

THE STUDENTS' ABILITY IN TRANSLATING DESCRIPTIVE TEXT: A Study at the English Department Students of FKIP Unilak

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Abstract: This research was conducted to find out to what extent is the students' ability in translating descriptive text at fifth semester of English Education Department of FKIP Lancang Kuning University. The research using cross sectional survey design as evaluation program. The amount of the participant in this research was 24 students selected by using convenience sampling technique. In order to collect the data of this research, the researcher used descriptive text as the instrument of test. In analyzing the data to categorize the students' ability in translating descriptive text, the researcher used descriptive statistics. The students' ability in translating descriptive text was categorized into Good. The result of analysis showed that average score of 24 students in translating descriptive text was 73.96. It is hoped that the finding of the present study will be useful for the teaching of English, especially in translating descriptive text.

Keywords: ability, descriptive text, translation.

1. Introduction

Translation constitutes the process of transferring text from one language into another language. The transference of text in one language means the shift of words in a language with the equivalent words in target language. In line with that, translation has to absorb the sense in source language which will be moved into the target language. Briefly, transferring the meaning of one language into other and shifting source language text with the equivalent text in source language is the way of translation.

In English department of FKIP Lancang Kuning University, *Translation* constitutes one of subjects which have to be mastered by students. Pertaining to the syllabus of translation 1 in English department Faculty of Education and Teachers Training, students hopefully have been able to translate such following matters:

- 1) students are able to translate phrases
- 2) students can translate simple sentences with accurate collocation;
- 3) students have competence to translate complex sentences with accurate collocation
- 4) students is also capable to identify and translate different kinds of text such as narrative, report, descriptive, and procedure text
- 5) Students have to be able to translate short movies and stories
- 6) Students afford to translate paragraphs related to various topics such as politics, economics, religions, sciences and technologies.

And in syllabus of translation 1, students are proposed to be able to translate text from English into Indonesian.

In terms of the indicators in syllabus above, one of the indicators tells about the ability in translating descriptive text. Descriptive text constitutes a text which tells about how person or think is like. To know a text is categorized as descriptive, we need to check the generic structure contains in the text. Because, the generic structure of text shows the kind of text. In line with that, generic structure of descriptive text is identification and description. Identification tells about phenomenon which will be described. And description functions to describe about the identification such as parts, qualities and/or characteristics.

In translating descriptive text students have to refer to indicators which need to be considered in both translation and descriptive text. They are accuracy, appropriateness, naturalness, cohesion and choice of words. The indicators must be mustered by students because they are important in translating text. In addition, there are some students who do not yet use the precise norms in translating the introduction and description in descriptive text which makes the meaning contained in the target language far away from the source language.

2. Method

Researcher conducted this research in survey design. Survey design is a kind of research which focuses on finding out something whether it is behaviors, attitudes, opinions, characteristics of population. Suvey research as procedures in quatitative research in which investigators administer a survey to a sample or to the entire population of people in order to describe the attitudes, opinions, behaviors, or the characteristics of the population. Simply survey design is used to

investigate a population and describe the result of the investigation. There two types of survey design; the first is at one point in time (cross-sectional), and the second is study over time (longitudinal) [3]. However, the researcher will conduct “at one point in time (cross-sectional)” survey design. Cross-sectional designs have three types, the first is attitudes and practices, the second is community needs and the third is program evaluation.

Research instrument is a device used by the researcher while collecting the data become easier and to get better result, complete and systematic in order to make the data easy to process. The researcher used test in essay format to collect the data of this research [1].

3. Findings

The researcher has done the real test of 24 students at the fifth semester students of English Education Department Faculty of Education and Teachers’ training Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru in February, 2014 to find out the students’ ability in translating descriptive text. The test has been given to answer the research question in this research. The research question is “To what extent is the students’ ability in translating descriptive text?” in order to answer this question, the researcher gave a descriptive text as test for students to be translated.

Table 1

The Total Scores of Students Translation in Order

No	Student No	Translation Indicators Item					Total Score
		Acc	App	Nat	Coh	WoC	
1	Student 24	15.5	12.5	16.5	17.5	18	80
2	Student 27	15.5	12.5	15	17.5	17	78.5
3	Student 10	16	14	16	15	16	79
4	Student 11	17	14.5	17	14	16	79.5
5	Student 21	15	12.5	15	15.5	15.5	73.5
6	Student 36	16	14.5	16.5	17	15.5	79.5
7	Student 12	15.5	14.5	16.5	15.5	16	78
8	Student 14	14	12.5	14	15.5	15	71
9	Student 10	15	14.5	17	15	14	76.5
10	Student 21	15.5	14	16.5	14	16	78
11	Student 17	17	14.5	16.5	14.5	15.5	78
12	Student 22	15	12.5	16.5	15.5	14.5	74
13	Student 10	14.5	13	15	14.5	14.5	72.5
14	Student 39	15.5	12.5	16	14	14	72
15	Student 15	14.5	13	14.5	15	14	72
16	Student 16	15	14.5	15.5	15.5	14.5	75
17	Student 15	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14	73
18	Student 24	14	13	14	15.5	14.5	71
19	Student 31	14	14.5	14.5	15	14.5	73
20	Student 33	15.5	12.5	14	14	14.5	71.5
21	Student 17	14	14.5	15	15.5	14	69
22	Student 20	14	12.5	15.5	15.5	14.5	68
23	Student 35	15.5	14.5	15.5	14.5	14.5	75.5
24	Student 30	14	14.5	14	14.5	14.5	69.5
Total		345	310	354	310	319	89.2
Average		14.375	12.916	14.75	12.916	13.291	
Grand average Percentage		79%					

Explanation of Translation Indicator Items:

- 1. Acc = Accuracy
- 2. App = Appropriateness
- 3. Nat = Naturalness
- 4. Coh = Cohesion
- 5. WoC = Word Choice

Table 2
Students Scores and Ranks

z Score	Rank
raw score-mean/SD	
2.23	1
1.61	3
1.00	3
0.87	4
0.87	4
0.63	6
0.50	7
0.50	7
0.38	9
0.26	10
0.26	10
0.26	10
-0.11	13
-0.24	14
-0.24	14
-0.24	14
-0.24	14
0.61	18
0.73	19
0.85	20
-1.22	21
-1.22	21
-1.59	23
-2.08	24

Mean	73.96
Mode	73
Median	74.25
Variance	16.50
St Dev	4.06
Max Score	83
Min Score	65.5
Range	17.5

Based on the calculation above, it was seen that the ability of the students in translating descriptive text. The ability of the fifth semester students of English Education Department Faculty of Education and Teachers Training Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru in translating descriptive text was generally categorized into Good.

The calculation above showed that the total of the students’ scores in translating descriptive text was 1775, mode of the students’ scores was 73.00, median of the students’ scores was 74.25, variance of the students’ scores was 16.50, and standard deviation was 4.06. The scores range from a low of 65.50 to a high of 83, a range of 17.5 points. The average of score of the students’ ability in descriptive text was 73.96. And calculation above also showed that the scores acquired per indicator was in range 14.38 to 15.54 where the average score of Accuracy was 14.38, appropriateness was 14.63, naturalness was 14.75, cohesion is 15.54 and word choice was 14.67 which mean that the students’ scores per indicator were categorized into adequate.

Based on the scores of variability such as standard deviation, variance and range in findings, the researcher could infer that the students' ability in translating descriptive text was categorized into relatively homogenous and the distribution of data was categorized into normal. Those were shown from the dispersion of scores were relatively close.

The researcher also found that the some students ignored many indicators that must be addressed well such as *Accuracy*, *Appropriateness*, *Naturalness*, *Cohesion* and *Word Choice*. Some students could not address the precise norms or phrases such as the phrase "*the Sydney opera house, Sydney symphonyan, and Sydney Theater Company*". And that affected the indicator of accuracy in translation. Some students were not able to address many words appropriately such as the words "*icon, land, load and home*". And that influenced the word choice of translation. Many students could not consider the common structures and sound used in the target text such as the words "*seni pertunjukan besar, perusahaan Sydney teater and Sydney opera house berluas 1,8 hektar dari daratan*". And that affected the appropriateness and naturalness of translation. The ignorance of indicators affected the students' scores per indicator and based on the scores got per indicator presented in findings, the students' ability in addressing each indicator was categorized into "adequate" agree with the analytic scale for rating translation presented in appendix IV. Hence, as the students of English Education Department, they should be able to address all the indicators in translation well, especially descriptive text.

Referring to the aims of survey design research, the findings of this research have purpose to give information for the translation lecturer about the students' ability in translating descriptive text especially their ability in addressing the translation indicators such as *Accuracy*, *Appropriateness*, *naturalness*, *Cohesion* and *Word Choice*. The findings of this research are hoped to increase the students' awareness in learning English especially in translating descriptive text mastery. Finally, this research is dedicated for the translation lecturer at English Education Department Faculty of Education and Teachers Training in Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru.

4. Conclusion and Suggestions

Based on the data analysis explained in chapter IV, the researcher described some conclusions as in the following:

There are 24 students of the fifth semester students of English Education Department Faculty of Education and Teachers Training Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru who participated in this research. From these 24 students can be seen that the total of the students' scores in translating descriptive

text test is 1775, mode of the students' scores is 73.00, median of the students' scores is 74.25, variance of the students' scores is 16.50, and standard deviation is 4.06. The scores range from a low of 65.5 to a high of 83, a range of 17.50 points. And the average score of the students' ability in translating descriptive text is 73.96.

Based on the descriptive scores above, the researcher can infer that the students' ability in translating descriptive text is categorized into Good. The students' ability in addressing each of indicators is categorized into adequate. That was shown from the average score got ranging from 14.38 to 15.54 where the average score for *Accuracy* is 14.38, *Appropriateness* is 14.63, *Naturalness* is 14.75, *Cohesion* is 15.54 and *Word Choice* is 14.67.

Concerning the above the above data, the researcher recommended some suggestion as in the following: The students of English Education Department are expected to keep and increase their knowledge about translation, particularly about translating descriptive text.

The students should concern about the indicators in translating text because if the students master the indicators, they can be much better particularly in translating descriptive text. The students should do more exercises about translating text in order to make them easier in choosing precise norms, using common structures and words and using the appropriate words to render meaning in source text.

Furthermore, It also hoped that all findings, conclusions, implication and feedbacks of this research will give a valuable contribution to both lecturers and students especially the students of English Education Department Faculty of Education and Teachers Training Lancang Kuning University Pekanbaru.

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