia translations in cross-language literature presents an intriguing area of exploration within the field of linguistics.

The variation of using onomatopoeia in every culture has prompted researchers to conduct research on this in order to find out how onomatopoeia is used in cross-cultural storybooks around the world. A study conducted by Kho et al., (2023) shows that translators often use equivalence techniques to maintain similar sound effects in Indonesian, but there are still problems such as typos, loss of original sounds, or inappropriate expressions which can reduce the impression of the story for the reader. According to Hadi (2013), onomatopoeia is viewed as different cultural language icon. Another research by Bredin (2007), shows that there are three types of onomatopoeia, such as direct onomatopoeia, associative onomatopoeia, and exemplary onomatopoeia. Azari & Sharififar (2017) also state in their research that there are 5 strategies to investigate translation of onomatopoeia; (a) translation using another type of word other than onomatopoeia (non-onomatopoeic word), (b) translation using onomatopoeia, (c) translation using paraphrases, (d) no translation (omission), and (e) translation using loan word with or without explanation.

From previous studies, most researchers examine onomatopoeia among professional translators or focus on the elements of onomatopoeia itself, such as strategies, variations and types. That is why the researcher takes onomatopoeia research in an academic scope by researching translation quality and the challenges faced by students when translating onomatopoeia. In this research, the author intended to find out the quality of translation and explore the challenges faced by students, by involving the English Students of UNP. This research will use translating test that be collected and also questionnaire to analyzed specific patterns

and issues. This research aims to providing valuable insights into the cognitive processes and practical difficulties involved in translating onomatopoeic expressions.

In conclusion, the analysis of translation quality and challenges faced by English Students of UNP in translating English onomatopoeia will make a significant contribution to the field of translation studies and language education. Thus, this research may provide practical implications for educators and curriculum developers, empowering students with linguistic skills and greater cultural appreciation.

B. Identification of the Problems

Numerous researchers have explored about the variations, types and strategies in onomatopoeia as described in the background of the problem above. Onomatopoeia is found in all languages and is constantly changing based on the objects and things found or used making it have many variations. Based on the results of previous research and case studies, there are various strategies in translating onomatopoeia. The quality of translation is also used in translating onomatopoeia to measure the quality of translation. However, the researcher found that the translation quality in translating onomatopoeia in an academic scope had not received much attention. Further, the challenges in translating onomatopoeia are also not discussed that much in previous studies. So, the writer was interested in undertaking a study with two main goals; analyzing the translation quality and identifying the challenges faced by students when translating onomatopoeia.

C. Limitation of the Research

In this research, the writer especially focused on analyzing the students' translation quality and identifying the challenges faced by English Students of UNP in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia. However, in researching translation quality, the author only focuses on accuracy and acceptability and readability is not used or eliminated because onomatopoeia is only in the form of words or short phrases, so it will not make the reader dizzy to read it or make it not readable to read. The study involved English Students of UNP batch 2022.

D. Formulation of the Problems

The problem of this study can be formulated as follows “how is the quality of translation and what are the challenges that students faced when translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia”

E. Research Question

Based on the formulation above, the researcher questions could be state as follow:

1. How is the translation accuracy of English students of UNP in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia?
2. How is the translation acceptability of English students of UNP in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia?
3. What are the challenges faced by English Students of UNP when translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia?

F. Purpose of the Research

The purposes of this study are:

1. To find out the translation accuracy of students in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia
2. To find out the translation acceptability of students in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia
3. To identify the challenges faced by students when translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia.

G. Significance of the Research

This research is important to add valuable insights for English Student in UNP and help educators and curriculum developers improve teaching strategies for teaching onomatopoeia translation, thereby improving students' proficiency in this field. In addition, this research will ultimately provide a better understanding of the cognitive and cultural barriers involved in translating sounds and expressions that do not have direct equivalents in the target language. By focusing on these issues, this research can also serve as a foundation for further research, which will ultimately help improve the knowledge of translation science that has linguistic elements and cultural nuances such as onomatopoeia.

H. Definition of The Key Term

It is important for the researcher to make clear the terms used in this paper as these followings:

- 1) Translation refers to the process of conveying the meaning and content of a text or material from a source language into a target language.
- 2) Translation quality refers to how accurately and appropriately a translated text conveys the meaning of the original text.
- 3) Accuracy refers to the extent to which the translator successfully conveys the meaning of the source text into the target language accurately.
- 4) Acceptability is related to the extent to which the translation results are in line with language rules and cultural customs in the target language.
- 5) Onomatopoeia is when a word sounds exactly like the sound it describes. For example, words like "buzz" (for a bee), "bang" (for an explosion), and "meow" (for a cat) imitate actual sounds. These words bring the description to life and are often used in stories, comics, and conversation.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

According to this research, the result showed that the level of accuracy and acceptability of students in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia are at the level less accurate and less acceptable. This means that students have quite good abilities in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia. This research also showed that when doing onomatopoeia translation, there is some of challenges that students faced. The most challenges are subjectivity in interpretation, phonological differences, and differences in register and style.

It can be concluded that translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia of translation class is relative fair even though there are still lots of lack and minus in each aspect. The accuracy and acceptability are quite good, making the quality of the translations of UNP translation student batch 2022 considered good enough. So, students must learn more about onomatopoeia so that in the future they can translate onomatopoeia accurately. Furthermore, to overcome the challenges that have been described previously such as subjectivity in interpretation, phonological differences, and differences in register and style, students need to truly understand the meaning and function of onomatopoeia in the original sentence, then find an equivalent in Indonesian that has a similar sound or meaning. If there is no direct equivalent, they can use words that explain the meaning of the onomatopoeia. Furthermore, the translation must be adapted to the language style and formality of the text to ensure

it still sounds natural to the reader. Therefore, students must be flexible and creative so that their translations remain understandable and acceptable to the reader.

B. Suggestion

The researcher provides some of suggestions related to this research:

1. For students

In translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia, students are advised to improve their understanding of context, language variety, and phonology, as well as to practice creativity and self-evaluation in order to translate onomatopoeia more accurately and acceptably.

2. Other researchers

For other researchers, it is recommended to conduct research on students' translation strategies in translating English-Indonesian onomatopoeia.

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