

## Translation Shifts of the English Phrases In Taylor Swift's Songs into Indonesian

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**Abstract**--This paper aims to find out the types of translation shifts occurring in the translation of phrases in Taylor Swift's song lyrics from English into Indonesian, and to describe the types of equivalence in their translation. The data sources of this research are the English Taylor Swift's song lyrics and their translations in Indonesian taken from the music videos which contain lyrics in English and translations in Indonesian appeared on the screen. The playlists were downloaded from a YouTube channel called *Indolirik*. To obtain the data necessary for the discussion, the documentation method was applied. The data were analyzed qualitatively based on types of translation shifts (Catford, 1965), and the types of translation (Nida and Taber, 1982). The analysis shows that all types of shifts except intra-system shifts occur in English-to-Indonesian translations, with unit shifts being the most frequent, reflecting significant structural and linguistic adjustments. Formal correspondence was applied more frequently compared to dynamic equivalence. It is because from the total of 106 data used, the number of simple phrases was found more dominant (103 data) than the complex phrases (3 data). Simple phrases are usually more to the point or direct when translated compared to complex phrases.

**Keywords:** *English-Indonesian translation, translation shifts, phrases, types of equivalence*

**Abstrak**--Tulisan ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis pergeseran terjemahan frasa dalam lirik lagu Taylor Swift dari bahasa Inggris ke bahasa Indonesia, dan menganalisis jenis-jenis kesepadanan pada terjemahannya. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah lirik lagu Taylor Swift dalam bahasa Inggris dan terjemahannya dalam bahasa Indonesia. Lirik lagu didapatkan dari video musik pada *Playlist* yang diunduh dari saluran YouTube bernama *Indolirik*. Data dikumpulkan dengan menerapkan metode dokumentasi. Data yang telah dikumpulkan dianalisis dengan metode kualitatif-deskriptif. Pertama, data dianalisis berdasarkan jenis pergeseran terjemahan (Catford, 1965), dan kemudian berdasarkan jenis kesepadanan terjemahan (Nida dan Taber, 1982). Analisis menunjukkan bahwa semua jenis pergeseran kecuali pergeseran intra-sistem ditemukan dalam terjemahan bahasa Inggris-ke-Indonesia pada data, dengan pergeseran unit menjadi yang paling banyak ditemukan. Hal ini menunjukkan adanya penyesuaian struktur frasa yang signifikan. *Formal correspondence* lebih sering digunakan dibandingkan dengan *dynamic equivalence*. Hal ini dikarenakan dari total 106 data yang digunakan, jumlah frasa sederhana ditemukan lebih dominan (103 data) daripada frasa kompleks (3 data). Frasa sederhana biasanya diterjemahkan secara langsung atau *to the point/direct* dibandingkan dengan frasa kompleks.

**Kata Kunci:** *terjemahan Bahasa Inggris-Indonesia, pergeseran pada terjemahan, frasa, tipe kesepadanan*

## 1. Introduction

According to Catford (1965:20), translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). For example, when the English phrase “my book” is translated into the Indonesian phrase “buku saya”, there is a replacement from SL structure (determiner + noun) by the equivalent TL (Indonesian) grammar/lexis (noun + determiner). Larson (1998:3) adds that in translation the form of the source language is replaced by the form of the receptor (target) language.

Nowadays there are various translation products that can be found, and one of them is song lyrics. In the current era, English song translations are very easy to get. Apart from being able to be obtained through human translation, it can also be obtained via machine translation. English song lyrics are often translated into various languages to expand their accessibility, including translated into Indonesian. This is done to help individual music lovers whose native language is not English to enjoy music and understand the meaning of the lyrics of the songs they listen to. In the translation, the source language translated to the target language, and there will be a change in the word structure from nouns to adjectives, words to sentences, long to short, and so on. This change occurred because of a shift in the translation process. Catford (1965:73) defines a shift as the departure from formal correspondence in the process of transitioning from the source language to the target language. It shows different changes that occur during the translation process.

Previous research regarding translation shifts that have been carried out. Most of them used novels as the data source. Patricia et al (2021), Djameleng et al (2022), Donatus (2018), Permatasari et al (2014), and Juliarta (2021) among others, specifically analyze the translation shifts of adverbs of manner, sentences, complex noun phrases, verbs and verb phrases and noun phrases respectively from English to Indonesian

or vice versa. Some units of the analysis in previous research focused on words and certain parts of speech like (nouns, adverbs, verbs) only and only focus on looking for one type of shift, namely category shift. The research including Melani (2021), Lukman and Hilman (2023), Widiastuti and Indriani (2023), and Sanjaya and Wardana (2024) among others, specifically analyze the translation shifts of “words, phrases, clauses, sentence”, “the lines of song lyrics”, and “compound nouns”. Therefore, this research tries to analyze the translation shifts from their types and is completed by looking at the equivalence of the translations.

Based on the background of study, this paper formulated two aims. First, to find out the types of translation shifts occurred in the translation of phrases in Taylor Swift’s Song Lyrics from English into Indonesian, and second, to describe the types of equivalence in the translation of phrases in Taylor Swift’s Song Lyrics from English into Indonesian.

## 2. Research Methods

### 2.1 Data Source

The data sources of this research are the English Taylor Swift’s Song Lyrics and their translations in Indonesian, entitled Cruel Summer (released in 2019 and written by Taylor Swift, Jack Antonoff, and Annie Clark, the lyrics were translated in 2020), Afterglow (released in 2019 and written by Taylor Swift, Louise Bell and Adam Feeney, the lyrics were translated in 2022), Gorgeous (released in 2017 and written by Taylor Swift, Max Martin, and Shellback, the lyrics were translated 2021), Cornelia Street (released in 2019 and written by Taylor Swift and the lyrics were translated in 2021), London Boy (released in 2019 and written by Talor Swift, Jack Antonoff, Cautious Clay and Mark Anthony Spears, the lyrics were translated in 2022), Getaway Car (released in 2017 and written by Taylor Swift and Jack Antonoff, the lyrics were translated in 2020), and Right Where You Left Me (released in 2021 and

written by Taylor Swift and Aaron Dessner, the lyrics were translated 2021). All of the English song lyrics were translated by the Indonesian translator named Niscala.

The song lyrics were taken from the music videos which contain lyrics in English and translations in Indonesian appeared on the screen. The music videos are already arranged in a playlist entitled "The Best-Underrated Song" by the owner of *Indolirik* youtube channel which has been translated by a translator named Niscala. The playlist was downloaded from a YouTube channel called *Indolirik*. These songs were chosen as data sources because of their availability, starting from the original English lyrics and its translation in Indonesian were complete.

## 2.2 Data Collection

This section contains the method and technique of collecting data. To obtain the data necessary for the discussion, the documentation method was applied with several techniques.

1. Find and write all phrases (noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, and adverb phrases) in Taylor Swift's song lyrics and their translations.
2. Make a list of phrases from the lyrics and their translations (English and Indonesian) completed with the abbreviation of each song and minute/time as the source identity. If the same phrases in the same lyric are repeated with the same translations, they are not written twice. Otherwise, if the same phrases in the same lyric are repeated with different translations, they are categorized as different data.

## 2.3 Data Analysis

This study applied the qualitative method to analyze the data. The data that had been collected

were analysed by applying the descriptive qualitative method. The data were first analyzed based on types of translation shifts using the theory of translation from Catford (1965) to answer the first problem of the study. Then, to describe the types of equivalence of the translations, the data was analyzed using Nida and Taber's (1982) equivalence.

## 3. Results and Discussions

There are 4 out of 5 types of shifts found in the data. They are level shift, structure shift, class shift, and unit shift. One type of shift that is the intra-system shift is not found. There are 11 Level Shifts, 66 Unit Shifts, 26 Structure Shifts and 3 Class Shifts that were found. The formal correspondence was applied more frequently (71 data) than dynamic equivalence (35 data). The following sections contain the sample data presented in the analysis based on the types of shifts which are associated with differences in phrase patterns/structures. The description and analysis of types of equivalence are placed after the identification of types of translation shifts.

### Level Shifts

Level shifts occur when a concept in the source language (SL) that is expressed at one linguistic level (e.g., grammar or lexis) is translated into a different level in the target language (TL). Sample data 1 shows the occurrence of level shift.

- (1) SL : Fighting with a true love is boxing with no gloves.  
TL : *Bertengkar dengan kekasih bagai bertinju tanpa sarung tangan.*  
(AF / 00.22 - 00.26)

Sample data (1) in the source language *is boxing* should be translated into *sedang bertinju* in the target language because to be *is* followed by the prefix *-ing* attached to the verb *box* which is used as grammar in English has an equivalent word or lexis *sedang* in Indonesian. However, the word *sedang* is not added because in Indonesian the

word *sedang* can be added or not. Then, it was translated into a verb *bertinju* in Indonesian. The sample of data shows a shift from grammar to lexis between the source and target languages, which is known as level shift even though the lexis *sedang* is not shown or added before the word *bertinju*.

Based on the types of equivalence, the translation of *is boxing* into *bertinju* is classified as a formal equivalence. It is because in this case, *boxing* in English and *bertinju* in the target language (Indonesian) refer to the sport of fighting with fists. The word *bertinju* is a verb meaning *to box* or *to engage in boxing*, and the phrase *is boxing* also refers to the verb but in the continuous tense form.

### Category Shifts

There are four types of category shift based on Catford (1965). They are Structure shift, Class shift, Unit shift, and Intra-system shift. However, based on the data that have been collected, Intra-system shift is not found.

### Category Shift – Unit Shift

Based on the data source, the unit shifts that were found in the data source are from phrases to words.

(2) SL : I get mystified by how this city screams your name.

TL : *Aku heran bagaimana hatiku selalu meneriakkan namamu.*

(CST / 01.05 - 01.13)

The phrase *get mystified* is transferred into a word *heran* in the target language. The data shows a change in unit/rank from a phrase which is VP into a word (verb) between the source and target languages, which is known as unit shift.

The translation of *get mystified* into *heran* shows the dynamic equivalence. The word *get* is added to show that the speaker emphasizes the adjective *mystified*. The phrase *get mystified* conveys the feeling of becoming confused or perplexed, and it has the same contextual meaning as its translation *heran* that is the sense of

confusion or bewilderment.

(3) SL : I'm so terrified of if you ever walk away.

TL : *Aku begitu takut jika kau pergi.*  
(CST / 01.15 - 01.22)

Sample data (3) shows the source language phrase *walk away* that is transferred into a word *pergi* in the target language. The phrasal verb (PV) in the SL has the constitution of the main verb *walk* + an adverb *away*. Then, it was translated into a verb *pergi* in Indonesian. It shows a change in unit/rank from a phrase which is a verb phrase into a word (verb) between the source and target languages, which is known as unit shift.

In this case, the meaning of the phrasal verb *walk away* is effectively conveyed in the target language *pergi*. The translation is natural for Indonesian readers while maintaining the essence of the message.

(4) SL : Why'd I have to break what I love so much?

TL : *Kenapa aku mematahkan apa yang begitu kucinta?*  
(AF / 00.31 - 00.35)

In sample data (4), the adverb phrase (AdvP) in the SL has the constitution of adverb *so* + adverb *much*. Then, it was translated into an adverb *begitu* in Indonesian. It shows a change in unit/rank from a phrase which is an adverb phrase into a word (adverb) between the source and target languages, which is known as unit shift.

The translation of *so much* to *begitu* is a category of dynamic equivalence. In this case, *so much* could have been translated more literally (and formally) as something like *begitu banyak* (much more) or *sangat banyak* (very much), but *begitu* captures the intensity and sentiment of *so much* in a way that is more natural and idiomatic in the target language. The focus here is on delivering the meaning effectively rather than sticking closely to the original wording.

### Category Shift – Structure Shift

According to Catford (1965), structure shift occurs when there are two languages, for example source language and target language, which have different elements of structure. These are the following examples and analysis.

- (5) SL : Bad, bad boy. Shiny toy with a price.  
TL : Lelaki nakal yang sangat aku dambakan itu.  
(CS / 00.12 - 00.14)

The phrases in both SL and TL in sample (5) indicate that a structure shift occurs. In English, *bad boy* consists of an adjective *bad* and modifying a noun *boy*. In Indonesian, *lelaki nakal* also consists of a noun *lelaki* followed by an adjective *nakal*. However, the typical word order in Indonesian is noun-adjective, whereas in English, it is adjective-noun. This represents a structural shift due to differences in syntax between the two languages.

In this case, *lelaki nakal* successfully conveys the general idea and contextual meaning of *bad boy* while adapting to Indonesian linguistic and cultural norms. Meanwhile, the formal correspondence focuses on preserving the structure and individual words of the source text as closely as possible. A formal correspondence translation might attempt something like *anak laki-laki buruk*, which is grammatically accurate but sounds unnatural and fails to convey the intended meaning or cultural nuance of *bad boy*.

- (6) SL : I love you, ain't that the worst thing you ever heard?  
TL : Aku mencintaimu, bukankah itu adalah hal terburuk yang pernah kau dengar?  
(CS / 01.58 - 02.01)

Sample data (6) shows that there is a structure shift. The English word *worst* means *paling buruk* or *terburuk* in Indonesian, the word

*thing* means *benda*, *orang*, or *hal*, while *the* is not translated. Therefore, the word *worst* and *thing* are translated literally into *terburuk* and *hal* respectively in Indonesia. Even though they are translated literally, the word order still changes. It is translated by changing the word order from Adj + N in English to N + Adj in Indonesian in which a structure shift occurs by changing the word order.

In this case, the type of equivalence that is shown is formal correspondence since the phrase *worst thing* literally means *hal terburuk* in Indonesian, even though the structure is in the reverse order, and despite *the* has zero translation.

- (7) SL : And you know I love Springsteen, Faded blue jeans, Tennessee whiskey.  
TL : Dan kau tau aku menyukai Springsteen, jeans biru pudar, wiski Tennessee.  
(LB / 00.17 - 00.22)

The phrases in sample data (7) in both SL and TL indicated that there is a structure shift. It shows a change in grammatical structure between the source language (SL) and target language (TL). In English, the structure is adjective + adjective + noun: *faded blue jeans*, while in Indonesian, the structure is noun + adjective + adjective: *jeans biru pudar*. This shift reflects the natural syntactic order in Indonesian (a noun followed by modifiers), indicating a structural shift.

The translation *jeans biru pudar* closely mirrors the word order and structure of the original:

*faded* → *pudar* (adjective).

*blue* → *biru* (adjective).

*jeans* → *jeans* (noun - borrowed word)

The result preserves the form of the SL while respecting the syntactic order of the TL. This qualifies as formal correspondence due to its structural alignment with the SL.

### Category Shift – Class Shift



Class shift means a shift of class from SL into TL, but does not change the original meaning. The following samples show the class shifts.

(8) SL : I lived like an island, punished you with silent.

TL : *Aku jalani hidup sendirian, menghukummu dengan kedamaian*.  
(AF / 01.34 - 01.38)

According to Cambridge Online Dictionary, the word *silent* belongs to an adjective in English. It is translated into *kedamaian* in Indonesian as a TL which is a noun according to KBBI (*Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*). In this case, the class shift shown by an adjective in the source language becomes a noun in the target language.

The translation from *with silent* (SL) to *dengan kedamaian* (TL) demonstrates dynamic equivalence rather than formal equivalence. It is because it focuses on conveying the meaning and intent of the original text in a way that is natural and appropriate in the target language. In this case, *silent* is directly translated to *diam* or *sunyi* in a formal equivalence approach. However, *dengan kedamaian* has the intended mood or connotation rather than the literal meaning, which aligns with dynamic equivalence.

(9) SL : Tells me this love is worth the fight.

TL : *Cinta ini layak diperjuangkan*.  
(AF / 01.25 - 01.33)

Sample data (9) is classified as a class shift. The word *fight* in the phrase *the fight* in the SL belongs to a noun, that is because there is a marker or determiner *the* which is usually identical written in front of the noun in English. It is translated into *diperjuangkan* which is a verb in Indonesian as a TL. In this case, the class shift is shown from the different word categories (from noun into verb) in the SL and TL.

The phrase *the fight* and the word *diperjuangkan*, in this case is the dynamic equivalence. If *the fight* is literally translated to

*perjuangan* in Indonesian it could be a formal equivalence. Whereas, the word *diperjuangkan* is a verb form meaning *is being fought for* or *is being struggled for* which shifts the phrase from a noun to a verb, focusing on the action or the process. This translation emphasizes the dynamic aspect of the fight rather than just the fight itself, making it a better fit for dynamic equivalence.

#### 4. Conclusion

From the findings and discussions, it can be concluded that all types of shifts except intra-system shifts were found in the English to Indonesian translations based on the data. The shifts occurred with varying distribution, reflecting linguistic differences and the translator's strategies for achieving naturalness and accuracy. Level shifts occur when a concept expressed at one linguistic level (e.g., grammar) in the source language (SL) is translated at a different level (e.g., lexis) in the target language (TL). It involves translating tense in English grammar into an adverb in Indonesian. The high frequency of unit shifts found indicates the need for flexibility in handling structural differences between English and Indonesian. Structure shifts result from differences in the syntactic order between English and Indonesian (e.g., adjective-noun order in English becoming noun-adjective in Indonesian). Class shifts occur when a word in the SL changes grammatical class (e.g., noun to verb) in the TL. The relatively low frequency suggests that such transformations are less common but still necessary for some translations to convey meaning naturally. The absence of intra-system shift shows that intra-system differences (e.g., number, definiteness) were either minimal or handled without explicit shifts.

The number of formal correspondences was found more frequent compared to dynamic equivalence. This happened because from the total of 106 data used, the number of simple phrases was found more dominant than complex phrases, there are 103 simple phrases and only 3 complex phrases were found. Simple phrases are usually more to the

point or direct when translated compared to complex phrases because they contain simple words.

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- Cruel Summer music video  
<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=aC9HkZW2hZk&si=2e6kdhGMvI-P8IDx>
- Afterglow music video  
[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=oNiyHQhYqTc&si=MFvQmvtTgw\\_CHZo\\_](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=oNiyHQhYqTc&si=MFvQmvtTgw_CHZo_)
- Gorgeous music video  
<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=2VeekpO-JQM&si=LctWURB0ylIeHft5>
- Cornelia Street music video  
<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=bqJ9I-3MGlg&si=Dvhr573fdPFjkmOt>
- London Boy music video  
[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=0o0WbQV6OZQ&si=DmyP49kk6eZIdr8\\_](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=0o0WbQV6OZQ&si=DmyP49kk6eZIdr8_)
- Getaway Car  
[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=FhPLQVIUiNQ&si=qgoj8iaEw\\_VzqsPp](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=FhPLQVIUiNQ&si=qgoj8iaEw_VzqsPp)
- Right Where You Left Me music video  
[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=8-pgY8\\_1-7U&si=1WPUGJaAGn1RzSYM](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=8-pgY8_1-7U&si=1WPUGJaAGn1RzSYM)
- Best Underrated Playlist by Indolirik, contains 7 song lyrics and their translations  
[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGF6a0tx9YvLk\\_bOA39KYfhOCarjqnlIY&si=TI8EfA10dIanhkO1](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGF6a0tx9YvLk_bOA39KYfhOCarjqnlIY&si=TI8EfA10dIanhkO1)
- Indonesian Online Dictionary  
<https://kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id/>
- English Dictionary  
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-indonesian/>