

## Syntactic and Semantic Error Analysis of Indonesian-English Translation in Purwakarta Tourism Booklet

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**Abstract.** Translating information from the source language to the target language is quite complicated. Translator sometimes made errors while translating phrases, clauses, or sentences. This study aimed to analyze syntactic and semantic errors found in Purwakarta Tourism Booklet. This study used descriptive qualitative research. The information in the booklets were identified, classified, described, and evaluated by comparing the source language and target language. This research use translation problems proposed by Napu and Pakaya(2021). The researcher is limited the focus of analsis because the researcher wants to make it more specific in linguistic category particularly in syntactic and semantic problems. The researcher found 82 errors which indicates as syntactic and semantic category. There are 42 semantic errors (51.21%) and 40 syntactic errors (48.78%). Each category was classified into four subcategories. The semantic category raised 29 lexical choice errors (69.04%), 4 idiomatic expression errors (9.52%), 5 stylistic problems (11.90%), and 4 missing translations (9.52%). On other hand, the syntactic category raised 16 word form errors(40%), followed by word order with 13 errors (32.5%), 7 misuse of grammatical items (17.5%), and 4 ommision of grammatical items (10%). Based on the results, the researcher found that the most common errors found in Purwakarta Tourism booklet is semantic category at lexical choices level and followed by syntactic category at word form problems level.

**Keywords :** Syntactic, Semantic, Error Analysis, Translation, Tourism

### Introduction

The way of transferring information from one language to another language can be called as translation. translating information from the source language to the target language is quite complicated. According to Larson (1984), translation is studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine its meaning, and then reconstructing this same meaning using the lexicon and language and its cultural context.

It can be said that translation is complex study which deals with several courses. The translator must be able to catch the idea of original work and translated naturally to the target language. Nida (1964) has argued that the translator should also have intimate acquaintance, have complete knowledge about source language and target language, have an intimate acquaintance with the subject matter and have complete knowledge of translation theory. When the translator does not have complete knowledge about source language and target language, the translation work will raise many errors.

Furthermore this research aims to analyze Error analysis of Indonesian-English translation in Purwakarta Tourism Booklet. Purwakarta tourism booklet is a booklet that consisted of tourism information in Purwakarta Regency. There is a lot of errors found in Purwakarta Tourism Booklet. It happened because there are several items in source language written in Sundanese . Thus, It is difficult to translate naturally into the target language.

The way of improving the errors is analyzing the text using error analysis. In establishing an error analysis, the differences of errors and mistakes should be understood. Error can be defined as problematic issue at the level of both spoken and written discourse and both are tending to misunderstanding. Corder defined errors as “deviant forms which cannot be self-corrected because the learner is not familiar with the rule, while mistakes as performance errors that can be repaired by learners themselves when incorrect forms are pointed out to them by the teacher or a more proficient language user”.

Error analysis is defined as a set of procedures to identify, describe and explain the errors found in written or spoken information. James stated that error analysis refers to the study of

linguistic ignorance, the investigation of what people do not know and how they attempt to cope with their ignorance (2001, p.62).

Some scholars have been proposed the classification of errors. According to Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (in James, 1998), errors can be divided into four classification, they are linguistic category classification, the surface structure taxonomy, comparative taxonomy and communicative Effect taxonomy

#### **Linguistic Category Taxonomy**

This category specifies in terms of linguistics. It indicates the level of language errors that happen in syntax and morphology (grammar), semantic and lexicon (meaning and vocabulary), phonology (Pronunciation), discourse (Style). (Dulay et al., 1982).

#### **Surface Structure Taxonomy (SST)**

There are four kinds of the category; omission, addition, misformation, and misordering.

- 1) Omission  
An omission is the absence of an element that must appear in a well-formed utterance. For example: "Where you go to school?". The sentence should be "Where do you go to school".
  - 2) Addition  
Addition means the presence of an element that must not appear in a well-formed utterance. For example, the learner produces the sentence "they are play piano.". This sentence should be "they play piano". The word "are" should not be added to the sentence, because the correct form of simple present do not required auxiliary verb.
  - 3) Misformation  
Misformation is the use of the wrong form of the morpheme or structure. For example, "She is an administrative at her office". It should be "She is an administrator at her office".
  - 4) Misordering  
Misordering is the incorrect placement of a morpheme or group of morpheme in an utterance. For instance, "how the event was?". This sentence should be "how was the event?".
- a. Comparative Taxonomy  
This classification is based on the comparison between the structure of second language errors and certain other types of construction. (Dulay et al., 1982).
  - b. Communicative Effect Taxonomy  
This type is based on the perspective of their effect on the listener or reader. It deals much with distinguishing between errors that seem to cause miscommunication and those that do not. (Dulay et al., 1982).

Other classifications of errors have been proposed by Napu and Pakaya (2021). They divides the translation problems into linguistic category and non-linguistic category. Linguistic category classifies into syntactic problems and semantic problem. While, non linguistic can be called as miscellaneous problems.

#### **Syntactic Problems**

Syntactic problems in the translation are deviation at the level of structures of the target language norms as the results from the insufficient translation competence. The category is divided into four subcategories, they are omission of grammatical items, word form problems, word order problems, and misuse of grammatical items. (Napu & Pakaya, 2021)

#### **Semantic Problems**

Semantic problem is concerned with word meaning; it may involve lexical choices and translations of idiomatic expressions that lead to the unclear meaning in the text. The category is classified into four subcategories, they are lexical choices, idiomatic expression, stylistic problems, and missing translation/untranslated phrases.

#### **Miscellaneous Problems.**

There is also other translation problems that could not be categorized into either syntactic or semantic problems. Therefore, these problems are categorized as miscellaneous problems.

The problems consist of some subcategories those are repetition of information or words, punctuation, spelling, and translator intervention.

### Method

This research employed a descriptive qualitative research, and the data were presented with a content analysis method. A descriptive research is a research design in which the researcher collects, arranges and interprets the data to solve the problems (Surakhamad, 1985, p. 139). Sarwono stated that Qualitative research brings the researcher blend with object research, the purpose of this way is the researcher can understand the phenomenon that they studied (2006, p. 193). The object of this research was a tourism booklet created and published by Purwakarta tourism office. This bookle is written in Indonesian-English language. It consists of 11 tourism information both in Indonesian and English language. The data of this study were in the form of word, phrase, clause or sentence errors found in the booklet. These data then were compared between Indonesian (SL) and English (TL).

### Result and Discussion

#### Result

The researcher analyzed the errors based on linguistic category classification proposed by Napu and Pakaya (2021). They are syntactic problems (grammar) and semantic problems (meaning and vocabulary). The category of syntactic problems is classified into four subcategories. They are omission of grammatical items, Word form problems, word order, and misuse of grammatical items. The researcher elaborates the errors as follows:

#### Ommision of Grammatical Items

Datum Number 61

- SL : Perpaduan arsip sejarah, seni, dan teknologi digital bertujuan agar mempelajari sejarah lebih mudah untuk dipahami, sebab **kalau hanya dalam bentuk teks saja** biasanya sulit dipahami dan terkesan membosankan. Selain itu pengunjung bisa berkeliling kota Purwakarta menggunakan sepeda dengan media virtual.
- TL : The combination of historical archives, art, and digital technology aims to make history easier to understand, because **if it only in the form of text** it's usually difficult to understand and seem boring, besides that the visitors can travel around Purwakarta using bicycles with virtual media.
- PT : The combination of historical archives, art, and digital technology aims to make history easier to understand, because **if it [is] only in the form of text** it's usually difficult to understand and seem boring, besides that the visitors can travel around Purwakarta using bicycles with virtual media.

The form of the sentences above is still incomplete. After a subject and before a preposition, it must be an auxiliary verb. Auxiliary verb consist of three items such as "am", "is", and "are". The appropriate verb to use to complete the phrase is auxiliary verb. The word "is" can be used to complete the phrases. Then, the phrases become "If it [is] only in the form of text".

#### Word Form Problem

Datum number 3

- SL : Beragam pilihan destinasi wisata tersebar diberbagai titik kota hingga ke pelosok desa, dengan semakin berkembangnya destinasi wisata di Purwakarta maka kunjungan wisata pun setiap tahunnya **meningkat.**

- TL : Various choices of tourism destinations spread in various points of the city to the villages, with the development of tourism destinations in Purwakarta so the visitors **have been increased** every year.
- PT : Various choices of tourist destinations spread in various points of the cities to the villages, with the more development of tourist destinations in Purwakarta so the visitors **increase** every year.

It can be seen from the text that the form of the word is translated in inappropriate way. The word “meningkat” in the source language is translated into the target language as passive voice. The phrase “have been increased” literally means “*telah ditingkatkan*”. The word “meningkat” in the source language is a kind of active voice. So, the appropriate phrase is “increase” which means “meningkat”.

### Word Order

Datum number 22

- SL : Taman Air Mancur Sri Baduga merupakan pengembangan pembangunan Situ Buleud menjadi ikon destinasi wisata purwakarta, pembangunan **tahap pertama** dimulai pada tahun 2014, **tahap kedua** 2015, **tahap ketiga** 2017.
- TL : Sri Baduga Fountain Park is the development of Situ Buleud development as an icon of Purwakarta tourism destination, **the first phase** of construction began in 2014, **second phase** 2015, **third stage** 2017.
- PT : Sri Baduga Fountain Park is the development of Situ Buleud development as an icon of Purwakarta tourism destination, **the first phase** of construction began in 2014, **[The] second phase** in 2015, and **[the] third phase in** 2017.

Based on the datum above has the same case with previous datum. The grammatical error found is parallel structure. The word “tahap” in the source language translated in two ways, they are “phase” and “stage”. Based on Oxford dictionary, the definition of “stage” is a period or state that something/somebody passes through while developing or making progress. While, the word “phase” means a stage in a process of change or development.

According to the definition, the words “phase” and “stage” have the same meaning. Thus, the text above can use both of word choices. The researcher thought that the word “phase” is suitable word to be used in this context. Because, the word “phase” is cycling things. Cycling things is used to show the process/step time by time.

### Misuse of Grammatical Items

Datum number 10

- SL : Bagi pengunjung menggunakan kendaraan pribadi dari **arah** ibu kota Jakarta bisa menemuinya melalui jalur Tol Jakarta-Cikampek kemudian masuk Tol Purbaleunyi dan keluar di pintu Tol Jatiluhur.
- TL : For visitors who use private vehicles from **the direction of** the capital city of Jakarta can continue through the Jakarta-Cikampek Toll then Enter the Purbaleunyi Toll and exit at the Jatiluhur Toll Gate
- PT : For visitors who use private vehicles from the Capital City Jakarta you can go on Jakarta-Cikampek Toll then Enter the Purbaleunyi Toll and exit at the Jatiluhur Toll Gate

The phrase “dari arah” in the target language can be omitted to create the effective sentence. The proposed translation for this sentence is “For visitors who use private vehicles from the Capital

City Jakarta you can go on Jakarta-Cikampek Toll then Enter the Purbaleunyi Toll and exit at the Jatiluhur Toll Gate”.

While, the category of semantic problems is classified into four subcategories. They are Lexical choices, Idiomatic Expression, Stylistic Problems, and missing translation/ untranslated phrases. The researcher elaborates the errors as follows:

### Lexical Choices

Datum number 20

- SL : Konon pada zaman dahulu **Situ Buleud** merupakan kubangan besar tempat berendam badak,  
TL : It is said that in ancient times **there Buleud** is a large puddle where rhinoceros bath.  
PT : It is said that in ancient times **[Situ Buleud]** is a large puddle where rhinoceros bath.

The text above is definitely kind of lexical choices error. It can be seen that the name of tourist destination on the text is written in Sundanese language. The name of the tourism is “Situ Buleud” which means “Danau Buleud”. The target language has made an error translation. “Situ Buleud” is translated into “There Buleud” in the target language.

In Indonesian, there is a word called “di situ/ disana” which is translated as “there” in the English. And the translator of the text has mistranslated the word “situ” into “there”. It is inappropriate usage of the word that will lead the reader into misinterpretation. The proposed translation is “It is said that in ancient times [Situ Buleud] is a large puddle where rhinoceros bath”.

### Idiomatic Expression

Datum number 43

- SL : Destinasi wisata Grama Tirta Jatiluhur juga menyediakan bungalow yang bisa disewa oleh pengunjung **untuk beristirahat** melepas lelah ataupun menginap.  
TL : Tourism destination Grama Tirta Jatiluhur also provides bungalows that can be rented by visitors **to take a break** or stay there.  
PT : Tourist destination Grama Tirta Jatiluhur also provides bungalows that can be rented by visitors **to get some [rest]** or stay there.

From the text above, the source language implied there is some places for staying after tour. The word “untuk beristirahat” in the source language transferred into target language unsynchronizedly with the context of the text. The word “take a break” means “istirahat” in Indonesian, but it happen in the temporary time. It can be seen from the definition of its meaning. Based on Meriam-webster Dictionary, “take a break” means to stop doing something for a short period of time. The appropriate idiom of this text is “to get some rest”, which means to relax, to rest, to take it easy; to get some sleep, leisure time, and relaxation.

### Stylistic Problems

Datum number 61

- SL : **Jalur Via Ferrata** di Gunung Parang, terdapat beberapa tingkatan mulai dari 100 meter, 250 meter, 300 meter dan paling tinggi *Top Towew* 900 meter.  
TL : **In ferrata way** on Parang Mountain, there are several levels from 100 meters, 250 meters, 300 meters and the highest is Top tower about 900 meters.  
PT : **[via ferrata way]** on Mt. Parang, there are several levels from 100 meters, 250 meters, 300 meters and the highest is Top tower about 900 meters.

It can be seen from the target language that the phrase “jalur via Ferrata on parang mountain” is translated into “in Ferrata way on Parang mountain”. The word “via” is transferred into “in”, while the meaning of the word will be different and raises ambiguity. Because, there will be two kind of preposition.

#### Missing Translation/Untranslated Phrase

Datum number 80

- SL : Bagi para pemburu sunrise dan sunset maka Gunung Lembu salah satu spot yang tepat **untuk memanjakan mata menikmati keindahan sunrise dan sunset**
- TL : For hunters of sunrise or sunset, Lembu Mountain is **one of amazing spots for getting a fresh our eyes.**
- PT : For hunters of sunrise or sunset, Mount Lembu is **one of amazing spots for getting a fresh our eyes [to enjoy sunrise and sunset]**

It can be seen from the sentence above that the target language is incomplete. The phrase “menikmati sunrise and sunset” in the source language did not translated into the target language. Thus, the form of the sentence can be defined as the omission of grammatical items. The proposed translation for this sentence is “To enjoy the beauty of sunrise and sunset” which meant “Menikmanti keindahan sunrise and sunset”.

#### Discussion

Based on the research finding above, there are two categories of linguistic category elaborated in this research to find errors in the translation of Purwakarta Tourism Booklet. The data show 80 errors found from 11 tourism information texts. The errors are divided into 2 categories. The categories are syntax and morphology (grammar) and semantic and lexicon (meaning and vocabulary). According to the data, The most dominant errors in this research are semantic and lexicon (meaning and vocabulary). It can be seen from the frequency and percentage of data, where syntax and morphological (grammar) has 38 errors (47.5%) and semantic and lexicon (meaning and vocabularies) consist of 42 errors of total errors (52.5%).

The findings show the dominant errors of translation came from semantic and lexicon categories. It can be seen that 42 of total errors indicate semantic and lexicon error categories with 51.21%. The most common error is lexical choices with 26 errors (69.04%), followed by 5 stylistic problems (11.90%), 4 Missing translation (9.52%), and 4 idiomatic expression (9.52%). While, the errors found in syntax categories raises 38 errors (47.5%) of total errors. The most frequent errors in syntax level is word form problems with 14 errors (36.84%), followed by 13 word order errors (34.21%), 7 misuse of grammatical items (18.42%), and 4 omission of grammatical items (10.52%).

#### Conclusion

According to the results and discussion, it can be concluded that the translation of Purwakarta Tourism booklet still has a lot of errors, particularly in semantic level. The lexical choices is the dominant errors of the translation.usually doesn't imply the meaning of the source language. Thus, the researcher did not only analyze the errors, but the researcher also give the proposed translation as the consideration for the tourism institution.

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