

CATEGORY SHIFTS IN TRANSLATION: A CASE STUDY ON THE TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH COMPLEX NOUN PHRASES INTO INDONESIAN

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This study aims at identifying the types of category shifts and explaining their occurrence in the translation of complex noun phrases from English into Indonesian in *The Valley of Fear* Novel. The data were collected using observation method which was supported by implementing note taking technique in order to find out, identify, and classify the data. The data were analyzed by applying the qualitative descriptive method. The theory applied in this study is the theory of translation proposed by Catford (1965) to identify the types of category shifts found and to explain their occurrence. The result shows that all types of category shifts proposed by Catford (1965) such as structure shift, class shift, intra-system shift, and unit shift are found in the translation. Structure shift occurs in the highest frequency of 339 cases or about 66,86% out of total 507 cases, class shift occurs 75 cases or 14,79 % out of total 507 cases, and intra-system shift occurs 48 cases or 9,46 % out of total 507 cases, and unit shift occurs 45 cases or 8,87 % out of total 507 cases. The occurrence of category shift is caused by the different characteristics of source language and target language.

Keywords: translation, category shifts, complex noun phrase

INTRODUCTION

The activity of transferring the meaning of a text from the source language into the target language is called translation. In translation, the words in the source language are rearranged into the target language based on the structure of the sentence in the target language so that the structures of word are compatible with the target language and it is expected that the meaning of a text in the source language remains unchanged in the target language. In other words, there is no meaning loss of the text translated.

The translation of a text from the source language into the target language cannot be exact equivalents since each language has its own characteristics or even distinction and also each language is widely different in structure and cultural background. Mastering the structure and the culture in both source and target languages is required by the

translator as it makes the translator capable of grasping the meaning in the text accurately and also allows him or her to transfer the same meaning. As Vinay and Dalbarnet (in Venuti, 2000) state that equivalence refers to cases where languages describe the same situation by the different stylistic or structural means. Meanwhile, the form in the source language has a new form or different form from the target language; it is called a shift. According to Catford (1965:73), a shift is the departure from formal correspondence in the process of going from the source language to the target language. It represents some changes occurring in a translation process. The element of the target language commensurate with the source language is always used by the translator in order to express the same message in the target text. Since every language has its own rules, differences in these rules cause a shift to occur.

One of the grammatical units of a language is a phrase. A phrase is inserted into a sentence. It can be divided into a verb phrase, an adjective phrase, an adverbial phrase, a prepositional phrase, or a noun phrase. The phrase to be focused on in this study is the noun phrase. Simple noun phrase is any group of words, which consists of determiner and head. Head consists of noun itself or pronoun. The simple noun phrase can be expanded with modifier and noun. In the noun phrase there can be determiners, quantifiers and modifiers, as well as a noun. The phrase longer than simple noun phrase is complex noun phrases. It can consist of determiners, pre-modifiers, heads, and post modifiers. For example, the English complex noun phrase *an exulting smile upon his face* which is taken from *The Valley of Fear* (Doyle, 2009:71) Novel is translated into *tersenyum bangga*. The English noun phrase has the constituents of determiner *an* (non-definite article), pre-modifier *existing* (adjective), a head *smile* (noun), and post-modifier *upon his face* (prepositional phrase). Meanwhile, its Indonesian version consists of *tersenyum* (verb) and *bangga* (adjective). It is found that the complex noun phrase is translated into a verb phrase. Based on the theory proposed by Catford (1965), this phenomenon belongs to category shift, or more precisely class shift.

With regard to the description above, the discussion of the category shift is still interesting, especially when the translator meets some difficulties of how words in the source language are rearranged in the target language and how meaning is preserved in the target text. Category shifts still remains huge phenomenon which attracts researcher to conduct a research. When the translator is still confused in differentiating the word order and also how message of the source text is well maintained in the target text, a further research is necessarily conducted. As stated in the previous example, in the English complex noun phrase which is translated into Indonesian verb phrase, change of structure of words and also the class of word are unavoidable by the translator. Hence, mastering both structure and cultural

background of both source and target language is significant for the translator.

The existence of category shifts can be found in the translation of linguistic units of the source language into the target language, especially when the languages involved are widely different in structure and also cultural background. The linguistic units can exist in the variety of form such as sentences, clauses, phrases, and words. In this study, *The Valley of Fear* Novel and its Indonesian translation that has the same title *The Valley of Fear* is chosen as the data. Novel is a fictitious prose narrative prose of book length, typically representing character and action with some degree of realism. It is chosen as the data since it contains a lot of translation shifts, especially shift of complex noun phrase and rarely analyzed by the researcher.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study belongs to a descriptive qualitative research. The data are taken from the novel entitled *The Valley of Fear* which was written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and was published in 15th May 2009, as well as the Indonesian version that has the same title, *The Valley of Fear*, which was translated by Zulkarnaen Ishak and was published by Shira Media Yogyakarta in 2014. The novel was downloaded from <http://sherlock-holm.es/stories/pdf/a4/1-sided/>. This was chosen as the data source because in the process of translation, the two languages involved (English-Indonesian) are widely different in both structure and cultural background. Since it involves the two languages that are different in structure and cultural background, the occurrence of loss, gain, and skewing of information, especially in the translation of complex noun phrases may often occur.

The method of collecting data in this study was observation method. It was applied at once with the implementation of note-taking technique in order to find out, identify and classify the data. The collected data in this study were primary data since they were directly collected from the data source using

the observation method and note-taking technique. Due to technique of collecting data, the data were collected through several stages namely reading the English novel and its Indonesian version thoroughly to find out the sentences containing the complex noun phrases, all examples which were categorized as complex noun phrases in the source language and their Indonesian translations were underlined, noted down and then taken as data for the analysis.

The method used to analyze the data in this study was qualitative descriptive method. It is aimed to describe the data systematically, factually, and accurately. As far as the technique of analyzing the data was concerned, the data were analyzed through several stages. After being collected, the data were listed in a table. The categorization of complex noun phrases was shown by using italicization and

typed in bold. Then, the complex noun phrases found in the source language were compared with their Indonesian translations. The next steps were identifying and analyzing the data by applying the theories proposed by Catford (1965).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the result of the research, it is found that all types of category shifts are found in the translation. From the total 507 data, structure shift occurs in the highest frequency of 339 cases, class shift occurs 75 cases, intra-system shift occurs 48 cases, and unit shift occurs only 45 cases. Category shifts are unavoidable by translator. The translator tends to be dictated by the target language. The occurrence of each category shifts is presented in the table below.

Table of The Occurrence of Category Shifts

No	Types of Category shifts	Occurrence	Percentage
1	Structure shift	339	66,86 %
2	Class shifts	75	14,79%
3	Intra-system shift	48	9,46 %
4	Unit shift	45	8,87 %
	Total	507	100 %

In the following section, the occurrence of category shifts is explained in more details.

Types of Category Shifts and Their Occurrence

As stated in the previous chapter that “shift” is the departure from formal

correspondence in the process of going from the source language to the target language (Catford, 1965:73). Shifts occur when the source language text is translated into different grammatical or phonological form in the target language text. Catford states that there are two major types of shifts, they are level shifts and category shifts. Category shift is the focus of this study. Category shifts refer to unbounded

and rank-bounded translation. The first being approximately normal or free translation in which source language and target language equivalents are up at whatever rank is appropriate. It is clear that category shift is unbounded, which might be normal of free translation, depends on what rank is appropriate. It includes structure shifts, class shifts, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. The following English-Indonesian instances are examples of structure shift found in the *The Valley of Fear* Novel.

Structure shift

Structure shift involves the change of grammatical pattern of linguistic items of source language when they are translated in the target language. It is the change of position between modifiers and head word in the translation. The head word (noun) in the source language (English) comes after modifiers but it is located before the modifiers in the target language (Indonesian). The examples of data of structure shifts are explained below.

Data 1:

SL: Now **his practical Scotch intelligence** brought him back...

TL: Sekarang **pikiran Skotlandianya yang praktis** mengembalikannya....

As can be seen that the complex noun phrase in the source language is *his practical Scotch intelligence* which is made up of *his* (determiner), the first pre-modifier *practical* (adjective), the second pre-modifier *Scotch* (noun), and head *intelligence* (noun). It is translated into Indonesian *pikiran Skotlandianya yang praktis* with its constituents of a head *pikiran*, the first post-modifier *Skotlandianya* (noun), and the second post-modifier *yang praktis*. In this case, there is an occurrence of category shift in which the grammatical structure in the source language changes in the target language. The order of words of the source language, especially the head word and the modifiers are different in the target language. In English, the head word comes after the modifiers but it is positioned before modifiers in Indonesian. Based on the

theory of translation shift proposed by Catford, it is called structure shift in which, the grammatical position changes in the target language.

Data 2:

SL: I'll ask leave to remove **my own insignificant personality**.

TL: Aku minta izin untuk mengesampingkan **urusan pribadiku yang tidak penting**.

It shows that the English complex noun phrase *my own insignificant personality* is constructed of determiner *my* (possessive pronoun), the first pre-modifier *own* (adjective), the second pre-modifier *insignificant* (adjective), and followed by a head word *personality* (abstract noun). It is translated into *urusan pribadiku yang tidak penting* that is made up of a head *urusan pribadiku* and the post-modifier *yang tidak penting*. The position of head word and the modifiers in the target language is different from that of the source language. Based on theory of translation shift proposed by Catford it is called structure shift.

Data 3:

SL: After **a short, formal examination from the inspector in charge** he was put into the common cell.

TL: Sesudah **pemeriksaan resmi yang singkat oleh inspektur yang bertugas**, ia dimasukkan ke sel.

In the data above, it is clearly seen that the complex noun phrase in the source language "*a short, formal examination from the inspector in charge*" is made up of determiner "*a*" (non-definite article), the first pre-modifier "*short*" (as an adjective), the second pre-modifier "*formal*" (as an adjective), a head "*examination*" (as a noun), and followed by a prepositional phrase consisting of prepositional "*from*" and noun phrase "*the inspector in charge*". The phrase is translated in Indonesian

“pemeriksaan resmi yang singkat oleh inspektur yang bertugas” constructed of a head “pemeriksaan” (a noun), the first post-modifier “resmi” (adjective), the second post-modifier “yang singkat oleh inspektur yang bertugas” (as a relative clause). The change of position of the words can be shown by numbers as follows; “a” (1), “short” (2), “formal” (3), “examination” (4), “from the inspector in charge” (5) and the structure in the target language is “pemeriksaan” (1), “resmi” (2), “yang singkat oleh inspektur yang bertugas” (3). In the translation, it is seen that the structure of the words especially the modifiers and head is different in the target language. Based on the theory of shift proposed by Catford, this phenomenon is called structure shift.

Class shift

Unlike the structure shift which involves the change of grammatical pattern of linguistic items, class shift occurs when the class of any linguistic elements in the source language shifts into different class of word in the target language. It is the change of word class. Below are the examples of data of class shifts and also their explanation.

Data 4:

SL: **A sudden spirit of girlish mischief**
came over her—she was still only
nineteen.

TL: **Jiwa kekanak-kanakan tiba-tiba**
mencengkram Ettie-ia masih
Sembilan belas tahun.

In the data above, the complex noun phrase in the source language is constructed of determiner “a” (non-definite article), pre-modifier “sudden” (adjective), a head “spirit” (noun), and followed by post modifier “of girlish mischief” (a prepositional phrase). It is translated into Indonesian “jiwa kekanak-kanakan tiba-tiba” made up of a head “jiwa” (abstract noun), the post modifier “kekanak-kanakan” (adjective), and followed by “tiba-

tiba” which is an adverb. It is seen that the word class of “sudden” which is adjective becomes “adverb” (tiba-tiba). By changing the word class from adjective into adverb, it can be concluded that the occurrence of class shift is found the translation. It is the shift from adjective into adverb.

Data 5:

SL: That was **the breathless burden of his message.**

TL: Itulah **pesan yang disampaikannya dengan tergesa-gesa.**

In the data above, the complex noun phrase “the breathless burden of his message” has the constituents of a definite article “the”, pre-modifier “breathless” (adjective), a head “burden” (noun), and the post-modifier “of his message” (as a prepositional phrase). Meanwhile its Indonesian translation is constructed of a head “pesan” (noun), post-modifier “pesan yang disampaikannya” (relative clause in active voice), and followed by adverb “dengan tergesa-gesa”. In the process of translation of the complex noun phrase, there is an occurrence of class shift in which the word “breathless” which is an adjective is translated into “dengan tergesa-gesa” which is an adverb phrase. Based on theory of shifts proposed by Catford, this example belongs to class shift namely the change of word class from adjective into adverb phrase.

Data 6:

SL: ...he made **his own preparations for the grim evening** in front of him.

TL: ...ia sendiri **bersiap-siap untuk menghadapi malam yang suram.**

From the example above, it is obviously seen that the complex noun phrase in the source language has the constituents of the first pre-modifier “his” (possessive pronoun), the second pre-modifier “own” (adjective), a head “preparations” (noun), and followed by “for the grim evening” (prepositional phrase). It is

translated into *“bersiap-siap untuk menghadapi malam yang suram”* which is a verb phrase. In this translation there is an occurrence of category shift and the type of category shift is class shift. It is a change of word class of noun *“preparations”* into a verb *“bersiap-siap”*. Based on the theory of shift proposed by Catford this is called class shift.

Intra-system shift

Intra-system shift takes place when the plural linguistic items in the source language are translated into singular items in the target language, or vice versa. It refers to the change that occurs internally within a system. The examples of this category are analyzed in details below.

Data 7:

SL:...and carried out in cold blood upon ***two helpless and disarmed men.***

TL:...dilaksanakan dengan darah dingin atas ***kedua orang yang tidak bersenjata dan tidak berdaya itu.***

The example above is an example of intra-system shift. As can be seen that the English complex noun phrase is *“two helpless and disarmed men”* consisting of pre-modifiers *“two helpless and disarmed”* and head *“men”*. The phrase is translated into *“kedua orang yang tidak bersenjata dan tidak berdaya itu”* which is made up of head *“kedua orang”* (noun) and post-modifier *“yang tidak bersenjata dan tidak berdaya itu”* (a relative clause). In this example, there is an occurrence of intra-system shift in which the head word of *men* (a plural form) in the source language is translated into *“orang”* which is singular form in the target language. It is translated into singular form since it is already preceded by the word of *kedua* which denotes plurality in the target language. It is done to avoid redundancy. Based on the theory of shift proposed by Catford, this is categorized as intra-system shift, a change that occurs internally within a system.

Data 8:

SL:***A few members of the lodge,*** Teld Baldim among them,....

TL:***Beberapa anggota kelompok,*** di antaranya Ted Baldim,....

As can be seen from the example of category shift above that the complex noun phrase in the source language is *“A few members of the lodge”* which is consisting of quantifier *“a few”*, head word *“members”*, and post-modifier *“of the lodge”* (prepositional phrase). Meanwhile its Indonesian version is *“Beberapa anggota kelompok”*. It is seen here that plural item in the source language *“members”* is translated into singular item *“beberapa anggota kelompok”* in the target language. This is done because in Indonesian grammatical system, once a given noun is preceded by quantifier denoting plurality, the noun in question must be in the form singular. Otherwise it is a redundancy.

Unit shift

The basic idea of unit shift is the change of rank of any linguistic items of the source language when translated into the target language. The change can be from the higher rank into the lower one as from phrase into word or from the lower unit into the higher unit like from the phrase into clause.

Data 9:

SL: There was ***a dead silence in the room.***

TL:***Kesunyian total menguasai ruangan.***

The example above is an example of unit shift. As can be seen that the complex noun phrase in the source language *“a dead silence in the room”* has the constituents of determiner *“a”* (non-definite article), pre-modifier *“dead”* (adjective), a head *“silence”* (an abstract noun), and post-modifier *“in the silence”* (as prepositional phrase). Meanwhile its construction in the target language is made up of *“kesunyian total”* (as noun phrase consisting of noun *“kesunyian”* and adjective

“total”, followed by a transitive verb “menguasai”, and a noun “ruangan”. In this example, it is found that the lower rank in the source language “a dead silence in the room” which is a noun phrase changes into a higher rank “kesunyian total menguasai ruangan” which is a sentence. Based on the theory of shift proposed by Catford, this change is categorized as unit shift.

Data 10:

SL:It was **a large apartment with a long deal table in the centre....**

TL:**Apartemen itu besar dengan sebuah meja panjang di tengah....**

From the example of category shift above, it is obviously seen that the complex noun phrase in the source language “a large apartment with a long deal table in the centre” is constructed of “a” (non-definite article), pre-modifier “large” (adjective), a head “apartment”, and followed by a prepositional phrase “a long deal table in the centre”. It is translated into “Apartemen itu besar dengan sebuah meja panjang di tengah” which is a clause consisting of “Apartemen itu” (subject), “besar” (adjective), and followed by “dengan sebuah meja panjang di tengah” (a prepositional phrase). In this case there is an occurrence of category shift and type of category shift is unit shift. It is a shift from lower rank (a phrase) into higher one (a clause).

Data 11:

SL:...for he was **a well-educated man.**

TL...karena ia **terpelajar.**

As can be seen from the data above that the complex noun phrase in the source language is “a well-educated man” constructed of “a” (non-definite article), pre-modifier “well-educated” (compound adjective), and a head “man” (noun). It is translated into a word “terpelajar”. The complex noun phrase is translated into simple noun phrase. In the

process of translation, there is an occurrence of unit shift in which linguistic item of higher rank (a phrase) is shifted into a word that is lower in rank. Based on the theory of shift proposed Catford, it is called unit shift.

Data 12:

SL:There is **an appalling directness about your questions**,Watson,” said Holmes....

TL:“**Pertanyaanmu terlalu lugas**, Watson, kata Holmes,.....

In the data above, it can be obviously seen that the English complex noun phrase is “an appalling directness about your questions”. This complex noun phrase is made up of “a” (non-definite article), pre-modifier “appalling”, a head “directness”, followed by post-modifier “about your questions” (a prepositional phrase). It is translated into “pertanyaanmu terlalu lugas”. It is clearly seen here that a phrase is translated into a clause. The linguistic item which is lower in rank is changed into items in the target language that is higher in rank. It is a shift from phrase into a clause. According to Catford, this change refers to unit shift.

Data 13:

SL:...and his eyes sparkling with mischief, watching **my intellectual entanglement.**

TL:...dan mata berbinar-binari, mengawasi **kebingunganku.**

From the data above, it can be seen that the English complex noun phrase is “my intellectual entanglement” which is constructed of determiner “my” (possessive pronoun), pre-modifier “intellectual” (adjective), and a head word “entanglement” (noun). This phrase is translated into Indonesian “kebingunganku” which is a word. It is clearly seen here that there is an occurrence of category shift and the type of category shift is unit shift. The phrase which is higher in rank is shifted into a word

which is lower in rank. According to Catford, this change is categorized as unit shift.

Data 14:

SL:This incident alone would have suggested **a prearranged conspiracy to my mind.**

TL:...menurutku kejadian ini saja sudah menunjukkan adanya **persekongkolan** .

In the example of category shift above, the complex noun phrase in the source language is made up of determiner “a” (non-definite article), pre-modifier “prearranged” (adjective), a head word “conspiracy” (noun), and followed by post-modifier “to my mind” (prepositional phrase). Meanwhile its Indonesian version is “persekongkolan” which is a word or simple noun phrase. It is obvious here that the higher rank of linguistic item is translated into the lower one. Based on the theory of translation shift proposed by Catford, this example is categorized into unit shift.

CONCLUSION

All types of category shifts proposed by Catford (1965) are found in the translation of complex noun phrases from English into

Indonesian in *The Valley of Fear* Novel. The category shifts includes structure shift, class shift, intra-system shift, and unit shift. The most dominant category shift that occurs is structure shift. It is the change of grammatical position between the source language and the target language. In the source language (English), the head (noun) of the noun phrase is positioned after modifiers while in the target language (Indonesian) it comes before the modifiers. This shift is unavoidable by the translator. The translator tends to be dictated by the structure and linguistic system of the target language so as to create a more natural and acceptable translation. By adding some necessary information in the target language, the result of translation can meet the accuracy, naturalness, and also acceptability. A translator should have enough knowledge on translation shifts, especially category shifts (structure shift, class shift, intra-system shift, and unit shift) in order to get a better result of translation. Moreover, mastering both structure and cultural background of both English source (English) and target language (Indonesian) is necessary so as to make the translation more accurate, natural, and also acceptable.

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