



**TRANSLATION METHODS AND DEGREE OF
EQUIVALENCE IN ENGLISH-INDONESIAN
TRANSLATION OF LEO TOLSTOY'S "GOD SEES THE
TRUTH BUT WAITS"**

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Article Info

Article History:

Received in October
2018

Approved in November
2018

Published in January
2019

*Keywords: Translation
method, Degree of
equivalence, "God Sees The
Truth, but Waits"..*

Abstract

This research is conducted to identify the methods used by the translator in translating Tolstoy's God Sees the Truth, But Waits, to describe the degree of equivalence between the English original version and the Indonesian translation of the short story, and to show the relation between them. The translation method used in this research are proposed by Newmark, while the degrees of equivalence are analyzed using Bell's. This research applies qualitative method to describe the aims of this study. The data are analyzed by comparing the English short story and its Indonesian translation. After the data are identified, they are examined to find the relation between the methods used and the degrees of equivalence. The findings of this study show that (1) six translation methods were used to translate God Sees the Truth, but Waits into Indonesian, These include semantic translation, communicative translation, literal translation, adaptation, free translation and word-for-word translation, (2) In terms of the degree of equivalence, it was found that 57 data are partly equivalent with increased meaning, 41 data are fully equivalent, 39 data are non-equivalent with different meaning, 32 data are partly equivalent with decreased meaning and 1 datum are non-equivalent with no meaning, (3) most of the translation methods used produce partly equivalent translation with increased meaning.

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INTRODUCTION

Translation is one of the important tools in communication and information media.

Catford (1962:20) defined translation as the replacement of textual material in one language (Source Language) by equivalent textual material in another language (Target Language). Hartono (2009) stated that "translation is the way to transfer a source language (SL) text into the target language (TL) text" (p.6).

From the two definitions, it can be concluded that in translation, translators deal with written text. It differs from interpreting, where interpreters deal with spoken language.

In translating a text, a translator should consider the types of the text because each text type needs a certain way to be translated.

According to Reiss (2000:160), there are four types of texts, namely informative, expressive, operative and the audio medial texts. The example of expressive text is narrative text in the form of short story.

According to Klarer (1999) short story is a brief narrative prose. Short stories connect education with entertainment in order to make learning easier and interesting (Crumbley & Smith: 2010 as cited in Saka: 2014). Based on these definitions, short story is one of narrative text aims to entertain and to educate the readers.

Translating short story is not an easy task because it aims to entertain and to educate the reader. A translator has to consider a certain way to render all the aspects of short story, so that the aim of the text can be obtained.

Molina and Albir (2002) states that, "Translation method refers to the way of a particular translation process that is carried out in terms of the translator's objective, i.e., a global option that affects the whole texts" (p. 507).

From the statement above, it can be concluded that translated text is greatly determined by translation method adopted by translator because it will affect the whole

translated text. If the objective of a translator is to entertain and to educate the reader, therefore a translator has to decide the best methods that he/she is going to use in order to make translated text entertaining and educating.

Newmark (1988:45) introduced eight methods of translation which are divided into two groups. Four methods emphasize on the source language are word-for-word translation, literal translation, faithful translation and semantic translation. While four other methods emphasize on target language are adaptation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation.

This research tries to identify the translation methods used by the translator in translating *God Sees the Truth, but Waits*. It is a short story written by a famous Russian author named Leo Tolstoy. The story tells about a man sent to prison for a murder he did not commit. Since it takes the form of a parable of forgiveness that contains the moral lesson, the short story can be enjoyed by all segments. Besides, the story also portrays the Russian culture which is poured into the name of the characters, setting and the dictions like *troika* and *samovar*. For the researcher, it is interesting to find out whether the translator is able to render the meaning and the culture into the TT or not.

This research also tries to find out the degree of equivalence between the English original version and its Indonesian translation. Bell (1991:6) classified the degree of equivalence as follows: (1) Fully/Completely Equivalent occurs if the meaning in source text is transferred completely into target language. (2) Partly Equivalent is divided into two. first, partly equivalent with increased meaning occurs if there is additional information realized by new meaning which is not found in the source text. Second, partly equivalent with decreased meaning occurs if some of the meaning in the source text is not realized in target language. (3) Non-Equivalent is also divided into two. First, non equivalent with different meaning occurs if the translator adds information in the source text with the words which have different meaning in the target language. Second, non equivalent with

no meaning occurs if the translator does not realize the translation of the words and idiom in the source text, so the target language loses all information contained in source text.

There are several scholars that have been conducting research dealing with translation method and equivalence.

The first research conducted by Mujiyanto (2011) entitled *Nonequivalence in the English-to-Indonesian Translation of Behavioral Clauses*. Mujiyanto observed the existence of formal nonequivalence appears in the translation of behavioral clauses and the way to achieve functional equivalence through the presence of formal equivalence. His study investigated a written text in English and its Indonesian translation. The result revealed that formal nonequivalence may occur in word phrase, and clause levels. The effort of achieving functional equivalence at clause level was facilitated such formal equivalence maintaining behavioral clauses or restructuring them to form material clauses, mental clauses, or verbal clauses.

The second research was conducted by Hartono and Priyatmojo (2015). The goal of their research was to analyze the translation methods used in translating Harper Lee's Novel entitled *To Kill a Mockingbird (TKM)* from English into Indonesian. Their studies analyzed 47 idioms, 25 metaphors, and 42 personifications. Based on the research it is shown that the translation methods used in translating idioms are word-for-word (21%), literal (36,2%), semantic (2,1%), free (12,8%), and (46,8%), used in translating metaphors are literal (80%), semantic (4%), and free (16%), while used in translating the personification are literal (88%), faithful (4,8%), semantic (4,8%), and communicative (2,4%).

Yuliasri (2016) analyzed translation techniques and pragmatic equivalence in Indonesian translation of humorous utterances in the Walt Disney's Donald Duck Comics. The researcher used 480 utterances that were taken from 21 Walt Disney's Donald Duck comics and their translation as the data. The translator's choice of translation techniques has resulted in 96.87% of the translated humorous utterances

being pragmatically equivalent. The use of such translation techniques as generalization, established equivalent, linguistic compression, amplification, literal translation, compensation, linguistic amplification, variation, particularization, borrowing, transposition, description, and calque has resulted in pragmatic equivalence between ST and TT. Only minor portion (3.13%) of the translated text is not pragmatically equivalent, and this is resulted from the use of discursive creation, reduction, adaptation, and modulation techniques.

METHODS

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. A descriptive qualitative method could be used to analyze and expose the methods and the degree of equivalence between the source text and the target text in the English version of "God Sees the Truth, but Waits" and its Indonesian version which was translated by Harum L. Wibowo. The translation was published in Cerpen Terjemahan website. Mujiyanto (2011) stated that, "Qualitative approach tried to reveal the phenomenon comprehensively and appropriate with the context through the natural data collection employing the researcher as key instrument of the study" (p. 23).

In analyzing the translation methods used in translation of Tolstoy's *God Sees the Truth but Waits*, the researcher compared each of the sentences from both English and Indonesian version. After that, the researcher analyzed the translation methods in each sentence using Newmark's classification of translation methods. From the analysis, it can be seen the classification of translation methods and the mostly methods that were used by the translator in translating the short story.

Besides analyzing the translation methods, in this study the researcher also identifies the degree of equivalence between English version and Indonesian translation of Tolstoy's *God Sees the Truth, but Waits*. The degree of equivalence was gained by doing the

analysis using the modification of Bell's degree of equivalence. After all of the data were identified, the researcher calculated the data to determine the percentage of equivalence.

After obtaining the result of the analysis, the researcher compared between the translation method used and the degree of equivalence in order to get the information about the relation between the two.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this research, the data were identified using Newmark's classification of translation methods and Bell's classification of degree of equivalence.

1. Translation Methods Analysis

There are 185 uses of translation methods to translate 169 sentences as there are cases where one sentence is translated using more than one method. The result of the analysis found that only seven methods were used in translating *God See's the Truth, but Waits* from English to Indonesian. From 169 data that have been analyzed, it is identified that semantic translation is the dominant method used and it occurs 78 times, word-for-word translation occurs 7 times, followed by communicative translation occurs 52 times, literal translation occurs 19 times, adaptation occurs 18 times, free translation occurs 11 times, and word-for-word translation occurs 7 times. The result of translation methods analysis is presented in Table

TRANSLATION METHOD	F	PERCENTAGE (%)
Semantic Translation	78	42.2%
Communicative Translation	52	28.1%
Literal Translation	19	10.3%
Adaptation	18	9.7%
Free Translation	11	5.9%
Word-for-word Translation	7	3.8%
TOTAL	185	100%

Table 3.1: Translation Methods Used

1.1 Semantic Translation

Semantic translation method is identified as the highest number in the translation of *God Sees the Truth but Waits* with total 78 data are found. The application of semantic translation method can be seen in the following example:

T He had two shops and a **house of his own.**

T Dia memiliki dua toko dan **sebuah rumah pribadi.**

T He had two shops and a private house
(Datum 002)

In example (1), the phrase '*a house of his own*' is translated into '*rumah pribadi*' (*private house*) using semantic translation method. The semantic and syntactic structures in source text are rendered closely to the target texts. Translating the phrase '*...of his own*' into the word '*pribadi*' (*private*) is one of the translator's effort in order to preserve the aesthetic value of the text.

1.2 Communicative Translation

The result of the analysis showed that communicative translation is the second most dominant method used with total 52 data. The application of communicative translation method can be seen in the following example:

T "See if I don't sell out all my goods, and bring you some presents from the fair."

T "Aku pasti bisa menjual semua barang daganganku dan pulang dengan membawakanmu cinderamata dari pekan raya."

T "I surely can sell all my goods and come home by bringing you presents from the fair."

(Datum 010)

In translating example (2), the translator applied communicative translation method. It can be seen from the change of the clause form from negative to positive, so that target language reader are easier in understanding the content of the story. In source text, the sentence begins with a clause in negative form '*See if I don't sell out all my goods...*' and then it is followed by

positive clause. If the translator translated using negative form, the sentence would be *'Lihatlah jika aku tidak bisa menjual semua barangku...'* The product of translation would be odd and target language reader would be hard to understand the clause. Therefore, the translator changed the clause from negative form to positive form becomes *'Aku pasti bisa menjual semua barang daganganku...'* By doing so, the translation is easier to be understood by the target language reader.

1.3 Literal Translation

The result of the analysis shows that 19 data from English original version are translated into Indonesian by using literal translation method

T When **he had gone** about twenty-five miles, he **stopped** for the horses **to be fed**.

T Ketika dia telah berjalan sekitar dua puluh lima mil, dia berhenti karena kudanya perlu diberi makan.

T When he had gone about twenty-five miles, he stopped for the horses needed to be fed.

(Datum 016)

Example (3) consists of some grammatical structure, such as the use of past perfect tense and the use of passive voice. Past perfect tense is constructed from subject+auxiliary 'had'+past participle. In this case, the grammatical structure of the clause 'When he had gone about twenty-five miles' is translated into the nearest TL becomes 'Ketika dia telah berjalan sekitar dua puluh lima mil.'

The use of passive voice can be seen in the clause '...for the horses needed to be fed'. It is constructed from verb 'needed'+to be+past participle 'fed' and translated into 'perlu diberi makan.' As what has been stated above, In literal translation method, the SL grammatical construction are converted to their nearest TL equivalents, but the lexical words and language style in the source text remain the same into the target text. Thus, datum 016 is categorized using literal translation method.

1.4 Adaptation

18 data are identified applying adaptation method.

T The prison authorities liked Aksionov for his meekness, and his fellow-prisoners respected him: they called him "**Grandfather**," and "The Saint."

T Para sipir penjara menyukai sikap Aksionov yang lembut dan para narapidana lain juga menghormatinya. Mereka memanggilnya '**Mbah**' dan 'Orang Suci'.

T The prison guards liked Aksionov's gentle attitude and other convicts also respected him. They called him 'Grandfather' and 'Saints.'

(Datum 068)

Example (4) is identified applying adaptation translation method. In translating the text, the translator tried to convert the SL culture to TL culture. It is shown by the translation of the noun which emphasizes to the finding of cultural equivalent between ST and TT. In datum 068 above, the noun 'Grandfather' is translated to the word 'Mbah'. 'Mbah' is a noun adapted from Javanese language and it has equivalent meaning with 'Grandfather'. The use of the noun 'Mbah' to the translation proves that the translator has converted the SL culture to TL culture well. Thus, it makes the reader more interested in reading the translation, since it sounds natural.

1.5 Free Translation

After doing the analysis, the researcher found 11 data applying free translation method.

T They all denied any knowledge of it.

T Mereka semua berkata bahwa mereka tidak tahu apa-apa tentang itu.

T They all said they did not know anything about it.

(Datum 128)

The translator used free translation method in translating example (5). In adaptation

translation method, it tends to reproduce the content of the source text without following the form of it. It is usually in the form of paraphrase and it is much longer than the original text. In this case, the sentence in datum 128 *They all denied any knowledge of it* is translated to *Mereka semua berkata bahwa mereka tidak tahu apa-apa tentang itu* (They all said they did not know anything about it) in order to help the readers to get better understanding.

1.6 Word-for-word Translation

In this research, it is identified 7 data from ST are translated into TT by applying word-for-word translation method

T In the town of Vladimir lived a young merchant named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov.

T Di kota Vladimir, hiduplah seorang pedagang yang bernama Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov.

T In the town Vladimir, lived a merchant named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov.

(Datum 001)

Example (6) is identified to be word-for-word translation method since the words in the sentence above are translated singly by their most common meanings. The preposition *in* is translated into word *di*, the noun *town* is translated into *kota*, the word Vladimir is also translated into Vladimir, the verb *lived* is translated into *hiduplah*, the article *a* is translated into *seorang*, the noun *merchant* is translated into *pedagang* and the adjective *named* is translated into *bernama*. Even though both of the versions have the same structure, it is still acceptable and understandable in the target language. In Indonesian narrative text, it is common using such struture for the prologue of the story.

2. Degree of Equivalence Analysis

From total 169 data, it was found the total frequency of degree of equivalence was 170 occurrences. The results show that most of the sentences are categorized into partly equivalent with increased meaning. It occurs 57 times, followed by fully equivalent occurs 41 times, non-equivalent with different meaning occurs 39

times, partly equivalent with decreased meaning occurs 32 times, and non-equivalent with no meaning occurs once. Details of the analysis can be seen in table 2.

Degree of Equivalence			F
Fully Equivalent (FE)			41
Partly Equivalent (PE)	Increased Meaning (IM)		57
	Decreased Meaning (DM)		32
Non-Equivalent (NE)	Different Meaning (DIFM)		39
	No Meaning (NOM)		1
TOTAL			170

Table 3.2.: Degree of Equivalence between ST and TT

2.1 Partly Equivalent with Increased Meaning

From the analysis, it is found that partly equivalent with increased meaning is the the highest category with total 57 data are identified.

T Aksionov was a handsome, fair-haired, curly-headed fellow, full of fun, and very fond of singing.

T Aksionov adalah seorang pria yang tampan dengan rambut kekuningan dan sedikit bergelombang. **Sifatnya** humoris dan sangat suka bernyanyi.

T Aksionov was a handsome fellow with blonde and wavy hair. His character was humorist and very like singing.

Example (7) is categorized into partly equivalent with increased meaning since there is an additional information realized by new meaning which is not found in ST. In datum 003 above, the translator added the word ‘sifatnya’ (his character) into the translation even though this word is not found in the ST. The word ‘sifatnya’ is added into the TT to explain the adjective full of fun and fond of singing.

2.2 Fully Equivalent

From the analysis, it is found that fully equivalent is the second highest category with total 41 data are identified.

T They had some tea together, and then went to bed in adjoining rooms.

T Mereka minum teh bersama dan kemudian tidur di kamar yang bersebelahan.

T They drank tea together and then slept in adjoining rooms.

(Datum 013)

Example (8) is categorized into fully equivalent. According to Bell, fully equivalent occurs if the meaning in source text is transferred completely into target language. In datum 013, it can be seen that the meaning in ST is transferred completely into target text. The sentence *'They had some tea together, and then went to bed in adjoining rooms.'* is translated to *'Mereka minum teh bersama dan kemudian tidur di kamar yang bersebelahan.'* The subject, the predicate, the object and even the conjunction are translated completely into TT.

2.3 Non-Equivalent with Different Meaning

The result of the analysis shows that 39 data are categorized as non-equivalent with different meaning

T Aksionov laughed, and said, "You are afraid that when I get to the fair I shall go on a **spree**."

T Aksionov tertawa dan berkata, "Kau hanya takut kalau aku akan kembali **mabuk-mabukan** sesampainya di sana."

T Aksionov laughed and said, "You are just afraid if I will get drunk again upon my arrival"

(Datum 006)

Example (8) above is categorized into non-equivalent with different meaning. In datum 006, the translator translated the noun *'spree'* to be *'mabuk-mabukan.'* Based on Oxford Dictionary, *spree* is a spell or sustained period of unrestrained activity of a particular kind or it can be translated into Indonesian becomes

'pelesir'. The word *spree* in ST and the word *mabuk-mabukan* (get drunk) has different meaning, that is why datum 006 is considered to be non-equivalent with different meaning.

2.4 Partly equivalent with Decreased Meaning

In this research, it is identified 32 are categorized as partly equivalent with decreased meaning

T So he said good-bye to his family, and drove away.

Maka berangkatlah Aksionov.

T

Then Aksionov left.

T

(Datum 011)

Example (9) is categorized into partly equivalent with decreased meaning. It can be seen in datum 011 above that the translator didn't realize the clause *'So he said good-bye to his family'* into the TT. The translation of *'So he said good-bye to his family, and drove away.'* should be *'Maka ia berpamitan kepada keluarganya, dan berangkat.'*, but the translator only translated it to *'Then Aksionov left.'* That is why datum 011 is categorized into partly equivalent with decreased meaning.

2.5 Non-equivalent with No Meaning

This category is the lowest category with only 1 datum is identified to non-equivalent with no meaning.

T Then he made his way across to the landlord of the inn (**who lived in a cottage at the back**), paid his bill, and continued his journey.

T Kemudian dia berjalan ke tempat pemilik penginapan, membayar biaya menginapnya, dan kembali melanjutkan perjalanan.

T Then he walked to the innkeeper, paid the accommodation fee, and continued the journey.

(Datum 015)

Example (10) is categorized into non-equivalent with no meaning. The translator did not realize the adjective clause *'who lived in a*

cottage at the back' into the TT, so the TT loses the information about the landlord of the inn seeing. The translation of *'Then he made his way across to the landlord of the inn (who lived in a cottage at the back), paid his bill, and continued his journey.'* should be *'Kemudian dia berjalan ke tempat pemilik penginapan (yang tinggal di sebuah pondok di belakang), membayar biaya menginapnya, dan kembali melanjutkan perjalanan.'*, but the translator only translated it to *'Kemudian dia berjalan ke tempat pemilik penginapan, membayar biaya menginapnya, dan kembali melanjutkan perjalanan.'* That is why datum 015 is considered to be categorized into non-equivalent with no meaning.

3. The Relation between Translation Method Used and The Degree of Equivalence

After obtaining the result of the analysis, the researcher compared between the translation method used and the degree of equivalence in order to get the information about the relation between the two.

It has been stated previously that most of the data in this research are categorized into partly equivalent translation with increased meaning and it is followed by fully equivalent translation. As the result, the translation methods employed usually produce partly equivalent translation with increased meaning. It can be seen from the first four dominant translation method namely semantic translation, communicative translation, literal translation and adaptation are dominated by partly equivalent translation with increased meaning.

Nevertheless, not all of the translation method are dominated by partly equivalent translation with increased meaning. In free translation method, from total 11 data, 6 data are categorized into non-equivalent translation with different meaning, followed by 3 data are categorized into partly equivalent translation with decreased meaning then followed by one data each which is categorized into fully equivalent translation and partly equivalent translation with increased meaning. It shows that free translation method is dominated by non-equivalent translation with different

meaning. This is caused by the translator who tends to reproduce the content of the source text without following the form of it when he/she applies free translation method. Therefore, the result of the translation might be different and doesn't have the equivalent meaning with the source text. The following example shows the data employing communicative translation method which produces non-equivalent translation with different meaning:

Then his wife said, **"It was not for nothing I dreamt your hair had turned grey. You remember? You should not have started that day."**

Kemudian istrinya berkata, **"Kau masih ingat dengan mimpiku kalau rambutmu menjadi beruban? Ternyata mimpiku itu memang punya maksud. Seharusnya kau tidak memulai perjalananmu hari itu."**

(Datum 055)

The translator translated datum 055 by using communicative translation method. In communicative translation method, it attempts to convey the exact contextual meaning of the source text, both in content and language. In order to make target readers are easier to understand the content, the translation in example (11) above uses natural expression to express the meaning of the ST. It can be seen from the expression *"It was not for nothing I dreamt your hair had turned grey. You remember?"* which is translated to *"Kau masih ingat dengan mimpiku kalau rambutmu menjadi beruban? Ternyata mimpiku itu memang punya maksud."* This method also produces non-equivalent translation with different meaning, since the translator changed some meaning from the ST into the TT to make the translation is easier to be understood. The expression 'It was not for nothing' is not translated to be 'Bukan karena apa-apa', but it is translated to 'Ternyata mimpiku itu memang punya maksud.' It shows that the use of communicative translation has caused the difference between the meaning from the ST into the TT. However, the translated text is more natural to be read for the target readers.

The other significant difference is shown from the domination of fully equivalent translation which is produced by word-for-word translation method. It is different from the first four methods which are dominated by partly equivalent translation with increased meaning. From total 7 data employed word-for-word translation method, 5 data are categorized into fully equivalent translation, followed by 1 datum categorized into partly equivalent translation with increased meaning, and the other 1 datum categorized into partly equivalent translation with decreased meaning. In this regard, it shows the domination of fully equivalent translation which is produced by word-for-word translation. When using word-for-word translation method, the translator preserved the SL word order and the words are translated singly by their common meanings. As the result, it produces fully equivalent translation, since fully equivalent translation occurs if the meaning in source text is transferred completely into target language. Moreover, the meaning of the translated text from the ST remains the same because the translator tried to translate the words singly by their common meaning. For deeper understanding, the following example shows the relation between word-for-word translation method and fully equivalent translation:

T Makar Semyonich bent close over Aksionov, and whispered, "Ivan Dmitrich, forgive me!"

T Makar Semyonich membungkuk dekat Aksionov dan berbisik, "Ivan Dmitrich, maafkanlah aku!"

(Datum 146)

Example (12) above is translated using word-for-word translation method. The words are translated singly by their common meaning. The characters' name in SL are preserved, while the verbs, adjective and pronoun are translated into their common meaning. The verbs that can be found in the sentence above are *'bent'* translated into the word *'membungkuk'*, *'whispered'* translated into *'berbisik'* and *'forgive'* translated into *'maafkanlah'*. Besides verbs, there is also the adjective *'close'* which translated into *'dekat'* and

the objective pronoun *'me'* translated into *'aku.'* Seen from the grammatical structure of the ST and the TT, both of the text have the same structure. In this regard, the use of word-for-word translation produces fully equivalent translation.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions are drawn to answer the research problems of this study as well as to highlight other findings. The conclusions of this research are explained as follows:

The findings of the analysis reveal that in translating the short story, the translator has used 6 methods, with semantic translation as the most dominant one, followed by communicative translation, literal translation, adaptation, free translation and word-for-word translation.

In term of degree of equivalence between the English version and the Indonesian translation, it is revealed that total frequency of degree of equivalence is 170 occurrences. Most of the data are categorized into partly equivalent with increased meaning, followed by fully equivalent, partly equivalent with decreased meaning, non-equivalent with different meaning and only one datum is categorized into non-equivalent with no meaning.

The methods employed here result the different and various degrees of equivalence. The use of such translation methods as semantic translation, communicative translation, literal translation and adaptation has resulted the highest number in partly equivalent translation with increased meaning. Meanwhile, the use of free translation method has resulted the highest number in non-equivalent translation with different meaning and the use of word-for-word translation method has resulted the highest number in fully equivalent translation.

To sum up, the domination of partly equivalent translation with increased meaning shows that the translator main concern is to convey the meaning according to the context of the ST to the TT. The translator may increase the meaning in the TT to make target readers understand well about the translated text.

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