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# an Analysis of Students Difficulties in Translating Poetry from Indonesian to English at the Second Grade of SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan

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#### **ABSTRACT**

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This study focuses on knowing what kinds of difficulties were faced by second grade students of SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan while translating a poetry from Indonesian to English. This research used descriptive qualitative method used theory from Eggins (2004). The population of this research was second grade students of SMA HKBP Sidorame and the sample were 10 students from second grade. The source of data were 10 work sheets of students translation result. Meanwhile, the data of this research were the sentences that contain a mistake or error in meaning after being translated to English language . The result of the study showed that students' struggles translating poetry from Indonesian to English due to a lack of vocabulary. Students perform poorly while translating, particularly when it comes to stylistic translation.

Keywords

Translation, Poetry, Stylistic-Grammatical-Lexical Difficulties.

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is the main tool for communication in human life, both individually and socially collectively. Language is also a collection of words where each word has an abstract meaning and relationship with a concept. Language learning is related to processes a happens when a child learns a second language after he acquired his first language.

Translation is an important phenomena having a significant impact on daily life Translation is therefore necessary to promote communication and avoid misunderstandings between languages. According to (Oktaviani &Putri,2018:194-199) Translation does not only cover news, articles, novels, stories, but also other literary work such as poem and song. Poem is a unique literary work. It is usually written figuratively Translation (TL) is the process of identifying the speech counterparts of the source language (SL) in the target

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language. The destination language that most closely resembles the translator's source language is considered the translation equivalent.

The translation process involves both the head and target cultures as well as the source and target languages. The goal of the translation is to make diverse written documents available to a wider audience by translating them into other widely spoken languages. Translation will be challenging since it will be challenging to find the closest equivalent, such as converting from Indonesian to English or vice versa making translation challenging. Indonesian and English usage might be affected by cultural differences. As a result, a translation technique is needed to spot the differences and find the translation closest equivalent. (Anjelina et al., 2023:1-19).

There are additional professional meanings of translation as well. According to Sukmaningrum et al.(2023:192-203) translation is the process of conveying the meaning of the source language into the target language. Translation, according to Ismawati(2013:55-62) is the process of communicating the literal meaning of a piece of information into another language in the manner intended by the researcher. It is consistent with referenced by Regmi & Researcher (2010:16-26) who claims that translation is an action in which the target language, whether spoken, written, or signed, adapts the meaning of the source language. The substitution of text in one language (SL) with similar text in another language (TL) is another way to describe translation. Translation involves conveying the message in the receptor language as closely as possible to its natural equivalent in the source language, first in terms of meaning and then in terms of style.

A translator must meet three standard in order to provide a decent or the best translation. The first criterion is to translate using the target language everyday forms. The readerships will find it easier to understand the translation if standard language forms are used. The communicative translation is the second option. The readership can easily grasp a communicative translation since it uses straight forward language rather than monotonous. The final step is to maintain the dynamic of the text original Source Language. It indicates that the translation is presented in a way that will elicit the same response that the original material aimed to elicit. Despite the fact that all three criteria have been met, there are times when a translator finds it challenging to interpret a text, particularly one that contains some cultural phrases.

Poetry is one of the cultural manifestations of Indonesia. Because poetry frequently derives from folklore, history, and religion, it is known as "pepatah" in Indonesia and is thought to contain the wisdom of the elders or ancestors in the culture. Poetry is the primary form of communication in the unliterate

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society and is frequently cited in conversations. It implies that people with an uneducated society use poetry as a form of communication in dialogue. There are many types poetry that is: Ballad, sonnet, limerick, elegy, ode, free verse, and imagery.

The researcher chose to translate poetry which has Indonesian meaning into English because poetry is very interesting to learn, as students at school like poetry or do not like poetry but they have difficulty translating poetry into English. several factors such as a lack of poetry knowledge and hence the formation of written poetry texts. Poetry translation is more difficult than we previously believed. The majority of people would agree, translating poetry is a tough task that requires special knowledge. a writer of a language can express imaginative ideas with poetry so that readers are able to express facial expressions with intonation according to the slow tone of voice..

The reason that reseacher chose the SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan she was interested in the students at the school there who were very enthusiastic about the lessons they liked, but they had shortcomings that they could learn not understand. The students there did not understand English poetry, and some sentences were translated into Indonesian. Therefore, I want to teach the students there to understand English poetry and do an interview with students in the class.

Translating poetry is not easy as translating another text. It will be quite more difficult to translate poetry because it deals with some terms that can affect its meaning. Almost students difficult to translating poetry because they are lack of knowledge about translation and poetry. The students got difficulties in finding equivalent words from the source language into the target language, translating words which function as symbols and translating sentences with figures of speech. Besides, the writing style of poetry which uses figures of speech, symbols and ungrammatical structures also made the students get difficulties in translating poetry.

Let's note the example below:

Source Language Target Language

It's grassing in the park horses and birds Rumput yang sangat lebat ditaman

To translate "It's grassing in the park horses and birds" is not like literal translation, or we translate the sentence, like this "Ini rumput ditaman kudakuda dan burung-burung" it should translated "Rumput Ditaman". Based on the problems above, the writer is interested in grassing out research concerning this one.

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the problems state as follows: What are the students difficulties in translation poetry from

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Indonesian to English? What are the factors that causing the students difficulties in translating poetry from Indonesian to English?. Relate to the statements, there searchment decided the objectives of the rearcher as follows. To find out the students difficulties in translating poetry order from Indonesian to English at the second grade of SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan. To find out the factors of students difficulties in translating poetry. From Indonesian to English at the second grade of SMA Swasta HKBP. Sidorame Medan.

#### RESEARCH METHOD

The reseacher used descriptive qualitative in this research. According to (Made et al., 2023:1-9) said that word qualitative method implies those in which the description observation is not ordinally expressed in quantitative terms, it is not suggested that numerica grammatical problems, stylistic problems, and lexical problems, measures are never used, but the other means of description are emphasized. To get the data the reseacher uses documentation, interview, and questionnaire distribution to collect the data.

The subject of this research were the second grade of SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan. This class consisted 10 students. The researcher chose this class, because the writer wanted to know the students' difficulties in translating poetry from Indonesian to English.

The reseacher be applied:

#### a. Test

The researcher used English test poetry as instrument. In collecting or gathering the data, students translate poetry from Indonesian to English to find out difficulties that the students face in translating poetry.

### b. Interview

The researcher interviewed several students to gathering data about students difficulties in translating poetry.

According to Vinay and Darbelne (1958) there were four kinds of data which analyzed in details. The first was students translation works or documents, the analysis began with of translation techniques used by the students through translation technique conducted by these following steps:

- 1. The information for the data analysis was gathered from the students' translation sheets, Indonesian into English poetry.
- 2. The researcher directly compared the original translation with the students' answer sheets.
- 3. The researcher identificated students difficulties in translation.
- 4. Classified the students translation errors into several categories such as lexical, stylistic, and grammatical.

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5. The researcher discussed the mistakes that the students made in the exam results, which were utilized to identified the students' problem specifically and generally.

#### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data of this study description of research findings and discusions. The findings show what are the difficulties in translating poetry and what are the factors that causing the difficulties in translating poetry from Indonesian to English. This research collected data from Translation Test and Interview that were given to 11 grade students of English Education SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan. The data of this research was the students translation of poetry "Orang-Orang Tercinta". The writer will take the source of data from poetry of W.S Rendra with the title "Orang-Orang Tercinta".

The explanation of Difficulties in Grammatical Problems

Sentence 1:2,3,4,5&9

English (SL) : We take turns inhaling the acid

Indonesian (TL) : Kami bergantian menghirup asamnya

Based on sentence grammar above there were 6 students translated into sentence: "Kami bergantian menghirup asam". There were 2 different students who answered the translation of English poetry in grammar form: "We baloe turns inhaling acid. Student translated indonesian into sentence grammar: Kita baloe ternyata menghirup asam. So students writting english in the text poetry sentence grammar difficulties: "We took turns snorting acid" ".So, student writting indonesian in the text poetry sentence grammar difficulties: kita bergantian mendengus asam.

Sentence 1:2,3,4,5&6

English (SL) : At the end of the bright tunnel Indonesian (TL) : Di ujung terowongan terang

Based on sentence grammar above there were 6 students translated into sentence:" Di ujung terowongan terang". The students produce same meaning because they are working with each other. Student translated english into sentence

Grammar: "At the end of the bright tunnel" .So, students writting in the text poetry indonesian sentence grammar difficulties: Di ujung terowongan terang.

Sentence 1:2,3,4,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : Will we reach the altar

Indonesian (TL) : Akankah kita mencapai altar

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In the sentence above, there were 8 students translated into sentence: "Mengira rasa lelahnya akan hilang". There were 2 different students who answered the translation of English poetry in grammar form: "Will we get to the altar with" and "Will we get to the altar". So, students indonesian writting in the text poetry sentence grammar difficulties: Akankah kita sampai ke altar bersama dan Akankah kita sampai ke altar.

Sentence 1:2,3,4&5

English (SL) : Were melting and eroading

Indonesian (TL) : Mencair dan mengikis

In the sentence above, there were 5 students translated into sentence: "Mencair dan mengikis". There were 2 different students who answered the translation of English poetry in grammar form: "were melting and recording and "were melting and roading also sunshines". So, students writting indonesian in the text poetry sentence grammar difficulties: meleleh dan merekam dan mencair dan jalan juga sinar matahari.

Sentence 1:2,3&4

English (SL) : As the sunshines Indonesian (TL) : Seperti sinar matahari

In the sentence above, there were 4 students translated into sentence: "Seperti sinar matahari". Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts: "Shavings of sunlight". Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts: "Serut-serut sinar matahari".

Sentence 1:2,3,4&5

English (SL) : While we're forgetten Indonesian (TL) : Sementara kita dilupakan

In the sentence above, there were 5 students translated into sentence: "Sementara kita dilupakan". Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts:"While we have forgotten". Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts:"Sementara kita udah lupa".

Sentence 1:2,3&4

English (SL) : It feels like flowing with life

Indonesian (TL) : Rasanya seperti mengalir bersama kehidupan

In the sentence above, there were 4 students translated into sentence: "Rasanya seperti mengalir bersama kehidupan". Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts:"It feels like it flow with life". Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts:"Rasanya mengalir bersama kehidupan".

Sentence 2

English (SL) : It the little things that used to be forgiven Indonesian (TL) : Itu hal-hal kecil yang dulunya dimaafkan

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In the sentence above, there were 1 students translated into sentence: "Itu hal-hal kecil yang dulunya dimaafkan". Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts:"Which was forgiven". Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts:"Yang dulu termaafkan".

Sentence 1:2&4

English (SL) : That used to be forgiven Indonesian (TL) : Seperti sinar matahari

In the sentence above, there were 4 students translated into sentence: "Seperti sinar matahari". Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts: "Which was forgiven". Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts: "Yang dulu termaafkan".

Sentence 1:2

English (SL) : Why get angry with circumsanles?

Indonesian (TL) : Mengapa marah dengan orang-orang yang tidak

bertanggung jawab?

In the sentence above, there were 2 students translated into sentence: "Mengapa marah dengan orang-orang yang tidak bertanggung jawab?".Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts:"Why are you angry with the situation?". Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts:"Mengapa marah dengan keadaan?".

Sentence 3

English (SL) : We're caugh

Indonesian (TL) : Kami tertangkap

In the sentence above, there were 1 students translated into sentence: "Kami tertangkap".Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts:"We're caught falling trapped".Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts:"Kita tertangkap jatuh terperangkap".

Sentence 1:2,3,4&5

English (SL) : Why run when things swell up if left unchecked?

Indonesian (TL) : Mengapa harus lari ketika segalanya membengkak jika

dibiarkan?

In the sentence above, there were 5 students translated into sentence: "Mengapa harus lari ketika segalanya membengkak jika dibiarkan?". There were 1 students answering the English translation of the poetry text: "Whey run when things swell up it left unchected". Student translated english into sentence grammar "Why run when something swell if left alone?". So, students writting indonesian in the text poetry sentence grammar difficulties: Mengapa marah dengan keadaan?."

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Sentence 1:2,3,4&5

English (SL) : That's ulcerous and not simple
Indonesian (TL) : Itu sangat berat dan tidak sederhana

In the sentence above, there were 5 students translated into sentence: "Itu sangat berat dan tidak sederhana". There were 1 students answering the English translation of the poetry text: "We belive in love that's vicerous and not simple were laught". Student translated english into sentence grammar "Which is ugly and not simple". So, students writting indonesian in the text poetry sentence grammar difficulties: Yang borok dan tak sederhana".

Sentence 4:5

English (SL) : We're caught falling trapped

Indonesian (TL) : Kami terjebak

In the sentence above, there were 2 students translated into sentence: "Kami terjebak".Results of answers to English translations of poetry texts:"We're caught falling trapped".Real bahasa indonesian translation of poetry texts:"Kita tertangkap jatuh terperangkap".

# Difficulties in Stylistic Problems

Sentence 1,2,3,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : Angry and scratched Indonesian (TL) : Marah dan menggaruk

Based on sentence above there were 7 students write translations of english texts on poetry texts: Angry and scratched , it's meaning: Marah dan menggaruk. There was 1 different student who answered the stylistic translation into English of the poetry text: "Angry and scratched love keeps us a float with". So, the original text of the poetry in English is correct: Angry and scratched . but the meaning of the translation into Indonesian is slightly different, namely: Marah dan goresan.

Sentence 1,2,3,4,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : A faint glimmer of hope we walk feling

Indonesian (TL) : Secercah harapan yang samar-samar kita jalani dengan

perasaan

Based on sentence above there were 8 students write translations of english texts on poetry texts: A faint glimmer of hope we walk feling, it's meaning: Secercah harapan yang samar-samar kita jalani dengan perasaan. There was 1 different student who answered the stylistic translation into English of the poetry text: "We walk felling heavy". So, the original text of the poetry in English is correct: With a faint glimmer of hope . but the meaning of the translation into Indonesian is slightly different, namely: Dengan secuil redup harapan.

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Sentence 1,2,3,4,5,6&7

English (SL) : But love doesn't bring us Indonesian (TL) : Tapi cinta tidak membawa kita

Based on sentence grammar above there were 7 students translated into sentence: "But love doesn't bring us". it's meaning "Tapi cinta tidak membawa kita". So, the original text of the poetry in english is correct: But love doesn't take us".but the meaning of the translation into indonesian is Slightly different, namaly: Namun cinta tidak membawa kita.

Sentence 1,2,3,4,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : Sometimes we feel lucky

Indonesian (TL): Terkadang kita merasa beruntung

Based on sentence grammar above there were 8 students translated into sentence: "Sometimes we feel lucky". it's meaning "Terkadang kita merasa beruntung". So, the original text of the poetry in english is correct: Sometimes we feel lucky.

Sentence 1,2,3&4

English (SL) : We believe in love

Indonesian (TL): Kami percaya pada cinta

Based on sentence grammar above there were 4 students translated into sentence: "We believe in love". it's meaning "Kami percaya pada cinta". So, the original text of the poetry in english is correct: We believe in love.

Sentence 1,2,3,4&5

English (SL) : In the ballad of our loved ones

Indonesian (TL): Dalam balada orang yang kita cintai

Based on sentence grammar above there were 4 students translated into sentence: "In the ballad of our loved ones". it's meaning "Dalam balada orang yang kita cintai". So, the original text of the poetry in english is correct: In the ballad of loved ones.

Difficulties in Lexical Translation

Sentence 1:2,3,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : Coughing and limping Indonesian (TL): Batuk dan lemas terceruk

In the sentence above, there are 1-9 students done in translation lexical problem "Batuk dan lemas terceruk". It's meaning translation english poetry: "coughing and feeling weak". Translation indonesian into poetry text: Batuk dan lemas terceruk.

Sentence 1:2,3,4,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : Thinking the weriness will disapper Indonesian (TL) : Berpikir bahwa rasa lelah akan hilang

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In the sentence above, there are 8 students done the lexical translation of "Mengira lelah akan hilang".

Sentence 1:2,3,4,5,6,7&9

English (SL) : Understanding each other Indonesia (TL) : Memahami satu sama lain

In the sentence above, there are 8 students done the lexical translation of "Memahami satu sama lain". Translation english teks lexical poetry: "Understand each other". And the translation indonesian teks poetry: "Memahami satu sama lain".

Sentence 5:7

English (SL) : By running unsteadily

Indonesian (TL) : Dengan berlari terhuyung-huyung

In the sentence above, student done lexical translation of "Dengan berlari terhuyung-huyung.But meaning translation indonesia different meanings in the poetry text, namely: Dengan berlari terpatah, There was 1 student who answered differently in the English translation of the poetry text in lexical terms: "By running broken run".

Sentence 1:4,5,7&9

English (SL) : But we should reflect

Indonesian (TL) : Tapi kita harus merenungkannya

In the sentence above, student done lexical translation of "Tapi kita harus merenungkannya. But meaning translation indonesia different meanings in the poetry text, namely:Namun harusnya kita merenung.

Sentence 1:2,3,4,5&7

English (SL) : Why doesn't teach us?

Indonesian (TL) : Mengapa tidak mengajari kami?

In the sentence above, student done lexical translation of "Mengapa tidak mengajari kami?. But meaning translation indonesia different meanings in the poetry text, namely:Mengapa cinta tak mengajari kita?.

After presenting types and meaning of difficulties taranslating poetry, the researcher makes Indonesian language text and the students who will answer are English translations. the researcher makes questions to students in the form of 5 people to be interviewed after being interviewed make sure the researcher understands the interview answers to students in the form of video recordings for evidence of interview data.

The benefits of this school research are to be a guideline for students to become teachers, and understand the character of students who will be serious about studying at school. According to Kadarisman, A.E:2011 with the title Translation: the impossible, the difficult, and the subtle. Journal linguistik

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indonesia writer used the theory into types impossible difficulties poetry translating indonesian to english and the researcher is the types of difficulties poetry in based on kadarisman on 2011 just types impossible translating indonesian to english.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Following data analysis, the researcher discoveres that second-grade students at SMA Swasta HKBP Sidorame Medan were having trouble translating poems from Indonesian to English. Based on the students' worksheet and interviews, the researcher discoveres the following difficulties that the students faced. Generally speaking, students struggled with selecting the proper vocabulary or meaning. Students' struggles translating poetry from Indonesian to English due to a lack of vocabulary..

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