

TRANSLATION ERROR TAXONOMIES IN INDONESIAN TOURISM GUIDEBOOKS

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Abstract

There are many tourism guidebooks spread all around Indonesia yet they are not of good quality. This study embarks on the idea that the quality of tourism guidebook is still far from perfect. This study intends to explore the type of error taxonomies found in the tourism guidebooks by employing qualitative method. Six tourism guidebooks were collected and used as data and the theory being used is proposed by Dastjerdi and Abdolmaleki (2012). They modify the classification of errors in translation based on Keshavarz and ATA and proposed the name of error taxonomy. This error taxonomy has four major error types of syntactic error with three error patterns, semantic errors with 12 error patterns, pragmatic errors with 4 patterns, and translation-specific errors with 4 patterns. The selected guidebooks are then analyzed sentence by sentence using the error taxonomy in order to find out the error in the translation. Total data gathered are 519 with 292 are recognized as errors. These are then broken down into four types of errors: semantic errors having 149 errors (51%), syntactic errors having 133 errors (45%), and the least occurrence of errors is in the type of both pragmatic and translation-specific errors with only 5 errors (2%). This result will provide recommendation for the tourism boards or the local government who published these guidebooks to take prompt action to review and revise their edition of tourism guidebooks.

Keywords: Translation error analysis, tourism guidebook, translation error types, translation error patterns.

INTRODUCTION

It is hardly arguable to denote that translation is really pertinent in nowadays life. Numerous theories came on the scene to discuss about translation over the past decades ranging from Catford (1965), Hatim and Mason (1997), Nida and Taber (1982), Larson (1984), Newmark (1988), House (1997), Munday (2012), Basnett (1991) and many more. Many of these theorists pose the concept of translation as an act of transferring from the first language/source

language into second language/target language first in terms of meaning then in terms of style/form. In doing so, translators must also be aware that the translations they are producing are accurate, clear, and natural.

This practice of producing accurate, clear, and natural translation is not as easy as it may seem. Translation involves two languages therefore mistakes and or errors in an effort to produce accurate and natural must be occurred. Neubert & Shreve (1995) pose that translation error as something that is very complicated and difficult to define and identify. Koller (1979) later mentioned that errors in translation are due to non-equivalence between the source text and target text or non-adequacy of the target text. Hatim & Mason (1997, p. 203) define translation errors as (1) significant (unmotivated) mismatches of denotational meaning between source and target text (subdivided into omissions, additions, and substitutions); and (2) breaches of the target-language system (e.g. orthography, grammar). Jahanshashi and Kafipour (2015) stated that identifying and defining translation errors might be a challenge to scholars in the field for that equivalency reason. This is particularly the case for second language learners for whom translation errors are accompanied by linguistic errors (O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, & Katamba, 1996).

Many linguists proposed concepts on how to analyze translation errors which they break them down into classification or category. Melis & Albir (2001) in the translation error classification, suggest that the main questions that need to be considered are the following: (1) The difference between the source text's errors related such as opposite sense, wrong sense, nonsense, addition and suppression and the errors related to the target text such as spelling, vocabulary, syntax, coherence, and cohesion; (2) The difference between the two errors of functional and absolute errors; (3) The difference in individual translators between systematic errors (recurrent) and random errors (isolated); and (4) The difference between errors, both in the product and in the process. Benhaddou (1991) categorizes two types of errors: the first one being *covertly erroneous errors* (dimensional errors): errors which resulted from a mismatch along the situational dimensions; and the second one being *overtly erroneous errors* (non-dimensional errors): those errors occurred at the level of denotative meaning or a breach of the target language system. Nord (1997) classified translation errors into four categories: pragmatic, cultural, linguistic, and text-specific. Pragmatic translation errors are the ones that come from the problems of how to deal with pragmatic ambiguities hidden in the source text. Cultural

translation errors occur when there is “an inadequate decision” in adapting the source text to the target one in terms of culture (Nord, 1997). Linguistic translation errors are the failure in using target language structures to transfer the meaning and sense of the source text. And text-specific translation errors can be traced from the suitability of the translation to the target readers (Nord, 1997).

The error taxonomy or classification used in this study proposed by Dastjerdi and Abdolmaleki (2012), both re-categorized and classified the taxonomies proposed by American Translation Association or ATA (2017) and Keshavarz (1999) in four broader types of syntactic, semantic, pragmatic errors, and translation-specific error. The taxonomies are as follow:

Table 1. Error Taxonomy in Translation

No	Types	Area
1.	Syntactic Errors	Grammar, Syntax, Punctuation, Usage
2.	Semantic Errors	Addition, Omission, Terminology, word choice, Faithfulness, Literalness, Faux Ami, Ambiguity, Accents and other diacritical marks, Capitalization (upper/lower case), Word form/ Part of speech, Spelling, Verb Tense
3.	Pragmatic Errors	Misunderstanding, Mistranslation, Register, Style
4.	Translation Specific-Errors	Unfinished, Cohesion, Illegibility, Indecision

Not many studies conducted previously that discussed about error taxonomies employing modification model of Keshavarz’s and ATA in translation. Many studies are employing Keshavarz’s error in taxonomy only. Ghasemi and Hashemian (2016) “*A Comparative Study of Google Translate Translations: An Error Analysis of English-to-Persian and Persian-to-English Translations*” compare the quality of back to back translation of Google Translate from English to Persian and Persian to English using Keshavarz’s (1999) error taxonomy. Napitupulu (2017) investigates “*Analyzing Indonesian-English Abstracts Translation in View of Translation Errors by Google Translate*”, the error of translation in the undergraduate thesis students of *Methodist University of Indonesia* abstracts that were produced by Google Translate. He used Keshavarz’s (1999) error analysis model taxonomy and the results were that lexicosemantic as the dominant

error found in the abstracts of students' undergraduate thesis and that some words have been mistranslated and do not fit the context of the source text. Zamin and Hasan (2018), Salam, Akil, and Rahman (2017), Jahanshi and Kafipour (2015) investigate their data by employing Keshavarz's.

Those issues lead to the intention of the writer to conduct a study to determine what type of error taxonomies occur in the translation of Indonesian tourism guidebook. The writer also intends to analyze the occurrence. The tourism guidebooks are very important because they provide information to tourists about the tourist attraction in the specified region. This makes guidebooks as the appropriate way to increase the reputation of the accommodation and confirm reliability (Hiransomboon, 2012). According to Lew (1991), guidebooks serve as the markers of tourist attractions because it identifies the sight, and gives it meaning and significance to the tourist. What is inside the guidebooks are really important for tourists to locate sights with maps, addresses, give them descriptions and tell the tourists on why these sights are something that should not be missed? Nonetheless, the translation of those tourism guidebooks made by Indonesian government is suffering. Many tourism guidebooks lack of appropriate translation that suit to the principle of clarity, accuracy, and naturalness. This has to be solved by the Indonesian in order to regain trust from the tourists and to attract them as many as possible. This study uses tourism guidebooks that are produced respectively by the tourism boards of some regions in Indonesia such as Banten, Bangka Belitung, Gunungkidul, Special Region of Yogyakarta, Sawahlunto, and the one from National Museum of Indonesia.

METHOD

This study employs qualitative approach by descriptive analysis. The writer uses the guidebooks as the object to conduct analysis on the content that contains error. This is done by identifying the words and phrases that experience errors, classifying those based on error taxonomy in translation, and finally analyzing their occurrence. The error taxonomy to locate the errors in translating the guidebooks is the modification from two theories of errors in translation, Keshavarz and ATA. The sources of the data in this study area six tourism guidebooks. Five of the tourism guidebooks which are produced from Tourism Board of Banten, Bangka Belitung,

Sawahlunto, Gunungkidul, Yogyakarta and one guidebook from the National Museum of Indonesia. The data are in the form of words and phrases that are considered commit errors.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data being used are “Welcome to Jogja”, “*Destinasi Wisata Jogja*” for its Indonesian version produced by Yogyakarta Tourism Authority, “Visit Banten” by Banten Province Tourism Board, “Sawahlunto Tourism Map” by Sawahlunto Tourism, Youth and Sports Board, “Bangka Belitung The Trails of the Tin Islands” by Bangka Belitung Province of Culture and Tourism Board, “Exotic Gunungkidul” by Gunungkidul District Tourism Board, and “Museum National Indonesia” by Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture. In the translation of tourism guidebooks, the writer finds 519 data which among them contained 292 recognized errors (there are other errors which cannot be classified into the taxonomies)

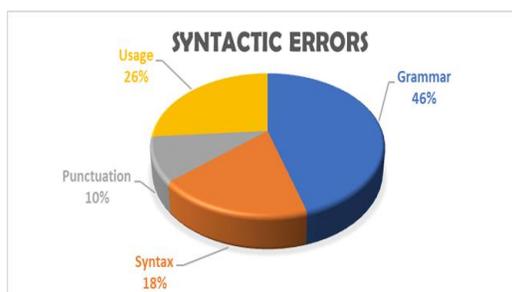
Table 2. Overall Finding for Error Taxonomies in Tourism Guidebooks Translation

	Recognized Errors	Syntactic Errors	Semantic Errors	Pragmatic Errors	Translation-Specific Errors
Number	292	133	149	5	5
Frequency	100%	45%	51%	2%	2%

As mentioned before that the total data are 519 sentences in the six tourism guidebook of 292 are identified as errors. From the above table we can observe that the highest number of error is in the category of semantic error (51%), followed by syntactic error (45%), and two categories are having similar percentage pragmatic and translation-specific errors (2% each), These findings show that the translator of those guidebooks should be aware on the concept of transferring meaning from source language into target language so as to avoid any errors.

In syntactic error, it consists of grammar, usage punctuation and syntax. The chart below shows the division of the errors. As observed carefully, grammar error pattern earns the highest percentage 46%, usage 26%, syntax 18%, and punctuation 10%. This signals the importance of mastering the grammar of the target language. Syntactic error is occurred when there is a violation of rules in the target text language such as violation rules of sentence structure, tenses used, punctuations, articles, as well as the use of plural morpheme.

Chart 1. Syntactic Error



As the sample taken from the textbook for the error in grammar:

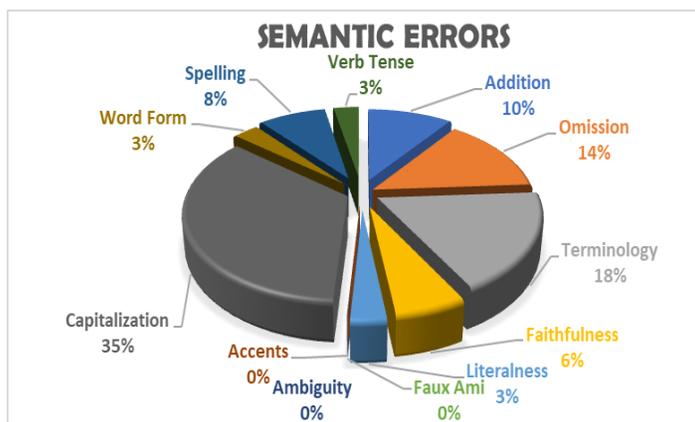
ST: ... daya tarik wisata bauta, berupa waduk kecil / embung Nglanggeran, embung Sriten, desa wisata dan desa budaya

TT: *The artificial tourist attraction is in the form of small reservoir namely Embung Nglanggeran and Embung Sriten.* (Exotic Gunungkidul, no. 9)

The above example is incorrect because the subject (noun phrase) “The artificial tourist attraction” is singular while the object itself is more than one object “Embung Nglanggeran and Embung Sriten”. While the use of the subject is wrong because it should be plural “attractions”, the use of “to be” in this sentence is also wrong because it used “is” instead of “are”. This is caused by using singular subject so that the verb “to be” is also followed by a singular verb.

In semantic error, it can be seen that highest percentage of error goes to capitalization (35%) followed by error in terminology 18%. And the least error patterns are accents, ambiguity, and *faux ami* having each 0%. This error type occurred when the meaning in the source text is mistakenly transferred into the target text by any means that was listed as the error patterns and that changes the overall meaning of the target text.

Chart 2. Semantic Error



Below is the sample for part of semantic category, addition error. Addition error occurs when the translator introduces or adds superfluous words or stylistic effects that contribute nothing to the information in the text. Below is the example:

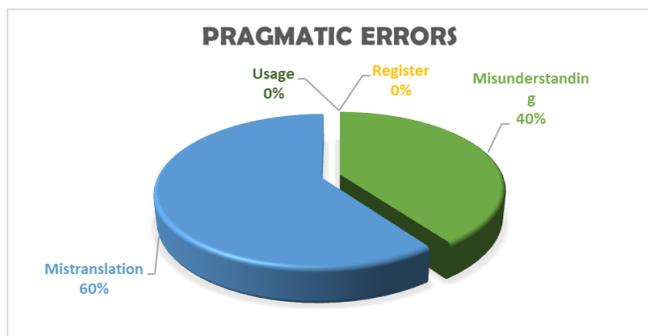
ST: *Jika anda memasuki wilayah hutannya yang masih alami, anda masih bisa menjumpai badak bercula satu yang hampir punah.*

TT: *If you enter an area of unspoiled forest, you can still see an extinct rhinoceros that is almost extinct. (Visit Banten, no. 9)*

The phrase “an extinct” in this sentence serves no purpose and adds nothing to the whole sentence. Furthermore, it contradicts with the next word, “is almost extinct” and could create confusion to the readers. The “an extinct” come out of nowhere because in the original text it does not say anything that would translate to “an extinct”, only to “almost extinct” which in the original text is “*hampir punah*”.

The following error pattern is pragmatic error. Mistranslation is having the highest percentage of error (60%) and misunderstanding comes in second (40%).

Chart 3. Pragmatic Error



A misunderstanding according to the ATA explanation is occurred when the reader can see that the error arises from misreading a word, for example, or misinterpreting the syntax of a sentence. Here is the example that the writer could find:

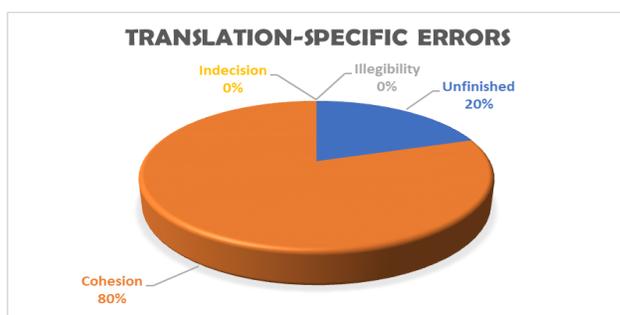
ST: *Buka setiap hari pukul 06.00-18.00 WIB.*

TT: *Open time at 8.00 am-6.00 pm. (Welcome to Jogja, no. 15)*

This example is erroneous because it does not have anything to do with a word or a sentence but instead it has something to do with time. The original text has the time of “06.00 WIB” in the morning as the opening hour while in the translation it becomes “8.00 am” which could result in misunderstanding of the opening hour when reading the sentence and could be a mistranslation from the translator.

The final category is translation-specific errors. Based from the chart, cohesion receives the most occurrences of errors with 80%; followed by unfinished 20%. While the writer did not find any errors in terms of indecision and illegibility.

Chart 4. Translation-Specific Error



An unfinished error occurs when there is an unfinished passage which includes of these: missing titles, headings, or sentences within a passage may be marked as one or more errors of omission, depending on how much is omitted. Here is the example of unfinished error:

ST: *Banyak wisatawan yang datang untuk merasakan sensasi menyusuri goa dengan air sungai yang mengalir di bawahnya menggunakan tube (ban dalam).*

TT: *Many tourists come to feel the sensation along the cave with the river flowing under it using.* (Exotic Gunungkidul, no. 29)

The sentence here is considered as an unfinished sentence because there is an omission of the object “tube (inner tube)” by the translator at the end of the sentence that makes the sentence confusing and distort the meaning. The translated sentence if translated back to the source language would mean “*Banyak wisatawan datang untuk merasakan sensasi di sepanjang gua dengan menggunakan sungai yang mengalir di bawahnya*”

To sum up, errors in translating tourism guidebooks should be avoided because it may hinder understanding from the tourists who are really relying on guidebooks as a tool to direct their destination in foreign countries. The result of the analysis shows that semantic error is the highest most particularly in capitalization and terminology. Syntax error comes next having grammar as the mostly committed errors by the translators. Pragmatic error contains mistranslation and misunderstanding which these two should be mastered by the translator to achieve accurate and natural translation. Translation-specific error shows that cohesion is the number one problem of the translators.

CONCLUSION

There are many tourism guidebooks spread all around Indonesia yet they are not of good quality. This study embarks on the idea that the quality of tourism guidebook is still far from perfect. Six tourism guidebooks were collected and used as data and the theory being used is proposed by Dastjerdi and Abdolmaleki (2012). They modify the classification of errors in translation based on Keshavarz and ATA and proposed the name of error taxonomy. This error taxonomy has four major error types of syntactic error with three error patterns, semantic errors with 12 error patterns, pragmatic errors with 4 patterns, and translation-specific errors with 4 patterns. The selected guidebooks are then analyzed sentence by sentence using the error taxonomy in order to find out the error in the translation. Based on those explanations and the

results in chapter 4, conclusions can be drawn. Total data gathered are 519 with 292 are recognized as errors. These are then broken down into four types of errors: semantic errors having 149 errors (51%), syntactic errors having 133 errors (45%), and the least occurrence of errors is in the type of both pragmatic and translation-specific errors with only 5 errors (2%).

The error in semantic is 12 error patterns namely addition, omission, terminology, faithfulness, literalness, *faux ami*, ambiguity, accents, capitalizations, word form, spelling, and verb tense, capitalization. The most is capitalization 35%. The error in syntactic are divided into grammar error (46%), and the least is punctuation 13 errors (10%). The bottom two types of errors are pragmatic and translation-specific error. In pragmatic error, mistranslation receives the most occurrences 60% and misunderstanding is 40%. In the translation-specific error, cohesion holds the highest percentage of error followed by unfinished error.

The tourism boards or the local government who published these guidebooks need to be warned about these findings. They need to take prompt action to review and revise their edition of guidebooks. We should perceive that the tourism guidebook as our 'face', it represent what we are as Indonesian and what are contained in Indonesia. Hopefully the government will start to take action.

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