

## **GRAMMATICAL ERRORS ON STUDENTS' ABSTRACTS AS RESULT OF TRANSLATION FROM INDONESIAN INTO ENGLISH**

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### **Abstract**

Translation study is crucial for the students who want to translate their academic journal into English because they often feel difficulty and confuse about how to write an appropriate translation. This research aimed to describe the grammatical errors made by the students in translating the thesis abstract from Indonesian into English. Two objectives are formulated: 1. to identify the grammatical errors on the students' abstract as results of translation 2. to know what kind of grammatical errors mostly appear made by the students. This study accustomed descriptive qualitative as the approach of the research. The data source or document manipulated 2 abstracts that consist of 24 sentences. This study revealed that the student still produces a number of grammatical errors. There were about 72 errors found. The kinds of grammatical errors that mostly appear were in the error of ordering and then was followed by omission, selection, and addition. The other errors found to consist of a cultural word and intralingual. The writer concludes that the translation has been shifted by the student whose background is not English Department indicates that the students' ability in translation still needs improvement and they need to study about translation, grammar, and grammatical error.

**Keywords:** Translation, Errors, Grammatical Errors, Student's Translation, Abstract.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background of Study**

The good translation should be produced by the student as a translator in translating his/her research paper before they publish it into the network as the Academic journal particularly to the students at university levels. Translating the thesis abstracts from Indonesian into English as a requirement to complete student's final year academic paper is immensely suggested.

Meanwhile, the students who have no skill and basic knowledge about the activity of how to transfer from a language into a different language tend to make the student feels confused. In this fact, the emergence of error occurs frequently. There is an arduousness in shifting the student's origin language to the target language seeing as there is the dissimilar of the student component's language constructed between his/her origin language and the target language (Ramelan, 2003). The appearance of errors is an indication that the student's skill in translation study is needed to be questioned. Commonly, the emergence of errors occurs because the student's native language is transferred directly to the target language word by word. The student takes no notice of the construction, formation, and how the structure of the target language is arranged. Generally, the existence of errors occurs when the student tries to step his/her native language into the target language. The student's mother tongue chip in the target language in his/her translation indicates the most likely the existence of errors.

The students in Indonesian literature and language education magister program study, art and language education majors, FKIP, Lambung Mangkurat University in taking their translation from

Indonesian into English transfer ungrammatically which indicates the result of translation is difficult to read. The purpose of translation activity create the equivalent meaning of the result translation between SL and TL (Bassnett-McGuire, 1980, p. 2). Hence, if the student translates correctly the meaning of the translate result would similar and easier to read.

As stated by an expert that defines the shift as a translation procedure relates to a replacement of the SL structure to TL one (Newmark, 1988, p. 85). The issue here, students do not apply translation procedures in their translation, and it indicates numerous errors. For example, in the phrase of SL 'humor mahalabiu' translated by the student into 'humor mahalabiu' indicates that the student transfers his/her first language into the target language word by word. In arranging the language that differs from student's native language, there is an incorrect component gives out.

As we can see, the error produce by the student is because he/she shifts erroneously in the structure of his/her native language to a different language. In this case, the student should reconstruct grammar from the original language to the target language. For the instances, In the phrase, 'humor Mahalabiu' is translated by the student word by word into 'humor Mahalabiu'. At the moment, in English rules, the position of the structure language becomes different from Indonesian rules which is the adjective should be placed in front of the noun. The word 'mahalabiu' should be translated into 'mahalabiu' (adj) and it should be placed before a noun and humor (n)' should be placed after the adjective 'mahalabiu' (adj). Make alterations to a different word order is needed here.

Based on the existing problem of grammatical aspects above. It triggers the researcher to identify the grammatical errors on the students' abstract as results of translation and to know what kind of the grammatical errors are mostly appear on the student's abstract as results of translation. Therefore, the existence of errors that produce by the students should be known. The problem and mistake that the student encounters in translation activity be able to identify, and they can learn from their mistakes.

## METHOD

As the approach of this study, the researcher used descriptive qualitative. This method is used to get characteristic data that were specified based on error grammatical errors. The steps that are done by the researcher in using the descriptive qualitative approach are collecting the data, arranging the data, and interpreting the data.

The data in this research were gained from the thesis abstract in both English and Indonesian translation translated by the students in Indonesian literature and language education magister program study, art and language education majors, FKIP, Lambung Mangkurat University. Therefore, the source data or document used in this research were 2 abstracts that consist of 24 sentences.

In conducting this study, there is the main instrument. The knowledge, information, and skills acquired by the writer is the main instrument in this study. The writer is supported by various references related to the classification of errors in the translation. The writer interprets the errors in the translation is grounded by various instruments. The instrument that applicated by the writer such as English Grammar books, dictionaries, and the internet. The writer hopes all of those references are assumed to support the research in analyzing the occurrences of errors in the abstracts translated by the student.

In this research, the documentation method was used by the writer in gathering the data. The various variables such as research patents, dissertation, transcript, book, picture, inscription, etc are used in gathering data and it indicates as the documentation method (Arikunto, 1993, p. 202). The variables used in this research is the thesis abstract.

To answer the research questions, this study serves several steps of how the data is collected as follows:

1. First, the researcher gathering the data from the abstracts that transfered by the student.

2. Second, the researcher reads and observes the translation of abstracts translated by the student thoroughly, from word to word, sentence to sentence, and the whole paragraph.
3. Third, the researcher makes a line toward the erroneous words, sentences, phrases, and clauses as a result of abstract's translation that shifted by the student.

After the researcher gains the data, the researcher used several steps in this technique of data analysis as follows:

1. The writer reads the abstracts in both English and Indonesian version shifted by the student.
2. The writer identifies the errors by underlying the errors.
3. The writer classifies the data according to the types of classification of grammatical errors into 4 categories based on Corder's theory (1981).
4. The researcher interprets the data by revealing the errors of the abstracts shifted by the student. As the reference to correct the student's abstract, the writer used several sources such as an English grammar book, dictionary, Grammarly checker, and dictionary.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Result

#### An Analysis of Translation Errors on The Student's Thesis Abstract as a Results of Translation

The result of the analysis in the grammatical errors on the students' abstract as results of translation shows that there are 72 errors. The errors are classified as the error of omission, the error of addition, the error of selection, and the error of ordering, and the other errors. The kinds of grammatical errors that mostly appear are in the error of ordering and then was followed by omission, selection, and the last the error of addition. The researcher finds 11 cases in the error of ordering, they are in present perfect tense, sentence, complex sentence, adjective phrase, singular-plural, passive voice, noun modifier, possessive case, passive-active voice, relative pronoun. 10 cases in the error of omission, they are in a noun phrase, article, a noun, adjective, pronoun, preposition, object, some words, subject-verb agreement, subjective pronoun. 6 cases in the error of selection, they are in preposition, diction, tense, article, noun phrase, and subject-verb agreement, and only 1 case in the error of addition and there are the other errors found. They are errors in cultural words and intralingual.

The researcher interpreting the data by explaining the grammatical errors in the students abstract as the translation result. The discussion is described as follow:

- Source Language : Data penelitian berupa tuturan humor mahalabiu yang disampaikan oleh peserta dalam acara Mahalabiu di Duta TV yang diambil melalui video dari episode 1--18, dari bulan Juli tahun 2015 sampai dengan bulan Desember 2017.
- Target language : The research data consisted of expensive humor sent by participants in the Mahalabiu program on TV Ambassador taken via video from episodes 1--18, from July 2015 to December 2017.
- Identification of Error : a. Cultural word.  
b. The error of selection in diction.  
c. The error of omission in the word 'tuturan'.  
d. The error of omission in article 'the'.  
e. The error of ordering in passive voice.

f. The error of ordering in a noun modifier.

Suggested Translation : The data in this research were the Mahalabiu humour utterance was delivered by the participants of the Mahalabiu program on Duta TV station. The data was taken in the form of video from episodes 1-18, from July 2015 to December 2017.

#### a. Cultural word

There is an incorrect of the selected word. It can be seen that the student translates the sentence above in grammatical errors of cultural word. It shows in the word 'Mahalabiu' was translated into 'Expensive' which is there is a deviation of the meaning according to the context of the source language. In this case, the student as a translator fails to translate the word 'mahalabiu' into the context, where the grammatical error that occurs is the selection of the word 'mahalabiu'. Mahalabiu is the speech that contains the ambiguous meaning related to the literature. Hence, the translator should use the word 'mahalabiu' as the cultural equivalent meaning to has the same meaning in Indonesian Cultural. The writer advises the student use the translation procedure in the cultural equivalent, where a SL cultural word 'Mahalabiu' should be translated into a TL cultural word 'Mahalabiu'. By replacing a cultural word in the SL 'Mahalabiu' into TL 'Mahalabiu'. Hence, this translation has resulted in unacceptable version of TT in the context and meaning.

#### b. The error of selection in diction.

Diction is a preference of words in an accepted language, if the option of a word is not similar to the meaning of the sentence in the source language then it can't be relevant in the target language. It shows that there are some incorrect of the selected word. It can be seen that the student translates the sentence above with grammatical errors in the word selection or diction. The discussion is described as follow:

1. In the word 'menyampaikan' is translated into 'sent'.

It shows in the word 'menyampaikan' is translated into 'sent' which is there is no equivalent meaning in context of TL. For explanation, in the usage 'deliver' and 'send' have completely different meanings. In the word 'send' doesn't precise to the context because the speech is being delivered or it is being heard by people. In this case, the collocation would be strange if we change into the another word. In this case, the translator should decide to choose the equivalent words. The writer advises the student to use the procedure of translation in synonymy. It means in the meaning of SL word close by to the TL as a context. Hence, in the word 'menyampaikan' should be shifted into 'deliver'.

2. In the word 'Duta' is translated into 'Ambassador'.

It can be seen that the student as a translator translates in the word 'Duta' into 'Ambassador' which is there is a deviation of the meaning according to the context of the source language. In this case, the student as the translator translates in the word 'Duta' into 'Ambassador' ungrammatically which indicates the error of selected word. In the word 'Duta' and 'Ambassador have the wrong perspectives of the target language which is in the word 'Duta' in SL is a name of TV's channel. The writer advises the student use the procedure translation of transliteration. It means in the shape of the construction, element, and formation between SL and TL are similar. In the word 'Duta' should be shifted into 'Duta'.

**c. The error of omission in the word ‘tuturan’.**

In the sentence above, the error is about omitting the noun ‘tuturan’. The student as a translator translates a noun phrase ‘tuturan humor mahalabiu’ into ‘expensive humor’ which indicates the student untranslated or omits the word ‘tuturan’. The writer suggests the student use the procedure of translation in synonymy. It means in the meaning of SL word close by to the TL as a context. Hence, the word ‘tuturan’ must be translated into ‘utterance’.

**d. The error of omission in article ‘the’.**

In the sentence above, the error is about omitting the definite article ‘the’. The definite article is used in identified nouns has been mentioned before. In this case, a student as a translator translates ungrammatically. The student omits the article ‘the’ in the SL ‘tuturan humor mahalabiu’ into ‘expensive humor’. Therefore, the definite article ‘the’ must be used into noun modifier ‘the Mahalabiu (adj) humor (n) utterances (n)’.

**The error of ordering.**

The error of ordering is arranging of the incorrect elements. It shows that the writer identifies 2 cases in the error of ordering. It is the error of ordering in a passive and active voice and noun modifier. The discussion is described as follow:

**e. The error of ordering in passive-active voice.**

In the sentence above, there is error of ordering in passive-active voice. It can be seen in the sentence above that in the SL ‘konflik batin yang dialami tokoh Jaka Wani’ is translated into ‘the inner conflict of the character Jaka Wani went trough’. In this case, The above text shows that the student translates the source text in a form of active voice while the sentence structure of the source text is in the form of passive voice. Therefore, in this case, the issue here lies in the error classification of passive and active voice. In addition to that, an object of the sentence ‘tokoh jaka wani’ is missing. The writer advises the student to use procedure translation in shift or transposition which is in the target text should be shifted into the appropriate passive voice rules (subject + to be + v3 + by). Therefore, in the SL ‘Konflik batin yang dialami tokoh Jaka Wani’ should be translated into ‘the inner conflict is encountered by the character of Jaka Wani’.

**f. The error of ordering in a noun modifier.**

It shows that the student translate the sentence above in the phrase ‘tuturan humor mahalabiu’ into ‘expensive humor’ shows that the student as translator transfers ungrammatically. It is also called an error in wrong word order or phrase construction. The writer advises the student to use noun modifier rules which apply adjectives before nouns that modify other nouns. A noun (n) is sometimes used before another noun to give more information about it. This is called a noun modifier. Adjectives (adj) come before noun modifiers. Therefore, the phrase ‘tuturan humor mahalabiu’ should be translated into ‘the Mahalabiu (adj) humor(n) utterances(n)’. In this case, the main word should be in the last part of the phrase.

Source Language	: Aspek pragmatik yang terlibat dalam pembentukan humor acara Mahalabiu yaitu adanya penyimpangan prinsip kerjasama Grice yang meliputi penyimpangan maksim kuantitas, penyimpangan maksim kualitas, penyimpangan maksim cara, dan penyimpangan maksim relevansi.
Target Language	: The pragmatic aspects involved in the formation of the Mahalabiu humor show are the presence of deviations from the Grice cooperation principle which includes deviations of quantity maxim, quality deviations, maxim of deviations,

- and deviations of relevance maxim.
- Identification of error : a. The error of omission in definite article ‘the’  
b. The error of omission in preposition ‘of’.  
c. The error of omission in an object.  
d. The error of ordering in possessive case.  
e. The error of addition in singular-plural.
- Suggested translation : The pragmatic aspect involved in the formation of the humor in the Mahalabiu program there was the deviation of Grice’s cooperative principle which includes the deviation of quantity maxim, the deviation of quality maxim, the deviation of system maxim, and the deviation of relevance maxim.

**a. The error of omission in definite article ‘the’.**

In the sentence above there is an error of omission in the definite article ‘the’. In TL phrase ‘deviations of quantity maxim, quality deviations, maxim of deviations, and deviations of relevance maxim should be translated into the appropriate prepositional phrase pattern. In English rules, the prepositional phrase must use the definite article ‘the’. The definite article ‘the’ is used before the noun followed by a prepositional phrase that begins with the preposition ‘of’. In this case, the writer advises the student to translate in the translation procedure of addition. Therefore, in TL phrase ‘deviations of quantity maxim, quality deviations, maxim of deviations, and deviations of relevance maxim should be added definite article ‘the’ into ‘the deviation of quantity maxim, the deviation of quality maxim, the deviation of system maxim, and the deviation of relevance maxim’.

**b. The error of omission in preposition ‘of’.**

The error is about omitting the preposition ‘of’. The purpose of preposition as a relation or belonging. It shows that the preposition ‘of’ must be added after the noun phrase ‘quality deviations’ into ‘the deviation of quality maxim’. In this case, the student as a translator untranslated the preposition ‘of’. Therefore, it is categorized as the error in omission. The presence of preposition ‘of’ must come into the rules of grammar.

**c The error of omission in an object.**

It shows that the error is about omitting the word ‘maksim’ in SL. The student as a translator translates the SL phrase ‘penyimpangan maksim kualitas’ into ‘quality deviation’. It shows that the student untranslated the word ‘maksim’. Therefore, it is categorized as the error in omission which is the presence of the word ‘maksim’ that must come into the target language. Therefore, the writer advises the student use the translation procedure of a shift. The sentence above should be shifted into a prepositional phrase beginning with the preposition ‘of’. The phrase ‘penyimpangan maksim kualitas’ should be shifted into ‘the deviation of quality Maksim.

**The error of ordering.**

The error of ordering is arranging of the incorrect elements. It shows that the writer identifies 1 case in the error of ordering. It is the error of ordering in a possessive case. The discussion is described as follow:

**c. The error of ordering in possessive case.**

As presents above, there is the error of ordering. The researcher finds errors in sequencing a possessive case. The possessive case is used to show ownership. The possessive pattern or mark (‘S’) is used to connect the ownership with a person. In the sentence above in the phrase ‘prinsip kerjasama Grice’ is translated literally into ‘the Grice cooperation principle’. In this case, the appropriate possessive case is



needed to have a good translation. The writer suggests the student translate into the appropriate possessive case pattern. In the phrase 'prinsip kerjasama Grice' should end in 's' then take an apostrophe at the end ( ' ) into 'Grice's cooperative principle'.

#### **d. The error of addition.**

As pointed above, it is categorized as an error of addition. According to Corder (1981:36) Error of addition is putting the unnecessary of the structure in the target language. The writer finds 1 case in the error of addition. It is the error of addition in singular-plural. The discussion is described as follow:

#### **e. The error of addition in singular-plural.**

In the translation above, a shift or transposition procedure was applied. The student as a translator translates the sentence of SL into TL by reconstructing the grammar from singular to plural. From the example, singular words in the source language changes into plural in the target language. In the SL word 'aspek dan penyimpangan' (singular) is translated into "aspects and deviations" (plural). Even so, there wasn't meaning change. The structure of the target language should be changed into singular. In this case, the student must omit the suffix-s of those words. Therefore in the word 'aspek dan penyimpangan' (singular) should be translated into 'aspect and deviation' (singular).

Source Language	: Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat penyimpangan kepribadian pada tokoh Sasana dan konflik batin yang dialami oleh tokoh Jaka Wani.
Target Language	: The results of the study showed that there were deviation in the character of Sasana personality and the inner conflict that the character of Jaka Wani has been went through.
Identification of error	: a. The error of selection in diction. b. The error of ordering in passive-active voice.
Suggested translation	: The results of the study showed that there were the personality disorders in the character of Sasana and the inner conflicts was encountered by the character of Jaka Wani.

#### **Analysis and discussion:**

Based on the analysis, it seems that in translating the sentence above, the writer identifies some grammatical errors. The writer finds 2 cases that include the error of selection in diction and the error of ordering in passive-active voice. The discussion is described as follow:

#### **a. The error of selection in diction.**

In the sentences above, the writer finds the error of selection in diction. Diction is a preference of words in an accepted language, if the option of a word is not similar to the meaning of the source language then it can't be relevant in the target language. It shows in the word 'penyimpangan' is translated into 'deviation'. The student translates in the noun phrase 'penyimpangan kepribadian' into 'personality deviation' which is it has the wrong perspectives of the language or it doesn't seem to fit with the context of the target text. The definition of the word 'deviation' is related to the statistics. Therefore, in word 'penyimpangan' should be translated into 'disorder' in the target language, because it is more precise with the context of SL than the word 'deviation'.

#### **b. The error of ordering in passiv-active voice.**

In the sentence above, there is an error of ordering in a passive-active voice. It can be seen in the sentence above that in the SL ‘kepribadian pada tokoh Sasana dan konflik batin yang dialami oleh tokoh Jaka Wani’ is translated into ‘the personality of Sasana and the inner conflict that the character of Jaka Wani has been went through’. In this case, The above text shows that the student translates the target text in a form of active voice while the sentence structure of the source text is in the form of passive voice. Therefore, in this case, the problem here in the error classification of passive and active voice. The writer advises the student to use the procedure translation of a shift or transposition which is in the target text should be shifted into the appropriate passive voice rules ( S + be + v3 + by + o + modifier). Therefore, in the SL ‘Konflik batin yang dialami tokoh Jaka Wani’ should be translated into ‘the inner conflict was experienced by Jaka Wani’s character’.

Source Language : Humor mahalabiu masih hidup dan berkembang hingga sekarang.

Target Language : Humor mahalabiu is still alive and developing until now.

Identification of Error :a.The error of ordering in adjective phrase position.  
b.Intralingual.

Suggested Translation : Mahalabiu humour still exists and develops until now.

Analysis and discussion:

Based on the analysis in the sentences above, it seems that in translating the sentence above, the writer identifies some grammatical errors. The writer finds 2 cases. In the error of ordering in adjective phrase position and intralingual.

#### **a. The error of ordering in adjective phrase position.**

As it presents above, there is an error in ordering. The error of ordering is arranging of the incorrect elements. The student translate the sentence above in the phrase ‘humor mahalabiu’ into ‘humor mahalabiu’ shows that the student as a translator directly transfers a word by word to the target language. It is because, Indonesian rules place an adjectives as modifiers after the noun. In this case, the writer advises the student to use the appropriate adjective phrase position. In this case, when an adjective is used with a noun, the usual order in English is adjective + noun. Therefore, in the phrase, ‘humor mahalabiu’ should be translated into adjectives go before the noun (attributive) ‘mahalabiu humor’.

#### **b. Intralingual.**

In the word “ hidup “ was translated by the student as ‘alive’. If we see in the dictionary the meaning of the word ‘alive’ is ‘hidup’. The sentence above in the word ‘humor mahalabiu’ indicates a thing, not creatures and it is not suitable to the context of the sentence. From the analysis above the cause of the error is intralingual which is caused by the interference of the learner’s native language where the learners are automatically transferring their native language into the target language. Therefore, the writer advises the student use the translation procedure in synonymy. It means in The meaning of SL word close by to the TL as a context. Hence, the right meaning to the word ‘hidup’ should be translated into ‘exist’.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusions.**



After analyzing the translation results of abstract translated by the student It can be concluded that the student from Indonesian literature and language education magister program study, art and language education majors, FKIP, Lambung Mangkurat University still produced a number of grammatical errors in their abstract as a translation result. The conclusions can be drawn as follows;

It is shown on the total of a grammatical error made based on the grammatical error classification is 72 errors. The grammatical errors made by the student include the error of ordering, omission, selection, and addition. The kind of errors are mostly appearing on the student's abstract is on the error of ordering classification which includes 11 cases, they are in the present perfect tense, sentence, complex sentence, adjective phrase, singular-plural, passive voice, noun modifier, possessive case, passive-active voice, relative pronoun. Then it is followed by the error of omission, error of selection, and error of addition. The writer concludes that the translation has been shifted by the student whose background is not English Department indicates that the students' ability in translation still needs improvement and they need to study about translation, grammar, and grammatical error. The student finds difficulty to translate their thesis abstract from Bahasa Indonesia into English. It can be seen that the most grammatical errors happened in the error of ordering classification.

From the result of the study that the researchers had done, there are some suggestions that the researchers want to offer.

### **Suggestions**

Considering the result and significance of the study. The researcher hope that the suggestions give benefits for academic study. This research is not perfect yet. It is suggested for the future researcher to conduct further research by improving the other theory of translation. For the student whose background is not the English Department, this research is crucial, because they often feel difficulty and confuse about how to write the abstract from Indonesian into English. In this case, the translation result is hard to read because the student pays no attention to their translation result by ignoring the grammatical. Hence, the student should be aware of how crucial the translation study before they do the translation activity. The student also should learn more about grammar rules include the construction, structure, and elements of the target language and how to use it. On the other, the errors were analyzed by the researcher can give meaningful feedback for further understanding. Translation study is crucial for the students who want to translated their academic journal into the English because they often feel difficulty and confuse about how to write in appropriate translation.

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