

## **Translation Errors on Public Place Signboards: An Error Analysis and Translation Strategies Applied**

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**Abstract.** Translation has been used by people for centuries. Translation is now used in so many aspects, such as economy, business, technology, and health. Translation is changing a meaning from one language to another language. The purpose of translation is to convey the original tone and intent of a message, taking into account cultural and regional differences between source and target languages. Meanwhile, sometimes the errors are often found in translation. A translation *error* is a grammatical or spelling mistake or an incorrect word choice given the original words' meaning or the document's target audience. In my research, I am interested to analyze the translation errors written on public place signboards. I choose this topic because this translation errors often occur in so many public place signboards. As we know, signboards are made to communicate a message to people using words or signs and symbols. A good signboard should help the reader to understand the meaning easier. This research is a qualitative one. The data are collected by taking the images of the signboards that have the translation errors. This research analysis uses the theory of error analysis by Dagneaux et al. (1996). After the data of errors in translation are collected, the data are then identified to check the translation strategies proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1988). This research expectedly provides clear examples of translation errors and clear analyses about the translation errors using the theories applied.

**Keywords :** signboards, translation, translation errors.

**Abstrak.** Penerjemahan telah dilakukan orang selama berabad-abad. Terjemahan banyak dimanfaatkan di berbagai aspek, misalnya ekonomi, bisnis, teknologi, dan kesehatan. Penerjemahan adalah mengubah makna dari Bahasa satu ke Bahasa lain. Tujuan penerjemahan adalah untuk menyampaikan makna sebenarnya dari sebuah pesan, yang juga mengandung perbedaan budaya dan regional dari Bahasa sumber dan Bahasa target. Namun, kesalahan dalam penerjemahan sering terjadi. Kesalahan penerjemahan adalah kesalahan gramatikal atau ejaan atau pilihan kata atas makna sebenarnya dari kata-kata atau dokumen tertentu. Dalam penelitian ini, saya tertarik untuk meneliti kesalahan penerjemahan yang ada di papan tanda di tempat umum. Saya memilih topik ini karena kesalahan penerjemahan sering terjadi di banyak papan tanda di tempat umum. Kita tahu bahwa papan tanda bertujuan untuk menyampaikan pesan dengan menggunakan kata-kata atau tanda-tanda dan simbol-simbol. Papan tanda yang baik harus membuat pembaca lebih mudah mengerti pesan yang disampaikan. Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif. Data diambil dari tulisan di papan tanda yang mengandung kesalahan penerjemahan. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori analisis kesalahan Dagneaux et al. (1996). Setelah data kesalahan penerjemahan terkumpul, data tersebut kemudian diidentifikasi untuk melihat strategi penerjemahan menurut Vinay and Darbelnet (1988). Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan gambaran dan analisis yang jelas tentang kesalahan penerjemahan sesuai teori yang ada.

**Keywords :** papan tanda, terjemahan, kesalahan penerjemahan.

## INTRODUCTION

The topic of this research is the translation error in public place signboards. Some public places provide signboards to help people get the information easily. Some of the information is translated into English to help foreigners who do not understand Indonesian to get the point of the information easier. However, some information is translated incorrectly or known as translation error.

Translation transfers a meaning from one language to another language. According to Roman Jakobson (2004) translation is a process between two different written languages involving the translator's changing an original written text (the **source text** or **ST**) in the original verbal language (the **source language** or **SL**) into a written text (the **target text** or **TT**) in a different verbal language (the **target language** or **TL**). Meanwhile, sometimes the errors are often found in translation. The paper tried to analyze the translation errors written on public place signboards. The researcher chose this topic because this translation errors often occur in so many public place signboards.

The purpose of this research are to describe the translation errors occurring in the public signboards, which eventually is able to help foreigners get the information correctly. In addition, this paper also attempts to reduce the errors by providing alternative translations.

The researcher took this example in one of the public place which the information translated incorrectly. This research analysis uses the theory of error analysis by Dagneaux et al. (1996). After the data of errors in translation are collected, the data are then identified to check the strategies applied in the translation, as proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet (1988). Hopefully this research will give us clear example of translation errors and clear analysis about translation error using the theories applied in this research.

## METHOD

### 1. Object of the Data

The main object of this study was words, phrases and sentences written on public signboards. Public places provide signboards to give information to the people. Some words on the signboards are translated especially for foreign people but, still, we often find the error on the translation itself that make no sense or hard to understand the meaning. Some questions are provide to guide this research:

### 2. Procedure

There were two steps used in order to answer and analyze the problem formulations showed in the first chapter. Frist, to find out the error translation of words, phrases, or sentence in signboards on public places from source text into target text. And then the data were sorted and arranged in the table according to the error found in the signboards. The types of error which are identified and also the codes, are indicated in the table below:

**Table 1.** Error codes (adapted from Dagneaux et al., 1996)

Error code	Type of error
GSO	Grammar –subject omission
GCA	Grammar – continuous aspect
GVT	Grammar – verb tense
GST	Grammar – sequence of tense
GIF	Grammar – conditional clauses
WO	Word order
GUN	Grammar – uncountable nouns
GP	Grammar – propositions
GNEG	Grammar – double negation
GIA	Grammar – indefinite articles
GDA	Grammar – definite articles
WOM	Word omissions
VLC	Vocabulary – lexical confusion

Second, to find out the strategies applied in the translating process, the translation strategies proposed by Vinay and Darbelnet(1988) in this study.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION



(1)



(2)



(3)

The first type of data is categorized as *GWO : Grammatical Word Order*

*Source Text: Jalanpelan-pelan. Mohon kaki tidak dihentakkan.*

*Target Text: Walk slowly please foot is not hit.*

The word *please* should be in front of the sentence as a permission and the target text is wrong in order or placing the word. The data was translated word-by-word that makes the sentences follow the source text. It makes the result of the translation look like translated word-by-word without paying attention to the meaning or pragmatically.

The second type of data is categorized as *VLC : Vocabulary Lexical Confusion*

*Source Text :Hati-HatiKepala*

*Target Text : Becareful your head*

The word *be careful* is not suitable with the lexical meaning of the sentence. *Be careful* is more to warn people to do something carefully, i.e. to focus on. The words should be

used are, for example, *Watch your head* or *Mind your head*. The translation strategy applied in this data is addition. From the source text stated *Hati-hatikepalabut* in the Target text stated *Be careful your head*. The word *your* is added in the sentence.

The third type of data is categorized as *GVT : Grammatical Verb Tense*

*Source Text: Dilarang Memberikan hewan*

*Target Text: Please, Do not feeding the animals*

The word *memberikan* translated into *feeding* is not suitable because it is grammatically wrong, especially in the verb tense. It should be replaced with *feed* or using the verb one. The translation strategy applied in this data is omission because from the source text there were two words but in the target text there was one word only.

## CONCLUSION

From the analysis above, we can conclude that three of the signboards have different types of error, such as grammatical word order error, vocabulary lexical confusion and grammatical verb tense error. The three data analyzed above are in accordance with the theories applied in this research. The strategies are also identified in this problem of translation error, such as addition, omission and word-by-word translation. The strategies are identified through the analysis and the explanation from the theory by Vinay and Darbelnet (1988). Some data are still in the process of being collected and will be analyzed later. It proves that some translation errors still occur in many public places. That is why this research is made to minimize the translation errors and help the readers to get the messages clearly.

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