

An Error Study of Google Translate from Indonesian into German

Misnah Mannahali

University Negeri Makassar, Indonesia

Email: misnah_mannahali@unm.ac.id

Abstract. This research aims to find out linguistic errors contained in the translation results from Indonesian into German produced by students using Google Translate. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, defining, interpreting and correcting linguistic errors that appear in the results of Indonesian translations into German with the help of Google Translate. The data collection technique was through giving a translation test to 16 fifth semester students. This research found that several errors, such as errors in choosing words that were not appropriate to the context, using inappropriate sentence structure or rules, were caused by differences in language rules between Indonesian and German. Google Translate in this case is indeed very helpful for translators in translating during the translation process, but translators must be aware that the translations produced by Google Translate still require improvements, especially in terms of choosing the right words according to the context and arranging sentences correctly.

Keywords: *Translation, Translate, Google Translate, Indonesian, German*

INTERFERENCE

Journal of Language,
Literature, and
Linguistics

E-ISSN: 2721-1835

P-ISSN: 2721-1827

Submitted : 06th January 2024

Accepted : 28th April 2024

INTRODUCTION

In anticipating the current globalization, quality human resources are needed that are intelligent, skilled, professional, productive, and have knowledge and mastery of technology. This will accelerate the process of renewal in the implementation and improvement of the quality of education. To achieve this, language mastery is needed as a means to master science and technology.

In this era, the demand of a nation is to be able to establish communication between other nations through various languages owned by each nation. To fulfill these demands, the sophistication of information technology, which is experiencing rapid development, can affect the pattern of life and help the way humans communicate. The technological sophistication in question is the existence of the internet, which has penetrated into many aspects of human life. By using the internet, everyone can search and even get the information needed quickly without having to leave the place, anytime and anywhere. One of the tools that can help internet users find information effectively is Google, which today offers various applications. One of them is Google Translate.

Language can be a barrier for humans to understand information if they do not know the language. The machine translator known as Google Translate is the solution. When viewed in terms of accuracy, Google Translate in translating Indonesian into foreign languages, including German, and vice versa, from German into Indonesian, still has confusion, especially in terms of the use of spelling, grammar, diction, or the right choice of words. In essence, the translation of Indonesian into German or vice versa with the help of Google Translate is only a rough result of the translation process carried out by the translator. Therefore, it is often found that some sentences are not in accordance with German rules.

There are several obstacles that are often found in translating source language texts into the target language. These obstacles include: not understanding the translation process; limited vocabulary; not understanding the text; not being able to determine the right word equivalent according to the context of the sentence; and errors in the use of grammar caused by differences between the grammar of the source language and the target language. (Haryanti, 2019). Such obstacles will still be found when the translation is done with the help of Google Translate. If in the source language an incorrect sentence structure is used, the target language will also produce the wrong translation. Translation is not a simple process but a complex one. Translation proficiency is the competence or skill exhibited by an individual in adeptly converting text or speech from one language to another. In the translation process, the translator needs to go through various stages, and in each stage, there are often complicated problems that must be solved (Mannahali, M., & Azizah, L. 2022; Mannahali, M., & Halim, A., 2023).

As a translation engine, the results produced by Google Translate are not perfect. The translation results can be referred to as pre-translation, which needs to be revised or edited. The translation engine attached to Google can be classified according to the terminology of machine translation. The machine translator is currently capable of translating more than 50 languages, one of which is from Indonesian into German or vice versa from German into Indonesian. The translation

results produced by Google Translate need to be studied to see the linguistic errors that occur. Related to this, this paper will present the translation errors from Indonesian into German produced by Google Translate. For this reason, the problem that will be raised in the study is: What types of linguistic errors are there in the translation results of students who use Google Translate?

LITERATUR REVIEW

Language Error Analysis

Error analysis is the activity of analyzing the errors that appear made by learners, whose results can be used as feedback in improving the teaching and learning process, both to correct errors made by learners and to help teachers develop appropriate teaching strategies.

Sanal (2008) gives the definition of error analysis as follows: the fact that learners do make errors and these errors can be observed, analyzed, and classified to reveal something about the system operating within the learner led to a surge in the study of learners errors. In line with the above opinion, Error analysis as a technique for systematically identifying, classifying, and interpreting errors made by learners who are learning a foreign language or a second language by using theories and procedures based on linguistics.

From the above opinions, it can be concluded that error analysis is a systematic procedure based on linguistics to find and classify unjustified errors based on target language rules made by foreign language learners. Errors are usually determined based on a measure of acceptability from a native speaker's point of view.

The result of language error analysis aims to find out the types of learner errors and the causes of the errors. The error results obtained can be used as a basis for improving the components of the foreign language learning process. In relation to translation, the purpose of error analysis is to correct errors made by learners in translating source language texts into the target language.

According to Corder's view in Sanal (2008), the purpose of error analysis includes practical and theoretical purposes. The practical goals are to (1) identify errors, (2) determine the order of presentation, (3) determine emphasis in explanation and practice, and (4) use remedial as a method of teaching remedial. While the theoretical goal is to understand the process of learning a second language contained in the mentality of language learning education,.

Errors in the study of error analysis are categorized into two kinds of errors, namely errors and mistakes. Errors are related to the inability to produce unintentional language utterances. They do not occur because of the learners' lack of language competence. They are not systematic in nature, so when language learners realize the mistake, they can correct it immediately. The Longman Active Study Dictionary lists the definition of error as follows: An error is a mistake you make in something you are doing that can cause problems. From the above-mentioned opinions, it can be concluded that an error, commonly called a mistake, is a mistake made by someone when translating a language just because of his carelessness, so

that a problem arises. In other words, it is said that a mistake is anything that is wrong in the process of doing it unconsciously or unintentionally.

While errors are systematic in nature and occur due to the absence of adequate language competence. (Sanal, 2008), The competence referred to here is the ability of the speaker or writer to produce language in accordance with the rules of the language used. Furthermore, Hasan (2015) argues that the mistakes made by the translator are because he does not master the theories of translation and other supporting knowledge, such as culture, philosophy, general knowledge, and the content of the material being translated.

In this study, the object analyzed is the error of translation from Indonesian text into German with the help of Google Translate.

Google Translate

Google Translate is a website specially provided for them who are experiencing internal difficulties. Google translate is a tool which is everywhere. That is, people who has an Internet connection can use Google translate for search for difficult words or phrases with easy. Likewise, Google The translation is enough to understand the meaning sentence, to express the word as well takes less than 0.8 second (Mubarak, H. Z., 2023; Arba, N., 2023)

understand foreign languagesGoogle, in its development, provides various facilities not only as a web address finder, but more than that, Google can also be used to search for images, videos, books, research results, and also as a translator. In its function as a translator, it is called Google Translate. At first, Google Translate was only able to translate text from English to German, French, Spanish, and vice versa. After going through various stages, Google Translate is currently able to translate text into more than 50 languages, including languages that have non-Latin orthography systems such as Arabic, Russian, Japanese, and Korean. In addition, Google Translate also supports translation from Indonesian into several languages, such as German, Arabic, English, and so on.

In some previous studies, there were many inaccurate translation results produced by Google Translate. Such as research conducted by Arifatun (2012), where the results show that at the sentence level, the translation with Google Translate does not give inaccurate results. The accuracy of the resulting translation is only at the word level. Furthermore, research conducted by Pujiati (2017) concluded that the activity of copying and pasting the entire text translated with Google Translate causes the resulting translation to be often confusing and not commensurate with the target language. In addition, the results of Harahap's research (2014) concluded that the results of translation with Google Translate from Arabic into Indonesian, both at the word level, syntax level, and semantic level, have not shown accurate results. However, Google Translate can help users translate certain words, terms, phrases, and sentences globally. Starting from these findings, in this study, the author is interested in seeing what types of errors appear in the translation of Indonesian into German with Google Translate and what factors cause them.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative research, where the results of this study will describe the linguistic errors contained in the translation from Indonesian into German produced by students using Google Translate.

Data collection is done by giving a test to translate Indonesian text into German using Google Translate. In addition, a documentation study was also conducted by looking at the results of student translations given as weekly assignments.

The source of data in this study are students of the German language study program who program the Uebersetzung in der Praxis (Translation Practice) course, which is presented in semester V with the consideration that the course is a compulsory course for students. The number of students who are the subject of research is 16. The approach used was an applied linguistic approach, especially in the field of error analysis. This approach is used to define, interpret, and correct linguistic errors that appear in the translation of Indonesian into German with the help of Google Translate. Furthermore, the technique used in analyzing the data is content analysis, which is an analysis of the content of the translation of Indonesian texts into German produced by students using Google Translate. The results of the analysis were concluded, and it was tried to provide solutions to the errors that arise from the use of Google Translate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data collection was carried out by giving a translation test from Indonesian text into German using Google Translate. In addition, a documentation study was also conducted, namely looking at the results of student translations given as weekly assignments.

Analyzing errors in translation is divided into three types: semantic errors, syntactic errors, and morphological errors. This research focuses on studying or analyzing translation errors at the syntactic level. Syntactic error is the inability of the translator to display the meaning or message of the source language, which is characterized by errors in word order and its delivery in the proper structure of phrases, clauses, and sentences. Translation of Indonesian text into German: In the translation of the text above, several errors were found.

1. Word selection errors

The choice of words must be considered because each word in the source language sometimes has more than one meaning in the source language. Therefore, the selection of the right word must be maximized; the errors are as follows:

Wer heissen Sie? – Wie heissen Sie?

Morgen gehe ich nach Jakarta – Morgen fliege ich nach Jakarta

2. Errors in the use of sentence structure

This also requires special skills because the Indonesian sentence structure is different from the German structure.

Gestern ich kaufe ein Buch – Gestern kaufe ich ein Buch

3. Errors in interpreting terms, idioms, or proverbs

Translation with Google Translate can facilitate or assist the translator in translating the source language into the target language, in this case, Indonesian into German. Nevertheless, the translation produced by Google Translate still found some errors, such as errors in the selection of words that are not in accordance with the context, the use of sentence structure, or rules that are less precise, due to differences in language rules between Indonesian and German. In addition, there is still a lack of accuracy in translating terms and proverbs in the source language text. This is due to the cultural differences that exist between the source language and the target language. Therefore, if a translator is going to use Google Translate as a tool in translating, he must know where the errors are caused by the tool. Thus, German learners must have sufficient knowledge and ability to understand and choose the right words according to the context, understanding the language rules and cultural elements of the two languages involved in translation.

The causes of errors are: 1) There are differences in linguistic elements between Indonesian and German, including sentence structure, so that translators often incorporate elements of the source language into the target language. 2) In general, German words have more than one meaning; some even have three or even more meanings. 3) Students lack the ability to choose the right word according to the meaning of the context due to a lack of vocabulary, including a lack of understanding of terms or idioms contained in the text. These three factors cause the translation produced with the help of Google Translate to not be optimal.

Google Translate in this case is indeed very helpful for translators in the translation process, but translators must realize that the translations produced by Google Translate still need improvements, especially in terms of choosing the right words according to the context and composing sentences correctly.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it was found that there were several translation errors using Google Translate, namely 1) word choice, 2) errors in using sentence structure, 3) errors in interpreting terms and idioms or proverbs. Therefore, if a translator is going to use Google Translate as a tool in translating, he must know where the errors caused by this tool are.

REFERENCES

Arba, N., Widyasari, W., Efendi, Y., & Syaputri, W. (2023). Analisa Hasil Terjemahan Google Translate Dalam Lirik Lagu “To The Bone” Oleh Pamungkas. *Jurnal Pembahsi (Pembelajaran Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia)*, 13(1), 55-67.

- Arifatun, N. (2012). Indonesian Text Translation Error through Google Translate (Syntactic Analysis Study), *Journal-Unnes*.
- Harahap, K.A. (2014). Analysis of Linguistic Errors in Google Translate's Machine Translation of Arabic Texts into Indonesian. *UIN Saizu Journal*.
- Haryanti, D. (2019). Students' Constraints in Translating English Texts into Indonesian. *University Research Colloquium*.
- Hasan, B. (2015). *Paragraph Writing for Academic Courses: A Modern Approach*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu.
- Mannahali, M., & Azizah, L. (2022). Translation theory as the basis of translation learning. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, dan Pengajarannya*, 15(2), 180-184.
- Mannahali, M., & Halim, A. (2023). Maximizing German to English Translation Proficiency: A Bottom-Up Approach Study. *VELES (Voices of English Language Education Society)*, 7(2), 291-299.
- Mubarak, H. Z. (2023). *Mahir Berbahasa Inggris Di Perguruan Tinggi: Teori Dan Strategi (Vol. 1)*. zakimu. com.
- Pujiati, T. (2017). The Utilization of Google Translate in the Translation of English Tsks into Indonesian (An Application of Applied Linguistics in the Field of Translation). *Journal of UNY*
- Sanal, Fahrettin (2008). Error Analysis-Based Second Language Teaching Strategies. In the journal of Selcuk University Social Bilimler Enstitusu Dergisi, November 2010.