

## Translation Shift in The English-Indonesian Translation

### Sherif Hetata's "Woman at Point Zero" Novel

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#### Abstract

This study aims to describe the translation shift in the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Sherif Hetata into *Perempuan di Titik Nol* translated by Amir Sutarga. Data were collected from those book both in English and Indonesian translation which contained four types of translation shift based on Newmark's theory by applying descriptive-qualitative study. The result of the research shows that the translation shift found in novel *Woman at Point Zero* consist of four types which are: the first type of shift with 37 data (30%), the second types of shift with 21 data (17%), the third type of shift with 46 data (38%), and the fourth type of shift with 18 data (15%).

**Keyword:** translation, translation shift, *Woman at Point Zero*

#### Introduction

Translation is a process of transferring the message from source language into target language. This process aimed to share the information with people that come from different places, languages and cultures. Catford (1965:20) argued that translation is "the replacement of textual materials in one language (SL) by equivalent textual materials in another language (TL)". The translators have to understand the structure and the culture in both languages so that the translator has the ability to achieve the same meaning of the text perfectly. In addition, in transferring the best meaning sometimes the translator needs to change the meaning in the translation process based on the culture. That is why translation shift occurs in order to make the meaning more understood by the target readers.

According to Catford (1965: 73), a shift is the changes which occur in the translation process from the source language to the target language. Moreover, Newmark (1987: 35) said that a shift is a procedure of translation involving the grammar change from the source language to the target language.

In translating a novel, the translator usually does not always find the suitable words, phrase, clause, and sentence. In order to reduce the problem in the translation



process, there is a technique to solve it, which is called as translation shift (Newmark 1981: 31). For instance: "a pair of shoes" is translated into sebuah sepatu. In this case, transposition is made when the plural noun in the SL is transposed into a singular noun in the TL. Translating literary works such as novel, poetry, drama script and so forth is not easy and it requires translation ideology in the translation process. Translation ideology, as defined by Munday (2007), has primarily been linked to manipulation and power relations especially in individual translator (p. 195). Likewise, translating slang words (Istiqomah et al. 2019a; 2019b) and translating this novel need strategies. Unlike the strategy in the webtoon translation (Istiqomah et al; 2020), in translating *Woman at Point Zero*, the authors highlight the translation shift done by the translator. Moreover, a translator who intends to transfer the meaning finds that the receptor language has a way to express meaning even though it may be different from the source language form.

This study focuses on translation shift in English translation novel entitled *Woman at Point Zero* by Sherif Hetata into *Perempuan di Titik Nol* translated by Amir Sutarga. This book has some linguistic features such as active verb, connective (conjunction), adverbial (adverbs) to express the time, place, and manner. To make the target readers understand the meaning intended by the author of this book, the translator needs to use the translation shift in the translation process.

Pratama and Hartono (2018) conducted a research on translation shifts. They discuss about the semantic shift in the English into Indonesian translation of the novel *What Happened to Goodbye* by Dessen and it is translated by Susan. Based on this crucial problem, this study aims to analyze the translation product and focuses on identifying the translation shift type in Sherif Hetata's *Woman at Point Zero* into *Perempuan di Titik Nol* translated by Amir Sutarga.

Translation shifts are used in the translation of the source language into the target language. It is a small linguistic change which involves replacing one word class with others. According to Catford (1965: p. 73), "shifts are the departure from formal correspondence in the process of going from the SL to the TL". Furthermore, Newmark (1987: p. 35) states that a shift is a translation procedure which involves a change in a grammar from a source language into the target language. Translation shift's form is replacing one word in a source language class into the other language without changing the meaning or message of the SL. Shift usually known as transposition means a procedure of translation that involves a change in grammar from source language into the target language without changing the meaning or message from source language.

Catford (1965) classifies two kinds of shift that are shift of level and shift of category which are defined as follow:

#### 1. Level Shifts

Level shift is a shift when a concept is expressed by lexis in another language.

Example:

SL: I am studying hard

TL: *Saya sedang belajar keras*

From the example above, it is found that the grammatical structure "to be + ing" (pattern of present continuous tense in English) is translated into sedang in TL. Thus,



the level shift in translation indicated by grammar in SL which is translated becomes lexis in TL.

## 2. Category shifts

Category shift is the departure from formal correspondence in translation. It is related with formal correspondence. Category shift is divided as follows:

### a. Structure-shifts

Structure-shift engages a change in grammatical structure between the source language. It means a change of construction from the source language phrase to the target language phrase or vice versa.

### b. Class-shifts

Class-shift is a shift which occurs when the translation equivalent of a SL item is a member of a different class from the original item. It is a change in word class.

### c. Unit-shifts or Rank-shifts

Unit shifts means change of rank, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is a unit at different rank in the TL. It may happen from word to phrase, phrase to word or phrase to clause.

### d. Intra-system Shifts

Intra-system shift is a shift which occurs internally, and happens when a term is singular in SL becomes plural in TL and vice versa.

In addition, Newmark (1987) classifies four types of shift based on how the shift occurs when there is no option to translate the text literally in the process of translation. The detail of types will be described as follows:

The first type engages with the change of word form (plural to singular) or the position of adjectives which offers the translation no choice. Example:

SL: Javanese people

TL: *Orang Jawa*

From the example above it can be seen that the English plural words are changed to singular in Indonesia.

The second type is a shift that is usually used when “the TL does not have the equal grammatical structure of the SL”. Thus, the translator looks for other options to convey the meaning of the SL. Example:

SL: Our father’s car

TL: *Mobil ayah kami*

It can be seen that the object is in front of the sentence in SL but it is in the last in TL. The word order of noun phrase in English is modifier followed by head, meanwhile word order of noun phrase in Indonesia is head followed by modifier.



The third type is "the one while literal translation is grammatically possible but may not occur with the natural usage in TL". Example:

SL: Hands down

TL: *Dan itu tak perlu ditanyakan lagi*

It can be seen that the word "hands down" here is translated into "*dan itu tak perlu ditanyakan lagi*" in TL. Actually, the word "hands down" in literal translation is *tangan di bawah*, but it is unnatural in TL use, so it becomes "*dan itu tak perlu ditanyakan lagi*". In other words, hands down means there is someone who has done that thing or activity.

The fourth type is a shift that may occur when "the translator used a grammatical structure as a way to replace lexical gap". For example:

SL: She is can of freak

TL: *Dia itu aneh sekali*

It can be seen that the slang / idiom "she is can of freak" is the replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure. It is translated into bahasa Indonesia "*dia itu aneh sekali*". The word "sekali" is the replacement of virtual lexical gap in bahasa Indonesia (TL) by a grammatical structure.

This study analyzes the type of translation shift in the Indonesian translation of the novel *Woman at Point Zero*, (*Perempuan di Titik Nol*) based on Newmark's theory. The four types of translation shift in the Novel are: (1) the changes from singular to plural and the position of adjectives; (2) the grammatical structure that does not exist in TL; (3) the literal translation which is grammatically possible but may not accord with the natural usage in TL; (4) the replacement of virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure.

## Method

This study is a descriptive-qualitative study. According to Denzin and Lincoln (1994), qualitative research involves the studies of use and collection of variety of empirical materials personal experience, life story, interview, historical, international and visual that describes routine and problematic moments and meaning in individual's lives. Moreover, Heighm and Crocker (2009) identified descriptive research that the researcher presents a detailed, contextualized picture of a particular case or phenomenon.

The purpose of this study was to explain the kind of translation shift which occurs in *Woman at Point Zero* by Sherif Hetata into *Perempuan di Titik Nol* translated by Amir Sutarga. The analysis unit could be in the form of sentence and phrase. Four types are: the changes for singular to plural and the position of adjective, grammatical structure in source language does not exist in target language, grammatically accepted but may not accord with natural usage in the target language, the replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure.

The data were collected from document review. Creswell (2012) states that document is one of data collecting techniques in qualitative research which consists of public and private records to obtain a site or participants in a study, and they can include novel, newspapers, minutes of meetings, personal journals, and letters. The



data were obtained through document review by reading the English novel and its translation, identifying the kind of shift in sentence form and phrase.

The analysis procedure of translation shift used in translating from English text into Indonesian are: First, collecting the data from the source language and its translation. Second, identifying the data based on semantic shift. Third, the researchers mark down words, phrases, clauses, and sentences of the translation text in which semantic shift occur. The last is presenting the data. To make this research reliable, we used trustworthiness to match the result of the data based on the theories by experts.

### Finding and Discussion

In the analysis of translation shift in *Woman at Point Zero*, the result showed that there are 122 data types of shift found in Sherif Hetata's *Woman at Point Zero*. There are 37 data as a first type of shift in form of sentences and phrases that were considered as a translation shift. Furthermore, 21 data as a second type of shift in a form of sentences and phrases that were considered as translation shift. Hence, 46 data as a third type of shift in a form of sentences and phrases that were considered as translation shift. On the other hand, 18 data as a fourth type in form of sentences and phrases that were considered as translation shift. The frequency and percentage of the types above can be seen in Table 1 below:

Table 1 The frequency and percentage of translation shift in novel  
*Woman at Point Zero*

No	The types of Translation Shifts	Frequency	Percentage	Number of data
1	The changes for singular to plural and the position of adjective	37	30%	1,10,12,13,18,19,20,30,37,38, 9,44,45,47,48,56,58,59,60,63, 67,71,72,73,78,82,86,87,90,103,105,106,107,109,112,118, 122
2	Grammatical structure in SL does not exist in TL	21	17%	36,43,46,49,55,65,74,83,89,91 94,97,98,99,114,115,116,117, 119,120
3	Grammatically accepted but may not accord with natural usage in TL	46	38%	2,3,5,6,9,11,14,15,17,21,22,23 24,25,26,27,29,31,33,34,40,41 42,52,54,57,62,66,70,75,76,77 79,81,88,92,93,95,101,102, 104,108,111,113,121,
4	The replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure	18	15%	4,7,8,16,28,32,35,53,61,64,68, 69,80,84,85,96,100,110



Furthermore, for detailed the following examples are the samples of the type shift that occurred in the novel. It is a compulsory transposition and automatic, that was caused by the grammatical structure of the target language. It offers the translation no choices and has to make equivalence in TL text. The examples of this shift that used in the novel as follow:

- a. The changes for singular to plural and the position of adjective

Example 1:

FT/001/WAPZ/2019

SL: A Real woman

TL: *Seorang wanita sejati*

In example 1, the word a real woman here there is a translation shift that shows a change that happens from adjective-noun in English into noun-adjective in Bahasa Indonesia, as in *seorang wanita sejati*. Thus, the translation above is categorized as the first type of translation shift.

Example 2:

FT/004/WAPZ/2019

SL: Prison doctor

TL: *Dokter penjara*

In example 2, the word Prison doctor is a translation shift. The change happens from adjective-noun in English into noun-adjective in bahasa Indonesia *dokter penjara*. Thus, the translation above is categorized as the first type of translation shift.

- b. Grammatical structure in SL does not exist in TL

Example 1:

ST/036/WAPZ/2019

SL: My uncle's hand

TL: *Tangan paman saya*

In example 1, the word my uncle's hand is a translation shift. In English (SL), noun or noun phrase becomes verb in Bahasa Indonesia (TL) the object is in front of the sentence, but in English (SL), it is the last. My uncle's hand translated into Bahasa Indonesia *tangan paman saya*. Thus, the translation above is categorized as the second type of translation shift.

Example 2:

ST/043/WAPZ/2019

SL: My father's house

TL: *Rumah ayah saya*

In example 2, the word my father's house is a translation shift that in English (SL), noun or noun phrase becomes verbal in Bahasa Indonesia (TL) the object is in front of the sentence, but in English (SL), it is the last. My father's house is translated into Bahasa Indonesia *rumah ayah saya*. Thus, the translation above is categorized as the second type of translation shift.



- c. Grammatically accepted but may not accord with natural usage in TL.

Example 1:

TT/009/WAPZ/2019

SL: Why are you worked up?

TL: *Apa sebabnya kau naik pitam?*

In example 1, the word why are you worked up? is a translation shift from an English (SL) noun or noun phrase to verb in Bahasa Indonesia (TL). Why are you worked up? is translated into Bahasa Indonesia apa sebabnya kau naik pitam?. Actually the phrase “worked up” to translate in literal translation is “bekerja”, but it is unnatural to use such an expression in the TL, so it becomes “naik pitam”. The translation above is categorized as the third type of translation shift.

Example 2:

TT/003/WAPZ/2019

SL: Wide until dawn

TL: *Tetap tidak tidur sampai pagi hari*

In example 2, the word Wide until dawn is a translation shift in which an English (SL) noun or noun phrase becomes a verb in Bahasa Indonesia (TL). Wide until dawn is translated into Bahasa Indonesia tetap tidak tidur sampai pagi hari. Actually, the word “dawn” to translate in literal translation is “subuh”, but it is unnatural usage or informal into the TL, so it becomes “pagi hari”. The translation above is categorized as the third type of translation shift.

- d. The replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure

Example 1:

FTT/002/WAPZ/2019

SL: She usually leaves her food untouched

TL: *Biasanya ia tidak menyentuh makanan sama sekali.*

In example 1, the word she usually leaves her food untouched replaces the virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure. She usually leaves her food untouched is translated into Bahasa Indonesia biasanya ia tidak menyentuh makanan (sama sekali). The word “sama sekali” is the replacement of a virtual lexical gap in Bahasa Indonesia by a grammatical structure. Thus, the translation above is categorized as the fourth type of translation shift.

Example 2:

FTT/028/WAPZ/2019

SL: This journey

TL: *Perjalanan ke suatu tempat*

In example 1, the word this journey replaces the virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure. This journey is translated into Bahasa Indonesia. The word “sama sekali” is the replacement of a virtual lexical gap in Bahasa Indonesia “perjalanan ke suatu tempat” by a grammatical structure. Thus, the translation above is categorized as the fourth type of translation shift.



As stated above, the authors found 122 data in the novel of *Woman at Point Zero*. The 122 data are include in four types of translation shift, those are: 1) the changes for singular to plural and the position of adjective, 2) grammatical structure in the source language does not exist in the target language, 3) grammatically accepted but may not accord with natural usage in the target language, 4) the replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure.

From all four types of shift, it was found that the highest number which occurs is the third types of shift with the data frequency 46 data (38%). Meanwhile, the lowest was the fourth type of shift with the data frequency only 18 data (15%). Furthermore, in first type of shift the data frequency 37 data (30%), and the last the second type of shift the data frequency is 21 data (17%).

From the above findings, it can be seen that the most translation shift occurred in the *Woman at point zero* novel is category shift specifically structure-shift in term of grammatical structure. Machali (1998) reports that grammatical shift belongs to source language text-centered shift which mainly concerns particle markedness, foreground, and tenses.

Shifts also mainly related to cohesion (ellipsis), textual shifts concern generic ambivalence and embodiment of interpersonal meaning. Meanwhile, the target text-centered shift cases the main problem concerned with achieving effectiveness, pragmatic appropriateness (including culture) and information (referential) explicitness. Thus, the implication of category shift specifically structure-shift in term of grammatical structure is to catch the closest meaning in target language. It may be happened due to the structural differences between English and Indonesian, or it might be translator's method to meet the target reader's expectation.

While this finding of this research eloquently analyze a grammatical shift, further researcher may conduct a research in term of stylistic changes tend to result in deviations from formal structure which still relate to literary text or novel. Talking about findings provided by some previous researches, Sutarga in *Perempuan di Titik Nol* focused on the translation shifts in term of process. Meanwhile, Pratama and Hartono at *What Happened to Goodbye* discussed more on the semantic shift. Thus, this research is different between those two previous researches in term of types of classical shift. Hence, this research enrich those two previous research.

## Conclusion

Based on the analysis on types of translation shift in Sherif Hetata's *Woman at Point Zero*, it is shown that there are 122 data of shift types. The shift is divided into four shifts that are found in this novel, they are: 1) Thirty seven data of the first type of shift (the change of word's form plural to singular or the position of adjectives), 2) Twenty one data of the second type of shift (the TL does not have the equal grammatical structure of the SL), 3) Fourty six data of the third type of shift (the one while literal translation is grammatically possible but may not occur with the natural usage in TL), 4) Eighteen data of the fourth type of shift (the replacement of a virtual lexical gap by a grammatical structure).

In translating a text, it always departs from understanding word, phrase, clause and sentences; finally by accommodate that sentences into a context. The translator may do some modification to get an accurate meaning and similar expression in the target language in order to have the equivalent effect from source language (SL) to





target language (TL). Thus, it is not wrong if the translation shift is extremely required for example, the translation could give an equivalent from word to another word class because there is no suitable word class in the target language.

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