

GRAMMATICAL FAULTS OF GOOGLE TRANSLATE IN TRANSLATING ANDREA HIRATA'S LASKAR PELANGI

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Abstract: Nowadays, Google Translate is a common online tool to help people translate one language to other languages. It makes the translation quality of Google Translate very important. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate grammatical faults resulting from Google Translate based on Dulay's theory and discover the possible causes of grammatical faults in translating the *Laskar Pelangi* novel in Google Translate. Thirty-seven sentences related to the physical condition of the school were chosen, translated into English by Google translate, and analysed qualitatively by using content analysis. The results showed that 205 errors were found, consisting of 48.29% malformation, 23.41% omission, 17.07% addition, and 11.21% disordering. These errors were caused by the improper structure of the source language affecting the Google Translate system in translating sentences, word by word translation, and the lack of awareness of Google Translate users in reviewing the translation results from Google Translate. The results also revealed that the errors in translating the novel and corpus were suitable. Regardless of the translation suitability of Google Translate in translating corpus shown by several studies, the findings also proved that research on the grammatical errors of novel translations was still lacking.

Keywords: *google translate, grammatical faults, Dulay's theory, novel translation*

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INTRODUCTION

Since we live in the world which has many languages, translation is the only way to help people to understand the information or knowledge from native languages. In general, translation is copying meaning, ideas, or text messages from one language to another. Nowadays, machine translation is one of the quickest ways to convert a source language to a target language. Google Translate is one of them. Google Translate (GT) is the most common online machine translation used by people worldwide to translate text into multiple languages. Ambawani (2014) stated that

Google Translate is an online engine offered by Google Incorporation to translate text, documents, or web pages into other languages appeared since 2007. This program provides fast translation from one language to another. It is fast and easy to use. It is used by more than 500 million people every day. In addition, GT supports 109 languages.

Although Google Translate is fast to use, there are several considerations in translating a text, one of them is accuracy (Nugroho, 2007). Accuracy in translation is very important in translating one language to other languages so that there will not be misunderstanding, and it helps people to understand the languages that have been translated. Newmark (1988) declares that accuracy in translating a text is related to the source language text, either to the author's meaning or to concrete the reality of the text itself. It means that accuracy may show us how much the translator can be successful in reproducing the source text message into the target message without any errors.

According to Richard et al. (2002), an error is applying a word, speech act, or grammatical items, implying a deficiency of inadequate language. Dulay et al. (1982) specified the errors into four errors: omission, addition, misformation, and disordering error. Omission error is the absence of an item, such as noun, adjective, adverb, verb auxiliaries (is, am, are, can, will), the article, etc., that must appear in a well-formed utterance. Addition is the presence of an item that should not appear in a well-formed utterance. There are three categories of error in addition: double marking, regularization, and simple addition. Then, misformation is using the wrong form of morphemes or structure. Regularization, achi-forms, and alternating forms are the types of misformation errors. In addition, Walasari et al. (2021) define disordering portrays the incorrect placement of a morpheme in an utterance. For instance, *I bought a book good*. The phrase *book good* is incorrect statement. Based on the explanation above, one error produced by translator can affect the structure and the meaning of the target language.

However, several studies have found that Google Translate is a helpful and good machine translator. Abdelaal and Alazzawie (2020) revealed that the translation errors generated by Google Translate were minor. Their research also concluded that GT is an essential and effective program that can speed up the translation. Agreeing with previous research, Almahasees (2018) revealed that machine translations, Google Translate and Microsoft Bing, produce excellent and fair translation results in vocabulary and grammar.

In addition, Jackson et al. (2019) found that Google Translate is a decent service and an accurate tool for translating non-English to English. Google updated its translation engine and found it much more accurate than previous versions. In addition, Setiawatika et al. (2020) revealed that the results of Google Translate were categorized as more accessible to read translations than human translations. It proves that Google Translate gives almost the same result as human translation which is understandable. Abdi (2021) also stated that Google Translate provides good translation performance, especially semantics and understanding. Thus, Google Translate is considered very helpful for users in translating text.

On the other hand, Google Translate also produces grammatical errors. Hatim (2001) analysed the accuracy of GT; focusing on the grammatical equivalence, such as number, person, gender, tense and aspects, and voice; found in number, the word "nya" is translated into "it" instead of his/her. The plural noun is translated into a

singular noun and vice versa. In terms of gender, GT mistranslated Indonesian words that did not indicate gender. Google Translate is also inconsistent in using tenses in terms of tenses and aspects. Moreover, lastly, in sound, the equivalent is acceptable because Indonesian also has a passive-active construction. Hidayati (2021) also found that the term “*mbak*” was translated into miss and man. Even in some sentences, it was found that the word *mbak* is miss in the target language. The sentence “*Macet mbak*” is translated into “It is stuck, miss.” It is also found in the sentence “*Ditunggu ya mbak*” which translates to “Wait, man.” Personally, as with gender, Google Translate does not consistently use the right words.

Nurmala and Dewi (2020) also found inaccuracies in translating pronouns and tenses. There is an error in the example sentences, the first language of the child in general is their native language mostly using a local language where the phrase the first language of the child is quite often replaced with the word their. In tenses, there are some mistakes where the sentences must use the simple past because it tells something that has happened and is translated into the simple present form. Herdawan (2020) also shows that GT cannot choose the context of activities that have been carried out, not without the help of time signals.

In addition, Suhono et al. (2020) proved that Google Translate is an ineffective machine and has poor quality in translating the text. The researcher found that the cultural context in the Google Translate system could not be applied, for example, the words “*legi*”, “*wage*”, “*telon-telon*”, “*piton*”, and others.

In line with the previous findings, Hasyim et al. (2021) used a French culinary text taken from the internet as a data source. The research analysed the grammatical equivalent of Google Translate translation. The result was the accuracy of Google Translate in culinary texts depending on the words, phrases, and sentences. It seems that Google Translate has low-quality accuracy in translating cultural contexts. Larson (1998) defined accuracy in translation consists of understanding the vocabulary, structure of the language, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language; analysing it to determine its meaning, and then reconstructing the same meaning using vocabulary and structures appropriate to the recipient language and the cultural context. It can be inferred that GT has not had a translation system in the cultural context yet, could not differ the pronoun and translate tenses correctly.

Dulay et al. (1982) stated that the errors happened because of developmental errors, interlingual errors and ambiguous errors. Developmental errors are errors like those made by children when processing the target language as their first language. Interlingual errors refer to the target language errors that reflect source language structure, regardless of the internal processes or external conditions that spewed the errors. In addition, The University of Newcastle (2021) stated that ambiguous errors are errors which have two or more possible meanings within a single sentence or sequence of words. Ambiguous errors sometimes cannot translate the determiner and pronoun well. This can confuse the reader and make the meaning of the sentence unclear.

Based on the studies above, the authors found gaps in the performance of Google Translate. The author felt the need to observe further to reveal precise results. When compared with previous studies, it was different from this study. Previous research focused on the accuracy of Google Translate, focusing on grammatical equivalence. However, this study focused on analysing grammatical errors based on Dulay’s

theory and investigating possible causes of grammatical errors generated by Google Translate in translating the novel.

This research was from the gaps found regarding the performance of Google Translate and the assumption that translating literature or cultural texts has its complexity which poses a challenge to accuracy, mainly if everyone relied on GT. Therefore, this research was guided by the questions (1) what are the grammatical faults produced by Google Translate in translating Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi*? (2) what are the possible causes of grammatical faults produced by Google Translate in translating Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi*? It aimed to investigate grammatical errors in GT based on Dulay's theory and the causes of grammatical errors in translating *Laskar Pelangi* in GT.

METHODOLOGY

Subjects

This study used the result of Google Translate in translating Andrea Hirata's *Laskar Pelangi* as the subject of the study. *Laskar Pelangi* is the first novel by Andrea Hirata published by Bentang Pustaka in 2005. This novel talks about the lives of 10 children from poor families who attend school (*SD* and *SMP*) in a Muhammadiyah school in Belitung which is full of limitations. This book is listed as the best-selling Indonesian literary book in history, namely *Laskar Pelangi*. *Laskar Pelangi* has 34 chapters and 340 pages. Andrea Hirata himself is an Indonesian novelist from Belitung Island. Hirata already has more than 10 works. This novel was written in six months based on his childhood experiences in Belitung. He described it as an irony about the lack of access to education for children on one of the richest islands in the world (Fitri, 2008). The research focused on the form of grammar. In this study, the writer used the online version of *Laskar Pelangi*.

The researcher analysed the sentences from the Indonesian novel, *Laskar Pelangi*. There were 37 sentences selected from 10 chapters and 17 pages. The writer selected the sentences related to educational context. To limit the data, the researcher only focused on the sentences that contained the school physical condition, such as the facilities of the school and the word "*sekolah*" found in *Laskar Pelangi* novel. Those were taken because the researcher wanted to show how the school condition was since *Laskar Pelangi* novel tells how 10 children struggle to make the name of the school proud even though the school has many limitations. To make it clearer, the writer made table 1 to show on which chapters and pages in *Laskar Pelangi* novel the sentences were taken.

Table 1. The subject of the study

Chapters	Subtitles	Pages
1	Sepuluh Murid Baru	12, 13
3	Inisiasi	21, 22, 23
8	Center of Excellence	46, 47, 48
9	Penyakit Gila No. 5	56
12	Mahar	99
17	Ada Cinta di Toko Kelontong Bobrok Itu	145
18	Moran	161, 162
19	Sebuah Kejahatan Terencana	185
26	Be There or Be Damned!	261, 265
27	Detik-Detik Kebenaran	270

Design and Procedures

This study used descriptive qualitative, and the data were presented with a content analysis method. Krippendorff (2004) defined content analysis as a research method that focuses on valid and reproducible conclusions from text or other materials to the context in which it is used. In addition, a researcher who analyses a text in a particular context needs the content to emerge in the process. Krippendorff (2004) also stated that analysing text in the context of its use distinguishes content analysis from other research methods. This study analysed the translation result of Google Translate to identify the grammatical errors based on Dulay's theory. The data were purposely taken related to the education context focused on the school's physical condition in this novel.

Data Collection and Data Analysis

The selected sentences were got by reading the novel and choosing the sentences that related to educational context. The researchers limited the data by choosing the sentences that contained the school physical condition, such as facilities and the word "sekolah". Then, those sentences were translated using Google Translate into English. The researchers inputted the selected sentences to make sure that Google Translate translated the content of the text cohesively and coherently. After the translation process was done, the results of the translations were obtained.

The first step in data analysis was identifying and classifying the errors found in the translation results based on surface strategy taxonomy in Dulay's theory by giving the code for each sentence. Dulay et al. (1982) classified it into four categories, namely omission, addition (double marking, regularization, and simple addition), misformation (regularization error, archi-forms, and alternating forms), and disordering. Translation errors can occur in the target texts' words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.

To identify and classify the errors, the sentences that contained the errors were marked with underline and italic for the clear presentation of the error occurrences. The researchers decided to input the sentences on the tables shown in the findings because the errors could be understood more obviously when written in their respective contexts. The errors were inputted into the categories of errors columns. The English version was used to validate the data. The content analysis should be valid (Krippendorff, 2004). This study used data triangulation to obtain the valid result of the research. The data triangulation used for this study is the English version of *Laskar Pelangi*, namely The Rainbow Troops, translated by Angie Kilbane. The researcher compared Google Translate translation with data triangulation, English version of *Laskar Pelangi*, to identify and analyse the errors. It also helped the researchers to ensure the errors found in Google Translate translation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Grammatical errors in the Indonesian-English translation by Google Translate are related to Dulay's theory. They are omission, addition (double marking, regularization, and simple addition), misformation (regularization error, archi-forms, and alternating forms), and disordering. After researching 17 pages of 37 sentences from the translation of *Laskar Pelangi*, the following results were found. The following frequency of grammatical errors showed a total of 205 errors obtained

from the results of researching 37 sentences translated by Google Translate in translating *Laskar Pelangi*, as shown in table 2.

Table 2. The frequency of grammatical errors

Error types		Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Regularization errors	0	0.00
Misformation	Archi-forms	0	0.00
	Alternating forms	99	48.29
Omission		48	23.41
	Double markings	0	0.00
Addition	Regularization	0	0.00
	Simple addition	35	17.07
Disordering		23	11.21

Table 2 shows that the most problematic error type that appeared was alternating forms, 99 total errors and 48.29%. It was followed by omission, with 48 total errors and 23.41%. The other types of errors which relatively infrequent appeared in *Laskar Pelangi* were simple addition (17.07%) and disordering (11.21%). The rest categories of errors, such as double markings, regularization, regularization errors, and archi-forms, did not appear.

The authors only took three sentences from 37 sentences as the sample of grammatical errors resulting from Google Translate to show the evidence, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Table of classification of errors

First Sentence	
Code	GT1
Google Translate	* <u>This school</u> , SD Muhammadiyah, * <u>is</u> * <u>also</u> the poorest village school in Belitong.
English Version	As for this school, Muhammadiyah Elementary School, was the poorest village school in Belitong.
Classification of Errors	- Omission The phrase "this school" is incorrect. This phrase needs the adverb "as for" to complete the sentence. - Misformation (Alternating forms) The auxiliary "is" is incorrect. It should be "was" because this story has happened before. - Addition (Simple addition) The word "also" does not need in this sentence.
Second Sentence	
Code	GT2
Google Translate	* <u>Year</u> * <u>then</u> *SD Muhammadiyah only * <u>have</u> eleven students.
English Version	Last year, Muhammadiyah Elementary School only had eleven students.
Classification of Errors	- Omission The word "year" is incorrect because it needs the adverb "last" to explain what happened. - Misformation (Alternating forms)

	The word “SD” is incorrect. It should be “Elementary School.”
	The word “have” is incorrect. It should be past form “had” because, in the first sentence, there is a time signal of simple past.
	- Addition (Simple addition)
	The word “then” is incorrect. It does not need in this sentence
Third Sentence	
Code	GT9
Google Translate	* <u>School we</u> * <u>no</u> guarded because ...
English Version	Our school wasn’t guarded because
Classification of Errors	- Disordering
	The phrase “School we” is incorrect. It should be changed to possessive pronoun “our”.
	- Omission
	The word “no guarded” is incorrect. It is supposed to be “was not guarded” since the sentence is passive, so it misses the verb auxiliary “was”.

Aside from identifying grammatical errors in Google Translate, the authors also took several errors caused by Google Translate translating *Laskar Pelangi*. The researchers also described the findings of the causes of errors made by Google Translate, then synchronized with Dulay’s theory. In this finding, the authors found that the causes of Google Translate errors were interlingual and ambiguous errors, as shown in table 4.

Table 4. Table of cause of errors

Interlingual error	
<i>First example</i>	
Code	G21
Google Translate	* <u>In every class</u> * <u>there is</u> * <u>P3K box</u>
English version	Each class had first aid kit
Types of Errors	Misformation
Analysis	The sentence produced by Google Translate still reflects to source language structure. It translated each phrase if it was compared to the English version.
<i>Second Example</i>	
Code	GT12
Google Translate	that violate principal architecture this cause not there is * <u>leaf door</u> and windows that can locked
English version	had not followed proper architectural principles that made the windows and door could not be locked
Types of Errors	Addition
Analysis	The word “leaf door” is incorrect. It uses the Indonesian context. In translating the word “ <i>daun pintu</i> ”, we do not need to translate “ <i>daun</i> .” The word “door” can be “ <i>pintu</i> ” or “ <i>daun pintu</i> .”

Ambiguous Error*First Example*

Code GT17

Google Translate PN School is **center of excellence*

English version

PN School was a center of excellence

Types of Errors

Omission

Analysis

Article "a" is needed to describe the general thing "center of excellence"

Second example

Code GT13

Google Translate In the **class we* no there patches poster operation times

English version

In our class, there were no multiplication tables

Types of Errors

Disordering

Analysis

The word "we" should be in the possessive pronoun "our."

Discussion***Grammatical faults resulted by Google Translate in translating Laskar Pelangi***

In translation, several factors must be considered. One of them is the linguistic system, especially grammar. Many people now prefer a fast way to translate one language into another using machine translations. One of them is Google Translate. Even though Google Translate is a very well-known machine translator used by all people, Google Translate makes some serious errors. The most common errors found in this research are misformation, especially in verbs. This statement is the same as the finding of Fitria (2021) which shows the results of her research that the most common error in English abstracts is misformation. In the misformation, there are 98 data or 44.5%. Misformation occurs because of the difference between Indonesian and English especially the absence of the concept of tense in Indonesian. Indonesian only has one verb form, while English has more than one verb (bare infinitive, past form, past participle, and present participle). Google's translation results present inappropriate verb forms in their output (Ambawani, 2014).

The second most common error is omission. Theoretically, omission is marked by missing words that should be in a well-formed language or sentence. In this study, small words such as is, the, and of, which have a small role in delivering the sentence's meaning are often missing. In the findings, Fitria (2021) also revealed that omission was the second most common grammatical error. It occurs when it removes sentence elements that would produce grammatical errors. Several omission errors are found in the part of speech, such as article/determiner and prepositions. In addition, Ismail (2016) stated that the omission errors were caused mainly by Google Translate, which translated the source text literally, ignoring the overall meaning of the target text. An error from Google Translate itself that omitted part of the source text was also a cause of grammatical errors.

Moreover, the third error is addition. Fitria (2021) also found the same finding where addition was the third grammatical error. There are 53 data or 24.09% found. The additional element in the sentence makes the sentence grammatically wrong. Ambawani (2014) also stated that the difference between Indonesian and English might result in some additional errors when translated by Google Translate on a word-by-word basis.

The last error is disordering. It occurs because it translates a sentence or phrase without changing the structure of the sentence or phrase into the target language. It means that Google Translate follows the structure of the source language without changing it to the structure of the target language. English and Indonesian have different structures, so the translation results resulting from Google Translate are inappropriate for the structure of the Indonesian language (Yanto et al., 2018).

Based on the explanations exposed above, this study revealed specific results—first, very few research studies on grammatical errors in translating novels. Most of them were the research for academic translations, so the data findings were not sufficient to compare the results of this study with other novel translation studies. However, based on the results obtained, the grammatical errors resulting from Google Translate in translating literature or novels and academic writings were generally the same. Second, this study only focused on using Dulay's theory in assessing the translation results produced by Google Translate.

The possible causes of grammatical faults resulted by Google Translate in translating Andrea Hirata's Laskar Pelangi

Based on the finding, the causes of the errors resulting from Google Translate are interlingual errors and ambiguous errors. Interlingual errors happened because Google Translate can't translate the words or the phrases of Indonesian structure into English structure. The result of Google Translate still reflected the source language structure as we know Indonesian, and English have different language structures. It also occurred in ambiguous errors. Google Translate could not translate and differ the pronoun. Google Translate still translated into the source language structure and this cause affected the result in translating the pronoun. In addition, Google Translate could not detect and translate the determiner/article. The determiner/article is very important to show whether the noun is general or specific. These problems were the causes of misformation and omission mostly found in this research because Google Translate translated the wrong structure and could not translate the determiner or the pronoun.

Riadi et al. (2020), in their data findings, showed the causes of the errors are the impotence of Google Translate to understand the whole context which led to translation errors in the target language. Google Translate struggled with complex grammar and could not translate the entire context of the text, unlike human translators. English and Indonesian have different grammatical structures, so several sentences cannot be translated well or maybe even be mistranslated by Google Translate. It is also expressed by Farahsani et al. (2020) that GT tended to follow the structure of the source language in translating sentences, resulting in unusual translations.

In addition, Hidayati (2021) saw that Google Translate used in the Grab application has several weaknesses in translating. It is because Google Translate translates word-by-word. Agreeing with previous researchers, Anggaira and Hadi

(2017) examined the translation of narrative texts and found that the Google Translate system translates word-by-word. The context of the sentence is often ignored. This aspect is the main weakness of the translation results obtained through the Google translation engine.

Furthermore, the grammatical errors that Google Translate generates are not solely caused by Google Translate. The user of Google Translate is one of the causes. They are less thorough and do not review the results of translations from Google Translate, even though human translators are more flexible and can minimize errors generated by Google Translate. In this case, Google Translate users play an essential role in translating text. Wahiyudin and Romli (2021) stated that translating the compound nouns from Malay to Arabic using machine translation still requires correcting. Machine translations make the users easier to translate, but the process and how to arrange Arabic compound nouns still need to be studied more. This situation shows that machine translation still needs human assistance. Machine translation like Google Translate is done for translation, and human acts as editor to obtain good accuracy and quality of translation. Riadi et al. (2020) also stated that Google Translate users should be careful in using Google Translate. The users need to consider whether the translation is appropriate because Google Translate translates originally from the source language. In addition, users are suggested to use other machine translations, such as Bing Translator, Yandex.com, Myeasy Translator, and others.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study found that the novel translations produced by Google Translate have grammatical errors. The types of errors that often appeared were misformation and omission. Another type of error that appeared relatively rarely in Laskar Pelangi translations is addition and disordering. Several factors caused the error generated by Google Translate. Those are the different structures of Indonesian and English, and the lack of words from the source language causes errors in translating. Second, it was caused by the Google Translate system which translates the text word-by-word. In addition, translation errors were also caused by users who did not review the translation results.

The errors found in translating the novel are the same as those in translating academic writings using Google Translate. However, researchers have not been able to compare these findings with other studies, especially in the novel translation. Hence, this research can be used as a comparison or theoretical basis in the study of translating novels using Google Translate. Further researchers are expected to conduct further research on the translation of novels or other literature so that it can be a comparison in translating literature or novel.

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