

## GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS ON ABSTRACT TRANSLATION INDONESIAN TO ENGLISH

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### Abstract

Translation is a process that is almost unavoidable for both lecturers and students. This is true especially in writing scientific papers that must be written in English. The purpose of this study is to find out the grammatical errors present in the translation of abstracts. The data for this study were obtained from the abstracts written by non-English students of Dian Nuswantoro University. This analysis is qualitative research in nature. As for calculating the number of grammatical errors, quantitative methods were used. In this case, qualitative descriptive analysis in this study was a method that aimed to describe or provide an overview of an object of study investigated through samples or data that have been collected. The finding of this study revealed that some grammatical errors still occur including addition, omission and misinformation.

Keywords: abstract, scientific work, translation method, translation process, grammar

### INTRODUCTION

In the educational process, teaching is a series of delivering learning materials to learners to receive, respond, and develop materials while learning is the process of interaction of learners with educators. Learning encompasses all meanings of the school itself. English as a foreign language is one of the most important aspects and must be owned by every student. Therefore, students who learn English are expected to be good translators. One of the reasons why they should master English is because English is an international language that will support communication with others and possibly help them to translate. Unfortunately, translating is not an easy job. Some aspects are important to know in translating. Some of these are the message, audience, source language, and target language. A message refers to the topic of the text. This means that a good translator should

have more knowledge of the topic of the text. Audience refers to the target reader and their level of education. The source language and target language refer to the circumstances in which the translation takes place or is accepted. According to Widyamartaya (1989:11) "translating can be interpreted as transferring messages from the source language to the target language".

According to Newmark (1988) in Suparman (2003: 144-145) "translators of literary works in particular have difficulty in translating socio-cultural linguistic aspects, and moral aspects implied in literary works (e.g., novels)". In translating literary works, a translator usually experiences obstacles or difficulties in the process of translating the work. Translating figurative language or idiomatic meanings and expressions is an example of a problem. This figurative language and idiomatic meaning need to be translated

and accepted in Bsa to obtain the quality of the translated work. The Translation itself is very close to the work of commentators to convey the message in SL correctly. A translator cannot add his interpretation out of the original text, a translator must have a deep understanding of the language, especially the source language, or understand the will, intent, or purpose of the author. Therefore, the translator must pay attention to the essence of the translation process itself.

Thornbury (1999) states that grammar is partly the study of what form (or structure) is possible in a language. Traditionally, grammar has almost exclusively to do with the analysis of sentence levels. Thus, grammar is a description of the rules that govern how language sentences are formed. Grammar is a term used to mean many different things. When teachers and administrators become frustrated over errors in student writing, they often ask to return to the "basics" they define as grammar (Williams in Adu. 2012.:25)

It grammatically means two things: 1). Generated by the application of phrase structures and rules of transformation, 2). Generated by the application of lexical or semantic rules. For example, "Green idea sleeps angrily" is not grammatical because it violates semantic compatibility rules. Greenbaum, Nelson (2002) states that grammar refers to a set of rules that allow us to combine words in our language into larger units, Brown (2007) states that everyone makes mistakes in both native and second-language situations. Therefore, whether they are native speakers or learners of a second language, they may be able to make mistakes in producing the language. The error occurs because learners know the system but they fail to use it. Meanwhile, errors according to Brown (2007) are the result of a person's systematic competence. An error reveals some of the learner's competence in the target language. English beginners are usually unable to correct their mistakes by using themselves. Therefore, they need a teacher to correct. Corder (1967) states that mistakes are things made by beginners of second or other language learners who have not mastered the language system. Thus, English learners may

be able to make the mistake of not knowing English grammar very well.

According to Dulay, Burt, and Krashen (1982: 155) as cited by Haryono (2011:6), there are four types of errors based on the surface strategy taxonomy: omissions, additions, misinformation, and sequence errors. However, this categorization may not be suitable for this study. Thornbury (1999) states that grammar is partly the study of what form (or structure) is possible in a language. Traditionally, grammar has almost exclusively to do with the analysis of sentence levels. Thus, grammar is a description of the rules that govern how language sentences are formed. Grammar is a term used to mean many different things. When teachers and administrators become frustrated over mistakes in student writing, they often ask to return to the "basics" they define as grammar (Williams in Adu. 2012). The word "grammatically" means two things: (1) generated by the application of phrase structures and transformation rules, and (2) generated by the application of lexical or semantic rules. For example, "Green idea sleeps angrily" is not grammatical because it violates semantic compatibility rules. Greenbaum, Nelson (2002) states that grammar refers to a set of rules that allow us to combine words in our language into larger units.

Brown (2007) states that everyone makes mistakes in both native and second-language situations. Therefore, whether they are native speakers or learners of a second language, they may be able to make mistakes in producing the language. The error occurs because learners know the system but they fail to use it. Meanwhile, errors according to Brown (2007) are the result of a person's systematic competence. An error reveals some of the learner's competence in the target language. English beginners are usually unable to correct their mistakes by using themselves. Therefore, they need a teacher to correct. Corder (1967) states that mistakes are things made by beginners of second or other language learners who have not mastered the language system as a whole. Thus, English learners may be able to make the mistake of

not knowing English grammar very well.  
Number of Grammatical Errors

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The author collects grammatical sentences in each abstract of an undergraduate thesis translated from Indonesian into English. Then the researcher analyzed the grammatical errors and categorized them into a suitable category developed after the analysis.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### Grammatical Errors

The grammatical errors are presented in the following examples. Each sample sentence is given the category of the errors, written in a box following the example identity. Many times, one sentence contains more than one error.

#### Example 1 (article and writing)

ST: Sedangkan pembobotan kriteria dan "sub kriteria" dalam menentukan keputusan menggunakan metode Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) di mana metode ini hirarki "berfungsi" dengan input utama adalah persepsi manusia.

TT: While weighting criteria and "*sub criteria*" in determining decision using Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) method which this method "*is functional*" hierarchy with main input is human perception.

The grammatical errors can be explained as follows.

The noun "sub criteria" should be replaced with "sub-criteria" because there should be a hyphen in the middle. The phrase "is functional" hierarchy should be replaced with "is a functional" hierarchy. The students should add an article in English as it is a must.

#### Example 2. (subject-verb agreement)

ST: Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah sistem pendukung keputusan yang memberikan kemudahan pada pihak CV. Rukun Karya Kota Tegal dalam mengambil keputusan untuk memilih supplier yang akan menyediakan bahan bangunan sesuai dengan kebutuhan proyek yang akan dikerjakan perusahaan.

TT: "*The results of this study are the decision*" support system provides convenience on the part of "*CV. Rukun Karya Kota Tegal*" in "*taking the decision*" to choose suppliers which will provide building materials according to project needs to be done company.

The grammatical errors can be explained as follows.

"The results of this study is the decision" should be replaced with "The results of this study are the decision support system" because the plural subject of a sentence or clause requires a plural verb. Sometimes, compound subjects use two nouns to describe one single subject. In addition, there should be "that" between "system" and "provides".

The phrase "*taking the decision*" is supposed to be replaced with "*deciding*". Usually, we use verbs to talk about actions. But many verbs have noun equivalents that refer to actions. These noun counterparts are called nominalization. Using nominalization often results in long phrases such as making a decision instead of deciding or putting forward a suggestion instead of suggesting. These phrases can overload your writing and make it harder for readers to understand what you are saying. A singular verb is usually more expressive than a phrase.

#### Example 3. (preposition, subject-verb agreement, long sentence)

ST: Pada hasil evaluasi uji coba kerja dapat disimpulkan bahwa media KIE mampu mempengaruhi aspek kognitif dan afektif responden.

TT: In the result of the evaluation of the *work* trial can be concluded that the IEC media "*is able to*" influence the cognitive and affective aspects of the respondents.

The grammatical errors can be explained as follows.

"*In the result of the evaluation*" should have been replaced with "From the result of the evaluation," because conclusion is derived 'from' something, not 'in' something. In Addition, the next error is a lack of subject. The word "it" must be put before "can be concluded." Without it, the sentence is a

broken one. Again subject – verb agreement is erroneous. The word “is” should be “are” because “media” is plural.

*“In the result of the evaluation of the work”* can also should be replaced with *“As the result of the evaluation of the work.”* Preposition is a function word that indicates how a noun or noun phrase relates to the rest of the sentence. Some prepositions, such as in, on, after, or since, reveal temporal or spatial relationships. In other cases, the relationship is more abstract and the best preposition to use may depend on the surrounding words. These are known as “dependent prepositions,” and they do not follow a clear pattern. Prepositions should be chosen carefully because sometimes changing prepositions can completely change the meaning of the phrase. A good dictionary will provide guidance on which prepositions to use with which words.

The clause *“the IEC media is able to influence the cognitive and affective aspects of the respondents”* should be changed to *“the IEC media can influence the cognitive and affective aspects of the respondents”*. Using long phrases when shorter phrases (or even one word) are enough can contribute to the low word power or vagueness. While a sentence may be grammatically correct, writing more concisely is often a better option. The writer should consider your readers and context to make decisions.

**Example 4. (subject-verb agreement, wrong negative sentence - misformation)**

ST: Namun penggunaan sistem informasi terkadang tidak selaras antara strategi bisnis dan strategi teknologi, karena sistem yang dibangun saat ini belum terlaksana dengan baik.

TT: But the use of information systems “sometimes” not aligned between business strategy and technology strategy, “because” the system that developed currently not done well.

The grammatical errors are as follows:

*“But the use of information systems sometimes not aligned between business strategy and technology strategy”,* should be replaced with *“But the use of information systems is sometimes not aligned between business*

*strategy and technology strategy”*. Each clause requires a subject and a verb. In some cases, the best verb to use is or was (or another form of the verb to be). In other cases, you may need to add a primary verb, an auxiliary verb, or some auxiliary verbs.

The clause *“because the system that developed currently not done well”* should be changed to *“because of the system that is developed currently does not do well”*.

The translation is not grammatical as the passive construction need “subject + be + verb3” formula and the native clause should have “do/does” before the word “not”.

**Example 5. (wrong word formation – and clause construction misformation)**

ST: Dalam penelitian ini, digunakan sudut pandang perencana (lingkup), pemilik (model bisnis), perancang (model sistem) dan pembangun (model teknologi).

TT: “In this study, used the viewpoint planner (scope), owner (business model), designer (system model) and builder (technology model)”.

Grammatical errors are identified as follows.

The clause *“In this study, used the viewpoint planner (scope), owner (business model), designer (system model) and builder (technology model)”* should be changed as it has no main verb. It should have been *““In this study, the (scope) viewpoint planner, (business model) owner, (system model) designer and (technology model) builder” were used.* The errors are in the noun phrase construction (e.g., view point (scope)) and also the clause structure that should be subject and verb for a passive sentence.

**Example 6. (misformation)**

ST: CV. Rukun Karya merupakan perusahaan konstruksi yang berdiri sejak tahun 2010

TT: CV. Rukun Karya is a construction company that has been established “since” 2010

Grammatical errors are as follows.

*“CV. Rukun Karya is a construction company that has been established since 2010”* should have been changed to *“CV. Rukun Karya is a construction company that was established in 2010”* Usually this establishment information is

stated in a simple past tense. Therefore, it should be so. Then, the preposition “since” should have been “in”. Preposition is a function word that indicates how a noun or noun phrase relates to the rest of a sentence. Some prepositions, such as *in, on, after, or since*, reveal temporal or spatial relationships. Because there is a time signal “2010”, the sentence must be simple past and the preposition must be “in”.

**Example 7. (preposition-misformation/redundant)**

ST: ... dan telah memiliki banyak pengalaman dalam hal pembangunan baik pembangunan rumah maupun kantor sesuai permintaan kliennya.

TT: ... and has had a lot of experience in terms of "development" " either" the construction of houses or offices as requested by its clients.

Grammatical errors are as follows:

*"...and has had a lot of experience in terms of development either the construction of houses or offices as requested by its clients" should have been changed to "... and has had a lot of experience in terms of the construction of either houses or offices as requested by its clients".*

The use of “development and construction” here is not effective. “Construction” is enough. In addition, article should be used before the noun. An article is a word like “a” or “the” that precedes a noun to make it clear what the noun means. An article with plural countable nouns such as people, houses, apples, or books is “the” or “some”. The article for uncountable noun is “the”. Therefore, the word “the” should be used before the noun “construction”. Preposition “of” should be put before the word “either” as “either” is the beginning of a construction of “either” ... “or” which in all construction can be considered a noun phrase.

**Example 8. (misformation of noun phrase, article.)**

ST: Solusi untuk mengatasi masalah tersebut adalah dengan melakukan pengembangan sistem arsitektur enterprise dengan metode framework

Zachman.

TT: The solution to overcome this problem is to do " the development" of enterprise architecture system with methods Zachman framework.

Grammatical errors are as follows:

*"The solution to overcome this problem is to do the development" should be changed to "The solution to overcome this problem is to do a development". As it is for the first time to talk about the development, indefinite article “a” is more suitable. The use of the preposition “with” inappropriate. It should be “using” and followed by noun phrase. The noun phrase is also wrong., It should be “Zachman framework method” instead of “methods Zachman framework.”*

**Example 9. (article)**

ST: Seorang presiden harus memiliki kemampuan berbicara yang dapat memotivasi dan mendukung semangat masyarakat.

TT: "A president must have speaking ability who can motivate and support spirit of society."

The grammatical errors are identified as follows:

*"A president must have a speaking ability who can motivate and support spirit of society" should be changed to "A president must have a speaking ability which can motivate and support the spirit of the society". Again, it is an error in the use of article “a” and “the.” Article “a” should go with “speaking ability” and “the” should go with “spirit” and “society.”*

**CONCLUSION**

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that in the results of the translation of the abstract done by the students contains several grammatical errors that can be classified into (a) article errors, (b) preposition errors, (c) wrong formation of noun phrases, (d) wrong formation of clauses, and (e) the literal translation that produce redundant target sentence. Errors number (c), (d), and (e) can be called misformation errors. Errors (a) and (b) are missing article and preposition words. Finally, it can be concluded that the translation

process that occurred did not seem to proceed in a good restructuring process.

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