

**SHIFTS IN TRANSLATION OF NOUN PHRASE FOUND IN THE TEXT  
CREATURES BEHIND HOUSES**

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Abstract

This research focuses on the shifts in translation of noun phrase found in the text “*Creatures behind Houses*”. It aims at describing the types of noun phrase and their translation into Indonesia, investigating and explaining the types of translation procedures that applied. The data were obtained from the bilingual text entitled *Creatures behind Houses* as the source language. The data were collected by applying the observation method which was supported by implementing note-taking technique in order to find, identify and classify the data. The data were analyzed by applying the qualitative descriptive method in which the noun phrases were presented descriptively along with their descriptions and explanations. There are several theories applied in this research, such as the theory of Indonesian grammar by Sneddon (1996) in order to describe the types of noun phrase and their translation and the theory of translation by Catford (1965) to analyze the types of translation procedures applied. The findings show that there are two types of noun phrases and their translation found in the data. They are level shift, and category shifts which consists of structure shift, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. Thus there is no class shifts found in the data.

Keywords: *noun phrase, translation shift, bilingual text*

## **1 Introduction**

Translation is a complicated task, during which the meaning of the source language text should be conveyed to the target-language readers. In other words, translation can be defined as encoding the meaning and form in the target language by means of the decoded meaning and form of the source language. Different theorists state various definitions for translation. It is necessary to understand the concept of translation as mentioned by many translation theorists to obtain an overall picture of the translation process. Hatim and Mason (1990) suggest that translation is a process involving the negotiation of meaning between producers and receivers of the text.

According to Picken (1989) defines that general translation is a method of transferring oral and written messages from writing to speech or from one language to another. Larson (1984) states that in general translation communicates, as much as possible, the same meaning that was understood by the speakers of the source language, using the normal language form of the receptor language, while maintaining the dynamics of the original source language text. She also expresses that the goal of a translator should be to produce a receptor language text (a translation) that is idiomatic; i.e., one that has the same meaning as the source-language text, but is expressed in the natural form of the receptor language.

Nida (1974), believes that translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and second in terms of style. As states by Catford (1965), translation is the replacement of textual material in source language by the equivalent text material in target language. As states by Bell (1991), translation is the replacement of a text in source language by an equivalent text in target language. According to Newmark (1981: 7), states that translation is a craft that attempts to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message or statement in another language. Meanwhile Kelly (2005: 26-27), states that translation is the skill of understanding the source text and rendering it in the target language by using the register, the background knowledge, and other

language resources according to the intended purpose. Therefore, a translator is a medium of the two languages and cultures who can transfer the message from the source language into the target language in order to find out the equivalence.

According to Sneddon (1996), defines that a noun phrase is a sequence of words which functions in the same way as a noun, it occurs in the same positions in a clause as a single noun. A noun phrase always contains a noun as its head. Nouns act as heads of a great variety of different phrase structures. Not all nouns can occur with all the phrase elements discussed; some subclasses of noun are restricted in the elements with which they can co-occur. Noun phrases divided into: demonstratives, quantifiers, numbers, classifiers, partitives, diminutives and honorifics.

In conducting the research, this article has the purpose to provide a description of noun phrase found in English and Indonesian. The analysis of noun phrase that is done to focus on presenting and explanation of the types of noun phrase found in the story. In order to answer the problem, the theory of noun phrase by Sneddon (1996) is used to describe the types of noun phrase found in the data. The theory that proposed by Catford (1965) is used to find out the types of translation shift found in the story.

## **2 Materials and Method**

The method in collecting the data in this research is done by doing observation and note-taking method. The observation method has been used in order to observe the entire data that contain English noun phrase in the SL (source language) and their translation in the TL (target language). The techniques in collecting the data in this research are done by doing observation, reading and also not-taking. There are some process in collecting the data in this research, firstly the data are read in order to understand the story of the bilingual text. Next, the entire texts are read in order to find out the types of noun phrase. After that, it is continued to select the data that based on the problems which are discussed in this research. The types of noun phrase are then classified into their types. Finally, the researcher analyzed the types of noun phrase occurred in the translation of the text

“*Creatures behind Houses*” and its translation into “*Mahkluk di belakang Rumah*”.

Qualitative descriptive method is used in analyzing the data. The data then analyzed qualitatively and descriptively. This method aims at describing the data systematically and accurately. The data are then analyzed by doing several stages. After the data are being collected, the data are then describes and explains. Then, the noun phrases in the SL (source language) are compared with their Indonesian translation. The next step is to identify and analyzed the data by applying the theory that proposed by Sneddon (1996). The data are then read and collected by doing note taking. Then, the data are then classified by using theory that proposed by Catford (1965).

Shift constitutes several changes occurring in the process of translation. Shifts in translation occur both at the lower level of language, i.e. the lexico grammar, and at the higher thematic level of text. As stated by Catford (1978), shift in translation divided into two major types, *level/rank shift* and *category shift*. Level/rank shift refers to a source language item at one linguistic level that has a target language translation equivalent at a different level.

Moreover, category shift refers to departures from formal correspondence in translation. Machali, (1998: 13), mention that the category shift is divided again into *structure shifts*, *class shifts*, *unit shift*, and *intra-system shifts*. *Structure shift* is the changing of words sequence in a sentence. Class shift occurs when the translation equivalent of a source language item is a member of a different class from the original item. Unit shift is the changes of rank; that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the source language is a unit at a different rank in the target language. Intra-system shift refers to the shifts that occurs internally, within the system; that is for those cases where the source and the target language possess systems which approximately correspond formally as to their constitution, but when translation involves selection of a non-corresponding term in the target language system.

Catford (1965:73), states that there were two major types of shift occur, namely level shift, and category shift.

1. **Level shifts**; by a shift of a level we mean that a SL item at one linguistic level has a TL translation equivalent at a different level (Catford, 1965)
2. **Category shifts**; referred to unbounded and rank-bounded translation ; the first being approximately ‘normal’ or ‘free’ translation in which SL-TL equivalences are set up at whatever rank is appropriate. Usually , but not always, there is sentence-sentence equivalence, but in the course of a text, equivalences may shift up and down the rank-scale, often being established at ranks lower than the sentence. We use the term ‘rank-bound’ translation only to refer to those special cases where equivalence is deliberately limited to ranks below the sentence, thus leading to ‘bad translation’. (Catford, 1965). Catford also assured that in Category shifts, there are four different kinds of shifts, as stated as follows,
  - a) **Structure shifts** can be found at other ranks, for example at group rank.
  - b) **Class shifts** occurs when the translation equivalent of a SL item is a member of a different class from the original item.
  - c) **Unit shifts**. By unit-shift we mean changes of rank – that is, departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is a unit at a different rank in the TL.
  - d) **Intra-system shifts** occurred along with the names of types of shift affecting the other fundamental categories of grammar- unit, structure and class.

### **3 Results and Discussions**

#### **1. Level Shifts**

Data 1:

SL : if you’re reading this, you may suspect that **I am launching a polemic.**  
(page 180)

TL : Kalau kau membaca tulisan ini, barangkali kau menyangka **aku sedang melancarkan suatu penghinaan** (Page 123)

According to these noun phrases we can classify them into demonstrative noun phrases because two of them refer to something physically present (Sneddon, 1965;130). In the SL text it is written *I am launching a polemic* which is in TL text is *aku sedang melancarkan suatu penghinaan*. Within noun phrase of SL text, there is *am launching* which translated *sedang melancarkan* in TL text. Here we see there is level shifts happened among SL and TL. As stated by Catford that if a source language item at one linguistic level has a target language translation equivalent at a different level. In this translated text, SL is constructed by be + v-ing which refer to grammar and TL is constructed by sedang which refer to a lexicon.

Data 2:

SL : But she has become **a part of my world**. (Page 180)

TL : Tetapi dia telah menjadi **sebagian daripada duniaku** (Page 123)

According to those noun phrases above, the NPs of SL is *a part of my world* translated into Bahasa Indonesia *sebagian daripada duniaku*. In target language text there is suffix -ku which attached to the word of *dunia*, which equivalence to the meaning of *my world*, among this translation we see the different level of linguistic between NPs in source language text and in the target language text where in source language we see possessive + noun and in Bahasa Indonesia or TL, there is suffix ku which means own. The translation shift in this text is part of level shifts.

Data 3:

SL : Of course each person has his own reasons for protecting **the integrity of his own environment**-(Page 181)

TT : Tentu saja tiap orang mempunyai alasan sendiri-sendiri untuk melindungi **keutuhan lingkungannya**- (Page 124)

These noun phrases above are distinct one to each other. But the units which built these noun phrases have informed us the translation strategy that happened within them. In source language text, the noun phrase is *the integrity of his own environment* which translated into *keutuhan lingkungannya* in target language text. We may see that there is level shifts among source language text and target language text. In Bahasa Indonesia or TL text, the usage of suffix *nya* does have equivalence meaning with the word; *his own environment*.

Data 4:

SL : **Capable farmers** have gained control of their harvests and increased their wealth. (Page 183)

TL : **Para petani yang cerdas** telah dapat menguasai hasil panen dan memperbesar kekayaannya.

The word of *capable farmers* in source language text is translated to be *para petani yang cerdas*. Here we see there is different level linguistic which happens between noun phrase of source language text and noun phrase of target language text. The level changes which happened among them is the grammatical and the lexicon. In source language text we see that grammatical of NPs is constructed only by modifier and head, but in target language text we see that there is lexicon *yang* which input within the noun phrase, thus it is part of level shift.

## 2. Category Shift;

### 2.1 Structure Shift

Data 5:

SL : Just look at **that Miss two!** (Page 180)

TL : Coba kau lihat **si Dua itu!** (Page 123)

The word of that *miss two* above is translated into *si dua itu*, which in SL text the word of noun phrase is constructed by noun – noun and in TL text the word of noun phrase is constructed only by noun. Thus the translation strategies that happen in this sequence are category shifts which close to structure shifts.

Data 6:

SL : **Through the screen of my houses's porch** a well is visible. (Page 179)

TL : **Dari ram kawat beranda rumahku** terlihat sebuah sumur. (Page 122)

The word of *through the screen of my houses's porch* translated into *dari ram kawat beranda rumahku*. Here we see, that in SL text there is usage of prepositional in front of noun phrase but in TL text, there is usage of conjunction in front of noun phrase. Thus it is come up with the translation shift of structure shift which happen among in source language text and in the target language text.

Data 7:

SL : **Before I moved away from this house**, I had the opportunity to witness how for three nights in a row she cried at the well. (Page 180).

TL : **Sebelum aku pindah dari rumahku ini**, aku masih sempat menyaksikan betapa dalam tiga malam berturut-turut ia menangis di sumur. (Page 123-124).

Noun phrases which is in source language text is *before I moved away from this house* is constructed by preposition-noun. Dismilar to NPs in SL text, noun phrase which is in target language text is *sebelum aku pindah dari rumahku ini* is constructed by conjunction-noun. Thus there is structure shifts happen to this translation.

Data 8:

SL : I've never said that all **prijaji maids** suffer a similar fate. (Page 181)

TL : Aku tak pernah mengatakan, bahwa semua **babu priyayi**, demikian nasibnya. (Page 124)



The word of *prijaji maids* above, here there is translation shift that a change happens from pronoun – noun in English into noun – pronoun in Bahasa Indonesia. This is part of structure shifts. It happened in translation because an obligatory transposition and automatic which caused by the grammatical structure of the target language. It offers the translator no choice and must make the equivalence in the TL text.

Data 9:

SL : At least in the case of the row-house over there, the maid, who was still a **little girl**, was sent to school every afternoon. (Page 181)

TL : Setidak-tidaknya di petak yang sana lagi, babunya yang masih **kanak-kanak** di sekolahkan setiap sore. (Page 124)

Noun phrase in source language text is *a little girl* which is translated to be *kanak-kanak*. These two NPs are different to each other. NPs in source language text is built up by adjective – noun, but NPs in target language text is built up by noun only which is reduplication by the translator. Thus structure shifts happens in this translation.

Data 10

SL : She had a **beautiful silk dress** that went very well with the colour of her skin.(Page 186)

TL : Ia mempunyai **gaun sutera indah** yang amat cocok dengan warna kulitnya.(Page 129)

In source language text, the noun phrase is *a beautiful silk dress* which translated into target language text *gaun sutera indah*. The structure of noun phrase in SL text is adjective – noun but in TL text, there is different structure occurred within the noun phrase such as noun – adjective. Since there is shifting of structure among source language text and target language text, thus this translation is called structure shifts based on Catford.

## 2.2 Unit Shifts

Data 11:

SL : It's from behind this screen that i observe the existence of **a strange form of life**,(page 179)

TL : Dari balik ram kawat inilah aku saksikan adanya **kehidupan aneh**. (page 123)

The word of *a strange form of life* above, here there is translation shift that a change happens from adjective – noun in English into noun - adjective in Bahasa Indonesia. *A strange form of life* translated into *kehidupan aneh*. We see that this is one where literal translation is grammatically possible but may not accord with natural usage in the target language text. Besides, every units of noun phrase in English is totally different comparing to Bahasa Indonesia's units. In English we have *a* as *determiner*, *strange* as *adjective*, *form* as *noun*, *of* as *preposition* and *life* as *noun* but in Bahasa Indonesia it is just *kehidupan* as *noun* and *aneh* as *adjective*. Thus unit shifting or change of rank which happens in SL text is  $NPs \rightarrow (Det)(Adj)(N_1)(Prep)(N_2)$  translated to be  $NPs \rightarrow (N_1)(N_2)$ .

Data 12:

SL : but because their masters have stopped spoiling them and **every conceivable task** falls on their heads (Page 179)

TT : tetapi karena juragan biasanya tak memanjakannya lagi, dan **segala pekerjaan** yang mungkin robohlah di atas kepalanya (Page 122)

The word *every conceivable task* translated into *segala pekerjaan* in target language text. There is a morpheme in source language text that does not exist in the target text. Between SL text and TL text the units of each noun phrases are different. Here we see that there is a change of units or known in translation as unit shift. In SL text, a noun phrase is built by *every* as *determiner*, *conceivable* as *adjective* and *task* as *noun*, or  $NPs \rightarrow (Det)(Adj)(N)$  and noun phrase in TL text is built by *segala* as numerals and *pekerjaan* as noun, or  $NPs \rightarrow (Num)(N)$ . These units are different to each other. According to this sequence, we see the changes

of rank which departures from formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the SL is a unit at a different rank in TL.

Data 13:

SL : But she has become **a part of my world**. (Page 180)

TL : Tetapi dia telah menjadi **sebagian daripada duniaku** (Page 123)

The noun phrase of SL text is a part of my world, this NPs is built up by some morphemes such as *a* as *determiner*, *part* as *noun*, *of* as *preposition*, *my* as *possessive*, and *world* as *noun*. Thus it may conclude as  $NPs \rightarrow (Det)(N_1)(Prep)(Poss)(N_2)$ . Dissimilar to NPs in target language text, which occurred *sebagian* as *numerical*, *daripada* as *conjunction*, and *duniaku* as *noun+suffix(-ku)*. Thus it may conclude as  $NPs \rightarrow (Num)(Conj)(N)$ . According to this, we may see that there is unit shifts happened between them.

Data 14:

SL : I became convinced that prijaji maids have been relegated to a special morality: **the morality of the prijaji maid**. (Page 182)

TL : Yakinlah aku bahwa seorang babu priyayi telah diacu dalam moral yang khas: **moral babu priyayi**. (Page 124)

According to Cartford, if there is departure form formal correspondence in which the translation equivalent of a unit at one rank in the source language is a unit at a different rank in the target language will be categorized as unit shifts. The fact which happened among noun phrase of source language text and target language text is indicating the phenomenon of unit shifts. In source language text, the noun phrases is built up by *the* as *determiner*, *morality* as *noun*, *of* as *preposition*, *the* as *determiner*, *prijaji* as *pronoun*, and *maid* as *noun*, which can be written as  $NPs \rightarrow (Det_1)(N_1)(Prep)(Det_2)(Pron)(N_2)$ . This one is different to the noun phrase which occur in target language text which built up by *moral* as *noun*, *babu* as *noun*, and *priyayi* as *pronoun* and can be

written as NPs→(N<sub>1</sub>)(N<sub>2</sub>)(Pron). It is clear that this unit is not similar as occur in target language. This is called unit shifts.

Data 15:

SL : What is clear is that from a distance she gave **the impression of an educated person.**(Page 186)

TL : Yang nyata, dari jauh ia memberi **kesan seorang terpelajar.**(Page 129)

In the source language text, the noun phrase is built up by *the* as *determiner*, *impression* as *noun*, *of* as *preposition*, *an* as *determiner*, and *educated* as *adjective*, this noun phrase can also be written as NPs→(Det<sub>1</sub>)(N)(Prep)(Det<sub>2</sub>)(Adj). in the target language, meanwhile the noun phrase is built up by *kesan* as *noun*, *seorang* as *noun*, and *terpelajar* as *verb*, this noun phrase can also be written as NPs→(N<sub>1</sub>)(N<sub>2</sub>)(V). Between NPs in SL text and NPs in TL text, the quantity of each units is 5 : 3. Thus we may conclude there is unit shifting which happened among them, and this translation can be categorized as unit shifts.

### 2.3 Intra-System-Shifts

Data 16:

SL : **Creatures** behind **houses**

TL : **Mahluk** dibelakang **rumah**

The word of *creatures* and *houses* are plural in English as written in source language text, but it is translated into singular in Bahasa Indonesia as written in target language text; *mahluk* and *rumah*. It can be concluded that there is translation shift or a change happens among English and Bahasa Indonesia. In translation shift there is an obligatory shift and automatic which is caused by the grammatical structure of the target language. It offers the translator no choice and must make the equivalence in the TL. This phenomenon is also categorized as category shift especially intra-system shift as explained by Cartford, when the plural in English become singular in Bahasa Indonesia.

Data 17:

SL : in **Chinese families** eventually come to have clean faces and their features come to resemble those of Chinese, (page 179)

TL : Kalau babu **keluarga Tionghoa** lama-kelamaan berwajah bersih dan mengarah-arrah pada air muka Tionghoa, (page 122).

The word *Chinese Families* in English is structured by noun – noun as similar as in Bahasa Indonesia which is also built by noun – noun. We may think that there is no shifting happened among those noun phrases. But in English the class category of noun phrase is plural; *Chinese families* though in Bahasa Indonesia it is translated to be singular; *keluarga Tionghoa*. As the analysis stated above, this translation seems to be part of intra-system-shift by Cartford.

#### **4 Conclusion**

Based on the findings and explanations in the analysis, it can be concluded that there are translation shifts in the translation of noun phrase found in the text “*Creatures behind Houses*”. The types of shifts are categorized using the theory that proposed by Catford (1965). They are level shift, and category shifts which consists of structure shift, unit shifts, and intra-system shifts. Thus there is no class shifts with this analysis.

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