

## ENGLISH – INDONESIAN TRANSLATION METHODS IN THE SHORT STORY “A BLUNDER” BY ANTON CHEKHOV

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APA Citation: Nugraha, A., Nugroho, M. A. B., & Rahman, Y. (2017). English – Indonesian translation methods in the short story *A Blunder* by Anton Chekhov. *Indonesian EFL Journal*, 3(1), 79-86

Received: 04-11-2016

Accepted: 28-12-2016

Published: 01-01-2017

**Abstract:** This study contains analysis of translation method in the short story “A Blunder” by Anton Chekhov which is translated into Indonesian by students as the participants of this research. In translation analysis processes, the researcher used theory of translation method based on Newmark Theory. While to find out the equivalence in the translation, the researcher used Baker Theory. The researcher thought that there are a lot of variations methods appear in the results of translation, so he wants to know the kinds of equivalence translation used by the participants to make the target language (TL) more comprehensible. Qualitative descriptive method that includes observation and document analysis was used in this research. Here, the result of document analysis were consulted to the translation and literature expertise to check the result of the analysis. As the conclusion, the researcher finds 6 methods used by the participants to render the short story “A Blunder” into the target language (TL). Besides, the researcher finds two kinds of translation equivalence in the translations.

**Keywords:** translation, translation method, translation equivalence, short story

### INTRODUCTION

Translating is an activity when someone (translator) transfers a language in a text form or source language (SL) to another language or target language (TL) accurately. Accuracy is needed in the process of translating in order to make the good result of the translation. Catford (1965, p. 20) states that translation means replacing a textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in other language (TL).

Basically, there are many definitions of translation. Translation is generally defined as the process of translate text or something from one language to other language. Newmark (1988, p. 5) states that “translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text.” Catford (1965, p. 20) explains that “translation is the replacement of a textual material in one language (source language) by equivalent textual material in another language (target language).” Roger T. Bell (1991, p. 6) states that “translation is the

replacement of a representation of a text in one language by a representation of an equivalent text in a second language.” So, translation is a general term that refers to the removal of reflections and ideas from one source language (SL) to the target language (TL).

In translating, a translator should carefully keep attention for every word that is translated because it will influence the equivalence meaning between SL and TL on its translation. To translate a text from source language into target language, the translator should consider the process of translating. Nida as cited in Hatim and

Munday (2004, p. 45) argues that the translator should:

1. Analysis the SL message into simplest and structurally clearest forms;
2. Transfer the message;
3. Restructures the message in the TL to the level which is most appropriate for the audience addressed.

Further, a good translator should be able to translate a lot of text types through the correct methods. Newmark (1988, p. 45) explores that “there are eight types of translation method: word-for-word literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative.” Here is the diagram of eight types of translation method:

### SL Emphasis

Word-for-Word Translation

Literal Translation

Faithful Translation

Semantic Translation

### TL Emphasis

Adaption Translation

Free Translation

Idiomatic Translation

Communicative Translation

#### **Word for Word Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) says that “the main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or construe a difficult text as a pre translation process.”

Example: (SL) I can run.

(TL) *Saya bisa lari.*

#### **Literal Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) states that “in literal translation, the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context. It means that when the translator translates, the words are translated literally from SL into TL.”

Example: (SL) *Jangan bawa hatiku.*

(TL) Don't bring my heart.

#### **Faithful Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) says that “a faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. It means that in faithful translation, the

translator translates the meaning from SL to convey the researcher's intention.”

Example: (SL) *Raden Ajeng Kartini adalah orang Jawa.*

(TL) Raden Ajeng Kartini is a Javanese.

#### **Semantic Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) states that “semantic translation may translate less important cultural words by culturally neutral third or functional terms but not by cultural equivalents and it may make other small concessions to the readership.”

Example: (SL) *Dia adalah orang yang gemar belanja.*

(TL) She is a shopaholic.

#### **Adaptation Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) says that “this is the freest form translation. It is used to translate literary works (comedies, poetry, short story, narrative, etc.) and the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text rewritten.”

Example: (SL) The rising sun is found not to be rising sun. It is the world which goes around.

(TL) *Matahari terbit ternyata bukan matahari terbit. Dunialah yang sebenarnya mengorbit.*

### **Free Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) states that “free translation is part of in TL Emphasis which reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original.”

Example: (SL) *sambil menyelam minum air.*

(TL) Killing two birds with one stones.

### **Idiomatic Translation**

Idiomatic translation reproduces the 'message' of the original but tends to distort nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these do not exist in the original.

Example: (SL) *Ini sangat mudah.*

(TL) It's a piece of cake.

### **Communicative Translation**

Communicative translation tries to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership.

Example: (SL) *Awas ada anjing!*

(TL) Beware of dog!

Literary works is a kind of texts which is usually translated by many translators. Short story is a type of literary works. Klarer (1998) states that short story, a concise form of prose fiction, has received less attention from literary scholar than a novel. As with the novel, the roots of short story lie in antiquity and the Middle Ages. Story, myth, and fairy tale relate to the oldest types of textual manifestation, “text” which were primarily orally transmitted. Short story is a literary work which is shorter than a novel and it is a part of fiction in literature.

Relating to the literary work above, adaptation is the most suitable method to be used to translate the short story. As Newmark (1988) said that adaptation method is the 'freest' form of translation. It is used mainly for plays (comedies and poetry where the themes, characters, plots are usually preserved), the SL culture converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten. The deplorable practice of having a play or poem literally translated and then rewritten by an established dramatist or poet has produced many poor adaptations, but other adaptations have 'rescued' period plays. Translating literary work is more difficult than translating other types of text since literary works have specific values called the aesthetic and expressive values. So, the translator should have a special quality, especially in transferring message from SL to TL which is make a translation is acceptable or easy to be understood by the reader. The researcher believes that there are some problems, like cultural gap between SL and TL, strange word or vocabulary, missed the real message, etc., which will be found in translating literary works. Thus, the researcher is challenged to translate literary works especially short story since translating the literary works is not an easy work.

Here, the researcher chooses the short story from Anton Chekhov entitled “A *Blunder*” and expects to find out methods of translation used by the translators and also to analyze the translations equivalence. Equivalence in translation becomes the first attention especially for the readers when they read a text which has been translated and compared with a real text (SL). The readers are usually questioning whether or not the SL and TL is equivalent. According to Bell (1991, p. 6), “texts in different languages can be equivalence in different degrees (full or partly equivalent), in respects of different levels of presentation (equivalent in respect of context, of semantic, of grammar, of lexis, etc.), and different ranks (word-for-word, phrase-for phrase, sentence-for-sentence). Baker (1992) distinguishes three kinds of

equivalence in translation, namely Grammatical equivalence, Textual equivalence, and Pragmatic equivalence.

Grammatical equivalence refers to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages. She notes that grammatical rules may vary across languages and this may pose some problems in terms of finding a direct correspondence in the TL. In fact, she claims that different grammatical structures in the SL and TL may cause remarkable changes in the way the information or message is carried across. These changes may induce the translator either to add or to omit information in the TT because of the lack of particular grammatical devices in the TL itself. Amongst these grammatical devices which might cause problems in translation, Baker focuses on number, tense and aspects, voice, person and gender.

Textual equivalence refers to the equivalence between a SL text and a TL text in terms of information and cohesion. Texture is a very important feature in translation since it provides useful guidelines for the comprehension and analysis of the ST which can help the translator in his or her attempt to produce a cohesive and coherent text for the TC audience in a specific context. It is up to the translator to decide whether or not to maintain the cohesive ties as well as the coherence of the SL text. His or her decision will be guided by three main factors, that is, the target audience, the purpose of the translation and the text type.

Pragmatic equivalence refers to implicatures and strategies of avoidance during the translation process. Implicature is not about what is explicitly said but what is implied. Therefore, the translator needs to work out with implied meanings in translation in order to get the ST message across. The role of the translator is to recreate the author's intention in another culture in such a way that enables the TC reader to understand it clearly.

Triggered by the background above, this research tried to analyze the kinds of translation methods used by the sixth

students as the translators in translating a short story entitled “A Blunder” by Anton Chekhov. Besides, this research also tried to analyze the kinds of equivalence translation based on Baker's Theory which can be found in the results of the translation. The sixth semester students of English Education Department at University of Kuningan was chosen as subjects of the research and they were then called as translators in this research.

## METHOD

The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive. This method is applied in order to know the kinds of methods used by the students in translating the short story and to know the translation equivalence between source language and target language existed at translation of short story “A Blunder” by Anton Chekhov.

The research is conducted in University of Kuningan, where the participants were the sixth semester students of English Education Department. The researcher took five volunteers whose backgrounds were considered will support this research such as their experiences in several subject like Introduction to Literature, Principle of Translating, Translating English – Indonesia, and Translating Indonesian – English.

The data in this research was collected through observation and document analysis. In this research, the researcher conducted observations in detail and depth towards the subjects of the research. Meanwhile, the document is the result of students' translation. Then, the data was analyzed based on Newmark's and Baker's Theories. There are eight methods of translation based on Newmark; word-for-word, literal, faithful, semantic, adaptation, free, idiomatic, and communicative. While, there are three types of equivalence translation by Baker that includes grammatical, textual, and pragmatic equivalence.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first research's problem concerns with the kinds of method found in translations of "A Blunder" short story. Translation method is the way of a translator in translating or when she or he translates a text from source language (SL) into target language (TL) to achieve equivalence in translation. Newmark (1988) stated that there are eight methods of translation,

namely word for word translation, literal translation, faithful translation, semantic translation, adaptation translation, free translation, idiomatic translation, and communicative translation. As result, the researcher found 6 methods of translation which is taken from 5 participants in which they used more than one method to translate the short story. The findings of the research can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Findings of Translation Methods

No	Method	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4	Participant 5	Total
1	Word for word	10	15	11	8	8	53
2	Literal	28	17	15	15	12	87
3	Faithful	7	9	12	5	-	33
4	Semantic	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Adaptation	8	4	4	10	20	46
6	Free	2	3	3	7	-	15
7	Idiomatic	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Communicative	12	17	20	20	25	94

The table showed the six methods used by the participants. From the table, it can be seen that the most dominant method used by the five participants was Communicative Method (94 times) where Participant 5 is the one who frequently used this method (25 times). The second dominant method was Literal Method with total 87 times, based on the table above, the Participant 1 is the one who frequently used Literal Method. While, the lowest number of translation method used by the participants was Free Translation with 15 times in which participant 4 is the one who frequently used this method. Whereas, word for word method was used 53 times by the participants, Adaptation Method 46 times, and 36 times for Faithful Method. Here, the researcher would like to present the sample of data about kinds of translation method used by the the participant of this research based on Newmark (1988) Theory.

### Word-For-Word Translation

Newmark (1988, p. 45) states that "the source language word order is preserved and the words translated by their most common

meanings." So, in translating text with word-for-word translation, the translator uses common word. Newmark (1988, p. 46) adds that "the main use of word-for-word translation is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or construe a difficult text as a pre translation process." The example of word-for-word translation was taken from Participant 2:  
 SL: You'll be crazy when you read it.  
 TL: *Kamu akan menjadi gila ketika kamu baca itu.*

### Literal Translation

Newmark (1988, p. 46) notes that "in literal translation, the SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context." It means that when the translator translates, the words are translated literally from SL into TL. Beside word for word, the participants of this research also using literal translation to render some sentences in source language (SL) into target language (TL). The example of literal translation was taken from Participant 1:

SL: “I never wrote you any letters!”  
 TL: “*Aku tidak pernah menulis surat apapun untukmu!*”

**Faithful Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) declares that “a faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures.” It means that in faithful translation, the translator translates the meaning from SL to convey the researcher’s intention. The example of faithful translation was taken from Participant 2:  
 SL: Shchupkin's mouth fell open with amazement and alarm.  
 TL: *Mulut Shchumpkin seperti terbuka dengan kekaguman dan alarm.*

**Adaptation Translation**

Adaptation translation method is the suitable method to translate literary works. The translator could adapt the source language (SL) freely into the target language (TL), as Newmark (1988, p. 46) says that “this is the freest form translation. It is used to translate literary works (comedies, poetry, short story, narrative, etc.) and the SL culture is converted to the TL culture and the text is rewritten.” The example of adaptation translation was taken from Participant 1:  
 SL: You’ll be crazy when you read it.  
 TL: *Kau akan terperangah ketika membacanya.*

**Free Translation**

Newmark (1988, p. 46) explains that “free translation is part of TL Emphasis which reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the

original.” The example of free translation was taken from Participant 1:  
 SL: That's nothing much!  
 TL: *Tak masalah!*

**Communicative Translation**

Communicative translation tries to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both content and language are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. The example of communicative translation was taken from participant 5:  
 SL: "He's rising!"  
 TL: “*Dia bangun!*”

**Equivalence of Translation**

Equivalence in translation becomes the first attention especially for the readers when they read a text which has been translated and compared with a real text or source language (SL). The readers are usually questioning whether or not the SL (Source Language) and TL (Target Language) is equivalent. In this research, the researcher has 5 students as participants to be the translators. Based on the second research problem regarding the equivalence of translation, the researcher would like to present the samples of data about the kinds of translation equivalence based on Baker (1992) Theory which is found in the translations. Baker (1992) distinguishes 3 equivalences in translation, namely grammatical equivalence, textual equivalence, and pragmatic equivalence. The researcher found 2 translation equivalences from the five participants. Each participant successfully achieved two kinds of equivalence to make the target language easier to be understood by the reader.

Table 2. Findings Equivalence of Translation

No	Equivalence	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4	Participant 5	Total
1	Textual	13	6	9	6	24	58
2	Grammatical	7	6	6	4	6	29
3	Pragmatic	-	-	-	-	-	-

Based on the data above, the participants successfully achieved textual equivalence and grammatical equivalence. Textual equivalence found 58 times in the participants' translations, in which Participant 5 achieved textual equivalence 24 times in this research, whereas the Participant 1 achieved it 13 times. While, Participant 3 successfully made 9 textual equivalences, Participant 2 and Participant 4 made 6 textual equivalences. Besides, the total of grammatical Equivalence found in the data were 29. The researcher found 7 grammatical equivalences in the translations of Participant 1, whereas Participant 2, 3, and 5 achieved 6 grammatical equivalences. But, the researcher only found 4 grammatical equivalences in Participant 4' translation.

### **Textual Equivalence**

Textual equivalence refers to the equivalence between SL text and TL text in terms of information and cohesion. Texture is a very important feature in translation since it provides useful guidelines for the comprehension and analysis of the ST which can help the translator in his or her attempt to produce a cohesive and coherent text for the TC audience in a specific context. It is up to the translator to decide whether or not to maintain the cohesive ties as well as the coherence of the SL text. His or her decision will be guided by three main factors including the target audience, the purpose of the translation, and the text type.

SL: We'll catch him. . . .

TL: *kita pergoki dia...*

The example of a translation above is taken from Participant 1. The translator translated "we'll catch him..." to "kita pergoki dia.." Based on English – Indonesia dictionary, word "catch" has meaning as "tangkap" in Indonesian, but the translator translated it into "pergoki." The situation of the short story makes the translator figure out other words beside "tangkap" to make the target language more acceptable. The translator tried to achieve textual equivalence and it made the readers more

easily understand about the plot of the short story.

### **Grammatical Equivalence**

Grammatical equivalence refers to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages. Baker (1992) notes that grammatical rules may vary across languages and this may pose some problems in terms of finding a direct correspondence in the TL. In fact, she claims that different grammatical structures in the SL and TL may cause remarkable changes in the way the information or message is carried across. These changes may induce the translator either to add or to omit information in the TT because of the lack of particular grammatical devices in the TL itself. Amongst these grammatical devices which might cause problems in translation, Baker focuses on number, tense and aspects, voice, person and gender.

SL: What had happened?

TL: *Apa yang telah terjadi?*

The example of grammatical equivalence above is taken from Participant 2. The translator changed the source language (SL) into target language (TL) grammatically but it still easy to be understood, not out of context, and acceptable to the reader.

### **CONCLUSION**

The two research problems proposed in this research have been answered. The first is about translation method used in translating "A Blunder" short story. Here, the researcher used Newmark Theory as a basic theory to analyze translation method used by the participants in translating "A Blunder" short story. As results, there are six methods used by them including word for word, literal, faithful, adaptation, free, and communicative methods. There are 94 items are translated by using communicative method, 87 items are translated by literal translation method, 53 items are translated by word for word method, 46 are translated by adaptation method, 33 are translated by

faithful method, and 15 are translated by free method.

Here, the participants used more than one method to translate the short story to achieved equivalence in translations. Based on the data, communicative method is the most dominant method used by the participants. It happens because the participants tried to achieve a correct, equivalence translation between source language (SL) and target language (TL), and a comprehensible translation.

The second research problem is about the translation equivalence found in students' translations in translating “A Blunder” short story. The researcher found textual and grammatical equivalence in students' translations. The total of textual equivalence achieved by the participants is 58 items, and 29 items for grammatical equivalence. The students as the participants and as the translators successfully makes some parts or paragraphs achieved its equivalence between source language (SL) and target language (TL), so it makes easy to be understood by the readers.

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