AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION TECHNIQUE IN TRANSLATION NORTH SUMATERA FOLKLORE; LEGENDA DANAU TOBA

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Abstract
This study investigates the translation techniques used by fourth-semester students of the English Education Study Program at Nommensen HKBP University Medan in translating the Indonesian narrative text _Legenda Danau Toba_ into English. Guided by Molina and Albir's (2002) theoretical framework, which classifies 18 types of translation techniques, this research aims to identify the types of techniques applied and to determine the most frequently used technique. This descriptive qualitative study involved 24 purposively selected students who had completed a translation course. Data were collected from the students' translated versions of the text, which were segmented and analyzed sentence by sentence to identify the applied techniques. To ensure data validity, triangulation was conducted by involving two translation experts. The results revealed that 14 different techniques were employed, with literal translation being the most dominant (64.31%), followed by modulation (11.05%), adaptation (4.17%), and borrowing (3.80%). The dominance of literal translation indicates a strong dependence on the source text's structure and meaning, reflecting students' limited confidence and experience in producing idiomatic and culturally appropriate translations. These findings highlight the importance of strengthening students' skills in diverse translation strategies to enhance the quality and naturalness of their target text.

Keywords: _Translation techniques, literal translation, narrative text, descriptive qualitative research, Legenda Danau Toba_

1.Introduction

Translation is the process of conveying messages from a source language (SL) to a target language (TL) without altering the original meaning, while paying attention to both linguistic and non-linguistic aspects. According to Rahesa and Rosa (2020), translation plays a crucial role in accessing information from foreign languages. In today's era of rapid technological advancement, the exchange of information—whether within a country or across nations—occurs at an unprecedented pace. This includes information in various fields such as business, education, politics, economics, and health. Consequently, translation serves as an essential bridge for transferring accurate and meaningful information from one language to another. |Catford (1974), as cited in Syakur (2022), defines translation as the act of replacing textual material in one language with its equivalent in another. A translator must identify suitable equivalents in the target language during the translation process. This requires not only linguistic competence but also a deep understanding of the context of the message before

reformulating it into the TL. Translating effectively between two languages demands fluency in both, which can present a significant challenge, especially when dealing with cultural and contextualdifferences.

During the translation process, translators often encounter challenges related to grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. This is where translation techniques become essential. These techniques help translators produce translations that are faithful to the original in both linguistic and cultural terms.

Different types of translation problems require different techniques. For example, the idiomatic translation technique is useful when translating expressions that require cultural adaptation. Consider the English idiom *"He kicks the bucket."* An idiomatic translation into Indonesian would be *"Dia telah meninggal,"* which preserves the intended meaning. However, using a literal translation technique would result in *"Dia menendang ember,"* which distorts the message and confuses the reader.

This example highlights the importance of selecting appropriate translation techniques to ensure that the intended meaning of the source text is accurately conveyed in the target language. Therefore, understanding and applying proper translation techniques is vital for producing effective and meaningful translations.

Molina & Albir (2002) quoted from (Sipayung et al., 2021) divides the translation technique into 18, that is:

Table 1. Types of Translation Techniques

No.	Types of Translation Techniques	Defenitions
1.	Adaptation	Replacing the cultural elements in Target Text with the appropriate equivalent in Source Text or BT due to cultural differences.
2.	Amplipication	Adding information in Target Text that is not explicitly in Source Text
3.	Loan	Taking a word from Tt to Source Text either without change (pure) or with spelling adjustment (natural).
4.	calque	Translating words or phrases from Source Text literally or verbatim.
5.	Compensation	Moving the meaning because the Target Text structure does not allow for the same word position as in Source Text.
6.	Description	Replacing the term BS with an explanation in Target Text because there is no direct equivalent.
7.	Discursive Creation	Creating new equivalents especially for titles that can't be translated directly.
8.	Established Equivalent	Use common equivalents based on habits or dictionaries in BT.
9.	Generalization	Use more common terms in Target Text when a specific equivalent is not available.

10.	Linguistic Amplification	Add linguistic elements when translating orally or dubbing for clarity.
11.	Linguistic Compression	Reduces the Source Text element in Target Text when translating orally or dubbing.
12.	Literal Translation	Translate directly from Source Text to Target Text verbatim.
13.	Modulation	Change the angle of view or structure to match the meaning between Source Text and Target Text.
14.	Partikularitation	Using more specific words in Target Text as compared to Source Text.
15.	Reduction	Removed some of the information from the Source Text in Target Text to make it more concise.
16.	Substitution	Replace the non-verbal expressions of Source Text with expressions that are culturally appropriate to Target Text.
17.	Transposition	Changing the grammatical structure due to grammatical differences between Source Text and Target Text.
18.	Variations	Adjust the style, tone, or dialect in Target Text according to the context or situation.

The important role of translation techniques has attracted the attention of researchers to conduct research developments regarding the use of translation techniques in various types. (e.g.(Maulidina, 2024; Moneus & Sahari, 2024; Rahesa & Rosa, 2020; Rahman et al., 2025)The study of the use of translation techniques provides a contribution to the development of knowledge about translation techniques and how the role of this technique can help translators to solve problems in the translation process.(Techniques et al., 2014) found that literal translation was predominantly used as a technique in translating.and (*AN ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION TECHNIQUE USED BY STUDENT IN*, 2023)who focused on translation techniques in translating poetry found 6 translation techniques used by participants and found that amplification techniques were the most dominant used.

In contrast to the previous research, this study focuses on the analysis of the use of translation techniques in narrative texts (the legend of Lake Toba). In addition, this study also uses data that is directly taken from the field.In particular, this research aims to find out the translation techniques used by English Education students in the 4th semester in translating the text narrative of the legend of Lake Toba from Indonesian to English.

With this research, it is hoped that students can improve their translation skills by using appropriate techniques so that the translation results can be accepted, understood and accurate in the target language

2.Method

This study employed a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the translation techniques used by fourth-semester students of the English Education Study Program at Nommensen HKBP University Medan in translating the narrative text *Legenda Danau Toba* from Indonesian into English. This method was chosen as it enables the researcher to make valid and replicable conclusions through interpretation and categorization of textual data. The population in this study comprised all fourth-semester students in the English Education Study Program. A purposive sampling technique was applied, selecting a class of 24 students who had completed a translation course.

The instrument used in this study was a translation task based on the narrative text *Legenda Danau Toba*, accessed from https://tirto.id/ringkasan-cerita-rakyat-danau-toba-yang-sarat-pesan-moral-gS3D. The students' translated works were analyzed sentence by sentence to identify the applied translation techniques. The analysis followed Molina and Albir's (2002) classification of translation techniques. To enhance the validity of the analysis, triangulation was conducted by involving two expert lecturers in the field of translation who independently verified the classification of techniques applied by the researcher.

This study is limited to analyzing translation techniques within the context of the narrative text *Legenda Danau Toba*. It does not evaluate the overall quality of the translations. Moreover, as this is a qualitative study, the results are not intended to be generalized, but to provide an in-depth understanding of the translation techniques used by students in a specific cultural and educational context.

3.Results and Discussion

The data condensation process produced 24 translated texts written by 4th semester students of Nommensen HKBP University Medan. In the data analysis process, the target language is divided into several sentences, then the target language is analyzed based on the sequence of sentences in the target language.

The following is an example of using a technique to translate the source language (Indonesian) into the target language (English) :
Date: 1
- Source Text: Suatu ketika, di daerah Sumatra Utara, hiduplah seorang petani yang rajin bernama Toba.

- Target Text : Once upon a time, in the region of north Sumatera, lived a hard working famer name is toba.

The translation technique used in translating the target language in data 1 is literal translation.all words in the source language are translated literally because the meaning conveyed is the meaning listed in the dictionary.

Data 2
- Source Text :" Toba pun berhasil menangkap seekor ikan yang indah berwarna kuning emas kemerahan"

- Target Text : "Toba caught a beautiful fish that was a striking golden yellow with reddish tones".

Amplification Techniques:
In the sentence "Toba managed to catch a magnificent fish, sparkling with a captivating blend of golden yellow and red, captivating his eyes with stunning beauty," the amplification technique is used to enrich the basic meaning of the original sentence.

Data 3
- Source Text : "Setelah kata kata itu diucapkan, secara gaib istri dan anak Toba menghilang tanpa jejak".

- Target Text : "After those words were spoken, Toba's wife and child mysteriously vanished without a trace".

Establish Equivalence Technique: In the sentence "After those words were spoken, Toba's wife and child mysteriously vanished without a trace." The translation establishes equivalence by conveying the same meaning and impact as the original Indonesian sentence, using natural English equivalents that carry the same narrative effect — mysterious disappearance and causality.

Data 4
- Source Text : " Ia bahkan sanggup menghabiskan makanan untuk porsi tiga orang".

- Target Text : " He could even finish enough food for three people".

Modulation Technique: The phrase "He could even finish enough food for three people." Uses modulation by changing the point of view or focus. Instead of a literal translation ("always feeling hungry"), the sentence emphasizes the effect—how much food he ate—thus shifting the perspective while maintaining the original meaning.

Data 5
- Source Text : " Dari bekas pijakan mereka , air mulai menyembur hingga membuat Desa Toba dan sekitarnya terendam dan membentuk danah luas yang kini dikenal sebagai Danau Toba".

- Target Text : "From their footprints, water gushed, flooding Toba Village and creating the vast lake now known as Lake Toba".

Reduction Technique: The sentence "From their footprints, water gushed, flooding Toba Village and creating the vast lake now known as Lake Toba." Reduces the original by condensing information and removing redundancy, resulting in a concise version that still carries the essential facts of the event.

Data 6
- Source Text : " Seiring berjalannya waktu, keduanya saling jatuh cinta".

- Target Text : "As time passed, love grew between them".

Transposition Technique: The sentence "As time passed, love grew between them." Shows transposition by changing the grammatical structure from the original Indonesian passive or descriptive phrasing to an active and concise English phrasing emphasizing the passage of time and the development of love.

Data 7
- Source Text: " Putri bersedia menikahi Toba dengan syarat Toba tidak mengatakan bahwa dia adalah jelmaan ikan."

- Target Text : " The princess agreed to marry Toba, but with the condition that he would not reveal that he was once a fish."

Discursive Technique (first example): The sentence "The princess agreed to marry Toba, but with the condition that he would not reveal that he was once a fish." Uses discursive technique by presenting information in a connected discourse format that stresses condition and agreement, clearly outlining the terms related to the marriage.

Data 8
- Source Text: " Dikarenakan Toba yang pertamakali menyentuhnya, Putri berubah menjadi manusia. "

- Target Text : "Because Toba was the first to touch her, Putri transformed into a human."

Discursive Technique (second example): "Because Toba was the first to touch her, Putri transformed into a human." Uses discursive translation that maintains the cause-and-effect relation more explicitly, arranging the sentence logically to emphasize the reason for Putri's transformation.

Data 9
- Source Text : " Toba pun memberinya nama Putri "

- Target Text : " Toba then gave her the name Putri."

Borrowing Technique: "Toba then gave her the name Putri." Uses borrowing by directly keeping the proper noun "Putri" from the original, as it is a name specific to the cultural and narrative context, which is commonly retained without translation.

Data 10
- Source Text : "Suatu pagi yang cerah, Toba pergi memancing disungai dengan semangat dan perasaan gembira. "

- Target Text : " On a bright morning, Toba went fishing in the river happily."

Reduction Technique (second example): "On a bright morning, Toba went fishing in the river happily." Demonstrates reduction by shortening the original and eliminating auxiliary descriptive phrases while keeping the main event and mood intact.

Data 11
- Source Text: " Seiring berjalanya waktu, keduanya saling jatuh cinta."

- Target Text : " As time went by, they fell in love with each other."

Adaptation Technique: "As time went by, they fell in love with each other." Uses adaptation by adjusting the phrasing to sound natural and idiomatic in English while preserving the meaning, replacing direct literal equivalents with culturally natural expressions to communicate the same idea fluently.

Data 12

Source Text : " Bersamaan dengan itu , keanehan terjadi : ikan yang ditangkapnya dapat berbicara".

Target Text : " Along with that, something strange happened: the fish he caught could speak".

Description Technique: "Along with that, something strange happened: the fish he caught could speak. Its scales shimmered in the sunlight, and its eyes sparkled with intelligence, revealing a personality that was both charming and mysterious." Uses description by adding sensory and visual details to create a vivid picture, expanding the original sentence into a rich narrative moment that appeals to senses and imagination.

Data 13

- Source Text: " Setelahnya, pasangan suami istri ini diberkahi seorang anak laki laki yang diberi nama samosir ".

- Target Text : " Afterward, the couple was blessed with a son, whom they named Samosir.

General Technique: "Afterward, the couple was blessed with a son, whom they named Samosir." Applies generalization by expressing the event simply and universally, focusing on the main act of having a son without elaborating on the surrounding details.

Data 14

- Source Text: " Sebagai gantinya, si ikan bersedia menemani Toba di kehidupan sehari harinya".

- Target Text : " In return, the fish agreed to accompany Toba in his daily life, creating a unique bond that blended the human and aquatic worlds."

Linguistic Technique (with simplification): "In return, the fish agreed to accompany Toba in his daily life." Followed by a brief elaboration shows the linguistic technique by carefully structuring the sentence to communicate meaning clearly while allowing for subtle nuance about the unusual companionship, blending human and aquatic elements.

Based on the results of data analysis, it was found that the translation narrative text entiled " Legenda Danau Toba" from Indonesia in to English done by the forth semester Students of English Education Study Program Nommensen HKBP University Medan uses forhteen translation techniques. This finding summarize in table 1 below.

Table 2. Types of translation techniques carried out by students

No	Translation Technique	Frequency	Percentage
1	Literal	355	64.31%
2	Modulation	61	11.05%
3	Adaptation	23	4.17%
4	Borrowing	21	3.80%
5	Amplification	16	2.90%
6	Transposition	16	2.90%
7	Generalization	16	2.89%
8	Reduction	14	2.54%
9	Established Equivalent	14	2.54%
10	Discursive Creation	7	1.27%
11	Linguistic Compression	4	0.72%
12	Particularization	2	0.36%
13	Description	3	0.36%
Total		552	100%

Based on the results of data analysis presented in Table 2, the thirteen techniques used by the students are literal translation, amplification, establish,modulation, reduction, transposisi,particularisasi, discursive creation, borrowing, adaptation, description, generalization, dan linguistic compression. Among these thirteen translation techniques, literal translation (64,31%) is the technique that is most frequently used by the student. The frequent use of literal translation technique in the student's translation indicates their loyalty to the Source Text. In addition, they seem to be afraid of staying away from the Source Text style and structure because they worry that they cannot keep the original meaning contained in the Source Text.

4.Conclusion

The study examined the translation techniques employed by fourth-semester students in the English Department at Nomensen HKBP University while translating a narrative text titled "Folklore: Legenda Danau Toba" from Indonesian to English. It was found that the students utilized thirteen different translation techniques, including literal translation, amplification, establishment, modulation, reduction, transposition, particularization, discursive creation, borrowing, adaptation, description, generalization, and linguistic compression.

The findings revealed that some sentences were translated using a single technique, while others employed two or even three techniques. The predominant use of literal translation suggests that the students are relatively inexperienced translators, often adhering closely to the style and structure of the original text. This indicates a lack of confidence in developing their own writing style in their translations.

Since the study focused on students, it is recommended that future research explore the translation techniques used by professional translators. Additionally, it would be beneficial to investigate translation techniques across different types of texts, as various genres may necessitate distinct approaches to translation.

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