INACCURACY IN THE TRANSLATION OF CHILDREN’S SHORT STORIES MADE BY GOOGLE MACHINE TRANSLATION

ABSTRACT


Key Words: Inaccuracy, Translation, Google Machine Translation

Translation is the replacement of a textual material from source language (SL) into target language (TL). One way to translate is using machine translation, one of machine translations is used by people is Google Translate. Sometimes mistakes are made in the analysis of the source text or in the transfer process and the result is wrong. In this condition, a careful check for accuracy is needed. In this research, the writer focuses on the inaccuracy of translation made by Google translate. The aim of this research is to find out inaccuracy of translation by Google translate. In this research, the method that is used is a descriptive qualitative research method. A qualitative descriptive research method involves intensive data collection, which is the collection of extensive wrong sentences, not in the form of numbers. The source of the data is the translation of 20 children’s short stories made by Google translate. The results of this research are 529 inaccuracies five types of Inaccuracy. The first type is literal translation, (297 inaccuracies or 56, 74%), the second is inaccuracy in different meaning / wrong meaning (101 inaccuracies or 19.38%), the third is inaccuracy of Omission (79 inaccuracies or 14.38%), the fourth is in accuracy in Addition (37 inaccuracies or 6.38%), and the five is inaccuracy in Zero meaning/Untranslated, (15 inaccuracies or 3.12%).
INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Translation is the replacement process of a textual material from source language (SL) into target language (TL). There are many ways in translation, such as by machine translation. One of machine translations that used by people is Google Translate. Google Translate is a machine translation tool provided by Google Inc. to translate textual material from one language into another automatically.

But there are many problems faced while we use machine translation, it involves ambiguity and ill-formedness. According to Larson (1984:526) there are three main reasons for testing a translation. The translator wants to be sure his translation is accurate, clear, and natural. The translator will need to check for accuracy of meaning by a careful comparison with the source text and the semantics analysis. Some of the problems he may find out (1) something omitted, (2) something added, (3) a different meaning, (4) a zero meaning at all.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the inaccuracy translation made by Google from children short stories. Thus, the title of the thesis, which is chosen by the writer, is “Inaccuracy in the Translation of Children’s Short Stories Made by Google Machine translation”

Problem Formulation

1. What errors did Google Translate make in translating Children’s Short Stories into Indonesian?

Aim of the Research

1. To find out errors that Google Translate made in translating Children’s Short Stories into Indonesian.

Significance of the Research

This research is expected to helpful and useful for the readers who are learning translation, especially machine translation (Google Translate).
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Translation

According to Catford in *A Linguistics Theory of Translation*, translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language. It means that in translation, the textual element of source language is replaced by their equivalents, which are textual elements of target language. (Catford, 1965: 20)

Inaccuracy

The inaccuracy indicated that the translator could not understand the steps of translation process, including analysis, transfer and restructure (Nida in McGuire, 1991: 16). Larson (1984: 532) states that the translation must be evaluated for accuracy, clarity and naturalness. The *accurate* translation means that a meaning or message of the source language’s text is equivalent to that of the target language’s text. The *clear* translation means that a meaning or message of the target language’s text is easy to understand. The *natural accurate* translation means that a meaning or message of the target language’s text is grammatically true and not boring. Thus, it can be said that the accurate translation includes three criteria; *accuracy, clarity* and *naturalness*.

Translation Process

![Translation Process Diagram]

Kinds of Translation

1. Literal Translation

According to Larson (1984:16-17), literal translation are form-based translators that attempt to follow the form of the source language. Literal translation absolutely is not a general translation. It follows very closely the grammatical and lexical form of the source text language. Larson
(1984:15) divides form-based translation into two; interlinear/truly literal translation and modified literal translation. Basically, interlinear literal translation is word-for-word translation and modified literal translation is literal translation.

2. Idiomatic Translation

This method aims to reproduce message in source language text, but often using intimate image and idiomatic expression which is hardly to get in original text (Rochayah Machali, 2000: 54). Idiomatic translation is also said as meaning-based translation.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The writer uses a descriptive method. According to Gay (1996:208), a qualitative descriptive research method involves intensive data collection, which is the collection of extensive sentences, not form of numbers, and this research is focused on the process more than the result.

Source of Data

The source of data in this study is the translation of children short stories made by Google. The short stories were downloaded from 20 sites.

Data Collection Procedure

1. Translate 20 Children short Stories by Google Translate
2. Read the translation of Google Translate
3. Identifying inaccuracy of translation has found in the 20 Children’s Short Stories
4. Writing all inaccuracy sentences into piece of paper
5. Coding each inaccuracy sentences

Data Analysis Procedure

1) Classifying the Inaccurate Translation into:
   - Omission
   - Addition
   - Different meaning
   - Zero meaning at all
RESULT OF STUDY

The Inaccurate Indonesian Translation Made by Google Translate

The incorrect translation in the 20 Children Short Stories can be seen from the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Sub Category</th>
<th>Number of Data</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Literal Translation</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>56.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Different Meaning/Wrong meaning</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>19.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Omission</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>14.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Addition</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Zero Meaning/Untranslated</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>529</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

The writer draws some conclusions to answer the problems stated in chapter I namely, what errors Google Translate made in translating The Children Short Stories into Bahasa Indonesia? Based on the result of the data analysis, the following conclusions are drawn with regard to the accuracy on the Google Translate translation. The writer finds out five categories of inaccurate translation, those are: Zero meaning/Untranslated, Different meaning/wrong meaning, Omission, Addition and Literal translation.

Suggestion

In translating, a translator should consider the accuracy of the meaning or the message in the source text. Equivalence is a must in translation. The meaningfulness and the naturalness of the translation variation are two factors determining the equivalence of a translation. In addition, the translator needs to consider the readers suppose to read their translation and not based on their own understanding.