EFL STUDENTS' CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING JOURNAL ARTICLES

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Pendidikan* in English Education

By:

Faiza Ulfa

252I046

ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHER TRAINING

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

K.H. ABDURRAHMAN WAHID PEKALONGAN

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2025

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Menyatakan bahwa yang tertulis dalam skripsi yang berjudul **"Students' Challenges in Translating Journal Articles"** ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri bukan jiplakan dari karya orang lain atau mengutip atau melanggar etika keilmuan yang berlaku, baik sebagian atau seluruhannya. Pendapat atau temuan orang lain yang terdapat dalam skripsi ini dikutip berdasarkan kode etik ilmiah. Apabila skripsi ini terbukti di temukan pelanggaran terhadap etik keilmuan, maka saya secara pribadi bersedia menerima sanksi hukum yang dijatuhkan.

Dengan pertanyaan ini, saya buat dengan sebenar-benarnya.

Pekalongan, 1 Maret 2025

Yang menyatakan

Faiza Ulfa

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Assalamu 'alaikum Wr.Wb.

Setelah melakukan penelitian, bimbingan dan koreksi naskah skripsi saudara:

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Saya menilai bahwa naskah skrpsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan kepada Fakultas Tarbiyah dan Ilmu Keguruan UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan untuk diajukan dalam sidang munaqasyah.

Dengan ini mohon agar skripsi tersebut segera dimunaqosahkan.

Demikian nota pembimbing ini dibuat untuk digunakan sebagaimana mestinya. Atas perhatiannya, disampaikan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

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Has been examined and approved by the panel of examiners on March 12, 2025 As a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd) in English education.

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MOTTO

"You can't be good at everything, but that doesn't mean you can do anything

Don't let your dreams be dreams"

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berfokus pada tantangan yang dihadapi mahasiswa EFL dalam proses menerjemahkan jurnal artikel dan bagaimanana strategi yang mereka gunakan dalam mengatasi tantangan penerjemahan tersebut. Penerjemahan adalah proses pengalihan makna suatu teks dari bahasa sumber (SL) ke bahasa Target (TL). Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi pengalaman mahasiswa. Penngumpulan data dilakukan menggunakan wawancara. Peneliti menggunakan teori Braun and Clarke (2006) dalam menganalisis data. Hasil menunjukan bahwa para siswa mengalami tantangan penerjemahan jurnal artikel dalam hal: 1) equivalent problem of words; 2) pragmatic; 3) cultural; and 4) linguistics. Dalam mennyelesaikan tantangan tantangan tersebut, mereka menggunakan OMT (Online Mechine toool) sebagai langkah awal penerjemahan dan melakukan post-editing menggunakan prosedure penerjemahan untuk membantu meningkatkan keakuratan dalam penerjemahan jurnal artikel.

Kata Kunci: Tantagan mahasiswa, strategi mahasiswa, menerjemahkan jurnal artikel

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the challenges faced by EFL students in the process of translating journal articles and the strategies they use to overcome these translation challenges. Translation is the process of transferring the meaning of a text from the source language (SL) to the target language (TL). This study explores the students' experiences. Data collection was conducted using interviews. The researcher used Braun and Clarke's (2006) theory in analyzing the data. The results showed that the students experienced challenges in translating journal articles in terms of: 1) equivalent problem of words; 2) pragmatic; 3) cultural; and 4) linguistics. In solving these challenges, they used OMT (Online Machine Tool) as the initial step of translation and conducted post-editing using translation procedures to help improve the accuracy of translating journal articles.

Keywords: Students' challenges, students' strategy, translating journal article

PREFACE

Praises and gratefulness are sent to Allah SWT who has poured his grace and his gift and bestowed me guidance, health, and patience so that the writing process of my thesis entitled **"Students' Challenges in Translating Journal Articles"** can be completed. It was submitted to English Education Department, UIN K.H. Abdurrahman Wahid Pekalongan to fulfill one of the requirements for Sarjana Pendidikan Degree at English Education Department of Education and Teacher Training Faculty. This thesis can be accomplished because of many supports from several people. Therefore, in this occasion I would like to express my sincere gratitude to:

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Learning a language requires effort and attention to understand the meaning and words used to effectively improve receptive and productive skills. Students may find the meaning of words, phrases, or even sentences in a second language difficult to understand, resulting in the need for translation. The quality of translation results depends on the translator's ability to translate various texts. According to Sriwantaneeyakul (2018) teachers can use translation as a practical activity to help their students become more proficient and self-assured in accurately using their second language.

Any translation method can assist students in determining the appropriate meaning in the given context and improve their comprehension proficiency in a variety of areas, including contrasting, comparing, and analyzing (Sim, 2022). Translating from the source to the target language helps learners develop their skills beyond knowing word meaning. The participants' benefits include boosting their confidence and feeling of security when learning and using English as a second language. According to Karimian and Talebinejad (2013) researchers stated that since nothing except their mother tongue may aid pupils in learning, translation is thought to be the fundamental method. According to a study by Beier (2014), translation is used to avoid misunderstandings brought about by a range of learners' perspectives. Research by Karimian and Talebinejad (2013) shows that students typically

translate information provided in English to understand it and even in EFL classrooms, translation is beneficial.

The capability to translate journal articles is a crucial ability in academic research, especially for those studying English as a Foreign Language (EFL). Proficiency in translating is crucial for career progress in a variety of fields as well as for academic achievement. When interpreting complex academic writing, EFL students often face various challenges. For EFL students, being able to correctly interpret complex texts is a major challenge. Readers will typically run into various issues when trying to read materials in their target language. According to Abdul-Hamid and Samuel (2013) readers have difficulty understanding long and complicated scientific English sentences, complicated general English sentences, and general English words. A similar study has been done in the past regarding the challenges encountered while translating English writings, but it has not concentrated on recommended strategies or solutions, and only focused on words or texts in general, rather than journal articles, as in research (Sim, 2022). This study analyzes the difficulties EFL students face during the translation process with the goal of not only identifying the particular issues that arise but also suggesting helpful solutions that can aid in resolving these concerns. This is critical because a translator's ability to translate journal articles effectively affects their academic performance and their capacity to make a substantial contribution to the global academic community.

Several university students in the English education department in Pekalongan also experienced similar problems. They said that they have substantial difficulties understanding journal articles during the research proposal preparation process. The main sources include word equivalence issues, where finding the right translation for specific terms is difficult, Baker (1991), along with complex vocabulary and linguistic problems, such as struggling with complex grammar, complex sentence structures, and difficulties in translating words accurately and contextually (Duff, 1989). Additionally, the issues of pragmatics, and culture, affect their willingness to improve their translation skills (Duff, 1989). According to the previous statement, the researcher wants to investigate the challenges and strategies that students face when translating journal articles.

1.2 Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the challenges and difficulties faced by students in the process of preparing research proposals, especially when translating journal articles in an educational context.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

The study's goal is to answer the following questions for research:

1. What were the challenges faced by EFL students in translating journal articles from English to Indonesian?
2. What strategies did they recommend to deal with it?

1.4 Aims of the Study

1. This study aimed to identify the major challenges faced by EFL students in translating journal articles from English to Indonesian.
2. This study aimed to find out the strategies to overcome these challenges.

1.5 Operational Definition

The researcher provides the following explanations for the terms used in this study to clarify any misunderstandings :

1.5.1 Translation

Bell (1991) described translation as a process of transferring meaning between two languages and preserving semantic equivalencies. In addition, translation is replacing a document's presentation in a target language to show its equivalence with a source language. Also, Nida (1991) stated that translation is the procedure of selecting words for a target language to meet the closest natural equivalent meanings of a source language.

1.5.2 Journal Article

According to Angus and Christine (2010), a journal article is a scientific publication that appears in an academic journal and summarizes the findings of an investigation or analysis on a certain topic.

1.5.3 Challenges

Challenges refer to the concrete obstacles faced by EFL students when they attempt to translate academic writing such as journal articles from their native language to English (Al Mubarak, 2017). These

challenges can vary from difficulties in understanding idiomatic phrases, and skills in mastering appropriate grammar, to the ability to maintain the original meaning of translated journal articles. In the context of translation, Newmark (1988) emphasizes the significance of understanding the cultural and linguistic context of the source language and target languages to overcome the challenges faced in translation.

1.5.4 EFL Students

Foreign language learning is the process of learning a target language in a country that does not use this language as a communication community, EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students refer to individuals who use English as a second or foreign language and are learning to improve their English language competence in an academic context (Berns, M., 1990).

1.6 Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to have significant implications for learning and teaching translation as follows:

1.6.1 Theoretical Significance

This study has important theoretical relevance because it explores the challenges faced by EFL students in translating journal articles. This can lead to a deeper understanding of the cross-language translation process, including linguistic factors such as differences in sentence structure and the use of technical vocabulary.

1.6.2 Empirical Significance

The empirical significance of this study lies in its ability to provide real-world insight into the challenges EFL students face when translating journal articles. These practical findings can contribute to enhancing translation teaching methods and improving students' performance.

1.6.3 Practical Significance

This study is useful for students, teachers, and future researchers to overcome challenges in translating journal articles.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of Findings

In closing, this study explains the challenges students face and the strategies they used during the process of translating English journal articles into Indonesian. After the researcher collected data with interviews, there were four challenges faced by the students. The challenges include: 1) equivalent problem of words; 2) pragmatic; 3) cultural; and 4) linguistics. Equivalent problems of word challenges arose because the concept of SL may not be equivalent to the TL, source language words have a complicated semantic structure, the meaning varies between the SL and the TL, differences in the frequency of purpose utilizing particular forms, and the use of loan words in the source language. Pragmatics challenges arose because of the misunderstanding of the use of certain vocabularies in the context of SL and TL. Cultural challenges arose due to cultural differences between SL and TL. Linguistic challenges arose because of the difficulties in the grammar structure between SL and TL.

In solving these challenges, they first used Online Machine Translation (OMT) tools as an initial step. After that, they applied strategies based on Newmark's (1988) framework for issues related to word equivalence, pragmatics, and cultural differences. Meanwhile, the researcher categorized their strategies using Vinay and Darbelnet's (2000) model to handle linguistic challenges. Based on the research data, students used these strategies to

translate journal articles. They used different strategies according to their needs during the translation process.

5.2 Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be given to help students improve their translation skills and overcome the challenges in translating English journal articles into Indonesian. First, students are advised to practice translating more actively. Doing consistent practice and reading various academic texts can help them in choosing the right translation strategy. Second, although Online Machine Translation (OMT) can be a useful tool in the early stages of translation, students need to be encouraged to critically evaluate and refine the machine-generated translation results. Therefore, training in post-editing techniques is highly recommended so that students can improve the quality of their translations more effectively.

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