
AN ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' TRANSLATION WORKS OF A BARRACK OBAMA'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

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Abstract

This study focused on analyzing the translation strategies used by the students in translating a political speech of Barack Obama, the difficulties faced by them in translating it and the quality of the translation works. This study used a descriptive-qualitative method with document analysis technique, using the theory of translation strategy proposed by Vinay & Darbelnet (in Fawcett, 1997, pp. 34-9; in Bell, 1991, pp. 70-71) and Newmark (1988). This study also used the NAATI's assessment method to find out the quality of students' translation works. The main data of this study were the students' translation work of English Public Speaking members. The findings showed that the students employ nine translating strategies in dealing with the text, there were transposition (49,33%), reduction (14,66%), expansion (6,66%), literal/word for word (5%), paraphrase (3,66%), naturalization (3,33%), equivalence (3%), couplets (2,66%), and calque (1,33%). However it was also found some cases mistranslation which reached 10,33%. While in terms of difficulties faced by the students in translating a text, it was done by examining vocabulary problem, lexical problem, and syntactic problem. In terms of students' translation quality, it was found that two of three participants were judged as acceptable translation while the other one was unacceptable. It can be concluded that the students employ several strategies in translating a political speech and the problem faced by them was complicated since political speech was contained sophisticated words and unfamiliar diction, therefore it was affecting the quality of the translation works.

Keywords: Students translation works, translation Strategies, translation difficulties, translation quality, political speech.

INTRODUCTION

Translation has fundamental role in human life, especially for Indonesians. It is because there are many information which does not exist in Indonesian but it is presented in foreign languages, particularly in English (Choliludin, 2005, p.1). In Indonesia, some text books, journals, news, movies, even advertisements are addressed in English can be found easily in some areas. This situation may become barrier for Indonesian who wants to get information from particular English text.

The students' translation work is an interesting object for research. Surahman (2013) has conducted research about students' translation product in level of Junior High School. Supangkat (2009) has investigated the students' method, strategies, and difficulties in translating English texts into Indonesian in the level of Senior High School. Different from both studies, this

study attempts to explore college students' translation product.

This research analyzed the documents of students' translation work to find out the quality of its translation. The students' strategies in translating text have been disclosed and also their difficulties have been discussed. The result of the research revealed the potential ability of university student in one English public speaking community in translating an English text into Indonesian as well as the difficulties faced in their translation activity which can be considered as their weakness in understanding an English text.

METHOD

This research was qualitative case study which investigated students' translation product. According to Fraenkel & Wallen (2012, p. 426) the research studies that

investigate the quality of relationships, activities, situations, or materials are frequently refer to as qualitative research. Sugiyono (2013, p.1) adds the qualitative method is focused on natural object, the main instrument is the researcher, the data are inductive, and the result focuses on the meaning rather than generalization. This research was descriptive because the researcher analyzes the data descriptively and the presentation of the result was in form of explanation of words which would be supported by data in the tables. Suryana (2010, p. 14) says that descriptive study has aim to make a description systematically and accurately which is based on facts about certain object.

The site of this research was a English Public Speaking Club, Fast Track Community. This site was chosen because this is the place where the researcher practices. So it helped researcher in arranging the research and collecting the data. The participants of this research were various students from different major and university or college in Bandung. There were two main reasons why students in English Public Speaking Club, Fast Track Community were chosen as participants. First, there was willingness from the researcher to find out the ability of students in making translation. Second, through this research some difficulties were found related to translation process which could be considered as their weakness in understanding meaning of a political speech. It is important since political speech has information that should be understood universally. The information about students' difficulties was an input for lecturers to help their students in understanding a text.

The research involved ten students. This community were chosen as they have been took different major from different university in Bandung. However only three students' translation works were chosen to be analyzed in detail. The three students were from a high achiever, a middle achiever, and a low achiever based on suggestion from the lecturer and consideration from the writer. According to Kothari (2004, p. 59) this kind of sample is called non-probability sampling because they were chosen by the researcher.

RESULT

Based on the data, it was clear that the strategies mostly used by the students from the highest to the lowest percentages were transposition (49,33%), reduction (14,66%), expansion (6,66%), literal/word for word (5%), paraphrase (3,66%), naturalization (3,33%), equivalence (3%), couplets (2,66%), and calque (1,33%). It is also found some cases of mistranslation which reached 10,33%. The result was in line with what Ahmad (2011) and Infiani (2011) found in their research which stated that student's translation works were dominated with Transposition and Reduction translation strategy.

Since the participants of this research were translating students it can be said that they were advanced learner of English. So that influenced the result of their translation activity. They assumed did know theoretically about the strategies.

DISCUSSION

The theories that used to analyzed the students' translation strategies were from Vinay & Darbelnet (in Fawcett, 1997, pp. 34-9; in Bell, 1991, pp. 70-71) and Newmark (1988). Both theories were combined to determine the most appropriate strategies which were applied by students in their translation works.

This research is actually in form of case study which means that the result of this research cannot be generalized as universal finding. However, this research has revealed that the ability of students translation were need to be developed. Though they successfully applied some translation strategies, there were still found some mistake in translating lower frequency words and sophisticated words. So it will be better if there are another studies which examine student's ability in translating another genre of text.

The problems or difficulties faced by the students in this research can be stated as their weakness in understanding political speech. So the finding of the problems can be an input for the lecturer to help their students in translating high level text. However, this research are limited, the other studies are needed to find out more

information about students difficulties in translating high level text.

The quality of the students' translation works was not really sophisticated, since one of three students' translation works was judged as unacceptable translation. However it cannot be generalized as offhanded. It would be better if there are another studies which are conducted in different places, different group of participants and different text types.

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