TRANSLATION TECHNIQUES APPLIED TO TRANSLATE PREMODIFIED NOUN PHRASES IN “LALITAVISTARA”

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ABSTRAK

Menurut Baker (1992), ada sejumlah isu penerjemahan yang membawa ktesu kualitas tersendiri bagi penerjemahnya. Isu-isu tersebut meliputi: konsep-konsep bahasa yang sangat terkait dengan kebudayaan, konsep dalam bahasa sumber yang tidak memiliki padanan dalam bahasa target, kompleksitas kata dalam bahasa sumber, adanya perbedaan makna pada bahasa sumber dan bahasa target, dalam bahasa target tidak ada istilah yang lebih umum, bahasa target tidak ada istilah yang lebih spesifik, perbedaan dalam perspektif fisik atau interpersonal, perbedaan dalam makna ekspresi, perbedaan struktur, perbedaan frekuensi dan tujuan dalam menggunakan struktur tertentu, dan pemakaian kata pinjaman dalam bahasa sumber.

Ketika seorang penerjemah harus menerjemahkan sebuah teks, penerjemah tersebut harus memilih aspek mana saja yang harus dipertahankan dan yang mana yang harus dikorbankan. Menanggapi isu penerjemahan yang terjadi, terutama dari segi struktur bahasa, studi ini dimaksudkan untuk membahas tentang penerjemahan frase kata benda dengan premodifier dan masalah penerjemahannya, terutama dalam teks terkait sejarah dan budaya. Tujuan ini dapat dicapai dengan menganalisis frase kata benda dengan premodifier dalam buku bilingual yang ditulis oleh Leber (2011) berjudul “Lalitavistara”.

Hasil studi ini menunjukkan bahwa jenis frase kata benda yang ditemukan dalam buku “Lalitavistara” yang dimodifikasi dengan kata sifat beragam. Frase kata benda bahasa Inggris dapat ditemukan dengan memiliki satu premodifier atau banyak premodifier. Makna dalam frase-frase ini hanya bisa dianalisis dari segi ekuivalensi gramatikal saja. Teknik penerjemahan literal yang paling banyak dipakai dalam menerjemahkan buku bilingual ini.

Kata kunci: teknik penerjemahan, penerjemahan ekuivalen, dan frase kata benda dengan premodifier
ABSTRACT

According to Baker (1992), there are a number of translation issues that brings specific level of difficulties for the translator. Those issues includes: cultural-specific concepts, the source-language concept is not lexicalized in the target language, the source-language word is semantically complex, the source and target languages make different distinctions in meaning, the target language lacks a superordinate, the target language lacks a specific term, differences in physical or interpersonal perspective, differences in expressive meaning, differences in form, differences in frequency and purpose of using specific forms, and the use of loan words in the source text.

When a translator should translate a text, the translator has to choose what should be kept and what should be sacrificed. Concerning to the issue of form difference in translation, this study is aimed at discussing about premodified NP translation and its translation problem, specifically in historical-cultural text. This aim is fulfilled by analyzing the premodified NP in a bilingual historical book written by Leber (2011) entitled “Lalitavistara”.

Result of this study shows that types of premodified English NP found in bilingual book “Lalitavistara” which are premodified in term of adjective are varied. The English NP can take single premodification or multiple premodification by combining the adjectives with other types of premodifier. The meaning of these NPs can only be analyzed in term of grammatical equivalence. Literal translation is the most common technique used in this bilingual book.

Keywords: technique of translation, equivalent translation, and premodified noun phrase

INTRODUCTION

Because of the fast growth of technology and globalization movement, so much information needs to be shared and translation then becomes more important in publishing and translator plays the same significant role to ensure the readers’ understanding.

Various texts including literatures, scientific articles, economic texts, websites, and many other information sources have to be translated in another language. As the information is aimed for different types of readers with different range of ages, translation becomes greatly varied. The same text could be
translated into several versions. This phenomenon also occurs in Indonesia, as many books have been translated and published in the market to respond high demand of Indonesian readers in enjoying foreign literature.

Larson (1998) defined translation as the changing that occurs at the form of one language into another, with transfer of meaning from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). The change occurs in the form of the word, while the meaning is maintained in constant. Thus, the change in translation involved only the morphological and syntactical structure. Bell (1991) stated that there is no good translation can be resulted without a full understanding in regards to the meaning contained in SL text. Emphasizing on the importance of meaning as the most important aspect in translation, Bell (1991) suggested that it is important to pay more attention to the meaning of words and sentence constructions.

The differences among languages in the world are highly affected by the root of the languages. For example, Indonesian is almost similar with Malay as historically they came from the same root, but Indonesian and French or English greatly differ. In other word, the further root relation between two languages, the more distinguished those languages will be. The distinction among languages covers not only vocabularies, but also morphological rules and syntax, and semantic elements.

According to Alwi (1998), Indonesian noun phrase can be modified either to the left side (premodified) or the right side (postmodified) of the noun (head). This condition is similar with English noun phrase (NP) structure. However, when
an Indonesian NP is translated into an English NP, there is a clear difference in the structures of the two noun phrases which is shown by the position of the NP modifier. An English NP “new book” for example, consists of “new” (adjective) as the modifier and “book” (noun) as the head. In its Indonesian translation the noun phrase become “buku baru”, with “baru” (adjective) as the modifier and “buku” as its head. From the structure, it is clearly show that the modification structure is altered. In English “new book”, the adjective is placed before head, also known as premodifier. Meanwhile, in Indonesian NP “buku baru”, the adjective is positioned after the head of the NP, called postmodifier. This fact then encourages a question: are all premodified English NPs translated into postmodified NPs in Indonesian? Apart from its structural difference, techniques of translating English NP into Indonesian may involve the shift in meaning which may keep several characteristics of the SL text while sacrificing some other elements. Then if each language is indeed different from one to each other, then why is translation possible?

Allan (1986) mentioned that although language is different and every language has its own term to refer to one thing, human’s language experience (including objects and motions) is similar. Therefore, one specific expression in language A can be restated in language B using different term. It happens because the term in language A has similar concept with another term in language B, even though some of the components are different. The base can be clearly distinguished among two terms, but it can also be fused so it is hard to identify. For example, English term “book” and Indonesian term “buku” both refers to the
same concrete object, but the English term “Halloween” does not exist in Indonesian culture. Therefore, to enable translation of the term “Halloween”, a translator has to build his own meaning bridge by using adaptation, paraphrasing, or simply borrowing. However, it has been widely agreed that to produce a completely equivalent and objective translation result is definitely impossible. Translation evaluation, according to Melis and Albir (2001), covers three areas, including: the published translation, professional translation practice, and translation teaching.

Choosing the book “Lalitavistara” written by Leber (2011) as its sample, this study is aimed to analyze the phenomenon occurs in translating social-historical text. The study paid more attention to the premodified NP construction related to the historical-religious term of Borobudur’s bas-relief information. It is important to note whether there is any significant changes in structures of the NP elements, to determine the modification items and syntax elements involved. Furthermore, this study is aimed to analyze the equivalency of meaning between SL utterances and the translation result in the TL text. The analysis of this study concerns in the level of phrases, especially the NPs premodified by adjectives. The theories used in this study cover the theory of English premodified NP proposed by Quirk et al. (1985), the theory of Indonesian NP by Chaer (2009), and the translation techniques by Molina and Albir (2002). This study used Advanced Learner’s Oxford Dictionary by Hornby (2010) and Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia Pusat Bahasa by Alwi (2008) for the meaning reference of each term found in the NPs.
RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses qualitative approach with brief explanation and reference to some related literatures, focusing on analyzing English premodified NPs and their Indonesian equivalence. Qualitative approach dominantly relies on non-numerical data, which can be categorized into a number of different non-numerical qualitative techniques for gathering the data. The techniques involve field notes, case studies, diaries, and so forth. Besides, descriptive quantitative method was also used to support this research, especially in counting the percentage of each translation method applied by the translator in translating premodified NPs. Focusing on documentary research of the written text, this study was mainly conducted in the library. The research was conducted in the library of Udayana University as well as the personal library.

The data source of this study was taken from bilingual historical-religious book entitled “Lalitavistara”. It tells the life and the teaching period of Buddha, based on the bas-reliefs of Borobudur Temple as the one of the world’s heritages. The primary data of this study was written document, as one of the most common feature of qualitative research method. The book entitled “Lalitavistara” is chosen because it contains not only religious value but also cultural and historical terms which are closely related to certain constructed NP.

149 English premodified NPs are found in the books, excluding the titles, footnotes, acknowledgement, writer biography, index, and bibliography page. These NPs are divided into several categories based on the number and types of the modifier. The constituents of two premodified NPs made up from two or more
noun head are considered as separated individual noun phrases. The corpus only includes premodified noun phrases found in the book, while the postmodified noun phrases are excluded. Also, the NPs with both premodifier and postmodifier are not counted. To put certain limit to the study, the premodified NPs which are noted, are the NPs which is premodified by adjective.

In gathering data for this study, the method used was note-taking. Each verbal element available in both English and Indonesian texts were read and observed thoroughly. The relevant data were listed. The primary data includes every single component of the NPs found in the book. After identification, the data collected by thorough reading and note-taking process were classified. This classification is important to do because this step provided the basic data relevant with the topic to be discussed. The classification process related data to be analyzed in this study.

**DISCUSSION**

After doing thorough reading and note taking, 149 premodified NPs which are modified in with adjective were found in the book. Being modified in term of adjective doesn’t mean to restrict the premodified NPs which are modified by using basic form of adjective only. In the data found for this study, for example, NPs can be premodified in term of adjective by using adjective, adjective phrase, -ing participle construction, or –ed participle construction. It is also important to note that NP premodifiers can be more than one. This fact allows an NP to have combined modifiers which are also analyzed in this study.
Premodified English NPs with One Premodifier

There are some variations of English NP structure which are premodified by using one adjective. Those structures found in the book of Lalitavistara include premodification by using adjective, adjective phrase, and -ed participle construction.

1. Premodified with Adjective
2. Premodified with Adjective Phrase
3. Premodified with -ed participle

One of the examples with adjective premodification is described as follow.

English SL: Only two hundred years after its construction the temple sank into oblivion. Again, the reasons for this remain clouded in the shrouds of mystery. Volcanic eruption? (page 18)

Indonesian TL: Hanya dua ratus tahun sejak pendirianya, candi ini tenggelam terlupakan. Lagi-lagi, alasan mengapa bisa terjadi demikian tetap terselubung dalam awan misteri. Apakah karena letusan gunung berapi? (page 18)

Structure of the two phrases can be described as below:

```
volcanic eruption
```

```
modifier head
```

```
volcanic eruption
```
letusan
gunung berapi
head
modifier

Observing its grammatical structure, the English NP has modifier-head construction, while the Indonesian NP has head-modifier construction (called DM structure in Indonesian). In the English structure, a denominal adjective “volcanic” is attached before head, marking its function as post central modification. “Volcanic” has more nominal form rather than adjective but functions entirely as adjective. In its Indonesian modifier equivalence “gunung berapi”, it comes up from two different word classes, forming one phrase.

In phrase “volcanic eruption”, the modifier precedes its noun head. The suffix –ic in the word “volcanic” marks its adjective class as this adjective is derived from its original noun “volcano”. Otherwise, in phrase “letusan gunung berapi”, the modifier follows the noun head with noun feature, “gunung berapi”. The phrase “gunung berapi” is originated from two words “gunung” and “berapi” in which “berapi” includes verbal function “to have flame or lava”. Both noun heads of the SL and the TL refer to the same action of the volcano; it is when the volcano throws out some lava to the ground. “Eruption” has suffix –ion while “letusan” has suffix –an, which all marks the noun form. In term of semantic equivalence, the two phrases have equal semantic features distribution.

The word “eruption” always collocates with “volcano” in English, while its equivalence “letusan” can either mean “explode” or “erupt”, depending on
what word is attached on the word “letusan”. If it comes up with “balon”, it has the sense of “explode” instead of “erupt”. A word class shift occurs in the translation of the premodifier “volcanic” (adjective) and “gunung berapi” (noun). Since there is word class change in the translation of the NP, the translation technique used is transposition.

**Premodified English NPs with More Than One Premodifiers**

English NPs which are premodified by using two premodifiers in the book Lalitavistara can be found in various types of structures including:

1. Premodified with Determiner + adjective
2. Premodified with Determiner + -ing participle
3. Premodified with Determiner + -ed participle
4. Premodified with Adjective + Adjective
5. Premodified with Noun + Adjective
6. Premodified with Determiner + -ed participle
7. Premodified with Genitive + Adjective
8. Premodified with Determiner + Adjective phrase with -ing participle

Some of the examples of premodified English NP with two premodifiers are as follow, found in page 18 as quoted below.

English SL: The beauty of Borobudur is, that all three mainstream schools of Buddhism… find themselves united in the symbiotic expression of this monument, as if it was built as one sole credo in stone, praising the divine within ourselves. It is, however, worthwhile
to note, that **this major sanctuary** was built during the same period which entered history books as “the Age of Faith”, bestowing the world with some of its finest architectural expression of religious faith from medieval Europe. (page 17-18)

Indonesian TL : Keindahan Borobudur terletak pada gabungan ketiga aliran Buddhisme… dalam ekspresi simbiotis bangunan ini, seolah-olah ia dibangun sebagai satu paham tunggal dalam media batu, memuja nirwana dalam diri kita sendiri. Namun layaklah untuk dicatat bahwa **tempat suci raksasa itu** dibangun pada periode yang sama dengan apa yang disebut oleh buku-buku sejarah sebagai “Zaman Keyakinan”, yang menganugerahi dunia dengan ekspresi-ekspresi terindah keyakinan spiritual zaman pertengahan Eropa. (page 17-18)

The structures of these two NPs are broken down in detail as below:

**Noun Phrases:**

1. **this major sanctuary**
   - **this** (modifier)
   - **major** (modifier)
   - **sanctuary** (head)

2. **tempat suci raksasa itu**
   - **tempat** (head)
   - **suci** (modifier)
   - **raksasa** (modifier)
   - **itu** (modifier)
The English NP “this major sanctuary”, grammatically, consists of three elements including determiner “this”, adjective “major” and noun head “sanctuary”. This phrase is translated into NP “tempat suci raksasa itu” in Indonesian which is postmodified. The noun “tempat” is the noun head with adjective “suci”, adjective “raksasa” and determiner “itu”. From this structure, it is obvious that the two NPs are modified by using definite article, having certain noun as its reference. The article “this” in the English NP is determiner, while “major” is categorized as central premodifier. Eventually, the word “major” has two senses. “Major” in sense of “most of” is precentral premodifier. In this phrase, the word “major” has the sense of adjective “giant” which belongs to central premodification zone.

Determiner “this” is translated into determiner “itu” in Indonesian. Both are aimed to give specific reference or to restrict the NPs. Though both are determiners, “this” is endophoric while “itu” is exophoric. The adjective “sanctuary” is not translated into one word, but rather, it is translated into an NP “tempat suci”. The NP “tempat suci” is a phrase consists of noun head “tempat” and postmodifier “suci”. Both “sanctuary” and “tempat suci” has similar meaning in term of religious activity. However, “sanctuary” has another sense of meaning referring to the specific place for nature or animal reservation. On the other hand, “tempat suci” only expresses the sense of “sacred place for people doing prayer and other religious ceremony”. The word “sanctuary” and “tempat suci” both promise mental safety for those who are in it, though “sanctuary” may have additional sense of “providing physical safety” as well.
The two phrases “this major sanctuary” and “tempat suci raksasa itu”, both emphasize on the size of the building which they refer to. Thus, each presents the words “major” and “raksasa”. However in the English NP, adjective “major” besides expressing the meaning of “big”, also brings the sense of “importance”. By choosing the NP “this major sanctuary”, the writer seems to describe that the site he referred to in this sentence is truly great in terms of size and also “great” in term of its significant role in the world’s history. This is the sense which is not included in its equivalence using adjective “raksasa” to represent similar meaning. The translation of this English NP uses literal translation though the translation of the word “sanctuary” into “tempat suci” can be considered as established equivalence.

Premodified English NPs with three premodifiers can be found in various phrase structures including:

1. Premodified with Determiner + Adverb + Adjective
2. Premodified with Determiner + Adjective + Adjective
3. Premodified with Noun + Adjective + -ing participle
4. Premodified with Adjective + -ing participle + Adjective
5. Premodified with Adjective + Adjective + -ing participle
6. Premodified with Noun + Adjective + Adjective
7. Premodified with Determiner + Adjective + Noun
8. Premodified with Determiner + Determiner + Adjective
9. Premodified with Noun + Adjective + Noun
10. Premodified with Determiner + -ed participle + Adjective
Combining three types of premodifiers, the construction of determiner + adverb + adjective was found in the books. The structure contains several types of adverbs and adjectives which can be presented clearer by taking some examples.

**English SL**: There is not one instant in time during which these figures look alike to the previous moment and this is what brings volcanic stone blocks to *this uniquely vibrant life*, which animates the divine smile of its stone-carved population! (page 16)

**Indonesian TL**: Tak ada satu momen pun dimana terdapat figur-figur yang terlihat serupa dengan momen sebelumnya, dan itulah yang menyebabkan mengapa sesuatu yang terlihat seperti bongkahan gunung yang kaku dari sejuta lebih keping batu vulkanik menjadi *seolah-olah hidup*, yang menghidupkan senyum surgawi para tokoh di atas batu-batu berukir! (page 16)

Take a look at the NPs structures as described in the tree diagram as below.

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this uniquely vibrant life
det. modifier modifier head
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In term of grammatical equivalence, the English NP “this uniquely vibrant life” consists of article “this”, adverb “uniquely”, adjective “vibrant”, and noun head “life”. The article “the” takes determinative role, while adjective “vibrant” occupies central premodifier zone. It seems like not all NP will always be
translated into NP. For example, the phrase “seolah-olah hidup” as the translation of the English NP “this uniquely vibrant life” is not an NP. Therefore, it is not possible to create its structural NP breakdown like what have been carried out on its English NP “this uniquely vibrant life”. This is a unique case, in which an NP from an SL is reconstructed into a non-NP in the TL. Instead, the NP “this uniquely vibrant life” is translated into adjective phrase “seolah-olah hidup”.

However, both phrases cover feature of movement which is brought by adjective “vibrant” in the English SL and adjective “hidup” in the Indonesian TL. In the English SL, the writer wants to emphasize of the uniqueness of the reliefs by presenting adverb “uniquely”. This “one-of-a-kind” sense of meaning is absent in its Indonesian equivalence. The English NP “this uniquely vibrant life” is translated into “seolah-olah hidup”. The translation of this English NP uses discursive creation.

Premodified English NPs with four premodifiers can be found in various phrase structures including:

1. Premodified with Determiner + Noun + Adverb + Adjective

2. Premodifier with Determiner + Noun + Adjective + Noun

An example of NP found in “Lalitavistara” is as follow.

English SL : The Buddha sets off for the “Deer Park” near Varanasi where he intends to “set in motion the wheel of Law”, i.e. start to preach the Dharma, at first to his five former ascetic companions.

(page 342)
Indonesian TL : Buddha berangkat menuju “Taman Rusa” dekat Waranasi tempat ia berniat “memutar Roda Dharma”, yakni memulai pembabaran Dharma, pertama-tama kepada *lima mantan rekan petapanya*. (page 342)

The structures of the two NPs can be described in a tree diagram as follows.

The English NP “his five former ascetic companions”, grammatically consists of several components including determiner “his”, numeral “five”, adjective “former”, adjective “ascetic”, and plural noun head “companions”. In this NP structure, pronoun “his” occupies determinative position, former occupies precentral zone, while adjective “ascetic” also occupies precentral zone. Its Indonesian NP equivalence “*lima mantan rekan petapanya*” consists of numeral “*lima*”, adjective “*mantan*”, noun head “*rekan*” and noun “*petapa*” completed.
with possessive pronoun “-nya” as the translation of the word “his”. Suffix “–nya” is attached on the end of NP instead of the noun head to show that the suffix is aimed to modify the whole phrase, not just the noun head “rekan”.

Translated into “lima rekan petapanya” in Indonesian, the meaning brought by the English NP “his five former ascetic companions” has been transferred accordingly. The two phrases share similar features which means that all semantic elements contained in the SL NP has been represented in the closest way by using Indonesian as the TL. The translation of this English NP uses literal translation.

From the 149 analyzed English NPs, the result shows that the most common technique applied by the translator is the technique of literal translation. The percentage counting of the translation techniques are shown in the graphic as follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>established equivalent</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transposition</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discursive creation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>generalization</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>description</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>literal</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>91.9 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Literal translation dominates the translation technique which is used to translate the English NPs found in “Latitavistara” into Indonesian equivalences at 91.9 %. The very basic reason why this fact occurs is because some religious terms involved in the NPs are fixed terms which have been known by most Indonesian Buddhist. In addition it seems like the translator tends to translate the phrases literally first as long as. Though, to ensure about the reason and some other aspects behind the translation result, should be confirmed to the translator and analyze the translation process, which is out of the scope of this study.

**CONCLUSION**

Types of premodified English NP found in bilingual book “Lalitavistara” which are premodified in term of adjective can take single premodification or multiple premodification. Literal translation is the most common translation technique applied to translate premodified NP at 91.9 % of the premodified NP.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


