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## Translation Errors from English into Indonesian Language of the Rich Young Man Story

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Submitted: Revised: 2024/01/21 Accepted: 2024/01/21 Published: 2023/12/26

### Abstract

This research aimed at identifying errors in translating phrases from English into Indonesian of The Rich Young Man Story in Gospel Matthew 19:16-26 (KJ Version) to Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version, and what factors caused these errors. The study utilized a descriptive method with a qualitative approach as described by Cresswell and Lodico. The results of the research showed that there were several translation phrases errors found in the Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version that were caused by translators' tendency to use free translation system, resulting in addition, omission, or replacement of phrases, as well as inaccuracies in selecting appropriate equivalents, making the translation sound unnatural in the target language. These errors indicated there are some incompetence on the translator's part, namely lack of understanding of translation theory, errors in applying omission and addition strategies, the inability to understand English phrases, inability to interpret the meaning and message of the source text, and lack of concentration and carefulness while translating.

### Keywords

Inaccuracies, Translation, Phrases

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## INTRODUCTION

The whole world is now becoming more narrow, easily accessible, sharable and familiar for all people living on this earth through one international communication tool, which English.<sup>1</sup> English is currently used as a world language even though there are some variations in habits, cultures, traditions, regions and idiosyncratic aspects. Since science and technology are continually progressing, there are tremendous changes taking place in the lives of the human beings everywhere in the world. As a result, the whole world has become a global village and the people have to maintain good relationship between one and another. In order to maintain international relationship in science, technology, business, education, travel, tourism and so on, English serves the purpose as a common language and a global language. It is the language that is mostly used not only by the scientists, business organizations and internet but also in higher education, tourism

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<sup>1</sup> Paparuli S. R. 2019. The Role of English as a Global Language. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334282978\\_THE\\_ROLE\\_OF\\_ENGLISH\\_AS\\_A\\_GLOBAL\\_LANGUAGE](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334282978_THE_ROLE_OF_ENGLISH_AS_A_GLOBAL_LANGUAGE)

sectors, and many more. Since English plays a significant role in almost all fields in the present world, there is a need to discuss its role as a global language

One real significant impact of English language in current era is its role in the field of Information Technology. Information and technology that are disseminated to all over the world is mostly made in English. For example, many scientific books, literature, novels, and others are mostly written or broadcasted in English. In this perspective, Tou (1989) mentions that “the significant of translation is often related to the language of science and technology as part of modern society, where these books are generally written in European languages, especially English”.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, Baker (2006) argues that English may be the most translated language in the world”.<sup>3</sup>

In Indonesia, English is still considered as a foreign language, and millions of Indonesian people could not speak this language. As a result, many people fight very hardly to learn it directly from books written in English and also from other sources which they think can speed up their effort to speak this language. To address this issue, translators work hard to translate various types of books, such as novels, linguistics, psycholinguistics, literature, physics, mathematics, history, and other books related to science and technology, including spiritual books like bible, so that these translated versions can be accessed by students or people in general from various different backgrounds. In the era of globalization this is very crucial because science and technology played a crucial role in human growth and development. In simple words, translation is a mean to disseminate information about science and technology to every corner of the world, including Indonesia.

According to Newmark (1988) “translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text”.<sup>4</sup> In this process the author plays crucial role by putting his ideas into the translated text. Barzegar (2008) stated that “translation is defined as an attempt to replace a written message and or statement in one language by the same message and or statement in another”.<sup>5</sup> “Translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style. Jakobson in Andrews and Maksinova (2010) stated that “translation is an

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<sup>2</sup> Tou, Asrudin B. 1989. Some Insight From Linguistics into the Processes and Problems of Translation. TEFLIN journal. [https://scholar.google.ca/citations?view\\_op=view\\_citation&hl=th&user=5m5uTMEAAAAJ&citation\\_for\\_view=5m5uTMEAAAAJ:d1gkVwhDpl0C](https://scholar.google.ca/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=th&user=5m5uTMEAAAAJ&citation_for_view=5m5uTMEAAAAJ:d1gkVwhDpl0C)

<sup>3</sup> Baker, M. 2006. Words. A Course Book on Translation. London and Newyork: Routledge.

<sup>4</sup> Newmark P. 1988. A Texkbook of Translation. [http://ilts.ir/Content/ilts.ir/Page/142/ContentImage/A%20Textbook%20of%20Translation%20by%20Peter%20Newmark%20\(1\).pdf](http://ilts.ir/Content/ilts.ir/Page/142/ContentImage/A%20Textbook%20of%20Translation%20by%20Peter%20Newmark%20(1).pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Barzegar, H. 2008. Translation of Colloquial Expressions in English-into Persian Subtitled Films. Iran: Magister of Translation Studies, Teacher Training Unversity, Tehran. <https://translationjournal.net/journal/54subtitling.htm>

essential part of all forms of communication, whether within one language or across verbal and non-verbal sign systems". In this regard, translation plays significant influence and role in intellectual and cultural life. Crystal. D (2003) defined translation as "a neutral term used for all activities that involve changing the meaning from one source language to another target language, whether the medium is oral, written, or sign".<sup>6</sup> Hatim and Munday (2004) proposed that "translation is a phenomenon that has a significant impact on daily life. Based on these considerations, translation seemed to play an unreplaceable role in human life, not only in the field of science and technology but also in culture, social, and human relations worldwide, where translation allows people from different countries to mingle, understand and appreciate each other. Baker (2006) stated that "translation remains a necessary and important practice. Translation would always bring people from different culture, social and linguistic, even religious backgrounds closer together, allowing them to share a more harmonious worldview, and construct bridges of understanding and appreciation among societies".

However, the increasingly high number of books being translated today does not always reflect to the improvement of translation quality. Many inaccuracies and inappropriateness are often appeared in various translation products. This indicates that translating work is not as easy as what people are imagining of it. Robinson (2001) proposed that "translation is often referred to as a second-choice profession, but this does not mean that translation is an easy job".<sup>7</sup> Many mistakes in translated books are caused by translators, such as in the cases of syntax, semantics, and style issues. Baker (2006) also confirmed that "some translated books proved an impression that translating means translating languages rather than texts or contexts". These books explained the meanings of various semantic domains, list appropriate grammatical structures, and analyze typical stylistic devices in each language. Nida (1969) showed that "in every translation there is a kind of semantic content loss". He pointed out that "the issue of 'content transfer' often occurring in translations is related to: idioms, the figurative meaning of individual words, shifts in core meaning components, generic and specific meanings, pleonastic expressions, specific formulas, redistribution of semantic components, and provisions for contextual conditions".<sup>8</sup>

Based on these issues, the researcher is interested in examining the inaccuracies of translations, especially in the translation of phrases from English to Indonesian in the story of The Rich Young Man from the Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26 from King James Version into the Indonesian Masa Kini Bible Version, including what factors that caused these inaccuracies.

## METHODS

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<sup>6</sup> Crystal D. 2003. *English as a Global Language*. Second Edition. Cambridge University Press. United Kingdom.

<sup>7</sup> Robinson D. 2001. *Who Translates? Translator Subjective Beyond Reason*. State University of New York Press: Albany, NY.

<sup>8</sup> Nida, E.A. 1969. *The Theory and Practice of Translation*. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.

This research employs a descriptive method. This method aligns with the research objectives, which are to identify the inaccuracies of the translation of phrases in story of The Rich Young Man from the Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26 in Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version, and to uncover the factors leading to these inaccuracies. Creswell (2003) proposed that “the qualitative approach is used to collect data in the form of text or images, photos, etc”.<sup>9</sup> The instrument used for data collection is the researcher himself. The researcher selected the story of The Rich Young Man from the Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26 in Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version, read it, and compared its translation with the original one to find the expected data. The research data are obtained from both versions, the original version and the translation one. The data are the inaccuracies of the translation of phrases.

According to Larson (1988: 3), “there are three steps that to pass when doing translation. The first step is studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation and cultural context of the Source Language text. The second is analyzing the Source Language text to find its meaning. And the third is re-expressing the meaning by applying the appropriate lexicon and grammatical structures in the target language, social, and cultural contexts”. Eugene Nida (1964) defined the processes of translation procedure as follows:

1. Source Text Analysis: Identifying the grammatical structure, word meaning, and cultural context of the source text.
2. Transfer of Meaning: Translating the message from the source text into the target language, maintaining the true meaning.
3. Reconstruction: Rearranging the text in the target language by considering appropriate grammar, vocabulary and style.

According to Peter Newmark (1988) there are five stages to consider to achieve translation result of high quality, they are:

1. Reading the Source Text: Understanding the context and purpose of the text.
2. Decoding: Deciphering the meaning contained in the source text.
3. Transferring Meaning: Translating the meaning into the target language.
4. Recoding: Rewriting the text in the target language taking into account linguistic and cultural appropriateness.
5. Revision and Editing: Checking and improving the translated text for accuracy and clarity.

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<sup>9</sup> Creswell, J. W. 2003. *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Lawrence Venuti (1995) proposed another five levels of analysis when dealing with translation, they are:

1. Source Text Analysis: Understand in depth the source text and its cultural context.
2. Cultural Transposition: Identifying cultural elements that need to be adapted in the target language.
3. Preliminary Translation: Create an initial translation that remains faithful to the source text
4. Style Adjustment: Adjust the language style to suit the target audience.
5. Editing and Revision: Evaluate and improve translations to meet quality standards.

And at last, Basil Hatim and Jeremy Munday (2004) provided five stages of consideration to produce high quality translated text, as follows:

1. Comprehension of Source Text: Read and understand the source text thoroughly.
2. Linguistic and Cultural Analysis: Identifying relevant linguistic and cultural elements.
3. Meaning Translation: Transferring meaning from the source language to the target language.
4. Cultural Adaptation: Adapting the text to suit the cultural context of the target language.
5. Testing and Revision: Testing the translation by rereading and revising to ensure accuracy and readability.<sup>10</sup>

Based on the translation steps as proposed by the aforementioned experts above, to identify the inaccuracies of phrases translation in story of The Rich Young Man from the Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26 in Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version, and to uncover the factors causing these inaccuracies, the researcher undertook several steps. First, the researcher read both versions of the story of The Rich Young Man in Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version and King James Version for several times to compare and collect the inaccuracies of phrasal translations. Second, the researcher picked the inaccuracies of phrasal translation. Third, the researcher determined which inaccuracies of phrasal translation to become the research data. Then, the researcher analyzed these inaccuracies based on translation principles. Finally, based on data analysis, the researcher identified the factors causing these inaccuracies.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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<sup>10</sup> Hatim and Munday. 2004. Translation: An Advanced Resource Book. Routledge, London.

The aim of this study is to identify the inaccuracies in the translation of phrases from the story of The Rich Young Man in Matthew 19:16-26, as found in the Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version, and to uncover the factors leading to these inaccuracies. To achieve these goals, the researcher followed specific methodological procedures. The research data are presented by comparing the translated text with the original ones. The researcher detailly read both the original and translated versions of The Rich Young Man story in the both Bible Versions for several times. After categorizing them, the researcher corrected these inaccuracies and organized them into a table. The next stage is the researcher analyzed these inaccuracies based on the translation principles as proposed by one of the expert theories above. Finally, from the data analysis, the researcher identified the factors causing these inaccuracies. This study was carried out by presenting the collected data from the original text of King James Bible Version and their translations in the Indonesia Masa Kini Bible Version. The data are then analyzed based on the translation theory proposed by Basil Hatim and Jeremy Munday (2004) as seen in the following table.

Table 1.1 Inaccuracies in Phrasal Translation

No	Original	Translation
1	Good Master	Pak Guru
2	Eternal Life	Hidup Sejati dan Kekal
3	None Good but One	Satu yang Baik
4	The Commandments	Perintah-Perintah Allah
5	Great Possessions	Kaya Sekali
6	Be Saved	Selamat
7	With God	Untuk Allah
8	With Men	Untuk Manusia
9	All Things are Possible	Semua Mungkin
10	Exceedingly Amazed	Heran

11	Go Through the Eye of a Needle	Masuk Lubang Jarum
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Based on the translation table above, it is seen that the inaccuracies of phrasal translation caused the sound to look unnatural in the target language text. This occurs due to some obvious factors. Those factors include the translator's thoughts and word choices which are not appropriate or being influenced by the original words in the source language. Additionally, translators often do not consider the overall context of the text, leading to less accurate translations. Some words in the phrases are not translated or deleted, even though they have suitable equivalents in the target language. All these factors contributed to the translation results that are inaccurate and unnatural. The next table presented the translation of the same phrases in a more acceptable meaning:

Table 1.2 Inaccuracies in Phrasal Translation with Correction

No	Original	Translation	Corrected Translation
1	Good Master	Pak Guru	Guru Yang Baik
2	Eternal Life	Hidup Sejati dan Kekal	Hidup Kekal
3	None Good but One	Satu yang Baik	Tidak ada lain kecuali satu
4	The Commandments	Perintah-Perintah Allah	Perintah Allah
5	Great Possessions	Kaya Sekali	Kekayaan Yang Besar
6	Be Saved	Selamat	Diselamatkan
7	With God	Untuk Allah	Bersama Allah
8	With Men	Untuk Manusia	Bersama Manusia
9	All Things are Possible	Semua Mungkin	Semuanya Mungkin
10	Exceedingly Amazed	Heran	Sangat Heran

11	Go Through the Eye of a Needle	Masuk Lubang Jarum	Masuk Melewati Lubang Jarum
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## CONCLUSION

Based on the descriptive analysis of inaccuracies in the translation of phrases from English to Indonesian of The Rich Young Man story from the Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26 in the King James Version and Indonesian Masa Kini Bible Version the following conclusions are drawn: the translator is lack of understanding of translation theory, errors in applying omission and addition strategies, inability to understand English phrases, inability to interpret the meaning and message of the source text as well as the translator's lack of concentration and carefulness while translating, and finally the translator does not fully understand the culture of the target language.

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