

# GRAMMATICAL EQUIVALENCE IN STUDENTS' TRANSLATION OF SHORT STORY "THE BET"

## **Chapter I**

### **Introduction**

This chapter provides the basic information of this research. It expresses things that become the background of this research, including signifying the selection of research topics. This chapter is divided into some headings such as the background, the research question, the aim of research, the significance of research and the scope and limitation of research.

### **Background**

Translation is one of the most crucial and oldest professions in the world that plays central role in the development of cultural expansion. It is a method which has been used for hundred years to solve communicating problem between nations in all over the world where each nation has different languages. Translation is a tool that can be used to develop the partnership between nations and it opens a wide access to the information to be shared thus science and knowledge enrichment can be reached. Moreover, according to Newmark (1998, p. 5) translation is defined as the process of extracting a meaning from one language to another language of a certain text in the way the author of the text intended. Thus, in other words it can be outlined that the translation is an activity of transferring the information from one language into another language.

Moreover, according to Basstin (2001, p. 21) translation can also give great advantages to Target Language (TL). He further explains that if a TL and Source

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Language (SL) have a lexical gap, thus it could be acclimated in the TL and as the result, the TL may have new variant of words which does not exist before. The example of the new variant words that may be acquired by the TL usually slang words or idioms or cultural expressions that may extent the vocabularies of the TL. Thus it is clear that the translation process is also important for the cultural and language expansion.

Based on text types, translation can be elaborated into ten categories. Those are administrative translation, commercial translation, computer translation, economic translation, financial translation, general translation, legal translation, medical translation, technical translation, and literary translation (Bassnet, 2002, p. 23). Literary translation is considered as one of the most affecting translation in the world since it plays a very important role as an endeavor to create world peace. Literary work expresses feelings, ideas, experiences, fantasies and the facts of human life of the writer. That is why literary work has often been described as the mirror of the society.

Reading and understanding literary works, a reader can understand the point of view of the writer. In the larger scope, thus it can be deduced that literary translation is a media to help a nation to understand the literary works and the culture of the other nations and have a deeper understanding of a nation's background. As the matter of fact, literary works have been employed as an instrument to achieve world peace as stated by the United Nation Messenger of Peace, Steven Wonder in High –level Meeting of the United Nation General Assembly on world peace development "Instead of the weapons of destruction,

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the contemporary world badly needs the weapon of mass instruction. Instead of military tanks, the world needs literary tanks which can infuse love for human being among the masses" (Wonder, 2013, n.p).

Short story is one of literary works that is being paid attention by some translators all over the world. Short Story in its development has been considered as one of the oldest literary work that was started being created and enjoyed by each level of society, whether the farmers, armies, scientists, lawyers, doctors, philosophers, kings, and queens and nowadays it has been very popular to our teenagers. Short story is believed as one of the literary works that has a close relationship to the development of the world civilization. Short story in its history was first being introduced in the early of 3000 B.C (Encarta, 2005, p. 2).

Nevertheless, after thousands of years past, short story is still the part of society and it is now enjoyed by lots of people especially teenagers. Short story is employed with unique things; moral values, cultures, and life values are being integrated in each story. Thus, by considering this aspect, short story is translated into several different languages. Baker (2005, p. 170) stated that the translation of literary works such as short story has been done for over 2000 years. Moreover, short story is defined as a place of prose fiction which can be read at a single setting and it mostly shows a decisive moment of life (Menrath, 2003, p. 2). This definition then draws a line of the uniqueness of the short story and reason translating it.

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Unfortunately, according to Hartono (2003, p. 9) it is quite hard to find out a translator with the good qualification in Indonesia. Among millions of foreign language students, where English students are included that have spent many years learning about English started from junior high school, therefore there is still unsatisfactory in reaching the goal. It is being proved with the research that shows that among 4000 junior high school students, there are only 4,5 percent of students that could be categorized as the students with a good English mastering.

It is then obvious that the role of translation technique is needed to solve this problem. Hartono (2003: p. 9-10) stated that there are many researches, literary works, and important publications which are very important information that cannot be communicated globally because Indonesia is lack of translator. He believes that it happens because the Indonesian students and also the academician degree-holder put less interest to translate, the English teaching and learning process has not reached the goal yet, and the translation in Indonesia has not resulted as what is expected.

To reach that expectation of a good translation, Barnet (2003, p. 251) claims that there is a factor that can be the fundamental criteria of a success translation which is called as equivalence. The notion of equivalence which are being the interesting discuss among translation and being considered as a success translation are first 1) Lexical equivalence; 2) Grammatical equivalence, and 3) Cultural equivalence. Translation as the transfer of meaning from SL into TL must be done accurately by paying attention to the form of the source language and the form of second language (Larson, 2007, p. 4685).

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Moreover, the differences of grammatical structure between SL and TL often change the meaning during the process of translation. A great comprehensive of the structure of both languages must be owned by a translator because translating is not a matter of words choices dissimilarity but also grammatical structures dissimilarity as well. A good translator must have sufficient knowledge in the area of the translated materials and must be proficient in both languages (Priyono, 2005, p. 50-51). It is easy to get meaning of words in isolation either from English into Indonesia or Indonesia into English, but when it comes to phrases and sentences, the knowledge of grammar plays an important role. In translation the same meaning may have to be expressed in another language by a very different form both lexical and grammar (Baker, 2005, p. 83).

Sample 1:

SL: Dia pergi ke hutan pada malam kemarin.

TL: She went to the jungle yesterday night.

Sample 2:

SL: He has stolen the lamps from the castle

TL: Dia telah mencuri lampu-lampu dari istana.

In first sample, based on analysis of grammatical equivalence, in terms of category of tense and aspect, the word "*kemarin*" in SL indicates that the sentence is past tense, thus in order to make the reader in TL understands what the writer means, the grammatical equivalence must be achieved, thus it is translated "*went*"

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in the TL. Imagine if it is translated as "She goes to the jungle yesterday night", it will yield different meaning and ambiguity to the readers. In the second example, "*lamps*" means something which is plural. Hence, "*lampu-lampu*" is believed as the proper translation since it presents good grammatical equivalence with the SL. It will be different when it is translated "*lampu*" where it means that the thief may only stole "*one lamp*" thus "*lampu-lampu*" is considered as the proper equivalent translation product that can acknowledge the reader of the real situation that is happening. Therefore, considering this aspect, grammatical equivalence is believed as an important aspect in achieving a good translation product, thus this research is carried out.

Therefore, an extremely interesting discussion of the notion of grammatical equivalence can be found in Baker theory of translation that seems to offer a more detailed list of circumstances upon which the concept of grammatical equivalence can be defined. She elaborates the notion of equivalence at different levels, in relation to the translation process, including all different aspects of translation where she believes that the linguistic and the communicative approach should be examined together in order to achieve the nearest meaning and idea of a text.

Languages all over the world have different grammatical categories. Baker (2005, p. 86) expounds that the difference of grammatical aspects and rules of different languages may generate some problems in the process of translation. Those problems involve the difficulties in finding the appropriate meaning and grammatical structure in the TL. She adds that the different grammatical structures between the SL and the TL may cause several changes of meaning or

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information which is carried out by the SL. Those changes may persuade the translator either to omit or add some information in Target Text (TT) because of the lack of particular grammatical devices in the TL itself.

Fundamentally English and Indonesia have their own grammatical structures which are different each other. When a translator is doing a translation of a text, in order to achieve the success translation, the equivalence of meaning and the grammatical equivalence should be reexamined by the translator. Most of the translators learn the whole text before translating it. After having and understanding the big picture of the text, the translator will elaborate it into several important different aspects and then try to analyze it. Those important aspects are; (1) words, (2) phrases, (3) clauses, (4) sentences, and (5) paragraphs.

In addition, to be on the right track of the success translation, the grammatical equivalence analysis should be examined deeply and acutely thus it will produce a text that could be accepted and understood by the readers. This equivalence is an equivalence which is derived from the study of the grammatical aspect of both languages. The grammatical structure of each language is the main core of how sentences are produced and it is why the analysis of grammatical equivalence in translation is being believed as one of the most important aspects in translation.

Moreover, grammar deals with the structure of a language, how words should be structurally arranged according to each language's rules. The more we understand how does grammar works, the more we can understand the meaning and effectiveness of certain words should be arranged structurally. Understanding the

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grammatical aspect or rule of a language can help the translator to avoid both lexical and structural ambiguity in translating a text. Thus it can be concluded that grammar is a structural order of language which is known as the central key or the basic foundation of studying a language, while grammatical equivalence is defined as an equivalence of the a structural order of two languages or more.

In relation to the grammatical equivalence in translation, the short story "The Bet" is chosen as the literary work that the students need to translate. This short story embraces all elements of category which is involved in grammatical equivalence theory of Baker, this short story has complexity of different tenses and aspect and the using of certain languages features that may not be found in the other short story. In terms of grammatical equivalence, this short story also provides the idea of the exclusive and inclusive since there are different social classes in the short story, thus all the element of the grammatical equivalence proposed by Baker can be examined deeply in this short story.

Considering those aspects and uniqueness, the study on the students' translation of short story in the area of grammatical equivalence is carried out.

### **Delimitation of Study**

Baker's theory of grammatical equivalence in translation embraces five elements or categories. Those categories are the grammatical equivalence in terms of category of person, category of number, category of gender, category of tense and aspect, and the category of voice. Since both Indonesian and English do not distinct the gender in its language used, therefore this study focuses the analysis



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on the grammatical equivalence only in terms of category of person, category of number, category of tense and aspect and the category of voice.

### **Research Questions**

Something that must bear in mind that grammatical equivalence is one of the important aspects for the notion of translation. Thus, it is needed to find out and analyze how students interpret the grammatical equivalence between English and Indonesia. Based on this assumption, the crucial question which is needed to be discussed and answered in order to acknowledge people especially those who put a great interest in the translation. Thus, the question below will be the corps of this research:

How do students of English Department apply the grammatical equivalency in translating short story?

### **Objective of Research**

An analysis of the grammatical equivalence is one of the important elements in determining the success of a translation. Therefore, based on the research question which has been explicated in problem statements previously, then the present objectives of this research is first to foster such study about how the students' translation texts deal with the grammatical equivalence. The second result that is expected to be revealed in this research is to find out how the students apply the grammatical equivalence in translating short story "The Bet". Third, to focus in the process of translation done by the students in terms of its grammatical

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equivalence, to examine and analyze the student's translation product of short story in the area of grammatical equivalence. The last, this paper purpose is to formalize this notion of grammatical equivalence and to study the expressive power of this.

### **Significant of Research**

This present study is aimed to bring a great understanding about the fundamental aspect of grammatical equivalence in translation and give a light to the theoretical implications of translations activities by providing a systematic framework deals with the grammatical equivalence. This study will also serve as a guide for students, translators, and teachers on how to overcome the ambiguity of grammatical equivalence in translation. Therefore, the present study will add sights and views to the body of theory of grammatical equivalence in translating and the effectiveness of that aspect from generation to generation. The significant contributions to the field of translation particularly to the growth of the translation theory and practice are expected to be reached by this study. The last, it also wished that this study will give contributions in stimulating Indonesian people especially the students of English Department to start translating Indonesian literature and start promoting it to the world through translations.