Translation shift analysis of thematic structure in printed political news reports of Indonesian local newspaper

Indah Arti Fisilla, Ernie Diyahkusumaning Ayu Imperiani*)
English Language and Literature
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia
ifisilla@student.upi.edu , ernie_imperiani@upi.edu

ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate translation shifts of textual metafunction in printed news reports of the Pikiran Rakyat newspaper. This study used a descriptive-qualitative method to investigate the consistency of the alignment from the news writers in translating articles. The data were taken from five printed political news articles along with its translation published from 19th March to 21st March, 2018. The data were analyzed by using Hallidayan framework of Systemic Functional Grammar and Newmark's Translation Shift. The findings show that in terms of thematic structures, there were found 29.1% theme shifts of 79 clauses. It is found that the translators are manage to maintain the objectivity in the news reports. Further, this study discovers that the combination of structure and unit shift recurred frequently for 49.5% in translation. Then, it is followed by unit shift 21.5%, structure shift 10.2%, and the combination of class and unit shift 8.7%. The translation shift from the data shows that almost 50% of structure and unit shift are used frequently. It is concluded that *Pikiran Rakyat* tried to translate the contextual meaning in the source text, both in aspects of language and its content, so that readers can accept and agree with what being delivered.

Keywords: *Media, newspaper, translation shifts, alignment, political news, structures, thematic structures.*

INTRODUCTION

Translating is a process of transferring the same content and information from source-language to target-language. However, the result of translation does not always use the same structure (Herman, 2017). It sometimes yields a variety of ways of ordering the constituents of the sentence from the source language. In the process of translating news reports, for example from English to Indonesian or vice-versa, there are several changes in the structure of the text that can be found. Nevertheless, it is important to maintain the objectivity of the translator in translating the text (Van Dijk, 1998). It is because professional news writer is expected to remain unbias towards the texts. The authenticity of the text could be found by analyzing the translation shifts of thematic structure in the translated texts.

The translation shifts from one language into another could be challenging. It is because translators and journalists require high responsibility to explain events and circumstances of other cultures (Al-Mohannadi, 2008). On the other hand,

the accuracy and authenticity of the translation results are very necessary to ensure the delivery of integrity of the source. For that reason, research studies related to technical writing-based translated analysis are important to conduct in order to gain an understanding of the translation process to facilitate the translators in producing good translation.

There were some previous studies conducted on translation shift such as *Translation and ideology, Social Semiotics* (Sara Al-Mohannadi, 2008), *Narratives of terrorism and security: 'accurate' translations, suspicious frames* (Mona Baker, 2010), *Translation and editing: a study of editorial treatment of nominalisations in draft translations* (Mario Bisiada, 2017) and *Analysis of thematic structure in English-Arabic news texts* (Kadhim & Al-Shaibani, 2013).

On the other hand, there were also some previous studies which focused only on the theme organization such as, *Theme rheme organization and paragraph structure in standard Arabic* (Aziz, 2015, and *The relevance of Theme in the textual*

organization of BBC news reports (Gómez, 2015). Aziz (2015) for example, conducted a study that focuses on a study of Theme rheme organization and paragraph structure in standard Arabic using the thematic structure theory. The findings show that there are differences in the usage of thematic structure in Arabic and English. Another study conducted by María A. Gómez (2015) investigates the relevance of theme in the textual organization of BBC news reports. The research shows a concern about the writer's selection of clauses that fulfill different thematic frames.

There have been numerous studies investigating the issue of thematic structures and translation shift. Thus, this study focused on the communication driven by the translation shift in the thematic structures to add to the plethora of studies on translation.

To consider more about this study, it attempts to uncover the translation shift in the thematic structure to point out the main information in the text and to find out the authenticity of the objectivity's news writer in both original and translation of political news reports by observing technical writing analysis in the clause. In analyzing the data, this present study uses Halliday's (1985) Systemic Functional Grammar on textual metafunction and Newmark's (1988) Translation Shift.

Media

Media is known as a tool to convey information from one to another which was well attended in the 1980's with the purpose of reaching a larger audience through the mass media such as film, newspaper and radio (McQuail, 2010). Newspaper is a media that reports and recasts the information in printed version. According to Franklin (2006), printed media that are formed locally, and hired local people as their journalists to report and broadcast news to local people called as local newspaper. Thus, the data were derived from a local newspaper because, the local newspaper delivered more localized information of events to their local society. According to Buckingham (2003), there are four important points regarding media communication, namely representation, production, language and audience.

The first important point is representation. Representation means re-presenting ideas in other contexts. For instance, one issue is recast in media across the globe (Buckingham, 2003). The spread of the news all around the globe has recast each interpretation that journalists in every country put their ideology and implicit values that could lead the audience to understand the information from certain point of views.

Secondly, the important point to media communication is production. It could influences particular audience. It is known that digital media use a global role of advertising and sponsorship for commercial purpose. Digital media is owned by big companies which may influence the audience to promote certain party by modifying the nature information that exist (Buckingham, 2003).

The next important point is language that refers to the way that particular media delivered information in the texts. Every media has its own style of conveying message to the audience to show the identity of each text media (Buckingham, 2003).

The last important point is audience as the target of the media. Media served information which could be consumed in purpose to satisfy the needs of audience. Thus, media have to engage the audience's satisfaction and interest by serving reliable information. However, audience have difference ideas of media since each individual of the audience consider it differently (Buckingham, 2003).

Systemic Functional Linguistic

Systemic Functional Linguistics as a resource for interlanguage meaning-making. Systemic functional linguistic is a term that include different types of analyses, including the analyses of expression (production of speech), content (meaning in language or logic) and context (Tri Endarto, 2017). According to Halliday (1994) there are three language metafunctions which include ideational meanings (language as a means of conveying ideas), interpersonal meanings (language as a means of connecting human relationships), and textual meanings (language has a significant organizational idea, and writing for message delivery).

In ideational meanings, language acts as a conveying of ideas (the main idea). Thus, in this first metafunction, the language certainly has an idea or subject. More specifically this metafunction focuses on the word choice or other language features that used in the communication.

The second metafunction is interpersonal meanings. From its term, interpersonal means relationships between individuals with others. In this metafunction, the main ideas discussed is the function of language as a tool to bridge relations between one to another. It is able to analyze how close a person has a relationship with their interlocutor just by analyzing the language used by using the metafunction.

The third metafunction is textual meanings. It refers to how the message is conveyed. This can be seen from the organization or arrangement of information that is delivered, whether the information is conveyed in an oral or written medium. The way structures arranged in the sentence is very influential. For example, we revealed 'yesterday he proposed me'. The

expression will have a different sense when we arrange it as 'he proposed me yesterday'.

In textual meanings analysis, the basic information is called as the theme (the focus of the conversation) that placed in the beginning of the clause. Hence, in the phrase "yesterday he proposed me", the information emphasized by the speaker was "yesterday", the time when the actor "acted" to "apply" to "me". The meaning or sense that is contained will be different if it is delivered 'he proposed me yesterday'. In this expression, the speaker wants to emphasize that the actor 'he' took action to propose 'me' (the speaker) at a specific time that is 'yesterday'. Since this study analyzes technical writing analysis in the text, the only focuses is on textual metafunction.

Textual Metafunction

According to Halliday (1985), lexicogrammar has three metafunction groups, namely interpersonal, ideational and textual. These three metafunctions work simultaneously to realize the message carried by the text in the context of the situation.

Interpersonal metafuntion in a text is a realization of the social reality. It further gives a result of exchanging meanings that sre built up from the particular community. Ideational metafunction often times is related to the theory of experience including the contributor, activity, and circumstances. Meanwhile, textual function relates to how language operates to create a cohesive and coherent in both verbal and non-verbal discourse. The diagram of relationship between the three metafunctions is illustrated as follows (Martin & White, 2005).
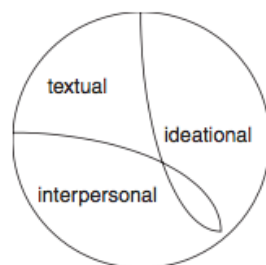
Figure 1. Relationship diagram of the three metafunctions (Martin & White, 2005)

Clause as message

Halliday (1994) assumes that a clause is structured as a message by having additional information charge with one part of it. In English, the first point of the clause is the main information in the structure of the clause which

functions as the message. This structure is called the thematic structure. One aspect in the clause is expressed as the theme; this, then, is merged with the remaining of the clause to construct a message (Halliday: 1994). In proportion to the systemic theory, a clause can be seen as a realizing meaning from numerous layers of meanings. The significance way of analyzing these layers is by dealing with the three metafunctions.

Thematic structure and Thematic progression
Theme and Rheme

Theme and Rheme comes from the Systemic-Functional Grammar theory. The correlation between these two elements in a sentence has become useful to discover the text alignment and improve the cohesion in a text. As explained in Paltridge (2018, p. 145), theme is the first point of the clause which shows the focus conveyed in the sentence while the remaining is called Rheme.

Theme and rheme positions are important in news reports because they could determine which information is more important in the text. In table 1, themes are classified into three metafunctions: textual, interpersonal

and ideational. It shows that the two metafunctions (textual and interpersonal) are optional while the ideational is obligatory. Topical theme, or the main information contained in the text, as shown in the table 1, consists of finite elements and WH-questions, while the rest is categorized as the rheme which functions as the supporting or additional information.

Topical theme is divided into 2: simple theme and multiple theme. Simple theme is separated as well into two types: simple theme marked and unmarked. As mentioned by Naderi and Koohestanian (2014), simple theme marked is where the theme is less common than the others, while unmarked theme is the opposite. Unlike topical theme, textual theme is a structural element which is needed to support the main information. It includes conjunction such as 'and' and 'but'.

The examples of theme types are portrayed in the following table:

Thematic Structure

Theme and Rheme Structure

Table 1 The possible Themes found in the data (Taken from Sudrutai Arunsirot 2013, p. 163)

Theme		
Textual (optional)	**Interpersonal (optional)**	**Topical/Ideal (obligatory)**
Conjunction group: and, if, when, because, first, second, finally, then, as, so, in addition, moreover, weather, for example, most importantly, in particularly, since	**Mood adjunct:** I think Most importantly In my opinion Most of all	**Non-ellipsed:** The best thing I have ever read, I, Power of life, the book **ellipsed: relative nominal group:** Which, who, that, why

Meanwhile interpersonal theme is described as an element that comes as the opinion, circumstance and process

that is being taken in the sentence (Paltridge, 2008).

Thematic Progression

Analyzing thematic progression of news reports can help the news writer to improve cohesion in their text which leads the audience to understand the information better. As stated by Paltridge (2008), thematic progression is the starting point of the clause which may repeat the previous theme or rheme. There are three categories of Thematic progression namely theme reiteration/ constant theme, zig-zag/ linear theme, and multiple/ split theme.

Translating

Translating, according to Newmark (1988) is defined as a way to present a message from a provenance language to target language which depends on the writer's intention. Further, in his book, he suggested eight strategies to translate a text as shown in a 'flattened V diagram'.

SL emphasis	
Word-for-word translation	
Literal translation	Free
Faithful translation	Idiomatic t
Semantic translation	Communicative trar

Figure 2 Flattened V diagram (Newmark, 1988)

First translation strategy is word-for-word translation. This method often implies direct translation, instantly from SL (source language) to TL (target language) words. Regardless of the context, this method translates word-for-word. As stated by Newmark (1988), cultural words are translated precisely. This method intends to figure out the structure of the SL.

The second translation strategy is literal translation. Literal translation generally acquires grammatical structure that are reformed to the closest TL corresponding. Nevertheless, the text is still translated using word-for-word method; regardless of the context.

The third translation strategy is faithful translation. Faithful translation undertakes the exact contextual meaning of the authentic with the same grammatical structure. It attempts to be entirely provided with trust to the messages intended in the SL text.

The fourth translation strategy is Semantic translation. Unlike faithful translation, semantic translation deals

with the aesthetic elements of the source language in the text by considering equal meaning from source language into target language (Newmark, 1988).

The fifth translation strategy is adaptation translation. It allows an adjustment in consideration of steady theme, character or plot from the source language. This translation is widely used to translate poetry and drama that require culture adaptation from source language into the target language.

The next one is free translation. This translation method is a translation that prioritizes the content of the source language. This method is mainly paraphrasing ideas into longer sentences in order to give better understanding that can be accepted by the target language users.

The next translation method is idiomatic translation. It can be defined as a reproduction of messages in source language texts with more natural and familiar expressions in target language. The translation results are very natura, it is as if the translator wrote the text as the same as the author.

The last translation strategy is communicative translation. According to Newmark (1988), communicative translation attempts to translate the contextual meaning in the source text, both aspects of language and its content, so that the reader can accept and understand it.

Translation Shift

Translation shift is defined as symptoms of changes in grammar or language structure and small units of language structure (Phrase, Word, and Sentence) so that the transfer of meaning becomes natural in the target language. It is divided into six categories, namely level shift, category shift, structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra system shift (references).

1. **Level shift**: It is the changes that occur when the source language level is upward or downward to the target language level.

   For example:

   [1] SL: He **has told me** a secret.

   TL: Dia **telah memberi tahuku** rahasia.

The grammatical form of "has told me" translated to lexis "telah" in Indonesian language.

2. Category shift

According to Catfoord (1965), types of category shifts are namely class-shifts, unit-shifts (rank-changes), structure-shifts, and intra system-shifts.

3. **Structure shift:** It occurs when the structure changes as it is translated into Target Language.

For example:

[2] SL: **Old lady**

TL: **Wanita Tua**

[3] SL: **Stolen car**

TL: **Mobil** yang **dicuri**

[4] SL: The phone **was thrown away** to the floor.

TL: Ia **melempar** telpon selularnya ke lantai.

As shown in the examples above, the position of the translated word is shifted.

4. **Class shift:** It occurs when the words classes such as noun, verb, adverb, and adjective in source language changes as it is transcribed into target language.

For example:

[5] SL: ...to empower our women so they **can earn** and stand on their own two feet

TL: ... untuk memberdayakan perempuan kita sehingga mereka **bisa mendapatkan hak** dan berdiri di atas kaki mereka sendiri

[6] SL: ... with a red line drawn **over his face**

TL: ...dengan garis silang merah yang tercoret **di wajahnya**

5. **Intra system shift:** It occurs when the source language system is not applicable to target language.

For example:

[7] SL: Hundreds of **fans and supporters** celebrated the winning.

TL: Ratusan **penggemar dan pendukung** merayakan kemenangan.

[8] SL: She likes to write **songs** and making music.

TL: Dia suka menulis **lagu** dan membuat music.

METHODOLOGY

Research Method

The study used a descriptive qualitative method. This design suits the study because it enhanced the knowledge of thematic structure

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pattern and translation shifts signified in the texts. As stated by Hancock, Ockleford, Windridge (2007), qualitative method tend to focus on clarification of social occurrence that helps to answer the issued being raised in the study. In this study, it refers to how the translation shift of the thematic structure points out at the information in the text.

Data Collection

The data were taken from five printed news articles along with their translation published from 19th March to 21st March 2018. The articles were political articles which were chosen because according to Ayeomoni and Akinkuolere (2012), politics is mostly about power struggle, and language use is a very strong vehicle to accomplish it. According to Franklin (2006), printed media that are formed locally, and hired local people as their journalist to report and broadcast to the local people called as local newspaper. Thus, the data were derived from local newspaper because local newspapers deliver more localized information of events to their local society.

The articles were taken from *Pikiran Rakyat* on *'Luar Negeri'*

rubric based on political news report, which were mainly taken from *BBC* and *The Guardian.* The reason for choosing this newspaper is that "*Pikiran Rakyat*" is one of the awardee of 2011 winning of the Most Favorite Youth Brand in an Indonesia newspaper. *Pikiran Rakyat* newspapers is one of the top five newspaper that use Indonesian conventional language.

Data analysis

The data were analyzed using Halliday's (1985) Systemic Functional Grammar and Newmark's (1988) Translation Shift. There were several steps conducted in order to get comprehensive analyses and findings. First the data were labelled using particular code. English news reports were labeled using the initial code E, while the translated news reports were labeled using the initial code I. Thus, generally, the data used were labeled as E 1, I 1, E 2, I 2, E 3, I 3 and so on. Second, the news report text was broken down into clauses, then they were examined on their thematic structures and translation shift both in original and translation text. After theme types were found, they were

examined to find out the translation shift from the clause. Finally, the findings were analyzed to see the differences between source text and target text in terms of thematic shift that appear in the news report texts using the theoretical framework proposed by Halliday (1985) and Newmark (1988) to find consistency of the subjectivity from the news writer in writing the translation articles.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In order to answer the research questions and realize the purpose of the study, this section includes analysis of the data by using theoretical frameworks that have been portrayed in the previous review. The analysis takes into consideration the translation shifts in certain grammar or small units of language structures which were divided into six categories, namely level shift, category shift, structure shift, class shift, unit shift, and intra system shift. According to the data, it was expected to point out the shifts act in the translation in which add up to some action on the readers. Hence, this study focused on

examining the translated texts, whether the shifts are constantly used as compared to other texts items.

Thematic shifts

The result of the analysis shows some variations. The study shows that the thematic shift has three categories which include theme, rheme and no shift. On the other hand, translation of thematic structures consists of single, double and no translation shift which includes *class shift, structure shift, unit shift, intra-system shift, combination of Structure and unit shift, Unit and intra system shift,* and *Class* and *unit shift* and no translation shift.

In terms of thematic structures, this study reveal that from total 79 clauses, there were found 29.1% theme shifts, 0% rheme shifts and 70.9% no shifts. As seen in table 2, the thematic shift from the data remained the same without shifting. Thus, the result shows that the translator managed to maintain the objectivity in the news reports.

Table 2 Text Analysis Thematic Shifts

Types of Translation Shift of Thematic structure		
No	Types	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)

1	Theme Shift	23	29.1%
2	No Shift	56	70.9%

Furthermore, there are also theme types that hold various structures and the meaning is also shifted. For example, it was found that the source language '**losing to** socialist François Hollande…**'** is translated into '**Mereka** mendapat suara lebih rendah dari François Hollande yang sosialis'. The example shows that the English themes types consists of several categories which includes topical (Non-ellipsed: The best thing I have ever read, I, Power of life, the book. ellipsed: relative nominal group: which, who, that, why), interpersonal (Mood adjunct: I think, most importantly, in my opinion, most of all) and textual (Conjunction group: and, if, when, because, first, second, finally, then, as, so, in addition, moreover, weather, for example, most importantly, in particularly, since). Nevertheless, the translated example only consists of one element, which is a verb. The meaning is shifted by the exact translation of 'losing to' is the winning of the opposite party, while the translation shows that 'mereka'

means 'they'. The example shows that each theme types is different, and the meaning is also changed or shifted. Thus, the example reveals that the different structure of languages could form different meaning.

E1.**Trump** announced the switch in a tweet [B12]
I1. **Trump** mengumumkan peralihan jabatan tersebut melalui akun Twitternya [H12]

As seen from the example above, it was found that most of the clauses have not shifted (theme equivalence) from the source language to the target language. This can be seen in Excerpts E1 and I1 where there are no shifts used in B12 and H12. Most of the clause did not shift to realize that the translator managed to maintain the objectivity conveyed by the newspaper. As believed by Hindman (1998) that a professional journalist uses journalism norms which need to be objective, remains neutral without putting his or her opinion, get the information from official media, and to deliver them in a particular way.

On the other hand, the result shows that the most occurrence thematic shifts in the news articles are theme equivalence that followed by theme shift. Theme shift can be seen in the following excerpts exemplify.

E2**. On Wednesday**, the opposition leader, who is married to a Dutch woman, arrived in the Netherlands [B25]

I2. **Pemimpin oposisi** tersebut baru tiba di Belanda pada rabu [H25]

The example shows that on E2, the focus of the topic (theme) in the sentence is the 'time' of the event. However, theme in I2 shifted to the 'actor' of the event. Damayanti (2012) stated that theme shift found when the focus of the topic changed in target text. Thus, they have different unit and grammatical structures in the text. In addition, there is no rheme shift found in the text.

Translation shifts

After the thematic shift was revealed, the translation shifts were examined. The result shows, that single translation shifts have more significantly different number of appearances to double translation shifts. Further, this study indicates that the combination of structure and unit shift recurrent frequently for 49.5% in translation. Then, it is followed by unit shift 21.5%, structure shift 10.2%, and the combination of class and unit shift 8.7%. As seen in table 3, the translation shift from the data shows almost 50% that structure and unit shift recurrent frequently. Thus, the translated text that can be seen is translating the words into communicative translation. By taking this translation method, it is concluded that *Pikiran Rakyat* tried to translate the contextual meaning in the source text, both in aspects of language and its content, so that the reader could accept and agree with what being delivered (Newmark, 1988). In general, the articles show that the textual meaning identified as local newspaper that based on circumstance (Al-Mohannadi, 2008).

Table 3 Text Analysis Translation Shift

No	Types	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1	**Single translation Shift**		
	Structure Shift	8	10.2%
	Class Shift	3	3.8%
	Unit Shift	17	21.5%

	Intra System Shift	1	1.3%
2	**Double Translation Shift**		
	Structure and unit shift	39	49.5%
	Unit and intra system shift	2	2.5%
	Class and unit shift	7	8.7%
3	**No Translation Shift**	2	2.5%
Total		**20**	**100%**

An example of single translation shift found in the data is given in E3 and I3 below.

E3. but then became one of **his greatest critics** [B70]

I3. Tetapi kemudian menjadi salah satu **kritikus terbesarnya** [C70]

The shifting process in the above example occurred when the position of the translated word is shifted.

Another example found in the data is double translation shift as shown in E4 and I4 below.

E4. *The face-to-face encounter* in **South Korea** would have been the first between **senior officials** from the **Donald Trump administration** and Pyongyang

I4. *Pertemuan tatap muka kedua belah pihak* di **Korea Selatan** tersebut akan menjadi yang pertama di antara **pejabat senior pemerintahan Donald Trump** dan Pyongyang

The shifts in the above example were proves that there is a combination between structure and unit shifts. The shifts were found in the bold words such as '**South Korea, senior officials, Donald Trump administration'**, where the structure in the E1 shifted and inverted in the translated text as '**Korea Selatan, pejabat senior, pemerintahan Donald Trump'**. In addition, unit shifts were also found in the italic words '*The face-to-face encounter*'. The word '*The face-to-face encounter*' was shifted in terms of unit in the translated text to '*Pertemuan tatap muka kedua belah pihak*'. The grammatical form of "face to face" translated to lexis "tatap muka" in Indonesian language.

This study relates to another study such as the study conducted by Kazemi and Karimi (2016) who looked at the all types of themes

presented in sports and economic press texts. It shows that the appearance of unmarked themes in both sports and economic genres are more significant than the marked one. Marked themes less appearance means that the shift of thematic structure for emphasis and contrast in the texts are less. In addition, the thematic appearance in the text affects the structure of both clauses and natural texts, as indicated in Gomez's study (2015). The result of the study, BBC News reports has shown that the news was mainly based on the selection of either elliptical or simple unmarked themes (common NPS).

CONCLUSION

This study offers an insight of how textual meaning could find the differences between SL and TL in conveying the same meanings. The study offers translation strategies that can form different values. Translating, according to Newmark (1988) is defined as a way to present a message from a provenance language to target language which depends on the writer's intention.

Having said this, the realization of translation shift in thematic structure in the newsletters, it is concluded that *Pikiran Rakyat* delivered the information and tried to translate the contextual meaning in the source text by using communicative translation, both aspects of language and its content, so that the reader could accept and agree with what being delivered (Newmark, 1988).

Finally, it can be concluded that the use of varied theme types in the translated texts affects the objectivity being inferred. As a final note, this study confirms Gomez's statement (2015) that thematic choices have an impacts on the structure and development of both clauses and texts that lead to the objectivity in the text.

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