The Grammatical and Textual Equivalence in the English-Indonesian Translation of Milan's the Duchess War

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Article Info	Abstract

This study examines grammatical and textual equivalence in the translation of Courtney Milan's novel "The Duchess War" from English into Indonesian. The data were collected through qualitative content analysis of selected dialogs from the original text and their translations, using the categories of grammatical equivalence (such as number, gender, person, tense, aspect, and voice) and textual equivalence (such as reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion). The data were analyzed using Baker's (1992) theory of equivalence and Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory of cohesive devices, with triangulation of methods to ensure the validity of the findings. The findings of this study show a high level of equivalence, with 89.7% grammatical equivalence and 88.7% textual equivalence. Although there were some cases of misalignment, the overall translation accuracy remained high. The main contribution of this study is to provide insights for translators regarding the importance of considering cultural context in achieving accurate and cohesive translations. This study implies that grammatical and textual equivalence is not enough to guarantee translation accuracy. Thus, paying attention to the cultural nuances will also help translators to effectively convey the intended meaning of source language in cross-cultural communication context.

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INTRODUCTION

Translation is a common technique in the context of English language learning, where the intended meaning of the source language is rendered into the target language. Translation, as a process, emphasizes the translator's responsibility to transform the source text into a text in a different language. However, translation is challenging not only because it involves conveying meaning from one language to another, but also because translators must produce a text that reads naturally in the target language. This is a demanding task for translators. In order to achieve information that is comparable to what the author wishes to convey, the message from the source text needs to be effectively disseminated throughout the target text. To ensure that readers can easily comprehend the material, translators are required to produce target texts that are grammatically and textually comparable to the original text. For a translator to create a text with grammatical and textual equivalence, they must be familiar with the meanings of these terms and their various forms.

During the translation process, maintaining equivalence is one of the fundamental concerns of translators. Equivalence can be classified into several types, including semantic, grammatical, pragmatic, and textual equivalence. The concept of textual equivalence, which will be examined through the lens of equivalence and textuality, is the primary focus of this study. According to Koller (1995), as cited in Hatim and Munday (2004), the idea of equivalence is subject to the limits imposed by linguistic elements in both the target and source languages, as well as external linguistic conditions. These factors may pose challenges, and historical-cultural conditions also play a role in determining how texts are produced, received, and translated.

In addition, recent studies have expanded on the foundational theories of translation equivalence, offering updated insights. For example, Abdi Tabari & Johnson (2023) examine cohesive devices in academic writing, while Ahangar & Rahnemoon (2019) focus on medical text translation. These newer perspectives demonstrate the importance of genre and context in maintaining grammatical and textual equivalence, suggesting areas where previous research may not have addressed specific challenges in diverse types of texts.

Translation has a significant impact on literature. In Indonesia, many translated novels are widely available, but the quality of these translations often does not meet readers' expectations. Venuti (2022) argues that a translation must provide the audience with an interpretation that is both comprehensible and engaging, as the reproduction must adapt the source text into a different language. Furthermore, the manner in which this reproduction reaches the audience is critical. Some readers may find it difficult to understand the translated book because the language used does not convey the meaning clearly. In cases where translation is not natural, readers may feel compelled to return to the original text to fully grasp the intended message.

Milan's The Duchess War was chosen as the object of this study due to several factors. First, the novel presents specific challenges in terms of translating complex sentence structures and historical references that do not have direct equivalents in Indonesian. Second, as a popular work of historical romance, the novel's translation requires careful attention to both narrative tone and linguistic accuracy. This makes it a relevant case study for examining how widely-read texts are translated and how translation choices impact reader reception and cultural understanding.

This research uses English as the source language and Indonesian as the target language. When translating English writings into Indonesian, grammatical errors may occur, leading to the target language failing to convey the intended meaning from the source text. This is because English and Indonesian use different grammatical categories. Investigating a text's grammatical equivalence, despite being translated from its source language into its target

language, helps determine whether the text retains its meaning after translation.

The achievement of grammatical equivalence is important in accurately conveying the intended meaning. This is related to the variation in grammatical categories across different languages. Baker (1992) defines grammar as a collection of rules that govern how linguistic units, such as words and phrases, can be associated within a language. Grammar also dictates explicit details that must be conveyed during communication. The level of grammatical equivalence between two languages in translation directly impacts how information is delivered to the reader.

On the other hand, textual equivalence refers to the cohesion between source and target texts in terms of information flow and structure. Textual equivalence plays a key role in translation as it provides principles for analyzing source texts, supporting translators in producing texts that are coherent for readers within a specific context. The responsibility for ensuring cohesion relates to maintaining the coherence of the source language text in the translation. The translator's decisions will be influenced by several elements, such as the target audience, the translation's objectives, and the text's genre. Baker (1992) provides a detailed analysis of textual equivalence, with a focus on maintaining cohesion through processes like substitution, ellipsis, conjunctions, and lexical cohesion.

It is essential to conduct this research to clarify that translation accuracy cannot be limited to grammatical and textual equivalence alone; rather, it must also account for the cultural context of the original text. For example, if a phrase is grammatically equivalent between the source text and the target text, this does not necessarily mean it accurately conveys the original meaning. This research also examines instances of non-equivalence found in The Duchess War and its translation, highlighting how such discrepancies may affect the accuracy of the translated text.

METHOD

This study examines the grammatical and textual equivalence in the English-Indonesian translation of The Duchess War by Courtney Milan. Multiple methods were employed to ensure a comprehensive analysis of the data. The study applied a descriptive qualitative approach to explore the equivalence between the source and target texts. Data were collected from both the original English version of the novel and its Indonesian translation, Skandal Sang Duchess.

The content analysis method was used to identify and categorize instances of grammatical and textual equivalence in the selected sections of the novel, focusing on specific grammatical categories such as number, gender, person, tense and aspect, and voice. For textual equivalence, the study analyzed reference, substitution and ellipsis, conjunctions, and lexical cohesion using Halliday and Hasan's cohesive devices theory (1976).

In addition, triangulation was employed to ensure the validity of the data and findings. This method involved cross-checking the results through theoretical triangulation, where multiple theoretical frameworks (such as Baker's theory of equivalence and Halliday and Hasan's cohesion theory) were applied to the same data set. Data triangulation was also conducted by comparing different sections of the novel to ensure consistency in the findings across the text.

The data analysis included a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures, with the frequency of grammatical and textual equivalence calculated for each category, followed by a qualitative assessment of how these equivalences were maintained or altered in the translation. The degree of equivalence and accuracy was further evaluated by classifying the translations into accurate, less accurate, and inaccurate categories based on the degree to which the meaning and coherence of the original text were preserved.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This research aims to explore the equivalence in grammar and text using the equivalence theory. The analysis focuses on words and phrases in the original novel The Duchess War and its translation, Skandal Sang Duchess, to identify both equivalent and non-equivalent aspects. Additionally, the study integrated cohesive devices theory by Halliday and Hasan (1976) to reinforce its conclusions. The study applied Baker's (1992) grammatical and textual equivalence theory along with Halliday and Hasan's (1976) cohesive devices theory.

Table 1. Grammatical Equivalence

Category	Frequency
Number	2323
Gender	890
Person	2335
Tense and Aspect	2429
Voice	2079
Total	10056

Based on Table 1 on Grammatical Equivalence, it is found that there are 2323 data for number category, 890 data for gender category, 2335 data for person category, 2429 data for tense and aspect category, and 2079 data for voice category, with a total of 10056 data.

Table 2. Level of Equivalence in Grammatical Equivalence

Level	Frequency
Equivalence	9017
Non-equivalence	1039
Total	10056

Table 2 shows the level of equivalence in the translation of The Duchess War into Skandal Sang Duchess. Based on this table, out of a total of 10,056 data and phrases analyzed, 9,017 of them were found to be equivalence, while the other 1,039 were non-equivalence. This shows that the majority of the translations have managed to maintain equivalence with the original text, despite a small number of discrepancies.

Table 3. Translation Accuracy of Grammatical Equivalence

Level	Frequency
Accurate	7816
Less Accurate	2155
Not Accurate	85
Total	10056

Table 3 outlines the accuracy of the translation from The Duchess War to Skandal Sang Duchess. Out of a total of 10,056 words and phrases analyzed, 7,816 of them were rated as accurate, 2,155 were rated as less accurate, and 85 were rated as inaccurate. This data shows that most of the translations have managed to retain the meaning and context of the original text well. However, there are a number of inaccurate translations, which may require review to improve the quality of the translation. Only a few translations were rated inaccurate, indicating that major errors in translation are relatively rare.

Number

Countability is a universal concept found in every language's lexical organization, though not all languages have a grammatical number category. In English, singular nouns can be identified using "a" or "an," and plurals are usually formed by adding -s or -es (e.g., books, chairs), with some irregular forms (e.g., women, people). Some plurals remain the same as their singular form (e.g., fish, sheep). In Indonesian, singular countable nouns are marked by terms like "satu" or "suatu," and plurals are formed by repeating the noun (e.g., "buku-buku" for "books"). In this study, the grammatical equivalent of the number category appears 2323 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "I should like to see that."

TT: "*Aku ingin melihat itu.*"

The translation is grammatically equivalent because it uses the same singular form ("that" becomes "itu"). The translation is also

considered accurate as the meaning and context are well preserved.

Gender

In some languages, nouns and pronouns are categorized as masculine or feminine based on gender, a grammatical distinction applying to both living and non-living things. English shows gender differences in semantic domains and person systems, using distinct nouns for male and female members of species, and adding "-ess" for feminine forms in some occupations like actor-actress and host-hostess. English also distinguishes gender in the third person singular (he, she, it). However, translating English to Indonesian can pose challenges. Indonesian expects male entities to be dynamic and assertive, while feminine forms are more traditional, reflecting enduring perceptions of female submissiveness. In this study, the grammatical equivalent of the gender category appears 890 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "Every time I see her I discover that I've underestimated her prowess. She ties me in knots."

TT: "*Setiap kali bertemu dengannya, aku mendapati aku meremehkan kemampuannya. Dia membuatku tidak mampu berkutik.*"

The translation manages to maintain the feminine grammatical structure of the source text well. The use of the word "kemampuannya" instead of "her prowess" is the right choice to maintain the same nuance of strength and ability referred to in the source text. The expression "meremehkan kemampuannya" also manages to convey the meaning that the narrator is surprised by the female character's ability.

Person

Baker (1992) discusses the formality and politeness factors in European languages' person systems, noting that English lacks this feature. She explores the diverse modes of address used across languages to indicate familiarity or reverence. Baker also emphasizes how participation roles in language are tied to a person's status, often through closed systems of pronouns that categorize participants methodically. These pronouns, organized into first person (speaker or inclusive group), second person (addressee), and third person (others), shape grammatical person, influencing not only pronouns but also verbs and possessives. Baker highlights that the familiarity/deference dimension in pronoun systems is both intriguing and challenging in translation, as it conveys subtle nuances and affects the overall tone of speech. In this study, the grammatical equivalent of the person category appears 2335 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "Whatever he is. Stevens thinks he can prove that the man was involved, that he can insinuate that he worked on your orders."

TT: "*Apa pun dia. Stevens pikir dia bisa membuktikan pria itu terlibat, menyiratkan bahwa Mr. Marshall bekerja atas perintahmu.*"

The source text combines the use of both second and third person ("he" and "the man"), while the target text only uses third person ("dia" and "Mr. Marshall"). This translation maintains equivalence in terms of general grammatical structure, but loses the second person aspect of the source text. This makes the translation less accurate in retaining all the nuances and information of the source text.

Tense and Aspect

In English, verb tenses and aspects such as past, present, perfect, and progressive play a crucial role in indicating when actions occur or occurred. Azar (1989) categorizes English tenses into past and non-past, with specific forms like the -ed ending for past tense verbs. Present tense verbs denote ongoing or habitual actions. In Bahasa Indonesia, verbs do not change form based on tense; instead, time references are conveyed contextually or through specific adverbs or nominal phrases indicating when an action occurs, like "kemarin" (yesterday), "besok" (tomorrow), or "pukul" (at). In this study, the grammatical equivalent of the tense and aspect category appears 2429 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "Because I very much believe in making things clear,"

TT: "*Karena aku percaya lebih baik jika urusan dijelaskan sejak awal,*"

The source text uses the present simple form ("I believe"), which is retained in the translation with the present simple form ("aku percaya"). This maintains equivalence in the use of time and preserves the original meaning of the source text in the target language.

Voice

In language, there are two voices: active and passive. Translating between them ensures that passives are consistently rendered as passives and actives as actives, even if this results in unconventional or ambiguous constructions in the target language. When choosing between active and passive in translation, the translator typically matches the original form, but differences in usage can significantly alter meaning. The active voice, preferred for direct statements about actions, includes transitive verbs (like "Bobby bought pants") and intransitive verbs (like "They are going tomorrow"). In contrast, the passive voice in English transforms an active sentence by replacing the subject with the object, modifying the verb with "be + V3," and optionally adding "by" before the original subject (e.g., "Ezy plays basketball" becomes "Basketball was played by Ezy"). Passives are limited to transitive verbs and are more common in some languages for emphasizing objectivity without specifying the actor, unlike English. In this study, the grammatical equivalent of voice category appears 2079 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "One day, one of his servants will find me covered in dust in the middle of spring-cleaning. "

TT: "*Suatu hari, salah satu pelayannya akan menemukan aku diselimuti debu saat sedang bersih-bersih di musim semi.*"

The source text uses the passive ("will find me covered in dust"), and the translation manages to maintain the passive structure well in the target language ("akan menemukan aku diselimuti debu"). This shows good grammatical equivalence and accuracy in maintaining the

sentence structure as well as the original meaning of the source text.

Table 4. Textual Equivalence

Type	Frequency
Reference	1868
Substitution and Ellipsis	257
Conjunction	537
Lexical Cohesion	213
Total	2875

In "The Duchess War", there are various types of textual equivalence identified in Table 4. These textual equivalences are important in maintaining the cohesion and coherence of the translated text from the original language to the target language. The frequency of each type of equivalence is as follows: reference includes 1868 data, substitution and ellipsis are found in 257 data, conjunction is found in 537 data, and lexical cohesion records 213 data. In total, there are 2875 textual equivalence data in this novel.

Table 5. Level of Equivalence in Textual Equivalence

Level	Frequency
Equivalence	2551
Non-Equivalence	324
Total	2875

Table 5 shows the level of equivalence in textual equivalence found in the novel "The Duchess War". Out of the total 2875 textual equivalence data observed, a total of 2551 data were found to have a full degree of equivalence between the source text and their translations. In contrast, there are 324 data where the translations do not fully maintain equivalence with the source text, known as non-equivalence.

Table 6. Translation Accuracy of Textual Equivalence

Level	Frequency
Accurate	2261
Less Accurate	589
Not Accurate	25
Total	2875

Table 6 illustrates the level of translation accuracy in textual equivalence found in "The Duchess War". Out of a total of 2875 textual equivalence data analyzed, 2261 data were found to have a high level of accuracy, where the translation managed to maintain the meaning and structure of the source text well. However, there were 589 instances where the translation was deemed less accurate, indicating variations or interpretations that did not fully maintain equivalence with the original text. A total of 25 data were found to be inaccurate, indicating that the translation failed to adequately express or preserve the meaning of the source text.

Reference

According to Baker (2011), reference in language establishes identity between linguistic elements, achieved through elements like personal pronouns, possessive determiners, and demonstratives. Halliday and Hasan (1976) classify reference into exophoric, referring outside the text, and endophoric, within the text. Endophoric reference includes anaphoric (referencing previously mentioned items) and cataphoric (referring to items later in the text). In this study, the textual equivalent of reference category appears 1868 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "I can show you what I have thus far. I've organized the names I've gathered so far into three categories: peers' daughters, heiresses, and other."

TT: "*Ibu bisa menunjukkan kepadamu sudah sejauh mana daftar yang Ibu buat. Ibu menggolongkan nama-nama yang sudah Ibu kumpulkan sampai saat ini menjadi tiga kategori: putri kolega, pewaris, dan lainnya.*"

The personal textual category involves pronouns and possessive determiners that refer to specific persons or things. While the target text maintains the general structure and meaning, the use of "Ibu" (Mother) instead of "I" changes the personal reference, possibly altering the intimacy or directness conveyed in the original.

Substitution and Ellipsis

The theory of substitution and ellipsis, introduced by Halliday and Hasan (1976), categorizes these linguistic phenomena into various types. Substitution involves replacing elements within sentences: nominal substitution replaces nouns, verbal substitution replaces verbs with auxiliary verbs like "do," and clausal substitution replaces entire phrases with terms like "so" or "not." Ellipsis, on the other hand, involves omitting elements without explicit replacement: nominal ellipsis omits head nouns within nominal groups, verbal ellipsis omits elements within verbal groups, and clausal ellipsis omits elements within clauses, often involving modal or propositional elements. These techniques enhance linguistic efficiency by relying on contextual understanding and shared knowledge between speakers or writers and their audience. In this study, the textual equivalent of substitution and ellipsis category appears 257 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "If you had gone through my satchel, you'd have found this. I wrote it for you anyway."

TT: "*Kalau kau menggeledah tasku, kau tentu menemukan ini. Aku memang menulisnya untukmu.*"

Here, verbal substitution occurs with "you'd have found" replacing the longer phrase that could explain the action in detail. The translation maintains this substitution accurately and preserves the equivalence in meaning.

Conjunction

Conjunctions act as formal indicators that link phrases within a text, fostering cohesiveness by expressing various relationships. These relationships can be causal, temporal, additive, continuative, or adversative. Halliday and Hasan (1976) identify conjunctive relations such as "and," "yet," "so," and "then," which connect different turns of speech and indicate changes in

topic, often alongside the word "but." Baker (2011) emphasizes that a single conjunction can indicate different relationships, and multiple methods exist to convey temporal or causal linkages beyond conjunctions alone. For instance, in English, temporal relationships can be shown with adverbs like "follow" or "precede," while causal relationships use words like "cause" and "lead to." Conjunctive relations also signify stages within the progression of a text, as seen with ordinal numbers such as "first," "second," and "third." In this study, the textual equivalent of conjucntion category appears 537 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "There's still a long way between talk and organization, and between organization and turning out."

TT: "*Masih perlu waktu lama antara berbicara dan mengorganisasi, dan antara mengorganisasi dan melakukan pemogokan.*"

This sentence uses additive conjunctions to link ideas, emphasizing the stages between talking, organizing, and taking action. The translation maintains the additive relationship and accurately conveys the meaning, demonstrating textual equivalence and accuracy.

Lexical Cohesion

Baker (1992) argues that the lexical choices in a text contribute to its coherence by forming networks of connections between words. Lexical cohesiveness, as described by Halliday and Hasan (1976), involves a particular coherence regarding the subject matter and anticipated progression. Halliday categorizes lexical coherence into two types: reiteration and collocation. In this study, the textual equivalent of lexical cohesion category appears 213 times as shown in the data below:

ST: "And the men are needed only to take the work off the stitch hooks at the end and to reset the cylinder that guides the shape of the stocking. Look at them, Your Grace. They don't even have to make decisions in their daily work. How could we trust them to decide the future of our country? To understand the workings of industry?"

TT: "*Dan para pekerja hanya perlu mengambil hasilnya dari kait rajut dan mengatur ulang silinder yang memandu bentuk stoking. Lihat mereka, Your Grace. Mereka bahkan tidak perlu membuat keputusan dalam pekerjaan harian mereka. Bagaimana mungkin kita bisa memercayai mereka untuk memutuskan masa depan negara kita? Untuk memahami cara kerja industri?*"

Collocation involves the habitual juxtaposition of words or phrases that often occur together within a specific context. In this instance, words like "stitch hooks," "reset the cylinder," and "daily work" are examples of collocation within the context of factory work. Non-equivalence occurs when the translated text does not maintain the same meaning or context as the source text. Here, although the translation is accurate, certain nuances and specific terms may not perfectly align, leading to non-equivalence. Despite the non-equivalence in textual categories, the overall translation maintains the original meaning and intent, providing an accurate representation of the source text.

Based on the findings, the grammatical equivalence between English and Indonesian in The Duchess War shows a high level of equivalence across various grammatical categories. Table 1 indicates a comprehensive distribution of grammatical aspects, including number, gender, person, tense and aspect, and voice, totaling 10,056 instances. The high frequency of these elements suggests a detailed analysis of grammatical structures.

The results in Table 2 reveal that 9,017 out of 10,056 instances maintain grammatical equivalence, translating to 89.7% accuracy. This significant percentage indicates that the translator successfully preserved the grammatical structure of the source text in most cases. For example, the handling of tense and aspect, with 2,429 instances, shows that temporal relationships in the narrative were effectively conveyed, maintaining the chronological flow and nuances of the original story.

Textual equivalence also demonstrates a high degree of accuracy, as shown in Table 5. Out of 2,875 instances, 2,551 maintained textual

equivalence, resulting in 88.7% accuracy. This finding indicates that the translation effectively preserved the cohesive and coherent elements of the original text.

Each type of textual equivalence, reference, substitution and ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion, was analyzed in detail. For instance, references, which appeared 1,868 times, maintained identity and connections within the text, ensuring that pronouns and determiners aligned with their antecedents. Substitution and ellipsis, although less frequent, were accurately translated, preserving the implied meanings and contextual understandings. Conjunctions effectively linked ideas and clauses, maintaining the logical flow and argumentative structure of the text. Lexical cohesion, through reiteration and collocation, preserved the thematic continuity and semantic relationships within the narrative.

Grammatical non-equivalence, although present in 1,039 instances (10.3%), did not significantly impact the overall accuracy of the translation. As shown in Table 3, 7,816 instances were rated as accurate, 2,155 as less accurate, and only 85 as not accurate. The high rate of accurate translations (77.7%) indicates that the majority of grammatical non-equivalence instances did not distort the meaning or context of the original text.

For example, non-equivalence in the category of number might involve differences in pluralization rules between English and Indonesian. While English frequently uses explicit plural markers, Indonesian relies on context or reduplication for pluralization. These differences, though resulting in grammatical non-equivalence, were often managed effectively by the translator, ensuring that the intended meaning was conveyed accurately.

Textual non-equivalence, found in 324 instances (11.3%), showed a minor impact on the overall translation accuracy. Table 6 indicates that 2,261 instances were rated as accurate, 589 as less accurate, and only 25 as not accurate. The high rate of accurate translations (78.6%) suggests that the instances of textual non-equivalence were managed in a way that preserved the overall coherence and meaning of the text.

For example, non-equivalence in conjunctions might involve differences in the use of additive, adversative, causal, or temporal conjunctions between English and Indonesian. These differences were generally managed well, maintaining the logical and temporal relationships within the narrative. Non-equivalence in lexical cohesion, such as collocational patterns, was also handled effectively, ensuring that the thematic continuity and semantic relationships were preserved.

Recommendations based on these findings include strategies for improving the translation of grammatical structures that present challenges, such as the passive voice and collocations. One recommendation for translators is to consider using compensation strategies, whereby a grammatical structure that is difficult to translate can be adapted or compensated for elsewhere in the text to preserve overall meaning and flow. For example, passive voice constructions can be shifted into active voice, but translators should ensure that the emphasis of the sentence is preserved. Additionally, translators should strive for more natural collocations in the target language by consulting corpora or native speakers to find commonly used phrases.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the research concludes that the Indonesian translation of "The Duchess War" maintains a high level of grammatical and textual equivalence, effectively preserving the meaning, context, and structure of the original text. The few instances of non-equivalence and inaccuracies identified suggest areas for potential improvement but do not detract significantly from the overall quality of the translation.

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